Pat Morrison, Feb. 6, 1970
16" x 12" Building Medallion Plate
Comal County (State Matching Fund)
Location: .5 mi off N. E. Loop 337, at 1276 Ernendberg
on S. bank of Guadalupe River

WAISENHAUS *
("ORPHANAGE") ***

KNOWN AS FIRST ORPHANAGE IN
STATE OF TEXAS. CHARTERED IN
1848 AS "WESTERN TEXAS ORPHAN
ASYLUM"BY L.C.ERVENDBERG(D.1863),
PASTOR OF NEW BRAUNFELS.
BECAUSE OF SEVERE EPIDEMICS,
MANY CHILDREN WERE HOMELESS.
AT THIS SITE ERVENDBERG BUILT
THIS HOUSE(NOW MUCH REMODELED)
AND BEGAN A FARM.HERE HE REARED
19 ORPHANS AS WELL AS HIS OWN
5 CHILDREN.HE ALSO HELD CLASSES
AND TAUGHT FARMING TECHNIQUES.
HIS WIFE TAUGHT HOUSEKEEPING. **
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK--1970 ***

* 1/2 " lettering
** 3/8 " lettering
*** 1/4 " lettering

FILE COPY-DO NOT REMOVE

APPROVED
Truett Latimer
by Bob Wako
3-3-70

Western Texas Orphan Asylum.

Excerpts from story as given by a daughter of Rev.and Mrs.Ervendberg (Mrs.A.Ervendberg Wiegreffe) to San Antonio Express,Sunday Edition,September 8,1935.

"The necessity for the orphan home was occas ioned by a cholora epidemic in early New Braunfels. One of the first problems that had to be met was what to do with the children whose parents had died on the way, and just after arrival at New Braunfels. Of course many had relatives or close friends to adopt them, but there were others who were left entirely alone and had to be provided for.

"My mother and father decided to take over the responsibility of the orphans, themselves. About a mile or so from town and just across from the present village of Gruene, they cleared a farm and built a house large enough to hold thei own family and the orphans. I think the farm was given to them and we moved out there about 1848.

"The location is a beautiful one,and we were all very busy and happy at the Waissenfarm as it was generally known,though my father liked to call it Neu=Wied and said it was his 'college'; he taught us in regular classes and saw tha the boys were instructed in agriculture and that each did his share of the work My mother taught us girls how to cook and sew while we helped with the house=keeping.

"We had a happy childhood even if we did have to work.We played in the park and managed to have our fun as children always have,Among other pranks,we used to black our faces,put on masquerade costumes of anything we could lay hands on and go around trying to scare people.One of my greatest treat was riding behind my father on horseback.Sometimes I was allowed to ride along to the mill with a sack of corn to be ground into meal.I loved that. The sack was always falling off but I did not mind that.

"Christmas was a great festive season as always in German families.We never failed to have a large Christmas tree at the Waissen Farm.Often it could not be much,but there was always something for every child.Each of the boys got a new cap,and there was always a new dress for my doll. It had a china head brought from somewhere,and my mother had made the body for it herself.

"Indians? I should say we did see a lot of them.They always came in peace to the settlement,often with a flag of truce to show that they were friendly. I suppose you have heard of the famous treaty John Meusebach made with the Indians. He was a wonderful man,Baron von Meusebach. . . His daughter made a painting showing the making of the ~~painting~~ treaty exactly as it happened; I think the picture is in the museum now. . .

"We children were in mortal fear of the Indians.They used to hang around a lot just looking at us.One of our men had very red hair.The Indians could not understand it at all,and were not satisfied until he went to the river and let them wash his hair to see if the red would come off. . . *

"One day,our people wanted to show their friendly feelings toward the Indians. It was decided to entertain them in the good old German way with a big dinner. There was little in the way of food,but the women managed and did their very best with materials at hand,and were justly proud of what must have been a real feast for those days. The Indians came. They ate with their fingers,altogether they were so dirty and disgusting the neat Germans could hardly stand to be near them.The worst of all came though,after devouring everything,grunted,and calmly left to go to a field nearby where there was dead horse and eat the flesh for desert! You may be sure those German Hausfraus never cooked another feast for Indians."

* This may refer to Meusebach, about whom a similar story is told. -PM 2-6-70

Comal

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE Inc.
TEXAS 1216 SAN ANTONIO STREET GR 7-2833

ew Braunfels Herald
ew Braunfels, Texas

MAY -7 1963

PLAQUE PRESENTATION — Mr. and Mrs. Herbert cker Jr., left, proudly display the Texas Historical uilding Medallion which was presented to them for eir home, orphange for the early New Braunfels settle- ent. The plaque was donated by Miss Carol Hoff of orktown, second from right, authoress. Dr. Frederick rueholz, right, is chairman of the Comal County istorical Survey Committee through which application r medallions is made. (Staff Photos)

BIRTHDAY SETTING — Mrs. Emma Klinger of San Antonio, right, daughter of one of the orphaned children, and Miss Wanda Timmermann discuss the birthday table setting between them. When the children of a century ago celebrated a birthday at the historic orphanage, their plates were wreathed with cedar and flowers. Mrs. Klinger's mother, Nathalia Schmidt, was six years old when the home was established.

00 Attend Ceremony At Historic Orphanage

pproximately 200 attended sentation of a Texas Hiscal Building Medallion at century-old orphans home the early New Braunfels tlement Sunday near ene.

mong the audience were ny descendants of Pastor Mrs. Louis Cachand-Erdberg, who established the stern Texas Orphan Asylum 848, and descendants of the dren they sheltered.

he home on the Guadalupe er near Gruene Road is the dence of Mr. and Mrs. Hert Acker Jr. and her father, tav Stollewerk. A greatnddaughter of Mrs. Ervendberg through a subsequent marriage to Balthaser Preiss, Mrs. Acker is dedicated to preservation of the historic home which she and her husband have recently rennovated.

Descendants of Mrs. Ervendberg have lived in the home continuously since its establishment.

Miss Wanda Timmermann, one of the Seven Timmermann Sisters of Geronimo, planned the presentation program. She and her sisters, descendants of Pastor and Mrs. Ervendberg, were members of the houseparty.

Robert Bauerschlag, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roland W. Bauerschlag and the youngest Ervendberg descendant on the program, was among those accepting the plaque. He is a nephew of the late Miss Elsie Bauerschlag who initiated the annual celebration held at the home early in May to honor the orphanage founders.

Mrs. Herman Blank, a descendant of one of the orphaned children, registered guests, and hostesses for a tour of the home following the program included Mrs. G. L. Wood of New Braunfels, Mrs. Raymond Buck and Mrs. Edwin Bading of Geronimo; Mrs. Rosalie Osborn of Seguin; Mrs. Rober Weir of San Antonio; anc from Austin, Mrs. Felix Shuford, Dr. Iris Shuford, Mrs Gillis King, and Miss France Alexander.

Among those who participated in preparations were th Rev. Raymond Buck, Edwi Bading, and Egon Bauerschlag

Elementary school childre from New Braunfels sang Ger man songs led by Miss Louis Dietz and Miss Esther Rice.

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 1716 SAN ANTONIO STREET GR 7-2813

San Antonio Express
San Antonio, Texas

MAY - 1 1963

Old Orphanage Home To Receive Medallion

EXPRESS-NEWS SERVICE

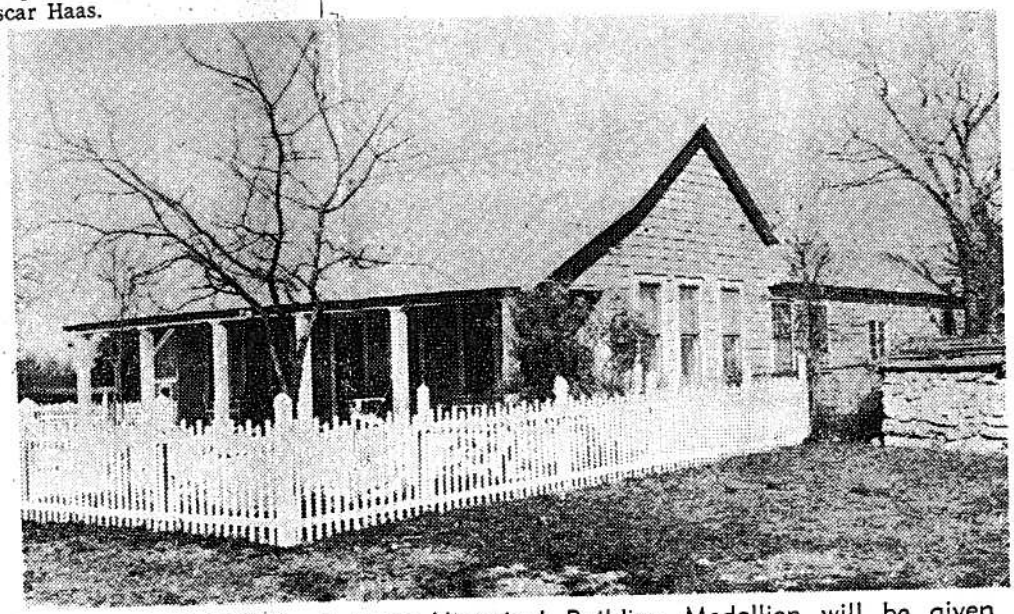
NEW BRAUNFELS — A Texas Historical Building Medallion will be presented in an appropriate program to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr., owners of the 114-year-old orphanage home here Sunday.

Established in 1848 and popularly called the orphan farm, the home was made possible by Maria Antonia Veramendi de Garza, of San Antonio, daughter of Juan Martin de Veramendi, the first alcalde of Bexar, giving 150 acres out of her share here of the Veramendi estate lands and the Texas Legislature passing an Act whereby early settlers here were "constituted a body politic and corporate for the purpose of founding, erecting, and maintaining an institution for the protection, support, and education of orphan children."

Assisting the Ackers with the presentation program, starting at 2 p.m., will be the seven Timmermann Sisters of Geronimo, also the Roland and the Egon Bauerschlags and others of here, descendants of Rev. and Mrs. L. C. Ervendberg, who in early New Braunfels raised eighteen orphaned children, 10 girls and eight boys, in the home to useful men and women.

Making the presentation of the medallion wlil be Dr. Frederick Frueholz Jr., president of the Comal County Historical Survey Committee. The medallion authorized by the Texas Historical Survey Committee, is a gift from Carol Hoff of Yorktown, author of "Johnny Texas" and other children's books.

The other members of Comal County Historical Survey Committee are Mrs. C. W. Heitkamp, vice-president, Mrs. J. L. Bridges, Mrs. Marjorie Cook, Mrs. Vearl M. Sissel, Mrs. A. D. Nuhn, Porter Fearey, F. R. DePasqual, Curt E. Schmidt and Oscar Haas.



ORPHANAGE HOME—A Texas Historical Building Medallion will be given Sunday to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker, owners of the Orphanage Home, above. The building in New Braunfels is 114 years old.

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE

Seguin Gazette
Seguin, Texas

MAY - 8 1963

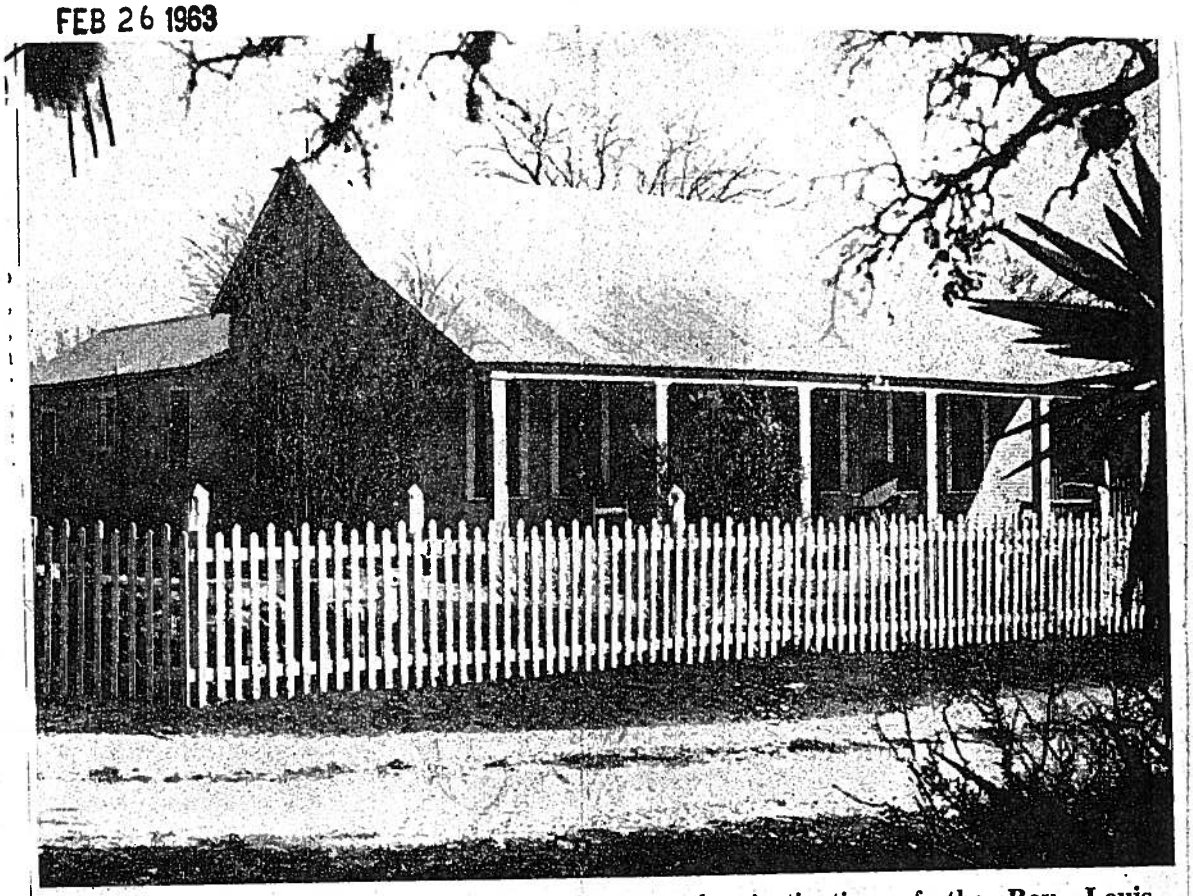
ORPHANAGE NEAR NEW BRAUNFELS RECEIVES HISTORICAL MEDALLION --- It was a big day for the Seven Timmermann Sisters, Miss Carol Hoff of Yorktown and Mrs. Rosalie Osborne Sunday as they all participated in the presentation of a Historical Medallion to the present owners of the orphanage building which had been founded by the Timmermann Sisters' great grandparents. Miss Carol Hoff was so interested in the orphanage that she was the donor of the beautiful Medallion which was presented in an impressive ceremony Sunday afternoon with all interested persons attending.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr. are the present owners and have restored the house. They too are descendants of the founders. The orphanage was founded some 114 years ago by Pastor and Mrs. L.C. Ervendberg, great grandparents of the Timmermann Sisters, and if any of you have been to the Timmermann home around Christmas time then you have seen the replica they have built of the orphanage. We also think it was quite wonderful of Miss Carol Hoff for wanting to give the medallion for the orphanage building. It was interesting to learn that the orphanage was self supporting. Everything they ate and the clothes they wore and so forth was produced on the acreage surrounding the pretty white orphanage.

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 1718 SAN ANTONIO STREET GR 7-2893

New Braunfels Herald
New Braunfels, Texas

FEB 26 1963



WAISENHAUS — The residence of Gustav Stollewerk and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr. near Gruene was once the orphans' home for the early New Braunfels settlement. It was built in 1848 at the instigation of the Rev. Louis Cachand-Ervendberg who with his wife cared for 19 orphans in addition to five children of their own. (Staff Photo)

Historical Survey Medallion To Mark Early Orphans' Home

Application for a bronze historical site-marker medallion for the Waisenhaus orphan's home of early New Braunfels, has been approved by the Comal County Historical Survey Committee.

Cost of the medallion is a gift from Mrs. Carol Hoff of Yorktown who made application. Texas Historical Survey Medallions are available for $14.75 for buildings of approved historical significance.

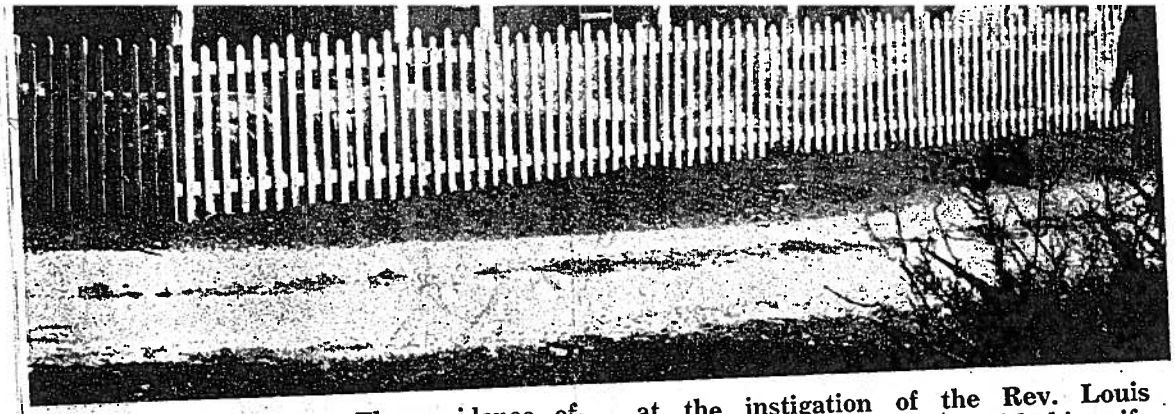
First marker hung in New Braunfels was at the residence of the settlers' first wagon-master. The house, at 554 W. Mill St., is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Chester Geue of Ft. Worth who restored it.

The medallion for the Waisenhaus will be hung early in May at the traditional picnic honoring Pastor and Mrs. Louis Cachand-Ervendberg who cared for orphaned children of early settlers.

Now the residence of Gustav Stollewerk and his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr. ,the home was reecntly renovated. Mrs. Acker is a descendant of Mrs. for all but 19 of the orphans. With the eleven boys and eight girls, plus five children of their own, they moved into their new home.

Most of the parents who had lost their lives were victims of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, according to physicians of the period. The death toll among German settlers in 1845-46 was reported by various chroniclers as 400 to 1,200. They died at the Gulf Coast camp where they assembled ,on the trail, and here in New Braunfels. A cholera epidemic in 1849 caused the death here of more than 40.

A financial accounting of the first two years of the orphans' home corporation show-



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It was built in 1848 on the Guadalupe River near what is now Gruene. The land, 150 acres, was a gift from Maria Antonia Veramendi de Garza, heiress to the vast Mexican land grant in this area.

The Waisenhaus (Orphans' Home) was incorporated in 1848 as the Western Texas Orphan Asylum at the instigation of Pastor Ervendberg. He, L. Bene, and H. Spiess comprised the corporation.

The pastor, who named the site "Neu Wied," referred to the home as his "college." He and his wife, who cared for all of the destitute youngsters in the settlement, found homes for all but 19 of the orphans. With the eleven boys and eight girls, plus five children of their own, they moved into their new home.

Most of the parents who had lost their lives were victims of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, according to physicians of the period. The death toll among German settlers in 1845-46 was reported by various chroniclers as 400 to 1,200. They died at the Gulf Coast camp where they assembled ,on the trail, and here in New Braunfels. A cholera epidemic in 1849 caused the death here of more than 40.

A financial accounting of the first two years of the orphans' home corporation showed only $555 in receipts and a little over $1400.00 in expenses. Income included $40 from the Rhodius wedding, $32.10 for hiring out oxen, $121.00 freight hauling fees, $26.50 church offerings, $28.36 sale of cotton, $150 builder's refund, and $158 freewill offerings.

Expenditures included materials and labor for the orphans' home construction; fence rails, what food they did not raise, and clothing for the "family."

(To be continued with one of the Ervendburg children's account of life at the Waisenhaus.)

Comal

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE Inc.
AUSTIN, TEXAS 1716 SAN ANTONIO STREET GR. 7-2811

New Braunfels Herald
New Braunfels, Texas

APR 30 1963

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P1

INVITATIONS — At work in the historic Orphan's Home addressing invitations to a program to be held there Sunday are, left to right, the Misses Willie May, Wanda, and Melitta Timmermann, Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr., and Miss Hulda Timmermann. The program will be open to the public. George Hill, executive chairman of the Texas Historical Survey Committee, will attend for presentation of a historic building medallion. (Staff Photo)

Historic Orphans' Home Open To Public Sunday for Program

The historic Waisen Farm, orphans home of early New Braunfels, will be open to the public for presentation of a Texas Historical Building Medallion at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 5. Miss Carol Hoff of Yorktown has donated the medallion.

Now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr., Sisters of Geronimo and Robert Bauerschlag of New Braunfels.

For many years, the pastor's birthday has been celebrated on the first Sunday in May at the home by descendants of the couple and of the orphan children they sheltered. This year, the tour for the public and medallion presentation sing.

Appearing on the program will be Oscar Haas, local historian; Miss Hoff; George Hill of Austin, executive director of the Texas Historical Survey Committee; Dr. Frederick Frueholz, chairman of the Comal County Historical Survey Committee; the Rev. Raymond Buck of Geronimo; Bauerschlag; and Mr. and Mrs.

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Now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr., the century-old house near Gruene, was built by first minister of New Braunfels settlers.

Pastor and Mrs. Louis Cachand-Ervendberg took the orphaned children of the new settlement under their wings and with their own family moved to the farm near the Guadalupe River.

Mrs. Acker is a descendant of the pastor's wife by her subsequent marriage to Balthazar Preiss. Among descendants of Pastor and Mrs. Ervendberg participating in the commemorative program are the Seven Timmermann Sisters of Geronimo and Robert Bauerschlag of New Braunfels.

For many years, the pastor's birthday has been celebrated on the first Sunday in May at the home by descendants of the couple and of the orphan children they sheltered. This year, the tour for the public and medallion presentation replaces the annual picnic; covered dishes are to be omitted.

Chamber of Commerce President Willard Hill Jr. will act as master of ceremonies, and Mayor Harry Alves will welcome visitors.

Fritz Toepperwein of Boerne, author and producer who presented the New Braunfels Centennial pageant here, will tell the story of the orphanage.

A sonnet composed by Pastor Ervendberg will be read by Robert Govier of Denton, and elementary school German language students will sing.

Appearing on the program will be Oscar Haas, local historian; Miss Hoff; George Hill of Austin, executive director of the Texas Historical Survey Committee; Dr. Frederick Frueholz, chairman of the Comal County Historical Survey Committee; the Rev. Raymond Buck of Geronimo; Bauerschlag; and Mr. and Mrs. Acker.

Miss Wanda Timmermann is program chairman, and the houseparty includes Mr. and Mrs. Egon Bauerschlag, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Bauerschlag, and the Timmermann Sisters.

On display in the home will be many articles in use when the residence was an orphanage.

To reach the home, turn off the Gruene Road to the left at Town & Country Inn and continue straight ahead over the cattle guard rather than turn left again toward the inn or Preiss Heights.

PRESS ASSOCIATION
718 WEST 5th ST. AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701 PHONE 477-6755

New Braunfels Herald
New Braunfels, Texas
MAY 2 4 1973 Comal

Historic Building Plaque

The Herbert Acker Jr. residence was designated the first orphanage in Texas and an historic building during ceremonies Sunday at which a State Historical Survey Committee plaque was presented by the Comal committee. Chartered in 1848 as Western Texas Orphan Asylum by Rev. L.C. Ervendberg, he and his wife five of their own. From left are C.W. Heitkamp, chairman of the Comal County Historical Survey Committee; Mrs. Acker; Oscar Haas, Comal County historian; and Acker. Mrs. Acker is the great-granddaughter of Rev. Ervendberg and a fourth generation of the family to live in the house.

New Braunfels HERALD, Friday, January 25, 1963

Historical Group Investigates Lindheimer Home as Shrine

The possibility of establishing the home of pioneer botanist - editor Ferdinand Lindheimer as a historical shrine is being investigated by the new Comal County Historical Survey Committee.

A local observance of the Civil War Centennial is a second project under consideration.

Dr. Frederick Frueholz Jr. was elected chairman of the 10-member committee at its first meeting Saturday in the courthouse. Also elected were Mrs. C. W. Heitkamp, vice-chairman, and Oscar Haas, secretary-treasurer.

To explore the possibility of converting the Lindheimer home into a historical site, Dr. Frueholz appointed a committee of Mrs. Heitkamp, chairman, Mrs. Vearl Sissel, and Curt Schmidt.

Proposals for a local Civil War Centennial observance during 1963 was the assignment of a committee including Haas, chairman, Mrs. A. D. Nuhn Sr., and Porter Fearey.

The Lindheimer home at 489 Comal Ave. was the residence of the early settler's granddaughter, Miss Lillie Simon, until her death Friday at the age of 80. Mrs. Sida Martin of San Antonio, a sister of Miss Simon, proposed several years ago that the city take over the property in return for assuming the tax debt and maintaining the home as a historical site.

Interest in its preservation has also been expressed by the San Antonio Conservation Society which has offered to assist any local organization in the project. At the instigation of the society, an architect has made a preliminary inspection of the property.

Three local industries, created because of wartime need, may be focal points of a local centennial observance. They were a plant to extract from Bat Cave guana the saltpeter used in making gunpowder for Confederate troops, a paper mill, and a cotton textile mill.

William Seekatz operated the saltpeter plant in Landa Park where a marker now identifies the site. The Texas Paper Manufacturing Co. owned by Dr. Theodore Koester produced a heavy brown paper in a mill on the Comal River at the present Camp Landa where remnants of the works can be seen.

John F. Torrey's mill was chartered in 1863 to produce cotton fabric for the Confederacy, although machinery from England was not obtainable until the war was over. The mill stood at the foot of Mill Street on the banks of the Comal.

The narrower the mind, the more dirt it seems to collect.

If most of us weren't below normal, it would be difficult for normal people to become our leaders.

OFFICERS — Elected officers of the Comal County Historical Survey Committee at its first meeting Saturday were, l to r, Oscar Haas, secretary-treasurer; Dr. Frederick Frueholz Jr., chairman; and Mrs. C. W. Heitkamp, vice-chairman. They are shown at the memorial to fallen Civil War soldiers which stands on Main Plaza, a tribute to men of both Union and Confederate forces. A Civil War Centennial observance in 1963 is one of the projects undertaken by the committee. (Staff Photo)

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE Inc.
DeWitt County View
Yorktown, Texas
MAY - 9 1963

MEDALLION PRESENTED TO OLD ORPHANAGE HOME

NEW BRAUNFELS — A Texas Historical Building Medallion was presented Sunday to Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker, Jr., owners of the 114-year-old orphanage home at New Braunfels, said to be the first orphanage in Texas.

The medallion, authorized by the Texas Historical Survey Committee, was a gift of Miss Carol Hoff of Yorktown, author of several widely read books, including "Johnny Texas". She made a brief talk.

The presentation was made by Dr. Frederick Frueholz, Jr. of the Comal County Historical Survey Committee, and the address of welcome was given by Mayor Harry Alves. It was reported that the late Rev. and Mrs. L. Ervenberg raised 18 orphaned children in the home.

After the program visitors made a tour of the historical building. Mrs. Rosalie Osborne of Seguin, a former Yorktowner, was among the room hostesses.

TEXAS PRESS SERVICE
AUSTIN, TEXAS 1216 SAN ANTONIO STREET GR 7-2813

New Braunfels Herald
New Braunfels, Texas

MAR- 5 1963

'Settlers' Orphans Lived Happy Life at Historic "Waisenhaus"

(The 115-year-old home of Gustav Stollewerk and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Acker Jr. near Gruene has been designated for a Texas Historical Survey medallion which will be presented in May. The residence was first the orphans home, "Waisenhaus," of the early New Braunfels settlement.)

A story of life in the Western Texas Orphan Asylum, a haven for children of early New Braunfels settlers who died during an 1845-46 epidemic, was told in 1935 by a daughter of the couple who created the institution.

Mrs. Augusta Ervendberg Wiegreffe, daughter of the Rev. and Mrs. Louis Cachand-Ervendberg, was 92 when she related her memories of life in the home shared by the pastor, his wife and five children, and the 19 orphans.

Her account of a happy life is confirmed by reports of chroniclers of the period, among them Hermann Seele, a leader in the community and a frequent visitor at the "Waisenhaus."

Pastor Ervendberg, a German minister retained by Prince Carl Solms while the first settlers were still encamped on the Gulf Coast, undertook with his wife the task of caring for children left entirely alone in strange land. Many youngsters whose parents lost their lives were taken by friends and relatives.

The flock moved to the farm near Gruene in 1848.

"We had a happy childhood even if we did have to work," Mrs. Wiegreffe told a San Antonio Express interviewer. "We played in the park (on the banks of the Guadalupe River below the house) and managed to have our fun as children always have.

"Among other pranks, we used to black our faces, put on somewhere, and my mother had made the body for it herself."

The caps were made by the girls from wool they spun themselves, and the boys in turn made gifts for the girls.

"Indians? I should say we did see a lot of them. They always came in peace to the settlement, often with a flag of truce to show they were friendly. We children were in mortal fear of the Indians. They used stand around just looking at us.

"One of our men had very red hair. The Indians could not understand it at all and were not satisfied until he went to the river and let them wash his hair to see if the red would come off."

As a display of friendship, the settlers invited the indians to a big German dinner.

"There was little in the way of food, but the women managed and did their very best with materials at hand. They were justly proud of what must have been a real feast for those days.

"The Indians came. They ate with their fingers, and altogether they were so dirty and disgusting the neat Germans could hardly stand to be near them."

After devouring everything on the tables, the Indians grunted and calmly proceeded to a nearby field where they devoured the flesh of a dead horse for dessert!

"You may be sure those German Hausfrauen never cooked feast of Indians," Mrs. Wiegreffe commented.

Many of the descendants of the orphan children of 1848 live in the New Braunfels area.

One of the boys had died before the 1850 Census which listed them as Daniel Fromme, 7, Christian Guenther, 8, Henry Kreikenbaum, 8, William Kraetzer, 10, Peter Walters, 11, George Henry Walters, 9, Frederick Walters, 7, Henry Weber, 14, Frederick Weber, 12, and John Wessinger, 7.

And Augustine Bitter (no age given), Wilhelmine Koether, 16, Franceska Lange, 14, Louise Lange, 4, Lizette Schmidt, 16, Nathalia Schmidt, 8, Caroline Schuessler, 13, and Mariana Stendebach, 11.

"All of them," said Mrs. Wiegreffe, "grew up into good useful men and women and went their own ways."

Rev. and Mrs. Louis Cachand-Ervendberg, was 92 when she related her memories of life in the home shared by the pastor, his wife and five children, and the 19 orphans.

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"Among other pranks, we used to black our faces, put on masquerade costumes of anything we could lay hands on, and go around trying to scare people. One of my greatest treats was riding behind my father on horseback. Sometimes I was allowed to ride along to the mill with a sack of corn to be ground into meal. I loved that. The sack was always falling off, but I did not mind that."

The minister taught regular classes and instructed the boys in agriculture and saw to it that each did his share of work. Mrs. Ervendberg taught the girls how to cook and sew and supervised them in helping with housework.

As was the custom among German families, Christmas was a great festive season.

"We never failed to have a large Christmas tree," Mrs. Wiegreffe reminisced. Often gifts could not be much, but there was always something for every child.

"Each of the boys got a new cap, and there was always a new dress for my doll. It had a china head brought from the river and let them wash his hair to see if the red would come off."

As a display of friendship, the settlers invited the indians to a big German dinner.

"There was little in the way of food, but the women managed and did their very best with materials at hand. They were justly proud of what must have been a real feast for those days."

"The Indians came. They ate with their fingers, and altogether they were so dirty and disgusting the neat Germans

Henry Kreikenbaum, 8, William Kraetzer, 10, Peter Walters, 11, George Henry Walters, 9, Frederick Walters, 7, Henry Weber, 14, Frederick Weber, 12, and John Wessinger, 7.

And Augustine Bitter (no age given), Wilhelmine Koether, 16, Franceska Lange, 14, Louise Lange, 4, Lizette Schmidt, 16, Nathalia Schmidt, 8, Caroline Schuessler, 13, and Mariana Stendebach, 11.

"All of them," said Mrs. Wiegreffe, "grew up into good useful men and women and went their own ways."

WAISENHAUS
("ORPHANAGE")

KNOWN AS FIRST ORPHANAGE IN STATE OF TEXAS. CHARTERED IN 1848 AS "WESTERN TEXAS ORPHAN ASYLUM" BY L.C. ERVENDBERG (D.1863), PASTOR OF NEW BRAUNFELS.

BECAUSE OF SEVERE EPIDEMICS, MANY CHILDREN WERE HOMELESS. AT THIS SITE ERVENDBERG BUILT THIS HOUSE (NOW MUCH REMODELED) AND BEGAN A FARM. HERE HE REARED 19 ORPHANS AS WELL AS HIS OWN 5 CHILDREN. HE ALSO HELD CLASSES AND TAUGHT FARMING TECHNIQUES. HIS WIFE TAUGHT HOUSEKEEPING.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK — 1970