WHEREVER German immigrants to this country settled in considerable numbers, one of the first acts of a social nature, in such a community, was to form a Turn Verein for the purpose of practicing and further developing that system of physical and mental exercise called turning. The doctrine of "Father" Jahn that "a sound body is a prime requisite for the abode of a sound mind" is so strongly inculcated into the being of Germans, that a Turn Verein is an absolute necessity for physical exercise and social activities. Seattle is no exception to this racial phenomenon. The Pacific Coast of the United States was a region upon which German immigrants and Americans of German extraction have always looked with great favor, when seeking a change of environment. So it came to pass that on April 17, 1885, when the population of Seattle contained a liberal sprinkling of German-Americans, the Seattle Turn Verein was formed and incorporated.

Among the names contained in the list of charter members, are the following: Albert Schlossmacher, G. Benninghausen, Adam Orth, R. Damus, August Mehlhorn, Fred Gasch, Geo. Michel, Otto Rdnke, Fritz Wuesthoff, H. Argens and others. Property was acquired and a hall constructed, at the southwest corner of Fourth Avenue and Jefferson Street. Here the Verein flourished for a number of years and the membership roster, aside from those mentioned above, contained the names of the following, as active participants in the early development of the Verein: H. A. Schroeder, Col. E. F. Edsen, Max Kreelshheimer, Henry Heckmann, A. C. Auernheimer, A. Schaab, Chas. Osner, Henry Herkenrath, Eugene Brunner and others. For a time the gymnasium classes were directed by volunteer instructors from the membership. Mr. H. A. Schroeder, who is still a member of the Verein, was particularly active in this service. Later, as the classes increased in number and attendance, professional instructors were employed. Turner August Springer, whose name is still enrolled on the membership list, was the first professional instructor to serve the Turn Verein. Conrad Wiedemann and Wm. Retzer were also employed as instructors during the pioneer days of the Verein.

In 1898 the Fourth Avenue property was disposed of and for a number of years the, Turn Verein occupied rented quarters. In pioneer times, the Turn Verein also conducted a regular school, in which the German language was taught, in addition to the ordinary elementary subjects. In 1905, under the presidency of Eugene Brunner, the Verein became more active and aggressive, acquiring the present Turn Verein property on Eighth Avenue between Olive and Stewart Streets. Here the Verein has pursued its purposes, with varying success, for the past twenty or twenty years, and since its activities since that date are comparatively recent history, but few comments are necessary. The reverses that the organization has suffered from time to time, were of course of a financial nature, and due principally to the difficulty of operating an institution of this character, paying its way and heavy overhead expenses, on the same terms as a strict business insti-

E.E. BEHNKE
Born in Friedland, West Prussia.
Seattle since 1891.
Instructor, Physical Culture, Seattle Turn Verein, 1918 8th Avenue.

Without recounting the activities of the American Turner Bund, which is the Turners national organization, and of which the Seattle Turn Verein is a unit, no resume of Turner achievements can be complete. Originated by Dr. Friederich Ludwig Jahn, in the first years of the nineteenth century, for the purpose of promoting mental development among the German people, in harmony with the idea and spirit of freedom, liberty and justice and to produce the physical development necessary to demand, acquire and maintain these ideals, turning within a year became so popular that it was practiced by practically the entire population of Germany. On the initiative of Dr. John G. Coffin and Dr. John C. Warren, professors in Harvard University, this system was introduced into the United States in 1826 and the first University and high school gymnasiums, patterned after the Jahn model, were opened in this country at that time. Karl Beck opened a gymnasium at Round Hill school in Northampton; Karl Follen performed a similar service at Harvard University, while Franz Lieber busied himself with a similar task at the Tremont school in Boston. All of these men were associates and disciples of Jahn and well educated-apparel of filling regular faculty chairs at any of these institutions.

But it was not until after the big movement of German immigrants to this country in the years following 1848, that the practice of turning acquired significant proportions. With that event Turn Vereins ever increasing numbers, sprang up in the large cities of the East as well as in the small pioneer hamlets of the Middle West. In 1850 the American Turner Bund, being an association of all American Turn Vereins, was founded.

During the years following 1850, the American Turn Vereins prospered phenomenally. But with the outbreak of the Civil War all this changed. The Turner organizations were of the utmost importance, and practically indispensable to the Union cause during the first months of the war. By reason of their gymnasium training they were the only large body of men, familiar in any degree, with the carrying out of mass evolutions, such as are essential in army maneuvers. As soon as the Turners were provided with uniforms and equipment they were ready for the fray. Since the Turners were loyal to the Union, without an exception even in the border states, they afforded the government considerable relief during the early stages of the combat. In Missouri the prompt action of the Turners, in taking possession of the military buildings, supplies and equipment, in the name of the United States, no doubt preserved that state for the Union. And the same holds true for the state of Maryland where the Turners acted with equal zeal and dispatch.

Gymnasium apparatus was removed and the halls and athletic fields of the Turner organizations were placed at the disposal of the Government as recruiting stations and drilling places. In this manner the property of the Turn Vereins fell into disuse, as far as the purpose for which they had been created was concerned. With the active members in the army, the membership of these organizations was soon reduced to practically nothing. But rapid as this decline had been, the close of the war saw these institutions recover over very rapidly.

In 1860 the American Turner Bund founded a normal school for gymnasium instructors which, until 1907, was conducted in connection with the Teachers Normal School in Milwaukee. In 1907 the A.T.B. Normal School was removed to Indianapolis where this institution is flourishing today. The movement which has resulted in the adoption of physical exercise as a requisite in nearly all the schools of the larger American cities was proposed and initiated by the A.T.B. in 1880. The American Turner Bund can also claim the honor of having been instrumental in the introduction of this form of exercise into the military and naval establishments of the United States located at West Point and Annapolis, respectively.

The American Turner Bund can view with smug satisfaction the record of its beneficial achievements in the United States, with the full knowledge that better results have been achieved by none.
The Order of the Sons of Hermann

The origin and history of the order of the Sons of Hermann takes one back about eighty years. The German immigrants who came to the United States during the period from 1840 to 1848 were subject to a great deal of hatred and spit and even persecution. Especially was such the case in the large cities where they were practically without protection. Several educated and capable men in the city of New York met for the purpose of improving conditions concerning these immigrants, and they finally concluded that conditions could only be improved through the organization of some strong union of these Germans without regard to class distinction and that in such a way a decided change for the better could be effected. For that purpose they conceived the idea of forming a society to carry out their ideas.

In memory of Hermann the "Cherokees", who in his time succeeded in uniting the Germans when the Roman hordes tried to subject the people of Germany to their will and power, they formed an organization to be known as the "Hermanns-Soehne", or "Sons of Hermann". For a distinctive badge of this order they chose the colors black, red and gold.

The society rapidly spread over the Eastern and Middle States, but it required fifty years before this order obtained a foothold in the Northwestern States on the Pacific for the first lodge was organized in the state of Washington in the year 1889 at Tacoma: the second was organized in 1890 in Seattle, and then in rapid succession came the lodges in the following cities: Bellingham, Everett, Spokane, Uniontown (Whitman county), Walla Walla, Hillyard, Vancouver, Wash., and also Vancouver, B. C. In recent years a lodge was instituted at Chehalis. All of these lodges were organized for men only to further their social means and to cultivate a brotherly spirit. It became evident, however, that the wives and sisters of the brother members should have an opportunity to attend similar lodges, and for that purpose sister lodges were instituted in Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane, Walla Walla, Everett and Chehalis.

The principles underlying the order of the Sons of Hermann are the following: To maintain and cultivate the love for the German language and also to inculcate German customs and manners and to afford and extend mutual aid in case of sickness and in the event of death, and in order to accomplish these purposes the lodge has arranged for assistance through sickness and death benefits assessed specially upon each member as the occasion arises.

In 1893 the various subordinate lodges formed a Grand Lodge for the State of Washington and British Columbia, and then there was added life insurance for the benefit of the members of the order in the sum of $500.00 for full benefit or half that amount if so desired. This benefit is payable strictly according to instructions given by the member. In order to secure to members the payment of insurance benefits the Grand Lodge has instituted a guaranty fund, which under the careful and prudent management of the officers and trustees of the Grand Lodge has now reached the sum of $65,000.00. This money is carefully invested in interest bearing bonds, and thus far the Grand Lodge has been able to meet all obligations promptly from the contributions received from the subordinate lodges, and likewise has accumulated this surplus fund. This makes insurance in the order safe and desirable. While the amount is not large yet it has served a very useful and important purpose in many families when death has unexpectedly come into a home.

The sister lodges have likewise a sick benefit and insurance fund. The insurance is $250.00. This amount is also in charge of the Grand Lodge, and while the sister lodges have been in existence but a short time nevertheless they have accumulated a surplus in the sum of $13,500.00. This fund is also carefully guarded and is rapidly increasing. Persons of German descent may join the order if past the age of fifty years by becoming honorary members.

Aside from the important feature which this order of the Sons of Hermann offers in the way of sick and death benefits and the insurance, every good citizen of German descent should be anxious to belong to one of the sister lodges for the sake of mutual friendship and protection which the lodge affords.

Of course we are all American citizens, and we love our adopted country, the United States, and are proud of being citizens of this great republic. On the other hand it should not in the least detract from our American citizenship and standing as Americans that we take pride in the fact of being known as German Americans. During the world war we were true and loyal to our adopted country; at the same time we could not wholly forget that we were descended from the same race that fought the Roman hordes under the great leader Hermann nearly two thousand years ago, a race that in modern times made such wonderful progress in commerce, science and art.

I therefore hope that our beloved order will prosper in the years to come as it has prospered in the past. Ever faithful and loyal to our beloved United States, the order will strive and work to maintain harmony in its ranks and carry out the principles as enunciated in our constitution and as intended by the founders of the Sons of Hermann.

-C. J. G.

**GRAND LODGE OFFICERS**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grand President</td>
<td>W. Dressen, Spokane</td>
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**OFFICERS SEATTLE LODGE NO. 2**

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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>E. Benofsky</td>
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**OFFICERS EVERGREEN LODGE NO. 1**

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**EMIL BENOFSKY**

Born in Dresden, Germany. Resident of Seattle since 1900. Architect. President Seattle Lodge No. 2, O.D. H. S.