



The Engelhorn Newsletter

An occasional letter of family news

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The 12th biennial Engelhorn family gathering August 6-8 at Hood River Inn at Hood River, Oregon, was a great success. The venue in the scenic Columbia River Gorge offered many opportunities for scenic drives, Lewis and Clark history, and recreation. Our organizing committee is to be congratulated for a fine job, well done. Thank you Steve and Sandi Engelhorn, and Sylvia and Darrell Russell.

Attendees began to arrive Thursday, registration was Friday. Our reserved meeting room for the reunion was well used on Friday as folks gathered, socialized, renewed family acquaintances, and shared family stories. First-time reunion attendees were introduced at the family meeting Friday evening and welcomed to our group.

Saturday morning we were free to enjoy the scenic surroundings and sights along the Columbia River and nearby orchards. In the afternoon we all gathered for a cruise on the river aboard the sternwheeler *Columbia Gorge* for a good look at the Columbia River gorge from the water.

The family dinner Saturday night was most enjoyable with an excellent buffet featuring fresh salmon and prime rib. Prizes were awarded for the farthest distance traveled, who spent the most time on the road, and who had the most grandchildren. Fred Obermiller took the prize for the most recent grand-child, born that morning in Japan. Our committee organized a contest they called "Who's Who." A number of attendees were invited to submit in advance photos of themselves as children. Our job was to guess who they were. A three-way tie with eight correct (of 16) between Roger, Wayne, and Loyd Engelhorn was resolved in favor of Roger by a random draw.

We learned at the meeting that one of our members, Gary Engelhorn, was a runner and that he had won in his age class in a 5k footrace that day in Portland. His prize was a strawberry-rhubarb pie which he donated for an auction. The spirited bidding brought almost \$100 as seed money for our next reunion.

The last order of business was to appoint a committee to host the next reunion in 2006. Roger and Jim Engelhorn volunteered and they are considering possible locations, one is Colorado Springs, the other is Door County, Wisconsin, on Lake Michigan. However,

they are open to suggestions for your favorite location. Contact me at the address at the top of this letter.

Attendees at the '04 reunion, in no particular order; *Jim & Maureen Bartheld, Yakima, WA; Gary & Meg Engelhorn, Naperville, IL; Sister Sylvia Bartheld, Alameda, CA; *Jeff, Tami, & Henri Engelhorn, Olympia, WA; *William Botton, Reno, NV; Jim Engelhorn, Centennial, CO; *James & Susan Crow, Eugene, OR; *Loyd and Jan Engelhorn, Boise, ID; *Lee & Lin Crow, Coarsegold, CA; Lynn & Polly Engelhorn, Colfax, WI; *Nadine Duncan, Joseph, OR; Roger & LaVonne Engelhorn, N. Mankato, MN; Paul & Lynnette Ellefson, Mesa, AZ; Steve & Sandi Engelhorn, Olympia, WA; Audrey Engelhorn, Oceanside, CA; *Wayne Engelhorn, Caldwell, ID; *Peter and Lin Engelhorn, Medford, OR; *Richard and Karen Hansen, Redmond, OR; *Eric & Christina Engelhorn, Olympia, WA; Peggy & Jerry Jukkala, Mesa, AZ; Joan & Mel Lathrop, Wallowa, OR; Jim Schrempp & Angela Mallet, Saratoga, CA; Marilyn & Jim Lawrence, Port Orchard, WA; *Mike & Gwen Schrempp, Gig Harbor, WA; Elinor Meyer, Lakehills, TX; Tara Tucker, LaGrange, OR; Marna & Dave Millard, Tumwater, WA; Nola & Jon Westphal, Beth Ryan & Kate, Menomonie, WI; *Fred Obermiller, Mt. Shasta, CA; Mary White, Perris, CA; Craig, LaVon, Elizabeth & Samuel Orput, Camas, WA; Frances Orput, Concord, CA; Dorothy Ortman, Seattle, WA; Arlene & John Roundhill, Polson, MT; Sylvia & Darrell Russell, Olympia, WA; Ben & Eileen Schrempp, Pacifica, CA.

(* Denotes first time reunion attendees.)

A few pictures from the reunion are posted on our family web site; www.theengelhornfamily.com. Click on reunions, then on Hood River, 2004.

Here is a list of previous Engelhorn gatherings;

- 1982 - Estes Park, Colorado
- 1984 - Black Hills, South Dakota
- 1986 - Hood Canal, Union, Washington
- 1988 - Lake Minnetonka, Minnesota
- 1990 - San Diego, California
- 1992 - Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming
- 1994 - Flagstaff, Arizona
- 1996 - Lansing, Iowa
- 1998 - Breckenridge, Colorado
- 2000 - Pacific Grove, Monterey, California
- 2002 - Two Harbors, Minnesota
- 2004 - Hood River, Oregon

The story of the bark, *Engelhorn*.



The Bark *Engelhorn*

In January 1948 my Aunt Helen Englehorn Bender read a letter to the editor in *Newsweek* magazine; “Vast heaving! Vast printing! Bela-a-ay! If Bill Barnacle, our respected mate, had caught any of ‘those damn boys’ [apprentices] of his starboard watch calling the bark ENGELHORN of Liverpool a schooner he would have boxed the compass and everybody within reach of his horny-handed fist. As I remember, a schooner is fore-and-aft rigged, and your cut shows a square-rigged vessel. Call the old Man! Call the watch! But do not call it a schooner.”

/s/ J.R. Beggs, Middlebury, Pennsylvania

Mr. Beggs' letter was prompted by a story in the December 8, 1947 issue of *Newsweek* in which a four-masted, full-rigged ship, a bark, was termed a schooner. There had been reports that a sailing vessel bearing the name Engelhorn had been seen in Tacoma and other west-coast seaports and the *Newsweek* episode indicated that the stories were more than just rumor. Aunt Helen notified my father who wrote to Mr. Beggs and received an interesting reply, dated February 29, 1948.

“Dear Mr. Engelhorn:

“It has been a good many years since I have had the occasion to use your surname in writing except when I wrote to *Newsweek* regarding their shipping error. I thought that perhaps some of my old shipmates might run across that “Letter to the Editor” and see my address and drop me a line or two but seafaring men in general are full of good intentions when it comes to writing and that is as far as it goes, but I have not given up hope yet. I was pleased to receive your letter for the name Engelhorn always brings back memories of the day when I was an apprentice. I am a British-licensed Sea Captain,...and after the first world war came to the United States...

“I am afraid that I cannot enlighten you very much genealogically, I would say that your antecedents are of Swiss extraction for some of our ships were named *Engelhorn*, *Matterhorn*, *Silberhorn* and *Lyderhorn* and those are names of mountains in the Swiss Alps.

“The man who owned our ships was Mr. Charles de Wolf and I believe was a Nova Scotian. His office was in

the Tower Building, Liverpool, Lancashire, England.

“The bark *Engelhorn* was in Tacoma in 1910 and was dis-masted rounding Cape Horn before arriving there. The voyage after I left her she was bound for the west coast of South America and never arrived, “Reported Missing” as Lloyds say.

“To me the *Engelhorn* is still sailing proudly “Full and By” - the ship that taught me “They that go down to the sea in ships see many wonders of the Lord.”

Yours very sincerely, /s/ John R. Beggs

Further correspondence between my father and *Sea Breezes*, *The Journal of Commerce and Shipping Telegraph Ltd.* in Liverpool, confirmed the existence of several ships, including the *Engelhorn*, named after Swiss mountains and owned by C.R. de Wolf and Co. The *Engelhorn* sailed from Valparaiso, Chile bound for England on August 28, 1914 with a cargo of barley and disappeared without a trace. It was presumed she was lost in a storm off Cape Horn, and was officially posted as missing by Lloyds in May 1915. The accompanying photograph was supplied by Mr. Craig J.M. Carter, editor of *Sea Breezes*.

Well, that really got my father started on the quest for his (and our) roots. He had earlier talked with his father, John Thomas, over the years about our family origins and the two of them had visited Lansing, Iowa and the cemeteries there. John Thomas had said that our family came from Altlusheim, Germany. The possibility that we originated in Switzerland added a new twist. Progress was slow until in 1965 when my father and mother made a trip to Europe and while there went to Altlusheim and Hockenheim and looked up the church records.

He made contact with a few folks in Germany willing to help and, through them, found documents, citations in books, and the link to our German origins in Hockenheim. No connection to Switzerland has been found to date. We think there may still be a possibility that a family connection in Switzerland may yet be found. Perhaps someone from near the Engelhorn mountains in Switzerland traveled to southern Germany and adopted the name as his own in his new home; in Hockenheim, perhaps, and probably as early as the 16th century.

The *Engelhorn* was a four-masted steel barque built in 1889 by Whitehaven Shipbuilding Co., Whitehaven. Dimensions; 300' × 42'8" × 24' and 2461 tons. Rigged with royal sails over double top and top-gallant sails. Launched October 1889 at the shipyard of Whitehaven Shipbuilding Co., for J.R. de Wolf & Son, Liverpool. Assigned the Official British signal LMHG. Primarily used in the nitrate trade from Chile to Europe. The first master of the ship was Captain W.J. Simms. In 1898 Captain W.F. Andrews, late of the steel ship *Glenalvon*, took over command of the ship.

On 26 January 1911, collided with the four-masted barque *Pommern* off Helgoland and was towed into Hamburg for repairs. August 28, 1914, left Valparaiso with a cargo of nitrate in sacks and was probably lost at Cape Horn.

(Taken from the Four-Masted Ships web site compiled by Lars Bruzelius, 1996.)

Some of you may not be aware of the Guldene Engel in Hockenheim, Germany.



The Guldene Engel inn in Hockenheim, was built by Johann Georg Engelhorn, grandson of our first known ancestor, Markus Engelhorn, the Elder (1580-1650.) Georg (1630-1698) was a magistrate and tax, or customs collector. He was the first officially documented customs collector in Hockenheim, appointed in 1682, "the only capable man in Hockenheim to whom one could trust the customs service." He built the inn in 1690. Until recently it had remained an inn. A few years ago it was converted to a restaurant, Turkish, I think, but it remains on the German Register of National Historic Places.

I thought you might be interested in a bit of more recent family history, so here is a biographical sketch of Michael Riser, a borderline Black Sheep in the family.

Mike Riser was born 12 March 1864 in Lansing, Iowa, a son of Christian and Eva Marie Engelhorn Reiser. in the Mathias line. Mike went to Montana in 1887 as a young man, one of three brothers who came west to prospect for gold. The other brothers were Tom and Louis. Mike worked at various jobs; freighter, miner and saloon keeper, living at times at Fort Benton, Helena, White Sulphur Springs, Kendall and Lewistown. He was killed 10 October 1927 in an automobile accident on the East Fork road where he had jacked up his car to put on tire chains, the jack slipped and the car dropped on his neck and choked and suffocated him to death. He was buried 13 October 1927 in Lewistown, Fergus County, Montana, aged 63 years 8 months, 28 days.

The *Fergus County Argus* reported on Thursday, December 10, 1925 that last Friday (December 4) the county attorney filed an information directly charging Michael Riser with murder in the first degree. The

instrument set out that on November 24, 1925, Riser did "wilfully and unlawfully, feloniously, premeditatedly and with malice aforethought, kill and murder one Frank Draper." (They had little doubt he was a villain.)

In 1926 Mike was tried and eventually acquitted, after two trials, in the shooting death of motorcycle policeman Frank Draper. On the evening of 24 November 1925, Mike and his wife were observed entering their apartment in Lewistown carrying a package of newspapers looking suspiciously like it contained moonshine whisky. Draper, another officer, and a prohibition officer followed the Risers to their apartment and demanded entry. They claimed at the trial that they could hear liquid being pored down a drain and could smell the odor of moonshine. Upon being refused entry to the apartment they broke in the door and were confronted with Mike holding an automatic pistol. Three shots were fired in rapid succession, one striking officer Draper in the abdomen, one hitting Mike in the shoulder and another going through a clothing wardrobe. Draper died December 1 of peritonitis resulting from his wound.

The trial, in March 1926, centered around the fact that the officers entered without a search warrant and who fired the first shot. The jury took over forty hours of deliberation and ended up at eight to four for acquittal. The second trial was held the following June, postponed to that date because of the difficulty of obtaining jurors from the farming community during the spring court session. The second trial followed the same course as the first except that Mrs. Riser's testimony had to be read to the jury, quoted from her testimony in the first trial, she having passed away on April 1. The second trial lasted from June 8 until June 12. The jury deliberated for about four and a half hours to reach a verdict of not guilty. The defense presented a good case, based on the lack of a search warrant and self-defense, convincing the jury that Frank Draper had shot first, almost immediately after calling out, "Drop that gun, Mike."

The court record shows that on November 8, 1926, on motion of defendant, State's exhibits "H" (pistol) and "L" (clip) were ordered released to the defendant.

Mike Riser was a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles.

I have photo copies of all the newspaper articles from the *Lewistown Democrat News* and *Fergus County Argus* regarding Mike's trial, obtained through the kind offices of the Fergus County Historical and Genealogical Society.

We look forward to meeting more relatives and greeting old acquaintances again at the next family gathering in 2006. Watch for announcements over the next few months. JAE