

Two Volga German Games

by Ward Patterson

[Collected from John A. Dinkel, Victoria, by Ward Patterson, Spring 1959. Reprinted from *Kansas Folklore*, pp. 219-221, by permission of the University of Nebraska Press.]

W

Usau

e had a game for where we played. We had six there, and there was maybe four, five, six boys or girls together there. We took an old tin can, hit that kind of around a little, and we had as many always as there was boys and girls there, and we had sticks about three or four feet long, and we played that game we call "usau." So we had one then, he had to stay in the center, and whoever hit that can there and another party could get in his hole. Each one of them had a hole around the center hole, and each one of them had to keep his stick in there. Then the one in the middle would hit that can there, and he'd hit that can either way. It didn't matter which way, but he'd hit that can, and wherever that can went to, that fellow had to hit that can, and so it got to go someplace else. That person in the middle, when he had a chance, he'd put his stick in this fellow's hole there, so this boy had to go in the middle. Lot of times it took a long time before this boy got out of the middle, but he got out off and on, and then we had another game.

Karotgar

We took round pieces of wood. We cut them off from trees about six inches long and about an inch and a half, two inches thick in diameter. We had two ends, seven sticks on the west end and seven on the east end. That was apart about twenty steps, something like that; then there is two or four or six players. Well, each player had a stick—we cut them from the trees too. They was sticks about an inch or maybe little over an inch thick, and about two and a half foot long. We made a line around them small sticks. We set them up, laid one on the ground, then we set up three of them with the end up on top of that one that was lying on the ground—the back end down on the ground. Then we laid another two on top of them and one up in the middle. Both ends was the same. We tried to throw them out of that ring; we throwed our sticks what we had, and whoever had them all out first—them short pieces of wood out of that ring—he won the game. Then we had to change. We always had to change whenever somebody won a game. We had to go to the circle. The parties on the east end had to go west, and the parties on the west end had to do east. We played a lot of that.



St. Anthony's Church, Schoenchen.



The former Sacred Heart Church, now a private residence, Emmeran.