

American Bavarian Brass Band

A wedding started it all

Oktoberfest hasn't always been about beer, dancing and chicken hats. Well...there was always beer and dancing but the chicken hats came much later. To truly understand the history of Oktoberfest you have to travel back to it's roots.

The year was 1810, the place was southern Germany, Bavaria , and life was hard. It was the month of October and all of the countryside had been working day and night to finish their fall harvest and prepare for the onset of winter. While the plow horses were working and the farmers days were filled from sun-up to sun-down, there were some other preparations being made as well. Prince Ludwig I and his entire court were preparing for his upcoming marriage to Princess Therese of Sachsen-Hildurghausen.

The grand wedding was to take place on the 12th, right in the middle of the harvest. As you know any wedding can be difficult to plan, but when you're a prince it can be even more stressful! The invitations had gone out, the garments had been made and the location had been selected. The big event was to be held in a magnificent wise (meadow) just outside the gates of Munich. As the big day approached the countryside and town, in fact all of Bavaria, was a buzz with talk of the big day to come. Everyone was planning on attending as they were all exhausted from the harvest and it was really the last chance before the long, cold days of winter to get out and blow off some steam.

On the 12th, the ceremony went off without a hitch. The weather was perfect, the bride looked beautiful and about 40,000 guests were in attendance. The reception, as you can imagine, was on the biggest parties history had ever seen with copious amount of beer being drank and massive quantities of food being devoured. It was a reception fit for a prince. And this prince was ecstatic. Ludwig I was so taken with all of his guests that he planned a special treat for them. The prince knew that all his subjects were huge fans of horse racing so he planned to conclude the event with a somewhat impromptu horse race across the great meadow.

When the townspeople heard of this they erupted in a jubilant cry- zicca-zacca, zicca-zacca,hoy,hoy,hoy! (This is still chanted in beer tents of today's Oktoberfest celebrations.)

It was then and there that they decided unanimously to rename the wise "Theresiewiese" (Theresa's Meadow) in honor of the prince's new bride. This was their humble way welcoming her to town. To this day that very meadow still bears her name. After a spectacular day and night- and probably more than a couple hangovers-the great event came to an end.

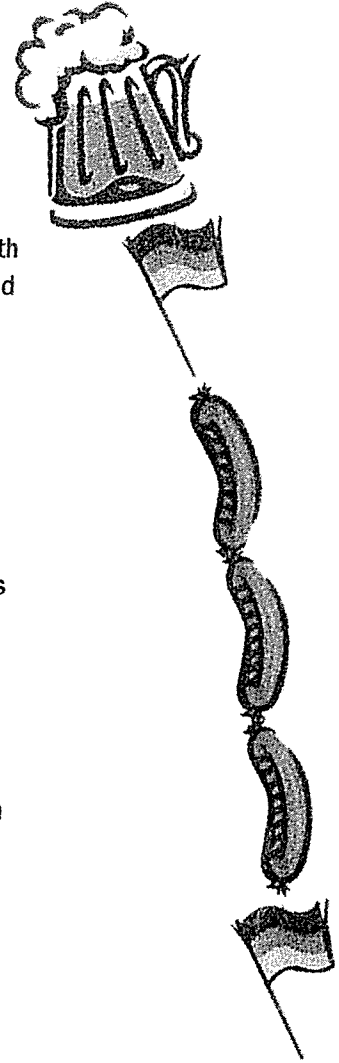
It was the following fall as the townspeople began to reminisce about the great time they had had the previous year (as do many of Oktoberfest guests tend to do around the fall) that they they decided to honor their prince and celebrate his wedding anniversary in much the same way. King Maximilian agreed, but this party was to be even bigger, better and longer than the first. The event became an annual celebration and that, my friends, as how Oktoberfest began and continues today!

Now, about those chicken hats....

The Oktoberfest Band

Call Linda Pippenger for Information

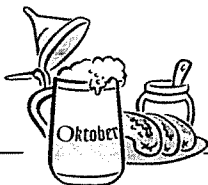
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American Bavarian Brass Band Song Sheet

For Booking Information Please Call Linda Pippenger, Program Director at (909) 556-1345



14. The Oktoberfest Song

It's that time of year again, Oktoberfest is here again,
bring your fam-ly and your friends
and join in all the fun

Stand and sing ein prosit, ein prosit, ein prosit.
Stand and sing ein prosit, Oktoberfest is here

Fill your steins with German beer,
hold it high and give a cheer,
Sing it out for all to hear, then drink until it's gone

Stand and sing ein prosit, ein prosit, ein prosit.
Stand and sing ein prosit, Oktoberfest is here

In Heaven there is no beer, that's why we drink it here.
And when we're gone from here,
our friends will be drinking all our beer.

La la la la la la..... Hey! Hey!

We're here because we're here ,
we've come to drink some beer,
so round us up some cheer, we'll have another beer
Up above there is no beer 'cause we've got it all down here.
The next time we are near we'll come and drink your beer.

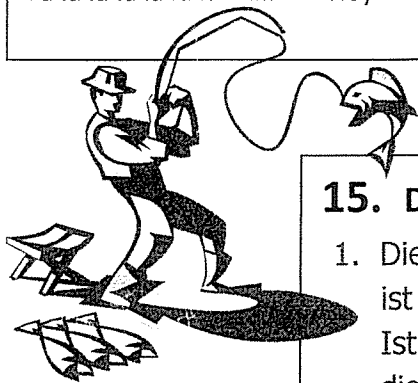
Tra-la-la-la-la-la-la, Tra-la-la-la-la-la-la, Tra-la-la-la-la-la-la,
REPEAT.....

EIEIEIO, EIEIEIO, EIEIEIO, EIEIEIO, REPEAT.....

Hey, hey, bah-bah-reeba, Hey, hey, bah-bah-reeba,

REPEAT.....

EIEIEIO, EIEIEIO, EIEIEIO, EIEIEIO, REPEAT.....



15. Die Fischerin vom Bodensee

1. Die Fischerin vom Bodensee
ist eine schöne Maid juchhe.
Ist eine schöne Maid juchhe,
die Fischerin vom Bodensee
und fährt sie auf den See hinaus,
dann legt sie ihr Netze aus,
schon ist ein junges Fischlein drin,
im Netz der schönen Fischerin.

2. Da kommt ein alter Hecht daher,
übers große Schwabenmeer.
Übers große Schwabenmeer,
da kommt ein alter Hecht daher.
Er möchte doch ins Netz hinein
und bei der Maid gefangen sein,
doch zieht die Fischerin im Nu
das Netz schon wieder zu.

Refrain

Ein weißer Schwan ziehet den Kahn
mit der schönen Fischerin auf dem blauen See dahin.
Im Abendrot schimmert das Boot.
Lieder klingen von der Höh' am schönen Bodensee.

