



The Forgotten People & Company



A HISTORY OF WENDER & DUERHOLT
IN AUSTRALIA 1952-2000



HENRY SMITH

Introduction

This book explains the history of the company and how the company ceased to exist and its name became forgotten because of the mistakes that were made right from the start and no one realised it including the owner E. Lohmann of the company.



Lennepe, February 1952

The Director Eugen Lohmann of the company Wender & Duerholt in Lennepe made many panels for camp accommodation as people who lost their homes due to the war. During the war the company made Baracken (camp buildings). Prefabrication came to an end after World War Two. The company then produced pre-cut timber framed houses. Due to the Berlin Wall making a division between East and West Germany the director Eugen Lohmann had to seek a safe haven for his company. With long time Jewish friends suggestions, to move elsewhere the direction was Australia.

The financier for the project was unknown to the workers. Regardless of plenty of work available in Germany many employees of Wender & Duerholt voluntarily joined the Director's ambition and loaded the camp accommodation panels to be sent to Australia. They also signed a contract of loyalties to work for the company for two years to help erect 500 pre-cut timber framed houses in a land of which most of them had never heard. The Journey became documented from still pictures from with book has been published and a little later a video produced.

The video "The Journey of the Employees from Wender & Duerholt (Australia) In 1952 to the Marion District in South Australia, Building Timber-frame Houses for the South Australian Housing Trust" are available on Youtube.



Video Part 1A



Video Part 2B



About The Author

Henry Smith was born in Germany in 1930. He came on the ship "Roma" to South Australia arriving on 20th March 1952. He came with the company Wender & Duerholt as a contract worker tradesman joiner & carpenter to South Australia. He became a migrant and was naturalized in 1957. While assisting plumbers, Henry became interested in welding, achieving a certificate in December 1968. A safety certificate in 1969 meant that he could also take charge of any building project. This was followed by a builder's license, which became compulsory in July 1978. Licence No. G 2033. During this time Henry was heavily involved with the St. John Ambulance Association and received his first, First Aid Certificate on the 1st of May 1978.

Henry went on to work in the concrete and steel structural industry and later worked for the railway. He was also asked to Commission as a Justice of the Peace for the State of South Australia, (reg.16158) this he accepted on the 20th of December 1979. Furthering his education every step of the way and worked voluntarily in the courts system many hours. This is un-paid position.

In time Henry also qualified as a security guard and was offered employment during the Grand Prix, this he accepted and carried out his duties two weeks per season from 1986 to 1989. During 1988 Henry also completed certificates in "Emergency of Fire" and his fifth First Aid Certificate. He worked in the Art Gallery as Security Guard and escorted Prince Charles through the Gallery. He retired from work at his age of 58, due to ill health. Age 65, (a pensioner)

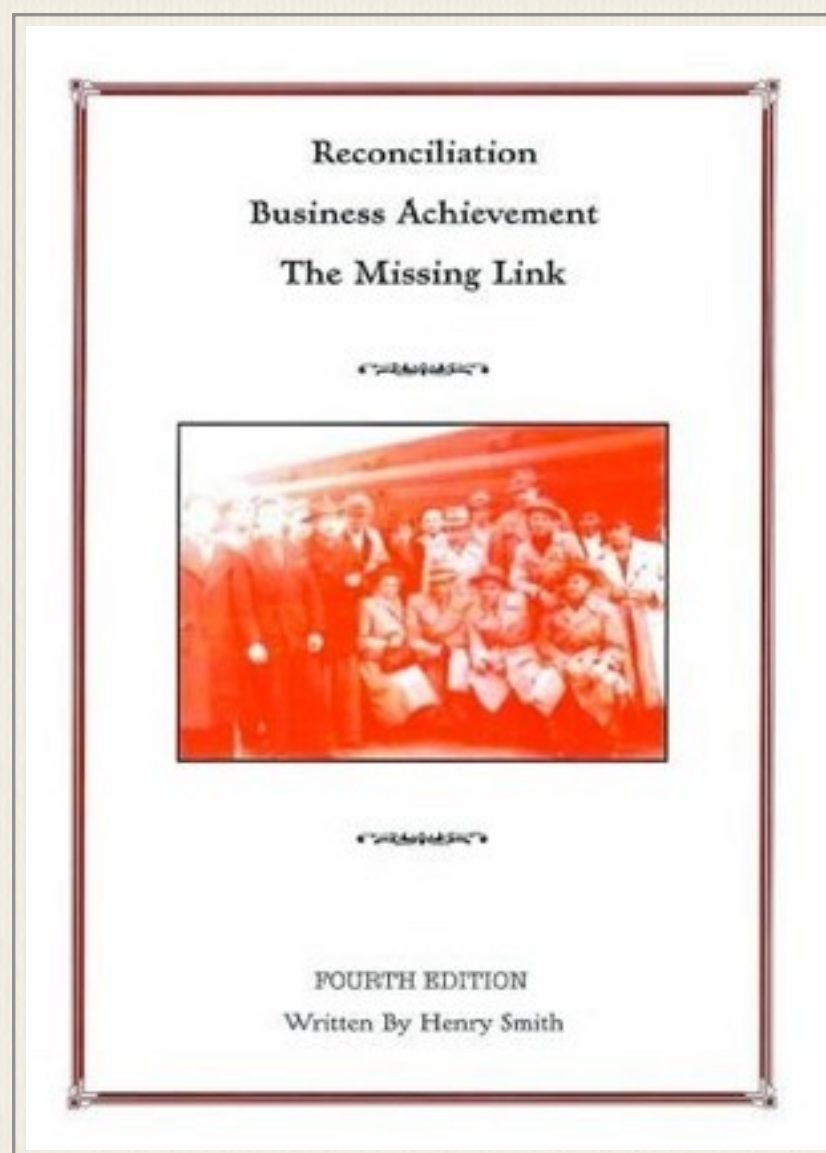
He joined a group of 5 people and helped to establish ACE Adelaide Community Education TV now called channel 31. at a personal cost of \$30.000 over 2 years under the director of Rita Freeman. In helping the TV station ACE along; (un-paid position) along as a volunteer pensioner, keeping mentally fit. In

January 1997 he completed the filming and editing of a video on South Australian History, "Where do we meet", a video very much recommended by the State Library and by the then Governor of South Australia, Sir Eric Neal. (see YouTube video).

He also produced a video of Wender & Duerholt 1952 - 2002 how they had worked in the Marion district for the Housing Trust. He has produced many videos and four of his video scripts are in his book. (1) Where do we meet? (2) Pioneering The Benefits We reap. (3) Ship called "Roma" Brought in 1952 the first 19 people for Wender & Duerholt to Australia. (4) Colonel Light Vision. And many more are listed in the index.

Henry Smith named his book a "diary". The Founders of Wender & Duerholt were Wilhelm Wender and Ludwig Duserholt in 1870's, (see page 181). Albert Schmidt received an Orden from the King of Prussia in 1880, (see page 183 Lennep, Germany). Schomburgk, born in Fregburg arrived with Carl Linger on the ship called "Princess Louise" in 1849. Schomburgk received a honorary Dr. Title from the King of Prussia on the 4 April 1868, while living and working in the Botanic Garden South Australia (see page 53). The Kaiser of Prussia formed Germany in 1871; it was called the Second Reich.

A book written of 364 pages by Henry Smith in Australia Reconciliation - Business - Achievement, The Missing Link. See pages 202-203-231-233.



A book having the Title "Reconciliation Business Achievement The Missing Link" of 362 pages also gives the full history of Wender & Duerholt in Germany and in Australia. The book "4th edition" has been updated since 1/3/09 is also available on C.D.ROM. Information in Books & Videos is available on German Settlement History in South Australia at the State Library.

There has seldom been a worker who has received the full value for labour that he or she has given to an employer. The good will Energy, given voluntarily "makes you feel good" but seldom is rewarded by an organization.

Energy produced in any human body must be used, otherwise the body by nature will disease in bad health. But be aware to whom you will give your spare energy in any organization or Authority in not to become a Fool, a problem were people never will recover from there downfall. Philosophy has been around for many thousands of years.

The power of Philosophy has been used by religious groups, - by politicians - business organizations. The power in Philosophy by any organization is the same. Keeping control over its workers.

When the worker discovered the Philosophy of the ruling bosses in Authority the employment structure in most cases changed. The changes are unavoidable in Private Enterprise, governments of any countries, or religious organizations.

Unfortunately the worker has to take the brunt in losing his job, losing the promised benefits including the weekly income in wages.

In volunteering to sign a contract, in this case, with Wender & Duerholt, to come to Australia to build the German made imported timber frame houses for the Housing Trust was completed in 1955.

The agreement over employees personal fare promised in the contract was not kept. (Copy of contract on page 150) The Housing Trust did get the 500 imported Timber frame houses built by the German contract workers working for Wender & Duerholt..

Wender & Duerholt a company established over several generations in Germany. In Australia the company had at least four Directors and they were part owners at different times in the company. Therefore some people have been forgotten, due to their difficult time in defending themselves in their adventure.

The political side of the Federal and State Governments in Australia in dealing with individual citizens in this country. On three occasion 2004 -2005 -2006

"Henry Smith" was nominated for the Australian of the Year Award. He received nothing other than he had been nominated .

Sir Eric Neal then the Governor of South Australia expressed an appreciation in April 1998.

On page 266; Bruno Krumins, AM Lieutenant Governor of South Australia. It reads: Dear Mr. Smith: Congratulation on publishing the book “Reconciliation Business Achievement, The Missing Link”. You have made an invaluable contribution to the history of S.A. thank You for the book + the video film. 2013 Proclamation Day; the Governor of South Australia.



Notices

No comprehension can be drawn, the history of Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Hieu Van Le, AO, when he entered Australia after the Vietnam war compared with any volunteering contract worker including workers from Wender & Duerholt entering in to this country after the Second World War. in 1952. The history in the multicultural system became very much distorted by today's political bureaucracy system. The Lieutenant Governor, Mr. Hieu Van Le, a Vietnamese entering Australia by boat after the Vietnam War without migration papers.

The Premier appoints a Governor and Lieutenant Governor. He became the head of the multicultural organization and selected people for committees.

The multicultural committee selected people they favored for the Awards and they do not support the Monarchy system.

I was told, the week before the 20 November 2008 by the people in the office of the Multicultural SA, a person with a title as JP cannot be considered an prospected entry for the Award. "You have old History, get out of this office, get through the bloody door."

South Australia
(To Wit)

Certificate by the Honourable the Attorney General for the
State of South Australia


To all whom it may concern:

WHEREAS, by certain Letters Patent, under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, constituting the Office of Governor of the State of South Australia, it is amongst other things provided that the Governor may constitute and appoint Justices of the Peace for the said State:

Now, know ye that on the TWENTIETH day of DECEMBER 1979
HENRY SMITH

of EDWARDSTOWN was, under the aforesaid power, duly constituted and appointed to be, during pleasure, a Justice of the Peace in and for the said State, to do all such acts and things as by law appertain to the Office of a Justice of the Peace.

20-127 1979
21st December 1979.



Attorney General.

No thank from any Politician or Multicultural Organisation for volunteering in anything.



MR. HIEU VAN LE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NOMINATE FOR GOVERNOR'S MULTICULTURAL AWARDS

His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, has established a new annual set of awards - The Governor's Multicultural Awards.

I have great pleasure in inviting you to nominate an individual or an organisation for the inaugural Governor's Multicultural Awards.

Please find enclosed Guidelines and a Nomination Form. I urge you to submit your nomination/s as soon as possible, as the entry deadline is **10 October 2008**.

The awards will be judged by a Committee appointed by the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission, in conjunction with the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia Inc. and will be an opportunity to acknowledge exceptional achievements.

The 2008 awards will be presented by His Excellency the Governor at Government House on 20 November 2008.

The time has come for us to recognise, at the highest levels, the many outstanding contributions made to multiculturalism and community harmony.

South Australia has been a leader in the adoption of multiculturalism as a policy with which to build a cohesive and harmonious society.

It is important to acknowledge and appreciate the many benefits it has provided to us and to praise the immense contributions that migrants and refugees have made to the nation and the State.

I look forward to receiving your entries.

Yours sincerely

September 2008

Ref No: MSA 99/07

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Letter from the multicultural office Flinders Street.



MR. HIEU VAN LE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

MSA REF: 09/1144

Mr Henry Smith JP
134 Corunna Avenue
Melrose Park SA 5039
henrys@internode.on.net

Dear Mr Smith

Thank you for meeting with me at the Proclamation Day Ceremony and raising the issue of your nomination for a Governor's Multicultural Award.

Multicultural SA has looked into the records and found that you were nominated in the Volunteer Award category of the Governor's Multicultural Award in 2008. There was an overwhelming response from individuals and organisations and, following the receipt of nominations, I wrote to all nominees and nominators in October 2008.

The record shows that I wrote to your nominator, Mr David Douglas Lee, to acknowledge the receipt of the nomination. I also wrote to you at the address provided on the nomination form, 134 Corunna Avenue, Melrose Park, to congratulate you for being nominated for an award. I stated in that letter that an independent judging panel had been appointed to determine the award winners. Neither Multicultural SA nor myself had any influence over the decisions made by the independent judging panel.

In a further letter to you, dated 20 November 2008, I attached a copy of a letter from the Chair of the Governor's Multicultural Awards 2008 Judges Panel, Mr Alan Tidswell. That letter included a list of the winners of each of the Governor's Multicultural Awards categories

The panel reported that it was very impressed with the quality of many nominees, however, only six awards could be made. Unfortunately your name was not on the list of award recipients determined by the judging panel.

On another matter that you raised with me at the meeting, I wish to confirm that the Multicultural Communities Council of South Australia is an independent community based organisation and their views are completely independent of Multicultural SA and the South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission.

Thank you again for raising the issue of the Governor's Multicultural Awards with me and I hope this letter clarifies the process of how nominations are considered.

Best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely

Hieu Van Le
Lieutenant Governor
Chairman,
South Australian Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission

Letter from Governor advising me of the selection that was made by the committee



History of the Business

Das Klee Batt (Partnership)

Das Klee Blatt; so beschreib man Personen in einer Company im Bergischem Lande. In 1951 Mr. Eugen Lohmann in Lennep appointed the Management for his company Wender & Duerholt Australia.

The no.1 manager was Robert Schultz, ex Remscheider (a Australian citizen, living in Adelaide) for information and rules and regulation in Laws.

Manager no.2 was Helmut Link a Technic Zeichner, Draftsman (from Lennep) supervisor for the building site.

The Housing-trust gave Helmut Link the Title "Architect" in 1954.

Manager no.3 was Walter Wiegelmann (from Lennep) "the Kaufman" purchasing officer of goods for the company in South Australia.

Records in the Housing Trust Documents

In an interview Walter Wiegelmann and Averil Holt on the 18 October 1981 it reads; We came out as Assistant Managers, and then in 1955, we became Directors of the Company, and then gave the companies , companies business right to the day when Mr. Schultz and Mr. Link and myself separated from Wender & Duerholt. So ended Das Klee Batt.

Eugen Lohmann borrowed the money for the project in batches from German Banks and also had borrowed money from German Banks for his contract employees he sent to Australia. These employees did not know from where this money was drawn. The project for the South Australian Housing Trust income for

Wender & Duerholt, Eugen Lohmann reinvested his personal part of his income back into Wender & Duerholt Australia. Between 1950 - 1977 Eugen Lohmann and family had made fifteen trips by air to Australia.

In 1976-78 the Company Wender & Duerholt complex in Lennep became rearranged at this time Eugen Lohmann had dispatched many wood working machines to his personal new workshop in Perry & Iris Ave. Edwardstown South Australia. In 1962 Eugen Lohmann's personal donation „The Rainmakers“ for the Park in the Housing Trust area at Christies Beach but did not generate enough power for him to obtain control again over his company in South Australia. However it did give him the right over a block of land in Perry & Iris Ave. not too far from Wender & Duerholt base Bennett Ave. Edwardstown where he had stored the woodworking machines.

In 1976 Henry Smith was working as a subcontractor for a subsidiary firm building transportable timeframe homes. Wender & Duerholt (Australia) was only the supplier of building materials to that firm. In 1976 Eugen Lohmann came and invited Henry Smith and asked him to come and see his new workshop where he had installed the old woodworking machines from Lennep Wender & Duerholt workshop in Germany, E. Lohmann was hoping to make plastic veneer cupboards. Henry responded he had no experience in plastic lamination of timber with these machines. Eugen Lohmann responded (in German) ‘DAS IST RATHER SCHADE’. Shortly after that meeting Eugen Lohmann returned to Germany. It was his last trip to South Australia.

His personal house in Blackwood was sold. The company Wender & Duerholt Australia was put on the market in 1981. Another building company Emmett and Sons bought Wender & Duerholt in Bennett Ave. and Eugen Lohmann's section in Perry & Iris Ave. Edwardstown as well. The company Wender & Duerholt in Lennep Germany disappeared.



The beginning of Wender & Duerholt in Australia

On the 18 February 1952 a group of 18 men and one married woman left Germany on an adventurous journey to South Australia. They had signed a contract with the company Wender & Duerholt G.M.B.H. in Germany to erect 500 Timber-frame houses for the Housing Trust in South Australia in a time frame of two years.

The paper in hand by those voluntary contract workers was a two-year Visa granted by the Commonwealth Government. Traveling to a Continent many of them never had heard of. Their journey began in Lennep. They travelled by train to Cologne, and then by express train to Genoa, staying over night in a Hotel before boarding a ship called “ROMA” which sailed under the flag, Flotta Lauro, down the coast of Italy.

These young men all but two were too young to have been in uniform and serve in World War two but now were traveling the world in a peace time situation. Crossing the Mediterranean Sea to Port Said through the Suez Canal to Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean to Colombo. Staying some 24 hours in Ceylon, and then sailing on to Australia.

The next stop was Fremantle Western Australia. The Immigration people came on board to check on papers however nothing was said nor did the contract workers understand sufficiently the English language. They sailed on to Port

Melbourne, Victoria and disembarked the ship. It was March the 20th 1952. The language became a more outstanding problem. In the group were two managers appointed by the Owner - Director Egon Lohmann of Wender & Duerholt. These managers and the wife of one of the two men found themselves accommodation in the city while the papers had to be sorted out for continuation of their journey. This 500 houses were mend for the Victorian Housing Commission. Due to not having any money, most of the men were left to fend for them selves carrying their suitcases to the Botanical Gardens. There they stayed and waited two day's for the outcome of paperwork. Luckily the Roma stayed in port for another day so they managed to go to the ship to have a meal. The train tickets became available for Friday night's-journey to Adelaide arriving at 10 AM at the Adelaide railway station journey to Adelaide arriving at 10 AM at the Adelaide railway station.



The group of 19 people stepped from the train with excitement – confused and some how lost again. There was no one there to meet them. After some hours of



waiting a bus arrived and took the group on a journey to Warradale known to the locals in those days as “the Bush” and next to an army camp. The Bus stopped just past the Army camp on Morphett Road adjacent to a partly destroyed vineyard.

The Housing Trust had started to build some four-room cottages. At this time none of the cottages were completed no electricity was connected but the Housing Trust Authority came to assist in rescuing the contract workers and made three cottages available as accommodation. A near by milky, a small farmer, brought some bales of straw, which were used as beds. During the voyage the manager for the company Walter Wiegelmann had handed out at different locations travel allowance to each person the total amount of travel allowance was 10 pounds. Little money was left in any one-pocket when arriving in Warradale. For the following week the group managed to survive the best they could eating the cheapest food available mainly bread, fritz and jam. Eggs were obtained from a nearby farm and picking the left over grapes from the destroyed vineyard. Some

days went by before the company bought a teapot big enough for the people. The cost of a cottage came to 16 shillings per week for rent. The amount was divided amongst the men living in these temporary buildings, and the company Wender & Duerholt made the deductions by taking the money out of the weekly pay packets. The contracts signed by the workers in Germany, it was very clear the cost of the fare had to be repaid to the employer Wender & Duerholt and the company would make a weekly two-pound deduction out of the wages until the cost had been recovered. It was also mentioned that if the company was successful and the project finished the money collected for the fares would be given back to the workers?



Wender & Durholt also stated in the contract paper that the company would provide camp accommodation for its workers. But nothing was mentioned to any one when signing the contract that the workers had to provide their own tools of trade for the project.

On Monday 24 March 1952 they were introduced to another paddock, in Dover Gardens, and they had to start work on the 500 timber-framed houses under a contract signed in Germany with Wender & Duerholt G.m.b.H. a project for the South Australian Housing Trust. A two-kilometer single lane bitumen road, called Morphett Road, connected the campsite at Warradale to the building site at Dover Gardens. At that time a 40-hour five-day week was the norm in Australia. In Germany it was still a 48-hour six-day working week. Tradesmen's wages in Australia were 12 pounds 14 shillings for a 40-hour week, but the employers did not supply tools for the tradesmen. With no tools other than a pick, two crowbars and two shovels they started to dig the holes for the stump foundations for the timber-frame houses. Red-gum timber was used for stumps; jarrah timber was used for bearings and floor joists.

All timbers were very green and wet and the tradesmen did not have any tools to cut that type of timber.

A miscalculation of materials and time became visible as time went by, but who was to blame for it remains hidden. (perhaps, 48-hour 40-hour)



The cargo ship “ATTA” had become stranded due to a strike on its journey. It had the essentials for the company on board, camp building and fully equipped kitchen and its canteen. Regardless not having the essentials the young adventurous pioneering people became more interested in Australia and loved the warm climate disregarding the degrading work they had to carry out as qualified tradesmen orders given by the German management. Some weeks went by before the company bought a local machine, petrol driven borer and then the pre-cut materials for the houses started to arrive but the bases called foundation for the houses had to be obtained locally.

The company slipped into a predicament and had to fly out at Wender & Duerholt Germany cost two first class senior (ex soldiers) tradesmen on a three months working permit visa to overcome its tradesmen labour shortage and also bear the return airfare cost for the two people. Their wages was also paid partly in Germany after they had returned to Germany. By



this time Eugen Lohmann the Owner and Director of Wender & Duerholt in Germany had made two visits to his new building company in South Australia but never mentioned under what Federal Government agreement his company had obtained the financial arrangement to bring German workers with a two-year working visa to Australia. On 2 May 1952 the “Nelly” arrived at Port Adelaide bringing migrants to Australia. The second group of contract workers for Wender & Duerholt was aboard. Amongst them were many tradesmen with no tools . By that time the Housing Trust had completed the 4 room cottages in the vineyard and electricity was connected. All cottages in the paddock had only front fences, which came from a disused sheep yard. The Housing Trust made some more cottages available it became a situation where two people shared a tiny room.

The centre room of the cottages meant to be the kitchen had a stove fired with wood along side was a cupboard with a sink. In one of the cottages the kitchen was used as a bar. A lean-to at the back of the cottages housed the laundry and bathroom a copper was in the laundry and chip heater in the bathroom. In many cottages the door from the kitchen to the laundry was used as a table laying the door on stacks of suitcases. Later in the year, round about November the building materials for the camp arrived. But in the mean time two more groups had come to the compound and the men had brought their wives and children along. Not

one of the contract workers had discovered the bureaucracy problems the German people had in coming to this country and the company did not reveal its financial difficulties to its contract workers. Amongst the crates of window glass was a large board bearing the words in German, “Kehre zurueck Kamerard, ihr seit verkauft” or, in English, “Return home Colleague, you are sold.”



It seems some one back home was giving a warning with out telling the full story.

But they laboured on regardless in the abandoned market garden field with no roads water or electricity being provided before hand. The grass and weeds competed with the constructions of houses during the winter months. The project was completed some two years later and the local people called the area “little Remscheid” for a while. There was no unity amongst the workforce other than having parties where some men very much enjoyed themselves drinking beer and wine in the camp. The cost in running the camp and the canteen kitchen had to be shared by the contract employees as agreed when signing the contract papers in Germany, it turned out the camps running cost was much higher compared to the deduction already made in repaying the money for the fare. Due to singing by some men in the camp (in 1953) the Adelaide Liedertafel became uplifted when Wilhem Soen senior played the roll as a conductor. On the 24 April 1953 the director Mr. Schultz confronted some contract workers with a document called “Vereinbarung” trying to enforce the contract workers loyalty to Wender & Duerholt Australia after they had made the final payment for their fare to the

company but there was never a final receipt given.

Die Frage besteht heute noch "wo kam das Geld her fuer die Personen fuer die Fahrt nach Australian"?

From the records of the Housing Trust, on the 23/9/1952 a house was made available for Manager-Architect Mr. Helmut Link and his wife as

residents for two pounds five shillings per week. A second house became available for the Company Wender & Duerholt for office use on the 27/1/1953 at a cost of two pounds and fifteen shillings per week. Due to the shortfall of income in wages for the company Wender Duerholt Australia In 1953, Eugen Lohmann gave that timber-frame exhibition house standing in Victoria, one time in the earlier day, was promised to Wilhem Soens, to Helmute Link and his wife as a wedding present.

In 1953 Wender & Duerholt G.m.b.H. in Germany set up a far more stringent new procedure document due to its application problems, which they had experienced when sending the first batches of contract workers and families to Australia.

The weekly two-pound deductions in re-paying the fare in becoming a Wender & Duerholt (Australia) employee remained in force in the new drafted document. This stringent demand stated in the document turned many good tradesmen away. In 1955 as Wender & Duerholt (Australia) had completed its contract in building 500 timber frame houses for the South Australian Housing Trust, due to the generosity from the Housing Trust in granting a one-year extension period to complete its project. The total time for the project was two years and six-months. During 1952–1954 the parent company of Wender & Duerholt G.m.b.H. in Germany and Wender & Duerholt (Australia) had familiarised itself with the Former Enemy Alien Regulations Act. In the mid 1950's the Former Enemy Alien Act changed and the German contract workers officially became migrants.



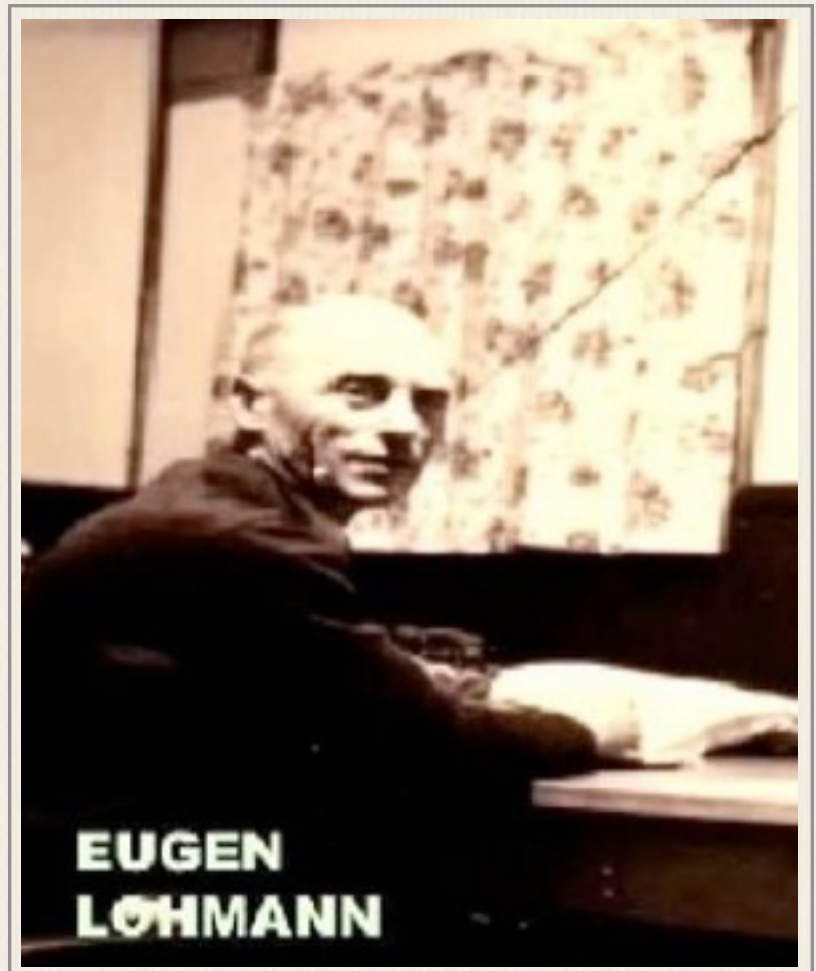
According to records; The Housing Trust paid the final retention money's in 1954-55 to the company Wender & Duerholt (Australia).

The company changed secretly unknown to any employees its management structure also registered a new company "Walpole Industries Pty. Ltd." under a directors name of Walter Wiegelmann but leaving the name Wender & Duerholt (Australia) on its main depot at Bennett Ave.

Edwardstown visible. (In 1955 Eugen Lohmann lost partly his recht in being a

directer of the company Wender & Duerholt Australia). Records at the Australian Securities & Investments Commission reveal there had been several companies listed under the name of Wender & Duerholt in Australia. For Wender & Duerholt, a starting date at Alice Springs is given as the 16/04/1968 to 02/07/1973. Another Company bearing the name "HELM CONSTRUCTIONS PTY. LTD". became registered on 02/07/1973 in Alice Springs. (Documents number 095 941 1A.) Both companies had the same directors names, H. Link and W. Wiegelmann in Alice Springs. H. Link and W. Wiegelmann held also their positions as directors at Wender & Duerholt (Australia) PTY. LTD. at Bennett Ave. Edwardstown South Australia, which had been operating from 1955 till 1981 at that address and the name Eugen Lohman disappeared.

By common practices this gave Wender & Duerholt (Australia) the opportunity of not being any longer legally responsible for it's contract workers and families, whom the company had brought to Adelaide. The first major contract under the new directors Link and Wiegelmann Wender & Duerholt (Australia) had been obtained by officially tendering from the Housing Trust in 1961. It became known as Christies Beach Housing Trust housing development area.



In 1958 Eugen Lohmann hatte sein Recht als director in der Firma Wender & Duerholt Australia unter Australian Gesetz-zustaenden (due to Taxation problem) verloren.

The old director Eugen Lohmann emerged again in the company Wender & Duerholt (Australia) and he donated “The Rainmakers Statue” for the Park. The plaque was unveiled on 21 May 1965 by the Hon. Frank Walsh M.P. the Premier of South Australia in the presence of Mr. Eugen Lohmann.

A sound recording interview with Walter Wiegelmann and Averil Holt had taken place 18 October 1981, it said; “We came out as Assistant Managers, and then in 1955 we became Directors of the Company, and then gave the companies, companies business right to the day when Mr. Schultz and Mr. Link and myself separated from Wender & Duerholt”.

The secretly taped interview 18 October 1981 of Walter Wiegelmann and Averil Holt became known in 1986. The tape is now at the State Library.

Some fifty years later the Marion Council conducted a research of its district and the history of Wender & Duerholt

surfaced again. A book produced by the Marion Council, “MARION, A SUBURBAN CITY, 1945-2000”, written by R. J. R. Donley, gives a general insight of the district and its people in business. On 21 March 2002 a recognition and appreciation was expressed by the Mayor, Mrs. Felicity-ann Lewis, Marion City Council to the people of the original Wender & Duerholt (Australia) building



company, which had built 500 timber frame houses in the Marion district from 1952 till 1955, and some of the people stayed to become citizens of Australia.

The remaining residents from the two building companies Wender & Duerholt (Australia) and Overseas Construction also celebrated their starting date of fifty years in having erected timber-frame houses within a time frame of two and half years in the Dover Gardens area of the Marion Council district. The City of Marion is a popular venue in which to become an Australian citizen. Council Citizenship Coordinator Michelle Andrews-Russo says there are several reasons for this. “A lot of migrants are settling in Marion,” or else they have heard about our ceremonies from relatives who live here. “So they choose to come to Marion to become Australians, and we are in the top five Adelaide metropolitan councils for citizenship ceremonies. We have had one every month since Australian Day.” And there was a third cause for celebration. In the course of her Mayoral rounds, Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis had come across the history of a group of German men who came to Australia exactly 50 years ago to build 500 timber-frame houses in the Marion area for the South Australian Housing Trust. Known as the “Wender and Duerholt Group” after their German construction company, the men and one woman made a significant contribution to the growth of Marion as a region. Many remained in South Australia, and on Harmony Day, more than 19 of them were honoured in person by the City for their pioneering efforts in modern Marion. “Our heritage in safe hands.”

Congratulations to Marion City Council for considering a heritage listing.
Report by
Rainer Jozeps,
Director,
National Trust.



The ceremony of unveiling of a plaque took place on 27 March 2003 at one of a selected Wender & Duerholt house called “Rose Cottage” built in 1953 on Morphett Road Dover Garden. Rose Cottage one of the timber-framed houses built in 1953 for the South Australian Housing Trust by German workers employed by Wender and Duerholt. Marion Council Mayor Felicity-ann Lewis and Valerie Aldahm the regional manager of the Housing Trust unveiling the plaque. Councillor Bob Donley said about 150 German workers from Europe came to Adelaide to erect the prefabricated houses. “They did it fairly tough, there was a lot of prejudice against them,” he said. Due to their birth place country they came from. “They made an important contribution and many of them stayed and are still living here.” The McDonnell family eventually bought Rose Cottage, significantly transformed it and raised six children within its modest Baltic pine walls. “I’m proud of it, people admire it” Mr. McDonnell said. The Councillor, Bob Donley also arranged a small party to attend the unveiling of the plaque and selected a few people from the original company 1952-1955 of Wender & Duerholt (Australia) to attend.





"DIE WOCHE" Printed a part of the Wender & Duerholt company (von Nordrheinwestfalen in Suedaustralien history), an "AUTOBIOGRAPHIE" written by Henry Smith. A company operated for 100 years from 1881 till 1981 is on display at the Tuchmuseum in Lennep.

Eugen Lohmann (1896-1961)

The following chapter was written in German and researched by
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Aufgrund mehrerer Anfragen ist auch ein Lennep Rundgang angedacht, der die heute noch erhaltenen und einige kaum noch bzw. nicht mehr erhaltene bauliche Zeugnisse der Firma Wender & Duerholt durchläuft. Er beginnt an der Ecke Schiller- und Wiesenstraße, führt über die Knusthöhe und Poststraße zur Wupper-, Rospatt- und Sauerbronnstraße in den Bereich der sog. Vikarie an der früheren Dicken Eiche an der Ringstraße. Nach einem Blick in die Geschwister-Scholl-Straße geht's über die die Röntgenstraße zum Tuchmuseum, wo, ggf. bei Kaffee und Kuchen, zuletzt eine Ausstellungsführung erfolgt. Der Termin dazu steht noch nicht fest. In

Lennep, Germany, on the 14 October 2011 will be an Exhibition in the Tuchmuseum Lennep "THE HISTORY OF WENDER & DUERHOLT from 1830 to 1980" will be on display, including the part of Wender & Duerholt in



Australia from 1952 to 1980. The Exhibition will run until 29 Feb. 2012. Some information extracted from a book "Reconciliation Business Achievement, The Missing Link" written by Henry Smith in Australia:

Bauunternehmer Eugen Lohmann wurde am 14.03.1896 auf dem Hof Birgden II (gegenueber der heutigen Remscheider Autobahnauffahrt) bei Lennep geboren. Mit vierzehn Jahren begann er eine Maurerlehre in einem Remscheider Bauunternehmen 1920 heiratete er seine Frau Emilie, geb. Gries.



Im Jahre 1922 erwarb Lohmann mit seiner Frau das altbergische Anwesen Borner Straße 5 vom Lennep Bauunternehmer Arthur Schmidt. Seine Berufsbezeichnung lautete dabei auf Bautechniker. Eine Zeit lang war Lohmann vorher bei der Firma Johann Wulfing & Sohn bzw. bei der Lennep Industriellenfamilie Hardt beschäftigt, seine Dienstwohnung befand sich zu dieser Zeit auf dem Areal des Waldhauses auf Westerholt oberhalb der Schlachthofstraße in Lennep. 1926 trat er als Teilhaber in die Baufirma seines Schwiegervaters ein, die dann unter dem Namen Gries und Lohmann, später mit dem Zusatz Inhaber Eugen Lohmann, firmierte. Das Bau- und Stukkateurgeschäft Karl Gries an der damaligen Kölner Straße 117 hatte in Lennep bereits eine beachtete Tradition und war 1926 beispielsweise an Stuckarbeiten in der Landwirtschaftsschule rechts neben dem Gymnasium an der Röntgenstraße beteiligt. Ein Baugeschäft Gries existierte in der weiteren Familie Gries noch bis in die 1960er Jahre. Im Jahre 1939 übernahm Eugen Lohmann die renommierte Firma Wender & Dürholt an der Wupperstraße in Lennep. War dieses Baugeschäft zuvor insbesondere durch den Patentfensterbau und über den 1940 aus dem Geschäft ausscheidenden Vorbesitzer Paul Dürholt auch als Architekturbüro hervorgetreten, so konzentrierte sich Eugen Lohmann kriegsbedingt zunächst auf die Herstellung von einfachen, barackenartigen Holzhäusern, woraus er später ein gänzlich neues Gebiet des Wohnungsbaus erschließen sollte. Ein weiteres Arbeitsgebiet war die in den 1930er Jahren als Arbeitsbeschaffungsmaßnahme staatlich geförderte nachträgliche Ausstattung von bereits bestehenden Häusern mit zeitgemäßem Komfort, z.B. mit modernen Sanitäreinrichtungen. Die Firma arbeitete nicht nur auf Remscheider Stadtgebiet, sondern auch im Umland, beispielsweise in Köln und Lüdenscheid. Daneben zeugen, insbesondere nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg, zahlreiche Industrie- und Verwaltungsbauten, z.B. für das große kommunale Wohnungsbaunternehmen der GEWAG in Remscheid und der Neubau des Finanzamts in Lennep um 1962 von der Leistungsfähigkeit des Unternehmens, das überdies die Tradition der überregional gelieferten Spezialfenster für Privathäuser und Großbauten durchaus weiterführte. Noch heute ist gerade dieser Zweig des Unternehmens im Bewusstsein der Remscheider Bevölkerung sehr präsent. Nach dem Zweiten Weltkrieg wurde mit der systematisch betriebenen Konstruktion und Fertigung

vorgefertigter Häuser jedoch wirtschaftlich und technisch ein für die Zukunft wichtiges, gänzlich neues Kapitel aufgeschlagen. Bereits 1948 stellte die Firma Wender & Dürholt in Wuppertal ihr erstes patentrechtlich geschütztes Fertighaus aus. So wurden schon bald auch überregional die Namen Wender, Dürholt und Lohmann zu Synonymen für eine sehr moderne und wirtschaftliche Bauweise. Als Eugen Lohmann am 13. März 1971 in den Remscheider Zeitungen anlässlich seines 75. Geburtstages geehrt wurde, charakterisierte man ihn als einen mutigen Mann voller Tatkraft, der auf ein stolzes Lebenswerk zurückblicken konnte. Zwar wurde die Schreinerei dann im Jahre 1974 eingestellt und zuletzt das Baugeschäft 1985 aufgegeben. Eugen Lohmann konnte aber noch zu Lebzeiten unweit des historischen Firmenareals von seinem Wohnhaus an der Ringstraße aus über diese hinweg auf die neue Wohnanlage an der Geschwister-Scholl-Straße blicken, die ebenfalls ein Produkt seiner Firma war. Auch als Seniorchef, so die damaligen Zeitungen, überwachte er bis zuletzt persönlich die Arbeiten auf den Baustellen und sorgte dafür, dass sein Lebenswerk weitere Früchte trug. Eugen Lohmann starb in Lennep am 2.10.1981. Wie zur früheren Geschichte der Firma sind auch bezüglich der Spätphase der Bautätigkeit in Lennep durchaus Pläne, Fotos und weitere Dokumente bei der Familie erhalten, beispielsweise zur Entstehung des Areals Geschwister-Scholl-Straße oder zu Bauten an der Kölner Straße in Lennep. Zu den Plänen einer veränderten Nutzung der in wachsenden Maße nicht mehr benötigten Firmenflächen an der Wupperstraße existiert u.a. auch eine Luftaufnahme, bei der durch einen Fachretuscheur die geplanten Veränderungen anschaulich eingebracht wurden. Zwar ist diese Luftaufnahme nicht datiert, man erblickt jedoch jenseits der Wupperstraße das im Bau befindliche neue Finanzamt, so dass man schließen kann, dass die ersten Überlegungen zur Umnutzung des Firmenareals bereits in den 1960er Jahren begannen. In 2011 Dr. Wilhelm R. Schmidt, Universtaetsbibliothek in Frankfurt am Main has carried out a research into the history of Wender & Duerholt Australia and the parent company in Lennep in Germany. Liebe Interessenten, noch ein Wort zu meinen Beiträgen: in der letzten Zeit werde ich verstärkt gefragt, wo man den meine Onlinebeiträge auch im Nachhinein nachlesen kann, da die meisten ja nicht immer vollständig und mit allen beigegebenen Abbildungen gedruckt oder digital wiedergegeben werden. Dankenswerterweise werden die Beiträge ja im Einzelfall durch die Remscheider Tageszeitungen und die Anzeigen- und Woch(en)blätter sowie digital unter www.waterboelles.de sowie <http://www.sontagsblattonline.de/gedruckt> bzw. digital wiedergegeben, wofür ich an dieser Stelle noch einmal herzlich danke! Systematisch und vollständig wiedergegeben werden die Aufsätze seit 2009 auf der website ww.lennep.eu. wo darüber hinaus auch historische und aktuelle Lennepublikationen eingestellt sind, die sonst heute gar nicht mehr bzw. nicht ohne weiteres beschaffbar sind. Dazu gehören alte Lennep Firmenschriften, Werke des Lennep Architekten Albert Schmidt, u.a. auch ein Roman. Schauen Sie deshalb öfter mal in die Rubriken.

Wie zu Beginn eines jeden neuen Jahres weise ich auch dieses Mal darauf hin, dass man die Mitgliedschaft bei diesen Rundbrief jederzeit kündigen kann. In den letzten sechs war dies immerhin viermal der Fall. Niemand soll durch meine Mails belästigt werden. Mail zur Kündigung genügt. Die Ausstellung Wender & Dürholt – eine thematische Zusammenfassung und eine Zwischenbilanz der

Ausstellung im Tuchmuseum zum neuen Jahr 2012 von Wilhelm R. Schmidt. History tells stories sagt man in England. Wo es keine Unterlagen gibt, da kann die Wissenschaft schlecht forschen, dies wurde unlängst erst wieder zur Lennep Stadtwerdung festgestellt, aber oft gibt es ja Erinnerungen, die mündlich weiter gegeben werden, man nennt es neudeutsch: oral history. So wird aus Geschichten Geschichte und in Geschichten sind wir alle verstrickt. Sie wecken die Erinnerung und fördern vielleicht am Ende sogar vergessene Dokumente zutage, z.B. in unserem Falle vier mittelständige Lennep Jungfern beim Karneval, die alle später Lennep Jungens heirateten.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tuchmuseum-Lennep/328697355395>

<http://www.lennep.eu/die-firma-wender-durholt-in-lennep-eine-reminiszenz-teil-iii/>



Wender & Duerholt (Australia)

Die nach dem zweiten Weltkrieg mit Abstand wichtigste Entwicklung der Firmengeschichte war sicherlich das durch die Presse 1952 so bezeichnete „Australienprojekt“, aus dem eine Firmenausgründung auf der anderen Seite der Welt entstand, und wodurch auf dem „fuenften Kontinent“ der Name „Wender & Duerholt“ bis heute präsent ist. Anfang März des genannten Jahres berichteten die Remscheider Zeitungen, dass in Lennep auf dem Werkshof von Wender & Duerholt eine australische Pruefungskommission tage, die freiwillige Projektanwärter auf ihre „fachliche und charakterliche Eignung“ pruefen sollte. Selbstverständlich mussten sie auch „kerngesund“ sein. „OK – engaged“, das war das Zauberwort fuer ca. 150 Deutsche aus Lennep und Umgebung, die in Down Under eine große Aufgabe bewältigen sollten. Im Auftrage der Suedaustralischen Regierung waren Tausende von Siedlungshäusern zu errichten. Neben dem Anfangsauftrag von 500 Häusern wurde nochder Bau des bis dahin größten Wollagers im Lande bewältigt, wohlgemerkt sollte es sich bei dem allen nur um einen Beginn handeln, weitere Projekte waren bereits ins Auge gefasst. Übrigens betätigte sich die Städtische Sparkasse Remscheid seinerzeit bei der Abwicklung der finanziellen Seite als Außenhandelsbank. So schnell dann alles ging, und so groß die Bereitschaft seinerzeit war, in ein fremdes, völlig unbekanntes Land zu gehen, das ganze Projekt fiel nicht vom Himmel, sondern es war vom Chef und Eigentüemer der Firma, Eugen Lohmann, bereits mehrere Jahre vorbereitet worden. Am Anfang stand eine internationale Ausschreibung des australischen Bundesstaates Victoria. Die Firma Wender & Duerholt bewarb sich, und Eugen Lohmann begab sich bereits 1950 nach Australien, um im Sueden des Kontinents Geschäftsbeziehungen zu knuepfen. Noch im gleichen Jahr stellte die Lenneper

Firma dort das erste Musterhaus auf. Als sich weitere mittelfristige Aufträge abzeichneten, ein Beweis fuer die gute Qualität und Beliebtheit der der W & D Fertighäuser, entschloss man sich im Jahre 1952, in South Australia einen Zweigbetrieb zu errichten, nämlich die Firma „Wender & Duerholt (Aust.) Ltd.“. Das erste Werk wurde daraufhin an der Bennett Avenue in der Hauptstadt des Bundesstaates Suedaustralien in den Jahren 1954/55 fertig gestellt. Als Eugen Lohmann im Jahre 1962 während seiner nunmehr fuenften Reise nach Australien seinem dortigen Kooperationspartner, dem South Australian Housing Trust, zum zehnjährigen Jubiläum seines australischen Firmenteils ein gerade in Lennep neu entwickeltes Fertighaus präsentierte, blieb auch dies nicht ohne Folgen: der neue Haustyp wurde, nunmehr vor Ort gefertigt, beim Bau einer neuen Satellitenstadt verwendet. In Christies Beach, einer seeseitigen Vorstadt von Adelaide, waren schon bald 200 W & D fertighäuser montiert, 200 weitere befanden sich in der Vorfertigung. Insgesamt baute die Firma Wender und Duerholt in Australien ueber 7000 Fertighäuser, darunter auch Wohnheime fuer Pensionäre, wahrscheinlich eher mehr, denn unter dem Qualitätssigel „Wender & Duerholt“ veränderten sich später die Besitzverhältnisse, und esentstanden in Verbindungmit dem angestammten Namen unterschiedliche Firmen, die weiter entwickelte Haustypen anboten, und deren Tätigkeit bis in die Gegenwart reicht. „Wohlfeile Häuser in großem Stil“, so könnte das Nachkriegsmotto von Wender & Duerholt geheißen haben, auch in der alten Heimat wandte man sich ja neben den Projekten in der konventionellen Bauweise de Fertig hausbau in großem Umfang zu. So wurden etwa im nahen Schwelm Anfang der 1960er Jahre auf einen Schlag 50 Einfamilienhäuser errichtet.

Während in Remscheid-Lennep kaum mehr als eine schwache Erinnerung an die Firma Wender & Dürholt existiert, zeugt im australischen Christies Beach noch heute eine Skulptur doppelter Lebensgröße von der Bedeutung des Unternehmens. Es trägt den Titel „The Rainmakers“ und stelltzwei alte australische Eingeborene dar, schwatzend auf einem Felsen beim Vollzug ihres Regenzaubers. Das vom Firmenchef Eugen Lohmann gestiftete und vom damaligen Premier minister des Staates Südastralien im Jahre 1965 enthüllte Bronzekunstwerk ist zudem in einem Park positioniert, der nach dem Lenneper

Unternehmer benannt ist. Nachfahren Eugen Lohmanns leben heute in Lennep wie auch in Australien. Reizvoll wäre sicherlich, das Schicksal der seinerzeit nach Australien mit gegangenen Firmenangehörigen weiter zu verfolgen.

So mancher Betriebsangehörige hat in Australien seine Geschichte aufgeschrieben und auch mit Bilddokumenten versehen. Bereits im Juni 1952 berichteten die Firmenmitglieder Helmut Link und Walter Wiegemann, die schon in Deutschland etwas Englisch sprachen und von Anfang an in herausgehobener Position und später als Direktoren dabei waren, über die einzelnen Stationen ihrer langen Reise, die vielen Deutschen in Südaustralien und den im Vergleich zur deutschen Nachkriegswirklichkeit sehr hohen Lebensstandard. Natürlich war Einiges fremd: „hier trinken die Leute Zitrone in den Kaffee und Milch in den Tee, es gibt Katzen ohne Schwanz und schwarze Enten, jedoch laufen Kaninchen und Kängurus nicht zu Dutzenden durch die Straßen, wie in Deutschland oft erzählt wird“. Im verlaufe der Jahrzehnte wurden weiterhin in den Remscheider Zeitungen immer wieder Erlebnisberichte abgedruckt, wobei die angenehmen Erinnerungen an die Anfangszeit sicherlich überwogen. Im Jahre 1954 kursierten Gerüchte, deutsche Arbeiter würden in Australien, insbesondere beim Eisenbahnbau, wie Sklavenarbeiter gehalten. Das war so durchaus nicht der Fall, aber auch die deutschen Arbeiter, Vorarbeiter und Bauleiter von Wender & Dürholt wohnten anfangs sehr bescheiden in den von ihnen aus Lennep selbst mitgebrachten Wohnbaracken und bildeten in der neuen Welt als zunächst zeitlich befristete Kontraktarbeiter eine räumlich und gesellschaftlich recht isolierte Gemeinschaft, deren Angehörige von Seiten der australischen Behörden aufgrund eines noch bestehenden Gesetzes bezüglich der ehemaligen Kriegsfeinde zunächst nicht zur Einwanderung vorgesehen waren. Dennoch wurde der von der südaustralischen Regierung kostenlos angebotene Englischunterricht gerne angenommen. Von der Lenneper Stammfirma erhielten die Mitarbeiter öfters deutsche Bücher, Zeitschriften und sogar Schmalfilme, um den Kontakt nicht abreißen zu lassen. Telefongespräche nach Deutschland waren damals zu teuer, und die Briefpost brauchte ihre Zeit. Durch die Gesamtumstände erklärt sich auch, warum zunächst sehr wenig Frauen und Kinder von Deutschland mit nach Australien gingen. Bald jedoch wurden die völlig anderen Lebensverhältnisse von

den Deutschen als Zukunftschance empfunden und in vielen Fällen die wirkliche Auswanderung und Naturalisierung angestrebt. Im ersten Teil dieser Reminiszenz an die Lennep-er Firma Wender & Dürholt war beispielsweise von der deutschen Liedertafel von 1858 in Adelaide die Rede, die nicht zuletzt durch Mitglieder der ehemals Lennep-er Firma aufgefrischt werden konnte. Im Jahre 1965 beschäftigte Wender & Dürholt in Südaustralien nach einem Zeitungsbericht knapp 100 Arbeiter, die inzwischen mehrheitlich auch registrierte Einwanderer waren. Auch der Firmenchef selbst begeisterte sich für das australische Leben und legte sich in Adelaide ein Haus zu. Da er natürlich auch in Deutschland informiert sein musste, ließ er sich wöchentlich per Luftpost einen Lagebericht nach Lennep schicken. Erst spät begann die australische Gesellschaft, sich im Rahmen der Aufarbeitung des nationalen historischen Erbes auch allgemein auf die Aufbauleistung der deutschen Migranten zu besinnen. In diesem Zusammenhang wurde im Jahre 2003, also 50 Jahre nach dem Lennep-er „Australienprojekt“, in der zehn Kilometer südlich von Adelaide gelegenen Stadt Marion dieser Arbeit gedacht und im Beisein der Bürgermeisterin und mehrerer Deutscher, die seinerzeit mit dabei waren, enthüllte man einen Gedenkstein, der (hier in deutscher Übersetzung) folgend Bürgermeisterin und mehrerer Deutscher, die seinerzeit mit dabei waren, enthüllte man einen Gedenkstein, der (hier in deutscher Übersetzung) folgende Inschrift trägt: „



Rose Cottage – eines der Holzskeletthäuser, die im Jahre 1953 für den South Australian Housing Trust von deutschen Arbeitern errichtet wurden, die bei Wender & Duerholt beschäftigt waren“

The men zu W&D im Einzelnen

Wender & Duerholt vor 1945

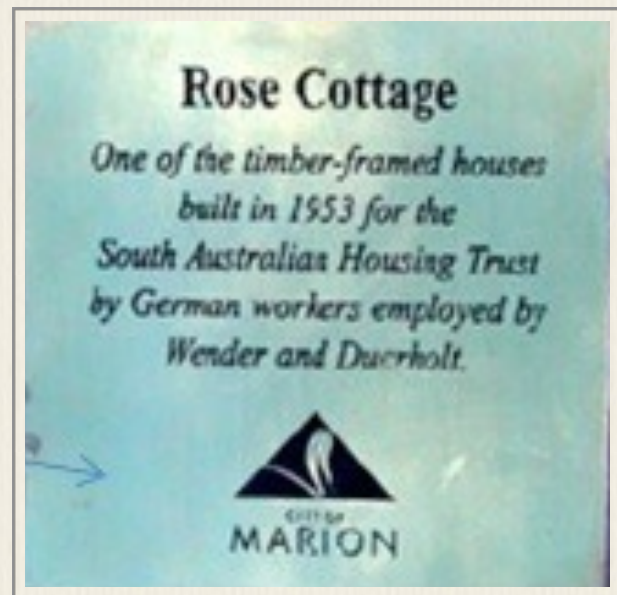
Frühe Personen der Lenneper Familien Dürholt , Haas, Schmidt und Wender, Louis Dürholt und sein Haus an der Leverkuser Straße 4, Grundstückskaufverträge und Gesellschaftsvertrag mit Fritz Lisner von 1884, Paul Dürholt und seine Lenneper Bauten, Umfangreiches Bildmaterial aus den beteiligten Familien, Firmendokumente: Briefe, Briefköpfe, Briefbögen, Firmenzeichen, Präsentationsmappen, Werbeseiten, Annoncen, mehrere gedruckte historische Werbeschriften und Broschüren mit originalfotografischem Bildmaterial. Zahlreiche In - und ausländische Patent – und Gebrauchsmusterdokumente von Friedrich Lisner, dem Schwiegersohn Wilhelm Wender, Album des langjährigen technischen Betriebsleiter Wilhelm Altenau mit Fotos aus der Firma und dem überregionalen Fensterbau bis 1939.



Dr. Wilhelm R. Schmidt

Dokumente und Fotos zum Firmenchef Eugen Lohmann, seiner Familie und seiner Firma in Lennep und Südastralien zwischen 1948 und 1975, Abschied der Lenneper 1952 nach Südastralien, Fotos von der Reise und der ersten Zeit in Australien der Familien Lohmann, Heinz Schmitz (später Henry Smith) aus Wipperfürth und Gerd Schönenborn aus Radevormwald, Buch und DVDs von Heinz Schmitz, später Henry Smith, Beziehung der Neuaustralier zur Adelaiden Liedertafel von 1858 über W&D Mitarbeiter Wilhelm Soens.

1952-2000 in Australia



Since 2002 a small plaque stands by the road where one of these houses had been erected. Not far from that spot where that poster was unpacked in 1952, it reads in German “Kehre zurueck Kamerard, ihr seit verkauft”. "Return home Colleague you are sold". Wender & Duerholt a building company formed in Lennep in 1881 and the founder of the company Albert Schmidt had received in 1880 an Orden (MEDAL) from the Kaiser of Prussian. Only one hundred years later despite plenty of work available in Germany and Australia the company suddenly folded in 1981.

The company had no need to go to Australia in 1951-52 after the war; Germany itself was along way off in recovering from the war. The sudden closing of the company in Germany and Australia in 1981 drew the attention to many people regarding management of the company Wender & Duerholt in Australia and in Lennep in Germany

Egyptian Jewish emigre' in 1947; Through Max Liberman creation in 1957 Wender & Duerholt (Australia) obtained partnership contracts in supplying building materials to Reid-Murray development. Building houses, Polita walls inside, brick walls on the outside. The new suburb is called Parra Hill. Previously it was a livestock paddock. Wender & Duerholt (Australia) also employed for that project a German Architect, "Mr. Penner" (centre on this picture) and all workers working on that site became subcontractors. At the same time at Bennet Ave. Edwardstown the main director of Wender & Duerholt was Mr. Helmut Link who made himself very popular with the Housing Trust and gained his Title "Architect" given by the Housing Trust for building timberframe brickverneer houses.



What was the reason to go to Australia?

Germany was divided into east and west the possibility of another war was looming, due to the Berlin wall. For some young men it was an adventure to go to Australia. For Heinz Schmitz who was born in 1930 had learnt a trade being a joiner, he had enough of making coffins picking up dead bodies and laying corpse into the coffin. For him to sign a contract in supporting Wender & Duerholt in Lennep and getting out of Germany to go to Australia for two years was no problem. It became a different story when arriving in Australia. And again after working two years for Wender & Duerholt (Australia) the situation changed again for Heinz. Some migrants workers know the history of a German surgeon "Dr. Heini Johannes Becker" deportation in November 1947 with a group of many



Italian who had come here in 1926. Therefore Heinz became an Australian citizen and changed his name to an English pronunciation of name to Henry Smith, due to the former Enemy labeling and stayed in South Australia.

The owner and director Eugen Lohmann working with German practices and tradition had taken a great risk in supplying 500 timber frame houses to the Housing Trust in South Australia. He had accepted the Housing Trust arrangements' the houses to be paid by the Housing Trust in three stages. Each batch, first payment when loaded on a ship, second payment when arriving on the building site, third payment of 50 houses when finished completed for occupation, final payment "retention money" when the project in 1955 was completed.

The culture and unity amongst German people living in Australia Eugen Lohmann was not aware. Due to money problems in 1954 the Directorship of Wender & Duerholt in the South Australian company changed and Eugen Lohmann lost control. In 1958 as being only part director of his company he lost total control of Wender & Duerholt (Australia) due to personnel taxing failure in his company. Eugen Lohmann was ill informed over his Business and tax situation in Australia, due to not managing the English language.

In 1957 -1965 the company Wender & Duerholt built many little cottages for the Housing Trust, rental units, called "Old Folks Cottage. Timberframe brickverneer.

The experimental cottages unfortunately had a short life span. Every person working on these Cottages was a subcontractor. It also paved the way in tendering

for the Christies Beach project in 1962. Wender & Duerholt tendering for timberframe brickverneer houses, a price of 50 pounds lower per house than the tendering price given by a very old brick housing Trust builder M.C. Wood. Henry Smith worked for M.C. Wood from 1957 till 1962. (Total of five years.)

The German company Wender & Duerholt (Australia) has built some seven thousand houses in Australia during the time 1952 to 1981, it is recorded by the Housing Trust S. A. that Wender & Duerholt became just a name in South Australia of convenience, however who ran the company was questionable.



Not all workers who had come with the company to Australia stayed loyal to the company Wender & Duerholt (Australia.) Some started their own business, others worked for different building companies, some took life much more important and studied to obtain a different better employment. Wender & Duerholt (Australia) 1952 was originally formed in 1881 in West German Lennep. Many workers made several trips home to their country of birth before they settled in Australia and finally died in Australia. It was not sunshine for all German people in Australia. In someway unfairly labelled "former Enemy Alien" contract worker and it was marked in their papers in 1950-1952. (Department of Immigration.) In 1958 a contract worker was shot (killed) and it was not an accident.

In May 1965 the Rainmakers statue, a personal gift from Eugen Lohmann, Lennep Germany was unveiled by the Hon. Frank Walsh M.P. the Premier of South Australia.

In 1976 - 1978 a son who had lost his father in a work related accident moved to N.Z. to get away from all the confusing stories of history in S.A. and he committed suicide by shooting himself. Teenage boys whose parents had been unfairly labelled as German former



Enemy Alien contract worker found the situation very difficult to understand in S.A. To suicide rate for the young people was not uncommented moveing to N.Z. to suicide not to embarrass their families in South Australia.

The question is: Why did this happen?

By political will the multicultural system became more powerful and the voluntary effort made by the early European immigrants became lost. To rewrite history into any documentation, Asian people entering Australia became more important than any effort being made by any person born in Europe, including Germans in the multicultural documentation. History has become an old achieves situation no longer any authorized organization wants to spend time on the early migration history in Australia.



Business, Charity and Sentiment

After long searching for records I discovered a sound recording of an interview with Walter Wiegelmann by Averil Holt from the South Australian Housing Trust, recorded 18 October 1981. The sound recording interview became available on the 6 May 2001 to the public. The transcript typist was Joyce Locke.

A.H.

Right, Mr. Wiegelmann. Could you tell me about the start, how you got involved? What were you doing before you joined the company Wender & Duerholt?

W.W.

Well, I did nothing before. I was a young schoolboy, and I started to commence my work, my relationship with Wender & Duerholt in 1944, during the War time. And it was in the after War years, that in 19, late 1949, early 1950, we saw an advertisement in our, we had an Amsterdam branch in those days, an advertisement from Australia House in London where the Australian, then Housing Ministry, Canberra, under the leadership of Director Welsh, advertised for imported housing into Australia, and either as section homes, or pre-cut homes the theme we followed. And then we commenced to take an interest in that. We invited the documents, we had to brush up on our English terms, and gradually set up a quotation for the Ministry of Housing in Canberra via the Australia House, preparing this tender document. And the we, Wender & Duerholt at the time, Wender & Duerholt G.M.B.H, the German company, we in the case, were chosen into the closer field, and a team of people from Canberra then came to

Europe and amongst other companies visited Wender & Duerholt in Remscheid (Lennep) in West Germany and negotiated with us.

A. H.

Excuse me, can you spell Remscheid?

W. W.

Yes, Remscheid, is a township of about 120.000 people, it's name is spelt R-E-M-S-C-H-E-I-D, Remscheid, and is about 35 miles away from Cologne, from the Cologne area, and Director Welsh from Canberra, and other people from his department came to Europe, visited the Company, and we were then instructed to erect a sample house. It would go very far back in very great detail to mention the hazards and the trauma we had, in translating Australian specifications at that time. One particular item comes to hand, that nobody in the Australian Office in Cologne, or the Mission in Berlin, or the Australia House in London ever heard of a super foot. So Australia House London in fact, went so far as to cable, telephoning was just not on in those days, cable Australia, and ask for an interpretation of a super foot. Because everything that one tendered for was in - talking timber - was in terms of super foot and we had never ever heard of it. Nobody knew. Now of course we know, 12 square inches, one foot long, but then we didn't know that then. And so we had quite a hilarious time, in the very serious sense, to interpret specifications. However, we erected a sample house.

Mr. Thurston, he was then the Deputy Senior Architect, later becoming the Senior Architect of the Trust, Syd Thurston came to Germany and inspected the house. I in fact went to Hamburg and met him when he came from Denmark, with a Danish company involved as well. I remember that in detail and Mr, Thurston. I met him in the Atlantic Hotel in Hamburg. We travelled together down to Remscheid, and inspected the house, and then went further down to Bavaria. In our German office of course, and Mr. Thurston was introduced to the Managing Director of Wender & Duerholt, Mr, Eugen Lohman, and also to our Technical Director, Helmut Link, later on Helmut Link and myself together with the company out to Australia to erect these homes, and then.

We were then instructed to erect this particular sample house in Melbourne for some strange reason or other, and Mr. Lohman, the Managing Director, packed his bags and the house was shipped and was erected in Melbourne in the Preston District, in 1951. After that took place, Mr. Lohman was then delegated and sent to the South Australian Housing Trust, always under the auspices of the Housing Ministry in Canberra, Mr. Welsch once more. He was very instrumental at the time. And then Mr. Lohman met up with Mr. Ramsay, and Mr. Thurston, and Mr. Cartledge, the then Chairman of the Trust, and finally a contract was negotiated, and then the trauma began of putting things together, of preparing shipment. And everything had to be brought from Germany to Australia. This housing contract, the human element of it was that we had to bring 150 people to Australia. Each of them had to be interviewed, their history, shortly after the war, their history submitted to the Australian Consulate in Cologne, or Australian Military Mission as it was then called, into Cologne. Only 10 percent of those 150 people were allowed to be married, the rest of them to be single people.

A. H.

Do you know why?

W. W.

I have never understood really why. If I like to, in human terms think back, I think it was really a matter of accommodation. Single people one can deal with, one can somehow put together. I really feel it was the matter of accommodation. There were so many displaced persons coming from Europe into Australia that that really was the reason. Australia was underdeveloped to a degree. In those days one would call it that way, yes. And the whole idea was, of the Australian Government, alongside with other governments in the world, Canada, America and so forth, to very rapidly increase its housing scheme, in order to accommodate all these DP's, displaced persons, coming from German refugee camps into Australia in that particular instance. And it had to be done quick, and it had to be done efficient, and had to be done with the least call on the Australian resources.

In fact, I usually pointed out that by the contract we were allowed to only use 5 things in Australia, in executing that contract for 500 houses. That was water, and

that was sand, and that were five, 1,000 bricks for the outer chimney, and the underground, under foundation timbers, because they were termite proof, and paint because it was sun resisting, while the German paint of course would sort of flake off with the sun that we have in Australia so often. They were the only five things we were allowed to use in Australia, the rest were all brought from Europe, including the 150 men to put the houses up, their accommodation, their beds, tables, chairs, pillows, knives and forks, cup and saucers, everything was brought from Germany. Like an independent army we came to Australia. We brought all that with us, and as it turned out the ship with the beds and tables and chairs hadn't arrived when we, as the first team, came to Australia. So we slept on the floor in straw bags .

We were given initially two or three of these, what we discuss, temporary homes, asbestos huts, to be used until such time as we had - we couldn't sleep under the stars I suppose - until we had erected our own camp facility which came in the first shipment. That was arrested in the anchorage for some days, if not weeks, because it didn't pay its due somewhere. Ship was called the Atta, A-T-T-A, quite an interesting feature of first import. And so the story went on. Once more I remember that on this January day in 1952, I submitted the final list of people to the Australian Mission Office in Cologne. I then also met up, accidentally as it happened, with Harold Holt, who was the Australian Minister for Immigration, and he was having a meeting at the office together with ah, a man called Fidock. He was the Railway Commissioner at the time, and they brought a lot of people from Germany, for the South Australian Railway system. Hence the two were together in the office and I came in addition to that and we sort of haggled out the plan, how to get all these people to Australia. Then our first team - back to Wender & Duerholt - The 500 home were shipped in basically in 10 lots of 50. Most of the ships were charter ships and they arrived all during that year of 1952, and the 150 people we brought from Germany came in 3 or 4 shiploads.

A. H.

May I just ask, did you only supply South Australia, or did your firm supply?

W. W.

No, we had only one contact with the South Australian Housing Trust for 500 homes. We were not in any way involved any other state.

A. H.

Oh, I see.

W. W.

Only very much, singled out to be the supplier to the Housing Trust. This particular company of Wender & Duerholt. And Germany, as it of course were, is metric country, while Australia was then a country with, was it called?

A. H.

Imperial measure.

W. W.

Imperial measure, well yes. In the state that was a particular set at the time. I'm speaking of the plumbing material. In fact the plumbing material could not be sent from Germany. It had to be all brought from England. So we went to England, to Manchester, to a firm called Greatorix in Old Trafford Park, very much in the limelight these days with cricket, and we brought, from Greatorix in Old Trafford Park, we brought the plumbing materials. They were shipped independently from England. Toilets and hand basins and traps and taps and all that.

A. H.

Because your fittings wouldn't fit ours?

W. W.

The German fittings, if we had brought them from Germany, there would've been chaos, because they wouldn't fit the Australian Imperial threads. So it went on. In fact we brought everything from Germany for these homes. Pre-cut, naturally the timber, floors windows, roof covers, annealed steel roof covering. It is still there in quite good condition in the Marion district, at the southern end of

Morphett Road, still to be seen, all this horizontally weatherboarded homes. In contrast to the English homes that came in sections. They are easily to be identified by having vertical shuttering, or vertical weatherboarding.

A. H.

Oh, that's interesting.

W. W.

The German homes, because they were brought as materials, not as premanufactured sections, had the horizontal weatherboard. Hence, they're quite easy to identify in the Morphett Road district, southern end, and Dover Gardens suburb. And we brought our own earthenware pipes, plastic pipes of course weren't heard of. We brought earthenware pipes, asbestos sheets, glass, hardware, screws, nails, and cement, whatever goes into a house we brought with us. It was really a nightmare then to start. So, then we arrived on this mid-March day, 22nd March 1952, and presented our credentials so to say, to the Chief Architect, Mr. Sydney Thurston, and then set out to work. Started in the Marion District, in Morphett Road, and digging holes for stumps, gradually setting up our building site, and our first depot, in that area where now, driving through, we call it little Remscheid these days.

A. H.

Do you really?

W. W.

Where we still have the 500 homes that we, in fact erected in those years.

A. H.

All the homes you brought were built in one place, they didn't spread out?

W. W.

No, they were all built in the Marion Council area, at the southern end of Morphett Road, Dover Gardens and that area, or there might've been an exceptional one. I remember there were two homes perhaps, we built as sample

homes, or for some reason or other which escapes me why, built in the Windsor Gardens area. The Windsor Gardens Hotel then was the end of the world. Further than that there was nothing. Now I remember we built two homes there and I do not, - 30 years ago - I really wouldn't know why we did that, or why we were told to do that. But basically that was it was.

And of course in 1954, when that contract was completed of the imported homes, then we participated in ordinary tendering as was known all over the years, and continued our job for the South Australian Housing Trust, and with local contracts. But one could go on probably for a long time, to describe, human details, as a, happenings as they occurred, as these homes were erected.

Language difficulties of the people coming. Family difficulties, accommodation difficulties, climatic were very trying for the German people who come from a winter the end of a very severe, the severe Australian summer. And differences in the ways Australian people ate in regards to food. The German people had to get used to that, the sort of human, the human little stories that go with it. In material term, in business term, it was difficult. To start, to purchase the tools. We were, practically came without money. The German Mark in those days was so tightly controlled that all of us who came from Germany were given 10 pounds Sterling when we left, for a ship trip of 4 weeks. When we arrived in Australia, there was hardly anyone with more than 4 or 5 shillings. We would have had perhaps 40 or 50 cents in to day's terms. That was all we had left, that much. And when we arrived we had to wait for the first week of wages to be paid out. In managerial terms, Mr. Lohman, the Managing Director of the German Company, had engaged our friend Rudolf Schultz. He was then a Melbourne man that lives in Melbourne now again. He was already in Australia from periods before the War, and he was engaged to the company as a sort of Australian Adviser.

A. H.

Adviser

W. W.

Adviser. Australian man, he was actually Managing Director of the Australian Company, and Helmut Link and myself were sent out from the German

Company as Managers to assist Mr. Schultz to erect those 500 homes. He was really the only Australian resident man, who was engaged by Wender & Duerholt. All of the other people were German imports the after War period.

A. H.

How long did it take you to erect a house?

W. W.

Oh, well course they are erected in-groups of housing. It would be very difficult.

But all in all, by the end of 1954, two and a half years later, they were finished.

A. H.

The 500?

W. W.

The 500 homes. One could then say, well it took about 2 working years, divide that by 500, you've got some sort of figure. But they were erected in-groups of course, and it's very hard to stipulate a certain, how long it takes to build a house.

A. H.

But the Housing Trust had already done the preliminary work, I assume. They had got the roads in, and the sewerage in. It was just a matter of you coming and putting your houses on it?

W. W.

Yes. We had to connect with the sewerage ourselves. When we, in fact, their preliminary work had not been done. When we were introduced to the paddock, the first paddock on the corner of Morphett Road and Seacombe Road, sort of a square kilometer area, there were almond trees and vines on it. They had to be eradicated first, had to be taken out first. And then amongst our building houses, the E.W.S. Department came and put in their deep sewer, their water, and so forth. It was a very very trying time. But we were purely, on Monday 24th March 1952, we were introduced to a paddock, and we had to start from there on. There

was nothing prepared. There were then no sewer lines, no sewer pipes in the ground. All that was done by the E.W.S. Department as we progressed with our work. Which again was a very trying affair made it very difficult.

A. H.

Yes.

W. W.

However, the enormous demands of Australian housing in those years were felt of course, all along, by every facility, every Department being behind in their timing, in providing the services that are normally needed to put a house up. To build the house itself is one thing, to have the vacant block available served, is the other side of a picture book, isn't it.

A. H.

Oh yes, yes.

W. W.

Made it very difficult.

A. H.

How did you choose the people to come out with you? Were they volunteers?

Was there any question that they would be able to stay in Australia after their contract was finished?

W. W.

Of the 150 people, perhaps 10 percent were original Wender & Duerholt people who had, everybody who came with us practically volunteered to come, by answering an advertisement. Wender & Duerholt advertised, in fact looking for people to come to Australia and participating in the erection of some 500 homes. And all of us, who came here, came on a temporary work permit basis, which was valid for two years. Not on a migrant basis. We paid our own fares; there were not assisted passage schemes as there were available later on to migrants.

A. H.

You say you paid your own fare? The individuals paid their own fare, or the company paid?

W. W.

No, the individuals paid their own fares. That was part of the contract.

A. H.

Good gracious.

W. W.

Yes, that was part of the voluntary idea to come to Australia.

A. H.

Which would've been how much then? Can you remember?

W. W.

Oh I don't remember, perhaps 80 pounds or 100 pounds. It was, you know, relatively little. But people wanted to get away from Germany, from the after War math, Germany was not a very well country in those days. It had its ills, and it was well thought that people would like to use that particular contract as an opportunity. As it's turned out to be, to come to Australia. People, of this 150, only perhaps 10 percent went back to Germany to live. The other 135 to mention a figure would be spread all over the country.

Wherever we go, we find people that came with us on the first two or three ships. Whether it's Darwin, or Brisbane, or the South Australian countryside, or Melbourne, or Perth. They're spread everywhere, in all sorts of capacities. Not necessarily building homes. One is the Chief Curator of the Brisbane Gaol Grounds. He came with us. One is a Hotel owner in Darwin. We all have distributed and developed the skills and interest and talents over the years. So most of the people are in Australia and spread all over the country. Most of them stayed.

After two years we were then able to apply to have this temporary work permit visa changed into a fully fledged migrant visa, which then gave us a chance after four or five years to apply for Naturalisation and so forth. That was the human part of it. Then, after 54, after 54/55, we and the company brought a property in Bennett Avenue in Edwardstown, and again, once more a paddock, and then began to draw up Wender & Duerholt, perhaps the way it has been known for the last 10 or 15 years. Mr. Schultz and Mr. Link and myself worked the company up to what it was known in the seventies, and participated in, we participated in public tendering, and secured, on the local scene, and secured in 1961 our first lager contract for the Trust in the Christies Beach area. That was then the developing outer area, and as I mentioned on my little script I did before, before you come, that after perhaps putting up in the Christies area, 2000 homes, the company donated to the Trust, or further, to the Noarlunga Council, a monument, that is in Christies Beach now, engulfs the Rainmakers.

A. H.

Yeas, I do know it.

W. W.

Yes. And Mr. Shedly the Architect did the design, did the sculpture and the design. And the area there is even today known as Lohman Park. It is called the Lohman Park and has a description in describing mentioning Mr. Lohman, 'the old Managing Director', who's still alive, he's 85 today.

A. H.

Oh.

W. W.

Not today, he's now 85.

A. H.

Yes. He's living in Germany?

W. W.

He's living in Germany, he's alive, yes, and the area is known today, is maintained by the Noarlunga Council, and is very nicely opposite the Gulf View Shopping Centre, and it's called Lohman Park.

A. H.

Oh, I hadn't realised the connection.

W. W.

Yes, and the area, the monument of the area was opened, I was present at the day. So were we all. By Mr. Frank Walsh, the then Premier of the State. And of course that was days when Mr. Cartledge was still alive, and Mr. Ramsay was still alive, and was quite a great day. Mr. Lohman was here from Germany, to participate in the opening.

A. H.

They were timber frame houses were they, they were all made of timber?

W. W.

Well, are we now going back to the German houses?

A. H.

Yes.

W. W.

They were timber of course. And then gradually South Australia swung away from timber area into full brick home. But the within the Trust it was realised with the Bay of Biscay soil, with the poor soil conditions we have in Australia, in the Adelaide area, South Australia. That the brick veneer construction, as it became known in the sixties, the brick veneer construction became the very popular way of building. And that would have been about 1962/63, the most prevalent method of construction that was by the Trust in the Adelaide area.

A. H.

I understand that they had to almost change the law to get permission to erect timber homes. For some reason they weren't allowed to build timber homes, so,

you probably don't know that, but that doesn't matter. What I'm trying to get at is, what, how did people, general public view your homes. Because: I think it would've been a fairly new procedure, to build timber homes. Do you know what the public reaction would've been to them?

W. W.

No, because we were not really involved in any negotiations with the public.

We, in the early - you are referring to the timber homes that came from Germany?

A. H.

The first 500 homes. I just thought if there'd been any comments in newspapers or?

W. W.

No, not that I know of. We all had rather poor knowledge of English. We wouldn't have been easily able to really follow any comments that were made in the public. I really don't know. But then we were not involved at all with the public. We were terribly involved in our own sphere of building up these homes that were contracted with the Trust.

A. H.

And you all slept and eat.

W. W.

That's right. In our little sphere, in our little area, and we were really not in any way connected with the public and had the desire to exist, and the necessity to exist, commanded us to stick to our task and do work from morning to night, to in fact do what had to be done. We had very little contact.

A. H.

Yes, it must have been quite a change from the Northern Hemisphere.

W. W.

Oh yes. It was a financial struggle. The contract, in fact Wender & Duerholt was the only company that, of what we know, that contracted with the Trust for the erected house in South Australia. It was done; the contract was executed in two sections. A, the section fee on board Hamburg. That was the purchase part of the contract.

Then the Trust paid the ship ocean freight, it was part of the contract of course, it was all within the contract sum, but that sort of was the noman's land in between. And then the local company took over the delivery of the goods from the ship and the erection and then was paid in the usual way of progress payments from the Trust. So before we could claim the first footings, or the first walls, and the first rooves, or whatever goes with it, we had to - on our hands and knees probably, as the saying goes, go to the Trust and get a loan from the Trust to exist. Because we had no money at all, and weren't allowed to bring any money from Germany.

The German Mark was very restricted in those days. So, financially it was a very very trying time. Business wise, from the company's point of view, and of course, also from the personal point of view, the first wage had to be used for butter and for bread and so on. For bread and margarine, whatever there was in those days. And while most of the other companies, be they English or Dutch, French all those companies were involved in Australia. Most of those if not all of the companies dealt on a different basis with the housing instrumentalities, mostly Housing Commissions of the eastern states or so forth. That they were contracted on the basis that the Trust purchased the homes on a FOB basis, or a CF basis in Port Adelaide, or Port Melbourne or such like, and then a separate company was formed in Australia to undertake the erection of the homes, and Wender & Duerholt, as far I know, they remember, was the only company that contracted to the house finally erected and handed over to the Trust, and was paid accordingly, apart from the contract amount being split up into FOB amount, the shipping, the ocean freight, and the local content of the contract.

A. H.

I believe you remember Mr. Ramsay. How did you get on with him?

W. W.

Oh Mr. Ramsay was the well-known GM or General Manager of the Housing Trust. The person we were first, we were Mr. Schultz and Mr. Link and myself, and we were introduced to Mr. Ramsay in our very early days in March 1952. And he was the type of man that we felt we could go at any time and plead with and ask for help. He realised the tremendous difficulties the company, or as human beings, we as persons had to go through in coming, practically thrown into the Adelaide scene, and having tremendous tasks ahead of us. And that went through to later years, that at any time we felt we had a problem, we could go to him and ask for advice, and I do not remember a day when he was not somehow able to solve our problem, or to put us on a different track. Put us on the right track, he's never put us on the wrong track. That is how we remember Alec Ramsay.

A.H.

That's very good. Who else did you have to deal with?

W. W.

Ooh, in the olden days, we dealt with the Account, Mr. Bruce Davis, quite a personality. In financial matters. On the material point of view, we were very much connected with Mr. Dick Bagot, and his deputy Mr. Rod Shannon. Mr. Bagot of course is dead; Mr. Rod Shannon is still alive. He was, until recently Marketing Manager for the Woods and Forests Department. And I remember Dick Bagot as a very very helpful man, being immediately, having been connected immediately with the supply problems, he has helped me in my early years a great deal to overcome materials difficulties, supply, to overcome supply difficulties, materials in Australia was very scarce.

You had to queue up for a bag of cement, hence of course, the initial stipulation, that we had to be completely independent of any Australian resource, short of say, the water story and all that I mentioned, we brought our own cement of course, but then timber had to come from the west, and in later years, as we

became, as we grew. Wender & Duerholt became a very independent company in South Australia, supply wise. We marched out and bought timbers in America for our roof constructions. We produced our own roof trusses. We had our own joinery. We went frequently to Malaya to purchase timbers for many many years, we did that. And in the Housing Trust era, Mr. Bagot was a very helpful gentleman in supporting our independence.

A. H.

Were you the only member of your initial group who spoke English?

W. W.

No, of course Mr. Schultz, Mr. Rudolf Schultz, was the English speaking part of our.

A. H.

Yes, he was the one who lived in Australia.

W. W.

Who had migrated from Germany. He was born in Berlin actually, and migrated for the German motorcar firm, GKW, before the War. And then during the War he was interned.

A. H.

So you were, you were telling me you were fairly young then, Twenty-two?

W. W.

I was 22 when I came from Germany yes. I had some school experience in English and then Wender & Duerholt in the very early years after the war was occupied by the American Occupation Force and we were then, of course, working with the Americans together. Hence, the German people gradually got acquainted with English language, and I think we all had a smattering of English as we came. But when we landed in Melbourne, and got then acquainted with the Australian slang, we immediately capitulated and simply forgot everything we knew, because we had to learn right from scratch. The Australian language, in German school terms, and in German. Many times, the Australian English is so different from

what would be heard in England or otherwise that we had to learn right from scratch.

A. H.

And what was your position with the company? I mean, how did they describe you?

W. W.

We came out as Assistant Managers, and then in 1955, we became Directors of the Company, and then gave the companies, companies business right to the day when Mr. Schultz and Mr. Link and myself separated from Wender & Duerholt.

End of interview recording. Why did the interview end? Because Walter Wiegelmann notices it was recorded.

Summary of the Interview

Walter Wiegelmann began working for the large German company Wender & Duerholt as a school leaver in Germany in 1944. After the War the company successfully tendered for supplying the Housing Trust with prefabricated imported houses, to be erected on site without needing to use scarce local materials. In 1952 Mr Wiegelmann, then age 22, was sent to Adelaide as an Assistant Manager of the company's contingent to deliver and build 500 houses. He remained in South Australia as a director of Wender & Duerholt (Australia) Ltd.

The company built 7,500 houses for the Trust over the next 21 years. He worked with the company until 1973. He speaks about the difficulties of international tendering; the Australian Federal Government's involvement in the process; organizing the "army" of 150 men brought to Adelaide to erect the houses; building the houses at Dover Gardens; the formation of the Australian subsidiary with Rudolph Schulz of Melbourne as the resident director; the conditions under which he and the other 150 workers came to Australia; the transition from temporary work permit to migrant visa and the opportunity to apply for naturalization; the development of the company in South Australia; the stringent financial conditions imposed on the company and its workers by the

tendering contract; and the personal interest that Alec Ramsay, the Trust General Manager, took in the workers.

NOTE: The South Australian Housing Trust 1936-1986. Written by Susan Marsden, gives only some information on the firm Wender and Duerholt from the database. SRG 660/1/146 and has edited the English imported homes pictures instate Wender & Duerholt paragraph in the book, page 110–111. State Library of South Australia Archival Database. SRG 660/1/146.



Conclusion

What Have I Learned About Wender & Duerholt?

The management of the Wender & Duerholt organisation in South Australian did not act in the best interests of the company or the employees. In History, my findings are: I have learned a lesson - made experience - and made many disappointments by volunteering given my energy away to people I did not know.

But for volunteering for any organisation those who have given time in volunteering, 'labour and money' seldom are recognized. Energy produced in any human body must be used, but be aware to whom you will give it, be aware of volunteering for any political organization or Authority.

I have seen the business history of Max Liberman who entered South Australia in 1948. Refer to the Journal number 40; 2012. The Historical Society of South Australia the Article, written by Alen Hutchen and Dr. Critina Garnaut.

Due to the Cold War in 1948 till 1980 Eugen Lohmann gave everything to his new Company Wender & Duerholt in South Australia for being in a safe place in the World. But seldom has a worker received the full value for labour that he or she has given to an employer or any organization or authority.



This State 'South Australia' was established with the help of 10% German people in the 1836. Today in 2000 these people have become the forgotten people in the multicultural system.

After the Vietnam War there was an influx of Asian people into Australia. German people have not held together in any community in Australia. The German people acted as individuals and wanted to remain as individual persons.

The question are: why did Eugen Lohmann made (a donation) to the Housing Trust development area 'Christies Beach' in 1965 a gift, a bronze statue called "the Rainmakers". The answer is, Eugen Lohmann wanted to get back as a director a company, a position which he had lost since 1958 Director of Wender & Duerholt.