



independent
supra-regional

THE FRANCONIAN

Publication of The Franconian Society e.V.

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May 2018

STAMMTISCH EVENINGS

1st Friday of every month

The Society's meeting place is always
Turnerbund Sports Club,
Spardorfer Str. 79, Erlangen, unless
otherwise indicated

Stammtisch begins at: 6:30 p.m.
Programme begins at: 8:15 p.m.

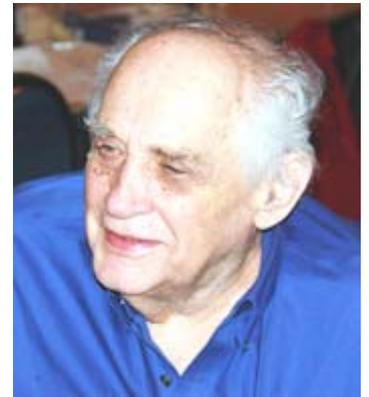
STAMMTISCH PROGRAMMES

- Fr 8th Jun. Stammtisch + Pub Quiz with
Yvonne Damaske
- Fr 6th Jul. Stammtisch + "Under the
Oak Tree"
- Fr 3rd Aug. Stammtisch + "Under the
Oak Tree"

OUR FOUNDER AND FIRST PRESIDENT, TO WHOM WE OWE SO MUCH, PASSES AWAY AFTER A LONG ILLNESS AT THE AGE OF 85.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our first President, Paul von Tucher, who died, after a long illness, on 28th April in the Marienhospital in Erlangen.

The memorial service will take place on Saturday, 5th May, at 1:00 p.m. at the Altstädter Dreifaltigkeitskirche, Martin-Luther-Platz, Erlangen. Our thoughts go out to Becky, and to her close family, namely her daughter Elisabeth and her two sons Martin and Fritz and their families.



Dr. Paul Heinrich Freiherr Tucher von Simmeldorf was born in India on 1st October, 1932. His love of the great Indian subcontinent, where he spent his earliest years, remained with him throughout his long and interesting life. In the years during the war he was sent to Woodstock School in the Himalayas and after that to school in Britain, followed by several years in the United States, where he studied for an M.A. in theology and was ordained as a minister. Here he was to meet his very able and charming wife Becky in the 1960s. Soon afterwards he and his young family settled in Franconia, the home of his forebears. Paul, as many know, earned his doctorate in theology in Erlangen where he often preached. Incidentally, he was also a great sportsman, which explains why our meeting place is the Turnerbund in Erlangen. All this will be the subject of a full obituary that will appear in our July Newsletter.

The multi-cultural Franconian Society will be celebrating its 35th anniversary in 2019, surely a proud and worthy legacy for a man with such an international background.

Frank Gillard

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Franconians,

In our May Newsletter of 2017 I talked about our new Website, which David Griffiths had kindly designed for us. Over the last year we have done our best to make it an attractive source of information about our events, past and present. I hope you have a look at it occasionally and won't hesitate to recommend it to your friends who might be interested in joining us.

I'm also pleased to report that we have gained a modest number of new members over the past couple of months, no easy task for many societies these days. But there is still a lot to be done. That's why the *Erlanger Frühling*, where so many of you contributed some very convincing cakes and, above all, your time, is such an important event in terms of advertising our society. Bridget, who was in charge of the organisation, has told me that we made €423 for our charity work. Given that the weather on the 18th March was as un-spring-like as it could be, I think we can be truly proud of ourselves, so a huge thanks to all who were involved in the baking of cakes, the brewing of coffee and tea, the setting up of our stand and the tidying up afterwards.

Another event in a similar vein is the *Erlanger Rädli*, which takes place on May 1st. By then, of course, the weather really ought to be more inviting, and, if a lot of Erlangen families jump on their bikes, then our advertising efforts might achieve their just rewards. If you like cycling, please come and bring your friends!

I wrote quite a lot for the last Franconian Newsletter on our charity work, which I consider one of the mainstays of our society. At the last Annual General Meeting on 13th April quite a bit was said about how much we have given to various charities

over the years and that we should broadcast our efforts to a wider public, through the medium of the press, for example. We'll keep this in mind.

Looking back now over the last couple of months, let me mention first of all our February outing to Frauenaarach, its monastic church, the local museum and the early 18th century inn, the *Schwarzer Adler*. We began our tour on a devilishly cold afternoon in what had been a Dominican convent founded in the 13th century. Frauenaarach's name (Aue = meadow and Ache = river, stream "where nuns lived") reminds us of its history and location.



Frau Jutta Triantafyllidis, the lady in charge of the museum, first gave us a detailed tour of the church, very prominent in this 1839 view above. Afterwards we walked over to the "*Amtshausschöpfle*", as the local museum is known, with its lovingly presented Easter egg exhibition. And finally we retired to the nearby *Schwarzer Adler* to end a very successful day.

This interest on our part in Franconian customs continued, of course, with Hanne Schmidt's well-received talk at our April Stammtisch. She told us about shady characters from our region, and some benevolent ones, too, and also the rich tapestry of events and traditions that make Franconia so fascinating. Many thanks to her!

A month earlier we had our "India" Stammtisch with Sundaram Iyer, who took us back through the centuries to the early rulers of this great subcontinent and forward to a few of the pressing issues now

facing contemporary India. It was an excellent talk and we had a good question-and-answer session afterwards. Thank you Sundaram! I should also note that our Dinner Club in March met, very appropriately, at the Restaurant Boliwood in Erlangen. Thanks, Teresa, for arranging everything.

Unfortunately, our first "hike" of the year coincided with the Easter holiday and another spell of unhelpful weather, which doubtlessly diminished our members' enthusiasm. It would have taken us to Bieberbach, the largest decorated well in the Fränkische Schweiz – a great pity as we'll have to wait a whole year before we can enjoy another Easter-themed walk. At the AGM it was suggested that we should consider, among other things, more manageable, shorter walks. I'm sure, once the summer comes, interest in pleasant hikes in convivial company will once more pick up.

Our AGM was somewhat poorly attended, I thought, especially as this was the occasion to re-elect our committee. Our member, Sangeeta Kumar, has left the committee and has been replaced by a new face: Uschi Stamminger. Actually Uschi has been very active in the relatively short space of time that she has been with us, so for many she isn't such a new face at all. Congratulations to her. It's always good to have change on the committee and we look forward to a close partnership. Turning to Sangeeta, allow me to say that we are extremely appreciative of all that she has done for the society over many, many years. I hope she will remain a trusted advisor on all matters close to her heart, especially when it comes to reaching out to young families.

So until the next Newsletter and some warm sunshine, look after yourselves and stay active

and committed to what we stand for – friendship, Franconia, and helping the less fortunate!
Frank Gillard

NEWS OF AND FOR OUR SOCIETY'S MEMBERS

MIKE AND DAPHNE GIBSON

WELCOME TWIN GRANDDAUGHTERS

Sara Marina Rebecca and Malena Francesca Sofia Gibson were born on 25th April, weighing 2690 g. and 2460 g. respectively. The proud parents are Helen Gibson and Alessandro Caruso. Since the parents decided the girls would take Helen's last name, their father was allowed to choose their first names.

A hearty welcome from the Franconian Society to the two new "world citizens" and best wishes to your parents and grandparents!

Asst. Ed.

THE ANNUNCIATION

As you may have read in the local press, Veit Stoß's masterpiece, "Der Englische Gruß", commissioned by Anton II Tucher, an ancestor of our late President, Paul von Tucher, and completed exactly 500 years ago in 1518, will be lowered for cleaning as of June 26th. The lowering of the work, normally every six years, is always eagerly awaited and attracts considerable local interest.

As it happens, the Franconian Society has always had a particular affection for this work, especially as our much respected members Eike and Karin Oellermann – incidentally our very first honorary members – were the experts originally commissioned in 1971 to restore it after WWII.

In 2001 the Franconian Society published a booklet on the Engelsgruß based on the description written by Eike Oellermann with photos by Niall Murphy, who sadly passed

away in February of this year. Erich Bach, who died in May 2017, was also instrumental in editing the text and preparing with others an English translation. So popular was the booklet that it was in fact reprinted in 2007.

We have spoken to the person in charge of liaising tours, Susanne Bammessel, and she would very much welcome a visit from our society to see the work up close. I am thinking of a date in mid-July (11th, 12th, 13th July) and will try to contact Eike and Karin to see whether they would again be willing to do us the honour of explaining the history of the work and its incredible craftsmanship.

Frank Gillard

JACKIE LINCOLN TO VISIT IN AUGUST

Though it is still several months away, this is an early reminder of our annual August Stammtisch under the Oak Tree.

Jackie Lincoln has written from South Africa that she plans to visit her children in August, but will be in our area for such a short time that she won't manage to see all of her Franconian friends individually. Luckily she will be at Turnerbund for the 3rd August Stammtisch, which, as you know, is a perfect time to meet and greet others, but also to enjoy a pleasant chat, as there is no formal programme that evening.

If you haven't yet met Jackie, this is your chance to do so. If you do know her, you are no doubt already looking forward to this opportunity to see her again.

We're all looking forward to seeing you. **Ed.**

The Franconian Society – a truly charitable society!

As was highlighted at the Annual General Meeting in April, the Franconian Society prides itself on being a truly charitable society. Looking back at just the years 2000-

2017, an impressive sum of € 73,300 was donated to various charitable causes, i.e. €4,070 on average per year.

The recipients of our donations were local, national and international charitable organisations. Among them, just to name some more recent ones, were Lebenshilfe, One Dollar Glasses, Nestwärme, Orphanage in Armenia, Wabe Erlangen, Kinderherz OP, Kinderarmut and Shanti Leprahilfe.

Whereas only a part of our membership fees is used for donations, a large amount results from other sources. In the past, our book sales contributed on average to half of our charitable donations. As the income from book sales dwindled, the more recent exemplary efforts of members at events such as the Christmas and Easter bazaars, *Rädli* or *Erlanger Frühling* contributed notably to money at our disposal for charity. Members who, on happy or sad occasions, have made our society their beneficiary are also gratefully acknowledged.

In conclusion, we can be proud of being a society which also gives financial help and support to those in need at home and abroad. **Sieghard Hellmann, Treasurer**

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

HANDICRAFTS GROUP



The new handicrafts group meets at the home of Hanne Schmidt to make items to be sold for charity.

If you are interested in joining the group, please ring **Hanne** at **09131-56203** or email her at:

jokaschmi@t-online.de.

Ed.

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES
continue on page 7.**



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR YOUR PIN BOARD

THE FRANCONIAN SOCIETY e.V.

Founded on 18th May 1984

by Dr. Paul von Tucher

MEMBERSHIP: May 2018

Annual dues (2018/2019):

Student: € 12

Single: € 20

Family: € 25

Registration fee: € 10

Our fiscal year: 1st April – 31st March

Bank Account:

The Franconian Society e. V.

(IBAN): DE08 7635 0000 0030 0009 84

(BIC): BY LA DE M1 ERH

Stadt- & Kreissparkasse Erlangen

'THE FRANCONIAN'

Next Franconian **deadline dates** for your articles, announcements, events, requests, contributions, jokes, etc. are:

20th June and 20th August 2018.

Editor: Becky von Tucher

Assistant Editor: Teresa Carolin-Mills

See the next column for contact details.

CHANGES TO OUR 2016 DIRECTORY

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to our newest members:

Rohmer, Dr. Günter & Karolin

Juragasse 1 b

91058 Erlangen

Tel. 09131 771170

email: kagumajo.rohmer@web.de

"The earth laughs in flowers."

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."

~ Lady Bird Johnson

**BE SURE TO PICK UP YOUR NEXT
FRANCONIAN ON
6th JULY 2018
AT OUR STAMMTISCH NIGHT.**

BOARD AND COMMITTEE

Frank Gillard (President) Glaserstr. 14,
90427 Nürnberg Tel. 0911/306263

president@franconian-society.de

Bridget Ineichen (1st Vice President)

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09131/25529

bridget@ineichen.de

Dr. Ingeborg Lötterle (2nd Vice President)

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Tel. 09131/33611

2vicepresident@franconian-society.de

& i_loetterle@web.de

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Valerie Hellmann (Secretary) &

secretary@franconian-society.de

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gstra@web.de

Changes and additions to our Directory, as well as new member applications, should be sent to the Hellmanns.

CALENDAR FOR 2018



For more information on the listed events, go to the corresponding page number or visit our website www.franconian-society.de

MAY 2018			JUNE 2018			JULY 2018		
1	Tu	<i>Erlanger Rädli</i>	1	Fr		1	So	
2	We		2	Sa		2	Mo	
3	Th		3	So		3	Tu	
4	Fr	Stammtisch "Lebenshilfe"	4	Mo		4	We	
5	Sa		5	Tu		5	Th	
6	So		6	We		6	Fr	Stammtisch "Under the Oak Tree"
7	Mo		7	Th		7	Sa	
8	Tu		8	Fr	Stammtisch "Pub Quiz"	8	So	
9	We		9	Sa		9	Mo	
10	Th	<i>Ascension</i>	10	So		10	Tu	
11	Fr		11	Mo		11	We	
12	Sa		12	Tu		12	Th	
13	So	Happy Hiking Boots p 7	13	We		13	Fr	
14	Mo		14	Th		14	Sa	
15	Tu		15	Fr		15	So	Happy Hiking Boots p 7
16	We		16	Sa	Zeidelmuseum p. 8	16	Mo	
17	Th	Planetarium p. 7	17	So		17	Tu	
18	Fr		18	Mo		18	We	
19	Sa		19	Tu		19	Th	
20	So	<i>Whit Sunday</i>	20	We		20	Fr	
21	Mo	<i>Whit Monday</i>	21	Th		21	Sa	Day trip Kulmbach p. 8
22	Tu		22	Fr		22	So	
23	We		23	Sa		23	Mo	
24	Th		24	So	Happy Hiking Boots p 7	24	Tu	
25	Fr		25	Mo		25	We	Coffee Afternoon p. 7
26	Sa	Franconians on the Berg p.7	26	Tu		26	Th	
27	So		27	We		27	Fr	
28	Mo		28	Th		28	Sa	
29	Tu		29	Fr		29	So	
30	We		30	Sa		30	Mo	
31	Th	<i>Corpus Christi</i>				31	Tu	

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

(continued from page 4)

VISIT TO THE NUREMBERG PLANETARIUM

Thursday, 17th May at 5:30 p.m.

Nicolaus-Copernicus-Planetarium

Am Plärrer 41, 90429 Nürnberg

We meet at the Planetarium at **5:30 p.m. on 17th May** to watch the English film "Faraway worlds - alien life?". which starts at 6 p.m.

The planetarium is a brief walk from the Plärrer, which is easy to reach by underground or tram. Please let me know as soon as possible if you wish to come so that I can reserve seats. **Ring me at 0911-306263 or send a mail to president@franconian-society.de**



Frank Gillard

DINNER CLUB

The plans for Dinner Club in the next few months are as follows. Please note the varying days and starting times:



Please join at our annual "**Franconians on the Berg**" at **Fleischmanns' Garten** on **Saturday, 26th May at 11:45 a.m.**

On **Saturday, 16th June at 4 p.m.** we combine a visit to the **Zeidel Museum** in Feucht, followed by dinner at the **Panda House**. See the article on **page 8** for the Zeidel Museum for more information.

For a change, we meet for a coffee & cake afternoon on **Wednesday, 25th July at 3 p.m.** at **Wabene, Henkestr. 53, 91054 Erlangen.**

Reserve by contacting:

Teresa Carolin-Mills by **telephone 09131-440795, mobile 0177/4647191** or by **email: tcarolinmills@franconian-society.de**



HAPPY HIKING BOOTS

For our walk on **Sunday, 13th May**, we will meet at the **Turnerbund at 9:30 a.m.** to form car-pools and drive to the **Wanderparkplatz in Kirchehrenbach**. Our walk will take us over the Walberla to Dietzhof and Schlafhausen. After lunch at Gasthaus Kroder (tel.: 09199 416), we will return along the foot of the Walberla to the car park. The total distance is about 8 km. If you are interested, please contact christophhellwig@bdn.de or mobile: 0163 7193904.

The June hike on **Sunday, 24th June**, will also start at **9:30 a.m.** at the **Turnerbund**, where we will form car-pools and drive to the **Parking area at the Schwimmbad in Streitberg**, right of the B470. We will then walk via Niederfellenbach and Birkenreuth to Muggendorf, where we will have lunch at Gasthaus Wolfsschlucht, Wiesentweg 2 (tel.:09196 324). After lunch we will go back along the Wiesent via Haag to the car park. The total distance is about 12 km. If you are interested, please contact Mairi Barkei mbarkei@t-online.de or phone 09131 55376.

On **Sunday, 15th July** we will again meet at the Turnerbund at **9:30 a.m.** Then we'll drive to the Wanderparkplatz Veilbronn, where we will begin our walk via the Schulmühle and Wernquelle to Heiligenstadt, Traidorf, and Volkmannsreuth to Veilbronn, where we will have lunch at Landgasthaus Lahner

(09198- 928990), after which we'll hike back to the parking area. The total distance will be about 7 km. If you are interested, please contact christophhellwig@bdn.de or mobile 0163 7193904.

Christoph Hellwig

VISIT TO THE ZEIDELMUSEUM

Saturday, 16th June at 4 p.m.

Our trip to the Zeidler museum will begin at 4:00 p.m. Please see the January *Aspects of Franconia* article to learn more about "Zeidler", the gatherers of wild honey from the forest.



We will meet at the museum at 3:45 p.m. The address is Pfinzingstrasse 6, 90537 Feucht. Please let me know by Sunday, 3rd June whether you are coming and whether you

need help with transportation or whether you have room in your car for another member. When registering, please indicate whether you are also staying for the Dinner Club, which is taking place at the Panda House, Schwabacher Str. 3, 90537 Feucht.

Frank Gillard Tel. 0911-306263
(president@franconian-society.de)

UPCOMING EXCURSION



KULMBACH & PLASSENBURG

Saturday, 21st July, 2018

Our first day-trip this year, on **Saturday, 21st July**, will take us to the small town of **Kulmbach** in Upper Franconia. World-

famous for its beer, Kulmbach boasts a Brewery Museum (interesting not only for beer-lovers) and an imposing fortress castle, the Plassenburg, with the world's largest collection of pewter figures in one of its museums.

These will be just two of the highlights of the day, which will end, weather permitting, in a beer garden in one of the picturesque villages in the surrounding area.

As Kulmbach is just over an hour's bus journey from Erlangen, we shall be leaving from Turnerbund at 9 a.m. to return by no later than 9 o'clock in the evening. You will find details of the programme, which is still in the planning, in the July Newsletter or in a mail sent to our members in June.

Hoping you will join us on this day out, so please make a note of it in your diaries.

Valerie Hellmann

ASPECTS OF FRANCONIA

Adam Kraft and his Stations of the Cross

Within the space of little more than ten years four outstanding sculptors were born in southern Germany, whose works mark the beginning of the transition in our region from the Late Middle Ages to the Renaissance. They are the carver of the Engelsgruß in Nuremberg's St. Lawrence church, Veit Stoß, who was born around 1450; Tilman Riemenschneider, some ten years younger, whose outstanding works can be found all over Franconia from Würzburg and Münnerstadt to Creglingen and Iphofen; Peter Vischer the Elder, the sculptor and bronze founder born in Nuremberg in 1455, responsible with his sons for the magnificent bronze shrine in Nuremberg's Sebaldus church; and, finally, Adam Kraft, the subject of a small but fascinating exhibition running until 4th October 2018 in the Germanisches Nationalmuseum.

Adam Kraft (* ca 1455/1460 in Nuremberg, † 1509 in Schwabach) left behind numerous works, including epitaphs, stone reliefs, Madonnas and crucifixes. His masterpiece is the intricate tabernacle in the church of St. Lawrence, where he portrays himself as the bearded sculptor at its base:



The subject of this exhibition, however, is the seven Stations of the Cross, which are among the oldest representatives of this genre in the German-speaking world. Seven wayside stone reliefs (later 14 would become the usual number), mounted on plinths, marked the route from Nuremberg's Neutor tower to St. John's cemetery. This corresponds to the distance from the house of Pilate to Calvary Hill in Jerusalem, from the place where Jesus was condemned to death to the site of his crucifixion.



This devotional route dates back to before 1479. Around 1490 seven Stations of the Cross were placed along it. The ensemble was extended to the entrance of

St. John's cemetery around 1506/08 with the addition of a monumental Crucifixion group. The six reliefs which were transferred to the museum between 1889 and 1909 to safeguard them from air pollution and the elements survived the Second World War undamaged, having been walled-in for protection in the Carthusian Church. The fourth Station of the Cross, still standing in the town at that time, was badly damaged in 1945 by a high-explosive bomb. Replicas can be found in the original locations along today's Burgschmietstrasse and Johannisstrasse. The art-technological examination of the seven stations took place from 2015 to 2017, followed by their restoration, and this, now completed, gives us an opportunity to admire Kraft's exceptional skill as a sculptor.

I would like to arrange a visit some time, so do watch out for an email from our secretary giving more details.

Frank Gillard



SCHLOSSGARTENSERENADE

Wednesday, 16th May 2018 at 7 p.m.

Hugenottenkirche, Erlangen

The *Sängerguppe Erlangen*, of which I am chairman, once again presents its yearly *Schlossgartenserenade* under the direction of Knut Wulf Gradert, with the theme "...war in der Welt, jetzt wieder zu Hause!".

Participating choirs are: *Chorverein 1847 Erlangen*, *dezibella - Der Erlanger Frauenchor*, *Erlanger Musikwerkstatt*, *Kosbacher Stad'l - Chor*, *Liederkrantz Dechsendorf*, *MGV Eltersdorf*, *MGV Eintracht Tennenlohe*, *Singgemeinschaft Buckenhof* and the *Walter Rein - Chor*.

Entrance is free, baskets will be placed at the exit for donations towards a charity to be named on the day. **George Mills**

MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Those wonderful Church Bulletins!

Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters.

- The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'
- Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.
- Don't let worry kill you off-let the Church help.
- Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.
- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.
- At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?'. Come early and listen to our choir practice.

- Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality.
- Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.
- This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.
- The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.
- Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
- The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

And this one just about sums them all up:

- The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge--Up Yours.'

Contributed by **Mike Gibson**

"The best way to garden is to put on a wide-brimmed straw hat and some old clothes. And with a hoe in one hand and a cold drink in the other, tell somebody else where to dig."

~ Texas Bix Bender,

Don't Throw in the Trowel