

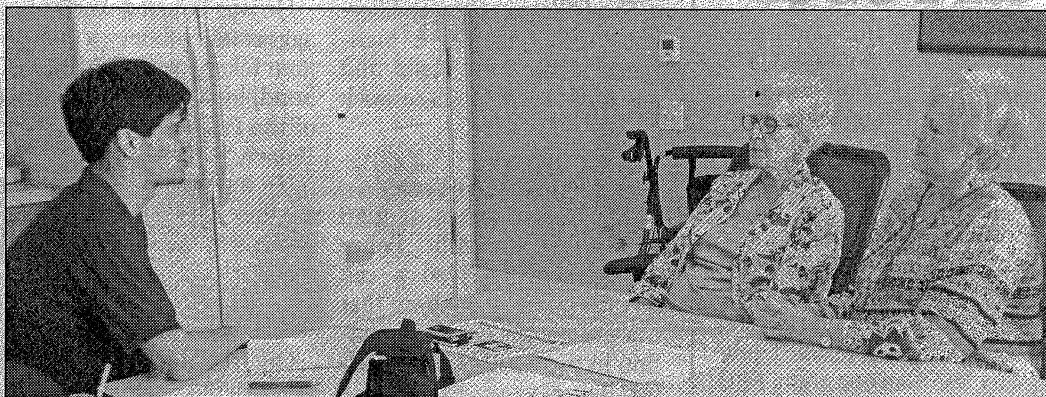
Texas German Dialect Project teams with Pioneer Museum

Over the last 16 years, the Texas German Dialect Project (TGDP) has been working to preserve the Texas German language.

Under the direction of Professor Hans Boas and the University of Texas at Austin, the TGDP has conducted more than 500 interviews of Texas German speakers. These interviews have taken place in Gillespie County and in other German communities in Texas.

This summer and upcoming fall, Pioneer Museum has had the opportunity to work with the TGDP by hosting interviews and has had three days of interviews for 15 speakers.

The interviews take two hours, are conducted one-on-one and are recorded. Interviewees are asked to translate words from English to Texas German, answer questions about ancestors, life, the community they live in and any topic of interests. They are also asked to answer a biographical questionnaire



Luke Lindemann with the Texas German Dialect Project interviews Betty Klein and Loretta Schmidt during a recent visit. Lindemann is working with other members of the TGDP to record and preserve the Texas German dialect, which is expected to become extinct by 2040 if nothing is done to preserve it. — Submitted photo

which includes date of birth, gender and how much English and German they've used throughout their life.

TGDP is seeking people to do interviews.

"If you have ever spoken conversational Texas German, you are the perfect candidate," said a spokesperson with the Pioneer Museum. "The goal of this project is to collect as many Texas German speakers

as possible, in order for future generations to study the language and the culture behind it. This is an important study, as the researchers believe the Texas German dialect will become extinct by 2040."

The recorded versions of these conversations are studied and transcribed by the student researchers and professors working with the TGDP. After the interviews

are transcribed, they are put onto a database through the University of Texas and the TGDP. Interviews are completely anonymous on the database and mention of specific people will be removed from the transcription to protect privacy.

Anyone interested in participating should contact Evelyn Weinheimer at the Pioneer Museum at 830-997-2835.

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KEEP IT ALIVE

Statewide German dialect project teams with Pioneer Museum

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