



On 29 October 1938 the Winckelmann school celebrated its 600th birthday with a procession. With the projector shown above a seven minute long film was shown. The Father of Duane and Joe Thompson was in the possession of the spool of film.

Hot trace leads to Hampel and Palm

Film for the 600-Year-Celebration arrived / detective work for Basner & Co.

by Dirk Andres

STENDAL. Duane Thompson was in 1945 a medic in Stendal. After almost 60 years his sons Duane Jr. and Joe from Colorado Springs find the scene of a film. In the meantime the Americans are in contact with Hans Basner.

"It is the first busy document over the school.", said Hans Basner yesterday of the circle of friend of the Winckelmann High School with pride. In his hands the Stendaler held a DVD, which was sent by Duane and Joe Thompson. Then Basner points to a newspaper article: "When I was still a boy, it was only an old film where horse and people could be seen but its clear now that it isn't a normal parade", quotes the Stendaler from Duane Jr. in an interview with Manny Gonzales of the Denver Post. The article appeared on May 19th. Their

father, Duane Thompson, brought the film itself together with a projector from the war.

The question: what event that is on the 16 millimeter strips, is clarified in the meantime. It shows the procession on October 29th, 1938 of the 600th anniversary of the Winckelmann school. Which way the celebration procession had taken according to Basner is also being investigated with the help of contemporary witnesses. Thus the parade began at the Tangermuender gate, moved at the Schadewachten over the width of the street up to the old village, turned to the crowd refuge route into the Moltkestraße, and concluded over the west barrier over the Brother Road at the Market place.

There already is a promising leads in the area of who made the film, too. "The main suspects are Hampel and Palm, which had a photo business in

Stendal at that time. Besides, Hampel had access to the newest state-of-the-art technology, as a still photographer which was not mentioned in the Winckelmann blatter.

How Duane Thompson, which was at that time a medical soldier during the Arden Offensive of Stendal, came into the possession of the projector and the roll of film, remains unanswered. And so goes the detective work for Hans Basner and the Winckelmann friends.

The film is to be presented to the public over the public channel television. However it is still being worked on, since it is only a pure silent movie.

Anyone who has details about the projector or the parade, are asked to contact Hans Basner, Birkenweg 80 in Stendal. Further information at: www.winckelmann-gymnasium.de and © (0 39 31) 71 74 60.