

WALBURG (AP) — In this Central Texas hamlet, where the German accents are as thick as the foam on the beer, residents are closely following the dramatic events in their native land.

'I've probably got a \$500 phone bill because of all the calls to Germany," Herbert Schwab, who emigrated from West Germany in 1985, becoming chef and co-

in 1882.

But Schwab is more concerned about the histor folding in his homeland.

Schwab remembers East Germany as a grim, place whose inhabitants were starved not only for stuffs but also for contact with the outside world. In April 1978, when Schwab was 19, an unclein



owner of the Walburg Restaurant, said.

 East Germans call for end to Communism Page 8

·Soviets ease travel restrictions to West/Page8

A few nights ago, Schwab, who has relatives on both sides of the now-tumbling Berlin Wall, said he spoke to a friend in Munich:

"He said there are 100,000 East Germans in Munich, and there is a big party going on 24 hours a day," Schwab, 30, recounted. "He said they are drinking beer and schnapps in the street, and the police are on duty around the clock."

Residents of Walburg and dozens of other Texas communities established by German immigrants have relied on television as well as telephones to keep up with the changes sweeping Eastern Europe. "We are very interested," Ethel Mickan of Walburg

said. "We've been watching TV all weekend to see what's going on.'

Mickan is a direct descendent of Henry Doering, who founded Walburg in the 1870s, naming it after a village in his native Germany.

Schwab is part of the more recent stream of German immigrants to Texas.

He came in 1985 to visit American relatives, then returned the same year to investigate job offers he received during the three-month vacation. A butcher in New Braunfels told him about Walburg.

Schwab and Ron Tippelt, a Munich native, co-own the restaurant. It is housed in the century-old Walburg Mercantile building, which Doering himself established

Berlin arranged for him to visit the city for two To reach the divided city, Schwab had to drive the a fenced corridor across East Germany.

At a rest stop on the highway, East German

chased away people who tried to talk to Schwab. "They asked me for chewing gum and chocolat the police came, and they didn't want us to talk East people," Schwab said. "They told me I coulds my rest stop and smoke a cigarette, but I could not to the people.

"He said there are 100,000 East Germans in Munich, and there is a big party going on 24 hours a day. They a drinking beer and schnapps in the street and the police are on duty around the clock."

> - Herbert Schwa German immigra

I found this a little bit disgusting."

His tour of East Berlin was disheartening. 'When you go over and see the city, it hasn'tch a lot," Schwab said. "It looks like Germany in the When you go over, it looks like a time change going back 30 years."

Atheist sues officials over juror's oat

AUSTIN (AP) — The daughter of atheist leader Madalyn Murray O'Hair is seeking \$12 million in a federal lawsuit against Travis County officials who jailed her after she refused to take a juror's oath or affirmation.

Robin Murray-O'Hair — O'Hair's biological granddaughter and adopted daughter — initially objected to the words "so help me God" in the oath required of prospective jurors when she was called for jury service in December 1987.

County Court-at-Law Judge Guy Herman waived the oath, but held Murray-O'Hair in contempt after she refused his offer that she take an affirmation without a reference to God.

Murray-O'Hair, after being jailed for several days, was released on

bond. An appeal of the contempt order later was declared moot, because Herman commuted the contempt sentence to time served, according to the lawsuit.

We have atheists who are afraid to go to jury duty because they don't know what'll happen to them," Murray-O'Hair said.

To object to taking the oath, she said, "you must draw attention to yourself."

"Atheism is not a popular position in our culture," she said. "A lot of people are afraid of the social reper-

cussions of doing such a thing." A uniform declaration, without any religious reference, that they will tell the truth should be required. ill tell the truth should be required "There was just no pleasing he all jurors, she said. "I suppose it'll ultimately be In filing the lawsuit, Murray- a judge," he said. of all jurors, she said.

O'Hair contends she was i punished for exercising her dom of conscience, "psycholog manhandled" by the judg "thrown into jail with criminal Named as defendants in the suit are the Travis County court

tem, Herman and the county clerk, sheriff and court bailiff

The suit seeks \$2 million in damages, \$3 million in [damages, attorney fees \$500,000 from each person whi involved in her incarceration

"It is our opinion that Judg man followed the law, and was very gracious and accomming to her," Travis County Att Ken Oden, of the lawsut