

Entertainment in the P.O.W. Camp at Fort Robinson was provided by a group of War Prisoners, who formed under the acronym VARISTA, -VARieté Im STA-cheldraht, which would be the German analogue to VAUdeville BEhind BARbed Wire - VAUBE BARWI -.

Some of the group's members actually were performing artists in pre-war Germany.  
HELMUT BENDER, Operatic Tenor, HANS BAMBERG, Baritone,  
FRED FINKBEINER, Symphonic Violinist,  
WILLI TANCULSKI, Humorist and Bandoneon Virtuoso,  
HERBERT TWARDON, Bandleader.

Others were amateur musicians whose instrumental abilities added music to the many performances:  
HANS BETTGES and WALTER SCHEELE, guitars,  
GEORG WONSCHIK, Gypsy Violinist, TEDDY HOEREN, Piano,  
HANS WAECKER, Tenor Sax and Drums, WILLI KOERNER, whistler.

The remainder of the permanent VARISTA members, PAUL TENHAGEN, ROLF SCHMIDT, OTTO DEY, OSKAR NUPNAU, ROLF PUTZKE (ROBBY), as well as the numerous actors in the plays, developed their talents under the guidance of WILLI SCHWIND, who was THE SOUL of the VARISTA Group.

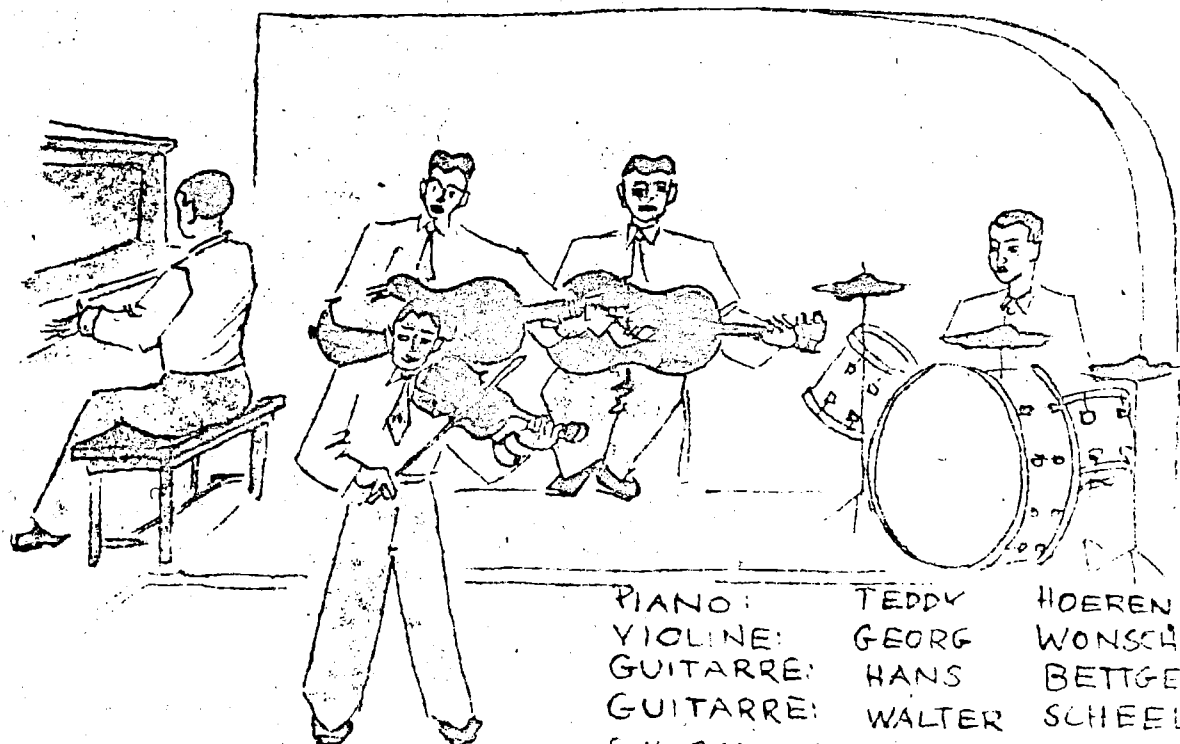
WILLI, a professional Vaudeville artist, was a juggler, clown, actor, musician, trapeze artist and humorist, who, freely and untiringly, shared with all his abilities. There is no question that, had it not been for WILLI SCHWIND, there would not have been "THE" VARISTA. He taught others to tap-dance, juggle, act, be clowns. He put the programs together, he directed, he acted - he was an incredibly talented, sensitive and kind man. His death, a year after his repatriation, was tragic and ironical. Working in the post-war economy as a roofer, he, who fearlessly balanced on one chair leg on a swinging trapeze, had a fatal fall off a roof. This was forty years ago, but he will never be forgotten.

This booklet of illustrations by Hans Waecker, now a retired physician at Cliff Island, Maine, was presented, as a token of appreciation, to Wolfgang Dorschel who, as camp spokesperson, gave much support, and was instrumental in obtaining from the American camp administration needed material for stage props and scenery.

# WIR starten!

AUS DEM PROGRAMM:

DAS VARISTA - QUINTETT:  
RENDEVOUZ BEI PAUL LINKE / JALOUSIE  
RUMÄNISCH / CZARDAS VON MONTI U.A.M.



PIANO:	TEDDY	HOEREN
VIOLINE:	GEORG	WONSCHIK
GUITARRE:	HANS	BETTGES
GUITARRE:	WALTER	SCHEELE
SCHLAGZEUG:	HANS	WAECKER