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ST. LOUIS GERMANS SNUB THE BUND

By LOUIS LA COSS

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 24.—The owner of a South St. Louis beer garden, for some time one of the most popular eating places in the city, returned to his native Frankfort-on-Main this week. Although a naturalized American, he made some flattering remarks about the Nazis last Summer after a visit in Germany. Later, his cafe was the scene of a mild Nazi demonstration, after which trade dwindled and he disposed of his property. Explaining his departure, his friends say, "He couldn't stand to be gawked at on the street."

His experience is typical of the way St. Louis, with a large population of German descent, is handling the German-American Bund, which has its followers here. The Bund has been given the "cold shoulder" by the very persons from whom it might expect support.

A Convention Is Planned

The Bund was off to an early start here. It recruited a membership of several hundred from various German-American societies and in its first days, before the serious aspects of the organization were revealed, cut quite a swath with its

swastika banners, its brown-shirted troops and its Summer camp on the near-by Meramec River.

Up to October, 1937, the Bund was accepted as just another of the societies whose members like to talk and parade. Then it was announced that a convention of all Bunds in the Midwest was to be held in St. Louis during the month of November.

By this time the stolid Germans of old stock took affairs in hand. Several German-American societies with large memberships announced that they would have nothing to do with the convention. The German House, center of German-American activity on the South Side, discovered that it was booked solid "indefinitely" and refused its halls for the meetings. The local Bund leaders scoured the city for a hall, only to discover that when they revealed their identity the hall was not available.

The Bund got a permit to parade but a similar permit was issued to a much larger group of anti-Nazis. There was the implication that the police would be on hand to guard against a clash. The result—the Midwest convention of the Bund was called off.