



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume I, No. 3 Serbin, Texas April-June, 1980

W I T A J C E k N A M

W E L C O M E T O U S

"Witajce k nam!" - "Welcome to us!" - This is a familiar Wendish (Slavonic) greeting, expressive of the friendly warmth of

Wends and their Slavic relatives. In Lusatia, home of the Wends in southeast Germany, these words are displayed on big sign-posts across streets and entrances into towns and villages, especially during holiday festivals.

A good project for the people of Serbin and/or the members of the Wendish Heritage Society could be the erection of a welcome sign: "WITAJCE k NAM - SERBIN, TEXAS". And a good place for such a sign would be near the entrance to the MUSEUM!

JJS

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD WENDS TO PLAN TO TAKE PART IN
THE TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL IN AUGUST IN S.A.

At present there is no other single activity that brings as much publicity, prestige, recognition, and renown to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society as the Folklife Festival in San Antonio the first week-end in August. Each year the fame of the Wends of Texas spreads more and more. As a result more people are needed to help in the WENDISH BOOTH. We appeal to any of our readers, but especially to members of the TWHS to volunteer to serve in the Wendish Booth. Your expenses will be paid. If interested contact TWHS president, Evelyn Kasper.

EASTER, a joyous festival time for the Wends of yore!
Here is one of their favorite Easter Hymns: "Christ Is Arisen"
Wendish Hymnal, No. 109
KHRYST JE HORJE STANYL

KHRYST JE HORJE STANYL A SE WSCHERJ MARTRY CZAHNYL, s TEHO SZO
MANY SRADOWACZ A KRYSTUSZ CHZE NASZ TROSCHTOWACZ, KYRIE ELEIS!

The NEWSLETTER of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, with headquarters at the Wendish MUSEUM in Serbin, Texas, is published quarterly.

EDITOR: John J. Socha

Contributors: Officers and members of the Society and anyone interested in helping to preserve the Wendish (Sorbian, Upper Lusatian) heritage.

The TWHS is a non-profit organization and in no way discriminates in matters of race, religion, or ethnic background.

Financial contributions to the TWHS are tax-deductible.

Dues are \$5.00 per person per year and may be sent to the Membership Chairman, TWHS, PO Box 311, Giddings, Texas 78942.

The president is Evelyn Kasper Box 68, Warda, Texas 78960.

Send articles, news, family tree developments (reunions, etc.)

to: JOHN J. SOCHA, Editor, P.O. Box 180, GIDDINGS, Texas 78942; 713/542-3455. (Please notice this change of address, effective April 21, 1980. Note: The editor has accepted the position of Manager of the GIDDINGS Chamber of Commerce and will maintain a Candidate status as a Pastor of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod - Texas District.

TWHS DUES ARE JUST \$5.00 per person. Members, encourage all your friends to take out a membership in this 125th year of settlement at Serbin, Texas.

CONCORDIA SUPPORTS TWHS

Fred A. Bleeke, director of Development of Lutheran Concordia College, Austin, and Peter Wille, Director of Media operations, have provided the files of the TWHS with some beautiful and valuable photos which we will be using in future publica-

One is a photo of an original painting of Jan Kilian by Alma Babcock of Austin, located at Concordia College. A photo of Kilian Hall is a reminder of the famous leader of the Wendish Immigration and pastor of St. Paul, Serbin. The original Serbin Church bell, brought over by the immigrants, standing on a pedestal near the entrance to Birkmann Chapel was beautifully photographed by Wille.

Concordia College, now on the threshold of becoming a major, four-year college, has always been near and dear to the Wendish people and their leaders. In fact, it was the financial contributions of the Lutheran Wends at Manheim (Eben-Ezer) that gave meaningful encouragement and influence to the start of higher Christian Education among the forerunners of the Texas District and present day Concordia College.

Wendish students at Concordia, descendants of the Wends of Texas should be proud of their great heritage. We are proud of them!

WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY MUSEUM
MEMORIAL CARDS AVAILABLE

Our genial treasurer, Laverne Gersch, sent me three memorial wreaths, now available for distribution and use by members and friends of the TWHS. You should have a copy with this mailing!

The drawing is a black pen sketch of the old St. Paul, Serbin Lutheran School, drawn by Mr. Walter Zoch of Ft. Worth from a photo taken of the school about 54 years ago. Our thanks to Mr. Zoch! - We have quite a few ZOCH family members in the TWHS. If any of them have a geneo-logical study of the ZOCHS, or as some old obit-uaries have it, ZOCHA, we'd like to publish it in a future NEWSLETTER.

n. AMONG OUR NEW MEMBERS

Rev. Elmo Miertschin

of Houston; Attorney, Clayton Kramer of Wichita Fall ; and Edward Kasper of Ft. Worth (my son-in-law), are among the newest members of the TWHS. WELCOME aboard. Enjoy the great heritage which is ours today because of our oneness with the WENDS of Texas today and another day. (Note: Thanks to Mrs. Les Zeitler (Sylvia Miertschin for her dad's membership.)

Each member can help the TWHS grow. Get at least one new member this month!

BY THE WAY, Have you tried any of the Wendish recipes in the TWHS Cook Book? They're delicious!

DID YOU KNOW? . . .

WUKASCH,

a good Wendish name, means, "Show me!". . . Henry Schkade of Hurst, Texas, is researching the Wendish side of the Schkade families. . . Support the Museum! . . . Matthias Wukasch, born August 31, 1798, was the patriarch of all the Wukasch's. Among them is Mr. Gene Wukasch, highly talented Austin architect. Gene is now being widely sought out for his exceptional abilities in community planning and his-torical restoration!

A SPECIAL OFFER! - WENDISH NOODLES ARE THE GREATEST!

At the Folklife Festival in San Antonio they really turn people on! When Mrs. Paul puts on her Wendish Noodle-Making Demonstration, people flock to her. Later, when the ladies cook them, well. Write to the editor for details!

WENDISH FILE . . . Schatte - Marburger

The old patriarch of the Schatte family, ANDREW SCHATTE and his wife Magdalena, immigrant pioneers of 125 years ago, would be proud of the family tree that has blossomed during the century and a quarter past. The SCHATTE name, enlazed in the archival past of Serbin and Lee County, include scores of children and their children, now scattered throughout the far reaches of this nation.

Here in Lee County is one branch of the Family Tree we honor with this, the third issue of our Newsletter, Mr. WALTER MARBURGER and his lovely wife, HERMINE SCHATTE!

Walter Marburger is recognized as one of the pillars in Lee County history. For 54 years he honorable served in the County Clerk's office, first, as Deputy Clerk to GUS R. MIERTSCHIN who died in 1933.

A native of Fayette Co., Walter came to Lee County in 1921. He served as County Clerk for 41 years. He has always been active in civic affairs and is respected for his positive attitudes and sane judgment. During his long years of service to the citizens of Lee County his office grew from a small "hole in the wall" to a vast center of County and State activity.

HERMINE SCHATTE MARBURGER was the grand-daughter of ANDREW and MAGDALENA SCHATTE and the daughter of HERMAN SCHATTE, who at the age of 28 died in a terrible Port Arthur refinery fire.

We are proud to number the "Schatte" Marburgers among the growing number of members of the TWHS. We thank them for their great contributions to the welfare and well-being of Giddings and Lee County and the TWHS. God bless them!

CONCORDIA HISTORICAL INSTITUTE OF ST. LOUIS INTERESTED IN
THE WENDS OF TEXAS

Dr. Aug. R. Suelflow, director of the CHI, housed on the campus of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, has expressed a sincere desire to have an extensive Wendish exhibit in the new and beautiful CHI museum. Much of our present-day knowledge about the Wends comes from thorough studies published in the CHI Quarterlies. CHI is deserving of all the support we can possibly give it. Scholars and researchers of the Wends will do well to join the CHI. Address: Dr. Aug. R. Suelflow, 801 De Mun, St. Louis, Missouri 63105