



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

Volume II, No. 1

Serbin, Texas

Oct.-Dec., 1980

## WITAJCE k NAM! - WELCOME TO VOLUME II

In the name of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.  
We tem meni Boha Wotza, Ssyna, a Swjateho Duchu. Amen.

Thus we begin Volume II. We anticipate an exciting year ahead for the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

With the dedicating of Building Number one and the completion of Phase I of the Wendish Museum November 9, 1980 at Serbin, a new era looms large ahead.

This is a good time for all members of the Society to become more active participants in the growing number of activities of the Society. And be sure to enlist other interested persons to become members.

## INVITATION

You are herewith cordially invited to attend the Serbin Appreciation and Building Dedication Wendish Day, Sunday, November 9, starting promptly at 12 noon with a Sausage Dinner. The Society Committee will supply the Sausage and the Drinks. You are to supply the side dishes and the utensils, and any other refreshments you desire.

The Building Dedication marks the completion of the Research Center and Meeting Rooms which will be used as the Exhibit Room until Phase II, the Main Museum Building is completed. Be sure to come by and visit the new building. And enjoy the exciting activities of Wendish Day, Nov. 9. Note; The "Museum" will be open Sunday afternoons from 1 to 5:00 p.m. from here on out, thanks to the hard-working Officers and members of the Heritage Society.

"Serbstwo nihdy njezandze,  
Serbstwo Serbstwo wostanje!"

Translated into German:

"Sorbentum wird nie vergehen,  
Sorben bleiben immerdar!"

We thank Gerhard Simmank our Society member and friend living in Wendenland in the Federal Republic of Germany (West), for the above quote from PETR MLONK, 1848 (1805-1887). This quotation reminds me of some other great literary works that come down to us from the Revolutionary years of 1848-49. I'm thinking of the writings of the youthful literary genius, LUDOVIT STUR, who visited Bautzen and other places in Lusatia and stirred up especially the youth to a new day of freedom and progress in social, economic, and literary pursuits.

The above quote says that the Wendish (Serbstwo) will never die away. This is true when people are alive to the heritage that has been handed down to them and they are willing to do whatever is necessary to preserve and propagate that heritage. Yet the opposite is true - the path of least resistance. Let things happen as they will, without planning and sacrificing, and anything will die away.

More and more young people of Wendish descent are getting interested in their real "roots" and they are finding that their slavic backgrounds are fascinating, invigorating, dynamic, and motivating.

A new day is dawning in the preservation of the Slavic heritage - Wendish, Czech, Slovak, Moravian. The Texas Wendish Heritage Society is committed to the preservation and restoration of the Wendish traditions, customs, literature, language, and spiritual values. YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN THE TWHS IS A GOOD STARTING POINT FOR UNTOLD ACTIVITIES WHICH GIVE LASTING ENJOYMENT, PLEASURE, AND SATISFACTION. Be sure to renew your TWHS membership by the end of the year. And tell your friends about the Society. Help them join!

ORDER A "Ja SYM SERB" T-Shirt.

HENRY SCHKADE SLATED TO  
VISIT SPREEWALD-WENDENLAND

WENDISH TEXANS SOCIETY TO BE  
PUBLISHED BY INSTITUTE

Another Wendish Scholar, Henry Dr. Sylvia Grider, prominent Texas A. & M. English Department professor, and vacationing in Germany: Bautzen, compiler-writer of The the Spreewald, Petershain, Weigersdorf, Dubravke, Klitten, the manuscript has gone to the printers and that the Book will probably appear early in 1981.

Henry is due to stay with his mother's kinfolks, the LESCHBERS.....Cousin Martin Leschber teaches Slavic languages and shares his interest in the Wendish Heritage and history. Henry's trip was due to begin October 2, 1980. Have a good trip, Henry. Dajce nasch pozdrav. (We will be looking forward to an article by Henry for Volume II, No. 2, in Jan.)

We have read the manuscript and look forward to see - this latest addition to the fascinating Texan Series published by the Institute for Texan Cultures in San Antonio.

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR. THE DATES OF THE 1981, TENTH ANNUAL TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL: August 6, 7, 8, and 9.

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WENDISH FLOAT, "BEN NEVIS," WINS FIRST PLACE AWARD IN GIDDINGS GEBURTSTAG 109 PARADE. . . . . Since we are late with our appearance we can report that the Texas Wendish Heritage Society float, the replica of the "Ben Nevis," the English sailing ship used by the forefathers to immigrate across the Atlantic into the Gulf of Mexico, won wide acclaim at the Giddings Geburtstag 109 Parade in Downtown Giddings Saturday, October 11, 1980.

The TWHS took an active part in the two-day celebration at the Fairgrounds, two miles west of Giddings on Highway 290. The members were dressed in their Wendish Costumes as they conducted a beautifully decorated Booth...They sold Wendish Cook Books, Wendish Home-made Noodle, Vareny Cyr (Koch Kaese), Sauerkraut and Wieners, Wendish Dills, and Wendish Arts and Crafts items. A good time was had by all!



## PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE . . . Ted Lammert, Past Pres. TWHS

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society is dedicated to the preservation of our Wendish heritage. Now that we have a Museum, we need to gather and preserve the treasures, lest they disappear and be lost.

The heritage that we should preserve fall into three groups. One group are the ORAL TRADITIONS that we collect from the memories of some of our older Wends. They may include such happenings as habits and practices in the home and family life. It should also involve us in such practices as Confirmation, weddings, church customs, dress or attire, and various festivals. Some oddities may be remembered about food and food preparation.

The second type of information involves the gathering of written information that may be gathered from books, histories, etc. These may include letters, obituaries, and pictures. Pictures may include families, homes, churches, and activities.

Lastly, we are interested in items that were part of the daily living, such as home furnishings, tools for their occupations, and unusual items in their culture.

Editor's note: This article by Ted Lammert, a former President, is the first article submitted by an officer of the Heritage Society. We appreciate it and look for more like it in future issues. Any member of the Society is welcome to submit items of interest for the Newsletter.)

The NEWSLETTER of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society is published quarterly.

### COOK BOOK A HOT ITEM

Wendish Cook Books are in great demand. They are still available from the TWHS.

More and more Gourmet Shops around the country are carrying this popular item.

Editor: Rev. John J. Socha  
507 S. Caldwell St.  
Giddings, Texas 78942  
713/542-3919 or 3455

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