



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume II, No. 3. Serbin, Texas April - June, 1968

JOHN 3:16

"Pschetoz tak je Boh ton szwet lubowal, so won szwo-
jeho jeniakzkeho narodzenego Ssyna dal je, so bychu

wschitzy, kiz do njeho werja, shubjeni njebyli, ale
weczne ziwjenje meli."

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only-be-
gotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should
not perish but have everlasting life."

One of the distinctive characteristics of the Wends
who came to Texas from Lusatia in southeast Germany
in 1854 was their high degree of spirituality. Their
lives revolved around the activities of their faith,
their church, the acknowledgment of their sinful na-
ture, and their acceptance of Jesus Christ and the
Cross, His sufferings, death, and resurrection = as
the ultimate in their lives - the full salvation of
their souls, the complete payment of their sins, their
way of life.

We know more about the religious, spiritual side of
the Wends than any other. We have more of their spi-
ritual-oriented possessions than any other - Bibles,
Hymnals, Catechisms, Prayer Books.

In these seasons of the Church-Year, Lent and Easter,
we do well to mark the devout, spiritual side of
the Wendish forebears, thank God for the heritage
they have left us, and live in the shadow of the Cross
and the brightness of the Empty Tomb as they did, en-
joying the gift of New Life which is in Christ and in
His merits alone.

John J. Socha

By: Evelyn N. Kasper

I am glad that I have been asked to furnish a Museum Report for the Newsletters because there are so many things that I want to share with all the members. Remember, this is your museum - you must furnish the manpower and the display items to make it a success!

First of all, in case you have not heard who is on the Accession Committee with me, the members are:

Jack Wiederhold, 976 E. Industry, Giddings, Texas 78942. He is also a teacher at the Serbin St. Paul Lutheran School.
John Socha, 507 South Caldwell, Giddings, Texas 78942
Laverne Gersch, Route 2, Box 109, Giddings, Texas 78942 (Serbin)
David Goeke, 110 Morning Valley, San Antonio, Texas 78227
Reinhold Teinert, 1501 Barbara Street, Austin, Texas 78757
Mary Schimank, 109 West Hamilton Street, Houston, Texas 77055
Daphne Garrett, 12427 Pebblebrook, Houston, Texas 77024
Elizabeth Hutchinson, 1311 S. Augusta Drive, Gonzales, La. 70737

Please contact any committee member if you wish to make a loan or gift. Forms are being prepared for temporary loans, permanent loans (which means the item belongs to the museum as long as it is in existence and should the society be disbanded the items would be returned to the donor or holder of the receipt form) and gifts. Temporary or short term loan items will not be covered by insurance. Forms will be sent to all donors thus far and committee members will have them available for future donations. A special Thank You to Bill Pratho and Laverne Gersch for working out the insurance matter and to Daphne Garrett who helped me inventory all items we now have.

Acting as hosts or hostesses in the museum since the ribbon cutting on November 9th through March, 1981, were Daphne Garrett, Alice Noack, Larry Garrett, Joe Hutchinson, Ruby Koslan, Bessie Mertink, Evelyn Kasper, Walter Rauder, Elsie Rauder, Bea Tschatschula, Lillian Wieder, Alvin Schmidt, Esther Schmidt, Ruth Lindner, Laura Zoch, August Zoch, Hermine Marburger, Walter Marburger, Laverne Gersch, Lorine Domel, Ella Melde, Eleanor Steglich, Louise Krokasky, Albert Buscha, Esther Buscha, Marie Luecke, Emma Wuensche, Tony Hudler and Dorothy Hudler. Some of these folks worked more than once and I certainly do appreciate it and hope that others will volunteer to do so. I have a list of volunteers whom I have not yet called upon but will do so soon.

Exhibit items received since our last meeting are a double cobbler's stand, an assortment of mule harnesses, yoke, weaning muzzle, crock, piece of rail fence, parlor table, picture album, chest filled with old altar paraments, school desk, and old fashioned paper dolls. Come to see them. I know you will want to see the Easter egg exhibit which has been prepared by Daphne Garrett. We will leave this up through the May meeting so you may see it. The book on Easter eggs from East Germany is being translated by her. Mrs. A. E. Koepsell of Austin is donating some eggs for the exhibit. She is the lady who brought the eggs for display when David Goeke had the interesting program on Holidays and Folklore of the Wends at our February 8th meeting. Any other donations of eggs would be welcomed - not only for display but also for sale in the Gift Shop.

OUR PRESIDENT SAYS We are well aware of the fact that much of the Wendish folklore and ethnic heritage has been lost. What is still available, the Wendish Heritage Society hopes to collect and preserve in their MUSEUM at Serbin, Lee County, Texas.

Since our children may want to do research in the future on their forefathers, we would like to collect every Wendish Family History that has been written. We are asking your support in this matter, so that those who follow us will have historical resources available to them for research. Also some present-day Wends do not know to what ancestral family they may belong and may find the answers in these Family Histories.

We know that a large number of histories or partial histories have been written in recent years. It is copies of these records that we ask you to contribute to the Museum.

May we also encourage those families who have not gathered their family history, that they do it soon. The longer the delay, the harder it will be to gather the information. If you need help in organizing your history, there should be suggestions available from those who have written their histories.

Fred Lammert, Pres., Katy, Texas

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THE NEWSLETTER of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society is published Quarterly in the interest of providing an ongoing tie between the members of the Society and their interest in preserving the unique heritage of the Wends of Texas. EDITOR: Rev. John J. Socha (A Slovak), Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Old Pine Box, Texas, and Manager of the Giddings, Texas Chamber of Commerce.

OFFICERS: Elected Nov. 9, 1980:

Fred Lammert, President; Evelyn Kasper (Past President), Secretary; Laverne Bersch, Vice President; Olivia May, Treasurer.

CONTRIBUTORS: Officers of the TWHS, Members of the TWHS, and persons interested in helping to fulfill the purposes of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE TWHS is open to anyone. Dues are just \$5.00 per year, payable in advance to the treasurer.