
With this issue of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society NEWS LETTER we begin the third year of publication. We are very grateful to all who added to the quality and depth of our effort during the past year.

As we begin Volume III we are excited about the prospects which lie ahead. Hopefully your editor will make a trip to WENDENLAND. Thanks to the Longhorn Travelers, we are planning a trip which will find us on the Spreewald for about ten days sometime before the middle of May of 1982. God-willing, we plan to sponsor a tour with at least fifteen interested persons, especially from among the members of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. If you are interested please write to me: John J. Socha, P.O.Box 180, Giddings, Texas 78942 or call: 713/542-3919 or 713/542-3455.

STUDY WENDISH. A good way to get acquainted with Wendish is by reading something familiar, as, for instance, the Twenty-Third Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, or the like. Example: The 23rd Psalm. Ton Knjes je moj pastyr

The Lord is my shepherd

A short exercise in such a study daily will bring you amazing results.

A limited number of copies of my Hymns and Spiritual Treasures, is still available. This is a collection of various familiar classics like the Lord's Prayer, Bible Texts and familiar hymns both in Wendish and English. The reader can compare the two and thus gain an appreciation and understanding of the Wendish and the English. For your copy, send $2.00 to cover cost, postage and handling to: WENDISH, Route 1, Box 526, Giddings, Texas, USA, 78942.

AMERICAN-STATESMAN SAYS: "Texana collectors who've wanted the out-of-print "Wends of Texas" for a long time will appreciate the TWHS reprint by the late Anne Blasig."
FLOAT WINS BLUE RIBBON - Another blue ribbon has been added to the Museum Display Case; won at the Thorndal Chili Cook-Off Parade, Sept. 5. Participants: Herbert Falke, Walter Schimanek, Martin Mersiovsky, Bill Karish, Lenora Skipworth, Bessie Mertink, Lillian Wieder, Alvin and Esther Schmidt, and Evelyn Kasper. Also added a Red Ribbon, won at the Giddings Geburtstag 110 Parade, Oct. 10.

CLEAN-UP DAY - They rolled up their sleeves and got with in September 10th: Alvin Schmidt, August and Laura Zoch, Laverne Gersch, and Bessie Mertink. Walter Gersch shredded the grounds. Many thanks, good people!

GUESTS: About 200 guests since August 2nd, including a delegation from the German Texan Heritage Society, Sept. 13; a confirmation Class and Pastor from Taylor. Family reunions bring many visitors. Rev. and Mrs. Frank Fliesser and Rev. James Herzog and family from Bethlehem, Pa.

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES: Ella Melde, Jack Wiederhold, Daphne Garrett, Hermine Marburger, August Zoch, Laura Zoch, Evelyn Kasper, Bea Tschatschula, Carrol Piland, Ruth Piland, Fritz Brockman, Martha Brockman, Ruth Mitschke, Marie Suecke (Grand-daughter of the great Rev. Jan Kilian); Emma Wueensche, Laverne Gersch, Ruth Lindner (Great Grand-daughter of Rev. Kilian), Bessie Mertink, Ruby Koslan, Flora Kunze, Lillian Wieder, Albert Buscha, Esther Buscha, and Lorine Domel have served well. Thanks. Contact Evelyn Kasper if you wish to be a host or hostess:
P.O.Box 68, Warda 78960 or call 713/242-3367

SALES: $528.04 sales from Aug. 2 to Sept. 24. We need items which can be sold at the museum. Donation Box netted us $30.00. Thank you.

NOTE: Evelyn Kasper and others devote a lot of precious time to the upkeep and promotion of our fine museum. Be sure to come by and enjoy the museum whenever you are in the Giddings-Serbin area. Editor.

NEEDED: An electric heater to be used at the museum. Will be glad to borrow one for the winter months.
On Feb. 5, 1972, our Wendish friend, B.F. Biar of Denver, Colorado received a letter from the Rev. Gerhart Laser, Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at 8301 Eochkirch. A copy of Biar's translation came into my files recently and I became intrigued by a portion of the letter which I shall quote. The biography of your grandfather interested me very much...only we were not able to make out what a "cotton gin" is. Cotton is "Baumwolle" (Tree-wool). But "gin," what is meant? "Gin" is known as a liquor, as an alcoholic beverage. Then the lexicon refers to "Strick" (cord, rope or string) and "Schlinge" (sling). But we can not imagine what is meant."

Pastor Laser had some nice words to say about Rev. Jan Kilian: "Pastor Jan Kilian was a good, genuine Lutheran, also stems from my parish." "...It might interest you that Pastor Kilian led a deputation to Dresden in 1850 to meet the then new chief minister of the court." I hope someone can research this and possibly come up with some information about this "deputation" of which Pastor Laser speaks.

JJS
"Look at Your Leadership - What Do They Believe?"

Speaking of leadership reminds us that our annual election of officers will take place at the November meeting. The following officers will be elected: President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

A Nominating Committee consisting of Carrol Piland, Lenora Skipworth, and Bill Bach have been busy for some time. They will draw up one slate of officers. No name may be presented without the consent of the nominee.

At the annual meeting the President will call for nominations from the floor for each office beginning with the President. If no nominations are made from the floor, the President shall declare the nomination closed and the vote on the slate will be taken.

If nominations are made from the floor for any office, evidence must be shown that the nominee will serve. The election will then be by ballot, so that selection can be made from opposing candidates.

At this time it may be well to take a good hard look at our Society. We have had a tremendous growth in membership and we must have leaders that will provide programs that will keep our members in the mainstream of our activities.

TED LAMMERT, Katy, Texas

Your Editor Speaks: The Texas Wendish Heritage Society is a unique organization. It is unique because the phenomenon of the Wends of Texas is unique. There is absolutely nothing like them in the world. This brings with it great opportunities but also greater responsibilities.

If we are to preserve the Wendish Heritage, and that's one of the foremost reasons for our existence, we need to be doing a lot more study and research than we have in the past. We must make extra efforts to secure artifacts and primary source materials, and we must take every precaution to provide security of these valuable materials.