



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume III, No. 1

Giddings, Texas

Oct. - Dec., 1981

VOLUME III

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."

THE MUSEUM REPORT BY EVELYN KASPER, COORDINATOR

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 Schimank, 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 Flisser 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 Luecke (Grand-daughter of the great Rev. Jan Kilian); Emma Wuensche, 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.

The NEWSLETTER of the Texas
Wendish Heritage Society, is
published quarterly at Gid-
dings, Lee County, Texas.

Editor: John J. Socha
Contributors: Officers and mem-
bers of the Society and anyone
interested in helping to pre-
serve the Wendish (Sorbian,
Upper Lusatian) heritage.

Financial contributions to the
Texas Wendish Heritage Society
are tax-deductible.

Dues are \$5.00 per person per
year and may be sent to the
Treasurer, Olivia May, Katy,
Texas

Send news items for the NEWS-
LETTER TO: EDITOR: John J.
Socha, Route 1, Box 526, Gid-
dings, Texas 78942.

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REPRINT OF The Wends of Texas
by Anne Blasig is now availa-
ble. Order from:

Mrs. Emma Wuensche
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Send check or money order in the
amount of \$9.10. Order now.
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WENDISH COOKBOOK STILL AVAILABLE
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1972 LETTER IN TRANSLATION

On Feb. 5, 1972, our Wendish
friend, B.E. Biar of Denver,
Colorado received a letter
from the Rev. Gerhart Laser,
Pastor of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church at 8601
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 grand-
father interested me very
much...Only we were not able
to make out what a "cotton
gin" is. Cotton is "Baum-
wolle" (Tree-wool). But "gin",
what is meant? "Gin" is
known as a liquor, as an al-
coholic 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 de-
putation 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

PRESIDENT LAMMERT SAYS: "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 Pfland, 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. JJSocha