



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume IV, No. 3 Serbin, Texas April-May-June, 1983

GREETINGS: We are happy to announce that the long-awaited publication of The Wendish Texans, has become a reality. Our congratulations to Sylvia Ann, the author, who has successfully given an impartial and objective overview of the subject of The Wende of Texas.... Our thanks, too, to Jack R. Maguire, Executive Director, and the Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, for their recognition of the Wende as a distinctive segment of Texas' ethnic population, and for seeing the publication, The Wendish Texans, added to the impressive list of Books and Pamphlets about The Texians and the Texans - "A series dealing with the many peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of Texas."

The First Edition of The Wendish Texans "was made possible, in part, by the Institute of Texan Cultures Associates, the Texas Folklife Festival and the Houston Endowment, Inc."

John J. Socha, Editor

BULLETIN! - Just talked to JUDY RAY of New York City, Judy is with the Grubbin T-V Production Studio in New York, who are planning a T V Series: "Portrait of America" for Atlanta, Georgia Channel WEBS T-V. In their presentation of Texas they plan a segment on Giddings and what makes Giddings such a unique place to live. Naturally THE WENDE OF TEXAS will play a big part....Filming of the Wendish Story will take place Tuesday, April 26 from 5 to 7 p.m. ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY ARE INVITED TO COME TO THE MUSEUM AT SERBIN TO BE INCLUDED IN THE FILMING...!!

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 mem-
bers of the TWHS and anyone in-
terested in helping to preserve
the Wendish (Serbisch, Upper
Lusatian) heritage.

OFFICERS FOR 1983:

President: Rev. R. H. Wiensche,

V. Pres.: Weldon Mersiovsky,

Secretary: Adele Wilson,

Treasurer: Della Mullens

Membership: Ella Melde

555 N. Chambers

Giddings, Tx. 78942

Membership Dues: \$5.00

Past President: Ted Lammert

Present Membership: 440

Mail all materials for the NEWS

LETTER TO: John J. Socha

P.O. Box 180

Giddings, Tex. 78942

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The Texas Wendish Heritage So-
ciety is a non-profit organiza-
tion and in no way discriminates
in matters of race, religion, or
ethnic background.

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:
T.W.H.S., P.O. Box 311, Giddings,
Texas 78942

MUSEUM GETTING FACE-LIFT

Thanks to an ardent member
of the Texas Wendish Heritage
Society, LeRoy Paul of Austin
the main portion of the new
Museum Building (setting in
front of the present, tem-
porary building), is looking
great with its new and com-
plete white paint job.

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BILL BIAR of DENVER, COLO.

is one of the most ardent
of supporters of the Wend-
ish Heritage Cause. Bill has
submitted some excellent
materials which we will be
using in a future NEWSLETTER,
devoted almost completely to
Bill Biar and his interesting
family heritage...Bill has
also submitted some music
we will try to reproduce for
the enjoyment of our NEWS-
LETTER readers. Thanks,
Bill.

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WHO ARE THE WENDS? (Što su
Serbja?) by Ron Lammert of
San Antonio, continues to
be one of the TWHS best lit-
tle information pieces. It
is concise and to the point,
giving a good overview of
information about the Wends.
Write for a copy. Free.

HATS OFF TO VOLUNTEERS

We salute Laverne Gersch,
Evelyn Kasper, and Daphne
Garrett, this Quarter's
VOLUNTEERS OF MERIT!

GENEOLOGICAL PETER PAMPEL

Jewel Preuss Fox of Austin, supplied us with the following information about PETER PAMPEL. "Peter Pampel married a woman by the name of Betty (last name not given). He had two daughters; 1. Ella married an Osborne, 2. Esther married a Read. Ella had a daughter named Nettie Lee.

Peter was a half brother of Christina Pampel Preuss (Mrs. George Preuss).

When Peter had a store in Serbin she worked for him until she married George Preuss.

Peter later moved to Crawford, Texas where he had another store. He died there and is buried in Crawford, Texas. His mother is buried in Serbin. His daughter Ester lived in Wilby, Texas at one time."

Jewel writes; "I got this information from Mrs. Sam Heyset in Austin. She is the youngest daughter of Christina PAMPEL PREUSS. She is the only living child of Christina. She is 84 years old.

JANET JOHNSTON of Garland, Texas writes that she read the fine article about the WENDS; The story of a dying Heritage, in one of the large city newspapers and has become interested in knowing whether her ancestors were Wendts. "My family was deeply rooted in La Grange, Lexington, Warda, and Winchester," she writes. They are the GRAF and SCHUSTER families. Anyone desiring to help Janet may write her at 1202 Quail Hollow, Garland, Texas 75043. Thank you.

HISTORIC SOUTHWEST of San Antonio, a group of 47, a Division of the University Women, visited Giddings and Serbin, Sat., April 9. Yours truly served as the Tour Guide. Jack Wiederhold, mister of music at St. Paul, Serbin, demonstrated the Pfeifer Organ. Ruth Kilian Lindner and August and Laura Zoch, hosted them at the Museum. Tour also included visits to the Lee County Courthouse and the Lee County Museum. Louise Knodel of San Antonio was the Tour Co-ordinator.

TRINITY, SPRING, TEXAS, Rev. D. Beltz, Pastor, Toured Giddings and Serbin Wednesday, April 13. Arthur Kuelmele, Co-ordinator of forty, ... Museum hosts were Laverne Gersch and Ella Melde. Pastor Beltz conducted a brief devotional meditation at the historic house of worship.

AGROUP of 40 from Zion, Houston also visited Serbin April 13.

WENDS II, SOUTH AFRICA....

Aboard a Pan Am Jumbo Jet, high above Scotland on our 1982 trip to Wendenland, a woman who boarded the same plane at New York, pointed to my "KISS ME I'M WENDISH" button and asked, "Are you Wendish?"That started our conversation.

The lady was Mrs. Charlotte Parker from South Africa. She told me of Wendish settlers in and around King Williams Town, South Africa. There were about seventeen Wendish families, she said, and among them was a KASH-UTA NOAK SCHEMEL, who, at the age of 80, before she died, sang and recorded Wendish Folk Songs. Mrs. Parker said documents about the Wends and accounts of the Wendish settlers are in the KAFFRARIAN MUSEUM at King Williams Town, 5600, where Mrs. Randles is the Historian. (Probably some Noak folks may have some information about the Noacks in South Africa.) I hope to get some information from the Museum in King Williams Town. John J. Socha

WENDS TO PARTICIPATE IN FOLK- FESTIVAL IN SAN ANTONIO

Dates of the 1983 Folklife Festival at the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio will be 4-7, and the Texas leads will be there as they have every year since the Festival originated. Plan to be here at least for one day!

THE WENDISH TEXANS PUBLISHED - BY INST. OF TEXAN CULTURES

Sylvia Grider's book, The Wendish Texans has been published in Hard Cover and in Paperback and is now available from the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

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TOURISTS VISIT SERBIN

Forty-seven members of the Historic Southwest, a division of the University women of San Antonio, visited at Serbin and Giddings Saturday, April 9.

Yours truly served as the tour guide for the Group, who visited the new Lee Co. Museum and the restored 1899 Courthouse.

Following a Buffet Luncheon at historic Schubert's Restaurant in Giddings, the Group rode their Charter Bus to Serbin where they visited the historic St. Paul Lutheran Wendish Church, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum and the Church Cemetery. August and Laura Zach (Moerbe) and Mrs. Leon Lindner (Ruth Kilian) served as hosts at the Museum. Louise Knodel of San Antonio of San Antonio was the Tour Coordinator. JES