



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

Volume VII, No. 2 Post Box, Texas Apr 17-June, 1986

## TEXAS WENDS AT FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

JULY 31, AUGUST 1, 2, 3

THE TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY  
HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING ONE OF THE  
MOST DISTINCTIVE GROUPS IN SUPPORT-  
ED BY THE WORLDWIDE TEXAS FOLKLIFE  
FESTIVAL.

THIS WILL BE ONE OF THE STATE'S  
BIGGEST BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS.

TOURISTS FROM THE WORLD-OVER WILL BE  
AT SAN ANTONIO FOR THE FOLKLIFE FESTI-  
VAL. PLAN TO BE THERE.

CALLING ALL WENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE  
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY TO DO  
THEIR PART IN MAKING THIS YEAR'S PAR-  
TICIPATION THE VERY BEST. JJS

The TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER is published Quarterly at Dime Box, Texas 77853 in the interest of preserving the heritage of the Wends of Texas. Editor: Rev. John J. Socha, Rt. 1, Box 172-A, Dime Box, Texas 77853 Phone 409/884-1471

The Wendish Heritage Society is a Non-Profit, non-discriminatory organization with headquarters at the Wendish Museum in Serbin, Texas.

O F F I C E R S O F T H E T E X A S W E N D I S H H E R I T A G E S O C I E T Y

La Verne Gersch, President  
Bill Dube, Vice-President  
and Past-President  
Viola Spacek, Secretary  
Ken Weiser, Treasurer  
Ella Melde, Membership  
P.O. Box 331, Ciddings, Tx  
78942

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N E W C O O K B O O K R E C I P E S A R E N E E D E D N O W .

M E M B E R S O F T H E B O A R D :

Joyce Dube, 3 year term  
Rodgers Symm, 2 yr. term  
Leroy Paul, 1 year term

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FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL, July 3]-August 3, 1986. Be sure to read the informative letter from Ron and Cindy Knippa, Folklife Chair-persons, inserted as a mailing with this newsletter and other items from Viola Spacek, Sec.

I M P O R T A N T N O T I C E !!!

As chairperson of the Committee to review and update the Constitution and By-Laws of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, I am requesting input and suggestions from ALL members. Have your say! It is your organization.

Please mail directly to me:  
Vivian F. Taylor, Chair.  
Rt 3, Box 263 E  
Welman, Texas 78962

P.S. It is essential that items be mailed directly to me. Vivian F. Taylor

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S E S Q U I C E N T E N N I A L P L A C E M A T S  
F O R S A L E A T M U S E U M .

When you come to the meeting at the Museum in Serbin, May 18, be sure to purchase a set of beautiful Sesquicentennial Place Mats. They will make nice Christmas or Wedding presents. We find them an interesting talk piece at the Dinner Table. Priced for just \$1.50, they are priced much higher at exclusive business houses in Texas!

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The Wendish Culture Club was organized August 19, 1972, at the home of Mrs. Lillie Caldwell (Moerbe). The officers were: Mrs. Lillie Moerbe Caldwell, President; Emma Wuensche, Vice-Pres.; Frieda Wendland, Secretary; Laura Zoch, Cor. Sec., and Mrs. Erwin Mitschke, Treas.

STOL BLICK - All Foreign-Born Ancestors who came to Texas

While searching for my roots I discovered that eleven of my ancestors were on the BEN NEVIS that brought the large immigration of Germans to Texas in 1854. There were on my father's (Otto Biar) side and four on my mother's (Lydia Moerbe Biar) side.

Three of the seven ancestors on my father's side had the surname of Biar: 1. Jan Biar - Great grandfather; 2. Magdalena Biar - Great grandmother; 3. Andreas Biar - Grandfather (Father of Otto Biar).

One ancestor had the same name & letters: 4. Andreas Hottas - Great grandfather (Father of Jan Hottas)

The other three on my father's side had the surname of Kieschnick: 5. Jan Kieschnick - Great grandfather; 6. Agnes Leich Kieschnick - Great grandmother; 7. Magdalene Kieschnick - Great grandmother (Jan Hottas' second wife)

One of the four ancestors on my mother's side had the surname of Moerbe: 8. Lydia Maria Jacob Moerbe - Great Grandfather (Father of Lydia Biar, Lydia Moerbe Biar's father)

The other three on my mother's side had the surname of Dube: 9. Michael Dube - Great grandfather; 10. Johanna Rosina Tanniger Dube - Great grandmother; 11. Johanna Rafael Dube - Great grandmother (F. Jacob Moerbe's second wife)

Two other wives who also immigrated to Texas from what is now East Germany.

One of these, on my paternal side, came to Texas with a small group of Germans in 1853:

12. Jan Hottas - Great grandfather (Father of Maria Hottas Biar, Otto Biar's mother)

The last foreign ancestor on my maternal side, came to Texas in 1879:

13. Ernestine Michalk - Grandmother (Wife of August Moerbe and mother of Lydia Moerbe Biar)

One of the above did not make it to Texas. He was Michael Dube who died on the BEN NEVIS and was buried in Ireland.

All of the above were of Sorbian-Wendish origin and were born in Lusatia

We are grateful to Bill Biar of Denver, Colorado, for this exemplary family research study. We would encourage others to report their findings to the NEWSLETTER.

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**THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE** says: "Thanks to all of you who are taking time to share your recipes. But we need many more immediately send in recipes. Thanks!"

## 60th Anniversary - with Wedding Anniversary

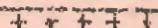
The family of Mr. & Mrs. F.E. Lammert (Eric and Amanda) invite relatives and friends to attend an Open House on Sunday, June 22nd at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1515 Hilliard Lane, Houston, between 2 and 5 P.M. The occasion is their 60th Wedding, which occurs on June 3, 1986.

Mr. and Mrs. Lammert have been members of the TWHS since 1974, and have been very devoted to the work of the Society. We appreciate this fine couple and the many other Society members who give so willingly to the Society.

### FAMILY TREES

Dear Reader: You are in a better position than anyone else to prepare YOUR Family Tree. Start now. Write down as much information as you have available about your mother and father, your sisters and brothers and their families. That's a good start. Then go back to your grandfathers and grandmothers on BOTH sides. Use any and all information documents such as birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage and death certificates, newspaper obituaries, and the like.

You will find your efforts very rewarding and you will be helping preserve for posterity the best genealogy in all the world, the story of YOUR family. John J. Socha



ALBERT BLAHA will be the program at the May 18 meeting in Serbin. Mr. Blaha is one of Lee County's most distinguished historians, being of Slovic birth, he has a keen interest in the history of the Wends and has done much research into various phases of the Wendish immigration of 1864. The Program should be of special interest to you if all or had ancestors aboard the SS NEVIS. A Native of Dime Box, Texas, Mr. Blaha has been in the employ of Town and Root, a world-famous company started by two Lee County boys from Shady Grove near Loebau and Dime Box.

THINK WENDISH. Enjoy your membership in the Wendish Heritage Society. Become active. Attend meetings. Use the Wendish Cookbook. Help at the Texas Folklife Festival Wendish Booth, July 31 - August 3. Make and eat Wendish noodles to stay trim and attractive!