



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII, No. 4 - Dime Box, Texas - July-Aug.-Sept. 1986

CONSTITUTION REVISION

MEETING SET

AUGUST 17, 1986

THIS IS ONE MEETING EVERY MEMBER OF THE TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY SHOULD ATTEND IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

HAVE A PART IN SHAPING THE FUTURE OF YOUR GREAT ORGANIZATION. IT WILL HELP IF YOU WILL READ THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION BEFORE THE AUG. 17TH MEETING, BRING ALONG YOUR COPY AND EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS FREELY. ONE OF THE DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE TWHS IS DEMOCRATIC AND TOTALLY CHRISTIAN ATMOSPHERE. JJS

The TWHS NEWSLETTER is published quarterly in the interest of promoting the aims and purposes of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

John J. Socha, Editor

Rt. 1, Box 172-A
Dime Box, Tx. 77853
Phone: 409/884-1471

Anyone interested in the Wendish heritage of the Wends of Texas, who came to Texas from Lusatia, East Germany in 1854, is invited to submit articles for the Newsletter.

OFFICERS OF THE TWHS

Mrs. Walter Gersch (La Verne), President;
Bill Dube, Vice-President;
Viola Spacek, Secretary;
Kenneth Weiser, Treasurer

ANNUAL DUES are just \$10 per person. Mail your dues to TWHS, P.O. Box 311, Giddings, Texas 78942

WENDISH MUSEUM in SERBIN is open every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 5 o'clock. Evelyn Kasper is the Co-ordinator. If you have not yet visited the MUSEUM, plan a trip to Serbin. You'll enjoy it.

THINK WENDISH! Tip: The letter "a" is always pronounced like "ah" as in hot

FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

Two bus-loads of folks from the Serbin-Northrup area are again planning to visit the Folklife Festival July 31 - Aug. 3.

.....Shiner is going to be experimenting with a Beer Special at the Wendish Booth. Blue Beer. If the first keg goes well they may continue the experiment.....Chicken legs are being added to the Wendish Fare, we understand...Homemade Wendish Noodles are again expected to be the big seller.

Something else new is to be added: WENDISH FAMILY REUNION SING-ALONG, conceived by Cindy Knippa and to be led by John J. Socha. Audience participation is the goal.

Among the songs on the song sheet will be Du, Du Lieget Mir Im Herzen and Ist Das Nicht Ein Schnitzel Bank? for the German, Hanka Budz Wjesola and Lubka Lillija in Wendish, Nad Tatrou Sa Blizka and Ja Parobek e Kapusan in Slovak, and America, the Beautiful, Home On the Range in English and America, in English and Wendish. Should be a lot of fun.

This is the 15th Folklife Festival, and the 15th year of participation by the TWHS.

Ron and Cindy Knippa of San Antonio co-chair,

HISTORY OF SERBIN ST. PAUL'S CHURCH by H. Bewie

(Editor's Note: Rev. W. H. Bewie was one of the pioneer pastors of the Texas District. He was a great story-teller. In his capacity as Mission Director of the District he knew everything about every congregation and mission, and enjoyed telling all about them. He was asked to write a story about St. Paul's, Serbin in preparation for the 100th Anniversary in 1955. We will present at least excerpts, if not the full story, in this and in future issues of the Newsletter, as space permits.)

In order to write this little history of St. Paul's church of Serbin, which you asked me to write, I had to fall back on the old documents of your church, so far as they are still to be had. None of us was present 100 years ago, when this church first began. These old documents are now in the Archives of the Texas District after you entrusted them to the care of the District.

As to these old documents, Rev. Kilian had the right idea. He suggested at one time, early in the history of the church, that the congregation order a box to be made, in which these documents might be placed for safekeeping. How I wish that this had been done, for we should then have a complete history of the church, from the very beginning. But evidently such a box for archives was never made, and the result is that the documents are very incomplete. Many have been lost altogether. There are hardly any documents of any kind during the years from 1861 to 1865, the years of the so called Civil War. And other documents are so frazzled and torn that it is impossible to figure out what they say. We must base our history on such documents as remain.

In this paper, which is to be no longer than can be read in one hour, I cannot, of course, give a full and complete history of 100 years of the church at Serbin. To write a complete history would take too long. All I can do is to give a very short history of the beginnings of your church and carry it to the point where, finally, the congregation settled down after having learned the lessons it had to learn in a new country under new conditions. But, I am sure, that that part of the history of your church which I shall be able to present in one short hour, will not only be interesting in itself, but it will also be instructive, especially to the present generation. (To be continued)

PERSONALITY PORTRAIT....OLIVIA MAY, FORMER TREAS.

OLIVIA MAY, A FORMER TREASURER OF THE TWHS WAS RECENTLY HONORED BY HER HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER, THE KATY TIMES IN A STORY ENTITLED, "MAY - A QUIET ACHIEVER" BY RUBY ROBINSON.

OLIVIA, WHO IS INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF BUSINESS, CIVIC, CHURCH, AND ETHNIC ACTIVITIES, IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE COMMEMORATIVE MEDAL OF HONOR FROM THE AMERICAN BIOGRAPHICAL INSTITUTE FOR HER "ENERGIES, SACRIFICES, ABILITIES AND AMBITIONS TO CREATE BETTER COMMUNITIES FOR MANKIND."

CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES, OLIVIA MAY!

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FROM THE COOKBOOK COMMITTEE: WE'VE BEEN

ASKED ABOUT THE COPYRIGHT RULE WHEN SUBMITTING RECIPES FROM ANOTHER COOKBOOK...SOOO, WE ASKED A COOKBOOK PUBLISHER, AND HERE'S WHAT WE LEARNED: "IT IS PERMISSIBLE TO GATHER RECIPES FROM VARIOUS MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, ETC. AS RECIPES ARE USUALLY PASSED DOWN FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT, AND FROM ONE FRIEND TO ANOTHER, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ACTUALLY COPYRIGHT A RECIPE."

YOU MAY INFRINGE UPON A COPYRIGHT IF YOU SUBMIT ALL THE RECIPES IN ANOTHER COOKBOOK OR BROCHURE..... WE'RE A GOOD HALF-WAY - - SEND YOUR RECIPES TO EMMA WUENSCH, MC DADE, TEXAS 78650.

THANKS FOR THE REMINDER, COOKBOOK COMMITTEE, I HAVE SOME GOOD SLAVIC DISHES I WANT YOU TO USE. EDITOR.

.....
WENDISH FOLK SONG: "HANKA BUDZ WJESOLA"

HANKA BUDZ WJESOLA, HOLIČO RJANE, HOLIČO RJANE,
Runjež by njesyla zornješko žane (repeat)