



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

NEWSLETTER

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WENDISH MUSEUM DEDICATION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1987

SERBIN, TEXAS

YOU ARE INVITED !!!

COME AND ENJOY THE DAY OF GLADNESS

PROGRAM

2:00 - 2:30 P.M. - ORGAN CONCERT

JACK WIEDERHOLD,

WENDISH MUSIC.

2:30 - SPECIAL SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

REV. PAUL BOHOT, REDEEMER, AUSTIN

A MEMORY WALK AFTER THE SERVICE THROUGH

THE ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

CEMETERY.

DEDICATION AND RIBBON CUTTING OF THE

NEW WENDISH MUSEUM

TOUR OF THE NEW FACILITY

RECEPTION AT ST. PAUL'S GYMNASIUM

The TWHE Newsletter is published quarterly in the interest of promoting the aims and objectives of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

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OFFICERS OF THE TWHS ARE:  
La Verne Gersch, President  
Leroy Steglich, Vice-Pres.  
Vivian Taylor, Secretary;  
Kenneth Weiser, Treasurer;  
Evelyn Kasper, Museum Director, and Daphne Garrett, Museum Research Associate.

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ANNUAL DUES are just \$10.00 per person per year. Mail dues to TWHS, P.O. Box 311, Giddings, Texas 78942

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THE WENDISH MUSEUM IN SERBIN is open every Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Plan a visit to the Museum soon. Bring your friends and neighbors. WITAJCE k NAM Welcome!

The new Museum will be dedicated Sunday, November 29.

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THINK WENDISH. Jak se mas?  
Dobré!

TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL.....  
Ron and Cindy Knippa and all members of the TWHS say a well-deserved thank you to the many volunteers who helped make this another banner year for the Texas Wendish Heritage Society at the Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio.

All who helped at the Folklife Festival Booth say a big "Thank you!" to Ron and Cindy Knippa. Their efficiency in operating the Wendish Booth, and their super friendliness and hard work make us all proud to have them as our chief ambassadors of good-will to the Festival.

If you have not taken in a Folklife Festival at San Antonio, be sure to plan one in the future. It is a real fun thing for the whole family- very educational, social, relaxing.

And if you have never worked as a volunteer in the Wendish Booth, you are missing another fabulous experience.

Three cheers for the Busload of Wends and Friends who each year make the trip to San Antonio from Serbin-Northrup. They have a real good time, and get a Bang" out of making the rounds all afternoon and evening.

Arts and Crafts talented members of the TWHS are encouraged to make Wendish items for the Booth in 1988.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL IN 1988.

John J. Socha



PART VI. Continuation of the History of St. Paul's  
Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas, by the late  
Rev. W. H. Bewie

But it was not long before they had to build again. It was not only that the colony was growing itself, it was not only that from time to time more Wends came over from Germany, and also more and more Germans were coming over, but also the people living in that area began to attend the services more and more. Accordingly it was decided to build a real church, a church of rock. On the 27th of January (1867) two stone masons, Peter Fritsche and Johann Mertink signed a contract with the trustees to build the rock church. It was to be three feet thick. On this foundation the rock church was to be erected. The first twelve feet were to be two and a half feet thick, the next twelve feet were to be two feet thick, so that the whole walls should be 24 feet high.

The building was to be 40 feet wide and 70 feet long. It was to have a balcony running all the way around. On one end of the balcony was to be the pulpit, on the other end the organ. This church was built. We are sitting in it now. It is very substantial and if it is taken care of reasonably it will last several more hundred years. The new church was dedicated in 1870.

The old church was then converted into a school house. Later a parsonage was built for Rev. Hermann Kilian, a teacher etc.

It is time now to look into the internal affairs of the Wendish Lutheran Church. And as we do this, we discover more and more that this colony came from Europe, from Germany. All of them, including Rev. Kilian, had to unlearn certain things they had been accustomed to in Germany and to learn certain things in order to become a Lutheran church in good working order. Permit me to go into detail a little. I go entirely by the documents in the archives of St. Paul's.

According to the Bible each Christian congregation is self-governing and independent. It is a royal priesthood. It is subject only to the Word of God and the law of brotherly love. But in Prussia, from which most of the colonists came, it was not so. The individual congregation had very little to say about itself. In Prussia it was the so-called

(Continued on the next page.)

## History of Serbin Continued.

Kultusministerium, that is to say a governmental bureau, which was in charge of the churches. The Kultusministerium saw to it that the congregations received their pastors and their churches and schools and that the pastors received their salaries, just about like the county judge and the sheriff etc. The pastors were, strictly speaking, officers of the State.

In Saxony the king was a Roman Catholic, while the country was Lutheran. They had no Kultusministerium, but they had a Konsistorium, that is to say, a body of pastors with some laymen, who saw to it that the congregations had their pastors. They had the right to decide what was to be taught, where this pastor was to go and who was to be furnished for that congregation. While there were slight deviations from this yet that was the overall picture. Thus we see that neither in Prussia nor in Saxony did the people of the congregations have much to say about their own church. They had no real experience in governing themselves, nor in financing themselves. All this had still to be learned under the post oaks in Serbin. (To be continued in PART VI.)

ORCHIDS to the members of the TWHS who helped spread the good name of the Wends of Texas at the Giddings Geburtstag and at the Dedication of the Louise T. Peter Center at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin, Texas.

*YES, there are still some copies available of yours truly's WENDISH HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL TREASURES; available at the Wendish Museum or from your Editor for \$2.00.*

**DO YOURSELF A FAVOR. ATTEND THE DEDICATION OF THE NEW WENDISH MUSEUM SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 STARTING AT 2:00 P.M.**

LOUISE T. PETER OF WICHITA FALLS, Tx., GRAND-DAUGHTER OF THE REV. JAN KILIAN, LEADER OF THE WENDISH IMMIGRATION OF 1854 TO TEXAS, IS SCHEDULED TO HAVE HIP SURGERY AT THE BETHANIA HOSPITAL IN WICHITA FALLS, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27... WE WILL HAVE HER IN OUR PRAYERS WITH A WISH FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY.