



# TWHS NEWSLETTER



RT. 2, BOX 155, GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769 PH: 409/366-2441  
VOLUME 10, NUMBER 2, JANUARY-MARCH 1989

## Texas Wendish Heritage Society 1989 Officers

PRESIDENT:	George Boerger
VICE-PRESIDENT:	Laverne Gersch
RECORDING SECRETARY:	Carolyn Bohot
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:	Barbara Hielscher
TREASURER:	Reinhold Teinert
BOARD MEMBERS:	Ron Knippa
	Doris Reagan
	Mary Watts
	Victor Zoch
PAST PRESIDENT:	Elwood Domaschk, Jr.

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## Reverend John J. Socha

by George Boerger

Pastor John J. Socha of Dime Box, Texas died on December 19, 1988.

He was a long-time member of the Texas Heritage Wendish Society. The founder and first editor of our newsletter. Pastor Socha served in that capacity for almost ten years. He was very active in the TWHS, participating in the Folklife Festival and many other events.

Pastor Socha will be remembered for his enthusiastic spirit and many other wonderful contributions which he gave to the TWHS.

(The following excerpts came from the Austin American-Statesman, December 21, 1988.)

Born March 16, 1919, in Garfield, New Jersey, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Socha. His father was a Slovakian immigrant, and wool sorter. Reverend Socha was baptized and confirmed at Trinity Slovak Lutheran Church. He attended public schools in Garfield, New Jersey; graduated from Concordia High School, River Forest, Illinois; graduated from Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois, with a bachelor of science degree in education; and masters in education at the University of Texas, Austin. He entered the ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod after completing the Colloquy program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield, Illinois in 1966. He married the Elsie Kerestes of Streator, Illinois in 1942.

Reverend Socha was a teacher in Lutheran schools for 24 years: St. John's, Forest Park, Illinois, St. Paul, Austin, Texas; principal and teacher: Grace, Wellston, Missouri, Concord Consolidate, Pagedale, Missouri, Immanuel, Giddings, Texas (principal, teacher, organist and choir director), Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas, Manager.

His preaching ministry began in 1966, served dual parishes of Grace Lutheran Church, Freeport, and St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Sweeny, Texas; 1971, Zion Lutheran Church, Ft. Worth; Trinity Lutheran Church, Dime Box, Texas. He served in the Texas District Missouri Synod for 31 years. From 1980 to 1984 he served as manager of Giddings Chamber of Commerce and lived in Giddings.

Services: 10:00 AM, Wednesday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Dime Box and 2:00 PM at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Giddings. Burial will be in the Giddings City Cemetery.

## History of Serbin, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

by Paster Bewie

from the archives of the Texas District

Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

(Loaned to the new editor by Pastor Socha)

### Part XI

In the year 1872 there was a conference of the pastors of the Missouri Synod then found in Texas. This conference took place in St. Paul's church. At first, Rev. Kilian was not too enthusiastic about it, but after it was over he wrote a report to the then president of the Western District. In this report he gives the names of the pastors present: Pallmer, Proft, Zimmermann, Greif, Klimdwort, Schmidt, Kilian, and two teachers: Leubner and Kilian. Rev. Kilian then says as to the conference, "We Missouri pastors are now wielded together into one solid mass and the devil will not be able to tear us apart."

Just a month before this conference the young Gerhard Kilian had been installed as teacher in the school of St. Paul's church. So far as I can see from the documents, Teacher Kilian proved a blessing not only to the school, but to the whole situation. When he started to Addison in order to prepare for the teaching office, he was a very timid boy of about fifteen years of age. He did not want to go to Addison by himself. Rev. Fick, who had spent several days there for a visitation, took him along. While at Addison he learned much about congregations, and was able to tell his father this and that of great benefit.

Rev. Kilian was very well satisfied with what his son had learned at Addison, especially about teaching. In particular, he was satisfied with Gerhard's organ playing. He commented in his letter to Prof. Lindemann that Gerhard had certainly learned how to use the pedal on the organ. Teacher Kilian always liked to play the organ. Those of us who are old enough to remember how he used to slide up and down on that old bench will agree to this.

## Travel Anyone?

by Emily Putnam

Are you interested in forming a group to "Wendenland" in East Germany--sometime like November 1? That's when reduced air fares become effective. I was there during the last week of October '84, the weather was quite pleasant.

I am anxious to get acquainted with the Karl Schwausch family--still living in the homestead in Sabrodt (halfway between Cottbus and Bautzen near Spremberg and Hoyerswarda) where our immigrant relative was born and lived. Let me know areas and people you'd like to visit.

Contact: Emily Luker Putnam 713/444-8870  
17930 Beaver Creek Dr.  
Houston, TX 77090-1810

## Directory Correction

So far we have discovered one error in the 1988 membership directory. We neglected to list Laverne Gersch as Past President. Please let us know if there are any other changes.

## Book Review

by Lisa Stapp

### As I Remember

Dora Weiser Fischer

1983 Heritage Press, Kingsville, Texas

Oral family histories and autobiographies can be fun. They give us a sense of who we were and where we are going. Some of my favorite memories of my grandparents include stories that begin, "I will never forget the time..." How I wish that those tales had been put on paper!

Even if my grandparents didn't have time to write, Dora Weiser Fischer did. Rather, she made time. The book took shape, "...line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little." (Is. 28:10b) And it is fun to read!

When George Boerger first recommended it, I was going to read As I Remember as an exercise in self discipline. I sort of expected it to be a tad boring. After all, I didn't know any of the people that the book covered.

Dora Weiser Fischer treated me to glimpses of happy and sad times, weddings, teachers, brothers and sisters, parents.... all the things that made a life. Her words were simple, but they said a lot.

Even if your family tree is different than Mrs. Fischer's, you will enjoy reading her autobiography. ...And maybe you will be encouraged to start writing your own.

Enclosed is information on getting a copy of As I Remember and several other books.

## Texas Wendish Heritage Museum Gift Shop Book List

The Wends of Texas by Anne Blasig. One of the earliest books on the Wends. Written in 1952 by the daughter of Pastor Hermann Schmidt of Serbin. Hardcover. 123 pages. \$9.59 including tax.

Texas Wends, Their First Half-Century by Lillie Moerbe Caldwell. Story of the Wends, written in 1961. It includes many stories about the lives of some of the Wends who lived in Serbin in the 1800's. Hardcover. 283 pages. \$14.32 including tax.

Wendish Texans by Dr. Sylvia Ann Grider. Written in 1982, this book presents a concise overview of the Wends life in Texas and former life in Europe. Softcover. 120 pages. \$6.39 including tax.

Pastor John Kilian's Baptismal Records of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas 1854-188 translated by Dr. Joseph Wilson. Includes baptismal records of children Pastor Kilian baptised at Serbin, New Ulm, Swiss Alp, and other communities. Records indicate occupations and residences of parents and baptismal sponsors. Hardcover. 359 pages. \$26.63 including tax.

As I Remember by Dora Weiser Fischer. Memories of growing up in Fedor in the early 1900's, includes stories on church, homemaking, language, farming, school, and others. Hardcover. 178 pages. \$11.93 including tax.

History of Fayette County by F. Lotto. Written by a son of Fayette County in 1902. The county seat of Fayette County is LaGrange. Hardcover. 424 pages. \$11.93 including tax.

Texas by Ferdinand von Roemer. Known as Roemer's Texas, Roemer wrote of his observations as he traveled through Texas from 1845 through 1847. Hardcover. 308 pages. \$21.62 including tax.

History of the German Settlements in Texas 1831-1861 by R.L. Bieslele. Discussion of the founding and history of many German settlements in Texas prior to the Civil War. 261 pages. \$17.89 including tax.

The Lost Kitten by J.A. Rickard and Clyde Inez Martin. Children's book about two children who learn about the Wendish heritage. Softcover. 9 pages. \$1.07 including tax.

Confessional Lutheran Migration to America 150th Anniversary. The book covers the early history of the Lutheran Church- -Missouri Synod. Softcover. 105 pages. \$10.65 including tax.

Pause to Ponder by Pastor Koenig. History of the Lutheran Church- -Missouri Synod in Texas, written in 1980. Softcover. 276 pages. \$9.95 suggested donation.

Art of Decorating Eggs by Daphne Dalton Garrett. The book explains and illustrated the art of decorating Easter eggs in the old Wendish custom. Softcover. 32 pages. \$5.27 including tax.

August and Christiana, A History of the Biehle Family by Doris Biehle Reagan. History of the Biehle Family in Texas, includes many interesting pictures from the late 1800's and early 1900's. Also includes a section on "Life in America for the Wends." Softcover. 154 pages. \$13.79 including tax.

Wendish Cookbook First edition (1975). A quote from the book "And in these recipes North European food style is adapted to use the foods of Texas, a new South climate homeland." Softcover. 126 pages. \$7.40 including tax. While supplies last.

Wendish Cookbook Second edition (1988). A quote from the book "Wherever the Wends have gone they have taken their love of fine food and their ability in preparing it. The pages of this book contain many of the recipes which Wendish women have passed down for generations, along with many other Texas favorites." Softcover. 134 pages. \$7.40 including tax.

125t Anniversary Book of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin. Printed in 1979, this book was written by the pastors of St. Paul. Softcover. 32 pages. \$3.20 including tax.

Lee County, Texas Cemeteries. Details information on cemetery markers in Northern Lee County (North of Highway 21), including Lexington, Lincoln, Fedor, Manheim, and others. Softcover. 255 pages. \$15.00 including tax.

1/16/89

ORDER FORM

BOOK

PRICE INCLUDING TAX

_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____
_____	\$ _____

SHIPPING (\$2.00 for the first book, and \$.75 for each additional book) -----> \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NAME _____	TOTAL \$ _____
ADDRESS _____	Mail to Texas Wendish
CITY _____ ST. _____ ZIP _____	Heritage Museum

Gift Shop

Vol. I of the Lee County, Texas Cemeteries published by the Lee County Historical Commission is now available in the gift shop. The price is \$15.00, including tax.

Bonnet patterns are available for \$.25 at the Museum gift shop.

Accessions Received

Several Wendish and German books from East Germany donated by George Boerger.

Two Wendish magazines from East Germany donated by Martin Leschber of East German.

Four Easter Egg Books donated by M/M Larry Simank of West Germany

Ten Wendish - decorated Easter eggs, decorated and donated by the Johannes Grosa family of Spreewitz, East Germany. Also donated by the Grosa family: two postcards of Spreewitz church.

Vivian Taylor donated a book on Canadian Wends, Destination: Ottawa Valley.

Two book, Harvest of Stones and On Stone Ground by Brenda Whiting, on Canadian Wends, donated by Martin Dobring.

Slavic Folk Arts Festival

If you are in the Dallas area March 18, 1989. Check out the Slavic Folk Art Festival. This loction is very accessible as it is approximate fave miles Eat of downtown Dallas, just South of Interstate 30.

Czech Club  
4930 Military Parkway  
Dallas, Texas

MEMBERSHIPNEW MWMBERS SINCE OCT.15.1988

Elroy Domaschk  
 Carl H. Domaschk  
 Brenda Goodson  
 Louis H. Kieschnick  
 M/M Samuel E. Keischnick, Jr.  
 Verne M. Kolba  
 M/M Ray Martens  
 Elaine K. Maxson  
 Mildred Schulz  
 Ellen Decker  
 Patricia S. Larsen  
 Mrs. Allen Buchhorn  
 Curtis Becker  
 Joe Bluemel  
 A.J. Doecke  
 Elinor H. Kenyon  
 Randy Knippa  
 Anlee T. Miller  
 Pat Mock  
 Larry Richter  
 Martin Richter  
 Janet Schorlemmer  
 Charles E. Wendt

PATRON MEMBERS

Edward H. Benthall  
 Kathy Lee Miller  
 Norman M. Kneschk  
 Charlene Stelzig  
 Sandra Matthiketz  
 Delores R. Hall  
 Mrs. Arthur Fehr  
 M/M George Kunze  
 Charles R. Haschke  
 James E. Koepke  
 Sandra Magers  
 Clarence Pampell  
 Marvin Wappler  
 Paul Weise  
 Jay Kruemcke  
 Milton Kaiser

SPONSOR MEMBERS

W.L. Simank  
 Edwin E. Domaschk

SILVER MEMBERS

George Boerger

MemorialsIN MEMORY OF

Dr. Herbert Schulze  
 Alvina Paul  
 Betty Massey  
 Blandine Rummel  
 Bertha G. Jakobik  
 (For Landscape)  
 Theo. Groeschel  
 (For Landscape)  
 Ester Leitko  
 Rev. John Socha  
 Rev. John Socha  
 Rev. John Socha  
 Rev. John Socha  
 Rev. John Socha

DONOR

M/M Wm. L. Pratho  
 Agnes L. Linebrink  
 M/M Marvin Schulz  
 M/M Freddie Guggisberg  
 M/M Walter Gersch  
 M/M Walter Gersch  
 M/M August Zoch  
 M/M Otto W. Teinert  
 M/M August Zoch  
 M/M Reinhold Teinert  
 M/M Walter Gersch  
 M/M Frank Greager

AMOUNT

\$20  
 \$25  
 \$20  
 \$10  
 \$10  
 \$10  
 \$ 5  
 \$10  
 \$ 5  
 \$10  
 \$10  
 \$50

ON OCCASION OF

M/M Leroy Steglich 40th Wedding Anniversary  
 M/M Leroy Steglich 40th Wedding Anniversary  
 M/M Leroy Steglich 40th Wedding Anniversary  
 M/M Leroy Steglich 40th Wedding Anniversary  
 Clara Foerster 90th Birthday  
 Clara Foerster 90th Birthday

DONOR

M/M Edwin E. Domaschk  
 M/M Arnold Kasper  
 M/M Parker Bradley  
 M/M Otto Becker  
 M/M Ray Pittsford  
 M/M Raymond L. Hein

AMOUNT

\$25  
 \$10  
 \$50  
 \$20  
 \$ 5  
 \$ 5



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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Route 2, Box 155 / Giddings, Texas 78942-9769

January 18, 1989

## TO ALL TWHS MEMBERS:

The first quarterly meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society for 1989 will take place on **February 19**, at **2:00 P.M.**, at the museum complex in Serbin, Texas.

**G. Michael Shoup, Jr.**, proprietor of the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, Texas, will be our guest speaker. He will present a slide show and talk on gardening that promises to be very interesting. He has been published in Texas Highways; and a recent article, "They Grow Roses the Old-Fashioned Way," appears in the January/February issue of Texas Gardener.

**Reminder:** Membership dues are due and payable on or before January 1st of each year. Dues become delinquent on March 1 of each year and membership shall be forfeited April 15.

Speaking of dues .... After extensive review (of IRS Publication No. 67-246), membership dues are a **charitable deduction** if the an individual itemizes his/her tax return.

As I assume the responsibilities of Recording Secretary, I want especially to thank **Vivian Taylor** for her hard work during her tenure in office and for the excellent records she has turned over to me and to our Corresponding Secretary, **Barbara Hielscher**. I know I can count on Vivian to help me through the year. I'm grateful that Barbara, whose knowledge of the Society's business is impressive, has agreed to help me find my way. Many, many thanks to you both! When I came "home" to Texas after having lived in Seattle for twenty years, I vowed I would become an active member of the TWHS -- little did I imagine how active! I am honored that you have chosen me to hold an office; and I promise, with God's help, to do my best.

Happy New Year to all!

Very truly yours,

Carolyn M. Bohot  
Recording Secretary

President Elwood domaschk called the meeting to order at 2:15. The meeting was held in the St. Paul Building.

Rev. Paul Hartfield led the opening devotions. The scripture reading was taken from Luke 23:35 ff. This was the last Sunday of the Church year; also known as Christ the King Sunday. It is also the first Sunday in Advent. The only truth that matters is that Christ is the King. Our forefathers firmly believed that Christ was the Lord of their life and their Savior. This belief led them to pick up their roots and leave their mother-country and journey to a far and strange land. We also proclaim Christ our King for all eternity. A prayer followed.

This was the last meeting of the year. President Domaschk spoke briefly of bitter-sweet memories. But, the Society must continue; there is much more to do.

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as mailed.

The Treasurer's Report will be filed as presented. This was a special year which saw the completion of the Peter Building. This is why deficit is reflected in the accountant's report. This does not take into account all the time and effort spent by the many volunteers for which there was no charge.

Evelyn Kasper reported that she had been contacted about the Society participating in a Christmas event in La Grange called CHRISTMAS AT THE PARK. (Monument Hill) This will take place on December 10. She is planning a Children's choir who will sing several familiar Christmas carols in German and English. If your child would like to sing, please contact Evelyn for practice time.

New members welcomed were Paul Knippa, Lisa Stapp and Evelyn Buchhorn.

Visitors were also acknowledged.

Vic Mathias, chairman of the Museum Board, spoke about the Open House and the Mini-Fest which was a huge success. A beautiful example of working together. He thanked the Society for all its backing and everyone who helped in any way.

The secretary read a letter from member, Nelda Potts, expressing her thoughts about the Open House and the other wonderful facilities. The Society has much to be proud of.

There were no committee reports.

Under NEW BUSINESS, there were two pleasant actions taken.

By executive decision, President Domaschk called the following ladies forward. EMMA WUENSCHKE, FRIEDA WENDLAND, LAURA ZOCH and GERTRUDE MITSCHKE. Mrs. Mitschke was not present. These ladies are Charter Members. They are still very active in the Society. President Domaschk presented each lady with a paid-up LIFE MEMBERSHIP in the Society in token of their years of work and encouragement. A number of fond memories were then recalled to the delight of the members present.

The second action was the presentation of a beautiful plaque to Rev. John J. Socha, editor of the NEWSLETTER for 10 years. Because of illness, Rev. Socha could not be present. His lovely wife, accepted for him. Other members of the Socha family present were son, Jonathan, his wife, Denise and daughter, Emily, of Giddings. Daughter Suzanne Mueller and her daughter, Kara, of Austin and daughter Janet Kasper and her husband, Ed. of Ft. Worth.



Laverne Gersch had obtained a copy of the first NEWSLETTER dated October-December 1979. Elwood read the first editorial that Rev. Socha had published. It was a lovely, poignant moment.

At this time, President Domaschk also thanked Emma Wuensche for being chairman of the Cookbook Committee and #1 salesperson of Cookbooks for 13 years. Emma has decided it is time to retire.

The next item under new business was the report of the Nominating Committee. Chairman Mary Watts reported that the slate of prospective candidates for both SOCIETY OFFICERS and BOARD MEMBERS had been reviewed by the Executive Board and that the election of officers and board members could proceed.

President Domaschk called for nominations from the floor. There being none, ballots were distributed to all qualified voters present.

Vic Mathias moved that the nominees be elected by acclamation. Motion was seconded and carried.

President Domaschk declared the following persons as officers and board members for 1989:

PRESIDENT: George H. Boerger

VICE-PRESIDENT: Laverne Gersch

TREASURER: Reinhold Teinert

RECORDING SECRETARY: Carolyn Bohot

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Barbara Hielscher

BOARD MEMBERS: Ron Knippa Doris Reagan Mary Watts Victor Zoch

Elwood Domaschk, as immediate past-president, also a board member.

President Domaschk thanked Mary and her committee. Serving were Evelyn Kasper, Teleford Zoch, David Goeke and Carolyn Bohot.

Evelyn Kasper thanked the out-going officers for their work and concern for the Society for the past year. Others thanked were Barbara Hielscher, Walter Gersch, Herbert and LaVern Falke, Otto Becker, Jr., Leroy Steglich, Ken Weiser and Rev. Hartfield.

Laverne Gersch announced that the Lee County Historical Commission has for sale a new publication, LEE COUNTY CEMETERIES IN THE NORTH AND WEST PART OF LEE COUNTY. This book of cemetery lists includes many names of Wendish origin. Contact Laverne or other members of the Historical Commission for copies.

The meeting was then adjourned and program chairman Leroy Steglich introduced George Boerger. George had been privileged to visit in East Germany in August. He was the Society's representative for the 300th year celebration of the Church in Spreewitz. George narrated and showed slides of the Wendish area which he had visited. He also spoke of current living conditions in this area. The presentation was quite informative. Questions from members gave interesting comments from both George and Dr. Wilson.

Refreshments were served in the KILIAN BUILDING by the Austin Chapter of TWHS. Members serving or contributing were, Martha Brockman, Junell Paul, Annie K. Bartholic, Louise Schulze, Carolyn Bohot, Ruth Piland, Mary Jane Fehr, Margaret Hart, Irene Teinert, Arlene Wendt, Leona Behrends, Laverne Gersch, and Frieda Wendland. Thank you ladies VERY, VERY MUCH !!! It was all so delicious.

Vivian F. Taylor  
Secretary, TWHS

14/11/88  
4 Coombe St,  
Berri, 5343  
South Australia

Texas Wendish Heritage Society,  
P.O. Box 311,  
Giddings. Texas 78942.

Dear Sirs,

Please find enclosed \$10

for membership to your society.

One of my ancestor's nephews immigrated to Texas and I would like to contact any of his descendants and would like to know if you have any information or know where I could write in search of information.

The man's name was Johann Schneider. He was born sometime between 1843 and 1849 in Nechern, Saxony to Adam Schneider and his wife Maria nee Doecke. He immigrated to Texas in approx 1886. Serbin we think.

The Schneiders had a girl Elsa, born at Nechern on the 17th August 1882. Johann raised a family in Texas and Corrsponded with a cousin Herman Doecke until his death sometime in the 1920'S.

I have a photo of the Schneider homestead in Texas, it was a 2 story wooden building and the country surrounding the farm was very flat. After Johann's death the family lost contact.

I am interested in Wendish/Sorb history as our ancestors were Miller's at Nechern, near Groditz and attended the Groditz church where they are buried.

Yours faithfully,  
John Doecke

Mr. A.J. Doecke,  
4 Coombe St,  
Berri. 5343.  
South Australia.

# THE TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER (Museum Musings)

Directions -- 1989  
by Vivian Taylor - Museum Director

"HAPPY NEW YEAR" to all from the museum staff!!!

1989 will be another great year for the museum. The building program is completed, but there are a number of loose ends which, hopefully, will be taken care of. In the meantime, everyone is enjoying the beautiful and efficient facilities. The number of visitors seems to increase every week, and at the same time we are gaining many new members.

Our reputation is spreading. We have had a film company from Italy filming in the area. A crew from TV Channel 24, Austin taped a news segment right here and aired it on January 15.

Many, many great things are happening for the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum. The volunteers who come and work are proud to be a part of this organization. Their enthusiasm is so wonderful. The museum staff truly appreciates their every effort.

If you don't already volunteer, this is your invitation to come, join us, and be a part of preserving your heritage by telling the Wendish story. We are planning a training session for volunteers, docents, on February 4. Call Barbara at the Museum office for further information. You do not have to be a member of the Society to become a docent. It is a wonderful and exciting experience. And... **WE NEED YOU!**

Special Exhibits for the first several months are:

EASTER EGG EXHIBIT -- last of January, February-March

GERMAN SETTLEMENTS in TEXAS -

from the Texas General Land Office -- April 1 - May 30

The above are in addition to the permanent displays. Other special displays/exhibits will be announced later.

For Christmas 1989 -- we would like to have a truly old-fashioned "Wendish" Christmas. If you have treasured family memories, traditions, stories, decorations, toys, recipes ---- whatever pertains to Christmas, (Wendish, of course), please get in touch with us.

This past Christmas, 1988, we had a magnificent 14 foot cedar tree in the center of the main room of the St. Paul Building. Laverne and Walter Gersch cut and set it up for us to decorate. We used what decorations were on hand and it was beautiful in its simplicity. Hopefully, we can add a few each year. However, we do want to keep all decorations as authentic and tasteful as possible, so check with the staff if you care to contribute to this cause. Irreplaceable items will be displayed in protected areas or cases. Again, CHECK with the director.

If you have suggestions for displays/exhibits, contact us. The Museum is yours--we are the caretakers--we want to please you, your families, and your friends.

## LIBRARY NEWS

by Georgie Boyce, Librarian

Our Library continues to be used by those visitors to the Museum who wish to do historical and/or genealogical research. If any reader has a Family History or information that might be useful to others, he is encouraged to place a copy of these documents and/or information on file in the library.

We currently have need of a good English language bible, preferably the King James Version, for cross reference use by those unfamiliar with German and Wendish.

Some of our current books were placed by families or individuals as Memorials. In future Newsletters, we will include some titles of books needed so that readers will have the opportunity to make specific gifts.

## DOCENTS

Serving as docents from October 15 through December 31, 1988 were: Georgie Boyce, Judy Hielscher, Barbara Hielscher, Bea Tschatschula, Ruth Lindner, Lorine Domel, Bessie Mertink, August Zoch, and Freddie Zoch.

## ORS

In addition to visitors from all over Texas, we have had visitors from: Illinois, Virginia, California, New Mexico, Nebraska, Michigan, Louisiana, Missouri, West Virginia, New York, Canada, Italy, West Germany, and Australia.

### LANDSCAPE REQUEST

by Laverne Gersch, Landscape Chairman

Work is progressing on the "Wendish Flower Garden." Freddie Zoch has been moving out the red clay and rocks, and replacing it with good topsoil. The next step is up to you. Plants to be used in the garden should be maintenance free. We can use all kinds of lily bulbs, narcissus, and lirope, but no cannas. If you can share some, bring them to the February 19 meeting. If any item you bring has a special story, write it down and bring it for the archives. You say that you don't have any listed items? Do you have any other plants on hand that you would like to share? Check with Laverne Gersch before bringing. Phone evenings at 409/366-2247.

### OUR TALENTED KIDS

What could be more beautiful than young voices praising God? Those who attended "Christmas in the Park" heard a musical treat.

On December 11, Monument Hill in LaGrange echoed with carols, songs, and hymns of the season. Several organizations/choirs participated, and the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum sent able representatives.

Evelyn Kasper directed. Jason Hobratschk was on keyboard. The singers included: Heather Hielscher, Jamie Liebscher, James Liebscher, J. D. Kilian, Stacey Kieschnick, Sarah Jurk, and Jennifer Schramm.

The choir sang English and German carols. Be sure and thank those are listed for their musical efforts.

Also thank the drivers/chaperones: Linda Hobratschk, Barbara Hielscher, and Esther Pampell. They deserve a round of applause too.



**Texas Wendish  
Heritage Society**

Route 2, Box 155 / Giddings, Texas 78942-9769

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U.S. Postage  
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