



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

*Miss - apr May 1989*

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By George Boerger

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society has made tremendous progress in the last few years. The Peter Building was built and furnished. It includes the Interpretive Center (which tells the story of the Wends), the Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Library, a workroom, a vault, and a gift shop. The two former St. Paul school buildings are a vital part of the museum. The St. Paul Building, which used to be the entire museum, now features displays depicting the early life of the Wends. The Killian Building has been transformed from a storage room to a meeting room and a lunch room. Some of the large tours visiting the museum are served a Wendish meal. Two nineteenth century log buildings have been relocated to the museum. Later this year, the Wendish flower garden in the courtyard of the museum will be in full bloom. The museum was only open Sunday afternoons, but the hours have been expanded to 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Sunday through Friday. We should all be proud of the progress we have made, and we should thank God for all the wonderful blessings he has showered on TWHS.

Although we have come a long way, we still have only scratched the surface. There are almost endless opportunities, but we are limited in both time and money. To help determine our priorities and needs, a long-range plan will be developed. The Executive Board is submitting a proposed long-range plan for the society and the museum. It is to be discussed at the May 21 membership meeting. The proposed goals and their respective costs are included in this newsletter. Please come to the meeting and bring your comments and ideas. If you cannot attend, please write me and make your opinions and ideas known. Send your comments to George Boerger, c/o Texas Wendish Heritage Society, Rt. 2 Box 155, Giddings, TX 78942.

The purpose of the long-range plan is to determine what functions and services the TWHS should provide. We have a long way to go, but this should be viewed as a challenge, not a disappointment. We have made it this far primarily with many small and medium gifts of time and money, and we will continue one step at a time.

Please plan on attending the next membership meeting:

Sunday, May 21, 1989  
2:00 p.m.  
at the Museum in Serbin

Refreshments are served after the meeting.

In the next several months, our two biggest festivals will take place. August 3-6 will be the Folklife festival in San Antonio. Now is the time to get ready for it. On October 8, we will have the Second Annual Wendish Mini Folk Festival. It will be held in conjunction with the St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin's mission festival. Last year, the festival was part of the Museum open house, and it was a tremendous success. Over 600 people attended. This year we will have food for people to buy throughout the day. Featured events and exhibits will include many activities practiced by our ancestors. We will need plenty of volunteers. Be sure to invite your family and friends to participate with you in these events.

### Folklife Festivities Planned!!!

The Folklife Festival 19 is almost here! The dates are August 3-6. We need your help. Fill out the enclosed form, and read and volunteer to do any of the following:

### WANTED!!! WANTED!!! WANTED!!!

#### NOODLES

Get those chickens to lay eggs in July and then make those noodles. WE NEED LOTS OF THEM FOR THE FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL 19! Last year, WE RAN SHORT! If you can make noodles, notify the museum. They will find a way to get the noodles to San Antonio.

#### CRAFTS

Crafts did well last year. The childrens bonnets sold, but there was also a need for adult bonnets. Small items went well. Any crafts you can make would be appreciated. Please contact Patty Bones or the museum with your crafts.

#### BOOTH

We need people handy with hammer and nails to make a portable booth. The Folklife Festival organizers have encouraged us every year to make our own booths. I fear that the time is quickly coming when they will not donate their booths. Our booth should be easy to break down and transport. It will be stored at Serbin and can be used at other festivals. Leroy Steglich and Charlie Bones both had ideas about how it should be built. If you can help, please contact the museum or the Bones.

#### TRANSPORT

Is there anyone in the Serbin area with a flat bed truck or two people with pick-ups who would be willing to load the "stuff" for the Folklife Festival in August and bring it to San Antonio? They will not have to unload or set up in San Antonio. They will need to come back after the Festival to help load and take the "stuff" back to Serbin. Contact the Bones or the museum.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21 Quarterly Membership Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the museum in Serbin  
August 3-6 Folklife Festival in San Antonio  
August 20 Quarterly Membership Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the museum in Serbin  
October 8 Wendish Mini Folk Festival at Serbin  
November 19 Quarterly Membership Meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the museum in Serbin

#### May Meeting Speaker

The program at the May 21 membership meeting will be conducted by Dr. Charles Wukasch of Concordia Lutheran College, Austin. Dr. Wukasch will focus on the early culture of the Wends in Europe. Dr. Wukasch wrote an article about the Wends which was in the most recent issue of the Lutheran Witness.



## St. Paul Baptismal Book

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin is selling us their inventory of Pastor John Kilian's Baptismal Records of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, Texas 1854-1883 (at a greatly reduced price) as the museum is better able to sell the book than St. Paul. Because our cost has been reduced, the sales price has been reduced to \$15.00 plus \$.98 sales tax. The book may be purchased at the museum or you may order the book by mail by writing the museum. Mail orders should include \$2.00 for postage.

## Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Library News by Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian

Now that the library has a table and some comfortable chairs, have you considered spending some time to read or review the materials available???

Since the last newsletter, we have added to the shelves the following:

Lift High the Cross the 100th Anniversary (1882-1982) book of Zion Lutheran Church, Walburg, Texas, donated by C. B. Neitsch of Taylor.

Giddings 100th Geburtstag 1871-1971, Souvenir Book donated by the Lee County Heritage Society.

Abner Cook, Master Builder (His Life, Labors, and Legacy) donated by Suzanne G Ensey of Austin. This book is about Abner Cook who is famous for his Greek Revival architecture throughout the city of Austin and has many beautiful pictures of the homes and buildings he designed.

Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly (Spring-1988) donated by Pastor Paul Hartfield, which has his article, "The Serbin Story- Historic Preservation and Outreach in Evangelism."

History of Bastrop County Before Statehood and Bastrop County 1846-1865. Both books are written by Kenneth Kesselus and were purchased by the library.

## MATCHING GIFTS

Matching gifts have been received from the Coca-Cola Company, Atlantic Richfield Company, and Gerland's Food Fair.

## VISITORS

In addition to visitors from all over Texas, we have had visitors from: Arkansas, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, California, Colorado, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Florida, Poland, and Greece.

## HELP HELP -- OLD PHOTOGRAPHS NEEDED!!!

A committee is currently working to prepare a video-tape presentation about the Wends and The Texas Wendish Heritage Society. This video is intended for use as an educational and promotional tool for the society, and ultimately to be reproduced for sale (through the gift shop) to anyone who wishes to buy one.

We would like to include other Wendish communities throughout Texas, but we need "early day" photos of the churches, area scenes, and families who settled the following areas:

Williamson County -- Hochkirk, north of Taylor, on Bushy Creek, Thorndale,

Corn Hill/Walberg

Bell County -- The Grove

Coryell County -- Copperas Cove

Wilbarger County -- Vernon

Travis County -- Austin

Nueces County -- Bishop

Eastland -- Cisco

Jefferson -- Port Arthur

If there are others that we have failed to mention, we would appreciate your information and photographs.

# MEMBERSHIP PATRON MEMBERS

Dana Z. Clary  
Mrs. Wm. H. Pieratt  
Mildred Coffey  
Carol L. Davis  
Ludwig O. Groeschel

John W. Miertschin  
Vivian Taylor  
Harold V. Theiss  
Weldon P. Boerger  
Mary S. Guggisberg

Daphne D. Garrett  
Katherine Schmelter  
Margie B. Loomans  
Marjorie Harkrider  
Gus F. Jacob

## CENTURY MEMBER

Elwood M. Domaschk, Jr.

## SPONSOR MEMBERS

Mrs. Dell J.L. Bush

F. Woodrow Bush

Frances Mitchell

## New Members Since January 1, 1989

M/M Theo P. Herzog -  
Hamilton, TX

Adela N. Jeschke -  
Miles, TX

Martin Leschber -  
East Germany

Eleanor A. Steward -  
Austin, TX

M/M Edgar Schulz -  
Houston, TX

Carol A. Medinger -  
Marysville, WA

Aurora A. Moerbe -  
Austin, TX

Selma Wobus  
Austin, TX

Herbert P. Zoch  
Houston, TX

M/M F. Woodrow Bush -  
Houston, TX

Mildred Coffey -  
San Antonio, TX

Laveda Thompson -  
Adkins, TX

James Knippa -  
Columbus, Ohio

Rudy Knippa -  
Lincoln, TX

Carey B. Neitsch -  
Taylor, TX

Esther I. Weaver -  
Saltsburg, PA

Janice M. Aldrich -  
Lexington, MA

Elizabeth Anderson -  
Round Rock, TX

Ronnie Miertschin -  
Austin, TX

Vernon Wuensche -  
Houston, TX

Alfred C. Zoch  
Waco, TX

Hattie M. Parrish -  
Austin, TX

Olive M Savage -  
Tacoma, WA

Eddie Wolsch -  
Benjamin, TX

## MEMORIAL

On Occasion of:

Donor

Amount

Leon Miertschin Birthday  
For Landscaping - Roses

Sandra Matthijetz

\$ 20.00

\$20 donation for roses for landscaping from M/M Walter Pampell.



In Memory of:	MEMORIALS Donor	Amount
Rev. John Socha	Margaret Creager	\$ 50.00
Rev. John Socha	Immanuel Lutheran Church	\$ 10.00
Rev. John Socha	Mrs. Margaret W. Hart	\$ 10.00
Yanche Fehr	Mrs. Margaret W. Hart	\$ 10.00
Rev. John Socha	Mrs. Rosalyn Koepsell	\$ 12.50
Elizabeth T. Koch	Mrs. Rosalyn Koepsell	\$ 12.50
William L. Savage	Mrs. Frances Leake	\$ 15.00
Rev. John Socha	M/M Arnold Kasper	\$ 7.50
Alfred Menzel	M/M Arnold Kasper	\$ 7.50
Esther Walther	M/M Edgar Schulz	\$ 25.00
Edwin Kilian	Miss Gertrude Ganzert	\$200.00
For Slide Projector/VCR		
Margie Alvacado	M/M August Zoch	\$ 5.00
Rev. John Socha	M/M Leon Lindner	\$ 10.00
Eric Lammert	M/M Raymond Miller	\$ 20.00
Adelia F. Giese	M/M Walter Gersch	\$ 10.00
For Landscaping		
Clarence Peters	M/M Frank Taylor	

History of Serbin, St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
by Rev. Bewie  
from the Archives of the Texas District  
of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod  
(from Rev. Socha)

Part XII

This little history of the Wendish colony would be very incomplete if I did not say something more about the leader, namely Rev. Kilian himself.

Rev. Johann Kilian was born March 22nd 1811 in Dohlen, a town in Saxony. Both his parents died while he was still a child, but they left him an inheritance which enabled him to study. After he passed through the gymnasium, he went to the University of Leipzig, where he prepared for the ministry.

Since Rev. Kilian entered the ministry in Germany in 1834 and died in 1884, he spent just about 50 years in the ministry. Considering all the hardships he had to endure, both in Germany and in Texas, that was doing well indeed.

When Rev. Kilian entered the ministry he was called to a place in Saxony, named Kotitz. After some years he accepted a call to two churches in Prussia, with which were connected a number of small Lutheran groups. It was mainly from this parish that the people joined together to emigrate to Texas.

Very soon after arriving in Texas Rev. Kilian wrote a letter to Professor Walther applying for membership in Synod. He states that in his colony there was a number of people who wanted to be married, but that he was not permitted to perform the ceremonies until he could prove that he was a minister in good standing in a recognized church body. "Of course," adds Rev. Kilian, "this certificate must be in English."

The document -- it has been preserved in the archives of St. Paul's -- reads:

St. Louis City, St. Louis County, Missouri. March 9, 1855. Know all men by these presents that the Rev. John Kilian, now in Bastrop County, Texas is a regularly ordained minister of the Lutheran Church and a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and other States, and is therefore entitled to perform all ministerial acts. In testimony thereof, I have ascribed my name and affixed the seal of said Synod, in the city of St. Louis, Missouri, this ninth day of March 1855 - John Buenger, Pres.

# TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

## Minutes

Serbin, Texas, February 19, 1989

George Boerger, President, called the meeting to order and introduced Pastor Hartfield who led the membership in a devotion based on the Scriptures from Luke, Chapter 13 at Verse 31.

LaVerne Gersch introduced the speaker, Michael Shoup, owner of the Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, Texas. Mr. Shoup gave a slide presentation and talk on his collection of old roses. A very informative question and answer period followed.

The regular business meeting resumed with a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as published in the newsletter. The motion passed.

Reinhold Teinert distributed the Treasurer's Report and explained the new format. A motion was passed to accept the Treasurer's Report and file it for audit.

LaVerne Gersch presented a motion to send Gertrude Ganzert an acknowledgement thanking her for her generous gift in memory of Edwin Kilian. Motion passed.

A motion was made by LaVerne Gersch that a slide projector or VCR be purchased. Motion passed.

The membership was reminded that any undesignated gifts will go to our endowment, as will excess membership fees (i.e., life memberships).

Pastor Hatfield offered the use of St. Paul's video and slide projection equipment.

George Boerger announced that the Nielsen book will be published in October. A&M is in the process of sending it to the printer.

A statement of goals for 1989, as submitted by the Executive Board, was distributed. They are as follows:

1. Prepare a video presentation about the Society;
2. Increase membership to 400;
3. Establish the Mini-Folk Festival as an annual event;
4. Develop a long-range plan for the Society and the Museum;
5. Develop and implement a fundraising program;
6. Develop a comprehensive plan for starting chapters.

It was moved, seconded, and passed that these goals be accepted.



per minute \$100-200  
our cost per min.  
\$20 min tape  
\$4,000

Georgie Boyce presented a report on the status of the video presentation. A commercially prepared tape will cost from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Possibilities for funding are being pursued. She is also discussing the matter with Mr. Holle at Concordia in Austin.

Members were encouraged to purchase gift memberships. A form is being prepared to include in the newsletters. Barbara Hielscher will send acknowledgement cards when gift memberships are purchased. This recommendation was enthusiastically approved.

Bessie Mertink asked for handmade items for the gift shop.

Ruth Lindner asked for three volunteers to alternate with the three who are presently preparing and serving refreshments. Eleanor Steglich, Evelyn Kasper and Esther Schmidt volunteered.

Leroy Steglich, Chairman of the Membership Board, introduced Vivian Taylor, Director, who gave the Museum Board Report. She announced that the Easter exhibit is the focus at the present time. On April 1, an exhibit, "German Settlements in Texas," will begin. The number of visitors so far this year is 145. The docent training meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. Volunteers are needed. Evelyn Kasper has seven tours scheduled for March and April. Evelyn needs help with the tours and assistance in serving lunch to the visitors. Members of the Central Texas Museum Association were recent visitors to the Museum; the meeting with this group was very successful, and everyone enjoyed lunch at the Serbin Store.

Pastor Hartfield will present the program at the next meeting. He will show a video of a recent television presentation from a Houston station.

LaVerne Gersch reported on the preparations for our booth at the Yesterfest in Bastrop on April 8. Members will demonstrate noodle making and Easter egg crafting. Hours are from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

Guests were welcomed and introduced: Mr. and Mrs. Weaver, Salzburg, Pennsylvania; Ms. Melcher, Giddings; Mrs. Weiderhold, Giddings; and Mrs. Koyn, Paige.

Emma Wuenche was presented with a plaque to honor her for her work on the cookbook. She has been the chairman of the Cookbook Committee for the entire fourteen years of its existence. She commented that the Society had only nineteen members when the committee began work on this project.

There was no other business to come before the meeting; a motion to adjourn was passed.

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn M. Bohot*  
Carolyn M. Bohot  
Recording Secretary

17-Apr-89

LR2 PROPOSED LONG-RANGE PLAN  
MUSEUM FUND

MUSEUM GOALS:

	LONG-RANGE GOAL	1989 FORECAST
REVENUE:		
BOOK AND GIFT SHOP SALES	\$14,000	\$7,000
UNDESIGNATED DONATIONS	2,000	1,700
TOURS	1,000	0
ENDOWMENT INCOME	1,600	3,200
(Assumes \$40,000 at 8% x 1/2)		
GRANTS	3,400	0
TOTAL REVENUE	\$22,000	\$11,900

1. Professional training for museum workers
2. Assistance from outside professionals
3. Museum open every day from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
4. Have a full-time employee
5. Have an active director
6. Pay weekend aids
7. Conserve and use the archives and library
8. Preserve and prepare artifacts and exhibits
9. Spread the story of the Wends and their influence in the Lutheran Church and communities in Texas
10. Make capital improvements as necessary

EXPENDITURES:		
ADMINISTRATION:		
DUES-INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIPS	200	200
FEES:		
WORKSHOPS/CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,000	400
TRAVEL EXP FOR CONSULTANTS	1,700	0
INSURANCE	2,000	2,000
HOSPITALITY	100	0
JANITORIAL SERVICE	500	500
OFFICE EXPENSES:		
OFFICE SUPPLIES	1,000	500
MUSEUM LETTERHEAD & ENVELOPES	200	200
MUSEUM ADVERTISING	300	300
POSTAGE	100	100
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE:		
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE	1,500	1,000
GROUPS	600	600
EXTERMINATORS	300	300
SALARIES		
SECRETARIAL	10,000	6,000
DIRECTOR FEE (Includes gas & phone)	2,600	0
WEEK-END STAFF (\$10 contract fee)	2,000	0
SUPPLIES:		
RESTROOMS & KITCHEN	200	200
MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES	100	100
TAXES:		
PAYROLL	1,000	600
TELEPHONE:		
MONTHLY CHARGES	400	400
LONG DISTANCE CHARGES	600	600
UTILITIES:		
ELECTRICITY	3,600	3,600
WATER	200	200
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	30,200	17,800
ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY:		
SUPPLIES	500	500
BOOKS	300	100
CONSERVATION	500	500
TOTAL ARCHIVES AND LIBRARY	1,300	1,100
CURATORIAL EXPENSES:		
PRESERVATION/PREPARATION OF ARTIFACTS	2,500	1,000
GIFT SHOP:		
PURCHASES (Assumes 40% mark-up)	10,000	5,000
EDUCATION	3,000	0
(Includes grants on Wendish research and other educational expenses)		
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:		
IMPROVEMENTS	3,000	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$50,000	\$24,900
OPERATING GAIN/(LOSS)	(\$28,000)	(\$13,000)



17-Apr-89

LR1

PROPOSED LONG-RANGE PLAN  
GENERAL FUND

LONG-RANGE 1989  
GOAL FORECAST

REVENUE:

FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL INCOME  
(Approximately what was made in 1988)  
MEMBERSHIP DUES  
(Assumes 500 members at \$10 apiece.)  
INTEREST INCOME  
(Assumes \$20,000 at 7%)

\$3,500 3,500  
5,000 4,000  
1,400 1,400

TOTAL REVENUE

\$9,900 \$8,900

EXPENDITURES:

BOOKKEEPING  
LICENSES, TAXES, AND FEES  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
(Assumes 1 annual organization-wide meeting)  
MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES  
(Includes membership applications, membership cards, annual directory, mails-outs, and any membership drives)  
NEWSLETTER  
(Assumes \$.75 per member per individual newsletter)  
FUND RAISING  
CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT  
OTHER  
(All other expenses: float, award plaques, etc. Special projects: video, extra fund raising/ education/chapter development/ membership drive, etc.)

\$3,000 1,800  
200 200  
1,000 0  
1,000 1,000  
1,500 1,200  
1,000 200  
1,000 0  
1,200 500

TOTAL EXPENDITURES

\$9,900 \$4,900

OPERATING GAIN/(LOSS)

\$0 \$4,000

SOCIETY GOALS:

1. Establish chapters
2. Establish an annual membership meeting
3. Increase membership
4. Participate in festivals
5. Encourage participation of youth through special programs

To All Our Volunteers  
by Vivian Taylor

If you haven't tried volunteering -- TRY IT, you might like it. The Museum surely needs your help in many ways. In fact, if you have any free time at all, we can use you any afternoon of the week. The Museum is open from 1-5 pm, but whatever hours you could offer would be greatly appreciated. The number of visitors increases daily. With summer and vacations around the corner, you are needed. Call the office today -- 409/366-2441

Volunteers are like Ford -- They have better ideas.  
Volunteers are like Coke -- They're the real thing.  
Volunteers are like Pepsi -- They have a lot to give.  
Volunteers are like Dial soap -- They care more.  
Volunteers are like VO 5 hair Spray -- Their goodness holds in all kinds of weather  
Volunteers are like Hallmark cards -- They give their very best.  
Volunteers are like Standard Oil -- You expect more and you get it.  
Volunteers are like Frosted Flakes -- They're GRRREATTT!!!



## Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

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Giddings, Texas  
Permit No 14

REV. & MRS. ROBERT E. BOYCE  
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