



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 5, OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1989

OPEN FROM 1:00 TO 5:00 EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAY & HOLIDAYS

PHONE 409/366-2441

## WENDISH FEST A BIG SUCCESS

The Lord gave us a beautiful day and we did everything we said we would! If you missed the Wendish Fest on October 22nd, you missed an opportunity for good fun and fellowship as well as good food and much reminiscing! The Giddings Times and News captured some of it for us with pictures of Daphne Garrett demonstrating the art of Easter Egg decorating; the winners of the Coffee Cake Bake-off, Wilma Bigon, Edna Mitschke, Ruth Lindner, Irene Teinert, Bernice Becker and Elsie Mertink; (The coffee cakes as well as all the other goodies brought were enjoyed all afternoon and evening.) Barbara Hielscher, Marian Wiederhold and Betty Hutchinson in Wendish costumes hosting the Peter Building. Betty Hutchinson of Louisiana is the daughter of Lillie Moerbe Caldwell, our founder. Some of her art work was displayed in the Library for the occasion. Steed Henderson of Round Top demonstrating the art of horseshoeing; Jack Wiederhold entertaining the crowd with his accordian; Dr. Charles Wukasch telling Wendish stories; and the children shucking and shelling corn completed the newspaper's account. Thanks to Walter and Laverne Gersch for supplying the corn and bringing the turkeys and geese to the picnic grounds for the children to enjoy.

In addition to the above there were three worship services at St. Paul Lutheran Church. A noon meal of sausage, sauerkraut, noodles, beets, homemade bread, butter, tea and coffee was served to about 500 people at the Serbin picnic grounds. Snacks of sausage and sauerkraut boats, sausage on a stick, koch käse sandwiches, dill pickles, lemonade, tea, coffee and beer were available all afternoon. Thanks to Eldor Becker for the use of his sound system and good cold beer! A very special thank you to Gary Kubsch of Northrup for the beer license, good prices on the food, and the use of his coolers. Thank you to Perry Noodle Company of Northrup, and to City Meat Market of Giddings. The Committee thanks all who helped with the food or in any other way.

"Shorty" Pampell actually stuffed sausages, and butter was being churned at the log cabin next to a large dishpan of curds and whey with the old fashioned "quark leiter". Tips were given on lye soap making, sauerkraut and dill pickling. Noodles were being made in the Kilian Building where tables were also set up for Photograph identifications. The St. Paul Building was a busy place with quilting, feather stripping, crocheting, carding and spinning. Weldon Mersiovsky of Georgetown brought his computer to the Library for genealogy helps.

Other activities at the picnic grounds were Cindy Knippa's information on Wendish Weddings, Johnny Kalbas playing and singing contemporary Christian music, a sing-a-long led by Jack Wiederhold, and picture taking with the Ben Nevis float and the Wendish couple.

The cross cut saw contest created much interest and winners were Otto Becker and Erwin Fritsche, 1st place, Douglas and Debra Hartfield, 2nd place, and Elford Bigon and Walter Gersch, 3rd place.

A large crowd was still on hand to see the slide show presentation of St. Paul Congregation and the Wendish Immigration by Jack Wiederhold at the close of the day.

#### OUR NEXT BIG EVENT

Dr. George Nielsen, professor of History at Concordia Lutheran College, River Forest, Illinois, will present his newly revised book, IN SEARCH OF A HOME at the meeting of November 19th. Be sure to bring your copy along if you have purchased it previously, and have it autographed. If you do not have a copy, and want one, you may purchase one from the gift shop the day of the meeting.

#### GROUP TOURS

by Evelyn Kasper, Chairman

Evelyn Kasper reports that a noon meal was served to 28 members of the "Better Side of 50 Club" of the Memorial Drive Lutheran Church, Houston, on September 21st.

Thank you to all who helped host or made donations toward the luncheon served.

Anyone wishing to bring a group for a tour please make reservations at least two weeks in advance. Call the museum at 409/366-2441 or Evelyn Kasper at 409/242-3367.

#### ARCHIVES

by Daphne D. Garrett, Archivist

Elinor Steglich, Evelyn Kasper, Erna Mersiovsky, and Mildred Kilian helped for several days cataloging and inventorying articles in the Archives. Thank you for the much needed help.

Mildred Kilian is preparing a name index of people appearing in the photographs in the Archives. The identification process is coming along nicely.

#### LANDSCAPE

by Laverne Gersch, Chairman

There will be a plant, tree, and seed exchange at the February, 1990 meeting. When cleaning flower beds this winter, pot excess plants and bring to the meeting. Have them in containers or bagged and labeled for planting (Wendish origin welcomed.) There is no charge for this but a donation box will be available and all proceeds go to the Wendish Museum Landscape Fund to maintain the grounds for 1990.

## JURIJ BRÉŽAN'S "O BLESSED CHILD"

### LUBOZNE DŽÉČO

Lubozne džéčo,  
rodžene k zobžu,  
budž na swět k nam powitane.  
wšón lud so tebi kžoni  
a z wěžow radosć zwoni.

Lubozne džéčo, radžija naša,  
njech budže měr na zemi wšej,  
njech switla jasne ranje.  
Budž ludžow spodčanje!

Jurij Bréžan

### O BLESSED CHILD

O blessed child,  
Born for our good,  
We welcome You to earth.  
To You all people kneel  
And from the heights great joy resounds.

O blessed child, our hope,  
Let there be peace throughout the land,  
Let dawn the morning clear,  
And joy to people come!

Translated by Charles Wukasch

### DOCENTS

Acting as docents since July 1 were: Lorraine Domei, Mina Swap, Herbert and Hattie Schrautschick, Ray Scharschula, Marjor Winklerolo, Bessie Mertink, Evelyn Kasper, Barbara Melschen, Mary Watts, Vivian Taylor, Ruth Lindner, Ruby Koslan, Mildred Atian, George Boerger, Lillian Olthann, August Zoch, Erna Mersiovsky, Frieda Werdland, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Freddie Zoch, and Viola Spacek.

### VISITORS

Since July 1 we have had visitors from: California, Missouri, Washington, New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois, Africa, Kentucky, Germany, Louisiana, Connecticut, Nebraska, and from all over Texas.

### ACCESSIONS

The Alfred Schulze family donated farm tools, German and Wendish books, a honey extractor, a Lebenswecker, and a camel back trunk.

Books (Lexicon) donated by Charles F. Garbs, Jr.

A cot that belonged to the John Bigon family in about 1890, a stool that belonged to the Ben Mitschke family, and scales that belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Gus Mitschke, donated by Mrs. Laura Mitschke.

### MEMBERSHIP Patron Members

Naomi T. Gordon, Grand Jct, CO.

Dianne H. Wassenich, Maxwell, Texas

# New Members/Previous Members-Renewed

Kathy Weise, Dallas, TX.	Harold Dube, San Antonio, TX.
Edwin Gruetzner, Huffman, TX.	J. W. Gruetzner, Pasadena, TX.
Edwin N. Kasper, Jr., Houston, TX.	Donald Hannusch, Trinity, TX.
M/M Elmer Knippa, San Antonio, TX.	Rachel L. Bess, San Antonio, TX.
Naomi T. Gordon, Grand Jct., CO.	R. H. Lawrenz, Houston, TX.
Tom Wendt, Austin, TX.	Ronnie Mathias, Austin, TX.
Anita W. Austin, Austin, TX.	Lew Fleming, Houston, TX.
Joyce Strauch, San Antonio, TX.	David Fritsche, San Antonio, TX.

## MEMORIALS

On Occasion of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Alvin Schmidt 30th Wedding Anniversary	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$10.00
In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Pauline Schneider	Vivian Taylor	\$20.00
Selma Wobus	M/M Fritz Brockman	\$10.00
Selma Wobus	TWHS/Austin Chapter	\$25.00
Mrs. Martin N. Kilian	Dr. & Mrs. Carl Fehr	\$25.00
Lydia Lowke	M/M Freddie Guggisberg	\$10.00
Selma Wobus	Ruth Wagner	\$15.00
Selma Wernecke	M/M Victor Zoch	\$10.00

## \*\*\*\*\* E A S T G E R M A N Y T O U R \*\*\*\*\*

I am now making plans for a tour for the FALL of 1990. Areas being considered are:  
COTTBUS \*\* SPREMBERG \*\* WEISZWASSER \*\* HOYERWERDA \*\* BAUTZEN \*\* KOTTITZ  
WEISZENBERG \*\* and popular stops on "Lutherland Tours".

If you have some interest in going and have a location you would like to have included,  
please let me know.

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



## WENDS WHO ATTENDED SAN ANTONIO MASS

Contributed by Cindy Knippa

During the September 13, 1987, San Antonio visit by Pope John Paul, all ethnic groups who settled Texas were invited to participate in the Mass. Those who represented the Wends were Jane Haile, Jackie Haile, W.G. Haile, Rose Kanning, Joan Kanning and Ed Kanning. Each group sat in a designated area with an appropriate banner.

## REUNIONS

AUGUST AND LAURA ZOCH FAMILY REUNION: On June 13, 1989, the entire family of August and Laura Zoch met at their home for a trip down memory lane. 42 people with picnic supplies piled into 10 cars and began a leisurely trip that took them to various cemeteries and old home sites. At each stop, the grandparents or parents would tell about events that were connected with each place and how they were all related. Many stories delighted the young and brought back memories long forgotten. A quick stop at the Country Store in Winchester was a special treat. After a visit to the Winchester Cemetery, everyone was ready to head back to Serbin where the picnic lunch was spread under the cedar trees and enjoyed. Afterward, the group toured the Wendish Museum, the Cemetery and St. Paul Lutheran Church. Present were August and Laura Zoch, their 8 children, 10 grandchildren and 13 great-grand children. Almost all were able to stay over and attend Sunday church services at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giddings. Everyone left with a renewed appreciation of their heritage and ancestors.

## HERMAN ERNST SIMANK FAMILY REUNION:

WENDISH FAMILY REUNION      Ben Nevis Family Number 70      Carl August and Ana Magdalena Roessler Simank

Descendants of their son Herman Ernst Simank

When: June 23, 24, 25, 1989      Where: Alto, Utah, at the Rustler Lodge

41 family members and spouses attended representing families of five of the nine children of Herman Ernst Simank. Those in attendance came from the following states:

California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Washington

In ages the attendees ranged from 5 months to 84 years. The weather was great and the scenery was spectacular. Patches of snow were on the mountains just outside the Lodge. It being the off season, the Simank family had the Lodge almost to themselves.

The next reunion of the family is planned for the spring of 1991 to be held near Fayetteville, Texas.

Reported by: Wilbur L. Simank, 1116 West Knapp, Stillwater, OK 74075-2711  
405/372-1921

Thank you to the above families for sharing their reunion news.

YOU SEND THEM; WE'LL PRINT THEM!!!!

# 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 XIV -- Conclusion to series

By 1867 travel conditions had improved a little. A letter from Rev. Kilian to Rev. Fick, who was getting ready to come to Texas for visitation gave these explicit directions: From St. Louis you take the boat to New Orleans. From New Orleans you go to Houston, either by boat or by train. From Houston you take the train to Brenham. That is as far as the train runs. At Brenham you call on Mr. Robert Leisewit. If you will give him your name and your profession, he will be of service to you. He is a commission merchant. From Brenham you take a stage coach to La Grange. The stage coach stops at the hotel. There you take a milkwagon to Serbin, which is 18 miles. From there you come to my house. You will be welcome.

Rev. Kilian was a real missionary. He understood the command of the Savior. He carried the gospel wherever he could. For years he used to ride horseback to those Wends that came over the year before and settled near New Jlm. He would ride there and back the same day. For a while he used to preach also in the town of Bastrop itself. He preached also at Kuetersmuehl. And when some of the Wends began to settle at Swiss Jm, he would go there to preach, until one of the younger ministers took this load off his back.

But above all things he had to take care of his own people and the people living in the immediate area of the church. There were not only Wends living there and many Germans, but also what was called "Americans". Rev. Kilian was a good preacher and attracted people by his preaching. At times the attendance at the services was so mixed that people who did not know how to behave in church would create a disturbance. The congregation finally asked Rev. Kilian to draw up rules for proper behavior in church. He did this, in English, of course, and then the rules were posted near the entrance to the church. There were ten rules, which read as follows:

- 1) It is forbidden that men should wear their hats in church;
- 2) It is forbidden to smoke a pipe or chew tobacco in church;
- 3) It is forbidden that men should carry a sixshooter or any other weapon into church;
- 4) It is not permitted that anyone leave the church during worship;
- 5) It is not permitted that anyone speak aloud in the church during the service;
- 6) It is not permitted that anyone should laugh in the church;
- 7) It is not permitted in coming into or leaving the church to walk noisily, or make a disturbance;
- 8) It is not permitted to laugh as though in sport in front of the windows or the church door;
- 9) It is not permitted to comb or arrange the hair during the service;
- 10) It is also forbidden to enter the parsonage without permission, while the pastor is in the church.

It is plain that these rules would not have been drawn up had it not been that the behavior of some visitors made the posting of the rules necessary.

Rev. Kilian was not only a good preacher, he was also a good pastor, looking after the welfare of the individuals of his flock. He taught school for about 12 years or more. He prepared the children and also adults conscientiously for confirmation. He was careful whom he admitted to the Lord's Supper. When newcomers arrived he always examined them before he admitted them to that sacrament. He looked also after his young people. He organized a Young Peoples Society and wrote a detailed constitution. It is still in the archives, in Wendish, of course. From time to time he would have meetings with the congregation in which he would explain and discuss with his people such matters as disturbed them.

And let us remember that during all these years he lived in a parsonage that had only two rooms. He would complain a little at times that he had no STUDIERSTUBE.

Owing to the fact that the church organization in Germany was so different from what we have, it was a little difficult at first for Rev. Kilian to understand that things are done thus and so. But he gradually learned to understand this also. As to doctrine, he was not quite clear on a certain point and felt that the Missouri Synod went too far. But gradually, after it had been discussed with him, he came around to see the truth there also.

In 1883, his son, Hermann, graduated from the Seminary at St. Louis and was called as pastor of the church; with the understanding that he be assistant. But Rev. Kilian did not enjoy his leisure very long. He died the following year, 1884.

#### ATTENTION GROUPS AND SCHOOLS:

What a wonderful year we've had here at the Museum! We've had so many wonderful visitors and they have expressed a lot of lovely comments. It really makes all our efforts worthwhile. Thank you for coming and do come again.

We do have one BIG request--if you are planning a group (10 or more) or a school tour --we would very much appreciate knowing in advance. Since we have several buildings in the Museum Complex, we feel that with large numbers of people we can serve you better and you, our guest will benefit more, if we have a hostess in each place to assist you. (It does take time to get volunteer hostesses contacted.)

We would suggest 3-5 days advance notice if possible. Please call the Museum office to make arrangements. Our secretary is here Monday-Friday, 1-5 pm. Phone 409/366-2441.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Vivian F. Taylor, Director

#### MUSEUM MUSINGS

Daphne Garrett and Georgie Boyce will attend a seminar at the University of Texas on November 17, 1989 on "Preservation of Archival Materials."

Thank you to:

Leroy Steglich and his two grandsons Stephen and Joe O'Leary for cleaning and organizing the storage shed.

Walter Mersiovsky for working in the yard for several days while his wife helped in the Archives.

Laverne, Walter, David, and Cindy Gersch for picking up the equipment from the Folklife Festival in San Antonio.



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