



Texas Mendish Heritage Society

Route 2, Box 155 / Giddings, Texas 78942-9769
VOLUME III, NUMBER 2, APRIL-JUNE, 1990
OPEN FROM 1:00 TO 5:00 EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAY & HOLIDAYS
PHONE 409/366-2441

When our director, Barbara Hielscher, gave me the figures on the profits made by our tour group this year, I was very pleased to see how the amount has grown over the years and that we were able to add \$3,508.96 to our operating budget this Spring. The funds are placed directly into the society funds now, and the bills are paid by the society.

I began reminiscing how we hosted our first dinner at Holy Cross Parish Hall in Warda in 1984, with several more in 1985, 1986, 1987 and 1988 until we were able to complete the kitchen facilities in the Kilian Building at Serbin. While using the Warda Parish Hall we paid the church \$25.00 or \$30.00 for each time we used the facilities. We are now able to save this. I am very proud of the accomplishments of this small group and share with you a little breakdown of some of the projects:

| | | |
|------|---|----------|
| 1984 | Purchased picture frames for exhibit purposes | \$ 53.39 |
| | Purchased plywood to close windows in the St. Paul Building. (Walter and Laverne Gersch installed and painted the plywood.) | 254.87 |
| 1985 | Purchased step ladder | 41.83 |
| | Purchased two blue water pitchers | 13.78 |
| | Purchased candle holders and candles | 11.73 |
| | Donation toward heat pump in Kilian Building | 250.00 |
| | Paid toward purchase of Troy type labeler | 274.50 |
| | Donation to Museum | 20.00 |
| 1986 | Paid for installation of cabinet doors to cases in Genealogy Section, St. Paul Building | 100.00 |
| | Donation for purchase of tables to be used at Folklife Festival and Museum. (Ted Lammert donated tables and this money was not used. It was then transferred to the heat pump fund for the Kilian Bldg. | 520.00 |
| | Purchased three dozen white plates and four dozen blue water glasses | 76.64 |
| 1987 | Flowers to be worn by ladies at festivals | 32.18 |
| | Purchased selving and materials for exhibits | 85.71 |

| | | |
|------|--|--------|
| 1988 | Purchased new kitchen cabinet with double sink and fittings for Kilian Building | 256.11 |
| | Installation of above | 145.68 |
| | Purchased window shades for Kilian Building, | |
| | 50 blue mugs, six large tablecloths, waste basket, dish drainer, towel bars, can opener, tongs, ladles, spoons, etc. | 137.91 |
| | Miscellaneous serving pieces | 5.00 |
| | Donation to Museum | 200.00 |
| 1989 | Purchased ice chest, flatware service for 48, and serving bowls | 199.16 |
| | Purchased two large stainless steel pots | 54.94 |
| | Purchased one dozen white plates | 10.50 |
| | Purchased five dozen dessert dishes | 40.92 |
| | Replaced window shades with heavier shades in Kilian Building | 102.60 |
| | Purchased 85 folding chairs and a caddy | 817.25 |
| | Donation to Museum Operating Account | 800.00 |

Team, I salute you for a job well done! We hope to be able to continue this phase of public relations and fund raising. And what fun we have had hosting and meeting all of these nice folks. A large increase in gift shop sales will certainly be reflected. It was very gratifying to have the Harris County Heritage Society come back for the third time.

On March 29th 14 members of Sunset Ridge Bible Class, San Antonio, had lunch and 23 members of the Caldwell County Home Extension Group came through; on March 30th, 20 people with Elsie's Tours of Seguin had coffee cake and coffee; on April 3rd 39 members of Our Saviour Lutheran Church Houston, had coffee cake; on April 4th 45 members of a sorority group from Houston had lunch and coffee cake; on April 5th 45 members of the Harris County Heritage Society had lunch; on April 10th 44 people with Wilma Allen Tours (primarily from St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Houston, had coffee cake and lunch; on April 11th 38 members of the Sandalwood Garden Club in Houston had lunch; on April 12th 38 members of the Eagle Lake Study Club and Garden Club had lunch; on April 17th 47 members of the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church Women's Group of Houston had lunch and coffee cake; on April 18th 37 members of the Chi Omega Mother's Club had lunch and coffee cake; on April 19th 34 members of Gethsemane Lutheran Autumn Club, Houston, had coffee cake and lunch, and on April 24th Pastor Fred Gersch brought 23 Prime Timers from Tyler for coffee cake and lunch.

Hosting these groups were Esther Buscha, Alma Froelich, Georgie Boyce, Evelyn Kasper, Elinor Steglich, Flora Kunze, Barbara Hielscher, Herbert and Hedwig Schautschick, Daphne Garrett, Lorine Domel, Bessie Mertink, Ruth Lindner, Gloria Mae Gersch, Telford Zoch, Alvin and Esther Schmidt, Bea Tschatschula, Laura Zoch, Frieda Wendland, Lillian Oltmann, Laverne Gersch, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Judy Hielscher, Heather Hielscher, Reinhold and Irene Teinert and Pastor Paul Hartfield.

Evelyn Kasper, Chairman

Esther Buscha, Co-Chairman

Bake Sale Success

Thanks to all members and friends who helped make our Bake Sale in La Grange on March 2nd a success by donating baked items and/or purchasing them. With the \$100 Raised by the Austin Chapter, we came up with \$511.00. The Lutheran Brotherhood matched \$500.00 - thus we were able to add \$1,011.00 to our operating budget. Helping in the booth were Elva Bohot, Alma Froelich, Esther Buscha, Elinor Steglich and Flora Kunze. Barbara Hielscher and Evelyn Kasper Co-chaired the event.

Folklife Festival Time Again!!!!!!

The dates for the Folklife Festival are August 2-5. We need everyone to help. NOODLES are needed as are adult sun bonnets and any other crafts. If anyone can make either of these items please notify the museum and we will get them to the Folklife Festival.

The people from the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio have indicated to Patty Bones that they will try to come to the May 20th membership meeting to visit and talk to the members.

If you are able to help at the Folklife Festival, please fill out the enclosed form with times and dates that you wish to work and return the form to Patty Bones.

Upcoming Events

| | |
|--------------|--|
| May 20 | Quarterly Membership Meeting at 2:00 at the Museum. |
| June 6 | Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky. For serious novice and expert genealogists 10:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M. |
| August 2-5 | Folklife Festival in San Antonio |
| August 19 | Quarterly Membership Meeting at 2:00 at the Museum. |
| September 16 | Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the Serbin Picnic Grounds. |
| November 18 | Quarterly Membership Meeting at 2:00 at the Museum with election of Officers. |

East Germany Tour -Update

Response to the tour has not been enough to qualify for appreciable discounts. I have an alternative plan.

My friend in Weiszwasser has offered room in her home to sleep up to 8 and in some of her friends' homes. Could be interesting! Instead of Lutherland tour a smaller group could drive and save the \$500.00 at this time. September air fares are quoted at about \$800.00. If interested - get your Visa and contact:
Emily M. Luker Putnam, 17930 Beaver Creek Dr. Houston, TX. 77090-1810.

TEXAS
FOLKLIFE
FESTIVAL



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!

Need persons willing to have a GOOD TIME and also do a little work. On August 2-5 the Institute of Texas Cultures in San Antonio is having the annual Folklife Festival. We need volunteers to come and help us have a good time. Please sign up.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

INDICATE YOUR WORK PREFERENCE AND THE TIME YOU CAN WORK.

Work in the beer booth _____

Work in the craft booth _____

Work in the kitchen _____

Cook noodles _____ Demonstrate Noodle Making _____

This year we are going to work three hour shifts. If you come for the day and can work more than one shift, please indicate.

Thursday, August 2

Friday, August 3

Saturday, August 4

Sunday, August 5

Two shifts, please!

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Charles and Patricia Bones
3320 Clearfield
San Antonio, Texas 730

LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
by Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian

Our first priority this quarter is to catch up on acknowledgements and "thank you(s)". We appreciate all of the items that have been donated by those who travel to Germany and others.

VIVIAN DUBE of Claremont, California: Tourist guide in German of the Spreewald area; Book with biographies of present day Sorbisch authors of literature (although it is written in Wendish, one article is about Merćin Nowak, (whose wood engraving prints we have displayed throughout the museum); Booklet of paper dolls in folk dress of Klitten; Deck of "SKAT" cards with instruction card of rules for the game in German; Brochure in English published in East Germany about the Sorbs and Sorbian culture (while the text is obviously biased by the marxist-leninist philosophy, it does offer some good information about our current day kinsmen in the "Old Country").

JACK WIEDERHOLD of Giddings: Same brochure as listed above in German: Church brochures; Photos; Post cards; 2 booklets of Sorbisch folk dress in Wendish, Wendish children's book, JEZUS; Folder of old stories and folklore in Wendish with beautiful colored prints of wood engravings by Merćin Nowak.

MARTIN DOBRING of Port Huron, Michigan: A much needed Sorbisch/German Dictionary.

MRS. ESTHER BUSCHA of Greens Creek: "St. Georgs-Kirche Zu Sengwarden" a history and description of church building and furnishings, obtained by her grand son, Timothy Buscha, while he was an exchange student in Germany in 1989.

DAPHNE GARRETT (Our Archivist) of Houston/Warda: Cabin Book is about Texas and was written and published in Germany in 1841, and is one of the books which created the German interest in immigrating to Texas. It was also translated in "Serbian" later. *She also donated 5 copies to the Museum Gift Shop for resale. Issues of the "German-Texas Heritage Society - The Journal" from Spring 1981 through Spring 1989. *Some of these issues are also for resale at \$2.00 per copy

TIM DROEMER of Austin: His University of Texas paper titled, "Lutherans in Texas: Their Origins and Influence on Modern Day Society".

The library purchased the "Waldeck Lutheran Church and Her People, The 90th Anniversary - October 1989" and the "Waldeck Cemetery Association Founded as Long Prairie Schuylgemeinde- March 25, 1866".

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: There is a backlog of filing, card cataloging and numerous other things that need to be done in the library. Also, we could use some help with the photographic inventory. WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP? Please call Georgie Boyce (409) 242-3333 or the Museum (409) 366-2441.

SERBIN HOMECOMING PICNIC

Remember Sunday, May 27th, is the annual Serbin Homecoming Picnic. The Museum is planning to be open extended hours from 12:00 noon until 6:00 p.m. Because of the larger number of people coming through our facilities that day, we will need 20 people to be docents to work 2 hour shifts in the various buildings. There will be a sign up sheet at the TWHS May 21st meeting - PLEASE VOLUNTEER. A photographic display will be set up in the Kilian building with some unidentified photographs and we will feature the "Weise Photograph Collection", which was donated by Mr. Gilbert Weise of Hills Corner north of Serbin, and Paul Weise of Orlando, Florida.

May Meeting Speaker

The program at the May 20 membership meeting will be conducted by Mr. Weldon Mersiovsky. Mr. Mersiovsky will share with us some of the highlights of his visit to East Germany this past March.

Archives
by Daphne D. Garrett, Archivist

ARCHIVAL EXHIBIT IN LIBRARY

An archival exhibit prepared for "Women in History Month" (March 1990) will remain until mid June. This exhibit honors Wendish authors Anne Schmidt Blasig and Lillie Moerbe Caldwell. The exhibit features the work and writings of these two ladies, including original manuscripts and photos from the Archives.

MUSEUM/ARCHIVES ANNIVERSARY

The Archives would like to prepare a special exhibit commemorating the November, 1980 opening of the Museum. We need pictures and souvenirs of the St. Paul school buildings during moving and restoration and all other events and projects since then. Please bring to the May Meeting or send as soon as possible.

Austin Chapter News
Charles Wukasch, president

On February 15 Wendish Heritage Society members Della Mullens, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, and Charles and Beata Wukasch attended the regular meeting of the Austin Ethnic History Association. Della Mullens will continue to serve as Treasurer; Charles Wukasch was elected Secretary. The Austin Ethnic History Association is an "umbrella" organization of various ethnic societies in Austin.

On Sunday, March 11, the Austin chapter of the TWHS met at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Approximately twenty people attended. The speaker was the Rev. Reinhard Wuensche, who spoke on the history of Christianity in Europe.

Charles Wukasch has reviewed two books dealing with the Wends. His review of Nowak's POWĚDANY DOLNOSERBSKI - GÜTES NIEDERSORBISCH appeared in the Winter 1989 issue of the SLAVIC AND EAST EUROPEAN JOURNAL. His review of Nielsen's IN SEARCH OF A HOME will soon appear in the SOUTHWESTERN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY.

Docents

Serving as docents from January 1 through March 31 were: Mr. & Mrs. Walter Mersiovsky, Georgie Boyce, Ruby Koslan, Lorine Domel, Lillian Oltmann, August Zoch, Mr. & Mrs. Jack Wiederhold, Freddie Zoch, Bessie Mertink, Mildred Kilian, Ruth Lindner, and Barbara Hielscher.

Visitors

Visitors from all over Texas and the following states have visited since January 1: South Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, Washington, Ohio, Oklahoma, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Maine, West Germany, and New Jersey.

Membership

New Members/Previous Members-Renewed

| | |
|--|--|
| Herbert Schautschick, Jr., Leander, TX. | Marsha L. Meador, Luling, TX. |
| Robert L. Garrett, Houston, TX. | Amanda Jacob, Andice, TX. |
| Allen M. Kappler, Houston, TX. | Martha Liberty, Smithville, TX. |
| Harry Schoppe, Groves, TX. | Debbie S. Nance, Houston, TX. |
| John Barr, Austin, TX. | Esther B. Synatschk, Bryan, TX. |
| Ketrin L. Jones, Abilene, TX. | Patricia Synatschk, Bryan, TX. |
| Clara M. Naumann, York, PA. | Mrs. Annie Tschatschula, Elgin, TX. |
| Al Melde, Texarkana, TX. | Margaret B. Wachsmann, Georgetown, TX. |
| Lyndon C. Sommer, Cypress, TX. | Sue S. Walling, Conroe, TX. |
| Robert Werab, Solon, Ohio | Lydia Busker, Houston, TX. |
| Frances W. Parker, Louise, TX. | John A. Grosse, Lyons A.C.T. Australia |
| R. H. Wuensche, Austin, TX. | Ann Walker, Austin, TX. |
| Ann B. Fuller, Paint Rock, TX. | Cindy L. Hielscher, Winchester, TX. |
| Frances K. Pfluger, Austin, TX. | Carl Matthijetz, Three Rivers, TX. |
| Alicia Gersch, Giddings, TX. | |

Student Members

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| John Barr, Austin, TX. | Ketrin L. Jones, Abilene, TX. |
| Benjamin Fiedler, Galveston, TX. | Alicia Gersch, Giddings, TX. |
| Sarah Gersch, Giddings, TX. | Shana Gersch, Giddings, TX. |

Patron Members

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mrs. Arthur Fehr, Austin, TX. | Norris Kurio, Austin, TX. |
| Clarence Pampell, Houston, TX. | Paul Weise, Orlando, FL. |
| Sandra C. Magers, Dallas, TX. | Walter Gerhard Simmank, West Germany |

Patron Members (cont)

Margie B. Loomans, Austin, TX. Eunice M. Zimmermann, Glendale, MO.
 Herbert Foerster, Giddings, TX. Arnold R. Mathias, Waco, TX.
 Irene Z. Weaver, Saltsburg, PA.

Sponsor Members

Clara M. Naumann, York, PA. Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX.

Century Members

Elwood M. Domaschk, Jr., Houston, TX.

Memorials

| On Occasion of: | Donor | Amount |
|---|--|---------|
| M/M Alvin Bernstein 60th Wedding Anniversary Video Fund | M/M John Sheffel M/M Jake Wetzell M/M Ray Dockins Agnes Swenson & Marie Woeckener | \$50.00 |
| M/M Alvin Bernstein 60th Wedding Anniversary Video Fund | Rev & Mrs. Robert Boyce M/M Keith Loomans M/M Roy Sharrock | \$60.00 |
| M/M Alvin Bernstein 60th Wedding Anniversary Video Fund | Mary Guggisberg & Danny Julie Fancher & Family | \$25.00 |

A \$250.00 donation for the operating fund was received from Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Steglich.

Doris B. Reagan donated \$800.00 to the endowment fund in memory of her grandparents Gerhardt & Theresia T. Biehle & Karl M. Biehle.

George Boerger donated \$1,200.00 in memory of his grandparents, George and Selma Kiesling. \$500.00 to the operating fund and \$222.00 to buy endowment plaques.

| In Memory of: | Donor | Amount |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Gertrude Mitschke | M/M August Zoch | \$10.00 |
| Marx & Alma L. Simmank | Walter Gerhard Simmank | \$10.00 |
| M/M Herman Bernstein | M/M John Scheffel | \$30.00 |
| Mrs. Edna W. Swiedom | Charles, Ken, & Mrs. Ruth Wukasch | \$50.00 |
| Rev. Carl E. Kasper | M/M Leroy Steglich | \$15.00 |

Memorials (cont)

| In Memory of: | Donor | Amount |
|----------------------------|--|---------|
| Mrs. Edna Mitschke | M/M Leroy Steglich | \$10.00 |
| Mrs. Edna Mitschke | Mrs. Lorine Banks | \$15.00 |
| Mrs. Edna Mitschke | Mrs. Gloria Mae Gersch | \$5.00 |
| Mrs. Edna Mitschke | Mrs. Otto Noack & Family | \$25.00 |
| Mrs. Edna Mitschke | Mrs. Laura Mitschke | \$10.00 |
| Mrs. Edna Mitschke | Mrs. Bessie Mertink M/M Travis Mertink & Sons | \$5.00 |
| Mrs. Edna Mitschke | M/M Walter Gersch | \$15.00 |
| Verna Knight | M/M Walter Gersch | \$20.00 |
| E. J. Pfluger | M/M Walter Gersch | \$15.00 |
| Eddie Gloyna Video Fund | M/M Herb Schulz | \$20.00 |
| Eddie Gloyna Video Fund | Mary Guggisberg | \$15.00 |
| Alma Meissner | M/M Reinhold Teinert | |
| Edna Mitschke | Dr. & Mrs. J. B. Wilson | |

In the previous newsletter a memorial was incorrectly listed as being in the amount of \$10.00. It should have been a \$20.00 Memorial given in memory of Freddie Guggisberg by M/M Floyd Kiesling. We are sorry for the error.

Fund-Raising by Laverne Gersch, Fund-Raising Chairman

As fund-raising chairman, I want to thank everyone who participated in the group tours and bake sales so far this year. These endeavors represent many hours of volunteer work by many people. Besides, raising funds for operating the museum, these tours provide the membership an opportunity to tell the story of the Wends. I feel sure that our forefathers smile in heaven each time one of the present generation does something positive to keep our Wendish heritage alive and thriving.

Thanks also for all the memorials and special gifts. A membership of 400 with each member giving 5 memorials of \$10.00 each can create revenues of TWENTY THOUSAND dollars a year.

It takes \$49,000.00 to operate the Texas Wendish Heritage Society for one year. This includes the newsletter, utilities, insurance, CPA expenses, Barbara Hielscher's salary, building maintenance, etc. Projected dues for 1990 are about \$5,500.00. That leaves \$44,000.00 to come from other sources.

Fund-Raising (cont.)

The Endowment Fund is a fund permanently set up from which only the interest earned can be used for operating expenses.

A new project has been approved by the executive board to help build up the Endowment Fund. A Wendish Wall of Honor will be put in the Peter Building. There will be 5 categories of gifts at present. \$500, \$1,000, \$1,500, \$2,500, and \$5,000. All families or individuals honored will have their names on a movable brass plate and placed on the wall according to the size of the gift. For example, if a family reunion honors a forefather with \$500 this year and next year with another \$500 the name will be moved to the \$1,000 plaque and so on.

All the gifts will be placed in the Endowment Fund. It is hoped that in the future the interest earned by the Endowment Fund will cover most of the operating expenses of the Society.

Remember - Folklife Festival in August
Wendish bookstore and gift shop
Memorials
Special group tours
Wendish Fest in September
Local Projects-bake sales, etc.

NOTICE: If this box ☒ is checked your membership in the Texas Wendish Heritage Society will expire with this newsletter. Please send your renewal, using the form on this page. We appreciate your continuing support.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Rt. 2, Box 155 Giddings, TX 78942-9769 (409) 366-2441

19____ Membership Record (One person per card)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. (_____) _____

Wendish Ancestral Family _____

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------|------------|-----------------|
| ___ \$7.50 | Student Membership | ___ \$100 | *Museum Century |
| ___ \$12.50 | Regular Membership | ___ \$250 | *Museum Silver |
| ___ \$25 | *Museum Patron | ___ \$500 | *Museum Gold |
| ___ \$50 | *Museum Sponsor | ___ \$1000 | *Museum Life |

ALL DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE

* Includes membership in T.W.H.S.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Minutes

Serbin, Texas, February 18, 1990

George Boerger, President, called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M. and introduced Pastor Hartfield who led a devotion based on the Gospel of Luke Chapter 13, Verse 31.

GUESTS: The following guests and new members were introduced:

Visitors: Florence Zoch
Matt Mertink
Alma Bundrick
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sanders

New Members: Ted and Norma Wukash
Eleanor Shultz
Leona Behrends

MINUTES: The minutes were approved as distributed. They will be filed in the archives.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Reinhold Teinert presented the Treasurer's Report. A motion to approve the report and submit it for audit was passed.

TOURS: Evelyn Kasper asked for volunteers to assist with museum tours. A signup sheet will be available during the coffee hour. Thirteen tours are scheduled; meals will be provided for twelve of them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: A bake sale is scheduled for March 2, 1990, in front of the LaGrange State Bank. Lutheran Brotherhood will match up to \$500 of the proceeds.

LaVerne Gersch announced that the Dime Box chapter of the Aid Association for Lutherans intends to raise funds -- possibly for landscaping.

Weldon Mersiovsky announced that the Lutheran Genealogical Society will sponsor a workshop during either April or May.

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Barbara Hielscher reminded the membership that new brochures are available.

Pastor Wuensche told the membership that there is a Pastor Mahling in Germany, who preaches in Wendish, whose wife is doing research on Wends in the United States.

Vivian Taylor asked the members to help distribute blank memorial cards.

NEW BUSINESS: The Society's goals for 1990 are:

1. Balance the budget.
2. Raise funds for the endowment.
3. Develop new proposals for starting new chapters.
4. Increase the membership to 100.

George Boerger discussed the current budget deficit. He stated that the funds expended for the Nelson book is a major reason and that, as sales progress, the budget will recover.

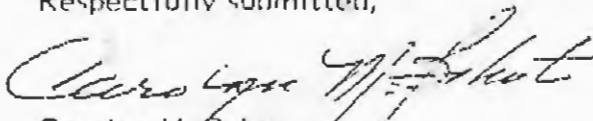
It was suggested that the museum charge a \$1.00 admission fee for non members.

The Executive Board is working on proposals for raising money for the endowment. Ultimately, this fund should reach several hundred thousand dollars.

A motion to approve the 1990 goals passed.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the membership, the meeting was adjourned and LaVerne Gersch introduced Jack Wiederhold who presented a program of slides taken during his six-week trip to East Germany.

Respectfully submitted,


Carolyn M. Bohot
Recording Secretary

JACK WIEDERHOLD RECALLS 6 WEEKS
IN EAST GERMANY AS WALL COMES TUMBLING DOWN

This is the second in a series of articles written by L. M. Preuss III, editor of The Giddings Times and News, after he interviewed Jack Wiederhold of Giddings concerning Jack's 1989 six-week trip to East Germany.

At that time, only a few months ago, Mr. Wiederhold said freedom and the right to cross the Berlin Wall into West Germany was only the hope and dream for most East Germans. No one there really expected it would become a reality in their lifetime.

Then came the demonstrations and calls for democracy in Communist East Germany and other nations in the East Bloc. By the middle of November the Berlin Wall had been opened and other Communist Bloc nations were also demanding democracy, including Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

During the four weeks that Jack spent in the southern city of Leipzig, a city of 600,000 population, he took daily classes to learn to speak the German language. It was in that same city just last week that over 200,000 people chanting "Freedom! Freedom!" marched in the largest pro-democracy demonstration ever held in East Germany and other Communist Bloc nations like Czechoslovakia were demonstrating for social and political reforms.

What Jack found were very solemn-acting people in East Germany. "They weren't at all like the Bavarian-type Germans which you see at the Wurstfest who are happy-go-lucky," said Jack.

He said the East Germans didn't laugh or smile a lot. "But they were smiling and happy to see me when I arrived," said Jack. "But as far as being happy about their daily life--no."

They were just worn-out from the same old routine, " said Jack. They did have some movie theaters and these weren't all that bad, he said. Their only access to television were two TV stations run by the East German government. There were very few American programs on these stations.

People in these villages were close to the Polish border and were unable to pick up any West German TV stations like those living closer to the border of West Germany in cities like East Berlin. So those in the villages didn't know as much about Western ways as the people in East Berlin and others living closer to the border with the West.

"The people who were able to pick up Western TV stations were more enlightened about Western ways," said Jack. "It wouldn't surprise me if those TV programs didn't have a lot to do with bringing down the Berlin Wall. Once they could get West German TV every night, what could the Communists hide anymore? They couldn't hide how good things really were in the West and you couldn't keep these people stamped down forever when they know how good it really could be on the other side of the fence."

Jack said he believes that a lot of the East Germans who have fled to the West will go back now that the Wall is coming down "because they have in East Germany a lot more security than the West Germans have. You

can't get fired from your job - you can't advance, but you can't lose it, and that's security to many of these people."

"In West Germany," for instance, he said, "if you don't put out you can lose your job. Or if economic conditions get bad, you can get laid off. It's not that way in East Germany. It's a very secure life over there."

"Opening that Wall was the smartest thing the Communists ever did," said Jack. "Their system has been a failure and they need Western money to survive."

Jack said the East Germans never brought up the subject of Germany ever re-united because they thought that was an impossibility. Now that it is no longer an impossibility and there is already talk about this eventually happening. Jack said he didn't think a united Germany would happen "this year or next year," but by the year 2000" he felt it was definitely a possibility.

Jack found that the East German way of life isn't all bad or all good, but rather a combination of the two.

On the positive side, he noticed that they have an appreciation for the simple things in life, because that's all they had. "Family and friends are definitely more important to the East Germans than to most Americans," he said. "Their lives are much slower than ours - ours is much faster-paced."

One of the things which really depressed Jack was the amount of air pollution in the country - not from cars, because they have so few - but from the low-grade lignite which is used as fuel to burn for homes and factories. "Some days it's so thick you can cut it with a knife," said Jack. It is very bad in cities like Leipzig.

He said the USSR also still takes a lot of war payments from the East Germans. The country has a lot of uranium, which could be used for nuclear fuel, but Russia gets every bit of that. So they only have one nuclear power plant in the whole country.

Pollution is a major problem there, but the East Germans don't know what to do about it because the only way to keep their economy going is to use this soft coal, he said.

The East Germans also have very little water power and no natural gas, making them even more dependent on the lignite.

The little village of Klitten where Jack stayed and where many Wends still live will be "wiped off the face of the earth" within about five years, said Jack, because of strip-mining which is coming closer and closer to the town. Finally, everyone in the village will be moved out so lignite can be mined beneath the town. Right now the mine is only about two miles from the village where Pastor Kilian was the minister before leading a group of Wends to the United States to settle at Serbin in Lee County.

"They know they're going to have to leave, and they know the Communist government is going to scatter them," he said.

Another thing that disturbed Jack in this regard is that the historic Wendish church in that community, which is about 140 years old, will be demolished along with the village. "But in East Germany, a building 140 years old isn't considered historic," he said. "It has to be 500 or maybe 1,000 years old to be considered historic. By comparison, the church at Serbin is some 30 years younger than the one at Klitten and is considered to be a very historic structure in this country.

What really made Jack feel bad is that people in that village who have lived together for years and years will soon be separated - "they will have to go where the government sends them" said Jack, because of government strip-mining.
TO BE CONTINUED---

Reunions

TEINERT REUNION

The TWELFTH reunion of the descendants of PAUL and PAULINE L. TEINERT will be held on August 11, 1990 at the VFW Hall in La Grange, Texas. For more information please contact Vivian F. Taylor at 409 265-4111, or Margie Buscha at 512/353-8221.

MOERBE REUNION

The ANDREW and MARIA F. MOERBE reunion will be held June 24, 1990 at the Dime Box Lutheran Fellowship Hall.

KNIPPA REUNION

The JOHANN and CHRISTIANA S. KNIPPA and AUGUST and LYDIA W. KNIPPA reunion will be held May 19, 1990 at the Lincoln Community Hall.

KAPPLER-GROESCHEL and BERGER-WUKASCH REUNION

Plans are complete for the first KAPPLER-GROESCHEL and BERGER-WUKASCH reunion. It will be held on Sunday, July 15, 1990 at the American Legion Hall in Giddings, Texas from 9:00 A.M. until????

ANDREAS KAPPLER and AGNES GROESCHEL had the following children: Ernst, Paul, Marie, Agnes, Emma, Herman, Ben, Gerhardt, Otto, and Theodore.

JOHN ERNST BERGER and ANNA WUKASCH had the following children: Otto, Marie, Helen, Emma, Selma, Ben, Clara, Paul, Willie, and August.

All of these families are of Wendish descent and were members of the church at Serbin. We also know that Agnes Groeschel came over on the Ben Nevis as a young girl with pastor Kilian and his group of settlers.

All the relatives and descendants of all of these families are invited to attend. Please make every effort to attend and get the word out to brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins, parents, children, grandchildren, and all relatives.

Bring addresses of anyone you know of who may not be attending and any family information with old family pictures that we all can share with each other.

Reunions (cont.)

There will be a meal served at 12:30. Please plan to bring enough food for your family. The reunion will provide all of the paper goods. Tea, coffee, and drinks will be available inside the hall.

For any additional information you may contact Harry Schoppe at 409/962-7353 or 409/898-8377 and also Allen Kappler at 713/468-4212.

In the Giddings area you may contact Leonard Kappler at 409/366-2372 or George Berger at 409/542-5650.

So mark your calendars and we hope to see everyone there. Let's see if we can begin a family tradition!!

Everyone come on out and have a good time!!!!

KRAUSE REUNION

The FIRST EVER Krause Family Reunion will be held May 26th at the Warda Picnic Grounds. CHRISTOPH and MARIA M. KRAUSE came from Europe in 1853, the year before the Ben Nevis. They had 5 children and we hope to gather as many of those descendants together as we can. For further information contact Sherry Clifton 713/363-9949.

KIESLING REUNION

The Andreas and Ernst Kiesling Family Reunion will be held June 10th at the Fayette County Fair Grounds.

Museum Musings

Daphne Garrett & Georgie Boyce will attend the annual meeting of the Society Southwest Archivists in Austin May 17-18. On May 16 they will participate in a special workshop to be taught by the Society of American Archivists.

Thank you to Bob Garrett for building a light box for viewing negatives.

Thank you to Herbert and Hedwig Schautschick for all the work they have been doing in the court yard. It looks BEAUTIFUL!

The first genealogy workshop conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky on May 5, was a great success. Twelve enthusiastic persons attended and were well pleased with the amount of printed information available and the general knowledge exchanged. Thank you to Mr. Mersiovsky for his time and help. The next workshop will be June the 9th. Send registrations to the Museum.