



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME III, NUMBER 3, JULY-SEPTEMBER, 1990

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

## SECOND ANNUAL WENDISH FEST

September 16th is the date to circle on your calendars for our second annual Wendish Fest. You can't miss this opportunity to see all of our new exhibits and join in the fun and fellowship.

Our plans now are to begin the day with a special German Service, with possibly some Wendish in the service, at 10:15 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin.

The noon meal will be served at the Serbin Picnic Grounds and snacks and drinks will be available all afternoon. Laverne Gersch at 409/366-2247 will be the chairperson of the coffee cake bake-off. Entries must be at the cake stand at the picnic grounds by 10:30 a.m. Otto Becker will be the chairman of the Crosscut Saw contest. His number is 409/366-2326 or 409/542-2522 and there will be three categories - men's, ladies, and mixed. Ron Lammert will be the chairman of the coloring contest. His telephone number is 512/687-3310. There will be two categories - ages 0-5 and ages 6-9.

There will be story telling, sing-a-longs, music and demonstrations throughout the afternoon.

We need each and everyone of you to be here. All members are again asked to bring baked goods for the sale.

If you have a preference of where you would like to work, please contact Barbara Hielscher at 409/366-2441, or Evelyn Kasper at 409/242-3367. A list of work assignments will be mailed to the members in this general area at a later date. We need Y O U !! You helped make our Wendish Fest a success last year and we know that we can count on you again.

## WARDA CEMETERY RESTORATION

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WARDA, is seeking information from families who may have knowledge of the locations of "unmarked graves" in our cemetery. The congregation has recently completed a renovation of the older portion of the Church Cemetery; tombstones have been repaired, straightened, and cleaned. During this renovation it has come to our attention that there are approximately 70, unmarked graves, many of which are the graves of small children and stillborn infants. If you have any information that would be helpful to us, please contact us at: P.O. Box 87, Warda, Texas 78960, or telephone: (409) 242-3333. We currently have an arrangement with GONZALES MARBLE & GRANITE for a "special price" on small marker-stones. If you are interested, the approximate size of these stones will be 12" to 24" left to right (depending on the length of the names), 8" to 10" top to bottom, and 6" thick. The cost is \$75.00, per marker and includes: first name, middle name or initial, last name, and the dates of birth and death; this also includes installation in our cemetery. In order to get this price, we will be ordering in multiples of 10 markers, so if you would like to take advantage of this special price (saving at least 50%), please let us hear from you. Our thanks to the Wendish Heritage Society for publishing this notice. LeRoy Steglich, Holy Cross Lutheran Church- Cemetery Committee.

STAFF APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED AT MAY MUSEUM  
BOARD MEETING

Jack Wiederhold, President of the Museum Board, announced the appointment of the following staff members at the May 12th meeting:

Barbara Hielscher, Director and Gift Shop Chairperson;  
Daphne Garrett, Archivist;  
Georgie Boyce, Librarian;  
Telford Zoch, Maintenance Chairman;  
Marian Wiederhold, Exhibits Chairperson (Elinor Steglich and Dorothy Zoch are serving on the Exhibits Committee);  
Evelyn Kasper and Esther Buscha, Tours Co-ordinators;  
Herbert and Hedwig Schautschick, Landscaping Co-Chairpersons;  
Laverne Gersch, Fund Raising Chairperson; and  
Vivian Taylor, Publicity Chairperson.

Voting board members are Jack Wiederhold, President, Evelyn N. Kasper, Secretary, Ron Lammert, Herbert Schautschick, and Weldon Mersiovsky.

The Rev. Paul Hartfield and Mr. Otto Becker, Jr. are the advisory board members from St. Paul Lutheran Church and Mrs. Elizabeth Hutchinson is our Member Emeritus.

German-Texan Heritage Society Annual Meeting

The 1990 German-Texan Heritage Society Annual Meeting will be held in Brenham on September 8-9. The theme of the meeting is the "Cradle of German Settlements in Texas"--Austin, Washington, Fayette, Colorado and Lee Counties. Lee is included so that the Wendish immigration may be included, although it occurred later than the earliest German immigrations. Three members of TWHS are on the program: Daphne Garrett will speak on "Early German Settlements in Fayette County" (Biegel and Nassau Farm), Jack Wiederhold will present "The Wends at Serbin", and Robert Robinson-Zwahr will conduct a genealogy session "Special Problems in Research in the DDR".

For further information on registration and program schedule contact Anna Thompson, P. O. Box 262, Manchaca, TX. 78652

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Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Steglich received the following letter from the Director of Libraries in Dallas:

Kathryn Diana Steglich Smith presented a gift to the Dallas Public Library in your honor. TEXAS WENDS, THIER FIRST HALF-CENTURY by Lillie Moerbe Caldwell; WENDISH TEXANS, by Sylvia Ann Grider; IN SEARCH OF A HOME, NINETEENTH-CENTURY WENDISH IMMIGRATION, by George R. Nielsen; and BAPTISMAL RECORDS OF ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, SERBIN, TEXAS 1854-83, by John Kilian are welcome additions to the Genealogy section of the Central Library. They will be marked with appropriate gift plates.

We are honored to receive this fine gift. We trust that it will serve as a fitting remembrance.



### Upcoming Events

August 19      Quarterly Membership meeting at 2:00 at the Museum.  
August 25      Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky.  
For serious novice and expert genealogists 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
September 16      Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the Serbin Picnic Grounds.  
September 22      Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky.  
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
October 20      Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky.  
10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.  
November 18      Quarterly Membership Meeting at 2:00 at the Museum with election  
of Officers.

### August Meeting Speaker

Georgie Boyce, Librarian/Assistant Archivist will have the program at the August 20 membership meeting. She will tell about the processing of books in the Library, and the photographic collections in the Archives.

### Archives

by Daphne D. Garrett, Archivist

Souvenir items are still needed to make a special exhibit on the past ten years of our Museum. This exhibit is planned for the fall, so please send pictures, programs, news clippings or other information as soon as possible.

In the meantime, watch for the special "Back to School" exhibit. We now have a larger case in the Library for Archival Exhibits.

### Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Memorial Library

by Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian

New accessions this quarter are from: MIKE REHLING, Spring, Texas, a book titled BAUTZEN, 10 February 1990, edition of the "Frankfurter Allgemeine" Newspaper and a portfolio of 12 prints titled "Blecke ins Oberland"; COLLETTE WURDERLICH, Carmine, Texas, the Martin Luther Lutheran Church - Carmine, Texas, Seventy-Fifth Anniversary, May 19, 1902-1977 book.

### Austin Chapter News

by Charles Wukasch, president

On Sunday, June 10, the quarterly meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, Austin chapter, was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Austin. The meeting was attended by 20 people. Eugene Wukasch showed slides from an earlier trip to East Germany.

The following poem was translated from Lower Sorbian (Lower Wendish) by Charles Wukasch. He also included background information on the author, Mato Kosyk.

Mato Kosyk (1853-1940) is considered the greatest poet in the Lower Sorbian (Wendish) language. In 1883 he immigrated to the U.S. and became a pastor in Oklahoma. He later became a farmer.

Although Kosyk loved the U.S. he never forgot his native land. He longed for the forests and meadows of Lusatia and the Spree river. In this moving Poem, he compares himself to a songbird in a cage.

POEM ON NEXT PAGE

## POPAJŽONY SPĚWARIK

Spěwarik bu žapjony  
a do klětki zawrěty,  
nuzkany bu k spěwanju  
w snadnem šmojem domcyku.

Ptašack pak se tužašo,  
głowka jomu wisašo.  
Błotka su jom' wezeli,  
z towariškow wunjasli.

Z tšikotom jan płakašo  
samotniwe ptašacko;  
złamaš co se wutšobka,  
gaž won spěwa na Błotka.

Ja som ak to ptašacko  
w cuzej zemi daleko,  
a ja zgubich Łužycu,  
mojog njebjka kšasotu.

## A Songbird in a Cage

A songbird was caught  
And put in a cage.  
It was forced then to sing  
In its tiny dark house.

The bird became sad  
And hung his head down.  
His dear woods and the Spree  
Had been taken from him.

He sings and he cries -  
That small, lonely bird.  
And his heart will soon break,  
For he longs for the Spree.

So far from my land -  
I'm like that small bird.  
For Lusatia is there.  
It's my heaven on earth.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Minutes

Serbin, Texas, May 20, 1990

President George Boerger called the meeting to order and introduced Jack Wiederhold who led the membership in prayer.

**MINUTES:** The minutes were approved as distributed.

**INTRODUCTIONS:** No new members were present. A list of the visitors who were introduced follows:

Louise Stuessy, Giddings  
Pearl Koyme, Paige  
Bill and Lynette Pittsford, Austin  
Glen Pittsford, Georgetown  
Erna Henze, Elgin  
Liela Paris, Elgin  
JoAnne Andera, San Antonio  
Diana Smith, San Antonio

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** The treasurer reported a balance on April 30, 1990, of \$59,915.03 in the endowment fund and a negative balance of \$4,298 in the society account. **MOTION:** Approved to file for audit. Passed.

**FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL:** George Boerger welcomed JoAnne Andera from San Antonio who presented a report on the Nineteenth Annual Folklife Festival which will be held from August 2 through 5. A new event will be introduced this year -- Kid's Day. Any child who is accompanied by an adult will be admitted free. An essay contest will be held for children on the subject, "Why I Am Proud of My Texas Heritage." Ms. Andera distributed posters and brochures for members to distribute and answered questions from the membership.

**COOKBOOK:** The first edition is sold out, and the museum board has asked that we purchase 100 additional copies. **MOTION:** Purchase 100 additional copies of the cookbook, first edition. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Charles Wukash invited the membership to attend the next meeting of the Austin Chapter which will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1500 West Anderson Lane, on the second Sunday in June.



TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY  
Minutes - May 20, 1990  
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Evelyn Kasper and Barbara Hielscher asked for volunteers to work at the Serbin Picnic.

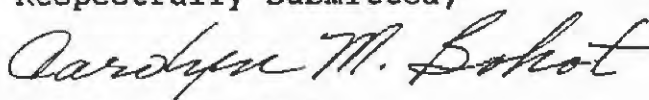
Irene Tienert, on behalf of the Austin Chapter, volunteered to serve refreshments at the November meeting.

Vivian Taylor asked for volunteers to serve on the nominating committee.

Georgie Boyce announced that she and Daphne Garrett attended the Society of Southwest Archivists in Austin during the week of May 14. She expressed thanks to the membership for allowing them to attend, and asked for volunteers to assist with the archives.

MOTION: To adjourn. Passed. Weldon Mersiovsky presented a slide show and talk on his recent trip to East Germany.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn M. Bohot  
Recording Secretary

The following ladies provided refreshments after the May meeting: Evelyn Kasper, Marian Wiederhold, Hattie Schautschick, Mary Watts, Esther Schmidt, Elinor Steglich, and Frieda Wendland.

THANK YOU !!!!

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

This is the third 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.

Why would most East Germans choose to stay in Communist East Germany now that the Berlin Wall has been opened, allowing them free passage to the West and the right to live in a much more prosperous democratic society?

Giddingsite Jack Wiederhold believes that most East Germans will choose to stay right where they are because they have enough food, adequate and reasonably priced housing, job security and it's their homeland - the place where they were born, their friends and relatives live, and they are used to the culture and much slower lifestyle.

Now that they can come and go freely from the East to the West, Jack believes nearly all will choose to stay, especially since they now have hopes that government reforms will lead to even more freedoms and a better life for East Germans as well as other nations in the Eastern Bloc.

When Jack was in East Germany back in July and August, he said the East Germans never dreamed that the Berlin Wall would someday come down, much less happen just a few months later.

After Jack finished his four-week language course, he spent another two weeks visiting the area around Bautzen, a large town of about 100,000 which is in the area which was the homeland of the Serbin Wends.

He stayed with the pastor of the Lutheran church at Klitten, a little village about 25 miles north of Bautzen.

While there, Jack said a young man would come to see him every evening and ask "questions and questions about America." Jack said he got a letter from the young man just a few weeks later. At the time the young man wrote his letter, the leadership of East Germany had already decided to allow everyone to leave for 30 days each year. "And he was just super excited about that," said Jack. Just to be able to leave East Germany for 30 days was the "thrill of a lifetime" for him.

"But at that time when he mailed the letter to me on October 30," said Jack, "nobody had any idea that the Berlin Wall was coming down, so I can't wait to get another letter from him."

In his letter, the young East German said, "Now maybe the dream of America will really be true for me." Jack said the young man wants to come over to the United States so bad. Not to stay, but just to visit and get a taste of what democracy is like."

Jack said he doesn't believe that most East Germans will leave the country now that they can do so freely. "Even though they have the right to get out, how are they going to get out? Their money is good for nothing." He said they make so little - less than \$200 a month in U.S. dollars - that they just don't have the money to move anywhere else.

But Jack did say that the East Germans are better off than any other Eastern Bloc country. Under Communism, "Everyone has a home-a place to live." There are no homeless. He never saw a single homeless person the entire time he was there and apparently there aren't any.

Also, Jack said that no one in East Germany is without a job. They can all find work to make a living, even though it is a meager living in comparison with those in the Western world.

"They also have plenty of food to eat," said Jack. "Not always what you want to eat. Every basic stuff."



"One day they would have cucumbers and tomatoes for sale," Jack said. "And that's what you cooked, because that's what you could get."

"The next day might be cabbage and cauliflower, so that's what you ate that day, because that's all there was. But there was plenty of it," he said. "Always plenty of food to eat."

"Rent, electricity, food, everything is subsidized," said Jack. He said people living in the village mostly had homes of their own to live in, but in the bigger cities a lot of people lived in apartments. And they had the right to own their own homes if they so desired.

Jack said that the East German government believed that "if they keep food in their bellies they'll be fine. And that worked for a long time, but finally it didn't work anymore."

Although some East Germans who Jack talked to were content with their conditions, most were longing for freedom and democracy.

The people who seemed to be the most content were those who had joined the Communist Party. "But some people didn't want to join the Communist Party, like in the little village where I stayed," said Jack. "These church members (Lutherans) wouldn't join the Communist Party, and things weren't that good for them."

"As a consequence," these people who didn't join the Communist Party weren't allowed to do some of the things those who were in the Communist Party could do," Jack said. "Like the pastor's wife. She had always wanted to become a doctor, but since she wasn't in the Party, that wasn't possible for her to study to be a doctor."

"These people suffered discrimination for not being members of the Communist Party," he said.

Another thing which the people of East Germany disliked is that they couldn't get further ahead financially by working hard. "There was no hope for advancement over there," said Jack. "The harder you worked didn't matter, because you had to be pushed up the ladder by the Party - and therefore there just wasn't any incentive to work very hard."

"In free enterprise," said Jack, "usually the harder you are willing to work, the better off you can make yourself."

Jack also talked about the "black Market" in Communist East Germany and how selling things illegally and not sanctioned by the government is a flourishing business.

"In the villages," said Jack, "they all had a little bit of land to grow their crops on, and they were allowed to take what they didn't use at home and sell it. And they did, too. This gave them a little extra spending money."

TO BE CONTINUED---

#### Docents

Serving as docent from April 1 Through June 30 were: Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Falke, Bea Tschatschula, Barbara Hielscher, Heather Hielscher, Viola Spacek, Dora Spitzenberger, August Zoch, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Schautschick, Vivian Taylor, Rachel Witt, Della Mullens, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Steglich, Eleanor Schulze, Georgia Boyce, Irma Gersch, Gloria Mae Gersch, and George Boerger.

#### Visitors

Since April 1 we have had visitors from all over Texas and the following states: Illinois, Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, Washington, Georgia, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Ohio, Arkansas, Utah, Bavaria, Louisiana, Mexico, Indiana, North Carolina, New Mexico, West Germany, and East Germany.



## Membership

### New Members/Previous Members-Renewed

Karlton M. Rohlack, Martindale, Tx.	Jodi NJR Smith, Loveland, Co.
Kelli A. Watts, Houston, TX.	Elmer L. Zoch, Houston, TX.
Dorothy G. Rothermel, Pasadena, TX.	Viola F. Fritsche, Maxwell, TX.
D. Lee Meador, Rockport, TX.	J. W. Lueders, Bastrop, TX.
Jan Murray, Austin, TX.	Mrs. Billie Williams, Smithville, TX.
Irma Gersch, Winchester, TX.	Bonnie Kent, Layton, VT.

### Student Members

Kelli A. Watts, Houston, TX.

### Patron Members

Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX.	Elinor D. Bradley, Lake Charles, LA.
Mildred Coffey, San Antonio, TX.	Milton Kaiser, Houston, TX.
Laveda A. Thompson, Adkins, TX.	Weldon Mersiovsky, Georgetown, TX.
Barbara T. Womack, Crosby, TX.	Bonnie Kent, Layton, VT.

### Sponsor Members

F. Woodrow Bush, Houston, TX.	Dell J. L. Bush, Houston, TX.
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### Memorials

On Occasion Of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Martin Wagner 50th Wedding Anniversary	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$15.00
M/M Delbert Gersch 40th Wedding Anniversary Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch Children & Grandchildren	\$25.00
M/M Earl Sandoz 50th Wedding Anniversary Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$25.00
M/M Delbert Gersch 40th Wedding Anniversary	M/M Carroll Hielscher	\$15.00

In the previous newsletter a memorial for M/M Alvin Bernstein's 60th wedding anniversary was listed incorrectly as being from M/M Roy Sharrock. It should have been Roy Sharrock and Jenny Sharrock. Our apologies.

A \$25.00 donation was received from the Schulze reunion.

A \$60.00 donation from the John Teinert reunion.

A \$10.00 donation from Dana Clary for Museum maintenance.

Doris Reagan donated \$300.00 to the endowment fund in memory of her grandparents Mr. & Mrs. Gerhardt & Thersia T. Biehle and her father Karl M. Biehle.

In the previous newsletter we listed Mr. Karl M. Biehle as a grandparent. He was Mrs. Reagan's father. We are sorry for the error.

J. W. Miertschin's \$25.00 matching gift from Exxon was received.

## Memorials. (cont.)

In Memory Of:	Donor	Amount
Alvin Kessel Landscape Fund	M/M Walter Gersch	\$15.00
Lydia Hobratschk	M/M Richard Magers	\$35.00
Lola Teinert	Mildred Coffey	

## Reunions

### PIETSCH REUNION

The Traugott and Anna Handrick Pietsch reunion well be held October 14, 1990 at the Winchester Community Hall.

### PAMPELL REUNION

The first annual Pampell reunion is being planned for October 27, 1990 at the Roitsch Camp in La Grange, TX.

Descendants of Peter Pampell and Agnes Noack Pampell are invited to attend. This would include descendants of their two children, Carl August Pampell and Christiana Weise.

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The Ben Nevis won a first place blue ribbon at the Lexington Homecoming in May. It was selected as most original. Riding on the float were: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schautschick, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Falke, Frieda Wendland, and Freddie Zoch.

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### Folklife Festival News by Patty Bones, Chairperson

A big THANK YOU! to all the people who help with the Folklife Festival. We have over 150 volunteers setting up, delivering stuff, cooking, cleaning, being charming and closing-down. It would be impossible to have a booth without their help.

I especially want to thank Barbara Hielscher for always being cheerful and helpful and Joan Kannig for being my co-chairperson.

### St. Paul Lutheran Church Celebrates 100 Years

June 24, 1990 was a special day in the history of St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Thorndale, Texas. They celebrated 100 years of being "Alive in His Grace".

The day started at 9 a.m. with Sunday School and Bible Class, 10 a.m. Festive Worship Service, 12 (noon) a Barbecue meal at the Fireman's Hall, 2 p.m. Rally of Remembrance and song, 3 p.m.-Centennial Worship Service, Pastor Pabor, Guest Speaker, Texas District Mo. Synod, President. Following this service there was an opportunity to view 100 years of church and school memorabilia in the school building. It was noted that 7 of the 8 charter members were Wends.

Pastor C. J. Appel is serving the congregation as Pastor.

### Museum Musings

Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gersch for donating 25 hanging baskets.

Thank you to all the ladies who donated noodles and handicrafts for the Folklife Festival in San Antonio.





# Texas Jewish Heritage Society

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

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