



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

IV

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

VOLUME III, NUMBER 4, OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1990

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL FEST

September 16th marked our second annual Wendish Fest and there was an air of festivity everywhere!

The Special German service conducted by Rev. Paul Hartfield at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, was well attended. Dr. Charles Wukasch read the 23rd Psalm in Wendish at this service.

The Ben Dunk Brass Band of Wahlburg and the Waterloo Brass Band of Austin provided entertainment. Jack Wiederhold and his accordion, accompanied by the rake by Douglas Malke, led a sing-a-long in the log cabin area. Wendish story telling by David Goeke of San Antonio and Dr. Charles Wukasch of Austin, were also in the log cabin area.

Steed Henderson of Round Top and Conrad Behrens of Sands were busy with the blacksmith forge in the picnic grounds area, where horseback rides were also provided for the small fry. The children also enjoyed shucking and shelling corn to feed the geese and turkey.

Information was provided in the Kilian Building for sauerkraut making, dill pickling, cooking jelly and making wine. Demonstrations of Easter egg decorating, crocheting, noodle making, quilting and churning were given all afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Buchan of Dime Box brought a spinning wheel to be used in our carding and spinning demonstration which took place in the courtyard. Lye soap making instructions were available in the log cabin area.

Feather stripping was the only demonstration in the St. Paul Building so the public could enjoy the many new exhibits in this building. Many items were received from the Peter home in Winchester, and Marian Wiederhold, our curator, has done a fine job displaying these items. Exhibits are now also in the Kilian Building.

Picture taking props, the Ben Nevis float and the Wendish couple were available for picture taking throughout the day. An added attraction this year was the "Klettern Pfosten" (climbing post) which was used for many years at the Serbin picnics. Telford Zoch polished it real slick and the children had a wonderful time. I am told the girls can climb just as high and just as fast as the boys can.

A lesson in sausage stuffing was given by Shorty Pampell and Wayne Chapman. Old fashioned Watkins products were available on the porch of the St. Paul Building and a craft booth at the picnic grounds featured many wooden and handmade items.

The noon meal consisting of sausage, noodles, sauerkraut, pickled beets, homemade bread, butter, tea and coffee was served to 658 people between 12:00 and 2:00. Thereafter sausage on a stick, sauerkraut boats, dill pickles on a stick, koch käse sandwiches, and noodles were available. Coffee, tea, soda water and beer were also available. We did run out of cakes and desserts but nobody left hungry.

Winners of the coffee cake bake-off chaired by Laverne Gersch, were as follows:

In the cheese division: 1st place, Ruth Lindner
2nd place, Adele Jenke
3rd place, Irene Boriak

In the struesel division: 1st place, Evelyn Buchhorn
2nd place, Adele Sander
3rd place, Irene Teinert

Winners in the Coloring Contest chaired by Ron Lammert were:

Ages 0-5 : 1st place, Sarah Gersch
2nd place, Shane Murphy

Ages 6-9: 1st place, Amy Kasper
2nd place, Matt Wuensche

The cross cut saw contest chaired by Otto Becker, Jr. was the crowning touch to a good day. Winners were:

Women's Division: 1st place, Elaine Kieschnick and Joyce Hinze
2nd place, Irene Wiesenhutter and Mary Smith

Men's Division: 1st place, Eldor Becker and David Schramm
2nd place, Walter Gersch and Bryan Gersch

Mixed Division: 1st place, Ruby Weiser and Eldor Becker
2nd place, Nancy and Ralph Zoch

Thanks to the Aid Association for Lutherans representatives whose donations were matched by the AAL and paid for the bands, and also to AAL Branch 5011, Serbin, AAL Branch 2298 Winchester, and AAL Branch 1559 Warda for matching funds grants, to Lutheran Brotherhood for matching funds toward purchase of food and drink, and to all who helped make this fest a success again. We appreciate your help and your patronage.

November Meeting

The November 18th meeting, which is scheduled to be held in the St. Paul Lutheran School gym, should be a short meeting. This will give our membership ample time to browse and enjoy all of the new exhibits at the Museum Complex.

The Austin Chapter has volunteered to furnish refreshments for this special 10th anniversary meeting.

Archives by Daphne D. Garrett, Archivist

We are still looking for momentos of the first ten years (1980-1990) of the Museum, especially pictures of the moving of the school house. Also, news clippings, and pictures of special occasions, people working, etc. Ron Lammert has donated the Wendish scrapbooks of his father, Ted. (5 notebooks)

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

We have received our copy of Elizabeth Silverthorne's CHRISTMAS IN TEXAS from the Texas A&M University Press. This is a delightful book showing how Texans through their various ethnic groups have celebrated Christmas over four centuries.

Chapter XII titled, "Rumpliche and Noodles: The Wendish Heritage", describes our Christmas customs and traditions, and includes our recipes for noodles and coffee cake. Elizabeth Silverthorne's research for this chapter was done here in our library.

CHRISTMAS IN TEXAS will make an excellent gift for this Christmas. A limited number of books will be available in the gift shop for our November meeting. This is a hard back book with 188 pages and will sell for \$18.00 including tax, which is less than the publisher's price. If you need to order by mail, please add \$2.00 for the first book and \$.75 per each additional book ordered.



NEW ACCESSIONS: Jack Wiederhold has graciously donated his copies of A Centennial Story of The Lutheran Church in Texas, 1851-1951, Section One and Two. The family of Lillie Moerbe Caldwell have donated another copy of her book, Texas Wends: Their First Half Century. Weldon Mersiovsky has donated more periodicals and brochures from Germany.

Austin Chapter News by Charles Wukasch, president

The quarterly meeting of the Austin chapter of the TWHS was held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, on Sunday September 9. There were 18 members in attendance. The speaker was George Boerger, who talked on his recent trip to East Germany. The following new officers were installed: Rev. Reinhard Wuensche, president; Mrs. Jan Murray, vice-president; Mrs. Arlene Wendt, treasurer (Arlene is actually continuing as treasurer); Della Mullens, secretary.

The Austin Chapter will have their Christmas party together with their regular meeting on Sunday, December 9, at 4 p.m., Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin. All WHS members (whether you live in Austin or not) are invited. It will be pot-luck, so a dish would be appreciated.

The poem on the following page was translated by Dr. Wukasch.

Herta Wičazec - the First Female Wendish Author

Herta Wičazec (Wičazec is Wendish for Lehmann) was born in Bautzen on February 4, 1819. Although she wasn't educated and had to work as a seamstress, she had the gift of poetry. In 1841 she met Jan Múčink, a student at a seminary. When Herta showed him her poetry (written in German), he liked it and encouraged her to write more. He also encouraged her to write in Wendish..

Herta and Jan corresponded for many years. When Jan married someone else and stopped writing, Herta was broken-hearted. She died, in Bautzen, on March 20, 1885, unmarried and lonely. The poetry of her more mature period reflects the idea that happiness cannot be achieved on earth, but only in Heaven. The following poem is an example of this:

Po Hrimanju

Wuđerž, wboha wutroba,
Krótka je wša zrudoba!
Bórze po zřym hrimanju,
Kotrež z břyskom přičahnu --
Sřónčko so zas zajasni,
Wšitku zrudžbu překrasni
A će lubje postrowi.
Z nadřižu k njebju pohladaj,
Sčerpliwy ty wočakaj - -
Tam maš prawy wótcny kraj!

After the Storm

Hold fast, sad heart,
Soon grief will pass!
The angry storm holds sway,
Its lightning rends the sky --
But then the sun shines forth
And cleanses all our tears,
While greeting us with warmth.
To Heaven lift your eyes,
With patience wait for bliss.
Your Father's house is there!

LOCAL MUSEUM RECIPIENT OF EXXON GRANT

The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum is again the recipient of an Exxon Grant. Thanks to the involvement of Robert L. Garrett of Houston and Warda, the museum has received \$1000 toward the purchase of a computer.

Bob and his wife, Daphne, have been members of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society for many years and have put in many hours of volunteer work. Daphne is presently serving as Archivist at the Museum which is located at Serbin, in Lee County, Texas.

The above article which was recently run in the Fayette County Record and The Giddings Times and News is self-explanatory. We thank Exxon and the Garretts for this gift.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Minutes

Serbin, Texas, August 19, 1990

A meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was held in the St. Paul Building in the museum complex in Serbin, Texas, at 2:00 P.M. on August 19, 1990.

President George Boerger called the meeting to order and introduced Vic Mathias 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:

Hermione Moerbe, Dime Box
Margaret Jones, Bastrop

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer reported a balance (total assets and funds) on July 1, 1990, of \$258,686.17. MOTION: Approved to file for audit. Passed.

EXHIBIT COMMITTEE: LaVerne Gersch reported on the acquisition of furniture and artifacts from the Peter home in Winchester. Marion Weiderhold discussed changes that have been made in the arrangement of the exhibits. She announced that she also received articles from the Moerbe family. Of particular interest was a beautiful wardrobe.

WENDISH FEST: Jack Weiderhold reported that two brass bands will perform; this year we will have a full afternoon of music.

LaVerne Gersch announced that there will be two categories in the coffee cake bake-off: cheese and streussel. The entries should be the size of a cookie sheet. The deadline for entry is 10:30 A.M., and after the judging they will be donated to the bake sale.

MUSEUM BOARD: Eveyln Kasper noted that Marion Weiderhold's title is "Curator" rather than "Exhibits Chairman."

MISCELLANEOUS: The Perry family donated a noodle machine (worth approximately \$3,000). Its use will be an a very good way to raise funds. MOTION: To thank the Perrys for their most generous donation. Passed.

Charles Wukasch reported that he wrote to Senator Bentson stressing the plight of the Wends in East Germany. He read Senator Bentson's

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reply in which the senator stated that he has asked the proper authorities to check into the matter. Charles encouraged the membership to remain aware of, and learn more about, the problems the Sorbs are encountering under the new government.

George Boerger briefly discussed his recent trip and the concerns expressed by the people with whom he talked while on his visit to East Germany.

Charles also mentioned that he hopes to teach classes in the Wendish language in the spring. Pastor Sullivan wrote that he will be happy to cooperate and offered classroom space at his church in Elgin.

Textbooks from the old school were available for any members who wanted a memento.

NEW BUSINESS: George Boerger appointed the nominating committee:

Otto Becker, Chair
Leroy Steglich
Evelyn Kasper
Erna Mersiovsky
Bea Tschatschula

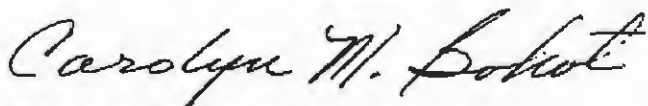
NOTION: To approve appointment. Passed.

Barbara Hielscher announced that travelers from Berlin visited the museum and made a videotape of the Serbin area. Jack Weiderhold took them to visit Mr. Miertschin.

MOTION: To adjourn. Passed.

Georgie Boyce presented a program on the processing of books for the library and the photographic collection in the archives.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn M. Bohot
Recording Secretary

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

This is the fourth, and final, 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.

The East Germans did have freedom of religion Under Communism, at least in recent years. At first the Communists tried to stop it, but that effort wasn't successful. They finally realized in the sixties they couldn't stamp it (religion) out, said Jack.

In fact, he said the Communists began to realize that the church was actually a help, not a hinderance. The churches sent aid for the Russian earthquake victims and provided other types of aid during disasters and other emergencies.

"The pastor I stayed with spent 18 months in jail because he wouldn't serve in the Communist Army," said Jack.

In regards to the Lutheran religion in East Germany, Jack said that the largest denomination in the state is called the State Evangelical Lutheran Church. He said it isn't run by the state.

In the little villages where the Wendish descendants at Serbin came from there is a more conservative Lutheran denomination, which is loosely affiliated with the Missouri Synod Lutherans as is St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Serbin, according to Jack.

What Jack found in those villages is that the order of service and hymns were very similar to what the English services are like at Serbin and other Missouri Synod churches.

(1) Even though many East Germans living in East Berlin and closer to the West German border picked up Western television programs, many other East Germans got very little information about the West other than through their newspapers.

"When you would read their paper, it was only about 6 or 8 pages," for the big city of Leipzig, said Jack. "And the first three pages would only be about how wonderful things are in East Germany. Then the last three pages were always about how horrible things are in West Germany and America," said Jack. "They would never admit about having one little bit of a problem in East Germany."

What probably brought on the demonstrations and defections in recent months in East Germany was the realization by many East Germans that their government was telling them lies, said Jack.

When the Wall was still up while Jack was in East Germany, families were divided between East and West Germany. He said the East German government would sometimes grant permission for a relative to go across to West Germany for a special occasion, like the 50th of 75th anniversary or birthday of a close blood relative. But the government would only allow one or two members of a family to go over - never the entire family - so that they were sure that those who went over would return.

Although no one was without work in Communist East Germany, Jack said people complained about the work situation. He said they told him that they hear about the jobless people in West Germany and America, but they would say that they have jobless people, too, because people go to work but they don't do anything. And the Hard-working Germans didn't like that situation.

"Their system promotes laziness," said Jack, "because they don't have to put out to get a paycheck."

Another thing which Jack found interesting about communist East Germany was its educational system.

All students attend 10 years of school, at which time they are given a test to determine if they qualify to attend school for two more years - which would be equivalent to going to high school.

Those who complete those two years are then given another test to see if they qualify for college.

Those who do get into college must also learn a trade, said Jack. Even those who train to become doctors must learn a trade also, he said.

Jack also was surprised that the communist government makes a loan to newly-married couples to give them a start in life. They are given 7,000 marks on an interest-free loan which is paid back at 50 marks a month.

Each time the couple has a child 1,000 marks is taken off the loan balance and another 1,000 marks is given to the couple from the government, effectively giving the family 2,000 marks for each child they have, said Jack.

A couple who has three children can just about pay off their 7,000 mark loan.

Automobiles are also very scarce in East Germany. Jack said the average East German family has to wait 12 years to get a car. "And they're just little old things that sound like lawnmowers or a motorcycle, and only hold four people," he said.

In fact, the body of one of the cars manufactured there is made out of papier-mache. "They have a joke they tell," said Jack, "that they can total out one of those cars standing still."

One of the questions Jack was asked the most while there was "What kind of car do you drive? How big is your car?" They realize that cars in the West are much better, larger, and more luxurious than those behind the Iron Curtain.

One of the greatest fears of the East German government, said Jack, was losing doctors allowing them to leave the country. "It was almost impossible for a doctor to get a visa to leave the country," he said, "because they don't have enough doctors to begin with, and if they let a doctor out, chances are they probably just wouldn't come back."

"Doctors can earn so much more in the West than in the East," he said. Although medical treatment there is completely free, but Jack said it was always a problem finding a doctor when you needed one, and you may not find one in time to keep you from dying.

One of the problems they do have in the big cities is alcohol abuse. Jack said he did see a lot of drunks in the streets in the big city. "But I think they were drinking to try to forget the dull existence that they have there," he commented.

"One thing they brag about in East Germany is not having the plague of AIDS," he said. Also, they don't have many problems with drugs, and very little juvenile delinquency because the government has kept such a tight control over their lives.

In the villages where Jack stayed, he said no one would ever think of driving their car after having even one beer. They would either walk or ride their bicycle or get someone who had not been drinking to drive.

"If they're stopped by the police with alcohol on their breath," said Jack, "everyone in the car is made to get out and walk back home - and the car is confiscated."

Memorials

On Occasion Of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Delbert Gersch 40th Wedding Anniversary	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$15.00

A matching gift has been received from ARCO for \$250.00.

In Memory Of:	Donor	Amount
Agnes Resell	Agnes K. Wanzong	\$10.00
Agnes Resell & Walter Kolba	Martha Kolba	\$3.00
Roland Schoppa	M/M Frank Taylor	\$25.00
Katherine F. Schoppa	Vivian Taylor	\$25.00
Tod Miertschin	M/M V. E. Teinert, W. E. Teinert & Alice, Robert Dietrich, Rhonda & John Hoffmann	\$30.00
Alice Noack	Billie & Leon Noack & Helen Perry	\$25.00
Edna Mitschke	Billie & Leon Noack & Helen Perry	\$10.00
Buddy Schroeder	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$20.00
Alice Noack	M/M Robert Garrett	\$25.00
Alice Noack	M/M Alvin Schmidt	\$20.00
Alice Noack	Mrs. Lorine H. Banks	\$15.00
Alice Noack	M/M Victor Zoch	\$15.00
Alice Noack	M/M Frank Taylor	\$10.00
Alice Noack	M/M Jack Wiederhold	\$20.00
Alice Noack	Betty Ward	\$15.00
Alice Noack	M/M Jerald Hielscher & Family	\$20.00
Alice Noack	M/M Carroll Hielscher & Patricia	\$20.00
Alice Noack	M/M Milton Pampell	\$10.00
Alice Noack	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$15.00
Alice Noack, Victor Kokel, John Arltdt, & Louise Schulze	M/M Reinhold Teinert	

Thank you, to Rev. Robert & Georgie Boyce, Judy & Heather Hielscher for folding and preparing notifications concerning the Wendish Fest to 785 Lutheran congregations in Texas.

Thank you, to the following ladies for providing refreshments for the August meeting: Laverne Falke, Erna Mersiovsky, Laura Zoch, Esther Pampell, Evelyn Kasper and Ruth Lindner. Elinor Steglich brought the ice.

Congratulations Young Wends!

Adam Richards, son of Russell and Zelda Richards and grandson of Herbert and Hattie Schautschick, was named Mr. LHS for 1990 at the annual Lutheran High South Honors Banquet on May 25, in Houston, Texas. Adam also received an academic award in Social Studies. He is now attending Texas A & M.

Sarah Gersch, daughter of Bryan and Bea Gersch and granddaughter of Walter and Laverne Gersch was crowned "Little Miss Giddings" at the Geburstag Festivities on September 15, in Giddings, Texas.

Heather Hielscher, daughter of Jerry and Judy Hielscher and granddaughter of Carroll and Barbara Hielscher won 3 blue ribbons and 1 red ribbon for her enteries in the Jr. Division of plants, jellies, and picante sauce at the Fayette County Fair in September at La Grange, Texas.



**Texas Mendish
Heritage Society**

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