



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 6, JULY, 1991

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On August 18, 1991 the Society will hold its first meeting having no business transacted.

This meeting should be enjoyable, we should have fun, and have "Gemütlichkeit".

Charles Wukasch has agreed to teach us some Wendish as we go along and he will begin at this membership meeting.

It was also suggested that we have a little more german at these meetings. At this meeting we will close the meeting with the Lord's Prayer in german. At the end of this message you will find the Lord's Prayer printed in german with english letters. Hope this will be helpful.

If you have any suggestions on what to do or have at these meetings, please make a note of your ideas or suggestions and give them to Barbara. Remember that the following membership meeting which will be in November will be the annual business meeting.

Hope to see you on August 18th.

Vater unser, der du bist in Himmel.
Geheiligt werde dein Name. Dein Reich komme.
Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, also auch
auf Erden. Unser taeglich Brot gib uns heute.
Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, als wir vergeben
unsern Schuldigern. Und fuehre uns nicht in
Versuchung. Sondern erloese uns von dem Uebel.
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die
Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.

Ken Weiser
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 1-4	Folklife Festival - at the Institute of Texas Cultures, San Antonio, TX.
August 9	Deadline for articles for August newsletter.
August 17	Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
August 18	Quarterly membership meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum
September 13	Deadline for articles for September newsletter.
September 14	Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
September 22	Third annual Wendish Fest - at the Museum complex and the St. Paul, Serbin, Picnic Grounds.
October 19	Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

AUGUST MEETING SPEAKER

The program at the August 18 general membership meeting will be conducted by Rev. Paul Hartfield, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin. Rev. Hartfield will speak on "The Importance of Maintaining our Heritage."

Following our May general membership meeting an appreciation hamburger fry was enjoyed by everyone. The following thank-you note received from one of our members was the feeling of everyone who attended.

To the "Hamburger Fry" Volunteers,

- what a great way to end a very good
"TWHS" meeting!

The fellowship was delightful. There was
time to meet and visit with fellow members.

The hamburgers, one word, SUPERB.

And all was done with warmth and
smiles.

I thank you.

Della Mullens

GROUP TOURS
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Chairman

Jack Wiederhold met a group of 38 members from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Houston, to show the church and play the organ, at about 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 15th. The group had visited with Alfred and Esther Herbrich at their weekend place in Winchester before coming to the Museum. Adele (Herbrich) Wilson, a former member of Bethlehem, and related to many of them brought a coffee cake and helped serve the guests.

On June 20th, 30 members of Zion Lutheran, Tomball, enjoyed coffee cake and coffee. After a tour of the church and Museum, they had the Wendish luncheon.

ARCHIVES
by Daphne D. Garrett, Archivist

Socha Collection Donated to Archives.

The Wendish research files, books and other materials collected by the late John J. Socha have been donated to the Archives of the Museum by Mrs. Socha. The Archivist has been busy processing this collection and will soon have an inventory completed. Since Rev. Socha was the Newsletter Editor for the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, his files include much genealogy submitted by members. All papers relating to genealogy will be duplicated and placed in the Vertical File of the Library. If you can help with this project, please contact Daphne Garrett, Archivist or Georgie Boyce, Librarian.

EGGCITING NEWS!

It may not be Easter time, but two of our members have been quite busy decorating Wendish Easter eggs.

Evelyn Kasper, third generation decorator and veteran of many demonstrations at the Folklife Festival in San Antonio demonstrated the wax technique in Caldwell, Texas on May 27. She presented two sessions as part of the Region 10 Extension Homemakers Arts and Crafts day.

Daphne Garrett, author of "The Art of Decorating Wendish Easter Eggs", was the featured speaker at the morning session of the Fayette County Extension Homemakers Annual Achievement Day, May 7. She also gave a demonstration of the wax technique. Daphne's decorated eggs are now for sale in the Gift Shop of the Institute of Texan Cultures as well as the Wendish Museum. The Institute also purchased 24 eggs to place in the revised Wendish exhibit which will be ready next spring.

VISITORS

Visiting the Museum Complex during June were people from: Iowa, Louisiana, North Dakota, New Mexico, Colorado, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, California, Missouri, Arizona, and Canada. There were again visitors from all parts of Texas.

DOCENTS

Thank You, to the following for acting as docents during the month of June: Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Laverne Gersch, Barbara Hielscher, Evelyn N. Kasper, Adele Wilson, Herbert and Hattie Schautschick, Elinor Steglich, Vivian Taylor, Heather Hielscher, Viola Spacek, Dora Spitzenberger, Elsie Socha, and Bea Tschatschula.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members/Previous Members Renewed

Betty A. Thiemann, Kansas City, MO. Dale Hueppelsheuser, Jones, OK.
Joan Z. Miller, Wichita, KS.

WENDISH NOODLES!!



The above photos show Mildred Perry getting our Noodle Chairman, Elinor Steglich, and Hattie Schautschick, started with the noodle making business at the Museum.

We are indeed grateful to Mildred Perry and her husband, Rex Perry, for the donation of their noodle making equipment, to the Society. Also to Pastor Robert Boyce of Warda, who worked with Kenneth Ullrich of Electric Motor Service in La Grange to convert the motor to the necessary phase, at a very nominal cost, and with Wayne Kappler of Kappler Construction and Electric, Warda, for doing the necessary electrical work to get our machine rolling.

The ladies will be making noodles for the gift shop sales, as well as for the tour luncheons, Folklife Festival, Wendish Fest, and Vogle Hochzeit. Donations of eggs and/or flour would be greatly appreciated.

Noodles will also be sold at a bulk rate to members of the society and to their friends. Call Elinor Steglich at 409/242-5395 or Hattie Schautschick at 409/366-9621 to place your orders. The bulk rate is \$1.75 per pound.

Meeting of the
Texas Wendish Heritage Society
Serbin, Texas
May 19, 1991

1. There were about 60 people in attendance.
2. Rev. Hartfield gave the devotion.
3. Laverne Gersch introduced our speaker, Dr. Joseph Wilson of Rice University, who gave a talk on the Haak diary, then took questions from the audience.
4. The following visitors were recognized: Harold Foerster and family, Rev. and Mrs. Flsak, and Barbara Schneider
5. Barbara Hielscher asked for volunteers for the Folklife Festival and the Serbin Picnic.
6. Ken Weiser mentioned that the camera crew from "Eyes of Texas" visited the Museum. It will be shown on TV in both Austin and Houston.
7. Ken Weiser mentioned that there had been a meeting of the Executive Board the previous day. This meeting lasted five hours. There would be no business at general meetings except for the elections at the November meeting. He mentioned that we now have some 40 committees and that maybe some reorganization might be in order.
8. Ken Weiser took comments and suggestions from the floor:
 - a) Reinhold Teinert suggested that members bring photos from their trips to Germany to share with other members.
 - b) Georgie Boyce suggested that we might learn some Wendish songs.
 - c) Mrs. Vlasak proposed that we invite Dr. Wilson to speak again.
 - d) Laverne Gersch suggested that those members who might not wish to give a talk due to nervousness might wish to display their photos.
 - e) George Boerger asked if we might have more advance notice about speakers.
 - f) Charles Wukasch told us about our lack of luck in getting international speakers: Dr. Schaarschmidt was unable to come because of bad weather; Drs. Schuster and Michalk have lost interest in coming.
 - g) There was discussion about learning Wendish. Joseph Wilson warned members of the difficulty in learning Wendish. Victor Zoch asked for a show of hands to see how many members might be interested in a Wendish course if it were held in Serbin instead of Austin.
 - h) E. C. Knippa suggested that members might like to write their biographies, to be deposited with the archives.
 - i) Vivian Taylor asked for photos for the Museum.
 - j) Evelyn Kasper suggested that we work on giftshop items after some of the meetings while the members are socializing.
9. The meeting was followed by a hamburger supper on the picnic grounds. This was in appreciation of the many hours of volunteer work during the past year.

Charles Wukasch

Charles Wukasch,
Recording Secretary

IN A WENDISH COUNTRY

This is the fifth, and final, of a series of parts from an article written by Dr. Maria-Beate c. Loeben, an instructor of English at Wurzburg University.

Why and how did this culture survive for so long a time? The main reason is probably that the Church-Protestant-Lutheran as well as Roman-Catholic-(and between those branches of Christianity there are less differences here than anywhere else)-sent Wendish-speaking clergymen to our churches who preached in Wendish - three times a month the first service on a Sunday, the one preferred by farming people, was the Wendish one only then came the service for the German-speaking minority. The Protestant Clergymen of the church at Hochkirch are still wearing the surplice or the alb which is rather unusual in Germany, and the cathedral at Budissin (Bautzen) has always been used by Protestants as well as Roman Catholics. Faith, preached in their own language, is a uniting, not a separating force among the Wends. The inscriptions in our church were in Wendish in my days (they no longer exist). In our preparations for confirmation, the clergyman spoke Wendish with children from Wendish households, and they had to learn their texts in Wendish, not in German. Our Bibles and our Catechisms were bilingual, the two languages facing each other, identical pictures on top of both pages! Children at school usually knew little or no German in their first year, if they came from a Wendish household. The teacher had to be bilingual, too. Twice a week we had lessons in Wendish; accordingly my knowledge of Wendish is limited mainly to songs and nursery rhymes. The district being - thanks to the Wendish population - unusually church-abiding and pious, we always began and ended our days at school with a hymn and a prayer, and after the "Amen" we added "Pomhaj Bóh - Knjez-wučer jo!", meaning, approximately "God speed - the Lord bless you!". We were also told to greet everybody we met (as it is usual in country districts) with "Pomh Bóh!", and reply, when greeted, with a "Božmje" (I am not sure how to spell the last word, as I have never seen it written anywhere). Of the adults everybody was bilingual, even the village-idiot.

The word "Bóh" or "Bóhu" you came across everywhere, it meaning "God", and it was used indiscriminately for the Christian God as well as for the representatives of a pre-Christian, heathenish faith, to which most people, though subconsciously, still adhered. The two major mountains of the district are named "Czorneboh" and "Bileboh", meaning "Black" and "White God"; the legends about Kramat, the Wizard, are still alive and thriving, and perhaps even today - who knows - the wise women are plying their arts with herbs and spells. My aunt, who as a child had a black spot on her chin which in those days was considered a blemish, was taken by her grandmother (my great-grandmother) who was anything but superstitious, to the local wise woman, and after some rites and spells of which my then fourteen-year old aunt didn't understand a word, she came home without the black spot, which had disappeared for good.

The days I am speaking of were the days of Hitler. With the Wendish population being completely uninterested in politics, and, thus, in Hitler's doctrines as well, I cannot remember any of the Wends being a member of "The Party", and they, and we with them, escaped the notice of the authorities for a long time. In Budissin (Bautzen) where most of the Roman Catholics among the Wendish people lived, the national costumes were still frequently seen, and the special Wendish newspaper was still permitted to circulate for some time. The clergy, keeping aloof from the new-fangled activities, for reasons of religion as well as of nationality, kept their sheep together, and when our old pastor was transferred to another district where no Wends lived, it became clear that the authorities had decided to put their foot

down. The end of the war prevented this.

In spite of the fact that the new authorities are trying hard to further and sponsor everything connected with the Wendish population, it is now that their culture is really in danger of disappearing. Whereas fifty years ago everybody spoke their native language, nowadays the children even of Wendish families have difficulty in speaking the tongue of their forefathers. One of the old manor-houses has been turned into a boarding school for children from Wendish parents, where they learn the language they formerly took in with their mothers' milk. Centralization is now splitting up the close communities where, for a millenium, and old culture and language had survived almost unchanged.

REUNIONS

31st ANNUAL SCHOPPA FAMILY REUNION

The 31st annual reunion of the descendants of Michael & Maria Schoppa was held at the Boy's Club facilities at Lake Kickapoo, Texas with 206 in attendance. Registration began at 1:00 P.M. on June 15 and the afternoon was spent visiting & swimming. Lisa Full of McKinney directed a water-balloon game for the children and bingo games for all.

A charcoaled hamburger and hot dog supper was enjoyed by all Saturday evening. This was followed by taped music being played for everyons dancing and listening pleasure.

One large table held picture albums and scrapbooks of the first thirty reunions. Also displayed was an array of items available at the Wendish Museum in Serbin, Texas. Several historical books about the Wends are available, as are cook books, Easter egg painting books, and tee shirts.

Gene Rummel of Garland, Texas was leader for the Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 A.M. His theme was "God's Family-Confessing, Praying, Thanking, and Praising". Dr. Roy Schoppa, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Redondo, California delivered a message based on Matthew 14:29, and that is to reach out to Jesus for all our needs and keep our eyes fixed on Him. Worshipers sang, "How Great Thow Art", "Our God", "Our Help In Ages Past", and "O, Blest the House". Mr. Rummel led the remembrance liturgy of those who the called to their heavenly home since the 1990 reunion. Those remembered were Roland Schoppa, Helen Schoppa, Murray Kneschke, Otto Alwin Schoppa, Clara Obenhaus Streit, Walter Guggisberg, Harold Vogel, and William Strecker.

After the covered dish lunch minutes of the last meeting were read and reports, highlights, and announcements were made. Norma Schoppa, Lisa Full, Bernice Noack, august and Ester Rummel were recognized for attending every reunion. The youngest person present was Carson Full, son of Dennis and Lisa Full, born March 16, 1991. The oldest person present was Hulda Schoppa at 87 years. Traveling the farthest was Tamara Dann of Virginia Beach, VA.

Also of interest is the fact that Michael Schoppa's wife Maria is one of only two people in texas who's gravestone is inscribed in both the German and Wendish languages. This grave is in the old Holy Cross Lutheran cemetery in Warda, Texas. The church has repaired and cleaned all the headstones in this historical cemetery and has an Endowment Fund to insure continued preservation.

The 1992 reunion will be on Fathers Day week-end, June 20th and 21 st at the same facilities.

Those attending were:

In Texas, Albert & Sallee Schoppe-Abilene; Dewey and Vera Isham-Amarillo; Gertrude Cayce, Shanda Watkins, Travis Hardin-Arlington; Susan Rummel Rathgaber-Austin; Brenda & Kim Riley & Shaunna, Schaefer, & Schuyler, Leslie Rice, Matt Carlile, Nick & Vi Schaefer, Koan Bice-Azle; Melvin & Edna Gillespie, Marvin and Anita Gillespie, Wayne & Carol McGrath, Amanda and Jeremy Blackmon-Ballinger; Rogers & Shirley Zoch & Jeremy, LaDonna & Ronnie-Bishop; Courtney Vanergriff-Breckenridge; Arnold E. & Marianna Schulz-Carrollton; Adois and Kay Speer & Lance & Bandy, Milkred Mickan-Copperas Cove; Virginia Dian Wirth, Ken Noack & Amy & Nick-Dallas; Annie Patton-Denton; Alice Baker-Electra; Alma Schulz-El Pase; Monroe & Arvie Schulz-Floydada; Sarah Smith & Jamie-Forney; Amber Czewski, Cynthia Schulz Harlan, Deborah Schoppa Lyon, Jeff Lyon, Stephanie Lyon-Fort Worth; Gene and Evelyn Rummel-Garland; Leroy & Violet Schulz-Giddings; Brian schoppe, Jett & Shyrl-Grapevine; Marilyn Schoppa Baker, Joshua Baker, Marvin Lee Schoppa, Alma Schoppa-Harrold; Vernie R. Schulz & Dorothy, Kelley Schoppa-Houston; Herbert & Ethel schoppa, Dennis Schoppa-Huffman; Vernie R. Schulz Jr. & Carolyn Amy & Norman; Amy Allensworth, Cody Allensworth, Donna Rogers, Dusty Rogers-Levelland; Melvin Schoppa-Lindale; Rick, P. J. Tomison & Brandi, Justin, & Coy-Lubbock; Dennis, Lisa, & Carson Full-McKinney; Mr. & Mrs. Troy Glover-Olney; Tanya Noack, Mr. & Mrs. Kory Noack, Leon & Junett Noack, Kevin, Susan, Shannon, Laurissa & Kelby Noack-Olton; Debbie Kay, Roy Jr., & Scott Fannin-Channelview; Wilbert & Catherine Schoppa- Plainview; Gordon, Karen, Shaunna & Craig Schulz-Quitman; Barbara King-Ralls; Cheryl, Larry, Brian & Brandon Noack, Joni Blair-Richardson; Alan & Shannon Gillespie-San Angelo; Cara Cowan-Waco; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Lance Jr.-Weatherford; Edd Zinni & Heather, Brandon Zinni, Glenn, Linda, Tiffany, Clint, & Will Thorman, Dorothy Thorman, Tony & Evelyn Zinni, Paul & Lillian Schoppa, C. R. Cowan & Candace, Chad & Trey-Wichita Falls; Edgar & Norma Schoppa, Lavoy Bivins, Delores & Mike Price, Bernice Noack, Frances Martin, James Eaton, Clara Schoppa, Heather Schulz, August & Ester Rummel, Douglas Hobratschk, Mr. & Mrs. Weldon Haney & Bobby & Tiffany, Steve & Tammie King & Lauren, Kristie, & Mistie, Danny & Julie Fancher & Krystal, Jarod, Jason, & Justin, Brent & Daphne Perkins, Martin & Dorothy Schulz, Frances Rummel, Leroy & Doris Hobratschk, Millie Green, Otto Jr. & Dorothy Obenhaus, Tillie Haseloff, Arthur & Hedy Schulz, Hulda Schoppa, Janice Schoppa, Wayne & Judy Schulz & Kevin & Kimberly, Mary Guggisberg, Clarence & Alice Gfeller-Vernon. Dr. Roy Schoppa-Torrance, CA., Jeff & Sherry Schaefer-Tampa, FL., Dona Speir, Ron McCain, Rebecca Speir-Orlando, FL., Kirk & Debbie Murray & Bryan & Amanda-Loveland, OH., Monty Bea, Augie, Roci, Conrad Bice-Elk City, Ok., Tamara & Kali Dann-Virginia Beach, VA.

4th HANDRICK REUNION HELD AT FIREMEN'S HALL

The families of seven of the eight descendants of the Johann and Theresia Handrick family gathered at the Thorndale Firemen's Hall on Saturday, June 22, for their fourth reunion.

144 Members registered as they arrived with the Emma Handrick Schneider (A. O. Schneider), having the most in attendance.

Pastor Paul Kersten of Goliad led the devotion prior to the noon meal of barbecue and trimmings.

A short business meeting was held and members of each family were introduced. It was decided to have another reunion in two years, on the fourth Saturday in June 1993.

Door prizes were brought by family members and everyone in attendance participated in the drawing.

Gifts were presented to the following: the oldest lady present was Sophie Munz of Moody; the oldest gentleman present was Helmuth Kokel of Georgetown; the youngest boy was 9 month old Jacob Mendoza of Temple.

The youngest girl was 2 month old Breanna Carrizales, daughter of Rico and Starla Carrizales of Taylor.

Traveling the farthest was Charles and Ida Kieschnick and Tiffany of Yuba City, CA. Charles has recently returned from Desert Strom. Newly weds were Ruth and Robert Hobbertz of Temple who have been married 9 months.

Longest married couple were Martin and Lorine Schneider, 52 years of Thorndale.

Guests came from Yuba City, CA., Las Cruces, N.M.; Boissier City, LA.; Lubbock, Carrollton, Copperas Cove, Moody, Temple, Pflugerville, Goliad, Bishop, Hutto, Riesel, Angleton, Round Rock, Taylor, and Georgetown, Texas.

Everyone enjoyed the day visiting and taking pictures and are looking forward to coming to Thorndale in 1993.

MORE OUTSTANDING YOUNG WENDS!

David O'Leary, son of Joe and Linda O'Leary of San Antonio graduated from Douglas McArthur Sr. High School with a class of 600 on Saturday, June 1. The graduation was held at the Joe and Harry Freeman Colosseum. David sang the National Anthem in accapella. He received the Concordia Presidential Scholarship and a scholarship from the AAL. In the fall he will attend Concordia in Austin. His grandparents, Leroy and Elinor Steglich, of Warda attended the special occasion.

On June 6 Scott L. Hielscher graduated with Top Honors from ITT Technical Institute in Austin with an Associates of Applied Science degree in Electronic Engineering Technology. He was elected the Honor Graduate for this graduating class. Scott maintained a 3.9 grade point average the entire 2 years he attended school. Scott and his wife Cindy (Liebscher) live in Winchester. He is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Carroll Hielscher, and the grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Milton Pampell and Ola Belle Hielscher, all of Winchester.

Donny Wayne Lindner of Giddings was one of 2,500 students recognized for outstanding academic performance at Texas A&M University for the 1991 Spring Semester. Donnie was on the Distinguished Students List. "Distinguished Student", recognizes students having earned a 3.25 to 3.74 grade point average.

Marty Lindner, also of Giddings and attending Texas A&M University, won 2nd place in calf roping in the Southern Intercollegiate Rodeo Association region. The region includes Central and East Texas and Louisiana. He then went on to compete in the College National Finals Rodeo in Bozeman, Montana. He finished 6th in the calf roping at the National Finals. Marty and Donny are the sons of Alan and Peggy Lindner and the grandsons of Leon and Ruth Lindner, all of Giddings.



**Texas Mendish
Heritage Society**

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