



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 8, SEPTEMBER, 1991

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The third annual Wendish Fest is now history. We were truly blessed with a beautiful day weatherwise.

More people came out to enjoy the Wendish meal this year than last year so financially this was our best Wendish Fest.

I want to give special thanks to the committees who helped organize the Fest and also all of the people who helped.

Special thanks to all of the Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) who donated money to help pay for the bands that provided music throughout the day.

I was pleased to see so many people dedicated to doing a good job for a common purpose. There were approximately 200 people involved in making this a successful event.

Cassette tapes of the special German service on Sunday are available in the gift shop.

Thanks also to Gary D. Becker who video taped the service. The collection from this special service has again been given to St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Also thanks to Allbright Distributing Company for furnishing the Lone Star Beer sound truck.

Ken Weiser  
President

## WENDISH FEST CO-ORDINATOR

I want to add my thanks to those of our President and the Wendish Fest Committee for all the help, donations and support from all of our members, and especially our non-members, in hosting our grand tour, the Annual Wendish Fest, on September 22nd. You were great and we really appreciate it. We served approximately 700 people.

As a token of appreciation we are sending complimentary copies of our monthly News Letter to the non-members who helped with the Fest.

Sincerely,

*Evelyn N. Kasper*

Evelyn N. Kasper  
Wendish Fest Co-Ordinator

WENDISH FEST REPORT  
by Laverne Gersch, Vice-President

A big "THANK YOU" to all who participated at the third annual Wendish Fest. With all the different booths and demonstrations, it takes a lot of people to put on a Festival of this magnitude.

A special thanks goes to Rev. Paul Hartfield for the inspiring German Language heritage service at St. Paul's and to Dr. Charles Wukasch for the Wendish portion. There were over 230 in attendance. Visitors from California to Florida, and Germany and Australia signed the guest register. The offering taken during the service is earmarked for the church restoration project.

A special Thanks also goes to St. Paul's congregation for the use of all the facilities.

The coffee cake bake-off was again a big success and even took on an international flair. Our judges were Silke Thiele and Enrico Kern from Bautzen, Germany. Silke is a member of our society. Winners in the Käse kuchen division were Adele Jaenke - first, Irene Boriack - second, and Ruth Lindner - third. Winners in the streusel kuchen division were Evelyn Buchhorn - first, Ella Zoch - second, and Elsie Mertink - third. A big "thank you" to all the ladies who brought sweets for the bake sale.

The cross-cut saw contest was a lot of fun. There were three divisions - men's, women's, and mixed teams. Next year it is planned to have the contest earlier in the day as folks living a great distance have to leave before 5:30.

The children that entered the coloring contest had a special treat. The pictures used were chosen from the new Wendish Coloring Book, just published by Daphne D. Garrett. A special presentation of a coloring book was made to Alicia Gersch, youngest member of the society who also celebrated her second birthday the day of the Wendish Fest.

Plans are already underway for next year's Wendish Fest on September 27, 1992.

Also in the planning stage is the Vogelhochzeit (Bird Wedding) scheduled for January 18, 1992 at the Sons of Herman Hall in Giddings.

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House guests of Walter and Laverne Gersch during the Wendish Fest were Rev. Paul and Gwen Proeve of Murray Bridge, South Australia. Gwen is a Wend. Her maiden name was Wenke and she is also related to the Mickans. While in this area they got to visit some of both the Wenke and Mickan families. They also exchanged information with several others that have relatives in Australia.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 18	Deadline for articles for October newsletter.
October 19	Genealogy Workshop at the Museum conducted by Weldon Mersiovsky, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
November 15	Deadline for articles for November newsletter.
November 17	Quarterly membership meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum with election of officers.
December 13	Deadline for articles for December newsletter.



## VOLKSBLATT RESEARCH NEARING COMPLETION

For the past ten years Daphne D. Garrett, our Archivist, has been researching the history of the Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt. Her investigation has taken her to many archives in Texas, some household garbage dumps, a house being torn down, and Albuquerque, New Mexico. She is now preparing the manuscript, photographs, and illustrations for her book.

She is still searching for examples of job printing, such as church programs, calling cards, business cards, stationery, etc. Some of these items were printed in German and some in English. She also is looking for lost issues of the Volksblatt. If you have anything related to the Volksblatt she would like to look at it before she prints her book. Please call or write to her at the Museum.

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Jack D. Rittenhouse, author and distinguished scholar, passed away on August 10, 1991 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mr. Rittenhouse owned a small printing press, and during the 1960's became interested in Wendish type. He visited Albert Miertschin, who gave him a sample of the eight characters of special Wendish type. He later gave them to the Institute of Texan Cultures, who transferred them to the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum in 1983. They are the only known surviving pieces. Mr. Rittenhouse also found other Volksblatt artifacts which were transferred to our Museum from the Institute. Rittenhouse donated to our Archives the type written manuscript of his book, Wendish Language Printing in Texas. Jack D. Rittenhouse made a very important contribution to the preservation of the Wendish Heritage. He will be gratefully remembered.

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## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members/Previous Members Renewed

John E. Karle, McAllen, TX.	Linda D. Schwartz, Giddings, TX.
Hanka Fasske, Bautzen, Germany	Erika Rotschke, Halbendorf/Spree, Germany
Doris (Malke) Zabel, St. Louis, MO.	

### Patron Members

Doris (Malke) Zabel, St. Louis, MO.

## MEMORIALS

In Memory Of:	Donor	Amount
Rev. John K. Schuhman	Mr. and Mrs. Ben C. Symmank, Jr.	\$25.00
Otillia Schulze Landscape fund	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$15.00
Bernice Schoppa Noack Video fund	Mary S. Guggisberg	\$20.00
Hermine Zieschang	L. H. Zieschang	\$100.00
Martin Reich	Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Bernstein	\$20.00
Jack D. Rittenhouse	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Garrett	

GROUP TOURS  
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Chairman

Group tours for the month of September were:

September 14, United Methodist Sunday School Class, Bellaire, Texas.  
September 16, XYZ's - a group of retired folks from Smithville, Texas.  
September 26, Bellville Baptist Church Group.  
September 28, Pastor's wives from retreat at Camp Lone Star.

It is interesting to see how many visitors come to the Museum from all over Texas as well as other states and countries. There were visitors from Germany and Australia at the Wendish Fest.

NOODLE REPORT  
by Elinor Steglich, Chairman

After cooking 45 pounds of noodles and selling 30 pounds at the Wendish Fest, the ladies had to make nooldes again for upcoming tours and to sell in the Gift Shop. They made 44 pounds. on September 25th and many of those have been sold at the current price of \$1.75 per pound.

Thanks to the many donors of flour and eggs and to the ladies who have helped make and bag noodles. Be sure to buy your noodles at the Gift Shop to help support the Museum.

GIFT SHOP  
by Barbara Hielscher, Manager

New item in the gift shop is The Wendish-Texan Coloring Book by Daphne D. Garrett. The book is outstanding in that the drawings are based on artifacts and pictures at the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum at Serbin, Texas. It is an educational coloring book for all ages, and there is an historical explanation for each of the 25 pictures. It is a great gift idea for Christmas.

VISITORS

During August we had visitors from all over Texas and the following: California, Colorado, Oklahoma, Illinois, Germany, and Iowa. On August 28 Dan Rather of CBS news and a friend from Austin stopped by for a brief visit.

DOCENTS

Thank you, to the following for serving as docents during August: Hattie Schautschick, Lorine Dome1, Ruth Lindner, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Barbara Hielscher, Evelyn Kasper, Elinor Steglich, August Zoch, and Ken Weiser.

PARADES AND EVENTS

The Ben Nevis float, entered as the Warda Area Wends in the Fayette County Country Fair Parade on August 31, received a 2nd place trophy as Best Small Town Community Float. The float was pulled behind Leroy Steglich's truck with Herbert Schautschick assisting him. On the float were Evelyn Kasper, Allison and Constance Karisch, Rachel Holcombe, Barbara, Heather and Jerry II Hielscher, Gloria Mae Gersch, Freddie Zoch, Linda, Sarah, and Elizabeth Schwartz, Hattie Schautschick, and Jack Wiederhold. Jack played his accordion and the group sang German songs along the parade route.



## MEMORIALS

On Occasion Of:	Donor	Amount
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Birnbaum 25th Wedding Anniversary Landscape fund	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Lorenz 45th Wedding Anniversary	Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Schulz	\$50.00

## REUNIONS

### Pietsch Reunion

On October 13, 1991 the Traugott and Anna (Handrick) Pietsch reunion will be held at the Winchester Community Hall.

### Fritsche Reunion

The descendants of Peter Fritsche will gather on October 20, 1991 at the St. Paul picnic grounds, Serbin, Texas for the annual Fritsche reunion.

### Pampell Reunion

Descendants of Peter Pampell and Agnes (Noack) Pampell are invited to attend the second annual Pampell reunion on October 26, 1991 at the Roitsch Camp in La Grange, Texas. The descendants of their two children, Carl August Pampell and Christiana Weise are also invited.

## OUTSTANDING YOUNG WENDS!

Ben Niscavits, the son of Cherie and John Niscavits of Houston, received the following awards at Boy Area Christian Schools at League City, Texas during the recent school year: He was on the Honor Roll for high scholastic marks, was awarded the Red Star trophy for excelling at scripture memory work and won the Christian Character award. Ben's grandparents are May and Ben Symmank of Houston. His great-grandmother is Mrs. Bertha Goodson of Giddings.



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