



Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 10, NOVEMBER, 1991

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Museum Christmas Tree Committee had the tree trimmed in time for the November Membership meeting. Not only did the members present have an opportunity to see the Christmas tree, but also had the opportunity to sing German Christmas carols around the tree, accompanied by Jack Wiederhold on his portable pump organ.

Evelyn Kasper cut the tree out of her front yard and donated it to the society. Leroy Steglich hauled the cedar tree to the Museum and placed it into the stand. Decorating the tree were Elinor Steglich, Hattie Schautschick, Laverne Gersch and Evelyn Kasper. We want to thank all of these persons for having the tree up so that we could sing and enjoy the German Christmas carols around the tree.

In this newsletter you will find a list of all committees needed to do a better job in preserving our heritage. If you would, please take a moment and look over that list and if you are inclined and willing to help serve on any of these committees, please contact Barbara Hielscher at the Museum and indicate your interest.

Many employees have "Matching Grant" programs for employees who donate to organizations such as the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. If you are an employee of such an organization, now would be a good time to take advantage of this type of an arrangement.

My prayer is that you had a Joyous Thanksgiving. Being a Christian American is truly a blessing to be thankful for.

Ken Weiser
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 8 TWHS - Austin Chapter - Annual Christmas party at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas.
- December 13 Deadline for articles for December newsletter.
- December 25 Museum will be closed - Christmas Day.
- January 13, 1992 Deadline for articles for January newsletter.
- January 18, 1992 Vogelhochzeit at the Sons of Hermann Hall, Giddings, Texas. 1:00 p.m. until ?
- February 16, 1992 General Membership meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum.
- February 17, 1992 Deadline for articles for February newsletter.

GROUP TOURS

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Chairman

TOURS! TOURS! AND MORE TOURS!

On October 3rd, twenty-six folks from the First Presbyterian Church in Georgetown visited the Museum Complex and enjoyed coffee cake and coffee, plus a Wendish luncheon.

On October 28th, about 50 7th graders from Immanuel Lutheran School in Houston came and visited the Museum and church.

On the same day six students in a German Class in Dallas, came by to tour and also interviewed some of our staff members.

Our archivist, Daphne Garrett, was one of the instructors at the Round Top Elder Hostel from November 11th through November 13th. This is a Division of Continuing Education sponsored by the University of Texas. The theme was the German Heritage of South Central Texas. 40 members from 10 different states and 11 different cities of Texas were represented. 21 of these members enjoyed kolaches and coffee and a tour of the complex on November 15th. One of the ladies in the group was related to Esther Schmidt, so naturally, she and Alvin helped host on that day.

Brenda Sue Richards of North Zulch (Madisonville) brought her group of 18 6th graders for a tour on November 20th. Her parents, Elton and Verna Karisch of La Grange (our members) helped supervise and host this group.

NOODLE REPORT

by Elinor Steglich, Chairman

Turkey and ????? You guessed it! Turkey and noodles. We have made 431 pounds of noodles so far and they are going fast for the Thanksgiving and Christmas menus. Remember to pick up your supply soon.

Thanks again for donations of cash, flour and eggs made by members.

ARCHIVAL EXHIBIT
by Daphne Garrett, Archivist

The photo calendars from the Marhata Nawka Ornaf Collection are on display in the Library.

In 1989 Ms. Ornaf gave a large collection of books, brochures, articles, newspapers, Calendars, and Music to the Archives. She is the daughter of Michael Nawka, a famous Wendish Poet.

LANDSCAPE
by Herbert and Hattie Schautschick

The red stepping stones, donated by Daniel Schulze, have been laid from the sidewalk to the log buildings. Approximately one gallon of blue bonnet seed has been planted, along with some red phlox. Anyone having any kind of lillies (day lillies, etc.) please do not throw them away, bring them to the Museum.

ATTENTION LADIES!

Since archivists never touch anything with their bare hands, especially photographs, we need a supply of white cotton gloves, and since ladies don't wear gloves any more, perhaps you have some you would like to donate to the Museum.

Also needed---jelly jars. Some of our members have an oversupply of fruit and juice and could make jelly to sell in the Gift Shop. However, we hope those who no longer make jelly could donate jars. (regulation canning jars, please).

ELDER HOSTEL PROGRAMS

Elder Hostel is an educational vacation for people 60 years and older, usually lasting one week. Daphne Garrett presented a lecture series on "German Heritage in South Central Texas" from November 11-14 at the Round Top Historical Institute. Attendees came from all over the U.S. Many had ties to German and Wendish heritage in Texas. On their free day, 21 people toured the Wendish Museum.

An Elder Hostel program on Wendish Heritage is planned for the first week in April, 1992 in Round Top. Several of our members will be presenting the program. See your local library for the Elder Hostel catalog of programs.

TEXAS STATE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Our Society has joined the TSGS as a "Partner in Preservation" through an institutional membership. The Journal of TSG, Stripes, will be in our library. Also, with this institutional membership each Wendish Society member automatically becomes an associate member of TSGS. Wendish Society members may attend the TSGS annual Meeting, held in Austin each year, for the same cost as full members of TSGS. We also are able to have a free table for book sales.

The 1991 Annual Meeting of TSGS was held November 15 & 16. Helping with book and information table were: Irene and Reinhold Teinert, Weldon Mersiovsky, Della Mullens, Daphne Garrett, and Carolyn Bohot, Chairman.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members/Previous Members Renewed

Michael Rehling, Spring, TX. Bettie J. Polnack Fry, Sweetwater, TX.
Dr. Don A. Hartfiel, Tomball, TX. Delores Nugent, Chehalis, WA.
Frank Heinig, Gutttau, Germany

Patron Members

Linda Rosinbaum, Oklahoma City, Ok. Delores Nugent, Chehalis, WA.
Elinor D. Bradley, Lake Charles, LA.

Century Members

Ralph Weiser, Magnolia, AR.

A \$100.00 donation has been received from Doris B. Reagan, for the 1991 Wendish Fest
Frieda Wendland, a charter member of the Society, donated \$20.00 to the operating fund

DOCENTS

Thank you, to the following for acting as docents during the month of October: Jack
and Marian Wiederhold, Hattie Schautschick, Elinor Steglich, Gloria Mae Gersch, Ken
Weiser, Evelyn Kasper, Esther Pampell, Bessie Mertink, and George Boerger.

VISITORS

During the month of October visitors came from all parts of Texas and the following:
California, Missouri, Germany, Colorado, Columbia, New York, and Washington.

COMMITTEES FOR TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

ADVERTISING	ENDOWMENT RECORD	NEWSLETTER
APPRECIATION SUPPER	FAMILY REUNION	NOMINATIONS
ARCHIVIST	FLOAT	NOODLES
BOOK & PUBLISHING	FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL	PROGRAM
BUILDING	FUND RAISING - GENERAL	RECORD FILING
CARE NETWORK (TELEPHONE)	INVESTMENT COMMITTEE	REFRESHMENTS
COMPUTER	LANDSCAPE	SPREEWITZ
CONSTITUTION BY-LAW	LIAISON WITH SORBS (WENDS)	TOURS
CURATOR	LIBRARIAN	VIDEO
DOCENTS	LOG CABINS	VOGELHOCHZEIT
EDUCATION	LONG RANGE PLANNING	YESTERFEST
ENDOWMENT FUND RAISING	MEMBERSHIP	WENDISH FEST

"CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD" COMES TO AUSTIN - 1991

A celebration of Christmas traditions and tree decorating is at Barton Creek Mall from November 22 to December 24. This celebration was organized through the joint efforts of Westlake Printing, Westbank Lions Club and KLEJ-AM.

Ethically decorated Christmas trees fill the trainland of the Noel Store in the mall with holiday spirit. Handmade ornaments and special ethnic yuletide decorations make this exhibit an experience Austin children, and children from every area, will long remember.

This display is modeled after the "Christmas Around the World" exhibit, in its 50th year, at the Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago, Illinois.

Promotional brochures listing contact persons for membership in the listed ethnic organizations are available.

Listed are the ethnic organizations participating in this display:

German-Texan Heritage Society	Carver Museum
Czech Historical Association	Hispanic Womens Network of Texas
Panna Maria Historical Society	French Legation
Austin Scandinavian Club	American Nordic Club of Austin
Austin Filipino-American Association	Texas Wendish Heritage Society

There is no charge for viewing the trees. Train rides are 50 cents for children up to age fifteen.

THANK YOU! to Irene and Reinhold Teinert for co-ordinating the decorating of the Wendish Christmas tree.

REUNIONS

Fritsche Family Reunion

Members of the Peter Fritsche family met for their 22nd family reunion on Sunday, October 20th, at the St. Paul Lutheran picnic grounds at Serbin, Texas. About 70 family members attended. There were members from Houston, Tomball, San Antonio, Bryan, Spring, Giddings area, Warda and Winchester. The Rev. Eldor Mickan of Kingsland led the devotion before the potluck dinner was enjoyed.

Present officers, Rodney Fritsche, President, Leroy Kalbas, Vice-President, Evelyn Kasper, Secretary, and Eunice Dunk, Treasurer, were re-elected by acclamation.

Members enjoyed shopping at their country store, visiting the Wendish Museum, walking through the Cemetery, and fellowship with other family members.

Prizes were awarded to Ford Noack, 2½ months old, youngest member present, Alfred Dunk, 89 years old, oldest member present, Erwin Fritsche, Barbara Clifton and Mildred Krautz who registered under the lucky numbers.

Thank you, to Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Zoch of Houston for a one year gift subscription to THE HOUSTON LUTHERAN.



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