



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME V, NUMBER 1, JANUARY, 1992

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanks to our chairperson, Iverne Gersch, the Second Annual Vogelhochzeit was a success, even though the weather was disagreeable. Thanks to each and everyone who helped and participated in this event. If you were not able to attend the celebration this year, I urge you to make every effort to join in the fun next year.

Many of you have asked why we did not have it on January 25th. We hope to book the hall closer to January 25th next year. As soon as final plans are made we will publish the date in the newsletter so you can mark your calendars for 1993.

The group enjoyed the singing of the Austin Saengerrunde and joining them for some singing.

Thanks to the persons who had arts and crafts booths and donated gifts for door prizes. We also thank the local businesses who donated gifts for these prizes.

If any of you have ideas or suggestions for our Vogelhochzeit in 1993, please give them to Barbara at the Museum. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

Speaking of ideas and suggestions, it is not too late to submit your thoughts and suggestions for the Fourth Annual Wendish Fest. The date is September, 27, 1992 at the Serbin picnic grounds.

Ken Weiser  
President

### UPCOMING EVENTS

February 16	General Membership meeting at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum
February 17	Deadline for articles for February newsletter
March 16	Deadline for articles for March newsletter
April 1-4	Texas Association of Museums annual meeting, San Antonio, Texas
April 11	Yesterfest, Bastrop, Texas
April 13	Deadline for articles for April newsletter

### FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER

Dr. Gunter Schaarschmidt of the University of Victoria in Canada will be the speaker for the February 16 meeting. Dr. Schaarschmidt is originally from Germany and is an expert on the Wends. He makes frequent trips back to Germany. His talk will be on "Wendish Language and Culture in the New Germany."

Let's all turn out for what should be a very interesting program.

### BAKE SALE NETS \$\$

The holiday bake sale was deemed a success. \$360.25 was added to the Treasury, plus we got some good publicity for our Wendish noodles. Manning the booth in front of La Grange State Bank in La Grange on December 20th were Barbara Hielscher, Elinor Steglich, Esther Buscha, Alma Froelich and Evelyn Kasper. Thanks to all members and friends who did all of the baking. A special thank you also to Laura Zoch who made calls in the Giddings area and to Elva Bohot for calling members in the La Grange area.

### BACK ISSUES WANTED

The Library and Archives would like to have back issues of the Quarterly of Concordia Historical Institute and issues of "Der Lutheraner".

### IMMIGRATION IN REVERSE

Recently Daphne Garrett received a letter from a Texan, Jo Ann Meckel Karolczak. She and her husband, who is originally from the Spreewald, are moving back to his home town, Burg (Borkow) about June of 1992. We hope they will keep in touch, and send news of the Spreewald.

### DOCENTS

Thank you, to the following for acting as docents during the month of December: Bessie Mertink, Lorine Domel, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Lillian Oltmann, Mina Sump, Ken Weiser, and Laverne Gersch.

### VISITORS

Visiting the Museum in December were people from Canada, California, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Indiana, and all parts of Texas.

Membership Meeting  
Texas Wendish Heritage Society  
November 17, 1991

1. About 50 people were in attendance.
2. Ken Weiser opened the meeting.
3. Rev. Hartfield gave the devotion and the members sang a hymn in German: "Jerusalem, du hochgebaute Stadt."
4. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no changes.
5. Due to the absence of the Treasurer, there was no financial report.
6. Visitors were recognized: Leonard Piland, Florence Zoch, John and Anna Schmidt, Albert Kriegel, and Stefania Backo.
7. Reinhold and Irene Teinert gave a report on the TWHS contribution to the Barton Creek Mall (Austin) display of ethnic Christmas trees.
8. John and Anna Schmidt donated a check for \$40 to the TWHS. This represented 20% of the sales at their Watkins Products booth during the Wendish Fest.
9. Elinor Steglich gave a report on noodle sales.
10. Laverne Gersch reminded the membership of the upcoming Vogelhochzeit dinner. It will be held on January 18, 1992 in the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings. In the afternoon we will meet to play dominos and there will be singers.
11. Charles Wukasch gave a report on our speakers. Through the generosity of George Boerger and double matching funding from Coca-Cola, he has invited Mrs. Trudla Malinkowa from the Bautzen area for our February meeting. Dr. Gunter Schaarschmidt from Canada is still interested in coming.
12. Election of officers: Ken Weiser, President; Charles Wukasch, Vice-President; Carolyn Bohot, Treasurer; Evelyn Kasper, Recording Secretary; Barbara Hielscher, Corresponding Secretary. Executive Board members: Ron Knippa, Weldon Mersiovsky, Jack Wiederhold, Laverne Gersch, Hattie Schautschick, and Victor Zoch.
13. Programs for future: Doris Reagan told about a most interesting program on antique roses, which the Rose Emporium in Brenham gave two years ago. Laverne Gersch said that the Rev. Hohle would be happy to give a program involving Wendish hymns. Ken Weiser asked if we might have the meetings on the same day that the German service is held in Serbin. Bea Tschatschula suggested that we play games. Evelyn Kasper suggested skat. E. C. Knippa said that there are six games in Lee County every week. Carolyn Bohot said that our older members could give presentations. Jack Wiederhold said that Dora Fischer had written an interesting book about her childhood in Fedor and could speak on that.
14. Evelyn Kasper talked about tours and said that one group had been arranged by Daphne Garrett as part of a lecture series on the German heritage of south central Texas in the Round Top Elderhostel program.
15. Victor Zoch talked about the painting of the buildings. Evelyn Kasper pointed out that new blinds had been installed by Herbert Schautschick and Carroll Hielscher in the Kilian Building. George Boerger suggested a letter of thanks to Wayne Seidler. Evelyn Kasper said that we might already have sent one. George Boerger then made a motion to give gift memberships to Mr. and Mrs. Seidler in appreciation.
16. Laverne Gersch mentioned that Elsie Mertink was a great-grandmother again, this being her 80th birthday. The group sang "Happy Birthday" to her.
17. Doris Reagan said that Norma and Ted Wukasch of The Grove had been to Dallas for the baptism of their great-granddaughter and five generations (the oldest being Alma Lovelace age 91) went to the State Fair together. Carolyn Bohot said her niece is marrying a Wend.



meeting minutes cont..

18. Ken Weiser said there would be an Executive Board meeting after the membership meeting.

19. Laverne Gersch thanked those who had helped with the Christmas tree. She talked about the Rumplich costume which someone had donated to the Museum and recited a little poem about Rumplich which an elderly member remembered.

20. We adjourned to another building to sing Christmas carols in German.

*Charles Wukasch*

Charles Wukasch, Recording Secretary

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#### GROUP TOURS

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Chairman

Twenty ladies attended a luncheon sponsored by the Security Church Finance Group of Houston on Thursday, January 9th.

#### NOODLE REPORT

by Elinor Steglich, Chairman

The volunteers have made 108 pounds of noodles since the last report. 47 pounds were sold at the bake sale held in La Grange on December 20th.

#### ARCHIVES

by Daphne D. Garrett, Archivist

An archival exhibit on Mercin Nowak, famous author and artist of Lusatia, is in preparation at our Museum. The exhibit will feature books, Almanacs, and other examples of his works, as well as reproductions of his famous woodcuts. Charles Wukasch is preparing the text for the exhibit. Nowak is the artist of the famous "Wedding of the Birds", and the "Woman from the Spreewald" featured on our Wendish Fest announcements. If you have any material related to Nowak that you would like to loan for the exhibit, please contact the Museum as soon as possible.

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Thank you, to Evelyn Kasper, Bessie, Luke, and Matt Mertink for helping to get the newsletters ready to mail in December.

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FOR A FRIEND WHO HAS EVERYTHING GIVE A

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

to

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Please complete the information below for a gift membership  
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TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Rt. 2, Box 155

Giddings, TX 78942-9769

1989 Membership Record

(One person per card)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Wendish Ancestral Family \_\_\_\_\_

— \$10 Regular Membership  
— \$25 \*Museum Patron  
— \$50 \*Museum Sponsor  
— \$100 \*Museum Century

— \$250 \*Museum Silver  
— \$500 \*Museum Gold  
— \$1000 \*Museum Life

ALL DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE

\* Includes membership in T. W. H. S.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members/Previous Members Renewed

Eugene Wukasch, Austin, TX.

Detty A. Walston, Houston, TX.

Sheriff Joe Goodson, Giddings, TX.

Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Seidler, Giddings, TX.

### PATRON MEMBERS

Charles Wukasch, Austin, TX.

Betty Walston, Houston, TX.

Dana K. Clary, Orange, TX.

### SPONSOR MEMBERS

Jerry L. Knippa, Boerne, TX.

### LIFE MEMBERS

Henry G. Lehmann, Giddings, TX.

### MEMORIALS

In memory of:

Donor

Amount

Rueben Lee Moerbe

Mrs. Rueben(Katherine) Moerbe

\$50.00



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Heritage Society**

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