



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society

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

VOLUME V, NUMBER 5, JUNE, 1992

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

PHONE 409/366-2441

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Folklife Festival in San Antonio is now upon us. Those of you who will receive this newsletter in time and live in the Lee County area, there are still seats available on the chartered bus which will go down to San Antonio Friday, August 7th. Any of you who will attend any part of the festival and would like to help in the Wendish booth, please contact Barbara at the Museum, 409/366-2441.

The festival committee is planning to place more emphasis on noodle making this year. Speaking of noodles, the Society noodle committee is continuing to increase production and sales. This is becoming a viable income source for the Society. The South Lee County Volunteer Fire Department, stationed in Northrup, is having a barbeque on the 8th of August at the Serbin Picnic grounds. The Society is donating some of the noodles for their barbeque and Walter and Laverne Gersch will furnish the balance of what they need.

Reverend Paul Hartfield has now returned from Russia and has some interesting stories to share with our people here in the States. Rev. Hartfield and the Rev. Wallace Schultz will share much of this information with the Lutheran Laymen's League members at the Milwaukee convention.

Rev. Hartfield and Rev. Schultz will be having speaking engagements throughout the States, talking about the situation over in Russia. Hopefully, we will be able to engage Rev. Hartfield to have the program at one of our membership meetings. Whenever you have an opportunity to hear either one of them, please make an effort to attend.

The Wendish Fest will be held this year on September 27th. This will be the fourth day of a four day celebration in connection with the Giddings Geburstag. Hopefully, many people who live in other areas will want to take advantage of this four day event and be able to celebrate and enjoy the activities that are planned.

The Society is in need of a volunteer or volunteers to help keep up with family reunions. As we receive more information on families and their reunions, we will publish information in this newsletter. Your help and effort will be appreciated.

Ken Weiser  
President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

August 6-9	Folklife Festival at San Antonio
August 16	General membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
August 24	Deadline for articles for the August newsletter
September 11-13	German-Texan Heritage Society annual meeting at New Braunfels
September 27	Fourth Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the St. Paul, Serbin, picnic grounds.
October 16	Deadline for articles for the October newsletter

## LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

by Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian

Thank you to our May Australian visitor, BEVERLY GOTSKY, for donating Westgarthtown - A German Settlement at Thomastown by Robert Wuchatsch. On July 3rd it was our pleasure to meet the author, Robert Wuchatsch, from Victoria, Australia, when he paid a surprise visit to our area.

Thank you to BARBARA HIELSCHER for donating German-American Life (Recipes and Traditions). This is a very interesting book that includes chapters about the various German communities throughout the United States and is written by different people. The chapter, "The Texas Germans", includes a section about the Texas Wends. One of the editors, Karin Gottier of Vernon, Connecticut, has also visited our Museum.

We have purchased the Coryell County Families published in 1986, which is our only budgeted purchase for 1992. This book contains several family histories of the Wends that moved to that area and the Lutheran churches they formed.

We now have a copy of Rev. Robert J. Koenig's book, Except the Corn Die, on the shelf. This is a historical novel about the Lutheran church and its people.

From the Anne Blasig Collection in our Archives, we have copied and have in the library the "History of the Mennicke Family". Rev. Herman Schmidt's wife was Karoline Wilhelmine Mennicke. Rev. Schmidt was Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin from 1922 until 1947.

## BAKE SALE

The Bake Sale on June 19th in La Grange netted \$500 and these funds will be matched by Lutheran Brotherhood Monument Hill Branch #8219. Participation in this could have been much better, but we do thank those members who did help. Helping in La Grange were Elva Bohot, Vivian Taylor, Elinor Steglich, Hattie Schautschick, Barbara Hielscher, Esther Buscha, and Evelyn Kasper. The sale of noodles and donations helped us reach our goal.

## VISITORS

During the month of May there were visitors from: Maryland, Canada, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, California, South Carolina, Australia, Germany, Illinois, Arizona, Nebraska, New Jersey, and from all parts of Texas.

## DOCENTS

Thank you, to the following for acting as docents during the month of May: Jack and Marian Wiederhold, August Zoch, Vivian Taylor, Georgie Boyce, Della Mullens, Daphne Garrett, Ken Weiser, Evelyn Kasper, Barbara Hielscher, Hattie Schautschick, Mildred Kilian, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Viola Spacek, and Ruby Koslan.

NOODLE REPORT  
by Elinor Steglich, Chairman

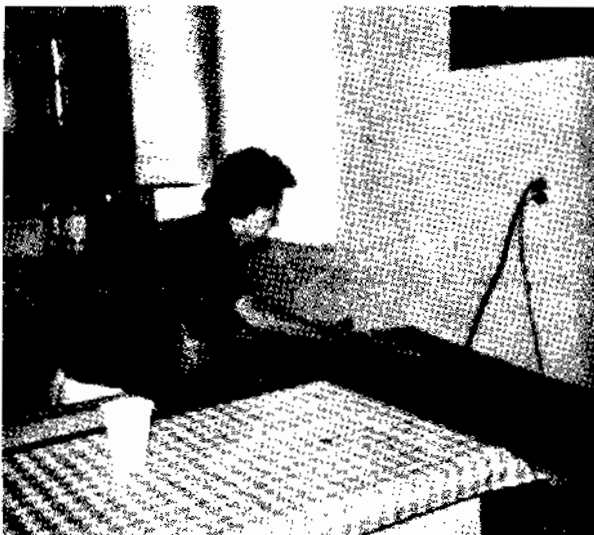
I received a very interesting letter from Betty Huf of Tarington, Australia. She was on the Kulturfest Committee last year on November 14-15.

She is a descendant of the Mirtschin, Hempel and Kruger family. They are trying to revive an almost lost Wendish heritage in Australia.

She sent her noodle recipe, which is very different from ours: "Nudeln" or "German Macaroni". 4 eggs, 2 ounces butter, 4 teaspoons milk - flour. With softened butter add egg and milk. Then enough flour to make a stiff dough, knead well. Cut into 4 pieces. Roll out each piece as thin as paper. Put aside to dry. Then place pieces on top of each other, roll up and cut into strips the width of a blade of grass. Boil in plenty of salted water until tender. Place into a drainer and pour boiling water over. Serve with white sauce or bread crumbs fried in butter until crisp and brown.

They are interested in how we cook our noodles and how we prepare them to be sold. They are trying to raise some money at their fest. Also, they are interested in any other items that we sell.

We have made 1000 pounds of noodles from January thru July. At the recent bake sale we sold 90 pounds. We will again supply the noodles for the Folklife Festival in San Antonio this year. If anyone needs noodles remember the Wendish noodles.





# Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

## Serbin, Texas

ROUTE 2, BOX 155, GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

409-366-2441

General Meeting, May 17, 1992

The meeting was called to order by Kenneth Weiser, President, at 2:00 p.m. in the auditorium of St. Paul Lutheran School.

Pastor Paul Hartfield opened the meeting with a German devotion based on 1st John Chapter 4, beginning at verse 16, speaking of love of God and love for one another, after the singing of the old German favorite "Gott Ist Die Liebe".

The German guests, Pastor Manfred Hornich, wife, Susana Hornich, daughter, Esther Hornich, Johannes Grosa, Dieter and Waltraud Kretzschmar and Wilfried and Elke Jensch, and the Australian guests, Benno and Beverly Gotzky, were introduced. Pastor Hornich then gave us some information on the village of Spreewitz where he is serving as Pastor. He said that 52 members from that area were with the group of Wends who migrated to America on the Ben Nevis. There was a question and answer session with Benji Fiedler acting as interpreter. They were all very happy to be able to be here and said it is a dream come true.

Beverly Gotzky then told of the arrival of the Wends in the Australian area. She presented some calendars from Bautzen one of which has the language of both Upper Lusatia and Lower Lusatia, some photographs of an early Wendish cabin in Australia, and a book of the early history in Australia.

After a short break, Pastor Hornich showed some slides of the church and immediate area in Spreewitz. Dr. Joe Wilson acted as interpreter. He also brought his collection of pictures of the church at Spreewitz for viewing.

The Hornichs then presented gifts to the museum - some old and some new. They included a Wendish Bible from 1893, a Wendish wedding picture taken in 1934, three scarves, one shawl, one apron, a wedding wreath, two haubes, one underskirt and jacket. Some of these items belonged to the grandmother of one of the ladies visiting and she also brought a picture of her "Oma".

Refreshments of sandwiches and sweets, tea and coffee were served to members and visitors. This was a wonderful experience for Wends of three continents to visit and enjoy some wonderful fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,

*Evelyn N. Kasper*  
Evelyn N. Kasper,  
Secretary

THE FOLLOWING LETTER WAS RECEIVED FROM GAIL M. CUMMINS, RIDE DIRECTOR. WE WANT TO SHARE THIS LETTER WITH ALL OF YOU.



## **Texas Chainring Challenge**

### **BIKE RIDE ACROSS TEXAS**

P.O. Box 1792 Longview, Texas 75606  
1-800-374-BIKE 1-903-237-7703

June 19, 1992

Evelyn Kasper  
Texas Wendish Heritage Museum  
Rt. 2 Box 155  
Giddings, TX 78942

Dear Evelyn and LaVerne,

On behalf of the Longview News-Journal and Longview Bicycle Club, I want to thank you for hosting and supporting the 1992 Texas Chainring Challenge. During the week of June 7-13, more than 250 bicyclists from across the United States pedaled from Blanco State Park in the Hill Country and finished in the Piney Woods of East Texas in Longview.

A special thanks to both of you and to all of the volunteers who rose at the crack of dawn to prepare the typical Wendish wedding breakfast for us. Many of the riders said their less than 24-hour visit in Serbin was the best host town in all of the towns we have visited in the past three years. The food was memorable, the entertainment was unforgettable and the hospitality and enthusiasm displayed by all of you made a lasting impression on a lot of people. Thanks for helping me put this all together with such short notice.

Once again, thanks for hooking up with the Texas Chainring Challenge and becoming a very important and crucial link along our 425-mile bike ride across the Lone Star State.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Cummins  
Ride Director

GROUP TOURS  
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-ordinator

We are the recipients of some very pretty serving pieces for use in hosting tours. Thank you, to Flora Kunze.

We hosted a group of 14 ladies from the Minnie B. Williams Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy from Brenham on June 3rd.

Our big tour for June was the group of the Chainring Challenge bicyclists who spent the night at the Serbin Picnic Grounds on June 8th. The Serbin 4-H club members had snacks and drinks available for these folks as they came in. The St. Paul's Youth Group served hamburgers for the evening meal. They were served a Wendish wedding breakfast on the morning of June 9th.

A special thank you goes out to the following members and/or volunteers who came out at 4:00 a.m. to cook breakfast for this group: Carroll and Barbara Hielscher, Harold Kasper, Arnold and Evelyn Kasper George and Flora Kunze, Leroy and Elinor Steglich, Jarrett Teston Pastor Robert and Georgie Boyce, Telford and Clara Zoch, Otto Becker, Freddie Zoch, Walter and Laverne Gersch, Herbert and Hattie Schautschick and Esther Buscha. Laura Zoch wrapped all of the knives and forks in napkins and tied them with blue ribbons. A special thank you to Cal-Maine Processing Plant of La Grange who donated the eggs, and to B&W grocery, Food 4 Less and Brookshire Bros of Giddings who donated the orange juice, as well as to our local members who donated blackberries and/or jellies.

About 55 guests visited the Museum as they arrived at Serbin, Ruby Koslan and Elsie Socha acted as docents.

The unforgettable entertainment was furnished by Jack Wiederhold on his accordion and Douglas Malke with his rake.

CHAINRING CHALLENGE CYCLISTS



Photo courtesy of the Giddings Times & News

Pictured above are three members of the Chainring Challenge bicycle group discussing the next day's ride. Left to right, Gail Cummins, Robert Cummins and Charley Bachtell.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

Elizabeth Kokei Hill, Plano, TX  
John M. Barr, Austin, TX

Helen W. Wright, New Braunfels, TX  
Allen M. Kappler, Houston, TX

### Patron Members

Dianne H. Wassenich, Maxwell, TX

Helen W. Wright, New Braunfels, TX

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Patty Bones	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$25.00
Ola Belle Hielscher	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gersch, children & grandchildren	\$25.00
Valerie Secord	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$15.00
Rosalie Woelfel	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$15.00
Hilma Zuhn	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$15.00
Hilma Zuhn	Mr. & Mrs. Irvin L. Boerger	\$15.00

On Occassion of:	Donor	Amount
Mr. & Mrs. Ernst Oltmann 50th Wedding Anniversary	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gersch	\$15.00

Mr. & Mrs. Roland Froelich 60th Wedding Anniversary	Mr. & Mrs. Frank Taylor, and Family
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The descendants of Karl Ernst and Anna Auguste (Hannusch) Zoch donated \$500 from the Zoch reunion.

## LANDSCAPE

by Herbert and Hattie Schautschick

As the saying goes, "when it's wet, it's wet", and "when it's dry, it's dry". We are watering the courtyard and baskets twice a week, but it doesn't seem to help. It seems the plants we have planted can't do well and spread even with the water and fertilizer. We are trying our best to keep everything going.

## REUNIONS

### Hannusch Reunion

The second annual Karl Hannusch Reunion was held at the American Legion Hall in Smithville on June 20th. Joyce Hannusch Lee was the organizer for the second year, and many branches of the Hannusch family attended. Members of each of Karl and Augusta Handrick Hannusch's children's families were there, along with some of Paul Herman and Bertha Wagner Hannusch's offspring. Karl and Paul were brothers whose parents Johann and Mary Kubitz Hannusch, came over from Germany. Also, in attendance were family members of George and Anna Matthiza Hannusch, who also came over from Germany in the mid-1800's. It is believed that George and Johann were brothers, or perhaps cousins.

About 75 people attended the reunion to visit, eat the wonderful barbecue dinner, look over the old pictures, and try to piece together the family history and stories. Joyce Lee was thanked profusely, and Raymond Hannusch of Cedar Creek has accepted the responsibility of organizing the next reunion in two years. For this 1994 reunion, it is hoped that other branches of the family can be contacted and invited, as they are located. For information on the reunion or to help with any geneological background, please contact Dianne Hannusch Wassenich, Route 1, Box 43, Maxwell, TX 78656.

### Schoppa Reunion

The 32nd annual Michael and Maria Schoppa family reunion was held June 21 and 22 at Lake Kickapoo Boys Club facilities. Lisa Full, vice president, directed bingo, games, and contests for the children.

A hamburger and hot dog supper was held Saturday evening. Music for dancing was taped and directed by Lavoy Bivins, president.

Rev. Robert E. Boyce and Georgie B. Boyce of Warda, presented a unique display of pictures and historical highlights of Wendish heritage. Books concerning Wendish history, Easter egg decorating, cookbooks and tee shirts were available. Mrs. Boyce is the librarian and photo archivist at the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum in Serbin.

Gene Rummel of Garland offered words of greeting and welcome and introduced Rev. Boyce of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Warda on Sunday morning. Rev. Boyce was the worship leader and preacher of the day. He was assisted by Terry Daberkow of Vernon, as song leader and Loretta Parks of Lubbock who read the names of those remembered in memorium. They were Elsie Pietsch, Louise Blaedorn, Bernice Noack, Chance Streit, Johnny Baker, Joe Gilley, Greg Gillespie and R. A. Patton.

The Pipe Bell Dingalings directed by Lavoy Bivins presented two musical selections.

Arnold Schulz of Carrollton voiced the prayer preceding the covered dish noon meal on Sunday.

Lavoy Bivins conducted the business meeting. Lisa Full assisted in presenting awards to the following: Oldest, Alma Schoppa; youngest, Taylor Marie Rider; traveling the farthest, Roy and Debbie Fannin, Roy Jr. and Scott of Channelview; latest married, Bill and Darina Price; baldest, Marvin Lee Schoppa; oldest vehicle driven to reunion, Kelly Schoppa; MAM candy guess, Zane Schoppa; perfect attendance for 32 reunions, Norma Schoppa and Lisa Full.

Mary Guggisberg, secretary, read the 1991 minutes and Delores Price gave the treasurer's report.

The 1993 reunion will be held June 19 and 20 at the Boys Club facilities at Lake Kickapoo.

The following were officers elected who will serve for the following year: Kenneth Schoppa of Lubbock and Gene Rummel of Garland, presidents; Barbara Davis of Lubbock, secretary; and Loretta Parks of Lubbock, treasurer.

### EXHIBIT COMPLETE

The Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio has redesigned the Wendish exhibit and it is now complete. Two special features include a black wedding dress made by Cindy Knippa, on loan from the Wendish Museum, and decorated Wendish Easter eggs designed by Daphne Garrett. Be sure to stop by and visit the exhibit.



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