



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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

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

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V NUMBER 7, SEPTEMBER, 1992

WENDISH FEST REPORT

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Coordinator

The Wendish Fest, our big annual event, was held on September 27th and the Wendish Fest Committee joins me in saying "Thank you!, thank you!, thank you!" Without the support of our good members and friends the job could not have been done.

The beautiful German Service of praise and trust in God by Pastor Hartfield sums it up pretty well. The cover depicting the Wends coming from church was very fitting and I made several copies for friends and relatives who were unable to be there. The German Filming Crew members were very impressed to see the Church full of people and especially, to see so many younger people attending services. The \$275 collection from this service will be used for Church renovation. (Tapes of this service will be available in the gift shop.)

We served lunch to 566 people. Those attending in the afternoon enjoyed drumsticks, sausage and sauerkraut. Desserts, coffee, tea, soda water and beer were available all afternoon.

In addition to the items which were sold and auctioned at the Frank Heinig Booth, the Heinigs presented the Museum with a Linden tree which was planted on the Museum grounds. The Linden tree stands as a symbol for the Wends who were cut down as trees many times and always came back to life from the strong roots.

Dr. Toni Bruk of Sorabia Film Company had visited with Benno and Beverly Gotzky of Australia who visited here last May. Their accounts of our activities no doubt helped the crew make its decision to attend our Wendish Fest and visit the Wendish area. The filming crew presented us with Sorbian, Saxon and Brandenburg flags and brought special greetings and an invitation to Texas Wends to visit Lusatia in 1994 from the Domowina. I understand from the Gotzkys that a group of Wends from Australia plan to visit Lusatia in 1994. What a wonderful thing it is to see Wends from three continents working to preserve the Wendish heritage!

Master Baker Frank Heinig made a large number of meringue birds for us and he and Frau Helga Heinig also presented the museum with books, pamphlets, post cards, two dolls, a Sorbian flag, a flag of Dorfrepublik Ruterberg, some banners, and a framed map of Ruterberg.

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Other gifts from German visitors on the date of the Wendish Fest were a number of books and pamphlets from Herr Helmuth Richter, and three beautiful Easter Eggs and several pamphlets from Herr Janausch. For all of these gifts we are very grateful.

Thanks to Telford Zoch for leading the table prayer before lunch and to Jack Wiederhold and Pastor Robert Boyce for acting as emcees.

Music for the day was furnished by the Ben Dunk Brass Band of Walburg and by our own Oompah Boys, Jack Wiederhold on the accordion and Douglas Malke on the bench and rake. They also led in the German sing-along in which many participated.

Steed Henderson and Conrad Behrens were on hand again to demonstrate old fashioned blacksmithing and to give the youngsters a horseback ride. Other activities for the children were corn shucking and shelling, feeding the geese, pea shelling, crosscut sawing, and the "Klettern Pfosten".

"Shorty" Pampell and "Champ" Richter demonstrated sausage stuffing at the picnic grounds.

The Kilian Building was a busy place with Easter Egg decorating, quilting, wine making, noodle making, and butter churning, while spinning and carding was going on in the courtyard and crocheting was demonstrated in the St. Paul Building. Folks were stationed in the library to help with memberships and genealogy.

The Ben Nevis float and the Wendish couple props were available for picture taking. The Watkins Booth by the Schmidts added a bit of nostalgia.

C.B. and Connie Neitsch of Taylor and Carolyn Fuchs of Walburg judged the coffee cakes and Ron and Glenda Lammert of San Antonio judged the coloring contest. Horseshoe Pitching and Washer Pitching were added to our activities this year, thanks to Scott Hielscher, Kirt Watts, Chris Bloxham and John Faseler.

Thanks to Telford Zoch for setting up the tables on the picnic grounds, with the help of Otto Becker, Walter Schulze, Robert Stivison, and Willard Albrecht.

Our special thanks go to the representatives of Aid Association for Lutherans who donated money to help pay for the band. Also, to the Serbin Branch 5011 for their donation, which will be matched by AAL. And again, thanks to all who helped in any way and/or brought desserts. You were all great!

WINNERS OF CONTESTS

BAKING

Käse Kuchen	1st place - Annie Kasper Bartholic
	2nd place - Elinor Steglich
	3rd place - Adele Sander
Streusel Kuchen	1st place - Elinor Steglich
	2nd place - Elsie Mertink
	3rd place - Hattie Schautschick
Special Division	1st place - Evelyn Buchhorn
	2nd place - Alice Teinert
	3rd place - Marjorie Albrecht

COLORING CONTEST

Age 5 and under	1st place - Becca Walker
	2nd place - Sara Knox
	3rd place - Ryan Heinrich
Ages 6-8	1st place - Melissa Wells
	2nd place - Minerva Gersch
	3rd place - Johanna Lammert

CROSSCUT SAW

Women's Division	1st place - Irene Wiesenhutter Mary Smith
	2nd place - Ruby Weiser, Janiece Becker
	3rd place - Debra Hartfield, Sandra Schimank
Men's Division	1st place - Harvey Hobratschk Elwert Hobratschk
	2nd place - Dwayne Bamsch, Ralph Bamsch
	3rd place - Eldor Becker, Freddie Zoch
Mixed Division	1st place - Eldor Becker, Ruby Weiser
	2nd place - Douglas Malke, Agnes Hannes
	3rd place - Walter Gersch, Diane Wassenich

HORSESHOES

1st place - J.B.Railey, Berl Railey
2nd place - Fred Moeller, Wm Weuthe
3rd place - David Gersch, Walter Gersch

WASHERS

1st place - David Gersch, Walter Gersch
2nd place - J.B. Railey, Berl Railey
3rd place - Chris Bloxham, John Faseler

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 15 General membership meeting at the Museum, 2:00 pm
November 26 Closed for Thanksgiving Day
December 28 Deadlines for Articles for December Newsletter

SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER MEETING: Frau Gertrud Mahling of the Bautzen area will be our special guest and speaker on November 15.

TOURS

Twenty-five members of St. Paul Presbyterian Church of Houston enjoyed a luncheon and tour of the Museum complex and St. Paul Church, Serbin on Monday, September 14th.

The Lee Co. Chapter of the Texas German Society toured the Museum in connection with their meeting the evening of Sept. 14.

Mr. Dan Engler, together with several other teachers and parents, brought the fourth through the eighth grades of Immanuel Lutheran School, Temple to tour the Museum complex on September 24th.

On September 19th Pastor Copeland and a group of 17 from Coupland, Texas toured the Museum.

A group of teenagers from Kansas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan and Iowa, accompanied by Pastor Paul Mehl of St. John's Lutheran church, Revillo, South Dakota, Pastor Carl Weis of Trinity Lutheran Church, Paw Paw, Michigan, Pastor Bart Mueller of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Park, Iowa, and Pastor John Mehl, St. Paul's Lutheran church of Lincoln, Kansas visited the Museum and St. Paul Lutheran church, Serbin on August 8th while touring in Texas.

PARADES

Telford Zoch, our new Parade chairman, and his crew brought back a trophy for the 2nd place Best Small Town Entry in the Fayette county Fair Parade on Labor Day weekend, and a ribbon from the Geburtstag Parade in Giddings.

Riding in the float at La Grange on September 4th were our musicians, Jack Wiederhold and Doug Malke, Barbara Hielscher and grandson Jerry, Evelyn Kasper and granddaughters Allison and Constance Karisch, Laverne Gersch and granddaughters Sarah, Alicia, and Minerva Gersch, Freddie Zoch, Lorine Domel, Sarah and Elizabeth Schwartz.

Riding the float at the Giddings on September 26th were Freddie Zoch, Albert Kriegel, Bessie Mertink and grandchildren Luke Mertink and Kari Jatzlau, and Walter Mersiovsky.

NOACK FAMILY REUNION

The family of Johann and Maria Noack met at the Warda Picnic Grounds on Sunday, October 4th. 65 family members attended. Rev. Robert Boyce led a devotional service before the meal. The business meeting was also held before the noon meal was served.

Officers elected to serve for another two year term were Leon Noack of Rockdale, President, Debbie White of Friendswood, Vice-President, Pat Schmidt of Sealy, Secretary, and Elinor Steglich of Warda, Treasurer.

After the noon meal, the flowers which were placed at Holy Cross church for the worship service, were taken to the graves of, Johann and Maria Noack. A number of great-great-grandchildren and great-great-great-grandchildren visited the graves for the first time.

REPORT of GENERAL MEETING, August 16, 1992

Pastor Ebert of Lincoln opened the general meeting of August 16th with a devotion based on 11 Timothy 3:12.

Pastor Hartfield, the scheduled speaker, had to go to Schulenburg for an installation service, so Charles Wukasz presented a program on the Serbs at Sarajevo. These Serbs in Serbia were conquered by the Turks and converted forcibly to Muslims between 1300 and 1400. The Sorbs or Wends, as we know them, are from a completely different area.

It was mentioned that perhaps Pastor Hartfield would have the program on his Russian trip at the November meeting, but since it is possible that Gertrud Mahling will be here for that meeting, it would be more feasible to have Pastor Hartfield's program when more time is allowed. Vivian Taylor, George Boerger, and Sandra Matthijetz visited with Gertrud Mahling while on their trip to Germany a couple of years ago. Charles Wukasz suggested that invitations to homes in the area would be very much appreciated.

The second place red ribbon which was awarded to the Wendish Heritage Booth at the Folklife Festival in San Antonio was on display.

. Evelyn N. Kasper, Rec. Secretary

DOCENTS

Serving as Docents during August and September were Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Georgie Boyce, Elinor Steglich, Herb and Hattie Schautschick, Vivian Taylor, Laurie Taylor, Ken Weiser, August Zoch, Bea Tschatschula, Ruby Koslan, Elsie Socha, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Albert and Esther Buscha, Elsie Steglich, Barbara Hielscher, and Bessie Mertink.

VISITORS

Visitors during August and September came from New York, Italy, Oklahoma, California, Kansas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Maryland, New Mexico, Missouri, Indiana, Florida, Delaware, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Germany, Washington, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and Illinois.

MEMORIALS

<u>In Memory of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	
Gus Synatschk	Mr. & Mrs. Reinhold Teinert	
Alvin Teinert, Jr.	Dr. & Mrs. M. James Moritz	
<u>On Occasion of:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Dr. & Mrs. George Kunze 45th Wedding Anniversary	Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Wappler	\$20

DONATIONS

<u>For:</u>	<u>Donor:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
Building Rennovation Fund	Serbin, AAL Branch 5011	\$600
Wendish Fest Band	Mr. E. Balke	\$ 25
	Mr. M. Hahn	\$ 25
	Mrs. R. Altmann	\$ 50
	AAL Matching Gift	\$ 25

Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Zoch for a one year gift subscription to *The Houston Lutheran*.

MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Do your Christmas Shopping Here!!!!

We have a number of unique ideas in the gift shop for your Christmas tree, dinner table and your gift giving.

For the tree--Beaded & crocheted angels, crocheted snowflakes, beaded ornaments, specially decorated Wendish eggs in red and green on white.

For Gifts--- Children will enjoy a wooden crayon holder and "The Wendish Texan Coloring Book", the story book, "The Lost Kitten", Wendish dressed dolls, and wooden toys. Adults will enjoy reading about Texas ethnic heritage Christmas customs in "Christmas in Texas" published by A&M University Press.

For the table-- Jams and Jellies, and Wendish Noodles.



SERBIN

Here in 1854

Under The Leadership of

Rev. John Khas

Ev. Luth. Pastor

About 600 Wends

Seeking Religious Liberty

Established The First

Wendish Settlement In Texas

Above is the inscription on the Historical
Marker erected by the State of Texas in
MEMORY
of the First Wendish Settlement, 6 Miles
south of Giddings, Texas

HISTORICAL NOTES

The Texas State Historical Monument at St. Paul, -Serbin

Fifty-five years ago, on November 25, 1937, a large crowd gathered for the unveiling of the monument which the State of Texas had erected to commemorate the pioneers. It was a time to remember the beginnings of the "Wendish Colony" with a religious service in the morning, patriotic songs by the school children in the afternoon, speeches, and the reading of congratulatory messages. The occasion was also a reunion for many friends.

Several distinguished gentlemen spoke, either during the religious service, or during the dedication. In an article in the Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt, we read that Pastor A. F. Moebus spoke and Pastor H. Schmidt gave a service in English, German and Wendish.

The Volksblatt reported that "Rep. Henry G. Lehmann presented a captivating speech as he spoke through the loudspeaker which he had made available for general use. He spoke particularly about the immigration and beginning circumstances. . . ."

Senator L. J. Sulak "praised the zeal, diligence, perseverance and the patriotism of the Wends. . . . He conveyed the congratulations of the Czechs of the State in the Bohemian language." County Judge Schlosshahn said, ". . . if all people loved justice and were as law-abiding as the Wends, then he, the sheriff and lawyers would have nothing to do"

Through the courtesy of Ruth Lindner, the Archives of the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum has an issue of the Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt, December 9, 1937, which gives a full report of the event. Ruth, who was present for the ceremony, arranged to have the article translated. A copy of the Volksblatt article and the translation are available in the Museum Library in the Vertical file. Genealogists will be interested in the chart of all the descendants of Johann Kilian at that time, which appeared on the same page of the Volksblatt. Read more about it!

Daphne Garrett



Texas Mendish Heritage Society

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