

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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

(409) 366-2441

OPEN FROM 1:00 To 5:00 EVERY DAY EXCEPT SATURDAY & HOLIDAYS
PHONE 409/366-2441

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME V NUMBER 8, DECEMBER, 1992

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that each and everyone of you had a Merry and Blessed Christmas and that each one of you will have a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I feel confident that you are making plans to attend the Vogelhochzeit at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings, Texas on January 23rd. Chairperson Laverne Gersch is working diligently to help you have an exciting and interesting weekend.

Again the local ladies had a successful bake sale in La Grange. We want to especially thank those who baked for this sale and also those who bought items. Our Wendish noodles continue to increase in sales and this has become one of our best money raisers for our Society. The noodle committee is working diligently to make enough noodles to satisfy the demand.

Now is a good time to mark your calendars and make plans to attend the upcoming events: The Vogelhochzeit January 23rd at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings, Texas, Yesterfest April 17th at Bastrop, Texas, Serbin Homecoming Picnic May 30th at Serbin, Texas, Folklife Festival August 5th - 8th at San Antonio, Texas, and the Wendish Fest September 26th at Serbin, Texas.

The Museum is in dire need of a good vacuum cleaner. Any one wishing to donate or buy a good vacuum cleaner for the Museum, please contact Barbara at the office.

Ken Weiser
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 23rd	Vogelhochzeit at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings, Texas
February 21	General membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER

Reverend Elmer Hohle of Austin will conduct the February 21st meeting. He will tell folklore stories and conduct singing of Wendish hymns.

TOURS

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator

The three October tours we had brought our tour totals up to eleven luncheons, one dinner, one breakfast (bicycle group), five groups for coffee cake and coffee, and fourteen groups who had tours only for the year 1992.

Other Fund Raisers for the year include the Bake Sale held in June. To add to this, a group of local ladies - Laura Zoch of Giddings, Elva Bohot and Jeanette Huelsebusch of La Grange, Barbara Hielscher and Esther Pampell of Winchester, Hattie Schautschick and Laverne Gersch of Northrup, Esther Buscha, Elinor Steglich, Georgie Boyce, and Evelyn Kasper of Warda baked Christmas goodies and sold over \$300 worth, plus another \$100 in noodles.

We also participated in the Yesterfest in Bastrop last April, the Vogelhochzeit in January, The Folklife Festival in August, and the Wendish Fest in September.

In addition to all of this, our members helped entertain visitors from Germany and Australia on several occasions. What a wonderful year we have had! It's been work, but it was also fun, and for those of you who helped, I know you will agree with me when I say, "The feeling of sharing and accomplishment is very rewarding." The Lord has really blessed our efforts.

Thank you to Mary Jane Fehr of for donating the funds for refreshments for the November membership meeting.

GIFT SHOP

By Barbara Hielscher, Manager

Maps of the Oberlausitz are available in the gift shop. They were sent to us by Ekkehard Kockel of Hochkirch, Germany and are \$3.20, tax included.

Dr. Charles Wukasch's two wendish grammars are selling very well and required a second printing. They are now ready and are available for \$10.00 per book, or both books for \$18.00. A \$2.00 shipping fee for the first book, and a \$.75 fee for the second book is required.

DOCENTS

THANK YOU, to the following for acting as docents during the months of October, November, and December: Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Georgie Boyce, Daphne Garrett, Ken Weiser, Mildred Kilian, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Leslie Carpenter, Laverne Gersch, Herbert and Hattie Schautschick, Bessie Mertink, George Boerger, Evelyn Kasper, Vivian Taylor, Viola Spacek, Dora Spitzenberger, Barbara Hielscher, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Freddie Zoch, Ruby Koslan, and Elsie Socha.

VISITORS

In addition to visitors from all parts of Texas there were visitors from the following during the months of October, November, and December: Australia, Montana, Illinois, Michigan, California, Missouri, Germany, Iowa, Canada, Florida, Arizona, West Virginia, Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, New Mexico, New Jersey, Arkansas, and Kansas.

MATTHIAS MROSKO'S DESCENDANTS

I would appreciate it very much if the descendants of Matthias Mrosko's daughters would send me information and pictures of themselves and their families, going back to 1854. I have information on his son, John and their families, that I would be glad to share with them. Please mail to: Alfred Mrosko, 111 S. Criswell, Mart, Texas 76664.

NOODLE REPORT

By Elinor Steglich, Chairperson

1572 pounds of noodles were made in 1992 and at the end of the year there was no inventory left. They were sold at \$1.75 per pound but with the increase of price of eggs and flour, we are now asking \$2.00 per pound. Thanks to all who helped make noodles and to all who donated flour, eggs and cash. This has certainly helped our cash flow and this year we will keep a record of how many noodles are used for the various fund raisers and how many are actually sold.

If you are celebrating a special occasion, give us your order for the noodles you will need. You may place your order by calling the Museum, 409/366-2441.

VOGELHOCHZEIT

By Laverne Gersch, General Chairperson

The third annual Vogelhochzeit (Bird Wedding) is planned for January 23rd at the Sons of Hermann Hall South of Giddings.

Activities begin at 9 a.m. with an all day shat tournament. This tournament is open to all shat players. E. C. Knippa is chairman of this event and can be reached at 512/253-6585. Tables will also be available for dominoes.

Drinks and sweet will be available all day with the Wendish Kitchen opening at 11 a.m.

Craft booths will again be featured. Cost of the booth is \$15.00 and the booths should be open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For additional information on the craft booths or any other information contact Laverne at 409/366-2247.

Some members of the German class of La Grange High School will entertain the group at 4:30 with polka music and dances. At 6 o'clock the Lee County German Society will sing and also lead a sing-a-long.

A ham and sausage supper will be served from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with plates to go available. Prices of the meal are \$4.50 for adult plates and \$3:00 for child's plates. Coffee or tea is included.

Since one of the purposed of the society is to teach our Wendish heritage to others, a new feature has been added for this year's Vogelhochzeit. It is a poster contest for children, kindergarten through sixth grade. The theme of the poster is "My idea of a Bird-Wedding." Complete rules for the contest are enclosed.

All society members are asked to bring baked sweets. Work schedules will be mailed out. If you do not get one and can work please call Laverne.

All proceeds from this benefit will be used to support the Museum in 1993. (NOTE THE VOGELHOCHZEIT IS ONLY ON SATURDAY THE 23rd. Because of a double booking by the hall for the 24th the Sunday portion has been canceled.) Your presence will help make this event a success. Bring your friends!!

FREE ADMISSION TO THE HALL



Bird's Wedding

POSTER CONTEST



Bird's Wedding

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society has decided to sponsor a poster contest. Please encourage your students to take part. The rules are listed below.

1. Open to all area school children from kindergarten through sixth grade, one poster per child.
2. Poster is to be half (1/2) sheet poster paper only. Approximately 14x22.
3. The theme of the contest is, "My idea of a Bird Wedding," an idea sheet is enclosed.
4. The words, Wendish Bird Wedding, and the date January 25th should appear someplace on the front of the poster.
5. The name, grade, age, and school of the child must appear on the back of the poster, left hand corner.
6. Deadline for turning in posters to the schools is Thursday, January 21st. All out of county posters should be delivered to the Sons of Hermann Hall by 10 a.m. Saturday, January 23rd or to the Wendish Museum by 5 p.m. January 22nd.
7. No stencils are to be used when drawing on the poster.
8. The posters will be picked up on Thursday, January 21st at each school and will be judged. The posters will then be placed on display at the Sons of Hermann Hall on January 23rd.

If you have any further questions, please contact Rachel Mertink at 366-2849.



This is a non-poetic translation of the song Ein Vogel wollte Hochzeit machen.

Ein Vogel wollte Hochzeit machen.

1. A bird wanted to marry in the green forest.
Chorus: Fi-di-ra-la-la, fi-di-ra-la-la,
fi-di-ra-la-la-la-la.
2. The Thrush was the bridegroom, the blackbird was the bride .
Chorus:
3. The sparrow-hawk, the sparrow-hawk is the wedding wooer.
Chorus:
4. The Waxwing, the Waxwing brings the wedding wreath to the bride.
Chorus:
5. The Lark, the Lark brings the bride to the church.
Chorus:
6. The Auerhahn, the Auerhahn is the chaplain.
Chorus:
7. The Warbler, the Warbler sang the Kyrie.
Chorus:
8. The Goose, the Goose was the musician.
Chorus:
9. The Peacock with his colorful tail led the bride to the wedding dance.
Chorus:
10. The little Finch, the little Finch led the pair to the little room.
Chorus:
11. The Bat, the Bat pulled to stockings off the bride.
Chorus:
12. The mother of the bride is the Owl. She left with great wailing.
Chorus:
13. Mrs. Kratzefuss, Mrs. Kratzefuss gave everyone a good-bye kiss.
Chorus:
14. The Eagle owl, the Eagle owl closed the window shutters.
Chorus:
15. The Rooster crowed, "Good Night!" Then the room was closed.
Chorus:
16. Now the wedding is over and everyone went home happy.
Chorus:



Bird's Wedding

Third Annual



Bird's Wedding

VOGELHOCZHEIT

Saturday, January 23, 1993

Sons of Herman Hall - Giddings, Texas

(General Chairperson Laverne Gersch @ (409)-366-2247)

PURPOSE

Wendish Museum Benefit

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

9 A.M. till ? Skat Tournament
(E.C. Knippa -Chairman @ (512)-253-6686)
Domino Tables Available
Drinks and Baked Sweets Available

10 A.M. - 6 P.M. Arts and Crafts Booths

11 A.M. Wendish Kitchen Opens

4:15 P.M. Winners of "Bird Wedding" poster contest
announced

4:30 P.M. Performance by La Grange High School German
Class members (Polka Band and Folk Dancing)

5:00 - 6:30 P.M. Ham and Sausage supper
Prices:
\$4.50 adult
\$3.00 children

Desserts / Plates To Go Also Available

6:00 P.M. Song Concert by Lee County German Society
followed by sing-a-long

--NO ADMISSION CHARGE--

Come for a day of fun, fellowship, good food and great
entertainment

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Minutes

Serbin, Texas, November 15, 1992

A meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was held at the museum complex in Serbin, Texas, at 2:00 P.M. on November 15, 1992.

President Kenneth Weiser called the meeting to order and introduced Pastor Hartfield who led a devotion based on *Luke 18.9*.

MINUTES: The minutes were approved as presented in the newsletter.

INTRODUCTIONS: Visitors were: Mrs. Walter Baumsch of Warda and Mr. Richard Weaver of Pennsylvania.

TREASURER'S REPORT: George Boerger (for the treasurer) reported: (1) Membership has increased over last year; (1) the gross profit from our Wendishfest was \$3,300; (3) book sales and donations are less than projected while general expenses are near budget; (4) no information is available regarding profits from the Folklife Festival in San Antonio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Annual dues are payable.

Eleanor Steiglich stated that a supply of noodles is available; she thanked everyone who donated eggs and flour.

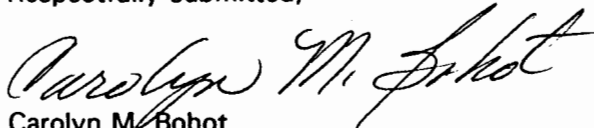
Georgie Boyce and Evelyn Kaspar decorated the Christmas tree. We will gather around it to sign carols after today's meeting.

Reinhold Teinert announced that the Wendish Christmas tree is displayed this year at Northcross Mall in Austin.

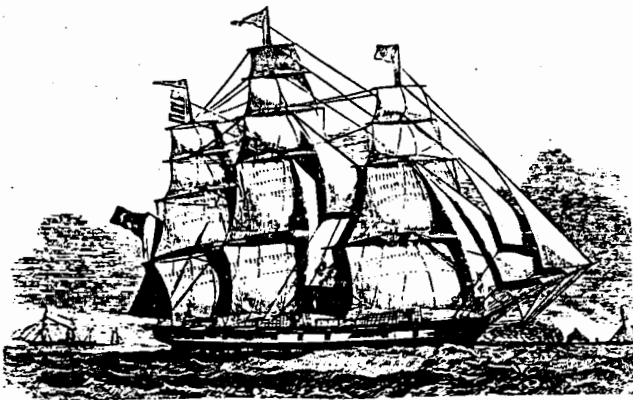
SPEAKER: Vivian Taylor introduced Gertrud Mahling from Groditz, Saxony, who discussed the research she is doing for a book she plans to write about the Wendish immigration to Texas, Australia, and South Africa. She is employed at the Sorbish Institute in Bautzen and is married to the pastor of an evangelical Lutheran church located near Weigersdorf. She is the mother of five children who range in age from three to twelve.

There being no further business to come before the Society, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Carolyn M. Bohot
for Evelyn Kasper
Recording Secretary



HISTORICAL NOTES - II

A Special Kind of Ship

What is the name of

- > the finest passenger sailing ship of the mid-19th century?
- > the ship which had a Scottish Highlander for the figure head?
- > the highest mountain in Scotland?

If you answered "Ben Nevis" to all three questions, you are right.

The three masted ship Ben Nevis is famous in Texas-Wendish history because it brought so many Wends to Texas on one ship. The sparse accounts of that trip from Liverpool to Galveston in the fall of 1854 paint a picture of a voyage filled with hardship due to illness and bad weather. Otherwise, we might have accounts of a luxury trip as measured by the standards of those times.

From The London Illustrated News, September 4, 1852 we can read many details of the new ship built especially for the Australian passenger trade. She was 180 feet long and 38 1/2 feet in breadth, with a register of 1420 tons, and belonged to the White Star line. She was considered to be one of the finest ships of the time. The news article reports "commanding as a frigate. . . handsome. . . sits upon the water with ease and grace. . . immense strength. . . and nothing omitted, either in her build or fittings for the safety and convenience of the passengers.

As to the passengers accommodations---the height between decks was seven feet, and the berths as "commodious as those of any ship afloat." She was noted for her excellent ventilation and lighting systems, making the between decks "cheerfully light and airy". She was built to carry 650 passengers, and had cooking facilities for 800 built according to the standards adopted by the Government emigration officers. The ship had a fire-engine and force pump which also supplied water to the cisterns located around the deck.

The cooking and serving facilities, as well as crew compartments, were located in a house in the center of the upper deck. Part of this area was devoted to a ship's hotel, a "beautiful little room fitted with stained glass windows." Possibly this room was the separate accommodations used by Pastor Kilian and his family.

Through the efforts of Albert Blaha, we have in the Library Vertical File, and on exhibit, the drawing of the Ben Nevis and the complete article from The London Illustrated News. Read more about it!

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