



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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

VOLUME VI NUMBER 1, FEBRUARY, 1993

1993 VOGELHOCHZEIT

By Laverne Gersch, General Chairperson

The 1993 Vogelhochzeit (Bird Wedding) benefit took place on January 23. Anyone approaching the Sons of Hermann Hall on Highway 77 was greeted by a bright 2-directional sign announcing the Wendish Bird Wedding and the craft booths. Walter Gersch stayed up till 2:45 Friday night to finish the sign.

About 20 volunteers were on hand at 7:30 a.m. for kitchen patrol and to set up tables for the day's schedule.

The skat tournament started at 9 a.m. with E. C. Knippa in charge. There were participants from different areas in Texas and one from as far away as Wisconsin.

The judging for the childrens poster contest took place at 11:00 a.m. with Rachel Mertink as chairperson. Her assistants were Michelle Fritsche and Bev Johnson. There were 95 entries in the contest and 95 different ideas of a "bird wedding". Ideas ranged from the birds in a church - a bird wedding with the minister, bridal couple, wedding party, family, cooks, wedding dance band all perched on different limbs of a tree and all kinds of wild animals on the ground looking up and watching the proceedings - the bird wedding ceremony going on in a tree on the right side of the poster with a "Garfield" type cat sitting on the lower left corner, waiting. Anyone that missed the Vogelhochzeit display of posters missed an opportunity to see the good and positive attitudes and thoughts of our young people. Winners in each age group were: 1ST GRADE - 1st - Jennifer Wenke, 2nd - John Hempel, 3rd - Sarah Gersch. 2ND GRADE - 1st - Heather Birnbaum, 2nd - Marshall Umland, 3rd - LeAnn Patschke. 3RD GRADE - 1st - Antionette Schautschick, 2nd - Jennifer Zoch, 3rd - Keith Schumaker. 4TH GRADE - 1st - Natalie Kalbas, 2nd - Amy Schatte, 3rd - Amy Hempel. 5TH GRADE - 1st - Carl Schumaker, 2nd - Valerie Mitschke, 3rd - Brandy Schimank. 6TH GRADE - 1st - Aaron Kalbas, 2nd - Cale Boriack, 3rd - Greg Heinrich.

The arts and crafts division of the Vogelhochzeit was a success with 8 different booths. Johnny and Anna Schmidt went "all out" with an array of birds above their Watkins products. I understand Johnny had to make a trip back to town for the bride's gown when they realized it was still on the sewing machine. AAL was represented by Tommy Pietsch as the local reps, Roslyn Altmann and Jan Pohrelsky had other commitments. Nancy

Bieberstein had a balloon booth for kids of all ages. Lil Robertson featured barbed wire crafts, and wood items. Nora Jantzen had a quilt display, also pot holders, and stuffed animals. Maury and Marion Vlasin had wood items. Their most outstanding presentation was the authentic sounding wooden steam train whistle. Miller Crafts of Round Top had gift items made of Central Texas woods. Barbara Hielscher and her crew filled seven 8 foot tables with books and crafts from the Wendish Museum gift shop. Daphne Garrett and Georgie Boyce gave demonstrations of authentic Wendish Easter eggs.

The evening was high lighted with a concert and sing-a-long by the Lee County German Society Singers. They were led by Jack Wiederhold (Wendish music specialist) on the accordin and Douglas Malke on the rake and bench (I kid you not, it is a leaf rake and wooden bench!)

The sweets booth was open all day and featured a delicious variety of goodies donated by members and friends of the Society.

The specialty foods served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. went over well, as did the ham and sausage supper served at 5:00 p.m.

Elmer Zoch made a video tape and Irene Weaver took photographs of all the day's activities and these were donated to the Society for future use in promoting our heritage.

Specsial thanks go the surrounding area newspapers for the publicity, the 5 member Louis Carpenter family (they helped all day), Turner Wireline and Delbert Gersch for ice, and the Sons of Hermann Hall volunteers.

Also, special thanks go to all the members of the Society, their family members, friends, and neighbors. Everyone that sold tickets, baked, cooked, barbecued, served food and drinks, did set-up and clean-up, can certainly give themselves a pat on the back. Thanks again!

The 1994 Vogelhochzeit is planned for the January 21st, 22nd, and 23rd weekend. Final dates and activities will be announced later.

FLEA MARKET

Do your spring cleaning and help raise funds for your Society. You may do both by taking advantage of the opportunity given to non-profit organizations to have a free booth at the Flea Market at the covered Rodeo Arena in Giddings on Saturday, April 25th, sponsored by the Lee County Sheriff's Posse and the Giddings Chamber of Commerce. Please volunteer your time and treasures. Call Barbara at the Museum at 409/366-2441, or Laverne Gersch at 409/366-2447 for more information. Items may be taken to Ken Weiser Bookkeeping Service at 119 S. Burleson between 8:00 & 5:00.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 15 Deadline for articles for March newsletter
April 12 Deadline for articles for April newsletter
May 16 General membership meeting at the Museum at
 2:00 p.m.

TOURS

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-ordinator

It was a pleasure to host the docents of the Institute of Texan Cultures from San Antonio on Saturday, February 13th. A group of 42 visited the church and Museum, had lunch and enjoyed coffee and coffee cake.

The fact that these folks enjoy our Wendish noodles was evidenced by their purchase of 40 pounds of dry noodles. Many of these folks said they have been enjoying our noodles year after year at the Folklife Festival.

NOODLE REPORT

By Elinor Steglich, Chairperson

In January we made 221 pounds of noodles and thus far in February, we have made 215 pounds.

Again, thank you to all who donated flour and eggs.

LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

By Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian

My apologies to the following donors for my tardiness in acknowledging their donations to the library.

KARIN GOTTIER of Vernon, Connecticut, two German books, Ostereier Osterschmuck: how to decorate Easter eggs; Sorbische Volkstrachten: a paper doll booklet.

MARJORIE von ROSENBERG of Dallas, Texas - the book she authored, German Artists of Early Texas, Hermann Lungkwitz and Richard Petri.

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM ZIEHR of Cisco, Texas - the 100th Anniversary book, Faith of our Fathers! Living Still 1890-1990 - Redeemer Lutheran Church - Cisco, Texas.

MARY ANN ZIEHR of Cisco, Texas - the book she wrote, Up the German Road, which is about the Lutheran community around Cisco and Romney, Texas. *

FRANCES KRAUSE ZOCH, LUDWIG, GILBERT AND MONROE KRAUSE donated Shipwreck to Settlement - Krause: A Wendish Heritage in memory of their parents, Herbert and Olga Menzel Krause.

ANN KILIAN SMITH donated a bound copy of Wends in Texas and Australia by George C. Engerrand.

BEVERLY GOTSKY of Australia, two booklets: A GDR Minitour written in English and Bautzener Land written in German. She also donated three Wendish calendars, Wendish postcards and photos from Penshurst, Victoria, Australia.

MARTIN SCHRANK of Hamilton, Texas, donated the book he wrote, The Hog. This book has everything you ever wanted to know about hatching, even how to kill the hog. Mr. Schrank's research brought him to this area.

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EVELYN KASPER of Warda, Texas, donated the Sorbisches Trachtenbuch, she had purchased at the Wendish Fest.

LESLIE CARPENTER of Waldeck, Texas, donated the April, 1972, issue of "National Geographic" which has an article about Ukrainian Easter eggs.

VIVIAN DUBE from Claremont, California donated the family genealogy she has compiled on the Johann and Gertraud Sommer family. She welcomes any additions or corrections to her records.

* Up the German Road can be ordered from Mary Ann Ziehr, Route 2, Box 231, Cilsco, Texas 76437 for \$7.00.

DOCENTS

Acting as docents during January and February were the following: Ruby Koslan, Elsie Socha, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Barbara Hielscher, August Zoch, Henry and Emilie Zoch, Jack Wiederhold, Esther Buscha, Hattie LSchautsschick, Elinor LSteglich, Flora Kunze, Evelyn Kasper, Georgie Boyce, Laverne Gersch, Minerva Gersch, and George Boerger. THANK YOU!

VISITORS

During the months of January and February we had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Kansas, Iowa, France, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Illinois, and Germany.

The German-Texan Heritage Society and the Capitol Area Group of the GTHS are pleased to host the next symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in Austin, April 22-25.

For more information about the symposium, call the office at 512/482-0927.

Pictured are Eric Borgas of Fullarton, South Australia and Walter Gersch of Serbin visiting the grave of Peter Gersch (Walter's great-grandfather) in the Serbin cemetery. Peter's brother Johann Gersch (Eric's great-grandfather) immigrated to Australia over 140 years ago. Through the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, contact has been re-established and Eric visited with Gersch relatives in Texas recently.



MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Nelda Potts, Buda, TX	Dorothy N. Wilson, Clifton, TX
Eileen F. Boriack, Bastrop, TX	Fred L. Boriack, Bastrop, TX
M. R. Noack, Trophy Club, TX	Martin M. Schrank, Hamilton, TX
Sylvia Griffith, Austin, TX	Pat Griffith, Austin, TX
Joel Griffith, Austin, TX	C. Leo Symmank, New Orleans, LA
Ruby H. Fischer, Austin, TX	George Dunk, Giddings, TX
Teresa Zoch, Dallas, TX	John Worm, Dallas, TX
Helen M. Ferrell, Charleston, West VA	

Student Members

Harry Schoppe, Groves, TX	Pat Griffith, Austin, TX
Joel Griffith, Austin, TX	John E. Karle, Cleveland, Ohio
David Schorlemmer, Huntsville, TX	Benjamin Fiedler, Galveston, TX

Patron Members

Elinor Vlasak, Rosebud, TX	Kathy L. Miller, Layfayette, LA
Mrs. Arthur Fehr, Austin, TX	Margaret Wolf Hart, Austin, TX
Kathy S. Smith, Richarson, TX	Ruth U. Wagner, Bridge City, TX
Barry Wukasch, Scottsdale, Ariz	Charles Lorenz, Levelland, TX
Alfred Herbrich, Houston, TX	Esther Herbrich, Houston, TX
Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX	Elinor W. Vlasak, Rosebud, TX
Ken Weiser, Giddings, TX	Linda Boerger, Wharton, TX
Weldon P. Boerger, Wharton, TX	Paul Weise, Orlando, Fla
John W. Miertschin, Houston, TX	Dana Z. Clary, Orange, TX
Ludwig O. Goreschel, Austin, TX	Ruth T. Emmerich, Buda, TX
Norma M. Kneschk, Jonesboro, TX	J. Kruemcke, Pflugerville, TX
Frances Maxwell, Dallas, TX	Herb Sschulz, Torrance, CA
Linda Rosinbaum, Oklahoma City	Barbara Schneider, San Antonio
Elo Toll, Cedar Park, TX	Frances K. Pfluger, Austin, TX
Flora Kunze, Warda, TX	Dr. George Kunze, Warda, TX
Delores R. Hall, Wharton, TX	Marvin Wappler, Groves, TX
Elinor Bradley, Lake Charles, LA	Betty A. Walston, Houston, TX
Dr. Wilbert Sohns, Gatesvill, TX	Gene Miertschin, Friendswood TX

Sponsor Members

Violet Miertschin, Wincheste, TX	Bernice F. Schulz, Houston, TX
Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX	Herman Teinert, Lubbock, TX
Carol L. Davis, Houston, TX	

Century Members

Elwood Domaschk, Jr., Houston, TX	Ralph Weiser, Magnolia, AR
Jerry L. Knippa, Borne, TX	

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Agnes Lehmann	Clare Bewie	\$25.00
Ola Belle Hielschser	M/M Charles Williams	\$20.00
Gerhard O. Noack	M/M Melvin Schulze	\$20.00
Gus F. Jacob	John Jacob	\$25.00
In Honor of:		
Martin Menzel 75th birthday	M/M Edgar Schulze	\$25.00

A \$25.00 donation was received from Mr. Paul H. Knippa, Jr.

A \$25.00 matching gift was received from AAL

A \$20.00 donation was received from Frida Wendland

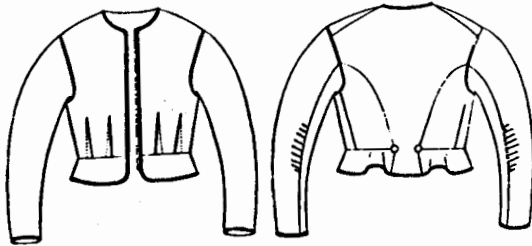
MULTI-CULTURAL FAIRE

The Wendish Heritage Society is educating the public as far away as California! Robert Lovallo (12) and Mary Lovallo (10) gave a short oral presentation about the Amish and Wendish cultures at a Sacramento, California elementary school Multicultural Faire. The participants also sampled Amish cookies and Mrs. Marvin Pillack's Wendish Coffee Cake. People said they enjoyed the spoken and food contributions very much! Robert and Mary are children from the Felfe/Schelnick line of Wends, and are grandchildren of Irene Felfe Mason.

EXHIBIT REVISED

The first segment of our interpretive exhibit in the Peter Building has been revised to make the presentation more effective. Posters and photos were rearranged, deleted or added, and all photos now have a label. A new poster on immigration was added. Thanks to Georgie Boyce and Daphne Garrett for the revision and to Bob Garrett for type setting the labels and poster text on Harvard Graphics and printing them on an ink jet type printer.

HISTORICAL NOTES III



11 Schuldsack von vorn
Kusul wopetsha

12 Schuldsack von hinten
Kusul wotzady



6 Form der einfachen schwarzen Haube
Forma jednorozce czarnej hawby



7 Einfache schwarze Haube, Rückseite
Jednoroza czarna hawba, wotzady

Have you ever thought about the style of clothing that your ancestors wore before they immigrated to Texas? If so, you might like to do a little research in our Library, as we have several books on the traditional clothing of Lusatia, and some garments on exhibit.

The "Volkstracht" books are full of pictures, both men and women's clothes, and have drawings of the patterns. You can alter commercially available patterns or make your own. You can then make an outfit for yourself which would be representative of your ancestors' clothing.

The great variety of clothing used in Lusatia is noteworthy. Each area had its own style, and within that area, each village had its own special adaptation. When Lusatians gathered for a festival, they knew where each person lived because of their special style of dress.

In addition to special styles for each area, several factors determined the particular garment just like our own modern times in Texas. Work clothes were different from Sunday clothes, special occasions such as weddings and baptisms required a special outfit. Catholics had different designs than Lutherans, and age was an important factor. Young girls wore brightly colored clothes; middle age women wore dark blues and greens, and older women dark or black.

Each of the books in our library discusses a different area, which includes many villages. To find your ancestors' style, look on a map of Lusatia and determine a large town near your ancestors' home. For example, the town of Spreewitz near Hoyerswerda. Next, check the map in the book on Hoyerswerda styles to see if Spreewitz is in that area, or another. (It is.) Although the text is in German, we have many members who can help you. Also, look at the dolls in the Kilian building and the new exhibit in the Peter building which features actual clothing from the Hoyerswerda area.

It would be great to have a style show at the Wendish Fest featuring our members in authentic (as far as possible) dress of the ancestors. Visit the Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Library and Read More About It!

-----Daphne Garrett

P.S. Note photo #79 in "Die Tracht der Sorben um Hoyerswerda." It shows a wedding couple with the bride in black skirt and jacket and the groom in frock coat and top hat.

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