



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 VI NUMBER 2, APRIL, 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In just a short week St. Paul, Serbin will be celebrating it's annual homecoming picnic. The local people enjoy the cross-cut-sawing contest, and are planning to have the contest at the picnic. For the German music lovers, the Bavarian Village Band from New Braunfels will provide the music.

The next large event in which we will be involved will be the Folklife Festival in San Antonio to be held on August 5-8, 1993.

The Wendish Fest will again be held in conjunction with the Giddings Geburstag. The Geburstag will be on Friday and Saturday of September 24 & 25 and the Wendish Fest will be on Sunday Septemr 26. Plans are now being developed to have a Wendish wedding at noon on that Sunday. Many of the Wendish customs are being planned in connection with this wedding. This includes the bride wearing a black wedding gown.

Each year at the Wendish Fest we have a coffee cake bake-off. This year instead of cutting these coffee cakes and selling them for desserts we will auction them off. Hopefully this will bring additional money for the Museum.

The Museum had a booth at the Yesterfest in Bastrop on April 17. Samples of noodles were given to persons to "whet" their appetites. It worked very well. Noodle sales were up.

Ken Weiser
President

TO ALL MY WENDISH FRIENDS IN TEXAS!

To all my friends, members and non members of the Wendish Heritage Society, in Texas, I want to say a great **THANK YOU**. Thank you for your hospitality, for all friendship, support and help during my visit in November 1992. I will not forget your kindness.

I hope to see you all in the the Lusatia.

Groditz, December 19, 1992

Gertrud Mahling

Thank you to Reverend Elmer Hohle for presenting the program at the February meeting. Evryone enjoyed the Wendish devotion and listening to him sing wendish hymns.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 30	Serbin Homecoming Picnic at St. Paul picnic grounds, Serbin, Texas
June 14	Deadline for articles for June newsletter
June 20	Winchester Picnic at St. Michael's picnic grounds, Winchester, Texas
July 12	Deadline for articles for July newsletter
July 25	Camp Lone Star Auction and Barbecue, La Grange, Texas
August 5-8	Folklife Festival in San Antonio, Texas

FUND RAISING PROGRAM

Brookshire Brothers Stores will donate to all qualifying Non-Profit Organizations 1% of the total amount of receipt tapes from Brookshire Brothers Supermarkets. A minimum of \$1,000 worth of tapes (excluding taxes) are required before any contributions will be issued. Anyone wishing to participate in this program please mail, or drop recipts by the Museum so that they can be orderly batched in increments of approximately \$1,000.

TOURS, TOURS, AND MORE TOURS

By Evelyn N. Kaspr, Co-Ordinator

What a joy it is to see all the interest shown in our heritage! Our committees have been busy as bees this spring with group tours. On March 25th a group of ladies from Katy came over for a luncheon and tour. On March 26th 41 members of an AARP group in Bellaire enjoyed the luncheon and tour. On March 30th we hosted 15 from a Baptist Church in Houston.

tours cont-----

On April 1st 32 members of Westbury Baptist Church in Houston came for coffee cake and coffee, a tour, and the luncheon. On April 4th 14 ladies from Smithville came over for a tour. On April 7th we hosted 32 members of AARP Chapter 50 in Houston with a luncheon and tour. On April 8th 33 members of the Junior League Sustainers of Houston had the luncheon and tour, and on April 10th 23 members of Southwest Community Church of Houston enjoyed a tour. On April 13th 52 people from International Tours in Houston enjoyed coffee cake and coffee, a luncheon and tour. On April 16th 45 members of the Society of Petroleum Engineers Ladies Auxillary of Houston came for a Wendish luncheon and tour of the Museum complex. On April 17th Dr. Hugh Meredith and 20 students from Huntsville toured St. Paul Church and the Museum. On April 21st a group of 30 docents from Bayou Bend enjoyed the Wendish luncheon and toured the facilities. On April 24th a group of about 20 came from Bastrop and visit the Museum.

LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
by Georgie B. Boyce

The museum needs more of you to volunteer to be docents on Sunday afternoons. The Library offers you many wonderful books and brochures about Germany and the Wends to help you pass the time when "business" is slow. Even if you can not read German or Wendish, the pictures are beautiful. Many of these items were brought to us last September by our visiting friends from Germany. Some of the items are on display in the exhibit case in the library and on the shelves.

HELMUT RICHTER from Bautzen donated the following books: Die Sorben in Deutschland, Serbska Protyka, Unterwegs im Spreewald, Oberlausitz in Hugel und Gefildeland, Kreuz und Quer durch die Lausitz and Sorbische Brauche.

KLAUS-PETER JANNASCH from Cottbus donated: 3 Wendish Easter eggs, Die Sorben im der Niederlausitz and a children's booklet in Wendish, Sche scherjawk (the pictures tell the story).

DR. TONI BRUK from Bautzen brought us 3 flags: a Sorbian, a Saxony and a Brandenburg flag. These flags are on display in the Kilian building along with the Ruterberg flag FRANK HEINIG donated.

FRANK HEINIG from Gutttau brought us too many items to list individually; such as, flags, dolls, postcards, maps, stamps and brochures. Some of the books are: Mato Kosyka 1853-1940, Mato Kosyka Serbska-"Wedding in Spreewald", Angebot Sorbischer Kultur, Bautzen Sorbisches National-Ensemble (folk dancers in costumes) and several informational booklets. Herr Heinig also donated 5 cassette tapes of Sorbisch music and speaking. We are playing the folk music tapes in the library for our spring tour visitors. He brought us a video tape of the Wends in Germany. Hopefully, this can be shown in part at one of our membership meetings.

"
Our November visitor from Groditz, Gertrud Mahling, brought us calendars, cassette tapes, C.D.s, post card packets of the Wendish folkdress in the various areas. She has sent us copies of the following books: Wendish-Deutches Handworterbuch, Duchowny ludowy spew (Wendish hymnal) and a Music book, and a list of some of the Lutheran Churches in Lusatia.

To all of the above, we want to say thank you again for their generous donations! And to all of you, PLEASE CALL Barbara at 409-366-2441 and VOLUNTEER to be a docent. It is worth the drive to see all of these wonderful gifts.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following docents who volunteered during the months of March and April: Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Evelyn Kasper, Bessie Mertink, Hattie Schautschick, Laverne Gersch, Vivian and Laurie Taylor, Georgie Boyce, Mildred Kilian, Lewis, Lester, and Leslie Carpenter, Ken Weiser, Barbara Hielscher, Lorine Domel, and Ruth Lindner.

VISITORS

During the months of March and April we had visitors from Maine, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Spain, Germany, Alabama, California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, North Carolina, and all parts of Texas.

~~~~~

Thank you to Reinhold and Irene Teinert and to Carolyn Bohot for having the book sale at the German Texan Heritage Symposium in Austin in April. Also, Thank you to Della Mullens, Barbara Urban, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, and Carolyn Bohot of Austin, Gloria Mae Gersch, Irma Gersch and Barbara Hielscher of Winchester for participating in the Yesterfest in Bastrop in April.

## FAMILY REUNIONS

On June 12th the August and Lydia (Wiederanders) Knippa family reunion will be held in Lincoln, Texas.

The Andrew and Marie (Foerster) Moerbe family reunion will be held in Dime Box, Texas on June the 26th.

## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

|                                       |                                 |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Bryan K. Leitko, Grafton, Ohio        | Lillian Bach, Austin, TX        |
| Josephine Brown, Houston, TX          | Beverly M. Mugerza, Houston, TX |
| Mitchell Keppler, Sr., Smithville, TX |                                 |
| Ann R. Washington, Edinburg, TX       |                                 |

### Student Members

|                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sarah R. Schwartz, Giddings, TX    | Stacey Lehmann, Winchester, TX   |
| Thomas Buchhorn, Austin, TX        | Sara Buchhorn, Austin, TX        |
| Margaret Lovallo, Sacramento, CA   | Mary Lovallo, Sacramento, CA     |
| James Lovallo, Sacramento, CA      | Robert Lovallo, Sacramento, CA   |
| Laurie G. Taylor, Columbus, TX     | Elizabeth Schwartz, Giddings, TX |
| Heather Hielscher, Winchester, TX  | Jerald Hielscher, Winchester, TX |
| Patricia Calaham, Pflugerville, TX |                                  |

## PATRON MEMBERS

|                               |                                  |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Doris Zabel, St. Louis, MO    | Bryan K. Leitko, Grafton, Ohio   |
| James Koepke, Aurora, NE      | Rev. Clarence Ehler, Muldoon, TX |
| Dianne Wassenich, Maxwell, TX | Vivian F. Taylor, Weimar, TX     |

## SPONSOR MEMBERS

Margie Loomans, Austin, TX

Jakub Bart-Ćišinski is considered the greatest Wendish poet. He was born in the village of Kukau on August 20, 1856. He received his degree in divinity at the University of Prague in 1881 and became a Catholic priest. He often got into trouble with the church authorities for such things as writing love poems and for supporting controversial causes, and was eventually forced into early retirement. He died in Panschwitz on October 16, 1909, at the age of 53.

Although literary critics consider Bart-Ćišinski a greater poet than Handrij Zejler (the Lutheran pastor and poet), the Wends never liked Bart-Ćišinski's poetry to the extent that they liked Zejler's. Although Bart-Ćišinski criticized Zejler's poetry, he wrote the following moving poem in honor of his rival:

Na Zejlerja Spominajo

In Remembrance of Zejler

A w murjach nětko ćmowych  
spiš, wulki pěsnjerjo?

Do you now sleep, o poet great,  
In this dark, silent tomb?

Spiš, rjeńšich časow nowych  
ty sławny pěsnjerjo?

Yes, you do sleep, o poet famed,  
Who wrote of these great times.

Ně, do ćmy smjertna ruka  
će sputać njemóže;  
za rowom zerjo puka  
so rańše z mróčele.

Death's icy hand in this dark tomb,  
Can't chain you to its walls.  
For in the sky the dawn breaks through,  
And clouds give way to sun.

Njeh ducha twojoh pušći  
so, štož je wot zemje,  
a z dopjelnjenjom dzružči  
so přeće žedžace:

And may your soul at last be free  
From earth and all its cares.  
In Heaven's bliss it now does dwell,  
And says to us below:

"A sym ja něhdy spadnył  
do procha, do pjeršće,  
praj, žołma, zo sym ćahnył  
do hwězdow jasnosće!"

"Though I have turned  
To ash and dust,  
My soul did leave the earth,  
And went its heavenly way."

# It's gonna' be a fun group!

at the . . . 13th ANNUAL WUENSCHIE REUNION

Come on, Wuenschies - One and all  
As in the past, we'll have a ball.  
Bring a friend - they're welcome too  
And you'll see Kin-Folk you hardly knew!

TELL ME MORE . . . .

Where? Fireman's Hall - Thorndale, TX

When? Sunday, July 18, 1993

Time? 9:00 a.m. to ?

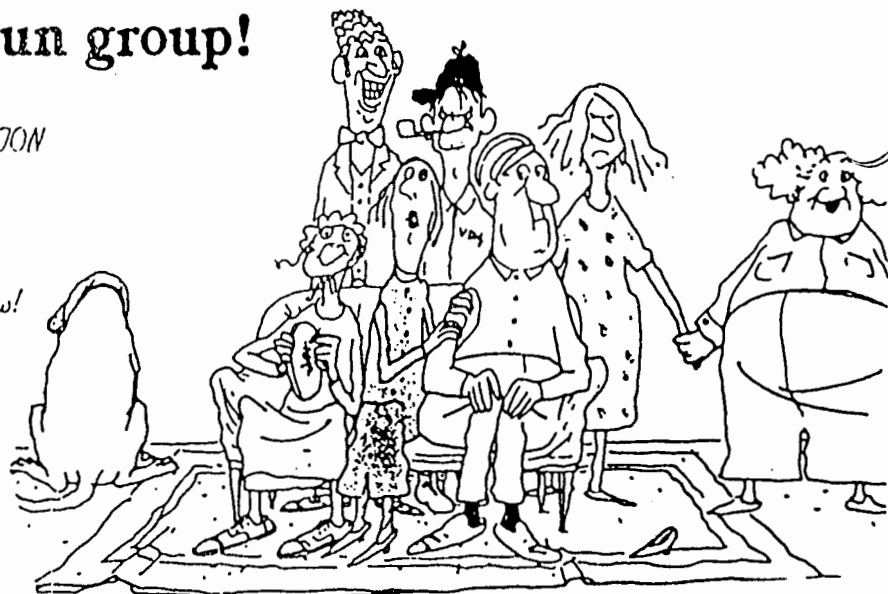
Bring? A dessert (if possible)

Meal Cost? (for kin & guests)

Adults \$4.50

Younguns (10-15) \$2.50

Chilluns: (9 & under) Free



WHAT'S THE SCHEDULE? . . . .

12:00 Noon - Rev. R.H. Wuensche, Sr. will lead devotional and songs

12:30 - 1:00 - Bar-b-que dinner

Later: Gifts given and 1994 Reunion planning, etc.

Group Picture: Hopefully we can arrange our first group picture.

Talent Time: Last year our "Impromptu" talent show came out pretty good, but we would still prefer if you let the Chairmen know ahead of time. Come on, HAM IT UP and DON'T BE PASIFIL! A Singalodeon or (Karaoke) will be available if you want to bring your own tape and dub your voice in!

A FUN SUGGESTION . . . .

This year it may be fun to "match-up" with you're spouse or friend. Wear shirts alike, colors alike, scarfs alike, etc. - then everyone will know at a glance "Who belongs to who"! Let's see how many matched sets we can spot this year.

Note: This suggestion is "Extremely Optional"

SEE YOU THERE? . . . . .

## Planners

Robby Wuensche  
Rt. 2 Box 215  
Taylor, Tx 76574  
512 - 352-3012

(New Address)  
Frances Parker  
P.O. Box 409  
Louisville, TX 77455  
409 - 648-2083

(New Address)  
Frances Parker  
Route 6, Box 6602  
Brenham, Tx 77833  
409 - 830-9199

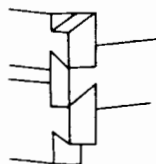
## Co-Chairmen

Petty Hughes  
P.O. Box 277  
Colmesneil, TX 75938  
409 - 837-5442

Rill Wagner  
3639 - 41st St.  
Port Arthur, TX 77642  
409 - 985-2349

## HISTORICAL NOTES IV

### The Kurio Log Home



half-dovetail notch



"V" notch

The Kurio home, originally located on the hill south-west of the Serbin Store, was built in stages during the 19th Century. The first structure, a one room log home, was built in 1855 by Michael and Christina Kurio who came to Texas on the Ben Nevis. They added an additional log room, probably in 1856, which created a double log house with front porch and open dog-trot. Later the original log room was expanded into the front porch, and rooms along the back and a two story kitchen were added. Johann & Maria Kurio purchased the home in 1891, and occupied the house until the death of Johann in 1940. In 1924 Johann and Maria had sold the farm to G.A. and Marie Kurio. Their son Marvin and his wife Dorothy now own and operate the farm.

The house fell into disrepair while not being occupied, so in 1987 Marvin Kurio offered all or part of the building to the Museum. It was decided to take the 1856 log room, which was intact and in excellent condition, and the remaining parts of the log walls of the 1855 room.

In the Museum restoration, the 1856 log room stands as a one room home just as the 1855 home would have been before the additions. Rotted sills, floor joists, floor boards and the front door were replaced with similar lumber salvaged from other Wendish farms. The shingles and roof construction are of new material. A partial corner of the 1855 log room has been reconstructed at the original distance from the complete room, so visitors may imagine the structure as a dog-trot home. Access to the loft was originally through an opening in the dog-trot passageway.

During the preparation for removal, great care was taken to record the original structure with photographs and measurements. The 1856 room was moved intact, but each log of the 1855 room was numbered, photographed, and its position sketched so that reconstruction would be accurate. The log construction is particularly noteworthy. The 1855 was built with full logs, cut and trimmed on all sides, assembled with V notching and chinked with stone and mud. The 1856 logs are half round, and assembled with half-dovetail notching, but no chinking was used.

This project was made possible by many Museum volunteers, and a grant from George Boenger, Weldon Boenger, and The Coca-Cola Company. A project notebook was prepared, containing a scale drawing of the floor plan, photographs, and measured drawings and is available for study. Further information on log building construction in Texas is available in our Library in "Texas Log Buildings" by Terry Jordan, and on log construction in Lusatia in "Geschichte Der Sorben".

Read more about it !

--Daphne Garrett



CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANY PERSON OR THE BUILDING IN THIS PHOTO???

Writing on photo: "Reunion of German Veteran's  
Oct 18 Centenary of Battle Leipzig 1813"

## Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

ROUTE 2, BOX 155

GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Giddings, Texas  
Permit No. 14

