



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 3, JUNE 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Folklife Festival in San Antonio will be held on August 5, thru August 8, 1993. Doug Malke has chartered a bus for Friday August 6th, leaving from Northrup. If interested in going on the bus, please contact Doug at 409/366-2414. Anyone interested in helping out at the Wendish booth may contact Barbara at the Museum.

The "Noodle Committee" is increasing production on a continuous basis. This year packaged noodles will also be sold at the Folklife Festival. Persons in the San Antonio area who are interested in helping in the booth may call Ron Knippa at 210/496-3105.

The Wendish Fest committee is in full swing making the upcoming event on September 26th one of the most successful and memorable ones. A set of three flag poles will be dedicated that afternoon. These flag poles are being made possible thru a generous donation by Doris Reagan and matching funds. The flag poles will be dedicated in memory of her father Mr. Karl Biehle.

At the November Annual Membership Business Meeting, the members will be electing new officers for the Society. If you would like to serve or know someone who would serve, if elected, please contact one of the current officers, Ken Weiser, Charles Wukasch, Evelyn Kasper, Carolyn Bohot, and Barbara Hielsher. The outgoing officers serve as the nominating committee.

Thanks goes out to Mr. Billy Porterfield of the Austin American Statesman for the three fine articles which he wrote about the Serbin community, Church and Museum.

Teresa Zoch and John Worm are finalizing plans for their wedding to be held at 12:00 noon the day of the Wendish Fest.

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The bride will be dressed in black, the Wendish custom, and the Rev. Paul Hartfield will perform the ceremony. You are invited to attend the ceremony. The bride, groom, wedding party, and relatives will celebrate their wedding at the Wendish Fest.

Ken Weiser
President

Thank you to the Rev. Paul Hartfield for having the opening devotion and for presenting the program at the May meeting. He showed the many interesting slides from his Siberian I tour with the Lutheran Hour Ministeries.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 5-8	Folklife Festival in San Antonio, Texas
August 15	General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
August 16	Deadline for articles for August newsletter
September 24-25	Geburstag at Giddings, Texas
September 26	Fifth Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the St. Paul, Serbin, picnic grounds

LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY by Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian-Photo Archivist

Our thanks to the following people for their donations during the past few months:

MRS. STEVE (LUISE) GREEN of Friendswood and Warda, Texas, donated a very helpful book, Decipher Germanic Records, by Edna M. Bentz.

REV. DONALD W. ZUHN of Houston, Texas, donated A Century of God's Grace, One Hudred Years of Ministry by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at La Grange, Texas 1892-1991. This book has an alphabetical listing of members of Trinity, Zion, and Mr. Calvary Lutheran congregation indicating baptism, confirmation, marriage, or death and burial dates.

ALVIN B. AND CLARA (SCHULZ) BERNSTEIN of Abilene, Texas, donated Historical Images of Fayette County in memory of her parents, John G. Schulz and Anna S. (Noach) Schulz.

VIVIAN DUBE of Claremont, California, donated the Family Record sheets on the Johann and Gertraud Sommer family.

MARY GUGGISBERG of Vernon, Texas, donated Wilbarger County--1858-1986 in memory of her Grandparents: Christian Schulz and Magdalena (Schoppa) Schulz and Ernst Gloyna and Christiane (Hentschel) Gloyna. This book contains a number of Wendish family histories.

LESLIE CARPENTER of Waldeck, Texas donated Deutschland in Farbe in memory of John Nerios.

JAMES STOLTE of New Braunfels, Texas, donated the International Skat Players Association book for 1992.

REV. ROBERT AND GEORGIE BOYCE donated The Lutheran Hymnal in honor of her parents, Alvin B. and Clara (Schulz) Bernstein, 63rd Wedding Anniversary - March 13, 1930-1993.

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New address for Lutheran church and Pastor in Weigersdorf, Germany, as of July 1, 1993:

Selbständige Evangelisch-Lutherische Kirche (SELK)  
Pfarrer Michael Voigt  
Hauptstraße 52  
Weigersdorf - Germany - 02906

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"Texas Highways" magazine will have an article about the Texas Czechs, Poles, and Wends in the September issue.

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#### DOCENTS

Docents during the months of May and June were: Bessie Mertink, Laverne Gersch, Freddie Zoch, Ken Weiser, Georgie Boyce, Gloria Mae Gersch, Hattie Schautschick, Esther Buscha, Evelyn Kasper, Clara Zoch, Esther Pampell, Della Mullens, Bea Tschatschula, Barbara Hielscher, Flora Kunze, Elinor Steglich, Vivian Taylor, Ruth Lindner, Ann Smith, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Carol, Lewis, Leslie, Lester, and Lawson Carpenter, Ruth Mitschke, Clara Dement, Luke Mertink, Henry and Emily Zoch, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Agnes Linebrink, Ruby Koslan, Heather Hielscher, and Frieda Wendland.

#### VISITORS

During the months of May and June we had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Oklahoma, Missouri, Germany, Rhode Island, Maine, Massachusetts, Arizona, Kansas, Florida, South Australia, Israel, California, Illinois, Tennessee, and Indiana.

## FIRST CALIFORNIA BORIACK REUNION

Greetings Family and Friends!!!

We were delighted by the turnout of approximately 125 "BORIACK'S" at the first California reunion held on Saturday, April 24, 1993, at Mooney Park in Visalia, Ca. It was a great opportunity to enjoy immediate family members, catch up on "long lost" relatives, and meet relatives you never knew existed! Did you notice any family resemblances? If you have a "red" (whole family) or "black" (Traugott only) family tree book, perhaps you were able to put a face to a name. We had lots of good food, fellowship, an old photo display that was very popular, a family root chart that already needs updating, and a short program. After lunch Arlene presented a brief family history, and Norman Boriack acted as emcee and got some very pertinent facts:

Who came furthest? Robert, Karen & Gregory Gerdes from Tacoma, WA

Chuck & Jennifer Bailey from Carson City, NV

Oldest? Walter Haug, 85, husband of Helene (Herman Boriack's daughter)

Youngest? Calvin Gonzales, 3 weeks old (Gerhardt Boriack's line)

Most grandchildren? 13, Richard Mrosko, who also has 7 great grandchildren (Emma Boriack Mrosko line)

Most generations at reunion? Dorothy Boriack, four generations, and 9 great-grandchildren (Herman Boriack line)

How many speak German? About one dozen

Following the program, Ralph and Mary Muehlenbruch took historical photos! (Traugott Boriack line)

We want to hand out thank you's to:

Everyone who came! And brought all the yummy food!

Family Tree display--Arlene (Boriack) Faucett

Master of Ceremonies--Norman Boriack

Reunion Notes--Norallynn (Boriack) Lai

Family Photos--Ralph & Mary Muelenbruch (Mary Cornelison Photography)

520 Main St, Vacaville, Ca. 95688 (707)446-0724/(916) 678-6380 H0me

Food tables--Marion Butts

Planning--Arlene, Vera Boriack, Chris (Boriack) Grimsley, Florence Miles

Set-up--Henry Faucett, Ted Salyer

Sound--Karen Beckett

Please start planning for our 2nd reunion to be held on May 7, 1994, at Mooney Park, Visalia, Ca. We would welcome any thoughts or suggestions you have for next year! We believe we have got some ideas to eliminate the waiting lines we had, and possibly we need something for the younger people to do?

Send your ideas to Arlene Faucett, 1691 W. Cross, Tulare, Ca 93274, or phone (209) 686-4954. Also, decide if you feel this should be an annual or bi-annual event, and whether you might be able to play host! We want to vote on whether this should be annual or bi-annual at the next reunion.

Our registration sheets show that we came from:

Family lines--Herman-26, Traugott-54, Gerhardt-17, Mary Sohns-13,  
Emma Mrosko-2, Lubine Lucas-7

Nevada: Carson City

Washington: Tacoma

California: Atascadero, Bakersfield, Dixon, Fresno, Hayward, Livermore,

Lodi, Los Altos Hills, Los Gatos, Oakland, Porterville, Reedley,

Riverside, Sacramento, Sanger, San Luis Obispo, Sebastopol, Strathmore,

Terra Bella, Tulare, Visalia, Westlake Village.

Thank you for coming! God bless you! See you on May 7, 1994!

*Chris, Vera, Florence, Arlene, Henry*

P.S. In Texas there is an annual Boriack Reunion on the 2nd Saturday in June.

## HANDRICK REUNION

Dear Family Members,

The Fifth Handrick reunion, decendents of Johann and Theresia (Mertink) Handrick will be on Saturday, July 31, 1993, at the Thorndale Firemen's Hall in Thorndale, Texas.

The local families will prepare the meal, consisting of Bar-B-Que and all the Trimmings. (We invite you to help with the Bar-B-Que that morning also.) It would be appreciated if you would again bring a dessert. The local families will bring assorted salads this year for the meal. We have sufficient funds to cover the meal expenses for this year so there will be no per plate charge. However, to cover initial expenses for the next reunion, a free will offering will be taken.

Registration will begin in the morning. Come early and enjoy the full day. At 12:00 noon a short devotional will be held followed by the noon meal. The meeting will follow the meal.

For added entertainment, we would like for all first generation cousins excluding spouses, to bring an early childhood picture. In addition, please family pictures or other mementoes you would like to share. It seems like everyone enjoyed the drawing for door-prizes at the last reunion. If you wish to help us with this drawing please bring some inexpensive or handmade items for the children an/or adults. You must be present to win.

Please pass this information on to your entire family - children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, etc.

The city swimming pool will be open should anyone desire to swim.

The Firemen's Hall is located north of Thorndale on Farm to Market Road 486, next to the VFW Hall.

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## HIELSCHER REUNION

The First Annual Hielscher reunion was a HUGE succes. Approximately 65 decendents of the Ernst and Amalie (Foerster) family attended the occasion at the Zilss Memorial Hall at Winchester, Texas on May 16, 1993

Mr. Jimmy Throckmorton had a short devotional, after which everyone enjoyed a delicious Bar-B-Que chicken and sausage meal. Side dishes were provided by everyone attending. There was a short business meeting at which time it was decided to have the next reunion at the same location o the 1st Sunday in June, 1994.

The following were introduced: The youngest person attending was B. J. Bass, 15 months, from Belton, Texas, The oldest attending was Charlie Joyce, 82, from Austin, Texas, the longest married couple was Charlie and Beatrice (Hielscher) Joyce, 59 years, from Austin, Texas, the couple most recently married was Dennis and Lisa (Lorenz) Bass, 2

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years 9 months, from Belton, Texas, and the couple who traveled the farthest was Bill and Marge Graeber from Corpus Christi, Texas.

Everyone then enjoyed visiting and sharing old photos, and genealogy research done.

#### AUGUST MEETING SPEAKER

James Kalbas, owner of Big Three Lease and Well Service in Northrup, and an expert in organic gardening, will present the program at the August membership meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Kalbas are very active in the community and eagerly support the Museum.

#### WOMAN OF THE YEAR!!!!

On May 10, 1993 Hattie Schautschick was named EH Woman of the Year for 1993, of the Warda Club, at the Achievement Day Program held at the EH kitchen at the fair grounds in La Grange.

## **Texas Mendish Heritage Museum**

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