

# 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 4, AUGUST, 1993

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THANKS, goes to Ron and Cindy Knippa for the fine leadership provided for a successful booth at the Folklife Festival. Without this, the Society would have a difficult time making this a successful project.

Hopefully everyone is making plans to attend the Wendish Fest on September 26, at Serbin. As part of this newsletter, you have a personal invitation to attend the Traditional Wendish Wedding of Teresa Zoch and John Worm, of Dallas, at noon at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Paul Hartfield.

Other highlights of the day will be music by the Ben Dunk Brass Band, of Walburg, cross cut saw contest, German Sing-A-Long, horse back rides for the children, a "Good Ole Wendish" meal and many other interesting, and exciting experiences.

The church services on Sunday morning will be conducted by the Rev. Walter Otten, guest pastor from Brookfield, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Rev. Otten was one of the German speaking pastors on the Siberian 1 tour of the Lutheran Hour Ministries.

On August 8th St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin celebrated Rev. Paul Hartfield's 30th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry. After a church service, members of St. Paul served a hamburger supper to all persons in attendance. The congregation presented a wooden plaque, with the outline of St. Paul Lutheran Church engraved on it, to Rev. Hartfield.

A committee, headed by Hattie Schautschick, is planning a walk-in coffee/bake sale to be held on Wednesday October 27, at Elinor's Cottage. The Cottage is located behind the First National Bank, and in the back yard of the Fletcher Home in Giddings. Everyone is asked to donate baked goods for this function. Funds from this event will be matched.

Ken Weiser  
President

**FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL REPORT**  
By Ron and Cindy Knippa, Chairpersons

Because of tremendous support from Society members, the 1993 Folklife Festival was a BIG success. Although overall attendance was down, our booth was very busy with working volunteers, hungry, and thirsty, customers, and curious Festival attendees asking "what is Wendish", and getting good answers.

We sold many, many, bowls of expertly prepared noodles, hundreds of chicken drumsticks, scads of Koch Kase sandwiches, jars and jars of dill pickles and several cups of beer. Food and beer sales were about even. A broader selection of crafts, thanks to Society members for their donations, gave new interest to our booth.

Thanks to everyone, from those who donated eggs for the noodles, to Walter and Laverne Gersch, who "toted" everything back to Serbin Sunday night and Monday morning, arriving home about 3:30 a.m.

Our booth was alive with both traditional and new activities. Georgie Boyced reintroduced Wendish egg decorating at the Festival, continuing a tradition started by Evelyn Kasper. Hattie Schautschick, Evelyn Kasper, Elinor Steglich, Laverne Gersch, Cindy Ann Knippa and others feverishly cooked pot after pot of Wendish noodles for the hungry crowd.

Leroy Steglich, Bill Knippa, Tim Knippa, and others barbequed the drumsticks.

Thursday evening, a news crew filmed in our booth and showed about five minutes of the film on their 10:00 o'clock news that night. It featured David Goeke giving a brief history of the Wendish immigration to Texas, and Martha Goeke beautifully demonstrating noodle making.

Many other noodle making demonstrators included Cindy Faye Knippa, Cindy ann Knippa, Adell Knippa, and Hattie Schautschick.

For the first time, our both introduced cream pea shelling and Wendish coloring pages for the children, on Sunday, which is designed as Kid's Day at the Festival.

The Society's participation in the Texas Folklife Festival is good for us and it is good for them. The exposure we get in San Antonio is immeasurable. The money we make allows us to do things as a Society that we could not otherwise do. As a participant in the San Antonio Festival, the Wends are absolutely unique in their emphasis on their historical roots, their strong religion and more reasons for coming to Texas.

-cont-

Our food is a refreshing break, for the Festival goer, from the rich and greasy food offered by most of the bigger booths, our booth is pleasant and cool.

Cindy and I deeply appreciate everyone who helped. Please start making plans for helping next year in whatever way you can. Send us any suggestions you might have to increase our success in San Antonio's next Folklife Festival, August 6-9, 1994.

Ron and Cindy Knippa  
2662 Pebble Bow  
San Antonio, TX 78232  
210/496-310

-----  
Thank you to the Rev. Paul Hartfield for having the opening devotion at our August membership meeting, and to Mr. James Kalbas for presenting a very interesting and informative program on organic gardening.  
-----

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

September 24-25	Geburstag at Giddings, Texas
September 26	Fifth Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the St. Paul, Serbin, Picnic grounds
October 18	Deadline for articles for October newsletter
October 27	Walk-in coffee/bake sale at Elinor's Cottage behind the Fletcher Home in Giddings, Texas
November 21	General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. with election of officers.
December 13	Deadline for articles for December newsletter

#### DOCENTS

Thank you, to the following for acting as docents during the months of July and August: Evelyn Kasper, Ruth Lindner, Lorine Domel, Viola Spacek, Dora Spitzenberger, George Boerger, Leroy and Elinor Steglich, Herbert and Laverne Falke, August Zoch, and Henry and Emily Zoch.

#### VISITORS

During the months of July and August we had visitors from: Germany, Florida, Arkansas, Washington, Virginia, Louisiana, Michigan, Indiana, California, Illinois, and all parts of Texas.

**WALK-IN COFFEE/BAKE SALE**  
by Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

There will be a walk-in coffee/bake sale on October 27, at Elinor's Cottage located behind the Fletcher Home in Giddings, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Everyone is asked to bring baked goods to this location before 9:00 a.m. and anyone wishing to help between those hours please contact Hattie at 409/366-9621 or Barbara at the Museum at 409/366-2441. Funds from this event will be matched.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**New Members**

Debbie B. Brunsen, Lubbock, TX      Joan Gersch, La Grange, TX  
Rev. Daniel Ognoskie, Bennett, Iowa  
Candace Gersch, La Grange, TX  
Minerva Gersch, La Grange, TX

**Student Members**

John C. Thompson, Adkins, TX      Susan M. Thompson, Adkins, TX  
Alicia Gersch, Giddings, TX      Minerva Gersch, La Grange, TX  
Shaina Gersch, Giddings, TX      Sarah Gersch, Giddings, TX  
Candace Gersch, La Grange, TX

**Patron Members**

Nancy Damon, Round Rock, TX      Weldon Mersiovsky, Walburg, TX  
Harold V. Theiss, Houston, TX      Ella Mathias, Copperas Cove, TX  
Eugene Hemmann, St. Charles, Ill      Gunter Schaarschmidt, Canada

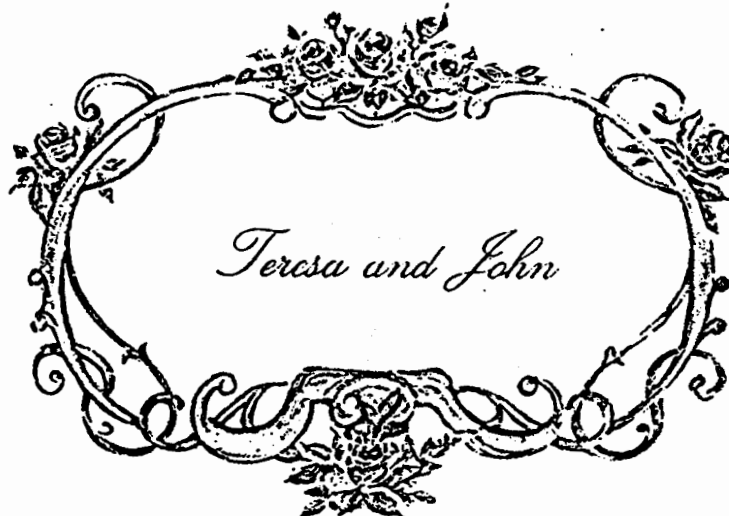
**Memorials**

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Louise Lingnau	M/M Herb Schulz	\$20.00
Ben Eggers	M/M Herb Schulz	\$25.00
Mrs. Edgar Wiederhold	M/M Walter Gersch	\$10.00
G. L. Latimer	M/M Alvin Bernstein	\$20.00
Albert Miertschin	M/M Robert Garrett	\$15.00
Mr. Irvin Boerger	Dr. & Mrs. Charles Wukasch	\$25.00
Virginia S. Green	M/M Frank Taylor	

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Alton Patschke	M/M Elton Zoch	\$20.00
50th Wedding Anniversary		

**The following donations were received:**

\$5.00 from Mrs. Elizabeth Hutchison  
\$20.00 from Mrs. August (Laura) Zoch charter member  
\$50.00 from the Schulz Reunion  
\$100.00 from Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Steglich



*We invite you to be with us  
and share this joyous moment  
as we join in Holy Matrimony  
on Sunday, the twenty-sixth of September  
nineteen hundred and ninety-three*

*at twelve o'clock noon  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Serbin, Texas*

*Teresa Ann Goch*

*and*

*John David Worm*



John and Teresa choose to be married at St. Paul Lutheran because it represents sincerity and longevity to them.

We hope you will come and enjoy our historically styled wedding and stay for the Wendish Fest to experience the good food and old traditions honoring the Wendish heritage.

**GENERAL MEETING**  
August 15, 1993

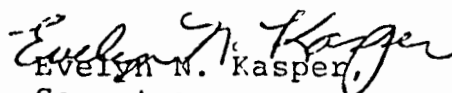
The general meeting of the Texas Wendish Heitage Society was opened with a devotion by Pastor Paul Hartfield based on St. Luke 12:13.

President Ken Weiser opened the meeting by welcoming our guests. He then asked Jack Wiederhold to lead in singing Happy Birthday to Henry Zoch.

Ron Knippa gave a report on the Folklife Festival activities and Ron and Cindy were given a round of applause for chairing the event. Walter and Laverne Gersch were also given a round of applause for working at the Festival on Sunday so they could load everything on their trailer and bring all back to the Museum on Sunday night. They actually got home at 3:30 a.m. on Monday morning.

James Kalbas of Wendish Organic Garden gave a very informative and interesting talk on getting back to nature with gardens. Many insects are good and we make a mistake by killing them. Also, he says it's good to leave a few weeds in the garden. This probably accounts for the flowers the Wends planted in their vegetable gardens. He told of grinding up some of the bad insects and spraying the garden to kill insects. The little green lint spider which we used to see on cotton stalks is good for killing insects. Birds are also very beneficial in the yard and garden. Dust for some things like fire ants can be purchased at Durrenberger Flowers. He has many books on organic gardening and is very well informed. Mulching is very important to a garden. He suggests planting basil with tomatoes. To kill red spider mites plant marigolds in your garden. Dill is also good in the garden. You can purchase products which turn trash into compost in 14 days. This is primarily done in barrels.

Meeting adjourned, followed by an appreciaation hamburger supper at the St. Paul Picnic Grounds, for folks who helped with our fundraisers during the last year and a half.

  
Evelyn N. Kasper,  
Secretary

# 50th NOAK REUNION - 1994

The descendants of Peter August Noack and Wilhelmine Mitzscherling Noack will gather for the 50th Noak Reunion at Round Top Rifle Association Hall the third Sunday in March, 1994. For this special reunion, a concerted effort is being made to contact descendants of this family that may not have previously been in attendance.

Peter August Noack came to the Serbin area with his wife, Wilhelmine, and 3 children, Gustav, Marie and Paul on December 12, 1870. They were sponsored by a brother, Johann, who had arrived 17 years earlier. Johann, born March 21, 1823 at GroEDITZ left for Texas in 1854 with his wife, Magdalena, and the original group of Wends. Peter August was born January 26, 1836 and died September , 1874 in Serbin.

His wife later moved to Round Top to be near her daughter, Marie, and remarry.

While in the Serbin (Greens Creek) area, she made her home with brother-in-law, Johann and his wife, Anna. The children attended the church school at Serbin.

At the time of the death of Peter Noack, 5 children survived him along with his widow, Wilhelmine. A Pastor Greif and his wife agreed to raise one the children, by the name of Herman. He later became a Missouri Lutheran minister and took the name of Herman P. Greif. The story of this family maybe found at the museum at Serbin.

It is our hope that there is someone who remembers the Johann and Peter Noack families.

Are there descendants of Johann and Anna Noack? Where are they buried?

It would make this 50th reunion very special if we could tell the story of Peter's brother, Johann. Please write to Dorothy Noak Rothermel, P.O. Box 87, Carmine, Texas 78932-0087 if you have information about the above questions.

Submitted by: Dorothy Noak Rothermel - P.O. Box 87, Carmine, Texas 78932-0087

-----

Notice to past and present residents of Fayette County. A new book is being compiled. Family histories and photographs, both past and present, are needed. This new history book will preserve personal stories of Fayette County that would otherwise be lost to future generations. There has never been a book of this type and quality published about Fayette County. Preserve your family history by getting the information to Georgie Boyce or Barbara Hielscher. For further information and guidelines call Georgie at 409/242-5577, or Barbara at 409/366-2441.

-----

Thank you, to Bessie, Luke, and Matt Mertink for helping price and pack items for the Folklife Festival and for helping with the newsletters. Also, thanks to Hattie Schautschick for helping with posters and publicity fliers for the Wendish Fest.

## **Texas Wendish Heritage Museum**

ROUTE 2, BOX 155  
GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

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

