



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 6, DECEMBER, 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's too bad that the flag raising ceremony rained out at the Wendish Fest but it was a truly wonderful way to begin our meeting of the Society on November 21st. The American Legion Post 276 assisted with this impressive ceremony. First the American flag was raised, then the Texas flag, and then the Wendish flag was raised. After the pledge of allegiance, Doris Reagan, who donated the flags and flagpoles in memory of her father, Karl Biehle, gave us a brief history of the Biehle and Tschatschula families. The group sang America first in English and then in Wendish.

The following officers and directors were elected at the general meeting: Laverne Gersch, President, Victor Zoch, Vice-President, Leroy Steglich, Treasurer, Della Mullens, recording Secretary, Evelyn Kasper, Corresponding Secretary, and Kenneth Weiser and Barbara Hielscher, Directors. These folks, together with George Boerger and Charles Wukasch, who were appointed by the board, and those remaining on the board from last year, Jack Wiederhold, Hattie Schautschick, Ron Knippa, Georgie Boyce, Glenn Pittsford, and Mary Watts, now comprise the 15 member board.

Thanksgiving Day has just passed and we pause to reflect. What does Thanksgiving mean to the average American? What does Thanksgiving mean to us Christians, members and heirs of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society? Now is the advent season of the new church year and soon we will be celebrating the birth of our Saviour. Our forefathers endured much so that we can enjoy this freedom of religion. Let us show our thankfulness by sharing our heritage with others and asking them to become members of our Society. This is an excellent way to witness to people and help preserve our heritage.

This message is the close of my responsibilities as President of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Thank you for this privilege and honor.

Ken Weiser
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 23, 1994 Vogelhochzeit at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings, Texas
- May 13-14, 1994 Lone Star District Walther League Reunion at Camp Lone Star in La Grange, Texas.
- May 29, 1994 Serbin Homecoming Picnic at St. Paul Picnic grounds, Serbin, Texas.
- June 1-4, 1994 National Genealogical Society Conference in the States hosted by Clayton Library Friends.
- June 19, 1994 Winchester Picnic at St. Michael's Park in Winchester, Texas.

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The Texas Wendish Heritage society was well represented by the St. Paul Lutheran School Children caroling in La Grange at the special Walk in the Park Festivities at Monument Hill on Sunday afternoon, December 12th.

After caroling there, they visited the Monument Hill Nursing Home and presented a program for the residents.

After caroling they were invited to the Museum to see the Christmas tree and have some refreshments.

Thanks to all who participated by singing, furnishing transportation, and/or refreshments.

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GIFT SHOP

By Barbara Hielscher, Manager
New Children's book! Little Maria Gets Caught by Duane Bamsch is the story of a little Wendish girl who is full of mischief and is finally caught at her pranks and nearly frightened to death. The book sells for \$3.50. There is no tax as the Texas Wendish Heritage Society Press published it.

Little Maria Gets Caught



Also, for sale in the gift shop is the reprint of the History of Lee County. It sells for \$48.05, tax included. Shipping charges will be \$3.00.

CHRISTMAS LIGHT DISPLAY

Thank you, to Walter and Laverne Gersch for supplying 450 Christmas lights to decorate the large cedar tree in front of the Museum Complex. The display is bright and beautiful!

Special thanks to Walter who came out to the Museum after dark to make sure all the lights looked just perfect.

VISITORS

November brought visitors from all parts of Texas and from the following: Illinois, Washington, Kansas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Alabama, Colorado, New York, Arizona, and Georgia.

DOCENTS

Docents for the month of November were: Hattie Schautschick, Georgie Boyce, Barbara Hielscher, Evelyn Kasper, Laverne Gersch, and Freddie Zoch.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Mrs. Ruben Moerbe, Austin, TX John Sacoolidge, Newbury Pk, CA
Michael Vokobratovich, Sierra Vista, AR
Terrance Tschatschula, Austin, TX
Dr. James C. Zwernemann, Bronxville, N. Y.

Student Members

Laurie G. Taylor

Patron Members

Hubert C. Noack, Waco TX	Elo Toll, Cedar Park, TX
Ken Weiser, Giddings, TX	Paul Weise, Orlando, FL
Kathy L. Miller, Lafayette LA	Gene Miertschin, Friendswood, TX
Dana Z. Clary, Orange, TX	Ruth B. Scheffel, Fullerton, CA
Floyd Zoch, El Campo, TX	Betty S. Zoch, El Campo, TX
Ruth Emmerich, Buda, TX	Ludwig O. Groeschel, Austin, TX
Edna Groeschel, Austin, TX	Rodney C. Koenig, Houston, TX
Vivian F. Taylor, Weimar, TX	Ted Wukasch, Groves, TX

Sponsor Members

Michael Vokabratovich, Sierra Vista, AR
Hermann Teinert, Lubbock, TX

Century Members

Ralph C. Weiser, Magnolia, AR

Jerry L. Knippa, Boerne, TX

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Shirley Schwartz	Ruth Wagner	\$10.00
Shirley Schwartz	M/M Barney Hutchinson	\$25.00
Emma D. Wuensche	M/M Wallace Dube	\$25.00
Emma D. Wuensche	M/M A. W. Knippa	\$10.00
Emma D. Wuensche	Mrs. Lorine Domel	\$5.00
Emma D. Wuensche	M/M Jim Mogonye	\$10.00
Emma D. Wuensche	Mrs. Ruby Searcy	\$5.00
Emma D. Wuensche	Marie Hann	\$15.00
Emma D. Wuensche	M/M Jack W. Heiman	\$15.00
Rudolph Lorenz	M/M Jim Baccus, M/M Bob Fanning	\$25.00
Emma D. Wuensche	M/M Reinhold Teinert	
Emma D. Wuensche	Mrs. Arthur Fehr	
Emma D. Wuensche	M/M Alton Patschke	
Emma D. Wuensche	Evelyn N. Kasper	
Emma D. Wuensche	Mrs. Michael R. Davis	
Emma D. Wuensche	Mrs. Margaret W. Hart	

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Leroy Steglich	M/M Herbert Schautschick	\$10.00
M/M Leroy Steglich	George Boerger	\$100.00

An \$800.00 donation was received from Mr. George Boerger to match the amount that was made at the walk-in coffee and bake sale in Giddings.

VOGELHOCHZEIT 1994

The 1994 Vogelhochzeit will be held on Sunday, January 23, 1994 at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings, Texas. There will be a noon meal served from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p. m. The menu will be Ham, Noodles, Green Beans, German Potato Salad, Peaches, Homemade Bread and Butter, and Tea or Coffee. Sweets will be available. Entertainment is planned to begin at 1:00 p. m. More information will follow.

Refreshments for the February, 1994 general membership meeting will be furnished by the Austin Chapter members.

**GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 21, 1993**

Pastor Paul Hartfield opened the meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society at 2:00 p.m. at the new flag poles with a prayer. The flag raising ceremony by the American Legion York Post 276 was very impressive. First the American flag was raised, then the Texas flag was raised, and then the Wendish flag was raised. After the pledge of allegiance, led by the Post members, Doris Reagan, the donor of this wonderful gift gave us a brief history of the Biehle and Tschatschula families. The flags and flagpoles were dedicated in memory of Mrs. Reagan's father, Karl Biehle. The group sang America first in English and then in Wendish.

The business meeting was called to order by Ken Weiser. A special welcome was given to Linda Boerger, who attended her first meeting, and to the visitors, Adele Sander, Martha Toll, and Peter Langer, a young Wendish man from the Bautzen area who has been visiting with the Wiederholds since September. He will present the program at our February meeting.

The minutes of the November, 1992, meeting were approved as sent to the membership.

The main order of business was election of officers to serve in 1994 and 1995.

Two directors were also elected to serve for one year terms to fill the vacancies created by moving directors to the slate for officers. The following slate was elected by acclamation:

President: Laverne Gersch
Vice-President: Victor Zoch
Treasurer: Leroy Steglich
Recording Secretary: Della Mullens
Corresponding Secretary: Evelyn Kasper

Directors: Kenneth Weiser
Barbara Hielscher

George Boerger encouraged members to pay their dues now.

Hattie Schautschick thanked those who helped with the Walk-In Coffee held in Giddings.

Evelyn Kasper asked for baked goods or monetary gifts for the B'sake Sale scheduled for December 17th, Friday, at the La Grange State Bank. She also told of an upcoming tour from Oklahoma City in April, 1994.

Charles Wukasch commented on the good publicity we received during the Wendish Fest. Doris Reagan received a video of the Wendish Fest from Ray M. Boriski of Houston, which she donated to

the Society. Elmer Zoch also made a video of the activities at the Wendish Fest as well as the Flag Raising ceremony today. Copies of these will be kept in the archives. He also brought some pictures of the Wendish Fest which were put on display for the meeting.

Marian Wiederhold reported on the parlor furniture and Victorla received from Mrs. Frances Mitchell. These items belonged to the Mitschke and Wagner families. The nativity scene from Mrs. Mitchell was purchased in 1929 and Georgie Boyce has it on display in the Library.

Mrs. Boyce told of a children's book written by Duane Bamsch which is now for sale in the Gift Shop for \$3.50.

Reinhold Teinert announced that they will again be putting up a Christmas tree at North Cross Mall.

Leroy Steglich reported that our financial condition is much better than it was the last couple of years. A year ending report will be given in February.

Laverne Gersch informed the group that the Vogelhochzeit this year will consist of a noon meal and program at the sons of Hermann Hall on Sunday, January 23rd.

The outgoing officers were given a round of applause for a job well done.

Telford Zoch was thanked for putting up our Christmas Tree and Georgie Boyce, Evelyn Kasper and Barbara Hielscher for decorating the tree and buildings. After adjournment of the meeting the group enjoyed singing Christmas carols around the tree, accompanied by Jack Wiederhold on the accordian. A special treat was Silent Night in Wendish by Peter Langer.

After caroling, pictures were taken of the tree, etc. and also of the coffee cake winners at the Wendish Fest. Refreshments of coffee cake, cake, cookies and coffee were then enjoyed by all.

If there are any
additions or corrections
please send them to:

TWHS

Rt.2, Box 155, Giddings, TX 78942

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn N. Kasper

Evelyn N. Kasper, Secretary

TEXAS WALTHER LEAGUE REUNION TO CELEBRATE ITS SPIRIT AND LEGACY

May 13—15, 1994, at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange

Planned to give Lone Star District Walther Leaguers an opportunity to re-connect with friends from Walther League days for fun and fellowship.

A celebration of the blessings received through the program, service, and fellowship of the Walther League the event will remember the 'good old days' and thank the Lord for His many blessings. Also look ahead to continue to keep the 'spirit' and 'legacy' of the Walther League alive in years to come, encouraging one another for present and future ministries together.

All Walther Leaguers are invited to RE-member, RE-new, RE-claim and RE-dedicate by attending The Walther League RE-union. A fun celebration !

EARLY REGISTRATION IS \$10 (\$20 after March), SEND TO: Walther League Reunion
c/o 2016 Camp Lone Star Road
LaGrange, Texas 78945.

FOR INFORMATION & TO BE INCLUDED IN MAILINGS, SEND ADDRESS TO: Publicity Committee
4419 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78756.

All Wendish Walther Leaguers are invited ! Get ready to celebrate ! Register now !

WANTED! **OWLS OF TEXAS**

"One and All are We!"

**Sound a "bit" familiar, but can't
quite put it together? Let us
explain:**

**Remember "Walther Leaguers, Walther
Leaguers, One and all are We...?"**

**YES - YOU are WANTED, the OWL (Old Walther
Leaguer) to come to the Walther League
Reunion at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas,
May 13-15, 1994!**

For more information and to be included in mailings, write:

Publicity Committee
4419 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Austin, Texas 78756

And send in your early registration with \$10.00 to:

WALTHER LEAGUE REUNION in TEXAS
% Camp Lone Star Road
LaGrange, Texas 78945

Your committee is excited about gathering the Leaguers, 'one and all are we,' even though Walther League is no longer, the spirit is still prevalent and what a joy it will be to see you, the OWL, next May, to worship, sing and play together once again! (P.S. I'd rather be an 'AWL' - 'ALL WALTHER LEAGUERS') Kitty ('54-58', Jr. WL)

Our sympathy to the Emma Wuensche family. Emma passed away on November 26, 1993. She was a charter member of the Society, which was known as the Texas Wendish Culture Club when it was first founded. She worked actively for 20 years in the organization in various positions. Her greatest joy was organizing the material for the Original Cookbook for publication.

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