



Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

Serbin, Texas

ROUTE 2, BOX 155, GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

409-366-2441

OPEN FROM 1:00 To 5:00 P.M. EVERY DAY EXCEPT HOLIDAYS
Phone 409/366-2441

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII

NUMBER 2, APRIL, 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With our fast-paced lives, we sometimes overlook the fact that it takes the extra effort and consideration of many people to make an organization as large as the Texas Wendish Heritage Society function. A world of thanks and recognition to the following people:

Ken and Ruby Weiser provide the 460 address labels for the newsletters and extra mailouts.

Telford Zoch always keeps the Museum grounds mowed.

Leroy Steglich keeps the Wendish Museum sign looking neat by applying weed killer on and around the landscape rocks.

Freddie Zoch worked several evenings clearing the courtyard of 17 55 gallon plastic bags of leaves. That's 2 stacked pick-up loads.

Ellford and Wilma Bigon are providing a roof to store the "Ben Nevis" float.

Gruetzners in Giddings provided the video set-up for our February program.

Color Star Growers gave us below wholesale prices on 18 blooming baskets.

Carroll Hielscher made wire hanger extensions for the baskets.

Rinehold and Irene Teinert always represent the Society at various functions which they attend.

Delbert and Olga Mae Gersch donated 6 ice chests of ice for our booth at the Lee County Junior Livestock Show. A large number of ladies donated brownies and koch kase for the booth. The food booths were open 3 days from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. so it took a lot of volunteers to man the booth.

Ron and Cindy Knippa attend many planning meetings prior to the Folklife Festival in San Antonio.

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Pastor Hartfield always has our meeting devotions or he prov des someone if he has other commitments.

Barbara Hielscher, Gloria Mae Gersch, Irma Gersch, Hattie Schautschick and Carolyn Bohot spent all day, April 16th, at the Yesterfest in Bastrop. They gave out small samples of cooked Wendish noodles and sold 94 pounds of dry noodles and several cook books.

Elinor Steglich and her noodle committee, Esther Buscha, Hattie Schautschick, and Evelyn Kasper keep us supplied with noodles and various members donate flour and eggs.

We are grateful to all who help as docents, and help host the tours.

THANKS EVERYONE !!

The Society received a \$60.00 donation for membership in the Giddings Area Chambr of Commerce. It is felt that membership will provide us with additional publicity and outlets for tour groups.

Also, with a donation for salary the Museum is now open on Saturday afternoons (seven days a week 1 - 5 p.m. except holidays).

We hope to have a nice crowd at the May 15th general membership meeting to hear the Rev. Elmer Hohle relive his Wendish childhood. Tape recorders and video cameras are welcome to record his program. He speaks Wendish fluently.

A reminder to all Walther Leaguers: It is possible to attend the meeting after the reunion at Camp Lone Star. If you are unable to make it by 2 p.m. come visit the Museum anyway and have refreshments with us.

Laverne Gersch
President

SPECIAL GUEST COMING IN SEPTEMBER

Dr. Lotar Balke of Drebkau, Niederlausitz will be the guest of Daphne and Bob Garrett from September 21, until October 11, 1994. Dr. Balke is a distinguished scholar, professional photographer, and egg decorator. He has written five of the ten books published on the Volkstracht (Folk Dress) of the Wends of Lusatia and is an expert on textiles. He has been Editor of Leptosis, is the photo- grapher of many of the picture postcards of Lusatia, and an avid egg decorator with a collection of more than 2000 eggs from around the world which he exhibits annually.

Daphne and Dr. Balke have been corresponding since 1989, when she received a letter from Dr. Balke. By way of introduction, he said, "Through a friend in Sweden I have learned of your book, *The Art of Decorating Wendish Easter Eggs*." We are looking forward to meeting Dr. Balke and learning more about the many historic costumes of Lusatia.

He will arrive in time for the Wendish Fest, September 25.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13	Bake Sale in front of La Grange State Bank in La Grange
May 13-14	Lone Star District Walther League Reunion at Camp Lone Star in La Grange, Texas
May 15	General Membrship meeting at the Museum at 2:00 P.M.
May 29	Serbin Homecoming Picnic at St. Paul picnic grounds, Serbin, Texas
May 30	Museum CLOSED - Memorial Day
June 1-4	National Genealogical Society Conference in the States hosted by Clayton Library Friends, at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas
June 19	Winchester Picnic at St. Michael's Park in Winchester, Texas
July 1	Deadline for articles for July newsletter
July 4	Museum CLOSED - Independence Day
July 24-27	International LLL Convention in Fort Worth, Texas

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The speaker for the May general membership meeting will be the Rev. Elmer Hohle from Liberty Hill, Texas.

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Laverne Gersch organized a Food Booth at the Lee County Jr. Livestock Show on March 17th, 18th, and 19th. Sausage and Sauerkraut Boats, Noodles, Koch Kase Sandwiches, Lemonade, and Brownies, were sold and netted about \$500.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Emma Wuensche	E. C. Knippa	\$20.00

A \$25.00 donation was received from Bonnie Winkler Murr for the Vogelhochzeit.

A \$25.00 donation was received from the descendants of Peter and Johanna Mitzscherling Noack on the occasion of the 50th Noak Reunion.

Thank you to Leroy Steglich, and Jimmy and Jarett Teston for spending long hours moving and restacking books in the workroom and vault.

TOURS

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator

The Silver Eagle Club of Gross Bank in San Antonio spent the day at the Museum on February 18th. Forty-five members enjoyed the luncheon and tour, and thanks to Daphne Garrett, an Easter Egg demonstration. The thirty dollars for the demonstration was donated to the Archives Fund by Mrs. Garrett.

We were indeed happy to be able to give Dr. Dale Meyer, our Lutheran Hour Speaker, and Fred Bleeke, of St. Louis, together with their hosts for the day Ewald Hempel and Harold Kasper, of Warda, a tour of the Museum complex on March 10th.

On March 22nd a group of German students and parents from Germany (13) came for a tour.

On April 5th, 29 ladies from the Tri Delta Alumnus group of Houston came for a luncheon and tour.

April 29th brought 48 people from Christ Episcopal Church in Houston for a tour and luncheon.

Barbara Kocurek of Houston brought about 35 German students for a tour on Sunday, April 10th.

33 members of the Colorado County Extension Group from Columbus and Weimar visited the Museum and Church on April 19th.

22 visitors from the Copperas Cove LWML enjoyed a luncheon and tour of the Museum and Church on Sunday, April 24th. Missionary and Mrs. Marty Paul from Yorba Linda, California were doing research in the library and joined the group for lunch.

11 members of the Wild Flower Group from Temple stopped here on April 26th for a tour and luncheon on their way to a Winnebago Convention.

A group of 7th graders from St. Mark's Lutheran School in Houston came by for a tour on April 28th.

NATIONAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE UPDATE

by Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Zoch, Chairpersons

Volunteers are still needed for the four day period, June 1st - 4th, to help with the book sale booth and registration Desk at the National Genealogical Conference in Houston. Volunteers need not register. Anyone interested in helping please call 713/443-8795. We also have two spare bedrooms available for this four day period and would be happy to share them with volunteers who come from out of town. The convention center which is downtown Houston, is easily accessible from our place via I-45 North. We have been notified that Dr. Joe Wilson will NOT conduct any of the sessions at the Convention.

Thank you to the Austin Chapter for providing the refreshment for the February general membership meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

Student Members

John E. Karle, St. Louis, MO Sara R. Buchhorn, Austin, TX
Thomas A. Buchhorn, Austin, TX

New Members

Ken Mersiovsky, Houston, TX Barbara Elliot, Midland, TX
John E. Gruenen, Friendswood, TX Susan Unger, Houston, TX
Michael Unger, Houston, TX Carolyn M. Falke, Warda, TX
Janice M. Aldrich, Lexington, MA

Patron Members

D. G. Symmank, Giddings, TX Frances K. Pfluger, Austin, TX
James E. Koepke, Aurora, NE Elinor Vlasak, Rosebud, TX
Arnold W. Kriegel, Austin, TX Helen S. Wright, Canyon Lake, TX
Rev. Clarence Ehler, Muldoon, TX Doris M. Zable, St. Louis, MO
Herbert Foerster, Giddings, TX John E. Gruenen, Friendswood, TX
Dentler Erdmann, Montebello, CA Deborah S. Nance, Houston, TX
Violet Miertschin, La Grange, TX Weldon Mersiovsky, Walburg, TX
Harold Theiss, Houston, TX

Sponsor Members

Carolyn M. Falke, Warda, TX

VISITORS

During the months of February, March, and April we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Washington, Wisconsin, Arkansas, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Germany, New York, Maryland, North Carolina, Louisiana, Illinois, Mississippi, Georgia, California, Kansas, Massachusetts, Florida, and South Dakota.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during February, March, and April: Hattie Schautschick, John and Anna Schmidt, Georgie Boyce, Walter and Erna Mersiovsky, Evelyn Kasper, Esther Buscha, Elinor Steglich, Luise Green, Bessie Mertink, Barbara Hielscher, Daphne Garrett, Ken Weiser, Freddie Zoch, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Henry and Emilie Zoch, Mildred Kilian, Flora Kunze, Laverne Gersch, Jack Wiederhold, Bea Tschatschula, Vivian Taylor, Ruby Koslan, and August and Laura Zoch.

-5-

Schedule below received from the Domowina in Bautzen, Germany regarding the celebration of the Sorbisch Festival.

DAYS OF SORBISCH CULTURE

10 June - 26 June 1994

- June 4-5 Home country celebration in Schleife
- June 5 Premier concert "Israel 'sadness' group" Church in Bautzen
- June 10 Grand Opening - Premier of Sorbisch National Theater
"Beautiful 'brides girls' from Lusatia"
- June 10-12 Sorbisch Culture Celebration - "Jan Arnost Smoler" group in
Radibor (6 or 7 miles from Bautzen)
- June 18 Concert of Sorbisch student musicians at the Sorbisch Museum
in Bautzen
- June 18 Meeting Sorbisch Poetry in Turnge (near Cottbus)
- June 18-19 **Village celebration in Crostwitz
- June 18 **Janska - Special Thanksgiving celebration in Pancicah
- June 24 **Sorbisch Literature and music (short stories) in Lubbenau
- June 26-28 Sorbisch celebration Catholic "Michal Hornik" in Ralbitz
(**Peter Langer said these would be very Sorbisch)

- * Evening of Sorbisch piano music in Spremberg
- * Evening of Sorbisch films in Solschwitz
- * Readings from authors in Hoyerswerda
- * A night with songs and readings in Solschwitz
- * Theater presentation by non-professionals
- * Art pieces by professional artist
- * Special "Sorbs in Germany"

SORBISCH CELEBRATION IN RADDUSCH June 24--26, 1994

- Friday: Opening in Village
Play with puppets in Beer Tent
- Saturday: 10:00 - 2:00 Program with young Sorbisch students
2:00 - 4:00 Folk music & dancing from Lower Lusatia
4:00 p.m. Sorbisch customs from Lower Lusatia
7:00 p.m. Night program of music for youth
- Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Big Program of dancing and singing
12:00 - 3:00 Program by organization from different areas
3:00 p.m. Demonstration of Sorbian traditional costumes
on a column of 40 boats

KNIPPA REUNION 1994

June 11, 1994

- 12:30 - 2:00 Registration
Fun Activities for Young and Old
- 2:00 - 3:30 Auction: A new event at the Knippa Reunion! If you so desire, bring your homemade crafts: needlework, dolls, art work etc., homemade jellies, preserves, pickles, baked goods, noodles, and any other items which display your personal talents and skills. Your donation will be auctioned and the proceeds will go to the reunion's general fund. Bring an auction contribution and enjoy the recognition for your wonderful work and the fun of purchasing hand-made treasures!
- 3:30 Business Meeting
- 3:50 Devotion and Prayer
- 4:00 Meal: main course, Bar-B-Q to be provided. You bring the fixin's as per tradition.
- 5:00 Entertainment: The Oak Wilt Boys
- 6:00 August Knippa Memorial Dedication Ceremony at St. John's Lutheran Church, Lincoln. The Reverend Erich Knippawill officiate.

Detach and return the information below no later than May 20, 1994.

- ☐ Yes, we plan to attend with _____ people.
- ☐ No, we are unable to attend.

From:

Mail to: Heidi Knippa
3629 Quietie Drive
Austin, TX 78754

IT'S THE YEAR
FOR THE
SCHATTE FAMILY REUNION
JUNE 18, 1994



Time: 10:00 am.
Location: American Legion Hall, Highway 77, South, Giddings, Texas
Worship: 11:30 a.m., speaker is Rev. Fred Prellop
Meal time: Noon
Bring: Your noon meal. You can prepare it or, if you travel a long distance, you may wish to purchase it.
What is Provided: Table service, coffee, tea, water, beer

Additional Notes:

- * Please pass along this information to anyone in the Schatte family that you are in contact with in case they have not received notification
- * Please bring a traditional recipe, with the story or tradition relating to it, plus one or more favorite recipes for a book to be made for sale at the next reunion.
- * "Schatte Reunion" T-Shirts will be available for sale
- * Bring a family photograph for display
- * Hilton Wieder, Jr. will be video taping the reunion, be ready with some historical or comical stories. We'll see the tape in 1996.
- * If a family member has been blessed with talent and is willing to be part of the entertainment, please notify the committee and they'll be added to the program
- * Encourage your family to attend, don't let this event die out!

The Reunion Committee:
The Herman and the J.C. Schatte Families
c/o Monroe Prellop
1806 W. Bell
Houston, TX 77019

**HANNUSCH REUNION
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1994
AMERICAN LEGION ANNEX
SMITHVILLE, TEXAS**

Dear Folks;

The family reunion is just around the corner. I hope each one of you will be back this year, so we can visit again, and bring other family members or new friends.

This year the reunion will be at the American Legion Annex, Smithville, Texas(same as 1992) Saturday, June 18, 1994 from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. At the last reunion it was decided that dinner would be pot-luck(families bring meat dish/casserole, vegetable dish/salad). As always, everyone is invited to bring their favorite dessert. Bring your recipe so that they can be shared. Paper goods, utensils, tea and coffee will be provided.

Please check with other family members to make sure that they are aware of the reunion. We may not have names and addresses for everyone.

There will be activities going on outside: volleyball, horseshoes, bring your games, cards, dominos. Bring your previous reunion pictures and any other family pictures.

Enclosed is a R.S.V.P. to be filled out and returned to me by June 1, 1994. Please list who is coming so we can have the name tags made in advance. If you decide later to come, please do so.

If you have any questions, please contact me. I am looking forward to seeing all of you again.

Raymond Hannusch
Rt. 3 Box 321
Cedar Creek, Texas 78612
Phone: 512-303-3633

PLEASE RETURN REGARDLESS IF ATTENDING OR NOT

R. S. V. P.(Raymond Hannusch Rt3. Box 321, Cedar Creek, Tx. 78612)

_____ Number of people who will attend.

Please list your family members:

Name:

Attending(yes/no)

THE GOOD NEWS AND THE BAD NEWS

By Daphne Garrett, Archivist

There is **GOOD** news and **BAD** news in the world of preservation. The **GOOD** news is that books, personal papers, and black and white photographs can last a very long time with proper care. The most important steps toward preserving these, or any other historic item, is to

1. keep them in the dark
2. keep them very cool
3. keep them in low humidity
4. don't laminate or put in plastic or acidic folders

The **BAD** news is that color photographs and video and sound tape recordings are not going to last a long time, even with proper care. We all know from experience that color photographs fade in a relatively short time. Historians say that if we modern photographers don't get busy and make some black and white photographs of our families, our great-great-grandchildren won't know what we looked like.

At a recent archival seminar which I attended at the University of Texas, the subject was how to preserve non-paper based collections. The speaker, an expert in preservation, explained the physical and chemical structure of many non-paper items including floppy disks, movie and still film, and video and sound tapes.

Unfortunately, tapes last only 10-20 years. Although they can be copied, with each generation of copies some of the information is lost, and eventually you have nothing. The copies should be made on high-tech machinery. Due to the complications and cost of preserving video and sound recording, and obtaining the proper equipment to play the tapes, many archives have decided not to collect oral histories and other tapes.

So if you are taping oral histories from family and friends, be sure to transcribe onto paper their information. Supplement your movies and video tapes with black and white photographs. And remember-- all electronic equipment becomes obsolete very quickly in our modern times, and it may be hard for your descendants to play your tapes. And most of all--keep everything as cool as possible, with low humidity and in the proper box or envelope. Help and advice is available at the Museum.

SPECIAL ARCHIVAL EXHIBIT IN LIBRARY CASE

A special spring and summer exhibit in the Library features the unique collection of multi-layered stand-up Valentines which belonged to Amanda Kilian Stein. They were donated by Margaret Hart, her niece. Be sure to visit the Library and this exhibit.

BLATT



photo courtesy Giddings Times and News

We were indeed privileged to give Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, and Fred Bleeke, of St. Louis, a tour of the Museum on March 10th. Dr. Meyer was the speaker at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Warda, on March 9th. Pictured are Dr. Meyer, second from the left, with his hosts for the day, from left to right Ewald Hempel and Harold Kasper, together with three board members, Evelyn Kasper, Ken Weiser, and Barbara Hielscher.

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