



# Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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

(409) 366-2441

OPEN SUNDAY THRU FRIDAY 1:00 TO 5:00 P.M. & SATURDAYS BETWEEN  
EASTER & LABOR DAY 1:00 TO 5:00 P.M. CLOSED HOLIDAYS

NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There are three words to describe everyone involved in all the spring activities of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society - BUSY - BUSY - BUSY.

There are three phrases that describe the feelings of the Society - THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our booth at the Lee County Junior Livestock Show on March 16, 17, 18 was well received. The menu included sausage wraps, sausage, and sauerkraut, chicken noodle soup, brownies, and lemonade. The booth was open all three days from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The brownies were donated by numerous ladies and all the ice was donated by Big Three Well Service (James and Kathy Kalbas, owners) in Northrup.

Our Society made an application for available 1995 local hotel-motel tax funds. We received \$2,000.00 which will be used for additional picnic tables and benches. We have had a need for more outdoor seating for large groups and these funds are really appreciated.

On July 6 our Society will serve as hosts at an evening reception for a German church band from Klitten, Germany. The 35 band and family members will stay with families in this area from July 6 - July 20. They will also give several concerts in Texas.

Evelyn Kasper and her committee are busy planning the 1995 Wendish Fesst. Our Society will host the third annual State of Texas Championship Noodle Cook-off. The First National Bank of Giddings is sponsoring the event. So all of you GOOD COOKS out there, start practicing on the perfect pot of noodles! Noodles will have to be made by contestants and then cooked at the Wendish Fest. The regular coffee cake bake-off and other events will also take place.

This newsletter is a week late and it is not the fault of the Museum director. The old excuse of "the bull fell in the well" is my excuse for not getting my letter to Barbara earlier. It seems at this time of year with the farm and ranch and automotive shop five bulls fall in five wells at the same time. My apologies!

Georgie Boyce has a wonderful program with a video planned for the May 21 meeting. See you there !

Laverne Gersch  
President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 21            General membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
- May 28            Serbin Homecoming Picnic at St. Paul Picnic Grounds  
                    Serbin, Texas
- June 18           Winchester Picnic at the St. Michael's Lutheran  
                    Church Park
- June 23           Bake Sale in front of the La Grange State Bank    from  
                    9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- June 30           Deadline for articles for the June newsletter

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Thank you to Jack Wiederhold for having the opening devotion at the February general membership meeting. Jack also gave a very interesting and informative slide presentation on the restoration of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Jack spent many hours researching this project.

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The Museum is open seven afternoons a week beginning April 22, thru September 2, 1995.

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### *May Meeting*

The May program will be a video presentation, given by Georgie Boyce, featuring portions of the "Sorbisches Culture Fest", which was held June 24th - 26th, 1994, in Raddusch, Germany. The video gives a compressed glimpse of our Wendish heritage, including: Crafts, Music, Singing, Dancing, "Folk Traditions", and a 40 boat river parade featuring traditional Sorbian costumes. The video was taken by Pastor and Georgie Boyce of Warda, Texas.



Mary Guggisberg of Vernon, Texas

## LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

by Georgie B. Boyce, Librarian

On February 1, 1995, David Chroust, a librarian from Texas A & M University, visited our library as a part of his research on ethnic libraries in Texas. Daphne Garrett and I had a very interesting visit with Mr. Chroust, who was born in Czechoslovakia, just 50 miles south of Bautzen, Germany. His native language is a Slavic dialect, very similar to Upper Wendish, so Mr. Chroust was very interested in our Wendish books. He has kindly offered to do some translating for us in the future.

I think that we should feel a sense of accomplishment in the Texas Wendish Heritage Society, especially those who have donated books and other materials to our library, that we are becoming a recognized research facility.

Since our budget for the purchase of books is only, \$100.00 per year, we must rely on the generosity of individuals and families within our membership to make book donations. Many of you have used this method to make lasting memorials to family members and to recognize special occasions, such as anniversaries, birthdays, etc. This year we are actively soliciting donations for the purchase of a six-volume encyclopedia, **THE NEW HANDBOOK OF TEXAS**. These books contain several articles directly relating to our area and our heritage; among the contributing writers are: Dr. Joe Wilson (article on Pastor Kilian), Sylvia Grider (article on the Wends), and Daphne Garrett (nine entries, including Fayette County history). We have been offered the pre-publication price of \$295.00 which is a \$100.00 savings from the regular price of \$395.00, that will become effective after March 1, 1996. If any of you are interested in making a donation, this would be approximately \$50.00 per volume (any amount would be appreciated).

As I stated in the last newsletter, I would continue our thank you's for 1994, to the following people:

**WELDON MERSIOVSKY** of Walburg, Texas, for donating the following list of books from his library: **LOCATING YOUR IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR**, **GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH ESSENTIALS**, **HANDBOOK FOR GENEALOGICAL CORRESPONDENCE**, **A GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**, **PROFESSIONAL TECHNIQUES AND TACTICS IN AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH**, **CREATING A WORTHWHILE FAMILY GENEALOGY**, **A HANDY GUIDE TO RECORD-SEARCHING IN THE LARGER CITIES OF THE UNITED STATES**, **A GENEALOGICAL GUIDE AND ATLAS OF SILESIA**, a copy of **CZECH FOOTPRINTS ACROSS THE BLUEBONNET FIELDS OF TEXAS**, and the 100th Anniversary booklet of Zion Lutheran Church in Walburg, Texas, **LIFT HIGH THE CROSS 1882-1982**.

**ART and EDNA HACKLER** of Kingston, Oklahoma, donated information about the Parr Family Cemetery in Winchester, Texas

**FIONA and OSCAR SOHNS** of Los Angeles, California, a descendants chart and pedigree chart for the Sohns family and the John Boriack family, information about August Reinholdt and Johanne Christine Ender and Emma Symmank, also, a Morosko pedigree chart.

**TOUR REPORT**  
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator

On February 28th a group of 15 from St. Peter Lutheran Church, Gay Hill, toured the St. Paul Church and Wendish Museum.

A group of 50 Brookwood Volunteers had lunch and then toured the Museum and Church.

March 18th brought a group from the Model A Auto Club of Georgetown for a tour.

A group of 27 from Spring enjoyed a luncheon and tour on March 31st.

A Group from Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Houston toured on April 4th.

Ten members of the Yorkshire Women's Club came for lunch and a tour on April 5th.

47 people with the University Baptist Church of Austin came for coffee cake and coffee, and a tour of the Museum and Church, on April 8th.

37 people from a Baptist Church in Louisiana toured the Church and Museum on Thursday, April 20th.

15 members of the German Free School in Austin toured the Church and Museum on Sunday, April 23rd.

40 members of the South Belt AARP Group, Houston, enjoyed a luncheon, and tours of the Museum and Church on April 25th.

37 seventh grade students and 5 adults from St. Mark Lutheran School in Houston toured the Church and Museum on April 27th.

25 members of the Simmank Family enjoyed lunch and a tour of the Church and Museum on April 29th.

**MEMBERSHIP**

New Members

Richard Boriack, Lincoln TX	Chester Kokel, Katy, TX
Alice Daniels, Fort Duchesne, UT	Gene Zoch Houston, TX
Gwen Miertschin, Houston, TX	Claire Miertschin, San Antonio, TX
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Moerbe Brenham, TX	Beverly Gotzky, Australia

Student Members

Sara Buchhorn, Austin, TX	Thomas Bucchorn, Austin, TX
Sarah Schwartz, Giddings, TX	Elizabeth Schwartz, Giddings, TX

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### Patron Members

Lloyd W. Schuhmann, Giddings, TX	Joan Z. Miller, Wichita, KS
Ruth B. Scheffel, Fullerton, CA	Alvin Bernstein, Abilene, TX
Bernice Schulz, Houston, TX	Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX
Allen Cluck, Winchester, TX	Alfred Herbrich, Houston, TX
Esther, Herbrich, Houston, TX	Mary Guggisberg, Vernon, TX
Arnold W. Kriegel, Austin, TX	George Kunze, Warda, TX
Flora Kunze, Warda, TX	Allen K. Lyons, Copperas Cove, TX
Dr. Gunter Schaarschmidt, Canada	Margaret W. Hart, Austin, TX
Ruby Hein, Overland Park, KS	Jeanette Huelsebusch, La Grange, TX
Ronald Knippa, San Antonio, TX	Betty Teston, San Antonio, TX
John Worm, Dallas, TX	Teresa Z. Worm, Dallas, TX
D. G. Symmank, Giddings, TX	

### Sponsor Members

Margie Loomans, Austin, TX	H. C. Wieder, Houston, TX
Kathy Steglich, Richardson, TX	Martha Toll, Cedar Park, TX
John Gruener, Friendswood, TX	

### Century Members

Linda Boerger, Wharton	Weldon Boerger, Wharton
Walter P. Zoch, Austin, TX	

### MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Shannon Fletcher	M/M Allen Buchhorn & Family	\$10.00
Dora W. Fischer	M/M John Schmidt	\$10.00
Ernest Lehmann	Bessie Mertink	\$5.00
Roslind S. Zoch	Bessie Mertink	\$25.00
Cynthia A. Knippa	Freddie Zoch	\$10.00
Cynthia A. Knippa	Ruth Lindner	\$10.00
Cynthia A. Knippa	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$25.00
Cynthia A. Knippa	E. C. Knippa, Jr.	\$26.00
Cynthia A. Knippa	Vivian F. Taylor	\$20.00
Walter Wukasch	Ruth Wukasch, Charles, Ken, Jim, and Jan	
Victor Zoch	Evelyn Kasper	
Jimmy Griffin	Evelyn Kasper	
Ella T. Mathias	M/M Reinhold Teinert	
Ella T. Mathias	M/M Ed Rhode	
Lucille H. Poupart	Frances Leake	

Memorials for Cynthia A. Knippa were received from the following:

Carolyn Bohot, Austin, TX	Dr. & Mrs. Barry Browne, Temple, TX
Evelyn Kasper, Warda, TX	M/M Reinhold Teinert, Austin, TX
M/M Lee Ivanhoe, Midland, TX	M/M Leonard Ivanhoe, Midland, TX
N/M Karl Ivanhoe, Midland, TX	M/M David Goeke, San Antonio, TX
Margaret Stanton, San Antonio, TX	M/M Jim Beaver, San Antonio, TX
M/M Alvin Forseth, Canyon Lake, TX	M/M Jack Kool, Houston, TX
M/M Johnnie Kool, Houston, TX	M/M Eugene Collins, San Antonio, TX
M/M Bob McKay, Houston, TX	Norma Gould
M/M Paul Kool, Huntsville, TX	Mrs. Winnie Staples, San Antonio, TX

A very generous anonymous memorial was also received from the San Antonio area.



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## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING February 19, 1995

The general membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order by president, Laverne Gersch, at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 19, 1995.

The opening devotion by Jack Wiederhold was based on Ephesians 4:11-22, the same text which was used by Reverend Casper Braun at the dedication of the St. Paul stone church in 1871. Pastor Braun had befriended the Wends upon their arrival in Texas. This does not seem like the normal dedication text and was perhaps chosen because of the dissention in the church. It reminded all that the main thing is faith in Christ.

Laverne welcomed all, especially the visitors, Eugene and Barbara Zoch of Houston.

The minutes of the the November meeting were approved with the correction, "the green tomato recipe is patented and not available to the membership, however, samples of the product by the Scheibners of Italy will be available at the February meeting". (Samples were available).

A reminder that the 1995 memberships are due was given. We have approximately 475 members at this time. George Boerger's financial report was accepted and will be filed for record. He stated that membership dues paid, above the designated amount, are put into the endowment fund.

Elinor Steglich reported that 326 pounds of noodles have been made this year.

Evelyn Kasper reported that at this time we have tentatively scheduled 6 luncheons, one group for coffee and coffee cake only, and four groups for the tour only.

Georgie Boyce introduced Jack Wiederhold's program of the restoration of St. Paul Lutheran church. He showed slides of the various stages of restoration. He and Marian are to be commended for all of the research and effort put into this project. One interesting note is that the marbelized columns and molding were not in existence until 1910. The Society appreciates the efforts of St. Paul to restore the church including Psalm 21:13 as it was replaced on the organ or choir loft. An interesting note is that the same epoxy paint was used on the metal tower as was used on the capital dome which was refinished at about the same time.

Refreshments were furnished by Judy Hielscher and Frieda Wendland.

Evelyn N. Kasper  
Acting Secretary

## OBITUARY FOR CINDY KNIPPA

**CYNTHIA ANN KNIPPA**, 44 of San Antonio, died in peace, March 1, 1995, after a brief battle with cancer. She was born August 27, 1950, the daughter of Willie Kramer, Jr. and Elise Mae Kramer (Nee: Sralla) of San Antonio. Cindy graduated from Robert E. Lee High School in 1968 and attended Southwest Texas State University. She worked with her father at Zales Jewelers while in high school and after graduation had many responsibilities at various Zales stores in the San Antonio area, including manager of the Zales store in Universal City. On October 26, 1974, she and Ronald Alvin Knippa, son of Bill and Adele Knippa, were married. They were blessed with three sons, Benjamin Alvin, Joshua Arnold, and David Willie. Cindy was active in the boys' school activities, serving as room mother at Concordia Lutheran School, scout den leader, committee chairman for Pack 40 and helping whenever called. She was also active in helping Scout Troop 346 at St. George's Episcopal, where her boys were troop members. Always wanting to help with something was her nature. She managed the bookstore at Concordia Lutheran Church for several years and chaired the Wendish Booth at the Texas Folklife Festival for many years representing the Texas Wendish Heritage Society in Serbin, Texas. Her contributions to the community and to the festival reflected her lifelong commitment to education. She volunteered countless hours to promoting her heritage, of which she was very proud. Under her guidance the Wendish booth was named best overall booth for both the 1985 and 1986 Folklife Festival. For the last two years, Cindy helped her nieces, Jamie Kramer and Meagan Knippa, with sewing their gowns and with their participation in the San Antonio Lutheran Coronation. A lifelong member of Concordia Lutheran Church, she never wavered in her dedication to God and Family. Her husband, sons, and family will miss her greatly. Cindy is survived by Her husband, Ronald Alvin Knippa, 3 sons, Benjamin Alvin, Joshua Arnold, and David Willie Knippa; father, Willie Kramer, Jr.; mother, Elise Mae Kramer; grandmother, Mary Salla of Pleasanton, TX; a brother and sister-in-law, Willie and Janice Kramer, III; a sister Linda (Tina) Hill; and numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives. Funeral services were held at 2:00 PM Friday, March 3, 1995 at Concordia Lutheran Church with interment at Sunset Memorial Park.

**35th Annual MICHAEL SCHOPPA FAMILY Reunion  
June 17 & 18, 1995**

The reunion will be held at the Boys Club facilities at Lake Kickapoo, Texas located approximately 31 miles South and 5 miles West of Electria, Texas off HWY 25. Campground opens at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, June 17th and closes at 4:00 P.M. Sunday, June 18th.

Cabins with bunk beds, campground, RV hook-up (at nominal fee), fishing, swimming pool with lifeguards on duty. "Friday-Campout" - (fun) - \$150.00 divided by those camping!

Plates, cups, flatware, tea, coffee, & sweeteners are furnished. Bring linens, food for your family (all meals). Bring games of your choice, bring wrapped White Elephant gifts for Bingo. Bring home-made goodies/crafts for a Country Store/Silent Auction (trial). Don't forget your favorite recipes! Send to: Dona Speir, 2405 Pease, Vernon, Texas 76384. (817) 552-0855.

Friday-"Camp-Out" - RSVP & Details: Edgar Schoppa, Jr. (817) 553-3549, before 5/10/95

Saturday - 6:00 P.M. - Hamburger & Hotdog Supper-you bring fixings. BINGO! DANCING!

Sunday - 10:00 P.M. - Morning Devotion Service and Memorial Remembrance.

Sunday - 12:00 - Buffet lunch, Business Meeting & Country Store/Silent Auction.

**COME GET TO KNOW YOUR FAMILY! BRING A FRIEND**

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