

Texas Mendish 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 VOLUME VIII NUMBER 3 JULY, 1995

TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL REPORT By Ron Knippa, Chairman

DONT'T MISS the 24th Texas Folklife Festival in San Antonio, Texas, Thursday August 3 through Sunday August 6, 1995.

HOURS ARE:	THURSDAY	AUGUST 3	5:00 p.m 11:00p.m.
	FRIDAY	AUGUST 4	5:00 p.m 11:00p.m
	SATURDAY	AUGUST 5	NOON - 11:00p.m.
	SUNDAY	AUGUST 6	NOON - 9:00p.m.

Volunteers to work four hour shifts, and receive free admission. HURRY! HURRY! Contact Ron or Josh Knippa, 2662 Pebble Bow, San Antonio, TX. Phone 210/496-3105 or Bill and Adele Knippa, 102 Atwater, San Antonio, TX. Phone 210/344-0505. Also, anyone who wishes, please donate BONNETS, APRONS, and OTHER CRAFTS. Send them either to us in San Antonio, at the above addresses, or to the Museum in Serbin - SEE YOU THERE!!!

*(Editor's Note) Please keep Ron Knippa in your prayers in this time of his sorrow and loss. We all miss Cindy, and know that these are difficult times indeed for him.

BUS TRANSPORTATION TO FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL IN SAN ANTONIO

There will again be a bus leaving Northrup Store for the Folklife Festival in San Antonio. It will leave Saturday, August 5, the charge for bus fare and gate passes will be \$22.00 each. For departure times and any other information please contact Doug Malke at 409/366-2414.

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3-6	Folklife Festival at the Institute of Texan Cultures, in San Antonio, Texas
August 14	Deadline for articles for the August newsletter
August 20	General membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Ray Martens guest speaker
September 2	Last Saturday Museum will be open until Spring of 1996
September 8-10	German Texan Heritage Society annual meeting at the Victoria Holiday Inn in Victoria, Texas
September 24	Seventh Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the St. Paul, Serbin, picnic grounds.
October 16	Deadline for articles for the October newsletter
October 17	Walk-In coffee/bake sale, 9:00 a.m 2:00 p.m., at Eleanor's cottage behind the Fletcher Home in Giddings, Texas
November 19	General membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. with election of officers

Thank you to Rev. Paul Hartfield for having the opening devotion at the May general membership meeting. Georgie Boyce presented the program which was a video of the "Sorbisch Culture Fest" in Raddusch, Germany.

AUGUST MEETING SPEAKER

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Ray Martens, President Emeritus of Concordia UNIVERSITY, who will be presenting a program about the University (recently raised to university status), and the close ties with our area, both ethnic and religious. Dr. Martens is a frequent visitor to the Museum and other area events, since both he and his wife share our heritage. Plan now to attend an interesting and informative program.

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

Our special thanks to MR. EWALD HEMPEL of LaGrange/Warda, for his generous gift to purchase THE NEW HANDBOOK OF TEXAS, the six volume set that was mentioned in the last Newsletter. Mr. Hempel's gift, in memory of his wife, Johanne Hempel, will also allow us to purchase a video tape player which will play the foreign videos that we receive from our friends in Germany and Australia. Each of these items will be significant additions to our library and museum.

We also wish to acknowledge the following contributions of books and materials:

HANNA MICKAN of Bautzen, Germany, for donating her sister's Sorbisch costume, photos, Sorbisch Song book written in 1925 and 94/95 DEUTSCH VOLKSTHEATER-BAUTZEN.

STEFFEN GUNZEL of Forst, Germany - 2 booklets summarizing the history of the Sorbs written in English, THE SORBS/WENDS IN GERMANY, and 5 packets of postcards showing different area Sorbisch costumes.

EUGENE E. HEMMANN of St Charles, Illinois - information about his father, Rev. Louis Otto Hemmann, who served as a Vicar at Bethany Lutheran Church in Greens Creek in 1933-34 and photos taken at that time.

MRS. ELSIE SOCHA of Giddings, Texas - six Czech books from the library of the Rev. John Socha. Two of these are Czech/English dictionaries, which will be helpful in translating some Wendish/Sorbisch words.

REV. WILBERT SOHNS of Gatesville, Texas - two copies of his book, THE JOHN SOHNS FAMILY TREE.

REV. CLARENCE OESTREICH of LaGrange - the historical novel, THE SEED'S INHERITANCE, by Colin Thiele, which was given to him by his niece, Elizabeth Johnston of Goodna, Queensland, Australia. This novel is about the Germans that migrated to Australia r about the same time the Wends were coming to America and describes the conditions in Germany at that time.

ELMER ZOCH of Houston - copy of the Zoch family history, ALVIN T. ZOCH & WIFE, ERNESTINE MERTINK, & ZOCH MUSEUM.

HERBERT FALKE of Giddings - TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH FEDOR, TEXAS, 125 ANNIVERSARY BOOK - 1870-1995.

KEN WEISER of Giddings - THE LUTHER ANNUAL - 1995, Celbrating 100 Years of LCMS World Missions.

WINEDALE HISTORICAL CENTER of Round Top, Texas - their book, OKTOBER GARTENFEST, has articles about gardening in the early days of Texas, landscaping, herbs in Texas and plants in German cemeteries.

EVELYN KASPER of Warda - a song book, NIEDERSORBISCHE VOLKSLIEDER".

Our sincere thanks to each of these contributors!!!

The library purchased the book, *DECORATING TEXAS*, by Buie Harwood, which features the painted columns of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Serbin, Texas, on page 17. LIBRARY DISPLAY CASE:

Apologies to Daphne Garrett for our failure to mention in the last newsletter her beautiful Spring display of decorated eggs from all over the world, which were from her personal collection.

The Summer display is featuring "Schreck Krauter", the herb plant used by the Wendish/ German people in Texas.

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WALK-IN COFFEE/BAKE SALE by Hattie Schautschick, chairperson

There will be a walk-in coffee/bake sale on October 17, at Eleanor's Cottage located behind the Fletcher Home in Giddings from 9:00a.m. until 2:00p.m. Everyone is asked to bring baked goods to this location before 9:00a.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.

GERMAN-TEXAN HERITAGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The German-Texan Heritage society will hold its annual meeting September 8, 9, and 10 at the Victoria Holiday Inn in Victoria. The meeting has been planned to emphasize German immigration in the area and the impact it had on the culture and growth of Victoria and surrounding communities. A \$45.00 registratiion fee (until August 21/\$55.00 thereafter) includes a Friday evening buffet, a chartered bus tour through the Victoria countryside, a Saturday night German-style dinner and admission to all convention exhibits and programs. Friday night activities will take place in the oldest house in Victoria where participants will be entertained by Black Forest native, Hermann Grueneberg.

A reasonable \$45.00 room rate (plus tax) has been negotiated with the Victoria Holiday Inn. For a list of other accommodations, program information and registration materials contact: Teresa Chevez, GTHS, P.O. Box 684171, Austin, TX 78768, 512/482-0927.

THANK YOU ! To Ruth Wagner of Bridge City for donating 8 colorful Apron/Bonnets to the Museum Gift Shop. More are needed.

SIMANK REUNION

Submitted by Ben Simank Fredericks

The descendants of Carl August and Ana Magdalena Simank (Family Number 70-Ben Nevis Ship Register) held a reunion on April 28-30, 1996 at Ledbetter, Texas. Thirty-four family members participated in the weekend event. Highlights included our Family Business Meeting in Giddings, visiting St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin with a tour by Telford Zoch, lunch at the Wendish Heritage Museum served and prepared by Museum volunteers, touring Simank Street in Fayetteville, Cemetery sites in La Grange and Fayetteville, the Simank Homestead east of Fayetteville and a Chuck wagon dinner in Ledbetter. On Sunday some members attended St. Paul's in Serbin. The weather despite a wet spring was perfect for the three days. Simank family members attended from Washington, Oregon, California,

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Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. In 1997 the family will gather in La Habra, California on June 28-30. Our plans are to return to Ledbetter in 1999.

KUTSCHKE-KRIEGEL REUNION Submitted by Jeanette Schaefer

The 1995 Kutschke-Kriegel reunion was held at the Sons of Herman Hall in Paige, Texas, on Sunday, June 4.

Karl Kriegel and his wife Ernestine immigrated from Germany in 1882 with their 6 children - Anna, Fred, Max, Marie, Herman, and Paul. The family settled on a farm near Giddings, where Karl was a charter member of Immanuel Lutheran Lutheran Church. Five more children were born in America - Louise, Gus, Auguste, Otto, and Hulda. They were all baptized and confirmed at Immanuel.

In 1884 Herman Kutschke and his sister Henriette also immigrated from Germany and settled in the Giddings area. The families were joined when Herman married Anna Kriegel.

One hundred and nineteen descendants of these people gathered from all over Texas and as far away as California and South Dakota. After the noon pot luck meal, a meeting was held that included several family history demonstrations, including new information about the Kriegel family from records discovered in Germany.

Descendants of Gus Kriegel hosted the reunion and shared family history through old pictures, written memories, and display items, such as blacksmith tools used by Gus.

Gus Kriegel was born in 1887 and married Augusta Tesch of Halletsville in 1910. They lived on a farm 3 miles from Giddings on what is now County Road 113. In 1926, Gus was chosen "Lee County Prize Farmer", an honor of which he was very proud.

They had four children. Hermina Kriegel Dawson was a nurse in a Brenham hospital. Emily Kriegel Bauer Zoch currently lives near Giddings. Albert and Carl Kriegel owned and operated Houstex Tool Company in Houston, Texas, until they retired.

The Gus Kriegel family remained active members of Immanuel Lutheran Church and the children followed the example of their parents, becoming active members of their respective Lutheran churches throughout their lives.

A reed organ used by churches in Giddings, and Houston was donated by Carl Kriegel to the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum.

The 1996 reunion will be held again next year on the first Sunday in June at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Paige.

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CHAIRMAN: Edie Wagner - Rt. 10 Box 998 - Orange, TX 77630 - Ph. (409) 735-4196

Come To The Wuensche 15th Annual Family Reunion

When? Sunday July 16th

Starting at 9:00 AM

Where? Fireman's Hall in Greater Thorndale

What's Going On? Here is the Schedule

9:00 Registration - Compare Pictures, Swap Stories, Meet & Greet
12:00 Devotional - Rev. R. H. Wuensche Followed by BarBQ Duinner with all the trimmings
1:30,Door Prizes - Business Meeting-Talent Show

What Can I Bring?

Your favorite dessert and a talent for the Talent Show!

What is the Cost?

Adults \$4.50 Young Folks 10-15 \$2.50 under nine Free

Who Can I contact?

Bobby Wuensche 512-365-3013 Route 2 Box 215 Taylor, TX 76574 Betty Hughes 409-837-5442 P. O. Box 277 Colmesneil, TX 75938

Seed Help on Wuensche Book!

Need your input before going to press. Anyone get married? Any new babies? Any deaths in the family? Do I have biographical sketches on you and your ancestors? Have you given me your family photos? Have you placed your order yet? The books will be \$20.00 each and numbered. Please let me hear from you. Last Chance!

Burney Parker

Route 6, Box 6602 Brenham, TX 77833-9131 (409)830-9199

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BUCHHORN REUNION

Submitted by Helen D. Pillack

The 30th annual Buchhorn Reunion will be held August 6, 1995 at Georgetown Community Center, San Gabriel Park, Georgetown, Texas. The Ernest John Buchhorn Family were hosts. Activities begin with an 11:00 a.m. service (also a children's service). At 12:00 noon a meal consisting of barbecue and desserts (adult tickets \$6.00, childrens tickets \$3.00) will be served. A business meeting and an auction will follow.

The Buchhorn family of AUGUST, KARL and EMIL, brothers, came from a small village in Eastern Germany known as WEIGERSDORF, near the border of Poland and Czechoslovakia. Our branch of the Buchhorn family had lived in and around WIEGERSDORF since about 1850. The old farm house that August, Karl, and Emil Buchhorn left behind to come to America was still standing in 1986. Many of the early ancestors that we have heard about are buried there. Rev. Kilian's grandson, Ernst, was married to Hattie Buchhorn and these relatives come to this reunion and serve on the committees. When Karl Buchhorn, who was my grandfather, and his wife Marie came to America they settled in Warda where three sons were born and baptized. They later moved to Walburg. The Buchhorns are scattered about today, but there are still relatives in Hannover, Muchen, and Trauchagau, Germany. There is also royalty in the family. A city was named Buchhorn, until Frederick the Great had it changed to FRIEDRICHSHAFEN. It is a large city, in a resort area along the shores of Lake Constance (Bodensee), whose population was 52,000 in 1992. Also in this city is The Hotel Bucchornehof. The Museum, located in the North wing of the town hall, has an entire wing devoted to Zepeline's achievement, since it was built in this town.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Dr. William G. Domask, Houston,TX Doris H. Kettler, Cincinnati,OH John H. Kilian, San Antonio, TX Dr. John R. Wier, III, Austin,TX

Student Members

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Candace Gersch, La Grange, TX Minerva Gersch, La Grange, TX Shaina Gersch, Giddings, TX Sarah Gersch, Giddings, TX Alicia Gersch, Giddings, TX

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Jerry Moerbe	M/M August Zoch	\$5.00
Cynthia A. Knippa	M/M Walter Gersch (landscape fund)	\$20.00
Marvin A. Schulze	M/M Walter Gersch (landscape fund)	\$15.00
Chelsea J. Schimank	M/M Walter Gersch (landscape fund)	\$15.00
Alene Blasig	M/M Walter Gersch (landscape fund)	
Walther Mersiovsky	M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries)	\$20.00
Leon Lindner	M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries)	\$20.00
Oscar Urban	M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries)	\$10.00
Emma Wuensche	M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries)	\$15.00
Nettie Hannes	M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries)	\$15.00
Rubin Schneider	M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries)	\$15.00
Cynthia A. Knippa	M/M Glen Haedge	
Cynthia A. Knippa	Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Manheim	

In Honor of:

Donor

Amount

M/M Leroy Steglich M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries) \$35.00 50th wedding anniversary

M/M Medric Knight M/M Walter Gersch (Saturday salaries) \$15.00 50th wedding anniversary

A pear tree has been planted on the West side of the Kilian as a memorial to Cynthia "Cindy" A. Knippa by the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

A \$25.00 donation has been received from the Schulze Reunion.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the first six months of 1995: Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Ken Weiser, Hattie Schautschick, Crystal Schautschick, Gloria Mae Gersch, Bessie Mertink, Evelyn Kasper, Esther Buscha, Elinor Steglich, Barbara Hielscher, Heather Hielscher, Georgie Boyce, Mildred Kilian, Henry and Emily Zoch, Freddie Zoch, Della Mullens, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, John and Anna Schmidt, Vivian Taylor, Esther Pampell, George Boerger, Elsie Socha, Erna Mersiovsky, Eleanor Schulze, Telford Zoch, Carroll Hielscher, Laverne Gersch, August and Laura Zoch, and Ruby Koslan.

VISITORS

In the last six months we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Oklahoma, Minnesota, Canada, Nebraska, Illinois, Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, California, Missouri, Kansas, Washington, Oregon, Louisiana, Michigan, Alabama, Belgium, Germany, Nevada, and Indiana.

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GENERAL MEETING

MAY 21, 1995

The General Membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society was called to order by Laverne Gersch, President at 2:00 P.M. on May 21, 1995.

DEVOTION: The opening devotion was given by Pastor Paul Hartfield. The reading was from Revelation 21: 9-21. This is John talking, a servant of Christ and brother of the suffering Christians. This scripture can apply to the Wends, our forefathers, coming to Texas. The new Jerusalem; the new land, Serbin, Texas. There are twelve gates to heaven and on the gates the names of twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed. We must listen, glorify and praise GOD with joy and confidence. Take heart, be strengthened, and encouraged. GOD is in control in Heaven and on earth - and He will have final victory over sin and evil. One thing, in Heaven there will be crystal clear water, real joy and beauty. There is no church (temple) in heaven, Heaven is the Temple.

Thank you, Pastor Hartfield.

GERMAN VISITORS REPORT: by Jack Wiederhold. There are thirty five (35) visitors from the St. John Lutheran Church of Klitten, Germany arriving in Houston, Texas on July 6, 1995. The invitation to visit was extended by St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin, Texas. The schedule for their stay is:

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July 6 - Travel from Houston to Serbin Texas. The TWH Society will greet and prepare a light supper after which Host/Hostess will take guests to their homes for accommodations.

- July 8 St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin fish fry
- July 9 Pfarrer Siegfried Matzke, St. John Lutheran Church, Klitten, Germany will preach in German at 8:30 a.m. with the guest Band of Klitten furnishing the gospel music for the service. At 10:30 a.m., Pastor Hartfield will translate and give Pastor Matzke's sermon in English.
- July 10 Travel to San Antonio. Give concert at Crown of Life Church, 7:30 p.m. and sight see.
- July 11 Return to Serbin.
- July 12 Evening Concert at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giddings.

July 13 - Travel to Austin. Give concert at Redeemer Lutheran Church at 7:30 p.m. and sight see.

- July 14 Return to Serbin.
- July 15 Lee County German Society will give a picnic for Guests and Host/Hostess at Serbin Picnic Grounds.
- July 16 17: Serbin, Texas
- July 18 Travel to Houston. They will be gusts of Dr. Clarence Kaiser and stay at the Kaiser Haus.
- July 20 Return to Germany.

General Membership Meeting Minutes of May 21, 1995 Continued

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- WELCOME: Mrs. Gersch, President, welcomed all members and quests, especially Marvin and Ruth Lorenz, Irene Boriack, Lorine Baumsch, Mrs. Mitschke of Warda, Tx, Arnold Kasper, Otto and Elsie Teinert, and first time member - Emily Tisinger of Austin.
- MINUTES: The minutes of February 19, 1995 were approved as sent and will be filed.
- FINANCIAL REPORT: by George Boerger. George had no report, but, stated that 'everything going well'.
- HOTEL/MOTEL TAX: by Laverne Gersch. The TWH Society will receive \$2000.00 from this revenue. John Schmidt will build two benches like the two already built. Also, \$1000.00 will be received to advertise the Wendish Fest, Serbin, Tx to be held September 24, 1995.
- REPORTS: by Barbara Hielscher. Yesterfest - Bastrop, TX April 29, 1995. It was not a big event. Sold: twenty nine (29) pounds of noodles and a few books. LLL Convention - Austin, TX May 6, 1995. Distributed many brochures - "Who are the Wends" and upcoming events: Wendish Fest, 9/24/95, etc.. Several books were sold. Wendish Flags - The TWHS gift shop has the Flag for sale, \$20.00 each. Size: 3 ft X 5 ft. Colors: Top - blue, Middle - red, Bottom - white. by Evelyn Kasper. A tour of forty (40) people scheduled for Memorial TOURS:
 - Day, May 29.
- MISCELLANEOUS: Ethnic Awareness Booth at the State Health Department, Austin, TX March 21, 1995. Manned by Irene and Reinhold Teinert. Serbin Picnic, May 28, 1995. Need Wends on Thursday (5/25) at 8:30 a.m. to clean-up Museum yard for picnic and tour. Brookshire Brothers Tape. Deadline is May 30th. Turn in to Barbara and TWHS will receive one percent (1%) of all sales.

July 6 Reception for Klitten, Germany visitors. It will be a light supper of salads, cheese and cold cuts with Blue Bell with peaches or peach ice cream for dessert.

A gift of scarf/bandanna will be made by Georgia Boyce with a Texas motif and given to the German guests as a gift from the TWHS.

Texas State Handbook - by Georgia Boyce. This is a six (6) volume research set containing 'everything you want to know'. The books include all little towns and also about the Wends. The set has been thirteen (13) years in the making with 2500 contributors. No one has been reimbursed for writing or any contribution made. Cost: \$206.00 plus tax = \$226.50. These books would be an asset to the TWHS Library. It would be a very nice memorial gift to the Society.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at this point and go to the MOTION: program and for refreshments. By: George Boerger. Second - A.C. Knippa. Carried.

June 1994 Slides of the Sorben reunion and festival in Germany Attended by PROGRAM: Pastor & Georgia Boyce, Arnold & Evelyn Kasper, Elinor & Leroy Steglich, Vivian Taylor. A delightful, colorful and entertaining presentation was made by Georgia Boyce. With the slides, there were many beautiful picture (photos) and at tac hed is printed detail of the boat-river review.

Sincerely Submitted,

Della Mullens Della Mullens, Secretary

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SEPTEMBER 24th!

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Keep this date in mind when you are marking your calendars because we will need everyone's help at the Wendish Fest again. We are planning a full day with special services at St. Paul Lutheran Church with the Rev. Otto Brillinger as speaker. Pastor Brillinger is a retired, Volunteer Missionary of Hamilton, Texas. He also served as an instructor for a three week Seminar in Kazakhstan (formerly part of the Soviet Union). Pastor Brillinger was a LCMS parish pastor for 30 years and served congregations in Indiana, Michigan, Ontario, and at Westfield, Lincoln and Copperas Cove, Texas. He and His wife Millie feel it is a great privilege to work in this global ministry.

We are planning a special rrecognition of WWII Veterans on the 50th anniversary of the end of the war, under the direction of Kovanda's Czech Band, who will again be furnishing top notch entertainment. We urge all veterans to attend.

Beverly Gotzky of Australia will share information on the Australian Wends with us and is planning to bring her authentic Wendish costume from the Weigersdort and Klitten area.

In addition to attractions we have had in the past, we plan to have an old fashion molasses mill on display. The stone ground corn meal was quite a hit last year and we plan to have it again this year.

Another first for the Wendish Fest is the State of Texas Noodle Cook-off (sponsored by the First National Bank of Giddings, Texas). This was part of the Giddings Geburstag celebration in the past. We will again have the coffee cake bake-off and this year the winning entries will be sold by silent auction at the Craft Booth. These are just a few of the special features this year. Please see enclosed brochure for additional attractions.

If you have not helped in the past and would like to get in on the fun, please sign the form below and return it to the Museum immediately. Leroy Steglich does an outstanding job ordering wll the food, but it takes a lot of people to cook and serve it, as well as working in the other areas.

I WOULD LIKE TO WORK AT THE WENDISH FEST ON SEPTEMBER 24th! (STATE IN WHAT CAPACITY AND SIGN:

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GIFT SHOP REPORT By Barbara Hielscher, Manager

The following are new items for sale in the gift shop:

Book - 140th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, TX, 1854-1994 compiled by Jack Wiederhold - \$3.00 *

140th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church Souvenir Mugs - 7.50*

140th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church Pencils - \$.75 *

Replica of Wendish Flag, Top - Blue, Middle - Red, Botton - White \$22.00 *

* All prices include tax

Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

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