



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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OCTOBER, 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"THIS IS THE DAY THE LORD HAS MADE," was Pastor Robert Boyce's comment over and over again when he served as emcee at our Wendish Fest. It certainly was a beautiful day weatherwise. The inspiring church services, delicious noon meal and afternoon snacks, fun contests, demonstrations, and the wonderful and appreciative crowd made it nearly perfect!

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society expresses special thanks to the First National Bank of Giddings for sponsoring the Third State of Texas Championship Noodle Cook-off.

One comment heard from a first time Wendish Fest visitor was, "Had we known there was that much going on we'd have come earlier".

Our Society had extensive publicity in the Giddings Times and News, La Grange Radio Station KVLG AM, and KMUZ FM. There were press releases in the Lutheran Witness, The Houston Lutheran, and other state and local publications and area news papers.

The Wendish Fest special church service loose offering amounted to \$875.89. \$100.00 was designated for speaker travel and \$775.89 for the restoration of tombstones in the St. Paul cemetery.

We have election of officers at the November quarterly meeting. The nominating committee is preparing a slate and welcomes nominations from the floor. Positions on the slate are: president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and two board members. Our organization continues to grow as more and more members become actively involved.

Next year, 1996, is the 25th anniversary of our Texas Wendish Heritage Society. This organization began as the Wendish Culture Club in 1971. If you have suggestions to make 1996 special, bring your ideas to the November 19th meeting or send them to the Museum office.

See all of you at the November Meeting!

Laverne Gersch
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 19** General membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. with election of officers followed by singing Christmas Carols, led by Jack Wiederhold, in the St. Paul building
- November 23** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving
- December 24** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Christmas Eve
- December 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Christmas Day

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

"A Wendish Texan Visits Australia" - Ron Lammert of San Antonio, Texas, will have a slide presentation of his trip to the Wendish areas in South Australia.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during August and September: Vivian Taylor, Laverne Gersch, Anna Schmidt, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Frieda Wendland, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Freddie Zoch, and Ken Weiser.

VISITORS

During the months of August and September we had visitors from: Maine, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Illinois, Washington, Australia, Indiana, Kansas, Colorado, Utah, California, Germany, Wisconsin, Georgia, Arkansas, and all parts of Texas.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Mrs. Elinor Bradley	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$25.00
Mrs. Edna Kasper	M/M Herbert Zoch	\$25.00
Mrs. Elinor D. Bradley	Mrs. Raymond (Lucille) Lukas	\$20.00

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Lawrence Schulz 50th Wedding Anniversary	M/M Edgar Schulz	\$25.00

A \$26.26 donation from Mr. & Mrs. John Schmidt from Watkins Sales Funds.

A \$20.00 donation from Katy Tri County German Society for a presentation on the Wends given by Mr. Elwood Domaschk, Jr.

Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Zoch of Houston for a one year gift subscription to THE HOUSTON LUTHERAN.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
August 19, 1995

Ray Martens, President Emeritus, of Concordia had the opening devotion and the program at the general membership meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society at Serbin on Sunday, August 19, 1995. Accounts of days at Concordia in years gone by were very interesting.

Laverne Gersch, president, called the meeting to order and welcomed Irene Boriack as a visitor. She indicated that she is interested in becoming a member.

Sympathy was extended to the family of Mrs. Milton Kasper, especially Jack and Marian Wiederhold. Mr. and Mrs. Kasper hosted some of the German group visiting here in July.

A report was given on the reception for the German guests upon their arrival at Serbin on July 6, 1995. Salads, dips, and Blue Bell ice cream were served by some local members.

The minutes of the May 21, 1995 general membership meeting were approved after the following corrections were made.

1. Under **MISCELLANEOUS:**

"A gift"-correct the spelling Georgia to Georgie

"Texas State Handbook"-correct Georgia to Georgie

Cost: correction should be \$206.50 plus shipping and handling & \$20.00 for a total of \$226.50, (delete plus tax, we are tax exempt).

2. Under **PROGRAM:**

VIDEO presentation of the 1994 Sorbisch Culture Fest which was held in Raddusch, Germany, was shown.

Add to the names of those attending: Mary Guggisberg of Vernon, TX and Sandra Matthijetz of Houston/Winchester.

Delete the phrase, "With the slides".

Correct Georgia Boyce (2 times) to Georgie.

Our float won 3rd place at the Thorndale Barbecue cook-off parade.

Congratulations to Ron Knippa and his crew at the Folklife Festival. The booth was lovely and won a huge 1st place, blue, ribbon in the booth category. 140 pounds of noodles were used and/or sold at the Festival.

Anna Schmidt announced that the Watkins products will be a continuing fund raiser, with 20% of the sales donated to the Society.

Georgie Boyce reported that Gertrude Mahling's book To The Shores of Hope has been placed in the library. It is written in Wendish. It was reported that a special World War II display will be set up

before the Wendish Fest. Flyers on the Third Annual State of Texas Noodle cook-off, which will be held in conjunction with the Fest, were available.

Hattie Schautschick reminded everyone to bring baked items for the walk-in coffee on October 17th which will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Eleanore's Cottage in Giddings.

Refreshments were furnished by Frieda Wendland, Barbara Hielscher, Laverne Gersch, and Evelyn Kasper.

Evelyn N. Kasper

Acting Secretary

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MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Bernice Dixon, Giddings, TX	Elinor Fischer, Houston, TX
Emmett Gloyna, Edna, TX	Paul C. Hempel, Nederland, TX
Jim Heitzman, Bulverde, TX	James Kalbas, Giddings, TX
Carla Koch, Glenville, MN	Awanda Mitschke, Houston, TX
David Moerbe, Ft. Worth, TX	Adrienne Rathgeber, Austin, TX
Betty L. Nelson, Jacksonville, TX	Norma B. Sanders, Austin, TX
Walter L. Toll, Austin, TX	Ruth Tschatschula, Brenham, TX
Doris K. Wren, Lexington, TX	Clarence Wolf, Rosebud, TX
Ewald Kockritz, Gainesville, FL	Leatrice Koehler, San Antonio, TX
David T. Weise, Carlsbad, NM	David W. Weise, Eastland, TX
Calvin M. Kunkel, Amarillo, TX	Sidonia "Donie" Meador Luling, TX
James F. Blauer, Newport Beach, CA	Robert Boriack, Carrollton, TX
Jaquita Boraick, Carrollton, TX	Lillian Wilhelm, Vernon, TX

Patron Members

Emmett Gloyna, Edna, TX

Sponsor Members

James Kalbas, Giddings, TX

Thank you to John and Anna Schmidt for folding and stapling the newsletters for the last mail-out.

Thank you to John Schmidt for painting the triple fold screen for the World War II display for the Wendish Fest.

Thank you to Anita Bell for donating numerous craft items to the craft booth for the Wendish Fest.

LILLIE MOERBER CALDWELL LIBRARY

by Georgie B. Boyce

In response to our last newsletter article concerning the new Wendish book, **K BRJOHAM NADZIJE (TO THE SHORES OF HOPE)**, the author, Gertrud Mahling, has contacted us with the following information. In addition to the Wendish language edition, the book has also been published in the German language titled, **UFER DER HOFFNUNG**, and will not be published in English. Both books are hardback editions, size 7 1/2" width by 7" height. the Wendish version has 200 pages and German version has 280 pages. The additional pages include the immigrant names by George R. Nielson and new names concerning South Africa.

December 1st, we will be placing an order for autographed copies of these books from a book store in Bautzen, Germany. If you are interested in ordering a copy of either of these books, the cost will be \$30.00 (sales tax included) per book from our gift shop, plus postage and handling if mailed to your address. Delivery will be approximately 8 to 12 weeks after we place our order.

Please complete form and mail to: TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE MUSEUM
RT 2, BOX 155
GIDDINGS, TX 78942-9769
409/366-2441

I would like to order the following books by Gertrud Mahling:

\$30.00 per book (sales tax included) plus postage & handling \$2.50

() Book (s) German Edition of **UFER DER HOFFNUNG** \$ _____

() Book (s) Wendish Edition of **K BRJOHAM NADZIJE** \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

WENDISH FEST REPORT
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator

The beautiful clear, cool weather helped set the pace for our Seventh Annual Wendish Fest on September 24, 1995. Over 1,000 people were served the noon meal and many others came in the afternoon for snacks and fun.

Pastor Hartfield reports that about 750 people attended the services at St. Paul Lutheran Church to hear the Rev. Otto Brillinger's message. He spoke of his work in the Mission Fields and showed slides during Bible Class. The response for his request for old eye glasses and aspirin and/or other pain relievers was very good.

The publicity before the Fest and the wonderful pictorial account of the festivities given us by Buddy Pruess, editor, in the September 28th issue of the Giddings Times and News is greatly appreciated. For those of you who were not able to be there, you may want to buy one of the papers. In addition to prior coverage by radio station KVLG-KBUK of La Grange, their broadcasting van was brought out for live coverage on the day of the Fest. Employees of the station, Danny and Vera Zitterich and Debbie Hepner, acted as our coffee cake bake-off judges.

Pictured in the issue are three generations of quilters, Elsie Mertink, Marjorie Albrecht, and grand-daughter Lisa Teinert. The St. Paul Building featured a quilt display prepared by Marian Wiederhold and a display on wine making tips by Milton Kasper.

The Kilian building featured noodle making by Gloria Mae Gersch, Easter egg decorating by Daphne Garrett, and old fashioned butter churning by Lorine Bamsch and Hattie Mitschke

Kovanda's Czech Bank of Fayetteville did the usual outstanding job of providing music throughout the afternoon. The band also provided a very nice program of music in connection with a tribute to World War II veterans. Retired Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Wilbert Oltmann addressed the crowd briefly. A special exhibit featuring pictures, medals, etcetera of our local service men was prepared for this occasion and will be up until the first of next year in the Peter Building in the Museum Complex. The book entitled "Men and Women in World War II from Fayette County" was available as many of the Wendish people also live in the Warda and Winchester areas. This book is available from the County Judge's office in La Grange, Texas. The price is \$10.00.

This year we had Matt Miertschin bring out his molasses press. This together with Dr. John Armour's stone ground cornmeal, and Steed Henderson's blacksmithing, took everyone back in time. The children still love to shell corn and feed the geese, and the cross cut saw contest is one of the favorites of the crowd.

Cross-Cut Saw winners were:

Mens Division - Wayne Chapman and Harvey Hobratschk - 1st place; Ralph Bamsch and Allan Jurk - 2nd place; and Elo Toll and Freddie Zoch - 3rd place.

Womens Division - Carolyn Jurk and Carolyn Bamsch - 1st place; Brandy Schimank and Natalie Kalbas - 2nd place; and Eleanor Schulze and Irene Weisenhutter - 3rd place.

Mixed Division - Allan Jurk and Carolyn Jurk - 1st place; Connie Walker and Terry Borgfield - 2nd place; and Agnes Hannes and Marvin Kurio - 3rd place.

The State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off took place at the Wendish Fest this year and Dorothy Exner of Lincoln won first place, with her daughter, Cathy Schulze of Lexington, winning second place and another daughter, Connie Boriack of Giddings, winning third place. Cheryl Walker of Giddings chaired this event which was sponsored by the First National Bank of Gidings. She was assisted by Bob Mutschink, Joyce Bise, and Mary Gutierrez. Judges were De McKeever, Pastor Don Marquart, Carol Dismukes, Ruth Schurmeier, and Carl Lueker.

Coffee Cake Bake-Off Winners were:

STREUSEL

Irene Wiesenhutter - 1st place; Gladys Saegert - 2nd place; and Connie Neitsch - 3rd place.

CHEESE (KASE)

Gladys Saegert - 1st place; Irene Wiesenhutter - 2nd place; and Bernice Becker - 3rd place

SPECIALTY

Evelyn Buchhorn - 1st place; Evelyn Buchhorn - 2nd place; and Michelle Kolbe - 3rd place

Washer Pitching Winners were:

Mark Jones and Glenn Albreck - 1st place; Paul Albrech and Craig Albrech - 2nd place; and a three way tie for 3rd place - David and Joan Gersch - Mike Fritsche and Sherrie Oltmann - and Nicholas Hinze and Milton Bamsch. "Red" Arldt was the chairman of this event.

Coloring Contest Winners were:

0 - 5 years Matthew Symmank - 1st place; Jeremy Kolek - 2nd place; and Heather Hartfield - 3rd place.

6 - 9 years Audrey McKenzie - 1st place; Sarah Gersch - 2nd place; and Sara Knox - 3rd place.

Judges for this event were:

Allison Karisch, Elizabeth Schwartz, Janie Markert, Jason Markert, and Missy Lammert.

Corn Shelling Winners were:

- 0 - 5 years Matthew Symmank - 1st place; Jeremy Kolek - 2nd place; and Candace Gersch - 3rd place.
- 6 - 9 years Austin Andrews - 1st place; Joshua Cowan - 2nd place; and Adam Walker - 3rd place.

Pea Shelling Winners were:

- 0 - 5 years Kaitlen Wilkins - 1st place; Candace Gersch - 2nd place; and Sarah Gersch - 3rd place.
- 6 - 9 years Joshua Cowan - 1st place; Austin Andrews - 2nd place; and Amber Keilers - 3rd place.
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PIETSCH REUNION

On October 8, 1995 approximately 85 descendants of Traugott and Anna (Handrick) Pietsch attended the 7th annual Pietsch reunion held in Winchester, Texas at the Zilss Memorial Community Hall. Of the seven children born to Traugott and Anna one daughter, Meta (Pietsch) Kleiber age 89 of Winchester, Texas, still survives and was in attendance.

At noon everyone joined Mr. Bill Haney in the common table prayer, after which everyone enjoyed a delicious pot luck luncheon.

The afternoon was spent visiting and sharing stories of by gone days.

The Pietsch reunion will again be held at the same location on October 13, 1996.

ZOCH REUNION

Submitted by Linda D. Schwartz

One Hundred and Twenty Six years ago Johann Zoch and his wife Anna, nee Schneider, immigrated to the United States from Germany. Their descendants now meet every other year to fellowship and celebrate their Wendish ancestry. Since 1950, an organized reunion has been held and attended by hundreds of Zoch relatives and friends.

This year was no exception. On July 23rd, 1995, the 27th Zoch Family reunion was held at the Sons of Herman Hall in Giddings, Texas. The reunion festivities began with a welcome by President Floyd Zoch of El Campo, Texas. Pastor Eldor Mickan of Kingsland, Texas, conducted an inspiring church service befitting the long-time tradition of the reunion. An appetizing noon meal of Bar-B-Que and all the trimmings and delicious desserts was enjoyed by the group of over 400 folks. After a short business meeting, the rest of the afternoon was spent in fellowship with family members and friends.

PASTOR and MRS. MILLER TO LEAD LUTHERAN HERITAGE TOUR

Pastor Albert and Mrs. Lee Miller of Houston will host a 10-day tour JUNE 24 - JULY 3, 1996, to the historic sites of the LUTHERAN REFORMATION and LUSATIA, the original homeland of the TEXAS WENDS. Mrs. Miller is the former Hulda Lee Mitschke, the daughter of Gertrude Kasper Mitschke, who was one of the founding members of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

Tour highlights will include: Frankfurt, A Cruise on the Rhine, The Gutenberg Bible, Wartburg Castle, J. S. Bach Museum, Erfurt Monastery, Luther's birthplace, Wittenberg, Leipzig, Augsburg, Munich, Worms, and much more.

In addition, a special day will be set aside to visit Bautzen's Sorb Museum near Dresden, the churches of Rev. Jan Kilian, who led the Wends to Serbin and Lee County, Texas, in 1854, and several Wendish towns of the Spreewald region.

Luther Jahr '96 celebrates the 450th anniversary of Martin Luther's death. LUTHER TOURS is the German Government's official travel company for this trip (see recent Lutheran Witness ads) and will be the agency arranging our travels.

Cost includes airfare from Houston, superior tourist and/or standard first class hotels with private baths (double occupancy), daily buffet breakfast and dinner, deluxe air-conditioned motor coach, professional tour leaders, and special LutherJahr events...all for \$2595 (subject to '96 fares). \$100 discount for early registration!

For information and brochures, call Pastor or Mrs. Miller at 713/664-9031 or LUTHER TOURS at 800/341-5525.

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