

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIV

NUMBER I

JANUARY, 2001

President's Message

Greetings and Happy New Year to you all! We hope you enjoyed a blessed Christmas season.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society was honored to be invited to participate in an ethnic Christmas tree display at the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport during the Christmas-New Year season. The Museum is fortunate to have in its collection a number of antique Christmas ornaments, many of which were brought from Germany. Della Mullens and I borrowed some of the older ornaments and decorated a 3-foot tree, which was put on display with other trees decorated by a variety of ethnic groups from the Austin area. The display was a unique opportunity for advertising our Museum to a wide audience.

The Year 2001 has begun on a busy note and it looks as though the coming months will bring even more activity for the Museum. We are looking forward to hosting the 7th Annual Folk Dance-Folklore Weekend of the North American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups from February 16-18 in Giddings. In March, we will once again participate in the Winedale Spring Festival and Art Show (one of my personal favorites!), selling noodles and getting the word out about our organization and our history. And a number of Museum tours have already been booked for this spring, so we look forward to keeping our trusty volunteers busy!

We were saddened recently at the loss of three people who were near and dear to our hearts. Daphne Garrett, a long-time supporter of our Museum, died on January 18. Over the past 24 years, Daphne conducted research and published two books, one on the art of Wendish Easter egg decorating and the other on the Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt. Daphne served as a volunteer on the Accessions, Exhibits, and Building committees. In 1985, she became the Museum Archivist and Librarian and remained our chief Archivist until recently when her health declined. Daphne was not of Wendish descent, but became interested in our history when she and her husband purchased the old Gerhard and Theresia Biehle farmstead in Warda. Upon learning of the Texas Wends, her interest in Texas history led her to become one of our leading supporters. She also became adept in the art of Wendish Easter egg decorating and kept the Museum gift shop supplied with decorated eggs. Daphne will be greatly missed.

Georgie Boyce's father, Alvin Bernstein, died on January 18. Georgie has been actively involved in the Museum and Society for many years and has been very instrumental in establishing many of our programs. Our prayers go to her and her family.

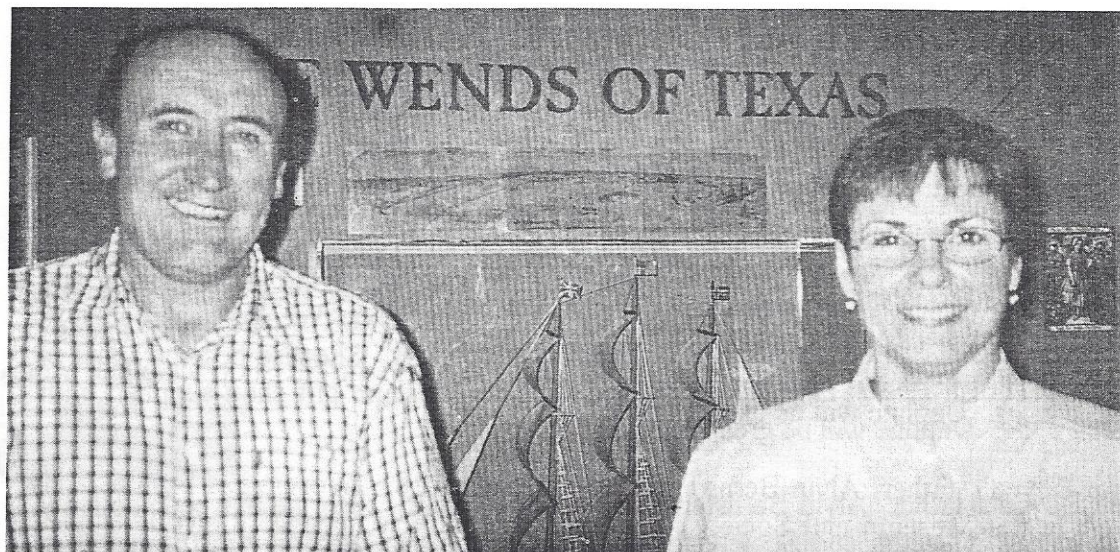
Hattie Schautschick's sister Hildegard Krause, died on January 18. Hildegard was a volunteer who helped with tours and with the Wendish Fest each year. Hattie is another long-time volunteer who currently chairs our Noodle Committee. She is one of the core group of "noodle ladies" who almost weekly churn out many pounds of homemade noodles, the sales of which are instrumental in keeping our Museum in operation. We will keep Hattie and her family in our prayers also.

I look forward to meeting more of you in person during the coming year, and we wish you God's blessings for a healthy and happy 2001.

Jan Knippa Slack, President

75th Anniversary Heritage Celebration of Concordia University at Austin

On Sunday, January 14, Concordia celebrated its 75th Anniversary with a "Celebration of Heritage" program and service. Included in the celebration were delegations of descendants of honored individuals who contributed to the development of Concordia. The honored individuals represented by family members were Rev. John W. Behnken, Rev. E.A. Heckmann, Rev. John Kilian, Mr. F.R. Leschber, Rev. Karl G. Manz, Mr. Paul Neger, Rev. Reinhold Osthoff, Mr. Immanuel Rudi, and Rev. Fred H. Stelzer. Also honored that day were congregations who provided financial or other support toward the establishment and development of Concordia, and included St. Paul-Aleman/Hamilton, St. Paul-Austin, St. Paul-Bishop, Trinity-Fedor, St. John-Galveston, Immanuel-Giddings, Immanuel-Houston, Trinity-Houston, St. John-Lincoln, Zion-Lockett/Vernon, Salem-Malone, Ebenezer-Manheim, Trinity-Port Arthur, Trinity-Riesel, St. Paul-Serbin, St. Paul-The Grove, St. Paul-Thorndale, St. Paul-Vernon, St. Mark-Waco, Zion-Walburg, Holy Cross-Warda, and St. Michael-Winchester. The service concluded with the ceremonial "closing" of Kilian Hall and the dedication of Harms Hall, the new dormitory on Concordia's campus. The interior of Kilian Hall, the first building on the campus, will be modified to accommodate administrative offices, meeting rooms, and a museum, and its original foyer will be restored.



Jan Slack (right) with Paul Noack (left), an Australian Wend, visiting the Museum in August 2000. While he was in Texas, he also visited the town of Noack.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEBRUARY** Walk-in coffee/Bake sale, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 192 S. Grimes in Giddings, TX
- FEBRUARY 16-18** 7TH ANNUAL folk Dance-Folklore Workshop at the American Legion Hall in Giddings, TX
- FEBRUARY 18** General Membership Meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
- MARCH 24-25** Windale Spring Festival at Round Top, TX
- APRIL 4 – 7** Annual meeting of the Texas Association of Museums' at the Hilton San Antonio Airport
- APRIL 6-7** Joint meeting (first ever) of the German-Texan Heritage Society and the Texas German Society at the Convention Center in Waco, TX
- APRIL 8** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Palm Sunday
- APRIL 13** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Good Friday
- APRIL 14** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Easter Sunday
- APRIL 23** Deadline for articles for April newsletter

AAAAAAAAAAAA

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FEBRUARY 18, 2001

Our next membership meeting will be held on August 20 at 2:00 P.M. in the Kilian Building on the Museum grounds. Following a short business meeting, the program will be presented by Dr. David Zersen, President of Concordia University at Austin. The topic of the presentation will be "Mutual Brainstorming on Keeping a Culture Alive." Dr. Zersen has been president of Concordia University at Austin for the past six years. Previously, he was Dean at Concordia University Wisconsin, Executive Director of the LCMS Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, and a parish pastor. His doctorate degrees are in the area of administration and learning theory. Dr. Zersen is married to Julie, and they have two children. He is interested in the story of the Wends and seeks to support ongoing research in and support for Wendish heritage in Texas.

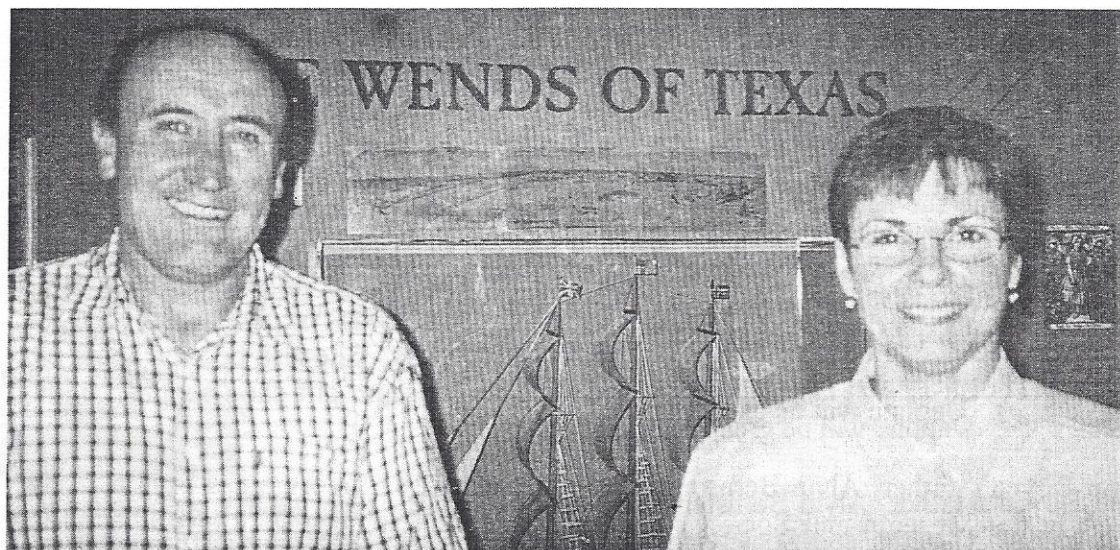
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Jan Slack (right) with Paul Noack (left), an Australian Wend, visiting the Museum in August 2000. While he was in Texas, he also visited the town of Noack.

Refreshments for the November meeting were supplied by the following: Evelyn Kasper, Laverne Falke, Della Mullens, Hattie Schautschick, Joyce Carlston, and Elsie Mertink. Thank you ladies!!

VISITORS

During the months of October, November and December we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: California, Alabama, Colorado, Missouri, Ohio, Germany, Indiana, Canada, Michigan, Washington, Iowa, and Arkansas.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of October, November, and December: J. B. Gersch, Jr., Eleanor Schulze, Mildred Kilian, Henry and Emily Zoch, Charles and Jan Slack, Georgie Boyce, Lorine Domel, Janice Mitschke, Evelyn Kasper, Laverne Gersch, Ruby Koslan, Renata Fichte, Hattie Schautschick, Ruth Lindner, and Herbert and Laverne Falke.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Meta P. Kleiber	M/M Harold Moody	
Walter E. Teinert	Leroy P. Kappler	
Annie Tschatschula	Elizabeth A. Tschatschula-Jones	
Floyd Zoch	Christ Lutheran Church	
Alvin Bernstein	Mary Guggisberg	\$20.00

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Royce Krakosky 50th Anniversary	M/M Edgar Schulz	\$25.00
M/M Royce Krakosky 50th Anniversary	J. B. Gersch, Jr.	
M/M Royce Krakosky 50th Anniversary	Mrs. Lucille Lukas	
M/M Royce Krakosky 50th Anniversary	M/M Richard Peters	

A \$900.00 donation was received for the 2001 Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale.

An \$800.00 donation was received for the Wilson Research Fund.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Kay Allensworth, Austin, TX
William Allensworth, Austin, TX
Raymond Arldt, Serbin, TX
Dr. Ljubica Arsich, Long Beach, CA
Linda Jean-Lewis Barnett, Pontiac, MI
Barbara A. Brush, San Antonio, TX
Nancy Damon, Round Rock, TX
Meg Dixon, Houston, TX
Kirsten Wukasch Edgdi, Fillmore, CA
Mark Fritsche, New York, NY
Menda Franz, Dallas, TX
Don & Jean Hilsberg, Austin, TX
Andrew J. Kiesling, Dallas, TX
Kenneth D. Kiesling, Jr., Wink, TX
Ervin R. Krautz, La Grange, TX
Linda Mercer, Houston, TX
Jeannie Nadel, Dallas, TX
Paul Michael Noack, Prospect, South Australia
David r. Noak, La Grange, TX
Mary Noak, La Grange, TX
Ken Paul, Yarba Linda, CA
Vera Rine, Quanah, TX
Craig S. Schkade, Arlington, TX
Don Schumann, Giddings, TX
Dr.. Jere Showalter, Liberty, TX
Mrs. Jere Showalter, Liberty, TX

Student Members

Ivy L. Crawford, Baytown, TX
Sarah N. Crawford, Baytown, TX
Jordan Watts, Katy, TX

Patron Members

Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX
Linda Jean-Lewis Barnett, Pontiac, MI
B. E. Biar, Denver, CO
Allen Cluck, Winchester, TX
Mildred Coffey, San Antonio, TX
Dr. William G. Domask, Houston, TX
Linda Domelsmith, Temple, TX
Chuck Dube, Claremont, Ca
Vivian Dube, Claremont, Ca
Kirsten Wukasch Egedi, Fillmore, CA
Ardie F. Engelhardt, Chase, MI
Carol D. Flores, Edinburg, TX

Mrs. Leona Meissner Foster, Midland, TX
Edna Groeschel, Austin, TX
Mary Schulz Guggisberg, Vrnnon, TX
Eugene E. Hemmann, St. Charles, IL
Donald C. Hilsbert, Elizabeth, CO
James H. Hingst, San Antonio, TX
Jeanette Huelsebusch, La Grange, Tx
Milton Kaiser, Houston, TX
Larry Kiesling, Kenedy, TX
Nancy J. Kilgore, San Antonio, TX
E. C. Knippa, Jr., Lincoln, TX
Emma Kroeker, Turlock, CA
Elizabeth C. Kunze, Warda, TX
George W. Kunze, Warda, TX
Mildred E. Larson, Ingram, TX
Ron Lammert, San Antonio, Tx
Margo Latimer, Lexington, TX
Alleen K. Lyons, Copperas Cove, TX
Sandra C. Magers, Dallas, TX
Sandra Matthijetz, Winchester, TX
Mrs. Leona Meissner Foster, Midland, TX
Weldon Mersiovsky, Walberg, TX
Kenneth Moerbe, Waco, TX
Dana K. (Zoch) Mortimer, Orange, TX
George R. Nielsen, Rapid City, SD
Hubert C. Noack, Waco, TX
Kim Odom, Lampasas, TX
Kay Overton, Hamilton, TX
Karlene Rich, Ponca City, OK
Craig S. Schkade, Arlington, TX
Barbara G. Schneider, Metairie, La
Wilfred H. Schroeder, Pensacola, FL
Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX
Mrs. Edgar (Bernice) Schulz, Houston, Tx
W Herb Schulz, Torrance, CA.
W. L. Simank, Stillwater, OK
Jan Slack, Austin, TX
Rev. Wilbert J. Sohns, D. D., Gatesville, TX
D. G. Symmank, Giddings, TX
Dian Teinert, Houston, TX
M. Joy Teinert, Lubbock, TX
Herman Teinert, Lubbock, TX
Natalie Waggoner, Houston, TX
Marvin Wappler, Groves, TX
David Weise, Eastland, TX
Barry Wukasch, Cave Creek, AZ

Museum Sponsor Members

Carroll J. Dorsett, Adkins, TX
Vivian Froehlich Taylor, Weimar, TX
Frances Maxwell, Dallas, TX
Albert H. Miller, Lakeway, TX
(Hulda) Lee Mitschke Miller, Lakeway, TX
Betty Testin, San Angelo, TX
Harold V. Theiss, Houston, TX
Hilton C. Wieder, Houston, TX
Dana K. (Zoch) Mortimer, Orange, TX

Century Members

Herbert A. Fristsche, Jr., Houston, TX
J. B. Gersch, Jr., Giddings, TX
Esther S. Herbrich, Houston, TX
Glenn Hobratchsk, Pepper Pike, OH
Janet Schorlemmer, Eagle Lake, TX
Ralph C. Weiser, Magnolia, Ar

Museum Silver Member

Terri Kramer, Dallas, Tx

Life Membership

Mr. George Boerger, Houston, TX
Mr. Ewald Hempel, La Grange, TX
Mrs. Elizabeth Hutchison, Gonzales, TX
Mr. Martin Meissner, Midland, TX
Carol Teinert Moravec, Axtell, TX
Miss Louise Peter, Wichita Falls, TX
Mr. Reinhold Teinert
Mr. Irene Teinert

NOODLE REPORT

BY

Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

The noodle committee made 3,500 pounds of noodles in 2000. During January approximately 450 pounds were made.

We are very fortunate that the noodles are selling as fast as they are. We continue to have a fresh supply on the shelf. Many thanks to our volunteers that come spend a day and half, at least twice a month to make the noodles.

Noodles are for sale at the Museum all the time.

NEW BOOK STORE ITEM

We now have Volume II "A History of Lee County Texas" available.
Cost is \$48.00 plus \$3.50 shipping.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY
General Membership Meeting – November 19, 2000

President Jan Slack called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. in the Kilian Building of the Museum Complex at Serbin, Texas, on Sunday, November 19, 2000. Present were twenty-three members, no visitors.

Georgie Boyce led the devotions by reading Chapter 8 of Deuteronomy a reflecting on our ancestor's devotion to both home and church.

The minutes of the August 20, 2000 meeting were approved as presented in the October newsletter.

Hattie Schautschick reported they had made about 2,800 pounds of noodles so far this year and have slowed down but still have plenty on hand for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Evelyn Kasper reported that we had many nice comments on the Wendish Fest this year and several young people have expressed an interest in the festival for next year. She reported that the tours have slowed down due to the approaching holidays and that the ladies really needed a rest.

As there were no new nominations from the floor, George Boerger passed out the ballots and proceeded with the election of the 2001-2002 Board of Directors. George Boerger, Eleanor Schulze & J. B. Gersch were tellers. The Board of Directors elected for the year 2001-2002 are: Laverne Gersch, Ron Knippa, Walter Zoch, Jack Wiederhold, Hattie Schautschick and Vivian Taylor. A motion was then accepted to destroy the ballots.

Jan Slack reminded everyone Christmas was close and the Museum gift shop had plenty of Ornaments, Wendish Eggs and other items that would make good presents and also plenty of noodles for Thanksgiving dinner. She reminded everyone to stop by the Museum some time and see the rebuilt display case for additional Wendish costumes and also the beautiful display of eggs decorated by Kornelia Thor. Flyers were passed out and everyone reminded to note the dates of February 16, 17, & 18 of 2001 when we will need volunteer help for the 7th Annual Folk Dance-Folklore weekend to be held at the American Legion Hall in Giddings.

Georgie Boyce reminded everyone to place orders for their 2001 Wendish calendars so they can get the order faxed to Germany as soon as possible. She needed at least 25 orders to get a good price on the calendars. The cost for the calendars will be

\$15.00 each. Georgie also asked everyone to look at the "blaudruck" fabric display available for \$22 per meter for making aprons etc.

Jan reminded everyone it is membership renewal time for everyone to return their membership dues as quickly as possible.

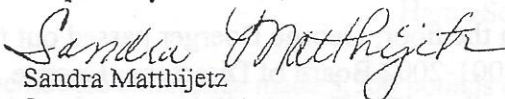
Sandra Matthijetz announced a second concert by Emil Vicklicy, pianist from Prague, that will be held on January 14 at 7p.m. at Concordia University in Austin. The Texas Wendish Heritage Society & Museum is co-sponsoring this event along with the Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center of La Grange. Mr. Vicklicy played to a packed house on his last appearance at Concordia and for a free will offering it is a concert that should not be missed as the Czech and Moravian Folk music is so similar to our own Wendish melodies.

Evelyn Kasper lead the group in a Happy Birthday tribute to Elsie Mertink who was celebrating her 89th birthday and to Hattie Schautschick who just celebrated her 74th.

Jan Slack also mentioned that Janet Seibert was contacted regarding decorating a Wendish Christmas Tree at Bergstrom Airport and we will be also displaying brochures in the airport visitor center.

Everyone was thanked for bringing the delicious refreshments and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

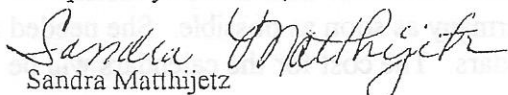

Sandra Matthijetz
Secretary

Texas Wendish Heritage Society
Executive Board Meeting
November 19, 2000

President Jan Slack called a brief Executive board meeting in the Kilian Building immediately following the General Meeting on November 19, 2000.

At this meeting, a motion was made and approved to appoint Jeanette Huelsebush and Marvin Schwausch to the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,


Sandra Matthijetz
Secretary

2001 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Slack
4605 Trail West
Austin, TX 78735
President (12/01)
512-892-0514

Eunice Dunk
387 Edgewood
Giddings, TX 78942
Vice-President (12/01)
409-542-3469

Sandra Matthijetz
2020 Emil Rd
Winchester, TX 78945
Secretary (12/01)
409-242-3442

Evelyn N. Kasper
P. O. Box 68
Warda, TX 78960
Treasurer (12/01)
409-242-3367

Georgie B. Boyce
P. O. Box 1298
Eden, TX 76837
Past President
915-869-5369

Laverne Gersch
Route 2, Box 210
Giddings, TX 78942
Elected (12/02)
409-366-2247

J. B. Gersch, Jr.
1111 E. Hempstead St
Giddings, TX 78942
Appointed (12/01)
409-542-2923

Jeanette Huelsebush
966 South Madison
La Grange, TX 78945
Appointed (12/02)
979-968-3829

Ron Knippa
2662 Pebble Bow
San Antonio, TX 78232
Elected (12/02)
210-496-3105

Della Mullens
8 Tourney Cove
Austin, TX 787838-1119
Appointed (12/01)
512-261-8597

Hattie Schautschick
Route 2, Box 132-C
Giddings, TX 78942
Elected (12/02)
409-366-9621

Marvin Schwausch
3109 Freemont
Round Rock, TX 78681-3842
Appointed (12/02)
512-244-0784

Vivian Taylor
Route 3, Box 263-E
Weimar, TX 78962-9747
Elected (12/02)
409-263-5416

Jack Wiederhold
Route 1, Box 74-D
Giddings, TX 78942
Elected (12/02)
409-366-2335

Walter Zoch
11 Tall Oaks Trail
Austin, TX 78737
Appointed (12/02)
512-288-3331

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Route 2, Box 152
Giddings, TX 78942
Jack Jones, Chairman
409-366-9650

Rev. Michael Buchhorn
Route 2, Box 152
Giddings, TX 78942
Chaplain
409-366-9650

George Boerger
1019 Martin St
Houston, TX 77018
(Bookkeeper)
713-686-4224

A WALK-IN COFFEE

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society will sponsor a Walk-In Coffee on Tuesday, February 13, 2001, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. They invite everyone to come out for a relaxing coffee break or lunch, or both, all for a free will donation. This year's fundraiser will again be held in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church located in the 100 block of South Grimes, Giddings, across from the Schubert-Fletcher home and Eleanor Cottage.

Since this newsletter is being sent to about 500 people throughout the United States and in several foreign countries, we will try to tell you a little about a "Walk-In Coffee"—it seems to be unique to our area:

Members and friends of our organization donate a variety of baked goods such as coffee cakes and cheese cakes (these are always the first to be eaten) and pies, cakes, and cookies. A group of the ladies prepares various types of sandwich spreads (especially ham salad and chicken salad) and keep a fresh supply of sandwiches ready to serve. A variety of desserts are spread on the serving bar along with the sandwiches, chips, pickles, coffee and tea, and the patrons can select from the "spread" and leave their free will donation. Some of the people choose to "take-out" their meals but most of them enjoy sitting at the tables and visiting with their friends and neighbors while eating.

This has proven to be a good way to raise funds for our upkeep as well as acquaint more people with our organization and its members. Please join us if you are in our area on February 13.

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum

ROUTE 2, BOX 155
GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

Nonprofit Org.
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Giddings, Texas
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