



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

Greetings to everyone from the Wendish Museum! It is already July, and plans are well underway for the next Wendish Fest, scheduled for September 23, 2001. Evelyn Kasper and her crew are busy ordering sausage and making noodles. One change to the schedule, unfortunately, is the cancellation of the Chor "MEJA", the singing group from Germany. We were notified two weeks ago that they will not be able to make the trip to Texas. But we will still host the Stroebitzer Trachtentanzgruppe from Cottbus, Germany, and they promise a wonderful performance. We also look forward to another visit by Kornelia Thor from Germany. She was at last year's Fest demonstrating her talent with decorating Wendish Easter eggs, and will be at the Fest again this year sharing her knowledge of the craft and offering us another chance to purchase some of her handiwork! We hope to see as many of you as possible in Serbin on September 23 to enjoy the special entertainment provided by our German visitors.

And speaking of Wendish Fest, we will again have a silent auction, and donations of items for auction or money to purchase items for auction are needed. Please consider contributing something to this fun part of the day, and stop by the table and place a bid while you are there!

The Folklife Festival was June 7-10, 2001 in San Antonio. Again, Ron Knippa did a wonderful job of organizing all the details, and our booth was set up and ready to go by the time the Scottish bagpipers began their march, which I've figured out must be the official announcement that the event has begun. I was there on the first night, decorating Wendish Easter eggs, and again had a wonderful time. The noodles were hot, the beer was cold, and believe it or not the weather was even pleasant! Thank you, Ron, for all your hard work with this annual event.

God's blessings to you, and we hope to see you here on September 23 for the Wendish Fest!

Jan Knippa Slack
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- July 4** Museum will be closed for Independence Day
- August 19** General Membership Meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
- Sept. 23** 13th Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and St. Paul Picnic Grounds.
- Oct. 28** Daylight Savings Time Begins
- Nov. 18** General Membership Meeting at Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
with election of officers.
- Nov. 22** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving
- Dec. 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Christmas Day
- Jan. 1, 2002** Museum will be **CLOSED** for New Years Day

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AUGUST MEETING PROGRAM

The quarterly meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society will be held on Sunday, May 20, at 2:00 p.m. on the Kilian Building (the building to the right as you enter the Museum Complex).

Dr. Charles Wukasch and Sherry Bamsch will each give a presentation at the next membership meeting, scheduled for August 19, 2001 in the Kilian Building of the museum complex. Dr. Wukasch will speak about his recent trip to the Wendish area of Germany and the current state of Wends in present-day Germany. Sherry, daughter of Ralph and Carolyn Bamsch of Warda, will also talk about her recent visit to Germany. This program presents an opportunity to hear from two people of different generations who have each visited the Wendish area of Germany recently, so it promises to be an interesting afternoon.

Thank you to Eunice Dunk, Evelyn Kasper, Eleanor Schulze, Elsie Mertink, Hattie Schautschick, J. B. Gersch, and Adele Wilson for providing refreshments for the May general meeting.

Wendish Museum to Have Exhibit in Schubert-Fletcher House

The Lee County Heritage Center is in the process of planning and establishing a room in the Schubert-Fletcher House in Giddings where the four museums in Lee County will have exhibits to show the history of their communities. These exhibits are also intended to encourage visitors to visit the Lee County museums. Our Wendish Museum will be included in this "walk-through" of Lee County. The project is expected to be completed by early 2002 with a special "Lee County Museums Month" in the spring of next year. Be looking for more information about this project. Marian Wiederhold is our Wendish Museum representative on this project.

Jean Goebel Rather Donates Organ to Wendish Museum

Jean Goebel Rather, wife of Dan Rather, have donated a reed organ to the museum. The organ is a parlor organ dating to the early 1900s, which belonged to Jean's grandmother, Martha Goebel, who lived in Winchester. We are proud to have this organ as part of our museum. Look for it on display at the Wendish Fest in September.

Winedale Spring Arts and Crafts Festival

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society participated again this year at the Winedale Spring Arts and Crafts Festival, held during March 24 and 25 on the grounds of the Winedale Historical Institute near Round Top. Participating in this event is another good opportunity to "get the word out" about our organization. There could not be a more lovely location for such an event. Artists and craftsmen from all over Texas share their talent, and attendees have the opportunity to purchase a wide variety of beautiful items. And of course, I never turn down a good opportunity to spend my husband's hard-earned money! A trusty band of volunteers set up the Wendish booth and spent two days selling cooked and dried noodles to an enthusiastic crowd of people. Many thanks to Walter and Laverne Gersch for setting up the booth, helping to transport all the equipment necessary for cooking and selling noodles, and for helping during both days. I also want to thank J.B. Gersch, Vivian Taylor, Renata Fichte, Irene Boriack, Ron Knippa and my dear husband Charlie for being there to cook noodles, wash dirty dishes, and answer all the questions like "What is a Wend?" and "Why are Wendish noodles so special."

TOUR REPORT

by Evelyn N. Kasper, Coordinator

- May 1 Prime Time Lutheran PTL – 17 members
- May 3 Susan Schaefer and 16 students from Immanuel Lutheran, Giddings, TX
- May 14 Pastor Buchhorn and Confirmation class from St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin, TX
- May 23 St. John Lutheran Church Ladies Group from Deanville, TX.
- May 31 Jefferson Assisted Place from La Grange, TX (13 residents).

LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

by Eleanor Schroeder Schulze

We have received many new additions to our Library. It is so wonderful to be able to help someone who is looking for ancestors, or just wanting to read about our history. We wish to "Thank" the following for their donations:

Darlene Tate of Hewitt, TX: *Johann August and Anna Christiana Symm Family Book*

John Wright of Ledbetter, TX: *Theology of Luther Books*

Dr. Norberg of Potsdam, Germany: *Maks a Marie Book -- Wendish/German*

Dr. Norberg: *Sprachwechsgelprozeb in der Niederkrasitz*

Luther P. Dube of Euless, TX: *Johann Dube Family History 1826 -- 1999*

Paul Noack of Australia: *A History of the Altus Family in Australia*

Paul Noack of Australia: *The White Wends of St. Kitts: The Biele Family History*

Kenneth & Candy Schoppa of Lubbock, TX and **Mary Guggisberg** of Vernon, TX: *Michael Schoppa Family Album*

Mr. & Mrs. Arnold J. Peschal of Temple, TX: *A History of the Czech-Moravian Catholic Community of Texas*

Jed Dube of McDade, TX: *The Family of Matthes Heintze in America 1878 -- 1999*

Jed Dube: *The Family of Henry Edward Heintze*

Karen P. Gottier of Tolland, Connecticut: *Liebunauer Trachten*

Susan Neitsch of Temple, TX: *A Time to Remember The Christian Richter, Sr. Family*

C. W. Kasper, Sr. of Serbin, TX.: *Klitter: Gestern und Heute*

Dorothy McConachie of Dallas, TX: *Our Texas Heritage: Ethnic Traditions and Recipies*

Rev. Elmer Hohle of Liberty Hill, TX: *Pomhaj Bòh*

David Weise of Eastland, TX: *Christoph Wiese Family Genealogy -- (2 Notebooks)*

Kenneth Wuehasch of San Marcos, TX: *"Charlie" Confectionery: A Sweet Success Story and History of Charles A. Wuekuasch*

Robert Garrett of The Woodlands, TX: *Book -- Life of Daphne Garrett*

Arlene Riedinge of La Jolla, CA: *Photo Copies of Research Descendants of Matheaus Wukasch*

Dorothy G. Rothermel of Brenham, TX: *Descendants of Paul H. Noack*

Linda Kessel Williams of Bastrop, TX: *Wilhelm "Friedrich" Kessel and Maria "Augusta" Mieksch Family Tree*

Mervyn and Lena Mirtschin of Victoria, Australia: *Johann and Maria Mirtschin Families in Australia 1851 -- 1990*

Late Dr. Norris Patschke by wife Janice Patschke of Austin, TX: *The Buchhorn Immigrants of 1880 and their descendants (2 books)*

H. J. Weit of Beselich, Germany: *Bad Camberg im Taunus*

NOODLE REPORT

by

Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

We are still in the noodle making. We added some help here and there. Thanks to Jarrene Mitschke, Doris Mitschke, Gladys Dillman, Irene Boriack, Renata Fichte, Crystal Schautschick and her friend, Janice, from Leander. We make about 175 lbs. at one time. The help is wonderful. A big "Thank You" goes to Cydell Hartfield for donating eggs last time. We always have noodles on hand.

Visitors

During the months of April, May, and June we have had visitors from Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Germany, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and all parts of Texas.

Docents

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of April, May and June: Herbert and La Verne Falke, Mildred Kilian, Lorine Domel, Freddie Zoch, Ruby Koslan, Joyce Carlston, Georgie Boyce, Henry and Emily Zoch, Hattie Schautschick.

2001 Folklife Festival Report

The culture and heritage of the Wends continued to be represented at the 30th Annual Texas Folklife Festival.

On June 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th many energetic, smiling faces were present in our Booth to prepare and serve our noodles, sandwiches, chicken drumsticks, lemonade, and beer. Others demonstrated egg decorating and noodle making, while still others vended crafts or entertained on our stage.

The weather was very pleasant (no rain), although on Sunday it did become seasonally warm. The topical storm that settled in the Houston area, in my opinion, affected overall attendance and people's ability on Saturday and Sunday to get cash from the ATM machines.

Next year, the Festival is scheduled for June 6th - 9th. It's not too early to mark your calendars and make your plans. I am hoping to fill the stage schedule!! There are many of you out there that can sing, play music or in other ways share your gifts with the people who come to visit our booth.

God has "Blessed" us with a wonderful location. It is, for most of the time shady and cool. Many say it is the best spot of the entire Festival, although a bit off the main drag!

Many thanks to all who helped with the Festival: before, during, and after. It was a service to the Society and through that, I pray a service to our Lord.

In His Service,
Ron Knippa

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF:

DONOR

Alvin Bernstein

Wanda Carlson

Alvin Bernstein

Joyce and Mike Best

James S. Critz

Mrs. William B. Beyer, Sr.

Gustav Bamsch

Gilbbert Hohle

Marvin Mutscher

Sharon Biebas Miur

IN HONOR OF:

DONOR

Lorene Domaschk Birthday

Leroy Steglich

M/M Edward Buscha's
40th Wedding Anniversary

Leroy Steglich

LCRA-BLUEBONNET ELECTRIC GRANT PROJECT IS COMPLETED

In the Spring of 2000 we received a \$17,840 grant from the Lower Colorado River Authority and Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative to be used to refurbish the original buildings in our complex (the Kilian Building and the St. Paul Building) and to purchase a new copy machine for our research library. There were several delays in completing the project (mostly weather-related) but once the spring rains and heavy dews stopped the contractor resumed his work and completed the work in time for the Serbin Picnic on May 27.

Thanks to the assistance we received from the LCRA and Bluebonnet, we now have a copying machine which can make good copies of the information (including pictures) visitors gather in the research library, and we have the exterior of both of the original buildings completely refurbished. The Kilian Building received ceiling fans and insulation in the attic, electrical repairs, a new roof, and a cover over the handicapped entrance to the Kilian Building. Work on the St. Paul Building was mostly scraping and repainting the exterior. What a difference this has made in the overall appearance!

If you have not had a chance to visit the museum, be sure to notice the many improvements and say Thanks to the LCRA and Bluebonnet Electric for making them possible.

"Old" German Custom

The wedding reception of Nicole Hannusch and David Call on May 19th at Brazoria, Texas, brought a German custom with it. Nicole is the daughter of Stephen Hannusch (Wendish) and Heidi Stephan Hannusch, formerly of Kirschheim-Bolanden, Germany. The young couples in Germany saw a log with a cross cut saw to show they can work or pull together. Heidi's mother, Mrs. Theodore Stephan, and her aunt and a friend from Germany were in Texas for the festivities. Stephen sharpened the saw, that belonged to his grandfather, Otto Noack, of Winchester.



Nicole's parents, Heidi and Stephen Hannusch, hold the log while the young couple saw the log.

WENDISH FEST SILENT AUCTION

We appreciate the enthusiasm with which our WENDISH FEST SILENT AUCTION is being received by some of our members and hope that many more members and friends will join to once again make this event a success. We will happily accept handmade items, store-bought items, and antique items, whatever you would like to donate for this fundraiser. Remember that all proceeds benefit the Museum and will assist in keeping it going and growing. If distance prevents you from sending your desired donation, we will be happy to purchase your selected item and put your name on the donor card; if you are not sure what you want to give but would like to give something, we have someone who will be happy to work with you.

Please make your plans to stop by our area when you are at Wendish Fest on September 23.

Special Guest Performance by



Ströbitzer Trachtentanz Gruppe

Representing Lower Lusatia the dance group, **Ströbitzer Trachtentanz Gruppe**, from Cottbus, Germany. Founded in 1993, this group consists of twenty couples, whose common ambition is to share the traditions of Sorbische/Wendish culture with the world. Their performance will include the costumes, dances, and musical instruments unique to our heritage.

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