

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

VOLUME IX

NUMBER II

APRIL, 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a joy to have celebrated Easter again. *HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN!* Indeed this was truly the strength of our forefathers. Christ endured it all, just for us. Our forefathers endured many hardships so that we may enjoy many blessings beyond anyones imagination. Especially freedom of religion.

Easter brings us to Spring time. The Museum court yard is again developing into a beautiful garden. The large oak tree looks refreshed since it was trimmed and sprayed this past Fall.

James Kalbas, owner of Big Three and a member of the Society, had a work crew of four help Hattie Schautschick clean and weed the flower beds. With some proper mulching, and now having gotten some moisture, we can look forward to some beautiful flowers.

Remember, the Museum is now also open on Saturday afternoons until Labor Day. There are two grant applications being submitted which may permit the Museum to be open every day throughout the year.

Members with employers who have the matching gifts program can also help by applying for these gifts when making a donation or paying membership dues.

There will also be a new set of flags flying in time for the Wendish Fest on September 22.

The Wendish Fest is just around the corner. If you cook noodles or bake "Kaffe Kuchen" (coffee cake), please consider entering these two contests on the day of the festival.

Ken Weiser
President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 4** Maifest at the German-Texan Heritage Society Headquarters, Austin, Texas
- May 19** General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
- May 26** Serbin Homecoming Picnic at the St. Paul Picnic Grounds, Serbin, Texas
- May 30** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Memorial Day
- June 14** Bake Sale in front of the La Grange State Bank from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- June 16** Winchester Picnic at the St. Michael's Lutheran Church Park. Museum will be **CLOSED** for Father's Day
- June 28** Deadline for articles for June newsletter
- June 28-30** LWML 29th Biennial Convention at College Station, Texas

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Thank you to the Rev. Paul Hartfield for having the opening devotion at the February membership meeting and to Mr. David Chroust, librarian at Texas A&M University, College Station, for having the program.

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MAY PROGRAM

The Rev. Manfred Hornich, Pastor of the Kirche in Spreewitz, Germany, his wife and daughters will be visiting our area for two weeks in May. Pastor Hornich will have our program at the May 19th meeting. Pastor Hornich plays the guitar and sings very well, and hopefully the family will accompany his singing. When some of us visited Spreewitz in 1994, we were entertained one evening by Pastor Hornich and some members of his congregation who serenaded us with German hymns and "folk-songs" at a backyard barbecue. Many of you met the Hornichs when they were visiting here in May of 1992

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Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Rodney W. Fritsche for donating a \$90.00 Halon Fire Extinguisher.

Bea Tschatschula donated \$20.00 to the landscape fund.

LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL LIBRARY

by Georgie B. Boyce

For those of you who read German, we have received a very interesting and informative book, *ZEIZIG-Cist - Geschichte und Geschichten eines Dorfes*. The author and donor, JOHANN KASPER, from Zeizig, Germany, is a newly discovered relative of Arnold & Evelyn Kasper of Warda, Texas.

Other new accessions are: "Family History of Friedrich E. Noack" donated by EBERHARD PROSKE of Austin, Texas, "Roads of Texas" donated by WALTER ZOCH of Austin, Texas, and the "1996 Lutheran Annual" donated by KEN WEISER of Giddings, Texas.

A new book purchase by the Library is: *CATCHING SHADOWS*, a directory of 19th Century Texas photographers, by David Haynes. Included in this book are the local photographers, Charles Meyer of Giddings, C. Petersen of La Grange and John Biar of Serbin.

Another purchase is the book, *HOPE AND DREAMS OF ALL*, "The International Walther League and Lutheran Youth in American Culture, 1893-1993", by Dr. Jon Pahl. Dr. Pahl is a young church historian who teaches on the theology and Christ College faculty at Valparaiso University. The book explores beginnings of the Walther League (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) even prior to its official founding and its continuation today, in the lives of former Leaguers.

We are featuring the Wendish area of Australia in our exhibit case in the library. Our thanks to BEVERLEY and BENNO GOTZKY of East Malvern, Victoria, for donating their personal photographs, magazines and other information about this area.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

August 19, 1971, Mrs. Lillie Caldwell, Mrs. Emma Wuensche, Mrs. Freida Wendland, Mrs. Laura Zoch and Mrs. Erwin Mitschke organized the "WENDISH CULTURE CLUB". Many changes have taken place since that time, and the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum have become an internationally known organization. We are working on a 25th Anniversary exhibit for the museum. If you have any interesting photographs or other memorabilia you would like to donate to the archives, please send it to us or bring it to the museum. NOTICE TO ALL PAST PRESIDENTS: We would like to have your photo, so please send us one you would like to have displayed.

TOURS REPORT
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator

April has really had us running with visitors and tours. We started April 1st on a terrible note with septic and electrical problems all in one day. These were taken care of, and luckily our group, the Assistant League of Lake Conroe, was running behind schedule so we were ready to serve lunch when they arrived. This group brought 36 visitors.

On April 2nd we served lunch to a group of 27 from Park National Bank, in Houston. April 3rd brought 37 luncheon guests from the Bentwater Ladies' Organization.

April 10th brought 37 people with International Tours of Hillcroft for lunch.

April 12th brought 47 guests from the Women's Club of Lakeway for lunch, and an afternoon tour of 25 from the Friends of Historic Deerfield Massachusetts organization. This group of historians had lunch at Round Top before coming to tour our Museum and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

We had six tours the first half of April and have six more scheduled for the last half of April.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Mr. Carl Miertschin	Mrs. Sandra Matthijetz	\$25.00
Mr. Carl Miertschin	Dr. & Mrs. Joe Wilson	\$20.00
Clarence G. Feller, Jr.	M/M Herb Schulz	\$25.00

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
Lorine Domaschk 70th Birthday	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$20.00

MEMBERSHIP

Student Members

Sarah R. Schwartz, Giddings, TX Elizabeth R. Schwartz, Giddings, TX

New Members

Darryl Futrell, Whittier, CA	Carol T. Moravec, Axtell, TX
Dr. David Litowsky, Houston, TX	Mrs. Leeroy Schuster, Houston, TX
Rev. A. C. Prellop, Baton Rouge, LA	
Mrs. Santos Torres, Three Rivers, MI	
Jo Zell B. Horne, Corpus Christi, TX	
Joe Csaszar, Jr., Deerfield Beach, FL	

Patron Members

Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX
Helen S. Wright, Canyon Lake, TX
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Moerbe, Waco, TX
Ludwig O. Groeschel, Austin, TX
Alfred Herbrich, Houston, TX
Joan Z. Miller, Wichita, KS
Herbert Foerster, Giddings, TX
Arnold W. Kriegel, Austin, TX
Dr. George W. Kunze, Warda, TX
Bernice Schulz, Houston, TX
Vernon J. Weber, Schulenburg, TX
Mildred Coffey, San Antonio, TX
Carroll J. Dorsett, Adkins, TX
Eugene E. Hemmann, St. Charles, LA
Edna K. Groeschel, Austin, TX
Esther Herbrich, Houston, TX
Ruth Scheffel, Fullerton, CA
Ruby Hein, Overland Park, KS
Flora Kunze, Warda, TX
Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX
Doris M Zabel, St. Louis, MO
Elinor Vlasak, Rosebud, TX
Barbara J. Tate Womack, Rockdale, TX
Jeanette Huelsebusch, La Grange, TX
Alleen K. Lyons, Copperas Cove, TX
Gene Miertschin, Friendswood, TX
Gunter Schaarschmidt, Sidney, Canada
Barbara Schneider, San Antonio, TX
Michael Vukobratovich, Sierra Vista, AR

Sponsor Members

Milton Kaiser, Houston, TX
Alvin Bernstein, Abilene, TX
Margie Loomans, Austin, TX

DOCENTS

THANK YOU!! to the following for acting as docents during the months of January, February, and March: Bea Tschatschula, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Hattie Schautschick, Evelyn Kasper, Esther Buscha, Barbara Hielscher, Bessie Mertink, Laverne Gersch, Georgie Boyce, John and Anna Schmidt, Daphne Garrett, Henry and Emily Zoch, Della Mullens, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Ruby Koslan, and Ken Weiser.

VISITORS

The months of January, February, and March brought visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Colorado, Illinois, Washington, Nebraska, Indiana, Kentucky, Florida, Minnesota, Michigan, Idaho, Maryland, Wisconsin, New York, Iowa, Louisiana, Poland, Missouri, Ohio, and Germany.

COMPUTER DONATED---MORE EQUIPMENT NEEDED

For a long time the Society and Museum have needed a computer for the front desk so that Barbara can work on her correspondence, the newsletter, gift shop inventory, accession records etc. while she is watching the library and assisting visitors.

Daphne and Bob Garrett have now donated an older model IBM compatible computer, a color monitor, and a dot matrix printer. All of these items are well used, and we do not know how much longer the hard drive on the computer will last. Bob and Daphne hope that other members will keep in mind that we really need a 286 or better computer that is in good condition. Also, our newsletter and general printing would look so much better if we had an ink jet or laser printer.

ARCHIVAL DONATIONS

Many donations to the Archives have been received in the past few years, and Daphne Garrett, Archivist, is preparing a "Guide To The Archives of the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum".

In the meantime, we wish to announce that the Texas District--Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod has donated copies of several collections to our Archives and Library. Among these are bound issues of *Der Lutheraner* (1844 through 1965), photocopies of *Der Texas Districksbote* and the *Texas Lutheran Messenger*, photocopies of selected church registers from congregations related to Wendish heritage, other miscellaneous copies, and various books.

Some of the church register copies are duplicates of those already on our Library shelves. Genealogists will be disappointed to know that neither the Archives nor the Library has a copy of the Serbin registers.

GIFT SHOP REPORT by Barbara Hielscher, Manager

We have added a new book to our inventory. COWBELLS and COFFINS *The Old General Store* by Mary Frances Beverley, contains stories of 36 old country General Stores that sold everything from cowbells to coffins. Featured are two well known stores, owned by persons of Wendish descent, the W. J. Dube Store in The Grove, now open for tours, and Martha's Country Store in Winchester. Plans to open this country store are being made by Michael Rehling, current owner, a great nephew of "Granny Goebel" as she was known to everyone.



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TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING February 18, 1996

Kenneth Weiser, President, called the meeting to order a few minutes after 2:00 on Sunday, February 18, 1996, in the Kilian Building of the Museum Complex at Serbin, Texas.

Pastor Paul Hartfield based the opening devotion of the Transfiguration of Christ when God said. "This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him." God's Word sustains us and we should thank Him that we have had the privilege of listening to Him for over the last 100 years. Our ancestors went through much tribulation and effort so we can have this freedom.

Elmer Zoch said that Pastor Hartfield's message was very well received at the Church Extension Fund Conference in Austin on Saturday. He also announced that there will be another Walther League Reunion at Camp Lone Star the first weekend in May and encouraged participation.

George Boerger handed out the 1995 actual financial report, and the projected report for 1996.

Georgie Boyce asked for donations of items for the special 25th anniversary of the society. It is much easier to receive gift items than to have a lot of items on loan.

David Chroust, a librarian on the faculty of Texas A&M University in College Station, presented an interesting book review on the portion of Gertrud Mahling's book, K Brojoham Nadzije H (To the Shores of Hope) dealing with the Texas immigration. He was born in the Czech Republic 45 miles southwest of Bautzen. His wife, Tonya who was originally from Moscow, attended the meeting also. A copy of his report will be placed in the library.

After the meeting adjourned, refreshments were served. Thanks to Elinor Steglich for making the coffee and cutting the coffee cakes which were purchased from Mary Lehmann of Winchester. Thanks also to Herbert and Laverne Falke for bringing a cake.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn N. Kasper
Evelyn N. Kasper

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.

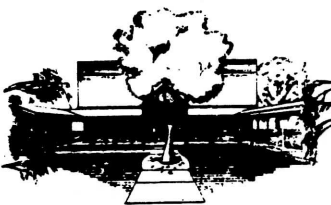
Cost includes airfare from Houston, superior tourist and/or standard first class hotels with private baths (double occupancy), daily buffet breakfast and dinner, deluxe air-conditioned motor coach, professional tour leaders, and special LutherJahr events....all for \$2595 (subject to '96 fares). \$100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