



# 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 III

JUNE, 1996

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Family reunions are very popular during the summer months.

Family reunions are times when we talk about the "Good Ole days", meet the additions to young families, reflect on those who have gone to their eternal bliss, and possibly meet some cousins whom we have never before met.

Like many families, the Weisers have several persons who are interested and are working on the family tree. At our reunion this year we had a very interesting visitor. Rubina Schroeder, daughter of Dora Weiser Fischer who authored the book As I Remember. The First Edition is sold out, but consideration is being given for another printing.

As Rubina was talking about the Weiser family tree and talking about the ones who were born in Germany, it again reminded us of what our forefathers did for us. Families were separated, many had to change careers and find new jobs. The important thing for us to remember is what our forefathers did to preserve our religious freedom. Unless we start a new trend, this freedom could be taken away from us. It is disturbing to know that less than 40% of our people are worshipping on a given Sunday. Family life is not being taken seriously. Many parents are taking their children to church/bible class instead of going with them.

Any items of your genealogical research would be welcome additions to our TWHM research library, and if you have not done so, perhaps you would wish to check our resources for your own research. We currently have a number of manuscripts from various families, as well as an ever increasing number of documents in the "vertical-file" that might prove helpful to you. Our research library would also appreciate copies of any correspondence to and from the "old-country" that you may have in connection with your projects. If you would, have your name, address, telephone/fax numbers where you can be reached. This is a very good way to get more information and expand your own family tree.

Be sure and mark September 22 on your calendar and make plans to attend the Wendish Fest. This is a good day to visit old friends and meet new ones. This also pertains to families. Also, make plans to enter the State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off and bake coffee cake for the coffee cake contest.

Ken Weiser  
President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 1-4      Folklife Festival in San Antonio, Texas
- August 12      Deadline for articles for August newsletter
- August 18      General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
- August 31      Last Saturday Museum will be open until Spring of 1997
- September 1      Warda picnic at the Warda picnic grounds Warda, TX
- September 6-8      German Texan Heritage Society annual meeting at the Holiday Inn Civic Center, Lubbock, Texas
- September 22      Eighth Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the St. Paul, Serbin, picnic grounds
- October 14      Deadline for articles for October newsletter
- October 15      Walk-In coffee/bake sale, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., at Eleanor's Cottage behind the Fletcher Home in Giddings, TX.

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Thank you to Rev. Hartfield for having the opening devotion at the May membership meeting. We also want to thank Rev. Manfred Hornich, his wife, Susanne, and daughters, Esther and Dorothea, for a very entertaining and informative program. A very special thank you to Dr. Joe Wilson for being our translator.

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### THE AUGUST PROGRAM:

will feature a 14 minute video presentation by Beverley Gotzky modeling and describing the authentic Wendish costume made for her by people in the Lusatia area of Germany. Beverley was kind enough to bring her costume last fall for our Wendish Fest. Since so few people actually were able to see the display, due to work schedules and other activities, we hope that this program will be informative and of interest to many of our members. In addition to the costume being seen and described, several other "cultural-characteristics" of our forefathers are mentioned in Beverley's monologue.

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### BAKE SALE

A big "Thank You" to those members who baked and helped with the bake sale at La Grange on Friday, June 21st. If you were unable to help and would like to contribute, please do so. In addition to the sale of all of the baked items, we sold 35 pounds of noodles.

**TOURS REPORT**  
**by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator**

The six tours scheduled for the last half of April did materialize.

On April 15th we served 25 members of Drivers Park, Houston, coffee cake and coffee with a tour.

On April 16th Messiah Lutheran, Houston, brought 35 folks for a tour and luncheon.

On April 17th 23 retirees from Bethel Lutheran, Bryan, came for a tour and coffee cake.

On April 18th the Petroleum Wives from Houston brought 56 for a luncheon and tour.

On April 19th there was another tour and luncheon for 35 from Houston.

On April 25th 29 students and 5 adults toured from St. Mark's Lutheran School in Houston.

May 14th brought a group of senior citizens from Tomball for a tour.

June 11th the Slow Poke Sams from various parts of Texas stopped for a tour. There were 27 in this group.

June 12th will be a day long remembered. We served a luncheon to 95 people from Nan's Tours of Fredericksburg. This is the first time we tried to accommodate two bus loads and the 13 docents for the day proved that it can be done.

June 13th brought 27 Pioneer Group Campers from Camp Lone Star for a tour.

On June 14th Michael Murphy from Sam Houston, San Antonio, brought a tour group of 34, and on June 29th he brought a group of 42.

On June 27th a group of 14 came over from the LWML Convention in Bryan-Collage Station for a tour and luncheon.

June 28th brought a tour headed by Herb Haschke of Tulsa, Oklahoma, for a tour. This tour brought approximately 30 family members from Austin, who were all attending the Haschke family reunion there.

**DOCENTS**

**THANK YOU!!** to the following for acting as docents during the months of April and May: Laverne Gersch, Bessie Mertink, Evelyn Kasper, Esther Buscha, Elinor Steglich, Georgie Boyce, Hattie Schautschick, Barbara Hielscher, John and Anna Schmidt, Ruth Lindner, Bea Tschatschula, Della Mullens, Mildered Killian, Telford Zoch, Vivian Taylor, Jeanette Huelsebusch, Elsie Socha, Erna Mersiovsky, George Boerger, and Ken Weiser.

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Henry Zoch (landscape fund)	\$25.00
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Jack Cernosek (landscape fund)	\$15.00
Mrs. Ella Zoch	Bessie, Luke, & Matt Mertink & M/M A. C. Flippo (landscape fund)	\$15.00
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Frank Taylor (landscape fund)	\$20.00
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Leroy Steglich (landscape fund)	\$15.00
Mrs. Ella Zoch	Pat Bush (landscape fund)	
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Arnold Kasper (landscape fund)	
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Reinhold Teinert (landscape fund)	
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Vern Louaasen (landscape fund)	
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Robert Garrett (landscape fund)	
Mrs. Ella Zoch	Bauer & Allbright (landscape fund)	
Mrs. Ella Zoch	M/M Marvin E. Mitschke (landscape fund)	
Laverne V. Tackett	M/M Arnold Kasper	
Ruth Teinert	M/M Vic Teinert	

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Bill Fischer 50th Anniversary	The Allan H. Buchhorn Family	\$25.00

## MEMBERSHIP

### Student Members

Alison Schmidt, Austin, TX	Anthony Mack, Minnesota
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### New Members

Alison Schmidt, Austin, TX	E. Louise Jones, Cleveland, TX
Margaret E. Noack, Rockdale, TX	Roy T. Noack, Rockdale, TX
Victor E. Clevenger, Burke, VA	Jed Dube, McDade, TX

### Patron Members

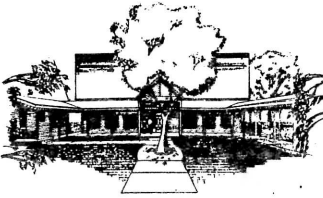
Frances Kilian Pfluger, Austin, TX

### Sponsor Members

J. B. Gersch, Jr., Giddings, TX

## VISITORS

The months of April and May, brought visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: New York, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, California, Florida, Missouri, Massachusetts, Indiana, Oregon, South America, Michigan, Carolina, Colorado, Germany, Louisiana, and Arkansas.



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## GENERAL MEETING TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

May 19, 1996

Fifty-two members and visitors were present at the general meeting of The Texas Wendish Heritage Society at the Kilian Building of the Museum Complex at Serbin, Texas, on Sunday, May 19, 1996, at 2:00 p.m.

Ken Weiser called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. Pastor Paul Hartfield had the opening devotion.

Ken then asked Evelyn Kasper to introduce the visitors. Visitors present were Pastor Manfred Hornich and wife, Susanna, and daughters, Esther and Dorothea of Spreewitz, Germany. Also visiting were Erwin and Edith Billig, Don and Bea Rost, Lewis, Carol and Leslie Carpenter, Herman Beisert, Alfred and Ruby Bohot, Walter Schulze, Pastor and Mrs. Robert Koenig, and Alfred Boriack.

Georgie Boyce introduced the Hornich family again when they presented the program. Pastor Hornich accompanied the family and group on the guitar as they sang German songs. He told us of the repair and renovation of the church in Spreewitz at this time and hopes it will be completed in 1997. He also spoke of the joys and problems of the reunification in Germany. Dr. Joe Wilson was the translator for the program and the question and answer period after the program. Georgie Boyce presented the family members with Texas bandanas highlighting Serbin as a token of appreciation from the Wendish Society.

Ken Weiser encouraged participation in the noodle cook-off and the coffee cake bake-off at the Wendish Fest in September and asked members to sign up for helping host on the day of the Serbin picnic.

The Hornichs celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on October 9, 1995, and planned a family trip to Texas as a special treat. They were pleasantly surprised when a big decorated anniversary cake was served after the meeting with other refreshments consisting of cheeses, crackers, sausage, deviled eggs and coffee cake.

Respectfully submitted,

*Evelyn N. Kasper*  
Evelyn N. Kasper

Serbin is located 7 miles southwest of Giddings via U.S. 77 and FM roads 448 and 2239

Promotion in "ROZHLAD", Wendish magazine in Lusatia, Germany.  
Gertrud Mahling's book "K BRJOHM NADZIJE". 6



„Sy hižo tu nowu knihu wo našich prjedownikach čital?“

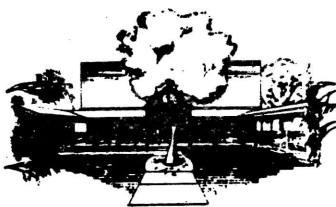
„Have you already read that new book about our anchestors?“

ROZHLAD No. 2/1996

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