



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 IV AUGUST, 1996

WENDISH-FEST 1996

"HEAR-YE", "HEAR-YE", "HEAR-YE"! The time is at hand for the 1996 WENDISH-FEST at Serbin, Texas! All members, and friends of The Texas Wendish Heritage Society are once again called upon to step forward, not only to help in whatever designated area that they are assigned, but also to "spread the word" to family, friends, neighbors, and even to those that you normally don't care for! Since this is our primary "fund-raiser" each year it is truly meet, right, and salutary, that everyone put aside his or her own personal wants for this one day and come here to honor the memory of those who made the real sacrifice to come to this country! If this event is properly advertised and promoted, it can also be one of our best opportunities to make more people aware of this unique heritage, and of this equally unique organization. It is not just more work, but can be a way to attract more members and supporters. "If we have a good parade, more people will want to march in it!"

This year, in addition to all of our usual attractions, we will be honored to have a troupe of performers from "the old country", lead by Peter Langer. The group is known as: "**PAWK**" (*which means "Spider"*), and will be dressed in the authentic costumes of our Wendish ancestors, while performing the songs and dances that are our Wendish heritage. Their performance will be from 3:15 'til 4:30 in or near the main pavilion area on the picnic grounds. *(This year the Museum Complex will close at 3:00 P.M., so that all may focus on the activities on the picnic grounds.)*

Each year we have visitors from different areas, thanks to those who continue to spread a positive word about this annual event. 1996, can, and should, be our best one ever. With YOUR continued help and support, IT WILL BE SO! We look forward to seeing YOU, and all of your family and friends on SEPTEMBER 22, 1996!

REB

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 Schubert Fletcher Home and the 1st National Bank drive-thru in Giddings, TX.
- November 17** General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. with election of Board of Directors followed by singing Christmas Carols, led by Jack Wiederhold
- November 28** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving
- December 24** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Christmas Eve
- December 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Christmas Day
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Thank you to Rev. Robert Boyce for having the opening devotion at the August membership meeting. We also want to thank Georgie Boyce for preparing the slide presentation for the program. It featured Beverley Gotzky of East Malvern Victoria, Australia.

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NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

will be election of Board of Directors followed by singing of Christmas Carols, led by Jack Wiederhold. Refreshments will follow, please bring a batch of your favorite Holiday cookies.

TOURS REPORT

Katy Tri County German Heritage Society visited on Saturday, July 13. The group of 31 had lunch and toured the Museum and St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Tuesday, August 13th the Wendish Museum docents hosted a group of 26 women, who were on a pre-convention tour of the painted churches of Fayette County and also the St. Paul Lutheran Church at Serbin. Their guide was Sylvia Thompson of Houston and Warda. The ladies enjoyed a typical Wendish lunch before touring the Museum. Attending the National Convention of Stencil Artisans at the Adam's Mark Hotel in Houston, they were from New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Missouri, California, North Dakota, Indiana, Georgia, Texas, Canada, Germany, and Grand Cayman Islands, B.W.I.

Members of the Wendish Society who prepared and served the lunch and acted as docents were Esther Buscha of Greens Creek, Elinor Steglich and Evelyn Kasper of Warda, Bessie Mertink and Luke Mertink of Giddings, Barbara Hielsscher of Winchester and Vivian Taylor of Weimar. If you have never served as a docent, please consider this golden opportunity to help the Society and meet and visit with wonderful people from all over the world.

On Saturday, August 17th, Liz Koch of Round Rock brought a group of 19 from the Catholic Churches at Round Rock and Austin for coffee cake and a tour. They were joined at St. Paul Lutheran Church by a group of 26 from St. Matthews Lutheran Church of Westfield. The tour of the church was conducted by Jack Wiederhold of Serbin who also played the organ for the group.

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MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
August Zoch	Ruth Lindner	\$10.00
August Zoch	Ruth Wagner, M/M Bill Bennett, M/M Bill Ransom	\$30.00
Ruth Teinert	Alice Dietrich	\$20.00

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Herman Teinert 50th Anniversary	Herbert Foerster	\$10.00
M/M Herman Teinert 50th Anniversary	M/M Edgar Schulz	\$25.00
M/M Herman Teinert 50th Anniversary	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$20.00

A donation of \$266.66 was received from the Knippa Family Reunion

Mrs. Lillian Pratho of Giddings donated \$500.00 to the endowment fund

The Rev. & Mrs. Albert H. Miller of Houston sent a \$25.00 donation in honor of "1996 Luther Heritage Tour to Bautzen"

MEMBERSHIP

Student Members

Ketrin L. Jones, Abilene, TX

New Members

Patricia Priem, Walburg, TX	Vivian Haygood, Portland, OR
Mabel Feldman, College Station, TX	I. Gerald Schkade, Lago Vista, TX

Patron Members

Mildred B. Larson, Ingram, TX	Dr. William G. Domask, Houston, TX
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VISITORS

The months of June and July, brought visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Ohio, Florida, Montana, Norway, Tennessee, New York, Germany, Illinois, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, California, Georgia, New Mexico, and Washington.

LILLIE MOERBE CLADWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
by Daphne D. Garrett

The New Handbook of Texas has arrived and is on the shelf in our library. The purchase of this six volume encyclopedia, published by the Texas State Historical Association, was made possible through the generosity of Ewald Hempel of Warda, Texas, in memory of his wife, Johanne Bohot Hempel. The Handbook, which includes articles on towns, cities, counties, people and subjects, is a valuable addition to our library. Visitors can read concise articles on subjects related to Wendish heritage, such as "Wends" by Sylvia Grider, "John Killian" by Joseph Wilson, "Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt", "Serbin", "Warda" by Daphne Garrett.

The revision and expansion of the original two volume Handbook of Texas, published in 1952, was begun in 1986 and took the combined effort of over 2000 authors, plus a full time staff of editors and managers. Authors were invited to write articles on their specialties, and were required to document every statement. A word limitation was assigned, and a deadline given for submission. Thus some of the articles were written several years ago.

In some cases, the editors have changed or added words and phrases which do not necessarily reflect the intent of the author. There are also a few typographical errors. The bibliography at the end of each article is a list of books and articles for further reading. Most of those cited with Wendish related articles are available in our library.

Members are urged to visit the library and read the many new books which we have recently added to our collection.

DOCENTS

THANK YOU!! to the following for acting as docents during the months of June and July: Herbert and Laverne Falke, Laverne Gersch, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Erna Mersivosky, Freddie Zoch, Hattie Schautschick, John and Ann Schmidt, Lana Swearingen, Elinor Steglich, Heslen Mitschke, Esther Buscha, Luise Green, Evelyn Kasper, Barbara Hielscher, Bessie Mertink, Shaina Gersch, Minnie Gersch, Sarah Gersch, Sarah Gersch, Telford Gersch, Heather Hielscher, Georgie Boyce, Ruby Koslan, Jeanette Huelsebusch, Henry and Emilie Zoch, Viola Spacek, Jerry Hielscher II, Lisa Jones, and Ketrin Jones.

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**THANK YOU!!** to Anna Schmidt for pricing and packing the handicrafts for the Folklife Festival in San Antonio and to John Schmidt, Ron Lammert and Bill Knippa for loading all the necessary items and equipment for Bill and Adele Knippa to take to the Festival. Bill and Adele made several trips. **THANK YOU!!** to Walter and Laverne Gersch and Freddie Zoch for bringing everything back after the Festival.

## Quilt Display

Once again this year a quilt display is being planned at the Wendish Fest. If you have a quilt which you are proud of, please consider sharing it with the many people who enjoy looking at quilts and appreciate this fine art. Just contact Marian Wiederhold (409-366-2335) and leave a message and she will get back with you. Or you may contact the museum. Also, if you know of anyone who makes quilts and might be willing to share their quilt for the weekend of the Wendish Fest, please let Marian know.

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### TEXAS WENDISH GROUP VISITS BAUTZEN AREA

Rev. Albert and Mrs. Lee Miller hosted a Luther Heritage Tour in June, which included a visit to Bautzen and surrounding Wendish villages on June 28-29. Although the tour focused primarily on Martin Luther sites in Germany, the highlight of the trip for many of the Texas Wends in the group was seeing where their ancestors lived before coming to Texas with Rev. Jan Kilian in 1854 in search of religious and cultural freedom.

Peter Langer, a young man of Sorbish heritage who spent 6 months living in Texas several years ago, arranged for the group to visit Lutheran churches in Hochkirch, Weigersdorf, and Klitten. There was also a drive through the beautiful Sorbish countryside, seeing the villages of Kotitz, Groditz, Baruth, Gutttau, Wartha, Klix, and Neudorf. While in Bautzen, the group enjoyed guided tours of the old city and the excellent Sorbish Museum, were greeted at Wjelbik Restaurant by young ladies in typical Wendish wedding costumes, and served a delicious Wendish wedding dinner.

Texas Wends among the tour group were: Gene & Betty Hutchinson, Herman & Barbara Kilian, Monroe & Vernille Mertink, Awanda Mitschke, Melvin & Rebecca Noack, Reuben & Dorothy Noack, Dorothy Pool, Lee Roye & Evelyn Schuster, Richard & Irene Weaver, and Floyd & Bettye Zoch.

Langer and his Sorb friends explained that they are diligently trying to maintain the language and customs of their Wendish heritage among their age group in Lusatia. In that connection, they are planning to bring a group of young people to the next Wendish Fest in Serbin on September 22. It will be a pleasure to see them again!

# Pawlk e.V.

Peter Langer and several of his friends in the Bautzen, Germany area of Lusatia selected the Sorbisch/ Wendish word, "Pawlk" for the name of their Folk singing and dancing group. Translated into English pawlk means spider, more specifically the group is hoping that interest and participation will develop by others first getting caught in the "web" of their enthusiasm, and then helping them to expand this "web" of their excitement to preserve and extend this unique folk-culture. The ultimate aim is to attract the attention of younger people so that the Sorbisch language, and these other aspects of this rich heritage will not become extinct.

We are honored to have this group perform for us at the 8th ANNUAL WENDISH FEST, September 22, 1996, at 3:15 p.m. on the pavilion at the picnic grounds in Serbin.

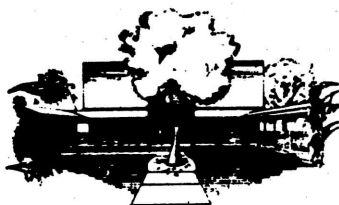


Foto (Umschlag/Rückseite): Oberlausitzer Umgebindehaus

## Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

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