

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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 V

OCTOBER, 1996

Dear Friends,

We had it all! The Lord blessed us with perfect weather, wonderful crowds, and wonderful workers! Thank you members and friends for helping host the Eighth Annual Wendish Fest on September 22nd. Without all of your help the festival could not succeed and keep growing. Approximately 2,000 people attended the Festival.

The Rev. Walter Otten conducted the services at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, at 8:30 in English, and at 10:30 in German, with Bible Class at 9:30. The group of Wendish singers from Germany sang at the German Service.

The noon meal was served from 11:30 until about 2:00 when the snack lines opened, offering barbecue drumsticks, noodles, sausage wraps, and sausage and sauerkraut boats.

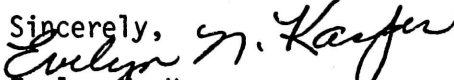
Leland Miller's Kovanda's Czech Band from Fayetteville entertained from 12:00 to 3:00. During this time all of the cooking demonstrations and most of the contests took place at the picnic grounds. We had blacksmithing by Steed Henderson, molasses press information by Matt Miertschin, stone ground cornmeal by Dr. John Armour of Rockdale, sausage stuffing by Wayne Chapman, Harvey Hobratschk and Tom Swearingen, cross cut saw lessons by the Otto Becker, Jr. family, and noodle demonstrations by Mary Cuggisberg of Vernon. Walter and Laverne Gersch brought their geese and a mother hen with baby chicks for the children to enjoy. The Klettrn Pfosten was a challenge to the youngsters, and John and Anna Schmidt again had Watkins products available.

At the Museum complex there were demonstrations of Easter egg decorating by Daphne Garrett and Susan Unger, butter churning by Lorine Bamsch and Hattie Mitschkie, quilting by Elsie Mertink and Lisa Teinert, crocheting by Marjorie Albrecht, wine making by Milton Kasper, and a quilt display prepared by Marian Wiederhold. Tours of the Museum buildings, and genealogical helps were available until 3:00.

At 3:00 the Museum complex was closed so that everyone could go to the picnic grounds to enjoy the folksongs and dances of the young Wendish group "Paw" from the Bautzn area. It was a great disappointment that their costumes, shipped UPS from Germany, were held up in customs in Philadelphia, but their performance was enjoyed by everyone. These young people were guests in the homes of Jack Wiederhold, Charles Arldt, Allen Perry and Arnold Kasper from Friday night until Monday.

The cross-cut saw contest ended the day with a lot of excitement.

Again, for the whole committee, I say, "Thank you volunteers!"

Sincerely,

Evelyn N. Kasper

WENDISH FEST REPORT - 1996

By: Evelyn N. Kasper

This year we served lunch to approximately 1,100 people. We feel that the number in attendance reached close to 2,000 people. We estimate that the number of volunteer man hours for this 8th fest to be about 1,000 hours.

We appreciate and want to thank the Warda AAL Branch 1559 and the Serbin AAL Branch 5011 for each matching funds of \$700.00.

Leroy Steglich continues to amaze me with his ability to come out with the right amount of food. It is so nice not to have a lot of food left over, but enough to feed the hungry crowd. We used 541 lbs. of sausage, 102 lbs. of noodles, 102 loaves of bread, 79 lbs of drumsticks, in addition to all the trimmings.

KVLG radio advertising announcements were done by Rev. Robert Boyce. We are appreciative of the Giddings Motel-Hotel Tax funds which pay for our advertising.

CONTESTS

COLORING CONTEST - Organized and judged by Marian Wiederhold, Linda Tate, William Kappler, and Josie Kasper

0 - 5 Age Group	Kaitlyn Wilins,	1st place	Ribbons
	Sarah Nolan,	2nd place	
	Kristin Muniz,	3rd place	
6 - 9 Age Group	Kacie Krause,	1st place	Ribbons
	Heather Oltmann	2nd place	
	Katie Edmonds,	3rd place	

It was requested that we add a 10 -12 year category next year.

WASHER PITCHING - "Red" Arldt, Chairman

Glenn Albrecht & Bradley Smith,	1st place	Cash Prize
Tim Weise & Zachary Weise,	2nd place	Cash Prize

CROSS CUT SAW CONTEST - Otto Becker, Jr., Chairman

Women's Division	Debbie Bage & Dianna Machalek,	1st place
	Carolyn Bamsch & Carolyn Jurk,	2nd place
	Judy Zoch & Cheryl Iselt,	3rd place
Men's Division	Wayne Chapman & Harvey Hobratschk,	1st place
	Freddie Zoch & Elo Toll,	2nd place
	Bryan Gersch & Eldor Becker	3rd place
Mixed Division	Eldor Becker & Ruby Weiser,	1st place
	Allen Jurk & Carolyn Jurk,	2nd place
	Dlynn Bage & Debbie Bage	3rd place

Cash Prizes - Request for trophies next year

COFFEE CAKE BAKE-OFF, Dianne Wassenich & Laverne Gersch, Chairpersons

Streusel

Elinor Steglich,	1st place	
Annie Kasper Bartholic,	2nd place	Ribbons and Gifts
Evelyn Buchhorn,	3rd place	

Kaese

Irene Wiesenhutter,	1st place	
Annie Kasper Bartholic,	2nd place	Ribbons and Gifts
Ruth Lindner,	3rd place	

Special - Other

Annie Kasper Bartholic,	1st place	
Elsie Mertink,	2nd place	Ribbons and Gifts
Elinor Steglich,	3rd place	

FOURTH ANNUAL STATE OF TEXAS NOODLE COOK-OFF

Sponsored by First National Bank of Giddings
Cheryl Walker, Chairperson

Participant ribbons to all entrants

Dorothy Exner,	1st place	Trophy & \$200
Cathy Schulze,	2nd place	Trophy & \$100
Connie Boriack,	3rd place	Trophy & \$50



WINNERS - Winners in the fourth annual State of Texas Noodle Cook-off are left to right, organizer Cheryl Walker, presenter State Rep. Dan Kubiak, third place winner Connie Boriack, second place winner Cathy Schulze, first place winner Dorothy Exner and First National Bank sponsor representative Bob Mutschink

(Times & News Photo)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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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The August newsletter was **incorrect** in stating that the program for the August membership meeting was a slide presentation. It was a video prepared by Georgie Boyce and Beverley Gotzky of East Malvern Victoria, Australia. Apologies to both ladies as they spent extra hours making it **JUST RIGHT !!!**

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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.

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MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Adelia F. Schmidt	M/M Frank Taylor	\$10.00
In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
M/M Milton Moerbe 50th Anniversary	M/M Edgar Schulz	\$25.00
M/M Milton Moerbe 50th Anniversary	Mrs. Lorine Domaschk Computer Desk fund	\$20.00

Mr. Ewald Hempel of Warda donated \$2,500 for a new computer

A donation of \$5.00 was received from Mrs. Frieda Wendland for desserts at the Wendish Fest

Mrs. Meta Kleiber of Winchester donated \$5.00 toward newsletter expenses

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Russell E. Schwausch, Austin, TX	Pat R. Trevino, Missouri City, TX
Robin Falke-Ancira, San Antonio, TX	Glenn E. Friedrich, Houston, TX
Karen K. Kuhlmann, Westminster, CO	Donald W. Whitsel, Dime Box, TX

Patron Members

Robin Falke-Ancira, San Antonio, TX

Sponsor Members

Paul C. Hempel, Nederland, TX

DOCENTS

During the months of August and September the following acted as docents: John and Anna Schmidt, Georgie Boyce, Eleanor Schulze, Vivian Taylor, Evelyn Kasper, Elinor Steglich, Esther Buscha, Bessie Mertink, Luke Mertink, Laverne Gersch, Ken Weiser, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Daphne Garrett, George Boerger, and Barbara Hielscher.

VISITORS

The months of August and September brought visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: California, New York, Germany, Delaware, British Columbia, Canada, Maryland, Missouri, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Indiana, North Dakota, Illinois, North Carolina, Arkansas, Virginia, Vermont, Austria and Louisiana.

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FROM A MEMBER:

The following was received along with photos and information, gathered during earlier years by Emma Wuensche, for the 25th anniversary display prepared by Georgie Boyce and Daphne Garrett:

"Thank you all for realizing the founders dream. It was clear to me from the very earliest days my mother wanted to expand the reach of the club to as many people as possible. Through the efforts of many of you over the years this has happened. You are to be congratulated".

"May God bless you all".

Vern Wuensche

--25th ANNIVERSARY--

Laura Moerbe Zoch, 88, and Frieda Schulze Wendland, 84, were honored at the Eight Annual Wendish Fest, Sunday September 22, for being the two remaining of the five founders of the Wendish Culture Club on its 25th anniversary. It is now the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum. Presenting each a plaque is Ken Weiser, President.

(Times & News Photo)



TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

A special exhibit commemorating the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society is on display in the Peter Building. The following is a brief history of our organization.

In August of 1971, at the home of Mrs. Lillie Moerbe Caldwell, five ladies founded the Wendish Culture Club. According to the first recorded minutes, the following officers were elected:

Mrs. Lillie Caldwell - President
Mrs. Harry Wuensche - Vice President
Mrs. E. F. Wendland - Secretary
Mrs. August Zoch - Corresponding Secretary
Mrs. Erwin Mitschke - Treasurer

These women decided to have a Wendish booth at the Folklife Festival in San Antonio. This organization incorporated in 1977 as the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. In August 1996, the Society received a 25 year participation banner for having sponsored a Wendish booth at the Folklife Festival every year since 1971.

Through the years the Society has had many projects and activities. The first cookbook, "*OUR FAVORITE*", was published in December 1975, with 5,465 copies being printed to date. The Society continues to publish cookbooks and books related to Wendish heritage. We utilize a Wendish float (in past years a replica of *The Ben Nevis*) in local parades to promote community awareness, and in the process, have won many parade awards. A noodle making machine, donated in 1991, has not only become a source of income, but we are becoming well known for our "Wendish Noodles".

St. Paul Lutheran Church donated their school building and leased an area of church property to the Society in 1979. The first Museum opened in 1980 in the school addition built in 1929, and named it the Kilian Building. Later the Museum expanded to the original school built in 1915, and named it the St. Paul Building. The Peter Building built in 1987 houses an interpretive exhibit, the Lillie Moerbe Caldwell Memorial Library, administrative office, gift shop and archives. This same year, the Kurio and Mertink log buildings were moved to the Museum complex. The museum hosts approximately 3,000 visitors from all over the world each year. Many of these visitors come on group tours and are served a typical Wendish meal.

The Society holds an annual "Wendish Fest" on the fourth Sunday in September. The 8th Fest was held September 22nd, and in honor of our Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, special plaques and corsages were presented to the two remaining charter members: Mrs. Laura Moerbe Zoch and Mrs. Frieda Schulze Wendland. Also in attendance were the children of the other three charter members: Betty Caldwell Hutchinson, daughter of Mrs. Lillie Moerbe Caldwell; Vern and Ed Wuensche, sons of Mrs. Emma Dube Wuensche; and Lee Mitschke Miller, daughter of Mrs. Gertrude Mitschke.

Submitted by: Georgie B. Boyce

"PAWK" WENDISH SINGERS AND DANCERS



(Times & News Photo)

"PAWK" WENDISH SINGERS AND DANCERS

Pictured above is the Wendish group "Pawk" from Bautzen, Germany performing Wendish songs and dances at the Eight Annual Wendish Fest on September 22. In the group were: * Wanda Biesold, choir director, Hanka Koreng, Veronika Piatza, Manuela Budar, Jeanet Brezan, Edith Scholze, Henry Budar, Jan Budar, André Sitzka, Wito Boehmak, Christoph Sauer, Cyril Sauer, Hudbert Kiesch, and Peter Langer, organizer.
* Singers not identified in order.

WEIGERSDORF, GERMANY

The 150th anniversary of the church building at Weigersdorf was celebrated with a week of festivities in October. The church was dedicated by Pastor Gessner (the pastor at Weigersdorf before Jan Kilian) on December 20, 1846. This year coincided with the observance of the 450th anniversary of the death of our reformer, Dr. Martin Luther. The festivities began on October 26th with the church music festival of the diocese. On the 21st Sunday after Trinity a great church dedication anniversary service was held and the church music festival was concluded. On Monday and Tuesday there were presentations on current topics; on Wednesday a vocalist's concert, and on the anniversary of the Reformation, October 31st, the week of celebration culminated in another festival divine service along with a play and oratorio on the following afternoon.

Pastor Michael Vogt
Weigersdorf, Germany



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

ROUTE 2, BOX 155, GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

(409) 366-2441

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY MEETING

August 18, 1996

Georgie Boyce, Vice-President, called the meeting to order in the Kilian Building of the museum complex at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 18th, in the absence of the President, Ken Weiser, who was attending a Lutheran Laymen's League function.

Pastor Robert Boyce opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer. Visitors welcomed were Pastor David Ebert of Lincoln, Judy Riskind of San Antonio and Lorine Bamsch of Warda. There were 31 in attendance at the meeting.

Ron Knippa gave a report on the 25th Folklife Festival which was held August 1st through 4th. Our booth placed 3rd. There were about 30 ethnic groups represented and about 70,000 people attended this year. Passport books were stamped in the Wendish booth by girl scouts, showing that the Wendish booth had been visited. A round of applause was given to Ron, his parents, Bill and Adele Knippa, for transporting all the items to San Antonio, and to Walter and Laverne Gersch and Freddie Zoch for bringing all of the items back to Serbin. Koch Käse returned from San Antonio may be purchased at the museum for @2.25 per jar.

Georgie Boyce stated that photos or other memorabilia are needed from the 25th anniversary display.

Evelyn Kasper reminded all to bring desserts to the Wendish Fest on September 22nd. The Sorbisch folk singers and dancers group, "Pawk" (Spider) from Bautzen Germany will be entertaining the crowds at the Wendish Fest from 3:00 to 4:30. The museum buildings will be closed during this time so that everyone will have the opportunity to see the performers.

In her noodle report Elinor Steglich reported that 1533 lbs. of noodles have been made thus far in 1996. Mr. Rinaldo Lanzillotti of Bottega dell Pasta, 4201 South Congress in Austin, very graciously purchased a noodle die for us while he was in Italy. The cost of the die was \$225 but he did not charge us for purchasing it and bringing it back for us.

Georgie Boyce stated that the November program will again be Christmas caroling and asked that all bring some of their favorite cookies for refreshments on that day.

The group enjoyed a video of Beverley Gotzky's presentation explaining the costume she brought to the Wendish Fest last year. This is the type of costume which would have been worn by Pastor Kilian's mother. The Gotzkys of East Malvern, Australia, visited here during September of last year.

Pastor Albert and Lee Miller then shared some highlights of their trip to Germany this year.

Respectfully submitted,

-8- Evelyn N. Kasper
Evelyn N. Kasper

Opportunity Knocks !

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society is very fortunate to have among our members both Dr. Joe Wilson, of Rice University, Houston, Texas, and Dr. George Nielsen, of Concordia University, River Forest, Illinois. Both of these men have made truly significant contributions to the promotion and preservation of our heritage through their research and writing, and are deserving of not only our thanks, but also of our continuing support of their efforts. Therefore, the Board of Directors of TWHS, in the October meeting, has given approval for the following appeal to our membership.

Dr. George Nielsen is currently working on a "Sorbian (Wendish) Letter Project", which involves the personal correspondences which were sent and received by our ancestors to and from the United States, Germany, and Australia. Some of the letters are in "Wendish", others are in German, and would be very useful and informative if they could be made available in English for us, and the folks in Australia, and in German for our friends in Bautzen. Dr. Nielsen proposes to get these items of correspondence into both English and German, and make them available, via computer disks, to Adelaide, Australia, Bautzen, Germany and Serbin, Texas. Each country would contribute an amount of \$3,000.00, toward the total project cost of \$9,000.00, needed to complete this project. If you are interested in helping with a contribution to this effort, please send your contributions to:

**Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum
Route 2, Box 155
Giddings, Texas 78942-9769.**

Please note on your check: **"Nielsen Letter Project"**.

Dr. Joe Wilson continues to work with the translation and interpretation of the Church Records from many of our local ("Old Lutheran"), congregations. In order to facilitate this, he utilizes some of his graduate students to do the data input to computer. Dr. Wilson's projects also include the translation of other "Official Correspondence" of the Pastors and other Church officials from the early days. Much of this work is supported by donations to:

"The Wendish Research Project"
**c/o- Dr. Joe Wilson - Department of German and Slavic Studies
Rice University
P.O. Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77251.**

If you are so inclined, you may make contributions to this fund, directly, or if you prefer, you may contribute through TWHS, at the above address, and note your check: **"Wilson- Wendish Research Project"**, and we will forward any such contributions to him.

Your contributions, by any of the above mentioned formats, will be "tax-deductible", and will be of tremendous help to these men who continue to be so helpful and cooperative in all of our efforts.

Thank you for considering this opportunity!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING IN THE MUSEUM GIFT SHOP

Christmas Around the Corner!!! Do your Christmas shopping here! The gift shop has many unique items to give as gifts.

For the tree: Beaded, crocheted, and quilted Christmas ornaments, crocheted and quilted tree skirts, crocheted, beaded, and lace angels, ornaments with a Texas theme, and various other items. We have beautifully decorated eggs that can be hung on the tree.

For gifts: Festive vests in adult and childrens sizes, decorated sweatshirts, aprons, bonnets, pot holders, casserole carriers, kitchen towels decorated with crochet, chenille pillows, Christmas wall hangings, animal coasters, and recipe holders. For children there are wood puzzles, crayon holders, coloring smocks, Santa necklaces, and dolls in Wendish costumes.

We have excellent stocking stuffers such as: The story books, The Lost Kitten, Little Maria Gets Caught, The Wendish Texan Coloring Book, and The German ABC Book.

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THANK YOU!! to Eleanor Schulze, Georgie Boyce, Walter and Laverne Gersch, and Evelyn Kasper for the hours spent weeding and cleaning the court yard before the Wendish Fest.

## Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

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