



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 X NUMBER I JANUARY, 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This will be my last letter to you as president of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Due to my week-end travel obligations with the International Lutheran Laymen's League, I am unable to attend many of the Society's Board of Directors meetings on Saturdays, and quarterly General Membership meetings on Sundays.

The Board of Directors has honored my resignation request.

Our Vice-President, Georgie Boyce who will succeed me, will do an outstanding job for our Society.

I will continue to serve on the Concordia CABINET Wendish Council. This Council, under the direction of Monroe Karcher, was responsible for the First Annual "Ethnic Affair" Saturday, January 25 at Concordia University at Austin, Texas. This interesting and enjoyable event gave our Society an opportunity to make extra money. Georgie Boyce and Barbara Hielscher along with many others made this a very successful day. A complete report will be included in the next newsletter.

It was a pleasure to serve as president of the Society for the past year. God bless you all!

Ken Weiser
President

PROGRAM FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

"Everything you wanted to know about a L. D. S. Branch Library, but were afraid to ask", will be presented by Luise Green of Friendswood and Warda. Mrs. Green will explain how to research for European church records, ancestral files, and other available records; she will also be happy to answer any questions or concerns about these libraries. Luise was born in Bordenau, Germany, and after marrying Steven Green in 1965 moved to Texas. - She has been doing genealogy research for 10 years and 8 years ago became the first non-member volunteer at the L. D. S. Library in Friendswood, Texas. In January she traveled to Salt Lake City, Utah, to the main library to do research. This should be a very interesting and informative program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 16** General membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00p.m.
- March 23** Museum will be CLOSED for Palm Sunday
- March 31** Museum will be CLOSED for Easter Sunday Daylight Saving Time begins
- April 10-13** Texas Association of Museums annual meeting at the Midland Holiday Inn in Midland, Texas
- April 12** Texas German Society Annual Convention at the Fireman's Hall in Brenham, Texas. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.
- April 28** Deadline for articles for April newsletter



WJESOLE HODY (Merry Christmas) was the Wendish theme for Concordia University President's Reception held in Austin, December 7, 1996. President David Zersen asked the TWHM to help with the decorations and menu. Barbara Hielscher and Georgie Boyce decorated the "President's House" located on the University campus with cedar and red berries from Lee and Fayette counties, Wendish Christmas pictures, and the Christmas tree with traditional Wendish ornaments. The menu included Wendish noodles, dried sausage, koch kase, homemade bread, dill pickles, and coffee cake donated by Evelyn Buchhorn of Austin.

SERBSKI MUZEJ - SORBISCHES MUSEUM - BAUTZEN, GERMANY

February 16 to September 1, 1997, the Sorbisches Museum in Bautzen, Germany will have a special exhibit on the history of Wendish emigration. Our friend, Gertrud Mahling has assisted the Director, Tomasz Nawka, in coordinating this exhibit. They extend an invitation to all travelers to Germany to visit the museum. The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum and some of our members donated various books and items, which were taken to Germany by Benno and Felicitas Bilk, visitors to our Wendish Fest in September. The Sorbisches Museum and Gertrud sent the TWHM some wonderful thank you gifts of books, a doll in a Schliffe costume, and photographs. We want to thank them for these items that will be displayed in our museum.

Felicitas Bilk also sent us a 1997 Sorbisches calendar, many travel brochures of the Bautzen area and postcards. Thank you to her and her husband.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Linda Domelsmith, Temple, TX	Gloria Teinert, Austin, TX
Paul Trompler, Paonia, CO	Leonard Groeschel, Houston, TX
Beryle Schmidt, Beaumont, TX	Mark Gruetzner, Lincoln, TX
Ruby L. Sisco, Harker Heights, TX	

Student Members

Thomas Buchhorn, Austin, TX	Sara Buchhorn, Austin, TX
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Patron Members

Leonard Groeschel, Houston, TX	Clara A. Kessler, Houston, TX
Norman M. Kneschk, Jonesboro, TX	Hubert C. Noack, Waco, TX
Floyd V. Zoch, El Campo,	Bettye S. Zoch, El Campo, TX
Lloyd Schuhmann, Giddings, TX	Milton Kaiser, Houston, TX
Wilbur L. Simank, Stillwater, OK	Etta J Schrader, Pensacola, FL
Ruth Tschatschula, Brenham, TX	Violet K. Miertschin, Winchester, TX
Ruby H. Fischer, Austin, TX	Alleen K. Lyons, Coppers Cove, TX
Allen Cluck, Winchester, TX	Katherine Moerbe, Austin, TX
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Sandra Matthijetz, Houston, TX	Frances Maxwell, Dallas, TX
Ted Wukasch, Groves, TX	Herb Schulz, Torrance, CA
Eugene Hemmann, St. Charles, IL	Ruth Scheffel, Fullerton, CA
Vernon J. Weber, Schulenburg, TX	Dana Z. Clary, Orange, TX
Ronald Knippa, 0 San Antonio, TX	Diane H. Wasenich, Maxwell, TX
Mildred Coffey, San Antonio, Tx	Gene Miertschin, Friendswood, TX
Kathy L. Miller, Lafayette, LA	George R. Nielsen, Oak Park, IL
Linda S. O'Leary, San Antonio, TX	Vivian F. Taylor, Weimar, TX

Sponsor Members

Carol L. Davis, Houston, TX	J. B. Gersch, Jr., Giddings, TX
Ludwig, Groeschel, Austin, TX	Edna K. Groeschel, Austin, TX
Arlee Miller, Austin, TX	Mary S. Guggisberg, Vernon, TX
Duannah Ashore, Austin, TX	Kathryn S. Smith, Richardson, TX

Century Members

Ralph Weiser, Magnolia, AR	Jerry L. Knippa, Boerne, TX
Bill Knippa, San Antonio, TX	Adele Knippa, San Antonio, TX
Weldon Boerger, Wharton, TX	Harold V. Theiss, Houston, TX
Linda Boerger, Wharton, TX	Elwood Domaschk, Jr., Houston, TX

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Refreshments for the November general membership meeting were furnished by Evelyn Kasper, Elinor Steglich, Irene Weaver, Frieda Wendland, Irene teinert, Clara Dement, Lillian Oltmann, Barbara Hielscher, and Ruth Lindner. Thank You!

## VISITORS

During the months of October, November, and December we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Wisconsin, Arizona, California, Georgia, Germany, Ohio, Virginia, Oklahoma, Illinois, North Carolina, Utah, Missouri, Washington D.C., Kentucky, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Tennessee, Washington, Maryland, and Minnesota.

## DOCENTS

Docents during the months of October, November, and December were: George Boerger, Laverne Gersch, Vivian Taylor, John and Anna Schmidt, Georgie Boyce, Bessie Mertink, Barbara Hielscher, Ruby Koslan, Irene Boriack, Evelyn Kasper, Ken Weiser, Elinor Steglich, Gladys Dillman, Hattie Schautschick, Esther Buscha, Erna Mersiovsky, Henry and Emily Zoch, Freddie Zoch, Eleanor Schulze, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Viola Spacek, and Hermine Moerbe. **THANK YOU!!**

## MEMORIALS

| In Memory of:    | Donor                              | Amount  |
|------------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Mrs. Mary Kasper | Mr. & Mrs. Leland Miller           | \$75.00 |
| Alfred Herbrich  | George Boerger      Endowment Fund | \$20.00 |
| August Zoch      | George Boerger      Endowment Fund | \$20.00 |
| Ella Zoch        | George Boerger      Endowment Fund | \$20.00 |
| Gilbert Weise    | George Boerger      Endowment Fund | \$20.00 |
| Walter Schimank  | George Boerger      Endowment Fund | \$20.00 |

| In Honor of:                                         | Donor                                        | Amount  |
|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| M/M Milton Moerbe<br>50th Wedding Anniversary        | M/M Leroy Steglich                           | \$20.00 |
| M/M Edgar Schulz<br>50th Wedding Anniversary         | M/M Leroy Steglich                           | \$25.00 |
| M/M Herbert Schautschick<br>50th Wedding Anniversary | M/M Leroy Steglich                           | \$25.00 |
| M/M Edgar Schulz<br>50th Wedding Anniversary         | Herbert Foerster      Nielsen Letter Project | \$20.00 |
| M/M Arthur Urban<br>30th Wedding Anniversary         | M/M Edgar Schulz                             | \$20.00 |

A \$300.00 matching gift was received for the October, 1996 Walk-In Coffee and Bake Sale held in Giddings.

A \$400.00 donation was received for the Nielsen Letter Project.

## REMINDER

Do not forget to support the **"NIELSEN LETTER PROJECT"** and Dr. Joe Wilson's **"THE WENDISH RESEARCH PROJECT"**. Send your contribution to:  
 Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum  
 Route 1, Box 155  
 Giddings, TX 78942-9769

GENERAL MEETING  
TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY  
Nov. 17, 1996

Ken Weiser, President, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Kilian Building of the museum complex at Serbin, Texas. He opened the meeting with a devotion based on First Peter Chapter 1, verses 3-5. He spoke of our heritage in heaven and warned that if we keep taking our religious freedom so lightly we may lose it. Less than 40% of U.S. citizens attend church on Sunday mornings.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the November, 1995, meeting was published.

George Boerger reported that we have had some bills for repairs but are in good shape because of the added revenue from the Wendish Fest, etc. He will give a full financial report for 1996 at the February meeting.

The ballot committee was composed of Herbert Falke, Lorine Domel and Freddie Zoch. The six directors elected from the slate were Eunice Dunk, Ron Knippa, Vic Mathias, Doris Reagan, Eleanor Schulze and Jack Wiederhold. A motion was made by Leroy Steglich, seconded by Fred Boriack, and carried, that the ballots be destroyed.

Georgie Boyce encouraged all to view the 25th anniversary exhibit in the Peter Building and again expressed thanks to the founders. Frieda Wendland and Laura Zoch were both able to be present at the Wendish Fest and received plaques of appreciation and corsages.

The Wendish Fest report was sent out in the last newsletter. Leroy Steglich reported that grants from the Serbin and Warda AAL branches have been received. This can only be done every other year so it is hoped that two other branches will come forward next year with matching funds.

Elinor Steglich reported that 2600 lbs. of noodles have been made thus far in 1996.

There was some discussion on ways to get our young people interested in the Wendish Society. Let your relatives know how proud you are of your unique heritage. Gift memberships and history books as gift are also excellent ways to pass on this knowledge. We have had some excellent programs at our meetings and will try to publicize them more.

George Boyce, a member of the Concordia Board, reported that there will be an "Ethnic Fair" on January 25th. Foods will be served and demonstrations of egg decorating and noodle making will take place. Rooms will be available for information on the various groups. It seems there is no information available on authentic Wendish Christmas trees. Frieda Wendland remembers that fruit, candy and paper roses were used as decorations in her family.

Happy birthday was sung to Elsie Mertink on her 85th birthday. Irene Teinert conveyed greetings from Margaret Hart.

After the meeting adjourned, Jack Wiederhold led the group in singing German Christmas carols around the old fashioned tree in the St. Paul Building.

Cookies brought by members were enjoyed.

-5- Evelyn M. Kasper

## KOLBA FAMILY REUNION

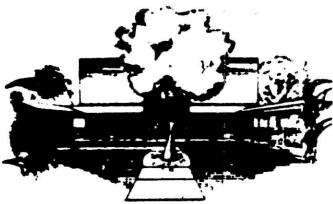
70 descendants of the Christian Kolba family had a family reunion at Turtle Lake, Wisconsin in August, 1996. Those in attendance were from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois.

### **Texas Wendish Heritage Museum**

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