

# 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 II

APRIL, 1997

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was with regret that the Board of Directors accepted Ken Weiser's resignation as President. We do appreciate the important work of the International Lutheran Laymen's League and are fortunate to have a local resident on the Board of Governors. Thank you, Ken, for your leadership as President of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society in 1996.

With some apprehension, as Vice President I became President. With the help of the Board members and our other officers, we will have another great year. Eleanor Schulze graciously accepted the position of Vice President. Hattie Schautschick was appointed to fill the vacancy on the Board.

I realize that a large number of our members do not live in this area and can not attend meetings; therefore, you do not know the officers and board members personally. To give you a brief biographical sketch of myself: I am a Wend, born and reared on a farm/ranch seven miles north of Albany in Shackelford County, Texas. My father, Alvin Bernstein, is a first generation Texas born Wend. His father, Ernst, and grandparents came to the Warda area from the Hochkirch area of Saxony in 1869. His mother Maria Kulke, and her family immigrated from Weicha in 1881. My mother, Clara Schulz Bernstein, was a second generation Texas born Wend. Her parents were John G. Schulz of Warda and Anna Selma Noack born in Winchester. The Schulz family came from the Spreewitz area and the Noacks from the Schlieff area in the early 1880's.

When my husband, Rev. Robert E. Boyce, accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Warda, and we moved into the parsonage in May of 1987, I felt truly blessed to be in the midst of my ancestral roots. My grandfather Schulz was baptized at Holy Cross, and my grandparents, Ernst and Maria Bernstein were married at Holy Cross. Since I was already a member of TWHS, I was now able to be an active one!

While I did not, and still do not, want to appear too aggressive, I truly want to help make our society grow and become an evermore vibrant organization. I am deeply appreciative of all that has been done by those who were the moving force in forming and nurturing our Society and Museum. I feel that we honor them, as well as our ancestors, when we continue to work together to preserve our unique heritage, and extend the scope of our identity. As we become better known and publicized, it is amazing how many more people become aware of their own "Wendish-connection".

I am deeply proud of my heritage, and I believe that we have a most wonderful and unique story to tell about our ancestors who took the great "leap of faith" to come to Texas. Now we are privileged to be able to interact freely with our "fellow-Wends" in Eastern Germany since the "fall of the Wall". We are also able to establish and maintain connections with other Wends, here in the USA, and Australia. As time goes on, we may be amazed at where else we are able to establish such connections! We stand on the threshold of a new age of rapid communication. With computers, E-Mail, the Internet, etc., we have so much to learn and so much to share with others around the world.

Continued on page 2

What is needed is the active support of all of our current membership, and a real effort to expand our numbers and resources. While our annual "Wendish-Fest" continues to grow in attendance, and likewise in the amount of funding that it provides, our need for more willing workers also increases. I am also very proud of events, such as our San Antonio members' participation in the "Folklife Festival" each year, and the first time success of the "Ethnic Fair" at Concordia University in Austin. Increased exposure and publicity means opportunity for increasing our membership and base of support. Whether you live in the immediate area of Lee and Fayette Counties, or in the farthest reaches of the globe, we solicit your involvement and support.

Georgie Bernstein Boyce - President

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

May 11	Museum will be CLOSED for Mother's Day
May 18	General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
May 25	Serbin Homecoming Picnic at the St. Paul picnic grounds, Serbin, Texas
May 26	Museum will be CLOSED for Memorial Day
June 13	Bake Sale in front of La Grange State Bank
June 15	Winchester Picnic at St. Michael's Lutheran Church Park. Museum will be CLOSED for Father's Day
June 27	Deadline for articles for June newsletter
July 4	Museum will be CLOSED for Independence Day
July 31-Aug 3	Folk Life Festival in San Antonio, Texas

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Thank you to Rev. Paul Hartfield for having the opening devotion before the general membership meeting in February. A special thank you to Luise Green of Friendswood and Warda for having the interesting and informative program on genealogy research for this meeting.

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#### PROGRAM FOR MAY MEETING

Der Glockenchor (The Bell Choir) of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin will present their first concert for an audience, other than for church services, at our May meeting. Der Glockenchor is composed of approximately 22 members of St. Paul with Jack Wiederhold as the director. This group formed after Pastor Siegfried Matzke and a group of 35 Brass Choir members from St John's Lutheran Church in Klitten, Germany, performed here in Texas in July 1995. Pastor Matzke and St. John's extended an invitation to St. Paul's members to attend their 150th anniversary celebration of their church building in July 1997. Der Glockenchor has been practicing for months on Sunday afternoons preparing for this tour. Attend this meeting and enjoy the hidden talents of the people in this community.

## BAKE SALE

Donations of baked items or cash would be appreciated for the bake sale in front of La Grange State Bank on Friday, June 13, beginning at 9:00 a.m. If it is more convenient for you to drop off baked items at the Museum, please do so by 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 12. This is an excellent opportunity for our out-of-town and out-of-state members to help with one of our fund raising projects.

## VISITORS

During the months of January, February, and March we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Oklahoma, Louisiana, Illinois, Michigan, Washington, Oregon, Georgia, Germany, Canada, New York, South Dakota, Indiana, and Florida.

## DOCENTS

Docents during the months of January, February, and March were: George Beorger, Vivian Taylor, John and Anna Schmidt, Barbara Hielscher, Henry and Emily Zoch, Eleanor Schulze, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Mildred Kilian, and Laverne Gersch. **THANK YOU!!**

## MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Clara S. Bernstein	Alvin B. Bernstein	\$25.00
	Nielsen Letter Project	
Carl Zoch, Jr.	M/M Robert Garrett	\$15.00
Carl Zoch, Jr.	M/M Leroy Steglich	\$15.00
Carl Zoch, Jr.	M/M Frank Taylor	\$20.00
Carl Zoch, Jr.	Elsie Mertink	\$15.00
M/M Carl Zoch, Jr.	M/M Elmer Zoch & Jennifer	\$25.00
	Nielsen Letter Project	
M/M Carl Zoch, Jr.	Freddie Zoch	\$25.00
M/M Carl Zoch, Jr.	M/M Jack Wiederhold	
M/M Carl Zoch, Jr.	M/M Roy Knippa	
Carl Zoch, Jr.	Bessie Mertink	
Carl Zoch, Jr.	M/M Reinhold Teinert	
Clarence R. Urban	Della U. Mullens	
	Neilsen Letter Project	
Clarence R. Urban	M/M Marvin Andres	
Clarence R. Urban	M/M Patrick Mullens	
Alma W. Wittmerhaus	M/M Reinhold Teinert	
Otto Biar	Bill Biar	

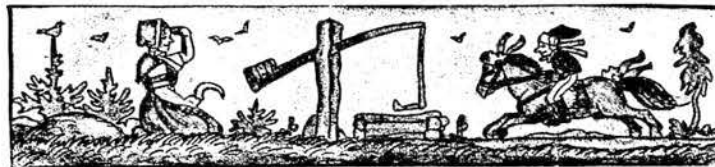
A \$40.00 donation to the Archives in honor of Daphne Garrett.

A matching gift was received from the Coca Cola Company.

A \$20.00 donation was received from Mr & Mrs. John Schmidt

Rodney Fritsche, with AAA Fire & Safety Equipment Company donated two metal handicap signs and Otto Becker installed them in the parking lot behind the Kilian building. **THANK YOU !!**

Thank you to Bessie Mertink for donating her time to help get the January newsletter ready to mail.



## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

Kenneth Baker, San Marcos, TX	J. C. McCarn, Jr. Austin, TX
Kenneth A. Wagner, Austin, TX	Richard A. Fritsche, Columbus, TX
Gerald Kurio, Austin, TX	Deborah Lacy, Dripping Springs, TX
Esther Rathgeber, Austin, TX	Ruby L. Sisco, Harker Heights, TX
Evelyn M. Driver, Phoenix, AZ	Emmett Gloyna, Edna, TX
William C. Mertink, Jarrell, TX	Geneva Wyatt, Taylor, TX
Frances A. Kiesling, Round Rock, TX	
Stephen E. Flowers, Smithville, TX	
Edmund D. Simank, Sr, Stillwater, OK	

### Student Members

Anthony Mack, Minneapolis, MN	Elizabeth R. Schwartz, Giddings, TX
Sarah Schwartz, Giddings, TX	

### Patron Members

Bernice Schulz, Houston, TX	Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX
D. G. Symmank, Giddings, TX	Carroll J. Dorsett, Adkins, TX
Kathy L. Miller, Lafayette, LA	Stephen E. Flowers, Smithville, TX
Dr. William G. Domask, Houston, TX	Marvin Wappler, Groves, TX
Frances K. Pfluger, Austin, TX	Jay Kruecke, Austin, TX
Emmett Gloyna, Edna, TX	Arnold W. Kriegel, Austin, TX
George W. Kunze, Warda, TX	Flora M. Kunze, Warda, TX
Elinor Vlasak, Rosebud, TX	Betty Teston, San Antonio, TX
Joy Teinert, Lubbock, TX	Doris M. Zabel, St. Louis, MO

### Sponsor Members

Esther S. Herbrick, Houston, TX	Herman Teinert, Lubbock, TX
Marvin R. Schulze, Austin, TX	Margie Loomans, Austin, TX
Hilton Wieder, Houston, TX	

### Century Members

James C. Kalbas, Giddings, TX

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### FAMILY REUNIONS

The August and Lydia (Wiederanders) Knippa family reunion will be held in Lincoln, Texas on June 14, 1997.

On June 28, 1997 the Andrew and Marie (Foerster) Moerbe family reunion will be held in Dime Box, Texas.



NOAK FAMILY REUNION  
Submitted by Diana Kallus

The 53rd annual Noak family reunion was held Sunday, March 16, at the Round Top Rifle Association Hall with 103 members of the Peter August and Johanna Wilhelmine (Mitzscherling) Noack (Noak) family in attendance. There was also one visitor present.

Before the catered noon meal was served, Dorothy Rothermel of Brenham introduced John and Rita Noack of North Little Rock, Arkansas to the family. They are the first descendants of the John E. and Martha (Neuthard) Noack family to attend a Noak reunion. John and Rita came to Texas last year in search of relatives, and through the help of Mrs. Georgie Tubbs of the Round Top Area Historical Society, was able to make contact with descendants of the family. Everyone present was pleased to welcome them to the reunion.

Next introduced was Ken and Sandy Noak and family of Hampton, Iowa. It had been many years since they were able to attend a reunion, and their visit was a surprise to everyone, including Ken's parents, Kermit and Delores Noak of Round Top.

After the meal, the business meeting was called to order by Al Weigelt of Lufkin. Diana Kallus of Victoria read the minutes and Lanette Williams of Carmine gave the treasurer's report from the previous year.

The youngest member present was Hyden Cooper Becka, 29 day old son of Ryan and Heather Becka of Snook. Three other births were also reported since the last reunion. Honored as being the oldest female present was Irene Noak, 79, of La Grange. The oldest male present was Leroy Goehring, 81, of Round Top.

The most recently married couple present was O'Neal and Edna Weigelt of Austin, 21 months. Seven other marriages since last year were reported. The couple married longest was Leroy and Nola Goehring of Round Top, with 56 years. Traveling farthest to attend the reunion was Ken and Sandy Noak and family of Hampton, Iowa, at 1120 miles. A very close second was Marcus and Evelyn Weigelt of Missouri Valley, Iowa at 1100 miles. One other out-of-state family was in attendance from Tulsa, Oklahoma, Ron and Helen Greif. Appreciation was expressed for everyone's effort in coming, and especially all those who had traveled from out-of-state.

A moment of silent prayer was offered for family members who have died since the last reunion, including John Amis, Erra Noak, John Hefley and Geraldine Weigelt. Spencer Hamons of the National Guard was the only family member reported as serving in the military.

Members of the Paul Noak family branch will assume chairmanship duties for next year's reunion. Diana Kallus and Lanette Williams were re-elected to serve as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

Door prizes were won by David Noak, Sr., Ryan and Heather Becka, and Chris Kallus. the meeting adjourned with all joining in praying the Lord's Prayer.

## **37th Annual MICHAEL SCHOPPA FAMILY Reunion**

**June 21 & 22, 1997- (The Weekend After Fathers Day!)**

The reunion will be held at the Boys Club facilities at Lake Kickapoo, Tx. located approximately 31 miles South & 5 miles West of Electra, Tx. off Hwy 25. Campground opens at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, June 21 and closes at 4:00 P.M. Sunday June 22nd.

Cabins with bunk beds, campground, RV hook-up (at nominal fee), fishing, swimming pool with lifeguards on duty. "Friday-Campout" -(fun)-\$150 divided by those camping.

Plates, cups, flatware, tea, coffee, & sweeteners are furnished. Bring linens, food for your family (All meals). Bring games of your choice. Bring wrapped White Elephant gifts for Bingo.

Friday-"Camp-out" - RSVP & Details: Edgar Schoppa, Jr. (817) 553-3549

Saturday - 6:00 P.M. - Hamburger & Hotdog Supper-you bring fixings. BINGO! DANCING!

Sunday - 10:00 A.M. - Morning Devotion and Memorial Service.

Sunday - 12:00 P.M. - Buffet lunch, Business Meeting

### **COME GET TO KNOW YOUR FAMILY! BRING A FRIEND**

The Schoppa Cookbook will be available for \$8.00 each as our fund raiser.

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

Descendants of Rosina Taniger Dube, a remarkable Wendish pioneer, buried at Serbin, have begun a campaign to refurbish and preserve her tombstone.

Last summer members of the Ernst and Anna Dube Family Reunion collected over 250 dollars to go toward the tombstone refurbishing project.

In addition to Ernst Dube, Mrs. Dube had seven other children who settled in the Wendish colony at Serbin. They are August, Rosina Christiana (married John Pillack), Anna Johanna (married Jacob Moerbe), Eleanora (married Michael Kurio), Karl, Ernestine (married John Wuensche), and Louise (married William Schulze).

The organizers of the Ernst and Anna Dube Family Reunion would like to make contact with other interested descendants of Rosina Dube to invite them to participate in the tombstone project.

According to Ron Lammert, a member of the Ernst and Anna Dube Family Reunion, the reunion members welcome the support of other descendants of Rosina Dube.

"We need help with raising funds to complete the tombstone preservation and we would like to hold an event to honor the matriarch of this unique Dube family," Lammert said. "Rosina Dube came to Texas as a new widow with a house full of children to raise and care for. She had to build a farm from scratch in the rough post oak country. But she succeeded through determination and hard work. These characteristics typical of the Wends who settled in Texas should be honored and remembered."

Rosina Dube and her family came to Texas in the main Wendish migration of 1854 aboard the Ben Nevis.

Tragedy struck double for the family on the journey to a new home. Mrs. Dube's husband, Michael, died of cholera and was buried in Liverpool. A daughter, Marie, also died after reaching Texas and was buried near Houston.

The Dube family purchased 166 acres near Serbin, where they pitched in and began a successful farming operation. All of the surviving children married while living in Serbin and all were engaged in farming. After the children had all gone from home, Mrs. Dube sold the farm. She died in Serbin on August 19, 1889 at the age of 82.

For more information on the Rosina Dube gravestone project, contact Ron Lammert in San Antonio at 210/695-5421 or Iris Bohr in Giddings at 409/542-0448.

## ETHNIC FAIR AT CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY-AUSTIN

The Wendish Community Council of the Concordia University Cabinet held an Ethnic Fair on January 25th at the Woltman Activities Center on campus. President David Zersen, faculty assistant to this Council, suggested that we not only celebrate our Wendish heritage but also include other ethnic heritages of the people in the Austin area.

January 25th was chosen for the event to coincide with the date of Ptači Kwas (Wendish) or Vogelhochzeit (German) or Bird's Wedding (English). The tradition was brought to Texas from the "Old Country". Children, celebrating the return of birds for the mating season, would place plates on windowsills or fence posts. They would wake the next morning to find them filled with sweets and nuts supposedly left by the birds.

The festival featured music, dance, art and food from a variety of heritages, including German, Czech, Polish, Mexican, Alsatian, African, Chinese, Scottish, Puerto Rican, Japanese and French. Most of these groups had booths set up around the gym. Darlene's Dollhouse from Giddings had a wonderful display of dolls.

David Goeke of San Antonio was the emcee for the entertainment. Rev. Elmer Hohle of Liberty Hill opened the program singing Wendish hymns. Dr. Charles Wukasch of Austin told Wendish stories and explained Ptači Kwas to the audience. The Lee County German Singers under the direction of Jack Wiederhold performed. The Austin Saengerrunde men and ladies choirs sang. The Alsation dance group from Castroville had beautiful costumes. Other groups performing were the Scottish Dancers, Austin Chinese School, the Greater Calvary Baptist Church youth Rites of Passage-drill commands, and the Trio Los Castro Mariachi.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society was well represented in our display and food booths. We sold homemade noodles, sausage and sauerkraut, homemade coffee cake and pickles. We also had books and many items from the Museum's gift shop for sale. Hattie Schautschick of Serbin demonstrated noodle making and Susan Unger of Houston demonstrated Easter egg decorating. Mrs. Ruby Sisco of Harker Heights displayed her mother's black wedding dress and her father's wedding suit.

Evelyn Buchhorn of Austin did an excellent job on publicity. Jim Swift with Austin's TV Channel 36 came to Serbin and filmed his January 22nd "On the Porch" human interest news segment about the Wends and the Ethnic Fair. Channel 36's "First Cast Saturday" interviewed Dr. David Zersen, David and Martha Goeke of San Antonio. The *Austin American-Statesman* newspaper had two very good articles with photos.

It is impossible to list everyone who helped make this first Ethnic Fair a success, but we do want to say, "THANK YOU" to all. A special thank you to those who had to drive a long distance.

Mark your calendars on January 24, 1998  
for the 2nd "ETHNIC FAIR" !!!

Pictured at right is President David Zersen and his wife, Julie Zersen, celebrating Ptači Kwas. The bird head costumes were made by Louise Hohle of Austin.





## **FINANCIAL REPORT by George Boerger**

### **1996 Actual**

Financially, the Texas Wendish Heritage Society had a strong year in 1996. The operating surplus was \$6,115, which was much better than expected. The major reasons for this surplus are:

1. The most successful Wendish Fest ever.
2. Interest income exceeded the budget.
3. A huge increase in tours which resulted in higher than expected revenue in tours, book, gift, and noodle sales.
4. Donations were significantly higher than normal.

Expenses were \$563 higher than budgeted as various repairs were undertaken, including electrical, tree trimming, and maintenance to the outside of the buildings.

At the February membership meeting, the 1996 operating surplus was reported as \$5,070. The actual number is \$6,115. The difference was caused by a couple of estimates that were inaccurate. The correct numbers were identified in March, and the 1996 financial statements were revised. To request a copy of the financial statements, please notify the museum.

The endowment increased \$2,025 in 1996. \$1,525 came from memberships in excess of \$12.50, and \$500 came from gifts to the endowment. The endowment balance is \$81,100. The income from the endowment is used to operate the museum and pays about 15% of our operating expenses. Gifts and memorials of \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$10,000+ to the endowment are permanently recorded on a large plaque at the entrance to the Peter Building, which is the main museum building.

### **1997 Budget**

The 1997 approved budget projects no surplus. Expenses will decrease \$563 or 1.8%. Revenue will decrease \$6,179 and cost of sales will increase \$500. Record high tour bookings in 1996 are turning into record low bookings in 1997. The amount of tours do vary from year to year and this year everything has work against us, but it is quite possible that tours could rebound in 1998. Also we received matching gifts of \$700 each from the AAL Serbin and Warda branches in 1996, which we will not get in 1997. Noodle expense will decrease because we bought two new dyes and a new scales in 1996. Book purchases will go up as we will have to reorder the cookbooks in 1997.

### **January Ethnic Fair at Concordia University**

The TWHS sold \$700 of food at the Ethnic Fair. We also sold \$1,100 worth of gift shop items, books, and noodles. 5% of the revenue went back to Concordia University.



TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY  
GENERAL MEETING  
February 16, 1997

61 members and visitors were in attendance at the General Meeting of The Texas Wendish Heritage Society held in the Kilian Building of the museum complex at Serbin, Texas, on Sunday, February 16th.

The meeting was called to order by President, Georgie Boyce, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Paul Hartfield based the opening devotion on Mark, Chapter 1, beginning at the 12th verse, and led the group in the Lord's Prayer in German.

The president welcomed visitors and new members to the meeting. The minutes of the January 18th meeting were approved as presented in the Newsletter.

Georgie informed the membership of the resignation of President, Ken Weiser, because of duties with the Lutheran Laymen's League and stated that Eleanor Schulze was appointed by the Board to fill the vacancy of vice-president after she (Mrs. Boyce) assumed the duties of president according to Article VI of the by-laws. She then stated that Hattie Schautschick had been appointed by the board to fill the vacancy of Eleanor Schulze, and as outlined in Article V of our by-laws, this appointment was ratified by a motion made by Richard Weaver, seconded by Pastor Ebert, and passed.

George Boerger presented highlights of the proposed budget for 1997. A motion was made by Vic Mathias, seconded by Richard Weaver, and passed, that this budget be adopted.

It was noted that the Nielsen and Wilson projects are still in need of funding. Laverne Gersch thanked the members for memorials, etc. at the death of her parents.

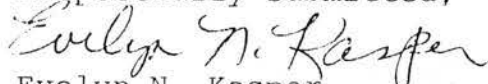
A request was made that a report on the Ethnic Fair be included in the next Newsletter.

Daphne Garrett, who retired as Archivist effective December 31, 1996, was presented with a certificate of appreciation for the many things she has done for the society and museum. She will continue to serve as Archivist Emeritus. Robert Garrett was also recognized for many years of service and many donations, many of which were matched by Exxon, he made to the society. A \$40.00 donation was placed into the Archivist Fund in Daphne's honor.

Luise Green of Friendswood and Warda, was then introduced by Georgie. Mrs. Green presented a very interesting program on genealogy. She is a volunteer in a Family History Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and has recently returned from her fourth trip to Salt Lake City, Utah.

Refreshments were enjoyed by the group.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Evelyn N. Kasper

TOUR REPORT  
by Evelyn N. Kasper, Co-Ordinator

A group of 26 Elder Hostel members from Winedale Historical Center enjoyed a luncheon and tour on January 20th.

On February 21st a group of 20 with The National Camping Methodist came for a tour of the Museum and Church.

March 8th a group of 24 from Sugarland Presbyterian church came for a luncheon and tour.

Forty people with the V. V. Ramsey Community Center came and had coffee cake and coffee and a tour on March 14th.

Nine "Prime Time Lutherans" staying at Camp Lone Star toured on April 15th. Most of these "PTL" folks were from Conroe.

Twenty four members of First United Methodist Church in Conroe came for a tour and luncheon on April 16th.

We would like to say THANK YOU to Mark McClain, Principal of St. Paul's School, for playing the organ for some of the tour groups and for the TV news segment of Jim Swift's, "On the Porch".

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TEXAS GERMAN SOCIETY 1997 STATE CONVENTION  
Brenham, Texas                      April 12, 1997

The Texas Wendish Heritage Society Book Table in the Firemen's Training Center Hall of the TGS State Convention was visited by many attending the convention. Approximately \$250.00 worth of books were sold and many brochures were distributed. Organizing and volunteering for the day were Georgie Boyce, and Barbara and Jerry Hielscher. The book table was a big success and an invitation was extended to participate again at the 1998 TGS convention in the Tomball area.

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LILLY MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
by Georgie B. Boyce

If you are interested in learning more about the Sorbian/Wendish language, we purchased *GRAMMAR OF THE UPPER SORBIAN LANGUAGE* (Phonology and Morphology) by H. Schuster-Sewc and translated to English (1996) by Gary H. Toops, professor at Wichita State University. Chapter 1 provides an introduction to basic linguistic concepts from the viewpoint of Upper Sorbian. Chapter 2 provides an exhaustive description together with pictorial illustrations of both general and Upper Sorbian literary and dialect phonology. Chapter 3 presents in both narrative and tabular form the complete morphology of the Upper Sorbian literary language together with notes and dialectal developments and current trends in colloquial usage.

We want to thank the Universitat des Saarlandes and Professor Roland Marti of Saarbrücken, Germany, for donating a three volume set of facsimile manuscripts of Mato Kosyk, the classical Lower Sorbian poet. These beautifully bound books have copies of Kosyk's original handwritten manuscripts.

Thank you to Deborah Lacy of Dripping Springs for donating "The Schneider Family" history.

Thank you to the "Old Walther Leaguers", who attended the Walter League Reunion in May of 1996, for donating *Hopes and Dreams of All - History of Walter League* by Jon Pahl.

Thank you to Ken Weiser for donating the 1997 "Lutheran Annual".

We have finally received the two volumes of *THE FAYETTE COUNTY, TEXAS HERITAGE*. There are numerous stories of family histories and other stories relating to the Wendish people of Fayette County.

This will be my last report as Librarian, since Eleanor Schulze has graciously accepted this position.



Certificate of Appreciation presented to Daphne Garrett and Robert G. Garrett by Georgie Boyce, President

Daphne Dalton Garrett, after 17 years of dedicated volunteer services to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum, retired as Archivist December 31, 1996. At the January meeting, Daphne was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for all the work she has done in preserving our Wendish Heritage. Another Certificate of Appreciation was presented to her husband, Robert "Bob" Garrett.

Bob and Daphne purchased the Biehle farm in the Warda area of Fayette County in 1975. She became interested in the Wendish people and their customs, and became involved in the Society and the Museum. Daphne has served in so many capacities it is impossible to list them all. We do want to say THANK YOU DAPHNE for everything you have done for us.

Through the years Daphne attended many seminars and workshops to become educated in museum and archival management and preservation. In 1985 she organized and set up the archives and our research library, prepared a complete manual of procedure for the same, and has been the archivist during this time. She also set up the accession system we presently use for donations to the museum. She served on the exhibit committee when the museum was set up in the St. Paul Building, and served on the Museum Board of Directors for several years.

Daphne was on the Peter Building committee, did the preliminary design and worked with the architect on this project. She also served on the Log Buildings committee and was instrumental in obtaining the log buildings. She kept detailed records and photographs of log buildings being moved to the Museum complex.

In 1987 Daphne published her first book, *The Art of Decorating Wendish Easter Eggs*. To quote Daphne from her book, "Intrigued by the beauty and uniqueness of the Wendish Easter eggs, and alarmed by the decline of this folk art in Texas, I set out to learn the Wendish technique and to record the procedure for present and future generations". She continues to do demonstrations, workshops, and supplies the Museum Gift Shop with decorated eggs to sell. Her second publication, *The Wendish-Texan Coloring Book*, is educational and relates to the Museum's exhibits. She has done extensive research and will publish a book (hopefully this year) on the history of the *Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt*.

Daphne is a member of the Society of Southwest Archivist and the Central Texas Museum Association. In the past, she served as secretary/treasure of the CTMA.

Robert Garrett was recognized for his many years of service to the Museum. With his generous donations, many of which were matched by his former employer, Exxon, we were able to purchase a Kroy wheel, computer equipment and vacuum cleaner. We also want to say thank you to Bob for sharing Daphne with us.

## APPEAL TO WENDISH MEMBERS

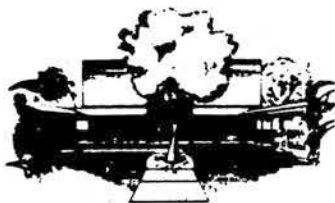
Dianne Hannusch Wassenich is interested in hearing about your family's Easter customs, like the wildflower nests her family arranged on the porch in geometric patterns, to receive eggs and candy for the children. Elinor Steglich has mentioned her family's custom of getting "Easter water" from the creek and sprinkling it around the house. Please take a moment to write Dianne a note about your family's customs and mail it to her at Rt. 1 Box 43, Maxwell, TX 78656, or call 512-357-6897, or fax 512-396-1533. It doesn't have to be a long letter or anything complicated. This Easter, take the time to photograph your children or grandchildren doing these things, and look to see if there are old photos in your family album of these Wendish customs. A file of these items will be kept at the museum, and if response is good, may lead to more research and/or the writing of a paper or booklet, to preserve this custom from the "Old Country".

### **Texas Wendish Heritage Museum**

ROUTE 2, BOX 155

GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

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Permit No. 14



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