



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 III

JUNE, 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

July is here and that means the TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL is a month away!!! Let us not forget, 26 years ago one of the reason five ladies started the Wendish Culture Club was to have a booth in San Antonio at the first Folklife Festival. Mrs. Lillie Caldwell and Mrs. Emma Wuensche set up the booth and stayed all three days. They displayed Wendish antique photo albums, books, clothing, old photographs, and served cookies and pickles. Needless to say, the Festival has grown in size and so have we.

"The TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL is the event that's as BIG AS TEXAS, where some 10,000 spirited participants share their heritage with over 70,000 visitors from across the state in a party that pays homage to our differences as well as our similarities." Visitors can listen to the beats of bamboo poles, castanets, bagpipes, zithers, bells, Indian drums, oompahs, dulcimers, saws and gounds and can eat foods from an ever-changing smorgasbord of international delicacies.

Ron Knippa has once again taken on the challenge of being chairman of our Wendish Booth and he **NEEDS OUR HELP!!!** We need workers in the booth. We now cook and serve noodles, bar-b-qued drumsticks, koch kase sandwiches along with pickles, beer, lemonade and other beverages. We especially need people to demonstrate making homemade noodles and decorating Wendish Easter eggs.

This is short notice, but in the craft booth we desperately need homemade BONNETS and APRONS (our big sellers) and other craft items to sell. Any of these items can be sent directly to: Ron Knippa, 2662 Pebbie Bow, San Antonio, TX 78732, or bring them to the Museum in Serbin.

If you can be in San Antonio and help any of the days of the Festival, please write or call Ron at (210) 496-3105 or at 1-800-756-3344 (you will receive voice mail, enter 8306 and leave a message, Ron will return your call). Ron's parents, Bill and Adele Knippa, have graciously consented to keep a few workers at their home and Ron will drive the workers downtown.

1997 TEXAS FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL HOURS

THURSDAY,	JULY 31	5:00 - 11:00 P.M.
FRIDAY,	AUGUST 1	5:00 - 11:00 P.M.
SATURDAY,	AUGUST 2	NOON - 11:00 P.M.
SUNDAY,	AUGUST 3	NOON - 11:00 P.M.

Please, please consider helping and if you have never been to the Festival, you are in for a wonderful time of entertainment and ethnic food. If you need anymore information, do not hesitate to call Ron Knippa or the Museum (409) 366-2441). We can send a brochure.

Georgie Bernstein Boyce, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 31-Aug 3 Folk Life Festival in San Antonio, Texas

August 11 Deadline for articles for August newsletter

August 17 General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.

September 5-7 German Texan Heritage Society 1997 Annual meeting at Inn of the Hills in Kerrville, TX

September 28 Ninth Annual Wendish Fest at the Museum Complex and the St. Paul, Serbin picnic grounds

October 14 Deadline for articles for October newsletter

October 21 Walk-In coffee/bake sale, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Eleanor's cottage, 173 E. Hempstead in Giddings, TX

November 16 General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. with election of officers

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Thank you to Rev. Paul Hartfield for having the opening devotion before the general membership meeting in May. Everyone enjoyed a special program presented by the St. Paul Lutheran Church Glockenchoir (Bell Choir) under the direction of Jack Wiederhold.

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### AUGUST PROGRAM

We will be showing the video documentary, "*SERBJA W TEXASU*", (approximately 20 minutes in length), filmed by the Sorabia Film Company. Dr. Toni Bruk and his film crew were at our 1992 Wendish Fest, and interviewed many of our local people of Wendish heritage for this documentary. The video is in the Wendish and German languages, and is in the European VHS format. We will utilize our new PAL VCR (Digital Converter) which was purchased with moneys donated by Mr. Ewald Hempel of Warda, Texas, in remembrance of his wife, Johanna Bohot Hempel.

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GIFT SHOP REPORT

A new shipment of the first cookbook, "Our Favorite" Cookbook has arrived. The cost is \$10.00. We also have a new supply of the revised edition, Heirloom & Original Cookbook. The cost has increased to \$9.50, due to increased printing costs. There is no tax on either cookbook as the TWHS is the publisher.

BAKE SALE

The bake sale in front of La Grange State Bank on Friday, June 13, was a big success. 78 bags of noodles were sold in addition to donated, baked items. Lorine Domel picked up the baked items in Giddings and brought them out to the Museum and helped price them and get them ready for the sale. Thank you to all who donated!

VISITORS

During the months of April, May and June we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Ohio, New Mexico, Missouri, Kansas, California, Illinois, Wisconsin, Virginia, Germany, and Louisiana.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of April, May, and June: John and Anna Schmidt, Ken Weiser, Barbara Hielscher, Henry and Emily Zoch, Eleanor Schulze, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Mildred Kilian, Hattie Schautschick, Vivian Taylor, Evelyn Kasper, Pastor Robert and Georgie Boyce, Reinhold and Irene Teinert, Ruby Koslan, Irene Boriack, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Viola Spacek, and Hermine Moerbe.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Hattie W. Koenning	Pastor Robert & Georgie Boyce	\$25.00
	Nielsen Letter Project	
Margaret W. Hart	Ruth Lindner	
Margaret W. Hart	M/M Vic Mathias	
Dorothy Droemer	Bessie Mertink	

A \$25.00 matching gift was received from the Arco Company.

A \$10.00 donation for the bake sale on June 13th was received from Ruth Lindner.

A \$50.00 donation was received from Laverne Gersch for the June 13th bake sale.

The April newsletter thanked Mr. and Mrs. John Schmidt for a \$20.00 donation, which was incorrect. The amount was \$120.00 which is the portion the TWHS received from the Schmidts for Watkins sales for 1996. Our apologies.

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
May 18, 1997

Thirty-three members and five visitors were present at the general meeting of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society held in the Kilian Building of the museum complex on Sunday, May 18th. The meeting was called to order by President, Georgie Boyce, at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Hartfield based the opening devotion on the Ascension of Christ. The Holy Spirit led the Wends when they began the ministry in Serbin in 1854.

The minutes were approved as mailed with the correction of two spelling errors.

Eunice Dunk gave a report on the Hotel-Motel Tax. The Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum received \$8000 (\$6000 for general advertising, an information kiosk and billboard, \$1500 for preservation materials and \$500 additional advertising of the Wendish Egg decorating folk art. Appreciation was expressed to Eunice for her efforts on our behalf. She and Jack Wiederhold worked with the board this year.

Evelyn Kasper asked for contributions of baked items and/or cash for the bake sale to be held in La Grange on June 13th.

Elinor Steglich reminded all to give us noodle orders for upcoming events. Noodles are being made almost every week.

Barbara Hielscher stated that the new Wendish Fest brochures for the 1997 festival will be out this week. She also reminded members to sign up as docents for the Serbin picnic.

James Kalbas was thanked for the nice clean courtyard. Four of his employees worked two days to accomplish this.

E. C. Knippa reminded all of the Folklife Festival in San Antonio from July 31st through August 3rd.

The group sang Happy Birthday to Bessie Mertink who celebrated her 85th birthday. Bessie has put in many hours at the museum and is still very active.

Georgie Boyce mentioned the display in the Bautzen Museum focusing on the Wends in the new lands. This will be up until August 31st. Several items were sent to Germany for this display. Perhaps the group going to Klitten in July will have an opportunity to see this display.

The meeting adjourned and we were treated to a concert by St. Paul's Glockenchor under the direction of Jack Wiederhold. These bell choirs were formed to provide special music for the church festival in Klitten in July.

These choirs have been meeting every Sunday afternoon since last September. Their diligence has certainly paid off and they will represent Serbin very well in the old country.

Group I played Praise to the Lord, Holy, Holy, Holy
O That I had a Thousand Voices (which was written in Klitt
Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Members of Group I

James Tate
Linda Tate
Josie Kasper
Wilbert Noack
Carol Jean Noack
George Perry
Allen Perry
Mildred Perry
Raymond Ardlit
John Tate
Douglas Malke

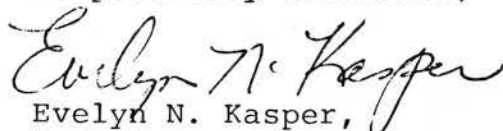
Group II played Holy God, We Praise Thy Name
Amazing Grace
Beautiful Saviour
Now Thank We All Our God

Members of Group II

Cale Boriack
Mark Ardlit
Teresa Ray
Marvin Lorenz
Ordway Boriack
Delvin Boriack
Judy Boriack
Lisa Teinert
Marjorie Albrecht
Kalen Teinert
Marian Wiederhold
Janiece Becker

Refreshments were furnished by Hattie Schautschick, Barbara Hielscher, Georgie Boyce, Elsie Mertink, Vic and Helen Mathias, Elinor Steglich and Evelyn Kasper.

Respectfully submitted,


Evelyn N. Kasper,
Secretary

Dr. Lotar Balke of Drebkau, Lusatia, Germany sent us a copy of an article and photo that appeared in the Sorbisch Newspaper, *NOWY CASNIK*, #38, vol.21.09.1996. He had translated the Sorbisch byline to German and Jack Wiederhold translated the German to English as follows: "The Klitten community which is in the Weisswasser-Niesky district of the Domowina celebrated its 600 year history during the end of August and the beginning of September (1996). As usual during such an anniversary, the Sorbisch and German inhabitants organized a long historical parade. Over 300 children, youth and adults cooperated in this effort. Among other things the participants portrayed an occurrence from the year 1854, when a rather large number of inhabitants immigrated to Texas. In 1995 a group from Klitten visited America."



Gmejna Klětno/Klitten (w Domowinskej župje Běła Woda/Niska) jo na końcu awgusta a zachopjeńku septembra woswěšila swojo 600lětno wobstaše. Ako jo to pši takich jubilejach, su nimske a serbske wobydlarje teke wugotowali dłuiki historiski swěžeński pšešg. Wušej 300 žiši, młodostnych a dorosćonych jo w njom sobu gotowało. Mjazy drugim su pśedstajili tšojenje z lěta 1854, gdyž jo bejna licba tencasných wobydlarjow wudrogowała do Texasa. Łoni jo kupka z Klětna woglědała do Ameriki. Foto: E. Bigonowa

The following photographs of the same event are courtesy of Gertrud Mahling of Bautzen, Germany, who located the photographer and obtained the negatives for us. These photos more clearly depict the replica of the Ben Nevis, very similar to the one used by TWHS in parades.





Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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

(409) 366-2441

Dear Members and Friends,

It is time for the 9th Annual Wendish Fest! The date is September 28th. A brochure is enclosed with events and contests listed.

Guest speaker at the church services will be Rev. Harold Schroeter of San Antonio. Services will be at 8:30 in English, and at 10:30 in German. Bible Class and Sunday School will be at 9:30.

This will be a musical festival with Kovanda's Czech Band, the Oakwilt Boys of Austin with unique Texas gospel music, and Leon Teinert, Pastor Boyce and Friends with country and gospel music.

A special fiddle exhibit displaying some of Leon Teinert's collection and also an antique fiddle owned the Reinhold Teinert family in Austin will be on display.

Meal tickets will go on sale at 10:45 and we hope to begin serving by 11:00. A separate "take out" line should help the flow of people this year. The noon meal will consist of sausage and the timmmings and the snack line will open at 2:30.

This should be a day filled with fun and entertainment and we hope that you can join us. Donations of desserts would be appreciated, and should you bring a coffee cake, be sure to enter the "bake-off". Rules for the "bake-off" are: No entry fee. A 5 inch square is used for judging and the remainder is sold in the bake sale. Entries have to be in the sweets stand on the picnic grounds by 10:30. There are 3 divisions. Kaese Kuchen and Streusel Kuchen need to be at least 10 X 13 (cookie sheet size). The "special" division has to be a full recipe and yeast raised. It can be baked in angel food or bundt cake pans and can include cinnamon rolls, or fruit or nut toppings.

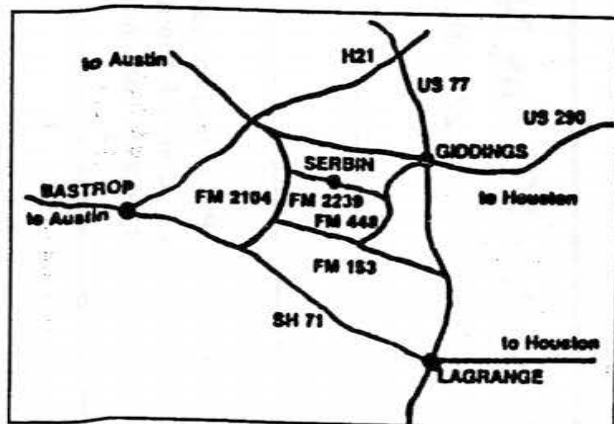
For further information please call Barbara Hielscher at the Museum, at 409/366-2441.

Sincerely,

Evelyn N. Kasper
Evelyn N. Kasper
Coordinator

Fifth Annual
State of Texas
**Needle
Cook-Off**

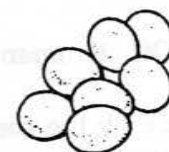
In conjunction with
Wendish Fest
Serbin, Texas
September 28, 1997



For Additional Information Contact:
LEE COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE
PO BOX 150
GIDDINGS TX 78942-0150
409-542-2753

Fifth Annual
State of Texas

**Needle
Cook-Off**



Sunday
September 28, 1997

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Picnic Grounds
Serbin, Texas

Sponsored by the
First National Bank
Giddings, Texas

CONTEST ACTIVITIES

September 28, 1997

St. Paul Lutheran Church Picnic Grounds
Serbin, Texas

- 1:00 p.m. Registration
1:30 p.m. Judging
Noodle tasting following judging
2:00 p.m. Noodle Making Demonstration
2:30 p.m. Awards Announced

CONTEST GUIDELINES

1. The Noodle Cook-Off is open to all interested persons.
2. Noodles must be made by the contestant, and cooked by the contestant.
3. Noodle entries must be made by one person - no team entries.
4. An entry must consist of the following:
 - 1 quart plastic bag of dry noodles (for display only)
 - A minimum of 4 cups cooked noodles in broth
5. The noodles should be cooked prior to arrival and should be kept HOT in a slow-cooker, etc., for the judging and the tasting.
6. One electrical outlet will be provided for each entry.
7. Contestants must provide their own card table and at least a 25-foot extension cord.
8. Participants may enter the Noodle Cook-off with either a table display or noodle pot only. All entries will be judged on TASTE, not display. No previous awards may be displayed in either category:

A. Table Display - participants may have a table display by bringing a card table and presenting a decorative display for the noodles. The display is only to draw interest to the Noodle Cook-off, and will not be judged.

B. Noodle Pot Only - participants may choose to bring a pot of noodles and an extension cord for a group display. A long table will be provided for these entries.

9. To speed up check-in, pre-registration is encouraged by September 19, 1997.
10. There will be no contest entry fee and no entry fee to the Wendish Fest grounds.
11. Registration will be held at 1:00 p.m.
12. Judging will begin at 1:30 p.m.
13. Awards will be presented at 2:45 p.m. or following the judging. Pictures and presentation of trophies will be made at this time.
14. The tasting party will begin following the judging. Participants will serve their noodles to the public. Tasting supplies will be provided by the planning committee.
15. The following trophies will be presented:
First place — Trophy and \$200 cash
Second place — Trophy and \$100 cash
Third place — Trophy and \$50 cash
All contestants — participant ribbons

NOODLE COOK-OFF COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman
Cheryl E. Walker
Lee Co. Ext. Agent
(409) 542-2753

Co-Chairman
Bob J. Mutschink
First National Bank
Giddings, Texas

Mary Ann Schubert
Jack and Linda Jones

State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off - Entry Form

Sponsored by the *First National Bank* - Giddings, Texas

Name: _____ Telephone: (____) _____
County: _____ State: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Please read the guidelines carefully and mail this entry form to:
Lee County Extension Office, P.O. Box 150, Giddings TX 78942
Pre-Registration entry form due at the above address by September 19, 1997

SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE

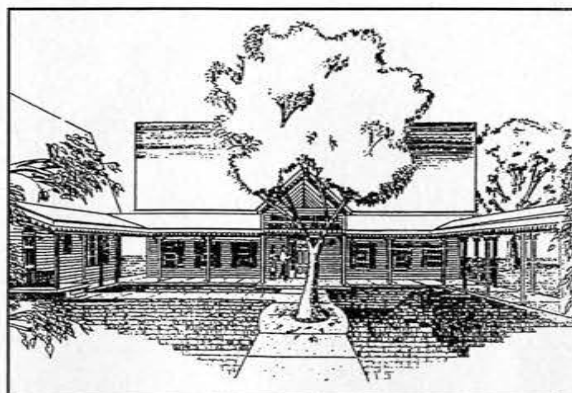
By
THE OAKWILT BOYS



(From left, front) Marty Doering, Larry Meissner, Jeff Daley; (back) David Kroft, Mike Linebrink, Fred Frieling, Mike Middendorf, Bob Achterberg.

The OAKWILT phenomenon has spread as quickly as the group's namesake disease has infiltrated the nation. From Borger, Texas in the far northwest Panhandle to Galveston in the southeast, from Athens, Texas, the group has travelled far and wide, giving numerous performances. With virtually no public relations effort or retail outlets, the group has recorded four tapes since 1993. These tapes will be available at the Wendish Fest. The OAKWILT BOYS serve their Lord both as workers at Concordia University in Austin preparing others for the Lord's harvest fields, and share the Gospel message in their original and traditional style of music.

For more information on Hotel/Motel accommodations in the Lee County area, contact the Giddings Area Chamber of Commerce, 171 East Hempstead, Giddings, Texas 78942. Phone 409/542-3455



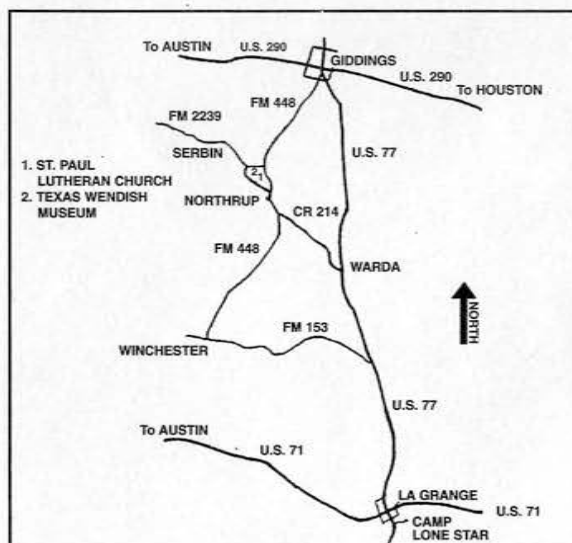
HOURS

Museum and Library
open Sunday thru Friday 1-5 p.m.
and Saturdays between Easter and
Labor Day 1-5 p.m. Closed holidays.

Archives by appointment only.

Group tours may be scheduled
with or without a Wendish meal.

For More Information, call:
409-366-2441



Witajcie K'nam
Welcome



NINTH ANNUAL
WENDISH FEST

September 28, 1997

WENDISH FEST

September 28, 1997

St. Paul Church

- 8:30 a.m. English Service
Rev. Harold Schroeter of San Antonio
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Class and Sunday School
Rev. Harold Schroeter
- 10:30 a.m. German Service
Rev. Harold Schroeter

St. Paul Picnic Grounds

- 10:30 a.m. Deadline for Coffee Cake
Bake-off entries

- 12:30 p.m. Winners announced

- 10:45 a.m. Noon meal ticket sales
Adults \$6.00
Children \$3.00
Tea and Coffee included
All Take-out Plates \$6.00
Desserts 50 cents

Noon meal served until 1:30 p.m.
Menu: Sausage, Green Beans, Noodles, Beets,
Peaches, Bread, Butter, Coffee or Tea

- Short-Order Booths open at 2:30 p.m.
Chicken drumsticks
Sausage-Sauerkraut Boats Noodles
Sausage wraps Desserts

Band Stand

- 11:30 - 2:30 KOVANDA'S CZECH BAND

- 3:00 - 4:00 OAKWILT BOYS - Austin, Texas
Unique Texas Gospel Music

- 4:30 - Close LEON TEINERT, PASTOR
BOYCE, & FRIENDS
Country/Gospel Music

DEMONSTRATIONS



State of Texas Noodle Cook-off Competition
(Sponsored by the First National Bank of
Giddings, Texas)

Registration 1:00 p.m. Picnic Grounds
Judging 1:30 p.m.
Winners Announced 2:30 p.m.

Noodle Making Picnic Grounds
2:00 p.m.

Sausage Stuffing Picnic Grounds
2:30 p.m. /Pavilion

Old Fashioned Butter Churning Kilian Building
2:30 p.m.

Easter Egg Decorating Kilian Building
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Handmade Quilt Display St. Paul Building
Quilting
Wine Making Information

Blacksmithing Picnic Grounds
Stone Ground Corn Meal

TWHS Craft Booth Picnic Grounds



The Museum Complex will be open from 10:00
a.m. until 5:00 p.m. with Genealogy help avail-
able in the Library located in the Peter Building.

ACTIVITIES



Washer Pitching (sign-up 1:30 sharp)
2:00 p.m. Picnic Grounds

Cross Cut Saw Contest Picnic Grounds
4:00 p.m.

Children's Activities

Coloring Contest Picnic Grounds
2:30 p.m.

"Klettern Pfosten"

Cedar Plaque Making Using Cross Cut Saw

Corn Shucking - Shelling - Feed The Geese

Wendish Couple picture taking
Props available all day



OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Picnic Grounds

Watkins Booth

Concordia University Booth

Lutheran Layman's League (LLL) Booth

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) Booth

Lutheran Brotherhood Booth



Antique Fiddle Exhibit

Peter Building