



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 V

OCTOBER, 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Ninth Annual Wendish Fest was a smashing success!!! I want to say a personal THANK YOU to all the volunteers, and a special THANKS to the non members for their help. Without all of your time and talents, we could not have such a wonderful celebration.

The crowd of over 2,000 people came by airplanes, cars, trucks and bus. We had foreign visitors from Slovakia, Hungary, Germany and Mexico. Out-of-state visitors registering at the museum were from Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma. Folks came from all over the state of Texas, as far away as El Paso, the Valley, and the Panhandle.

According to Aid Association for Lutherans District Representative, David Luckemeyer, AAL Branch #2382 in New Braunfels received a grant from the AAL program "Set your Sights" for rental of a bus to bring 46 members from Cross Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Braunfels to the Fest.

Everyone enjoyed an afternoon of music, contests, visiting, fun and food. Kovanda's Czech Band with Leland Miller provided an excellent variety of music as they have the past several years. Our special entertainment, the Oakwilt Boys from Concordia University in Austin, was a huge hit. Their rendition of the Wendish folk song, *Zady nasej piecy*, was definitely a "crowd pleaser", as was their encore, *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, sung to the melody of *The Rose*. Leon Teinert, Pastor Boyce and friends (who turned out to be: Lee Teinert, Bryan Gersch, and Doug Malke) brought a "down-home" flavor to close out the day's activities.

We also want to take this opportunity to thank the matching funds organizations: Lutheran Brotherhood Monument Hill Branch #8219, Aid Association for Lutherans Branch #2216 of Lexington, and Aid Association for Lutherans Branch #2051 of Fedor. We appreciate all the support our local branches give us year after year.

Radio station KVLG of La Grange gave us excellent coverage this year, from their help and cooperation in preparing the pre-fest "spots", to their "live coverage" on Sunday, when Pam Hoffman and Randy Boyd came to do interviews and "on the spot reports". Friday before the Fest, Pam Hoffman used the entire broadcast of "*Lee County Live*" to interview yours truly concerning the Fest, and especially the State of Texas Noodle Cook-off Contest.

Again this year *The Giddings Times and News* provided sponsors for a full page ad, and photographer, Sloan Preuss, covered the days' activities. Our thanks to all these people.

It is impossible to thank each of you individually, and we always leave someone off the list, so "here's Roses to all". To those of you who could not come this year, be sure to mark your calendars on September 27, 1998, for our TENTH ANNUAL WENDISH FEST!!!

Georgie B. Boyce, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- November 16** General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m. with election of officers
- November 27** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving Day.
- December 24-25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- January 1, 1998** Museum will be **CLOSED** for New Years Day
- January 24** Ethnic Fair at Concordia University, Austin, TX
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NOVEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

will be the election of our 1998-1999 Officers. The nominating committee has prepared a slate of nominees for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to be presented at the meeting. Nominations from the floor will be welcomed. If you would like to nominate someone, be sure to have them sign an "acceptance form" before the meeting. Call Barbara at the museum if you need such a form. After the meeting, we will have our annual singing of Christmas carols. Please bring a batch of your favorite Holiday cookies for refreshments.

Notice to Board of Directors: There will be a short Board meeting immediately following the General meeting to appoint two Board members for the 1998-1999 term.

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## AUSTIN ETHNIC FAIR

The second annual Austin Ethnic Fair, sponsored by the Wendish Council of Concordia University at Austin, is "in the works!"

The event will be held on the Concordia University campus in the Woltman Activities Center on January 24, 1998, from 10:00 AM till 3:00 PM.

If you have any questions, please contact the 1998 chairpersons, Della Mullens at 512/261-8597 or Charles & Jan Slack at 512/232-3113 (days) or 512/892-0514 (evenings).

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VISITORS

During the months of September and October we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Arizona, California, Nebraska, Michigan, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Mexico, and Missouri.

WENDISH FEST REPORT

Dear Friends,

The 1997 Wendish Fest is behind us and all of you, volunteers and supporters, can feel good about your joint efforts which made it a success. We were blessed with cooler weather and the rains about a week before brought out the flowers and grass.

The day began with special church services at St. Paul Lutheran Church with the Rev. Harold Schroeter, retired minister from San Antonio, officiating. There were approximately 400 in attendance at the English service and 270 at the German service.

Some of you worked your assigned shifts of about two hours, some worked several shifts or all day, and many worked several days! We see the manicured grounds on the day of the Festival and sometimes we overlook the fact that someone worked hard to have it looking like that. The buildings had to be washed down, courtyard cleaned, tables and benches hauled in, tables and benches set up and everything washed down, chests of ice brought in (we used 22 this year), geese and corn brought to the grounds, and the list goes on and on. A big "Thank you" to all who helped in any way. It takes days of planning, getting the publicity out, etc. Pastor Boyce was again our key "radio" man. I can't list everyone but I have to pat Leroy Steglich on the back as Food Chairman. This is a tremendous job.

Grinding cornmeal, rolling out noodles, stuffing sausage, shelling corn, churning butter, blacksmithing, and a visit through the museum brought back memories to the older folks and enjoyment for the young.

Crocheting, quilting, and a quilt exhibit were enjoyed in the St. Paul Building and Easter egg demonstrations were on-going in the Kilian Building.

There were plenty of noodles available this year, and the Wendish Fest T-Shirts were a new addition to the craft booth.

We served approximately 1,200 meals at noon and our crowd was larger than ever! We are looking for an even larger crowd next year and hope that you can join our team again.

On behalf of our entire committee, I again say "Thank you very much". I think our great-grandparents would be very proud to see us working together to preserve our heritage and culture."

Evelyn N. Kasper
Co-Ordinator

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of September and October: Ken Weiser, Laverne Gersch, George Boerger, Georgie Boyce, Herbert and Laverne Falke, Eleanor Schulze, Mildred Kilian, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, and Bessie Mertink.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Lynette Wojtaszyk	Emily Luker & Family	\$25.00

A \$700.00 matching gift was received for the Wendish Fest from the Fedor AAL Branch #2051

A \$700.00 matching gift was received for the Wendish Fest from the Lexington AAL Branch #2216

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Miller of Fayetteville donated \$200.00 to the Wendish Fest

Mr. R. J. Nitsche of Giddings donated \$500.00 to the Wendish Fest

A \$25.00 donation was received from Dr. John Amour for stone ground cornmeal sales at the Wendish Fest.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schmidt donated \$40.34 from the Watkins products sales at the Wendish Fest. Anyone purchasing Watkins products through the Texas Wendish Heritage Society will receive a 20% discount, which in turn is donated to the Society. There are books and order forms in the gift shop.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Wilfred Bamsch, Plano, TX	Carol Carpenter, Ledbetter, TX
Ellen H. Decker, Buda, TX	Miss Michal Dube, McDade, TX
Melvin A. Hohle, Houston, TX	Lillian M. Hohle, Houston, TX
Brian Lindner, Houston, TX	Jean V. Lester, La Grange, TX
Reuben L. Noack, Spurger, TX	Mary Ann Quebe, Brenham, TX
Ben Raschke, Austin, TX	Dian G. Teinert, Houston, TX
Natalie Waggoner, Houston, TX	Clinton Waggoner, Austin, TX
Pam Vaughan, Spring, TX	Bill Withrow, Houston, TX

Student Members

Miss Michal Dube, McDade, TX	Brian Lindner, Houston, TX
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Patron Members

Carol Carpenter, Ledbetter, TX	Ellen H. Decker, Buda, TX
Dian G. Teinert, Houston, TX	

As a part of your year-end financial planning, please consider the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum for a portion of your charitable gifts. We have many projects and opportunities that need funding.

LILLIE MOERBE CALDWELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY

by Georgie B. Boyce

Eleanor Schulze has graciously volunteered to be our Librarian, but there are a number of "loose-ends" I need to "tie up". To some of the following people, I must apologize for being so late acknowledging their donations. Thank you to all for your donations to our research library.

KLAU- PETER JANNASCH of Klitten, Germany - a book titled, *Boze Slowo I*, written in Wendish and German. The Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and the hymn, "How Great Thou Art" are in this book. The gift shop also has a few of these books for sale.

RANDY MOERBE of Bryan, Texas - donated his works, "Our Moerbe Ancestors" (Ferdinand Jakob Morbe & Anna Holfeld) and Johnna Dube Family History.

ART and EDNA HACKLER of Kingston, Oklahoma - "Parr Family Cemetery - Winchester, Texas", which has the names and location of the people buried in that cemetery.

DAVID SCHULZ of Serbin, Texas & SCHULZ FAMILY REUNION - "August Schulz & Maria Biar Schulz Family Tree".

EBERHARD PROSKE of Austin, Texas - "Family History of Friedrich E. Noack".

OLD WALTHER LEAGUERS REUNION of May, 1996 - book, *Hopes and Dreams of All*, history of the Walter League organization.

ROLAND MARTI of the Universitat des Saarlandes, Germany - a three volume set of some of the original writings of Mato Kosyk, a Wendish author and poet.

MARY GUGGISBERG of Vernon, Texas - donated the "Schoppa Family Cookbook" in memory of her grandparents, Christian Schulz & Magdalena Schoppa Schulz. We want thank the SCHOPPA FAMILY REUNION - 1997 members for donating 34 of these cookbooks for us to sell in our gift shop.

REV. R. H. WUENSCHKE of Austin, Texas - copies of records of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bishop, Texas and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Thorndale, Texas.

RINIE H. ZIMMERMANN of Fredericksburg, Texas - donated "Three Zimmermann Brothers - Oskar, Bernhard and Franz - Ancestors and Descendants".

KEN WEISER of Northrup, Texas - 1997 Lutheran Annual.

ED SCHRAMM of Seguin, Texas - donated information on the Seydler family.

DR. HELENA FROST - of Indian Wells, California - donated the book, *The Slavs Their Early History and Civilization*, by Francis Dvornik published in 1956. We are so thankful to Dr. Frost, because this is the first book we have in the library that is written in English about the early history of the Wends.

The two volumes of *Fayette County, Texas Heritage*, and the *Handbook and Registry of German-Texas Heritage* are purchases made for 1997. I finally found a paperback copy of Louie L'Amour's, *Mustang Man*, in which he refers to Serbin and the Wends.

REMINDER

Do not forget to support the "**NIELSEN LETTER PROJECT**", and Dr. Joe Wilson's, "**THE WENDISH RESEARCH PROJECT**". Send your contributions to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society for these projects.

CONTESTS WINNERS:

The State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off sponsored by the First National Bank of Giddings supplied trophies and cash which were presented by State Representative Dan Kubiack. Winners were: 1st place, Connie Boriack, 2nd place, Cathy Schulze, and 3rd place, Dorothy Exner.

COFFEE CAKE BAKE-OFF:

Streusel

- 1st - Lucille Schatte
- 2nd - Annie Bartholic
- 3rd - Elsie Mertink

Kaese

- 1st - Martha Lorenz
- 2nd - Annie Bartholic
- 3rd - Irene Wiesenhutter

Special Division

- 1st - Annie Bartholic
- 2nd - Lil Robertson
- 3rd - Evelyn Buchhorn



Coffee Cake Bake Off winners pictured left to right are: Lucille Schatte, Elsie Mertink, Irene Wiesenhutter, Martha Lorenz, Evelyn Buchhorn, and Annie Bartholic.

COLORING CONTEST:

Ages 0 - 5

- 1st - Megan Maas
- 2nd - Megan Muras
- 3rd - Jacob Zender

Ages 6 - 9

- 1st - Elizabeth Defee
- 2nd - Meghan Schatte
- 3rd - Kacie Krause



Preparing for the coloring contest are left to right: James and Linda Tate and Rachael Mertink.

WASHER PITCHING:

- 1st - Keith Oltmann & Glen Albrecht
2nd - Nicholas Hinze & Bradley Schmidt
3rd - Wes Kreuger & John Estes

CROSS CUT SAW:

Men's Division

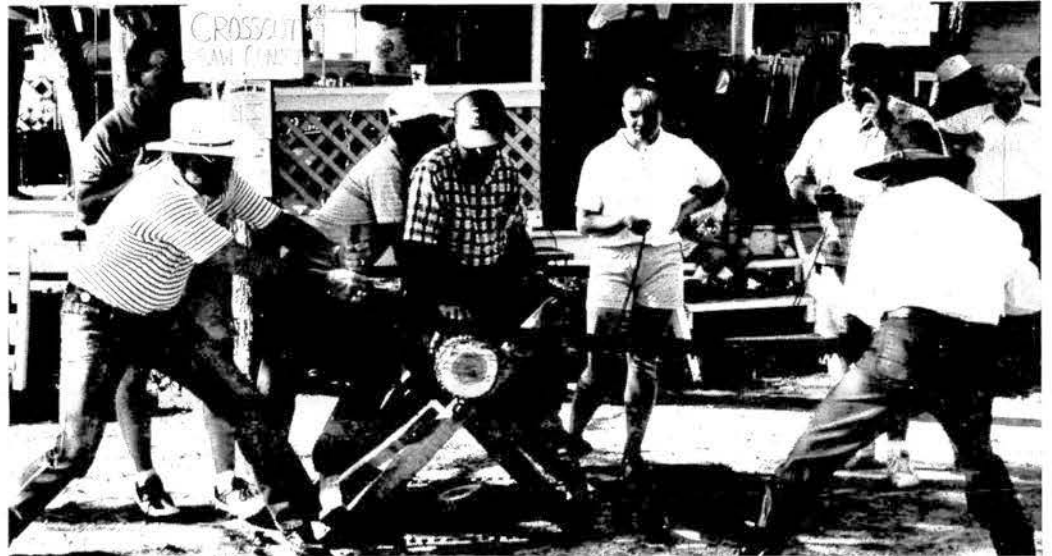
- 1st - Wayne Schautschick
Harvey Hobratschk
2nd - Ralph Bansch
Allen Jurk
3rd - Bryan Gersch
Eldor Becker

Women's Division

- 1st - Carolyn Bamsch
Carolyn Jurk
2nd - Sheri Oltmann
Judy Zoch
3rd - Julie Deering
Taylor Deering

Mixed Division

- 1st - Allen Jurk
Carolyn Jurk
2nd - Eldor Becker
Ruby Weiser
3rd - Ralph Bansch
Carolyn Bamsch



Participating in the cross cut saw contest are left to right: Allen Jurk and Ralph Bansch.

CLEAN-UP DAY

was a success, and with the Good Lord delaying the rains, our Wendish Fest visitors were greeted by a beautiful array of lilies known by different names, such as, "ox blood lilies" or "school house lilies". Our thanks to Eleanor Schulze who had spent many hours by herself during the month of August weeding the yard. Also, thanks to James Kalbas' crew for working before the rains came. Thanks to the following for their hard work on our clean-up day: Otto Becker and the four men doing community service hours (Otto and two of the men had the huge job of cleaning the mildew off the outside wood using sprayers), Leroy and Elinor Steglich, Eleanor Schulze, Royce Krakosky, Charles Dillman, Telford Zoch, Jack and Marian Wiederhold, Milton Kasper, Barbara Hielscher and Georgie Boyce. Color Star Growers of Giddings donated several flats of flowers that were set out the week of the Fest by Laverne Gersch and Evelyn Kasper. We want to say, "thank you" to Telford Zoch for the many hours of mowing the grounds year after year!!!

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
AUGUST 17, 1997

President Georgie Boyce called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Kilian Building of the Museum Complex at Serbin, Texas.

Pastor Hartfield based his devotion on Ephesians, Chapter 5, and talked about the hardships endured by the people who stayed in Germany when the Wendish immigrants came to Texas. The St. John congregation in Klitten alone lost 200 members. Many of the villages did not have enough Lutheran members left to their churches going and joined the Reformed or "Evangelisch" Churches..

Pastor Hartfield preached at St. John, Klitten, the two Sundays that the group from Texas visited in that area, including the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the church there. Not only was Pastor Kilian the first pastor of St. Paul in Serbin, he was also the first pastor of St. John in Klitten. The work of the Holy Spirit has kept Christianity alive over all of these years.

A special welcome was extended to Dr. Helena Frost and Dr. John Frost who are associated with U.C.L.A. in California. Other visitors and new members welcomed were Royce and Gladys Krakosky, Josie Kasper, Renate Teinert, Lorine Bamsch, Walter Schulze, Pastor and Kathy Michalk.

The minutes of the May 18th meeting were approved as sent out in the June Newsletter.

Bake Sale Report: Evelyn Kasper reported approximately \$500 was realized from the June Bake Sale.

Folklife Festival: Ron Knippa was unable to attend the meeting but reported to Georgie that the profit from the Festival would be like last year - approximately \$1000.

Walter and Laverne Gersch and Freddie Zoch were given a round of applause for helping at the Festival on Sunday and bringing the equipment back.

Noodle Report: Elinor Steglich reported that the committee has made 2000 lbs. of noodles this year. Noodles are being made approximately once a week now.

Wendish Fest: Assignments have been mailed. Ladies were encouraged to participate in the 5th annual noodle cook-off and in the coffee cake bake-off. A workday has been set for September 13th at 8:30 to spruce up the buildings and yard.

Walk-In Coffee: Hattie Schautschick and Eunice Dunk have flyers available for the walk-in coffee which will be on October 21st in Giddings.

Election of officers will take place at the November meeting. Suggestions for nominees are welcomed. The program for the meeting will singing Christmas caroles. Members are asked to bring Christmas cookies for refreshments.

Thanks to Pastor Boyce for setting up our new PAL Foreign VCR for the program. The video "Serbia W Texasu" by Toni Bruks in which he interviewed some of our local people at the 1992 Wendish Fest was enjoyed.

The meeting closed with Lorine Bamsch, Walter Schulze and Elinor Steglich singing a couple of Wendish folk songs.

Respectfully submitted,


Evelyn N. Kasper

Concordia University
Presents

Austin Ethnic Fair

*Come celebrate the many
ethnic backgrounds of the
Austin Community*

*Saturday, January 24
from 10:00 am to 3:00pm*

*Woltman Activities Center
Concordia University
3400 IH 35 North*

*Cultural displays, foods, music
and more!*

Y'all Come!

For information contact the Director of Events at (512) 452-7661

Texas Mendish Heritage Museum
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Mr. John Jacob
3009 Kinney
Austin, TX 78704

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