



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 XI

NUMBER I

JANUARY, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1998 is here! As we look back on 1997, our organization can be proud of our members and our accomplishments during the year. Through advertising and projects, we have become better known throughout the United States, our revenue increased, and our membership increased by thirty.

We have had many volunteers to carry out our major projects, such as, the Concordia Ethnic Fair in Austin, the Folklife Festive in San Antonio, and the Wendish Fest here in Serbin. All of these projects were very successful, due to volunteer participation. Once again, I would like to say THANK YOU to all of you!!

We also have a small group of dedicated volunteers, who put in many hours in 1997 making almost 3500 pounds of noodles. Folks, that is one and three-fourths ton of NOODLES!!!! I do want to thank all the ladies that have worked so hard trying to keep up with the demand.

Della Mullens and Jan Slack did a wonderful job coordinating this year's Ethnic Fair in Austin. I know the ladies had many helpers and it proved to be another successful event. The entertainment and food were wonderful. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way this year. Let's keep up the good work.

To keep our Museum running efficiently, it takes many volunteer hours and our local people are becoming a little weary. We have a great need for volunteers to work on Sunday afternoons. I would like to urge all of you who live in the Austin, Houston, and surrounding areas to consider volunteering a couple of Sundays during the year. It would surely help us, and it can be a wonderful and learning experience for you.

I hope everyone will keep the Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum in mind this year, and help with your time, talents, and of course, donations. Do not forget to come our February 15th general membership meeting. Hope to see you there.

Georgie B. Boyce, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 15** General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
- February 24** Walk-In Coffee/Bake Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Eleanor's Cottage, 173 E. Hempstead, Giddings, TX
- March 22** 125th Anniversary of Holy Cross Lutheran Church Warda, TX
- March 28** Texas German Society annual Convention at Kline Sr. High School, Kline, Tx
- March 28** Wendish Easter Egg Decorating Workshop
- Aril 5** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Palm Sunday. Daylight Saving Time begins
- April 10** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Good Friday
- April 12** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Easter Sunday
- April 27** Deadline for articles for April newsletter
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FEBRUARY MEETING SPEAKER

Jack Wiederhold will give a report on the trip to Germany in July of 1997 for the 150th anniversary of St. John Lutheran Church in Klitten. This is the church where Pastor Kilian was pastor before coming to Texas.

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### VISITORS

During the months of November, December, and January we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Louisiana, Pennsylvania, France, Tennessee, Germany, Connecticut, Montana, Missouri, Washington D.C., Utah, United Kingdom, California, Wisconsin, Alaska, Ohio, and Minnesota.

### DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of November, December, and January: Ruby Koslan, Bea Tschatschula, Viola Spacek, Hermine Moerbe, Bernice Whitsel, Vivian Taylor, Eleanor Schulze, Rev. Robert and Georgie Boyce, Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, Barbara Hielscher, Ashley Hielscher, Lillian Oltmann, Irene Boriack, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Ken Weiser, Henry and Emily Zoch, George Boerger, Herbert and Laverne Falke, and Bessie Mertink.

## MEMORIALS

| In Memory of:    | Donor           | Amount  |
|------------------|-----------------|---------|
| Marie Guggisberg | M/M Herb Schulz | \$25.00 |
| Bernice Medack   | George Boerger  | \$25.00 |
| Margaret W. Hart | George Boerger  | \$25.00 |
| Carl Zoch        | George Boerger  | \$25.00 |
| Ervin Wernecke   | Bessie Mertink  |         |

| In Honor of:                                 | Donor                     | Amount  |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Wilson<br>50th Anniversary | M/M Ray Herbrick & Family | \$25.00 |

A \$500.00 donation for a fax machine was received from Mrs. Margie A. Loomans in honor of her father, Mr. Alvin Bernstein's 91st birthday, and in memory of her mother Mrs. Clara (Schulz) Bernstein.

A \$600.00 donation was received for the Nielsen Letter Project.

A \$50.00 donation was received from Mr. & Mrs. H. P. Zoch for the Wilson Letter Project.

A \$50.00 donation was received from Eugene Hemmann for the Wilson Letter Project and a \$50.00 donation for the Nielsen Letter Project.

Dr. George Nielsen donated \$300.00 to the Nielsen Letter Project.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schmidt donated \$30.00 from Watkins products sales for the remainder of 1997 for a total of \$70.34 for the year.

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NOODLE REPORT

Elinor Steglich, Chairperson

A record set for noodle making in 1997 shows 3,425 pounds. The noodle committee consisted of Elinor Steglich, chairperson, Hattie Schautschick, Esther Buscha, and Evelyn Kasper. They were assisted by Laverne Gersch, Eleanor Schulze, Gladys Dillmann, Gladys and Royce Krakosky, Herbert Schautschick, Crystal Schautschick, Barbara Hielscher, and Lorine Domel in 1997. Leroy Steglich delivered the flour and Laverne Gersch delivered the yard eggs.

In January, 1998, another record was set. The committee made over 500 pounds of noodles in one month. Approximately 147 dozen eggs were used.

TOURS REPORT

By Evelyn Kasper, Co-Ordinator

The following is a report of tours for the last 8 months of 1997.

On May 16th thirty members of the Gulf Meadows Young at Heart enjoyed a tour and luncheon at the Wendish Museum.

On June 21st we hosted a tour for Gethsemane Lutheran Church at Houston.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Athens came for a tour and luncheon on June 28th.

18 people from the Knox Learning Center in Giddings came for a tour and luncheon on June 20th.

On July 11th twenty-six people from the Holiday Rambler Club came for a tour only.

On August 13th a group from New Ulm came for a tour.

On September 25th thirty-six people from Pinemont Lutheran Church in Houston came for a tour.

Fifteen people from First Presbyterian Church in Bryan came for a tour on September 26th.

On October 16th fifteen people from First Baptist Church in Austin enjoyed a luncheon and tour.

On October 25th thirty people from Christ Our Savior, Lago Vista, enjoyed a luncheon and tour.

Forty-seven people from Immanuel Lutheran Church of Houston came for a tour on October 29th.

On November 11th thirty-eight people from Redeemer Lutheran Church, Baytown came for a luncheon and tour.

Eleven Sr. Citizens from First United Methodist, Orange, came for a luncheon and tour on November 18th.

AUSTIN ETHNIC FAIR

By Jan Slack and Della Mullens, Co-Chairpersons

The Second Annual Austin Ethnic Fair was held January 24, 1998, at the Woltman Activities Center on the campus of Concordia University at Austin. The Ethnic Fair, sponsored by the University's Wendish Council, is a celebration of Austin's rich ethnic diversity, and is scheduled on the Saturday closest to January 25 in observance of Ptaci Kwas or the Birds' Wedding, an annual Wendish Holiday.

David Goeke led the show as the Master of Ceremony, and gave better than his best in his role of performance announcer, door prize number caller, and crowd energizer. Various cultural groups performed throughout the day including the Lee County German Singers, Austin Scottish Country Dancers, Fayette Czech Heritage Singers, Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance, Austin Saengerrunde, David Chapel Baptist Church Male Chorus, Alsatian Dancers of Texas, Tomonokai Friendship Group, Trio Los Castro, Puerto Rican Folkloric Dancers, and the Austin Chinese School. Also offered at various times during the day were Dr. Charles Wukasch and Rev. Elmer Hohle telling Wendish folktales and singing Wendish hymns and songs, and the Austin Gaelic League giving introductory lessons to the Irish language and Irish story-telling. Representatives from various ethnic groups including Swedish, Irish, Greek, Italian, Japanese, French, Puerto Rican, German, Czech, Scottish, English, and Polish displayed, demonstrated, and sold various folk arts, artifacts and ethnic foods. And, of course, our Wendish booths included sales of books, arts and crafts, and fabulous food including smoked sausage and chicken legs, sauerkraut, noodles, and coffee cake, and demonstrations of egg decorating and noodle-making. Many wonderful door prizes were donated for the event and were given throughout the day. Closing the celebration was a Bird's Wedding skit performed by children from Hope Lutheran Church, the Austin Children's Choir, and the Rev. Carl Trovall, Campus Minister of Concordia University at Austin.

Special mention should be made of a number of people who gave freely of their personal time and resources in planning and executing the event, including Evelyn and Allan Buchhorn, Ruby and Thomas Sisco, Kenda Zawadyki, Ken Weiser, Rev. Robert and Georgie Boyce, Barbara Hielscher, Walter and Laverne Gersch, Charles Slack, Monroe Karcher, Ted Zoch, Rev. Fred Gersch, and Mr. Roy Guerrero, as well as James Montgomery, Concordia University Maintenance Supervisor, Laura Arldt, Concordia University Director of Special Events and Dr. David Zerson, President of Concordia University at Austin. And it bears repeating that David Goeke's performance as Master of Ceremony was the yarn that wove the day's events and performances together into such a colorful and enjoyable tapestry.

WENDISH LETTER PROJECT

The project is a cooperative effort supported by The Serbski Institute in Bautzen and by the Wendish societies in Australia and Texas. The purposes are (1) to locate correspondence written by Wendish immigrants before more letters are lost, (2) to transcribe/translate these documents so they can be more widely used, and (3) to make them available inexpensively for use now and in the future.

At the end of 1997 approximately 200 letters have been located in newspapers, archives, and personal possessions. Approximately 137 originated from Australia and 63 from the United States. They were written either in Wendish or in German.

The Sorbian institute is supporting the project by translating those documents written in Wendish into German. The primary task for the Texans and Australians is to transcribe the letters from the old German script into the Latin script and then to translate them into English. Not only are people with the skill to read the script rare, but the difficulty of deciphering the handwriting makes the task time-consuming. Funds contributed to the project will be used largely to compensate the transcribers and translators, and the expectation is that these will be token payments rather than adequate compensation. Because the material will be circulated on electric media there should be limited publication costs.

No terminal date has been set for the project, and the hope is that more letters will be located as time goes on.

Dr. George R. Nielsen, author of In Search of a Home: Nineteenth-Century Wendish Migration is the coordinator of the project.

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 125th ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday, March 22, 1998, Holy Cross will be celebrating the 125th Anniversary of its existence. The day's activities will include:

8:00 A.M. - German Worship Service, with Holy Communion
Rev. Robert Hartfield, of Berlin Germany,
and Rev. Paul Hartfield, of Serbin, Texas
will officiate.

9:30 A.M. - Traditional English Worship Service
Rev. Herbert Eifert, of Pasadena, Texas, and
Seminarian Duane Bamsch - Fort Wayne, Indiana will officiate.

11:30 A.M. - Program and Catered Noon Meal - at Sons of Herman
Hall, Giddings, Texas
(There will be a free-will offering to cover the meal)

3:00 P.M. - WORSHIP CELEBRATION AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH
Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer - Lutheran Hour Speaker-Precacher
Rev. Robert Boyce - Pastor of Holy Cross, will be
the Liturgist;
Other area Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Clergymen
are invited to participate.

For more information: Telephone: (409)242-3333
Fax (409)242-3416

TEXAS WENDISH HERITAGE SOCIETY
GENERAL MEETING
Nov. 16, 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, on Sunday, November 16, 1997.

Rev. Robert Boyce based the opening devotion on Hebrews 12: 1 & 2. He said that the Texas Wendish Heritage Society is a cloud of witness for Jesus to others.

35 members and one visitor, Mary Glenn Thomas, were present.

The August 17th minutes were approved as mailed to the membership.

George Boerger's financial report covered the Wendish Fest proceeds and showed a very good increase in profits from last year, partly due to the raise in price of tickets, donations and craft sales. A full report will be presented at the February meeting with the proposed budget for 1998.

In the Wendish Fest Report, Evelyn Kasper again thanked everyone who helped and told of special plans featuring the Schmerlitz Dance Group at the 1998 Festival. She and Leroy Steglich both stated that much help will be needed.

Elinor Steglich reported that 2900 lbs. of noodles have been made in 1997, and plans are to make noodles several times this year yet.

Georgie Boyce announced that the Walk-In Coffee was cancelled because of an error in booking by the Giddings Chamber of Commerce. This was to have been held in October. Plans now are to have it in February, 1998.

Members were asked to bring donations for the bake sale to be held at the La Grange State Bank on December 12th. Evelyn Kasper asked members to bring items to the museum on Thursday, December 1 if that would be more convenient.

Della Mullens, Jan and Charles Slack, Chairpersons of the Concordia Ethnic Fair on January 24th, gave a report and asked for help. There are 19 ethnic groups represented at Concordia. Flyers were given to those wishing to help publicize this event.

Georgie Boyce announced that her sister, Margie Loomans, had donated \$500 for the Fax Machine.

She reminded members to do some Christmas shopping in the Gift Shop. Gertrude Mahlins book is sold out in Germany. We still have it available in German and Wendish.

Vivian Taylor, George Boerger and Freddie Zoch served on the ballot committee. Officers elected were Georgie Boyce, President, Elinor Schulze, Vice= President, Jan Slack, Secretary and Laverne Gersch, Treasurer.

The slate presented by the nominating committee showed Georgie Boyce and Eunice Dunk as President; Elinor Schulze and Evelyn Kasper as Vice-President, Jan Slack and Della Mullen as Secretary and Laverne Gersch and Leroy Steglich as Treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion passed to destroy the ballots after the election.

Georgie thanked Telford Zoch for cutting the Christmas tree and red berries and Evelyn Kasper for helping decorate the tree.

The meeting adjourned and the group enjoyed singing German Christmas carols led by Jack Wiederhold. Holiday treats brought by several members were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn N. Kasper
Evelyn N. Kasper,
Secretary

Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

ROUTE 2, BOX 155
GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

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LA GRANGE, TX 78945
PERMIT NO. 16

PRESORT

Mr. John Jacob
3009 Kinney
Austin, TX 78704





WORKSHOP

Wendish Easter Egg Decorating

Saturday, March 28, 1998
Texas Wendish Heritage Museum
Serbin, Texas

Program

- 9:00 Museum open: touring, sign-in, coffee.
- 10:00 Slide show: "The Art of Decorating Wendish Easter Eggs".
Daphne Garrett
- 10:30 Demonstration and hands-on workshop for beginners.
Daphne Garrett and Susan Unger
- 12:00-1:00 Picnic Lunch: bring your own.
- 1:00-3:00 "Show and Tell" for intermediate level.
Bring samples of your successes and failures.
Share ideas and frustrations. Try new techniques.

Minimum registration to have program: 5 registrants.

Maximum for hands-on beginner's workshop: 10 (adults only).

Fee: \$5 for all or part of the day. Includes materials for workshop.
(If you have a hot plate, please bring it.)
Materials to take home may be purchased in the Museum Gift Shop.

Please register by March 22, 1998
Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

Cut out form below and mail to:
Route 2, Box 155 Giddings, Texas 78942
Tel: 409-366-2441 Fax: 409-366-2805

The Museum is located 5.2 miles SW of Giddings, Texas on FM 2239 off State 448 (via US290/ US 77)

Wendish Easter Egg Decorating Workshop
Texas Wendish Heritage Museum, Serbin, Texas

March 28, 1998

Name _____
Address _____ Tel. _____

\$ 5 Registration fee enclosed _____
Beginner's workshop _____ Intermediate session _____ Both _____