



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 II

APRIL, 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The TWHS Executive Board met on April 18th. I would like to use this forum to make the membership aware of some of the things that were discussed, and the decisions that were made. Of first importance, it was with great regret that the Board accepted the resignation of longtime Board Member Leroy Steglich. The Executive Board, and I, would like to publicly thank Leroy for his many years of dedicated and faithful service to our organization as a Board Member, Officer, and a willing worker. Pending approval by the Society, in our May General Membership Meeting, the Board has appointed J. B. Gersch of Giddings to fill the vacancy.

Our Society has received a grant from the *Henry and Tommy Lehman Charitable Foundation* of Giddings, which will be used to replace the roof on the St. Paul Building. This foundation was formed to assist qualifying nonprofit organizations in Lee County. Without this generous financial award, this project would have been extremely difficult for us. I would like to express thanks, both to the foundation and to our members who put forth the effort to apply for this grant.

After discussing several options, the Board voted to have the Museum open seven (7) days a week from Easter to Labor Day. The hours of operation will remain: 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., each day. There was some discussion about closing the Museum on Mondays, which is a common practice by other museums, but it was decided that the summer was not a good time to make this change.

The Board would like to have volunteer docents on Sundays and Mondays, and has voted to pay a "car allowance" of \$ 10.00, for trained docents for these days. Laverne Gersch, chairman of the Docent Training Committee, will work individually with members who would like to become docents. I encourage any member, who would like to become a docent, to call the museum at 409-366-2441.

Our meeting, which ran considerably longer than usual, included discussion of many other subjects, and reminds me to say a personal thank you to all of our dedicated Board members.

Our **TENTH ANNUAL WENDISH FEST**, will be **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27th !**

Can you believe it ? This will be our 10th ! This year we will have, as our featured entertainers, the folk dancing and singing group:

SORBISCHE VOLKSTANZGRUPPE SCHMERLITZ e.V.

who will be coming here from Germany. The group consists of 20 to 25 performers, and we will need to plan for housing and transportation for their visit. I encourage all of our members to consider being a host for these young people.

Georgie B. Boyce, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 17** General Membership meeting at the Museum at 2:00 p.m.
- May 24** Serbin Homecoming Picnic at the St. Paul Picnic grounds, Serbin, Texas
- May 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Memorial Day
- June 21** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Father's Day
- June 26** Deadline for articles for June newsletter
- July 30-Aug 2** Folk Life Festival in San Antonio, Texas
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MAY MEETING SPEAKER

Daphne Garrett will have the program for the May general membership meeting. The title will be: Fifteen Years of a Labor of Love and Frustration: How I Reconstructed the History of the Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt.

This talk will coincide with the publication of my book, Giddings Deutsches Volksblatt, 1899-1949; A History of the Newspaper and Print Shop of the Texas Wends, and the opening of a special exhibit on the Volksblatt at the Wendish Museum.

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## VISITORS

During the months of February and March we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, New York, Illinois, Kansas, Iowa, Maryland, Germany, Scotland, Minnesota, Nebraska, and Louisiana.

## DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of February and March: Jan Slack, Della Mullens, Evelyn Kasper, Gladys Dillman, Charles Dillman, Telford Zoch, Georgie Boyce, Jack Wiederhold, Hattie Schautschick, Irene Boriack, Lillian Oltmann, Lorine Domel, Erna Mersiovsky, Bea Tschatschula, Ruby Koslan, Ken Weiser, Vivian Taylor, Barbara Hielscher, Daphne Garrett, and Susan Unger.

## MEMORIALS

| In Memory of:    | Donor                        | Amount  |
|------------------|------------------------------|---------|
| T. Victor Hohle  | Mr. & Mrs. Michael Unger     |         |
| P. Alfred Zoch   | Mr. & Mrs. W. F. "Pete" Zoch |         |
| Carl & Ella Zoch | Nadine Walther               | \$10.00 |

A \$2,500.00 memorial was received in memory of August and Selma (Schulze) Mertink

A \$3,000.00 matching gift was received from the Coca Cola Company



photo courtesy Giddings Times & News

### EGG DECORATING WORKSHOP A BIG SUCCESS

Eight enthusiastic students learned how to decorate Easter eggs in the Wendish techniques at the workshop sponsored by the Museum on Saturday, March 28, 1998. The activities opened with coffee and a welcome by Georgie Boyce, President. The agenda included an instructional slide show presented by Daphne Garrett, followed by demonstrations by Daphne and Susan Unger.

The morning session focused on learning the wax batik method. After a picnic lunch by the log cabins, the students then practiced the other Wendish techniques -- scratch, acid, and embossed.

#### Participants were:

Walter Zoch, Della Mullens, Shari Schutze, Geneva Lenz, and Gage Garland from the Austin area, Cheryl Shea from Georgetown, Joyce Carleston from Giddings, Eugene Colver from College Station, and Thara Zgoda from Montana and College Station.

Thanks go to Daphne Garrett for planning and preparing the workshop, to Susan Unger for assisting, and to Georgie Boyce for handling administrative details. Special thanks to Laverne and Walter Gersch for catching the goose early on Saturday morning and plucking the feathers which were used in the wax batik method.

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Evelyn Kasper has been busy spreading the Wendish history at her granddaughters' schools. February 9th she presented a program to five 7th grade Texas history classes at Hildebrandt Intermediate School in Spring, Texas. Granddaughter, Allison Karisch, is in this school. March 6th she presented a program on Wendish Easter Egg Decorating for the five 4th grade art classes at Roth Elementary in Spring. Granddaughter, Constance Karisch, is in this school.

Easter Egg Decorating is a family affair. She remembers her grandparents decorating eggs when she was a small child. Her mother, Adelheid (Fritsche) Noack, introduced Daphne Garrett to this art and Mrs. Garrett dedicated her book on the subject to Mrs. Noack.

She was assisted at the art classes by her son, William A. Karisch, and is proud that he and his family are carrying on this tradition.

MEMBERSHIP

New Members

Vicki Butterfield, Austin, TX	Michael Butterfield, Austin, TX
Jeannie Nadel, Dallas, TX	Nancy Damon, Round Rock, TX
Menda Franz, Dallas, TX	Betty Moerbe, Bryan, TX
Fred C. Gersch, Austin, TX	Elizabeth Tschatschula, Austin, TX
Carl L. Gromatzky, Austin, TX	Wilfred Schrader, Pensacola, FL
Jimmy Zoch, Giddings, TX	Dr. David Zersen, Austin, TX
Mrs. A. B. Currey, Dallas, TX	Ivy L. Crawford, Baytown, TX
Mildred G. Crawford, Baytown, TX	E. H. Grote, Pearsall, TX
Gunther Dube, Braunschweig, Germany	

Student Members

Joshua Knippa, San Antonio, TX	Thomas A. Buchhorn, Austin, TX
Sara R. Buchhorn, Austin, TX	Evy L Crawford, Baytown, TX

Patron Members

Margo Latimer, Lexington, TX	Betty Teston, San Angelo, TX
Carl L. Gromatzky, Austin, TX	Wilfred Schrader, Pensacola, FL
David Weise, Eastland, TX	Sylvia Zeitler, Albuquerque, NM
Arnold Kriegel, Austin, TX	Weldon Mersiovsky, Walburg, TX
Kenneth Wagner, Jasper, TX	Herbert Foerster, Giddings, TX
Jimmy Zoch, Giddings, TX	Alleen K. Lyons, Copperas Cove, TX
Mildred Coffey, San Antonio, TX	Ardie Englehardt, Chase, MI
Edgar Schulz, Houston, TX	Bernice Schulz, Houston, TX
Barry Wukasch, Cave Creek, AZ	Leonard Groeschel, Houston, TX
Emma M. Kroeker, Turlock, CA	Hubert C. Noack, Waco, TX
Lloyd W. Schuhmann, Giddings, TX	D. G. Symmank, Giddings, TX
Vivian F. Taylor, Weimar, TX	R. H. Wuensche, Austin, TX
Floyd V. Zoch, El Campo, TX	Bettye S. Zoch, El Campo, TX
Emmett Gloyna, Edna, TX	Mary S. Guggisberg, Vernon, TX
Violet Miertschin, Winchester, TX	Clarence Pampell, Houston, TX
Dr. Helena Frost, Indian Wells, CA	Donald C. Hilsberg, Elizabeth, CO
Jeanette Huelsebusch, La Grange, TX	Vernon J. Weber, Schulenburg, TX
Eberhard Proske, Austin, TX	Carroll J. Dorsett, Adkins, TX
Barbara G. Schneider, Metairie, LA	Leo symmank, New Orleans, LA
Dr. James Zwernemann, Bonxville, NY	Milton Kaiser, Houston, TX
Rodney C. Koenig, Houston, TX	Kenneth Moerbe, Waco, TX
Marvin Wappler, Groves, TX	Ted Wukasch, Groves, TX
E. C. Knippa, Jr., Lincoln, TX	W. L. Simank, Stillwater, OK
Michael Vukobratovich, Sierra, AR	Allen Cluck, Winchester, TX
Eugene E. Hemmann, St. Charles, IL	Sandra C. Magers, Dallas, TX
Janet Schorlemmer, Eagle Lake, TX	Frances Maxwell, Dallas, TX
Paul Weise, Palm Coast, FL	Herb Schulz, Torrance, CA
Rev. Wilbert Sohns, Gatesville, TX	Dany Clary, Orange, TX

Sponsor Members

Herman Teinert, Lubbock, TX	Harold V. Theiss, Houston, TX
J. B. Gersch, Jr., Giddings, TX	Duannah Ashmore, Austin, TX
Margie A. Loomans, Austin, TX	Edna K. Groeschel, Austin, TX
Ludwig Groeschel, Austin, TX	Hilton, C. Wieder, Houston, TX
Marvin R. Schulze, Austin, TX	Dr. William Domask, Houston, TX

Century Members

Mrs. Dell J. L. Bush, Houston, TX	F. Woodrow Bush, Houston, TX
Elwood Domaschk, Jr, Houston, TX	Ralph Weiser, Magnolia, AR
Jerry L. Knippa, Boerne, TX	Glenn Hobratschk, Pepper Pike, OH

**Texas Wendish Heritage Society
General Meeting
February 15, 1998**

President Georgie Boyce called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm in the Kilian Building of the museum complex at Serbin, Texas, on Sunday, February 15, 1998.

For the devotion, Reverend Robert Boyce of Holy Cross, Warda, read a paper written by an eight-year-old student in California who was assigned to give his personal explanation of God. Following reading this paper, Rev. Boyce read from Jeremiah 17, beginning at verse 5.

Thirty-one members and 5 visitors, including Violet M. Tarpey, Carl Miertschin's daughter, were welcomed. New officers were introduced, including Secretary Jan Slack, Vice-President Eleanor Schulze, and Treasurer Laverne Gersch.

The minutes of the November 16, 1997 General Meeting were approved with the following corrections:

9th paragraph, second sentence, "Thursday, December 1" changed to "Thursday, December 11"

12th paragraph, second sentence, correct the spelling of Gertrud Mahling's name

13th paragraph, second sentence, correct the spelling of Eleanor Schulze's name

14th paragraph, first sentence, "The slate presented by the nominating committee showed..." changed to "The slate presented by the nominating committee was...."

George Boerger reported that the Society ended 1997 with a \$9,687 operating surplus, having spent \$2,153 less than budgeted. The Endowment Fund increased by \$4,035, with a balance of \$85,135. The financial report was approved as presented.

Jan Slack thanked everyone who helped with the Austin Ethnic Fair and reported that next year's Fair is scheduled for January 23, 1999. It was a successful event, and many positive comments have been received from the groups that participated. George Boerger commented that TWHS' net revenue from the Fair was \$2,000, five percent of which will be donated to Concordia University to help offset Fair operating expenses.

Eunice Dunk reported that the Walk-In Coffee will be Tuesday, February 24, 1998. She stressed that donations of baked goods, money, and volunteer time are needed for this event.

Georgie Boyce thanked Vivian and Frank Taylor for constructing and installing the information kiosk. Walter Gersch was thanked for his assistance in the installation, as well. Marian Wiederhold has been asked to make some information signs for the kiosk. Funds from the Hotel/Motel Tax covered expenses for this addition.

Ken Weiser reported that the Billboards project is off and running. Hotel/Motel Tax funds will be used for this project, and the Billboard Committee, including Ken, Vic Mathias and Raymond Smith, hope to have the billboards installed by January 1999.

Eunice Dunk will submit the next Hotel/Motel Tax application by March 31, 1998. Georgie Boyce asked members to submit ideas for use of the funds.

Daphne Garrett's Egg Decorating Workshop will be Saturday, March 28. Registration is required; forms were enclosed in the latest Newsletter and were also available at the meeting. The fee for the workshop is \$5.00.

Barbara Hielscher is investigating the possibility of obtaining 1998 Helping Hands funds for the Wendish Fest from AAL branches in Walburg and other areas.

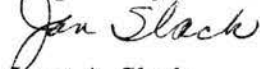
Evelyn Kasper reported that the Noodle Committee is now making noodles almost every week. Thanks were given to Laverne Gersch for picking up and delivering fresh yard eggs for this effort.

Members were reminded that 1998 dues need to be turned in as soon as possible.

In other business, Walter Gersch and Smokey Zoch, representing Lee County, placed 4th out of 60 teams in a men's horseshoe pitching contest at the "Go Texan Day" at the Houston Livestock Show. Also, Evelyn Kasper gave a presentation on the Wends to a school group in Spring, Texas, the previous week.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and Eleanor Schulze introduced Jack Wiederhold, who presented a slide show of his 1989 trip and the July, 1997 visit of the St. Paul Lutheran Church group to the Wendish area of Germany. Cookies and coffee cake provided by several members were enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet A. Slack
Secretary

Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

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