

Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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OPEN TUESDAY THRU SUNDAY 1:00 TO 5:00 P.M. CLOSED MONDAYS & HOLIDAYS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII

NUMBER I

JANUARY, 1999

President's Message

Greetings and "Happy New Year Wishes" to all members and friends of TWHS in this first month of the year 1999 ! It surely promises to be an eventful time for us as we bring the 20th Century to a close. In keeping with that thought, I'll get straight to business.

January 23rd is the date for the 3rd Annual "Ethnic Fair" at Concordia University, Austin.

Let me preface my remarks on this subject with a sincere THANK YOU to Dr. David Zersen, President of Concordia, for his interest in our organization and his leadership in getting this, now annual, event started. This provides TWHS a venue for much broader exposure in the Austin area to people that we might otherwise never reach. It also, like most other good things, requires a lot of work; thus my plea for HELP, HELP, HELP ! We need volunteers for the many and varied jobs including: transporting and setting up our displays and food booth, people to prepare and serve food items, and still others of staff our display and information display. PLEASE CONTACT THE MUSEUM OFFICE TO VOLUNTEER YOUR SUPPORT. If we are able to get sufficient help, this will allow everyone an opportunity to enjoy some of the events and entertainment.

I am also very pleased that this edition of the Newsletter introduces a new feature which we will call: **"In Search of..."**. Our readers will find inquiries from both members and others who either visit the Museum, or contact us in other ways, searching for information on individuals, and/or, families. This also reminds me to encourage all of you to use this Newsletter as a means of announcing special happenings and events, such as family reunions, etc. Please look elsewhere in this edition for deadlines and publishing dates for the balance of 1999.

In an effort to improve and enhance communication and participation, we are publishing a list of officers and directors, with addresses and phone numbers. It is my hope that this will allow more opportunities for members to express their views and wishes to the persons in their locality. Since this is "Election Year" for our officers, I hope that still others of you will consider offering suggestions and nominations, or perhaps volunteering yourself.

In closing, please permit me to say thank you to all of the officers, directors, and faithful members who have worked so hard in 1998. I truly appreciate all of your help and support, and I look forward to the new challenges and opportunities that 1999 will surely bring. Please remember, "we need YOU", each and every individual member, and those who will hopefully join us this year, if we are to preserve our Wendish Heritage.

Georgie Bernstein Boyce, President

UPCOMING EVENTS

- January 23** Ethnic Fair at Concordia University in Austin, Texas
- February 9** Walk-In Coffee/Bake Sale, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Eleanor's Cottage, 173 E. Hempstead in Giddings, Texas
- February 21** General Membership meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
- March 24-27** Texas Association of Museums 1999 Annual Meeting at Ramada Plaza Hotel in Fort Worth, Texas
- March 28** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Palm Sunday
- April 2** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Good Friday
- April 4** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Easter
- April 26** Deadline for articles for April newsletter

FEBRUARY MEETING

"A Visit to the Lusatian Sorbs": A twenty-five minute video taped tour loaded with history and geography associated with our ancestors in "the old country", will be our program for our meeting on February 21st. This video is an English language production by **Sorabia Film Studio**, Bautzen, Germany; scripted and directed by Toni Bruk. If you have been to this area, you will enjoy the familiar sights and see the added perspectives of some wonderful aerial photography. If you have not seen these places, this video is certain to peak your interest. Both educational and entertaining; how could you go wrong in investing the time to come on February 21st?

THANK YOU to Elsie Mertink, Ruth Lindner, Lillian Oltmann, Hattie Schautschick, Evelyn Kasper, J. B. Gersch, Jr., Laverne Falke, Doris Reagan, and Evelyn Buchhorn for providing refreshments for the November general meeting.

VISITORS

During the months of October thru December we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Germany, Australia, Florida, Washington, Wisconsin, Ohio, Kansas, and New York.

DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of October thru December: Laverne Gersch, Lorine Domel, Ruth Lindner, Janice Mitschke, Barbara Hielscher, Vivian Taylor, Evelyn Kasper, Eleanor Schulze, Georgie Boyce, Ken Weiser, Jan and Charles Slack, Erna Mersiovsky, J. B. Gersch, Jr., Bea Tschatschula, Erna Mersiovsky, Henry and Emily Zoch, and Herbert and Laverne Falke.

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Martin A. Schulz Landscape Fund	Frances K. Pfluger	\$25.00
Elsie Penk	Work associates of Dr Walter Penk	\$50.00
Brenda Goodson	Ruth Lindner	
Marie Lovaasen	Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Zoch	
Dorothy Lehmkuhl	Mr. & Mrs. Herb Schulz	
Elsie Penk	Mr. & Mrs. Edgar Steinsiek	
Elsie Penk	Mina Sump	

In Honor of:	Donor	Amount
Mr. & Mrs. Royce Pietsch 25th Anniversary	Mr. Leroy Steglich	\$25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Pittsford 50th Anniversary	Herbert Foerster	\$10.00

A \$600 donation was received for the 1998 Walk-Coffee

A \$1,000 donation was received for the Wilson Research Fund

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Dear Friends, Thank you for your generous gift from the Bake Sale, November 20. It has been a great help with medical expenses. Your kind thoughts, cards, and prayers have been very uplifting and we appreciate each and everyone of them. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Carroll and Barbara Hielscher

NOODLE REPORT

by Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

The noodle committee made 4,139 pounds of noodles in 1998. It takes three workers per week of production. This averages 247 volunteer hours a person per year. These workers spend many more volunteer hours through out the year helping wherever needed.

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

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 15, 1998.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, offered the devotion based on Deuteronomy 8. We should remember our history and recognize our abundance, knowing that it is by God's hands that we are here today. The singing of "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow" followed the devotion.

Thirty-three members were present. Also attending the meeting as visitors were Victor, Judith and Michal Dube from Austin, and Reverend John Ellwanger, also from Austin. Reverend Michael Buchhorn was introduced as the new Pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, and also as the new Chaplain of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society.

The minutes of the August 16, 1998 General Meeting were approved as presented.

George Boerger announced that a full financial report for 1998 will be presented at the February 1999 General Membership Meeting. He further reported that the Society and Museum made approximately \$7,000 profit, not including gift shop and noodle sales, at the 1998 Wendish Fest.

Georgie Boyce announced that the electrical wiring improvements to the Kilian Building were completed, using funding from the LCRA Grant.

Hattie Schautschick, Noodle Committee Chairperson, reported that the Committee members have produced 3,782 pounds of noodles so far for 1998.

Evelyn Kasper thanked everyone for his or her hard work toward the success of the 1998 Wendish Fest. Her complete Fest report was given in the October 1998 newsletter. Elmer Zoch videotaped the Wendish dance group from Schmerlitz, Germany during their performances in Houston and at the Wendish Fest; tapes are available for purchase for \$10.00 each.

Jan Slack gave an update on the upcoming Austin Ethnic Fair to be held January 23, 1999 in the Woltman Activities Center on the Concordia University campus. Volunteers are needed to work in the Wendish booths at the Fair, and Alan Buchhorn needs a barbecue pit for use the day of the Fair.

Barbara Hielscher reminded everyone present that docents are needed to work Saturdays and Sundays. If possible, volunteers are requested to choose a specific Saturday or Sunday each month to work, and to be responsible for finding a substitute if they cannot work their chosen day.

Elections were held for new Executive Board members. George Boerger, Telford Zoch, and Eleanor Shulze served as ballot tellers. The slate of nominees included Eunice Dunk, Ron Knippa, Marvin Schwausch, David Goeke, Hattie Schautschick, Vivian Taylor, Jack Wiederhold, and Walter Zoch. There were no nominations from the floor. Those elected to two-year terms were Eunice Dunk, David Goeke, Ron Knippa, Hattie Schautschick, Vivian Taylor, and Jack Wiederhold.

Motion was made and approved to destroy all ballots following the meeting.

Georgie Boyce displayed the Christmas ornaments available for purchase in the Museum gift shop. The ornaments are glass and are available in either red or blue and are decorated with the Wendish words meaning "Merry Christmas." Ornaments sell for \$5.00 each or \$25.00 for a box of six.

Evelyn Kasper announced that a fundraising bake sale will be held November 20, 1998 at La Grange State Bank, with proceeds to help with medical expenses incurred by the Hielscher family during Carroll Hielscher's recent cancer surgery and treatment. Baked items or cash donations are needed. The Serbin Branch of the Aid Association for Lutherans will match funds earned up to \$500.00.

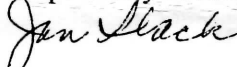
Georgie Boyce announced that the Volksblatt display would be taken down shortly after January 1, 1999. Future plans are to display other archived items in a similar fashion.

No new business was discussed.

Michal Dube spoke about her mission work through Hope Lutheran Church in Austin. She has worked in Slovakia and in Mexico, and will begin a one-year project in Eastern Europe in January 1999, and asked for prayers and financial support. Anyone wishing to donate to the support of her work should make checks payable to Hope Lutheran Church marked for the "Eastern Europe Mission Fund."

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m. Telford Zoch was thanked for supplying the Christmas tree, as was everyone who supplied refreshments. Christmas carol singing in the St. Paul Building led by Jack Wiederhold, and Christmas sweets and refreshments in the Kilian Building followed the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet A. Slack
Secretary

AUSTIN ETHNIC FAIR ENTERTAINMENT

- *Austin Saengerrunde
- *Taylor Czech Singers
- *Austin Scottish Country Dancer
- *Puerto Rican Folkloric Dancers
- *Okinawan Dancers
- *Austin Chinese School
- *Filipino Dancers
- *High School Folkloric Group
- *Austin Children's Choir will re-enact the Wedding of the Birds

1999 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Georgie B. Boyce
P. O. Box 87
Warda, TX 78960
President (12/99)
409-242-5577

Eleanor Schulze
Route 1, Box 82-B
Giddings, TX 78942
Vice-President (12/99)
409-366-2884

Jan Slack
4605 Trail West Dr
Austin, TX 78735
Secretary (12/99)
512-892-0514

Laverne Gersch
Route 2, Box 210
Giddings, TX 78942
Treasurer (12/99)
409-366-2247

Eunice Dunk
387 Edgewood
Giddings, TX 78942
Elected (12/2000)
409-542-3469

J. B. Gersch, Jr.
111 E. Hempstead St
Giddings, TX 78942
Appointed (12/99) L. Steglich Res.
409-542-2923

David Goeke
11438 Cedar Park
San Antonio, TX 78249
Elected (12/2000)
210-690-3135

Evelyn Kasper
P. O. Box 68
Warda, TX 78960
Appointed (12/99) Past Pres. Vac.
409-242-3367

Ron Knippa
2662 Pebble Bow
San Antonio, TX 78232
Elected (12/2000)
210-496-3105

Della Mullens
8 Tourney Cove
Austin, TX 78738-1119
Appointed (12/99)
512-261-8597

Hattie Schautschick
Route 2, Box 132-C
Giddings, TX 78942
Elected (12/2000)
409-366-9621

Marvin Schwausch
3109 Freemont
Round Rock, TX 78681-3842
Appointed (12/2000)
512-244-0784

Vivian Taylor
Route 3, Box 263-E
Weimar, TX 78962-9747
Elected (12/2000)
409-263-5416

Jack Wiederhold
Route 1, Box 74-D
Giddings, TX 78942
Elected (12/2000)
409-366-2335

Walter Zoch
11 Tall Oaks Trail
Austin, TX 78737
Appointed (12/2000)
512-288-3331

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Route 2, Box 152
Giddings, TX 78942
Jack Jones, Chairman
409-366-9650

Rev. Michael Buchhorn
Route 2, Box 152
Giddings, TX 78942
Chaplain
409-366-9650

George Boerger
1019 Martin St
Houston, TX 77018
(Bookkeeper)



"IN SEARCH OF....."

Family Tree on **August Friedrich Schkade** (born: September 28, 1854). Please contact: Luther Dube, 407 Summit Ridge Euless, TX 76039; E-mail: Ldube@swbell.net; phone: 817-267-9093.

Information about **Martin or Albert Mros** (born 1859-1862 in the Serbin area). Descendants of the following families: **Mrosko, Maroske, Mros or Schatte-Maros**. Please contact: Dennis McCown, P. O. Box 150551, Austin, TX 78715.

Any reminiscences you have of **Dr. George Beto**. Please contact Dr. David Horton, St. Edward's University, Austin, TX 78704-6489. Dr. Horton, a professor of criminal justice at St. Edward's University is writing a biography of the late Dr. Beto.

Descendants of **Georg Noack and Rosina, nee Mietke** of Reichwalde, Germany. Please contact: Mrs. Phyliss H. Doecke, 34 Old Kapunda Rd, Nuriootpa 5355, So. Australia.

Information about **Agneta nee Altus Pilak** of Nechern, Germany. Please contact: Gwenda Simmons, 6 Saxon Street, Pooraka 5095, Australia.

Family genealogists seeking help locating ancestors, send your request to "In Search of...", Texas Wendish Heritage Museum, Rt. 2, Box 155, Giddings, TX 78942-9769.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

NEWSLETTERS

<i>DUE DATE</i>	<i>MAIL DATE</i>	<i>MAIN TOPIC FOR NEWSLETTER</i>
January 4, 1999	January 13, 1999	February meeting, 2/21
April 26, 1999	May 3, 1999	May meeting, 5/16, Serbin Picnic 5/30
June 28, 1999	July 9, 1999	Folklife Festival 8/5-8/8, August meeting, 8/15
August 23, 1999	August 30, 1999	Wendish Fest, 9/26
October 25, 1999	November 3, 1999	November meeting, 11/21

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

February 21, 1999	May 16, 1999
August 15, 1999	November 21, 1999

Concordia University
at Austin
Presents

Austin Ethnic Fair

Come celebrate the many
ethnic backgrounds
of the
Austin community



The Bird's Wedding

An interesting European custom for children which prevailed in Texas well into the 20th century was the Bird's Wedding (*Ptaci Kwas* in Wendish, *Vogelhochzeit* in German). On January 25, children would place empty plates and saucers outside, usually on fence posts and other high places to prevent raids by dogs and cats. The next morning, the children would wake to find the dishes filled with candy and nuts supposedly left for them by birds who were celebrating their wedding and wanting to share their gifts with neighboring humans.

A Wedding of the Birds will be re-enacted by the **Austin Children's Choir** at 6 p.m. during the Austin Ethnic Fair.

Saturday, January 23
11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Woltman Activities Center
Concordia University
at Austin

3400 IH 35 North

Cultural food, music, performances,
demonstrations and more!

Free Admission

Y'all Come!

For information, call
Jan Slack at (512) 232-3113 (w);
(512) 892-0514 (h) or
see the Austin Ethnic Fair link at
www.concordia.edu

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Texas Wendish Heritage Museum

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