



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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

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

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XII

NUMBER III

JUNE, 1999

President's Message

Summertime is here in Texas and the Folklife Festival in San Antonio is fast approaching. Ron Knippa has been working hard all year on this year's production (hopefully, you read his report in our April Newsletter). The Wendish booth has always been a leader in new ideas, and this year is no different with live entertainment in the booth area. If any of you folks have any musical talent, please contact Ron immediately! We also need Wendish Easter egg decorators. Decorating eggs at Easter was one of the Wendish traditions that our ancestors continued to do here in Texas. We hope to see many of you folks August 5th - 8th at the Folklife Festival.

We are only a few weeks away from our Eleventh Annual Wendish Fest, September 26th. This year we celebrate our continuing Wendish ties with Concordia University at Austin, Texas. University President, The Rev. Dr. David Zersen, will be the guest speaker for the 8:30 a.m. English service, Bible Class, and the 10:30 a.m. German service at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Back by popular demand, for our afternoon featured entertainment will be **THE OAKWILT BOYS**, comprised of eight talented faculty and staff members at Concordia. The group performs unique Texas gospel music. They will have their four cassette tapes available for sale along with their newly released CD of their most popular songs. We will include a Wendish Fest brochure in the August Newsletter, but please mark your calendars now!

The Board of Directors met April 17th and will meet again July 17th. We always have at least twenty items, or more, on the agenda, which makes for long meetings. I do appreciate this group of dedicated members. Eunice Dunk has been working hard, applying for various grants and funding for our organization. We are very thankful that once again we will be receiving funds, for advertising proposes only, from the *City of Giddings, Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Funds*.

On a personal note, this has been a summer of change for my husband, Rev. Robert E. Boyce, and for me as well. Since June 1987, he had served as Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Warda, located only seven and a half miles from Serbin. In March he received a "Call" from Trinity Lutheran Church of Eden, Texas, to be their Pastor. After much deliberation, he accepted this call and was installed June 6th. Eden is known as "the gateway to west Texas or the gateway to the Hill County". It is located, at the intersection of U.S. Highways 87 and 83, forty-four miles east of San Angelo and approximately 220 miles from Serbin. Although I will miss being at the Museum on a regular basis, the Lord willing, and with a lot of help and cooperation, I do plan to finish my term as your president.

In the event that you need to contact me directly, my telephone number is: (915) 869-5369; mailing address: P.O. Box 1298, Eden, Texas 76837-1298, or e-mail boyce@wcc.net.

Georgie Bernstein Boyce

UPCOMING EVENTS

- August 5-8** Folklife Festival in San Antonio, Texas
- August 15** General Membership meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
- August 23** Deadline for articles for August Newsletter
- September 26** 11th Annual Wendish Fest at Museum Complex and St. Paul Picnic Grounds
- October 25** Deadline for articles for October Newsletter
- November 21** General Membership meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
- November 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Thanksgiving
- December 24 & 25** Museum will be **CLOSED** for the Christmas holidays
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AUGUST MEETING PROGRAM by Charles Wukasch

"The Lower Sorbs (Wends) of the Cottbus Area"

Scholars differentiate two groups of Sorbs (Wends), the Upper and Lower. The Wends who came to Texas in 1854 were members of the Upper Sorbian community. The Lower Sorbs speak a language which, although closely related, is considered a distinct language. The Lower Sorbs have not preserved their language as well as have the Upper Sorbs, and the situation today in Germany is similar to that in Texas some 30-35 years ago. Lower Wendish is a language of the older generation.

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**THANK YOU** to Evelyn Kasper, Irene Boriack, and Eleanor Schulze for providing refreshments for the May general meeting.

**THANK YOU** to J. B. Gersch, Jr., and George Dunk for donating ice for the TWHS booth at the Lee County Courthouse Centennial celebration May 15.

**THANK YOU** to Laverne and Walter Gersch, Eleanor and Melvin Schulze, David and Candace Gersch, and Telford Zoch for their hard work cleaning and trimming the Museum grounds for the Serbin picnic.

## VISITORS

During the months of May and June we have had visitors from all parts of Texas and the following: Germany, Missouri, Pennsylvania, California, South Dakota, Arkansas, Florida, Maine, and Wisconsin.

## DOCENTS

Thank you to the following for acting as docents during the months of May and June: Lorine Domel, J. B. Gersch, Jr., Eleanor Schulze, Erna Mersiovsky, Bea Tschatschula, Georgie Boyce, Mildred Kilian, Jan & Charles Slack, Laverne Gersch, Vivian Taylor, Irene & Reinhold Teinert, and Henry & Emily Zoch.

## MEMORIALS

| In Honor of:                                          | Donor                   | Amount   |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Mr. & Mrs. Roland Froehlich<br>Wedding\Endowment Fund | Mr. & Mrs. Frank Taylor | \$50 .00 |

\$163.36 was added to the TWHS Agency Fund Management Account at the Lutheran Foundation of Texas by Reinhold Teinert from the Austin Chapter of the TWHS which has disbanded. Thank you.

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## MEMBERSHIP

### New Members

|                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Herbert L. Diers, Houston, TX   | Clarence Ernhart, Chesterfield, MO |
| Barbara J. Kelms, Thrall, TX    | George A. Sellnau, Houston, TX     |
| Paul A. Goeke, San Antonio, TX  | James H. Hingst, San Antonio, TX   |
| Charles Greschel, Roseville, CA | John O. Karnes, Allentown, PA      |

### Student Members

Paul A. Goeke, San Antonio, TX

### Patron Members

|                                 |                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Charles Greschel, Roseville, CA | Herbert Diers, Houston, TX     |
| Norman Kneschk, Jonesboro, TX   | Frances K. Pfluger, Austin, TX |

### Sponsor Members

Michael Vukobratovich, Sierra Vista AZ  
James H. Hingst, San Antonio, TX

In the April newsletter new member **Nelwyn Phillips** name was misspelled and she was listed from Smithville, TX and it should have been **Abilene, TX**. Our apologies for the mistake!

## TOURS REPORT

By  
Evelyn Kasper

The Wendish ladies provided 80 soup and sandwich lunches at the Worship and Praise Workshop at St. Paul Lutheran Church on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

The M&M Travel Club of Waco brought 21 people for a tour on February 19<sup>th</sup>.

A group of 23 from Hallettsville toured our facilities on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

March 5<sup>th</sup> brought a group of 51 from the Champion Forest Sr. Adult Group in Houston for a luncheon and tour.

March 15<sup>th</sup> brought many members of an Auto Club for a tour.

March 24<sup>th</sup> brought 44 VIP Seniors from San Antonio for lunch and a tour.

March 25<sup>th</sup> brought 40 members of the Houston Jr. Forum Seniors for lunch and a tour.

March 27<sup>th</sup> brought AAL Branch 2751 from Houston for 25 meals and a tour.

April 8<sup>th</sup> brought 38 people from Kinsman Lutheran for coffeecake and coffee, a tour and luncheon.

On April 9<sup>th</sup> Pastor and Georgie Boyce joined Pastor Oestreich's group for lunch and then gave them a tour of the Museum.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> Carol Megerton brought 22 people from the "40 Plus Group" for a luncheon and tour.

On April 14<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades from Faith Lutheran, Plano came for a tour.

April 15<sup>th</sup> brought about 35 from St. Paul Lutheran in Waco for a luncheon and tour.

April 20<sup>th</sup> brought 18 members of the Bellaire United Methodist Senior Group for a tour.

April 23<sup>rd</sup> brought a group of 21 for a tour from the Schulenburg Assisted Living Home.

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, 47 people of the FCE Club of Leon County arrived at 9:30 for coffeecake and coffee. They toured the Museum, then had lunch before touring the church.

May 13<sup>th</sup> brought another tour group from the Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce.

## World Music Camp

Submitted by: Evelyn Buchhorn

Martha Buchanan conducted a World Music Camp for about thirty students age 8-10 years of age at Bokenkamp Student Center and the Louise Peter Center on the campus of Concordia University in Austin, Texas on June 7-11. On Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, the German/Wendish cultures were celebrated and studied. In the morning, the group took a field trip to the German Texan Heritage House in downtown Austin. Then they worked on art projects and later enjoyed Wendish Folk Tales from storyteller Charles Wukasz. In the afternoon, Evelyn Buchhorn demonstrated Wendish noodle making. While the noodles were drying, Herschel Moody played his accordion and explained various aspects of it as well as the songs he played. Representatives of the International Folk Dancers demonstrated German and Bavarian dances and then involved the students in dancing. Then the noodles were cut, dried and cooked so everyone could eat some before the camp day ended at 3 P.M. Each child truly enjoyed eating the homemade noodles. Recipes were sent home with each one as well as invitations to the Wendish Festival in September.

## SIMANK REUNION

Our family stems from the #70 Family listed on the original Ship's Register for the Ben Nevis. ---- Herman Ernst Simank and Fredericka (Bartling) Simank – Fayetteville, TX.

This year's reunion was held in Stillwater, Oklahoma, from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thirty people attended of which 19 were Simank family descendants.

On Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> the group gathered at the Best Western Motel for the evening meal. Lots of visiting – scrapbook viewing – and welcoming newcomers took place.

On Saturday the 1<sup>st</sup> the group drove to Pawnee, Oklahoma, to visit the Pawnee Bill Mansion and Museum. We also visited the Pawnee Steam Engine Park. We got to see 20 of the mammoth machines in a barn. The machines were being prepared for exhibition the following weekend at the annual Steam Engine Show.

Our bi-annual family meeting was held at the home of Sylvia Simank that evening. The family voted to have our 2001 reunion in the Teton Mountains of Idaho and the 2003 reunion at Ledbetter, Texas.

On Sunday the 2<sup>nd</sup> a group journeyed to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to take a tour of downtown Oklahoma City on a new OKC touring trolley. Ann Simank, a member of the OKC City Council, arranged the tour. We also visited the new OKC Baseball Park and the site of the Murrah Building bombing.

Family members came from Washington State, Oregon, California, Arizona, Texas, and Oklahoma

Submitted by

W. L. "Bill" Simank  
2418 North Husband Place  
Stillwater, Oklahoma, 74075-2608  
(405) 372-1921    bsimank@juno.com



## KASPER FAMILY REUNION

The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Kasper reunion was attended by 119 members and visitors on May 2, 1999, at the Holy Cross Picnic Grounds in Warda. This was a special reunion as four members of the Kasper family in Germany attended. They were guests of Arnold and Evelyn Kasper who had visited with Johann and Edith Kasper in Zeiszig, Germany, 1997. Their son, Thomas, and his wife, Gudrun accompanied them to Texas.

Johann took the family back another generation to Hans Kasper, who married Magdalene Ronatschk, and was the Bürgervorsteher in Spreewitz. His son, Christian, was one of 7 children and the only one to come to Texas. He had two older brothers and therefore would not have inherited land from his parents. He, his wife, Dorothea Linack Kasper and son, Matthes, came here from Zerze. Christian and Dorothea both died at New Ulm at a very young age in 1855 leaving Matthes a young orphan of 4 ½ years.

At the reunion, Johann Kasper addressed the group talking about the area from whence the family came. Darlene Aksoy of Dallas, the daughter of Mirien Kasper Senter, was the translator.

A delicious dinner of fish fried by Gussie, Edward and David Pietsch, and Anton and Steven Lehmann was enjoyed. Family members brought side dishes and desserts.

The Christian Kasper Lehmann family will be in charge of the reunion in May 2000.

When the Kasper family from Germany visited the Wendish Museum, they saw Johann's book "Zeiszig-Geschichte und Geschichten eines Dorfes" in the library and for sale in the gift shop. It was this book that actually prompted Pastor Hornich of Spreewitz to get the Kasper families together. Thomas and Gudrun showed us their pictures in the book "Festage in Bautzen" which was purchased in May 1982, in Bautzen by Evelyn Kasper and donated to the Museum.

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## KNIPPA REUNION

August Lydia Weideranders Knippa reunion, Saturday, October 16, 1999  
Lincoln Community Center – Lincoln, Texas

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**"IN SEARCH OF....."**



Information on relatives of Wilhelm (William) E. Dube. He was a Lutheran Minister in Texas. He was born on July 16, 1877 in Fedor, TX. His parents names were Carl Dube (no middle initial) and Maria Falke. If anyone has any information please contact Linda Maraldo at 5531 Dumfries, Houston, Texas 77076.

29th Zoch Family Reunion  
July 25th, 1999

Sons of Herman Hall, Giddings, Texas

11:30am Worship Service

12:30 BBQ Lunch

Adults \$5.00, Children (4-12) \$2.50

R.S.V.P by July 15th with:

Meal Reservations

Deaths since last reunion (1997)

**Please pass this information to extended family members.**

**What to bring:**

**Dessert**

**Family pictures**

**Dates & names of marriages, births, deaths since 1997 reunion**

**If you cannot attend, please send information to**

**Linda D. Schwartz, 1648 Zoch Lane or P.O. Box 688**

**Giddings TX 78942 (409) 242-3467**

**e-mail: [schwartz@cvtv.net](mailto:schwartz@cvtv.net)**

1999 Zoch Reunion Committee

William Wenthe, President

Monroe Zoch, Vice President

Linda D. Schwartz Sec. Treasurer

Ray Wendland, BBQ Chairman

Jane Hoffman, Kitchen Chairman

Linda D. Schwartz

Zoch Reunion

1648 Zoch Lane

Giddings, TX 78942-6015

Don't miss the last Zoch Reunion of the 20th century!

**Texas Wendish Heritage Society  
General Meeting  
May 16, 1999**

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, May 16, 1999.

The devotion was presented by Reverend Michael Buchhorn of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, reading from a handbook entitled, "The Swiss Society for the Promotion of Immigration." This handbook was written during the early to mid-1800's and presented a comparison of America during that era—as a place offering new beginnings, fertile lands, and boundless opportunities—versus Europe—with its lack of both opportunities and available fertile land. Pastor Buchhorn then read a letter written around 1530 by Martin Luther to his son, Hans, describing another wonderful land—our heavenly home. We should all remember to thank God for watching over our ancestors and guiding them to this new land that we now enjoy as our earthly home. He closed the devotion by leading all in singing the Doxology. He then announced that May 23 is the anniversary of the date in 1854 when the immigrant congregation issued a call to Johann Kilian to serve as their pastor, and reminded everyone to attend the Serbin Picnic on May 30.

Thirty-one members were present. Also attending the meeting as visitors were Joyce and Robert Hinze, Delbert and Carol Niemann, Tinnie Niemann, Marilyn James, Lorine Bamsch, Renata Teinert, Adela Peschel, Carol Kilgore, Nancy Kilgore, Hertha Kruse, Mannie Fritsch, Edwin Moerbe, Rachel Hildebrandt, and Edward Menville.

The minutes of the February 21, 1999 General Meeting were approved with the following correction:

Page 1, last paragraph continuing on Page 2, "Bluebonnet Electric will provide the labor and materials to set the poles" should read "Poles will be purchased by the Society and Museum and Bluebonnet Electric will set them at no cost."

No financial report was presented.

Hattie Schautschick, Noodle Committee Chairperson, reported that the Committee members have produced over 1,100 pounds of noodles thus far for 1999.

Georgie Boyce thanked E.C. Knippa and Ken Weiser for their diligent work on the billboard sign project, which is continuing successfully.

Eunice Dunk gave an update of the progress of 1999 grant applications. The Hotel/Motel tax grant application includes a request for \$5,000 to be used for advertising. The LCRA grant application requests a total of \$17,000, which would pay for further electrical and exterior improvements to the Kilian Building, and for a new copy machine.

Georgie Boyce announced that the Board approved the hiring of an assistant for Barbara Hielscher. Sandra Matthijetz has been hired to fill this position.

Evelyn Kasper reported that 17 tours have been conducted thus far for 1999. Nine tours included a luncheon and one was an all-day tour including light breakfast and luncheon. She also reported that the Texas Wendish Heritage Society participated in the recent Lee County Centennial, selling pickles, lemonade, and dry noodles. Special thanks were extended to Walter and Laverne Gersch, J.B. Gersch, George and Eunice Dunk, Ruby Koslon, Georgie Boyce, and Hattie Schautschick for volunteering with this event. Also noted was the work of Jack and Marion Wiederhold in



assembling a reproduction of the St. Paul Lutheran Church altar area, which formed the center of a display at the Lee County Centennial involving several youth portraying Johann Kilian and some early Wendish congregants.

Georgie Boyce stated that during her recent visit to Germany, she met with the President of the Domowina to discuss issues related to the Texas Wendish Heritage Society becoming an Associate (non-voting) member. The Board has agreed to a draft proposal for such an affiliation and this matter is still pending.

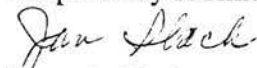
New business:

- (a) The oak tree in the center courtyard is dying and will require removal. The Board will discuss options for accomplishing this task at their next meeting.
- (b) The Presidential Corridor Regional Information Guide is now available, and includes an ad and a well-written description of the Museum complex and its history.
- (c) Wendish Fest 1999 brochures are available. Entries are needed for the noodle cook-off. The Oak Wilt Boys will perform at this year's Fest, and Jack Wiederhold and Doug Malke will conduct a German sing-along at the end of the day's program.
- (d) Reprints of the Blasig book have been delivered and are available for purchased at the Museum.
- (e) Irene and Reinhold Teinert were introduced as new Life Members of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. They were thanked for their many years of support.
- (f) The Museum is currently showing a new exhibit, arranged by Daphne Garrett, focusing on Wendish-owned businesses in the Serbin/Northrup/Warda areas.
- (g) Della Mullens announced that Charles Wukasch is currently in Postdam, Germany giving a talk on the Lower Sorbian language and has offered to present a similar talk for the August 1999 General Membership meeting.

Georgie Boyce announced that her husband, Pastor Robert Boyce, has accepted a call to serve at Eden, Texas. She intends to complete the remainder of her term as President.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 2:55 PM with thanks given to Evelyn Kasper, Eleanor Schulze, and Irene Boriack for providing refreshments. Georgie Boyce then introduced Rachel Hildebrandt, the program speaker, who gave a most interesting talk on what she learned and experienced while working at the Sorbische Institute in Bautzen, Germany for several months at the end of 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet A. Slack  
Secretary

## WENDS REPRESENTED AT LEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE CENTENNIAL

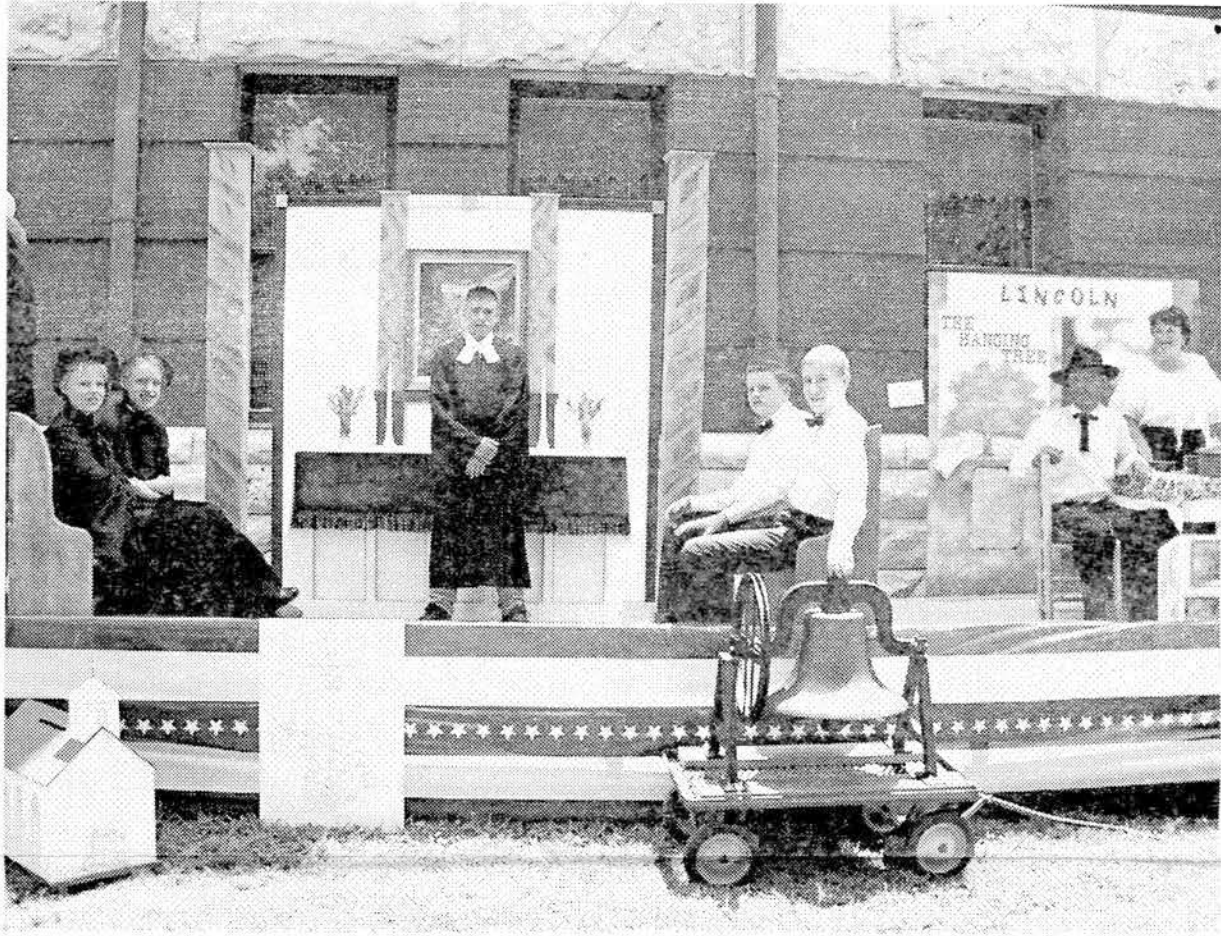


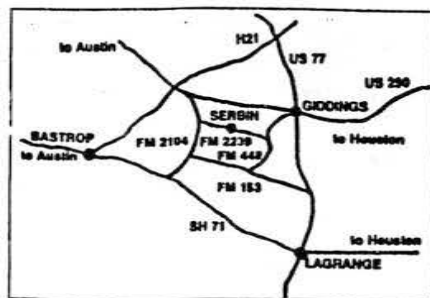
Photo courtesy Giddings Times & News

The Wendish Heritage was represented on May 15, 1999 when the 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration was held for the Lee County Courthouse. Each community in Lee County was asked to prepare a historical scene depicting a part of its heritage. The Serbin Community was represented by a display which replicated the Altar area of St. Paul's historic church building which was constructed in 1867-1871. Christopher Schimank dressed as Pastor Jan Kilian and Bruce Prellor, Matthew Faske, Kari Schatte, and Kalen Teinert portrayed Wends attending church services. The scene which was constructed by Jack and Marian Wiederhold has been donated to the Wendish Museum and can be seen in the St. Paul Building at the Museum complex.



Pictured at left are: Walter Gersch, Hattie Schautschick, Laverne Gersch, and Evelyn Kasper working in the TWHS booth selling lemonade, pickles, and dry noodles at the Centennial Celebration.

Seventh Annual  
State of Texas  
Noodle Cook-Off  
In conjunction with  
Wendish Fest  
Serbin, Texas  
September 26, 1999



## CONTEST ACTIVITIES

September 26, 1999  
St. Paul Lutheran Church Picnic Grounds  
Serbin, Texas

1:00 p.m. .... Registration  
1:30-2:00 p.m. .... Judging  
2:30 p.m. .... Awards Announced

## CONTEST GUIDELINES

- The Noodle Cook-off is open to all interested persons.
- Pre-registration is encouraged by Sept. 20.
- There is no contest entry fee and no entry fee to the Wendish Fest grounds.
- Noodle entries must be made by one person (no team entries).
- Noodles must be made by the contestant, and cooked by the contestant.
- 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
- The noodles should be cooked prior to arrival and should be kept HOT for the noodle tasting (a slow-cooker is suggested).
- One electrical outlet will be provided for each entry.
- Contestants must provide their own card table and at least a 25-foot extension cord.
- Participants may enter the Noodle Cook-off with either a decorative display or noodle pot only. All entries will be judged on TASTE, not display. No previous awards may

be displayed in either category:

- Decorative Display - participants may create a decorative table display for the noodles. The display is only to draw interest to the Noodle Cook-off, and will not be judged.
- Noodle Pot Only - participants may choose to bring only a pot of noodles and an extension cord for a group display.

- Registration will be held at 1:00 p.m.
- Judging will begin at 1:30 p.m.
- Awards will be presented at 2:30 p.m. Pictures and presentation of trophies will be made at this time.
- The tasting party will begin following the judging. Participants will serve their noodles to the public. Tasting supplies will be supplied by the planning committee.
- 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 County Extension Agent  
(409) 542-2753

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

Jack and Linda Jones

Mary Ann Schubert

## STATE OF TEXAS NOODLE COOK-OFF ENTRY FORM

Sponsored by the First National Bank - Giddings, Texas

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please read the guidelines carefully and mail this entry form to:

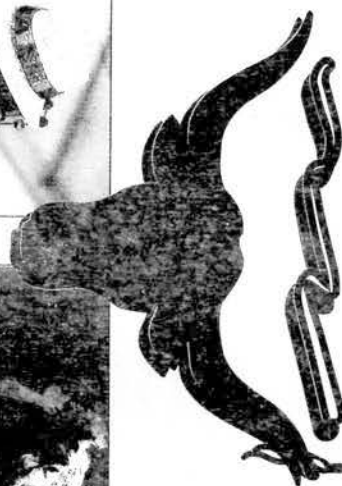
Lee County Extension Office, P.O. Box 150, Giddings TX 78942

Pre-Registration is encouraged by September 20, 1999



The Lone Star States  
Most Celebrated  
International Extravaganza

# Texas Folklife Festival



## Texas Mendish Heritage Society and Museum

ROUTE 2, BOX 155  
GIDDINGS, TEXAS 78942-9769

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Austin, TX 78704

