



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

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President's Message

I hope you will pardon my taking the liberty of getting a few very personal things said at the very beginning of this President's Message. Since my term of office will be ending, I would like to take this opportunity to say, "THANK YOU", to all of the people who have worked so tirelessly and faithfully these past 3 years. To the members of the Board of Directors that I have served with, the other officers of our Society, and especially all of the volunteers who continue to make good things happen for TWHS. Your help and cooperation is deeply and sincerely appreciated, and because of all of you, I will leave office with the feeling of accomplishment. I would also like to publicly acknowledge the help and support that my husband, Rev. Robert Boyce, has provided for me, as well as his patience, during my term of office. Much has happened during these three years, and I hope that most of it has been for the good. As I leave office, and we turn our calendars to the year 2000, I hope to continue, at a somewhat reduced level, to be a participant in what I believe is a bright future for TWHS. May God bless all of our efforts!

What a wonderful, and successful, 11th Annual Wendish Fest we had on September 26th. We were blessed with a beautiful day, the efforts of many faithful workers, wonderful attendance, and a financial success in our largest annual fund raising activity. A special thank you, for matching funds, to Aid Association for Lutherans, Branches: #2051 Lincoln, #2216 Lexington, #5011 Serbin, and #9319 LaGrange. Also to Lutheran Brotherhood, German-Wends #9002 Branch Serbin, for their "Friends in Deed" project funds that help provide items for the museum. *Giddings Times and News*, Mr. Sloan Preuss in particular, once again provided wonderful coverage, before, during, and after the event. The Rev. Elmer Hohle provided a very special addition to our festivities by singing *America* in Wendish, and offering his prayers in the Wendish and German languages as well as English. *Kovanda's Czech Band*, as usual, provided excellent entertainment, and the *Oakwilt Boys'* return engagement was a smashing success. The worship services, at St Paul Lutheran Church, were once again very well attended, and I know that we are all thankful for the congregation's support of our Society and its activities.

On behalf of TWHS, and all of our membership, I offer sincere condolences to Barbara Hielscher and her family, as they, and we, mourn the loss of Carroll Hielscher. Carroll was another of our volunteers, who was quietly always there to help and support Barbara and us. May God grant consolation and comfort!

I am pleased to mention that TWHS now has an e-mail address: wendish@bluebon.net. I am certain that this will be a very valuable tool for us as we enter the 21st Century. I hope that the day is not long away when we will have our own web-site, which will open many new horizons.

In closing, I pray that, as the new millenium dawns, we will continue to honor and esteem the values and traditions of those whose memory we seek to preserve. As the clock and the calendar continues to turn, may we never forget the shoulders that we stand upon to enjoy such a marvelous view of the future.

Georgie Bernstein Boyce

WENDISH FEST REPORT

I thought the 1998 Wendish Fest was absolutely the greatest we could do but the 1999 Fest was even bigger! There were over 1,300 meal tickets sold and the crowd on the grounds in the afternoon looked as big as last year.

Thanks to all of our willing workers and donors we had a beautiful day.

Brenda Duff and her committee did a great job on our first silent auction. The response to this was wonderful with donations and bidders. Now is the time for our members to plan their donations for next year.

Thanks to Eleanor and Melvin Schulze our courtyard looked great! They worked hard to spruce things up and with the shower of rain and cooler weather, plus the extra watering the red ox-blood lilies gave us a splash of red borders.

Thanks to some of our local residents our visitors from Germany and the Czech Republic were shown some good Texas hospitality. The German film crew, Martina Gawaz and Ulrike Cheddouri were hosted by Jack and Marian Wiederhold. Timo Meskank of Germany and Jaroslav Valenta of the Czech Republic were guests of William and Carol Jurk and Hanka Schon and Maria Lebsa of Germany were guests of James and Linda Tate.

Walter and Laverne Gersch are real experts at transporting their geese to the Festival for the enjoyment of the children. They also brought the corn for shelling. This was a real chore for those of us who remembered having to shell corn when we were children. This is a very popular addition for the children now.

The "By GoneYears" Exhibit and Demonstrations by John and Anna Adams of Cedar Creek, the noodle making and Easter egg demonstrations, churning, quilting, stone ground corn meal, wine making, sausage stuffing were enjoyed by everyone. There were many entries in the contests. The German sing-a-long led by Jack Wiederhold and Doug Makle was definitely a crowd pleaser. The Klettering Ffosten was a challenge to many children there.

To all who came, who helped, who supported us a big THANK YOU!!

Wendish Fest Committee
by
Evelyn N. Kasper

CONTESTS WINNERS:

The State of Texas Noodle Cook-Off sponsored by the First National Bank of Giddings supplied trophies and cash. Cheryl Walker assisted with the contest and Vice-President of the bank, Bob Mutschink, presented the awards. There were a total of nine participants. Winners were: 1st place, Connie Boriack, 2nd place, Dorothy Exner, and 3rd place, Martha Lorenz.

COFFEE CAKE BAKE-OFF:



Pictured from left, Elaine Caldwell of Houston, 3rd place streusel; Gladys Saegert of Giddings, 1st place special entry, 3rd place cheesecake; Annie Bartholic of Austin, 2nd place cheesecake; Evelyn Buchhorn of Austin, 2nd and 3rd place special entry, 1st place streusel; Elsie Mertink of Northrup, 2nd place streusel. Not pictured Martha Lorenz, 1st place cheesecake.

COLORING CONTEST:

Ages 0 - 5

- 1st - Alyssa Wilkins
- 2nd - Courtney Kaiser
- 3rd - Joseph Preston

Ages 6 - 9

- 1st - Kristen Munizee
- 2nd - Kaitlyn Wildins
- 3rd - Sarah Buchhorn (not pictured)



CROSS CUT SAW:

Men's Division

- 1st - Ralph Bamsch
Allan Jurk
- 2nd - Chris Haberer
Dennis Haberer
- 3rd - Michael Gaumer
Demmos Kurio

Women's Division

- 1st - Carolyn Bamsch
Judy Zoch
- 2nd - Whitney Rankin
Shawna Haberer
- 3rd - Julie Derring
Molly Derring

Mixed Division



Pictured from left: Allen Jurk and Judy Zoch, 1st place; Anthony and Lori McConnell, 2nd place; and Ralph and Carolyn Bamsch, 3rd place.

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**THANK YOU** to Eunice Dunk, Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, Georgie Boyce, and J. B. Gersch, Jr. for preparing and getting the August newsletter to the membership.

### **NOODLE REPORT**

by

Hattie Schautschick, Chairperson

There were 118 pounds prepared for the Wendish Fest and 285 pounds were sold. Noodles are made every other week. Over 2,725 pounds have been made to date.

## TOURS REPORT

by  
Evelyn N. Kasper

There were no tours during the summer months, but we have been very busy in September and October.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> Parkway place Retirement Center of Spring came for a tour and luncheon.

On September 10<sup>th</sup> the "Young at Heart" group from the same area came for the luncheon and tour.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades from Immanuel Lutharn in Houston came for a tour on their way to Camp Lone Star.

On September 30<sup>th</sup> a group from from St. John Lutheran in Bellville came for a tour.

On October 12<sup>th</sup> the 7<sup>th</sup> graders from Our Ssvior Lutheran in Houston came for a tour.

On October 18<sup>th</sup> a small group from the Blinn History Department in Brenham came for a tour.

We were extremely busy on October 20<sup>th</sup> and October 21<sup>st</sup> when the Pastors and Teachers Area C Conference was going on in this area. We had many visitors both evenings.

On October 22<sup>nd</sup> 40 people with the Women's Institute of Houston came for a tour and luncheon.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup> a plant exchange group met at the Serbin Picnic Grounds and many visited the Museum.

On October 26<sup>th</sup> a group of 29 from St. Paul Lutheran church in Taylor came for a tour and luncheon.

On November 5<sup>th</sup> a group of 42 came from The Women's Institute of Houston for a luncheon and tour. This group and the October 22<sup>nd</sup> group were pleased to have Mr. Mark McClain play the organ for them at St. Paul's.

## MEMORIALS

| In Memory of:     | Donor                                                                    | Amount  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Naomi K. Gordon   | M/M Herbert Zoch                                                         | \$25.00 |
| Naomi K. Gordon   | Electronic Data System                                                   |         |
| Naomi K. Gordon   | Evelyn Dye, Jim Dye family,<br>Gregory Dye family, and Rodney Dye Family |         |
| Naomi K. Gordon   | M/M John Schaeper                                                        |         |
| Naomi K. Gordon   | Lowell Gordon                                                            |         |
| Naomi K. Gordon   | M/M Craig Carter                                                         |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | Leroy Steglich, landscape fund                                           | \$20.00 |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Jack Wiederhold, endowment fund                                      | \$25.00 |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Melvin Schulze, endowment fund                                       | \$20.00 |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Herb Schulze, endowment fund                                         | \$25.00 |
| Carroll Hielscher | Dennis Winkler, endowment fund                                           | \$10.00 |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Bill Knippa, endowment fund                                          | \$20.00 |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Frank Taylo, endowment fund                                          |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | Ruth Lindner & Ann Smith, endowment fund                                 |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | Lorine Domel, endowment fund                                             |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Ron Kaiser, endowment fund                                           |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M E. A. Lehmann, endowment fund                                        |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | Leland Miller's Kovanda's Czech, endowment fund                          |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | Mary Guggusberg, endowment fund                                          |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Ward Critz, endowment fund                                           |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M James S. Critz, endowment fund                                       |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Reinhold Teinert, endowment fund                                     |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Milburn Nink, endowment fund                                         |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Ronald Hart, endowment fund                                          |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Wilbert Pietsch, endowment fund                                      |         |
| Carroll Hielscher | M/M Raymond Matthijetz, endowment fund                                   |         |

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### Hielscher Benefit Bake Sale

A bake sale will be held on Friday, November 19<sup>th</sup> at the State Bank in La Grange from 9:00 a.m. a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to help defray medical expenses of the late Carroll Hielscher. Assistance and matching funds will be provided by Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) branch #5011 of Serbin.

Members are asked to bring baked items, jellies, etc, to the Museum before 5:00 p.m. on Thursday or to La Grange on Friday morning. Monetary gifts will be appreciated. Checks may be made to AAL Branch #5011 and mailed to TWHS, Route 2, Box 15, Giddings, Texas 78942.

Evelyn N. Kasper  
Co-Ordinator





### IN SEARCH OF....."

Pleasant...or not-so pleasant!...memories of Gottfried and Amanda Thoensen Buchschacher and their family...including Gottfried's Swiss father, Daniel. Gottfried and Amanda are my great, great grandparents and almost none of our family history has been preserved. I have been attempting to reconstruct an accurate picture and have many newspaper articles and articles from Lutheran publications about Gottfried (largely due to the help of the Boyce's and other gracious folks at the Wendish Heritage Society – thank you!) but would treasure personal memories from the old-timers who knew them. Please contact: Teri Kramer, 3923 Prescott Avenue, Dallas, TX, 75219 or call 214/521-9695 and I will gladly return your call.

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