



Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum - Serbin, Texas

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NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII

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JANUARY, 2000

President's Message

Happy New Year to all of our members and friends! The year 2000 dawned quietly and uneventfully, in spite of all the media hype over the past few years, and I hope that good fortune continues as I begin my term as President of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. I think I can speak for the Board members and officers in saying that Georgie Boyce is and will continue to be missed. TWHS was fortunate to have her serve so faithfully for many years as a volunteer, and we will do our best to continue the growth momentum she built as President during the last three years. Although she returns to help us occasionally, she has left a definite void that will be hard to fill. We thank you, Georgie!

Looking back on the many activities during 1999, I am continually impressed with the level of involvement by so many of our members and friends. It seems that there is something happening weekly (and almost daily) at the Museum, be it hosting a tour, making noodles, or just guiding a steady stream of drop-in visitors around the museum and library, and it all requires many hours and a sincere dedication on the part of our volunteers to make sure that the activities "happen." I want to say thank you to all of our good and faithful volunteers, and if you have not yet had the chance to spend an afternoon serving as museum docent or working a shift at the Wendish Fest, I hope that you will consider making 2000 your year to become involved! Your participation would be a wonderful New Year's resolution.

Speaking of TWHS activities, our Walk-In Coffee will be held on Tuesday, February 15 from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church in Giddings. Donations of baked goods, money, or time will be happily accepted! Another upcoming event is the Winedale Spring Festival and Texas Crafts Exhibition at Round Top on March 18 and 19. We have submitted an application to participate and, if approved, we will be there selling cooked and dried noodles and possibly other goodies! Participation at this event would be another wonderful opportunity to introduce TWHS to a broader audience. I hope you will consider attending the event—it should be fun and educational! And one project that is just beginning to get off the ground is the development of a Texas Wendish Heritage Society and Museum web site. This will be developed over the coming months and we hope to have it in operation sometime this year. If anyone has ideas or suggestions for the site, or experience in developing a web site, I would love to hear from you. My email address is jan@mail.utexas.edu and my home telephone number is (512) 892-0514.

A new addition to the Museum gift shop is a book entitled *Images of America: Lee County, Texas*, published by the Lee County Historical Commission. It is an interesting chronicle of Lee County's history an eight-page section on the history of Serbin with wonderful photos supplied by our Museum. The price per copy is \$19.00. And a significant donation made recently to our library by Bill Biar, a member who lives in Colorado, is a large collection of his research records, articles he has written, and a number of past issues of the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*.

As I begin my first term as President, I want to say that I am grateful for this opportunity, and I look forward to working with many of you and getting to know many more of you.

Jan Slack
Jan Knippa Slack

FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL UPDATE!!

A **BIG CHANGE** in this year's Folklife Festival....!! New Dates!!

We will all enjoy cooler weather when we attend this year's Festival. On June 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, 2000. Again we will have Fabulous Food and need to get some Fabulous Entertainment. Talk to your family members/friends, and whoever is interested, contact.

Ron Knippa
2662 Pebble Bow
San Antonio, TX 78232
210/496-3105

SPARKLING CLEAN BUILDINGS

For our local people who saw the mildew on the Museum buildings before the Wendish Fest I'm sure it was a nice surprise to see them sparkling white at the Festival. This was not automatic! Otto Becker, Jr. spent **13 long** hours using the pressure equipment of Delvin and Judy Boriack, to accomplish this.

It still looks good and we say a big **"THANK YOU"** every time we look at the outside of the buildings.

VISITORS

During the months of November and December we have had visitors from Pennsylvania, Colorado, Indiana, Philadelphia, Germany, Arkansas, Ohio, Nevada, and all parts of Texas.

DOCENTS

Acting as docents during November and December were: Reinhold Teinert, Lorine Domel, Erna Mersiovsky, Ken Weiser, Eleanor Schulze, Ruth Lindner, Jan and Charles Slack, Vivian Taylor, Hattie Schautschick, Georgie Boyce, Evelyn Kasper, Laverne Gersch, Janice Mitschke Mildred Kilian, J. B. Gersch, Jr.,

MEMORIALS

In Memory of:	Donor	Amount
Beatrice K. Tschatschula	M/M Reinhold Teinert	
Carroll Hielscher	M/M Otto Becker	
Carroll Hielscher	M/M Charles Kuhn	
Carroll Hielscher	M/M Allan Buchhorn	

In Honor of :	Donor	Amount
Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Biehle 50th Wedding Anniversary Endowment Fund	Mr. Leroy Steglich	\$20.00

A \$700.00 donation to the endowment fund was received to match the February Walk-in Coffee.

A \$1,400.00 donation was given to the Wilson Research Fund.

A \$103.00 donation was given to the Nielsen Research Fund.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 15** Walk-In Coffee/Bake Sale, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall, 192 S. Grimes in Giddings, TX
- February 20** General Membership Meeting at the Museum Complex at 2:00 p.m.
- April 16** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Palm Sunday
- April 2** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Good Friday
- April 23** Museum will be **CLOSED** for Easter Sunday
- April 24** Deadline for articles for April Newsletter
- March 18 - 19** Winedale Spring Festival at Round Top, TX
- April 25 – 29** Texas Association of Museum at the Double Tree Hotel, Austin, TX

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FEBRUARY MEETING PROGRAM

Dr. Madlena Morberg from Germany will be the speaker for our February general membership meeting. She is the daughter of the Reverend Herbert Nowak, a retired Lutheran minister in Drebkau, who is an expert on the Lower Wendish language, and she is also. She has written a number of articles and a book entitled "Process of Language Change in Lower Lusatia". She received her Ph. D. from the University of Uppsala in Sweden and is now a Professor at the University of Pottsdam in Germany. She is involved in the revival of the Lower Sorbian language. The topic of her presentation will be on the Wendish language in Germany today.

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Thank you, to Evelyn Kasper, Irene Teinert, Jan Slack, Adele Wilson, Katherine Michalk, Della Mullens, J. B. Gersch, Jr., Evelyn and Allan Buchhorn for supplying refreshments for the November meeting.

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THANK YOU

It's easy to say thank you. The really hard part is to tell you all the many, many special thoughts I include with these thanks to you. I can't thank you enough for all of the kindness, support, and help you've given me.

Please continue to keep me, and my family in your prayers as I believe this is helping us through our difficult times.

Thank you all for your hard work with the bake sales, the many cards, memorials, generous gifts, and most of all for being there for me.

May God's love shine on you and bless you all. You are loved.

Sincerely,
Barbara

**Texas Wendish Heritage Society
General Membership Meeting
November 21, 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, November 21, 1999.

Twenty-five members were present. Also attending as a visitor was Adelle Peschel from Elgin, Texas.

Reverend Michael Buchhorn of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Serbin, presented the devotion speaking on the theme "Thanksgiving." We should all give thanks for this great, free country that lured our forefathers here to live, even as our ancestors stopped for a national day of Thanksgiving to recognize and count God's many blessings. Reverend Buchhorn also read the *Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1863* written by President Abraham Lincoln, stressing the fact that the points mentioned in the Proclamation are still valid today. The devotion closed by singing the *Doxology*.

The minutes of the August 15, 1999 General Meeting were approved as presented.

George Boerger reported that this year's Wendish Fest was a financial success. The year 1999 closes with the overall budget in the black, and full details will be presented at the February 2000 Membership Meeting.

In Hattie Schautschick's absence, Evelyn Kasper reported that the Noodle Committee has produced 3,258 pounds of noodles thus far for 1999.

Evelyn Kasper reported that the Museum has been busy hosting tours over the past three months. She also stated that consideration is being given to not scheduling tours the week preceding and immediately following the Wendish Fest to allow more time for Fest preparations.

Eunice Dunk gave an update of the progress of 1999 grant applications. Final word about approval of the LCRA grant application is still forthcoming. She also stated that other grant options are being sought.

Due to Laverne Gersch's absence, no Oak Tree Replacement Project report was given.

Evelyn Kasper expressed gratitude to everyone for his or her hard work on the Wendish Fest. A total of 1,311 dinner plates were sold, which is a higher number than in 1998. She asked for suggestions of program ideas for the Fest in 2000. Special mention was made of the stainless steel countertop for the sausage-cutting table made and donated by Frank Taylor.

Evelyn Kasper reported that \$832.75 was made at the Hielscher benefit bake sale, held November 18 in La Grange. The Serbin branch of the Aid Association for Lutherans will match earnings up to \$800.00. Cash donations are still being accepted. Georgie Boyce read a letter (copy filed in Minutes) from Barbara Hielscher expressing her gratitude for all the assistance, cards, memorials, and gifts she and her family have received over the past months during Carroll Hielscher's illness and following his death. Evelyn Kasper, Hattie Schautschick, Laverne Gersch, Irene Boriack, and Kenneth Watts were thanked for their work at the recent bake sale.

New Business:

- (a) Georgie Boyce announced that the Museum received a letter from Dr. David Zersen, Concordia Austin's President, stating that the Austin Ethnic Fair, scheduled for January 2000, has been cancelled. He expressed his hope that the event would be held again in the

WALK-IN COFFEE

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15
9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**First Presbyterian Church
Fellowship Hall**

**(across from Schubert-Fletcher House
and the Eleanor Cottage)
GIDDINGS, TEXAS**

FREE WILL DONATION

**Sponsored by and benefiting the
TEXAS WENDISH
HERITAGE SOCIETY**

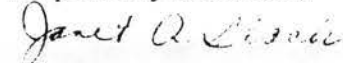
future. With the cancellation of this event, the Walk-In Coffee will be held in February. J.B. Gersch stated that the First Presbyterian Church in Giddings will allow the use of their property with approval from the Church Board and that no user fee will be charged, but a donation would be accepted. The Walk-In Coffee/Bake Sale committee will schedule a date for the event.

- (b) J.B. Gersch stated that he has placed an order for the Lee County Historical Commission pictorial books, which should be delivered by the end of November. The books will be sold in the Museum gift shop for approximately \$18.95 per copy.

Georgie Boyce presented the slate of nominees for Board officers for the 2000-2002 term. No additional nominations were made from the floor. Motion was made and approved to cease nominations. The slate of nominees included Jan Slack (President), Eunice Dunk (Vice-President), Sandra Mattijetz (Recording Secretary), and Evelyn Kasper (Treasurer). A motion was made and approved to accept the nominees by acclamation. Georgie thanked everyone for their support during her three-year term as President and stressed the need for everyone to work together as a team to continue the growth of the Museum and Society. She also stressed the importance of encouraging the younger generation to become a part of the Texas Wendish Heritage Society. Leroy Steglich expressed his appreciation to Georgie for her many years of service, and George Boerger presented her with a jar of Spreewaldhof pickles from Germany as a special remembrance.

Motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:10 P.M. Georgie Boyce thanked Telford Zoch for supplying the Christmas tree and the fresh greenery decorating the Museum buildings. Following the meeting, Christmas carols were sung in the St. Paul Building, led by Jack Wiederhold, and Christmas treats were enjoyed in the Kilian Building.

Respectfully submitted,



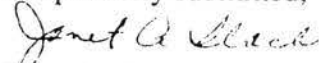
Janet A. Slack
Secretary

Texas Wendish Heritage Society
Executive Board Meeting
November 21, 1999

President Georgie Boyce called a brief Executive Board meeting in the Kilian Building immediately following the General Membership Meeting on November 21, 1999.

At this meeting, a motion was made and approved to appoint Laverne Gersch to fill the Board vacancy created by Eunice Dunk's election as Vice-President. A second motion was made and approved to reappoint J.B. Gersch and Della Mullens to two-year terms on the Board.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet A. Slack
Secretary

2000 OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Slack
4605 Trail West
Austin, TX 78735
President (12/01)
512-892-0514

Eunice Dunk
387 Edgewood
Giddings, TX 78942
Vice-President (12/01)
409-542-3469

Sandra Matthijetz
2020 Emil Rd
Winchester, TX 78945
Secretary (12/01)
409-242-3442

Evelyn N. Kasper
P. O. Box 68
Warda, TX 78960
Treasurer (12/01)
409-242-3367

Georgie B. Boyce
P. O. Box 1298
Eden, TX 76837
Past President
915-869-5369

Laverne Gersch
Route 2, Box 210
Giddings, TX 78942
Appointed (12/00) E. Dunk Vac.
409-366-2247

J. B. Gersch, Jr.
1111 E. Hempstead St
Giddings, TX 78942
Appointed (12/01)
409-542-2923

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

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

Della Mullens
8 Tourney Cove
Austin, TX 787838-1119
Appointed (12/01)
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)
713-686-4224



IN SEARCH OF....."

I am writing because I wonder if my mother's grandfather, Gustave Eduard Heining, my have been Wendish.

Heinig doesn't doesn't seem to be a common German name. He was born at the town of Schmoelln near Altenburg in Thuringia in 1825. His father and grandfather were from Altenburg or near there. His father, who died in 1826, was a clock maker by trade. His mother was named Gerth and was from and was from Reichstadt.

G. E. Heinig, his mother stepfather Ausustus F. Loos (born in Poland) came to the U.S. in 1834. Photos of G. E. Heinig show him to look more Slavonic than German, in my opinion, and this is why I wondered if his ancestry might be Wendish. There were other Heinig family members who lived closer to Dresden and photos also show them with the Slavonic appearance.

Any suggestions you have as to where I could find out more about this possibility will b greatly appreciated. Please send any information to: Mrs. Verna Forbes Willson, Post office Box 2778, Farmington, NM 87499-2778.

Searching for **CARL LUDWIG GUSTAV LEHMANN** who came to Texas, ca. 1854-55, settling at Indianola. He was employed by the Morgan Steamship Lines there.

Seeking a possible ship list showing him arriving in Texas. He was born at Landsberg an der Warthe, Prussia in 1824 and died in 1892 at Cuero, TX. Census records for Calhun County and Indianola show Gustav's wife as Wilhelmine Lehmann. Any help or suggestions would be appreciated by, Mr. Bill Lehmann, 430 North Park, Guthrie, OK 73044, CHILIBILL4@AOL.COM.

It's a cool move!

**The Texas Folklife Festival's
new dates are
June 1-4, 2000.**



The summer tradition continues...

Texas Mendish Heritage Society and Museum

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Permit No. 14

Mr. John Jacob
3009 Kinney
Austin, TX 78704

