



# CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established 2008*

ISSUE 2

JANUARY, 2009

## President's Column . . .

### Cypress Top Historic Park and Museum Opens

The grand opening of Cypress Top Historic Park and Museum was held on Monday, November 10, 2008. The park was donated to Harris County Precinct Three by Delphine and Gene Zaboroski. Diane Neff, President of CHS presented the Zaboroski's with a plaque for their contribution to the heritage of Harris County. Diane also presented a plaque to Commissioner Steve Radack for his vision to preserve this part of Cypress history. Commissioner Radack's commitment to this project will ensure that many future generations will enjoy the park and museum.

. . . Diane Neff



Cypress Historical Society President, Diane Neff, presented a plaque to Gene and Delphine Zaboroski "In Appreciation for Your Donation of Cypress Top, Protecting Our Heritage".

### Tours are Welcome to Cypress Top Historic Park and Museum

Cypress Top Historic Park and Museum is open every Tuesday from 9:00am – 4:00pm for tours. If you would like to schedule a tour for another day and time, call 281-357-5324.



With a snip of the ribbon, the Cypress Top Park and Museum was officially opened! (Left to Right: Rev. Alvin Musgrove, former Pastor of St John Lutheran Church, Gene and Delphine Zaboroski, Park Director Fred Collins, Harris County Precinct #3 Commissioner Steve Radack)

### Juergen's Hall at Cypress Top Historic Park and Museum

If you would like to reserve Juergen's Hall for a private function, please call 281-859-1566. The hall will not be available on holidays or Sundays.



One of the highlights of the Cypress Top Opening was the display of the Pioneer Families of Cypress on the walls of Juergen's Hall. This is one example of the many collaborations between the CHS Historians and Cypress Top Park staff.

## ***Annual Meeting Minutes . . .***

Cypress Historical Society, Annual Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2008 1:00 p.m.

President Diane Neff called the first annual meeting of the Cypress Historical Society to order at 1:10 p.m. She thanked everyone present for coming and gave a brief description of when the Society was formed and its purpose for being formed. She asked everyone to please sign in before they left if they had not already done so. She advised we needed volunteers to help on the accounting, newsletter, fund raising, website, educational programs, and social activities committees and encouraged those able to assist in any area to sign the list available on the table. She advised everyone there were some paper copies of the bylaws available and also a list to sign if they preferred to receive them by email. If anyone joins the Society today, they will get a membership for 14 months which is through the end of 2009. Everyone else who has already joined will be asked to renew their membership in January 2009.

A membership report was given by Secretary Helen Callender: Individual – 25, Family (44) – 88, Sustaining – 9, Sponsor – 3, Business – 1, and Corporate Sponsor – 1; Total = 127.

Copies of the treasurer's report were available for everyone and Treasurer Jim Sigmund explained it. A copy is attached to these minutes. He advised the current balance was \$3,022.90 with a couple of pending expenses yet to be paid.

Diane Neff introduced Fred Collins, Cypress Historic Park Director, as the guest speaker. Fred's presentation was regarding the significance of Cypress in Northwest Harris County and how it played an important part in the early days as a communication hub and a transportation hub. He explained how the journals left in the Juergen's store provided a good history of what life was like in Cypress in the 1850's and later.

Jane Ledbetter, Historian, then gave a report on the research that had been done thus far to recreate the history of the Cypress area and life as it once was. The original focus has been on journals and abstracts to learn about life in Cypress. As history is being compiled, it is being put on the computer with the hope of having a website for future generations to reference and learn about the early life and times of Cypress residents. Family trees were being compiled of the early families and will be displayed in Juergen's Hall. This genealogy work, along with other research is a work in progress and there are still some family trees being researched and developed. As with any project, there has to be a starting point and the CHS historians have done the best they could in starting with the original settlers. In some cases, this caused them to condense some family trees because of the large numbers of individuals involved and the limited space allowed for the displays. She thanked everyone who had provided pictures or information. Jane asked if anyone had any old pictures of the Cypress area to contact the historians.

Another area the historians are working on is documentation of old houses in the area. A Book of Memories of the Cypress area is also being compiled and she welcomed anyone with information or contributions to contact her. She solicited volunteers to help with research. Diane Neff announced the Cypress Historical Society would have a meeting in the first quarter of 2009 and would have a presentation on the history of Cypress.

Currently, the Cypress Historical Society meets at Kleb Woods but will be looking for a meeting place closer to Cypress Top Park.

It was announced the Cypress Top Historic Park would be open on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. for anyone wishing to tour the facilities.

The business meeting adjourned and all those in attendance were encouraged to tour the buildings in the park and return to Juergen's Hall for refreshments and to share past stories and memories.

Respectfully submitted  
Helen M. Callender, Secretary

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Cypress Historical Society

The official coming-out party for the Cypress Historical Society happened on November 15, 2008 at its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Membership Meeting. The event was appropriately held in Juergen's Hall, less than a week after the opening of the Harris County Cypress Top Historic Park and Museum. After a short business meeting, members enjoyed refreshments and an exclusive tour of the Park. Members saw old friends and relatives, and there were plenty of stories exchanged. New pictures and family histories were donated to the Society, adding to our growing collection of the history of Cypress, and the families that lived here.

-- Jim Sigmund



The Officers of the Cypress Historical Society preside over the organization's 1st Annual Membership meeting in Juergen's Hall. (Left to Right: Secretary-Helen Callender, VP-Darline Roth, President-Diane Neff, Treasurer-Jim Sigmund)



CHS Historian Joyce Kleb is one of the first to sign in, along with CHS Advisory Board member Paul Bellows, owner of the Cypress Station Grill, and CHS VP Darline Roth and fellow CHS Historian Jane Ledbetter.



Guest speaker, Fred Collins, Director of the Cypress Top Park for Harris County Precinct #3, gave an interesting account of early Cypress, especially its importance as a westward expansion of the railroads.

## Cypress Historical Society

### Board Of Directors

<b>President</b>	<b>Diane Neff</b>	<b>(281) 256-6212</b>	<b>DianeNeff@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Darline Roth</b>	<b>(281) 304-8068</b>	
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Helen Callender</b>	<b>(281) 373-4617</b>	<b>hewacal@netzero.com</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jim Sigmund</b>	<b>(281) 373-9052</b>	<b>jsigm@aol.com</b>
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>Jane Ledbetter</b>	<b>(281) 255-9297</b>	<b>janel_54@att.net</b>
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>Joyce Kleb</b>	<b>(281) 894-1662</b>	<b>jtk1951@sbcglobal.net</b>
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>Scott Kiester</b>	<b>(281) 373-9744</b>	<b>skiester2@comcast.net</b>

## ***Memories of Cypress . . .***

### **Living with Grandma Juergen**

My mother (Lilia Juergen Zaboroski), my brother, Gene, and I lived with Grandma Juergen after my mother and dad divorced. I was five, and Gene was three years of age (making this around the year of 1939). We had a room on the west end of the Juergen house. It was furnished with two iron bedsteads and a chifforobe.

Other members of the family lived in Grandma's home with us: Uncle Eddie, Uncle Clarence, and cousin Meta Hegar and her son, Douglas. I have often thought back on Grandma having to care for all of us after raising her own large family. She cooked our meals, sometimes with help from our mother and Meta, but basically she was responsible for running the household. She was a quiet person who simply took care of everything that fell her lot to take care of.

There was no air conditioning back then, but we really didn't need it. That house had lots of big windows, which we opened wide and let the breeze come in. Being so close to the railroad you might think we couldn't sleep when the trains came rumbling by during the night right across the two-lane highway from the house. But we usually slept soundly through the night without being awakened.

While we lived there with Grandma, my mother worked at Hot Wells. She walked along the railroad tracks to get there. She boarded there at Hot Wells and would walk back home to Grandma Juergen's house to visit with us on her days off.

My mother was paid the grand sum of \$1.00/day for her work at Hot Wells. One of her jobs there was to rent bathing suits to whoever needed one (not everybody had his or her own bathing suit back then). She also showed people where to change clothes and where to put their own clothes while they were in the pool.

Some people probably thought Gene and I could eat all the candy we ever wanted, and drink all the soda pop we wanted since we



Joyce Zaboroski, Lilia Juergen, and Gene Zaboroski (1939)

were in and out of the store all the time. But such was not the case. We did not get to have those things unless we had the money to pay for them, and usually we did not have any money. However, sometimes if we looked sad enough, somebody at the bar would feel sorry for us and give us a nickel or a dime to buy some candy or a soda pop.

I guess it could be said that Gene and I had a typical brother-sister relationship. He loved to chase me around and around Grandma's big dining room table threatening to hit me with a piece of firewood. Of course, I ran and screamed because I really did not know what he might do if he ever caught me. His other thing was to jump out of the hedge between the house and the store and scare me as I walked by there going to and from the store.

Gene and I spent a great deal of our growing-up years in the Juergen house. I feel that we were very fortunate to grow up there, in the little country town of Cypress, surrounded by family and friends. I know Gene feels the same way.

Joyce Zaboroski Kleb (October, 2008)

## CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Presents

# THE EARLY HISTORY OF CYPRESS, TEXAS

SLIDE SHOW AND STORY SWAPPIN'

February 28, 2009

1:00pm - 4:00pm

Juergen's Hall, Cypress Top Park  
26026 Old Hempstead Highway



If you missed the tour of the Cypress Top Park in November, you will have another chance on February 28<sup>th</sup>. The Cypress Historical Society will also be showing its first education program - a photo slide show of the Early History of Cypress.

And, we want to hear from you also! We would love it if you would come and share your stories and information. Our historians have done an amazing job, but we need more input from you to fill in the gaps and add your own experiences. As many of our members are unable to drive at night we have planned the event on a Saturday afternoon. If you have pictures you would like to share (or lend so that they can be copied) please bring them with you. I have not lived in Cypress my whole life, but the history of the area has been fascinating and joyful to our family. Please come and share your treasures (stories) with us, so that our children's children will know the wonderful place they call home.

-- Terri Sigmund

## 2009 Annual Dues

Notices for 2009 annual dues will be sent out this month. Please return the form along with your payment to Jim Sigmund, 19518 Lutheran Cemetary Rd., Cypress, Texas 77433. Checks should be made payable to "Cypress Historical Society".

## CHS Future Plans

In our first 5 months, the Cypress Historical Society focused on organizational issues, by-laws, and our volunteer efforts with the opening of the Cypress Top Historic Park and Museum. Now, it is time to share ideas and develop our future goals, and the CHS Board of Directors wants your input.

First on our wish list, is to have a permanent home for the Society. We are looking for of a piece of land in Cypress that could be donated, which could hold a future library/program building for CHS.

In addition, we would like to have more opportunities for the people of Cypress to get together. We want to help facilitate that home town feeling through our social events and programs.

We will be forming several committees to help with these future goals. We can use just about everyone in one capacity or another. Folks that can bake for the social events; deliver newsletters to area businesses to promote CHS; help with doing the taxes (we are in the midst of getting our 501(c)3 status); fundraising ideas, and folks to make the ideas happen are just a few. If we are going to be successful, it will take all of us. Please contact a Board Member and let them know how you can help.

## Historian Projects

While we are still adding more Pioneer Families to the wall at Juergen's Hall, we have begun a new and interesting project. If you have old family pictures taken in the Cypress and surrounding area that you cannot identify (and may dispose of) we would like for you to donate these to the Cypress Historical Society. These pictures will be put in albums, listing the name of the family who donated them. There is a lot to be told about every day life, "Back When", from the pictures. The albums will eventually be available to the public. If you were wondering what to do with your treasure of old pictures, here is an opportunity to preserve them.

-- Darline Roth

Cypress Historical Society  
13003 Red Laurel Ct.  
Cypress, Texas 77429

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Names(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual	(\$5)	_____	Sustaining	(\$50)	_____
Family	(\$10)	_____	Sponsor	(\$100)	_____
Business	(\$25)	_____	Corporate Sponsor	(\$250)	_____

I would like to make a Donation to support the Cypress Historical Society \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in serving on a committee? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Are you interested in joining our group of Historians? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to: Cypress Historical Society

Mail check and form to: Jim Sigmund 19518 Lutheran Cemetary Rd, Cypress, TX 77433

Questions: Contact Darline Roth at 281-304-8068 or Jane Ledbetter at 281-255-9297