



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 3

MAY, 2009

President's Column . . .

Summer is here and we want to celebrate with an Old Fashioned Picnic, July 11 from 1:30-4:30pm. We need your help and support to make this social successful. Many volunteer opportunities are available to assist with games, set up, clean up, grilling hot dogs or cash donations are welcome! The historical society is not charging for this social but we would like to have sponsors to assist with the expenses. If you own a business or know someone who would like to assist in sponsoring this event, please call a board member. We will recognize our sponsors in a publication at the picnic. In order to make our events successful we need your participation, attendance and financial support. Plan to come and bring your family, grandchildren or invite a friend/neighbor. A member will be calling you in June to get your verbal RSVP . . . Diane Neff

Tomball German Festival

In its first public appearance, The Cypress Historical Society set up a booth at the Tomball German Heritage Festival on March 27-29, 2009.

One of our CHS goals was to create a set of displays that can be used at area festivals to promote Cypress history, and also for use in educational programs at area schools. This is a work in progress, but we now have a first set of booth displays that can be used in the future. If you know of a community event where we can set up a display, please let us know.

Special thanks to Elroy and JoAnn Hirsch, Diane Neff, Darline Roth, Jane Ledbetter, Scott Kiester, Jim and Terri Sigmund, Duke Cuming, Margaret and Frank Farese, Ken and Linda Martin-Rust, and Karen McGilvery who worked the booth. . . . Jim Sigmund

Docents Needed at Cypress Top Historical Park and Museum

The park opened in November of 2008 and CHS has given tours to over 275 guests. Volunteers are very much needed at the park. We need docents to lead tours, as well as tour assistants and people to just be available in Juergen's Hall to greet visitors. Training is available for docent tour guides. Whether you have one hour, or several hours available, we would welcome your assistance. The park is open for tours on Tuesdays from 9:00am – 4:00pm. Call any CHS board member to volunteer.



At our booth at the Tomball German Heritage Festival, Jane Ledbetter (left) and Darline Roth (right) pose with James H.G. Thompson of Fort Worth. Mr. Thompson is dressed in the uniform of the Bavarian Royal Guard. In 1805 the regiment was removed from the line of battle in the Bavarian Army and designated the Bavarian Royal Guard by Maximilian Josef 1, the first King of Bavaria. From that time on, their duties were to be the personal guard regiment for the Royal Family of Bavaria. The design of the uniform remained unchanged until 1910.

A Peek into Opening a Park

“Juergen Dance Hall” “The Juergen Store” For many long-time residents of the Cypress area, these two places evoke fond memories. These well-known neighborhood landmarks have been part of the Cypress landscape for well over a hundred years.

The Juergen Dance Hall is the scene of numerous birthday and graduation parties, as well as wedding receptions, class reunions, and anniversary celebrations. The earliest remaining invoices from the Juergen Store, which E. F. operated until his death in 1930, are from 1897. After an eight-year hiatus, E. F.’s son, Clarence, reopened the store. Years later, his nephew, Gene Zaboroski, operated it until he closed its doors as a commercial venture for the last time in the early 1990s. Until June 2006, a total of four generations of Juergens occupied the large, white, Juergen family home for 106 years. It is our good fortune that E. F. and his descendents stored many, many items each time they modernized the store, hall and house.

What treasures hid in the dance hall, the attics and nooks and crannies? What if walls could talk? What would they tell us about their renovation? What was involved in readying these buildings to become a Harris County Precinct 3 park? After Gene and Delphine Zaboroski donated the 2.4-acre area to Harris County Precinct 3, a large number of items were moved from various buildings into the dance hall, which became a staging area while county workers renovated, cleaned and painted these buildings. Everything was carefully taken to the hall to be thoroughly dusted, scrubbed, polished and sometimes, reupholstered. In the hall, dedicated volunteers spent untold hours sorting through the furniture



and memorabilia piled on the floor of the stage area, stacked on top of, and piled underneath, rows and rows of tables on the dance floor. Volunteers carefully picked their way through the narrow aisles between these rows of tables and worked on restoring, among other things, furniture and mirrors that had been stored in the attic of the house from the time of Mary and E. F. Juergen.

In the store and bar, every item, large or small, be it bottle, glass, plate, dish, pot, pan, tool, door knob, fishing rod, glasses from the bar, medicine jar or any other item you can imagine, was first dusted, then washed with soap and cold water, since there was no longer hot water. Things were then dried and returned to shelves or cabinets, which the volunteers had also thoroughly scrubbed. Much of this volunteer work was done in the middle of winter, with no heat, or in the middle of Cypress summers, with no air conditioning. Since the main buildings now have heat and air, it is hard for visitors to appreciate what the volunteers endured as they readied everything for display.

Once the county workers completed the necessary renovations and removal of extraneous buildings, things were taken back to their “original” homes, where possible, and arranged for display. There were enough items on hand from all the buildings that the store could be further stocked, the hall decorated and the house furnished. Every attempt was made to reproduce the look and atmosphere, if not the exact replica, of “Old Cypress Top.”

. . . Linda Martin-Rust

*The Cypress Historical Society
Invites you to*

An Old Fashioned Picnic

with games, music, food and fun



***Where:* Juergen's Hall, Cypress, Texas**

***When:* Saturday, July 11, 2009**

***Time:* 1:30 until 4:30pm**

*Hot Dogs
Children's Games
Music & Dance*

*Horseshoes
Face Painting
Croquet & Ping Pong*



Historians Jane Ledbetter, Terri Sigmund, and Darline Roth visit the Zahn Family Cemetery on K-Z Road.

Historian Projects . . .

We are researching some of the older cemeteries that we have not had access to before, such as the Zahn and Neumeyer Family Cemeteries. The headstones bear verses written in German . . . a challenge to try and read! Another project in progress--The History of Fairbanks, Texas. Any input on history or pictures will be appreciated. -- Darline Roth

CHS Supports Rosehill Social Club

We have made two donations to support the efforts of the Rosehill Social Club Annual Fundraiser held on May 17th: 1) A free rental of the Juergen's Dance Hall (\$150 value), and 2) a Personal Guided Tour of the Cypress-Top Historical Museum and Park, and a \$50 gift Certificate for Cypress Station Grill next door.

Memories of Cypress . . .

Growing up in Cypress-Late 1930's-Mid-1950's . . .

My Mom and Dad lived with his mother (my Grandma Peterson) when they first married. She lived close to Old Highway 290 and Spring-Cypress Road, and had a small dairy.

Later, my parents built a small house and barn a short distance down Spring-Cypress from my grandmother's house. They started a dairy with a few cows they got from Grandma Peterson. When my brothers and I were still quite small, my parents built on to the house. We had to live in the hay barn near the dairy barn until we could get back into the house. That was fun for us kids, but probably not so much fun for Mom and Dad!

In those days, Spring-Cypress Road was just a narrow gravel road, barely two lanes wide. There was a ditch between our house and the road, and a larger ditch across the road. When it rained really hard and the larger ditch overflowed onto the road, my brothers and I could wade onto the road and catch crawfish (crawdads!).

Our house was the normal white board house with a garage in back. Originally, we had an outhouse (with a pit), no running water in the house, and no electricity. Later, we had butane for heating and cooking, and electricity and indoor plumbing! My Dad built a washroom on the back of the garage for the wringer washer and two tubs for rinsing the clothes. Water for the washing machine was heated outside in a black washpot and carried with buckets into the washroom and poured



(Back row) Leatha's brothers, Lloyd and B.L., Jr. (Front row) Parents, Baldwin and Ruby (Stivers) Peterson, and Leatha (May, 1970)

into the washing machine. When I was old enough, I helped my Mom rinse the clothes and then hang the clothes outside to dry. When the clothes were dry, we took them off the clothes lines and brought them into the house. The clothes smelled so good!

My brothers and I used to play under our house. The house sat on blocks, which made it about 16" off the ground. We would lie down on the ground and scoot under the house. We played with our little cars and trucks under there because it was cool and had dirt that we could build roads in. We did not often leave our yard to go to Grandma

Cypress Historical Society

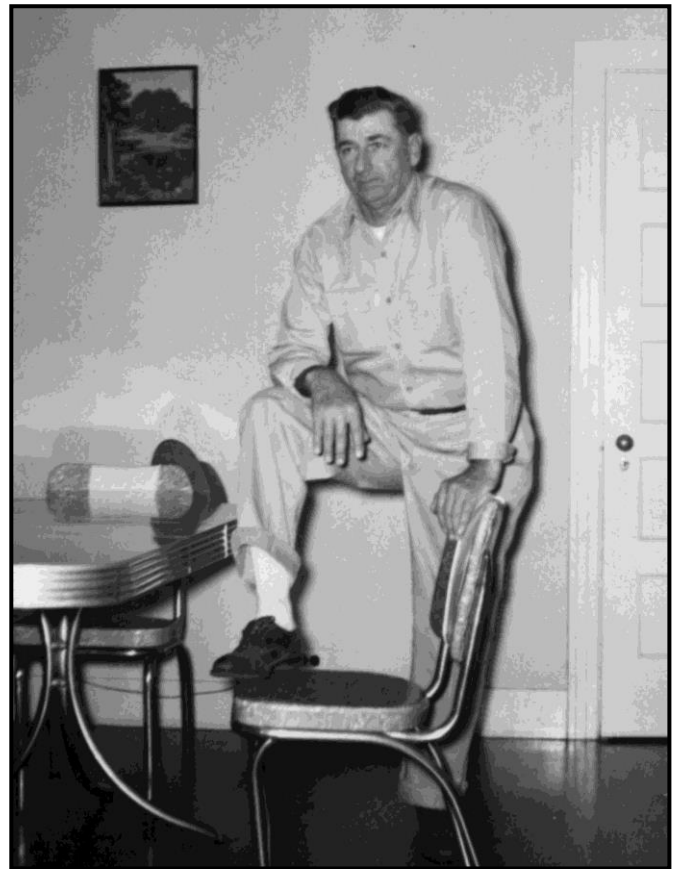
Board Of Directors

President	Diane Neff	(281) 256-6212	dianeneff@sbc.net
Vice President	Darline Roth	(281) 304-8068	droth49@comcast.net
Secretary	Helen Callender	(281) 373-4617	hewacal@netzero.net
Treasurer	Jim Sigmund	(281) 373-9052	jsigm@aol.com
At-Large	Jane Ledbetter	(281) 255-9297	janel_54@att.net
At-Large	Joyce Kleb	(281) 894-1662	jtk1951@sbcglobal.net
At-Large	Scott Kiester	(281) 373-9744	skiester2@comcast.net

Peterson's house or to play with other children around the neighborhood. Our parents told us there were tramps hiding in the bushes and trees. This scared us enough to keep us at home, although we did walk to Neal's Store in Cypress to catch the school bus and pick up the mail. And, we did go to the old Juergen Dance Hall a couple of times to roller skate with Joyce and Gene Zaboroski. The dance hall was used as a warehouse at the time, with sacks of feed and other farm necessities stored there. By pushing some of these things around a bit, we had a really great roller skating rink!

I was called on often to help out with the "daily chores" (cows had to be milked twice a day, seven days a week). I put out feed in the troughs before the cows came in, closed the stanchions when they were in, washed the cows' bags before and after milking them, cleaned the barn during and after milking, and helped clean the cow lot every day. I even helped spread the fertilizer (manure) a few times. It was put on a trailer behind the tractor and taken out to the pasture.

The manure helped everything in the pasture to grow better, including the bitterweeds. In those days we didn't have chemical weed killers, so the bitterweeds had to be pulled by hand. If the cows ate them, their milk would turn bitter. I recall there was



Leotha's Dad, Baldwin Lewis Peterson. (January, 1959)

one time when all the milk had to be dumped because the inspectors said it tasted bitter.

As I think back on my growing-up years in Cypress, I think my most favorite memory of all was smelling those freshly washed clothes as they were taken off the clothes line!

Leotha (Peterson) McDonald (October, 2008)



Leotha, with the family's Hudson.

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