



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 4

September 2009

CHS PICNIC

BY: DIANE NEFF

An Old Fashioned Patriotic Picnic was held on Sat., July 11 at Juergen's Hall which is located at Cypress Top Park and Museum. This event would not have been a success without the help of our generous neighborhood sponsors and volunteers. Everyone attending enjoyed the music of Celtaire String Band, North Harris County Dulcimer Society, demonstrations by Arthur Murray Dance Studio, Houston Area Blacksmith Association and of antique wood-working tools. The hot dogs with all the trimmings, watermelon and homemade desserts were a big hit.

Thanks again to all our sponsors and volunteers! ♣



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY: DARLINE ROTH

Diane Neff recently resigned as president of the Cypress Historical Society, and also resigned from the CHS Board of Directors. We thank Diane for all the hard work she did in getting the CHS established, and especially her efforts in getting by-laws written and securing our non-profit organizational status.

As Vice President, I will finish out Diane's term as president. ♣

UPCOMING CHS MEETINGS

BY: JANE LEDBETTER

Circle this date on your calendar: October 10, 2009. This is the date for our Annual Meeting. It will be held at Cypress Top Historical Park from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Following our general meeting, we will have refreshments and a slide show presentation depicting events from this current year.

Our next Board of Directors meeting will be held November 20 from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Homestead Magazine, which is located in the strip center at the corner of Grant and Cypress-Rosehill Roads. Any member of CHS is welcome to attend this meeting. ♣

2010 WALL CALENDARS OF CYPRESS TEXAS

BY: TERRI SIGMOND

Cypress Historical Society will be selling 11x17 wall calendars. Each month will have a picture from Cypress from the past or current day. (cont.)

The photos are sure to bring back fond memories, as well as spawn new questions about just how Cypress grew. This will be the first fundraiser for CHS. We hope to not only make money for the society, but to start a tradition to continue annually.

If you are interested in ordering calendars please call Terri Sigmund at 281-373-9052. You can pick your calendars up at the annual meeting October 10, 2009. Just bring your check for \$15.00 per calendar. They will make great gifts for friends, kids at college, even family that has moved away. The list is endless. Since this is our first edition we will be printing a limited number so be sure to get your calendar ordered early. ♣

HOUSTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY

BY: DIANE NEFF

Jonathan Topper saw the invitation for the CHS picnic and was curious about the museum and park. I introduced myself to him at the July 11th picnic and he told me of his interest in postal history. Jonathan was excited to find out that the Juergen's Store had some postal artifacts. During our conversation I told him that E. F. Juergen was appointed the Postmaster of Cypress in 1898 and upon his death Mary, his wife was appointed postmistress.

Jonathan is a member of HPS which is the premier stamp collecting society in Houston. The society's membership is interested in postal history and they publish a magazine.

The Cypress Historical Society is pleased to have The Topper's as new members. Jonathan is researching the (cont.)

(cont. from page 3) Cypress Top is open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for drop-in visitors with CHS docents available to conduct tours at 10:30 and 1:30. Once the news of the opportunity for these visits became known, people began coming in. There may be anywhere from three to ten drop-in visitors every Tuesday. Also, at least six groups of 10 to 16 people have come for group tours. Quite a few private functions have also been held, including a wedding and several birthday parties. More functions are already scheduled for the remainder of this year and into 2010. Also, the county plans to use Juergens Hall for early voting the last two weeks in October. Persons wanting to schedule an event at Cypress Top are advised to begin calling one of these Precinct 3 county office numbers way ahead of the desired date to ensure availability: 281-357-5324 for group tours, 281-859-1566 for building reservations.

Volunteers also continue to work on displays and maintenance of the Cypress Top facilities. If you would like to work on one of these projects or become a docent for the tours, please contact Jane Ledbetter by telephone: 281-255-9297, or email janel_54@att.net. ♣

CHS docents Jane Ledbetter (3rd from left) and Joyce Kleb (6th from left) lead a tour of the Cypress Top Historic Park for a group from the Lone Star College Cy-Fair Lifelong Learning program.



(cont. from page 4) The Juergen grandchildren today remember their grandmother as a quiet, busy woman who kept things going. Even though she was so busy, she apparently found ways to let them know she loved and cared for them because they all have fond memories of their grandmother and the times they spent with her. What better legacy could Mary have left for her family? ♣

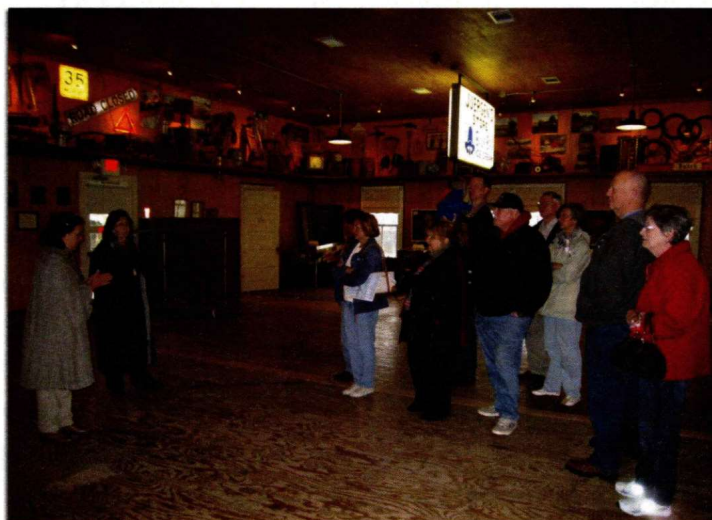
GIVE BACK NIGHT

BY: KAREN MCGILVERY

Plan to eat at Chili's on Monday, **October 19** and help raise money for the Cypress Historical Society! Chili's Restaurant will be hosting a "Give Back Night" for the society. Diners who present a "Give Back Night" flyer will have 10% of their bill donated to the society. Flyers and more details will be available at the annual meeting.

Remember, the annual meeting is **October 10, 2009**, at Cypress Top Historical Park. ♣

Pictured Below: Linda Martin-Rust from Harris County Precinct 3 and CHS member Diane Neff lead a tour of the Cypress Top Historic Park for a group of Bridgeland residents.



many letters and postal documents that were found at Cypress Top Park and Museum and will be writing an article for the HPS magazine. Jonathan is a new volunteer and he is putting together more pieces to the puzzle that make up the postal history of Cypress. ❀



Fred Collins, Director of the of Harris County Precinct 3 Cypress Top Historic Park, and CHS member and postal history buff Jonathan Topper, look over the 1903 document that certifies Edward Weygand, Jr. as Postmaster of Cypress Top, Texas.

CHANNEL 55 KTBU-TV VISITS CYPRESS TOP PARK AND MUSEUM

BY: DIANE NEFF

On July 14, a crew from KTBU-TV came to interview Fred Collins, Diane Neff and Gene Zaboroski. KTBU-TV is doing a series on old service stations in this region of Texas. The Juergen's sold gas as early as 1914, they eventually had pumps under a canopy in front of their store which was located on old Hwy. 290.

In 1956 the Juergen's became a Humble (Exxon) dealer and built the service station. I retired from Humble/Exxon, volunteer at Cypress Top and had a special interest in restoring the service station. CTPM has preserved the original blue-prints for this station. It was a pre-fabricated structure of bolt together metal panels. This type of structure would permit it to be easily moved as roads (cont.)

and highways tended to move about frequently.

Most of the Humble/Exxon memorabilia displayed in the service station is on loan from the Cypress Historical Society.

Gene Zaboroski has many stories to tell of the old days and shared these with the KTBU film crew. The crew was so interested in the history they uncovered by their interviews and filming at CTPM that they will return to do another segment on "the restoration of the buildings" in the near future. ❀



DAILY ACTIVITIES AT CYPRESS TOP HISTORIC PARK

BY: JANE LEDBETTER

There was a lot of excitement in the air the day of Cypress Top Historic Park's dedication (November 10, 2008). After all, the old part of Cypress had been rapidly disappearing, soon to be gone and forgotten by most of today's area citizens. Gene and Delphine Zaboroski did not want that trend to continue so they donated the Juergen family property to Harris County for a historical park. Commissioner Steve Radack saw the development of this park as a way to keep Cypress alive and vital in today's changing community. The park is fulfilling that mission. (cont.)

THE MARY JUERGEN LEGACY

BY: JANE LEDBETTER

There is an old adage that says, "Behind every successful man there is a good woman." Certainly that was true in the case of E. F. Juergen.

A real business entrepreneur, E. F. had begun building his Cypress Empire in 1897 with the purchase of the building that became Juergen's Store. He was soon seen by several

young ladies as a very eligible marriage prospect. He chose Mary Zahn to be his bride; they solemnized their wedding vows on March 7, 1900. One of Mary's sisters had really wanted to marry E. F.; she later told one of her granddaughters that the main reason he married Mary instead of her was that he thought Mary could work harder than she could.

E. F. and Mary accumulated more buildings and property as time went on, eventually owning about 30 acres of land, including the 2.4 acres that today is known as Cypress Top Historic Park. Besides the store, they had a large house, a dance hall, a saloon, grist mill, tool shed, blacksmith shop, cows and a cow barn, chickens and chicken houses, plus a few other buildings. It is said that at one time there were prob-

ably 20 buildings on their property. They also had a sizable vegetable garden. The Juergen place was indeed a self-sustaining entity and much of the responsibility for keeping everything going fell to Mary.

E. F. kept buggies and horses to rent to peddlers and others as they plied their trades around the countryside. These people often rented rooms from the Juergens for their sojourn in Cypress. The Juergens also took in other

boarders, both in their own family home and in the apartment over the store. We can well imagine that Mary was kept very busy just trying to keep her house clean. Keeping the furniture dusted would have been a monumental task, what with all the dust and dirt from the roadway blowing into the house through the many windows that were open much of the time. In fact, it has been said that dusting was one of the chores Mary's daughters least liked to do. (The Juergen children all had chores to do from an early age.)



Pictured above, clockwise from the top: Lilia Juergen, Mary Juergen, Vera Juergen, and Meta Juergen.

There was also a lot of cooking to do, both for her own large family (seven children and several grandchildren) and the boarders who rented rooms there. And there must have been literally mountains of laundry. Equipment for doing laundry included several wash tubs, a rubbing board, and a black iron wash pot for heating water. Clean laundry was hung out on clotheslines to dry. That was nice on a warm, sunny day. How Mary dealt with drying that much laundry on cold, rainy days is a matter of conjecture.

After the laundry was washed and dried, much of it needed ironing (there was no such thing as "perm-a-pressed" in those days). Ironing was done with flat irons heated on the cook

stove or wood heater. Pictures of the Juergen family always show everyone well-groomed and in well-pressed clothes.

Much of the work Mary did went largely unnoticed, but without her taking care of these things, E. F. would not have been able to keep his business interests going as well as he did. Mary was indeed a valuable "support person" in the Juergen Empire. (cont.)

Cypress Historical Society
19518 Lutheran Cemetary Rd.
Cypress, TX 77433

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

