



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 6

APRIL 2010

President's Column . . . By Terri Sigmund

Last newsletter, I told you what a great year we had in 2009. Well, this year is shaping up to be even better! We have a new newsletter editor, Valerie Calvert, who is talented and experienced in marketing and publishing. As you can see the newsletter has a new look, with much more color. The Board is working in several areas of focus right now. Educational programs, the Annual Picnic on July 10th, and next year's calendar top the list.

Everyone is pulling together to get things organized, up, and running. As always, we would love to have more help. I know many of you don't have a lot of free time, but even just an hour or two a month could go a long way. Just give me a call and let me know when you are available, and what you like to do, and I will get you pointed in the right direction.

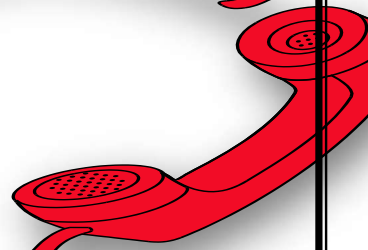
There are several dates, listed in the newsletter, to mark on your calendars. We will email reminders of events, but pencil them in so you don't over book the date. You can make a difference in our fundraising just by going to Chili's at 290 and Spring Cypress on the first Monday of each month. CHS gets a percentage of whatever you buy for dinner that night. Our monthly meetings are open to all members . . . we would love to see you.

And of course, the July 10th picnic at Cypress Top. The picnic promises to have more music, food, vintage crafts and trades, and even homemade ice cream! You won't want to miss it. See you soon.

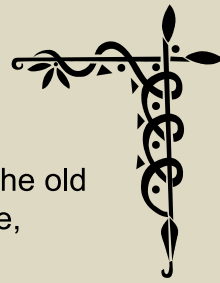
Coming Events

May 8 – CHS Board Meeting – open to the public July 10 – CHS July 4th Picnic
Call Darline Roth at 936-931-9958 or Terri Sigmund at 281-373-9052

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THOSE WERE THE DAYS...



By Beverly (Smith) Schawe

Back in the mid-1940's, my mom ("Tillie" Dolen Smith) worked for Clarence Juergen in the old Juergen's Store, located on Hwy. 290 in Cypress. At that time, Hwy. 290 was a two-lane, seldom used highway.

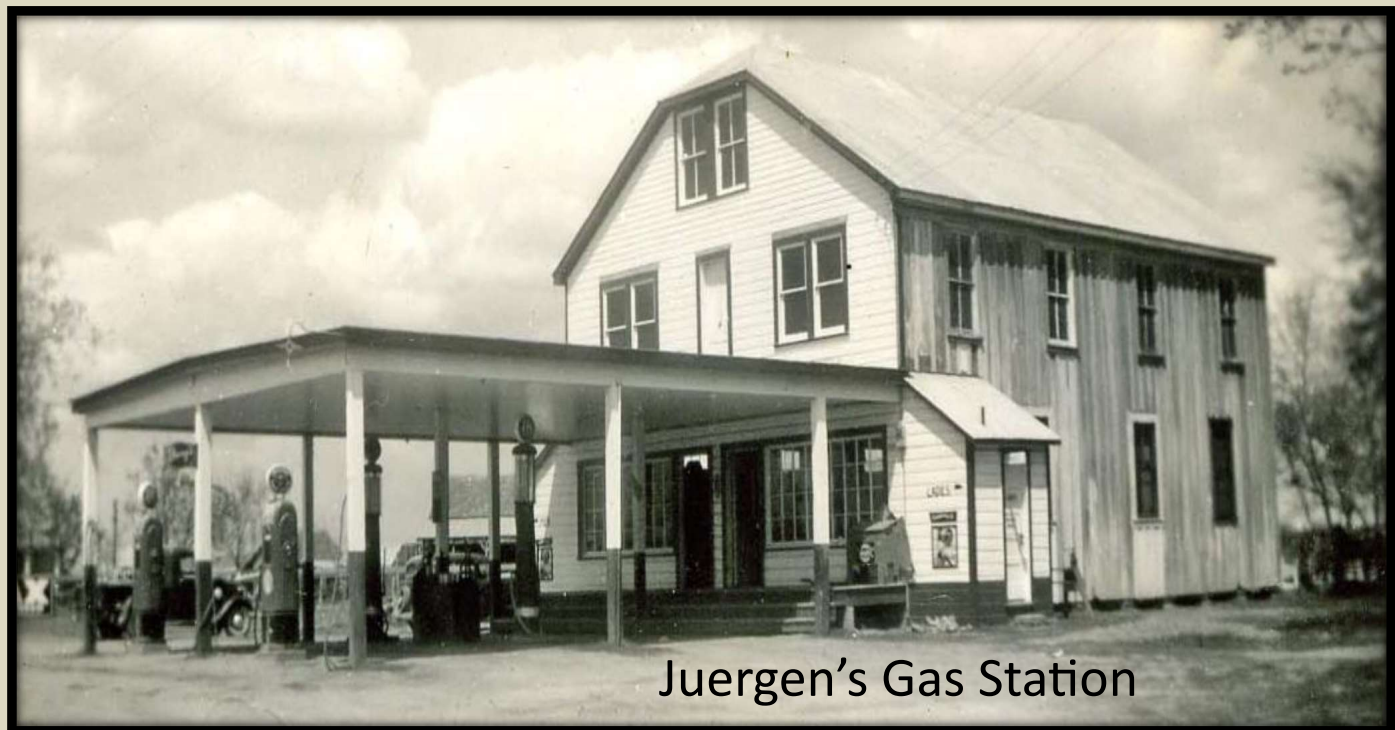
The store had a side for groceries and hardware with its own counter and cash register. The remainder of the store was a bar with the usual cold drinks, ice cream and beer. My mother worked both sides of the store, but spent most of her work time late in the day in the bar area when the social drinkers came in.

I usually went with Mom to work as I had no other place to be. A lot of my time was spent playing in front of the store between the gas pumps. This area was covered with a large, flat roof that extended out from the store front. It was a great place to play, particularly on rainy days.

In those days, the auto fuel was hand-pumped into a large glass cylinder above the "pump" by a long handle on the side. It was a challenge between my cousins (Joyce & Gene Zaboroski, and Douglas Hegar) and me to see how quickly we could fill the glass on the three pumps. When we weren't "pumping gas" we often played "hide-and-seek" out there. The ground around the pumps was covered with grey oyster shells, and to this day I carry scars on my knees caused when I fell as I ran around between those pumps!

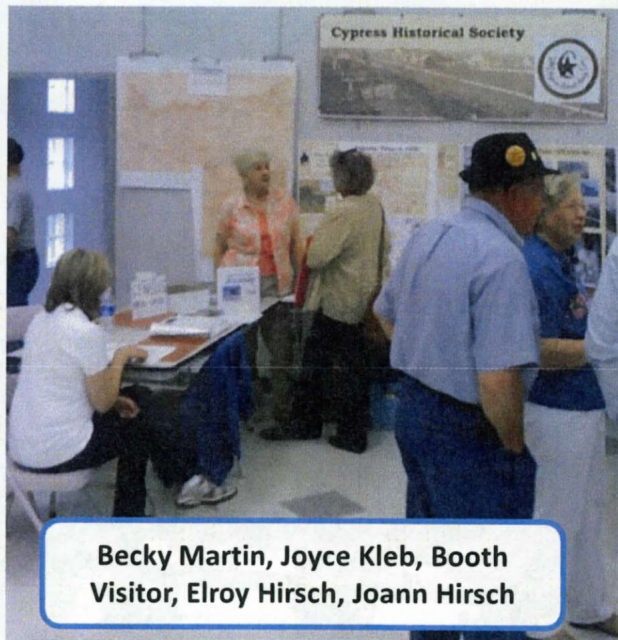
Sometimes we visited at "the big house", as the old Juergen house was called. We cousins had a great time running up and down the staircase, chasing one another around the extra-long dining room table, or playing hide-and-seek in the many bedrooms if they weren't locked. We knew the attic must surely hold many treasures, but we were too scared to go up there. Our uncle Eddie Juergen told us too many stories about what might happen if we went up there.

Indeed, those were the days...

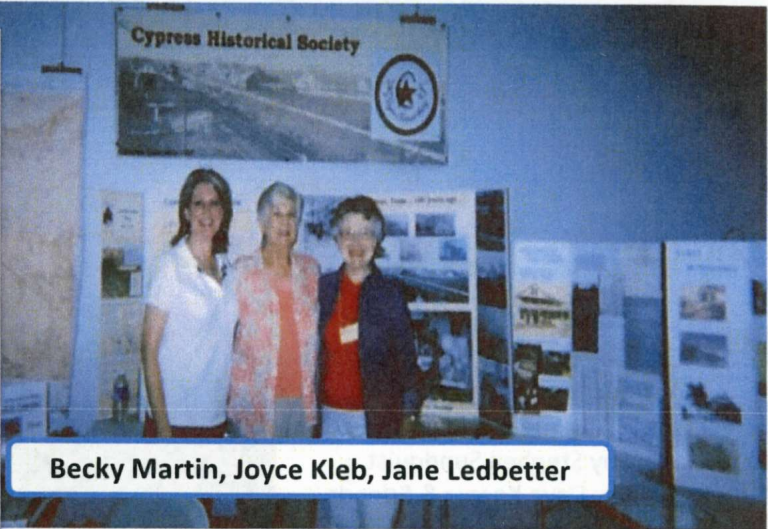


Juergen's Gas Station





Becky Martin, Joyce Kleb, Booth Visitor, Elroy Hirsch, Joann Hirsch



Becky Martin, Joyce Kleb, Jane Ledbetter

TOMBALL GERMAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL



Terri Sigmund, Darline Roth

By Jim Sigmund

Again this year, the Cypress Historical Society joined in the fun of the Tomball German Heritage Festival, on March 26-28, 2010. Our booth was set up in the Heritage Center where we displayed pictures of many of the projects we are working on, and handed out flyers about CHS (including our Membership form) and our January 2010 Newsletter. We heard from visitors about exciting events like the First Texas State Fair which took place in Houston in 1870, and about an aviator who landed his plane in Cypress in 1910 because he could not make it to Houston! We enjoyed discussing history and genealogy with our friends from Salem Lutheran Church and The Chaparral Genealogical Society who had booths next door, and visiting with Huffsmith resident Charles Bogs who was in charge of the booths and displays in the Heritage Center.

Thanks to our booth workers: Elroy and Joann Hirsch, Darline Roth, Annie Hagler, Erlene Schoenfelt, Joyce Kleb, Jane Ledbetter, Becky Martin, Duke Cumming, John Goodwin, and Jim and Terri Sigmund. Special thanks to Elroy Hirsch who made all the arrangements with the Festival Committee to allow CHS to have a booth!

Cypress Historical Society
Invites You To The

Second Annual Old-Fashioned Picnic

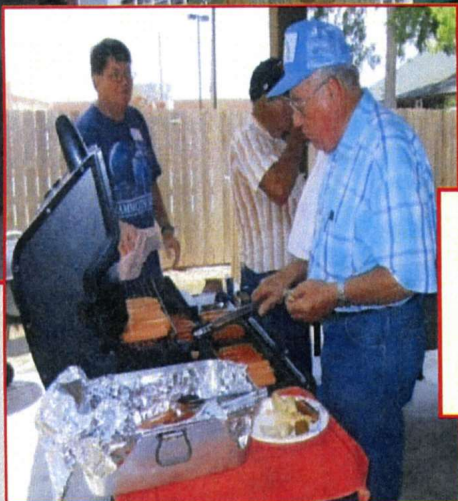
When: July 10, 2010
Hours: 10am - 2:00pm
Where: Cypress Top Park
Cost: Free to Members & Guests

Antique Trades & Crafts!

Sharecroppers Antique Engines & Tractors
Woodworking by Stephen Sundquist
Blacksmithing by Dave Koenig & Friends
Quilting by Zion Lutheran "Sew & Sew"
Elroy Hirsch's "What is it?" (Old Tools!)

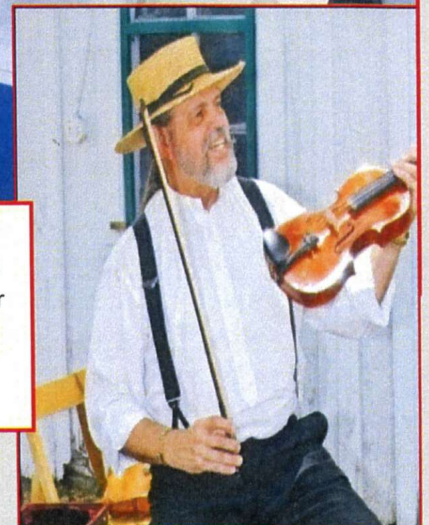
Vintage Music!

North Harris County Dulcimer Society
Celtaire String Band
Tony & Nema Redding Blue Grass Band



Hot Dogs, Watermelon, and Ice Cream!

"Dancing With The Stars" by Arthur Murray -Cypress
Vintage Post Office with Postmaster Jonathan Topper
Cypress Top Historic Building Tours
Old -Fashion Games for the Children and Face
Painting!



See You There!

GIVE US A HAND

By Linda Martin-Rust



We need your help! In our last issue of the Cypress Historical Society newsletter, I wrote about CHS members and other volunteers having bragging rights at Cypress Top Historic Park. Our stalwart volunteers juggle several activities and projects during the course of the week. We really could use more volunteer help, not only with the tours, but also with various projects, ranging from research to maintaining materials in the buildings to developing educational displays and talks.

Tuesdays find the volunteers handling tours at 10:30 A.M. and 1:30 P.M. as well as leading tours for drop-ins between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. The volunteers have access to small binders with information about each building in the park. Visitors and volunteers swap experiences and memories as they move from building to building. As the park's popularity increases, more and more people and tour groups are taking advantage of these tours, which increases the volunteer work load.

For example, we recently had two large formal tours with a total of fifty visitors and several smaller, more informal drop-in groups at the same time! Because we prefer to have no more than 10 people with pair of guides, we had just enough volunteers on hand to handle the larger groups, but not enough to cover the drop-ins. You can imagine what a hectic morning that turned out to be.

Ideally, with enough help on Tuesdays, the volunteers could rotate. As it now stands, they guide tours every Tuesday; some lead tours in the mornings and some, in the afternoons. We would like to have one volunteer in the hall to greet guests and other volunteers to lead the tours. If leading a tour of the park is not your cup of tea, never fear! We have several other projects going on behind the scenes. Artifacts and furniture in the buildings need regular attention, just like in our own homes. Presently we do not have enough help to offer tours AND maintain the buildings and landscaping. If you like puttering around the garden or flower beds, we can use you! If you like caring for the interior of the buildings, we can use you! But, have no fear: we DON'T ask you to do windows!

Did you know that CHS volunteers have been working on special projects every Thursday morning in the Kleb Woods Nature Center, where the majority of the archival material from Cypress Top Historic Park is presently stored? If you prefer this kind of volunteering, come join us on Thursdays. We have a project for you. We also have folks working on presentations focusing on Cypress history for the area schools and other organized groups. The CHS volunteers are a very congenial group who would welcome you into the fold, whether you can help for an hour, part of a day or a whole day. We need you to help our programs grow. Join the pleasant, friendly group of folks already volunteering at Cypress Top. Call 281-357-5324 or send an e-mail to cypressstop@hctx.net for more information on upcoming volunteer training times.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR CHS!

By Jane Ledbetter



Karen McGilvery, Jim Sigmund, Jane Ledbetter

One of the purposes of the Cypress Historical Society, as stated in the by-laws, is to expand educational opportunities for residents by providing public history presentations and lectures that promote and preserve the history and folklore of the area. To that end, Jim Sigmund, Karen McGilvery and Jane Ledbetter met with the Friends and Neighbors of FM 1960 (FAN) on April 6. This is a women's social club which not only has fun events and meetings for their members but also participates in charitable activities. They wanted to know about Cypress and particularly Cypress Top.

Jim presented an excellent slide program which was well received. There were over 80 ladies present, and quite a few of them came over to see our display of pictures, etc. and to ask questions. This was our first public presentation and we thoroughly enjoyed it (of course we always like to talk about Cypress and Cypress Top!) We feel sure that some of the FAN ladies will be coming to visit Cypress Top Historical Park in the near future!