



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 14


JUNE, 2012


Notes From the President's Desk


by Terri Sigmund

What in the world is that bright yellow building at Cypress Top Park!? Our new home, built to resemble the old Cypress train depot, and painted to match the old Southern Pacific railroad colors, California Poppy and brown. CHS is buzzing with excitement as we just got the keys! Just two days later, we had our first board meeting in the building. We appreciate everyone's support throughout this process, especially Commissioner Steve Radack for making this happen. Hopefully, you will be able to come to the picnic and stop in to check it out. Besides the picnic, we will have the building open on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursdays from 9-4 and the 3rd Saturday of each month from 1-4. If you would like to come in to learn about local history, or share Cypress memories, come on in. If you would like to research your family, we can help with that too.

You can see the newsletter is filled with information about the picnic. This year is sure to top previous years with some new vendors and activities as well as some of the favorites from the past. If you would like to help out with the picnic we can sure use it. Just call me, and I will get you set up with the right person for the job you would like to do. (Terri Sigmund 281-373-9052)







PUBLISHED BY GEORGE W. WEST, 1001 WEST MAIN STREET, CYPRESS, TEXAS 77415

Tuesday, July 10, 1860

VOL. XXVI—NO. 42. WHOLE NO. 1078

THE FOURTH AT CYPRESS CITY.

MR. EDITOR: The eighty-fourth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence was celebrated in an appropriate manner on Cypress Creek, about twenty miles north of your city. Mr. Gadi West, (who was one of the old soldiers in Gen. Jackson's army, at the battle of New Orleans, and in whose bosom still burns the same patriotic feeling which once prompted freemen to resist tyrants), and others of his neighbors who believed it right to keep in perpetual remembrance this holy day, had prepared an abundant feast, of which all were invited to partake.

At an early hour about two hundred persons of all ages and sexes assembled at their rural retreat, upon the bank of the creek, where nature had spread out an awning to protect them from a sultry sun. After an hour or two spent in the salutations of friends, and the interchange of sentiment, Mr. B. E. Roper was called upon to address the assemblage, which he declined doing, but it being urged upon the ground that, as he was a candidate for the popular suffrage, the people had a right to hear him, he yielded to their request and addressed them for a short time. Being again called upon to read to them the Declaration of Independence, he did so. Mr. R. D. Westcott was then called for and in response delivered a highly patriotic speech, so entirely free from anything like party politics that it might have been listened to with pleasure by any. The Barbecue was next in order, and many were the silent blessings that, no doubt, were offered up for those who had prepared so rich a feast. Social chat was continued for about an hour, when the company left for Mr. West's house, about half a mile distant. Upon their arrival there the dance began, and was continued until the rising of the sun on the morning of the fifth.

Such is a very brief and imperfect account of the celebration of the Fourth of July, 1860. Everything was in good order—everybody was pleased—all were happy, and long will that day be remembered by a
STRANGER.

July 10, 1860

We all knew that Gene Zaboroski held a 4th of July picnic every year at Cypress Top. But, we were all surprised to find that the tradition went back a lot farther! -- Jim Sigmund

HELPING HANDS NEEDED IN OUR NEW HOME AT CYPRESS TOP

by Jane Ledbetter

You have read elsewhere in this newsletter that CHS now has possession of our new home in Cypress Top Historic Park. Darline Roth and I have started working in the building three days a week (Tues-Thurs, 9-4), but we are definitely going to need some help, time-wise and other.

We would prefer to have at least two people at a time on site. There will be days when Darline or I will need to be elsewhere; your help as our second on-site person is really needed! Priority one is that guests coming in be greeted and made to feel welcome. Additionally, we have research projects already started (genealogy, local history, internet searches) that can be worked on while you are there, as well as filing, scanning, and inventory work. "Road work" projects such as going to cemeteries and taking pictures of headstones and inventorying the graves is also an ongoing project with which CHS needs help.

People have been very generous in helping us attain some of the needed supplies to run our office. There are a few more things we could use, such as ink cartridges (check with us for the sizes needed), paper for our printers, and some big-ticket items. Of course, a cash donation would also be appreciated.

Do plan to visit us soon so you can see first-hand your Cypress Historical Society at work!



Our first CHS Board meeting in the new building was held on May 19th. (front, then clockwise): Karen McGilvery, Terri Sigmund, Rodney Sprenger, Tammy Sherrill, Dean & Donna McCarty, Erlene Schoenfeldt, Jane Ledbetter, & Darline Roth.



Rodney Sprenger sets up our new refrigerator, and the microwave that he donated. Now we need him to keep the freezer filled with his home-made ice cream!



Donna McCarty unpacks our new office chairs.

Thank you to our benefactors!

Over **\$3,000.00** was donated so far to our Building Fund!
Donors in the last 3 months include:

The Martin Family
Richard & Wilma Sanderson
Delores Quin
Beverly Schawe
Shirley Milton
Edgar & Vivian Steinsiek
Paul & Gudrun Sundquist
Darline Roth – Research Books
Jim & Terri Sigmund – Computer Supplies
Dean & Donna McCarty – Office Supplies
Delphine Zaboroski – Printer
Rodney Sprenger – Microwave, Cleaning Supplies

Wish List for the CHS Building:

Big Copy Machine
Large Format (11x17) Scanner
Slideshow Projector
Portable Projection Screen (48"x60" or larger)
Laptop for Slide Show Presentations

If you would like to sponsor or donate one of these items, contact one of the Board Members.



Johanna Schuenmann and Edna Kalbow (?) pose in their Sunday best on a railroad trolley at the Cypress Depot—Circa 1927! (Courtesy of Joyce Moore)

Cypress Top, Railroad Town

by Bill Willits

The Galveston & Red River Railroad (G&RR) chartered initially by Ebenezer Allen in 1848 never went to Galveston. For several years there was uncertainty whether it would be built at all, but Paul Bremond and Thomas William House of Houston, who took charge in 1852, decided to build from Houston into the Texas interior instead of the Gulf. On January 1, 1853, ground was broken in the Bayou City. By July 1856, after slow going northwestward on the prairie, the railroad's five foot six inch (between the rails) track finally reached the tiny village of Cypress Top. (Some called it Cypress City, but that was a little optimistic.) Local folks, railroad workers and some people nobody even knew showed up for a big celebration of the railroad's coming on July 26, 1856; it was claimed that dancing went on all night.

Soon the railroad had to continue building toward Hempstead, and a little locomotive named *Ebenezer* came to help move materials and men forward from Houston. There had always been plans to build the railroad all the way north to the Red River, an awfully long way from Cypress Creek, so there was no time to lose. In September 1856 the G&RR charter was amended and the railroad became the Houston & Texas Central (H&TC).

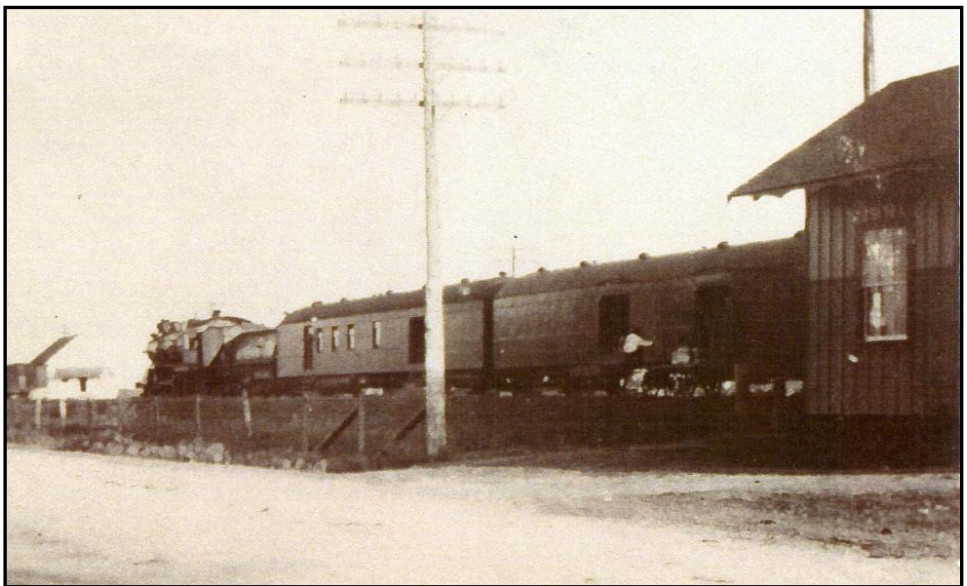
Cypress Top's population undoubtedly grew for awhile as railroad men and the inevitable camp followers came and went. After all, this had been the terminus (though only temporarily) of an important railroad building across Texas!

Yellow fever was prevalent in those days and Cypress Top was not spared. A newspaper item on October 13, 1859, related: "The Houston *Telegraph* says that out of fifty-four persons residing in Cypress City, on the railroad, thirty-three, including the doctor, were down sick with the yellow fever. They sent to the Howard Association in Houston for aid, which was complied with. Three deaths are reported. The place is in a deplorable condition."

But the railroad continued to move people and freight to and through Cypress Top despite all the hardships. As the H&TC built track forward, it reached Hempstead in 1858 and Millican, 55 miles beyond Cypress Top, in early 1861. People could also get to Brenham out in Washington County by train on the Washington County Railroad that connected to the H&TC at Hempstead. But then Texas seceded from the Union and joined other southern states in the Confederacy and in April 1861 railroad building came to a halt as men went off to war.

After the War and Reconstruction, the H&TC advanced far beyond Cypress Top, reaching Dallas in 1872 and Red River City in early 1873. Cypress Top was now just one of many stations along the line. Who could have known then that Cypress would become such a booming place today?

Bill Willits is a Cypress resident, member of the Houston Railroad Museum (Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, Inc.), and editor of their newsletter, "Gulf Coast Railroading". In a great collaboration, Bill supplied valuable information on the railroad history of Cypress, and CHS supplied pictures of the Cypress Depot which accompanied his 3-part series on the Houston & Texas Central railroad!
-- Jim Sigmund



Early in the 20th century an eastbound passenger train pauses at the H&TC Cypress depot to load and unload freight from the Harriman-roofed baggage car. The locomotive tender and the headend cars definitely show the Southern Pacific influence.

NEUDORF COMMUNITY

This German community dates back to the middle 1800's. It was May 20, 1876 that William and Henerritta Schmidt donated three acres at 14705 Grant road, for a church and school. One stipulation accompanied this gift: that the church be used by "no other denomination or sect but Lutheran Evangelical." The 1900 Gulf hurricane did severe damage to the 1876 church, but an important memorabilia was salvaged—the original minutes, deeds, and records of the early Trinity Evangelical church. The steeple was raised again, and worship service in the church was continued until 1961. The sparse congregation then deeded this 1876 church building to the Spring Creek County Historical Association in Tomball. It was moved to the association's historical area at the north end of Pine street in Tomball and restored as near as possible to its original likeness.

Neudorf County School No. 7 was located near the church. In its early establishment it schooled all grades, but in later years, only grades one through six.

Early teachers of the school were:

Laura James	Sarah Hill	Stella McDougale
Mazie Hall	Bell Taylor	Lockie Mosley
Minnie Foote	Olgia Boettcher	Mary Neighbor
Minnie Ray	Emilie Lieder	Maymie Thomas

Early board members were William Brautigam, Herman Quade, John Schmidt, A. C. Christen, J. P. Christen, Emil Kohrman.

Neudorf consolidated with the Cypress school in 1935-36.

(Ref: Upchurch, Leslie, "Welcome to Tomball", 1976, pp.25-26)



1898 = 1899.

Ah me! those joyous days are gone!
I little dreamt till they had flown,
How fleeting were the hours. —SAXE.

Presented to

Selma Matzke

Days present 102 Days absent 8

Neudorff School,
Korville, Harris County, Texas.

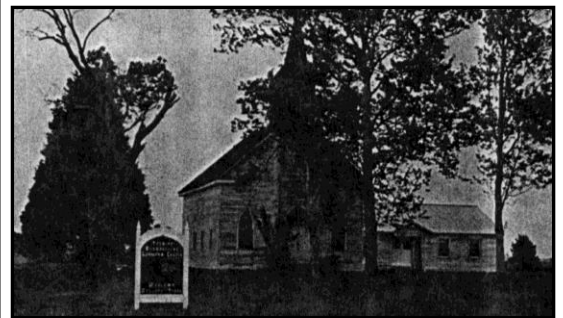
PUPILS:

Alec Buvinghausen,	Elizabeth Meyer,
Arnold Kohrman,	Emma Fritz,
August Baatz,	Hulda Hoffmeister,
Charlie Krahan,	Ida Fritsche,
Earnest Fralick,	Ida Hoffmeister,
Earnest Neumeyer,	Ida Meyer,
Fred Meyer,	Ida Weder,
Henry Neumeyer,	Lena Christen,
Herman Christen,	Marie Fritz,
Henry Buvinghausen,	Mary Adax,
Herman Fritsche,	Ida Adax,
Herman Fralick,	Mattie Kitzmann,
Joe Gregson,	Marie Neumeyer,
Johnnie Kitzmann,	Matilda Weder,
Tommie Gregson,	Mollie Heppel,
Willie Christen,	Olga Fritz,
Willie Qurde,	Pauline Kuehn,
Otto Buvinghausen,	Pauline Neumeyer,
Ada Kuehn,	Pauline Shiel,
Annie Frater,	Rosalie Baatz,
Bertha Krahan,	Rosa Kuen,
Bertha Meyer,	Selma Matzke

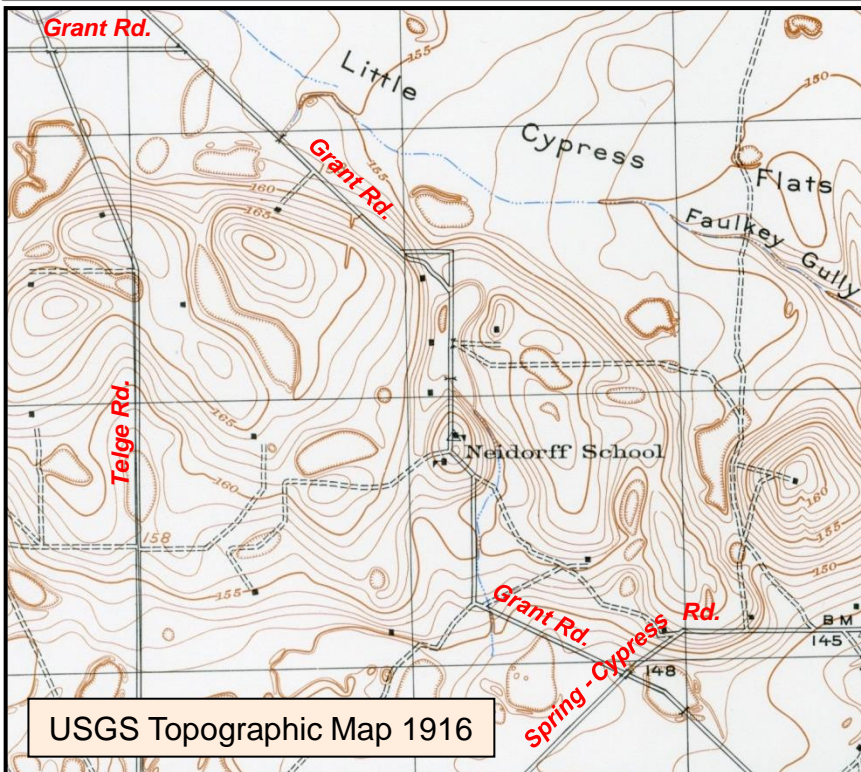
Board of Education:

E. Quade, G. Zahn, B. Neumeyer.
POLY McDOUGLE, TEACHER.

Bernice Froehlich donated this souvenir of the Neudorf School (Front & Back of card)



Trinity Evangelical Lutheran at Neudorf.



Membership dues to the Cypress Historical Society are for the calendar year.
Please send in your renewal for 2012. Thanks!
(If you have already renewed this year, pass on this form to a friend or relative!)

PIE BAKING CONTEST!

The First Annual Pie Baking Contest will take place at this year's picnic. If you would like to participate, please have your pie at the Park at 10:00am. We will begin the judging at 10:30am, and announce the winner at 1:00pm. The pie cannot be store bought! The judging criteria will be: Presentation, Patriotic theme, and just how "homemade" the pie is. Please call Tammy Sherrill, at 832-865-0687 if you will need refrigerator space. We are very excited about this event and hope it will be the start of a new picnic tradition!

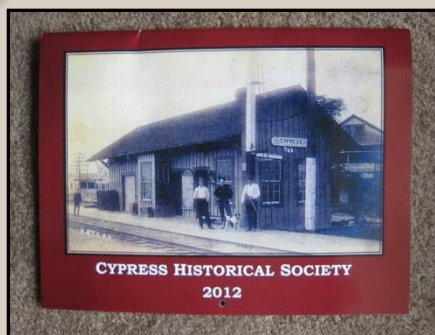


Giving Back to Harris County!

by Darline Roth

As part of our ongoing service to Harris County Precinct 3 Cypress Top Park, CHS members spent several days in May giving the Park buildings a thorough cleaning.

We also continue to give tours of the Park buildings on Tuesdays. Anyone who is interested can come out on Tuesdays between 9am and 4pm and take the tour themselves, or help us give the tours. The best tours are when people can share their own personal stories of stopping in at Juergen's Store for candy or a cold beverage!



It's not too late to get your 2012 Cypress Historical Society Calendar, full of historic pictures and memories of the Cypress area. We even have past years available if you just want the pictures!

2012 Calendar \$15.00

Previous Years \$10.00

(Postage \$3.00/ea)

Contact Terri Sigmund at
Jsigm@aol.com or (281-373-9052)

Tomball German Heritage Festival



Joyce Kleb and Michelle Murray watch over the CHS booth at the Tomball German Heritage Festival. Thanks to Erlene Schoenfeldt and Darline Roth for handling the schedules for the weekend.

Mark Your Calendars!

June 16 – CHS Board Mtg *(All Members welcome)*

Saturday, 9:00am at CHS Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

July 7 - 2012 CHS 4th Annual "Old-Fashioned" Picnic *(Members & Guests)*

Saturday, 10:00am-2:00pm. Cypress Top Historic Park

July 14 – CHS Board Mtg *(All Members welcome)*

Saturday, 9:00am at CHS Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

October 20 - 2012 CHS Annual Meeting *(All Members welcome)*

Saturday, Juergen's Hall, Cypress Top Park

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15)	_____	Sustaining (\$50)	_____
Family (\$25)	_____	Sponsor (\$100)	_____
Business (\$30)	_____	Corporate Sponsor (\$250)	_____
		Donation	_____

* CHS is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corp.

Make check payable to: Cypress Historical Society

Mail check and membership form to:

Becky Martin, 11911 Waterford Estates Ct., Tomball, TX 77377-2714

Questions? Please contact Jane Ledbetter at 281-255-9297

www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com