



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 15

SEPTEMBER, 2012

Notes From the President's Desk

by Terri Sigmund

What a great picnic! I hope you were there. You will see just a few pictures in this newsletter taken by Daniel Arizpe Photography. Thanks so much to all those who volunteered to make the picnic a success. Great news – following the picnic we got 19 new memberships! We are so happy that CHS is growing.

If you came to the Picnic, you saw our new building. If you haven't been to the Cypress Top Park lately, we are the bright yellow building. We have only been in the building a few short months, but you should see the progress we are making. Thanks to the many of you who have been generous benefactors of CHS. We have had over \$5,700.00 in donations thus far. There are still things left on our wish list, so if you would still like to donate, it's not too late! In addition, more of you are donating your family pictures, histories and artifacts. Those folks who were not raised in Cypress and have recently moved here are amazed to see all the history the Cypress area has, thanks to you.

Please mark your calendars for **October 13th 10:00 am for the Annual Meeting**. We would love to see you there. The Nominating Committee is currently working on a slate of candidates for the election. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors please call the office and let them know. The office number is 281-758-0083.

Lastly, the 2013 Calendar will be available for sale at the Annual Meeting. You can get yours that day, or send in an order form and we will mail it to you once they are in. After October 13th, you can stop by the office and get one. This year's calendar promises to be a beauty! Don't miss out.

New Contact Information!

Cypress Historical Society
P.O. Box 2963
Cypress, Texas 77410

E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net

CHS Library: 281-758-0083

Hours: Tue, Wed, Thur 9-4, & 3rd Sat 1-4



The Watermelon-Eating Contest was a popular event at this year's Picnic. The cheering crowd got into it as much as the participants!

Another Great Picnic!

by Jim Sigmund

Our 4th Annual Cypress Historical Society "Old Fashioned" picnic was held on Saturday, July 7th, 2012 at Cypress Top Historic Park. Over 400 members and guests attended! In the spirit of the "good ol' days", the picnic had a hot dog roast, a pie-baking contest, and a watermelon-eating contest. Picnic goers were treated to live music by the "Almost Heaven" bluegrass band from Cypress, and the accordion playing of Lydia Froehlich Jordy.

Outdoor activities included displays by the Sharecroppers Early Engines and Tractors club, vintage hot rods and classic cars by "Buggs" Threadgill and friends, and Model T cars from the Space City T's group. Always a big hit was "Dad" Sprenger's home-made ice cream, with the churn run by an antique engine! Stephen Sundquist demonstrated woodworking on his leg-powered lathe, while blacksmith Dave Koenig pounded out various hooks and utensils for the onlookers. Wayne Callender showed off his collection vintage hand tools, and we gave tours of the Juergen's Store, the house, and the gas station. Children's activities included using corn shuckers, planting Cypress trees, watermelon seed spitting, and rodeo clowns from the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Speaker's Committee. Cub Scouts from
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(Picnic . . . continued from Page 1)

Pack 3 - Robison Elementary opened the picnic with a Flag Ceremony and the Pledge of Allegiance, and then helped us lead the tin punch activity booth. The Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department couldn't get the 1929 Pumper truck started, but they still stopped by to hand out fire hats. We had a special visit by General Sam Houston (it was really Charlie Fogarty, but don't tell the children!), which made for a unique photo opportunity.

Inside Juergen's Hall, Jonathan Topper set up the Cypress Post Office for the kids, and Bryan McAuley and friends, from the San Felipe Historic Park of the Texas Historic Commission, demonstrated early printing methods. Gudrun Sundquist and Dorothy Cook showed how to do calligraphy, and Mary Ellen Walsh and her daughter did weaving on an Inkle loom. JoAnn Hirsch and Alpha Marietta showed off antique quilts from their families, and the Brazos Valley Stitchers shared their talents with their beautiful embroidery.

The picnic was also the debut of our new Research Library, where folks could look up their family genealogy and share memories of growing up in this area. A special display was set up with memories of past Houston Trail Rides.

By all accounts, it was another great picnic! We could not have done it without the many members who help to make this happen, and especially an outstanding group of Sponsors who help to keep this a free event: Minuteman Northwest Press, Daniel Arizpe Photography, Reddy Ice, Prosperity Bank-Cypress, HABU Graphic Designs, HEB-Cypress, Arthur Murray Dance Studio-Cypress, Cy-Fair Back & Neck Clinic, Wal-Mart Supercenter-Cypress, Raising Cane's Chicken, Topper Stamps, Special T's Shirts and More, Cypress Station Grill, and Home Depot-Cypress. Please thank them for supporting the Cypress Historical Society.



Cub Scouts from Pack 3 opened the day with the posting of the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance.



Pie-Baking Contest participants Annie Hagler, Kelly Arizpe, Estelle Graves, JoAnn Hirsch, and Darline Roth.



Lydia Jordy played some great old favorites!



Dave Koenig demonstrates the art of blacksmithing as Gerald Lowery looks on.



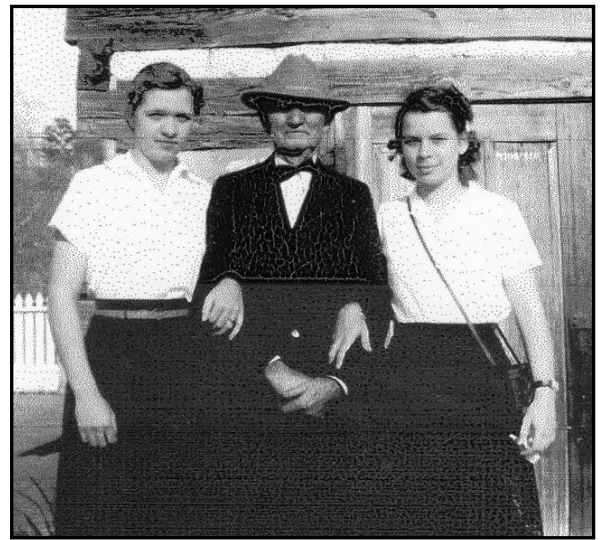
Children were able to pick out some old stamps from Jonathan Topper's Cypress Post Office!

My Cypress Connection by Bettye Neumeyer Raschke

In 1852, my great-grandfather, Frederick August Neumeyer, his wife and 4-month old son, Heinrich, arrived from Prussia aboard the ship MILES, docking at the port of Galveston. He, with fellow passengers, traveled overland to the banks of Cypress Creek to form a community called Neudorf. He was a farmer, but also a blacksmith, which was an essential occupation for a farming community. Over the years, he bought 360 acres of school land, served in the Confederate Army, and signed an Amnesty Oath on July 12, 1865.

My grandfather, Benjamin Neumeyer, received 180 acres of this land and continued to farm, but was well known as a cabinet and furniture maker.

My father, Edward Neumeyer, was not a man of the soil and loved nothing better than to ride his horse all over the area, which at that time (early 1900's) was mostly unfenced. He often told of taking his Uncle John to Hot Wells, which consisted of a



(Left to right) My cousin, Virginia Kelley, our grand-father, Ben Neumeyer, and me. (1941).



My father, Edward Neumeyer, in his World War I uniform (1917)

bubbling hot spring covered with a wash tub. You removed the tub, let it fill with hot water, soaked and replaced the tub! The family home burned, but as a very young child, I can remember we made countless trips to the homestead which consisted of a large barn, well, water trough, and five wonderful pear trees, providing the family with countless jars of preserves. San Jacinto Day (April 21st) was the signal to pick berries; in the summer Muscadine grapes were picked, fall meant dove hunting, and there was always fishing in Cypress Creek.

We regularly visited Alfred and Selma Steinhagen who were most inviting hosts. Their daughter, Bernice, and I were about the same age. We played many an hour all around the dairy and woods. My father, Uncle George and Aunt Lydia Neumeyer, helped with many of their hog butcherings.

In 1971, my husband, Al, and I moved our family to Cypress, Enchanted Valley, and we lived there until 2001. We were one of two families who did the ground work in forming Messiah Lutheran Church on Telge Road. Our three youngest children graduated from Cy-Fair High School, and our daughter in law, Beverly, has been teaching art at Hamilton Elementary for 22 years, so our love for the area continues with many, many memories from the past.



Left to right: Great-uncle John Neumeyer, uncle George Neumeyer, my grandparents, Benjamin & Eliza (Christen) Neumeyer, ?, my aunts, Esther and Clara, and my father, Edward Neumeyer. (Circa 1909)

Your CHS Library is now ready for your use

by Jane Ledbetter

Setting up a new library is quite a challenge! I am happy to say, though, that we are making progress. CHS has a lot of materials and we are quickly moving toward getting everything organized. It is surprising to see just how much material we do have.

Cypress history in our library can be found in short, readable stories such as those found in *Cy-Fair Lifestyles* and *Homes Magazine*, collections of stories from people who lived a long time ago (such as Larry Hargrave's "Deep in the Heart of Texas"), and "The Heritage of North Harris County" assembled by the North Harris County Branch of the American Association of University Women. In depth history searches can be found in such books as Allan O. Kownslar's "The Texans, Their Land and History." There are also several good books on general American history, and quite a lot of information on immigration.

Last but not least are our family histories and genealogy. We have quite a collection of information about "Old Cypress Settlers" and their families. Maps of the Cypress area are available to help searchers find locations of settlers' homes. Cemetery records and several church records are also available. We also have the venerable electronic Ancestry.Com and Family Tree Maker and several computers and scanners available to make full use of these research aids.

Make a visit soon to our library in the bright yellow depot building in Cypress Top Historic Park. CHS members are available there Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-4:00 to help you get started doing light reading or in-depth searches.



Members of the Baytown Historical Preservation Association stop by the CHS Library for a visit (Far right: Jane Ledbetter, Sitting: Trevia Wooster Beverly)

THANK YOU TO OUR BENEFACTORS!

Over **\$5,700.00** was donated so far to our Building Fund! Donors in the last 3 months include:

Marvin Weiman

**Sandy McFadyen, in memory of her father,
Lawrence Froehlich (A New Laptop Computer!)**

Gene & Delphine Zaboroski

EI Paso Corporation – Dan Martin Corp Match

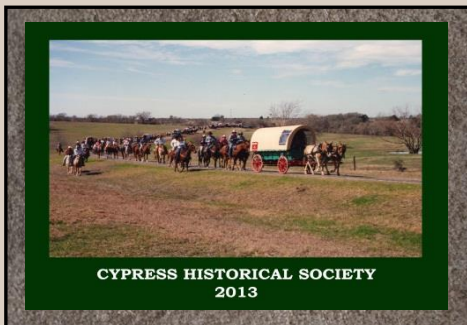
Paul & Gudrun Sundquist

Clinton & Annie Backen

Homer & Carolyn Bay

John Airola

COMING SOON!



2013 CALENDAR \$15.00

(Plus Postage \$3.00/ea)

Available at October Annual Meeting

**To Pre-Order, Contact Terri Sigmund
at Jsigm@aol.com or (281-373-9052)**

CHS Presents to German Society

by Jane Ledbetter

On September 23, 2012, Cypress Historical Society members Jane Ledbetter, Ben Ledbetter, and Karen McGilvery had the pleasure of presenting a program to approximately 50 members of the North Harris County Chapter of The Texas German Society.

The CHS presentation included a power-point program covering Cypress history from the 1800s to the present time, followed by highlights of things available for public viewing today in Cypress Top Historic Park.

Genealogy Page

by Darline Roth

CHS Research Center has been buzzing with activity!!! Our resources are being used more as information, books, and videos are being brought in.

Marsha Carlevaro has donated a 1913 journal from Neal's Store that was in Cypress for many years.

Trevia Wooster Beverly donated "Cemetery Walk", "Guide to Cemetery Research", and also three "Texas Land Survey Maps" books for Austin, Washington and Grimes County.

Henry Steinhagen donated "History of German Settlements 1831-1861", "German Immigrants Ancestors", "The Journal, German-Texas Heritage Society" and two videos, "Off to Texas" and "Germans in America."

Eloy and JoAnn Hirsch donated "The Herman Schultz Family Book."

Bernice Froehlich donated the St. Lucas Lutheran Church Records, 1887-1937.

Jane Ledbetter donated nine Dime Novels books.

Chaparral Genealogical Society loaned us their copies of Trinity Lutheran Church of Spring records, 1875-1992; Jim Sigmund scanned and printed a set for CHS.

We are now in the process of scanning and printing albums of news articles of Cypress and surrounding areas, which are on loan from Ms. Thelma Dopslauf. These albums are a treasure chest of history starting in the 1940's. Jim Sigmund and Beverly Richardson are working on scanning these albums for CHS.

Helen Callender has taken on the task of organizing and typing the St. John Lutheran Church of Cypress and the Neudorf Lutheran Church records, 1871 to May 31, 1962.

The Carl Anderson Backen Family has been added to our early settler's wall at Cypress Top Historical Park.

We are grateful for all the time, donations, and knowledge shared with CHS.



Marsha Carlevaro donated the Neal's Store ledger book, which complements the Juergen's Store ledgers to document the Cypress community in the early 1900's. (L to R) Terri Sigmund, Karen Backen, Marsha Carlevaro, Darline Roth, Annie Hagler, Jane Ledbetter.



One of our new additions are a collection of Newspaper Clipping scrap books, brought in by Thelma Backen Dopslauf. These books contain articles from the Cypress-Addicks area from the 1940's through the 1970's!

Mark Your Calendars!

September 15 – CHS Board Mtg (All Members welcome)

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

Note this date and place change:

October 13 - 2012 CHS Annual Meeting (All Members welcome)

Saturday 10:00am at CHS Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

November 17 – CHS Board Mtg (All Members welcome)

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

Cypress Historical Society
P.O. Box 2963
Cypress, Texas 77410

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:

CHS-Becky Martin, P.O. Box 2963, Cypress, Texas 77410

Questions? Please contact Jane Ledbetter at 281-758-0083

www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com