



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 17

MARCH, 2013

Notes From the President's Desk

by Karen McGilvery

New Year's Day is history now and it is already March. As you spring forward into 2013, I hope you will put our programs on your calendar and resolve to support the Society as we proceed through the year. The Society's Board members are hard at work planning programs and events for the year. Please share your interests and suggestions for possible speakers and subjects you would like the Society to pursue. Now that we are settled into the train station, we want to do more programs for our members and residents of the Cypress region.

In April, we plan to have a talk on family history research in our library. Planning has already begun for the annual picnic to be held on Saturday, July 6th. Hosting the picnic requires both a great deal of advance preparation as well as hard work at the picnic. If you can help in any way, please let us know by calling the Research Library (281-758-0083) or emailing the Society. Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated. The annual meeting in October is another opportunity for members to get involved.

In January, the Society spoke at a Cy-Fare (Cypress Fairbanks Association of Retired Employees) meeting and the group has scheduled a visit to Cypress Top for March 16th. Speaking to groups about Cypress history and the Society and helping with group tours at Cypress Top Historic Park are additional ways to volunteer. These activities also allow you to learn about Cypress while working with and getting to know other members of the Society.

The Board of Director's meets the third Saturday of the month in our building at 9:00 a.m. and welcomes members who wish to attend. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 16. Let us all work together to make this year a productive and successful one for the Society. As we do more for our members and community, we become more visible in the community and they will want to support us in future endeavors.



Karen McGilvery presents Cypress history to the Cypress Fairbanks Association of Retired Employees.



A little thunderstorm did not deter the members of the Lakewood Methodist Senior Tour from seeing Cypress Top!

CHS Docents Provide Tours of Cypress Top

by Jim Sigmund

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." No, I am not talking about your mailman. These past months, this motto belongs to the dedicated group of CHS docents who help to provide guided tours of the Cypress Top Historic Park on Tuesdays. Unpredictable weather and tour buses that always seem to show up at the same time keep our docent crew on their toes. If you can help, just drop in on Tuesdays. We are always in need of extra people to help usher the groups around, and specific knowledge or speaking is not required.



Terri Sigmund addresses the Cy-Fair Rotary Club at their monthly meeting, held in the back room of Carl's BBQ.

Rotary Club Hears About Cypress Historical Society

On December 10, 2012, Terri Sigmund was the guest speaker for the Cy-Fair Rotary Club meeting. Terri showed slides about the many activities of the Cypress Historical Society, including the Annual Picnic, our Calendar with pictures of local area landmarks, and the many resources we offer in our History Research and Genealogy Library. She also talked about the tours we give at Cypress Top Historic Park, and our close collaboration with Harris County Precinct 3 to make the park available to area residents. The Cy-Fair Rotary and CHS share a common goal of service to the Cypress area community.

2013 Picnic Planning Time!

By Jim Sigmund

It's time again to start planning for our 2013 "Old Fashioned" Picnic, to be held on July 6th at Cypress Top Historic Park. The picnic gets bigger every year (over 400 members and guests last year!) and we are always looking for new activities to add. If you would like to help out, or have an idea for a vintage craft, kid's activity, or anything that would be of interest to our membership, please give us a call. We are not permitted to sell food or goods, so all services must be donated and items free. Our community picnic sponsors have helped to keep this a free event! If you, or your company, would like to sponsor a booth, or donate food items, that would be a great help.



The CHS Picnic is a time for food, fun, and seeing old friends!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2013 BENEFACTORS!

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Dan & Becky Martin

Colleen Niklas Moreno

Michelle Reed

Jim & Terri Sigmund

James & Dorothy Treichel

Gail Wallace

Hot Off The Press!

By Terri Sigmund

Post Cards and Notecards of some of our favorite Cypress area pictures will be available for purchase in late March. Prices will be \$1.00 per Post card, and \$10.00 for a box of eight Note Cards. Stop by the CHS Library or order via the website.

We still have plenty of 2013 calendars left at \$15.00 each. Add \$3.00 if you want us to mail it to you. Calendars from past years are also available for those who just want the pictures! They are \$10.00 each. Contact the Library at 281-758-0083 or cypresshistsociety@att.net.

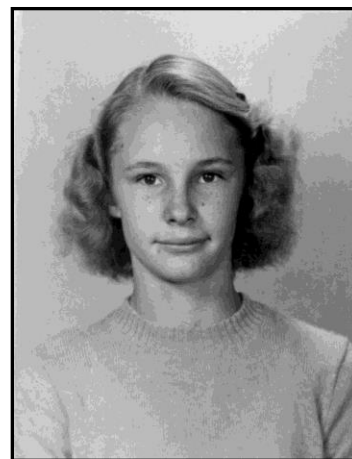
Memories of Cypress . . .

by Jane Ledbetter, Gladys Franz Stark, and Lois Franz Froehlich

Everyone went to church on Sunday . . . The church played a very important part in the beginning of the Cypress community. Many of the immigrants to Cypress came seeking religious freedom. The families met for worship in the homes of the members until they were able to build their first real church building in 1853. This congregation was known as St. John Lutheran Church.

The membership of St. John was a close-knit little community. The families grew up together, attended social activities together, and worshipped together. There was never a question if the family was going to church on Sunday; it was simply understood that they were going. In fact, the church bell tolled on Saturday evening, reminding the community of church services the next day.

The Franz family lived across the road from St. John Church (on Cypress Church Rd just south of Fenske Rd.) in the 1940's-50's. One daughter, Gladys, remembers that there were balls and other equipment at the church building for



Gladys Franz in the CFHS
1947-48 Yearbook



Lois Franz, in front of the St. John Church, circa 1950.

the youngsters up through teenagers to play with. One time, Gladys and some friends went over to the church building when the preacher was not at home; they wanted very much to play with the balls, and decided to take them and play, thinking it would surely be OK to do that. But when Mrs. Franz found out about it, she made them return the balls and apologize to the preacher for taking them. The preacher was already back home by then, so he talked to the youngsters a bit about their taking the balls without permission. Gladys never forgot that lesson! Other moral lessons were learned in much the same way.

Another Franz daughter, Lois, remembers that in the summer the windows and doors on the church building were frequently left open during services for ventilation. It was not unusual for bees, wasps, butterflies, or even an occasional bird to fly in. But one Sunday a couple of goats decided to attend the church services. They wandered through the open doors and right into the assembly. Of course, several men soon removed the goats from the building and sent them back to the Franz yard, where they belonged!

2013 CHS Board of Directors

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CHS Special Event

“How to Research Your Family History”

In the first of a series, The CHS Genealogists will share some ways to get started with searching for your own Family History, and discuss some available resources:

- Family records
- Census
- Church records
- Ancestry.com
- Other Internet Sources

When: Saturday, April 20, 2013

Time: 1:00pm–3:00pm

**Where: CHS Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park**

Who: Public Welcome

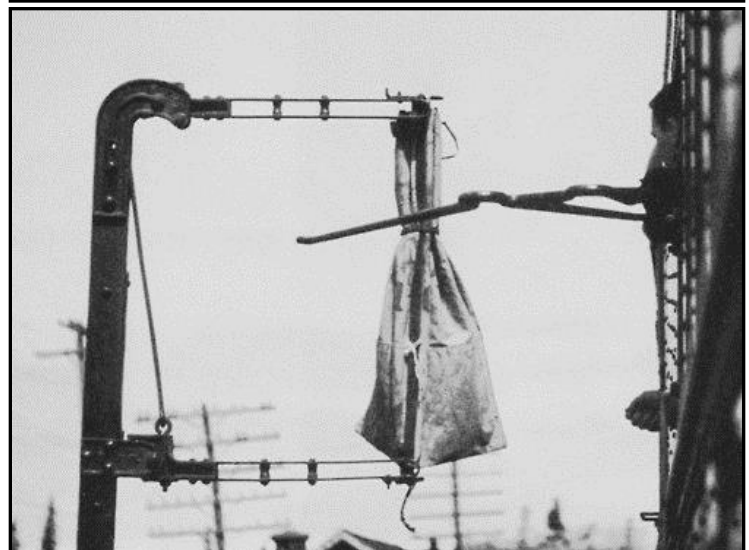
This first seminar is planned to be an introduction to the various sources, especially those we have available at the CHS Library. Depending on the interests of the group, we will have subsequent seminars that explore specific sources in detail.

Memories of Cypress

By Bobby Kellogg, June 2008

My dad bought five acres of land on old Hwy. 290 from Bud Solomon back in 1949. My dad was a rice farmer, among other things, and always had a lot of tools around, as well as tractors, wagons, etc. The Solomons owned and farmed land right behind us – corn was one of their major crops. They also had a burial site on their property, and ever so often a funeral took place there. Sometimes, if the ground was too wet and they could not get the coffin to the burial site, they would ask my dad to come with a tractor and wagon to help them complete the burial. He always was glad to help them, and it was a bit of excitement for a youngster like me.

I remember back when I was just a little tyke, six or seven years old, it was the real high point of my day when I got to go to the train depot and hang out the “mail pouch”. In those days, as the train came through Cypress going towards Waller, someone would reach out the train window and grab the mail pouch off a hook on a pole right by the track. I was not tall enough yet to reach the hook by myself so whoever I was with (usually someone from the post office in Neal’s Store) would lift me up high enough for me to hang the mail pouch. That was exciting, and I felt so important!



The “mail pouch” pole can be seen in the left foreground of the 1907 Cypress Depot picture. Below is an example of “hooking the bag” from the train (<http://djgagnon.tumblr.com>)

Genealogy Corner

By Darline Roth

After months of work scanning, correcting, printing and binding, the Dopslauf Scrapbooks are ready for your viewing. The books contain news articles of the area dating back to 1936. You are welcome to spend the day looking through them.

Items donated since our last newsletter include a 1927 Doctor's Reference Book and also two crockery bowls from the Marvin Weiman collection.

A copy of "The Scherer Family Tree" was added to our library by Glorianne Scherer Schwausch.

Meghan Paher gave an antique American flag pouch, an item from WWII.

Our thanks for these items!

We are currently putting together a picture poster board of local veterans of WWI, WWII, Korea and Vietnam for the CHS wall. If you have family military pictures from this era, we would appreciate a copy to add to the poster.



Newspaper scrapbooks from 1936 -1981, donated by Thelma Backen Dopslauf, have been spiral bound and are available for browsing in the CHS Library. They are an incredible record of the everyday life in the Cypress and Addicks area.



Erline Schoenfeldt shares the rich history of Cypress with some visitors to the CHS booth at the 2012 Tomball German Heritage Festival.

Tomball German Heritage Festival

By Jane Ledbetter

CHS has had a booth at the Tomball German Fest for several years. We will do that again this year (March 22, 23, 24) and are in need of volunteers to help man the booth (prior experience not necessary!) If you want to help, please call Erline Schoenfeldt at 281-255-2769, or call the CHS office.

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

Mark Your Calendars!

March 16 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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

March 22, 23, & 24 – Tomball German Heritage Festival

(Join us in the CHS Booth)

In the Tomball Community Center, on the corner of Market St. and Cherry St.

April 20 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 9:00 – 11:00am at CHS Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

April 20 – Class “How to Research Your Family History”

(Open to the Public)

Saturday, 1:00pm – 3:00pm at CHS Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

May 18 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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

July 6 – 5th Annual CHS Picnic

(CHS Members & Guests)

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

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

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* 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