



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

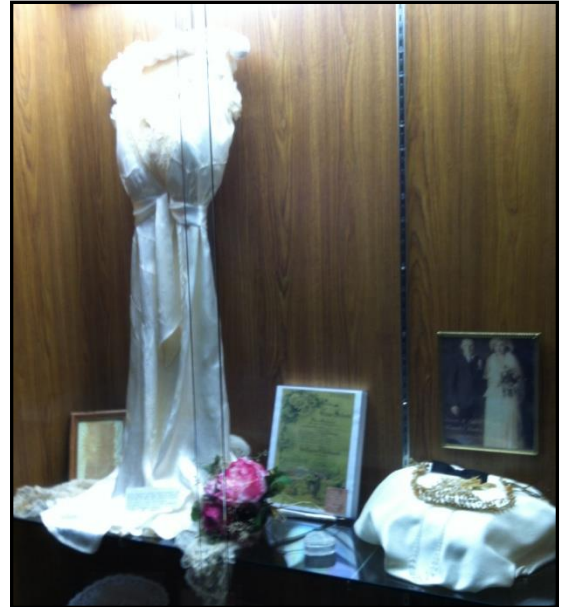
ISSUE 18

JUNE, 2013

Notes From the President's Desk *by Karen McGilvery*

Society members have been busy since the last newsletter came out in March. Dedicated members have given tours at Cypress Top Historic Park, manned our research library, promoted the Society at the Cy-Fair Women's Expo, installed exhibits in the display cases in our building, given a talk on family history research, spoken to 500 students, and worked on planning and promoting both the annual picnic and a dedication ceremony for the Texas Historical Marker at Cypress Top. Wow, that is an impressive list of accomplishments in less than three months. Thank you to all our members who have given their time and energy to all of these projects

The June 14th dedication ceremony for the historic marker will be at 1:00pm and CHS and the Harris County Historical Commission are co-sponsoring the event. Plan to attend and invite friends and family to come too. This will be a wonderful opportunity to promote Cypress history and our organization to people who may not be aware of who we are and what we are doing to collect, preserve, and promote Cypress history. The unveiling of the marker will be followed by a reception in our research library and then we will have members in the historic buildings so attendees can visit them and learn more about their history. Let us know, if you can help with this event. Hope to see you there. Then our annual picnic is just around the corner on July 6th. Make your plans now to help with and attend the picnic. It will be another great CHS event, so get involved and help us make our Independence Day celebration one we will all remember.



A new feature in our display cases is a tribute to early Cypress weddings.



Sandy McFadyen, Celeste Haltom, Joyce Kleb, and Terri Sigmund greeted the festival visitors, and talked about our Cypress history at the CHS booth.

CHS Attends the Tomball German Heritage Festival

by Jim Sigmund

For the fifth year in a row, CHS supported the Tomball Festival, and promoted Cypress history to our northeasterly neighbors. We always enjoy our visits with Grady Martin, Charles Bogs, and Veree Martin from Salem Lutheran Archives. After working our shift, there was plenty of good music, good food, and of course, good beer! The authentic German food was better than ever, and we ate wiener schnitzel, bratwurst, and several flavors of strudel. Thanks to all who helped out, and to Erlene Schoenfeldt for making up the schedule of workers for CHS.



Participants in the "How to Research Your Family History" class learned some new methods for genealogy research, and shared ideas.

Cypress Historical Society Teaches Class on "How To Research Your Family History"

On April 20th, CHS sponsored its first genealogy "How To" session to help people begin to research their own family histories. Jim Sigmund presented some genealogy basics, and discussed the pros and cons of using the U.S. Federal Census, church records, and cemetery records. Jane Ledbetter reviewed the many sources we have available at the CHS Library for those researching local families. After a short break, Jim demonstrated some live searches on Ancestry.com, and Beverly Richardson showed us how she uses Ancestry.com to store her family history records online. Anyone who is interested in learning more about researching their family is encouraged to contact us at the Library to make an appointment with our Genealogy team. We will be happy to help you get started, and show you the resources we have.

Oral Histories

By Terri Sigmund

We have started to collect recordings of long-time Cypress residents, talking about their lives while growing up, and what it was like "back in the day"! We would love to record your memories! Call us at 281-758-0083 if you are interested.

Cypress Historical Marker

In September, 2010, a project was begun to get a historical marker for the Cypress community, to be installed in the Cypress Top Historic Park. Authors Trevia Wooster Beverly and Jim Sigmund, with help from Fred Collins, Jane Ledbetter, and Darline Roth, researched the history of the area, and submitted it to the Harris County Historic Commission and the Texas Historic Commission. The culmination of this project will be the Dedication ceremony on Friday, June 14th at 1:00pm. All are welcome to attend and see our new Cypress Marker!



Don't miss the "unveiling" of the Cypress community historical marker on June 14th!



We presented to six classes and close to 500 Texas History students!

Smith Elementary 7th Graders Get Lesson on Early History of Cypress Area.

Texas History teacher and CHS member, Samantha Nuber, invited us to speak to her classes of 7th graders at Smith Elementary on May 20th. It was a special "end-of-the-year" treat for the students to hear how the Cypress area was first settled, and how the Texian army camped in Cypress on the way to the Battle of San Jacinto! While some of the children have been in the Cypress area all their life, many of them are new to the area, and this was a great opportunity for us to share the rich history of our area.

Movies in Cypress

by Jane Ledbetter

At least two movies have been filmed in the Cypress area — one in 1994, the other one in 1999. (Are there others? Let me know!)

The 1994 movie was *The Chase* with Charlie Sheen and Kristy Swanson. It was filmed on the newly completed, unopened stretches of the Hardy Tollway and a stretch of U.S. 290 in our area. Dozens of mature palm trees were trucked in and planted along the roadways to give the semblance of southern California. The movie had an armed robbery, a prison escape, a hostage situation, and a love story: all the scenes necessary to create a real thriller. However, the film earned mostly negative reviews from the critics.

The 1999 movie, a made-for-TV movie titled *A Face to Kill For*, starred Doug Savant, Crystal Bernard, Billy Dean and Barry Corbin. The story involves a successful horse-trainer coming to work on a horse farm and marrying the owner's daughter. The trainer gets into financial difficulties and skims money from the owner to pay his gambling debts. He arranges the owner's death in a car "accident" and the trainer's wife (daughter of the owner) was charged with the crime. Her face was disfigured, but after she got out of jail, with the help of plastic surgery she completely reinvented herself and sought revenge on her former husband.

Although the actual film setting was in Virginia, a lot of the filming was done at the Sam Houston Race Track near Cypress and on an Arabian Horse farm off Cypress-Rosehill Road in Cypress. In fact, one car scene leading up to a crash was filmed on a curve on K-Z Road in Cypress. A white rail fence along the road was deemed the perfect background for the shot. A night scene, it took many tries before the director was satisfied, and it was around midnight when the camera crews and other film personnel left. Many K-Z residents who had gathered in my yard to watch the excitement were still there. (This movie did get good reviews from the critics.)

(Reprinted from Jane's regular History article in the March, 2013 Cy-Fair Lifestyles and Homes. If you do not receive this magazine, you can read her monthly articles at: <http://cy-fairlifestylesandhomes.com/category/history/> -- Jim)



Movie star Billy Dean poses with Erline Schoenfeldt and Pam Hutcherson. A portion of the film was shot in Terry Hutcherson's shop on Mueschke Rd.

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

E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net

Darline Roth Research Library: 281-758-0083

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

2013 CHS Board of Directors

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“5th Annual Old Fashioned Picnic”

Don't miss our biggest event of the year! See old friends and watch demonstrations of the way our ancestors lived. Bring the whole family and the grandkids for an enjoyable afternoon and a free hot dog lunch.

When: Saturday, July 6, 2013
Time: 10:00am–3:00pm
Where: Cypress Top Historic Park
Who: CHS Members and their Invited Guests

Bakers are invited to bring their favorite dessert to share, or you can enter our

PIE BAKING CONTEST!!!

(Contest pies must be presented to the Judge's Table in Juergen's Hall by 10:15am)

CHS Building is to be known as the “Darline Roth Research Library”

By Terri Sigmund

Born and raised in Cypress, Darline Steinsiek Roth actually started her research as a child. Having lost her mother at a young age, her father, with the help of family and friends, raised the three children as a single Dad, while working. As a child, Darline often traveled with her father to work. It was those many years of spending time with so many families that got Darline interested in who was kin to who.

Darline is the person who traced most of the families pictured in Juergen's Hall. She has researched early homes, churches, buildings, schools, and families of Cypress and surrounding areas. It is her never tiring drive to research the genealogies of local families that helped form the Cypress Historical Society.

Last year, Commissioner Steve Radack responded to our request for a place to teach others how to research local history and genealogies. The yellow train depot has been open now for a year. Darline Roth has been and continues to be the leading genealogist for Cypress.

The CHS Board of Directors voted to honor her work by naming the depot the Darline Roth Research Library. Our thanks to Darline for all she has done, and continues to do to preserve the history of Cypress.



New Notecards and Postcards!

By Terri Sigmund

Post Cards and Note Cards of some of our favorite Cypress area pictures are available for purchase. The cost is \$1.00 per Post card, and \$10.00 for a box of eight Note Cards. Stop by the CHS Library or you can purchase them at the Picnic.

2013 calendars are still available 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. We also have plenty of T-shirts! Contact the Library at 281-758-0083 or E-Mail us at cypresshistsociety@att.net.

THANKS TO OUR MARCH-JUNE BENEFACTORS!

Corporate Donation

Wells Fargo Bank-CA

Sustaining Membership

Don & Liz Neidigk

Individual Donation

Rodney Sprenger

Marvin Weiman

John Airola

CHS TRAIN MEMORABILIA

By Jane Ledbetter

Another item has been added to the CHS collection of train memorabilia in our library. This item is a black train lantern donated by Marvin Weiman. It was manufactured by the Handlan-Buck Company of St. Louis, a company well-known known for lighting devices that used combustible fuels like kerosene. The company was in business from 1856 through the early 1990's. Lanterns such as the one we have were important during the early days of railroading before the advent of battery-operated lighting and electricity.

Also added to our collection recently is a railroad dolly used for moving luggage or goods from the train to the depot, or depot to the train. This item was donated by Rodney Sprenger.

NEW BOARD MEMBER

The CHS Board appointed Rodney Sprenger to fill the board position vacated by Darline Roth. Darline resigned due to her recent cancer diagnosis. We met Rodney several years ago when the Sharecroppers Early Engines and Tractors Association first came to our Annual Picnic. He has since been an active CHS member and is instrumental in the success of the annual picnic. CHS will greatly benefit from his leadership.



A railroad dolly like the recent donation can be seen in the background of the 1907 Cypress Depot picture.

Special Thanks

I'm taking this opportunity to say "Thank You" to all of you who have sent cards, phone calls, visited and most of all, your prayer support since my cancer was diagnosed. It is very uplifting to know that so many care. The tests are looking good. Thanks again!

Darline Roth, CHS



We have filled up our first display board of Cypress area Veterans, and are working on another. Stop by and check it out!

Mark Your Calendars!

June 14 – Historical Marker Dedication

(Members and Public welcome)

Friday, 1:00pm at Cypress Top Historic Park
Buildings will be Open for Tours

June 15 – CHS Board Mtg & Picnic Plan

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 9:00am at the Darline Roth
Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

July 6 – 5th Annual CHS Picnic

(CHS Members & Guests)

Saturday, 10:00am - 3:00pm at the Cypress
Top Historic Park

July 20 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 9:00am at the Darline Roth
Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

Aug 17– CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 9:00am at the Darline Roth
Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

October 19– CHS Annual Meeting

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 10:00am at the Darline Roth
Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

Cypress Historical Society
P.O. Box 2963
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CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013 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