



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 19

SEPTEMBER, 2013

Notes From the President's Desk

by Karen McGilvery

This summer has been busy for the Society and the next few months already have several events planned to keep us active. The June dedication for the State Historical Marker and our annual July picnic were both wonderful events. CHS also had a table at the 1938-1954 Cy-Fair High School Reunion where the attendees were provided information about the Society and could look at the scrapbooks, calendars, and other display materials and talk with our members. The former students were interested in, and knowledgeable about, our local history. Thank you to all of our members and sponsors who made these events so successful.

Upcoming events will include a presentation on Cypress history in a class for the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Lone Star College Cy-Fair on September 16th, hosting a Business After Hours in our building with the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce on September 25th, and of course our Annual Meeting on October 19th. All of these events help make the Cypress community aware of the Cypress Historical Society and the history of the region. At the Annual Meeting, Bill Willits will speak about railroad history. It will also be a time to review this year's activities and socialize with one another. We need members to get involved in our activities. The more participation and help we obtain, the more we can expand our programs for our members and the Cypress community. I hope to see you at one or more of the upcoming events.



Representing CHS at the Cy-Fair HS 1938-1954 Class Reunion were (l to r) Joyce Kleb, Donna McCarty, Karen McGilvery, and Annie Hagler



Special guests at this year's CHS Picnic were the 2013 Miss Cy-Fair winners (l to r): Hope Vanderburg, Keiana Kreitz, Serena McKinney, and Lexie Hoover.

Be sure to attend the 2013 CHS ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, October 19th, at 10:00am
Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Park

Agenda

- Short Business Meeting
- Guest Speaker: Bill Willits
- Refreshments

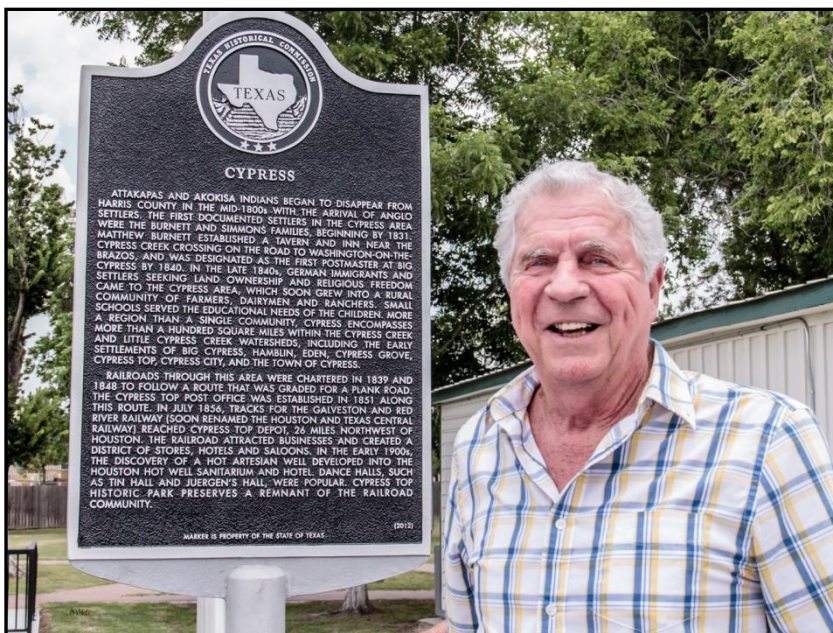
Bill Willits is a Cypress resident, a member of The Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society, and author of the "Gulf Coast Railroad" newsletter. Bill will be doing a presentation on the history of the railroad and how it affected the growth of Cypress.

The Annual Meeting will be a good chance to renew your membership for 2014!

State Historical Marker for Cypress Dedicated

By Karen McGilvery

On Friday, June 14th a dedication ceremony was held for the State Historical Marker for Cypress at Cypress Top Historic Park. The program was co-sponsored by CHS and the Harris County Historical Commission. Steve Dorman, Harris County Precinct 3 Parks Superintendent welcomed everyone and then proclamations and resolutions from Governor Perry and State Senator Dan Patrick were read. State Representative Allen Fletcher spoke briefly and also presented a document for the event. Janet Wagner, Chairman of the Harris County Historical Commission and Karen McGilvery, President of CHS spoke to the group assembled in Juergen's Hall before everyone gathered outside for the unveiling of the marker. Debra Blacklock Sloan, Janet Wagner, Steve Dorman, Representative Fletcher, Gene Zaboroski, and Karen McGilvery unveiled the marker and photographs were taken. Afterwards, CHS hosted a reception in our building. Attendees enjoyed looking at the displays and scrapbooks while having refreshments. A few people toured Juergen's Store and were amazed by the contents and history. Thank you to everyone who worked to make this event happen.



Gene Zaboroski poses with the new Historical Marker for the Cypress community



(Left to Right) Steve Dorman-Prec 3 Parks Superintendent, Debra Blacklock Sloan and Janet Wagner-Harris County Hist Comm, Karen McGilvery, Gene Zaboroski, and State Representative Allen Fletcher



**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

Picnic Attendance Tops 400 again!

by Jim Sigmund

On July 6th, we held the 5th Annual Cypress Historical Society "Old Fashioned" Picnic at Cypress Top Park. Like last year, we had over 400 people attend, and for many people, it was their first CHS Picnic! We met new friends, got new genealogy information, and signed up some new CHS members. We had great activities for all ages, great music (by members Tony & Nema Redding, Lydia Jordy, and Harold Wade), and good food. Thanks to everyone that helped out, and thanks to the Cy-Ranch and Cy-Fair Key Club students who helped us run the booths.

Most people are surprised that this continues to be a free event, and that could not happen without a long list of Sponsors. Services were donated by Daniel Arizpe Photography, Misfit Design Group, Minuteman Press Northwest, and Angel Bouncers. Products were donated by Reddy Ice, Lowe's, Jack-in-the-Box, Raising Cane's Chicken Fingers, Kroger's, Cypress Station Grill, and Backyard Smokehouse. Cash donations or store gift cards were donated by Prosperity Bank-Cypress, Wal-Mart - Cypress, HEB-Cypress, Topper Stamps and Postal History, Arthur Murray Dance Studios Cypress, Cy-Fair Back & Neck Clinic, Cypress Ace Hardware & Feed, Skeeter's Auto Service, Special T Shirts & More, and Randall's. Please thank these companies and individuals for their support of our Annual Picnic.

We have over 1000 pictures of this event that are available for viewing or downloading on a share-site. Contact me at jsigm@aol.com if you would like the link and instructions to access these pictures. The pictures will also be available on the CHS Library computers, if you'd like to stop in and look.



Beverly and Wayne Richardson enjoy the great hot dog lunch!



(above) Bugs Threadgill brought both a '70 Olds 442 and a lemon pie!



(left) Caitlyn & her brother plant Cypress trees.



Samuel and Brae McDonald and HLSR clown Rocky Pilgrim pick out stamps from Jonathan Topper's Cypress Post Office.



(l to r) Sharecroppers exhibitors Bill Schlobohm, Rodney Sprenger, Pat Henney, Rick and Will Schlobohm



The Thelma Dopslauf Scrapbooks and cold A/C kept the Darline Roth Research Library packed during the picnic!

“You’re Still The One”!

By Betty Backen Harriss

Clinton Backen and Annie Pearl Martin met in 1942. Annie Pearl worked in the ice cream parlor at the F&M Jersey Ranch. Clinton would stop by for a .25 cent milkshake on his way to Houston to deliver milk and pick up feed for the animals. He eventually started frequenting the ice cream parlor in the evenings as well. It was one of these visits that Annie’s co-workers dared her to ask Clinton to go with her to a local watermelon social. He, of course said yes, and that was the beginning of their story.

In September 1942, Clinton enlisted in the US Army Air Corps. While he was stationed at Ellington Field in Houston, he would hitch hike rides to Fairbanks to see Annie on the weekends. It was during this time that Clinton asked Annie to marry him. He went to the PX and bought her an engagement ring for \$45.00. He asked for a pass for June 3, 4, and 5. They got married in a very small ceremony on June 4, 1943, with only a few witnesses at the parsonage in Fairbanks, TX. They went to a downtown Houston hotel for their honeymoon and returned to the family farm in Cypress the next day for a Shivarree held in their honor by family and friends.

On June 6, 1943 Clinton returned to Ellington Field and was shortly thereafter transferred to Tallahassee, Florida. Annie joined him there, rented an apartment and got a job. Not long after this they were transferred to Waycross, Georgia. In December of 1943, after only 6 months of marriage, Clinton left Boston and was shipped out to England in January, 1944. He spent 19 months in England and France serving his country. In 1945, Clinton was discharged and he returned home to join his wife on the family farm in Cypress, TX.

In the following years, Clinton and Annie had three children, Don, Dennis, and Betty. They remained active in their community, especially their church, Thompson Community Church.

This past June 4, 2013, Clinton and Annie Backen celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with many family members and friends present. They credit the longevity of their union with lots of patience, unconditional love, humility, putting the other person first, and most of all, a foundation built on their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Clinton Backen and Annie Pearl Martin in 1943.



Clinton and Annie celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary together on June 6, 2013.

Mark Your Calendars!

September 21 – CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)

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

September 25 – CHS to Host Chamber of Commerce

(All Members and Public welcome)

Wednesday, 5:00pm-6:30pm 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

Guest Speaker: Bill Willits on the Railroads in Cypress

November 16 – CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)

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

What's Happening at the CHS Library!

By Jim Sigmund

Sometimes, working up at the CHS Library is spent quietly reading or researching some aspect of Cypress area history on the computer. But, in the last couple months, it has been a busy place! We have had several families coming in to work on their genealogy, and our call for more Cypress-area Veterans pictures is quickly filling up another display board. Helen Callender has been scanning Darline Roth's Family History books so we can have a backup of this priceless work. We are making slow and steady progress on indexing the Obituary scrapbooks from Thelma Dopslauf that span from 1935 to about 1980. (If you can type, we can use the help to get this index finished, so we can search by name, date, funeral home, and cemetery.)

Glorianne Scherer Schwausch has donated a copy of her book, "The Scherer Family Tree 1846 - 2012", which is full of great information, and is a nice example of a family history book if you are thinking of compiling your own family's story.

Celeste Hoehmann Haltom has brought us a copy of "The Diaries of Ida Groschke Grisbee Hoehmann" which is a transcription of her grandmother's diaries from 1938-1958, and a record of the every-day life in the Addicks-Cypress area. Celeste has also let us scan her great great grandfather's (Johann Martin Hoehmann) journals and passport from the early 1800's. (If you can translate German, we need your help!)

In addition, we obtained copies of the Neudorf Church records (Births, Communicants, Confirmations, Marriages, and Death). These are being indexed, along with similar records from St John Church. These ledger books, kept by the pastor, are valuable primary sources for genealogical information.

On the history front, we have had inquiries about Cypress in the Civil War. References have been found to a "Camp Cypress" and to a "Confederate Saddle & Leather Shop". If you ever heard of these, or had kin who fought in the Civil War, let us know.



One of the many interesting items in James' collection was a vintage milk separator!

Special Thanks . . .

By Jane Ledbetter

. . . To James Griegg, recent exhibitor at the CHS picnic, who gave Rodney Sprenger, Jim Sigmund and Jane Ledbetter a tour of his antique collection recently. We saw all kinds of farm machinery and miscellanea, some of which were new to us (in other words, we did not know the names of some things!) As we prepared to leave, he gave us a pair of wool carders to display at CHS, as well as three insulators (used to hold telegraph wires in place on poles along roadsides from the 1840s until the 1960s.) Do drop in and see these things as well as other items on display in the bright yellow CHS depot building (also known as the Darline Roth Research Library) in Cypress Top Historic Park.



Wool Carders, donated by James Griegg, will be a great addition to our Library display case.

THANKS TO OUR JUNE- SEPT BENEFACTORS!

Gene & Delphine Zaboroski
Vivian Steinsiek
Gerald Lowery
Stoney Sherrill

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CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____ Date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
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TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15)	_____	Sustaining (\$50)	_____
Family (\$25)	_____	Sponsor (\$100)	_____
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		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