



# CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 21

MARCH, 2014

## Notes From the President

*by Jane Ledbetter*

The Cypress Historical Society enjoyed a wonderful year in 2013. It was a busy time in which we accomplished many of the goals we had set forth and we had a lot of fun along the way. We hope to do the same, or more, in this year 2014 and look forward to having you working and playing with us.

If you either work in our CHS library or are thinking about volunteering to work with us in our library, we want you to know that we have scheduled a Library Volunteer Workshop in the CHS building on March 11 at 1:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to share information about what these volunteers do, and also to help everyone learn how the library is set up, where materials are stored, etc. Please call our CHS number 281-758-0083 to register for this workshop.

Our next CHS Board of Directors meeting will be held in the Darline Roth Research Library (the bright yellow building in Cypress Top Historic Park) at 9:00 a.m. on March 15. These meetings are open to the general membership; it's a good way to learn first-hand the inner-workings of CHS. See you there . . .



*The shelves full of genealogy and Cypress history that Darline Roth left behind are minor compared to the friendships and memories we have of our time together. (l to r) Marvin Weiman, Joyce Kleb, Terri Sigmund, and Darline Roth.*

## Her Legacy Lives On . . .

*by Terri Sigmund*

The Cypress Historical Society began in 2008. Its mission is to preserve local history, promote education, and research the genealogies of the early Cypress families. The truth is the genealogies of the Cypress families were actually started 40 years ago. Darline Steinsiek Roth had a unique perspective, growing up in Cypress with her widowed father, who was helped by family and friends to raise his three children. Darline had a deep love and appreciation for those families. She had a chance to learn first-hand, at a very young age, the families' histories and how folks were related.

Many years of research and photographs were documented by Darline, and are the cornerstone of Cypress Historical Society. The countless number of Cypress descendants were her friends and family. Her determination to work the genealogies of the Cypress families, and the preservation of local history, are an inspiration to many.

In December 2013, Darline went to be with the Lord. Her legacy lives on at the Cypress Historical Society building – named the Darline Roth Research Library in her honor. She was loved by many and will be missed by even more. She is gone, but her hard work and spirit lives on in the genealogy research she left behind for us to use and learn from. We are forever grateful that Darline touched our lives.

**Save The Date!**

**6<sup>th</sup> Annual "Old Fashioned" Picnic**



**Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>  
10am – 2pm  
Cypress Top Historic Park**

## **CHS Launches the “Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship” Fund!**

*by Jay Gavitt*

Thanks to a generous donation from Becky and Dan Martin, the Society has initiated a student scholarship fund, named “The Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship”. CHS will begin offering two scholarships this year to graduating seniors at Cy-Fair and Cy-Ranch High Schools. Students may apply through their schools or directly through the Society. Students applying for the scholarship must provide a 500-word essay on how he/she has discovered, preserved, or promoted local Cypress area history. Students will also need to demonstrate good academic standing and an interest in history, social studies, library science or education. Finally, students must provide two references. We are off to a great start by providing young people with funding to further their education. Any members wishing to donate to the scholarship fund, please let us know. Further donations will allow us to increase the amounts and/or expand the number of scholarships that we can offer in the future. Please visit the CHS website to view the scholarship information.



**Memories of  
the Dairy  
Business in  
Cypress**

***A common site in early Cypress! (Selma Steinhagen and Ernestine Matzke (1927) – photo from Bernice Froehlich)***

### **“Remembering Dairying in Cypress”**

*By Jane Ledbetter*

There was a time, in the not-so-far-distant past when the Cypress area was a real dairying community. It was not possible for city people to keep cows in their yards, so people in the outlying areas went heavily into the dairying industry. Milking between 65 and 100 cows became commonplace. This way of life went on for years. What a life it was! We plan to have people who lived that life visit with us on May 3rd to share their memories with us. This “Remembering Dairying” session will begin at 10:30. All are welcome to come, to learn and share!

## **Mark Your Calendars!**

### **Mar 11 – Library Volunteer Workshop**

*(All Members welcome)*

Tuesday, 1:00am at the Darline Roth Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

### **Mar 15 – CHS Board Mtg**

*(All Members welcome)*

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

### **Mar 28-30 – Tomball German Heritage Festival**

Join us at the CHS Booth in the Community Center  
Friday: 6 -10 Saturday: 10 - 10 Sunday: 10 – 6

### **Apr 26 – CHS Board Mtg**

*(All Members welcome)*

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

### **Apr 26 – Bridgeland Nature Fest - CHS Booth**

Saturday: 10–5 at Bridgeland’s Oak Meadow Park

### **May 3 – CHS Spring Program:**

#### ***“Memories of the Dairy Business in Cypress”***

*(All Members and Guests welcome)*

Saturday, 10:30am at the Darline Roth Research Library, Cypress Top Historic Park

### **May 17 – CHS Board Mtg**

*(All Members welcome)*

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

### **July 12 – 6<sup>th</sup> Annual “Old Fashioned” Picnic**

*(All Members and Guests welcome)*

Saturday, 10:00am Cypress Top Historic Park

## **EDUCATION . . .**

### **Touching Base with Local Educators**

*by Jay Gavitt*

This past month CHS was represented at the Cypress-Fairbanks Council for the Social Studies (CFCSS). The group is affiliated with both the National and Texas councils. The group has a monthly meeting and presentation for its member teachers. This month’s presentation focused on Freedman’s Town outside of Houston and the archaeological and restoration efforts in that area. We were able to offer Lisa Moulton, current president, an invitation to have a future meeting at CHS.

In addition, we met with a member of the guidance staffs at Cy-Fair and Cy-Ranch High Schools to describe our new scholarships available. One of the eligibility requirements for the new scholarship is to further the goals of CHS. We met with the Key Club advisor at Cy-Ranch and the Library/Media Director at Cy-Fair to discuss ways in which students can get involved with CHS.

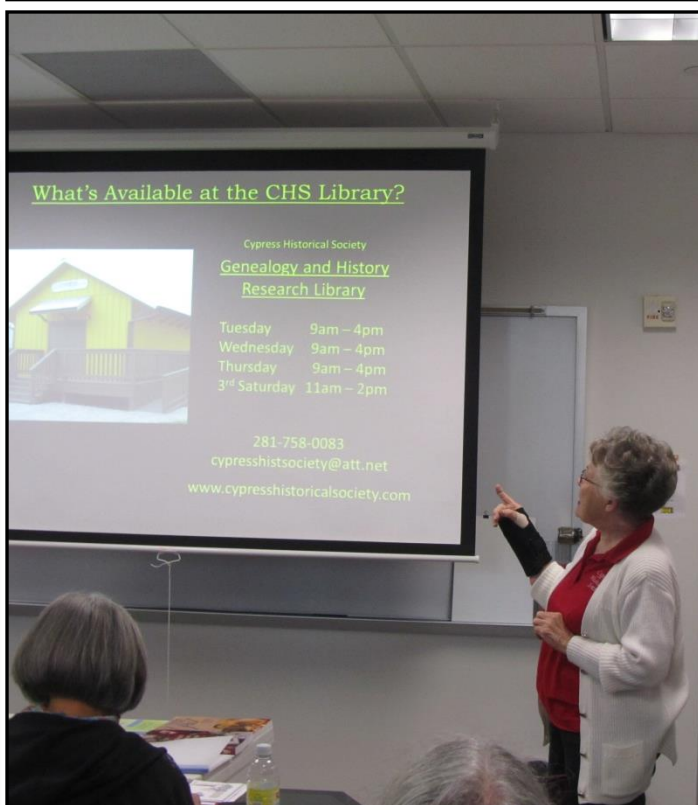
## **Another Great Presentation at Lone Star College**

by Jay Gavitt

Jim Sigmund, Jane Ledbetter, and Beverly Richardson gave a presentation to the Academy for Lifelong Learning (ALL) at Lone Star College on February 10<sup>th</sup>. This was the second presentation offered by CHS this year. A standing room-only crowd of over 40 people were in attendance for "Researching Your Family History". Jim opened the session first by distinguishing between primary and secondary sources. He used a power point presentation to illustrate census, church and public records. Jane described the resources available at the Genealogy and History Research Library as well as how people might utilize these materials. Beverly finished the presentation by demonstrating the use of "Ancestry.com" showing the types of resources available and the on-line family tree that can be created. CHS provided participants with a list of resources and a sample genealogy sheet to begin their own research. The presentation was well received and many of the ALL participants had a great many questions to ask and stories to share.



**Jim Sigmund presented some basics of how to research your family history. Actual records from Cypress-area families were used to illustrate the various types of info.**



**Jane Ledbetter gave an overview of the many types of records that CHS has available in the Darline Roth Research Library, and invited the ALL folks to stop by.**

### **THANKS TO OUR JAN - MAR BENEFACTORS!**

#### Sponsor Members:

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John B. Airola - *In Memory of Darline Roth*

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#### Scholarship Fund:

Dan & Becky Martin

Jim and Terri Sigmund

**Cypress Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 2963**

**Cypress, Texas 77410**

**E-Mail: [cypresshistsociety@att.net](mailto:cypresshistsociety@att.net)**

**Darline Roth Research Library: 281-758-0083**

**Hours: Tue, Wed, Thur 9-4, & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat 11-2**

**(Closed Easter Weekend 4/19)**

## Pack 27 Cub Scouts Take A Tour of Cypress Top Park

*by Jim Sigmund*

Den Mom, Tanya Lee, arranged for Cub Scouts from Pack 27 "visit a historical site" by coming to the Cypress Top Historic Park on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Jay Gavitt gave the boys a tour of each of the buildings, and told what they were used for. Back in the CHS building, the Scouts studied photographs to see what the town of Cypress looked like in 1907, and then built a model version of the town.

After eating lunch outside under the pavilion, the Den performed a service project by picking up litter throughout the Park. It was a great visit for the Scouts and the parents, and I think they all came away with a greater understanding of the history of the area.



**The Pack 27 Cubs studied the early road grader in the Cypress Top Park, to discover how each of the mechanical controls worked the machine. Of course, each boy got a turn in the driver's seat!**



**Looking at the 1907 aerial picture of Cypress, The boys found the various buildings, and noted their position relative to the road and RR tracks. Using models of the various buildings, Jay guided the scouts to draw a map of early Cypress, where each boy got to place his building in the proper location.**

### **2014 CHS Board of Directors**

Jane Ledbetter  
Beverly Richardson  
Terri Sigmund  
Becky Martin  
Marsha Dugger  
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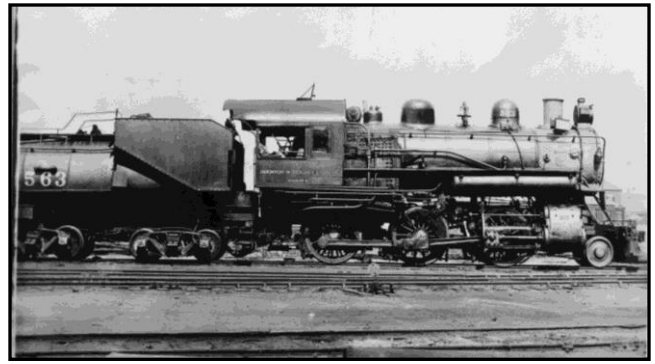
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rodneyTTU@aol.com

## CHS Library News

By Jim Sigmund

- Joe Sebek has compiled a list of the Cy-Fair HS graduates from the early classes up to 1954 for the Spring, 2014 reunion, using CHS records, our ever-sharp memories, and Ancestry.com.
- Helen Callender is finalizing her transcription of St John and Neudorf Church records.
- Railroad buff, Bill Willits, helped me identify an early railroad engine from the Houston & Texas Central RR.
- Glenda Haynes brought in a copy of the 1938 Cy-Fair HS Yearbook for us to scan.
- Becky Martin donated a book "True Tales of the Texas Frontier" and 3 Bulletins of the Texas Archeological Soc.
- On January 20<sup>th</sup>, we recorded an interview with Gene Zaboroski on his early memories of Cypress and the Juergen property . . . Oh, and he had a few stories too! (Contact us to record your early memories!)
- Joel Weckerly, Asst. Director for Communications for Cypress-Fairbanks ISD, came by to research stories he is doing for the Cy-Fair District 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.



**Houston & Texas Central RR Engine #563 was probably built in 1909 and would have likely run by Cypress in the early 1900's. (research by Bill Willits)**



**Marvin Weiman's "Little Red Wagon"**

## NEW ARTIFACTS TO SEE

By Jane Ledbetter

Two new artifacts now call our CHS library "home." Marvin Weiman brought them to us on February 12, 2014.

One item is a Self-Rocking Baby Cradle. This type of cradle was made c1855, and is unique because of a wind-up spring that allows the cradle to rock itself! The wonderful thing about this particular cradle is that Marvin's mother, Nell Heppel Weiman (born 1903) rocked and slept in it. Marvin (born 1929) also used this cradle.

The other item is a "little red wagon" – the one toy every little boy always wanted. This one has "spoke" wheels. When he wasn't playing with it, Marvin used it to move baskets of hen eggs from one building to the other on the farm.

The sides of the wagon are stamped with "Prensky & Wilk Express". So far, we have not been able to find anything about this company. Let us know if you recognize this name.



**The Weiman family cradle shows fine woodworking detail and forged metal work that is hard to find in today's furniture**



**A near-identical cradle was found on the Internet, showing the wind-up key for the watch-type spring mechanism.**

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2014 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15)	_____	Sponsor (\$100)	_____
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ADDITIONAL DONATION

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

General Fund	_____	Scholarship Fund	_____
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Make check to: Cypress Historical Society

Mail to: CHS Membership, P.O. Box 2963, Cypress, TX 77410

Questions? Please contact Jane Ledbetter at 281-758-0083  
[www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com)

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