



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

ISSUE 22

JUNE, 2014

Notes From the President

by Jane Ledbetter

Upcoming events all CHS members need to be aware of include the following:

- 1) The picnic, scheduled for July 12 at Cypress Top Park. The picnic has gotten bigger and better each year. It is being highlighted in this newsletter. Make your plans now to attend!
- 2) The CHS Annual Meeting. We have this meeting every year in October. This year the date and time is Saturday, October 11th at 10:00am.
 - One of the highlights of this meeting will be the election of new CHS board members for 2015. If you would like to serve on the Board of Directors of the Cypress Historical Society, please talk to me in the library at the picnic or call me at 281-758-0083 on Tuesday or Wednesday for more information (E-mail is OK, too: cypresshistsociety@att.net.)
 - Please note that we also plan to have a guest speaker at the Annual Meeting with a presentation that will be of interest to everyone. Watch for more information as the meeting date approaches. . . . Jane



CHS President, Jane Ledbetter



Tomball German Heritage Festival

(Left) (l to r) Terri Sigmund, Elroy and JoAnn Hirsch, and Joyce Kleb work at the Tomball German Heritage Festival. Thanks go to Erlene Schoenfeldt for doing the scheduling, and all who worked during the weekend.

(Below) Mac and Karen McGilvery in the CHS booth at the Bridgeland Nature Fest.

CHS Outreach in Cypress

by Karen McGilvery

Members of CHS have been busy the last few months giving presentations to various groups and attending local events to promote Cypress history and CHS. The Cy-Fair Chapter of Network Texas, the Discover Cy-Fair Committee of the Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce, and the Cypress Chapter of the National Archive and Retired Federal Employees have hosted presentations. Members have also manned a CHS booth at the Tomball German Heritage Festival and the Bridgeland Nature Fest, and made a contribution to the Rosehill Social Club. These have all been opportunities for CHS to promote our local history and organization. If you know of a group that would be interested in a presentation or of a local event where we can have a booth, please contact the office. As more people in our community are made aware of CHS through our speakers and information booths, we can gain members and support.



Bridgeland Nature Fest

WHERE DID ALL THE DAIRIES GO?????

By Beverly Richardson

The Cypress Historical Society was proud to host a special program, Dairying in Northwest Harris County, at Cypress Top Historic Park on May 3, 2014. Members and friends gathered to share their memories of the days when dairying was a prime way of earning a living in this area.

Milton Herzog told the group that there were over 200 dairies in the Cypress-Fairbanks area in the first half of the 20th century. Most dairies milked 65-100 cows twice a day. Along with the milking they had to feed the cows, clean the barn, do the bookkeeping records, and more. Gladys Osgood said that her mother listed the name and a full description of each cow on her records. The cows would each give two to three gallons of milk twice a day.

Tammy Smith Sherrill told us that her entire family worked on their dairy. Her brothers helped with the milking before school, then went in to eat breakfast and dress for school. After school and football practice they went home and milked the cows again before supper and completing homework. Tammie took care of the younger children while her mother helped with cleaning the dairy barn.

In the early years, families were bigger and many of the sons took over the family dairies. After WWII a lot of the young men came back home with the idea of earning a living doing something besides dairying. The GI bill would pay for college and would give them the opportunity to do something besides run a dairy for the rest of their lives. So began the demise of dairying in the Cypress-Fairbanks area.



Jane Ledbetter explained that it was the urbanization of the Houston area that caused dairying to become profitable in the more rural Cypress area.



Milton Herzog told us that milk was originally sold by weight, because the value was in the butterfat content.



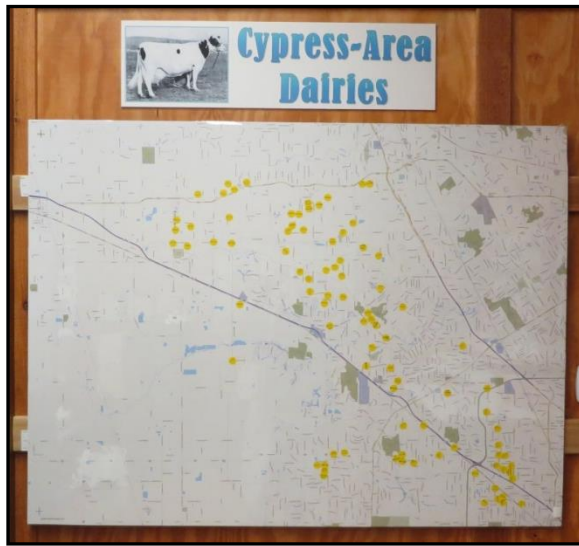
Besides milking duties, Tammy Smith Sherrill's brothers had to tend to the silage in the summertime, which usually required them to be hosed off from the smell of the fermenting silage!



Marvin Osgood and his father ran a dairy of about 30-40 cows on Huffmeister Rd near Tin Hall. Marvin reminded us that the 10-gal milk cans could weigh up to 110lbs.! (to his right is Gladys Matzke Osgood, and their daughter, Tamara Moore)



Annie Airola Hagler recalled that when her Papa sold off his dairy cows in the 1940's to Donald Christen, he drove the cows down the middle of Fairbanks-North Houston Rd. and along the Hempstead Highway and FM 529! What a sight that must have been!



One of the activities of our CHS Dairy Day Event was to spot all the dairies on a map. Glen Scholl helped us in the Mueschke Rd area, Tammy Sherrill and the Osgoods filled in around Telge and Spring-Cypress, Clinton Backen helped in the Barker-Cypress/529 area, and Annie Hagler spotted the dairies in Fairbanks. We have 80 dots so far, and 70 more to locate!



Marvin Weiman drove the truck that collected the milk from the area farms, and took it into Houston. Marvin had to taste the milk at each pick-up point before it could be added to the tank truck, as bitter-tasting milk would ruin the whole batch.



Clinton Backen, whose family started dairying in 1914 on Barker-Cypress & FM 529, reminded us that however hard it got for folks in the 1930's, the dairy families always had fresh milk, butter and cheese! (Also pictured: Betty Backen Harriss, left, and Marsha Dugger, right)

It's Almost Here!

6th Annual "Old Fashioned" Picnic



**Home Made Pie
or Cake Baking
Contest!**

Contest Rules:

- 1. Home-made Pies or Cakes may be entered**
- 2. All entries must be made from scratch**
- 3. All entries must be turned in to the Dessert Table in Juergen Hall by 10:15am**

Call Tammy Sherrill 832-865-0687 for more info

2014 CHS Board of Directors

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Beverly Richardson
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rodneyTTU@aol.com

Mark Your Calendars!

June 28 – CHS Board Mtg (& Picnic Mtg 10:30)

(All Members welcome)

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

July 12 – 6th Annual “Old Fashioned” Picnic

(All Members and Guests welcome)

Saturday, 10:00am Cypress Top Historic Park

July 19 – CHS Board Mtg & Picnic Follow-up

(All Members welcome)

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

Aug 16 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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

Sept 20 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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

Oct 11 – CHS Annual Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Saturday, 10:00am in the Juergen Hall, Cypress Top Historic Park

EDUCATION . . .

“Don’t throw anything away yet!”

by Jay Gavitt

One of the ways children learn is through “hands on” discovery. We are in the process of developing “trunks” for teachers and their students as a way for them to explore the past with the use of local artifacts. We would like to develop “trunks” with household and work-related items. A teacher’s guide would be created to help the students explore the artifacts. The trunks would be loaned out to elementary school teachers to use with their students. We are asking members to donate items that could be included in these “trunks”. The items that we are looking for include non-valuable household items such as kitchen wares, utensils, sewing notions, and entertainment related, records, tapes, games, etc. Work items such as tools, transportation related items or accessories can also be included. The only requirements are that they are small (no larger than 12”-18”), that they are different than something we would use today (showing change over time), and that they are no longer of value to you (these are being sent out to be handled by students). If interested in helping with our “trunk” project, please notify us at the Society.

CHS Awards Two Scholarships

by Jay Gavitt

The Cypress Historical Society (CHS) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2014 Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship. The scholarship recipients were Ryan E. Mendizabal from Cy-Fair High School and Austin J. Smith from Cypress-Ranch High School. The scholarships were presented at each school’s Senior Awards Night on May 20th by Board members Becky Martin and Joyce Kleb. Ryan, who will be attending Texas A & M, has had a longtime interest in Cypress area history. She has helped in fixing up area homes and cleaning local parks. Austin, who will be attending Texas State University, has worked with the Society on two major projects including the cataloging of historical artifacts at Cypress Top and interviewing long-time residents of the Cypress area. The scholarships will be used to help pay part of their expenses at their respective schools. The Society wishes the scholarship winners continued success in furthering their educations. Annual scholarships are made available through the generous donations of individual CHS members to the Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship Fund.



Cypress Ranch HS Senior, Austin Smith, and CHS Treasurer Becky Martin



Cy-Fair HS Senior, Ryan Mendizabal, and Principal Michael Smith

**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 11-2

CHS Library News – Reorganizing!

by Jane Ledbetter

It's a nice problem to have: we now have so much material in the Darline Roth Research Library that we must reorganize things to make it easier for visitors and workers to locate materials they need for research, etc.

Recent visitors to the library included a teacher looking for history of the Cypress-Fairbanks School District at the time of desegregation, and a consultant looking for pictures to update a history presentation. We were pleased that they were able to meet their needs here in the CHS library.

Lone Star College student Erika Calles has been working with Jim Sigmund to update our genealogy records of the Kitzmann family.

Our work continues with the Cy-Fair ISD to prepare for the school district's 75th Anniversary. We are helping to locate historical documents and pictures, and taking our best guess at the date of unmarked photos. The changes that occurred through the years in the school district created an important link between the widespread communities of Cypress and Fairbanks, and everyone in between.

Getting Ready for a Trip

by Jane Ledbetter

It's not unusual to hear of someone who is planning a trip to be getting passports, luggage, and new clothes, as well as planning an itinerary. However, a few days ago Carol Aimone dropped by the Darline Roth Research Library and spent a couple hours with Jim Sigmund researching some of her family's history back in Germany. She was preparing for a trip she will be taking back to "the Old Country" in a few weeks. She wanted to be sure to visit as many places as possible that might be pertinent to her family's history.



Using Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, Carol Aimone was able to find several new names in her family tree, and the Ships Manifests from Hamburg, Germany to New York.

THANKS TO OUR APR - JUN BENEFACTORS!

Sustaining Members:

Donald & Elizabeth Neidigk

Donations:

Point-Counterpoint Tour Group

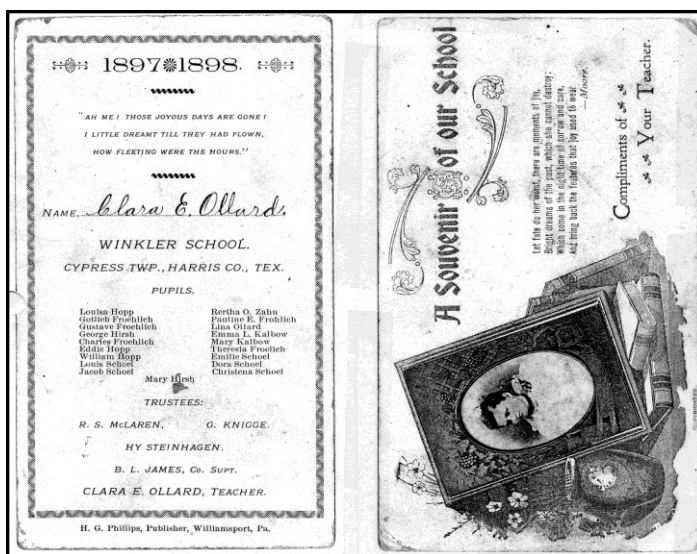
Henry & Jennifer Steinhagen

John B. Ariola

Helen Callender

Scholarship Fund:

Jay & Diane Gavitt "In Memory of Phyllis Gavitt and Edward Mitchell"



These school "Souvenir" cards contain a lot of information about the early schools, including the student names that year, school trustees, and the names of the teacher. (From the Darline Roth Collection - Courtesy of Irene Newberry)

One Room Schools in Cypress

by Jim Sigmund

Even before the Cypress and Fairbanks schools merged to form a large district, the Cypress area had a number of small one-room school houses throughout the rural community. From the late 1800's through the 1930's, there was the Big Cypress school on Telge Rd., Fuchs school near 249, Pitschmann/Bundick school at Diamond Point, Winkler School on Cypress Church Rd., Brink school on Barker-Cypress Rd, the Neidorf school on Grant Rd., Sewell School on House-Hahl Rd., and nearby schools from Rosehill, Hockley, Tomball, Satsuma, and Fairbanks

One of our projects is to document these early schools. If you have class pictures, pictures of the school buildings, report cards, etc., we would love to scan them, and help to preserve this important record of the early Cypress community.

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)	_____
Family (\$25)	_____	Corporate Sponsor (\$250)	_____
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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

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