



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 26

June, 2015

The President's Corner

by Jane Ledbetter

Cypress Top Historic Park survived the recent turbulent weather in good shape: no flooding, no fallen trees, and no damaged buildings.

As usual, we have had a busy couple of months. We hosted a group of about 25 seventh grade students, teachers and parents from Rosehill Christian School for a tour of Cypress Top Park on April 28th. We set up a booth at the Bridgeland Nature Fest on May 2nd to promote CHS and talk about Cypress history with some of the area's newest residents. CHS donated to the silent auction at the Rosehill Social Club picnic on May 17th, providing a "Cypress Memories Package": a T-shirt, calendar, koozie, fan, and a hat.

We are ready now to go forward with preparations for the July 11th picnic. We are hoping for good weather that day and are really looking forward to seeing you there for plenty of good food, music and activities . . .



Jane Ledbetter discusses CHS artifacts



Rosehill Christian students tour the house with Karen McGilvery.



The RC boys get a dance lesson from Joyce Kleb!



Recent improvements to Juergen Hall are indoor rest rooms and a spacious kitchen area!

Juergen's Hall Community Center Opens in Cypress Top Historic Park!

by Jane Hippen, Community Center Director, Precinct 3

Welcome! The much anticipated Juergen's Hall Community Center is now OPEN! We are currently offering two free classes, Zumba on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am-10:15am and Beginning Adult Tap Dance, Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30am. We are in the process of recruiting volunteers to teach or lead classes, whether they're crafts, dance, cards, dominoes, or anything in between!! We will be offering several craft classes this summer, three of which will be for kids, so we're definitely trying new things to attract folks of all ages! Please feel free to stop by and say "Hi". Mark and I would like to meet you!

Spring Housecleaning

by Jane Ledbetter

A long time ago, back in the "Good Old Days," every Spring it was the duty of the "woman of the house" to thoroughly clean her house from top to bottom. Wood-burning stoves and heaters made the house smell of smoke, and soot coated the walls and ceilings a dirty-gray color. Yes, the house definitely needed cleaning!

Joyce Kleb gave us a little reminder of the "joys" of housecleaning the other day when she donned an apron and grabbed her dusters and brooms to clean the office area of the Depot Building. Bravo, Joyce! -The next time you visit the Juergen House in Cypress Top Park (maybe at the Picnic!) take a good look at those high ceilings, tall windows and hardwood floors; then imagine what it was like to do "Spring Cleaning" in that house!



Joyce Kleb spruces up the Library!

Mark Your Calendars!

June 13 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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

July 11 – 7th Annual "Old Fashioned" Picnic

(All Members and Guests welcome)

Saturday, 10am-2pm
Cypress Top Historic Park

July 18 – CHS Board Mtg (& Picnic Re-Cap)

(All Members welcome)

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

Aug 15 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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

Sept 19 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

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



Scouts Earn History Badge at CHS

by Jay Gavitt

Two scouts have earned the "MY STORY IS A TEXAS STORY" history patch using the Cypress Historical Society's resources. Corinne and Christopher Fonte, both members of scouting groups in the Cypress area, completed a number of activities at CHS. The patch requires scouts to complete activities in four major areas. The number and complexity of each activity varies with the levels of scouting. The activity areas include: Personal History, Community Identity, Texas History, and Texas and the World. Both Corinne and Christopher interviewed Annie Hagler about growing up

and attending school in Fairbanks and Cypress. They also created a detailed "Family Pedigree Chart" and explored various artifacts from the Cypress Historical Society collection. Corinne chose the butter churn and mold and created a power point presentation on "How butter was made". Christopher built a model of an early pioneer log cabin. They also explored a picture of Cypress in 1907 and created a map showing the original buildings. The history badge was developed by the Bullock Texas State History Museum for the Girl Scouts of the USA and Boy Scouts of America. If you would like to know more about the history patch activities for scouts at the Cypress Historical Society please call us at 281-758-0083 or send us an E-Mail us at cypresshistsociety@att.net.



Corinne and Christopher Fonte interview Annie Hagler about her life growing up in Fairbanks, and attending the Cy-Fair schools.



Jay Gavitt helps students to “discover” history, rather than just memorize it, through the use of local artifacts and photographs.

CHS Texas History Presentations Scheduled for Middle Schools

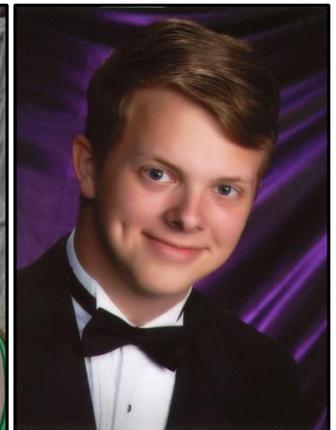
by Jay Gavitt

The Cypress Historical Society will be presenting Cypress History programs to Salyards and Smith Middle Schools at the end of this school year. The programs have been scheduled for all 7th grade Texas History classes. Last year over 1,100 students took part in the presentations. This year, the programs are being coordinated by Debra Woolley and Amanda Banks at Salyards. The second set of programs is being coordinated by Samantha Nuber and Holly Neterville at Smith. Jay Gavitt will be presenting the programs again this year. Each program will include a historic slide show about the history of Cypress developed by Jim Sigmund which includes maps, documents, and photographs. The students will then be asked to analyze a number of artifacts from the CHS collection. Students will then use what they have learned to describe a photograph showing the artifacts being used by local residents. The final part of the presentation will have students explore the history of the area where their school is located. This will include a look at the Josey Ranch for the Smith students and the Nine Bar Ranch for the Salyards students. Both schools have invited parents to attend the programs.

2015 CHS Scholarship Recipients

by Becky Martin

CHS was pleased to present two scholarships honoring Gene and Delphine Zaboroski on May 19th at the Cy-Fair and Cy-Ranch High School Awards Night. There were a total of seven applicants this year, with Christopher Sherrill, a senior at Cy-Fair High School, and Emily Honeywell, a senior at Cy-Ranch High School, being this year’s recipients. Christopher, who will attend Houston Community College, has volunteered at our Annual Picnic for the last three years and Emily, who will attend Baylor, has volunteered for the last 2 years through her Key Club at school. Both students have worked many additional hours in the Cypress community as well. The \$1,000 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 individuals and Society members to the Cypress Historical Society’s Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship Fund



Emily Honeywell and Christopher Sherrill are the 2015 recipients of the CHS Gene and Delphine Scholarship.

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

2015 CHS Board of Directors

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The Keepers School *by Tommie Keepers*

I am delighted to share the story of Cypress Creek Private School. In 1956, my parents, Florence and T.O. Keepers II, built a new home on Huffmeister Rd., about a hundred yards from Cypress Creek. T.S. Hancock (he was either the principal of Cy-Fair H.S. or he may have already become the superintendent of the school district by that time. He was also a good friend of my parents.) asked my mother if she would consider starting a kindergarten in her home. There were no pre-school programs in the district and he believed one was very important. This was well before pre-schools gained any importance in the state, especially in rural areas.

Mother never attended college and had never taught school. But she had a special gift with children and agreed to open a private school. She opened to 12 students in 1957 or 1958. She joined a Christian school organization and used curriculums approved or recommended by that organization. The school was operated with an acknowledged Christ's blessing. As the school grew, she had to add buildings. At the height of enrollment, she had four buildings and about 250 students.

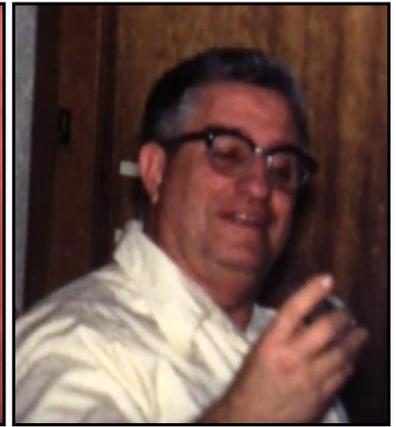
Many of her students went on to become salutatorians and valedictorians at Cy-Fair and other high schools. Many of the district's teachers and administration sent their children to her school. Students from all walks of life attended. From a family of 10 children who attended with full scholarships, to the grandchildren of George Mitchell (yes, that George Mitchell). The latter arrived in a chauffeured limousine every morning. Corporal punishment was an accepted and normal form of punishment, and it was clearly stated in the school handbook. Parents were informed of this policy and if they did not approve, they could send their children to some other school. Bible readings and prayers were a regular part of the curriculum. Computers were added years before they appeared in the public schools. Music and art were also a part of the program.

Mother's gift in analyzing children's learning problems can be seen in the letters she received from psychologists and psychiatrists applauding her diagnosis evaluations she submitted to them. At least one asked where she had received her training in diagnostics.

Mother died in October of 1986 and the school was closed in 1988. However, the property was sold to a person who opened a Montessori School, and to my knowledge, is still in operation.



Florence Keepers



T.O. Keepers II



The happy faces of these children are testament to success of the Keeper's School. Home movies are available for viewing at CHS.



Florence Keepers (right), and another teacher.

The Keepers School was located on the west side of Huffmeister Rd, just south of Cypress-North Houston. The Montessori School is still in operation at this location.

Preston & Belle Page donated 8 DVD's of converted Super8 films from the Keepers School (1963-1975), which can be viewed or copied at the CHS Library. -- Jim S.

New Additions to CHS Collection

by Jay Gavitt

CHS had a visit recently from Floyd Telschow. He had been cleaning around his house with his son and thought we might like some of the items he had collected over the years. Floyd and his brother, as teenagers, had worked for one of the many dairy farms off Rosslyn Road in Fairbanks. Over the years, he had accumulated quite a few items associated with local dairy farming. Along with the items came a number of stories and explanations. Our collection now has a bottle capper used for bottling catsup, or as Floyd told us, it could also be used for bottling homemade beer. Other items included milk and cream cans, along with a scale and weight. The final items were a rolled-paper holder and a corn kernel remover. Some of these items have already been added to our permanent displays on view at the Darlene Roth Research Library. Many of the exhibits have recently been revamped by Karen McGilvery and Beverly Richardson. Also, a photographic inventory of our artifacts collection was completed by Joyce Davis.



Items donated by Floyd Telschow will be added to our display cases, and used in our classroom presentations.

THANKS TO OUR APRIL – JUNE BENEFACTORS!

Scholarship Fund:

Ron & Marjorie Andreo

Donations:

W.L. Bane

The Importance of an Original Photo

by Jim Sigmund

I suspect that folks in the Library get tired of me asking if we have “an original photo” to scan. Copied photos can look pretty good at first glance, but zooming in on a digital image will show how much better a high-resolution scan of an original photo will look. W.L. Bane recently visited us, and brought along an original photograph of the 1939 50th Anniversary of the Cypress Rifle Club. I had two previous opportunities to scan this photo. The first version CHS received (Photo 1 below) was a Xerox copy to regular paper. Later, we received photographic copy (Photo 2 below) probably made from secondary negative. But, the facial detail that can be made out on W.L.’s original (Photo 3 below) is remarkable.

The 1939 50th Anniversary of the Cypress Rifle Club was already an important photo because we had the full list of names of the people in the photo, published in 1940 newspaper (donated to CHS by Gloria Davis). Having facial detail from W.L.’s photo, along with the names, makes this kind of Rosetta Stone, which we can use to identify people in other photos that have not been labelled.



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

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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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