



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 27

September, 2015

2015 CHS "Old Fashioned" Picnic *by Jim Sigmund*

On July 11th, the Cypress Top Historic Park came alive with the sounds of summer and fun at the 7th Annual Cypress Historical Society "Old Fashioned" Picnic. Members and guests enjoyed demonstrations from vintage craftsmen, toured the historic buildings at the park, and rode throughout the activities on a train! A variety of beautifully restored cars, from 1950's hot rods to Model T Fords, lined the walkways. Tractors and early engines were also available to view. Other outside activities included the HLSR Clowns and Ropers, Houston Archeological Society, Waul's Texas Legion Civil War display, Cy-Fair VFD, tin punch & cabin building for kids, blacksmith Dave Koenig, woodworker Stephen Sundquist, and the ever-growing Wayne Callender tool display!

Judges had a hard time picking a winner in the "Made From Scratch" Cakes and Pie Contest, but the crowd had no trouble finishing off all of the entries! At lunch time, the hot dogs went on the grill, and were served with chili, beans, sauerkraut and cucumber salads, and fresh tomatoes from Wayne & Helen Callender's garden! Sno-cones, popcorn, home-made desserts (thanks to all that brought these!), Raising Cane's Lemonade and Kroger ice cream made sure no one went away hungry. After lunch, the hands-free "Watermelon-Eating Contest" was again a crowd favorite.

There were over 420 people in attendance. With the mercury topping at just 92°F, this was the coolest CHS Picnic on record! If that was still too hot, folks could visit more activities inside the air-conditioned Juergen Hall or look up their family genealogy in the CHS Darline Roth Research Library. Live music filled the Juergen Hall with the sounds of the *Almost Heaven* blue grass band, Lydia Jordy on her accordion, and Harold Wade on piano. Thread arts including spinning, weaving, knit & crochet, and stitching, and calligraphy, postal history, and stuffing pillows as gifts for Veterans, could all be found inside the Hall.

See the Picnic pictures at www.chsphotos.smugmug.com. The password for all of the albums is "2015".



Photo by Larry Belt

Harold Wade entertained the Picnic crowd by tickling the ivories with spirited ragtime tunes!

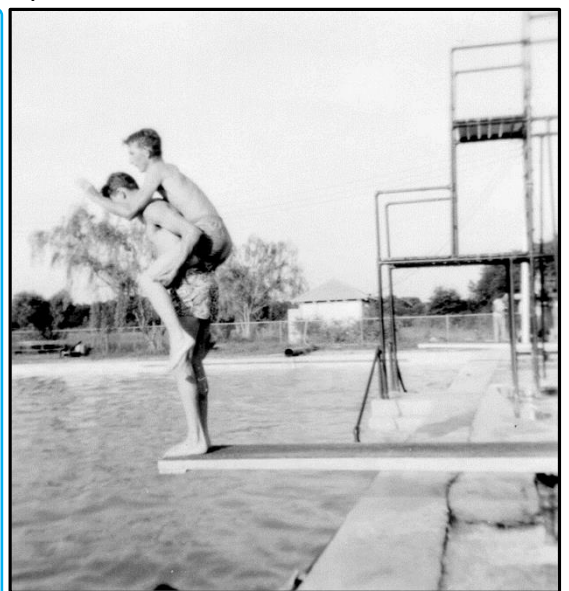
"Remembering Hot Wells"

A special program of the Cypress Historical Society

When: October 17, 2015 at 10:00am
(Immediately following the CHS Annual Meeting)

Where: Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Program: Jim Sigmund will present a short history of this memorable Cypress landmark, then we will invite those in attendance to share their memories. If you have pictures or other memorabilia from Hot Wells, please bring them to show.



Maynard Hagler and Byron Fowlkes about to test the cold pool at Hot Wells! (1949)



Ed and Ellen Moers set up a petting zoo with their sheep & lambs.



Photo by Jerry Klumpp

Annie Hagler (an original member of the Fairbanks VFD Auxiliary) visits with CF Vol Fire Dept historian Dennis Fox at the Picnic.



Photo by Jerry Klumpp

Terri Sigmund tallies the votes from Pie & Cake Contest judges Sevon Geil, Milton Herzog, and John Hurt. 1st Place: C.J. Sherrill with a Blueberry Cheesecake, 2nd Place: Wanda Threadgill with a Cherry Pie, and 3rd Place: Ava Green with a Fruit Cocktail Cake!

OUR PICNIC REMAINS A FREE EVENT, THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR PICNIC SPONSORS!

Red Star Sponsors

- Reddy Ice
- Prosperity Bank – Cypress
- Cypress Breakfast House
- Brookside Equipment
- Fiesta Mart – FM 529
- Beyond Boundaries Pediatric Therapy

Blue Star Sponsors

- Kroger's - Cypress
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- Minuteman Press Northwest
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- Jack-in-the-Box of Cypress
- Skeeter's Auto Service
- HEB – Cypress
- Dan & Becky Martin

Silver Star Sponsors

- Foodtown of Cypress
- McDonald's - Telge Rd at Jarvis Rd
- McDonald's – Cypress-North Huston
- Cypress Station Grill
- Lowe's - Cypress
- Wal-Mart Supercenter - Cypress
- 3B's Baking Company
- Angel Bouncers
- Home Depot
- Cheddar's Casual Café
- La Hacienda
- Del Pueblo
- Spring Creek BBQ
- Willie's Grill & Ice House

PLEASE SUPPORT THESE PATRONS WHO VALUE A COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE AREA'S HISTORY

Membership Renewals *by Terri Sigmund*

We have occasional questions from our members about when they need to renew their membership, and there is also an enthusiastic few that pay multiple times in the same year! When we receive multiple payments in a year, we typically credit the member for the next year. We are adding a "Paid Through" date to the Newsletter labels to help you know when your next renewal is due.

CHS Memberships run through the calendar year, January 1st to December 31st. New members who join after October 1st are credited through the following year.



Photo by Harry Brand

Students Help Out with Annual Picnic

by Jay Gavitt

Members of the Cy-Ranch Key Club once again helped make our annual picnic a success. The club provided 24 students that helped in all areas of the picnic. While some students worked food booths such as ice cream, snow cone, popcorn and drinks, others helped with the activity booths including face painting, tin punch, cabin building, bounce house, and the fish pond. Each student received community service credit and certificate from the CHS. A number of additional students helped during the week setting up for the picnic. Many thanks to these students: Jordan, Jackson and Chris Sherrill, Austin Smith and Killian Smith.



Photo by Jerry Klumpp

Jordan Sherrill open the 2015 Picnic with the Star Spangled Banner, and then gave us little Johnny Cash later in the day!

2015 CHS Scholarship

by Becky Martin

The Society is pleased to announce that we are planning to award \$2,000 toward the "Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarships" this year. The one-time scholarships of up to \$1,000 each are available to all Cy-Fair ISD seniors and former graduates who are now attending college. Students are able to 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 assisted the Cypress Historical Society in discovering, preserving, and/or promoting local history. Students need to demonstrate good academic standing and an interest in history, social studies, library science or education. Finally, students must provide two references. We awarded two scholarships last year and look forward to assisting two more deserving students this year.

Any members wishing to donate to the scholarship fund can do so at the same time they renew their annual membership or anytime throughout the year. Additional 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.

Cypress Historical Society

P.O. Box 2963

Cypress, Texas 77410

E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net

Darline Roth Research Libr: 281-758-0083

Hours: Tue, Wed, Thur 9-4, & 3rd Sat 11-2

2015 CHS Board of Directors

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Cy-Fair H.S. Reunion 1938-1956

by Jim Sigmund

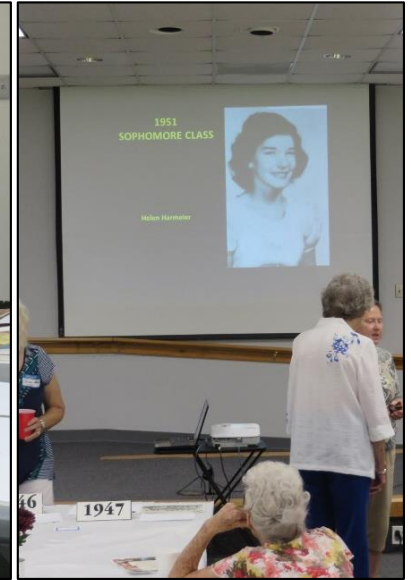
The Cypress Historical Society was a guest at this year's Cy-Fair High School Reunion for the Classes from 1938 through 1956. The event took place on June 20, 2015 at Bear Creek Community Center, and was chaired by Joe (J.L.) Sebek. Over 80 "students" attended, with James Thompson of the Thompson Community representing the Class of 1938. Besides many members who were also Reunion attendees, CHS volunteers Jim & Terri Sigmund, Tammy Sherrill, and Celeste Haltom were there to set up displays of Cypress history and the early days of the school district. As a special treat, Jim Sigmund, Annie Hagler, Joe Sebek, and Jane Ledbetter put together a slide show of pictures taken from the old yearbooks. It was a fun time for the classmates to re-live their days as scholars, football stars and cheerleaders!



Members Celeste Haltom and Terri Sigmund help out with the CHS display table.



As always, the CHS Scrapbooks are a big hit! (l to r) Don Neidigk, Sonny Brautigam, Dorothy Beckendorf, Mary Beckendorf, and Norma Hillegeist.



Pictures from the old Bobcat Annuals, and photos from past Reunions were a great way to remember the good old days.

Kroger Community Rewards

by Becky Martin

The Historical Society has recently been approved for the Kroger Community Rewards Program. Through this program CHS can receive quarterly donations from Kroger. All our members need to do is to register their Kroger loyalty card. Every time you shop and swipe your card at check out, CHS earns a donation. The more you shop, the more we earn! It is a great way to support CHS by just shopping as you would normally. But first you must register your card. To participate in the program you must have an online digital account if you don't already have one. Visit www.kroger.com and select the 'Register' button and enter your information and 'Create Account'. Make sure you add your card number which is located on the back of your card. Select 'My Account' and scroll down to the 'Community Rewards' section of your account page. Select 'Enroll Now' or 'Edit' and enter Cypress Historical Society or our NPO number....41564 and click 'Save'. Any transactions made using the card number associated with this account will now be applied to the program. CNPO 41564

THANKS TO OUR JUNE - SEPT BENEFACTORS!

Sponsors:

Bill & Linda Blaine
Marilyn Jaksch

Donations:

Wells Fargo Bank
Roger Bang
Grace Pryor

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept 19 – CHS Board Meeting (Final Calendar Meeting to follow)

(All Members welcome)
Saturday, 9:00am at the
Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

ANNUAL MEETING!

Oct 17– CHS Annual Meeting

(All Members & Guests welcome)
Saturday, 10:00am at the
Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Program: "Remembering Hot Wells"

Nov 21 – CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)
Saturday, 9:00am at the
Darline Roth Research Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

(No Board meeting in December)

CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

The Library has been a busy place lately! If you would like to help out, let us know, or just drop by.

- Bernice Froehlich brought us a 1943 Tomball Cougar Annual . . . It is interesting to see the young men in their serviceman uniforms.
- “Buggs” Threadgill donated several farm tools from his family, and some from an old barn on Mueschke Rd. The all wood, hand-made rake is very cool. He also framed a bumper sticker from 1971 when Cy-Fair won the AAAA State Championship in basketball. Joyce Davis, Class of '71, was working at the Library when Buggs came by, and recalls that she was at that game!
- CHS put on a class “How To Get Started Researching Your Family History” at the new Juergen Hall Community Center on August 4th. It was taught by Jim & Terri Sigmund and Beverly Richardson.
- Ryan Fennel, librarian for the NW Harris County Library, stopped by for a visit. CHS will be doing a talk for them “Cypress at the Turn of the Century: 1895-1915” at 1:00pm on Oct 31st at their library, in conjunction with their *Gulf Coast Reads* program.
- Kay Weiman donated a 1967 Cy-Fair Bobcat Yearbook.
- Work on the Cy-Fair H.S. library scrapbooks continues. Beverly Richardson is scanning them, and Erlene Schoenfeldt is indexing them.
- Joyce Davis and Jay Gavitt are making a complete inventory, including photos, of all of the CHS artifacts, and also the County-owned artifacts from the other buildings in the Park.
- Heather Knigge Stephenson from McKinney, TX came by and researched the Knigge family genealogy.
- New member Bill Blaine has been helping us take photos of several small family cemeteries (Hoffmeister and Dowdell-Woodward) near his house in the Ravensway area.



Hand-crafted farm tools from the Cypress-area were donated by member J.E. “Buggs” Threadgill.



Framed and donated by J.E. “Buggs” Threadgill. BFND!

The Brookshire Times, 12 May 1955, Thu, Page 8

TUNE IN UNCLE JOE'S
Huffington Ranch Program,
station KTHT 790 on your dial,
6:30 a.m. Monday through Fri-
day. 3/10/rt

The Joe Huffington Radio Show

Rhonda Page Jordan donated an audio CD of the Joe Huffington Radio Show from the 1950's, where he interviewed her grandfather, John William “Johnny” Page of the Page Ranch in Hockley. Johnny was born in 1877. You cannot help but smile as he longs for the good old days, and complains about how “fast” life is these days (in the 50's!). Johnny says, “Well, those days, if you met your neighbor in the road, you'd have time to have a word with them. These days all you do is point one finger up, and step on the gas!” I guess Johnny wouldn't like to travel Hwy 290 through Cypress and Hockley today! Stop by the CHS Library and listen to the 15 minute interview . . . It is a precious memory.

A portion of the interview of Johnny Page by Joe Huffington:

(JH) Where'd y'all get your supplies here in the 1880's and 1890's?

(JP) We'd haul 'em from Houston mostly, by ox team. We'd carry cotton down there, and haul groceries back.

(JH) Swap the cotton for the groceries?

(JP) Well, so we'd buy groceries

(JH) Now, what was the route after you'd hitted Hockley . . . I guess you'd hit this old road along the railroad somewhere . . . Did you travel that road?

(JP) Well, from where I lived, what we called the Houston Road from Plantersville. We took the highway, the railroad, here at Kelley Hill, we called it then . . . it'd be Swanson now.

(JH) Yeah, that's right here where this ranch is . . . Kelley Hill . . . it's right on the west side of Kelley Hill . . . this ranch is.

(JP) That's right. And from there, we followed the railroad to Houston.

(JH) Didn't have no shell road, or no paved road.

(JP) No sir, the road was nothing but mud when it was raining.

(JH) Well, what did you have, mules or horses, or what?

(JP) Well, some had horses and mules, but in the heavy loads and the big loads of cotton, (what) we had was oxen.

(JH) How many oxen did it take in rainy weather to pull a load of cotton to Houston?

(JP) Well, we had 5 yoke, that's 10 steers to one wagon. We generally carried 4 and 5 bales.

(JH) 10 yoke of oxen for 5 bales of cotton, that'd be a yoke for each bale?

(JP) That's right.

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2015 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------------|-------|
| Individual (\$15) | _____ | Sponsor (\$100) | _____ |
| Family (\$25) | _____ | Corporate Sponsor (\$250) | _____ |
| Business (\$30) | _____ | | |

ADDITIONAL DONATION

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

| | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|-------|
| General Fund | _____ | Scholarship Fund | _____ |
|--------------|-------|------------------|-------|

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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