



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 32

December, 2016

Notes from the President *by Jim Sigmund*

At the heart of any successful organization is a core group of leaders who keep it running smoothly. CHS is fortunate to have dedicated members who serve both officially as Directors of the organization, and a host of others who are willing to help at anything that is needed.

At the CHS meeting on November 19th, the Board of Directors re-elected incumbents Jane Ledbetter, Erlene Schoenfeldt, Joyce Kleb, and Tammy Sherrill to another two year term. Rodney Sprenger is going to take a break from serving in an official capacity, but plans to continue to attend meetings and help on committees. Rodney's corporate and financial advice is invaluable to CHS. I will be returning to the Board of Directors in Rodney's place.

We did a little "hat-swapping" in the Officer roles. I am honored to take over as President, inheriting a strong organization, with record membership, built by Jane Ledbetter over her last three years in the President role. Erlene Schoenfeldt will take over the Secretary duties from Levern Smith. Beverly Richardson will continue as Vice-President, and Becky Martin will continue as your Treasurer.

I would like to encourage you to come to our monthly Board of Directors meetings. Only the Directors can vote at the meetings, but anyone can come to offer ideas, or just listen and learn more about CHS and what we have planned. We are fortunate to have a core group of individuals who will serve in the official roles, but we also need new ideas for the future, and how to reach even more people in the Cypress area community.



Chris Cantele (left), with Annie Hagler and J.L. Sebek.

More Hot Wells Memories!

On October 14th, we were visited by Chris Cantele, who is the son of Louis, Jr. and Ada Jo Cantele, whose family ran Hot Wells in the 1950's. Chris told us great stories about his father and grandparents during their days at Hot Wells, and reminded us that there was a television program made several years ago called "Houston: Remember When" that featured Hot Wells. It was made from his family's home movies, and showed video throughout the resort. We have a DVD recording of that show in the CHS Library that also features the Cy-Fair Rodeo and F&M Dairy. Stop by and watch it – it's a great memory!

Christmas Is On Its Way! *by Jay Gavitt*

Come and see the Christmas decorations at the Cypress Historical Society Library. The entire Cypress Top Historic Park is ready for the holiday season. The decorations were put up just before Thanksgiving to give everyone an early start for the Holidays. Decorations at the Darline Roth Research Library were put up by Joyce Kleb, Jane Ledbetter, and Beverly Richardson. Drop by and visit us any Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday from 9:00-4:00. All of us at CHS would like to wish our members and friends a happy holiday season and best wishes for a great New Year.



The CHS Library gets decked out for Christmas!

History of Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department is Given at the CHS 2016 Annual Meeting

The CHS Annual meeting is an opportunity for members to get together for a summary of the business side of the organization; including a Financial Summary for the year, nominations for open Board of Directors positions, and a re-cap of the year's activities. But the highlight of the event is always the guest speaker! This year, Dennis Fox and Glenn Gates from the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department presented a history of the department from it's earliest days as the Fairbanks Fire Department in the early 1950's to the formation of the CFVFD in 1961. Dennis and Glenn provided early photos and fire records, and told the story of the struggles to find funding in the early days. They finished with showing the incredible organization that today is one of the largest volunteer departments in the country. We were also honored to hear from some of our members who were part of this history, and helped to build the CFVFD!



Dennis Fox (right) and Glenn Gates (left) were our guest speakers from the CFVFD.0



Dennis Fox learns some CFVFD history first hand from founding father Raymond Walker.



The 1929 Childs Fire Truck was on display during the meeting.



CFVFD Auxiliary member Kelly Sigmund visits with Annie Hagler who served with the original Fairbanks Auxiliary in the 1950's.



Glenn Gates (right) shared fond memories of growing up in Cypress and visiting Gene Zaboroski (left) at Juergen store.

Cy-Fair HS Classes of '66 & '67 Donate \$3000 to CHS!

Following their 50-Year Class Reunion on October 1, 2016, the reunion committee members of the combined Cy-Fair High Classes of 1966 and 1967 paid a visit to the CHS Library, and handed us two checks for \$1,500 each! Bob Emmott made the following presentation: *"In order to support and help promote this worthwhile endeavor, The Reunion Committees of the Cy-Fair High School classes of 1966 and 1967 present these two donations totaling \$3,000 for the Darline Roth Research Library.*

We thank the Cypress Historical

Society for their research and records preservation of the history of Cypress, Fairbanks and the High School We Love." To say that we were stunned is definitely an understatement! Just seeing their appreciation for our efforts makes it all worthwhile. We cannot thank them enough for their support and generosity.



(l to r) Kent Bradbury '66, Jim Sigmund, Janice Kitzmann '67, Annie Hagler, Leroy Janacek '66, Bob Emmott '67, Jack Smith '66, Helen Callender '66.

Mark Your Calendars!

(No Board Meeting in December.)

Library Closed for Christmas

December 20th through December 29th

We will re-open on January 3rd, 2017

Jan 10 – Library Workers Meeting

(Anyone who wants to help in the Library)

Tuesday, 10:00am at the Darline Roth Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Jan 21 – CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)

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

Feb 1 - Deadline for Scholarship Applications

Feb 20 – CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)

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

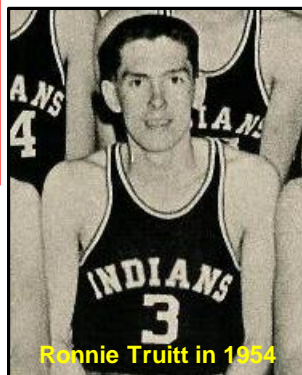
Library Workers Meeting - Jan 10th

If you are a regular worker at the CHS Library, or would like to learn more about the Library and help in the future, please plan to attend the meeting on Tuesday, January 10th, at 10:00 am. We will talk about our Library procedures, and brainstorm on what we can do to make it better. We often work on different days, so a sharing of ideas will help us all stay on the same page. We will cover how to search for information on our ever-growing indexes and our item inventories. Our goal will be to come away with a work plan for 2017 that we can follow throughout the year. Hope to see you there!

Famous People from Cy-Fair?

by Terri Sigmund

We need your help to remember and identify those folks who lived in the Cypress-Fairbanks area who went on to make their mark in history. Please email us or call us and let us know if you have any folks that we should consider. For example: Did you know the famous Cy-Fair High School basketball coach, Ronnie Truitt, who led Cy-Fair Basketball Team to the state championship in 1971, was a player on the team that the 1986 film *Hoosiers* was modelled after! How about Jonathan Horton, Olympic gold medalist in gymnastics and graduate of Cy-Fair High School? We know there are many more people, so please help us identify them and we can mark their place in Cypress history.



Ronnie Truitt in 1954



Jonathan Horton in 2010

Cypress Historical Society

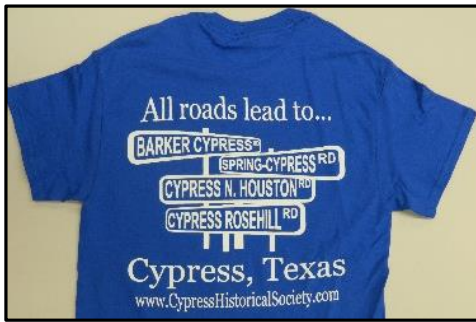
P.O. Box 2963

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



New "All Roads" T-shirt in Royal Blue

Christmas Gift Ideas!

by Terri Sigmund

Struggling for ideas for gifts to get for that "hard to buy for person"? We have just the thing. The new 2017 calendar is available for just \$15.00. In addition we have a new t-shirt. Same "All Roads Lead to Cypress" design but a new fresh royal blue color! All sizes are available. Again, just \$15.00. But wait, there's more! As a special promotion for New Members who join, for an extra \$5.00, they can get a calendar or T-shirt! Stop by the library and pick your Christmas gift out, helping you finish shopping and helping to support CHS. Have a blessed holiday season.

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<i>Jim Sigmund</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>(281) 373-9052</i>	<i>jsigm@aol.com</i>
<i>Beverly Richardson</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>(281) 246-4632</i>	<i>beverlyjsr@att.net</i>
<i>Erline Schoenfeldt</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>(281) 255-2769</i>	<i>(none)</i>
<i>Becky Martin</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>(281) 376-5054</i>	<i>bmartin115@gmail.com</i>
<i>Mary Bianche</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(281) 746-2742</i>	<i>mbianche@ymail.com</i>
<i>Celeste Haltom</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(281) 373-0502</i>	<i>celestehaltom@gmail.com</i>
<i>Joyce Kleb</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(281) 894-1662</i>	<i>jtk1951@sbcglobal.net</i>
<i>Jane Ledbetter</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(281) 979-7470</i>	<i>janel_54@att.net</i>
<i>Tammy Sherrill</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(832) 865-0687</i>	<i>texastami@aol.com</i>
<i>Levern Smith</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(281) 255-2389</i>	<i>hobertsmith@att.net</i>

New Educational Programs Ready For the New Year

by Jay Gavitt

The Cypress Historical Society is ready for the 2017 school year. We have created a new Teacher resources program for 7th Grade teachers and students. This program includes a short teacher workshop introducing them to the new Teacher Resources disk. This resource provides teachers with primary and secondary sources for use with their students. The collection includes almost 100 photographs and numerous articles about Cypress and surrounding areas. The collection also includes articles on immigration to Cypress and the early railroading here. Another resource is the research report that went into applying for the Cypress Top Historical Marker. This is a must read for anyone teaching or learning about Cypress area history. A great deal of this research was done by our own Jim Sigmund and Fred Collins of Cypress Top Historic Park. There are histories of the CFISD with illustrations included, as well as a list of the Texas Education Agency's Social Studies TEKS for Grades K-12. This workshop has been approved by the TEEAC in cooperation with the TEA.

The 7th Grade School Presentations are now being booked for 2017. This in-school or class presentation has students explore Cypress area history and development. The program contains three segments. The first is a brief PowerPoint presentation using old photographs, maps and secondary sources to illustrate Cypress history. The second segment focuses on examining a number of local artifacts.

Students use techniques for interpreting these artifacts. The final segment has students explore the past uses of the area where their school is located. Each of the segments is aligned with the 7th Grade Social Studies TEKS.

Visitations to Cypress Top Historic Park and the Cypress Historical Society can be arranged by contacting CHS. Various youth and student group activities are available for all age levels. These are available at CHS or at schools or other locations. Activities range from creating maps, building model cabins and villages, interpreting artifacts, to researching and creating family trees. Scouting groups are able to begin work on the "My History is Texas History" badge. This badge is sponsored by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America in conjunction with the Bullock Museum.

There is no cost for any of these programs. If anyone knows a school or group that might want to take advantage of any of these programs, contact Jay Gavitt at the CHS Library.



CHS can make many artifacts available to History teachers to encourage hands-on learning.

CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

- A recent new member to CHS is Dr. Arlys Bing, who is well known to folks from Cy-Fair. Dr. Bing had an office in Fairbanks, and was the team physician for Cy-Fair High School.
- Ava Green, daughter of Teddy and Patsy Fuchs, donated items that belonged to her grandmother, Rosa Mueschke Fuchs: ice tongs, sheep shears, and a 1944 Sears catalog. I asked Annie Hagler if she ever used a Sears catalog like this, and she said, "Only in the outhouse!"
- Thad Free (son of Melvin Free) and Sally DeBono stopped by to see if we had anything on the Rumble and Neal families. He was surprised to see how much we had (incl. genealogy by Sondra Haltom). He later re-connected with his cousin Frankie Litt.
- Bernice Froehlich donated photos, books, and her sister Geneva's Neidorf School report cards.



A 1944 Sears catalog, ices tongs, and sheep shears from Teddy Fuch's mother, Rosa Mueschke Fuchs.



Kathy Cook, W.L. Bane, and Dr. Arlys Bing at the Fairbanks United Methodist Church Fall BBQ on October 15th.

THANKS TO OUR OCT-DEC BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

Cy-Fair HS Classes of 1966 & 67
John & Virginia Alamanza
W.L. Bane
Al & Pam Basinger
Jimmy & Mary Lois Grimmett
Annie Hagler
Krogers

Scholarship:

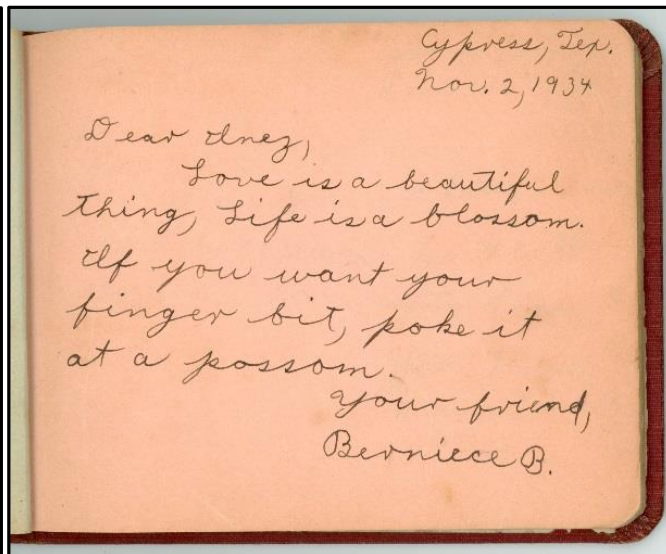
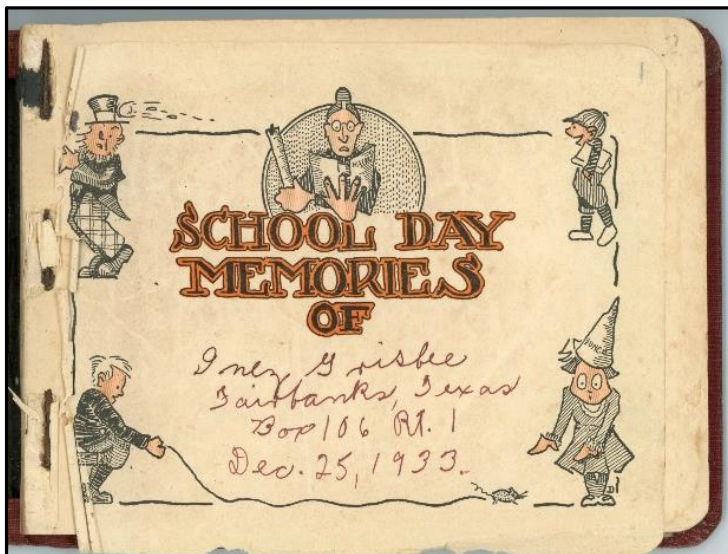
Don & Deborah Clanton
Annie Hagler
Jim & Terri Sigmund

Lifetime Membership:

Jay & Diane Gavitt
Sandy McFadyen

Will You Sign My Autograph Book?

Before Facebook or Snapchat, and even before high school yearbooks, school chums needed a way to express their affection for their classmates. That need was filled by the Autograph Book! But, the challenge was to come up with a clever saying. Celeste Haltom donated a great collection of Autograph Books that belonged to her cousin, Inez Grisbee Weiman. Reading these books is sure to make you smile!



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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Lifetime Individual (\$150) _____ Lifetime Family (\$250) _____

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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