



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 33

March, 2017

Notes from the President *by Jim Sigmund*

It's hard to believe it is Spring already! The CHS Board of Directors and our dedicated volunteers have been busy planning for another year of fun activities and research projects. In less than a month, we will have our first big event of the year, with a focus on remembering Tin Hall. Some of you met your spouse at a Tin Hall function, or slept on a bench as a child while your parents danced the night away. The topic is even more timely as the Tin Hall building will soon start another phase of its life at a new location.

Our Student Scholarship program has become self-sustaining through your generous donations. Stay tuned for hearing about our two outstanding 2017 candidates in the next Newsletter.

Our outreach programs are busier than ever. We have done talks for Seniors groups, as well as top-notch student, teacher, and Scout programs and tours by Jay Gavitt and Pct 3 Historian Jim Wilson.

But most exciting is the memories, photos, and stories that are pouring in from our Members. We are proud to be the stewards of these Cy-Fair memories, and your family histories for others to see.

Cypress Historical Society Cookbook and Memory Book

by Levern Smith

CHS is planning to publish a Cypress Historical Society Cookbook/Memory Book of Cypress, Texas. We need your help to remember the good old days, and those great family recipes that were carried down through the generations. We ask if you would share your recipes and stories relating to the Cypress-Fairbanks area with us. The stories can be from your childhood memories, or relating a story told to you by your parents or grand-parents. Please send them by mail, E-mail or bring your recipes, and stories to the

CHS office along with a picture of yourself either from the past or a current photo if you wish. The recipes and/or stories need to be typed (in a Word document, if possible) or hand written. Deadline to turn in your recipes and stories is May 1, 2017.



2017 CHS Board of Directors: (l to r) Levern Smith, Mary Bianche, Celeste Haltom, Becky Martin, Beverly Richardson, Jim Sigmund, Jane Ledbetter, and Joyce Kleb. (Missing are Erline Schoenfeldt and Tammy Sherrill.)

The Cypress Historical Society invites you to
A Special Spring Event
for Members and Their Families

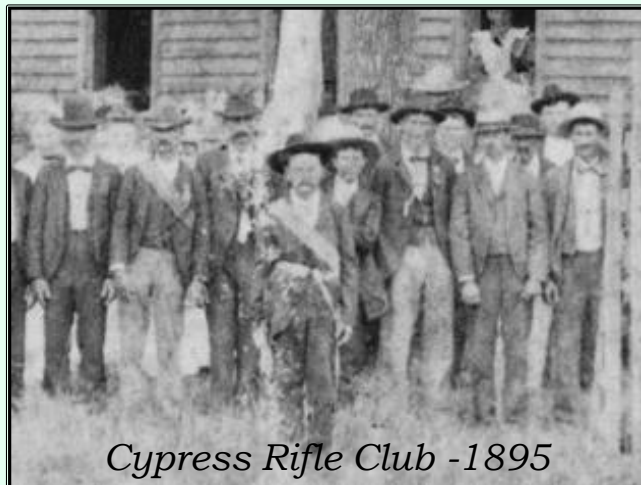
"Memories of Tin Hall"

Guest Speaker: Mr. Fred Stockton

Saturday, April 8th, 11:00am-3:00pm

Juergen Hall, Cypress Top Historic Park

(See Flyer Inside)



Cypress Rifle Club -1895

A Demonstration of Team Spirit

by Jim Sigmund

It's the season for High School Basketball playoffs. We remember the great victories of the 1971 Cy-Fair High School Team that became the State Class 4A Champions, and were later recognized as 1971 National Champions. But, these stories will be told at another time. Today, we remember five spirited students, who supported their team by dribbling a basketball from Cypress to the Championship games in Austin. We had already decided to include this story, when we heard the sad news that Chris Labay had passed away on February 8th. It was Chris who wrote a first-hand account of their amazing journey. Included here is just a short excerpt from his "The Spirit and the Champions". Our thoughts and prayers are with Chris' family, as we recall this memorable demonstration of school spirit at Cy-Fair High School.

(Excerpts from "The Spirit and The Champions" by Chris Labay)

While driving home from the Regional victory against Kimball, my father (Allen Labay), who was probably still excited about our recent victory, made the comment, "You boys should do something for spirit". Sitting in the back seat of the car and caught off guard by his remark, I asked him what he meant. At this point it is unclear whose idea it actually was, but let history show, my Dad said, "Dribble a basketball to Austin". Regardless of who said it, it seemed like a pretty stupid idea at the time. Well, I had all weekend to think about what was said, and my thoughts began to go a little crazy. Monday morning, I drove my '65 Chevy step-side pickup to school, and the first person I grabbed was Murl Montgomery. Murl is one of my best friends and I figured he would give me a straight answer. While telling him about my idea and how we could pull this off, the look on his face was priceless, like all my marbles had just rolled out on the floor had my head had shrunk to the size of a peanut. "You're crazy", he said. Naturally, I took that as a maybe. The next three guys I costarred were Arthur Meeks, Bill Smith, and Richard Gilbert. The reactions I received from these three were basically the same as Murl's, so I was on a roll.

Prior to our departure, it seemed that all of Cy-Fair High School was in front to cheer us on. The five of us were decked out in our best shorts, tee shirts, and running shoes. I started the dribbling away from the school onto highway 290 . . . The plan was for each guy to dribble one mile. Mr. Witt would drive one mile and pull over. When the dribbler got to the end of his mile, the next guy would get out and without stopping the ball from bouncing, go another mile . . . Somewhere around the 9-Bar Ranch, which is now Fairfield Subdivision, a white car with two men pulled up behind us. It was my Dad and Carlos Watkins. He informed me that I was not to be here, and that I needed to be in school . . . I did as I was told, but before I left, I took the other four guys aside and told them to keep going. To be honest, what started as a way to be out of school, was now a crusade for spirit. We had too much on the line. If we failed, then we would lose the spirit and might even hurt the spirit of the team.

My Mother was not at home when we arrived. Dad told me to get dressed because he was taking me back to school. As I was getting ready, I heard the rotary phone being dialed. Dad found Mom at a neighbor's house. Mom got on the telephone and, as I recall, my Dad's part of the conversation went something like this: "Mary, I have Chris at the house. He is changing clothes to go back to school."

"Well..."

"Well..."

"Dr. Harper said..."

"Yes...but"

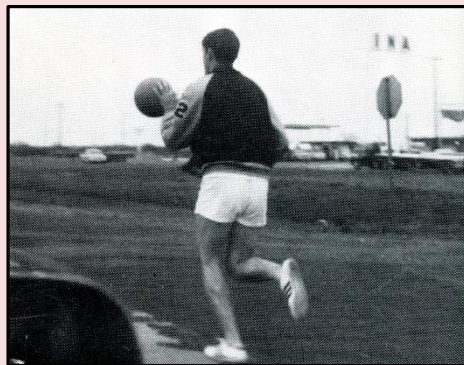
"Yes...but...but"

"Yes dear"

"Yes...Yes dear"

"OK"

"OK"



(Left) Chris Labay dribbles down Hwy 290. (Right) The Team stops by: (l to r) Murl Montgomery, Arthur Meeks, Chris Labay, Ronnie Dunlap, and Bill Smith.

My Dad hung up the phone. I could hear his footsteps coming down the hallway. He turned into the doorway of my room and said, "Put your shorts back on. I'm taking you back"

(On the second day) activity picked up as we dribbled along. There was more horn blowing from trucks as well as cars. I even had a cute chick in a convertible offer me a ride. The basketball team, while on their way to Austin, stopped and visited with us. I think that meant a lot to all of us.

I remembered having eaten at a little café in Wimberley . . . We arrived at the café and opened the menus when the young waitress walked up and took a look at our warm up tops . . . She said, "Are you the guys dribbling the basketball to Austin? Since we were in a small town far away from our route, and not having Fox or CNN or Internet or cellphone in those days, we were surprised by her question. We shook our weary heads "yes" . . . She returned with the owner/cook of the café. After congratulating us and best wishes for our basketball team, he fed us chicken fried steaks with all the trimmings for free!

We rose the (last) morning . . . It was Friday, and as we approached Austin, our supporters were flowing in from Cy-Fair. There was a lot of horn honking, cheering, and banner waving. We had a huge group of fans following as we dribbled into Austin, where we were greeted by parents and classmates at our motel . . . We timed our arrival at Gregory Gym to coincide with the last of the crowd entering . . . The five of us entered the gym decked out in our Cy-Fair warm ups. The crowd went wild! We came onto the court dribbling this basketball that had been bounced off the pavement and gravel for 145 miles, and only touched five sets of hands for the last four days. It's finish was dull, wore smooth, and had a bit of an egg shape to it. I handed it to Jerry Mercer . . . Our job was done. Now it was time for our heroes to shine. -- Chris Labay, 2011 (Read the entire 7 page story at the CHS Library)

Why Grant Road?

by Leticia Moran

Did you ever wonder how Grant Road got its' name? Based on historical documents and oral history, Grant Road got its' name from Dr. Grant who was a physician and served area residents. The problem is that there were two Dr. Grant's, a father and son, and so who was the road named for?

Dr. James William Grant (1821-1884) was a physician and farmer who relocated his family from Iowa to the Cypress area in the mid 1870's. Dr. Grant was born in Indiana, lived in Marengo, Iowa and married Mary Elizabeth Wilkinson (1833-1904) in 1854. Mary's family is considered one of the early settlers of Tama, Iowa. Dr. Grant also served as a physician in the Civil War with the Iowa 4th Congressional District. Dr. Grant and Mary's three sons were born in Iowa prior to the couple relocating to Texas, where he purchased land adjacent to what is now known as Grant Road.

The oldest son, Charles B. Grant died shortly after their arrival in Texas (1856-1878) and is the first recorded burial at Perry Cemetery on Grant Rd. Both Dr. Grant and his wife are also buried there. Not much is known about the second son, Gordon Henry and thus no descendants have been found. The youngest son, Elmore Ellsworth Grant (1861-1923) followed in his father's footsteps and also became a physician. Dr. E.E. Grant also practiced medicine in the Cypress area.



Grant J.W.	W. No 58	husband	Physician and Farmer
Mary E.	W. No 45	Wife	Keeping house
Charles B.	W. No 21	Son	Working on farm
Elmore E.	W. No 18	Son	Working on farm

In the 1880 Census shows J.W. Grant as "Physician and Farmer".

I have made attempts to contact Dr. E.E. Grant's descendants in order to gain a better understanding of the Grant family but have been unsuccessful. If you know any more about the history of Grant Road or the Grant Family, please contact me at leticia1moran@yahoo.com or through the CHS Library.

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Recent Education Programs *by Jay Gavitt*

A program on the Oral History Project was presented at Cypress Ranch HS. The presentation was introduced by student Veronica Ordonez. Veronica along with Lexie Martin interviewed our own Gene Zaboroski at the Cypress Historical Society's gathering last summer. Close to 90 students were in attendance at the meeting where they viewed the video of Gene's interview. The students in attendance were all members of the National Honor Society for Social Studies. This group will be providing future student interviewers for our Oral History Project.

The Cypress Historical Society will be offering a week-long summer history camp. The camp will be hosted at Cypress Top Historic Park and Kleb Woods Nature Preserve. It will be run by the Cypress Historical Society's Jay Gavitt and the Park's Jim Wilson. Students will be exploring Cypress through "Hands on History". Sessions will include archaeology, examining artifacts, early construction, mapping Cypress, Family Trees and other hands-on-activities. We are selecting dates and determining the age group. Information to follow.

We are in the process of presenting 7th grade teacher workshops for public, private and home-school teachers. If anyone would like to have the workshop at their school please let Jay Gavitt know. The workshop is less than 30 minutes and can be given during the school day or after school. Teachers will also receive resource materials providing them with over 150 pictures and articles about Cypress area history. Also included is an excellent report on Cypress history which was the research material for the Cypress Historic Marker done by Jim Sigmund, Trevia Wooster Beverly and others.



Girl Scouts of Troop 109011 proudly show off their log cabins!

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

Mark Your Calendars!

Mar 18- CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)

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

Apr 8 - "Memories of Tin Hall"

Guest Speaker: *Fred Stockton*

(Members & their Families welcome)

Saturday, 11:00am - 3:00pm
Juergen Hall, Cypress Top Historic Park

(No CHS Board Meeting on Apr 15th)

May 20 - CHS Board Meeting

(All Members welcome)

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



Looking at photos of Cypress in 1907, the Scouts lay out a map of the area and learn about the buildings and businesses that existed in the community.

Fairfield Girl Scouts Earn "My Story is a Texas Story" Badge *by Jay Gavitt*

We were invited to offer a second workshop on Cypress history for Troop 109011 in Fairfield to help scouts complete the requirements for the "My Story is a Texas Story" badge offered through the Bullock Texas State History Museum. Leader Glenda Ensley's troop is made up of a very enthusiastic group of third grade girls. The session was at their monthly meeting held at the HEB in Fairfield. The program was conducted by CHS volunteer Jay Gavitt with the assistance of a Junior Docent Chris Fonte. The girls constructed flower vases using log cabin construction. They investigated a series of pictures comparing their school life with those of past students in Cypress-Fairbanks. They explored transportation, school events, classes and what made a "good" school. The students were able to create Cypress map coasters made from old CDs and maps of Cypress. The final part of the programs was a history in pictures of where their individual school is located today.

CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

- Roland Dossman donated church books/hymnals from 1901 and 1927 that were used in the Neidorf-Trinity Lutheran Church on Grant Rd. They were used by Roland's grandparents William F. & Rosa Dossman, and his great-grandparents William F. & Elizabeth Dossman.
- The CHS Library welcomes our latest volunteers Leticia Moran and Silvia Woods, who are helping us on Wednesday afternoons and our "3rd Saturday" hours. Both are avid historians and have jumped right in to help us organize our Library shelves.
- McAlister's Deli in Cypress is remodeling their restaurant and has worked with CHS to create a montage of historical Cypress photos. We appreciate their interest in promoting Cypress history.
- Lakewood Glen HOA is decorating their Club House with historical Cypress photos. As new people move to their subdivision, it will be a great opportunity to learn about the rich heritage of Cypress.
- With our recent discussion about Tin Hall and the Cypress Gun Club, we have wondered about other area Gun Clubs, such as White Oak, Bear Creek/Addicks, and Spring Branch. If you have knowledge or photos from these other gun clubs, please let us know.
- CHS Member Eric Briggs and fellow relic hunter Rich Sandman donated Civil War artifacts found in the Cypress area. Camp Cypress served as a Forage Depot where supplies could be collected and stored before being shipped to nearby Hempstead, or other locations on the railroad line. The items are on display in the CHS Library glass case.

THANKS TO OUR DEC-MAR BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

John & Virginia Alamanza
 Gloria Ashbaugh
 Shirley Milton
 Colleen Moreno
 NRG Energy
 Joe & Louise Sebek
 Leroy & Joyce Schlechte
 Henry Steinhagen
 Bill Stieghan
 Gudrun Sundquist
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Scholarship:

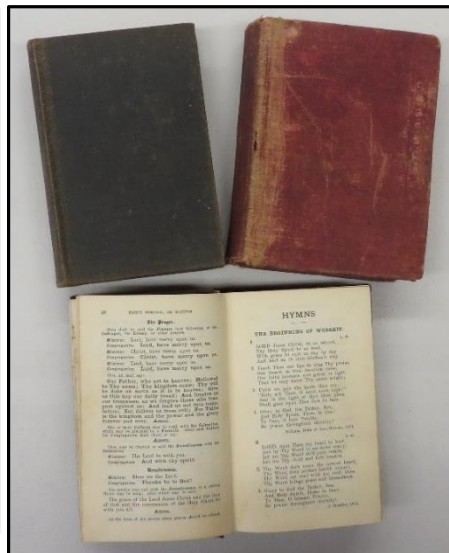
June Metcalf
 Shirley Milton

Lifetime Membership:

John Airola
 Chris Cantele
 Helen Delaney
 Thelma Dopslauf
 Jimmy & Lois Grimmatt
 June Metcalf



Civil War relics include a picket pin, Enfield bullets, lead spill, a buckle, and parts of a clawfoot telegraph battery.



Donated hymnals from the Neidorf Church date 1901 and 1927.

Love Is In the Air . . . Or Is that Fried Chicken I Smell?

by Jim Sigmund

As we celebrated Valentine's Day last month, I am reminded of the old schoolyard tradition of "Box Suppers" that many of you have told me about. The girl would put together a home cooked meal, with fruit and a big piece of pie or cake, in a pretty basket or box with a ribbon. The boxes were then auctioned off to the boys, who got both the meal and the privilege of eating the supper with the girl who made it! The proceeds of the auction went to a local charity. Bill Stieghan (C.F.H.S. Class of '40) told me, "You didn't always pick your best girl, you picked the one that made the best fried chicken!"



Photo courtesy of Kentuckyexplorer.com

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

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Questions? Please contact Jane Ledbetter at 281-758-0083
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