



# CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established 2008*

ISSUE 7

JULY, 2010

[www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com](http://www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com)

## President's Column . . .

Our last newsletter was just a few months ago in April, and yet there is so much that has happened since then, it is hard to fit it all in one newsletter! Our education committee has done three presentations to groups as small as 15 all the way to 200. The genealogy committee was present for the Zion Lutheran Cemetery Historical Marker dedication, where we continue to build strong ties to other organizations with similar goals to CHS. June was spent preparing for the picnic. I am so proud of our membership. About a third of our membership helped with the picnic itself and at least two thirds were present and brought friends and family! We even signed up 15 new members at the event. You can read more about the picnic in this newsletter. No time to rest though, we have already started working on the picture selection for the 2011 calendar, and we are putting together an advisory committee to assist us with our goal for a permanent home, not to mention all the "regular" things we have going on. So sit back and enjoy the newsletter, and if you want to be a part of the restoration of Cypress history give us a call.  
-- Terri Sigmund

## "Old Fashioned" Fun Rules at the Second Annual CHS Picnic!

On July 10, 2010, the Cypress Historical Society continued Gene Zaboroski's 4th of July Picnic tradition by hosting its Second Annual "Old Fashioned" Picnic for Members and invited guests. The grounds of the Cypress Top Historic Park came alive with the sounds of vintage music and antique craft demonstrations.



CHS member and Sharecroppers President, Rodney Sprenger, was the most popular guy at the picnic when the home-made ice was served! (l to r) Kelly Sigmund, Rodney Sprenger, Doug Patschke, Lloyd Wessels. The ice cream maker was powered by an engine of the Sharecroppers Br #96 - Early Engines and Tractor Association.



The Picnic was an opportunity for old friends and families to re-unite, and younger generations to enjoy a bit of the "Good Ol' Days"!

The picnic was made possible by the generous donations of our Sponsors: Prosperity Bank, Skeeter's Auto Service, Cypress Station Grill, Homestead Magazine, Peggy Schulin of the Texas German Society-Katy Tri-County Chapter, and Cy-Fair Back & Neck Clinic. Please thank them when you see them!

## Cypress Historical Society Shirts!

We had a few requests from people who wanted to order one of the red CHS polo shirts. They come in standard sizes for \$26.00/each. Contact Terri Sigmund (281) 373-9052 or [JSigm@aol.com](mailto:JSigm@aol.com)



**CHS member Jonathan Topper, also a professional Stamp Appraiser and Postal History researcher, set up the Cypress Top Post Office. Visitors were able to stamp and postmark their own letter, a souvenir of the CHS picnic! (l to r) Carey Harrington, Shirley (Froehlich) Milton, and Delores (Kleb) Quin check out his collection of old stamps!**

**Chefs Elroy Hirsch & Mac McGilvery!**



**Wayne Callender (seated) and Elroy Hirsch displayed some cool antique tools! James Treichel (left) looks on.**

**Tours were led throughout the day of the Juergen's House and Store, and the Humble Service Station. Here, Jane Ledbetter talks about the dining room in the Juergen's House. (Building Tours are available on Tuesdays at Cypress Top Historic Park.)**



**Ruth Ellis (left) and Tammy Andrews (right) check out Darline Roth's genealogy and History of Cypress binders at the History Table.**



**The picnic was an opportunity for friends and family to visit. (l to r) Cindy Harrington, Gladys Juergen, Mildred Hood, Josephine Froehlich Lem**

## ***CHS Activities . . .***

### **CHS Visits the Cy-Fair High School Class of 34-52 Reunion**

It was a great honor to be invited to the Cy-Fair High School Class of 34-52 Reunion on June 26, 2010, held at the Bear Creek Community Center. Terri and Jim Sigmund set up the History Table for the class members to view, and, in turn, were treated to some neat stories, and a great pot-luck dinner!



*Terri Sigmund and Joyce Kleb invite the Cy-Fair class-mates to the Cypress Historical Society Annual Picnic.*

### **Not Just History!!! by Darline Roth**

Three of our CHS Members, Annie Hagler, Erline Schoenfedt, and Karen McGilvery volunteer help in the Kleb Woods Nature Center vegetable and flower garden.



*Karen McGilvery waters the garden at Kleb Woods.*



*Harris County Historic Commission representative (and new CHS member!) Trevia Wooster Beverly, along with Charles Bogs from the Zion Lutheran Church Cemetery Committee, prepares to unveil the new Historic Marker.*

### **CHS Attends the Dedication of the New Zion Lutheran Cemetery Marker**

On June 27, 2010, the Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Tomball received an official Historic Texas Cemetery Marker. Members of the local historic societies: CHS, Harris County Historic Commission, Chaparral Genealogical Society, and Salem Lutheran Church, along with Church members, attended the Dedication Ceremony and a nice reception afterwards.



*Attending the Dedication Ceremony from CHS were (l to r: Annie Hagler, Joann and Elroy Hirsch, and Erline Schoenfeldt. (Not Shown: Darline Roth and Jim Sigmund)*

## **Memories of Cypress . . .**

### **Growing Up in a Single-Parent**

### **Family**

*by Jane Ledbetter*

We hear so much these days about children growing up in single-parent families that we sometimes think it is something that only began happening in recent years. Actually, it is not a new phenomenon at all; the main reasons for it happening may be different but many people through the years have faced that situation: women died in childbirth, sickness took the life of one parent or the other, one or the other parent was killed; the father may have lost his life in a war.

One of our own CHS members, Darline (Steinsiek) Roth, has very vivid memories of how it was to live in Cypress during the depression years after her mother died. She was only 3-½ years old when her mother died, leaving her with her father and two brothers. After her mother's death, people offered to take one or the other of the children into their homes, thinking her dad was certainly not going to be able to take care of three young children by himself, especially at that time when there was almost no work to be had, and very little pay when a man did find a job. However, her dad said that he had promised his wife before she died that he would not separate the children; he would take care of them himself. And Mr. Steinsiek did just that! Fortunately, his wife's large family lived nearby and could help him sometimes, but the day to day nitty-gritty of caring for a young family as well as trying to earn money for expenses fell to him.

For a while, the Steinsiek family lived in a house with a field where Mr. Steinsiek could raise cotton. The house had a long, wide hall in the center of it; in the summer time, with both end



**Edgar, Darline and Raymond Steinsiek.**



***Darline Steinsiek Roth, a Cypress native, and founding member of the Cypress Historical Society!***

doors open, the children would lay down on pallets in the hall for an afternoon nap. (This was about the coolest place in the house.) When he thought the children were asleep, their dad would go back out to work in the field. Of course, sometimes Darline and her brothers only pretended to be asleep; when their daddy was gone, they would get up and play.

When her brothers were in school, before Darline was old enough to attend, she would have to go out to the field with her father while he worked as there was no one to keep her (no "day care" in those days). She would sit on a quilt under a shade tree where her dad could see her while he hoed cotton.

The house had a wood-burning cook stove in the kitchen and a wood-burning heater in the dining room. There was also an ice-box, but there was not always a block of ice to go in it. If there was no syrup for breakfast, Mr. Steinsiek would cook sugar and water together until it got thick and syrupy. If fresh pears were available, he would slice and boil them with sugar for a sweet treat. Sometimes he made vanilla pudding. And Mr. Steinsiek even baked homemade bread!

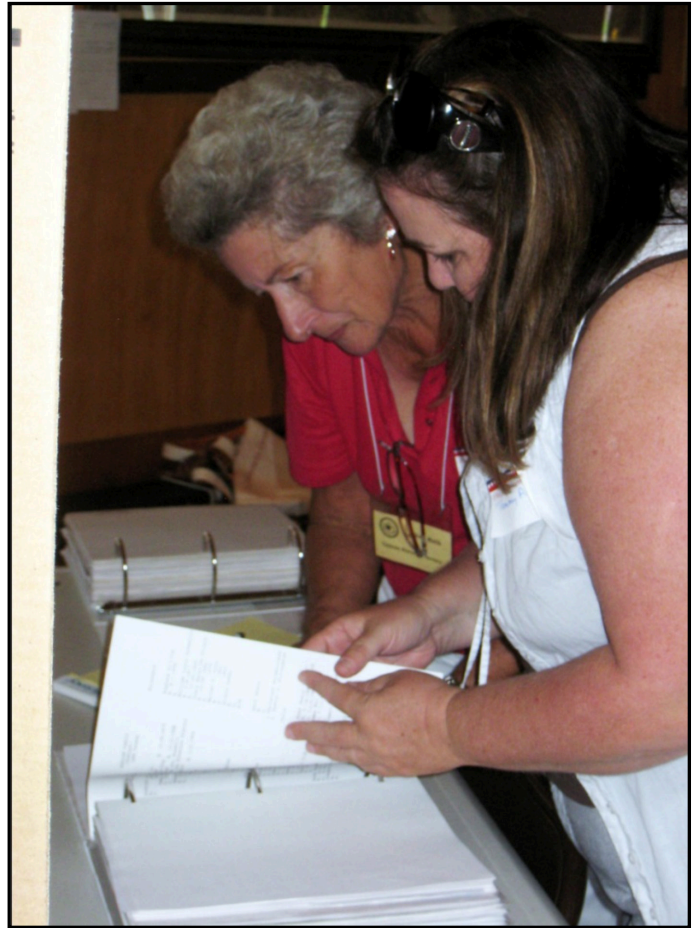
The Steinsieks also had a few chickens, so they had eggs and also had fried chicken occasionally. Sometimes they set out traps to catch rabbits in hope of having fried rabbit for supper. - Darline's dad later told her there had been times when he was very much afraid they were going to go hungry. But Darline does not remember that happening. It seemed that

somehow, there was always a little something to eat. Sometimes her dad just put whatever food they had in the house in pots on the stove, telling her older brother to watch them so as not to burn the food while he went out and worked.

Once in a while Darline and her dad went to a neighbor's house to visit. The neighbor followed the old German custom of having coffee and coffee cake in the afternoon. What a treat! Even Darline had coffee (about  $\frac{3}{4}$  cream and  $\frac{1}{4}$  coffee).

There was a store in Waller next to the cotton gin called "God's Mercy Store" that sold merchandise as close to cost as possible to help people get through the Depression. Darline's father bought some of his family's clothes there. Darline's grandmother Steinsiek also sent her clothing sometimes.

Mr. Steinsiek had promised his wife before she died that he would see that the children received religious training, so if the children were well on Sunday, Mr. Steinsiek sent them to church and Sunday School. They walked from their house across the pasture barefooted until they crossed the creek; then they put their shoes on and continued their walk on up the Cypress Church Road to the church building. Each of the children got a penny to put in the collection plate.



*Darline can always be found at the History Table, sharing her extensive collection of Cypress history and genealogy, captured over many years. Here she discusses the Zahn Family with new CHS Member, Tammy Andrews.*



*Darline and her father, Donald Steinsiek, in 1986.*

While the children were at church, Mr. Steinsiek worked on his old car. If he was successful and got it running, he and the children would go visiting when they got home. Darline feels there was not a home in Cypress or Rosehill at that time that they had not visited. - Mr. Steinsiek also worked as a carpenter when work was available; Darline went with him and so met and played with many different children while he worked, or she visited with the adults who lived on the work site.

With all this exposure to people and their families, it is not too surprising to learn that in later years Darline developed a deep interest in the genealogy of the families in the Cypress-Rosehill area, particularly that of the "old settlers." She has worked for well over twenty years assembling those genealogies. Some of her work can be seen today on the walls of Juergen's Hall in Cypress Top Historic Park. She has also been instrumental in assembling a notebook of pictures of old homes in the area as well as other historical information about the area. Darline likes nothing better than to meet and talk with visitors to Cypress Top about the history of the Cypress area and its people.

Cypress Historical Society  
19518 Lutheran Cemetary Rd.  
Cypress, Texas 77433

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM  
2010

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

**SPECIAL  
DISCOUNT!**  
**\$10 Family  
Membership  
through the  
end of 2010.**

Individual (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining (\$50) \_\_\_\_\_

Family (~~\$25~~) (**\$10**) \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor (\$100) \_\_\_\_\_

Business (\$30) \_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Sponsor (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \_\_\_\_\_

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

Make check payable to: Cypress Historical Society

Mail check and membership form to:

Becky Martin, 11911 Waterford Estates Ct., Tomball, TX 77377-2714