



# CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established 2008*

ISSUE 10

APRIL, 2011

## Notes From the President's Desk

*by Jane Ledbetter*

This spring is starting off as a very busy time for the CHS Board of Directors as well as the membership at large. Several interesting bus trips have occurred and more are scheduled. Articles about some of those appear later in this newsletter.

CHS also had a booth at the Tomball German Festival the last weekend in March. This was our third year to do this. We have always been well-received there; this year was no exception. See Darline Roth's article for pictures and more information.

Our Spring Social event is being planned for CHS members, friends and the public on April 30 at the Remax Facility on Telge Road (where the Bertani Restaurant was located). The Remax Real Estate people are allowing us to use their facility free of charge as part of their goal to reach out to the Cypress community as well as to be an integral part of the community. More information about this event appears later in this newsletter. Karen McGilvery, CHS vice president, is chairing this event. I'm sure she would appreciate your help; give her a call.

I do hope you have marked July 9 on your calendar: this is the date of our biggest event of the year, the CHS Fourth of July Celebration. Because we cannot rent Juergen's Hall on the actual Fourth of July (the county does not have its facilities open on a national holiday), we have to schedule our event on a different date. It's still a Fourth of July celebration in the finest "red, white and blue" tradition. Hopefully we will see you there!

I did want to mention again that CHS Board of Directors meetings are open to the general membership. Several members at large have begun attending these meetings. It is a good way to learn first-hand the inner-workings of CHS. The next meeting is April 16 at the Sigmund's home on Lutheran Cemetery Road in Cypress. You will be getting a reminder about this meeting. Please be assured your presence there would be an encouragement to the Board as we all work together to promote Cypress and CHS to our community.



**A 5-Cent token for Juergen's in Cypress! What a find!**

## New Clue for Juergen's Store History

*by Jane Ledbetter*

Recently the Director of Cypress Top Historic Park, Fred Collins, received a call from a man who knew of Cypress Top Historic Park and the Juergen name associated with it. He asked if we had any Juergen's Store tokens. Well, none of us associated with Cypress Top even knew there had ever been such a thing. The man said one had been advertised on E-bay and sent Mr. Collins the

page with the information and pictures of the token. The token pictured here is brass, not dated, and is 0.95 x 0.95 inches square. Internet searches found possible token dates of 1902, 1906 and 1908. How Mr. Juergen obtained the tokens or how they were dispensed to his customers is unknown.

Mr. Collins is challenging CHS members to find a specimen or two for the park collection. If your family lived in the Cypress area, you might look through family memorabilia for tokens or other items tied to Cypress history. If you frequent antique shops, you might also check there. Contact any CHS board member if you find something of interest. Happy hunting!

## **Tomball German Heritage Festival**

*by Darline Roth*

The third year is now behind us having a booth at the Festival. "Thank You" goes out to our first-time volunteer members: Donna and Dean McCarty, Sandy McFadyen, Tammy Andrews, and Michelle Murray, and also our veteran booth crew: Elroy and JoAnn Hirsch, Darline Roth, Jane Ledbetter, Jim and Terri Sigmund, Annie Hagler, Joyce Kleb, Becky Martin, Duke Cumming, and John Goodwin. Special thanks go to Becky Martin and Tammy Andrews for putting together our new display boards . . . which received many compliments!

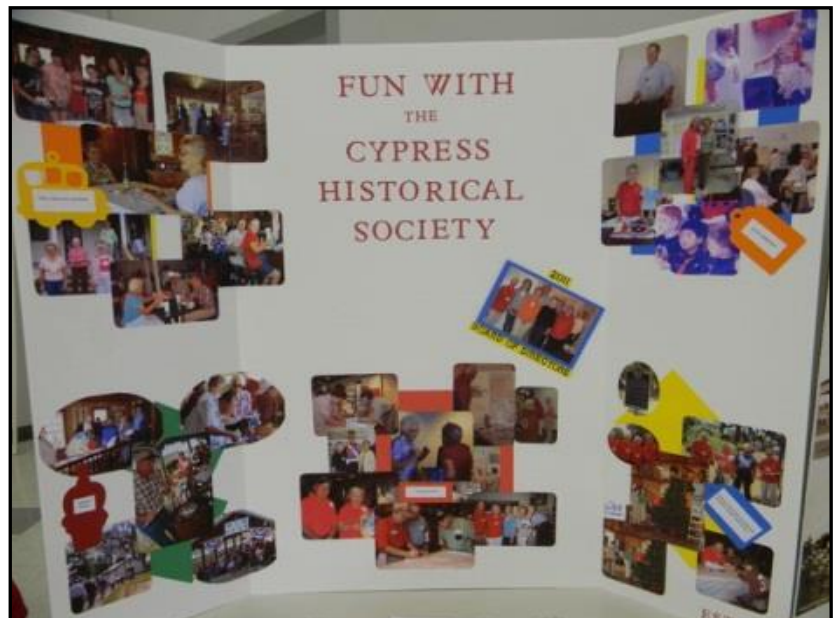
We met a lot of nice people, discussed history with some, and also saw old acquaintances.



*Annie Hagler, Jim Sigmund, Donna McCarty, and Dean McCarty.*



*Becky Martin, Sandy McFadyen, Duke Cumming, and Tammy Andrews*



*Our new Display Boards were a real hit!*

## The Empty Chair

by Jane Ledbetter

Sitting in the bar area of Juergen's Store in Cypress Top Historic Park is a rather forlorn-looking old chair. Lillian (Lund) Juergen, wife of store proprietor Clarence Juergen, sat in the chair almost daily for many years as she watched customers come and go in the store and bar, getting up to take care of their needs as necessary, but always returning to her chair. Here she worked crossword puzzles as she kept her vigil.

Lillian Lucille Lund was born in San Antonio, Texas, but later relocated to the "West End" in Houston. One of her first jobs was working at the counter in a dry cleaners. For recreation she enjoyed going to weekend dances at the Sons of Herman Hall or Bill Mraz Hall in Houston. It is believed that she met Clarence Juergen at one of these dances. A romance blossomed, and they married April 12, 1941. The newlyweds moved into the apartment above Juergen's Store; the apartment and the store became Miss Lillian's focal point for the rest of her life, which ended August 18, 1997. Some of her shoes and clothes are still in the apartment today.

Lillian was a petite little lady who wore high heeled shoes and pretty dresses with a fur cape for dress-up occasions. Her niece, Joyce Kleb, remembers as a young girl going up to the apartment and playing "dress up" with Aunt Lillian's clothes and shoes. (It is interesting that Lillian herself did not go shopping very often; Clarence, who went into Houston frequently on business, would many times bring home a new outfit for Lillian. Remarkably, the clothes he selected fit Lillian perfectly almost every time!) Gene Zaboroski's daughters also remember dressing up in Aunt Lillian's clothes; Aunt Lillian also let them bake cookies in her apartment. Since Lillian and Clarence had no children of their own, it was Lillian's pleasure to indulge her niece and great-nieces.

Today, the empty chair continues to keep vigil in the store as Miss Lillian did for so many years.



Miss Lillian - Prettiest gas station attendant in town!



Lillian and Clarence having fun with friends. (April, 1957)

## **CHS Spring Social**

by Karen McGilvery

On Saturday, April 30, 2011, CHS will host a spring social at the ReMax office at 12810 Telge Road in Cypress. The event will start at 1:00 and end at 5:00 that afternoon. Remax has a beautiful building and is graciously letting us use their conference and lounge areas. We can even expand our activities onto the porch and into the parking lot if necessary. The main topic for this event will be the agricultural heritage of this region.

Plans are still being finalized for the program. After a presentation by a speaker, there will be time for questions and exchanging of information. There is plenty of room for displays. In addition to our membership and historical displays, other groups will have tables to provide additional information on agriculture past and present in Northwest Harris County. Anyone having suggestions for this program or materials they want to share should contact Karen McGilvery at 281-246-1776. The more displays and variety of information we have the more interesting this event will be. Any photos or information you have on the agricultural history of the region would be of interest. Large scale farming of rice, cotton, etc., ranching, dairying, and family subsistence farming all played important parts in our local history and any information you can share helps us all obtain a greater understanding of regional history. We will have delicious treats provided by our members and we hope to have popcorn and snow cones also. Please put this event on your calendar and help us have a fun informative get together. Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to come with you and enjoy the spring social.

## **Genealogy & History Report** by Darline Roth & Jim Sigmund

We are currently working with Mr. Fred Collins, director of Cypress Top Historical Park, to add more pictures to the Juergen's Hall wall. Using CHS files, the pictures will be of known landmarks, such as Tin Hall, F&M Jersey Ranch, etc. Also, one group will be of Cypress Fairbanks I.S.D. If anyone has pictures they would like to contribute, please contact us.

Our library of local history and genealogy continues to grow! We are fortunate to have E.G. "Butch" Theiss present two of his books to the CHS Library: *My Life in Klein* and *The Theis/Theiss Family History*. Also, Celeste Graves donated two of her books *Magnolia Memories* and *A View from the Doghouse*. St John Church gave us a copy of their *150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book*, and Shirley Bleick let us make a copy of the *John Peter Christen Family History*. If you have a Family History book, we would love to add a copy to our library.

Our work continues to apply for a Historical Marker (Subject Marker through the Texas Historic Commission) for the community of Cypress, Texas, to be installed at the Cypress Top Historic Park. The research for this Marker has uncovered some fascinating facts and stories about the very early history of the Cypress area, especially in the Republic of Texas days. We are anxious to share this new information with the Membership in the coming months!



"Butch" Theiss and Darline Roth at the Tomball German Heritage Festival.

### **CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2011 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jane Ledbetter	President	(281) 255-9297	janel_54@att.net
Karen McGilvery	Vice-President	(281) 246-1776	MMcgilveryt@aol.com
John Goodwin	Secretary	(713) 254-9589	JGoodwin64@comcast.net
Becky Martin	Treasurer	(281) 376-5054	bmartin115@gmail.com
Tammy Andrews	Director	(281) 758-0034	tandrews41@sbcglobal.net
Elroy Hirsch	Director	(281) 351-0984	jah787@peoplepc.com
Joyce Kleb	Director	(281) 894-1662	jtk1951@sbcglobal.net
Darline Roth	Director	(936) 931-9958	(none)
Erlene Schoenfeldt	Director	(281) 255-2769	(none)

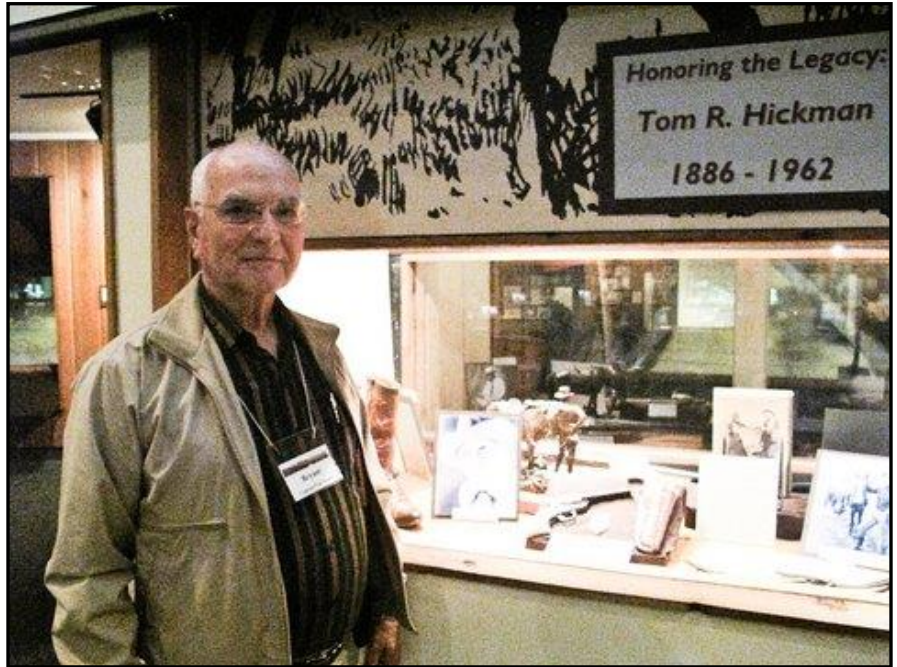
## The Legend Lives On

by Jane Ledbetter

On February 25, a number of CHS members were among those boarding a Harris County Bus at Cypress Top for a trip to the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco. The museum is dedicated to the history and lore of the oldest state law enforcement agency in the nation, the legendary Texas Rangers. Founded in 1823, the Rangers are known even today for their prowess as crime-fighters.

The Museum visit began with a film about the Texas Rangers, followed by a guided tour. Of particular interest during the tour was the opportunity to actually pick up and handle a Walker-Colt pistol, the kind used by the Rangers. Those were really heavy weapons; it took a strong man to handle one.

Shown here is CHS member Bryant Hickman in front of the museum display honoring Texas Ranger Tom R. Hickman. It is almost certain that the Tom R. Hickman in the display was Bryant Hickman's great-uncle. Bryant is continuing to check all the data he can find, though, "just to be sure" this Tom Hickman really is his relative.



Bryant Hickman at the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco, Texas

## More County Bus Trips

March 11th saw another Harris County Bus Trip leave from Cypress Top, this one going to Austin. Trip participants were treated to a view of the only existing hand-written copy of the Texas Declaration of Independence from Mexico penned at Washington-on-the-Brazos.

Other trips already planned include one **May 27th** to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, 175th Celebration of Texas exhibit. A trip to the Richmond Historical District and Fort Bend County Museum is scheduled for **June 10th**.

In these days of high gasoline prices, trips on the County Bus are a good travel opportunity for those at least 50 years old. Reservations are required for these trips. More information will be forthcoming nearer the dates for these trips.

### GET YOUR 2011 CHS CALENDAR!



**Only \$15.00**  
**+\$3.00 (If Mailed)**

Contact Terri Sigmund  
(281) 373-9052 or JSigm@aol.com

## Mark Your Calendars !

You may want to put these known 2011 events on your calendar:

**April 30 - Spring Social, 2011.** At ReMax-Cypress office (former Bertani Ranch Steak House) at 12810 Telge Road in Cypress. Fun event for all Members to swap stories and share family memories. Guest speaker to discuss agriculture past and present in Northwest Harris County.

**June 25 - Big Cy-Fair High School Reunion for 1935-1953 Students.** This event will be held in the community building in Bear Creek Park. Displays created for the German Fest will be used there. CHS members who staff our booth talk with attendees about Cy-Top and CHS, encouraging visits to Cy-Top, as well as CHS membership. Contact Joyce Kleb (281-894-1662) if you would like to help in the CHS booth.

### **July 9 - Fourth of July Celebration.**

This is a star-spangled "red-white-and blue day" as CHS and the community celebrate July 4th with an Old-Fashioned Picnic: lots of food, music and activities for everyone. This event follows the tradition set by Gene Zaboroski, who for years hosted a Barbecue and Dance at Cy-Top to celebrate Independence Day. If you want to be a part of the picnic planning team, please contact Jane Ledbetter (281-255-9297). This event is a lot of fun, both to plan and to attend!

**October 8 - CHS Annual Meeting.** Short business meeting to re-cap the previous year, followed by a program, and refreshments.

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15)	_____	Sustaining (\$50)	_____
Family (\$25)	_____	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

Questions? Please contact Jane Ledbetter at 281-255-9297

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