



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 49

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CHS Darline Roth Research Library Gets a New Look!

Some changes have been made to the library museum exhibits over the holidays. Members Chris Fonte and Jay Gavitt hung the nine pictures that were donated to CHS by a local bank. These 2 x 3 foot pictures taken from our calendars and depict: Waller's Place in Rosehill; the Christen Sawmill; the Humble Pump Station; Juergen's Gas Station; The Fairbanks Volunteer Fire Dept.; Juergen's Saloon; the Rumble Store and Saloon; the Juergen House; Kitzmann's Chevrolet; the Big Cypress School; and Tin Hall. When you get a chance, please visit us Tuesdays or Thursdays, 9:00-Noon.

New CHS President, Michelle Christie, along with Beverly Richardson and Mary Bianche have been using the time when the Library is closed to get caught up with filing records and re-arranging the Library shelves.



The poster size photos were hung around the upper perimeter of the Library, in both rooms. The Cy-Fair Band jacket and band blanket, donated by Edward Matzke, were added to the Cy-Fair memorabilia above the Scrapbook collections.



***The Brink School, probably taken in the early 1900's.
(Photo courtesy of Linda Schellenberg)***

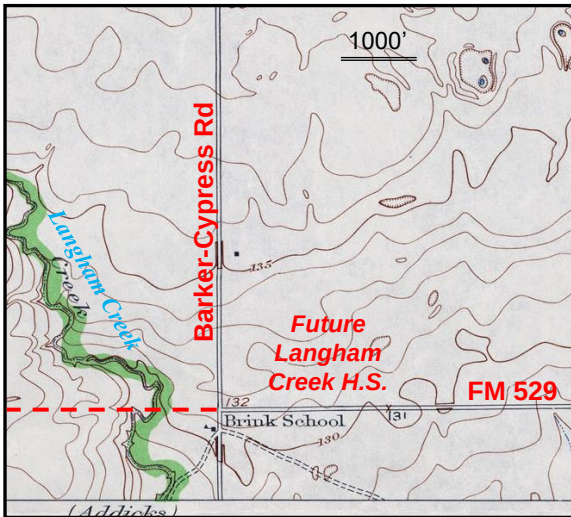
History of the Brink School

by Jim Sigmund

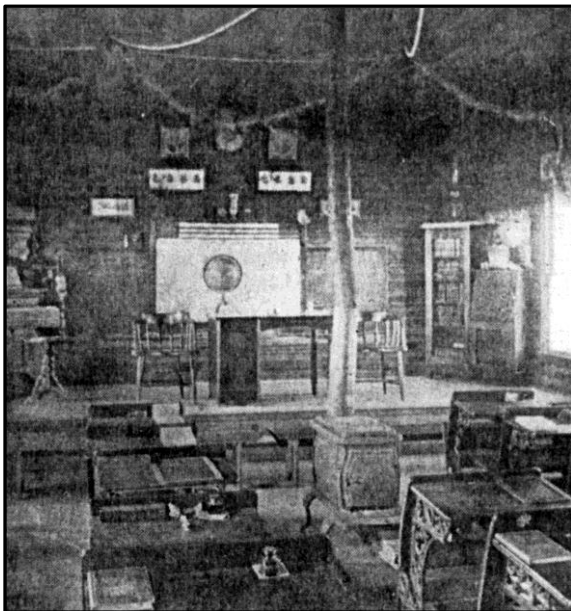
Before the area schools began to consolidate in the 1930's, education was provided by small one-room schools. Serving the southwest part of Cypress was the Brink School, located on the corner of FM 529 (then called Freeman Road and Spencer Road) and Barker-Cypress Rd. The one-acre site was deeded to Harris County by Johan August Brink in 1898, and the Brink School was opened as School No. 3 of District No. 6. (The Big Cypress School on Telge Rd. was School No. 2 of District No. 6.) It served the Thompson Community along FM 529, and the ranches southwest of the Hempstead Highway. The Brink and Fuchs Schools were consolidated with the Cypress School District in 1934. Because of poor road conditions, the Brink School could not be moved to the Telge Rd School complex until the summer of 1935. During that year from 1934 to 1935, grades one through grade four were bussed to the Brink School each day. The building that was the Brink School burned along with Rural High School #5 in the fire of September 1942.

I would normally be reluctant to share an un-sourced document, but the records of the Cypress Historical Society contain a document that was clearly relating first-hand memories of attending the Brink School. This paper was saved by Darline Roth, and the author is listed simply as "RAK". Contributors cited were Marian Backen Yarborough and Inez Grisbee Weiman. I have included excerpts of this narrative on Page 2 of this newsletter, which describe the inside of this school building, and help to capture what school life would have been like earlier in this century. The full document can be seen at the CHS Library. If you have seen this before, and know who the author, RAK, is, please let us know.

Brink School - Continued



The location of the Brink School is shown on the 1915 "Cypress" topographic map.



Interior view of the Brink School shows a piano, bookcase, wood-burning stove, and globe.

Brink School Teachers

1903	Amelia Backen
1929-30	Ida Bell Ferrell
1929-30	Annie Bob McGill
1908-09	Miss Jessy Mays
1922	Edna Thompson
1904	Christene Backen
----	Celestine Thompson
----	Katie Boom
----	Mrs. Oedest
----	Eva Schmidt Liere
----	Fannie Laird
----	Carrie Thompson
----	Alma Hegar
----	Louise Marshman

Excerpts from a Narrative on the Brink School by "RAK"

"It was a one-room school. The wooden building faced east on the main road, Barker-Cypress. In 1926, a second room was added to the back of the one room with a porch and entry door on the south side. The two rooms had a partition including two sets of double doors which could be opened for more room, for special occasions, such as parties, pie or box suppers or meetings. The first room had a shelf on each side of the door with pegs under the shelves. We placed our lunch bags or boxes on the shelves and hung our coats and caps on the pegs. We did not have lockers as the children do today. Our books, tablets, colors, pencils, etc. were kept in our single seat desks."

"The second room had the same furniture as the first, but had a cabinet built in the corner used for storage, books, supplies, and other needs. Both rooms had blackboards for the teachers use or for the students. There were two teachers for the two rooms, one taught grades one through four, and the other five through eight. Each teacher taught reading, writing, arithmetic, English, history, spelling, and geography to each of her classes. She was also the principal, nurse, counselor, song leader, timekeeper, coach, judge, and (the one who would) decide punishment."

"Travelling to school was not by modern buses the children and parents enjoy today. Each family had to provide a way to school for their own children. There were no blacktop, shell, or concrete roads. Many children walked to school on the sandy dirt roads. Some road horseback, while some came by wagon or buggy pulled by horses. When we arrived at school, we would unsaddle the horse or unhitch the horse from the wagon or buggy. The horse was tied to a post outside the fence around the school yard. The horse stood or laid down during the hours we were in school, without food or drink. At the last recess or after school, we would saddle the horses or hitch the horse to the wagon or buggy, ready to return home. We did not have trouble getting the horse to go home. In the winter, some children had to face the cold north wind and sometimes rain. We used an umbrella if the wind wasn't too high. We covered our legs and feet with warm lap robes. Sometimes our mothers heated some bricks to place at our feet for warmth on the way to school. If the weather was too bad, some of the parents would take their children to school and come get them after school. In later years, some of the students were allowed to drive their parent's car to school."

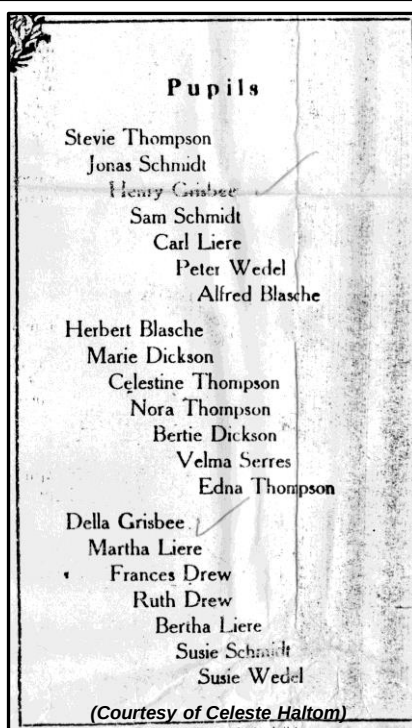
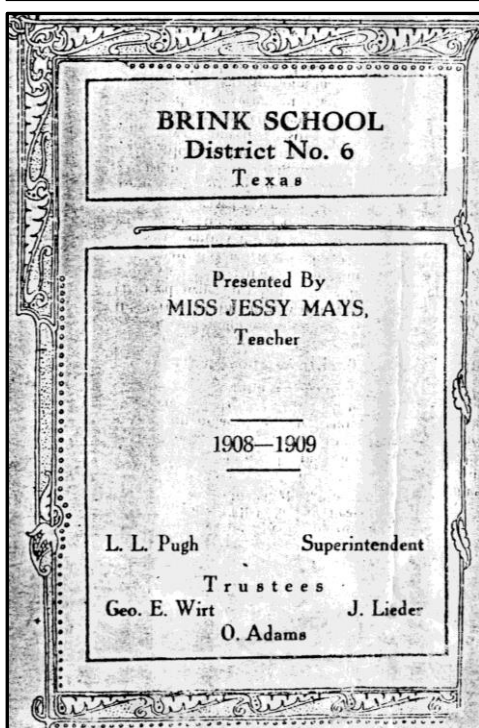
"At the end of the school year term, a School Picnic was attended by the community. A basket lunch was brought by each family. The lunch spread out on table cloths on the ground. Later the men built some temporary tables to place the food on. Coffee cooked in open pots and fresh lemonade was always enjoyed with the food. There was always good food from good cooks. Many picnics were in the woods behind the school, and the property belonging to George Thomas or Carl Liere."

"The second room of the Brink School, added in 1926, was dismantled by Charles Grisbee and the lumber was used to build a small home for his mother near his home."

Brink School - Continued



Brink School - 1930. (Front Row) Julian Richard Bennett, ?, ?, Donald Matzke, Lawrence Thompson, Chester Roberts, Buddy (Irvin) Schmidt, ?, Travis Weiman, Elroy Wilson, ?, (2nd Row) Willard Grisbee, Agatha Mueller, Katherine Mueller, Ruby Schmidt, Thelma Backen, Annie Mae Gummert, Alvin Matzke, Lester Roberts (3rd Row) August Mueller, Mrs. McGill-teacher, Joyce Christen, Roberta Gummert, Inez Grisbee, Opal Thomas, Theresa Mueller, Ida Bell Ferrel-teacher, (4th Row) Laura Schmidt, Jessie May Roberts, Ruth Larsen, Francis Schmidt, Gloria Kruse, (Back Row) Walter Liere, Clinton Backen, Wayne ?, AJ Roberts, Louis Schmidt, ?, George Wilson, James Thompson.



Mark Your Calendars!

*Subject to change.
Check Website for the latest.*

Mar 20 – CHS Board Mtg

*(All Members welcome)
Saturday, 9:00am, CHS Library*

Apr 17 – CHS Board Mtg

*(All Members welcome)
Saturday, 9:00am, CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park*

(SAVE THE DATES)

Jun 19 – Cy-Fair HS Reunion (Class of 1945-1959)

*Saturday, Juergen Hall
Cypress Top Historic Park*

Sep 18 – CHS Member Event

*Saturday, Juergen Hall
Cypress Top Historic Park*

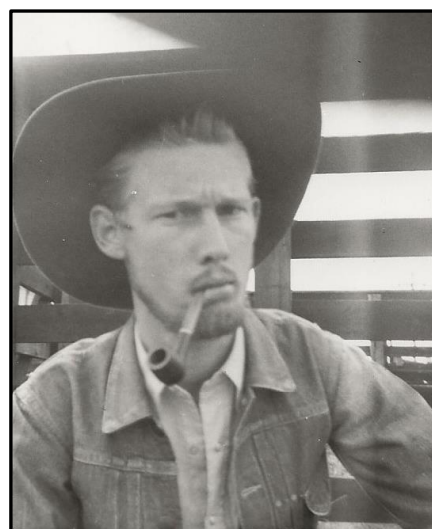
The Brink School Souvenir booklet from 1908-1909 shows the names of some of the earliest students of the school. Note that it also indicates that the Brink School was in District 6, same as the Big Cypress School.

Cy-Fair FFA Rodeo (or “Living on the School Grounds, Part 3”)

by J. LeRoy Schlechte CFHS Class of '54

And the third question is, “What’s it like to have a weekly summer rodeo practically in your front yard?” I’m sure that the answer depends a lot upon whether you’re a teenage boy, their mother or their dad. As noted in the previous articles and photos, the “Cypress-Fairbanks Rodeo Association’s” facilities were right across the road from the “teacherage” where the Schlechtes lived in the 50’s. And since that was some 70 years ago, I must admit that my memory’s somewhat vague.

For starters, for dad and us boys, there were advantages. We attended free; got to see some friends; dad operated the concession stand (for pay, I’m sure), and we (i.e., brother Bob and I) got paid a little for picking up pop bottles and trash on Saturday mornings. We sometimes used a sled hitched behind the FFA’s Ford tractor for this job. One memorable Saturday morning, one of the rodeo’s mean bucking bulls would not allow us to continue our job, on the “pasture side” of the rodeo pen. We were on the fence, with the tractor between us and the bull. I



Clearly, LeRoy Schlechte was one “Bad Hombre”!



The Cy-Fair Rodeo Clown distracts the bull while the fallen rider makes it to safety. (Ralph Kellogg Collection)

made a dash for the tractor and charged at the bull, and after a couple of passes, he charged back! We met head on! Fortunately, he stayed on his feet (somewhat) and me on the tractor; he staggered a few steps, and then trotted off in defeat, probably with a bad headache. Whew!

I think that the rodeo format was probably typical for a moderately-sized country rodeo at the time. It always started with the Grand Entry, the presentation of The Colors, and the National Anthem. Seems like Mr. Forrest Arnold, the VA teacher, was one of the PA system announcers. Rodeo events included bronc riding, tie-down roping, bulldogging, and barrel racing for the ladies. Seems like I remember a calf scramble or two. After the “main event,” bull riding (with a clown always present), most of the spectators left. There followed an hour or more of “breakaway roping,” which got rather monotonous. I do recall that for at least one Fourth of July weekend, we loaded up some of the rodeo stock, bulls and all, and hauled them north of Hockley, for the Fields Store Community (annual?) Rodeo.

With so many cowboys (and cowgirls) unloading and loading their steeds across the road from our front yard, you can imagine the “unwanted deposits” left behind, but we won’t dwell on that aspect. So, until the next time, “Ride ‘em cowboy!”

Cypress Historical Society

P.O. Box 2963
Cypress, Texas 77410

E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net

Darline Roth Research Library: 281-758-0083

Hours Until Further Notice:
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9am - Noon

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

The CHS Darline Roth Research Library is open with limited hours on Tuesday and Thursday from 9-Noon. We ask visitors to wear masks, and we will limit the amount of people in the Library at one time. Check the CHS Website for updates and changes.

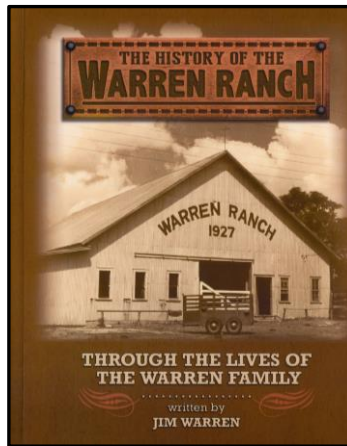
- Jim Warren of the Warren Ranch in Hockley has written a fantastic history of his family, their ranching operations, and early history of the Hockley town. Jim has combined his own detailed research on the history of the area with Warren family deeds and documents. Copies can be obtained at the Waller Chamber of Commerce. Jim has generously donated a copy to our Library.
- CHS received a large collection of photo albums and documents from the estate of Bobby Kellogg. Included is genealogy and documents of the Liere family, Bobby's maternal line.
- Marvin Weiman donated a White Mountain hand-crank ice cream maker and a small rice sack from the Little Country Mill (Lindsey Rice Mill, Inc.) in Waller. He has also brought more great family photos!
- Tim Weiman brought in a vintage Seed Planter that was found on old Zahn property on Cy-Fair Fire Rd.



CHS again cooperating with TEA

by Jay Gavitt

CHS has cooperated with the Texas Education Agency (TEA) for the last nine years by offering workshops for teachers that are correlated with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. CHS has accomplished this by offering hands-on laboratory and field experiences. As a result, the Cypress Historical Society received additional certification from the Texas Environmental Education Advisory Committee for 2021. To learn more about the CHS educational programs for teachers as well as students, contact Jay Gavitt at CHS.



Jim Warren's book is a "Must Read" for anyone who is interested in local history. Built by his Gr-Grandfather and Grandfather, the Ranch once reached as far north as Spring Creek. Jim has been dedicated to preserving the Katy Prairie, as well as the history of his family.

THANKS TO OUR JAN-MAR BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

John & Virginia Alamanza
Bobby & Geraldine Barrett
Karen Krumpholz
Colleen & Richard Moreno
Barbara Schletzbaum
J.L. & Louise Sebek
Gudrun Sundquist

Scholarship:

LeRoy Schlechte

Lifetime Membership:

Jim Christen
Raymond Walker



Vintage seed planter/plow combination donated by Tim Weiman, found on the Zahn property.



The CHS members Chris Fonte and Jay Gavitt made the Library festive for the Christmas holiday.

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

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ADDITIONAL DONATION (CHS is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corp)

General Fund	_____	Scholarship Fund	_____
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Make check to: Cypress Historical Society

Mail to: CHS Membership, P.O. Box 2963, Cypress, TX 77410

Questions? Please contact us at 281-758-0083 (Library)
www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com

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