



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 50

June, 2021

CHS Annual Meeting and Social Event

by Mary Bianche

Come one, come all to the annual meeting/event! We've waited two years for a time of fellowship and socializing. Come dressed in apparel representing any era, early days in Cypress, wearing overalls and ladies in dresses and bonnets, Pilgrim days of bonnet and apron, Revolutionary days of three cornered hats and gowns, Civil War with either rebel or union caps. However, you come, just come as you are. Dress as you please!

We are having hamburgers with all the compliments, along with chips and drinks. Feel free to bring a side dish or dessert. The program will be hosted by Barbara Dorr and Donna Graves. There will be raffle for two tickets to an Astro game, \$50.00 Target gift card and more.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are volunteering their time so you can enjoy yourself and will be there to serve you. Please RSVP the number attending in your group to Mary Bianche at 'mbianche@gmail.com' or (832) 334-9537. We look forward to seeing everyone again!



Friends and family are finally able to get together again, like this Sommermeyer Family Reunion in 1950. Make plans to join us at the CHS Annual Event on Sept 18th!

Save The Date!

CHS Annual Event
"Blast from the Past"

Saturday, Sept 18th, 2021

10am-2pm at Juergen Hall

Cypress Top Historic Park



Levern Smith and Karen Krumpolz assemble the "Texas" gift basket donated by CHS to the Rosehill Social annual raffle.

Cy-Fair High School Classes of '41-'59 to Hold High School Reunion on June 19th

by Jim Sigmund

Cy-Fair High School alumni will be gathering at Juergen Hall on June 19th to remember their days as a Bobcat! After being cancelled last year due to Covid-19, the friends are ready once again to gather and reminisce about the Good Ole Days! Members of Classes of 1941 through 1959 will share a lunch and catch-up with their classmates.

Though not a CHS event, volunteers from the Cypress Historical Society will be helping at the Reunion, and will have the Darline Roth Research and Genealogy Library open for browsing. CHS will provide our scrapbooks and school memorabilia as displays. Precinct 3 Park Director Fred Collins will have the Juergen Store open as well, where many of the alums either worked, shopped, or drank a cold beverage!

Cypress Historical Society Supports the Rosehill Social Club Raffle

by Levern Smith

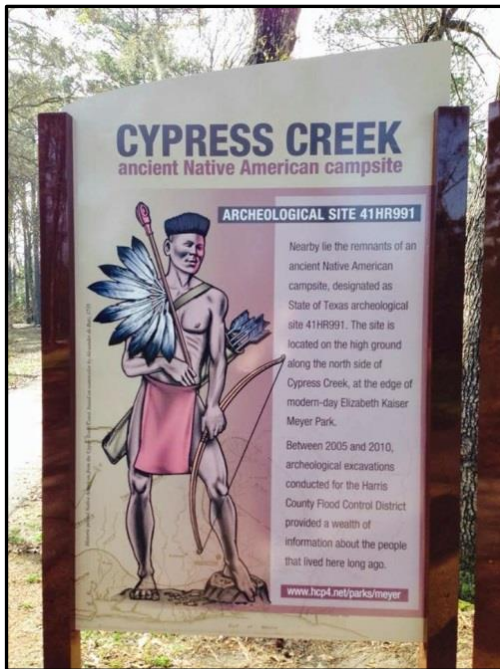
CHS Board of Directors supported the Rosehill Social Club on May 16th by donating a "Texas" gift basket for their annual fund raiser. Contents included CHS T-shirt, CHS cookbook, HEB Texas shaped chips, HEB Texas sheet cake mix, Cafe Ole Pecan Coffee K-Cups, Lone Star coffee cup, Texas Cap, set of Texas coasters, Texas wood cutting board, Buc-ee's 5 Fire Roasted Pepper Relish, Buc-ee's Candied Jalapeños, Pace Picante Sauce and Texas insulated tumbler.

Earliest Residents in the Cypress Area

by Jay Gavitt

A great deal has been discovered over the last decades regarding the early residents of the Cypress area. Recent work on area creeks (Harris County Flood Control District) and roads (TxDOT) in the area, have uncovered proof of early residents in the prehistoric and historic eras. Work by archeologists and historians have added a great deal to the narrative of our earliest residents. As students of Texas history, we have all learned about early Akokisas and Karankawas. [1,2]

In 2009, artifacts including stone tools, points and pottery shards were found along Cypress Creek. Additional investigations determined that a group of Akokisas lived in the area. Moore Archeological Consulting dated most of the artifacts here came from the late Ceramic Period (800 BCE). The earliest spear point found near the site was dated at almost 10,000 years ago. The Akokisas were present in the area when the Europeans arrived during the mid-1700s. They lived in the area due to the resources found on the local prairies. Harris County's Cypress Creek Park had a display describing the Akoskisa site. It contained a story of these early Native-Americans along with pictures of the archeologists' digging and some of the artifacts found. [3,4]



Sign at the Elizabeth Kaiser Meyer Park on Cypress Creek. (Photo by Jay Gavitt)



Bone fragments, arrowheads and spear points found along Cypress Creek. (Photo Courtesy of Harris County Parks)

A later discovery was made by the Texas Department of Transportation as they were constructing the Grand Parkway over Cypress Creek. This became known as the Dimond Knoll site. A number of volunteers worked at the site. Following the initial digs under the direction of Dr. Jason W. Barrett, of TxDOT, an agreement was made to have truckloads of material moved to another area for further investigation. Archeological research continued under the direction of TxDOT with volunteers from the Houston and Texas Archeological Societies.

The evidence found at Dimond Knoll showed evidence of having been periodically visited for over 11,000 years. The site is situated on an overland trade network that stretched across the continent. There were many different kinds of dart points found at the site reflect varying degrees of external influence by period. Regional types develop during the Middle Archaic, about 6000 years ago. Late Archaic period about 4,500 years ago, started with the return of Bison to the Texas prairies. At the same time, projectile points from Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley arrived at Dimond Knoll site. This shows that there had been contact through trade with these areas. [5,6]

Mark Your Calendars!

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

Jun 19 – Cy-Fair HS Reunion **(Class of 1941-1959)**

Saturday, Juergen Hall
Cypress Top Historic Park

Jul 17 – CHS Board Mtg

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

Sep 18 – CHS Member Event **“Blast From The Past”**

Saturday, Juergen Hall
Cypress Top Historic Park



The Dimond Knoll Project



Photo Courtesy of the Houston Archeological Society

There is one account of Native Americans living in the Cypress area that comes from an interview with Rebecca Caroline Burnett Lee, the daughter of Matthew Burnett. The interview appeared in the Houston Daily Post, April 15, 1900. In the article, she details her family's arrival in the Cypress area after securing a land grant from Stephen F. Austin in 1831. While describing the area, she mentions that "The nearest and only white neighbors were the families of Messrs. Roberts and McCurly, who settled on Spring Creek about fifteen miles distant." She goes on to describe a nearby village of Bedai Indians who befriended the Burnett family and protected them from unfriendly Comanches. *(Full account in the next Newsletter)* [7,8]

A second account comes from a story told by Chester Telge. The story has been told to generations of the Telges. It appears in the Telge Genealogy Collection at CHS and most recently has appeared in Dan Worrall's most recent book, A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas. The story told by Chester illustrates the interaction between his grandparents and some nearby Bedai Indians. They lived in small hide covered huts and the Telges gave them beef and hides. When his grandmother would bake bread, she would leave a loaf on the porch. Later in the day, she would find the loaf gone and a large fish left in its place. At one time in the early 1920s, she left a loaf and it remained there for some time. His grandmother was said to have remarked in German, "*Die Indianer sind nicht mehr*" which translates to "The Indians are no more". We don't find out the reasons for the group leaving the area.

Area archeological finds and written accounts from Spanish, French, early Anglo settlers show a long history of Native Americans in this area. [6] The search for additional information on the earliest inhabitants continues.

Sources:

- [1] "Early History of Northwest Harris County, Texas", (Kleb Woods History Discussion Group presentation by Fred Collins ,May 2021)
- [2] Application for a Texas Historical Marker for Cypress Texas, Cypress Historical Society, August 14, 2011.
- [3] "The Archeology of Spring Creek", Roger G. Moore (Jones Park presentation)
- [4] "Houston's Native American Heritage Runs Deep", Houston Family, October 31, 2013 by Marye Audet
- [5] "Date Recovery Investigations and Public Outreach at Dimond Knoll", Dr. Jason W. Barrett and Richard A Weistein.
- [6] "The Dimond Knoll Project in Perspective: A New Path for Southeast Texas Prehistory" Jason W. Barrett (Presentation for the Houston Archeological Society, March 18, 2021.
- [7] "Reminiscences of Early Days in Texas", Houston Daily Post, April 15, 1900 (Cypress Historical Society)
- [8] Houston Historical Society's Genealogical Collections at the Darlene Roth Research Library.
- [9] Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas , Dan Worrall. (2016)
- [10] "The Karankawa-Spanish War from 1778 to 1789", Southwestern Historical Quarterly, April, 2021.

Young People Have Returned *by Jay Gavitt*

Members of Cypress Historical Society are again working with young people. Members of Troop #1100 began their camping season with an overnight session at Spring Creek Park. Their program ended with a hands-on archeology program. We were able to help the Houston Archeological Society with their presentation. Scouts and parents started with a brief presentation on the history of northwest Harris County and Spring and Cypress Creeks. The scouts were divided into small groups and were able to grind corn; identify prehistoric and historic artifacts including Native American points; and reconstruct pottery using small chards. The Houston Archeological Society has worked with our "Hands-on History" camps over the years. Their "archeological dig" with our campers is one of the highlights of our camp. Scouts are able to use this experience as one of the requirements toward their "My History is Texas History" badge offered by CHS and the Bullock Museum. To learn more about earning this badge for boys' and girls' scout groups, contact CHS – Educational Programs.

Photos for the 2022 CHS Calendar

by Jim Sigmund

CHS will soon begin work on our 2022 Cypress Historical Society calendar. We will be scouring our photo collections for historical photos to use. Each year, we have many photos that we consider, but then the Board of Directors and Library workers vote on the favorite thirteen. The best photos are 1) high quality, 2) depict a historical site or event in the Cypress-Fairbanks, or surrounding, area, or 3) capture a scene that invokes a memory everyday life in the past. If you have photos that you think would be good in the calendar, please send them to me, or drop them off at the Library. We will scan them and promptly return them to you.

For the 2022 calendar, we will also be looking for advertising Sponsors, whose ad will run at the bottom of the page. These ads are \$150, and help us cover the cost of the printing. If you own a business, or know of a business who would like to be a Sponsor, please contact us. The calendars are a major fundraiser for CHS, and help us to keep the lights on!



**Cub Scouts were able to learn hands-on archeology from members of CHS and the Houston Archeological Society.
(Photos Courtesy of the Houston Archeological Society)**

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

<i>Michelle Christie</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>(832) 264-0885</i>	<i>mtchristie65@gmail.com</i>
<i>Joyce Kleb</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>(713) 320-7511</i>	<i>jtk1951@sbcglobal.net</i>
<i>Erline Schoenfeldt</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>(713) 870-6255</i>	<i>(none)</i>
<i>Becky Martin</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>(281) 660-4702</i>	<i>bmartin115@gmail.com</i>
<i>Mary Bianche</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(832) 334-9537</i>	<i>mbianche@ymail.com</i>
<i>Barbara Fisk-Dorr</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(713) 705-8138</i>	<i>dorrstore@aol.com</i>
<i>Celeste Haltom</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(713) 447-9031</i>	<i>celestehaltom@gmail.com</i>
<i>Karen Krumholz</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(281) 373-5444</i>	<i>johnkrumholz@att.net</i>
<i>Beverly Richardson</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(281) 246-4632</i>	<i>beverlyjsr@att.net</i>
<i>Levern Smith</i>	<i>Director</i>	<i>(832) 840-3628</i>	<i>smith.hobert@yahoo.com</i>

CHS Library News

by Jim Sigmund

- CHS President Michelle Christie is teaching Genealogy Workshops on some evenings at the CHS Library. If you are interested in attending, contact Michelle at 'mtchristie65@gmail.com' or (832) 264-0885
- The Cypress Historical Society will be offering *The Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship* in the Spring of 2022. This is for students who are Seniors in a Cy-Fair ISD school, or a Cy-Fair ISD graduate currently attending a 4-year university or 2-year college. An important criteria for this scholarship is volunteer work at CHS office/events or other Cypress historical related activities. Summer is a great time for interested students to get service hours by working on projects at the CHS Library. Contact a CHS Board member or Jay Gavitt at 'chssocst@yahoo.com'
- We love it when folks clean out their garages! James Treichel brought us a Black Hawk Corn Sheller, and old cans of Amalie and Valvoline oil. The oil cans will be loaned to Harris County Precinct 3, to be displayed in the Juergen Gas Station.
- Levern Smith donated three jar openers that belonged to her mother, Lillie Schoenfeldt Martens. Two of them still had the rubber coating that would grasp the lid, while the handles were squeezed tightly.



Vintage Amalie and Valvoline oil cans and corn sheller from James Treichel.



Jar openers owned by Lillie Schoenfeldt Martens.



The cutter was bolted to a bench, and held a roll of butcher paper.

THANKS TO OUR APR-JUN BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

John & Virginia Alamanza
Kroger Company
Forrest Kruger
Shirley Milton
Don & Liz Neidigk
Henry Steinhagen
Raymond Walker
Lloyd & Priscilla Wessels

Scholarship:

Mary Airola Smith

Lifetime Membership:

David Koenig
Louis Niklas II

Paper Cutter from Seidel Store

by Levern Smith

Roland Dossman donated a paper cutter from the Seidel Store that was given to him by Mayrene Dossman McDaniel. Plastic was not available back then, so everything was wrapped in paper. Mayrene's grandfather Emil Dossman lived in the Seidel house with her grandmother.

The Seidel house was in the double "S" curves of Cypress Rosehill Road. Mayrene's mother and dad were August Dossman and Hilda Seidel Dossman. August Dossman is the half brother of Roland's dad Willie F. Dossman. Mail was brought to the post office there on Seidel property from Cypress. Emil Dossman had the store during the depression. He had to ration flour and sugar. He sold feed, flour, sugar and buttons, Mayrene remembers. Mayrene's Grandma Seidel worked at the Juergen Store in Cypress and rode a horse to work. After the Seidel store closed, elections were still held there. Her grandpa, Emil Dossman, was the election judge. I remember going there, where my dad and grandpa voted. Mayrene remembers when the first voting machine was brought in! The Seidel house was moved from just north to the east, the house moved by oxen. Grandma cooked in the house for the workers while house was being moved. It took a week or more. That house is where Mayrene and her siblings grew up while rooms were added on.

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15) _____

Family (\$25) _____

Business (\$30) _____

Sponsor (\$100) _____

Corporate Sponsor (\$250) _____

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 us at 281-758-0083 (Library)

www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com

FOR OFFICE USE:

Check #/Amt _____

Treasurer _____

Letter/Card _____

Spreadsheet _____