



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 2008

Issue 56

December, 2022



CHS Member Eric Briggs shares stories of sites that he has found, and local artifacts, at the October 15th CHS Member Event in Juergen Hall.

CHS Board Elections

At the CHS Board of Directors meeting on November 2nd, elections were held for Board and Officer positions. Re-running for another 2-year BOD term were Michelle Christie, Barbara Dorr, and Erlene Schoenfeldt. Not seeking new terms were Mary Bianche and Sonia Dupre, whose service was greatly appreciated over the years. New to the Board is Stacie McKay, and she will take on the role of Secretary. Michelle Christie was re-elected as President, and Becky Martin will continue as Treasurer.

CHS Scholarship 2022-23 *by Becky Martin*

The Society is pleased to announce that we will be offering the Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship for the 2022-2023 school year. The scholarship is open to all current Cy-Fair ISD seniors and graduates of the district who are currently enrolled in a 2- or 4-year college. All information and forms may be found on our website cypresshistoricalsociety.com. Applications are due by April 14, 2023 and scholarship(s) will be awarded in May of next year.

Library Workers Needed for CHS

In order to better serve our Members and the community, we would like to make the CHS Library available for as many days and hours as possible. In order to accomplish this goal, we need additional volunteers who can work 3-4 hour shifts. You do not need to be an expert on the Library holdings or the local history, just be there to welcome visitors. Ask a friend or relative, and you can work together. We especially need someone for Wednesday mornings.

Cypress Historical Society

P.O. Box 2963

Cypress, Texas 77410

E-Mail: cypresshistsociety@att.net

Darline Roth Research Library: 281-758-0083

Tues 9am-4pm, Wed & Thur 9am-Noon

www.cypresshistoricalsociety.com

CHS Library Holiday Hours:

Closed 12/16 through 1/2; Will reopen 1/3/2023

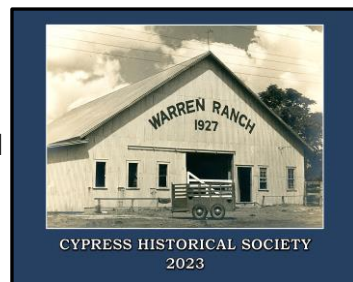
CHS 2023 Calendars are Available!

The 2023 CHS Historical Calendar is available now! It is filled with photos of great memories of the Cy-Fair and surrounding areas, including: Warren Ranch 1927 Barn, Kitzmann Eagle Café, Fuchs School, Harris Cty Library Bookmobile, Fairbanks United Methodist Church, Fairbanks Harris County Library, Recess at the Brink School, Cy-Fair Junior High Football Team-1950, Kitzmann Chevrolet Driver's Ed Car, Ladies of Fairbanks, Hegar Girls-Fancy Hat Styles of 1908, Cypress H.S. Basketball Team-1938, Cy-Fair School Board-1946. The **Calendars are only \$15.00**, and can be purchased at the CHS Library during our normal hours (Tue 9-4, Wed 9-12, Thu 9-12).

They make great Christmas presents for family and friends! If you would like us to mail you a calendar, just include \$2.50 extra per calendar (1 Calendar: \$17.50; 2 Calendars:

\$35.00, etc). Mail a check made to "The Cypress Historical Society", to: Jim Sigmund, 19518 Lutheran Cemetery Rd, Cypress, TX 77433.

The printing of the Calendars is paid for by through the generous support of our Sponsors. All proceeds from the calendar sales help the Cypress Historical Society keep our Library running (ink, paper, software, utilities, etc.).



Remembering Our Teachers

by Jim Sigmund

It seems like we cannot turn on the news today without hearing a story about teachers. It is sad to hear, for various reasons, that teachers are leaving the profession, and that there is a shortage of teachers. I have heard so many stories from our members about a special teacher that made a profound difference in their life as a young student. We ran across this article, written by Mrs. Lillie Hollbrook, in 1962, about why she was a teacher. We think it is worth sharing.

The Cypress Historical Society had a great Educational Program under Jay Gavitt that taught history to students, and provided resources to local teachers to make History a hands-on learning experience. With Jay's passing earlier this year, CHS has a vacancy in this area. If you love teaching, and can help with giving tours to school children, home schoolers, and Scout groups, please help us. With the study of history being minimized in the curricula, it is important now, more than ever, to provide this service to our community.

Mark Your Calendars!

(No Board Meeting in December)

Jan 6 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Friday, 1:00am, CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

Feb 3 – CHS Board Mtg

(All Members welcome)

Friday, 1:00am, CHS Library
Cypress Top Historic Park

WHY I CHOSE TEACHING

By Mrs. Lillian Hollbrook

I chose the teaching profession because (1) there is no other profession so rewarding, (2) no other work presents such an enabling challenge. (3) children keep one from growing old, (4) I love people.

My years in the schoolroom have been happy ones—filled with pleasant surprises; the satisfaction of knowing that you, in some small measure, have been the inspiration that some shy child needed; and, too, one could make shovel handles a lifetime and never have anything other than shovel handles—but when one has worked hard to build healthy bodies, implant high ideals of noble living, supply an unending array of answers for inquiring minds, helped to heal little broken hearts, replace missing buttons, extract troublesome teeth, and a myriad of other duties—ah, that is life at its purest source!

No life is free of problems—but it is problems that balance our lives and provide the courage and fortitude necessary to meet all situations of life.

Thirty years in the Cy-Fair school system have indeed been happy fruitful ones. Happy because of all the boys and girls that have filled my schoolroom. Fruitful ones because I have been privileged to enjoy the association of wonderful people dedicated to the task of making a noble contribution to society—training for tomorrow.

As a teacher, I have some definite ideas as to the elements essential for happy teaching:

1. Sympathy and love for children
2. Punctuality
3. Do more than you are paid to do
4. Loyalty to school and American ideals
5. Dedicate life to best interests of school and community
6. Never too busy to help others
7. Boost your school
8. Be a "one" man Public Relations member and help others to see the worthwhile values in your community

Lillie Hollbrook taught in Cy-Fair from for 32 years (1932-1964)! She is the namesake for Hollbrook Elementary. (Cy-Fair Reporter November 1, 1962)

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michelle Christie	President	(832) 264-0885	mtchristie65@gmail.com
Stacie McKay	Secretary	(713) 401-8506	staciemckay@gmail.com
Becky Martin	Treasurer	(281) 660-4702	bmartin115@gmail.com
Barbara Dorr	Director	(713) 705-8138	dorrstore@aol.com
Celeste Haltom	Director	(713) 447-9031	celestehaltom@gmail.com
Beverly Richardson	Director	(281) 246-4632	beverlyjsr@att.net
Erline Schoenfeldt	Director	(713) 870-6255	(none)
Levern Smith	Director	(832) 840-3628	smith.hobert@yahoo.com

Advertisements of Dry and Fancy Goods 1834-1851 Harris County, Texas

by Sonia Dupré, PhD

As a volunteer at the Cypress Historical Society, I have researched parts of Texas with a focus on early Harris County and surrounding counties.

When reading some of the early Texas historical newspapers (1834-1850), that is before the Civil War, one of the sections that attracted my attention was the advertisements, e.g. Dry and Fancy Goods. I kept thinking about on how the pioneer settlers in the Harrisburg area (and Cypress), at that time, would get their food and what kind of merchandise they would have access to, in a region that was just beginning to develop. Months ago, I decided to research the topic. So far, we have found amazing records!

During the early 1830s, dry goods were coming by steamboats to Galveston, Brazoria, and Matagorda, mostly from New Orleans and the East Coast. Right after arrival, the captain of the steamboat will often trade or sell the merchandise cash or on commission. Some merchants will buy the goods to resale them in outdoor street markets to individuals, or to other merchants who would transport them to the interior or overland in four or six ox teams in good weather. There were only a few general stores in the small towns, and hardly none in the settlements. Some merchants would extend credit to small retailers on their anticipated cotton crops, and when defaulted, they would accept real estate as payment. Usual items were salt, sugar, coffee, flour, lard, bacon, whiskey, molasses, pickles, crackers, dried fruits, and dried legumes.

Advertisements offer insights about the economy of the area. The majority of ads in newspapers before 1880 were made completely in print, without images. The newspaper *Democratic Telegraph and Texas Register*, first printed in October, 1835, included in its four pages government matters, laws, proclamation, acts, elections, descriptions of towns, land for sale, arrivals of steamboats and wagons, births, deaths, and advertisements of goods and services.

Fancy Goods is defined by the Merriam Webster dictionary as: "items (as novelties, accessories, or

Fancy Goods.

NOW opening an extensive assortment of Fancy Goods, consisting chiefly of

Hair, Tooth and Nail Brushes.	Silver Thimbles.
Hat, Cloth and Horse Brushes.	Silk Purses.
Combs in a great variety.	Harmonicons.
Studs, Lace and other Buttons.	Violin Strings.
Needles, Thread, Pins, &c.	German Silver and Plated Spectacles.
Military and other Fancy Soap.	Linen, Tape and Ribbon.
Eau de Cologne.	Steel Springs for Veils and Caps.
Sealing Wax.	Whalebone.
Fancy Wafers.	Hair Pins.
French &c. Memorandum Books	Puff Boxes.
Envelopes.	Walker's Percussion Caps.
	Slates and Pencils.
	Zinc Mirrors.
	Trunks, &c., &c., &c.

for sale, wholesale and retailed by
GROESBEECK, WILLIAMS & COOKE.
Houston, June 23, 1849.

Democratic Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 14, No. 26, Ed. 1, Thursday, June 28, 1849 Page: 3 of 4

CHALK BALLS, Perfumed extracts, hair oil,
Pink saucers, Bear's oil, Toilet powder,
Bay rum, Maccaesar oil, Alabaster paste,
Ox marrow, Nail brushes, Lavender water,
Hair do Cologne
Tooth brushes, Whisker brushes, &c, &c, &c,
For sale by
may 6 **J. D. GROESBEECK & Co.**

Democratic Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 14, No. 12, Ed. 1, Thursday, March 22, 1849 Page: 3 of 4

FIFTY Bbls. St. Louis FLOUR,
5 boxes Tomatto Catsup.
10 " Star Candles,
10 baskets sweet Oil,
10 boxes Lemon Syrup,
5 " Mass. Chocolate.
For sale by
aug 13 **HENRY SAMPSON.**

Democratic Telegraph & Texas Register (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 16, No. 38, Ed. 1 Friday, Sept 19, 1851 Page: 3 of 4

notions) that are primarily ornamental or designed to appeal to taste or fancy rather than essential." Have you thought about how many fancy goods you have now around the house, and which one you have trouble doing without? I think I have too many?

Clippings from the *Telegraph and Texas Register* show some of the fancy goods items for sale nearly one hundred seventy- five years ago; in Houston in 1849 (hair & tooth brush, buttons, needles, cologne, envelopes, whalebone, zinc mirrors, pencils and more) also in Houston in 1851 (oysters, lobsters, salmon, schnapps, tomato catsup, and more).

For more on this topic, contact Sonia Dupré.

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

It's time to renew your membership for 2023. Our memberships run for the calendar year. New members who join after our October Event are credited through the next year. Check your mailing label - If the date next to your name is 12/31/2022, then it is time to renew. If it has a later date, or "Lifetime", then you are already a member for 2023!

Native American Bill West Featured at Hot Wells in 1953

by Jim Sigmund

I have had several people comment to me that there was a "big Indian" that used to perform at Hot Wells in the early 1950's. I recently ran across a newspaper clipping (excerpted below) that told the story of Bill West. Old Bill was either larger than life, or full of tall tales (maybe a bit of both)!

This Indian Still Going Strong at 71

BY JOEL CARROLL
Chronicle Staff

June 16, 1953

By 1956 Bill de Leon West hopes to:

(1) Complete six novels.

(2) Play football at either California University or U. C. L. A.

And (3) compete in the 1956 Olympics.

If he does, the feats may be unparalleled in American history.

You see, Mr. West is 71 or thereabouts. His exact age never will be known since most Indians don't have birth certificates.

BILL whose grandfather said he was born in 1880 but whose grandmother listed 1882, is one-third Cherokee, one-third Shoshone and one-third Irish.

Using quick mental arithmetic, you can see Bill uses his grandmother's age. Otherwise, he might be 73.

In Bill's bulging scrapbook are hundreds

of clippings and photos, tattered reminders of his fabulous past in the sports world and movie industry.

He played football as a blocking back for the immortal Jim Thorpe at little Carlisle in 1907.

In 1917, after a 10-year lapse, he made first string on Andy Smith's wonder team at California University.

Twenty years later, at the age of 54 or maybe it was 56—anyway, he tried out with California again as a 240-pound tackle.

After four weeks he hurt his knee and was forced to quit. Doctors said he would be crippled for life with one leg two inches shorter than the other.

He recovered in three months and shows no ill effects today at his trailer home at Hot Wells where he's working on his third novel.

Bill placed third in the hammer-throw in the 1920 Olympics and plans to throw weights in 1956. "I've lost a lot of my speed," he says; "but I'm still as strong as a bull."

Bill's illustrious movie career dating back to the "silent" twenties includes 108 films as an actor, director, and producer.

Some of them were "Birth of a Nation," "Richard, the Lion-Hearted," "Half a Chance" with Clark Gable, "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon," "Samson and Delilah," and "The Greatest Show on Earth."

As a meanie, he "killed" 58 men and women and "died" 105 times himself.

In "Samson and Delilah" he was killed twice, wearing different make-up.

One of his earliest parts was a lead in "The Trespasser," starring Gloria Swanson and made in 1926.

A third cousin of the late Will Rogers, Bill is the great-grandson of Sequoah, inventor of the Cherokee alphabet and Sacajawea, leader of the Lewis and Clark expedition into the great Northwest in 1804-1805.

Today he travels around the country in his 13-year-old car, which he claims will run 95 miles an hour, and his trailer built over 15 years ago by him, Clark Gable, and the late Wallace Beery.



(Newspaper Picture Caption) "Bill de Leon West, 71-year old Indian, can still place-kick a football 40 yards or better. Holding the ball in this shot is one of his Houston friends, Model Rosemary Sartalamacchia".

Library News

by Stacie McKay & Jim Sigmund

Our CHS Library displays continue to grow with some recent donations:

- Bobcat Brigade Senior Sweater - circa 1968, on loan from Miriam Parrott Brabham
- Arnold Middle School 50th Anniversary Scrapbook - donated by Arnold Middle School
- CFISD Diamonds of our History Namesake Award (75th Anniversary-2015) - donated by Arnold Middle School
- "The Way It Was: A Tribute to Mrs. Mary Arnold" Scrapbook - donated by Arnold Middle School
- Mary Arnold name plate - donated by Arnold Middle School
- Plaque in Honor and Recognition of Coach Mary Arnold 1935-1959 - donated by Arnold Middle School
- BFND 50th Anniversary (1990) Rally Towel - donated by Stacie McKay
- Frank and Barbara Litt visited from Fort Worth and bought in two boxes of letters, photos, postcards, and other memorabilia from the Rumble and Neal families. Some of these items were found in an old steamer trunk brought over by Fredericka Warnecke Rumble from Berlin before 1880. They also helped us write names on the back of photos donated by the Bobby and Ralph Kellogg (and Liere) families.
- David Jaeger brought in some vintage photos from the Otto Adam family, including a 1909 photo postcard of the store and Post Office bought by Otto Adam in Fairbanks.
- J.L. Sebek brought in more vintage photos from the Sebek and House families, and has been working to locate some of the early structures in the Hockley area along Hempstead Highway.



Our collection of local Cattle Brands is growing, and will be displayed in the CHS Library.



50th Anniversary rally towel

- Karen Forde Couch donated Cy-Fair High School yearbooks, and also memory books from Labay Junior High and Fiest Elementary.
- Jim Pulliam has helped us to display our growing collection of local cattle brands. The brands are mounted on a finished backboard with an image of brand below. We are working on the labels for each.
- Jim Sigmund will be giving a presentation on *"The Early History of the Cypress Area: 1831-1910"* on Wednesday evening January 4, 2023 in the Juergen Hall. This will start at 7pm, and run to about 8:30pm, and is part of the Harris County Precinct 3 History Discussion Group. It is open to the public, and all are welcome to attend. We continue to actively research this topic, and Jim will share our most recent findings.



The steamer trunk brought by Fredericka Rumble from Berlin, circa 1880. (Donated by Frank Litt)



"Diamonds of Our History" award to Forest and Mary Arnold, as part of the Cy-Fair 75th Anniversary.

THANKS TO OUR OCT-DEC BENEFACTORS!

Donations:

John & Virginia Alamanza
Annie Hagler
Kroger Company
Barbara Schletzbaum
Jim & Terri Sigmund
Scholarship Fund:
Annie Hagler
Jim & Terri Sigmund

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

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2023 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Individual (\$15) _____

Sponsor (\$100) _____

Family (\$25) _____

Corporate Sponsor (\$250) _____

Business (\$30) _____

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 _____