



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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DRIBBLE TO AUSTIN - 1971 CFHS BOYS BASKETBALL SPIRIT RAISING FIELD TRIP

When I first began learning Cypress history, my favorite story was the Bouncing 5, the Dribble to Austin, the 1971 Boys Basketball State Champions. Many of you have heard it before, but some may not have, so I'm going to share it here.

Back in 1971 the Cy-Fair High School Boys Basketball Team was having a VERY good year, they were headed to the State Tournament - one game on Friday night and if they win, another game on Saturday for the title of State Champs. School spirit was high, but...there's always a way for teens to find a creative way to lift spirits even further.

To that end, Chris Labay, son of Asst. Superintendent Allan Labay, came up with a CRAZY idea - dribble a basketball from CFHS all the way to the arena in Austin where the games would take place. Actually, as Chris tells it, the idea came from his dad.

He recruited 4 friends, got permission and direction from TXDOT, classmates donated food and supplies, other teams donated warm ups, the girls' team donated the basketball, they got permission to be out of class for the rest of the week. OK, if not formal permission from the Principal, there was a wink and a nod 'look the other way and hope you do well'.

On Wednesday morning they took off. Then it got weird. The story goes that the Superintendent was strongly opposed to the plan and insisted that Allan Labay retrieve his son and end the nonsense. Mr. Labay did, and then realized that

he was far outnumbered at home - his wife and other children insisted that Chris be allowed to continue. Thus, Chris was taken back out to the rest of the group, and the adventure continued.

Houston radio narrated the trip, truckers honked at them as they dribbled that ball down 290 towards Austin, and the boys worked in a half-mile shift relay all day, for 3 days.

When Friday came and they arrived at the gym right before the game, the crowd went wild! Buoyed by the love of their classmates, the basketball team went on to win both games, handily, and became STATE CHAMPIONS.

I just love the story of a simpler time when a crazy idea can become a crazy fun stunt

in the space of a few days and everyone just gets on board with the idea and has fun showing school spirit.



1971 CFHS Boys Basketball Team



40th Reunion of the 1971 Team

We are lucky enough to have TWO first hand accounts of this event - one from Chris Labay, the inside scoop from the man with the plan, the other from Carlos Watkins, then Principal of the school giving the "grownup" view of the event.

These photos show the winning Basketball team, and the 40 year reunion they held in 2011. Three of the Bouncing 5 were at that reunion, and the

basketball they dribbled is still in the Trophy Case at CFHS.

Stop by the Library some time and we'll share the written stories with you - they're a fun read!

CYPRESS TOP HISTORIC PARK TOURS

Springtime seems to mean it's time for a tour at Cypress Top Historic Park. We are so glad to see families and groups interested in discovering the history of the Cypress area, going through the museum and the outbuildings. Michelle Christie is a terrific docent, customizing each tour to the attendees. I try to attend all of the tours, learning something new about Cypress each time. Admittedly, I sometimes get so involved being a "tourist" I forget to take notes and pictures for the newsletter!

A BIRTHDAY TOUR WITH FAMILY

The family of Ann Wright added our park to their itinerary for the Ann's 80th Birthday Celebration. They were familiar with Juergens Hall from yoga classes and voting, and were delighted to learn Cypress history by seeing and exploring both the museum and the park. They'd danced at Tin Hall years ago, and were quite pleased to know that there are plans to bring it back. The Birthday Tour included Luckenbach and Fredericksburg -



MUCH more famous destinations for learning about history - I'm so glad they stopped by our historic park to get in touch with local history. As we were touring Juergens Hall, the yoga class was ending, and one of the class attendees decided to join us for the rest of the tour - what a great way to "accidentally" discover this area's rich history!

WORLD TRAVELERS GOOGLED THEIR WAY TO US

The Fernando family came for a tour, thanks to Stacie McKay's efforts at getting the CHS information out on Google! Members of the family were here from Sri Lanka and New Zealand, in the US for several family weddings. They had some spare time and looked on Google for interesting things to do nearby, saw our hours, and just stopped by, taking a chance that we could give them a tour. It was a joy to show them the history of this area, and to discover that much of the "old stuff" we have is similar to "old stuff" halfway around the world.



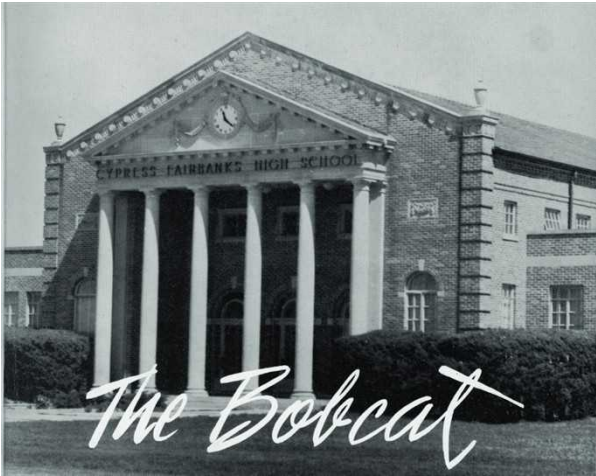
DESCENDANTS OF THE FUCHS SETTLER FAMILY

Two lovely daughters of the Fuchs line came to the library to research their ancestors and the German heritage of the Cypress area. Their father was Wayne Fuchs, William August Fuchs being their grandfather. Thanks to the hard work done by Michelle Christie and Beverly Richardson, they were able to easily find the Family Group Sheets and supporting documents of those Fuchs who came to the Cypress area. We couldn't let them leave without a tour of the park, a chance to see and feel the life their ancestors lived. Naturally we had to get a picture of these lovely ladies standing by the Juergens Hall display honoring their ancestors.



CY-FAIR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION : CLASSES 1942 - 1960

Saturday June 22
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Juergens Hall Community Center



Reunion attendees will have a delicious BBQ lunch, and plenty of time to catch up with old friends.

Tours of the store and the house will be available to those interested

Members of CHS will be at the reunion to provide newsletters, calendars, and cookbooks for those who are interested.

We will also be taking pictures and trying to get fun stories to report on in future newsletters.

If you would like to get in touch with the reunion organizers, you can contact Dana Daniels at 713-806-3334, dkdaniels42@gmail.com or Dorothy Treichel at 281-507-3910 jandtrei@sbcglobal.net

LET US KNOW ABOUT

- Upcoming reunions
- Social events
- Tour requests

LIBRARY & MUSEUM & HISTORIC PARK

MEET OUR HARRIS COUNTY PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER STAFF

This year, following the retirement of Jane Hippen, the Park and Community Center got a new manager, Cesar Tamayo.

Cesar, along with Ethan Raper and Brett Newman, make sure that the events at Juergens Hall run smoothly, and that the park is welcoming to Cypress residents.

Cesar was born in Mexico, came to Texas with his Dad when he was 16, the rest of the family came later. Cesar was previously the director at Jim and JoAnn Fonteno Senior Education Center, and has been with Harris County for 12 years.

Brett and Ethan are both native Houstonians, Ethan has been at Juergens for 2 years, Brett for 1 year. For both Ethan and Brett, this is their first job with the county. Also for both of them, their moms work for the county - Ethan's mom is at Mendenhall Community Center, Brett's mom is at Radack Community Center. Working for Harris County is a family affair!



They all want everyone to know - there is more to Juergens Hall than just voting! Come learn history, take a yoga class, play bridge, learn to dance, take a bus trip.

THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS
(APR - JUN)
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• John Airola
• John & Virginia Alamanza
• Sandra & Stacy Davis
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• John Airola
• Marjorie Andreo
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UPCOMING EVENT
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July 11 6pm
Free Ice Cream
Tour the Library and
Museum

ITEMS FOR SALE
• Calendars \$15
• Hats \$10
• Polo shirts \$20
• T-shirts \$10
• Cookbook \$20
• Postcards \$1

CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
2024

CLOSE CALL! DERECHO MAY 16, 2024

Mother Nature reminded the Cypress area of her immense power and ruthlessness on the evening of Thursday, May 16. As it happens, I was at the park that afternoon and evening and lived to tell the tale.

We were inside Juergens Hall setting up for our DAR meeting, it was clear a storm was coming, but that's not all that unusual. Then our phones started going off with the tornado warnings. YIKES!

It got spicy for a while, lots of rain [not all of it staying outside...the building leaks quite a bit], lots of wind, then LOTS MORE wind. LOTS MORE. Then the sound of trees breaking. As soon as it's safe enough to look out the windows, I see the fallen tree, then, happily, see that our little yellow building is unscathed.



I went to check that all was safe and sound inside our yellow building before I left to check on my own home. We met up at the park the next morning to survey all of the buildings, and do a damage assessment.

We lost one complete tree - the one closest to our building! Thankfully, it fell AWAY from the building, thankfully. Other trees lost branches, one section of fence in front of the house fell down. There are areas in the Store and the Hall that need to be leak-proofed, but truly, we survived the storm quite well.



The county did a wonderful job of cleanup - the tree was gone by 9am the next morning, the fence damage noted, and when the repair crews came out they found an unrelated leak and fixed that as well. The park was out of power for a few days, but all was up and running by Monday for voting, really impressive recovery!

It's good to know that our Library and Museum and all of our Historic Buildings are still sturdy enough to withstand a storm like that, but I'd just as soon not have to prove it again, thank you very much.

How You Can Help CHS

- Write an article for the newsletter
- Choose us on Kroger Community Rewards
- Become a Member
- Volunteer with us we will find a place for your gifts and talents

FAMILY & AREA HISTORY

Did You Know?

Mary Kay Ash was born in Hot Wells.

There isn't a lot of detail on her early life, but all sources indicate that her family lived in Hot Wells, where she was born in 1918. It seems her paternal grandparents were German, but there doesn't appear to be a connection to Cypress settler families.

She did get the ethos of hard work, determination, confidence, faith and integrity so common in the German Lutheran immigrants and their descendants.

Her father was an invalid, her mother worked

long hours at a restaurant, so from the age of 6 she was caring for the house, her father, and her schooling in an independent way that is alien to us today. It seems the family moved on





from Hot Wells to Houston while Mary Kay was still in elementary school.

Mary Kay was in the forefront of the 1960s move to enable women to seek professional success.

experience equal respect in the workplace, to balance work and home life, and to be as tough as a man while remaining entirely feminine.

Mary Kay remains one of the famous natives of the Hot Wells and Cypress area, and her company remains one of Texas' entrepreneurial success stories

MEMORIAL DAY 2024 AT BEAR CREEK PARK

Bear Creek Pioneers Park with the Harris County War Memorial may not be in Cypress, but it is a nice place to spend a few hours connecting with nature, our past, and our present. I attended the annual Memorial Day ceremony there, and was reminded what a great asset that park is. I'm not sure many people know all of the amenities there.

The most important to me, is the War Memorial. The county has placed the names of all known Harris County residents who gave their lives in service to the country. If you know of a name that should be there, the county would love to know, so that they can ensure all names are on those memorials. The annual ceremony is moving and serves to remind me how grateful I am to those whose names are up there, and to motivate me to be worthy of their sacrifice.

But Bear Creek Park has more to offer - an aviary and wildlife habitat, sports fields, picnic pavilions, equestrian and hiking trails, golf course, and cemeteries. The park is a popular geo-caching spot, and I've heard that the wildlife is fun - and also that there are huge spider webs! They moved the buffalo out after the Harvey floods, but the little zoo with

exotic birds is great to see, and last time I saw it they had some goats and a few big hogs.

The park streets are named in honor of the Bear Creek Settlers, [Dopslauf, Kunz, Golbow, Fox, Brandt], German immigrants who were friends and family to our own Cypress settlers. There are two cemeteries in the park itself. First is the Bear Creek Methodist Cemetery, easy to find right on Highway 6 at Patterson Road. The second, Hillendahl-Eggling is quite hidden, and a short hike from any driveable road.

Bear Creek Park is a fine addition to your "something to do on a nice day" list. It really is nice to get out into "wilderness" to get a glimpse of what the land looked like before civilization, and give some thought to those

who wandered those paths before us - but to also HAVE civilization really close by.



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Founded 2008

Our mission is to discover, educate, promote, collect, preserve and make available to the public, historical documents and artifacts of the Cypress area.

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at Cypress Top Historic Park
26026 Hempstead Rd
Cypress, TX 77429-7321
Phone: 281-758-0083

% * ' (
TUESDAY 9am-4pm
THURSDAY 9am-Noon
FRIDAY 9am-Noon

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President—Michelle Christie
Vice-President—Leslie Price
Secretary—Stacie McKay
Treasurer—Becky Martin
Barbara Fisk-Dorr
Celeste Haltom
Beverly Richardson
Erline Schoenfeldt

% ') \$ (
1pm, first Friday every month
all are welcome

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Cypress Historical Society
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news@cypresshistoricalsociety.com



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MEMBERSHIP

\$20/yr individual
\$30/yr family

WHO WE ARE

The Cypress Historical Society [CHS], a 501(c)3 organization, was founded in March 2008.

Our mission is to make the rich, colorful history of the Cypress area known to the current residents of Cypress and the public in general.

WHAT WE DO

We preserve local artifacts, conduct genealogical research of the settling families, assist the public with their own family history research, offer history presentations, assist the County with tours of Cypress Top Park, and more.