



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 63

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CYPRESS, TEXAS

DECEMBER 2024

CYPRESS TOP HISTORIC PARK AT CHRISTMAS

For the first time in far too many years, we decorated the park for Christmas!

Once we made the decision to do it, we knew we had to gather all of the decorations in one place. Decorations were stashed in the store, the library, and the house - multiple places all over those three buildings. That was an undertaking in itself.



We decided for this year, given the limited staff we have, to focus interiors on the Barber Shop and Juergens Hall, and to focus exterior work on the parts of the park most visible from the road.

Glitter ribbons around the poles catch light during the day, the wreaths and garland draw attention to the white picket fences and the doorways.



The tree and vintage Christmas village in the window of the barber shop are lovely day and night. We're very pleased with how it turned out, and next year will be even better!

BIG BOY TRAIN RUMBLED THROUGH TOWN

It was every bit as exciting as we wanted it to be! Union Pacific Big Boy 4104, the biggest working steam locomotive in the country, came through Cypress, passing right by where the REAL train station used to be.

There was a large and eager crowd waiting for it. Families, older folks, train aficionados, a good cross section. I love seeing how much the rail heritage of this country still beats in the hearts of people much too young to have been part of it.

While walking around before it came by, I found and picked up a few old railroad nails - probably not all that old, but it was so fun to just "go exploring" like a kid.

That train is HUGE! I went to the downtown Houston station to see Big Boy up close and in person. None of the photos really capture the size, I tried, but they just don't reflect it. The camera is not held at an angle.



IN MEMORIAM - ERLINE SCHOENFELDT

Long time CHS Board Member and friend, Erline passed away September 12, 2024 at the age of 91.

Erline was a member of the Froelich settler family, early graduate of the Cy-Fair school system, and dedicated member of Salem Lutheran Church. Every year she stitched beautiful items and donated them for the Rosehill Social Club fundraiser.

She was so obviously filled with love of life and joy in God's creation, her sly giggles were a delight at every CHS Board Meeting.

A copy of the Church Memorial program is available on our website. We mourn her passing, and are grateful for the time she spent with us.



IN MEMORIAM - JOYCE RUTH KLEB

CHS founding board member and director for 14 years, Joyce Kleb passed away November 1, 2024 at the age of 90.

Joyce was a member of the Juergen, Zabroski, and Kleb families - the very foundation of the Cypress area. As an early graduate of Cy-Fair High School, she was at the most recent reunion this summer, smiling and socializing with friends.

The hours she dedicated to Kleb Woods and Cypress Top benefit both of these locations to this day, her love for preserving our history will be felt for years to come.

A copy of the Church Memorial program is available on our website. We mourn her passing, and are grateful for the time she spent with us.



TOUR GROUP FROM BIG STONE LODGE

In late September, as the heat of summer was beginning to loosen its grip, and after we'd had the chance to clean up from the damaging storms, we were happy to host a tour group from one of our county Precinct 3 fellow community centers.

A tour group from Big Stone Lodge in Spring came to tour the park and learn about Cypress. Of course, when the tour was scheduled, the Community Center was named Big Stone Lodge, but it's now been renamed the Cactus Jack Cagle Community Center. Cactus Jack spent many years as County Commissioner over that area, lovely to see him honored in this way.

The 21 tour members were an absolute delight, and as usual, Michelle's tour of the store provided great opportunity for folks to remember items from their own past, and to learn what our ancestors saw and did.

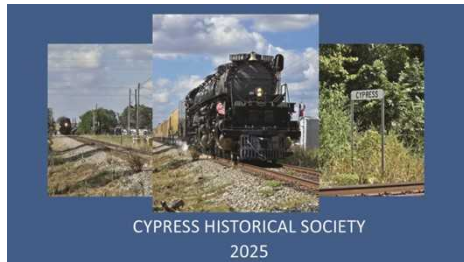
While at the house one of the ladies inquired about the purpose of a door, high up, above a closet. We had no answer and will have to remember to ask Becky about that. Tours are about learning as much as they are about teaching!



LIBRARY & MUSEUM & HISTORIC PARK

2025 CALENDARS AVAILABLE NOW!

The Calendars for 2025 are now available for purchase. As you can see, the Big Boy Train is on the cover - we're all a little bit Train Crazy at CHS.



Price is \$15 each if you pick them up at our office. \$20 each if you would like us to ship them to you (or a gift recipient). Payment via cash and check is preferred since we don't pay fees on it, but we do understand that credit cards are easier, so we can handle that as well.

Our office hours are Tues 9am-3pm, Thu and Fri 9am - noon; 26026 Hempstead Road, the yellow building behind Juergens Hall. If you come by the office, you can go through all the photos and tell us your stories - we always want stories, and we always want to meet and greet our members!

Also, for the first time EVER, we have set up online ordering and payment via our website. This is all a bit new and really very manual for us at this point, please be patient and contact us directly if you have any questions - we're people behind all of this electronic communications, not machines!

GENE AND DELPHINE ZABOROSKI SCHOLARSHIP

FOR 2025-2026

We are once again pleased to be able to offer the Zaboroski Scholarship, in the amount of \$3,000. \$MMFOQLKP>B>S>F>IB'LK'LROT B?PQB, scroll down on the home page.

The scholarship contest is open to all current CFISD seniors and graduates currently enrolled in a 2 or 4 year college.



The Scholarship may be awarded to a student interested in History, Social Sciences, Library Science or Education. The Scholarship will be based on academic merit and on serving the mission of the historical society, which includes volunteer work through CHS events and/or Cypress historical related activities.



NEWSLETTERS OLD AND NEW -

NOW AVAILABLE ELECTRONICALLY

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The ability to re-read old issues is now here. There is SO MUCH good information in there, so many years of great stories! The first dozen newsletters are on the web, in PDF form for your perusal. More will be on the way. Link is on the Membership page.

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Starting in 2025, we are offering electronic delivery of the newsletter, in PDF format. Your membership entitles you to this lovely printed newsletter. You don't have to do a thing in order to keep receiving it on paper. But if you would rather get your newsletter electronically, we will be happy to accommodate you. It will save us a bit of money, and you can zoom in to make the print larger. Am I the only one who needs that more and more each year??



We'll be sending out an email to all members giving you the chance to choose your newsletter delivery style, or you can fill out the form on our website any time. Or just call or email and let us know!



CHS BOARD AND OFFICERS FOR 2025

At our November Board meeting we held our annual election for directors and officers. Continuing to the 2nd year of their two year terms will be: %BQM'D >QK, %BSBOV' 5 FQ>APLK, ' BKPFB'=LMY, and / BPB'3 QQB. Re-elected to 2 year terms starting in 2025 are 0 FQBIIB' &EQQB, %Q>Q" ' LQ and 6Q@B'0 @>V. ->K' \$KABOLK was elected to serve a 2 year term beginning 2025.

We also elected officers to serve in 2025, single year terms. Michelle Christie was re-elected President. Leslie Price was re-elected Vice-President, Becky Martin was re-elected Treasurer, and Jan Anderson was elected Secretary.

We're ready to get started and make 2025 a busy and rewarding year of historical discovery and preservation for our Cypress area. suggestions!

The public is welcome at our board meetings, and we welcome feedback and suggestions!



ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THIS PAST YEAR, IDEAS FOR THE NEXT

Reflecting on this year, and looking forward to the next, it seems a good time to mention the major accomplishments of our hardworking library volunteers.

The family binders are very nearly done! This means the family charts and source material is in the binders, and the data is in digital family trees - making ongoing research so much easier.

Now we move on to towns, buildings, businesses, churches, and cemeteries.

Stacie McKay has not only made our CFISD section organized and lovely, she generously bought and donated some old yearbooks to nearly complete our collection.

We've been working with the county to consolidate and clean the contents of the buildings, that's an ongoing massive project and continues to bear fruit. Increasing the visibility of our Historic Park can only help our Society as well!

Already we've added online membership renewal, download of old newsletters, and purchasing of the calendar. Those efforts will continue, as we give options to our members, and raise our online profile for the new generations.

Next year we will continue to digitize and make information about our collection available online, and worldwide. Another massive and ongoing project, but the history of Cypress deserves to be shared.

We stay busy, and are grateful for all of your continued support.

THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS (OCT - DEC)

- * BKBO-1) RKA
- Glyn Willborg
- Henry Steinhagen
- John & Virginia Alamanza
- Terry & Yvonne Eichorst

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- Mary Airola Smith
- Henry Steinhagen
- Donald Clanton
- LeRoy Schlechte

Donations under \$25 are anonymous, Thank you!

FAMILY & AREA HISTORY

COUNTY CONSTRUCTION ARTIFACTS FOUND

Discovered, cleaned, and now prominently displayed in Juergens Hall - plaques from old bridges. They commemorate the 1924 bridge across Cypress Creek at Cypress Rosehill road and the 1954 bridge across Rock Hollow Creek at Cypress Church Road.

These plaques are HEAVY, solid construction like the bridges had been. We also have a few more recent plaques in the library, from the 1970s and 90s, waiting for us to find their ideal display spot.



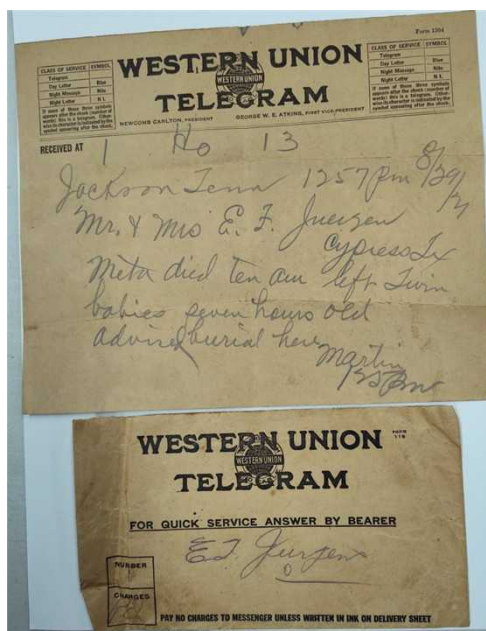
FAMILY TRAGEDY, AN OLD CHURCH, RESEARCH RABBIT HOLES

Earlier I mentioned that the preparation for Christmas decorations involved digging into storerooms. One of the boxes we moved aside in the house was just full of papers - receipts, schoolwork, news clippings. Eagle eye Michelle saw a Telegram dated 1921 in that stack of leftover paper. Then a few more telegrams.

A sad story emerged.

The telegram was from Martin DePriest of Jackson TN, husband of Meta Juergen DePriest to his in-laws E.F. Juergen and Mary Zahn.

! !



It was decided that Meta would be buried in Cypress rather than Jackson. Following telegrams announced a trip to Cypress for Meta's burial, then 6 weeks later, the death of the boy twin, Martin, and a trip to bury him as well. Martin Sr. was unable to care for the baby on his own in Tennessee, so he left the girl twin, named Meta after her mother, in Cypress with her grandparents.

The burials of Meta Juergen DePriest and her son Martin DePriest Jr. were documented at Rosehill Cemetery, shown on Find a Grave.

Young Meta DePriest, the baby girl who survived, is on the 1930 Census in Cypress, living with her



grandmother, Mary Zahn Juergen, grandfather E.F. Juergen having passed away in 1929.

So far, this is a sad story, evidence and reminders of how devastating a few words on an old piece of paper can be. Explanation for a granddaughter listed on a census, with no parents nearby.



A reminder that mixed in with "junk" paper might be a valuable source document about family history. But that's not the end of the story.

Michelle continued to research. She found church records noting the deaths of Meta and Martin in 1921 - records from 6>KQ / R@P'

(S>KDBI@I' / R@EBO-K'&ERQ@E

What is this church? Where was it? What other records might we find?

This is a church long lost to suburban development, all we have is one picture that claims to be of the little church. This is exciting - a chance to learn more about this long gone building.

Church records are invaluable records to show family structure, births, deaths, marriages. If we can find more about this church, more records from this church, there can be more Cypress history to discover!

Michelle's research continued, she found a

treasure trove of documents from that church.

Thirty years ago, a resident of Brookshire, Marie Gottfried, found old church records, made copies, and sent them to Concordia Historical Institute, repository of Lutheran history.

The church was open from 1888 to 1937, it served the settler families you might expect: Knigge, Fuchs, Telge, Juergen.

It was located at the intersection of Telge and Cypress North Houston.

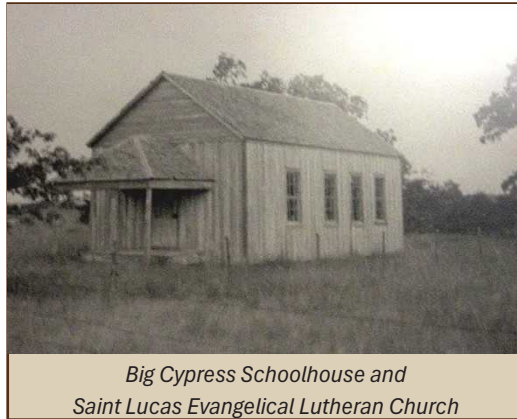
Additionally, the CFISD website tells some history of the area, in their stories about Lamkin Elementary. Some details are unclear, this is the kind of research we love to add to our "to do" list.

It seems that either in the church building, or on the same plot of land, local families built Big Cypress Schoolhouse.

That church was also the one-room schoolhouse that grew and eventually became Lamkin Elementary, located on Telge at Cypress N Houston. So when you sit at the stop light looking at Lamkin Elementary School,

remember the tiny church that was there. Give a thought to the parishoners at the funeral for the Juergen's daughter Meta, and a few short weeks later the funeral for her infant son Martin.

Now you know - send history lovers and researchers looking for Christmas decorations and you might not see us for HOURS, we fall down research rabbit holes. No wonder we are sometimes "slow" at getting things done!



Big Cypress Schoolhouse and Saint Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church



HARRIS COUNTY FAIR & RODEO - IT'S BACK

In October, the Harris County Fair & Rodeo had a successful show in Katy. The return of local rodeo, supporting youth in agriculture is so important to

this area. The future of the Fair, the development of the land on Telge Road, the return of parts of Tin Hall - these are all exciting developments that I hope to be able to learn and share more about in coming issues.

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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

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TUESDAY 9am-4pm
THURSDAY 9am-Noon
FRIDAY 9am-Noon

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President—Michelle Christie
Vice-President—Leslie Price
Secretary—Jan Anderson
Treasurer—Becky Martin
Barbara Fisk-Dorr
Stacie McKay
Beverly Richardson
Denise Zopfi

%L>Q'AL'0 BBQKDP
1pm, first Friday of the month, all are welcome

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CYPRESSHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM



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.