



# CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Issue 64

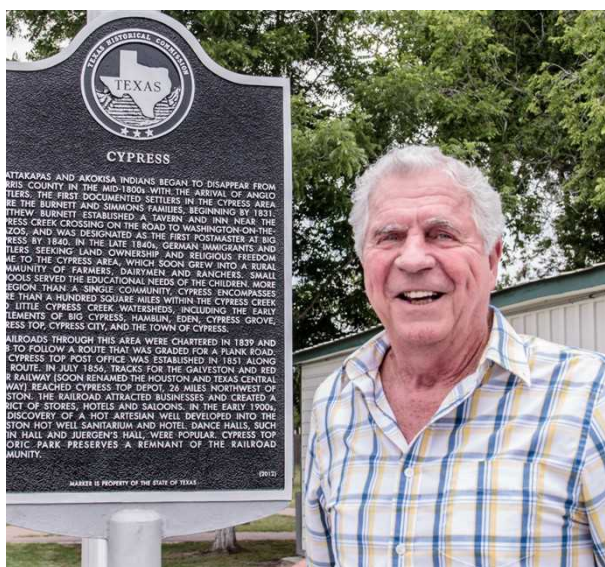
ESTABLISHED 2008

CYPRESS, TEXAS

MARCH 2025

## GENE ZABOROSKI 1936-2025

The donor of Cypress Top Historic Park and all of its buildings has passed away. Gene Zaboroski donated the land, donated the buildings, worked tirelessly with the county to get the park created; he is the reason Cypress Historical Society came into existence. His importance to our society and park can not be overstated, we are forever in his debt.



Following is the Obituary published at Klein Funeral Home:

Gene, or "Zabo" as he was affectionately called, was born May 1, 1936 in Houston, Texas to his late parents Frank Joseph Zaboroski and Lilia Natalie (Juergen) Zaboroski and passed from this world to his Savior's welcoming and loving arms February 20, 2025, at the age of 88.

Gene is survived by his wife of 62 years, Delphine Schultz Zaboroski; daughters, Becky and husband Daniel Martin; Sandra and husband Stacy Davis; and Christy and husband Gabe Gonzalez; grandchildren, Ashleigh and husband Daniel Hansberger; Samantha Martin; Danielle and husband Collier Anderson; Tyler Martin; Cole and Emma Davis; and Zachary and Sophia Gonzalez; great-grandchildren, Gage and Stella Hansberger and Kennedy and Ford Anderson; numerous nieces and nephews; and extended family and friends.

Including his parents, Gene is predeceased by his sister Joyce Kleb; brother Byron Hanks and his infant daughters Christine and Jennifer Zaboroski.

Gene was a graduate of Cy-Fair High School in

1954 and Sam Houston State College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Agriculture in 1959. He was a member of the ROTC in college and served in the Army Reserves for 9 years. He married Delphine Schultz in May 1962 and started a family. He spent most of his life working 6-7 days a week at the family business, Juergen Store in Cypress. First for his uncle and then eventually managing and running it himself until it's closing in 1992. He walked many a mile over the years taking care of the store, gas station, package and hardware store, plant nursery and dance hall. While running these businesses he ran and was elected Justice of the Peace for Precinct 6 in 1966 and was one of the first two Republicans to win an election in Harris County since Reconstruction (George Bush being the other). During his 6½ years of service his accomplishments included moving the court to Cypress and implementing new programs to increase the services of the court. He was elected Chairman of the Harris County Justice of the Peace and Constable Assoc. and was also Director of the State of Texas Justice of the Peace and Constable Assoc.

During his lifetime, he served and volunteered in the Cypress community, a community that he believed was responsible for his successes; such as, the Gun and Rifle Club of Cypress (Tin Hall); Charter member and Officer of the Cy-Fair Rotary Club serving as secretary and treasurer; the Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department; Church Council for Christ United Church; CFISD Educational Foundation; Cy-Fair VFW; and the CFISD FFA to name just a few. He was also a member of the Masons and Shriners. In 2004, he and Delphine donated the land containing the family home, store, filling station, Juergen's Dance Hall and several other buildings to Harris County Precinct 3 for a historic park helping to preserve the history of Cypress and its community, now known as Cypress Top Historical Park.

Gene was a true people person. He never met a stranger and almost always had a smile on his face. Besides his family, he loved fishing and hunting; rarely passed a baby without needing to hold it and counted many friends as family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Gene and Delphine Scholarship Foundation offered by the Cypress Historical Society -or- Houston Alzheimer's Association.

Serving as pallbearers will be: Cole Davis, Stacy Davis, Steven Faulkner, Gabe Gonzalez. Zachary Gonzalez, Dan Martin, Tyler Martin, and Doug Sefcik, Jr.

## CY-FAIR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION 1942-1970

This year the multi-class reunion will be bigger than ever, celebrating those who graduated from 1942 all the way up to 1970. This is expected to be a larger crowd than Juergen's Hall can comfortably accommodate, and thus will be **at the school itself** this year. What a great chance to see the old school, and compare what it was then to what it is now.

The reunion will be **Saturday, May 3, 1pm-5pm**. Registration deadline is April 15. Contact Dave McGuinn [sdspec@aol.com](mailto:sdspec@aol.com) or text 713.703.9891 for more information, or go to <https://bit.ly/bfnd42-70reunionform>



## LEARNING ABOUT GERMAN SETTLERS TO TEXAS

In early January I attended a presentation about German settlers to Texas at Kleb Woods. Danny and Heather Fike had come out to CHS a few days prior to confirm and clarify some of the historical info they'd been gathering about settlers to the Cypress area, and it seemed too interesting to pass up. Going to Kleb Woods really is a treat - even in winter! Added bonus - I finally got to meet Jim Sigmund after only knowing him "via email".



Both Danny and Heather have done extensive research into their own family lines, and as is typical in genealogy, at some point they got curious about German immigration into Texas and fell all the way down the rabbit hole into researching this fascinating topic.

Far too much great information to summarize, the amusing gist is the reminder that humanity is the same as it ever was - investors advertised Texas to Germans in the mid 1800s, over-promising as usual. Many Germans came; some profited, some returned home penniless, and many many more stayed, settled and created the Texas we know and love.

Heather and Danny talked a bit about the history of names - this is a topic area I am adding to my ToDo list for research and presentation, I think we could make a compelling display about place names and get today's kids to think a bit more about those funny street names.

My favorite legend, which I hope we can someday

prove out, is that Huffmeister came from Hoffmeister, that's not in doubt, but the reason was due to a typewriter with a flaky O key and someone made the street sign wrong, and well...they just went with it. "Close enough for government work" as the saying goes!

Kleb Woods does have regularly scheduled meetings, discussions, and lectures, well worth checking out!

## TRAIL RIDERS - RODEO TRADITION STILL GOING STRONG

It's Rodeo time in the Houston area, and that means the Trail Riders are coming through! Third largest city in the nation, millions and millions of people, and we all stop to watch horses and wagons ride down our city streets and camp in our big parks. We may think we're modern and cosmopolitan, and most of us are, but we're still gonna clap and wave at the horses, just like we clap and wave at the big trains. We love the reminders of our past, to see it still alive and relevant.

The Trail Rider organizations exist "to stimulate and encourage the love of horses, riding, and good fellowship, and to perpetuate the memory of the original riders" - they achieve their goals admirably.

This year I was able to see the Prairie View Trail Riders as they passed by Cypress Top Historic Park. PVTRA was founded in 1957, to preserve Black Western Heritage. There were quite a few of us out there waving and cheering as they passed us by.

I also went a bit further south to catch the Salt Grass Trail Riders. They are the oldest trail riders group, and used to not only pass by our area, they would stop for lunch. They've modified their route and now stop in Bear Creek Park.



I can't be the only one who adores the sound of horse hooves hitting the ground with that unique rhythm. I'll bet you're all hearing it in your mind right now. Wonder why that is?

# EAGLE SCOUTS BEAUTIFYING CYPRESS TOP HISTORIC PARK

Our President, Michelle Christie, has coordinated with a local Scout troop to assist Eagle Scouts in completing their service requirements. To that end, beginning March 8 there will be an Eagle Scout and as many assistants as he can find working at the park to beautify it. They will be tasked first with cleaning and repainting the concrete pillar street signs we have in the park.



The big project will be in front of the Zaboroski House. They'll be constructing a flower bed in front of the porch and planting some appropriate flowers and bushes. They've been asked to find low maintenance plants, and they'll be committed to maintaining it ongoing as well. We've asked that they replace and replant the arbor at the gate as well. After the loss of trees and fence last year, it's going to be wonderful to see some new plantings and new growth at our lovely Historic Park!

## SO MANY KEYS

Cleaning out the store seems to create as many new projects as our imaginations can come up with. We've found a BUNCH of keys, and can't just put them in a jar to look at. No. We set about cleaning them first. Denise soaked them and scrubbed them to discover their beauty.

Now Michelle is trying to identify them. What do these keys unlock? She's had some success, the internet is helpful at that of course, and is putting the key with the thing that it unlocks every chance she gets. Eventually we'll end up finding a nifty way just to display all of these keys, hopefully with a bit of a story about what they may have unlocked at some point. If you recognize the style of any of these keys - drop us a line and let us know. All clues welcome.



## GREAT DISCOVERIES AS THE STORE PROJECT CONTINUES

Michelle, Denise, and Jan have been working in the Store to clear out, sort, and identify the artifacts that have been stored away for ages. It's a huge project, and they are finding some of the most fun little items. We're so lucky now to have the world's information available at our fingertips so we can identify these items.

**Cypress Camp 2050** was part of the Woodmen of the World fraternal society. It still exists today though the Cypress Chapter appears to be defunct.



**Pennies** of varying ages, WWII and later are certainly familiar to most of us, we've seen the wheatback penny before. But an Indian head from 1896!



**GameCoins** back in the days  
of arcade games.



**The typical Friday display** - a box of miscellaneous stuff whittled down, divided into piles, and then put into proper sections for later



## REMINDER

## Scholarship Applications Due April 15

The Gene and Delphine Zaboroski Scholarship amount has been increased to **\$3000.**

If you know of a student interested in History, Social Sciences, Library Science or Education with a track record of volunteer work for CHS or in the Cypress area, please help them apply.

Information is on the front  
page of our website.

Right now the process is to pull a mystery box out of storage, keep the important things, and separate into categories for later identification and archival. It's a multistage process, but seems the best way to get through such a large amount of artifacts in a relatively short amount of time.

There's something fun discovered every day!

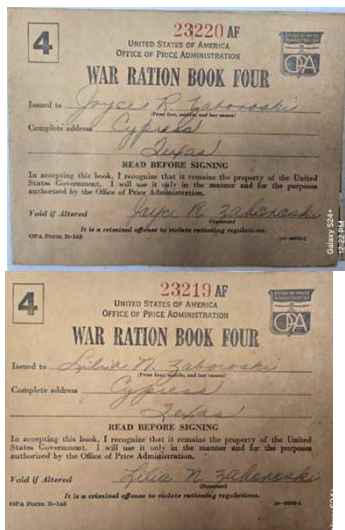
# HISTORY

## WORLD WAR II RATION COINS AND BOOKS

Most of us have at least heard of World War II Ration books, with ration coupons. Even if we never used them or were shown them by our parents, we've seen them on period TV Shows or Movies.



I have recently learned about OPA Ration coins.



They were found in the store, alongside the ration books for Lilia Juergeren and her daughter Joyce. We had to "go to the internet" to figure out what these red and blue rubber penny looking things were.

Starting in 1944, these coins were given out as "change" for purchases made with ration stamps. Blue was for processed food, red was for meats and fats.

The very idea of rationing is alien to me - and that is the glorious gift that The Greatest Generation and those who came after have given those of us lucky enough to grow up in America.

## TIN HALL IS COMING BACK! NO, BUT ALSO YES, IN A WAY

One of the bullet items in the Fike presentation at Kleb Woods was a rumor of the forthcoming resurrection of the beloved Tin Hall dance hall. Research ensued, and it turns out there are multiple stories out there in internet land, but nothing really recent or certain. Time to get to the truth. So I contacted Fred Stockton, the man who would have the answer! Did I have an ulterior motive? Yes.

Fred is the Chair of the Harris County Fair and Rodeo Association, I have the typical suburbanite romanticized notion of rodeos and farm animals, this is a contact I wanted to make - someday I



could get a backstage pass to the rodeo barns!

Anyway, Fred was gracious enough to share his time with me, and I look forward to even MORE conversations with him: Tin Hall, family history, and an amazing upcoming event venue!

So, what's the truth about Tin Hall? Will it be coming back?

No, not as such. There will be no rebuilt Tin Hall dance hall. What WILL be created sounds even better, in that it will be more relevant to "today's youth" and part of a real bridge between the past and future.

Harris County Fair & Rodeo Association are creating a venue at Telge and the Grand Parkway (SH-99 Toll Road). The Harris County Rodeo will be home here, relocated from its current home in Katy. The venue will support many kinds of events all throughout the year.

There will be a multi-purpose building at the complex with the floor and bars from Tin Hall and other artifacts that have been preserved from the original Tin Hall.



So no, "Tin Hall" isn't coming back, but also no, Tin Hall isn't lost forever. Fred has preserved significant parts of the old hall. And the bison - a runaway that died at the gate to Tin Hall, may be there as well! Texas stories are always so fun!



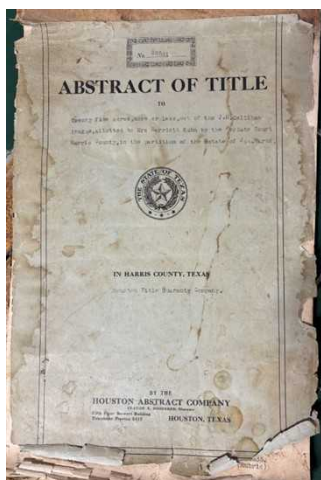
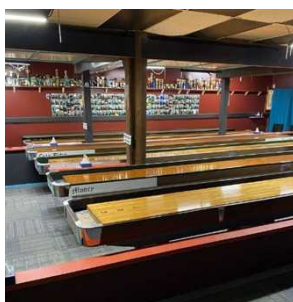
Construction of a large venue like this, in a place that's prone to floods, is bound to have tremendous challenges, and deadlines all have to be flexible. I'll be watching, eagerly, as things progress, keeping an eye on the Harris County Fair & Rodeo. You will all be kept up to date on the happenings.

## A VISIT WITH LESTER KLUGE, JR., PROPRIETOR OF PICKLES

Michelle and Denise were pleased to spend an afternoon at Pickles - Lester Kluge's pub on Kluge @ Huffmeister. This is the first of several hoped-for meetings with Lester, there's so much history to learn, and fun to be had.

Pickles will be opening up their kitchen a bit later this year to serve standard pub fare in addition to the beverages they currently serve, and the shuffleboard, darts, pool, cards, and checkers activities.

On this trip, the ladies were given the chance to photograph an old Abstract of Title that Lester has - documenting an 1835 land grant from Mexico to John H. Callahan and then through divisions and inheritances down to Harriet Park Kuhn in 1917. From the time of the Texas Revolution down to the Great War - what an amazing era documented there.



A full intake of the contents of that document will give us a treasure trove of genealogical information - family members, friends, neighbors, places and dates. There's a lot we can get out of those images. Many thanks to Lester for his generosity.

Did you know Lester was a bull rider? Did you know that Pickles got its name from the original color of the walls - the green shade made the place look like a pickle!

We all look forward to more trips to Pickles, spending more time with Lester and his son Adam, learning more of these stories, his family's history, and supporting a local "dive bar" neighborhood pub that retains the flavor of old Cypress.

## OL-BLU AND THE TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL

There's a new decoration on the wall at Juergen's, and another one will be going up at the store soon, personalized license plates from Ol-Blu, the Zaboroski family pickup truck. These plates were found stashed in a box in the store, and there's no way we were going to keep them hidden away.



How times have changed! We used to receive new metal plates every year, with the expiration month and year, and the plate number embossed in the metal and painted (lovingly?) by our incarcerated fellow Texans. I'm sure we all remember having to get the screwdriver and go put them on the car. Then it became just a sticker on the corner of the plate. Now it's just a window sticker, and the plates are flat and just printed by a machine.- no fun at all.

These plates are historic, too. Remember the **Sesquicentennial**, Celebrating 150 years of the State of Texas? Now we're all learning **Semiquicentennial** to celebrate America's 250th. These anniversary terms get more convoluted the older we get. **Bicentennial** - that one was easy.

We'd love to hear any recollections you have of Ol-Blu, email me and I'll be happy to give you a byline in an upcoming newsletter!

### THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS (DEC - FEB) General Fund

Barbara Schletzbaum  
Margie Hec  
Bobby & Geraldine Barrett  
Colleen & Richard Moreno  
John Airola

### Scholarship Fund

Michael & Jan Anderson  
Marjorie Andreo  
Anna Hagler  
John Airola  
Don & Deborah Clanton

### In Memoriam Gene Zaboroski

Michael & Janice Anderson  
Cynthia A Schultz  
Richard & Denise Zopfi  
Mike & Carolyn Oevermann

### In Memoriam Joyce Kleb

Dan & Becky Martin  
John Myers  
Ken & Linda Martin-Rust

### Cypress Historical Society

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

**Darline Roth**  
**Research Library and Museum**  
at Cypress Top Historic Park  
26026 Hempstead Rd  
Cypress, TX 77429-7321  
Phone: 281-758-0083

**Office Hours**  
TUESDAY 9am-4pm  
THURSDAY 9am-Noon  
FRIDAY 9am-Noon

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**Board Meetings**  
1pm, first Friday of the month, all are welcome

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## CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[cypresshistoricalsociety.com](http://cypresshistoricalsociety.com)



### WHO WE ARE

The Cypress Historical Society (CHS) is a 501(c)(3) corporation, 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 Harris County with tours of Cypress Top Historic Park, and more.

### MEMBERSHIP

\$20/yr Individual

\$35/yr Family