



CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SUMMER CLEANING, STUPENDOUS RESULTS

Our President, Michelle Christie, and her ever-growing cadre of volunteers have been achieving goal after goal in their project to organize and clean not just our library and museum, but all of the buildings at the park.

It's an immense project, and they're taking such care with each item they find, whether it be a bank statement, bar glasses, mystery hardware, etc. They are keeping what needs to be kept, cleaning it, organizing it, telling the story of Cypress in the layout of our artifacts.

This lamp for example. I thought it was bronze. Then it got cleaned and...it's steel. Wow!

The discoveries are an ongoing surprise - and we're finding things in the oddest of places. I don't even remember exactly where the 1873 Christening certificate for Henry F. Krueger, was found but it was something like a box full of cash register receipts.

Every nook and cranny has to be inspected closely - they don't dare miss anything important.



We also have several valued members toiling away both at home and at the office collecting data about the buildings, the schools, the cemeteries, the settlers - updating, enhancing, researching and collating the volumes of data we have. You may be surprised to learn that not all of the family lore is precisely accurate, neither are all of the government

documents!

I try not to get in anyone's way, and each time I venture over to the store to see how it's coming along, I'm blown away by how great it's looking. The building is bigger, and brighter, it draws me in to look at everything with wonder.

Our long term goal is to get our arms fully around the assets we have, document, make the connections, learn more about Cypress' past, and be able to answer all sorts of questions. That means cataloging the physical and digital assets, cross referencing, sourcing, etc.

The current phase is focused on gathering and identifying what we have. I can't wait to get to the next phase of telling the stories, and making the connections.

Someday, I want to have a "member's area" on our website where you could look up a person or place or object, find out what we know about it, tell us more, find out where it might be in our library, and then make plans to come visit.

It's a beautiful thing for us to have all of this knowledge, all of these records, all of these treasured artifacts. It's our charter to preserve them. It's our responsibility to share what we know and have with the rest of the world.

The park, our society, is an oasis of connection to the recent past in the middle of suburban excitement. We're always working to maximize our ability to tell the story of Cypress, and to make it relevant to residents and visitors of Cypress today.

I have my ideas, would love to hear yours - how can we provide value to you, our members? What are we doing too much of that we should stop doing? What are we doing not enough of?



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE PARK

This year, more people are visiting Cypress Top Historic Park than any year in recent memory. Rush hour traffic on the road out front is high. More people driving past means more attention to the park, the facilities, the history of Cypress, and to our little organization!

We're working closely with County staff to increase visitors to the park in any way we can.

Park staff have gotten creative by increasing the number and type of activities scheduled to bring in visitors.

So far we've seen Olympics for Seniors, a Classic Car Meetup, a kids program with Water Games, Archery, and Computer Help.

Coming up they've got Bingo, a Pet Parade, and a special ceremony for lighting up the park for Christmas.

It's a common sight to see couples, families, and students posing for pictures on the porch of the house, or in front of the farm machinery, too.

All of this activity continues to inspire us to spruce up the place, and do more of our own outreach to spread the word about the history of Cypress.



CFHS REUNION '42-'70

The annual multi-year Cy-Fair High School Reunion was held May 3, this year at the High School itself rather than Juergen's Hall. While I missed having everyone at the hall, I have to say, the folks at CFHS outdid themselves in making the event special.

Students from classes 1942 all the way to 1970 were there, it was held in the library, and the school literally rolled out the red carpet!

There were cheerleaders at the door, a balloon arch, the JROTC band played. Student council checked people in, the Photography club took photos, set up backdrops for group pics, and served the food. There was lovely table decor, memorabilia set out for folks to reminisce over, and tours of the school were provided.



The alumni all seemed to be having a great time, sitting around chatting, wandering the library, etc. The kids though.. they were having a blast. They seemed to love playing host, and learning from the alums, hearing stories of "olden days", getting a chance to learn history directly from those who lived it, and to just stand aside and watch, seeing their own future selves perhaps.



Having the reunion at the school really was a great idea, I'm so glad they did it, and so glad they let Stacie and I show up and take notes! When you get your invitation next year - SAY YES!

CYPRESS TOP PARK BUILDINGS CLEANUP

Part of our mission at CHS is to support the county park where our building stands. The historic buildings need constant upkeep not just structurally, but the content needs to be kept clean and refreshed.

We were glad to support the local DAR chapter in their mission of historic preservation as they spent a day cleaning up the Barber Shop.

There was a lot of scrubbing and sifting, sorting and rearranging, identifying and labeling.

Naturally there was reminiscing over the products that we all remember using and seeing the ads for.

The Barber Shop looks bigger and brighter. And now "get a Barber Pole" is added to our wish list!



EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS

The Eagle Scouts completed the project at the house with a lovely arbor that will be covered in some sort of flowery vine before too long. They also completed projects in our library - installing two wooden bookshelves, and a wonderful metal sign.

Thanks to the Scouts, and to Michelle for coordinating the effort.



LIBRARY & MUSEUM

COLLECTIONS

Our collections keep growing - people are so generous, and we love that they want history to be preserved, and trust us with their heirlooms.

- **Victrola:** Tim Weiman will be donating his grandmother's Victrola, we'll be putting it in the house
- **Cattle Brands:** Tim Weiman and Mike Descant are separately working to research and enhance our collection of cattle brands, both in our library and in the store
- **Arnold Junior High:** donated several boxes of memorabilia, Stacie is organizing - if you have any old yearbooks, we'd be happy to take them
- **Business Journals:** Beverly has been scanning, identifying, and filing journals of several old business from the area
- **Beer mugs and ashtrays:** found in the Store/Bar, that Bud insulated mug brought back memories for me - my Dad used one to keep his coffee hot in the days before Yeti and Stanley mugs



PARK TOURS

Michelle continues to provide Docent services to tour groups that stop by the park.

We've seen a group from London, and another group from Denver. Both groups found the park just from driving by.

Given that there's currently minimal signage on the park, it's kind of a miracle. To that end, I'm happy to share that Michelle is working with the county on getting improved signs on the hall and the store.

With any luck, better visibility can combine with the increased traffic in front of the park to benefit both the county and our organization.



NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL

Member option: receive future newsletters in your Inbox rather than your Mailbox.

- Doesn't take up space at your house
- Zoom in to read larger print
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Let us know:
info@cypresshistoricalsociety.com
281-758-0083

CY-WOODS STUDENTS INTERVIEW CHS

Jan Anderson

On March 18, two students from a Cy-Woods Audio-Visual Class interviewed Beverly (Sommermeyer) Richardson and Michelle Christie, members of Cypress Historical Society. The students were interested in the early history of Cypress.

Beverly was raised in Fairbanks, graduated from Cy-Fair High School, and her family was one of the early settlers of the Cypress-Fairbanks-Rosehill area. Sommermeyer Street still exists, it parallels Hwy 290 between Campbell and the Beltway. Beverly talked about growing up in the area, and was able to relate the memories of her parents and grandparents.

Michelle, president of CHS, was also

interviewed and able to relate more of Cypress' history. It was a special treat for the videographer to visit the Juergen's store with Michelle and see first hand the history in our own backyard.

The boys promised to send Michelle a copy of the finished video.



HISTORY & LOCAL

P.O.'s ICE HOUSE REBORN

Head north on Telge past the school, and just across from Kwik Kopy Lane where Bud Hadfield built his Alamo replica. You'll see the big parking lot and an old building, with lots of activity. P.O.'s Burgers has reopened - it's now PO's Icehouse, part of the Creekwood Grill family.

Back in the 1940's, Rippers was grocery and feed store that evolved into a bar. Philip Dahl bought it in 1980, and moved the building south a bit, turned it into a restaurant. Being close to the High School, it became a popular place for the kids to have a burger, with Cypress Saloon out back for the older folks.

An article from 2009 mentions that the building is haunted, perhaps the ghost of Mr. Ripper?

80 years on, the place has been sold a few times and closed for years. The property has now been developed into a multi-restaurant, multi-use gathering place that

combines the old and the new, with something for nearly everyone.

PO's has been fashioned as an Icehouse - and they got Mr. Dahl's blessing to use the name. It's now a warm, comfortable and nostalgic 21 and over bar (that serves burgers) with great outdoor space as well. Also at the site is Creekwood Grill, Samy's Pizza, and the Under the Kilt Pub. The location is also happy to host Cypress Chapel, a contemporary Lutheran Church.

As Cypress grows rapidly, it's heartening to see those coming in with their new businesses eagerly adapting the old and historic, making it relevant and vibrant to new customers.

The owners Brian Sandel and Mark McShaffry state on their website that they "embrace the past to shape the future". That's what we at Cypress Historical Society aim to do as well, so happy to see others share the vision!



SUITCASE WRENCH

This little gem was found in one of the miscellaneous boxes and drawers of "stuff" in the store, that Michelle and her crew continue to dig through. Thanks to the internet it was easy to identify.

It's a Ford Spark Plug / Head Bolt wrench, part of all Ford domestic vehicle toolkits. It was called a suitcase wrench, because it looks like the suitcase handles of that era. Made in America, and the 01A is said to indicate January 1941.



We're a long way from the days of a car coming with its own tool kit, assuming the owner would change his own spark plugs - there are Robotaxis driving the streets of Austin, with no one behind the wheel at all.

Also, you may notice a bunch of bottles in the background of that photo - it's a teaser for an upcoming article. We have a volunteer researching all of those bottles for us!

FAIR & RODEO UPDATE

The Harris County Fair & Rodeo will be held in Katy this year, as construction of the fairgrounds on Telge @ 99 continues. As mentioned previously, the chair of the Rodeo board, Fred Stockton, plans to include major artifacts from Tin Hall days at those fairgrounds.

Rodeo and Cypress have so much shared history. Rodeo and Fair activities are SO important for connecting young people to this great land and its bounty. It's long past time for the Cypress area to have a rodeo again!

The fairgrounds won't be complete this year, but they WILL be holding validation at the location on July 12. So things are definitely starting to come together.

That's a great sign, all progress is to be welcomed!

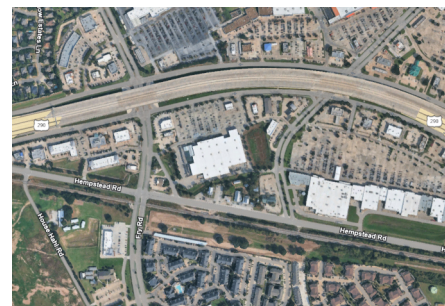


DID YOU KNOW?

Google Earth is a tremendous research aid and entertainment stop? You can view any place on earth and "rewind" to see what it looked like at points in the past.

This is a view of Cypress Top Park now, and on Dec 31, 1944. Google Earth will give you a slideshow of many points in between. GREAT research aid, and really fun to see how things have changed.

Don't spend too much time thinking about how we have high resolution satellite images from 1944. Just go to **earth.google.com** and have fun!



THANKS TO OUR BENEFACTORS (MAR-MAY)

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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

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Your ideas and stories are most welcome!

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CYPRESS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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