League City Historical Society

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April 2010  Newsletter  Kathie Nenninger Editor  knenninger@verizon.net

April 29th Meeting

Our April program features our member, Diane Kerkhove. Diane has an enormous and unique collection of postcards from all over the world. Many of her postcards are antique and are a delight in the stories that they tell. Her collection includes postcards that were used for various holiday greetings and those are the cards that she will share at our meeting. Some postcards are delicately adorned with embroidery and lace. In the past few years, Diane has enchanted folks with displays of her collections at the Helen Hall and Freeman libraries. Diane is also an avid stamp collector.

from the president...

Ronnie Richards

March has gone out with a roar and what a great month it was for the League City Historical Society. Ralph Parr was a very interesting and entertaining speaker. We had a number of our members in the audience that have been in League City many years and were able to interact with Ralph in recalling our history. We certainly want to have him back again so he can tell us about the history of the schools in our area.

Speaking of schools, you will read elsewhere in this newsletter about our program we put on for a group of about 70 students at Victory Lakes Intermediate. It was an honor to participate and I want to thank Kathy Weisskopf for her efforts in organizing and directing the event and our historical actors, Sherry Frankovich, Catherine Gill and Deborah Gammon for their Oscar winning performances.

The speaker at the next meeting is our very own Diane Kerkhove. Diane has a collection of over 8,000 antique post cards and she will share her antique holiday post cards with us at the April 29th meeting at the Museum.

Calendar

April 29, 2010 - Diane Kerkhove
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas Street, League City
Social 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

July 3, 2010 - Teddy Bear Parade

October 7, 2010 - Living History Dinner

October 30, 2010 - Ghosts of the Past

December 11, 2010 - Historic Homes Tour
February 25 Meeting Minutes
Sherry Frankovich

Ronnie Richards welcomed members and guests. He told us about upcoming events. We have a landscaping project that a few members are working on. Kathie Nenninger had an idea about planting a rose garden around the schoolhouse. Each bush would be planted in memory of past members of LCHS.

Kathy Weisskopf and others will be going to Victory Lakes Intermediate to plant an oak tree and tell the history of our ancestors to 60 students. Three Ghosts of the Past will be the speakers.

Joanna Sharp will be chairing the committee to print the membership directory.

Doug McKee will be in charge of the Teddy Bear Parade on July 3.

Living History Dinner will be held on October 7 at Butler’s Courtyard.

- October 30 will be the Ghosts of the Past.
- December 11 will be the Historical Homes Tour.

Ronnie Richards introduced the speaker, Ralph Parr. He gave a history about growing up in League City during the 1940’s and 1950’s.

Ronnie Richards conducted the business meeting. The secretarial minutes were printed in the newsletter.

Catharin Lewis gave her Museum report. She attended the Museum convention about labeling artifacts. She announced a luncheon on April 17. She is inviting all members to come help paint and clean the Museum, as well as work on landscaping.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

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March was a very busy month with classes, a training event and daily operations. We held 20 schoolhouse sessions and enjoyed the groups from Katy, Cypress, Kingwood, Tomball, Houston and League City. There were 411 students, 21 teachers and 41 adults in attendance. We also had 35 walk-in-visitors for docent talks during the month of March. Our March total income brought in $3,037.25 with $258.25 in individual donations, $1,560 in program fees and $1,219 in gift shop sales.

Spring break took me to College Station for the Texas Association of Museums annual training event. This year’s session entitled, “Leaving Your Mark on History”, covered marking and labeling historical artifacts and documents. Some was a review of materials and techniques used to mark different materials, but an introduction to newer inventory techniques including RFIDs and bar-coding. The speakers used a hands-on approach method of training which makes learning easier and we got to take home some samples.

We continue to make progress in getting our new addition organized and are working to reenter the new locations of items into the computer. Our goal is to complete this project by the end of June. Photographing the collection is always an on-going process. We continue to research families buried at Fairview Cemetery and to gather photos and information concerning them.

On Saturday, April 17 from 9am – noon we are planning a Museum Work Day with lunch offered to all our volunteers. If you can help, come dressed to work and your service will be greatly appreciated.

An unknown individual recently donated an antique coal iron and left it on the Museum Porch. We want to thank them for this nice addition to our collection. We did not have one like this, so it was a pleasant surprise, even if it was a bit rusty.

We are proud to announce our newest contract teacher, Geoffrey Hauch. He received his B. A. from the University of North Texas with a double major in history and in Political Science. He also received his Masters, while on the Dean’s Honor Roll, in secondary education with a concentration in Social Studies and History. Geoffrey comes with many talents and we are excited to have a male teacher join our staff part-time while he looks for full-time work.

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**MusNews**

**Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator**

Come by the Butler Longhorn Museum for a fun day for the whole family. Our ‘Wild West Show: A Texas Gathering’ will be held on May 22, 2010 from 11am to 5pm. Outside activities will include entertainment from the Houston Livestock and Rodeo - dancers, singers, melodrama, gunslingers, rodeo clowns, and small animals such as ferrets, rabbits, and pygmy goats. Longhorns will be in a holding chute for the public to touch. There will be educational blasts of the history of the longhorn cattle and the importance of safe and efficient livestock production. There will also be plenty of games and crafts for the little ones. A BBQ Dinner will be offered with refreshments.

For more information contact curator Jennifer Wycoff at 281-332-1393
Bringing League City History to Life

Kathy Weisskopf

Historical impersonators from The League City Historical Society brought history to life for students at Victory Lakes Intermediate School on March 26.

“We also gave them a live oak sapling that is a descendant of acorns brought to Clear Creek in covered wagons in 1854,” said Ronnie Richards, president of the historical society. “This was a good opportunity to help students learn about and appreciate local history.”

Three impersonators portrayed early residents of League City as Kathy Weisskopf narrated a brief history of local life as seen through the eyes of the century-old oaks.

Sherry Frankovich portrayed Lucretia Coward Kipp, a civil war sweetheart who refound her lost love after 40 years of believing he had died in the war. By then they had both raised families and their spouses had passed on. They quickly fell in love again and married – just a month after laying eyes on each other again!

Catherine Gill portrayed Sarah Girad Reifel, who also fell in love with a Confederate soldier. Her husband, Charles, was a true survivor, a German immigrant who became an orphan in a strange country at age 11. During the Civil War he fought in the Louisiana “Fighting Tigers,” and was wounded in the Battle of Manasses, but survived. After the war he and Sarah married and moved to Galveston, where they survived the great 1900 storm before moving inland to League City.

Deborah Gammon portrayed Carolyn Atkinson D’Etchegoyen, who enlisted in the military as a WAC in World War II, rose to the rank of Major, and became an intelligence officer. She taught classes in defense against air attacks and chemical attacks, and identification of planes. She met her husband in Washington, D.C., while serving at the Pentagon, and he returned to League City with her after the war.

After the historical presentations, Ronnie Richards told the students about the benefits of trees, and presented them with a Butler Live Oak sapling for their school. Sherry Frankovich told the students about the Live Oak Tree registry and invited them to think about selecting a name for their tree.

Then the students and historical society members went outside and planted the tree in a pre-dug hole 50’ from the school building – knowing that in 100 years its branches and it roots will stretch out as far as the building.

The visit was coordinated by Jeanie Dawson, the librarian at Victory Lakes, who likes to find interesting ways to educate students. Jeanie also has arranged for students in the Omega program to earn service points by watering and caring for the historic sapling during the summer.
14th ANNUAL ANGELINA COLLEGE GENEALOGY CONFERENCE
JULY 15-17, 2010 in LUFKIN, TEXAS

If you’ve never attended, give it a good thought! Meet book vendors, speakers, and network with a lot of great family genealogists/historians.

This year’s featured speakers will be BARBARA BRIXEY WYLIE and her husband, JOHN VINCENT WYLIE. Along with other speakers, attendees will have over 24 sessions to choose from.

Note the two optional all-day Thursday workshops - especially the land workshop by KELVIN MEYERS, which is a hands-on session limited to 25 people (early registration is recommended if you want to get in this one!).

Registration is open and are already coming in....

Note the research possibilities for before and after the Conference - come early and stay late.

Comments or questions, please contact
Trevia Wooster Beverly at treviawbeverly@comcast.net

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD
Ronnie Richards  President
Kevin Burke    Vice-President
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Jeff Hansen    Board Member
Diane Gillette    Board Member
Richard Lewis    Board Member
Doug McKee    Board Member
Helen Hodges  Board Member
Joanna Sharp Dawson    Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis  Museum Director

We thank Pam Kinser and Doris Teets for this month’s refreshments.
Note: Volunteers are still needed for our June, August, October and November meetings. Please contact Doris Teets, Hospitality Chairman at gdteets@verizon.net.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
Claudia and Ralph Parr and
Catherine and Richard Hughes from Clearfield, PA

www.leaguecityhistory.org

Ever wondered about the statistics of the League City Historical Society website?

Greg Nenninger, LCHS Webmaster

I have collected some interesting facts from the website statistics from January 1, 2010 to April 9, 2010.

The following are the top 5 pages on the website that people go to:
1. Main page
2. Historic Map page
3. Live Oaks page
4. Events page
5. Newsletters page

Below are the top 5 PDF files requested from the website:
1. April 2009 Newsletters
2. Historic Map Brochure
3. April 2008 Newsletter
4. September 2009 Newsletter
5. November 2009 Newsletter

Here are the 10 referral pages (pages that someone came from):
1. no referral page
2. www.google.com
3. search.yahoo.com
4. www.leaguecity.com
5. www.ultimateclearlake.com
6. www.bing.com
7. www.facebook.com
8. search.aol.com
9. www.visitleaguecity.com
10. www.oneroomschoolhouse.org

The following are the top 10 search terms that people have used to go to the website:
1. League City Historical Society
2. League City History
3. History of League City Texas
4. League City Historical
5. Historic League City
6. Dr. Ned Dudney
7. Joanna Sharp League City
8. www.leaguecitysociety.net
9. League City Texas
10. Joanna Sharp