August 2009 Newsletter
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August 27 Meeting
* note location change

Galveston Houston and Henderson Railroad –
The Short Line with a Long History
with Louis Aulbach

Louis Aulbach is a local historian and
author of Texas River Guides. His talk
this month, entitled "Galveston
Houston and Henderson Railroad –
The Short Line with a Long History"
will be excerpted from his book
Today’s Buffalo Bayou – An Echo of
Houston’s Wilderness Beginnings.

Calendar

August 27, 2009 – Historian
Louis Aulbach
"Galveston Houston and the
Henderson Railroad"

*Meeting location change
Dickinson Railroad Museum
FM 517 West, Dickinson
Refreshments 6:45pm Meeting 7:00pm

September 26-27, 2009 Oak Tree Festival
October 8, 2009 Living History Dinner
December 12, 2009 Historic Homes Tour

from the president…
Ronnie Richards

We are already over half way through 2009 and fast
approaching fall, my favorite time of the year. Along
with fall comes an active calendar for the Society
including a booth at the Oak Tree Festival September
26th – 27th, Living History Dinner October 8th, and
Historic Homes Tour December 12th. Add to this the
Museum Expansion Project Richard Lewis is heading up
that is about to kick off and the busy fall season at the
West Bay Common One Room Schoolhouse directed by
Catharin Lewis. The Society needs all hands on deck
to make another successful year.

How can you help?

Jeff Hanson heads up our Festivals and Events
Committee and will need volunteers to man the booth at
Oak Tree Festival. Jeff divides volunteer time slots into
short segments so you won’t be tied up all day. Give Jeff
a call at (281) 486-7226 and ask how you can help.

The Living History Dinner, the Society’s biggest
fundraiser of the year will feature Susanna Dickinson,
one of only two survivors at the Alamo. I want to thank
Richard Lewis for coordinating Susanna. The dinner will
be hosted at Butler’s Courtyard again this year chaired
by Amber Richards Murphy, with Diane Gillette and
others pitching in to help. The big thing we need is help
gathering silent auction items. Be creative because the
silent auction is where the big bucks are made. Some
ideas include bake a cake or favorite dish, re-gift, offer a
service, approach businesses you frequent for a donated
item or service. Contact Amber at 281-557-5551 or
Arr224@yahoo.com to coordinate delivery of an auction
item or to volunteer for the committee.

The planning for the Historic Home Tour is well
underway according to Committee Chair Diana Dornak.
The first committee meeting resulted in identifying a list
of homes that will be invited to be on the tour. It is an impressive list and includes the Butler Building, which is celebrating its one hundredth birthday this year.

Grant Received
The Society received a grant letter from Houston Endowment. The grant is earmarked for the Museum Expansion Project and the Hands on History program at the One Room Schoolhouse. Thanks to Diane Gillette our Grants and Finance Committee Chair and her committee for their efforts over the past several years that has resulted in a number of grants. Special thanks to Richard and Catharin Lewis for the time they spent with the Houston Endowment representative that visited our facilities prior to our selection to receive the grant. Their efforts were pivotal in tipping the scales with the foundation.

Our Next Meeting
I’m certainly looking forward to the speaker this month, Louis Aulbach, who you will read about in another part of this newsletter. Louis will tell us about the Galveston, Houston & Henderson Rail Road. And I have secured the Dickinson Railroad Museum for our meeting this month! What could be more appropriate? To get there take I-45 South from League City, exit FM 517 West (right) and go four tenths of a mile. The museum is on the left. I have extended an invitation to the Dickinson Historic Society to join us for the meeting.

In parting, please drop by your museum, schoolhouse and web site at LeagueCityHistory.org any time you get a chance. The museum and schoolhouse are open Monday – Friday (and by appointment on weekends) and the web site all the time.

Heather McKnight has joined the City of League City as Arborist. She has an interest in the Society’s Oak Tree Registration project and how that might be tied into the city’s efforts to educate the citizens about the value of trees and to encourage the preservation and protection of trees. Kathy Weisskopf, Faye Dudney and I had the pleasure of having lunch with her and sharing information about the project.

We want to thank our always dependable Richard Lewis and Gene Teets for their work project to redirect the rainwater to the new storm water system. Our organization is staffed by volunteers and without everyone’s efforts we wouldn’t be around long.

“Just as giant oak trees begin with small acorns, great deeds begin with small seeds of thought.”
Anonymous

April 30, 2009 Meeting Minutes
Sherry Frankovich

Ronnie Richards welcomed 53 members and visitors to the June meeting, which was held at St. Mary’s on Main Street. Kathy Weisskopf introduced our speaker, who was Father Cargill. This is his 50th year as a priest. He told us many stories about the church and the restoration of St. Mary. Ed Linck told us more specifics and showed us pictures about the restoration.

Business meeting began at 8:20. Secretarial minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter. Museum report was also printed in the newsletter. Catharin and Richard toured 7 one-room schoolhouses in Pennsylvania.

Teddy Bear Parade will be held on July 4. The first meeting of the Historic Home Tour committee will be held on July 16. Living History Dinner is in October.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 P.M.

MusNews
Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

This was not a normal summer. In spite of the extreme heat, we have been very busy at the Museum. We held 15 schoolhouse sessions with the groups coming from Humble, the Highlands, Galveston, Spring Klein, Baytown, two groups from Texas City and League City and 6 groups from various locations around Houston. We had 353 visitors and approximately additional 75 walk-in visitors for the months of June and July. We brought in $1,120 in program fees, $164.50 in gift shop sales and $57.00 in walk-in donations.

Our special thanks to D & D Pest for the donation of $200 for sponsoring the Annual Teddy Bear Parade on July 4th. We are making plans to hold the parade again on July 4th next year to connect with City Park Activities.

West Bay Common School teacher, Sarah Eubanks dressed for the Teddy Bear Parade
Cemetery work and general maintenance or repairs of artifacts filled the remaining summer hours. Summer has been busy and the time seemed to fly with help from my many volunteers.

I really want to share the highlight of my summer when I attended the Schoolhouse Conference in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The setting at St Vincent College was spectacular and the dorm life was unique in itself. Latrobe is the home of Mr. Rogers, the T.V. childhood program and Arnold Palmer. The college housed the Rogers Collection and we were able to tour the museum and a local quilt exhibit. The college was a Monastery and we toured the cathedral and cemetery with its rows of iron crosses with 200 years of monks. Some of the monks were presenters at the conference where we spent two days attending classes. The stories of work in progress of newly restored schoolhouses in the region seem the most thrilling to me. We spent the third day touring the local one-room schoolhouses. We even got to visit an Amish schoolhouse this year. It is always exciting to share what we are doing here at our museum and learn from others what they are doing also. Here are a few pictures from our trip.

League City Historic District
Commission Report
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

June 18, 2009

The League City Historic District Commission approved at public hearing a request to add siding to a mobile home at 1020 2nd Street with the condition that the owner use Hardi plank siding to be applied according to manufacturer’s specifications as the first choice. If this material cannot be used, the owner shall submit the documentation in writing to the Building Department Official and then be permitted to install pressed wood lap siding.

Commission granted approval to waive the requirement that an accessory structure (garage) may not be constructed without a primary structure on a lot at 1004 Block of 3rd Street.

Approval to permit the construction of an accessory structure (garage) at 1004 Block of 3rd Street was granted.

Administrative approval was granted for a business registration at 905 E. Main Street; as well as a request for a sign permit for a ground sign at 713 2nd Street.

No items were scheduled during the month of July.

The next meeting of the Historic District Commission is scheduled August 20, 2009, 6:00 PM in Council Chambers at 200 West Walker Street.
2009 Historic Homes Tour
Chairman…Diana Dornak

The Historic Homes Tour Committee met July 16th at the home of Diana Dornak to begin planning and preparation for the tour to be held December 12.

The main topic for discussion was which homes should be invited to be on the tour and then securing approval from homeowners. The list is nearly complete and will be released in September.

The committee as well as the homeowners is excited about this year’s Historic Home Tour. Stay tuned for more details coming up in future newsletters.

From The Finance and Grant Chairman…
Diane Gillette
I am pleased to announce that we received a large grant from Houston Endowment to use for our school program and the other half to use for our much needed museum expansion!!

A Special Welcome to Our New Members
Bill and Mary Green

We thank …
Diana Dornak and Phyllis White for providing refreshments for our August meeting.

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD
Ronnie Richards            President
Kevin Burke               Vice-President
Diana Dornak              Treasurer
Sherry Frankovich         Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf           Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen               Board Member
Diane Gillette            Board Member
Richard Lewis             Board Member
Doug McKee                Board Member
Joanna Sharp              Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis            Museum Director

LCHS Website
webmaster…Greg Nenninger
I invite you to take a look at our Society’s new website. It can be accessed at www.leaguecityhistory.org. You will find buttons that will take you to our by-laws, membership forms, current and past newsletters, League City’s historic sites, our West Bay Common School Children’s Museum website, our Medallion Program and the Live Oak Tree Registry. Additionally, we are in the process of posting our upcoming events for you to reference. If there is something special that you would like to see on our site do not hesitate to contact me at gnnenninger@sbcglobal.net.

This month, the Museum electricity bill was covered by a donation from Dr. Bill and Lori High. During the spring, summer and fall, we have donation opportunities to cover grounds keeping expenses.

Additionally, the month of August’s lawn maintenance is being covered by a donation from Ernie Randall.

If you would like to help support the Museum in this tangible way, please feel free to contact Catharin Lewis at 281-554-2994.

Pictured L to R: Diana Dornak, Catharin Lewis, Joanna Sharp, Deborah Gammon, Jeff Hansen, Frankie Blansit, Sherry Frankovich, Kathy Weisskopf, Sharon Brown and Alice Butler.

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