January 30th Meeting
League City Historical Society welcomes January’s guest speaker, Eileen Santangelo Hult, author of Twenty-One Texas Heroes, on Thursday, January 30 at 7 pm. The Society meets at 210 Kansas which is at the corner of Kansas and Second Streets in the historic section of League City. Refreshments will be served at 6:45 and following a brief business meeting, Ms. Hult will give her presentation about her book.

Twenty-One Texas Heroes is a book of informational and historical poems about twenty-one Texas heroes in many fields of accomplishment. It spans the history of Texas from the beginning of the Texas Revolution to Statehood and to the 20th Century. It presents a grand tour of our brave founders, our historic U.S. Presidents, our celebrated athletes, our notable musicians, our illustrious war heroes, our philanthropists, and our political representatives. The poems introduce our heroes and the significant parts of their lives and contributions. Children and adults learn history in an enjoyable format that sings the praises and salutes the Texas heroes of the past and present. The reader is empowered by pride in the history of the Lone Star State.

Eileen Santangelo Hult is a teacher with twenty-five years of teaching experience. Mrs. Hult taught for twelve years in Clear Creek ISD, League City, and as an adjunct at the University of Houston Clear Lake. She was cited in Who’s Who Among American Teachers in 2005. She has an M.B.A and an M.S. in Education. In 2007, she received the Marian and Speros Martel Early Childhood Educator of the Year Award from the Children’s Museum of Houston. Mrs. Hult lives in Clear Lake City, Houston with her husband Gene. Her grandmother’s love of Texas prompted her to write this book on Texas heroes.

The meeting will dismiss at 8 pm. Please come out and join us. Membership is open to interested parties.

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

I hope everyone had a nice holiday season and is ready to take on the New Year. Our Museum Director and Curator Catharin Lewis was out due to unexpected shoulder surgery and many of you volunteered to step up and man the museum during that time. The Society really appreciates your help.

The Historic Homes Tour on December 15th had excellent turn out this year. I want to thank the volunteers that served as docents at historic sites on the tour and for sure thank Diana Dornak and Phyllis White for co-chairing the event.

At the November 21st meeting members present approved some amendments to the bylaws. The first change allows us to expand the number of Directors from five to “a minimum of five.” This change came as a result of the growing membership in the Society and the increased number of members wishing to join the board to help guide our organization. The other changes eliminated some confusing language that is irrelevant and we changed the amount of notice required to call a special meeting of the board from five days to 72 hours.

Please don’t forget our next meeting set for 7 pm Thursday night, January 30th at the museum.

We thank Joanna Dawson and Doris Teets for this month’s refreshments.
Meeting Minutes
Susan Pierce, Secretary

November 21, 2013 Meeting

Ronnie Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting. Before our speakers began, Ronnie presented several items recommended to tidy the Society’s bylaws. All motions made to approve these changes passed unanimously, and the bylaws will be revised accordingly. We voted to elect the following slate of Directors for a two year term 2014-2015: Doris Teets, Joyce Zongrone, Helen Hodges, Doug McKee, Jeff Hansen, and Richard Lewis, and voted for Phyllis White to take over as Corresponding Secretary.

Jeff Hansen reminded us that December 7-8 is Holiday in the Park and signed up volunteers to work and bring baked goods to be sold during the event. December 14 is the Historic Home Tour. Volunteers are needed for that event as well.

Evelyn Garland announced that Richard Lewis is next year’s Program chair and Joyce Zongrone will take over marketing duties for the Society. Catharin Lewis told us she’s been busy at the school house and museum with recent programs and called for volunteers to help decorate on Wednesday, December 4th.

Ronnie then welcomed our guest speakers, our own Catharin and Richard Lewis. Their presentation informed us about the Chautauqua Movement, “an adult education movement in the United States, highly popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Named after Chautauqua Lake where the first was held, Chautauqua assemblies expanded and spread throughout rural America until the mid-1920s. The Chautauqua brought entertainment and culture for the whole community, with speakers, teachers, musicians, entertainers, preachers and specialists of the day.” The movement also provided job training for women. The Lewises showed us their recent acquisition, a desk-like device called the Chautauqua Industrial Art Desk, used for home study for students of all ages and made popular during the time of the Chautauqua Movement. [Contrary to what I was told last month, the device is not a cash register.] The internet says, “the primary purpose of the art desk, first invented in the late 1800s, was industrial art education in the home by parents, not only to prepare children for vocations in the arts but also to promote self-expression and the spirit of play — so often indistinguishable from a child’s “work” and yet so crucial in developing a child’s imagination and facility in the arts.” Over two million of these incredible desks were sold in America. The Society members in attendance then were given a fun “class” that demonstrated the ideas behind the Chautauqua Movement.

Refreshments for this meeting were furnished by Phyllis White, Irma Dodge, and Susan Pierce. There will be no meeting in December.

MusNews
Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

I must begin by saying thank you for your prayers, cards, food and gifts that helped speed up my recovery. My shoulder is definitely on the mend and I have been back to work half days until I see the doctor for approval. Thank you also to the many volunteers who stepped up to help keep the Museum open on such short notice. A special thanks to Kathie Nenninger who organized the volunteers and handled the numerous emails about my situation. Truly there are special angels among us.

Last year marked our 20th anniversary and it was a successful year. Our Hands-on-History Schoolhouse Program continued to reach area schools, homeschoolers, scouts, church groups and delighted many senior citizens. We held 124 classes with groups coming from Houston, Kingwood, Crosby, Galveston, Pearland, Huffman, Hitchcock, Orange, Tomball, Katy, LaPorte, Spring, Richmond, Pasadena, Friendswood, Richwood, Lake Jackson, Webster, Dickinson, Baytown, College Station, Sugarland, Lumberton, Seabrook, and League City. Much of our success is also due to Sarah Eubanks who led our new evening Natural History programs with three in the spring and three in the fall. She needed help from our teaching staff because of the high response to her choice of subjects. Sarah will again lead the evening programs this year and introduce a few new subjects. Watch for details about the future night classes later in this report.

We continued to make progress in digitizing the collection. I want to thank Susan Harden for her help in making such progress. She had moved to town to sell her boat and wanted part time work. In her six month stay, she was a hard worker, accomplished a lot and learned to wear my many hats well. Susan will be missed, but we wish her well in her new adventures in Panama.

We spent some time marketing our Museum and look forward to the New Year and the programs we are developing. February 18 is the first Natural History night program of Playing the Past. Save also March 18 Bugs Program and April 15 Flowers Program for the other evening events. Details are posted on our web site at www.Oneroomschoolhouse.org
November 14, 2013

A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to move an existing historic home from Kansas Ave. and Beaumont Street into the Historic District at 3rd Street and Kansas Ave. was granted. To move the home, the applicant must abide by the conditions set forth in the Residential Neighborhood Conservation Overlay, Preservation Plan Design Guidelines, and the Historic Conservation Overlay.

The second request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a carport onto an existing garage at 620 3rd Street was approved.

The next meeting of the commission is scheduled for January 26, 2014 in City Council Chambers at 6: PM.

January 16, 2014

Dick Calkins, long time resident in the Historic District and Steph McDougal, a Historic Preservationist, were appointed to the Commission. Peter Guglielmo and Kathy Edwards were elected to serve as president and vice-president.

New owner of Walding’s Station (formerly Perkins Station), was granted a Certificate of Appropriateness to install four garage doors to the building on the Perkins Ave. side.

A Special Welcome to Our New Members

Jerry and Margaret Owen
Sarah Hunter
Marti Carter
Dee Ann and Mike Peterson

2014 OFFICERS & BOARD

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<td>Joanna Sharp Dawson</td>
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<td>Catharin Lewis</td>
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The Past Comes Home

Joyce Zongrone

The past came to visit during this year’s Historic Homes Tour. Bernardine Mallory Farmer, granddaughter of Joseph Peter Giacchino, whose home was on the tour, made a special appearance to the surprise and elation of the homeowners and

Bernardine is the only child of Giacchino’s oldest daughter, Caroline Giacchino Mallory, who died in 2010; three months shy of her 90th birthday. His other two children, Joseph and Andrew died in 2008 and 1992, respectively.

Giacchino moved into the newly built home in 1930, a year after his wife Lilly passed away. Following her death, he became both mother and father to his three young children -- Caroline, age 10; Anthony, age 8; and Andrew, age 5. They moved from Hitchcock to League City for a year and then to Dickinson in 1930 where Giacchino lived and worked as a blacksmith and sold seeds until his death, at age 80, in 1962. After his death, his daughter, Caroline, her husband, Harland Mallory and their 12-year old daughter, Bernardine, remained in the house. Bernardine married and moved away nine years later in 1971. Caroline continued to work at the seed store and live in her father’s home for twelve more years after the death of her husband in 1985. In 1997, she moved to Sugarland to be with her daughter.

The house was then sold to the Dickinson Fire Department and used for firefighter training for seven years until the Lewis’ acquired it.

Granddaughter Bernardine Mallory was the star of the show giving visitors the unexpected treat of a firsthand narrative of her days in her childhood home as “Grandpa’s Girl.”
A Special Thank You
Diana Dornak and Phyllis White

A special thank you to all who worked on the Historic Homes Tour. We cleared about $1500 from the event and all the homes were absolutely lovely. The Directors and the Docents did a fabulous job.

There are purportedly many older homes in League City that were moved here from the Humble Oil Camp and were added onto and still survive today. If anyone is interested in helping research these or know anything about these original Humble Oil Camp Homes, please contact Jerry at louvers@verizon.net.

Not all of the schools that visit our one-room schoolhouse come in a school bus. Some have TV and restrooms. This is St. Mark’s Episcopal 3rd grade class that recently visited the museum.

Helen Hall Library
Local Authors Hour
10:15-11:15am

Larry Jay Friesen
February 13, 2014
Jerry Ross
March 13, 2014
Bob Arnold
April 10, 2014
Step back in time...

The League City Post Office

LEAGUE CITY POST OFFICE HISTORY

The first post office was located in a box car near the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad so the mail arrived by train. Early pictures show a frame building in that location where it was part of a dry goods store. A meat market and a shoe repair shop were next to it. Mr. Butler was the first postmaster, and Mr. Boone was his assistant.

Clear Creek — League City — the name changed back and forth many times, depending on what political party was in power. Mr. Butler’s people were Republicans who named the town Clear Creek. Mr. League’s people were Democrats so wanted the name to be League City. The cowboys and other active people fought over the name, which caused bitter feelings for many years. Information from the Office of Post Office Historical Affairs in Washington DC indicated that the building was moved back and forth across the creek when a name change was made. Some local people think the building was moved back and forth across the railroad track. The first post office was registered as Clear Creek Post Office on February 19, 1874.

These changes listed are as follows: Clear Creek Post Office February 19, 1874—discontinued September 14, 1874—re-established December 19, 1874—discontinued November 1, 1876—re-established February 25, 1880—League City Post Office April 8, 1896—Clear Creek Post Office July 2, 1879—League City Post Office June 13, 1902—to date.

The only other news story I could find was about a mail sack being cut in 1913. J. M. Alford, the postmaster, had to call postal inspectors to investigate. No conclusion was reported.

A plaque listing the names and dates of each postmaster for League City is hanging in the office of the postmaster. Also, there is a plaque with dates of changes of establishment and discontinuance of the post office. A picture of the early post office is located there, and another one is in the League City Library’s local history room.

One lady remembers the post office being across from the Masonic building. For many years a masonry building was located near the original post office site at 218 Clear Creek Ave. This was used before the present building was dedicated in 1988 at 240 W. Galveston.

This information turned out to be more interesting than I anticipated.

Diane Kerkhove