March 28th Meeting

Andy Upchurch an author, musician and home builder who has a story to tell about his home building project in San Leon will be our March 28th speaker at League City Historical Society. Because of great local interest in this book, we will meet at Butler’s Courtyard for the March meeting.

Andy grew up in Arkansas and migrated to San Leon. The Oleanders is a little house that he built. Never mind that he had never built a house before!

It is not a ‘how to’ book to instruct the new prospective house builder. It’s more of a humorous account of the adventure, and that would be the correct word for it. The book is not just about building. It is interspersed with snippets, diversions, and a yarn or two which are either funny or interesting. They draw from the author’s life experiences and range from playing music in Las Vegas, living on a sailboat, and traveling to various exotic ports of call. They all help tell the tale of how the author got to San Leon, and how the Oleanders of San Leon came to be.

Are you looking for a book that will provide some fun, light, recreational reading while on vacation?

- Would you like to read a book that will make you laugh out loud?
- Do you need something to read to remove stress?
- Have you ever wanted to build a house but have no house-building experience?

If you answered “Yes” to any of the above questions, this book may be for you and we are sure you will enjoy hearing Andy speak about his adventures and misadventures at 7 pm at Butler’s Courtyard at 122 N. Michigan in Historic Downtown League City. Come for food and fellowship at 6:45.

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

Last month’s meeting was really enjoyable. I want to thank David and Evelyn Garland for all their efforts in bringing us informative, entertaining programs with relevant content for our Society. The February presentation by Larry Pearl on Indian Heritage showed me how little I knew about this important part of our history.

I’m really looking forward to our March 28th speaker Andy Upchurch that will be hosted at Butler’s Courtyard. Andy has written a book called the Oleanders of San Leon. He grew up in Arkansas and migrated to San Leon on Galveston Bay. The Oleanders is a little house that he built. Never mind that he had never built a house before! The house is named The Oleanders in the style of the smaller islands of the Caribbean, where houses have names instead of number addresses. It is named ‘The Oleanders’ because of the wild oleanders found growing there. Andy also has a local band called Andy and the Dreamsicles that plays a wide variety of music, from the ’50s, ’60s, ’70s and ’80s.

Did you know that almost everything you ever wanted to know about the League City Historical Society and the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum can be found on the web at www.LeagueCityHistory.org and www.oneroomschoolhouse.org? Take a minute to visit our web sites and check them out.

Calendar

March 28 Andy Upchurch The Oleanders of San Leon
We will be meeting at the lovely Butler’s Courtyard, 122 N. Michigan
6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

April 25 Rene Palmer Armstrong Wings and a Ring:
Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot
Meeting Minutes...Susan Pierce

February 28th Meeting
Ronnie Richards opened the February meeting held at the School House Museum.
The Minutes were approved as they appeared in the January newsletter.

Next month, we will meet at Butler’s Courtyard to hear Andy Upchurch speak about his book, *The Oleanders of San Leon*.

This month’s speaker, dressed in “typical” Cherokee clothing, was Larry Pearl who spoke to us about Cherokee Indian heritage. Mr. Pearl is 1/16 Cherokee, a larger percentage than that of the current Principal Chief, but you make Chief according to your clan’s lineage, not what percentage of Cherokee you are. You need a direct Indian ancestor who is listed on the “Dawes Rolls.” When De Soto first met the Cherokee in 1540, they numbered 16-20,000 people, living in Kentucky, Virginia, South Caroline, Georgia, and Alabama. It is estimated that the Indian Removal Act and the Trail of Tears, diseases like smallpox, and their participation in American/British/French wars caused the deaths of 50-75% of the Cherokee, leading to a great loss of their tradition and oral history. Now, the Cherokee Nation’s 300,000 people live primarily within the States of Oklahoma, Arizona, California, New Mexico, Texas, and Florida. Reservations in Oklahoma are now referred to as “OTSa,” Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area.

The Cherokee were ferocious warriors living in a matrilineal society. They did not live in teepees or wear feathered headdresses. Of the 22 treaties made with the Cherokee, none were honored by the U.S. Government. At one point, the U.S. Government actually appointed the Cherokee’s chiefs.

The Golden Age of the Cherokee was 1844-1859. They lived more like Europeans in stately homes and wore European clothing. Later, the tribe’s women could attend the Cherokee Female Seminary.

The Iroquois Confederation was the model for the U.S. Constitution.

Catharin Lewis is looking for volunteers. Contact her if you have even a little bit of time you can give her, catharin@orbitworld.net. Catherin was recently interviewed by telephone for the Houston Chronicle, and a Galveston paper will use the museum as a backdrop for something they’re filming.

Evelyn Garland took over the meeting when Ronnie Richards had to leave. There were no committee reports.

Membership dues are now due. A renewal application is attached to this newsletter.

Refreshments for this meeting were generously furnished by Evelyn Garland and Diane Kerkhove.

MusNews
Catharin Lewis, Director / Curator

Looking into the collection… we see light. What a change more than a century makes in what we use now to see light. When Colonel Drake drilled for oil in Pennsylvania and over 1000 gallons of petroleum were produced per day, prices for oil dropped and lighting oils became cheap and plentiful. The Aladdin lamp from the Butler Building or a similar lamp from Dr. Davis or a lantern like that of the Barger family in our collection became popular lamps of the time period. Look around your home and see what you use today.

Butler Lamp  Dr. Davis Lamp  Barger Family Lamp

February brought sunshine, some cold and a few rainy days which seemed to help bring our visitor headcount up with 256 visitors coming from Florida, College Station, Pasadena, Houston, Galveston, Friendswood, Seabrook and League City. We held ten schoolhouse sessions and brought in more than $1000 in program fees. We also want to thank Susan Pierce and Richard Lewis for their check donations adding additional $200 to our budget this month. Sales in the gift shop brought in another $147.63. March registrations are still coming in and we hope to fill our museum with visitors during Spring Break.

I continue to work on the collection in my spare time, trying to digitize the photographs and update the museum files. I spend time cleaning the artifacts as I work with the collection. Program plans are under way for our Summer Camps in June and July. We will begin taking registrations in April as the final phase of the project.

We hope to start working on the garden for the Garden Classroom when the weather looks more favorable. If you are interested in helping with this project, could you please contact me at the Museum (281-553-2994). I really can use the help in all phases of the project…planning, buying, digging and planting.

I travelled to El Campo for a SETMA (South East Texas Museum Association) meeting and was able to meet other colleagues and share ideas with them.
We thank Irma Dodge, Phyllis White and Diana Dornak for this month’s refreshments.

Texas Historical Commission has finally approved a historical marker for Fairview Cemetery. A big thank you goes to Catharin Lewis and Barbara Holt for all of their work and dedication for this long awaited recognition.

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

March 7, 2013
The scheduled workshop with the Land Use Attorney was held March 7, 2013 at the Johnnie Arolfo Civic Center. Another meeting with the attorney is scheduled March 28, 2013, 6:00 o’clock. Location will be announced.

The regular meeting of the Commission is scheduled March 21, 2013, 6:00 o’clock in Council Chambers.

All meetings are open to the public.

2013 OFFICERS & BOARD
Ronnie Richards President
Evelyn Garland Vice-President
Diana Dornak Treasurer
Susan Pierce Secretary
Kathy Weiskopf Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen Director
Phyllis White Director
Richard Lewis Director
Doug McKee Director
Helen Hodges Director
Joanna Sharp Dawson Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis Museum Director

We remember…
A friend of League City History
Don Mize
Become a supporting member of the League City Historical Society....

Thank you for your interest in your community.

League City Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1642
League City, Texas 77574

I/We wish to become a member of The League City Historical Society. Enclosed is a check to cover dues.

MEMBERSHIP CIRCLED:

Single (Individual)..................$25
Family Membership.............. $40
Senior Citizen..(65 or older)...$15
Organization..........................$50
Life Membership...............$250

Name/s: ________________________
________________________________

Address: ________________________
________________________________

Phone: _________________________

Email: _________________________

Circle projects you might be interested in working on: School/Museum, Tree Registry, Membership, Fund-Raising, Landmark Medallions, Events/Receptions.

☐ Please call me. I'd like more information.