Our May 31st Meeting will be about our local railroads. Don’t miss this chance to hear about the evolving railroad system and how important it was to our community in the early days.

The Railroads had a tremendous impact on towns like League City and certainly the town to our north, Houston. Arcadia Publishing, a company specializing in local history publications, offered Rails Around Houston in 2009. Our May speaker is the author, Douglas L. Weiskopf. Doug has been a lifelong railroad buff and is a native Houstonian. He has authored several articles on Houston railroading. He is the chapter historian of the Gulf Coast Chapter of the National Railway Society and has worked for over 20 years as senior library services specialist in the Houston Public Library’s Texas Room.

We will be meeting at the museum at 6:45 pm for social time with the meeting beginning at 7 pm. Doug will also have books with him for purchase and autographs. They cost $23.80 each including tax. Come out for a wonderful history about our local railroading past.

May 31 LCHS Meeting 6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

I hope everyone enjoyed the April monthly meeting hosted by the Kemah Historical Society at their Kemah Schoolhouse Museum/Visitor Center. I really enjoyed the presentation by Pepper Coffey, President of the Kemah Society. She brought the book she authored, Images of Kemah, to life with many stories and colorful background information.

Our May meeting should be very interesting as author Doug Weiskopf will speak about Houston Railroads. Doug has published a book titled Rails Around Houston and I’m sure it will be available that night for purchase. I looked into hosting the event at the Dickinson Railroad Museum but unfortunately it was not available for our May 31st meeting date.

I won’t be at the meeting as Nancy and I will be traveling to a family reunion in Kentucky for the Rice family which was her mother’s side of the family. The reunion is on Saturday and on Sunday we will attend the church where her great grandfather and then grandfather were preachers. This is the first reunion we will have attended and it should be quite interesting to find out more about Nancy’s roots and for her to reunite with cousins she has not seen since she was a child. I’ve asked Richard Lewis to chair the meeting for me and he has graciously accepted.

On another subject, one of my neighbors daughters who attends Lavace Stewart Elementary in Kemah told me about attending a session at the One Room School House with her daughter where she saw my name on one of the plaques. (continued on page 2)
(From the President, continued)

Her comments were all positive and it made me feel proud of being associated in a small way with the tireless work Catharin Lewis and her entire team do almost daily at both the School House and Barn Museum to preserve history and bring it to life. Next time you see Catharin please thank her for all she does most of which goes unrecognized. She is definitely the jewel in our crown.

Ronnie Richards

Shown above: Brad Mitchell, Dave Schoen, Kevin Bauman from League City United Methodist Church helping Richard Lewis in building the “Fire Hose Reel Building” at West Bay Common School. Stop by the museum and see the progress.

As summer approaches and many of you will be traveling, plan visits to area museums. If you are having guests in town, bring them to your museum and share a bit of League City’s history. In today’s economy, museums really need your support. You will be surprised what great little “gems” you will discover across your travels both here and elsewhere.

We are proud to announce the addition of Sarah Eubanks as the new Director of Education and curatorial assistant. Sarah comes with a BA in English and Public History, as well as, a MA in Museum Science. We look forward to working with Sarah in a different capacity than just teaching as she has been on staff since 2003.

As we look back at April we had 371 visitors; held 13 schoolhouse sessions; brought in $1,654.87 in program fees and $1,131.77 in gift shop sales plus $250 in organizational donations. We had $2,873.98 in expenses. Our visitors came from Pearland, Highlands, Dickinson, Houston and League City. The groups consisted mostly of second graders this time and several mixed age groups.

This past month we had a different kind of donation, but one that is greatly appreciated. We want to thank Carl Vincent PC Consulting for donating his technical knowledge of networking our office equipment to make it easier for all of us to share the same color printer and copier. Please show your support of his work by contacting Carl at 281-782-8227 or on the web cvincent@vincentpc.com if you need help with your computers.

A Museum Work-Day was held on Saturday, May 19th with sixteen volunteers of all ages. We want to thank Brad Mitchell, Dave Schoen, and Kevin Bauman from League City United Methodist Church who helped Richard Lewis built the fire hose reel building. We want to thank Irene Abshire, Lucianne & Frank Harvel from League City United Methodist Church who worked with myself and washed windows, weeded gardens and trimmed trees. We want to thank Mike, Shawn, Sarah, William and Scott Bergen from League City Methodist Church who repaired jump ropes for our schoolhouse program. We want to thank Mark, Rachel, Lance & Mallory Keehn for all their help too. We want to especially thank the volunteers from League City United Methodist Church who provided lunch for all our volunteers. They really made a difference in such a short time and we are so grateful for the many hours they spent helping us. Come see what they have accomplished. (continued on next page.)

Irene Abshire and Lucianne Harvell trimming bushes and trees. The volunteer group from League City United Methodist Church were wonderful! Thank you so much.
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum had a very successful Natural History Night for our April session. There were more than thirty people in attendance and many seemed to enjoy the evening program on birds. We will be repeating our evening program on Butterflies, Birds and Flowers during the day for those who might have missed them. The events will be called Tantalizing Tuesdays in June and July. The dates are set for June 12th, 19th, 26th and July 3rd, 10th, and 24th. The cost is $5 per child, ages 6 – 12 and the program runs from 10am to noon. To register, just call the museum at 281-554-2994 and leave name, phone #, address and age of child.

There is still time to register for our Natural Treasures Summer Day Camp. We will be combining natural history lessons with artifacts, games and crafts from the turn of the century. The camp is being offered June 4th – 7th and July 16 – 19 from 9am to 4pm. The cost is $125 per camper. You will need to bring your own lunch and snacks. To register, call the museum as soon as possible to save a spot in the camp. We are asking society members to please tell all your friends and neighbors about the camp possibility.

With summer approaching, we are making plans for the hurricane season and getting details in order. If anyone would like to serve on this year’s Watch Committee, please contact me at the museum by June 10th. This committee of volunteers will help prepare the museum in case of an approaching hurricane and help clean up after it. Extra hands mean lighter work for everyone. We will hold a training event for this committee at a later date. Watch for details in next month’s newsletter.

Above: Workers fitting the sections and plexiglass into position on the Fire Hose Reel Building last Saturday at the work party.

Meeting Minutes

...Diane Kerkhove

Minutes LCHS APRIL 26 MEETING

The April meeting was held at the Kemah Schoolhouse/Visitor Center. President Ronnie Richards introduced the speaker Pepper Coffey, who wrote the book Kemah.

Pepper showed pictures of old houses, the old school house, businesses and citizens of Kemah. She told of ways people earned a living, some by raising cattle and growing figs. Gambling and liquor businesses were popular. She told funny little stories of people and places in Kemah. She mentioned that early hurricanes were named for the year in which they happened. The book Kemah is for sale.

Doris Teets and Helen Mooty served refreshments.

Next speaker in May will be Doug Weiskopf.

May 19 will be a work day at the museum. The Scouts will help with work on the grounds.

Natural Treasures Summer Day Camp will be held June 4-7 and July 16-19 at the museum.

Historical Society ads are needed for the yearbook.

The purchase of more benches for the museum grounds will be appreciated.

The Kemah Historical Society was thanked for the presentation.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kerkhove
Secretary

We want to thank Evelyn Garland and Catharin Lewis for this month’s refreshments.
League City Historic District Commission
Report to the League City Historical Society

April 19, 2012

A Certificate of Appropriateness was permitted to a resident at 505 No. Illinois for an addition and renovation to the front facade of his existing home.

Commissioners discussed the proposed amendments to the Residential Neighborhood Conservation District Overlay that will govern residents who have petitioned for de-annexation from the Historic District. The amendments will also govern the Historic District, where applicable.

Areas of concern affecting the HD include:

Use of multi family dwellings and duplexes.
3,000 sq. ft. restaurant proposed for 7th Street.

Eating and drinking establishments with live music and entertainment permitted on 7th Street, and in currently commercially zoned areas in the HD.

Food and Beverage sales.

Commissioners would like to see the HD remain in tact, as set out in J. C. League’s townsite plat of 1893.

A meeting of the HD was not scheduled during the month of May.

Fay Dudney
LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC

Natural Treasure Day Camps
June 4 - 7
July 16 - 19
9am - 4pm
Ages 6 – 12 $125 per camper per week
Bring your lunch and snacks.

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 North Kansas League City, Texas
281-854-2994
www.oneroomschoolhouse.org

Historic Homes Tour Meeting
June 21st - 10am at the home of
Diana Dornak - 1013 Texas Ave. League City

It’s time again to begin thinking and planning for our Annual Historic Homes Tour which will be Saturday, December 8. At the June 21st meeting the committee will go over all the site possibilities and prioritize the site list.

This is a fun project to work on because it takes place during the holidays. If you would like to be on this committee contact Diana Dornak at the contact information below.

RSVP: 281-316-2122 or diana.dornak1@verizon.net