May 28th 2015 Meeting

The Dickinson That Was: Facts, Tales and a Bit of History

Native Dickinsonian, Matthew Falco, discusses his six year labor of love, The Dickinson That Was: Facts, Tales and a Bit of History at our May 28 meeting. Falco transforms a hundred years of oral histories into print alongside historical facts dating back from the Civil War through the 1960s. He captures the essence of the city with his rare stories gleaned from local personalities reliving the lives of the first settlers and the wonderful residents that make that city what it is today.

Calendar

May 28  Matthew Falco  The Dickinson That Was: Facts, Tales and a Bit of History
June  Joan Peeples  Historical Cooking: Learn how to cook the old fashioned way
July  NO MEETING
August Elizabeth Quigley  The Lost Art of Letter Writing: Look what email has done to us
September Charlie Gordy  From Toxic to Terrific - The move of Campbell’s Bayou Cemetery from Texas City to Forest Park East.

The Bus Barn next to the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 Kansas Street, League City
6:45pm Social ~ 7:00pm Meeting

A BIG thank you to our members and board who helped with our very successful garage sale fundraiser! A special thank you goes to Richard and Catharin Lewis for the use of their extensive property.
April 30, 2015 Meeting

Vice President Joyce Zongrone began the meeting by announcing the Rummage Sale to be held May 15 at 1518 E. Walker Street (Catharin/Richard Lewis’ home). Please bring your priced items to the Barn Museum or the Lewis’ home.

Joyce introduced our speaker and HS member, Steph McDougal, whose topic was architectural details. Steph pointed out that styles go through a predictable path – some might think a new style is ugly, then years later it’s considered beautiful and valuable. She used photographs to show different styles of homes – Queen Ann, Craftsman, International, Colonial Revival, the first subdivision built, in Levittown, NY – and an explanation of why what is sometimes done to a home using pieces of these styles leaves us wondering “what’s wrong with that house?” Our personal assessment of a home reflects our expectation of what the home should look like, even if we’re not conscious of those expectations. Steph recommends reading “The Field Guide to American Houses” and “Get Your House Right.”

Steph is looking for volunteers for the Historic District Survey to be done this summer. Contact her at steph.mcdougal@mcdoux.com or call 281.755.2144 if you can volunteer.

Meeting adjourned.

Hello Members!
We have had a great month with in kind labor and construction acquisition. Our very generous local/international construction company, “Tannos Construction”, owned by Louis Tannos of League City, has come to our rescue with his donation to the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum. He has built the 20 ft. by 20 ft. “Outdoor Classroom Pavilion”, cut the over growth of trees and created the 6 foot wide 40 ft. long curvy brick walkway from the outhouse to the pavilion. The bricks used for this walkway are the original bricks from the Butler building, which is now Butler’s Courtyard. We have the pavilion classroom that so many of you wanted for so long. It is absolutely STUNNING! I am so grateful to Cindy Schnuriger, Louis Tannos’s former teacher. Cindy was kind enough to introduce me to Louis Tannos and encourage him to pay a visit. Please visit this wonderful addition.

On May 21, 2015 a Historic Commission Meeting was held at the Civic Center for the approval of the “Certificate of Appropriateness”. The pavilion/classroom was a wonderful donation which happened very quickly due to the contractor’s schedule. Unfortunately no one had made an application to the Historic Commission to approve the structure.

The next new fantastic donation came from “Flagship Floors”, owned by Dan and Mary Jane Dorman of League City. This amazing couple has donated beautiful carpeting! They sent a very professional installer, which removed the very old blue carpet and installed the beautiful new neutral, yet multi colored commercial grade level loop. The front entrance area and the gift shop looks amazing! Many thanks to “Flagship Floors” for their very generous donation to the West Bay Common School Children’s Museum and the League City Historic Society! I encourage members to thank the supportive donors on behalf of the LCHS. I also suggest if you are in need of construction, flooring or signage, that you consider those who have supported us before you go elsewhere, their work is real quality!

More great news!!! The application for Hotel Tax funds was sent to the city. I worked with Richard Lewis and Ronnie Richards and met briefly with City Manager Mark Rohr regarding the process 4/23/15. The presentation meeting was held at City Hall, May 5th at 3:00 pm. I presented the request to further complete the “Out Door Classroom” with electricity and plumbing for future classes and events. The information was well received and the Board approved $9,500.00 for us, and the City approved this at the meeting 5/7/2015! This is...
fantastic for development of the site and attracting and supporting larger groups of students and tourists. The City has explained that 2 of the line items in the presentation were approved. They are the historic styled educational boards and professional metal benches for the outdoor education facility. FANTASTIC! Yea League City & Hot Board!!!

The “Essential Oils” class was a blast! We all left the class with 3 or 4 pots of fantastic healing creams/lotions, which are working wonders on us “for real”!

In June the Houston Film Commission will come to take new photos of the site and exhibits, the invitation has also been extended to the Texas Film Commission.

Thank you for supporting your LCHS, Museum and One Room Schoolhouse!

Thank you all for a fantastic yard sale, the signs, ads, donors, and supportive volunteers made it a success!

Garden Classroom Nears Completion

Requests to visit and arrange a program for tours at the West Bay Common School Museum has continued to grow. The Museum, due to its innovative programming, needed to accommodate an audience of nearly twice the size because of the steady growth over the past twenty years. A plan was developed for a larger scale visitor accommodation at the Museum. It was determined the most economical solution was to expand our capabilities by building an open-air, sheltered garden classroom.

Presently our daily 70 – 80 person tour maximum does not appeal to some of the larger groups which have 110 to 120 visitors on two buses. We currently allow two half-day sessions of visitors, each morning and afternoon. With this outdoor structure we can add up to 80 more visitors! This will be 80 more visitors coming to the heart of League City’s historic downtown eating and shopping.

By building the 22’ by 22’ foot garden classroom pavilion, we have increased our visitor accommodation thus allowing us to accept larger group tours and school groups. Along with the pavilion, we will add interpretive outdoor education panels to assist the schoolmarm demonstrating the history of League City, one-room schools as well as science and nature exhibits.

This historical restoration and preservation addition to the museum also provides us the ability to further partner with Main Street businesses. We refer our visitors to various restaurants, hotels, stores and the Butler Longhorn Museum as they often do an overnight trip in League City before traveling on to Galveston Island to visit museums and other attractions.

We want to thank Tannos Construction and Development for the construction of the shelter and brick walkway connecting the structure to the other areas of the museum complex.

JUST SUPPOSE...

SUPPOSE we had to “run” for Society membership as any candidate runs for political office.
Would we win or lose?

SUPPOSE our term of office was good for only one year, and that our re-election depended upon the good we had done in the society during our time in office.
Would we be re-elected or would we be dropped?

SUPPOSE there was a long list of those waiting to get in.
Would we be more attentive to our duties as a member?

SUPPOSE we were called to explain just why our society should keep our name on the roll.
Have we a case to offer in our defense?

SUPPOSE every member of the society did as much for the society as we are presently doing.
Would more seats be needed at our meetings, or would the doors be shut?
JUST SUPPOSE...

Catharin Lewis
Did you know that nearby Dickinson has the largest pine forest in Galveston County? This is one of the reasons Dickinson became a haven for wealthy Galvestonians who purchased land and built lavish summer homes on Dickinson Bayou in the early 1900s. These homes were secluded amongst the abundance of indigenous pines and oaks, which offered shade from the searing summer Texas heat.

For recreation, the sensational Oleander Country Club was built on the Bayou in 1912. The Club, the idea of a group of wealthy Galvestonians, not only increased property values, but also became a tourist attraction. Members of Galveston society, remembering the 1900 Storm, supported the idea of the building of this club off the island. Located near the Interurban Railroad’s Oleander Stop, the Club was accessible by just a short walk. Later on, a small waiting room was erected to protect passengers from the weather. In the late 1940s, this waiting room was incorporated into a home built by a Dickinson teacher and her husband who still stands on Oleander Drive.

The Oleander Country Club

Doctors, lawyers, bankers, a theater mogul, a Catholic Bishop, the first Director of NASA and a British Consul all lived on the banks of the Bayou and frequented the Country Club.

On a fall day in October 1918, the kitchen caught fire and the Oleander Country Club burned to the ground. Small town Dickinson did not have a fire department and Galveston’s was twenty-five miles away. While en route, Galveston’s fire truck hit a cattle guard on the International and Great Northern Railroad tracks and sadly, never made it to the fire. A cherished Dickinson landmark was lost forever.

2015 OFFICERS & BOARD

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<td>Catharin Lewis</td>
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Memorial Day at Fairview Cemetery

May 25, 2015, 10am

The City of League City is partnering with American Legion Post 554 to honor the men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country during a special Memorial Day Ceremony.

Clear Horizons Sponsor, Sharlene Kahlrich, and student Brittany Nelson helped Pam Nixon, Phyllis White and Catherine Gill set the flags for Monday’s Memorial Day ceremony. Brittany is to be commended for her dedication in helping Fairview Cemetery as a member of the Student Council at Clear Horizons.
We were so fortunate to have a very busy April. We held 17 schoolhouse classes and held story time for the younger children. Our collection grew as well in April. In addition to the items I shared last month, we received many more objects. We want to again thank the following for their donations.

Phyllis Wright Tate visited from Austin and donated women’s high lace shoes worn by Tillie MacGregor Schenk, daughter of August Schenk and her grandmother. Inside the shoe was labelled “Hammersmith’s Houston – Galveston”, c. 1915.

We also want to thank J’Nean Henderson who donated a long cotton print dress with two bonnets and a group photo showing Fay Dudney wearing the red dress.

Special thanks to Joyce Zongrone for her recent donation of her five Navy Uniforms including pins. This is especially unique since we did not have any female uniforms in our collection.

Again thanks to Fay Dudney for twenty two maps from her collection on her research work of the Poor Farm and other projects about the city. These maps are a great addition to our collection.

We want to thank Vicki Simon who donated the book, Complete Guide to Sewing, as a resource for some of our special programs.

And last but not least, special thanks to Norman Anderson for his donation of a hand drill and an extra drill bit.

**Bishop’s Palace Basement to Attic Tour**

*June 6 @ 11:00 am - 12:30 pm*

The Basement to Attic tour of the 1892 Bishop’s Palace offers you a rare look to areas of the home normally off limits.

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**About Juneteenth**

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

From its Galveston origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future. Its growing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dignity in America long overdue. In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.