November 2013 Newsletter  Kathie Nenninger Editor knenninger@verizon.net

November 21st Meeting

“The One Hundred Year Old Laptop”
Evelyn Garland, Programs Chairman

Our November Monthly Meeting of the League City Historical Society will include a date change from our other meetings. LCHS will meet at the Barn Museum at the corner of Kansas and 2nd on the third Thursday of November, the 21st at 7 pm. As always, refreshments will be provided at 6:45 pm. Our speaker this month will be our own Schoolmarm, Museum Director, Catharin Lewis and board member Richard Lewis. They will be giving a presentation that they gave at the One Room Schoolhouse Convention, “The One Hundred Year Old Laptop.” Catharin and Richard do a great job of research and are wonderful presenters so come out and have an informative evening and, of course, invite your friends!!

We very much enjoyed the October speaker, Ernie Deats. His tale about the goings on between ranchers and residents of League City and Dickinson was interesting, indeed. If you have purchased the book, as I did and have read it, you probably have come to realize that this was not a C-rated telling of history. The language and details would probably earn it an R-rating if it were a movie. The story was very interesting and well-told, nonetheless, but if you were planning to give a copy of the book as a gift, please consider the audience before presenting it. Most of the time, this is not an issue with the books our authors present, so I just want to give you a heads up, if you haven’t read the book yet.

There will be no meeting in December, but the Society will be very busy with the Historic Homes Tour on December 14th. Further details of this December activity are in this newsletter.

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

The Ghost Tour titled Tombstone Tales was really interesting and the weather could not have been better. I want to applaud the volunteers who stepped up to make this event possible and entertaining. At our next meeting, Thursday, November 21st at 6:45 pm at the Museum Schoolhouse, our very own Museum Director and Curator Catharin Lewis and her husband, Richard, will present a most interesting program on the “100 Year Old Laptop”. Experience a hands-on meeting that will certainly be informative and a lot of fun. NOTE: the meeting is earlier in the month to avoid any conflict with Thanksgiving.

Also at the meeting set for November 21st the members present will be asked to vote on some amendments to the bylaws. The first change will be wording that will allow us to expand the number of Directors from five to “a minimum of five.” This change is 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 are to eliminate some confusing language that relates to the staggered year election of the officers and directors when we revised the bylaws in 2008 and is now irrelevant and the amount of notice required to call a special meeting of the board goes from five days to 72 hours.

Just around the corner on December 14th is our Historic Homes Tour. Mark your calendar and tell your friends. If you are interested in volunteering as a docent at one of the homes please contact Diana Dornak or email leaguecitytxhistory@gmail.com. The job is fun and easy as it involves showing visitors through a home while following a script about the home that is already prepared for you.

Calendar

November 21  Catharin and Richard Lewis
“The 100 Year Old Laptop”

There is no meeting in December

December 14  Historic Homes Tour
Meeting Minutes
Susan Pierce, Secretary

October 31, 2013 Meeting
Ronnie Richards welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Evelyn Garland for her hard work on the Society’s annual Living History Dinner/fundraiser, which was a success. Catharin Lewis reported on attendance at this year’s Tombstone Tales at Fairview Cemetery.

Ronnie then welcomed our guest speaker, Ernie Deats, author of “The Legend of Marcus Benson’ and 4 other books based on local history. “The Legend” is a somewhat fictionalized retelling of the true story of a shooting that occurred in the early 1900’s on Main Street, near Butler’s Courtyard. A dispute between ranchers over treatment of blacks led to the killing of rancher Marcus Benson. Three prominent League City citizens lay in wait as Benson rode into town to attend a meeting to discuss the dispute. The three men shot Benson 37 times. These men, members of the local KKK, had been given badges from the Sheriff and were considered “peace officers,” and thus no time was ever served for the murder of Benson.

Catharin Lewis will speak on “The 100 Year Old Laptop” (the 1913 cash register) at our next meeting, Thursday, November 21st. Please note the meeting has been moved up one week due to Thanksgiving. December 7 is Holiday in the Park, and December 14 is the Historic Home Tour. There will be no meeting in December.

Refreshments for this meeting were furnished by Evelyn Garland and Mike Cornwall.

At the November meeting, we will be voting on changes to our by-laws and the following 2013 slate for a 2 year term-2014-2015:
Doris Teets
Joyce Zongrone
Helen Hodges
Doug Mckee
Jeff Hanson
and
Corresponding Secretary
to fill an open Officer position.
Phyllis White

We thank Susan Pierce, Phyllis White and Irma Dodge for this month’s refreshments.
Historic Home Tour
Diana Dornak

This year’s home Tour will be Saturday December 14th, just 10 days before Christmas Eve, so this will make it especially festive and meaningful. We will get to view The Hayes Home which is 100 years old this year and which hasn’t been on the tour for several years.

The Ferrell Home and the Cox McQuirk Homes are always a pleasure and both have new features and additional restorations to tell about and in addition at the Cox McQuirk home, the Lewis’ are allowing us to view their guest house, The Giacchino Home, which was a cute little cottage built for a Dickinson blacksmith.

Joyce Zongrone is Director of the Giacchino Home which will be on the Historic Homes Tour for the first time this year. This home is the guest house on the Cox McQuirk Home property. Joyce has done an extensive search of the history for this cute little house. Come and hear the information and stories she has discovered!

Then, we have Old St. Mary Church and the Milby Butler Home which both have such nostalgia and historic value and people love to see and.....our little school, West Bay Common School Children’s Museum where Catharin Lewis, our curator will have a special display as always for people to come and view and enjoy.

So.....It’s going to be a grand and wonderful day for the Historic Homes Tour. I hope you will make it a point to put this on your calendar. The tour begins at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum and tickets may be
purchased there or at Book Haven, Park Avenue Show Place, the Milk Fail, Butler Longhorn Museum and League City Chamber of Commerce.
The tickets are $13 prior to the tour and $15 the day of the event. We do take credit cards. Call Diana Dornak 281-316-2122 if you want to charge tickets.

John Dupla, owner of the Milby Butler Home in his workshop. John always has interesting things planned for the home and grounds when the home is on the tour. Last time it was on tour anyone who wanted to use a branding iron and brand a bench he had made for us. Then, he presented the bench to us and it is on display in the West Bay Common School. Wonder what he will have to surprise us with this year? It’s always something fun!! Come and see!

Phyllis White is the Director of the Hayes Home, which will be on the Historic Homes tour. This beautiful home is 100 years old this year.
SEE YOU AT THE HISTORIC HOMES TOUR on December 14th!

For Veterans Day, Student Council members from Clear Horizons High School helped place the 108 flags at our Veteran’s graves in Fairview Cemetery.

A Special
Welcome to Our New Member
Marti Carter

Site Directors Named For Historic Homes

Plans for the Historic Homes Tour have been underway since June and the site directors are especially busy. Their jobs are to work with the owners of the sites on the tour and co-ordinate all the arrangements, see if the home owners or site owners need any help to get their sites or homes ready and generally make sure the site is ready for the tour. In many cases two site directors are named and they take on different aspects of the tour. Diana Dornak and Phyllis White, Co-Chairmen of this year’s tour said they really rely on them and have many good things to say about their whole committee, but especially the site directors.
“Honestly”, said Diana Dornak, “The tour would not happen without our site directors. They take on the responsibility of seeing that each site is ready and every year I am amazed at how smoothly the tour goes.”
“That is because of our site Directors,” she said, “They make it happen. We couldn’t do it without them,” she continued.

This year’s Site Directors are:
The Hayes Home – Phyllis White – (Phyllis is Co-Chairing the tour as well as being Site Director)
The Ferrell Home – Frankie Blansit and Fay Dudney
Old St. Mary Church - Berneice and Ed Linck
The Cox McQuirk Home - Catharin and Richard Lewis
The Giachino Home - Joyce Zongrone
The Milby Butler Home - Irma Dodge and Jeff Hansen
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum - Catherine Gill

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Catharin Lewis Museum Director
LCHS Honors Two Landmark Homes with Medallions

The League City Landmark designation is awarded to structures and sites over 60 years of age deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural and/or historical associations. In reviewing applications for this designation, the Landmark Committee of the League City Historical Society considers not only the historical persons or events associated with the site or structure, but also the architectural integrity of the building. Ideally, the structure should maintain much of its original appearance and should be an exemplary model of preservation. Historic photographs, if available, should accompany the application for this designation.

On October 30th, Darrel and Mary McNatt, 914 2nd Street, were presented a LCHS Medallion for their 100 year old home.

A LCHS Medallion was also given to Richard and Catharin Lewis for the 1895 Johnson-Lothrop home, 1512 Walker Street.

Congratulations to our member Melodey Hauch. Her article on the nearly destroyed Beguin-Opitz Cemetery in Hitchcock was published in the Bay Area Genealogical Society Quarterly in September. The article was then submitted for the 2013 Texas State Genealogical Society writing awards and it won First Place. We are so proud of you Melodey!

Have you ever heard of the Chautauqua movement that started over a century ago? Come and learn about it and the spinoff teaching machine that was used by home school mothers. See an actual 1913 laptop at next Thursday’s LCHS meeting at the Museum as well as experience some hands-on lessons from it. You will be glad you did.
League City Historical Society presents

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

Saturday, December 14, 2013
10am to 5pm

Advance Tickets $13
Day of Event $15

One (1) Ticket Allows You to Tour
Six (6) Historic Sites including
West Bay Common School
Children’s Museum,

Directions to homes and sites provided with ticket

For information call 281-554-2994

100 years old this year!

The Hayes Home - 1004 Fourth St.

The Ferrell Home - 620 Third St.

West Bay Common School
Children’s Museum - 210 N. Kansas Ave.

The Cox McQuirk Home (above)
& The Giacchino Home (Below)
Both homes are located at 1518 E. Walker St.

Come and see our School,
Barn Museum and Ice House.

Enjoy League City’s Heritage!
leaguecityhistory.org