October 31st Meeting

League City Historical Society proudly presents Ernie Deats as their speaker at the regular membership meeting, Thursday, October 31 at 7 pm at the Barn Museum at the corner of North Kansas and 2nd Street in League City. Mr. Deats is a fourth generation Dickinsonian whose great-grandfather settled in Dickinson in 1872. His book The Legend of Marcus Benson, deals with a feud between the KKK and Dickinson rancher, Marcus Benson which led to Benson being killed on Main Street in League City. So come on out and hear about this fascinating tale of League City’s past. Refreshments are served at 6:45 pm and the meeting starts at 7 pm. Everyone is welcome. Membership is not necessary to attend.

from the President...

Ronnie Richards

What a great evening the Living History Dinner was. Thanks to Evelyn Garland for her work in chairing this event. Everyone I invited commented on how much they enjoyed it. James Drury, the actor that portrayed The Virginian on TV for so many years, did a great job. Having League City Mayor Tim Paulissen in attendance to read the proclamation to Catharin Lewis recognizing the One Room School House program made the night even more special.

Everyone is looking forward to the next meeting where we will hear about Murder on Main Street in League City. Author Ernie Deats will be presenting. I’m looking forward to it because it happened right outside what is now Butler’s Courtyard and only two blocks from the One Room Schoolhouse Museum.

Don’t forget the upcoming Ghost Tour titled Tombstone Tales set for Saturday, October 26th from 10am – 5pm. The tour starts at the Museum. See you there.
September 26, 2013 Meeting

Our guest speaker was Rene Palmer Armstrong, author of Wings and a Ring: Letters of War and Love from a WWII Pilot. Rene’s husband found a box containing 295 letters at a junk store and brought the box home to Rene. The box contained letters between Houstonians James Richard “J.R.” Jones and his fiancée Helen Elora Bartlett written 58 years ago, between 1941 and 1944, during J.R.’s service in WWII. A good deal of J.R.’s letters was written while he was a member of the famous 345th bomb group stationed in New Guinea. In his letters, J.R. was remarkably skillful in playing down the danger of flying a strafe bomber. Prior to being sent to New Guinea, J.R. trained at Ellington Field and also spent time at Camp Wallace near Hitchcock. (As an aside, we learned that more pilots were killed here in the States during flight training than were killed in combat.) J.R. and Elora are gone now, but they have a daughter Susie who lives in Conroe.

Rene told us about the upcoming, and last, reunion of the 345th, to be held this October 25th at Ellington. Flyers were emailed to our members on September 27th. If you’d like to learn more about the 345th, go to www.345thbombgroup.org.

Also, did you know?
Doris and Gene Teets met at Ellington Field.
Marian Bauer worked at Camp Wallace.
David Garland’s father worked with bombs and served in New Guinea at the same time as J.R.

Nominations are needed for the 2014 officers. Richard Lewis will chair the nominating committee.

Our speaker for October 31 will be Ernie Deats, “Murder on Main Street in League City.”

October 3 is the Society’s annual Living History Dinner/fundraiser, featuring TV’s James Drury, to be held at Tad Akers. October 26 is the Ghost Tour at Fairview Cemetery, complete with music played at the Museum by a soloist from the Bay Area Youth Symphony. December 7 is Holiday in the Park, and December 14 is the Historic Home Tour.

Refreshments for this meeting were furnished by Diane Kerkhove and Doris Teets.

Did you know that James Ritty, a store owner of Dayton, Ohio, invented the cash register in 1879? Some of his employees were helping themselves to the daily earnings so to solve the problem, he invented a cash register that would ring a bell after each transaction or when the drawer opened. While on a ship to Europe, Mr. Ritty was fascinated by the mechanism that counted how many times the propeller went around. Upon his return he developed the “Ritty’s Incorruptible Cashier”. The design operated by pressing a key that represented a specific amount of money, such as $.40, but no drawer. He ran two businesses for a while then sold the cash register business to Jacob Eckert of Cincinnati who formed the National Manufacturing Company. In 1884, Mr. Eckert then sold the company to John Patterson who renamed the company to the National Cash Register Company and continued to improve Ritty’s design. In 1906, Charles Kettering, an employee of the company invented a cash register with an electric motor. Today the NCR combines computer technology and electronics in the cash registers.

The cash register like other objects in the collection are still being photographed and we are making great progress with two of us at work. We also are cleaning and making repairs when needed. In addition I am planning future exhibits and doing the necessary research to make some new exhibits possible.

Schoolhouse sessions resumed in September bringing 290 visitors to the program. These children and adult groups came from areas of Houston, Tomball and League City. Our scheduled Natural History Night was postponed to a later date. We brought in more than $1500 with limited expenses to staff, security, maintenance items and gift shop stock.

We want to thank D & D Pest for their generous donation of Annual Spray to the buildings. We really appreciate their help with this matter.

Just a reminder, the Ghost Tour is this Saturday from 10 – 5pm. Plan to be there.
The 2013 Living History Dinner is now history, but what a memorable event it was!

Our guest speaker, James Drury, “The Virginian” for nine years on television, did not disappoint! Mr. Drury was a true gentleman, a walking and talking voice for television history and a wealth of information about classic stars. Incredibly gracious and generous with his time, he focused his attention on each person who came by his table to talk, have a picture taken or purchase an autographed photo.

Many, many thanks go to our wonderful treasurer and silent auction director, Diana Dornak!!! Diana has this silent auction concept down to a fine art. Her outstanding work help bring in great donations for our society. Also thanks to Ronnie Richards for all his work with Tad Akers, and to Tad Akers for helping us have a seamless event!

Also honored that evening were Catharin and Richard Lewis for their extraordinary work with the One Room Schoolhouse and Barn Museum. All we can say is thanks, but we put it in permanent writing this year. Richard and Catharin received a lovely glass plaque stating our thanks and a permanent zinc plaque will be added to one building at the museum to note our thanks for decades to come.

So what is on for next year? Don’t know yet! I don’t know how we can exceed this year’s fun, but we’ll try.

Stay tuned!!

We thank Evelyn Garland and Mike Conwell for this month’s refreshments.

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

On Wednesday, October 30th, 4:00 pm Darrel and Mary McNatt at 914 2nd Street will receive a LCHS Medallion House marker for their 100 year old home. From there we will proceed to the Johnson/Lothrop House at 1512 Walker Street to present Richard and Catharin Lewis with their Medallion House marker for their 1895 home. Please feel free to join us.

The HDC will have a meeting November 14th, (early since Thanksgiving is coming up) City Council Chambers, at 6 pm.

The Ghosts Are Back In Town
Joyce Zongrone

The Ghosts of the Past Tour is back again this weekend. This Fairview Cemetery event honors notable people who are buried there by highlighting stories from their lives told by costumed reenactors. The turn-of-the-century Victorian Cemetery has hosted its unique Ghosts of the Past Tours since 2005. Well-known settlers and other deceased persons of distinction are portrayed by local docents in period garb. These stories of the city’s past reflect the area’s cattle ranching history and its diverse communities.

This year’s Tour Director, Catharine Lewis, who is also the Curator/ Director of League City’s West Bay Common School Children’s Museum, designed the tour from a similar one she attended while travelling in Alaska with her husband Richard.

As they arise from their final resting places to relate their life stories once more, the ghosts interact with their visitors.

“The tour’s purpose is to educate and to entertain and certainly not designed to be frightening,” says Lewis. Income from the event helps fund the operations of the West Bay Common School and Children’s Museum, as well as, other League City Historical Society projects, including the Historic Homes Tour in December.

Tombstone Tales 2013 takes place this Saturday, October 26, from 10 am to 5 pm at the Fairview Cemetery, North Kansas Avenue and Clear Creek. Tours take about one hour. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear walking shoes and be advised that the 113 year old grounds are not level. Parking is available at the West Bay Common Children’s Museum, 210 North Kansas, 281-554-2994, oneroomschoolhouse.org. You can park and take a hay ride to the cemetery and later tour the museum and enjoy the outside activities. Tickets are $10 for an adult and $5 for children.
League City Historical Society

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR
Saturday, December 14, 2013
10:00am – 5:00pm
Advance Tickets: $13.00 – Day of Event: $15.00

See six (6) historical sites and hear fascinating stories about League City at the turn of the 20th century.

West Bay Common School Children’s Museum
210 N. Kansas Ave.
The Hayes Home - 1004 Fourth St.
The Ferrrell Home - 620 E. Third St.
Old St. Mary Church - 620 E. Main St.
The Cox McQuirk Home & The Giacchino Home
Both homes are located at 1518 E. Walker St.
The Milby Butler Home - 1908 Carolina St.

Tickets available at:
West Bay Common School Children’s Museum,
Book Haven, Park Avenue Shoeplace, The Milk Pail,
Butler Longhorn Museum & League City Chamber of Commerce

For more information call: 281-554-2994
leaguecityhistory.org

A Special Welcome to Our New Members

Sarah Hunter
Dave & Elizabeth Quigley

2013 OFFICERS & BOARD

Ronnie Richards President
Evelyn Garland Vice-President
Diana Dornak Treasurer
Susan Pierce Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf 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

17th Annual Island Quilter’s Guild Show
at the
Galveston Historical Foundation’s
1892 U.S. Custom House

The cows have come home to Galveston Historical Foundation’s 1861 U.S. Custom House for the 17th Annual Island Quilter’s Guild show. “Cows and Other Quilts” will be on display through December 27th and is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Located at 502 20th Street, the exhibit will be closed November 28-29 and December 24-25.

Something in the Way

League City Historical Society presents

HISTORIC HOMES TOUR

Saturday, December 14, 2013
10am to 5pm

100 years old this year!

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

Enjoy League City’s Heritage!
leaguecityhistory.org