



WALKabout Old League City

Our December WALKabout was sold out well ahead of time and featured a stroll down 2nd Street, the old business district in town. We expanded the attendance and increased the number of docents so that we could keep groups small. One highlight was the Sam Houston Chapter of the DAR presenting Butlers Courtyard with an award for Excellence in Preservation. This was the longest WALKabout to date with almost full mile from start to finish!



From The President



Happy New Year to one and all.

What an exciting end of 2020 with the successful walkabouts. Thanks to all who participated and gifts of speaking about League City Heritage,--showcasing our One Room Schoolhouse and the amazing T.J. Dick's house. Special thanks to Richard, Catharin, Mike and Dee. Super Event. Super People.

A most exciting start of 2021 with another successful walkabout at the Rolling-L-Ranch.

I know everyone is being safe, for yourself and especially others. Thank you for ensuring an awesome 2021 as we start a new year running forward with a lot of history being made to remember with loving hearts for one another.

A board meeting was held on Saturday January 16th with full hope of continuing another successful year for League City Historical Society. A list of the newly elected Officers and Directors is listed with the November Meeting Minutes.

God Bless and Thank you,

FAITH AND SERVICE

Doug McKee

281-338-1073



In October we presented our first ever Virtual Schoolhouse Tour! As we update our technology and re-imagine our program, we look forward to offering high-tech visits to our One Room Schoolhouse. Kudos to our School Marms and Techies who made it happen!

L to right - Linda Michael, Sarah Eubanks, and Catharin Lewis. Not pictured, Richard Lewis and Katie Benoit.

In October, LCHS's "socially distanced" Election of Officers meeting took place on the lovely grounds of the schoolhouse and featured neighbor Barry LaChance strumming on his National Resophonic Guitar. Delicious cake by Craved Creations was enjoyed by all.



Congratulations to our Board and welcome new Secretary Amber Murphy!



WALKabout League Park

League Park was the focus of our 2nd WALKabout and coincided with the City of League City's re-opening of our beloved park. We shared the history of the park from the land, to the gazebo, the Station Masters House, and even the Artisan well. The Park was decorated for the season and the City provided swag bags of goodies for all of our guests.

“Wreaths Across America”, held on December 19, 2020 in Fairview Cemetery, was strictly a private ceremony due to Covid 19.

Wreaths Across America is a yearly event hosted by the Sam Houston Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies with the wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. A ceremonial wreath to honor each branch of the military was placed during the short ceremony. A balsam wreath was placed on every veteran’s grave to show gratitude for their country and to remember the sacrifices of the military.

LCCHS’s own Richard Lewis placed the wreath for the U. S. Army. Other wreaths were placed by friends and family of the members of Sam Houston Chapter.



Two LCHS Members Receive “Excellence in Historic Preservation” Awards from Sam Houston Chapter, NSDAR

Saturday, Dec. 12, Sam Houston Chapter, NSDAR presented an “Excellence in Historic Preservation” Award to **Ronnie and Nancy Richards & family** at **Butler’s Courtyard** during the WALKabout tour.



Above center: Ronnie & Nancy Richards and Sam Houston Chapter Regent Sarah Cook presenting the certificate. Richards Family members as well as Same Houston Chapter Members attended the presentation as well.

Saturday, Jan. 9, Members of Sam Houston Chapter, NSDAR (Front Row) presented an “Excellence In Historic Preservation” Award to **Richard and Catharin Lewis** during the LCHS WALKabout tour.



Back Row:
Richard and
Catharin Lewis
Front Row:
Members of
Sam Houston
Chapter,
NSDAR

The Bunk House

By Ronnie Richards



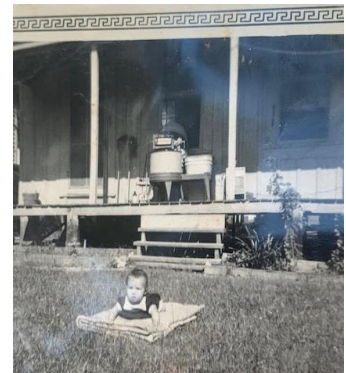
The Bunk House is an old wooden structure at 602 2nd St. in the Historic District. It was originally used by the Galveston, Houston and Henderson Railroad to house train crews making a change over. League City was halfway between Houston and Galveston so this was a natural location for stopovers for crews.

League City was also a section yard for the railroad which is an area where heavy repairs could be undertaken. Specialized repair crews traveling down to League City to work on the locomotives would also use this as temporary lodging. Because it was constructed of cypress wood it has stood the test of time and numerous hurricanes. Eventually the structure which was originally located near the League City train terminal in what is now League Park was sold by the railroad. That was in the 1955-56 time period. It was probably moved to its current location around that time.

From what I can tell from conversations with George Barba, a lifelong League City resident there were three of these buildings. He told me one was purchased by the Ghirardi family and moved to another site in League City. I haven't found any information about the other building. George was born in 1936 in the building while it was still at its original location in League Park. At the time it was a two-room house with a covered front porch and no electricity. The house had kerosene lanterns and a wood burning stove.

In later years Bert Schroeder who owns the Book Haven on Main Street used it as a book storage building. Today it is part of Butler's Courtyard, a wedding and reception venue, and is one of the areas available for wedding ceremonies. It is a popular backdrop for wonderful wedding photos. Over the years the roof has started to leak causing interior damage.

Recently members of the League City Historical Society came to the rescue and placed a tarp over the roof of the structure to prevent any further water damage. "Special Thanks" to Richard and Catharin Lewis for not only helping out but also providing a lift to get up high on the roof to place the tarp, and also to Katie and Dave Hake and Michael Peterson. "I'm sorry if I missed anyone but I want to thank everyone that helped," said Ronnie Richards of Butler's Courtyard.



(More pictures on the next page)

602 2nd St. In the 1930's

LCHS Crew working on "The Bunk House" Saturday Jan. 16

Richard Lewis & friend placing tarp on roof.



Dave Hake and Richard and Catharin Lewis working on the Bunk House.

"Good Night little house."

In November, LCHS asked the residents of the Historic District to “Celebrate with Lights” and decorate for the Holidays and boy did they deliver! We’ve included a few pictures of beautiful homes decorated and lit up for the season.



Along with Celebrate with Lights, we asked residents to participate in an Airing of the Quilts on December 12th. Our WALKabout Old League City was happy to enjoy all the colorful quilts along the way. Lots of folks out enjoying the beautiful weather, enjoying the amazing displays of quilts and having a little adventure through the neighborhood.



1931 DICKINSON SEED STORE FINDS A HOME

By Joyce Zongrone

Eighty-eight years after it was built, the popular Dickinson Seed Store finally found its final resting place. Built in 1931, in the Nicholstone subdivision at 4312 St. Goar Street, in the Italian section of Dickinson, TX, the seed store was operated by Italian immigrant Joseph Giacchino and his family for 66 years, next door to the family home and blacksmith shop. Giacchino was the only blacksmith in Galveston County in the 1900's. Joe and his wife Lilly, sold seeds until his death, at age 90, in 1962.

After Joe's death, his daughter Caroline Mallory ran the seed store for another 35 years. She remained in her childhood home, and raised her family there and continued on after her husband died in 1985. According to her daughter, Bernardine, Caroline would get angry when people called it a feed store and promptly tell them they only sold seeds and plants! She moved away in 1997 to Sugarland to live with her daughter until her death in 2010 at age 90, three months shy of her 91st birthday.

After her death her daughter gave the seed store building to collectors Jim and Carol Yates in 1998, who placed it on their Dickinson property and maintained it for 21 years. In 2019, they moved to Fredericksburg, TX, and donated it to the Dickinson Historical Society. Now in the process of restoration at the Historic Railroad Center complex at 218 FM 517 West, the Society plans to use it as museum and for tours and special events. Seed packets and other items will eventually be available for resale to the public. (continued on next page.)



1930's photograph courtesy of Dickinson Public Library



2013 Color photo by Joyce Zongrone
LCDR Joyce Zongrone, USN (Ret)

1931 Dickinson Seed Store Finds A Home – continued.

The 1930 Joseph Peter Giacchino family home currently resides in League City on East Walker Street behind the historic Cox-McQuirk house. The home and seed store were both situated side-by-side for 68 years before they were separated for historic preservation.



Dickinson Feed Store
was moved June 2019



A Cold January Saturday Morning Board Meeting



Pictured Above: The LCHS Board of Directors held their planning retreat/board meeting Sat. Jan 16 outside in the Garden Classroom at West Bay Common School Children’s Museum. To make it safe to meet, President Doug McKee directed everyone to wear masks and warm clothes, keep social distance, and bring a hot drink. Much was accomplished as board members discussed maintenance issues, WBCS programs, the budget, and having safe and successful events throughout the year.

* * * * *

Everyone loves seeing continued construction and restoration taking place in the Historic Area!



“Earlier this month neighbors saw the owner of 608 4th Street start the critical step of lifting the old structure since it was damaged during Hurricane Harvey. The first phase is underway with many more to follow. What a great step to continue to improve the League City Historic District. “It is truly appreciated by the community and we all look forward to seeing the end result,” said Mike Peterson.

Meet our new President, Doug McKee



Doug McKee

Doug McKee has returned as our newly elected President of League City Historical Society. He was President from 2014 to 2018. He and his wife Charlene live at 1004 3rd Street, League City in the McKee-Giessler house which was built in 1898. Doug owns D & D Pest Control which has been in operation since 1982. Charlene owns Topknots Barbershop which is also located on the property. They have 6 children, 13 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Both are semi-retired but keep busy with family, church activities and community projects.

“I am excited to again have this position of leadership in the League City Historical Society. We have accomplished so many things in the past and I know we will work together to accomplish great things.”



Amber and Mike Murphy with their twins, Lucy and Eva .

Meet our newest Board Member Amber Murphy

“It is an honor to be serving as Secretary on the LCHS Board,” said Amber Murphy. Most know her as the daughter of Past President Ronnie Richards. Amber and her husband, Mike, a Pipeline Engineer, and their 7 year old twins, Lucy and Eva, currently live in Tuscan Lakes. She has been involved in helping with the Living History Dinners and Teddy Bear Parades for many years.

Amber graduated from Texas State University. She and her sister Shawna purchased Butler’s Courtyard from their parents in 2017 so she is extremely busy at work plus homeschooling her twins. She enjoys reading, doing

puzzles, playing games with her girls, dinner out with friends and spending time with her sisters Shawna and Kristi and their children as their families are all very close knit.

Amber serves on the Convention and Visitor Bureau Advisory Board for the City of League City and is in her second term. She says she loves serving on this board as she learns something every meeting and it is great to be part of marketing our city.

Amber says she proudly watched her father serve LCHS as Board Member and President. She says she intends to learn as much as she can and do her part to keep the history of League City alive for coming generations, while continuing her family’s legacy of community service.



League City Historical Society

2021 Officers

Doug McKee	President
Richard Lewis	Vice President
Amber Murphy	Secretary
Katie Benoit Hake	Treasurer

2021 Directors

Diana Dornak	Director
Deborah Gammon	Director
Helen Hodges	Director
Darryl Krogman	Director
Catharin Lewis	Director
Linda Michael	Director
Michael Peterson	Director
Susan Pierce	Director
Ronnie Richards	Director

Dues Are Due!

A mailing will go out soon which will contain a dues form and a return envelope to:
LCHS, P. O. Box 1642, League City, Tx. 77574.

To pay your dues you may either send us a check or go online to our website and pay with a credit card. leaguecityhistory.org

Thanks ahead of time for your membership!
We appreciate you!!!

League City Historical Society Meeting Minutes

Susan Pierce, Secretary
November 15, 2020

The League City Historical Society met outdoors at the Barn Museum to hold election for 2021 officers.

The candidates nominated are:

Doug McKee	President
Richard Lewis	Vice President
Amber Murphy	Secretary
Katie Hake	Treasurer

*And move Susan Pierce from Officer to Director

Ronnie Richards made the motion to elect the above-named candidates,
Catharin Lewis seconded, all approved.

The meeting was adjourned, and those in attendance were then entertained by Barry La Chance play his resonator guitars on the porch of the schoolhouse.





If You Are Not A Member, We Are Hoping You Will Join!!

League City Historical Society

Thank you for being a member. The various types of memberships with the associated dues are listed below. To renew your membership or become a new member, select the membership level that is best for you, complete the form and mail to:

LCHS, PO Box 1642, League City Texas 77574

CATEGORY

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/ Active Military | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (60 and over) | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Couple | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single (Individual) | \$35 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Patron | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership | \$400 |

BUSINESS CATEGORY

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Member | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Partner | \$200 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Leader | \$300 |

Please update your membership information here:

Name _____

(For family membership, please include names of family members)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email address: _____

- Check if your name, address or email has changed recently.
- Check if you would like to receive your newsletter, meeting minutes and/or meeting notices by email, to help save postage.
- Check if we may list your name and address in our membership directory. This publication will only be distributed to LCHS members and will not be used on our website.

Please Note: Membership is for one year and covers you until January 2022.