

League City Historical Society

P.O. Box 1642 League City, Texas 77574

281-554-2994

leaguacityhistory.org

February 2011

Newsletter

Kathie Nenninger Editor knenninger@verizon.net

February 24th Meeting

A Field Trip on a Trolley...

You don't want to miss this one. The location of our next meeting is the *1940 Air Terminal Museum* at Hobby Airport. The speaker **A.J. High**, was Chief Pilot for Trans-Texas Airways that was based out of that terminal. He recently wrote a book entitled *Meant To Fly*, a history of the early years of the commercial airline industry. Captain High became a pilot for the US Army Air Corps when he was just 18 years old. In 1947, After World War II, he became a commercial airline pilot for Trans-Texas Airways (TTA) and is currently the last living TTA pilot. His career spanned the evolution of commercial airline passenger service from the DC-3 prop planes to the DC-9 jet. This book is a history of early airlines, the growth of the industry, and Capt. High's first-hand accounts of near disasters and personal experiences.



www.1940airterminal.org

To help you enjoy the evening, we have lined up transportation to and from the meeting location. It is very important that you be on time as the trolley will be leaving on the hour, so plan to arrive at 6:45 pm in front of the Museum to get a seat. Come be a part of this exciting meeting. If you want to drive yourself to this meeting, or if you have any questions, please call Catharin at our museum 281- 554-2994.



from the president...

Ronnie Richards

The month of February saw a successful open house at the Museum during the Victorian Weekend hosted by the League City Historic Shoppes Merchant Association. Catharin Lewis our Museum Director and Curator along with a number of volunteers created a special day that included blacksmithing, branding, leather working and presentations by fourth grade CCISD students in the gifted and talented program.

The Victorian Weekend was not sponsored by the Society but organized by one of our faithful and dedicated members, J'Neen Henderson. It included a Titanic Mystery Dinner Friday evening at the South Shore Harbor Hotel Harbor Club, a bank robbery reenactment at Butler's Courtyard Saturday morning and a Sweetheart Ball at Tad Aker's Saturday evening. Unfortunately, or maybe I should say fortunately for me, some of the actors didn't show up for the bank robbery so I was sworn in as sheriff and had to stop the bank robbery with my trusty sawed-off double barrel shot gun and six-shooter. It was kind of like being a kid again and combining the game of cowboys and Indians with the explosion and smoke of the fourth of July.

Our next meeting should be a lot of fun as we venture back to the not so distant past and visit the old 1940 Air Terminal Museum housed in Houston's original art-deco air terminal at William P. Hobby Airport. This will be a nostalgic trip to anyone that flew out of Houston prior to 1969 when all of the air operations were finally moved out of this terminal. To make the trip easy on everyone we are going to travel by trolley leaving the museum promptly at 6:45 pm Thursday, February 24th. Joe and Jan Jordan owners of Jordan Limousine and residents of League City are providing the trolley for the trip. It carries up to 30 passengers and we will have two additional passenger vans available for overflow. It's less than twenty miles to the museum and the estimated travel time is twenty five minutes. The best part of our adventure to the Air Terminal Museum is yet to be told. Read about it elsewhere in the newsletter.

All aboard



We thank Catharin Lewis and Jeff Hansen
for this month's refreshments

Calendar



February 24 **LCHS Meeting**
Author A.J. High - Meant to Fly
Field trip to the 1949 Air Terminal,
Hobby Airport
Departing West Bay Common School
 Children's Museum
 210 Kansas Street, League City
 Arrive at 6:45pm Departure 7:00pm

March 31 **LCHS Meeting**
 Larry Mink, Civil War Medical Practices

April 16 **West Bay Common School**
Children's Museum
Working Hands and Immigrants
Open House 10:00am-2:00pm

LCHS OFFICERS & BOARD

Ronnie Richards	President
Kevin Burke	Vice-President
Diana Dornak	Treasurer
Diane Kerkhove	Secretary
Kathy Weisskopf	Corresponding Secretary
Jeff Hansen	Board Member
Diane Gillette	Board Member
Richard Lewis	Board Member
Doug McKee	Board Member
Helen Hodges	Board Member
Joanna Sharp Dawson	Immediate Past President
Catharin Lewis	Museum Director



WW I Veteran honored
 After a two year ordeal and some help from the VA, Deborah Gammon, left, was finally able to get Tommy Cook, a WWI US Army Veteran, a grave stone.



Meeting Minutes

Diane Kerkhove

President Ronnie Richards opened the January 27 meeting and introduced the speaker, Ruth Burke. Ruth helped put together the book *Seabrook*, which is a model for a League City book. It was announced that volunteers are needed for this project. Ruth told of how she photographed the area, showed her art work and maintained her shop in the area. She searched for stories with photographs, researched stories with photographs and searched history of the area and the people. *Seabrook* was named for Seabrook Sidney of Galveston. The Arcadia Publishing Company published the book in the "Images of America Series." It took about six months. The company prefers about 125 pages for a book.

Catharin reported that the West Bay Common Museum planned a web seminar in our Barn Museum. Other area museums are invited. This is a series of 3 seminars with the first one covering Strategic Planning, the second one on February 17 is on Collections Management and the last one on March 10 concerns Fundraising. This series of webinar's is being offered to American Association for State and Local History members. Catharin also reported that Saturday, February 5, would be an Open House 10 to 2 p.m. with children's reports "Working Hands and Immigrants."

Ronnie said that because someone had fallen outside the museum that lights need to be installed to prevent this.

An application has been made for city money that is available for historic purposes. Purchases can be dedicated in memory of various people.

Doris Teets said she needs more volunteers for refreshment committees.

It was asked if everyone was receiving a newsletter. Ronnie adjourned the meeting.



Our very own LCCHS President, Ronnie Richards, portrayed the Sheriff during the Bank Robbery re-enactment at the historic Butler's Courtyard.



MusNews

**Catharin Lewis,
Director / Curator**

Some have ventured out in the cold to share in the experience of school in the 1890's. We had 131 visitors and held eight sessions in January with groups of all ages coming from Seabrook and the Houston area. Due to the weather, two groups are scheduling for a warmer date. We brought in \$486 in program fees, \$102.50 in gift shop sales and \$30 in walk-in donations.

We spent much of January working on reports, numbering the collection, exhibit work and planning for the February Open House Event. We are working on a future exhibit, The Bricks of League City. If you have found any bricks while digging in your yard and would like to share one, please call the Museum. If you have some extra time and would like to volunteer, we could use some extra hands on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings or afternoons for 2- 3 hours.

We want to thank Dorothy Ludwig, Doris Teets and Alice Sawyer for the special items they donated to our collection. Dorothy donated various local directories, newspapers and clippings, foreign money and railroad memorabilia. Doris donated two local directories. Alice contributed a robe, bloomers, half slip, night cap, and two bag purses and from the late 1800's. We really appreciate the addition of these items to our collection and look forward to displaying these in a future exhibit. Many thanks again to Dorothy, Doris and Alice for their recent donations. If you have something about early League City history or school memorabilia, please consider sharing it with the Museum.

We had the tree in the alley removed and now there is no danger of it falling on our new addition to the Barn Museum. The removal will also help in cutting back on debris on the roof.

We are planning another Working Hands and Immigrants Open House on April 16th from 10 – 2 pm. Fourth Grade students from Ed White and Bay Elementary will present Immigrant Personality Speeches in the schoolhouse. We are also having local and local craftsman will demonstrate their talents sell their wares. Early this month more than 60 people attended the first weekend event and were delighted by the students from Bauerschlag and Goforth Elementary Schools. Students participating were Peyton Boaz, Lauren Ryan, Victoria Zhao, Joshua OH, Thelma Medrano, Dale Kang, Kyle Eaton, TJ Holloway, Madison Shrum, Alexandria Boehning and William Lewitz. Other presenters for the weekend event were Anthony Addison, a blacksmith, Sherry Frankovich, a quilter, Mike Conwell, a Leather worker, Diana Dornak, a painter, Garett Nenninger, a stained glass craftsman, and John Dupla, a branding iron demonstrator.

Pictorial Highlights from the "Working Hands and Immigrants" Open House



William LesKewit



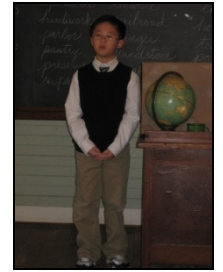
Madison Shrum



Victoria Zhao



TJ Holloway



Dale Kang



Deborah Gammon &
Sherry Frankovich, Quilter



Mike Comwell, Leather Works



Anthony Addison, Blacksmith
& John Dupla, Branding presenter



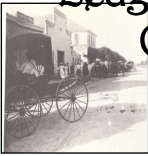
Diana Dornak, Painter



Garett Nenninger
Stained Glass Craftsman



Museum Director, Catharin Lewis,
Bauerschlag Gifted & Talented
teacher, Linda Michael, &
Kathy Weisskopf



League City Historic District Commission Report

LCHS Rep. to the LCHDC
...Fay Dudney

January 20, 2011

A Certificate of Appropriateness to expand an existing single-family residence at 307 Wisconsin Ave. was approved by the Commission.

A request for a Certificate of Appropriateness to construct a new porch on a residential structure at 1021 Satsuma Street was tabled until the applicant provides the proposed roof materials he plans to use.

The Commission tabled further discussion of the use of neon signs in the Historic District until the February meeting.

A new porch addition to an existing structure at 1015 E. Main, Suite C was approved for a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The Historic District Architectural Survey was presented for Commissioners' review and discussion at the February meeting.



Become a supporting
member of the
League City Historical Society

Thank you for your interest
in your community.

Mail to:
League City Historical Society, Inc.
P. O. Box 1642
League City, Texas 77574

I/We wish to become a member of The
League City Historical Society. Enclosed is
a check to cover dues.

MEMBERSHIP CIRCLED:

- Single (Individual).....\$25
- Family Membership..... \$40
- Senior Citizen...(65 or older)..\$15
- Organization.....\$50
- Life Membership.....\$250

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Circle projects you might be interested in
working on: School/Museum, Tree
Registry, Membership, Fund-Raising,
Landmark Medallions, Events/Receptions.

Please call me. I'd like more
information.

Recognition Opportunity

The LCHS Board of Directors has approved the installation of 3 more Victorian street lamps to light our new parking lot, making a total of 6 street lamps covering our parking facility. We are offering a special recognition opportunity to the members of the League City Historical Society. Each one of the six street lamps will have a commemorative brass name plate permanently attached. At the time of this printing, we have already received 5 applications for these name plates, therefore only one opportunity remains. The commemorative name plate costs \$200. Please call the Museum at 281-554-2994 if you wish to participate.

Information Request...

We have received a request for information regarding an orphanage that was in the Clear Lake area circa 1907 - 1920. If you have any information, please contact Kimberly Stilwell at kstilwell@thematthewslawfirm.com