

ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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ACHS NEWSLETTER

Volume 9 Issue 3

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CALENDAR PREMIERE GALA SET FOR SEPT. 20

Photo Contest Winners to be Honored at Event

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ACHS will premiere its 2013 Calendar at the historic Estelle Stair Gallery on Thursday, September 20, at 6:30 pm. The gala will announce the winners of the ACHS Photo Contest, feature a special exhibit, and unveil the 2013 Calendar.

Once again the new Calendar will feature outstanding historical photographs submitted in the Society's photo contest. Sixteen contestants entered a total of thirty-seven photographs. Two independent judges, John Jackson and John Martell, took on the difficult job of deciding which four photographs would win 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place and Honorable Mention. To make sure the judging was entirely fair, the judges did not know the names of the contestants. ACHS extends its thanks to the contest judges.

The calendar committee then took on the difficult job of deciding which other entries would join the winners in the 2013 calendar and subsequently chose a total of sixteen photographs, all from the submitted contest entries.

Thanks also to the following sponsors who have made the 7th



Winner of the 2011 ACHS Photo Contest was this submission of the Bracht Store by Janet Taylor for David Janecek, a grandson of Adolph Bracht. A rare interior photo, this picture was chosen for its clarity and informational content. The 2012 entries will be featured in the 2013 Calendar.

Annual ACHS 1913 Calendar of Historic Photographs possible:

Albin Exterminating, Friends of the Fulton Mansion, Fulton Mansion State Historic Site, Hemmingway's Bar & Grill, Jackie Shaw and Sandy Swanson, JCW Photo Restoration, Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, Rockport Center for the Arts, Seaworthy Marine Supply, Texas Maritime Museum, Wells Fargo, and one anonymous supporter of the calendar project.

—Janie Collier White,
Chairman of the ACHS 2013 Calendar Committee

FROM THE LAB: The Fine Art of Piddling

My dictionary defines “piddling” as “spending time aimlessly”. I take issue with the use of “aimlessly”, as most folks that I know who piddle have a purpose.

My mother, Carle Poch Heinsohn, was the ultimate piddler. She once spent an entire afternoon watching a trail of ants to find out where they were going. Another time she sorted out a package of “Fifteen Bean Soup” and glued each bean onto a sheet of cardboard, then labeled each bean. Turns out there were only 14 different kinds of beans in the bag.

I am a piddler. Last week, I found an unknown (to me) spider in my back yard. After I consulted my *Field Guide to Spiders of Texas*, I learned it was an orbweaver. Now this spider had made a flimsy web and there were no bugs caught in it. So I swatted a fly gently and placed it with a cotton swab onto the web. The spider ran to it, and wrapped it for a meal.

Yesterday I noticed how long the mesquite beans were. I have been told that the longer a mesquite bean, the colder and longer the next winter will be. So I collected a handful of beans that looked to be the longest, and then measured each one. The longest was 7 -7/8 inches. This one went into a drawer with its length and the date; will have to wait to see about this winter.

I often go to the ACHS History Lab with a specific goal in mind. But inevitably I start looking at the old yearbooks, or the scrapbooks on the Heldenfelds shipyard, or the Rockport Pilots from 1941 – 1959 which we have digitalized, and before I know it, several hours have gone by. I piddled them away.

Come on up to the Lab on Wednesdays from 2 – 4 and help us piddle through our treasures. As always, thank you for being a member of the ACHS.

—Kam Wagert



HISTORIC HOUSE MAKES MOVE—On Friday August 17 the historic Bruhl-Paul-Johnson house was moved by Ram House Movers from 910 E. Concho Street to 801 E. Cedar Street. The move was funded by Aransas County through the Aransas Pathways and becomes one of its first major projects. The project began when the County Commissioner’s Court bought the Concho Street property containing the historic home as part of future courthouse expansion. Supporters have designated the house to become History Center of Aransas County as part of the master plan for Aransas Pathways with the Friends of the History Center as managing partner. The next phase will be stabilization of the building at its new site and then renovation as the History Center. Photos courtesy Lilly Wilkinson (left) and Pam Stranahan. —Pam Stranahan

ANTIQUES ROADSHOW ATTRACTS ACHS MEMBERS

The first visit of Antiques Roadshow to Corpus in August found plenty of people from Rockport in their lines. After talking with several people from here, it was interesting to find out what we brought and why. Not being lucky enough

to have a specific time to arrive for the appraisal, standing in line all day made some people give up their ticket. Some were brave and even brought large items using dollies to make the wait bearable.

Since the crowds usually have the not so young, the Roadshow had chairs to support the line dividers which were also used frequently. Some of us only brought items that were light weight and easy to carry.

Once we made it into the Appraisal Area, there was plenty of staff to direct you to the appropriate appraiser’s line. More waiting, and the reward was all the information the appraiser would give you, such as the approximate period of time it was made, possibly where it might have been sold, and the value. We all brought a variety of items, enough for possibly three television episodes, but we will have to wait until the first of the year to see who made it in front of the cameras. How do you decide what to take? Whatever, the reason, if they come again, be sure to go. It was well worth it.

—Carolyn Cauley

WELCOME NEW ACHS MEMBERS!

New members for the past quarter are as follows:

- Ray McLester
- Diane & Jeff Clark
- Eileen Mangham
- Kay Betz
- Linda Garcia
- Danny & Betty Mae Adams
- Steve & Vici Sheaffer
- Renae Thompson
- Kathy, Tina, & Juanita DeBolt
- A. J. Ornelas

SAVE THE DATES FOR THESE UPCOMING HISTORY EVENTS!

ACHS has a full slate of fine fall programs coming which you will not want to miss. In addition, other history-related activities are scheduled, including the 50th anniversary of Key Allegro, and the return of the Christmas Historic Homes Tour. Details are listed below.

ACHS EVENTS

Saturday, Sept. 8: ACHS DAY TRIP to Orange Grove

10 AM depart from the Rockport School after arranging carpools

11:30 Enjoy lunch in Orange Grove (Dutch treat)

1:00 – 3:00 Tour Orange Grove Area Museum, 199 S. Eugenia St., Orange Grove

4:30 PM return to Rockport School

The Museum features memorabilia from 1800s ranching families, a military room, Knolle Jersey Farms equipment, a blacksmith shop, horse-drawn fire-wagon, Indian artifacts and a barber shop. It links a 60- mile area including Mathis, Sandia, Lagarto and Alice.

Facilitator: Pam Stranahan

Tuesday, Oct. 16:, 7:00 PM ACHS FIRST FALL PROGRAM: “VIKTOR BRACHT AND THE BRACHT FAMILY”

Location: Womans' Club

Speaker: Wolfram M. Von-Maszewski

Jennifer and Rusty Day have graciously invited Von-Maszewski to spend the night at the Angel Rose B&B (formerly the home of Leopold Bracht).

Facilitators: Janet Taylor and Kam Wagert

Tuesday, Nov. 13: 7:00 PM ACHS SECOND FALL PROGRAM: “HISTORICAL RESOURCES OF THE TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE ARCHIVES ... AND HOW TO ACCESS THEM”

Location: Womans' Club

Speaker: James Harkins, Director of Public Services for the General Land Office Archives

Facilitators: Carolyn Cauley and Pat Rousseau

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

KEY ALLEGRO ANNIVERSARY

On October 19 & 20, Key Allegro will be celebrating its 50th anniversary with lots of fun activities planned. On Friday night, in the Allegro club house at 5:30, Pam Stranahan and Kam Wagert will present a slide show on the early development of Key Allegro, along with photos showing what was going on in Aransas County during those years (1959 - 1963). Pat Krueger, a member of ACHS, has generously loaned much of her personal collection to the Society for scanning, and adding to our digital files. Some of Pat's collection will be on display. The next day (Oct. 20) a plaque will be unveiled to honor Carl Krueger who developed the island, followed by a celebration in the parking lot of the Key Allegro Yacht Club.

CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES

This fine event returns under the sponsorship of the Friends of the History Center. It will be held on Friday (Nov. 30), 4-8 PM and Saturday (Dec. 1), 10 AM – 4 PM during the Tropical Christmas weekend.

Seven historic venues will be on the tour, including:

Bruhl-Paul-Johnson (History Center) Home –1870s
801 E. Cedar, Rockport

Haynes (Fisher) Home –1874
801 S. Church, Rockport

Fulton-Bruhl (Hunt) Home –1868
409 N. Broadway, Rockport

Bracht (Day) Home –1881
902 E. Cornwall, Rockport

Rouquette Home –1946
501 N. Cactus, Fulton

Kruger (Crusius) Home –1958
305 Fulton Ave., Fulton

Fulton Schoolhouse Museum (DRT) –1886
205 N. 7th, Fulton

CHRISTMAS HOME TOUR PROMOTION

Pam Stranahan (left), Vice-President of ACHS., Kam Wagert, President of ACHS and Carolyn Cauley, ACHS Trustee appeared together to promote the Christmas Historical Home Tour at the Lily Langtry Dinner held at Hemingway's on July

30th. The restaurant wait staff got a lesson in serving women in large hats. Future diners will feature entrees from Del Mar Hotel and Fulton Mansion menus. Photo courtesy Jeff Dolan.

—Carolyn Cauley



HISTORICAL COMMISSION WINS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



The Arkansas County Historical Commission (ACHC) for the second year has received the Texas Historical Commission's Distinguished Service Award for its contribution of over one thousand hours devoted to history and preservation. The certificate was presented at the County Commissioners Court meeting on July 23rd. Pictured are (L to R) commissioner Jack Chaney, ACHC treasurer Dora McKelvey, Pam Stranahan, commissioner Leslie "Bubba" Casterline, County Judge C.H. "Burt" Mills, ACHC chair Carolyn Cauley, commissioner Charles Smith, Sandy Garrison, commissioner Russel Cole, ACHC vice chair Kathy David and ACHC secretary Linda Garcia. Also on hand but not pictured were Greg Harlan, Janet Taylor and Sally Reynolds. Part of the hours were spent supporting many Historical Society projects and programs. The ACHC is also working on several Texas Historical Commission Marker Dedications to be announced in the near future.

ACHS FINAL SPRING PROGRAM HAS GOOD TURNOUT . . .



. . . AND A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! A large crowd of ACHS members and guests were on hand in April for a presentation about the photographs of John Fred 'Doc' McGregor by Jesenia Guerra, Librarian for Corpus Christi's Museum of Science and History, pictured at the podium at left. Among the attendees were long-time members of the Society, ACHS trustee Carol Keller (left), and Nell Herring. Photos by David Murrah.