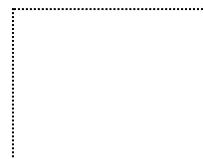


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ACHS NEWSLETTER

Volume 14 Issue 3

October 2018

ACHS FALL PROGRAM

From Aransas Bay to Antarctica to Mars: The Work and Exploration of Rockport's Wayne White Thursday, October 11, 2018—6:30 pm Fulton Mansion Education & History Center

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ACHS Officers & Trustees
 (year term expires)

- Cheryl Livingston, President (2019)
- Janie White, Treasurer (2019)
- Joan Truelove, Secretary (2020)
- Ernest Camehl (2021)
- Ty Husak (2020)
- John Jackson (2020)
- Jo Ann Morgan (2019)
- David Murrah (2019)
- Pam Stranahan (2021)
- Jeanie Schindler (2021)

NEWSLETTER EDITOR
 David J. Murrah

ACHS will present one its most unique programs on Thursday, October 11. You will not want to miss it.

Wayne White, Rockport resident and Winter Site Manager at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, will be conducting a presentation on his experiences and the history of the South Pole.

Wayne spent from October 29th 2016 to November 7th 2017 at the South Pole Station as the Station Manager and led his crew of 46 through the long Antarctic Winter. The extremely harsh South Pole winter makes the Amundsen-Scott Station one of the most remote places on earth with nearly six months of continual darkness and temperatures that exceed minus 100 F.

So remote is the station that NASA and other organizations use it to study the effects of isolation in preparation for future Mars missions. Wayne is currently preparing another crew for deployment for another year that will occur at the end of October.

In addition to Wayne's Antarctic experience, he has explored other remote



Wayne White. Photo courtesy Wayne White.

places on earth and has conducted expeditions in New Guinea, the Amazon jungle and Africa. He has been an avid collector of ethnic and exploration related items and will bring a few related items to the presentation.

Wayne and his wife Melissa are the owners of the historic Baylor-Norvell house on Water Street facing Aransas Bay and they have been long-time and very supportive members of ACHS. Wayne is also a member of The Explorer's Club of Texas, The Old Antarctic Explorers Association and the Adventures Club of Los Angeles.

FROM THE LAB: A message from the President

Well, it's not quite accurate to say I bring you news from the Lab. Our wonderful space at the Rockport School is still waiting for repair and renovations. We still lack a space to access our collection, do work and meet on Wednesdays. Like many aspects of life we took this space for granted and realize what an integral part of our mission our Lab is. What a homecoming it will be when we get back on campus. Meanwhile, our collection and equipment is stored in a safe place.

We are pleased to welcome back to our Board member **Jeanie Schindler**. She was out of the area for a few months after Harvey and we're excited to have her back.

In August, the **Explorers Club of Texas** met at the John Sorenson home, present home of Janie White for a luncheon hosted by the Historical Society and the Rockport Cultural Arts District. This fascinating group then walked two doors down for a tour of the Baylor-Norvell house hosted by Wayne White. On page 1 of this Newsletter, please note that **our upcoming program on October 11** features Wayne White before he heads off to another six-month adventure as Winter Site Manager at the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station.

Many of you are aware of a public meeting on August 21 to receive input on construction of an Arts, Performing Arts, and Conference Center to be located at 106 and 204 South Austin Street. This is also the location of the Kline's Building. The Rockport Center for the Arts along with the City of Rockport have applied for a multi-million dollar grant to fund the project.

In its initial announcement of the meeting, the Art Center had indicated that its plans included demolition of the Kline's Building.

At the meeting, the Economic Development Grant Process was discussed and public input was solicited. The Historical Society spoke in support of the grant process but we encouraged the preservation of the historic art deco Kline's Building and recommended the building be incorporated into the design and development of the project.

Our main point was that Heritage Tourism is a huge source of revenue for Rockport and the entire state of Texas, and that the Kline's building is an important part of our heritage.

Our mission at the Aransas County Historical Society has remained the same for 33 years, to save and preserve both our physical and informational history. It was important to take a stand on this proposal.

Fortunately, at the beginning of the meeting, the Art Center announced that there was no longer a plan to demolish Kline's and it would not be a part of the grant application. It is not clear how or if the Kline's Building might be incorporated in the design and development of the project. It is our hope that the Art Center and the City will take a positive approach toward the historically and architecturally important Kline's Building in utilizing it and at the same time preserving its integrity.

---Cheryl Livingston

Meet our Newest Board Member: Ty Husak

Welcome to our new Board member Ty Husak. We often tell you we want to hear your stories. Here's a small portion of Ty's story.

Ty and his wife Donna moved here from the Seattle area shortly before Harvey hit. Ty's family has strong roots in Texas and is returning to Rockport after many years away. His mother was a Theus and her side of the family settled in Calhoun County. There they worked a cotton farm near Six Mile between Port Lavaca and Victoria.

The Husak family originally immigrated from Czechoslovakia. Other Czech Texans were already here and the family settled in Ganado. Ty's father became a hunting and fishing guide as well as commercial fisherman along with his father and brother.

When Ty moved to Rockport with his family in 1968 they first lived on a boat in Rockport Harbor but later moved back on land. During their time in Rockport, Ty's father, Tony authored two books: *Fishing the Bays of Texas* and *Saltwater Craftsman*.

Ty's own career was with AT&T where he served as Principal of Technical Project Management in the Wireless Division where he applied Management and Data Science methodology to improve company performance. A final special project assignment involved designing, prototyping and testing a drone-mounted cellular base station (AKA "Cell

on Wings" or "flying COW") and other drone-based projects.

Ty is in the process of redesigning and updating our website. He is a sailor, an avid photographer and a licensed drone pilot. We're thrilled to have him on the Board.

---Cheryl Livingston



ACHS recently lost one of its best "behind the scenes" members with the passing of Janie's husband Tom White on July 7.

Active in the Society since moving to Rockport in 2005, Tom was always on hand to help Janie with whatever needed to be done, an important task as Janie has served as trustee, president, treasurer and producer and editor of the annual Calendar of Historical Photographs.

Tom, a native of Long Island, New York, lived in California as a boy and moved to Texas in the early 1950s and graduated from the University of Texas in 1960. He enjoyed reading, photography and traveling

Condolences may be sent to the family at P. O. Box 179, Rockport, TX 78381. Charitable contributions in his memory may be made to the Rockport Cemetery Association Inc, 2611 Hwy 35 N., Rockport, TX 78382.



CALENDAR NEWS: PREMIERE PARTY SET FOR NOVEMBER 15

by
Janie White

The last year has been a difficult one, but we are just about to successfully achieve another milestone. I am really proud to say that the Aransas County Historical Society will be presenting the 12th edition of our calendar of historical photographs at the Calendar Premiere on November 15, 2018, probably at the Fulton Mansion History & Education Center. We will let you know for sure when the date draws closer.

Our world was, to put it mildly, in disarray when we produced the 2018 calendar. There were errors, and I apologize. Every time I look at my copy, I see another error. I know that you will forgive me, and understand that the 2018 Calendar is truly a collector's edition, errors included. Almost all copies we printed have been sold.

As you know, this year we used previous entries (not used in an earlier calendar) as the photo contest for 2018. As usual, we have some truly wonderful and interesting photographs for the calendar. Thanks to John Jackson, Ty Husak, and Tom Watkins for their

excellent judging. We will hold the 2019 contest as usual.

As I mentioned in the April 2018 ACHS Newsletter, we will begin accepting entries at our Annual Members Meeting in February 2019. The deadline for entries will be June 15, 2019. Start gathering your photos to enter. The rules will still be that the photo has to be at least 25 years old and the subject matter must be Aransas County. You may enter 10 photographs.

A full contingent of our wonderful proofreaders will be checking the 2019 Calendar. This is a difficult and very important job. I'm looking forward to having Norinne Holman, Jean Schindler, Cheryl Livingston, David Murrah and Jo Ann Morgan work with me on finishing the calendar. Kam Wagert is helping with research. Thanks to all of them for their help, and to you for supporting the Aransas County Historical Society.

A Note from the Newsletter Editor

ACHS, ACHC, TAKE STRONG STAND IN SUPPORT OF KLINE BUILDING

We were proud and pleased to report that our president, Cheryl Livingston, presented a positive and thoughtful alternative to the destruction of the Kline Building at the public meeting on August 21.

Similarly, Pam Stranahan, ACHS Trustee and Chair of the Aransas County Historical Commission, took a similar stand.

Cheryl told the packed audience that ACHS supports the grant request for funds, but that "we believe that the Kline's building should be preserved and strongly recommend the building be incorporated in the final design and development of the project."

She noted that the structure could become "a valuable component of the new development. She told the crowd that "Since the early 1940's, Kline's has contributed to the character, history and vitality of our community. The social and cultural memory of Kline's should be cherished. The building's historic and artistic presence in Rockport is iconic and worthy of being preserved."

In preparation of her remarks, Cheryl worked many hours researching heritage tourism and adaptive reuse statistics. We certainly strongly endorse her closing statement when she said, "We recommend that an architectural firm that specializes in adaptive reuse be hired to explore the creative design possibilities for this strong, historic and beautiful building. A carefully considered project today will form the heritage of tomorrow."

Cheryl and Pam, thanks for representing all of us so well.

—David J. Murrah, Editor



The historic Kline's Café Building in downtown Rockport as it appears today. Photo courtesy Ty Husak.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF KLINE'S CAFÉ

*[Editor's Note: the following is excerpted from a letter from Dr. John Freeman to Corey Dunn, written on August 4, 2018, to express his concern over the possible demolition of the Kline's Café Building. Dr. Freeman is the author of the book, **Rockport: A Childhood by the Sea**, published in 2012.]*

This letter is about the possible demolition of a historic landmark in downtown Rockport, Texas. The building is known locally as Kline's Café; however it was originally built as Capt. Davis Drive Inn. The original Capt. Davis Drive Inn burned in 1942. My father was contracted by Molly Davis, the wife of Capt. Davis, to rebuild the café. It was during the war years and building materials were very hard to get so my father, A. O. Freeman, scoured the countryside for building materials. He found a trove of large twelve-inch thick concrete blocks (made of shellcrete). These blocks and glass blocks were used to construct a beautiful little café, which with its stucco finish looks just like it did in 1942 when it was built. A top concreted beam reinforced with steel makes the building impermeable to storms.

This building and designed and build by my father is one of the beauty spots of downtown Rockport and has not been modified so stands in its original condition. . . .

John Freeman, M.D.
Bells, TN

History Center

The History Center began its three-month exhibit and program series on September 22. The feature exhibit at the Center is entitled "Archeology: Early Peoples" and illustrates prehistoric and historic lifeways and explains how archeologists learn about people. You can learn how lithics, ceramics, flora and fauna contribute to our understanding of the past. Aransas County has been home to people since around 11,500 BC.

Aransas County has been home to people since around 11,500 BC. Although early evidence is scattered, campsites from the Archaic era (6,500 BC to AD 700) are frequently recorded by archeologists. An assemblage of tools including dart points for the atlatl was recognized at local sites and named the "Aransas phase." In the Late Prehistoric era (AD 700 – 1500) pottery and arrow points found became known as the "Rockport phase."

Upcoming related programs include the following:
Oct. 7, Sun. 2:00 – talk by Jenni Kimbell, archeologist with Coastal Environments, "The Salt Works in Lamar," followed by a tour of the site (weather permitting);

Oct. 21, Sun. 1-4 PM – Archeology Fair (weather permitting) Celebrate International Archaeology Day and join with the THC and TAS in promoting archeology in Texas. The Archeology Fair will feature pottery making, tools of early people, weaving, face-painting, archery and building a wiki-up;

Nov. 4, Sun. 2:00 PM – "Recent Excavations at San Felipe de Austin: Stephen F. Austin's Original Colony in Texas," by Jeff Durst, Texas Historical Commission regional archeologist;

Nov. 18 Sun. 2:00 PM – "Archeology of Victoria County," by Elizabeth Neucere, Curator from the Museum of the Coastal Bend, Victoria;

Dec. 16, Sun. 2:00 PM – "The Last Karankawa" by Sue Hastings, author of *Aransas County*.

Tour of Historic Homes

This year's tour is scheduled for Dec. 1, 1:00 - 5:00 PM and Dec. 2, 1:00 - 5:00 PM and will feature five historic homes not usually open for visitors and two historic venues. Costumed docents will be on hand to tell stories about the owners, builders and architecture.

A membership in the Aransas County Historical Society makes a great gift!

Only \$20 for individual or \$30 for family. Send recipient's name and address to us along with a check, payable to ACHS, and we will do the rest.

ACHS
BOX 702
ROCKPORT, TX 78381



Archaeologists at work at a Spanish mission site in Victoria. Photo courtesy Pam



Roberta Sherer, a docent at the History Center, gives a wave to visitors attending the 2017 Tour of Historic Homes.. Photo courtesy Pam Stranahan.



Are you ready for cold weather?

South Pole Station Manager Wayne White is. Be sure to attend ACHS's fall program featuring Rockport's Wayne White on **Thursday, October 11, at 6:30 pm at the Fulton Mansion History & Education Center.** Light refreshments will be served. The meeting is open to the program and is free of charge!