May 2020  
LCHS Newsletter  
Diana Dornak, Editor

Remembering some of our fun times!!!

Visitors enjoyed watching the Texas Infantry in action as they encamped on our LCHS/WBCS school grounds - 2011.

Victorian Ladies @ 2015 Homes Tour

Living History Dinner 2019

From the President...

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These are certainly challenging times. Most of us have seen a lot in our lifetime but nothing with such a global impact as COVID-19. To document the effects of the Pandemic we are reaching out to the public with a short 10 question ONLINE (or US Mail) survey that can be found later in the newsletter. We are providing the questions so you can get a flavor of the survey ahead of clicking the LINK to go online. The survey will allow us to capture the history of this event for future generations.

The Museum and School are both closed at this time as a precaution. This along with the postponement of our Yard Sale fundraiser has resulted in a loss of revenue. Fortunately the Society has a conservative budget and funds in reserve to help weather the storm. You can help by making certain your dues are paid up and by making a donation.

Hopefully this current crisis will come to an end soon and we can return to normal or at least the new normal, in the meantime stay safe and healthy.

Please Note: The Fairview Memorial Day Ceremony has been cancelled for this year as the Houston National Cemetery has chosen to do.
Since we all know how serious the pandemic caused by the corona virus is, here are 10 light-hearted parodies of well known songs from over the last 50 - 60 years - just for fun and to help ease the situation a little. Some of these are really good.

Hold the CNTL key down then mouse click on the link and it should go directly to each song on YouTube.

If there is an ad at the beginning of a song, you can usually skip the ad after 5 seconds by clicking on the SKIP ADS button in lower right.

My Favorite Thing – Sound of Music
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1aAnPFeo11s

Do Re Mi – Sound of Music
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMBh-eo3tvE

Dancing Queen – Mama Mia
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmDcg59Xzek

I Want To Hold Your Hand – Beatles
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_C5_4TLrVII

The Sound of Silence – Simon & Garfunkel
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdWMEe6sLDY

Supercalifragilistic…… Mary Poppins
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6RNc4ljlzyc&feature=youtu.be

I Could Have Danced All Night – My Fair Lady
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XljqCia6vQI

Matchmaker, Matchmaker – Fiddler on the Roof
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7kH9K0QEoes

Kokomo
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uDTs-9fq00

Rhinestone Cowboy
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrd5HEw1iEY
Look what the security cameras caught last night at the Museum. When we checked, we found this diary entry laying near the dollhouse.

From what we can gather, it sounds like there may be more of this little escapade to come. Stay tuned...

Dear Diary,

It's been ages since anyone has come to see us. Mama says I just need to be patient and find other ways to entertain myself. I miss school and seeing all my friends! Heck I even miss my teachers... I think it's time for an adventure and I'm gonna make cousin JR come with me. He's always talking about how he could live in the wilderness all by himself. I figure it can't be that hard. Sandwiches in our pockets should last at least a day and JR has a pocket knife. We'll just wait 'til the baby goes down for a nap and everyone forgets about us. Pretty sure we can sneak out the window and not be caught. Hopefully Gramps wants to listen to the radio. He can't hear very well anyhow but extra noise will help. So tomorrow is the day!

Wish us luck -

Your best friend,
Angela

P.S. I hope Mama isn't too mad.
The Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918 and how it affected Galveston County, Texas
By Deborah Gammon

This month I have chosen to not write about our WWII soldiers or sailors in Fairview. I thought with all of us going through a pandemic right now, it would be a good idea to see how the epidemic of the Spanish Flu of 1918 affected this area.

Researching in the Houston Post, it was clear to me that the citizens of this area were dealing with some of the same things that we are dealing with including churches being closed. The article appeared in THE HOUSTON POST on October 13, 1918 p. 17. As you can see by reading it, the children were treating this like a vacation, much like they are today. It does speak of the jurymen having to be released from duty and movies also being closed.

Also, it was suggested that Germany who was an enemy of the United States, purposely started this influenza. This article talks of the fears of everyone too.

(continued on next page)
Fairview Cemetery has some victims of the 1918 Spanish Flu. My first subject is Mary Carol Forsyth of League City. Mary’s obit appeared in the Galveston Daily News: on November 8, 1918, p.2. Mary was the last child of Charles Allen and Margret Huston Forsyth. She was already a nurse at St. Mary’s Infirmary in Galveston at only 18 years of age. The family now resides in Block #55 in Fairview Cemetery. According to her death certificate, R. E. Maies, M.D. stated that she contracted the disease at St.

Mary’s. I can imagine a young energetic nurse trying to do her best in helping the Spanish Flu victims and catching the disease at work. The Forsyth family was living in League City before the 1910 census.

The father Charles A. Forsyth died just one month prior to his daughter’s death but he did not die from the flu. The cause of death on his death certificate was “probably apoplexy” with a sudden death before Dr. L. W. Dallas could get to him. The Family had relocated from Brownsville, Tx. There are many descendants living in League City today. The picture of Mary Carol is courtesy of Pamela Nixon a descendant of the Forsyth family.

The next family to be highlighted with deaths of Influenza is the Cooper family. Bartemus Cooper and his mother, Tazzie Trahan Cooper are unmarked graves in Block #65. Tazzie was the wife of Ezra Cooper. They wed on January 16, 1899 in Orange, Tx. Their first child was Bartemus Cooper born November 5, 1899.
The Spanish Flu Epidemic of 1918 and how it affected Galveston Co., Tx. - (Continued)

He was the eldest of at least 7 children. Her obit is short and claimed that she only left 4 children. Records indicate otherwise. Ezra had moved to Mexico to work for Pierce Oil Corporation. I have 4 passport applications indicating that after the death of Tazzie, Mattie, George Ray, John Henry and Gladys applied to go to Tampico, Mexico to live with their father. Elmer Lawrence of the Broom Manufacturer affirmed that he had known all the children for 3 years. The family is back in League City on the 1920 census. Ezra was working as a foreman for an oil field. He had children; Mattie, Eddie, Lee R., Gladys, John H. and Georgie living with him. They were neighbors of George E. Medsger and Thomas Dow. There are records indicating that some members of the family remain in this area.

Don W. Greer, 21 years old, a son of Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Greer of League City, died Thursday morning at 7 o’clock at Ellington Field following an attack of influenza and pneumonia. Decedent had been a resident of League City since 1912, when he moved with his parents from Woodford, Ind. He had been stationed at Ellington Field since Aug. 3, 1918. He is survived by his wife, his parents, two brothers and three sisters. Interment was made in Fairview Cemetery at League City.

You just read the obit for Private Don Greer buried in Fairview. It appeared in the Galveston Daily News on Sunday, October 27, 1918.

Spanish Influenza was at the height of a pandemic in 1918-1919. The Influenza Pandemic caused close to 50 million deaths worldwide.

The Spanish Flu began in Europe and spread to the United States.

The week before Pvt. Greer’s death “The San Antonio Light” on Oct. 15, 1918 reported that Fort Sam Houston had a record admittance from October 13 to midnight October 14 of 189 influenza patients and only 2 from Ellington Field in Houston, 3 from Camp Travis and 1 from Kelly Field and 1 from San Antonio.

Ellington Field was quarantined because of the Spanish Influenza. Relatives were barred from going to visit the sick. So, it isn’t known whether Don saw his family before his death. There are Greer relatives still living in this area. I’ve met several at Fairview Cemetery during Wreaths Across America.

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The LCHS would like to create a record of the COVID-19 experience for future reference. Please consider taking our brief 4 minute survey and sharing it with family & friends.

CNTL key and mouse click this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/p656ZY5

If you have photos, pictures or artwork that you would like to contribute, please either email them to leaguecityhistory@gmail.com; drop through the mail slot at the museum or mail them to us at 210 N. Kansas, League City, Tx. 77573

Add your voice to history!

1. **How worried are you about the impact of coronavirus on you personally?**
   1. Extremely worried
   2. Very worried
   3. Somewhat worried
   4. Not so worried
   5. Not at all

2. **What do you miss most about your life from before the pandemic?**

3. **How are you spending most of your time during the quarantine?**
   *Select all that apply.*
   1. Reading
   2. Watching tv/movies
   3. Listening to podcasts/music
   4. Cooking/baking
   5. Cleaning
   6. Working
   7. Exercising/walking dog
   8. Gardening/Home Improvement
   9. Other (Please specify)

4. **Is there anything from life a few months ago that you took for granted?**
5. Have you changed any personal behaviors or learned new skills?
   - Yes
   - No
   If yes, please share.

6. With your experiences during this pandemic, do you feel positively or negatively about the community where you live?
   - Much better
   - Better
   - About the same
   - Worse
   - Much worse

7. What challenges have you experienced as a result of the coronavirus pandemic?
   - Unemployment/layoff/reduced hours
   - Work from home
   - Childcare/home school
   - Elderly parents or relatives
   - Isolation / loneliness
   - Family members diagnosed with Coronavirus
   - Uncertainty of food/basic goods availability
   - Other (please specify)

8. In light of current events, how do you see your travel/vacations changing in the future?
   - Increasing
   - Staying the same
   - Decreasing
   - Stopping altogether
   - Unsure
   - Other

9. Has the Coronavirus changed how you use the internet?
   - A great deal
   - A lot
   - A moderate amount
   - A little
   - None at all

10. What acts of kindness have you heard about or participated in during the pandemic?
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We have had some lovely weather! Take advantage of this quiet time to do a little daydreaming and planning for the future!

The LCHS YARD SALE

Will Hopefully Be Rescheduled
For Later In The Year,

However...........
Please hold your items, as Catharin and Richard have to deal with storage in their little house longer than they had planned.

For more information contact:
Darryl Krogman-DarrylKrogman@yahoo.com
or Richard Lewis – rklewis45@gmail.com
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**

- Student/ Active Military: $20
- Senior (60 and over): $25
- Senior Couple: $35
- Single (Individual): $35
- Family: $50
- Supporting Patron: $100
- Life Membership: $400

**BUSINESS CATEGORY**

- Business Member: $100
- Business Partner: $200
- Business Leader: $300

Please update your membership information here:

Name ______________________________________________________________

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

Address: __________________________________________________________________

City: _____________________________State: ___________ Zip: ___________

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☐ 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 2021.