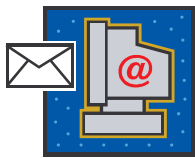


Lancaster Historical Society

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Would you like to receive meeting reminders via e-mail? If so, send a message to board secretary Lynnette Lakey Taff at llt@lonestarmail.net.

March Madness!

Mark your calendar and make your plans to join us for our March Madness Membership Drive. Our special guest speaker will be *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* columnist Dave Lieber, who was named America's best columnist by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists. Dave will regale us with tales of folklore from the Lone Star State, of politics good and bad, and of colorful people young and old. Copies of his new book, **The Dog of My Nightmares**, will be available for purchase at the meeting, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit The Humane Society of North Texas.

Date: Sunday, March 20, 2005

Time: 3:30 PM

Place: MKT Depot

Remember - We're having a membership drive, so be sure to invite your friends to join us for what is sure to be one of the most entertaining meetings of the year!

Memorial Benches Available in the Rose Garden

If you've taken a stroll through the Rose Garden lately, you know that while the roses and other flora are being well-tended, the park benches are falling into disrepair. Your LHS board of directors voted at the last executive committee meeting to purchase new benches. If you would like to sponsor the cost of a bench in memory (or honor) of a loved one, we will add a marker to the bench with the names of both the person being honored and the donor. We estimate that the cost will be about \$100 per bench, with only eight available, so if you're interested, be sure to talk to one of the officers at our March meeting. (A list of officers may be found on page 4.)

Calendar of Events of Interest to LHS

April 1-2 - Lancaster Trash-Off (Details inside on page 3)

May 15 - LHS General Meeting (See 2005 Program Plans on page 4)

June 16 - La Reunion's 150th Anniversary (Details inside on page 2)

2nd Saturday Efforts Net More Interest

Several members of Lancaster Historical Society braved grey skies and drizzly weather to set up a table at 2nd Saturday on the Square last October.

Volunteers handed out information about LHS, along with free Halloween candy. They also provided a sign-up sheet for people interested in

being added to our mailing list. Eleven people signed up, and we hope to see some of them at future meetings.

Many thanks to Marge Tillotson, Jer Giles, Gene Lloyd, Jackie Feil, David & Nancy Worden, and Lynnette Lakey Taff for staffing our table.

Lancaster High School

Reunion

On the same week-end in October, Historical Society member Doris Gibbons welcomed Lancaster High School graduates back to town for a reunion. Information about the Historical Society was distributed from reunion headquarters at the Community House. Thanks, Doris!

Future Plans

Thanks to the success of our inaugural effort, your Historical Society board voted to participate in 2nd Saturday on the Square again in the future. If you're interested in volunteering to staff our table for two hours, please contact Lynnette Lakey Taff.



Did you know....?

... that the first permanent facility for the Lancaster Library was built on a site once occupied by a Confederate arms factory?

Tucker Sherrod and Company manufactured copies of the .44 caliber Colt Dragoon for Texas troops fighting in the Civil War. Lancaster Veterans Memorial Library was constructed on the site in 1950-1951.

Learn more about the arms factory at our meeting on May 15th.

La Reunion Celebrates 150th

Lancaster Historical Society has been invited to participate in the 150th Anniversary of the founding of La Reunion. The celebration is sponsored by Dallas Pioneers Association and will take place on June 16 from 6-9 PM at the Wilson House and Park at 2900 Swiss Avenue in Dallas.

Each historic group that participates will be considered a "colony" and is asked to bring a banner to identify their organization. We may invite as many families as we want, and will be able to distribute flyers. More information will be available at our March meeting.

Utopian Colony

La Reunion was located on the south bank of the Trinity River in Dallas

County. It was founded by Victor Prosper Considerant, one of the leading democratic socialist figures in France. He planned for the colony to be a loosely structured communal experiment administered by a system of direct democracy.

About 200 French-speaking colonists arrived in Galveston in 1855. They traveled overland from the coast, reaching Dallas in April and arriving at La Reunion on June 16th. The population of the colony peaked at about 350 in 1856. Financial insolvency led to the demise of La Reunion after only about 18 months.

What's the connection between Lancaster and La Reunion, you may be wondering? When La

Reunion failed as a colony, its residents moved in different directions, and some settled here in Lancaster.

One noted example is the Henry family, who moved from France to settle at La Reunion in 1855. R. P. Henry wore many hats during his life in Lancaster. During the Civil War, he worked as an engraver at Tucker Sherrod and Company, the Confederate arms factory. At various times he also owned a general mercantile store, a bank, several farms, and business property. Several historic homes in Lancaster were built by/for the Henry family.

Information excerpted from The Handbook of Texas Online and Dallas County Archives.

2005 Annual Membership Dues

The Lancaster Historical Society bylaws establish two classes of membership:

Regular Member: Pays annual dues and may vote on matters submitted to the general membership. Annual dues are currently established as \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a couple.

Patron Member: Pays annual dues plus \$100 per year. Enjoys all rights and privileges of a Regular Member and will receive an annual certificate in recognition of special contribution.

LHS Treasurer Jackie Feil will gladly accept your payment for 2005 annual

dues at our next meeting (March 20). Or feel free to mail your check to Jackie at:

LHS
P.O. Box 173
Lancaster, TX 75146

Your membership in LHS may be one of the best values you can get for the money. For less than the cost of dinner and a movie, you get a full year's worth of satisfaction and entertainment.

Your dues help support the upkeep of the historic MKT Depot and Rose Garden, so you get the satisfaction of knowing that your dollars are helping preserve local history.

On a more tangible level, you also get the opportunity to learn about local history and to be entertained 5-6 times each year at our meetings. The refreshments alone are worth the cost of membership!

So please—get out your checkbook or wallet and invest in **your** Historical Society today.

Thank you!



Share Your Story

Do you have a bit of local news or history to share with the membership? We would love to publish your contributions in future issues of this newsletter.

Send your text or photos to LHS secretary Lynnette Lakey Taff by e-mail at llt@lonestarmail.net or by postal mail at:

*914 Nokomis Circle
Lancaster, TX 75146*

Help us make this newsletter a more interesting and useful publication. Thank you!

7th Annual Lancaster Trash-Off

The City of Lancaster will hold its seventh annual Trash-Off week-end on April 1-2 in conjunction with the 20th annual Great American Clean-Up and the 19th annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off, sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation.

This is the perfect opportunity to clean your neighborhood, including your alleys. Remember to

check for litter, trash, tree limbs, or brush that may be obstructing the alley.

Trash-Off participants will be able to deposit bulk trash in dumpsters at two locations: Town Square parking lot at 200 S. Dallas Avenue, and Cedardale Softball Park at 1901 Cedardale Road. No paint, oil, or hazardous materials will be accepted. However, tires and batteries may be recy-

cled at no cost with proof of Lancaster residency.

The City encourages churches, civic groups, and individuals to participate. Registration and refreshments will be available at the Town Square parking lot. Registered groups will receive a free t-shirt for each participant, gloves, and trash bags to help clean-up. Volunteers are also needed to clean city

rights-of-way.

Hours:

Friday, April 1st

10 AM - 5PM

Saturday, April 2nd

8 AM - 2PM

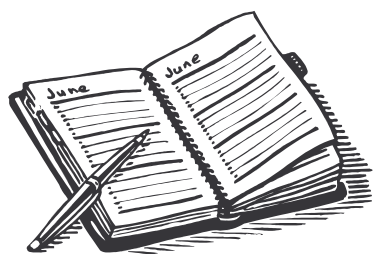
For more information, call neighborhood services at (972)218-1101.



Lancaster Historical Society



P. O. Box 173 ❖ Lancaster, TX 75146



Mark your calendar now and make plans to attend our next meeting at the MKT Depot, beginning at 3:30 PM on Sunday, March 20, 2005!

2005 Program Plans

The general membership of the Lancaster Historical Society meets at the historic MKT Depot on the third Sunday of every other month. The Depot is located next to the railroad tracks on Pecan Street, just East of Centre Street. Refreshments are served at 3:30 PM, and the meeting follows at 4:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome!

March 20 - The Yankee Cowboy
Fort Worth Star-Telegram columnist Dave Lieber will regale us with tales of folklore from the Lone Star State, of politics good and bad, and of colorful people young and old.

May 15 - Lancaster's Civil War

Gun Factory

Local author Charles Finsley will provide a lively presentation about the Tucker Sherrod and Company factory that manufactured copies of the .44 caliber Colt Dragoon for Texas troops fighting in the Civil War.

July 17 - The Age of Steam

Plans are underway to bring experts from the Age of Steam Railroad Museum in Dallas to tell us about the impact of rail travel on both local and national history.

September 18 - Daughters of the American Revolution (tentative)

November 20 - Indian Springs Historic District (tentative)

We look forward to hearing from LHS member and Lancaster Mayor Pro-Tem Carol Strain-Burk about local history that was uncovered by the Indian Springs archaeological digs.

Mark you calendar now and make plans to attend every meeting. *And bring a friend!*

President: Patricia Siegfroid-Giles
972-227-5714

Secretary: Lynnette Lakey Taff
214-616-6961

Treasurer: Jackie Feil
972-227-0397