

# Lancaster Historical Society

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## *Happy Days Are Here Again!*

When was the last time you did the bunny hop? If it has been a while, then you'll be glad to hear that LHS is planning a 50s-style dance party this fall. Dave and Frances Hitchcock have volunteered to chair "Happy Days Sock Hop" in an effort to raise funds for LHS. (It takes money to maintain the Depot, you know!)

**Date: Saturday, October 2, 2004**

**Time: 7:00 PM**

**Place: The Gymnasium at Lancaster's Recreation Center**

Plans call for a casual dinner with hamburgers and hot dogs, followed by dancing to "Golden Oldies" spun by a DJ. Ladies, if you don't already have a poodle skirt, talk to Patricia Siegfried-Giles. Husband Jer has offered to draw a poodle on felt for anyone who asks, and PSG can recommend a seamstress to craft a unique fashion statement just for you. Men, you have it easy! A pair of blue jeans and a white T-shirt will put you right in style. A greased-back ducktail hairdo will complete the look and have the ladies swooning!

More information about "Happy Days" will be published in the next newsletter, but until then, reserve this date on your calendar and get ready to hop!

## *Calendar of Events of Interest to LHS*

**Monday, July 12 - City Council Meeting** - Indian Springs Historic District  
(see page 3 for more information)

**Sunday, July 18 - LHS Meeting** - Lancaster Libraries (see page 4)

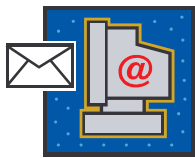
**Sunday, Sept. 19 - LHS Meeting** - School Daze (see page 4)

**Saturday, Oct. 2 - Happy Days Sock Hop**

**Saturday, Oct. 9 - Lancaster High School Reunion, 2nd Saturday**  
(see page 3 for more information)

**Sunday, Nov. 21 - LHS Meeting** - Program to be announced soon!

**Friday, Dec. 31—LHS New Year's Eve Party**



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](mailto:llt@lonestarmail.net).

## Let's Cook the Books!

Don't worry! We're not suggesting any tomfoolery with our accounting records. What we ARE suggesting is the possibility of creating an LHS cookbook featuring the favorite recipes of our membership.

This is one of many ideas discussed by your board as a possible fundraiser. It seems like a natural fit, because we **know** you can cook - you've proven it



### Did you know....?

... that as early as 1899, Lancaster residents had the opportunity for higher education?

Local residents persuaded Randolph Clark, a noted educator and minister, to establish Randolph College. The college operated from 1899 to 1902 and offered a curriculum of science, music, art, and elocution.

Source: *The Handbook of Texas Online*

[www.tsha.utexas.edu](http://www.tsha.utexas.edu)

time and again with the delicious dishes you've brought for our meetings.

Producing an LHS cookbook would help our organization in at least two ways. First, of course, we need to make money to pay the bills, and cookbooks have a good track record of doing exactly that. Second, when we market the cookbook, we will be helping to spread awareness of LHS in our community, which is one of the major goals of the new board of directors.



It has been suggested that we might set up a booth at 2nd Saturday on the Square to offer our cookbooks for sale, and we might also be able to convince local merchants to sell the cookbooks in their stores. Both of these distribution meth-

ods would put our organization in front of hundreds of Lancaster residents who may not be familiar with LHS.

So, what do you think? Before we proceed, we need to know whether we can count on our membership to participate in this project. We'll take a vote at our next meeting. If you can't attend, please contact a board member to express your thoughts on this subject. See page 4 for telephone numbers.

## Still Looking for a Few Good Men (and Women)

In our last issue, we alerted our readers to the need for volunteer labor to help take care of minor repairs and upkeep at the historic MKT Depot.

Frances Hitchcock has offered to chair a work committee, but she needs your help! The first order of business is to inspect the property and make a list of work to be done. **So if you have a keen eye, this is one task you can help with that won't require manual labor.**

Once we have a list of needed repairs, we can

prioritize them and schedule work parties accordingly. Some chores may be as simple as cleaning out kitchen cabinets, while others may require a handyman's tool belt and some carpentry skills.

If you're willing to volunteer a few hours of your time to help maintain this important piece of local history, please contact Frances at 972-227-3750.



*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](mailto: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!*

## *Raising the Profile of LHS - One Member's Ideas*

As we mentioned in this column in the last newsletter, one of the recurring themes in all of the roundtable discussions at the March meeting of the general membership was that we need to work harder to increase awareness of LHS and its good works in the community.

In each issue of this newsletter, we plan to offer ideas from the membership as to how we can accomplish this goal.

Let's consider this one, from a member who asked to remain anonymous. Lancaster High School will hold its annual reunion on the weekend of October 9. Reunion planners expect a few

hundred former students to attend. They have scheduled some activities at the Community House, and have also allowed time for exes to enjoy 2nd Saturday on the Square and the Taste of Lancaster.

Wouldn't this be a prime opportunity to showcase Lancaster Historical Society? People who make a point of returning for this reunion obviously still have a warm place in their hearts for Lancaster.

Three ideas were suggested. First, we should be sure that the brochure we've been planning to produce is completed in time to allow us to put several copies in the Community House for

the reunion. Dee Hinkle volunteered for this task, and we hope her schedule will allow her to meet this deadline.

Second, what about setting up a table at 2nd Saturday on the Square? If we don't sell anything, there's no cost. With your help, we could put a few items of historic significance on display, perhaps even some of the photos and other memorabilia that you shared with us at our May "Show & Tell" meeting.

2nd Saturday runs from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM - just 6 hours. That means that 3 volunteers who each work only 2 hours could staff our table. The weather in October is

generally so nice that it's a pleasure to be outside, so the time is sure to fly.

The third idea is that we could open the MKT Depot for tours during 2nd Saturday. Volunteers at our table on the Square could inform visitors that the Depot is open and ready for their photo-taking. Lancaster High School Exes might even want to plan a group photo if we extend the offer in advance.

So there you have it - one member's ideas to help raise the profile of the Lancaster Historical Society. We'll include this on the agenda for discussion at our next meeting (July 18) and look forward to hearing your thoughts.

## *Becoming an Advocate for Preservation - Indian Springs*

LHS Member Carol Strain-Burk has worked for more than ten years to collect information about the historic area known as Indian Springs. Included in this property are 20 sites of archeological interest and importance.

Carol's work will finally be presented to the City Council at its meeting on Monday, July 12, as it considers designating this land as a historic district.

LHS is on record as supporting the preservation of this land, which was settled by four families whose members are a veritable "Who's Who" in Lancaster and environs. The Taylor, Ellis, White, and Strain families each made their mark here, and signs of their existence are still much in evidence, from the White Bank Building on our Historic Town Square (currently

home to Lancaster Economic Development Corporation), to the Strain Farm on Lancaster-Hutchins Road, and even to a beautiful stained glass window dedicated to the memory of W. A. Strain in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church.

LHS urges you to attend the City Council meeting and voice your support for Indian Springs Historic District. For more

information, call Carol Strain-Burk at 972-227-6623.

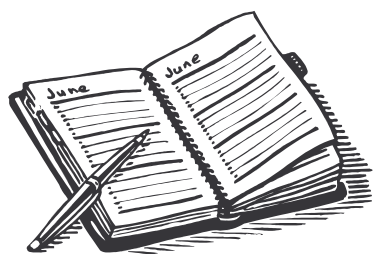


*The W. A. Strain House was built in 1896 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

# 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, July 18, 2004!*

## *2004 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!

### **July 18 - Lancaster's Libraries**

Did you know that through most of the 1930s, Lancaster's Library was housed on the second floor of the old White & Company Bank Building on the Square? Come hear about the history of Lancaster's libraries, presented by the lively

Billie Taff, who spent 25 years as the head librarian at Veterans Memorial Library. You're sure to learn something, and you'll be entertained at the same time!

### **September 19 - School Daze**

LHS and LISD are putting together a panel of local experts to teach us about Lancaster Schools, from the old High School to the formerly segregated Rocky Crest School, to the 21<sup>st</sup> century educational showcase for which construction is slated to begin this month. Dr. Larry Lewis, Superintendent of LISD, promises you won't feel like you've been sent to detention!

### **November 21 - TBA**

Your board is working hard to plan a great program for the last meeting of 2004. If you have any ideas or special requests for this or any other meeting, please contact one of the officers:

President: Patricia Siegfroid-Giles  
972-227-5714

Vice-President: Darlene Morton  
972-227-7427

Secretary: Lynnette Lakey Taff  
214-616-6961

Treasurer: Jackie Feil  
972-227-0397

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