

Summer Newsletter 2023



Tomball Museum Center Spring Creek County Historical Association



Hours of Operation

Sunday 2:00pm-4:00pm

Wednesday 10:00am-2:00pm

Saturdays 10:00am-2:00pm

510 N. Pine St. Tomball, TX 77375 ~ 281-255-2148 ~ tomballmuseumcenter.com

Members of the Board

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Letter from the President

Dear Friends.

The museum is up and operating even with the wet spring and the hot and dry summer. Let's hope this heat lets up soon so we can save our plants and yards.

We have had a very successful year with almost 1000 people visiting our museum since January. Of course, this only included those that have actually taken a tour with one of our docents. There are many more that come just to see our buildings and walk our grounds.

We are having our second annual Antique Car Social on September 30. Hope you are planning on attending. Last year was a great success and we are looking forward to this year's being a success also.

In addition, we are having another Tea & Chat on November 4th, but you must sign up early to get a spot. There are only 24 seats available.

For Halloween, we are having two events: a Museum Talk about the history of Halloween in Texas on October 26th and especially for our kids, our first ever "All Hallows Eve Celebration" on October 28.

I hope you have had a chance to visit our website or are following us on Facebook or Instagram. Our new webmaster, Mike Pitzer, has worked very hard to improve our social presence.

If you have not renewed your membership for this year or have never been a member before, please consider doing so now. We are doing many great things, but we need your support. We have 11 structures to maintain in addition to our daily operating expenditures. I am sure that you are well aware that the cost of everything is increasing. We have plans to paint the Griffin House and the School house this fall which is a major expense.

Regards,

Henry Reid
President



FOOD TRUCKS

ANTIQUE

CAR SOCIAL

September 30th
2023

11am – 1pm



Tomball Museum Center
510 N. PINE
TOMBALL, TX 77375

TOMBALLMUSEUMCENTER.COM
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Tea & Chat 2023

Tomball Museum Center
Tea and Chat



TOMBALLMUSEUMCENTER.COM
SPRING CREEK COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Please join us for the fall Tea and Chat held in the Fellowship Hall at the Tomball Museum Center on November 4th, 2023, from 3-5.

We are selling tickets this early by request. There are twenty-four seats/tickets available at \$25.00 per ticket or you can reserve a table for four at \$100.00. Ticket reservations are available here.

We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon spent tasting teas, nibbling on delicious tea fare, and experiencing a special program themed from the 1800s.

We will add details of our caterer, flower donation and program closer to the date.

Proceeds benefit the Spring Creek County Historical Association, Tomball Museum Center.

Events for October:

Our mission statement is as follows:

We are dedicated to the promotion of historical, cultural, and educational pursuits. This includes the discovery, collection, and preservation of any and all articles, materials, documents, and other objects which may establish or illustrate the history, growth or population, culture, education, resources, trade and daily life in the area of northern Harris County and contiguous areas, all of which are vital to preserving our history for future generations.

In support of this statement, we have scheduled two unique events in the month of October.

The first one, is a Museum Talk about the history of Halloween in Texas. Our speaker is Ann Meador, a retired professor, and a local historian. It will be a fun and informative event held in the Fellowship Hall on the museum grounds at 510 Pine Street on October 26, from 6:30-7:30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Second, one of most important goals is to educate our children and youth about Tomball and Texas history. We try and make this history come alive. To that end, we are holding our first Tomball Museum Center's All Hallows Eve Celebration on October 28th from 4-6:30.

What a beautiful and fun place to trick or treat. Join us for our historical celebration by stepping back into the 19th century with crafts, scary stories, games, and of course treats.

We are excited to see all the ghosts, goblins and others learning, playing, and having a fun time at the museum.

HIGHLIGHTS

Congressman Wesley Hunt Family

It was our pleasure, the Tomball Museum Center, to host a photography session for Congressman Wesley Hunt, his wife Victoria and their three children. The museum grounds were a perfect backdrop to highlight Wesley and his family. He is a native of the Houston area who is interested in preserving local history.

Congressman Hunt's accomplishments and contributions include being a graduate from West Point and Cornell University, honorably serving in our military which included becoming a diplomatic liaison officer. He is an active volunteer in many organizations. His congressional district includes Tomball.

The photographer was Michael Reiland who is a Director at Large of the Houston Photography Guild as well as a multiple award winner in his field.

Reservations are available for photography sessions on the museum grounds. Please see our web site, tomballmuseumcenter.com, to see availability and or to make a reservation.



July 4th Celebration 2023

Thank you to so many for stopping by the Tomball Museum Center's booth at the 4th of July Festival. We, the volunteers, had a wonderful time. Several highlights stand out for us, 1. taking pictures with people in our costumes, 2. playing a game from the 1800s with kids, and 3. the guessing game "What is this item?" Many different guesses but the top three were: a toilet plunger (no indoor bathrooms in that time period), a light of some kind, and a butter churn. The correct answer is an agitator to help do the wash in a tub. Hope to see you soon at another fabulous Tomball Festival or you can stop by the museum for a tour.



End of School Program



Several years ago, our granddaughter Katie invited us to come to Austin for her graduation from kindergarten. She attended a parochial school, and the exercise was held in the church sanctuary. The theme was "Going to the Circus." The large class was divided into groups of four or five, and each group represented one animal. I think Katie was an elephant. All of the costumes, music, slides, (projected on the two large screens in front of the church), instructions, and commentary, were furnished by a company specializing in this sort of thing (at no small cost to the parents and the school.) It was interesting and well done. Sitting about 30 rows back, I'm sure that I missed some parts. After meeting the teachers and other parents, we stopped for ice cream on the way back to Katie's house.

Driving home the next day, I thought about some of my "end of school programs." Of my first year in a one room school, I have no recollection. My second year at Cypress (now Cy-Fair) is very vivid in my memory. Each homeroom (mine was 2nd and 3rd grade) did a skit. Since I was the smallest boy in the room, I was given a long, yellow wig, made from unraveled new manila rope, and played the part of a spoiled child. The larger boys in my class, cut my curls and gave me a shampoo, revealing short brown hair, all to the horror of my mother, played by Mabel Krugel, and the largest girl in the class. I had no speaking part, thank goodness. After our skit, we sat in the front row. The stage was about 20 feet wide with a small dressing room on either side, (used as a cloakroom by the high school). The only other skit that I remember was about a girl who had been wronged and an angry father, armed with a single-shot shotgun. The villain was played by one of the teachers, Chuck Nichols, the son of H C Nichols who founded Nichols Ranch at Rose Hill. The pellets have been removed from the shell. The father of the girl, to make it more realistic, pointed a gun at the villain and pulled the trigger. Because there were no shot pellets to provide resistance, much of the powder, (in small pellets) flew from the gun, burning as it hit the teacher on the right side of his face. When I dared to open my eyes, I saw Chuck Nichols running across the stage, blood seeping from between the fingers of his right hand. That was the end of that end-of-school program. (Teacher Nichols received no permanent injury.)

The next year we added two more schools, Brink and Fuchs, and the end of the school program needed more room for the audience. The school entrance faced east, and was about 8' x 8' with cloakrooms on both sides opening to the two rooms behind the porch. Benches were borrowed and set up in front of the porch. I was selected by my fourth grade teacher to recite a poem, which I think was called, "The Old Swimming Hole." It may have been written by John Greenleaf Whittier. (I love the sound of that name.) During rehearsal I did fine. It was decided, however, that the porch did not let the spoken word project to the audience. Unbeknownst to me a decision was made to close in the porch with windows, stored under the stage, and to use a PA system owned by one of our bus drivers, Calvin Hargrave, who had a small band with banjo, fiddle, guitar, etc. The PA was powered by a car battery and was as large as a small refrigerator. The microphone was as large as a tea cup, and was suspended by four springs in a ring about as large as a dinner plate. I first saw the set-up when I was pushed through the door from one of the classrooms and was told to step up close to the mike. I was frightened. It looked like a giant black spider ready to pounce on me. I promptly forgot most of my speech, and today, after 69 years, I cannot remember one line or the author's name. I think that was my last participation in an end of school program.

Written by Benjamin H. Scholl as published in:

Scholl, B., (2004), "Growing Up In Rose Hill (We Were Poor But Didn't Know It)", ISBN 1583968830

Tomball Garden Club – Rose Garden and Plaque Dedication to Sheila Higginbotham

Tomball Garden Club held a short ceremony for the Sheila's Perfume rose planted for beloved member and past President, Sheila Higginbotham, unveiling the memorial plaque.

The ceremony was attended by Sheila's children, Kara and Rob, and her best friends Paula Parvia and Darcel Mercer.



Tomball Garden Club – Rose Garden and Plaque Dedication to the Theis Family

Tomball Garden Club and Tomball Museum Center teamed up for a rose dedication and plaque installment of the Theis roses in front of the corresponding historical house.

The event saw many members of the garden club and museum in attendance. Representing the Theis/Theiss family included Butch Theis (the oldest descendant still living), Millie Theis Martin (granddaughter of Fritz Theis) and her husband David, and Dee McShane and her husband John (son of Audrey Theis).

These roses originated from a wild *Rosa multiflora camea* bush that grew in front of the original location of the Henry Theis house in Rosehill. When the house was donated to the museum, L. P. Martin also brought over cuttings of the wild rose bush.

According to the Tomball Garden Club's research, although some species of the *Rosa multiflora* family can be considered invasive, this particular species was brought to Texas by European immigrants. It was used as a sort of fence to enclose livestock.

The Theis family's patriarch, Johann Theis, and his family immigrated from Germany to the area in 1846 and the family has been involved in the community ever since. The Theis house, originally built after the Civil War by Henry Theis (son of Johann), was donated to the Tomball Museum in 1989.

Today, the German farmhouse helps to educate visitors of a way of life long passed.



Memorial Day 2023

Local Veterans and Clubs Hold Memorial Services for Tomball World War II Fallen Soldiers

May 25 at 6:30 PM at the Tomball Museum
Center for "**Laying of the Wreath**" Ceremony

In 1941, Tomball High School had an enrollment of 110 students. Of these, 27 young men went to serve in World War II. Nine did not return. On the 28th February, 1947, the students and faculty of Tomball High School gathered in front of the high school building to honor eight young men who made the supreme sacrifice for their country, by dedicating eight trees. Over time, the original trees were lost to various causes. In January 2006, with funds donated by the Tomball High School Alumni Association, THS graduates Roy Johlke (Class of 1950), Arlis Clepper (Class of 1951) and Bill Webb (Class of 1952) had new trees planted in a peaceful grove on the grounds of the Tomball Museum

Center. These graduates, along with the Oil Patch Kids Association, organized a dedication ceremony. A ninth tree was added the following spring after attention was brought to the forefront of the 9th soldier lost soon after the original eight were honored in 1947. Heart of Tomball Republican Women, along with local veterans' organizations, is proud to continue the tradition started by the students and faculty of Tomball High School, the THS Alumni Association, and the Oil Patch Kids Association, in honoring the sacrifices of these fallen heroes, and keeping their memories alive.



Cotton Patch at Tomball Museum

Tomball Museum has again been permitted to grow cotton. Our cotton patch is an added bonus to the museum's mission to teach about the history of our area. Come visit us to watch our cotton grow, see our animal driven cotton gin, and discover how people lived in the late 1800's.



Very Important Volunteers

TMC/ VIVS

From Jan 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023, the volunteers have logged 2,407.31 service hours.

The first volunteer class of 2022 has now been serving one year.

The volunteer team has amazing energy, fabulous ideas, and a strong loyalty to the Tomball Museum Center. They always are serving with a smile.

We held a summer celebration picnic in June for all volunteers. We ate, laughed, and got to know each other better. Hopefully this will become an annual picnic. Thank you to Barbara Powell for allowing us to use your beautiful home.

The docents are now in summer costume, and it has been fun to wear. Our guests seem to really like it. Several have asked us to pose with them after their tour.

A fun statistic from the registers of our new computer program created by Joel Leudeman, a volunteer. At the end of July, we had 448 adults and 500 children take tours.

Lucy Harvell

Volunteer Coordinator



Tomball Diamond Jubilee Receipts and Recollections

Rosa Haude Klein (Mrs. A.B.)

My parents, Amalia Weid and Henry Haude, lived in the Haude community, just east of the Klein community. I am the youngest of 13 children. Since my mother died at my birth, I was raised by my oldest sister, Matilda Haude Arp, in Spring. It was in her home that I married Alex Klein who owned a grocery and feed store in Spring. In 1933 Alex started a grocery store in Tomball. Since Tomball was growing so much because of the oil boom, we decided to move to Tomball in 1935.

Since Alex and I were both raised on German farms, we continued to run our household the same way. We had a garden next to the house for fresh vegetables, and we had fields of vegetables in the country for canning. We raised our own beef as well as rabbits and chickens for frying, and hens for eggs. We cooked three family-style meals every day with the high school age children and Alex coming home for lunch. Alex always helped put the little ones down for an afternoon nap.

Besides preparing three meals each day, we washed clothes all day on Mondays, ironed most of Tuesday and Wednesday, baked bread on Thursdays, cleaned house on Fridays, and on Saturday we got ready for Sunday: baking sweets; killing, cleaning, and picking chickens for the Sunday meal; as well as shampooing and curling all the girls' hair and polishing all of the children's shoes. Sunday mornings were spent at church and Sunday School and then we had family and/or friends to Sunday dinner after church. We centered our lives around the Lutheran Church activities and raising our nine children: Teddy, Howard, Margie, Rosalie, Robert, Shirley, A.B., Jr., Ida and Milow.

On a farm in a German community, bread is baked every week as well as cinnamon rolls, coffee cake, and dumplings (homemade noodles). I hope you enjoy the recipes for all of these.

Cinnamon Rolls

3/4 c. butter (not oleo)	2 t. vanilla extract
1 c. sugar	3 c. scalded milk
3 t. salt	2 pkg. yeast in 1/2 c. warm water
3 beaten eggs	10 c. Gold Medal flour

Scald milk, pour over butter, sugar, and salt; let cool. Add beaten eggs and yeast softened in 1/2 cup warm water. Add vanilla, then add 4 cups of flour and mix well, then add 6 cups of flour and mix well. Grease large bowl and top of dough. Let rise to double in bulk. Pinch down. Divide dough into half. Roll out on floured board until 1/3 inch thick or 12 x 20 inches in size. Spread with 6 T. melted butter, 1/2 c. raisins, 3/4 cup sugar mixed with 2 t. cinnamon. Roll as jelly roll. Cut into 3/4 inch slices, place on well-greased pans. Let double in size. Bake 15 minutes at 325°. Let cool while warm with 1/2 box powdered sugar mixed with 1/2 stick of melted butter and 3 tablespoons of milk and 1/4 t. of vanilla. 6 dozen.

Become a Member of Tomball Museum Center

INDIVIDUAL \$35 | FAMILY \$50 | BUSINESS \$500

Tomball Museum Center is a privately owned 501(c)3 non-profit association. We depend on the support of our members and other donations to maintain and make improvements to the facilities and grounds. Please consider becoming a member of our association and supporting Tomball Museum Center for years to come. Thank You!



Individual Membership \$35.00



Family Membership \$50.00



Business Membership \$500.00