

Archives
Posted: December 21, 2003

The following is "The Pioneer" January 2004 printed edition in HTML format. The newsletter along with raffle tickets, will be mailed to RHA members in early January 2004.

Editor: Marian H. Nelson • E-mail: mhnelson@austin.rr.com

The Pioneer

ROCKNE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

167 Lehman Lane
Bastrop TX 78602

512-303-3179
<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~txrha/>

Vol. 14, No. 1
January 2004

Rockne Historical Association Annual Meeting and Fundraiser Sunday, February 8, 2004 Sacred Heart Parish Hall

3:00 PM Annual Meeting, Silent Auction, Raffle
4:00 PM Live Auction with Mike Hilbig i½ Beer Available
4:00 i½ 6:00 PM Spaghetti Supper (Good-will offering)
Drawing for Raffle will take place after Live Auction

Your donations for the live and silent auctions are needed.

You may leave them before hand at 167 Lehman Lane, the home of Minnie Bartsch, or at the Rockne Museum any Saturday between 10:00 - 2:00, or drop them off by **2:00 PM** on Sunday, February 8th at the Parish Hall. Thank you for your help.

You Are Invited

Many of you have accepted the invitation to attend the annual RHA Fundraiser and for those of you who cannot attend, you faithfully send in your annual dues and raffle tickets. With your steadfast support, RHA can operate and grow. **You** can take pride in the success and accomplishments of RHA but know that we are counting on you more than ever before to continue growth at Hilbig Park.

The year 2003 was a momentous landmark for RHA. The dedication of the new Rockne Museum on June 14th was the culmination of years of work and dedication.

However, Hilbig Park is a work in progress as the grounds are beautified and more and more donations of artifacts, photos, and family memorabilia are added to the collection in the Rockne Museum.

The Philip Goertz Pioneer Log Cabin is a big attraction especially to folks who are not part of the Rockne History. During the week, when work is being done in Hilbig Park, there is always someone who stops and asks if they can see the cabin. The remark we hear most often is how nice it looks inside. The smell of cedar and old furnishings gives it a homey feeling.

Raffle Tickets

For those of you receiving raffle tickets, please mail them to arrive before February 8th. Your 2004 Membership donation is also appreciated at this time.

God Bless America

The God Bless America Quilt made and donated to the Auction last year, by Elaine Chambliss will be auctioned again this year. The high bidder of \$1200 donated the quilt to RHA to be auctioned again. Who will be highest bidder of this magnificent work of art this year?

Philip Goertz Log Cabin

The log cabin is like any home and after eight years, it is beginning to need more than loving care. Calking needs to be replaced, fireplace repaired again and just a lot of cracks fixed.

Charlie Nelson and **Fred Goertz** replaced a very large support beam recently. They also installed track lights in the kitchen of the cabin. **Harry Wilhelm** cleaned the mold off the back room and stained it. He also built steps for the back porch. This was something we were concerned about for safety reasons. Harry did a lot of manual labor digging around the Hoffman corn crib where the rains washed soil on the foundation. He is a great handyman and is appreciated for his work and interest. Also thanks to **Charlie Ott** who keeps an eye on the place and hauled off the brush Charlie Nelson trimmed. **Rita Fredericks** made a large braided rug for the bedroom and I acquired a few smaller ones at an antique sale. They add a cozy touch. The Lee log

shed needs a foundation and some work and the restoration of the Lehman cabin are priority projects for 2004.

Docents

After the dedication on June 14, 2003, Minnie Bartsch and I were the only two docents and I am so happy to report that we now have a list of people enjoying the opportunity to guide visitors. Docents who have committed are:

1st Saturday of each month:

Minnie Bartsch, Eva Friske, Gloria Hoffman

2nd Saturday:

Clara White & Joy Goertz

3rd Saturday:

Daniel & Connie Lehman

4th Saturday:

Letitia Wilhelm, Oliva Bartsch & Ovon Goertz

5th Saturday:

Bill & Adeline Fast, Ella Mae Bartsch

Substitutes:

Milton Goertz, Marion Rolfsness, Cindy Cox, Margie Tucker, Marian Nelson

Adeline Bartsch Fast called to tell me how much she enjoys working and that she would like to host a luncheon for the docents. Her voice is filled with excitement as she talked, "you never know what will happen . . . it's so neat . . . talking to so many different people. Thomas Goertz enriched my knowledge and Richard Meuth, Mr. Segal, among others; it's just wonderful."

Maintenance

Timmy Tucker and **Bernard Probst** have volunteered to assume the responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of the Pioneer Log Cabin and other buildings at Hilbig Park. This is a big relief to Fred Goertz and Charlie Nelson who have entered their golden years!!

Landscaping

Gerri Martinez has worked hard to keep the plants living through the summer. **Esther Seidel** volunteered to help with landscaping. With the farm still

running deep in my veins, I couldn't resist making flower beds around the cabin. It is the first time in ten years that a couple blue bonnets actually came up. What progress!

By Gerri Martinez

This has been a wonderfully productive and fulfilling year for RHA. Besides the dream of the dedication of the Museum fulfilled, not enough can be said for all that has been donated and displayed in our museum. I was speaking to Ovon Goertz, a docent of the museum, and I quote, "I had a lady from Rosanky stop by Saturday October 25th with a friend. She herself was into genealogy, and could not believe all the history and information we have available about the families in our community; the pictures, newspaper articles, and displays." Ovon continued, "As you show a visitor through the museum you become so involved that you can't wait for your next scheduled work day." Personally I have stopped in on Saturday to water the plants and find the docents wanting to share some bit of information that they just uncovered. It is an exciting time for all of us, and we have just begun. No wonder Minnie couldn't let go of this wonderful dream of hers for this community. Thank you, Minnie.

Stain Glass Window

After researching several places working with stain glass, I received an email from **Laura Duckworth**, granddaughter of **Charlie Goertz** who works at Cathedral Studio 1/2s. Laura was enthusiastic about participating in a project for the Rockne Museum and with Board approval, Cathedral Studio was commissioned for the job. Jan and Ted Weiser, owners, and I worked out a design and hopefully it will be in place around Easter.

By Minnie L. Bartsch

We continue to receive artifacts, photos, and items of interest for the museum. It is a great honor to have so many bring something to the museum. Just recently Roger Beck came, visited several hours, and talked about the old times and the Rockne Playboys and learning to play the accordion. He later brought a photo of himself (ten years old) holding the accordion his Uncle had given him; He remembered playing for Hugo and Dora Goertz 1/2 wedding. Merlin Goertz 1/2 steel guitar and speakers and Buford Catchings 1/2 fiddle are on display. Those were the days!!

Also, Eugene Friske found photos of the altars in the church before remodeling in 1975 for the 100th anniversary of the parish. What a great find. No one could remember which small statues were on the side altars. Now we know. We have both of the small statues which were on Our Lady's altar as well as the angel which stood beside the altar. We have St. Aloysius statue from Tom Bloomquist of Austin. It was on the opposite side altar. If anyone knows who purchased St. Michael the Archangel at a bazaar auction please let us know. That is the only statue we don't have.

The Peter and Mary Goertz wooden bed, springs and cotton mattress are part of our collection. The mattress was made by Cecilia Hoffman and her mother, Mary, during World War II. The government provided the ticking, cotton, thread and needles, but the women in the community had to learn how to make the mattresses. Lemma Osborn went into Bastrop and learned how to make them and came back to teach others how to do it.

Unsung Heros

Sometimes we are remiss in not recognizing those who make great contributions and continue to work diligently. Of course it is impossible to name everyone but each of you knows where your strength lies in making our work in progress continual.

From time to time, I would like to feature outstanding contributions and today recognize **Leland and Elaine Chambliss** for their invaluable work listed below:

Donated to RHA

1. Robert Beck Family History Book
2. Anton Hilbig Family History Book
3. John M. Goertz Family History Book
4. Paul Koenig Family History Book
5. Chambliss Connection to Rockne Book
6. Beck Family Album of Pictures (Robert and Julius)
7. John M. Goertz Family Album of Pictures
8. A CD of all the people listed in Father Goertz Book "Rockne"

Presently, Leland is working with Bastrop History documents to correlate and correct birthdates, names etc. with other historical sources such as the Rockne history book.

Donated for Raffle

Elaine's Pictorial Quilt of Rockne History and her Patriotic Quilt, plus numerous handmade items for sale at the Rockne Museum.

Involvement

In order to get more people involved in the organizational process of RHA, I am suggesting that the by laws be amended from . . . "a Board of Directors consisting of at least seven (7) members and no more than nine (9) members," Be amended to read: . . . **"a Board of Directors consisting of at least seven (7) members and no more than twelve (12) members,"**

A motion on this amendment will be made at the general meeting and voted on by the membership.

Membership

RHA By-Laws

Article II, Section I: Membership shall be composed of individuals of the Rockne area, representatives of societies, organizations and clubs of the Rockne area and any other individual who may be interested in the history of Rockne.

If you attend the annual meeting, YOU are a member by your interest and participation.

Board Members, whose three year terms are expiring on February 1, 2004, are Gloria Hoffman, Gerri Martinez, Minnie Bartsch and Gayle Wilhelm. Elections will be held at the meeting and nominations from the floor are accepted with prior permission from the person or persons to be nominated.

RHA DIRECTORS

President:

Tina B. Horyza

Vice-president:

Gerri Martinez

Secretary:

Gayle Wilhelm

Treasurer:

Minnie L. Bartsch

512-303-3179

Chaplain:

Rev. Bernard C Goertz

Attorney at Law:

Bryan Goertz

Gloria Hoffman

Letitia Wilhelm

Pioneer Editor:

Marian H. Nelson

mhnelson@austin.rr.com