

The Pioneer

Vol. 16 No. 2

April 2006



By
Marian H. Nelson

mhnelson@austin.rr.com



The Pioneer
Online
By Webmaster
Thomas Hilbig

sites.rootsweb.com/~txrha

Hilbig Park

4065 FM 535 • Rockne, Texas

Open Saturdays 10-2, also on Special Occasions and by Appointment

Minnie L. Bartsch, Rockne Museum Curator

512-303-3179 • mbartsch@sbcglobal.net

Spring Festival

Sunday

May 28, 2006

Sacred Heart Church

Rockne, Texas

Rockne Museum at Hilbig Park

Open from 10:00 AM until 5:00 PM

Flag Day

Saturday, June 10, 2006

10:00 AM

Hilbig Park

The Annual Flag Day Ceremony

Conducted By

Gerri Martinez, Catholic Life Ins.

Rep.

1892 Baptismal Font Restored

Minnie L. Bartsch, Curator of the Rockne Museum, located a company in Tulsa, OK that specializes in restoration work and she assumed the cost of the extensive restoration of the old Baptismal Font. This historic relic, used in the first Sacred Heart Church built on land donated by **John T. Lehman**, and dedicated on March 27, 1892 was moved to the present church when it was built. In 1976, the present Sacred Heart Church was redecorated and all the "old" items were stored in the church basement. Later, it was auctioned and bought by **Arthur and Erlene Goertz**. They donated it to the museum a few years ago and Minnie stored it.

Mail From Sacramento

Marie Lehman Koomler, representing the family, writes:

"Just wish to acknowledge and commend the members of the Association for the great work you have done and continue to do with the museum and park. RHA is certainly living up to the purpose for which it was formed; that is, "the gathering and preservation of the history of the Rockne community."

We here in Northern California, descendants of the John T. Lehman family of Rockne, Texas are quite pleased that the Lehman cabin has been rebuilt. It would have been great to have been at the dedication.

The enclosed check is being donated towards the Lehman Log Cabin."

The donation is generous and RHA will use it to build a handicap accessible ramp to the cabin.

Rockne, Texas Makes Front Page News

The Austin American-Statesman covered the unveiling of the Knute Rockne life-size bronze bust on the front page of the paper. Marian Nelson and Minnie Bartsch, featured in pictures and in quotations, talked about their feelings in acquiring the stupendous donation from noted Sculptor, Jerry McKenna of Boerne, Texas. (See "Correction" below.)

The Unveiling took place in front of the Rockne Museum at Hilbig Park on Saturday, March 4, 2006 on the 118th Birthday of Knute Rockne. It is also the 75th Anniversary of Rockne's death.

The Rockne Historical Association (RHA) President, Marian Nelson, opened the ceremony by welcoming everyone and stating that the pleasant weather was a blessing. About 120 people sat on the porch and in the yard. Nelson introduced special guests Nils Lars Rockne, grandson; Jeanne Anne Rockne, granddaughter and cousin, Terri Elsen. Jerry McKenna was applauded for his beneficence and Nelson told how the Benedictine Nuns from Boerne have influenced him. She said, "Jerry McKenna wanted to do something for Sister Mechtilde who is from Rockne." Sisters Kathleen and Bernadine were also recognized and thanked.

Members of the Notre Dame Clubs of Texas were acknowledged and Marvin Boroski, President of the San Antonio Club, talked about the organizations and work of the Clubs.

Minnie L Bartsch, curator of the Rockne Museum, also talked about the involvement of the Notre Dame Clubs of Texas. They helped sponsor and erect the Historical Marker, organized the Post Office for a Day and furnished Notre Dame and Knute Rockne information. She pointed out that the museum has many articles, publications and artifacts about Knute Rockne.

Sue Ayers Taylor gave a talk on the "naming of Rockne". Her grandmother, Edith Goertz Ayers broke the tied vote between the names of Knute Rockne and poet, Joyce Kilmer.

The honored guests unveiled the bust to the rousing music of the Notre Dame Victory Song. They then offered family stories about their ancestor.

Rev. Bernard Goertz, RHA Director, gave the closing blessing.

Correction

The reference in the Austin American-Statesman "Rockne, (the town).... was probably best known as the home of Herman Lehman, who was kidnapped by Indians as a boy...." Is a misquote. The Herman Lehman who was captured by the Indians lived in Loyal Valley. It is regrettable that this was wrongly quoted but oft times there are errors and misquotes in reporting. The journalist was enthusiastic and gave Rockne coverage and advertisement that is noteworthy.

Jerry McKenna The Sculptor

Jerry McKenna, of Boerne, Texas, sculpted and donated a valuable bronze portrait life-size bust of Knute Kenneth Rockne to the people of Rockne, Texas. Why did this famous Sculptor open his heart to Rockne? Perhaps because his hero is Knute Rockne and he enjoys sculpting the likenesses of this titleholder, winner and champion. Or, maybe because he enjoys making others happy - especially, Sr. Mechtilde? Whatever the reason, we will never forget the kind man, who by his gift has sparked an interest in the Rockne community surpassing anything RHA could have done alone.

If you would like to express your appreciation to Jerry and his lovely wife, Gail, please write to the address below.

P.O. Box 1121, Boerne, TX 78006

Rockne, Texas Featured In Travel Guide

For the first time, Rockne is included in the Texas Travel Guide. RHA is proud to "show off" the accomplishment at Hilbig Park and the information will bring more visitors to the Rockne Museum. At the unveiling of the Knute Rockne bust, visitors who had never heard of the community came because of the news article in the Austin American / Statesman. One couple from the other side of Houston said they saw the paper and enjoy visiting out of the way places. Another couple from San Marcos came at 10:00 AM so they would not miss the festivities. They had never been to Rockne before and were very impressed. Several other couples and one man from Austin came because his name is McKenna.

Sporting News Magazine

Gail Fisher writes:

"With all the attention given to Rockne lately (with the unveiling of the Knute Rockne sculpture), I was not surprised to see Rockne mentioned in the March 17, 2006 issue of the nationally distributed Sporting News magazine. The Sporting News is celebrating 120 years in publication and this issue included The 120 Coolest Numbers in Sports. The Rockne mention appears on page 22 and is as follows:

3 Cities that have changed their names to honor sports figures: Jim Thorpe, PA.; (Knute) Rockne, Texas; and Joe, Montana. (Sadly, Joe changed its name back to Ismay soon after).

I'll let you know as soon as I see a Rockne story on CNN."

(Wouldn't it surprise me!)mn

Matocha Family Contributes

By Minnie L. Barch

The **Celestine** and **Raymond Matocha** family has donated the Marine dress uniform and hat of the deceased **Donald Matocha** as well as the Naval uniform of **Bernard Matocha** (who was killed in an automobile accident near his home on FM 535 when he was young).

Danny Charles Masur married **Linda Matocha** (Celestine's daughter & Donald and Bernard's sister). Linda is the one that was instrumental in finding Donald's remains over in Vietnam. She and her brothers and sisters have donated the two uniforms belonging to their brothers. They also donated the funds to purchase the mannequins.

Danny Charles Masur's mother **Mary Sophie**, was from the **Till** family in String Prairie. In the family trees they are on page 520.

In Loving Memory of



Alfred William Goertz

Born: *February 4, 1908*

Entered into Rest: *January 20, 2006*



Ida Christine Grohman

Born: *December 15, 1914*

Entered into Rest: *March 6, 2006*

Annual Meeting Financial Report - February 2006

Cash & Checks from:

Dues	1,980.00
Raffle	2,657.00
Donation	2,119.00
Meal Donations	514.00
Live Auction	5,400.25
Silent Auction	1,363.50

Gross Total: \$14,003.75

The RHA annual **operating** budget is \$5,000. Maintenance and repairs take another chunk. This year gutters for the museum is a priority so that sidewalks can be installed. Mannequins and showcases for the museum are still on our want list and the newly installed Rockne Bust is worthy of an attractive setting.

We can never thank all the people involved in helping make the fund-raiser a successful event each year. **YOU make it all possible** and I hope you are as pleased with RHA's progress as the letter writer from California.

Special thanks to **Cindy** and **George Goertz** of **Rockne Grocery**, for procuring the beer from Wright Distributing and setting it up. Also to **Shirley Wright, Jean**

Hoffman, Robin Cowan, Connie McDaniel, Tina Horzya and helpers who not only serve a delicious meal but also save RHA the cost of catering.

Many people continually help behind the scenes including **Darrell Kuba, John Klaus, Fred Goertz, Leroy Seidel, Bernard Probst, Clayton Hoffman, Clyde Hoffman, Terry, Michael and Chris Horzya** and others it's sure it's failing to mention. Thank you one and all.

Live Auction by Mike Hilbig				
#	Item	Donated By	Buyer	Amount
1	Service for 8	James & Gail Wilhelm	Brenda Meuth	75.00
2	Jelly Set	Cecil & Gerri Martinez	VFW 2527	50.00
3	Red Teddy Bear	Erlene Goertz	Marian Nelson	35.00
4	Pepper Sauce	Arthur & Mary Ann Grohman	Rose Henderson	30.00
5	Cutting Board	Gene Hahn	Brenda Meuth	75.00
6	Beaded Purse	Marian Nelson	Gloria Hoffman	20.00
7	Homemade Noodles	Ann Hancock	Melvin Beck	60.00
8	BBQ Pit	Arthur & Mary Ann Grohman	Catherine Hilbig	30.00
9	Coffee Cakes	Alma Probst	Minnie Bartsch	100.00
10	Haircut & Style	Shirley & 1/2s Total Look	Ovon Goertz	35.00
11	Pecans	Vernon Bartsch	Leroy Seidel	65.00
12	Deer Birdhouse	Beverly Koi	Catholic Life Insurance - Gerri Martinez	50.00
13	Birdfeeder & Feed	Danny & Linda Waneck	Olivia Bartsch	50.00
14	Cheesecake	Donna Bartsch	Clyde Hoffman	100.00
15	Jelly	Alberta Goertz	Cheryl Daniels	45.00
16	Homemade Noodles	Ann Handcock	Catherine Hilbig	50.00
17	Pineapple Cake	Janet Rathman	Kenny Hilbig	120.00
18	Mouthwash	Thomas Goertz	Cheryl Daniels, Janet Rathman & Sharon Schwack	80.00
19	Kolaches	Alma Probst	Fr. Bernard Goertz	100.00
20	Plant Bench	Jerry Lehman	Paul Pape	55.00
21	Cookbooks	Callahans	Rose Henderson	120.00
22	Salsas	Dough Waitland	VFW	40.00
23	Afghan	Mary A. Goertz	Charles Alexander	55.00
24	Boat Picture	Mary A. Goertz	James Gurka	40.00
25	Fruit and Juice	Catholic Life Insurance - Gerri Martinez	Kathy Bartsch	35.00
26	Valentine Basket		Fr. Bernard Goertz	30.00
27	Mouthwash	Bernard Probst	Rockne Grocery	130.00
28	Stool	Rockne Grocery	Ed Lavin	55.00

29	1958 Flame Annual	Joe Probst Family	Ann & Cleo Beck	75.00
30	Goodie Basket	Ella Mae Bartsch	James Gurka	75.00
31	TX Wall Hanging	Bluebonnet Electric	Kathy Schroeder	220.00
32	Valentines Candy	Rockne Grocery	Vernon Bartsch	40.00
33	Home Canned Veggies	Wanda & Clayton Hoffman	Mary Ann Lavin, Catherine Hilbig & Stephanie Cantu	115.00
34	Wine Rack		Rockne Grocery	45.00
35	Childs Game	Marian Nelson	VFW	30.00
36	Garden Frog	Marian Nelson	Gerri Martinez	25.00
37	Water Pump	Ed & Mary Ann Lavin	Ed Lavin	65.00
38	Sticky Buns	Donna Gessner	Jane Goertz	65.00
39	Large Farm Picture	Flora Wilhelm Karn	Mary McMurry	150.00
40	Mouthwash	Lester Bartsch	Mary Ann Lavin	70.00
41	Pecans	Rodney Bartsch	Vernon Bartsch	45.00
42	Gorilla	Cupid	Keith York - Lost Pine Taxidermy	100.00
43	Cedar Chest	Francis Goertz	Charlie & Marian Nelson	300.00
44	Afghan	Doris Cook	Paul Schnack	70.00
45	Goodie Basket	Ruby Hendrix & JoAnn Hilbig	Kenny Hilbig	275.00
46	Mouthwash	Melvin Beck	Lloyd Probst	105.00
47	Basket	Rockne Grocery	Clayton & Wanda Hoffman	35.00
48	Small Oil Painting	Flora Wilhelm Karn	Kathy Bartsch	175.00
49	Computer Table		Arthur Goertz	50.00
50	End Table		Clyde Hoffman	30.00
51	Goodie Basket	Clifford & Lorene Redus	James Wilhelm	55.00
52	Goodie Basket	Ella Mae Bartsch & Joyce Schuelke	Stephanie Cantu	150.00
53	Pickles & Tomatoes	Flora Beck	Charles Alexander	100.00
54	Goodie Basket	Ovon Goertz	Thomas Goertz Daughters	105.00
55	Lamp	Lost Pines Taxidermy - Kim & Keith York	Laverne Alexander	271.25
56	Afghan	Kathy Schroeder	Brenda Meuth	50.00
57	Silver Eagle \$	JR Waneck	Minnie Bartsch	55.00
58	Putting Golf Game	Laurell & Raleigh Skaggs	Clara Klinkovsky	10.00
59	Pencil Cactus	Laurell & Raleigh Skaggs	Kathy Bartsch	30.00
60	Arrow Heads	Cheryl Goertz Daniels	Michael Hilbig	160.00
61	Plant Holder	Cheryl Goertz Daniels	Janet Rathman	50.00
62	Lap Robe	Lorene Goertz	Ann Beck	45.00
63	10 lbs. Bacon	Seidels Country Store	Gayle & Jerry Wilhelm	85.00
64	4 doz. Cookies	Joyce Schuelke	Janet Warren	50.00
65	Cheesecake	Donna Gessner	Seidels Country Store	125.00

66	Mouthwash	Fr. Ben Goertz	Brenda Meuth	60.00
67	Pancake Set	VFW	Janet Rathmann	25.00
68	Salsa	VFW	Charles Alexander	50.00
69	Blocktown Toy	VFW	Betty Hilbig	19.00
70	Computer Table	Arthur Goertz	Fr. Bernard Goertz	15.00

Annual Fund-Raiser Raffle			
#	Prizes	Donors	Winners
1	\$500.00	Raleigh & Laurell Hilbig Skaggs	Nelda Thompson
2	\$200.00	Rev. Bernard Goertz	Ed Lavin
3	Ash Wood Double Rocker	RHA	David Fiebrich
4	Quilt & Pillow Shams	Minnie Bartsch	Cindy Nastars
5	\$100.00	Stanley & Joan Hilbig	Jane Goertz
6	\$100.00	Albert & Clara Hilbig Klinkovsky	Barbara Kopplin
7	\$100.00 Gift Certificate to WalMart	Cecil & Gerri Martinez	Gloria Hoffman
8	Altazimuth Refracting Telescope	Melvin & Marcia Driskill	Erlene A. Goertz
9	Handmade Baby Quilt	Esther Seidel	Dennis Bartsch
10	Electric Roaster	Tish Wilhelm	Cliff Redus
11	\$50.00	Catholic Life Insurance - Gerri Martinez, Rep.	Jennifer Henderson
12	\$50.00 Gift Certificate to KM Skincare	Gloria Hoffman	Cindy Goertz
13	St. Francis 31 inch Cement Statue	Ovon Goertz	Lea Ann Goertz Lee
14	Basket of Hand-Crafted Products	White Crane Catering, Cedar Creek	Adlinie Rathman

RHA Directors

Marian H. Nelson, President
 Gerri Martinez, Vice-president
 Gloria Hoffman, Secretary
 Minnie L. Bartsch, Treasurer
 Rev. Bernard Goertz, Chaplain
 Bryan Goertz, Attorney
 Ovon Goertz, Docent
 Melvin Driskill, Docent
 Esther Seidel, Docent
 Clara White, Docent
 Letitia Wilhelm, Docent

Pioneer Editor:
Marian H. Nelson
E-mail: mhnelson@austin.rr.com
Website: sites.rootsweb.com/~txrha/
Published by G and C Printing

Mission Statement

The purpose of the **Rockne Historical Association (RHA)**, a non profit **organization**, is to gather, document, develop, encourage, preserve, promote, publish and protect the history of Rockne and the surrounding communities in Bastrop County, Texas.