

Goertz Cabin Grant Presentation

Beau White, Bluebonnet Electric Coop Community Representative presented a grant from The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) for \$25,000 to **Marian Nelson**, President of The Rockne Historical Association (RHA). The grant is matching funds for the reconstruction of the historic Lehman log cabin. In accepting the grant on behalf of the RHA Board of Directors, Marian thanked Mr. White and the representatives from LCRA and Bluebonnet. She said, "We are sincerely grateful for the outstanding support from LCRA and Bluebonnet Electric Coop and we are encouraged and motivated to continue preserving history in the Rockne community and Bastrop County."

RHA became interested in restoring the **John T. Lehman** historical home early in 2003. It had been a landmark on the corner of Highway 20 and 535 and its absence was a loss to the community. A committee of members **Minnie Bartsch, Daniel Lehman, and Melvin Driskill**, was formed and the restoring of the cabin in Hilbig Park, Rockne began. Funding was the first consideration and Charlie Nelson volunteered to solicit grants. It is because of his efforts that we are accepting this grant today.

Tim Tucker Homes was contracted to restore the cabin and has spent much time researching the project. He is ready to begin the work immediately.

Reconstructing the Lehman cabin preserves another piece of early Rockne history. **Daniel Lehman** and his family arrived in the Rockne area in 1846 and he and his son, **John T. Lehman** built the historic cabin around 1860. **John T. Lehman** donated the land where the present-day Sacred Heart Church and the cemetery are located. He died in 1892 and was the first person to be buried in Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery in Rockne.

Besides the Lehman families, many others are documented as having lived in the log cabin including Philip & Annie Hoffman, Paul & Mary Koenig, John & Tracy Hafner, and Chester Larvin.

The last family to occupy the cabin was Rufus & Lizzie Barnett. Nelson remembered visiting the family, in 1944, and holding their newborn baby. "Some of the old timers, like me," she said, "have some wonderful stories about the Lehman cabin. One I particularly like is about a time when the place was unoccupied and some men gathered regularly to play poker. Iti½s told that once they played strip poker all night and one of the men wound up without any clothes."

After serving as a home for many years, the cabin was used as a barn. In 1984 it was purchased by Dr. Wagner and moved to a site in Bastrop, Texas. Restoration was completed but some time later the log cabin was torn down and the logs were auctioned off and sold to Verlin Lehman, a descendant of John T. Lehman. Neither he nor his son accomplished the rebuilding before their deaths and the Lehman heirs, George and Cindy Goertz, donated the logs and a strip of land adjacent to the existing log cabins in Hilbig Park.

The Lehman home will be completed and dedicated as another history preservation project of the Rockne Historical Association.