



PIONEER



The Pioneer
Editor
Lea Ann Goertz Lee

HILBIG PARK – Museum, Pioneer Log Buildings

Located in Rockne at 4065 FM 535

Mailing address: P.O. Box 37, Red Rock, TX 78662

(512) 581-2625 and (512) 304-8379

Visit our new website at <https://rocknemuseumandhilbigpark.com>

Saturdays, 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – Call for drop-by visits or to schedule an appointment

Board Members:

Lea Ann Lee, *President*
Cheryl Daniel, *Secretary*
Bonnie Shimek, *Finance*
Committee Chair

Diane Conner
Galynn Fogle
Joy Goertz
Ovon Goertz
David Till
Clara White

Docents: Sat. 12 – 4

Joy Goertz
Clara White
Cheryl Daniel
Lisa Gossett
Della Ott
Bonnie Shimek
Ovon Goertz
David Till

Substitute Docents:

Lea Ann Lee
Teri Meuth

Your name would look good on this list!

Upcoming Events:

February 23 RHA Fundraiser
April 13 Easter Egg Hunt
At Hilbig Park
June 14 Flag Day
August 30 Rockne
Homecoming
Parade
August 31 Rockne Bazaar
November 29 Rockne Market
Day

Annual

ROCKNE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Fundraiser

Sunday, February 23, 2025

SACRED HEART PARISH HALL

Silent Auction - 11:00 a.m.

Spaghetti Lunch - 11:45 a.m.

(Goodwill donation)

Live Auction - 1:00 p.m.

Raffle drawing following auction

Door Prizes / Heritage Crafts Display

Come spend a fun day with old friends and make some new ones!

Don't forget to visit the Farm and Tractor Show
outside starting at 9:00 a.m.

Brought to you by Lower Walnut Creek Farm

— HIGHLIGHTS OF 2024 —

As we begin the new year, the Rockne Historical Association owes a huge debt of gratitude to all who supported us in 2024, from our volunteers who put in countless hours to our members who donate generously to our organization and the fundraiser raffle and auctions. We would also like to thank G&C Printing, who donate their printing services, and Rockne Grocery, who donate refreshments each year.

We are in a constant state of improvement at the Rockne Museum and we're super excited to get started on new projects in 2025 – please see the PastPerfect Update on page 4 for details about some of the outstanding work that is happening!

Quilts and tractors and auctions, oh my!

The 2024 annual fundraiser saw our first ever Farm and Tractor Show, with a very impressive display of tractors and antique farm implements outside Holtman Hall. We had a great response, so we plan to have the display again this year – be sure to check it out when you attend the fundraiser on Sunday, February 23! Thank you to Ben Till and Lower Walnut Creek Farm for sponsoring this fun addition to our annual event.



We also had a beautiful and informative quilt exhibit, thanks to the Masur family for creating the Heritage Crafts Display! We will have another display inside Holtman Hall this year, so don't forget to explore the hall as you are shopping at our RHA "store" or bidding on items in our huge silent auction.

Rockne Homecoming Parade

Our entry in the Rockne Homecoming Parade on August 31 was in honor of Arthur Goertz, the Rockne Cowboy and WWII veteran who turned 101 on September 25. Arthur always helps out at our live auction, assisting our auctioneer Mike Hilbig, so come say hello at the fundraiser! Thanks so Ben Till and David Till for putting together the cool antique tractor parade entry.



Easter Bunny Hops to Hilbig Park



We continued the tradition of having our annual Easter Egg Hunt the Sunday before Easter. This event is sponsored by Catholic Life Insurance and will take place again on April 13, 2025, so mark your calendars!



DOCENTS NEEDED!

We are in need of docents! No experience is needed, just a desire to learn about our history and the museum. It's a fun and rewarding volunteer opportunity, so please reach out to us if you're interested!

— PETRIFIED WOOD PLACED IN HONOR —

The family of Sachi Nelson, the daughter of Charlie and Marian Nelson, donated two large, impressive pieces of petrified wood to be placed under a tree in the front of the museum in her honor. Sachi passed away March 17, 2024, and her family gathered at the museum in April for a beautiful memorial where they released butterflies and took turns sharing stories about her life. The petrified wood logs were found in Red Rock, off Hwy 812 by Sachi's brother, Bruce Nelson, and formed while submerged in the sandy soil of Walnut Creek.



— IN LOVING MEMORY OF EVA FRISKE —

May 5, 1937 - December 25, 2024



Rockne recently mourned the loss of Eva (Meuth) Friske, who was a longtime RHA board member and Rockne Museum docent. A devoted wife to her husband, Cecil Friske, and mother to their five children, Eva was especially known for her creative talents as a seamstress. She worked at Continental EMSCO Credit Union, then later as a Special Education Paraprofessional until her retirement.

In addition to volunteering with RHA, Eva was proud to work with Ladies of Charity and St. Anne's Society of Sacred Heart. She had a great sense of humor and always greeted people with a smile as she was helping out at countless community events and functions. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her!

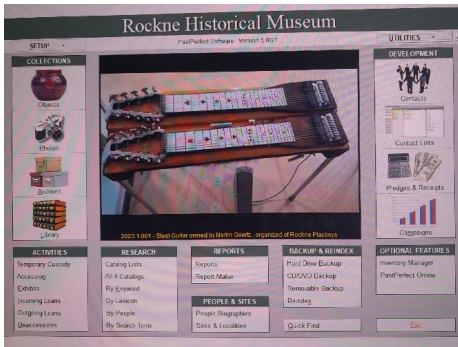
— GERMAN AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN VISITS THE MUSEUM —

Over 30 attendees were treated to a delightful evening at the museum on March 20, 2024, with German author Barbara Ortwein. Ortwein presented her trilogy of novels about the Engelbach family's immigration journey from Germany to Texas. She took the crowd through the Engelbachs' experiences, stopping to read excerpts and sing songs in German such as "Hin Nach Texas" and "Ade, Deutschland," providing songbooks so that everyone could sing along and see the English translations.



Ortwein also brought numerous visual aids, such as maps and posters about Texas settlements, that were displayed around the museum. She did extensive research for her novels in order to maintain historic accuracy. The fictional main characters interact with historic persons, including actual immigrants involved in the German settlements in Texas. Ortwein finished the evening with a book signing of the novels, *Between Worlds Never to Return*, *In the Heart of Texas But Not Yet at Home*, and *At Journey's End: Texans Forever!*

— MUSEUM PASTPERFECT PROJECT UPDATE —



The PastPerfect Committee is dedicated to documenting and cataloging our Rockne Museum artifacts, as well as the future preservation needs of the museum. They continue to meet each Thursday, so please reach out if you'd like to get involved and make a difference! Here are some of the highlights from the Committee's progress in 2024:



- **The Goertz Cabin's artifacts** have all been assigned a unique Object ID number and tagged in preparation for entry into PastPerfect, along with new labeling for each item.
- **The shingle roof of the Goertz Cabin** was in disrepair, so Bernard Probst oversaw the project of replacing it with a metal roof. The cabin was then cleaned and restaged. Bernard also trimmed the trees and removed dead shrubs, overgrown cacti, etc., hauling off three trailer loads of debris!
- **In the main museum building**, the artifacts from the glass display cases were removed to clean the shelves. Then, the artifacts were reorganized into specific categories: Rockne, Homeland, Music, Personal Effects/Attire, Military, Education, and Religious. Each item was then assigned a unique Object ID number and tagged in preparation for entry into PastPerfect. The old labels for the items were replaced with new temporary labels that featured a standardized design, including consistent font, font size, and layout. New, permanent labels will be professionally printed on a permanent PVC-type of material in 2025.
- **The museum artifacts have been classified** into four categories when entered into the PastPerfect software: Objects, Photos, Archives, and Library. (refer to picture) There are 333 entries in Objects, 84 in Photos, 43 in Archives, and 19 in the Library. A long way to go!
- **The Bastrop County Museum donated several display cases** to RHA that have been utilized in the Education/School Display, Quilt Display, Cotton & Cotton Gin Display, Military Display, Arthur & Erlene Goertz Display
- **Cube-style storage** was purchased to hold the family history binders and research books that were displayed on the shelf beneath the Early Settlers Wall and are now relocated underneath the shelving.
- **A new thermostat was installed** to improve temperature and humidity control in the museum, which is necessary to protect artifacts such as photos, textiles, documents, and books.
- **A German goose feather Christmas tree** was constructed from a kit and the cabins were decorated with greenery.

The Committee plans to work on the Lehman Cabin in 2025, as well as adding more artifacts to the PastPerfect database. If you want to get involved and make a difference, please reach out to us!