

CHALKBOARD NOTES

FRIENDS GILLESPIE COUNTY COUNTRY SCHOOLS

Open House Schedule for:

SEPT 9, 2017:

- * Cherry Spring School
- * Pecan Creek School
- * Crabapple School &
- * St John Lutheran Church

SEPT 16, 2017: Wrede School

SEPT 17, 2017: Lower South
Grape Creek School

OCT. 7, 2017:

Williams Creek School
Junction School LBJ Park

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QUARTERLY

Friends Gillespie County Country Schools

Volume 6 Issue Summer 2017 NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL SERVICE Award goes to EVELYN WEINHEIMER, archivist at Gillespie County Historical Society- Pioneer Museum. Each year CSAA presents a Service Award to a person at the previous year's CSAA conference location. Evelyn Weinheimer received the 2017 Service Award as recognition for her willingness to share the Gillespie County historical archives with the Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools and her devotion to country schools and their archives projects such as the School History Notebooks Project. Evelyn keeps an eye open for special photographs, any country school historic documents and information that assists our historical country school goal "to preserve our past, to enrich our future"

Smithsonian Institute National Museum of American History, Washington DC, opened MANY VOICES, ONE NATION, a new permanent exhibit on June 28th. Hundreds of historical photos from our Gillespie County country schools were requested by the Museum's Assistant Curator, Debbie Schaefer-Jacobs. Crabapple School is featured in one of five interactive electronic SCHOOL YEAR BOOKS. Other early school photos are used throughout the exhibit. Thanks to the hard work of FRIENDS members in gathering photos and the generous professional re-touching of two of these photos by Mary Paige Huey, we made the deadline. If traveling or have friends in the DC area, please visit MANY VOICES, ONE NATION. For abbreviated exhibit: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/exhibitions/many-voices-one-nation>

Please note the online exhibit is an abbreviated exhibit. It tells the American story even though it does not show our photos—it is a very worthwhile view.

The old photo was very yellow and the excess amount of sunlight coming into the classroom made it difficult to see the little girl holding the flag as she stood on the bench. The Smithsonian curator wanted this photo because it shows what you almost always found in a country school: American Flag, the central position of the stove, and the two pictures of President Washington and President Lincoln. See the two photos retouched by Mary Paige Huey—both photos the Smithsonian included in their School Year Book. The second photo with Crabapple spelled out on the children's shoe soles! Do visit Crabapple School and St John Lutheran Church next door...a true country church, on Sept 9th as



Crabapple School Photo retouched by Huey

you make the route to Cherry Spring School to see their recently completed restoration of the School Pavilion with relocation of their painted school stage curtain. Learn how the moving walls produced an extra classroom. Cherry Spring School is looking for old double school desks, so do contact the Friends or a member of Cherry Spring School if you know of any old double school desks available. Just learned at CSAA Conference in NH the reason for double desks was to save money by having a desk that was large enough to accommodate one, two, three, or more students if it was necessary. After the visit to Cherry Springs School, finish your Open House tour at Pecan Creek School and see another wonderful painted school curtain and visit a “tin” school with a tiny gem-of-a-school tucked into the corner of their School Pavilion. Riding a Jinny to school is one of their best photos to see.

In June, **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION** filmed at Williams Creek School and Pecan Creek School. They interviewed Friends’ members, many former students, and saw school artifacts. The filming will be used to produce new Mobile Apps series about German immigrants in Texas to assist heritage travelers in making a route that is of interest to them. The film presents videos, maps, and audio about the influences of the early German settlers in Texas. Their initial visit with photos is at: <https://www.facebook.com/TexasHistoricalCommision/posts/1287274578052011>. We are appreciative of the extra commitment made by over 45 of our members and friends to make the film. Carol Wahrmond Birmingham, Friends’ President, coached the team and inspired them to work quickly to meet the Texas Historical Commission’s needs and scheduling demands. The finished Mobile Apps will be available in September.

VOCABULARY STUDY: How is your German? “Griffel” is a German word used in early American country schools to describe a special pencil made from compressed slate softer than the slate for the slate boards. These were in use from early 1800s until 1920’s until chalk replaced them. The slate mines in Vermont and Pennsylvania produced most of the school slates and griffels.

COMMISSIONER DONNIE SCHUCH reported that the County records scanned in their recent archives project will soon be available for viewing at Pioneer Memorial Library. This will not only preserve our county historical records but make them accessible to the public. Many of our historical school records are included in these scanned documents. The author of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”, Harriet Beecher Stowe, wrote: “The past, the present, and the future are really one; they are today.” Look at history and preservation with a new eye that is open to inspiration and new knowledge you can use today.

Thank you for supporting Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools. We look forward to bringing you the 2017 Fall Edition of CHALKBOARD. Feel free to contact the Friends to submit items for the CHALKBOARD. Contact the Friends, or Don at 456-1249 or Jane at 990-8059 to submit articles or photos to the CHALKBOARD. The quarterly editions are meant to keep us in touch, share information, and open new doors to our country schools and community centers in Gillespie County-- so we welcome your submissions.

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If you wish to unsubscribe, e-mail Jane at jane423@austin.rr.com.