

Chalkboard Notes, September 2016

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The Friends' members spent a great deal of time and energy over the past three years preparing and presenting the 2016 Country School Association of America (CSAA) National Conference. As a result, we adjusted the CHALKBOARD edition times. We are pleased to say that our CHALKBOARD Newsletters are now on a regular schedule with the next annual CHALKBOARD coming in January, 2017, with the CHALKBOARD Notes being sent throughout the year.

CSAA 2016 Short Report:

There were 93 attendees at the 16th Annual [Country School Association of America](#) (CSAA) Conference in Fredericksburg, Texas, from June 19-22, 2016. Attendees, hailing from 20 states, were privileged to hear 29 presenters from 15 states. The attendees had the opportunity to visit all 17 Gillespie County Country Schools as pictured on our brochure, with the Sunday Afternoon Self-Driving Tour drawing over 400 visitors and the Motor Coach Tour of Schools hosting 47. The Schoolgirls Sampler Exhibit, hosted by the [Pioneer Museum](#), included 74 samplers from 1778 to contemporary times. The conference was held in conjunction with the CSAA Conference to support the theme *On the Land-*



Learning at Hand, featuring the Keynote Presentation by Vickie Jennett of Arizona. Schoolgirls samplers assisted in educating girls for over 200 years and over 4,068 visitors to the Exhibit were surprised with the many academic subjects they taught.

Ten CSAA markers were placed on Gillespie County historic schools this summer which was a CSAA record number in any one count. Friends are members of this national organization. We invite you to visit their website at www.CountrySchoolAssociation.org to see the very important work they do throughout America in preserving the rich history of the country schools.

CSAA allowed us to see our schools from expert eyes from across the country. They told us they had never seen...

- a school BBQ pit
- a school rodeo ground
- a tin school
- a school painted stage curtain
- a school pavilion
- so many friendly volunteers (over 133)

The CSAA Conference Exit Survey was very positive and filled us with pride when we read, “best CSAA Conference ever” or “best tour of schools”. Thanks to all our members, volunteers, and supporters for making this happen in our community. Our historic schools have the potential to continue to attract historic tourists and continue to teach young and old in our community, while serving as a meeting place for family, friends, and community, or as rentals for classes, reunions, and weddings.

New Red Feather Flags:

Friends now own and display 17 red feather flags to guide you to our country schools and give notice of an OPEN HOUSE or special event. Many CSAA members commented on how helpful these proved to be when they drove themselves to the Sunday Open House Event. Look for them when you drive to the historic school events.

Open House Schedule for remainder of 2016:

We have three events on our calendar for the remainder of 2016. Mark your calendars to attend one or more of them. Visit our [Events Calendar](#) page. We have added our 2017 open houses to the Events Calendar page.

- Saturday, October 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.: **Junction School & Williams Creek School**
- Friday, November 18: **Bake Sale at Williams Creek School to be held at Weinheimer & Son, Stonewall**
- Saturday, December 17: **Friends Annual Bake Sale Fundraiser**

Endowment Fund:

The Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools Endowment Fund, established November, 2015, by Dr Alice White, insures the Friends stability in funding to sustain the restoration

of the 12 historic school buildings in the Friends' membership. Endowments can also act as connectors to future generations. How many of you have young family members not living here, but planning to return to the Texas Hill Country? We know you want your school(s) to remain in good condition to serve your families in ten years or 100 years. Contributions to the Friends Endowment can help you make that happen. You might want to tell family members living in other locations throughout the state and country about the Endowment so they can contribute to it as well. We have added the Endowment to our self-addressed gift envelopes which gives you the options of becoming a Member-at-Large, giving to the Friends' Endowment, or making a donation to the Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools. All twelve schools belong to the Friends Board of Director and function under their 501(c)3 non-profit certificate. If you are interested in more information about the Endowment or Membership at Large, contact Jane Woellhof at 830-990-8059 or jane423@austin.rr.com. You can remember the historic schools in your estate planning. We will be happy to work with you on your individual plans. The Friends' Endowment is administered by the Hill Country Community Foundation in Kerrville, Texas.

Completed Restoration Projects:

We are happy to report the following school restoration projects have been completed since our last CHALKBOARD Notes, enabled through your generous support.

- The **Cave Creek School** has completed their pavilion, stage, and teacherage restoration project. This included furnishing the teacherage (where the teacher lived near the school) and added a more personal touch to these quarters.
- The **Crabapple School** has completed interior painting.
- The **Meusebach School** finished their new roof.
- The **Nebgen School** will begin repairs to their porch very soon.
- The **Pecan Creek School** restored their cistern.
- The **Williams Creek School** is actively working on funding to restore their original school windows.
- The **Willow City School** has completed their window restoration project.
- The **Wrede School** is restoring their wood shed.

Friends Website:

Our website now has a new look to utilize current responsive website technology and meet the Friends' needs. It was completed by The Friends' webmaster, Kay Guenther, of [Website Solutions Company](#). Our is website more accessible with Google and offers more information. Viewers can [become Member-at-Large](#) or [purchase our souvenir items](#), such as cups, DVD, and books with Pay Pal on our website: www.historicschools.org. You will soon be able to donate to the Friends Endowment through the site. Kay, thanks for the new, expanded, fresh look.

Big Give:

Earlier this year, The Friends participated for the first time in [THE BIG GIVE](#) event to assist non-profits in funding. We want to extend our thanks to our challenger, Carol W. Birmingham of Roadrunner RV, who inspired donors to match her \$500 challenge. And a special thank for each of you who called in your pledge to THE BIG GIVE. This year was our learning year, so we encourage

you to participate in 2017.

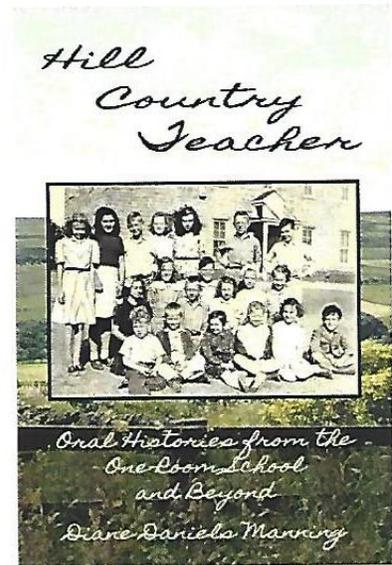
Book Cover

The book, *Hill Country Teacher*, by Diane Daniels Manning, features the Willow City School school photo from the past. You'll find it a great read with good humor and facts about schools you will recognize from the Texas Hill Country. The book is available at your favorite book store for \$12.99 or Kindle edition for \$2.99 at Amazon.com. We appreciate Diane's contribution to the Friends for allowing her to use the old photograph.

Review from POLLY WELTS KAUFMAN, Author of *Women Teachers on the Frontier*: "Hill Country Teacher charts growth and change in the work and lives of...public school teachers in the rural Texas hill country ... Oral histories spanning fifty years chronicling ... the roles of eight teachers who began their teaching careers as teenagers in one-room schoolhouses under severe social restrictions. They grew up with the profession, becoming pioneers in combining marriage and teaching, in special education, and in school integration."

Jane Woellhof and Don Spraggins

Directors at Large
Friends of the Gillespie County Country Schools



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