Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The volunteers again decorated the historic complex for Christmas using decorations that were formerly used by the Zaboroski and Juergen families many years ago. Some decorations are from as early as the 1950s. We hope you will come and enjoy them; it is a great photo op for you and your family.

We had a special service project on Saturday, October 26, that we were not able to report in the November newsletter. Students from both Cy-Ranch and Bridgeland High School, as well as members from the Cy-Fair Council for Social Studies and the Cypress Historical Society came out in the morning to help. They washed glasses and other artifacts in the bar display of the store museum. Thanks to their careful work, the vintage glasses look shiny and new.

The November Cypress Top Historic bus trip went to Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery in La Grange. First, they stopped at Hruska’s Bakery in Ellinger for breakfast. If you are not familiar with this spot, the Seniors highly recommend it. Soon they were back on the road, ready to learn about the state historic sites. While the view at the top of Monument Hill and the short hike down to the brewery was beautiful, the cold and rainy weather put a damper on the trip for some. The informative and friendly staff told the Seniors about the tomb of those who died in the Dawson Massacre of 1842 during the invasion of Mexican Troops into Texas. They also learned about the ruins of what was once the third largest brewery in Texas about 1880. Some Seniors decided to stay warm and dry in the newly renovated visitors’ center, which was full of informative displays.
The most interesting display in the visitors’ center was a scale model of the brewery. The model helps demonstrate how large and elaborate the brewery was. Thanks to the informational displays in the visitor center as well as the wonderful tour guides, everyone walked away with a better understanding of the Kreische family and their contribution to Texas history. Despite being recent immigrants from Germany, the Kreische’s love for their new country inspired them to create a place of somber reflection for those who died fighting for Texas independence.
Everyone learned a great deal from the tour and enjoyed the scenic view. The group then took a break for lunch and strolled around the La Grange courthouse square where there are a number of statues and other historic displays. Some Seniors also took time to visit some shops on the square.

The next stop for the bus was the Winedale Historic Complex in Round Top. The complex is part of the University of Texas – Briscoe Center for American History. Ms. Ima Hogg donated all the homes, furniture, and land in the 1960s. She wanted to preserve the collection for the education of future generations of students and teachers. Touring the Lewis-Wagner House and the McGregor-Grim House, the guides informed participants about the families’ histories. They pointed out many interesting characteristics of the homes and special pieces of furniture.
The Lewis-Wagner home contains eight rooms, which makes sense considering it functioned as an inn during the 1850s. Some of the most beautiful features of the home were the paintings done on the ceiling, mantels above the fireplaces, and accents along the walls. The study area featured the most distinct piece, a green parrot, meant to symbolize wisdom.

The McGregor-Grim home was styled as a Greek-revival farmhouse, even going as far as to paint bright colors and columns to distract from the wooden walls of the entranceway. The McGregor patriarch worked as a successful doctor and farmer, and the home clearly reflects the family’s status. A room towards the back of the house functioned for McGregor’s practice and could be isolated from the rest of the house if needed.

Signing Up for Senior History Bus Trips (Must be at least 50 years old to go on these trips)

You may sign up for:

The December trip is now waitlisted. The trip is SATURDAY, December 14, from 9 AM until 7 PM. It will go to the Bastrop Holiday Homes Tour. If you have a confirmed seat on the bus, you will need to purchase your ticket directly from Holiday Homes Tour. Presented By: Bastrop Museum & Visitor Center, 904 Main Street, Bastrop, TX 78602 Phone: (512) 303-0057. Price: $20 https://www.bastropcountyhistoricalsociety.com/holiday-homes-tour
Because of a parking conflict at Juergen’s Hall, this December special trip will leave from Kleb Woods, 20303 Draper Rd, Tomball, 77377.

And………

The January 24 trip will be to Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site. Lunch will be at a Freeport seafood house and the afternoon will explore the historical marker sites of Velasco.
And……

The **February 28** trip to San Felipe de Austin and after lunch the Turnverein Halls in Cat Springs and Bellville.

Sign up for future trips by emailing cypressstop@pct3.hctx.net or calling (281) 357-5324. You may only sign up yourself plus one friend/spouse. No multiple reservations. You will get a confirmation e-mail a week before the trip if you have a seat.

**Cypress Top Historic Park** is open seven days a week from 7:00 a.m. to dusk. The **buildings** are open Tuesdays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Formal tours of the museum complex led by CHS volunteers begin from Juergen’s Store at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. each Tuesday. However, our staff and volunteers are happy to have you visit the store anytime while we are there to give you an impromptu tour of any of the buildings. **Group (6 or more) tours may be booked Tuesdays through Saturdays between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.** Group tours are subject to staff availability, so we recommend you make reservations at least one month in advance. The park and museum buildings are open to all and, as with all events offered at Cypress Top Historic Park, **admissions and tours are free.**

**Juergen’s Hall is a community center**, offering many activities and classes for all ages. Please check the Precinct Three website at [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com) for hours of operation and offerings of Juergen’s Hall Community Center.

Members of the **Cypress Historical Society** are in the Cypress Train Depot (bright yellow building) at Cypress Top Historic Park every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on the third Saturday of the month from noon to 3 p.m. They have a great deal of genealogy information on most early Cypress area families. Drop in and visit them when you are in the area.

The December and January calendars can be found on the Precinct Three website under activity calendars. Select from the drop down menu. [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com).

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*Seniors enjoy the historic sites in spite of cold dreary weather. Photo by Jim Pulliam.*