Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Happy Valentine’s Day. We can trace the popularity of receiving valentines from someone special back to the 16th Century. Letting someone know how much they mean to you is truly timeless. By the 1800s, valentines became commercialized and we began seeing the popular symbols such as Cupid, hearts, and flowers. Even birds were fashionable as people believed mid-February to be bird-mating season. We hope your day is filled with romance, joy, and heartfelt sweet treats and cards.

Speaking of sweets, Juergen’s Store carried a variety of sweet treats, most notably a wide selection of sodas. Many of the brands known and loved today were carried and sold in the store. Brands such as Coca-Cola, Pepsi, 7up, and Dr. Pepper are displayed throughout the store in various forms. Upon leaving the store, the screen door push bar states “Ice Cold Coca-Cola in Bottles.” A reminder that there was still time for one final purchase, push-bars were an important form of advertising.

When entering the store, a 7up sign can be seen hanging near the window, serving as both an advertisement for the soda as well as an open or closed sign for the store. Delivery cases full of vintage glass bottles are stacked up against the main counter when entering the store. Certain Coca-Cola bottles weighed up to 14.5 ounces, so once filled with 6.5 ounces of
soda, they weighed more than a pound. Visitors can enjoy looking for the name of the city in which the bottling plant was located embossed on the bottom of the bottle. Kids often compared bottles hoping to have one from furthest away. At Cypress Top, the furthest bottle traveled a total of 1,743 miles from New Haven, Connecticut.

Towards the back of the store are large refrigeration units that display the various drinks the store may have once sold. Through the two cooler doors are some of the more unique bottles. Big Chief, Sun Tang, and Orangette Lemonette are just a few of the examples of the lesser known brands whose bottle found its way to the store. From the shape of the bottles to their designs, they clearly stand out as rarities and remind visitors of a different time.

Our historian is preparing a new display for the shelves at Cypress Top. While still in the planning stage, the result will be a series of different displays on the assortment of sodas sold at Juergen's Store. Brand name sodas will be researched and discussed, but also the more obscure brands. There are many intriguing yet little-known facts relating to these bottles. For example, Robert Lazenby is famous for taking over the well-known Dr. Pepper Brand, but many might not know he created a soda brand called Circle ‘A’ Brand, which Cypress Top has on display. Perhaps just their elaborate shapes and designs attract attention.
Above, a Coca-Cola advertisement hanging up inside of Juergen’s Store. Photo by Brigid Burke.

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 February 28 trip is now waitlisted. You may sign up for the waitlist for this trip to San Felipe de Austin and, after lunch, the Eagle Lake Train Depot and a stop at the Turnverein Hall in Cat Springs.

The March 13 trip to the History Center in Diboll and a museum in Lufkin.

Sign up for future trips by emailing cypresstop@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 also 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 February and March 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)