Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Cypress Top Park is a reflection of twentieth-century life in America. The train depot town was the America my grandfather grew up in. Juergen’s Hall has many advertising items from the 1970s and 80s. The general store is full of advertising and products I recall from my childhood and has many items that were for sale in the later decades of the century. Among all these items are an array of Christmas decorations. They too are typical of rural America in the middle of the twentieth century. I hope you will stop by to enjoy and reminisce about Christmases past.

Our volunteers again adorned the Cypress Top grounds with decorations left to us by the Zaboroski Family, who donated the property to the County. Gudrun, a longtime volunteer, again loaned us her artistic talent to paint the store windows, as was typically done by merchants in the 1950s. Her talents are appreciated by many Seniors who visit the complex during the holidays. The original decorations were embellished with wreaths made by some of our volunteers to provide each building with a touch of Christmas cheer. We hope you will visit during the holidays. The scene makes for some good Christmas photos as well.

The November Senior History Bus Trip visited the Sam Houston Museum Complex in Huntsville in the morning and the old stagecoach stop in Anderson that afternoon. The Sam Houston complex has a number of old buildings including Sam Houston’s “Woodland Home” and the “Steamboat House” where he died. The site also includes a replica of the Woodland home’s log cabin kitchen as well as Sam’s log cabin law office. The 15-acre site turned out to be a strenuous hike for the Seniors, and the terrain was downright mountainous by Harris County standards. The Seniors were blessed by beautiful, clear skies and cool weather tempered by a warming sun. It was a perfect day for a walk in the park.
Above, the Seniors gather in front of the Steamboat House to listen to their guide. Photo by John Lumb.

Above, the upstairs parlor on the Steamboat House, displayed as it was for Sam Houston’s funeral. Photo by John Lumb.
After touring several historic buildings, the Seniors visited the Sam Houston Museum housed in the Sam Houston University Campus’ old Administration Building. This beautiful museum deserved much more time than the group had. Following the Sam Houston visit, it was time for lunch in the town square area, where participants tried several spots. All returned to the bus with good reports.

From Huntsville, the Seniors proceeded to Anderson where they visited Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site. This was a stagecoach stop on the Old Bahia Road in the 1840s and 1850s. The Inn was one of the nicer ones people might ever visit on a stagecoach route during that period. Most were much cruder and likely served more mundane meals.
passengers crammed into the tight cabin. No deodorant, no baths, men chewing tobacco, dust from the horses blowing by the open windows and, well, you get the picture. The Seniors had a fine day and were sorry to see it end.

At left, the large room at the stagecoach inn used to serve meals. Photo by John Lumb. 
At right, the Seniors experienced the inside of a packed stagecoach and obviously enjoyed it. Photo by Denise Hudspeth.

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

There is now a waitlist for the December 14 trip to Columbus to visit the historic Tait House and other historic sites in Columbus. You may now sign up for the January 25 trip to Galveston to visit the Bishop's Palace, the Garten Verein, and the Menard House, and the February 15 trip to Wharton to visit the Wharton County Courthouse, the Wharton County Historical Museum and the Matagorda Bay Nuclear Plant. You may also sign up for the March 15 trip to Goliad to visit the Goliad County Courthouse and the Mission Espiritu Santo.

Sign up for future trips by emailing cypressstop@pct3.com 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, we 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 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 December and January calendars can be found on the Precinct 3 web site, www.pct3.com There is a link from the Park web page as well.