Commissioner Steve Radack and his staff wish you a Happy May Day, a memorable Mother’s Day, a celebratory Graduation Day and an enjoyable Memorial Day. Commissioner Radack will again host a ceremony on Memorial Day at 2:00 p.m. at the War Memorial in Bear Creek Pioneer Park, and we invite you to attend and remember those who died protecting our freedoms.

In keeping with the thoughts and prayers of Memorial Day, I hope you find the following article of interest about the making of the greatest generation.

In 1940, Americans were almost equally divided among those living on farms and those living in cities. They were very different. Farmers rarely had electricity, running water, indoor plumbing or higher education. They grew their food, slaughtered their pork and beef, and smoked their sausage and bacon. They could probably shoot the eyes out of squirrels to make stew and not ruin the meat. They could fix things, cook over a camp fire, and possessed many basic survival skills. City boys did not possess these skills.

Following the U.S. entry into World War II, hundreds of thousands of young men joined the service, and regardless of whether they were from a city or a farm, they ended up in boot camp together. When the farm boys traveled to boot camp, they might have gawked at lights, indoor plumbing, and become confused in busy train stations, and the city boys poked fun at them. Boot camp broke them all down and rebuilt them as soldiers. The early mornings, harsh outdoor conditions, and physical work were difficult for the city boys. The intense study of military manuals was difficult for many farm boys with perhaps only 6th grade reading skills. City soldiers helped the farm boys when they could and farm boys helped the city boys learn to shoot, control a knife, and survive harsh conditions. After boot camp, as they began to travel to more distant
places, the city boys again played practical jokes on the farm boys and made fun of them when they visited cities around the world.

But when combat came, they were a band of brothers and they helped each other survive. The farm boys could tolerate and adapt to harsh combat conditions and take advantage of any resource, from a passing hog or stray chicken, to a shipping crate to fuel a fire for a hot meal. The city boys were grateful and appreciative of the farm boys’ initiatives. The two groups of boys became a U.S. military unit which was the best fighting force ever assembled. They learned from one another and appreciated each other’s skills. World War II united our country like nothing before and produced the greatest generation. It is with sadness that we watch them pass into history.

Senior History Bus Trip

There was no Senior bus trip from Cypress Top in April.

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

The May 17 trip will be to Schulenburg to tour the Painted Churches in the area. You may add your name to the waitlist for this trip. The June 21 trip will be to the Van Gogh Exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. 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, 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](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 May and June calendars can be found on the Precinct 3 web site. [www.pct3.com](http://www.pct3.com). There is a link from the Park’s web page as well. We hope you take the time to look at other Precinct Three Parks on the Precinct’s website. May is a wonderful month to enjoy the Precinct Parks, and we hope you take full advantage of the many parks Commissioner maintains.