

Westphalia Historical Society Newsletter

December 2008— Volume XXXVII

Community Christmas Stroll--2008

You are invited to tour the Little School Museum, Farm Shed, and upper and lower levels of the Convent on Sunday, December 7, 2008, during the Westphalia Community Christmas Stroll. Local decorators have been working since October 14th to make the Stroll one YOU and your family will remember for years.

The Adult Choir will present a Christmas Concert in Visitation Church at the conclusion of the Stroll at 7 PM.

Much interest has been created; and approximately 35 local organizations, clubs, owners of historic homes, businesses, and households plan to participate. (See the enclosed poster for details.) Everyone is welcome.

Landscaping Progress

Master Gardener, Nancy Duskocil, has added more plants, and the butterflies continue to enjoy the blossoms.

Guests, walkers, and visitors, continually comment on the beautiful landscaping, and the peaceful feelings Nancy has created with her expertise.

THANKS

Looking Back.....

Trees Removed—March 15, 2008

The Westphalia Historical Society is very

appreciative to the volunteers who came to remove trees near the Little School Museum, and behind the two-story Convent. As a community project, Westphalia's Knights of Columbus Council #13902 brought equipments, both large and small, and most of the diseased and dying trees were removed by noontime.

THANKS, KC Council #13902

Easter Egg Hunt—March 23, 2008

Since Easter Sunday in 2008, fell so early in the year, the Easter Egg Hunt had to be held in the Parish Hall, along with the Easter Social after the 8 AM Mass. But the children enjoyed the treats anyway. In 2009, Easter will occur on April 12th, so the historical society will try again for an "outdoor" hunt.

Memorial Day Tribute-- May 25, 2008

At 11 AM, visitors, veterans, and area residents gathered in front of the Little School Museum to honor veterans from all wars to show appreciation to United States Armed Forces for their bravery and commitment to preserve the freedoms Americans enjoy. A 10 AM Memorial Mass was celebrated by Rev. Walter Dhanwar, IMS, in the Church of the Visitation. With the assistance of Westphalia Boy Scout Troop #151, and Cub Scout Pack #151, the United States flag was raised, and The Star-

Spangled Banner was played by James Hering. Approximately 210 veterans from Westphalia and surrounding areas were individually recognized during the ceremony. This year, United States Navy veterans: Don Crowell, Deacon Bill Smetana, and Willard Carson, lay a wreath in front of the flagpole to honor Navy veterans. All Armed Forces veterans in the audience stood as the Marine Corps Reserve of Waco, Texas presented the 21-Gun Salute, and TAPS were sounded.

As with past Memorial Day Tributes, the faithful volunteers prepared a delicious fried chicken and dressing lunch at the Parish Hall for 500 visitors.

The 2009 Memorial Day Tribute will be on Sunday, May 24th at 11 AM.

POW/MIA Flag

Since World War I, approximately 200,000 American veterans remain Prisoners of War (POW), or, Missing in Action (MIA), throughout the world. Please remember each veteran still unaccounted for. The inscription under of image of the Prisoner Of War/Missing In Action flag reads: "You Are Not Forgotten". **Thank you,** Westphalia VFW "Five Gold Star" Post #6117 for your donation of this flag.

Exterior Repairs of Buildings

The exteriors of the Little School Museum, single garage/storage, Farm Shed, and Convent, needed repairs and renovations. With society members unable to do these extensive repairs, and after discussions from called meetings and Texas hurricanes looming, members voted to issue a contract to Agape Works, under the leadership of James E. Cooke, to do the necessary repairs in several project phases. After about 2 months, without major weather threats, the projects were completed at a total cost of \$17,868.61. The Westphalia

Historical Society appreciates the work done by Agape Works. **Many Thanks.**

Falls County Website Changes

The Falls County website has been implemented to give information and photographs about events going on in communities within the county. The site is also valuable to genealogists seeking family information from cemeteries in the area. This website is free to everyone. An alphabetical listing giving birthdates and death dates for those buried in the local St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Westphalia, Texas, can be found on the website. Since July 2008, Richard Latham and his family have contributed photographs of most of the grave markers in the cemetery. **Thanks, Richard, Carol, and family for this outstanding contribution.**

Falls County homepage for the website is:

<http://www.txgenweb6.org/txfalls/>

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery website is:

http://www.txgenweb6.org/txfalls/StMarysCatholicCemetery_2007.htm

*** Please note that there is a _ between Cemetery and 2007, but it is hard to see.

Westphalia Picnic and Homecoming— 2008

From the Pacific Coast to the Atlantic Ocean; from the Gulf Stream Waters to the Northern borders of the United States, and everywhere in between, people came to the community on October 12th for the Westphalia Picnic and Homecoming. Families and friends came back for the Homecoming to enjoy a delicious meal of fresh-made sausage, home-fried chicken,

Westphalia noodles, drink, and dessert—in fact, 5,700 meals were consumed. There was music, games and entertainment for the entire family. Many old friendships were renewed, and new friendships began.

The historical society invited everyone to tour the Church of the Visitation; the Museum and reminisce about school days in the Little School; to visit both levels of the Convent, and to visit Uncle Rubin's Farm Shed and get a look at agricultural tools and equipment used by early settlers.

Visitors were amazed by the landscaping improvements, the repairs and restorations of all buildings, the historic memorabilia, photographs, and stories collected over the years. The society workers reported the largest number of visitors ever to tour during the Westphalia Picnic and Homecoming.

PTO Halloween Carnival

The Westphalia PTO hosted a Halloween Carnival on Sunday, October 26, 2008, in the Parish Hall from 4 to 7 PM. This event enabled entire families to have a safe place to enjoy games, dress in Halloween costumes, and spend time together.

Each year the Westphalia Historical Society provides various foods for the Carnival. Members prepared sausage wraps, nachos, Westphalia noodles, home-baked pies, German Potato Soup, Broccoli-Cheese Soup, and near the 7 o'clock hour, everything had been consumed by hungry "goblins". Society members prepared 2 large electric roasters of Broccoli-Cheese Soup, 100 pounds of potatoes were used for German Soup, 50 pounds of sausage was made into sausage wraps, and 30 pies were gone. **Thanks to the donors of foods and the ghosts and goblins for their "Halloween" appetites. IT WAS FUN.**

Newcomers.....

In recent months, Claralee Gausemeier and Janet Loden have visited new families residing in the Westphalia area. They present a "Welcome" card from the Westphalia Historical Society, and Claralee prepares a fresh-baked and decorated cake to present to each family. Recent newcomers are: **Dana Ellison and Family, Kenneth and Donna Heese and children, Robert and Helen, Tina Hrabal, Mitzi Rieger and Family, and Karen Hattemer and Family.**

WELCOME!!!!!!

St. Mary's School Plaque

The St. Mary's School marble plaque that was mounted on the Convent's left column has found an almost-identical place where it had been seen since 1922—only to be on a free-standing post. Those students who attended classes in the Convent building, and the Sister of Divine Providence who lived there, welcome the plaque's replacement.

Thanks to skillful craftsmen and volunteers, the St. Mary's School plaque is back.

A Salute to Volunteers

As anyone can see with all the projects and events of 2008, **VOLUNTEERS** play a very important part in the Westphalia Historical Society. No organization can become successful without the work each person does, so when you visit the buildings and junctions, please tell these wonderful volunteers that you appreciate their time and energy to preserve the history of Westphalia, Texas.

Window Project Donation
(Since May 2008 newsletter)

In memory of Rev. Reinhold Schmitt,
CCM—1921-2007

In memory of Lucille Fee Kennedy--
1909-2008

Window Project donations of \$100 in honor
of family and friends for the Little School
Museum and Convent are accepted at any
time.

Donations

(Since May 2008 newsletter)

\$50—Moody 1st Baptist Church “Seniors”

Elementary Geography Text Book—1897
(Used by Isabella Ordener in Westphalia
Schools in 1899)—**John Kassner**

1950s Westphalia Home Demonstration
Club Friendship Quilt—**Agnes Lenz
Bernsen Estate**

POW/MIA Flag—**Westphalia VFW “Five
Gold Star” Post #6117**

\$100—in honor of Ben and Rosa Rabroker
Family—**Robert and Florence Rabroker**

\$100—Meals for Marine Corps Reserve 21-
Gun Salute Team—**William and Anita
Beach**

Westphalia CYO lapel pin—**Marilyn
(Pieper) Wilde-Coffee**

Military memorial folder of Glenard H.
Hering—**John G. Paddie (grandson)**

The Story of St. Mary's 1836-1986,
Westphalia, Michigan—**Anonymous Donor**

Wooden 1896 Mission's Cross with German
inscription (found in Church's Bell Tower)

Antique Baby Scale and Stand used at King
Daughters' Hospital—**Jerry McFadden**

50 copies of 1933 Church of the Visitation
50th Jubilee booklets (Reproduced)—**Don
and Joyce Frei**

Photo of Elizabeth (Hoelscher) Buxkemper,
made in Germany—circa 1844-1849—
Eugene and Lanita Beach

Steam Pressure Cooker/Canner for metal
cans—**Cecil and Dorothy Wilde**

By-laws/Constitutions of Westphalia's St.
Michael's Society, Catholic State League,
and St. Mary's Cemetery Society—**Gilbert
and Pauline Wilde**

St. Michael Society Badge, and Small Farm
Tools used by Joe Wilde, Sr.—**Clemence
Wilde**

Westphalia Fertilizer and Grain
thermometer—**Don and MaryAnn Crowell**

1933 Church photos, and stone crockery
mixing bowl used by Emilie Moeller to
prepare bread dough and coffee cake
dough—**Norbert Moeller and Anna Mae
Moeller Rainer**

Plexiglas for St. Michael's Society Banner—
Edward Koenig

Replica (in wood) of the Church of the
Visitation, Westphalia, Texas, crafted by
Charles A. Klepac—**Charles A. and
Matylda Klepac**

Original Photographs of Visitation Catholic
Church Celebrations, and Westphalia Parish
History—1879-1922 (In German)—**Leonard
and Juanita B. Buxkemper**

\$10—**Mary Lagrone**

The Hoelscher Family of Texas—1846-2003
Shirley Hoelscher Burk

Castor Oil prescription bottle filled by Frank J. Gausemeier, druggist, Westphalia, Texas; Cathartic Pill bottle prepared by Smith Drug Co., Marlin, Texas; and Panaroma of Camp Mackall, NC, during World War II—**Emma Schonhoeft Helpert**

\$25—Troy and Delores Mode

Commemorative tie worn by Herbert F. Hoelscher at the 1979 Westphalia Community Centennial—**Herbert F. and Helen Willberg Hoelscher Family**

Historic donations are welcome anytime. The society accepts military photos of area veterans with a short military history. Wedding photos of anyone married in Visitation Catholic Church are needed for the museum. Copies will be made, and the original photo will be returned to the family. Contact any officer for details.

Memorials

(Since May 2008 newsletter)

In memory of Benno and Elizabeth Hoelscher Family Members
\$30—Johnny B. Hoelscher

In memory of Minnie Voltin Pieper
\$25—Carson, Helen, and Kari Wallace
\$25—Pete and Edna Voltin Gomez

In memory of 1st Lt. Elmer L. Brod
\$25—A. J. Bonin
\$25—Carolyn Bonin Ostermayer

In memory of Lt. Col. Raymond E. Roessler
\$100—Marvin "Buddy" and Nelda Roessler

In memory of Raymond Fuchs
\$1,000—Alois Fuchs Family

In memory of Clarence and Helen Buster Hoelscher
\$100—Michael R. and Anita Hoelscher

Memorials by A.T and Doris Voltin
\$30—Richard Jahns
\$20—Lucille Green Greener

In memory of George and Nora Voltin
\$50—Rosemary Voltin Cox

In memory of Helen Rabroker Meyer
\$10—Margaret Hoelscher
\$25—Barbara Hesse Hoelscher
\$50—Bill and Carol Smetana
\$25—James and Kathy Thornton
\$50—Carson, Helen, and Kari Wallace
\$50—Bertillie Wunsch Standard
\$100—Jim and Juanita Waley
\$25—David, Cindy, and Regan Kahlig
\$25—Neal and Tammy Ryan
\$20—Clara Fuchs

In memory of Gregory C. Conners
\$70—Andrew and Annie Greger Family
\$25—Raymond and Nancy Daskocil
\$20—Evelyn Rabroker
\$25—Johnnie D. and Charlotte Thornton
\$10—Perry and Connie Petru
\$20—Edwin and Vonnie Green
\$20—Marvin and Jane Meyer
\$50—Bill and Carol Smetana
\$25—David, Cindy and Regan Kahlig

In memory of Alvin Guenzel, Jr.
\$20—Clara Fuchs
\$20—Helen Lingnau

In memory of Gwen Jistel Burns
\$50—Bill and Carol Smetana

Remember your family and friends with memorial to the Westphalia Historical Society.

Cana Room

The Cana Room and kitchenette are available for rent for wedding preparations

and photographing sessions, small parties, showers, and reunions. Rental fee is \$50. Contact any officer to rent the facility.

Newest Projects....

The historical society is interested in obtaining old newspaper clippings pertaining to happenings in and around the Westphalia area. If at all possible, please include the newspaper's name and date. Many people find a large collection of birth announcements, weddings, obituaries, social functions, and sporting events clippings that grandparents saved for many years. If you wish to keep the originals, make a copy for the historical society. With the technological advances in recent years, these newspaper articles can be recorded on CDs for genealogical research. This project is a wonderful way for you to preserve Westphalia's events and history of the past. The mailing address is included in this newsletter.

Do you have any photographs of the home where you lived as a youngster in the Westphalia area? The society will take your photograph, make a copy of it, and return the original to you. Please include stories while living there, or a history of the home. The society has received several nice stories and photos from area families.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the future, the society asks that you share that information. If you have a group that wants to visit the Church, Convent, and Little School Museum, please call any officer, and arrangements can be made.

"Wish List"—Little School Museum:
Outside Painting, Pest Control, Encase Hand-Crocheted Altar Laces, Additional Landscaping, Archival Supplies.

"Wish List"—Convent:
De-Humidifiers, Outside Painting, Pest Control, Window Treatments, Landscaping, Newer Lighting.

Officers:

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Mailing Address:

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*Your Continued Contributions
And Your Support Are Always
Appreciated.*

*Merry Christmas
And Happy New Year
May 2009 Be Your Best
Year Ever.*

Financial Report—Jan. 1—Oct. 31, 2008

Beginning Balance: \$20,157.52

Income: \$27,376.05 **
** (Includes transfer of \$15,000 from CD
+interest to Checking Account)

Expenses: \$29,667.68

Ending Balance: \$17,865.89



Holiday Greetings



Westphalia Community Christmas Stroll

Come and Join the Community on
Sunday, December 7th, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Hayrides, View the Church, and Historical Buildings, a Visit with
Santa, The Hering Store and The Old Store and Much More!

At the End of the Stroll this Year you are Invited to Attend
a Christmas Concert by The Choir of the Church of Visitation

Free Refreshments will be Served at Various Locations
on the Route

Just Start Your Visit by Parking in the Parish Hall Lot and Getting
on One of the Drawn Rides



*Join Us for Some Good Old-Fashion
Family Fun!*

