PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 18, Edition 1

Jan., 2013

Editor: John D. "Mickey" Mark E-mail: mark325@prodigy.net

Pearland Historical Society P. O. Box 1333 Pearland, Texas 77588

Dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of "Old Pearland"

President's Message

I suppose you all breathed a sigh of relief when you woke up **Saturday** morning, **December 22**nd. The **Mayans** were wrong - - thank goodness. The world did not come to an end. So now we can go ahead with our **Historical Society's** activities in **2013**.

The old saying "nothing is so sure as change" surely does apply to those of us who live in the formerly little community of **Pearland**. Each year as we gather for our annual **Reunion Luncheon** and to honor the class of 50 years ago, we all reflect back on what **Pearland** was like then as compared to today. The graduating class of **1962** (the honored class at our luncheon) had 48 members. Today the **Pearland** school district has something like 19,700 students! What a difference 50 years can make.

I hope each of you had a very Merry Christmas and 2013 will be a very happy and healthy year for all. 2012 was an interesting year for our Historical Society. Thanks to the Pearland Independent School District we now have a site we can call home - - the old tax office in the old school administration building. Hopefully we will get our historical timeline up on the wall soon and will be able to have school groups in for Pearland history lessons.

Further in the Newsletter is a story about Pearland's district champion football team of 1962 written by Society Member Tommy Hunter. The timing for the story is very appropriate since we will be honoring the class of 1962-63 (football season of 62) at our Reunion Luncheon next fall.

Just a reminder that yearly dues for 2013 are due at this time. A form for payent is the last page of the

Newsletter. Hope to see you at our quarterly meeting January 15th.

Mickey Mark

What's Happening

Every year it seems our **Reunion Luncheons** get better and better. We fed 230 people at our **October** luncheon and several of our members did make the comment that it was the best reunion luncheon yet. We did have an excellent attendance from members of the honored class of 1962. We will need addresses of the members of the class of 1963, our honored class for next fall. If any of you have addresses please let us know.

Once again our thanks go out to all the volunteers who worked so hard to decorate and set up tables, chairs, etc. for the luncheon. As usual our **Decorations Committee (Carleen Mark, Carolyn McCoy, and Karen Kliesing)** did a great job.

Our application for a **Texas Historical Marker** for **Hunter Park** on **Orange Street** has been approved by the **Brazoria County Historical Commission** and forwarded to the **Texas State Historical Commission**. The **Texas Commission** will begin reviewing applications in January; and at this point we do not know how long it will be before we hear from the **Commission** about approval.

Work continues on the pictorial **Pearland** history timeline at our **Historical Society** home on **Galveston Street**. The **Wednesday** night work group (**Karen Corron, Carl Talbot, Ray Kliesing, Karen Kliesing, Pat Talbot Burkett, Luther**

Cunningham and Corky Segelquist) has been meeting and working to get the timeline completed. Progress is slow; but we are getting there.

At our regular quarterly meeting on **Tuesday**, **January 15**th, we will have guest speakers, **Lata Krishnarao (Director of Community Development)** and **Harold Ellis (City Planner)**from the **City of Pearland** to give us a power point presentation of plans for the development of **Grand Blvd.** and the old **Pearland Townsite.** Perhaps, you may have read in the local papers about some plans for **Grand Blvd. Lata and Harold** will tell us about the plans. It should be an interesting presentation.

Make your plans to attend.



1962 Class Members at Reunion Luncheon

1st Row L to R: Mike Milstead, Judy Benes
Poston, Mary Gomez Reyes, Jodie Fisher Trevino,
Liddie Jane Bradley Henderson, Josephine
Corpus Caballero, Patricia Tillison Johns

2nd Row L to R: Ida Long Munday, Cheryl
Hawkins Barnett, Joan Bennett Bell, Bill Poston,
Terry Gray, Carolyn Oliver Picha, Clare Lynn
Arnold Dusek, Linda Sue Parker Bell, Brenda
Arcemant Thompson, Rachal Scott Dahse, Morris
Kyser, Johnnie Walther, Henry Wayne Whitt.

Among our Members

At our **Reunion Luncheon** candles were lit for eleven of our members who had passed away since the luncheon of **2011.** Each quarter we seem to lose more of our long time members and citizens. The past quarter was no exception.

Society Member Alma Nolen passed away **October 26**th at the age of **90. Alma,** who was a very long

time Galveston Ave. resident, was living in New Mexico near her daughter at the time of her death. Alma was a person very much involved in community affairs and local and national politics. Society Member Eunice "Suzy" Martin Jones passed away in Wisconsin where she was living with her daughter. Eunice was an amazing 102 year old lady who continued to be active right up to the end. Eunice was the 2nd child of Roy Forrest and Fannie Manor Martin, sister to Eve, Warren, Glenn, Roy "Dude", Lyle and Society Member Evelyn Martin Lawhon; and aunt of Society Members Sandra Martin Scott, Brenda Martin Riggs, Charldene Martin Porter, and Glenda Fay Garner and sisterin-law to Society Member Claudia Martin.



Eunice Martin Jones

Joe Barnett, husband of Society Member Cheryl Hawkins Barnett, passed away November 2nd.

Joe served our community in several ways working as a volunteer fireman and later as Fire Marshall in Pearland and then later served as a Court Bailiff and Warrant Officer for the Pearland Police Dept. before retiring.

Society Member Clarence Oliver was accidentally killed on November 9th when a car he was working on fell on him. Many of you remember Clarence was the son of Mrs. Freda Oliver, who taught English at PHS for many years. Also his father had a TV repair shop in Pearland for a number of years. Clarence is survived by his wife Caroline in Austin, Texas and a daughter Melanie. Also he is survived by his brother Alan of Pasadena and sister, Carolyn Oliver Picha of Indianapolis, Indiana.

(Editor's note: In October, Carolyn and husband Irving Picha had come down for the luncheon. Clarence came up to me at the luncheon and asked if I had seen his sister yet. I said yes, I had; and Clarence said to me "doesn't she look really great. I am so proud of her." I don't know how long it had

been since he and Carolyn had seen each other; but when I heard he had been killed, I immediately thought of his comment at the luncheon and was glad Carolyn had come for it.)

Millie Rutherford Hood passed away Christmas morning after several years in a nursing home in Alvin and then in Austin where she was at the time of her death. Millie, a 1944 graduate of PHS, fell and broke her hip last year. Millie was preceded in death by husband Claude Hood. She is survived by her three sons, Lesley, Presley, Tim and eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. The picture below was taken at one of our **Reunion Luncheons**; and sadly none of the ladies in this picture are still with us. The picture appeared in one of our Newsletters with the title "Girls of the Big Bus." All were riders of the big maroon and silver bus driven by John Long and later by Bud Griffin and which picked up all the school students who lived west of Highway 35. That is another fact which recent residents of **Pearland** find unbelievable.



RoseMary Drisch Raney, Millie Rutherford Hood, Helen Benes Cates and Lois Rutherford Cheek.

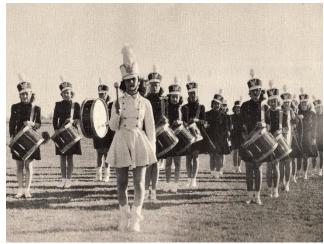
Kenneth Irving, son-in-law of Society Member Jennifer Jamison passed away in early December the age of 53. Ken was the husband of Jennifer's daughter, Janet and the father of their three children, Madison (14), Max (9) and Mathew (7).

Long time **Pearland** resident **Joyce McGuff** passed away **December 21**st after a long extended illness. She is survived by husband, local architect **Jack McGuff**, sons **Jack McGuff III "Jad"**, **John** and daughter **Jill**.

Those we love don't go away, They walk beside us every day, Unseen, unheard, but always near. Still loved, still missed, and very dear. Forever in our heart.

Anonymous

Society Member Evelyn Martin Lawhon has been going through a difficult time with an arthritic knee which is causing her a lot of pain. **Evelyn**, who has lived in **Pearland** virtually all of her life and whose family was one of the pioneer old **Pearland** families, has made a decision to move into the senior assisted living facility at Leander, Texas where her brother, Lyle Martin, is currently living. Until she gets into the assisted living facility she is living with her nephew veterinarian Russel Martin and family in Liberty Hill, Texas. We will all miss Evelyn in Pearland. Her husband was Edgar Allen "Buster" **Lawhon** for whom **Lawhon Intermediate School** is named. Evelyn worked many years for the Pearland post office and also for the school district. The picture below from the **Pearland** 1943 yearbook shows **Evelyn** as drum major of the all girls drum and bugle corps leading the group. Good luck in your new environment, Evelvn.



Drum Major Evelyn Martin leading drum & bugle corps 1943

Some Good News

Congratulations go out to **Society Member Bill Bradley** who had a big 95th birthday celebration **December** the 8th up in his hometown of **Plantersville. Bill** has contributed many interesting articles of **Pearland** history through the years, and has been a regular attendee at our annual luncheon. **Bill** has a lot of stories about old time **Pearland**. The

picture below is of **Bill** and his four children. You look great, **Bill. Happy 95**th!!!



Back row: Tom Bradley, Carolyn Bradley Collmorgen, Seated are Charlene Bradley Rice, William ''Bill'' Bradley and Liddie Bradley Henderson.

Congratulations to Autumn Taylor, daughter of Society Member Cheryl Riggs Taylor, granddaughter of Society Member Brenda Martin Riggs and great granddaughter of Society Member Claudia Martin. Autumn, who was a 3 year all district performer for the Pearland Lady Oilers volleyball team was awarded a 4 year athletic scholarship to Lamar University.

Also Haley Satterwhite, granddaughter of Society Members Helen and Luther Cunningham was awarded a 4 year volleyball scholarship at Texas A&M at Corpus Christi. Haley played for Clear Lake High School and was also an all-district performer. She and Autumn will again be competing against each other as A&M (Corpus Christi) and Lamar will be playing each other.

In November Carleen Mark retired from her volunteer job at the information desk for Clear Lake Hospital after 40 years of working each Thursday from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. The hospital opened in April of 1962; and Carleen went to work at the information desk the first week the hospital opened. Carleen was recognized for her 40 years of service when she was honored at the hospital volunteers Christmas party at Clear Lake Yacht Club where she was guest of honor and given a 40 year award. One of her co-workers said of Carleen, "with her

charming smile and congenial manner, **Carleen** was the perfect person to greet patients and visitors at the information desk."



Carleen Nichols Mark

A Few More Pics of 1962 Grads



Some 1962 grads at an earlier age. Linda Sue Parker, Carolyn Oliver, Gloria Jean Cook, Kathy Hudson, Gail Raney, Rose Johnson (Thanks to Brenda Riggs for picture)



1962 grads Terry Gray, Carolyn Oliver Picha and Morris Kyser at October Reunion (Picture supplied by Brenda Riggs)



Tom Hunter (right) and Lloyd Hawkins at one of our Reunion Luncheons. Thanks to Tom for the following story about a football season many of us vividly remember.

When Pearland won district in football in '62

At the beginning of September 1962, the Houston Colt .45s entered the last month of their first season in the National League. On September 12th, President John F. Kennedy gave a speech at Rice Stadium and asked, "But why, some say, the moon? Why choose this as our goal? . . . Why does Rice play Texas?" Friday, September 7th, Pearland High School opened its football season in brand-new maroon jerseys and defeated King in Houston, 24-0. The next week in the first home game, Pearland shut out Santa Fe, 60-0. The Oilers then traveled to Klein and blanked the Bearkats, 30-0. After three games, the team had scored 114 points and given up nothing. Not until the fourth game of the season did the defense yield a point--to Friendswood in Pearland--but the Oilers won, 38-6.

Johnny Carson began his thirty-year run on The Tonight Show, October first. Four days later, Pearland hosted Houston Lutheran and for the second time that season won by a score of 60-0. Lloyd Hawkins, a junior, who started at defensive halfback and played backup quarterback, related the following story about the fifth game of the season:

"The Lutheran game was supposed to be an easy game. At half time we were winning 12-0. Coach Davis was trying to motivate us by telling us that because of our poor first half, Lutheran thought they could win the game in the second half. At the end of Coach Davis's half time speech, E.R. Milstead raised his hand and said, 'Coach, may I say something?' 'Sure,' Coach Davis replied. E.R. said, 'Come on, guys. I bet someone on this game

and gave them 50 points.' Now that got a good laugh, but resulted in a 60-0 win. I still kid E.R. about his bet."





Head Coach Jim Davis Asst. Coach Herb Carlston

In the previous 60-0 shut out of Santa Fe in the first home game, with Pearland up 38-0 in the second half, Head Coach Jim Davis asked offensive coach Herb Carlson how they could hold down the score. Sophomore linebacker and backup center Harry Thompson overheard the question and saw Carlson whisper something to Davis. When Pearland got the ball back, Coach Davis came up to Harry and told him to go in for starting quarterback Gary Prensner. He questioned whether Coach Davis meant Andy Nelson, the center. "No, Gary." He ran in and told Prensner he was checking in for him, and all the starters in the huddle tried to correct him. Harry finally convinced them and recalled what happened next:

"I called a 22, on set, and by the time I got the ball to the hand-off spot, Wayne Rains was already in the end zone--without the football. So, I did what any intelligent person would do and dropped the football."

Santa Fe recovered the fumble at their three-yard line. Coach Davis met Harry Thompson as he ran off the field and asked, "Do you want to play any more football for me?" "Yes, sir," he answered. "Then go back in for Gary when we get the ball back," the coach told Harry:

"About that time Santa Fe fumbled the ball back to us, and in I went. This time I called a 23. David Griffin was the left halfback. I told him to be sure and wait for me to get there with the ball. I begged him actually. After the snap I got to the three hole, and there David stood as still as a statue with his right hand across his chest and his left hand across his stomach waiting for the football. I handed off and he walked into the end zone untouched."

When Pearland got the ball back, Coach Davis pulled all the starters except junior fullback James Porter. Harry called 30 or 31, handing off to James either to the right or left of the center--until they piled up enough first downs to score two more touchdowns:

"Twice we got to the goal and I was still calling for a 30 and 31. However, I did not give the ball to James, but kept it myself and across the goal I went. Thus ended my quarterback career."

After the fifth-game 60-0 win against Lutheran, Pearland had a bye, with no opponent for two weeks and time to get ready for the tough District schedule. Lloyd Hawkins remembered the difference in attitude:

"In the 1962 Season the coaches and players had high expectations. This was quite a contrast from the previous 2-8 season. We had lots of good athletes and many would play both offense and defense. Coach Davis ran a three-back offense with about 90% running between the tackles. Luckily for us, we had good linemen and three good backs. We did not kick extra points; all were run for 2 points. Most calls were a 22; 2 back, Wayne [Rains] through the two hole. On offense I can actually remember seeing Wayne run over linebackers, and the defensive backs would just get out of his way, most likely for self preservation. Back then we gave a lot of credit to Wayne, and rightfully so. But the line that opened the holes for him deserves a great deal of credit. Lots of all-district guys on that front line. Probably one the most overlooked players was Ronnie Johnson, who punted [left footed]. He kicked a perfect spiral with lots of hang time, which gave guys like me and Ronny Burkett time to cover the punt."

The offensive line featured Ronnie Johnson and David Brakebill at ends; Hughie Raney and Jerry Carlisle at tackles; Bobby Thompson and Willie Rains at guards; with Andy Nelson at center.

At Homecoming on October 19th, the team won for the sixth time, described in the next day's sports page: ''The Pearland Oilers totaled 19 first downs for 406 yards and four touchdowns here Friday night to defeat the East Bernard Brahmas 28-0 in a District 27A game. . . . Halfback Wayne Rains made 28 and 38 yard touchdown runs for Pearland while James Porter and David Griffin each got one. Gary Prensner and Porter ran across two extra points. The stellar defensive play of Joe Norton, Jerry Carlisle, Andy Nelson, and Willie Rains kept the Brahmas outside the Oiler 20."

Rounding out the defense was Bobby Thompson, Hughie Raney, Mike Moser, E.R. Milstead, Ronny Burkett, and Lloyd Hawkins.

The Houston Post sports page ran the headlines, "Pearland Oilers Enjoying Success After Frustration," and "LONG, HARD CLIMB," for a story that described the football team as living proof of the old saying that "Rome wasn't built in a day." Sportswriter Kirk Hill pointed out that while Pearland was enjoying a perfect record, they could look back to the years of frustration when the Oilers managed to win only five games in the past three seasons. "Now success has finally come their way," he wrote. "The Oilers are currently ranked number seven in the state in class A circles." Coach Jim Davis explained, "The boys have worked mighty hard and it has been a matter of building." Hill informed his readers that the Oilers operated from the same offense as Bud Wilkinson, who coached the University of Oklahoma, where Jim Davis played for three years in 1950, '51, and '52 and was an All-American offensive tackle for the Sooners. The profile also described the players and staff, which included assistant coach Herbert Carlson, who played on the Giddings Buffs football team that won the Class A state title in 1951. Atop the article was a photograph of several players, David Griffin, Willie Rains, Bobby Thompson, Wayne Rains, Gary Prensner, and Andy Nelson as well as two assistant coaches, Herbert Carlson, and Mickey Spencer. The town welcomed the big-city newspaper coverage.

Then the larger world intruded on Pearland's fun, when President Kennedy addressed the nation on national television on the night of Monday, October 22nd and announced the quarantine of Cuba, in what is known to history as the Cuban Missile Crisis--the closest the world has come to nuclear war. It was under this pall that the Oilers traveled to Tidehaven for the seventh game of the season on October 26th. Pearland won 46-6, on touchdown

passes of 7 and 22 yards from quarterback Gary Prensner to right end David Brakebill in the first two quarters and a run of 20 yards by Prensner in the third quarter; another pass in the fourth quarter from Prensner to halfback David Griffin went for 78 yards and a touchdown. Fullbacks Gerald Thompson and David Porter accounted for the other scores with runs of three and 34 yards.

Defensive back Lloyd Hawkins praised the other side of the ball, "Our defense had five shutouts. We basically had two defenses; a 5-4 and a 6-3, which means five down linemen and four linebackers or six down linemen and three linebackers." He remembered, "With the score 0-0, Tidehaven had a first down on our two yard line. Our defense stopped them on four plays. We took over and drove 98 yards for a score. Twas a good game changer for the defense. Willie Rains and Bobby Thompson were the motivators for our team. Anytime an opponent began moving the ball on us, you could expect Willie or Bobby to get us pumped up to play with more intensity." The win over the Tidehaven Tigers gave Pearland a 2-0 record in district competition.

The standoff between the United States and the Soviet Union over Cuba seemed to have passed, and the Oilers returned home the next week for the eighth game of the year--against the Louise Hornets on November 2nd. Pearland beat Louise, 22-14. Lloyd Hawkins wrote, "In the Louise game we put in a blitz called 60 Murder. This was aimed at Louise quarterback Greg Brezina who later played with Wayne [Rains] at the University of Houston and then played pro ball as a linebacker in the NFL. The first time we ran the 60 Murder, Brezina got hit by Bo Norton and had to come out of the game for a few plays. Probably should have resurrected the 60 Murder for the Three Rivers game . . . "

On the day before Pearland's last home game against Hitchcock, the Houston Chronicle published a story by Bill McMurray with the headline, "Pearland Grid Woes End--and How!" and a photograph of Wayne Rains, Gary Prensner, David Griffin, and James Porter holding a football, with the tagline, "PEARLAND OILER STARTING BACKFIELD UNIT." McMurray told how Dr. Lloyd Ferguson, Pearland's superintendent, asked Jim Davis to "solve a problem." The Oilers had

been also-rans for most of their 14-year history in 11-man football and, "It was time for a change." Davis left the assistant coaching job at Alvin, but managed only a 5-24-1 record in his first three years in Pearland as head coach.

Now the Oilers were 8-0 and ranked number six in the state. "We got off to a good start and it just picked the kids up," said Davis, who emphasized, "There's no substitute for hard work." McMurray, who had called Pearland a true "Cinderella" team, characterized the Oiler offense as a Split-T that used prototype slots and splits and described quarterback Gary Prensner as "a keen passer and ball handler." Coach Davis quipped, "He makes us tick." But Davis warned, "We are making no playoff plans; we still have tough district games with Hitchcock on Friday and Eagle Lake on November 16."

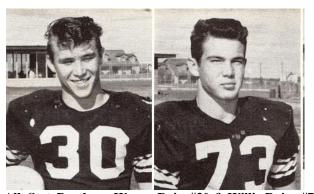
In the last home game on November 9th, Pearland beat Hitchcock, 36-9, and clinched a tie for District. The Oilers' All-State halfback candidate dominated the sports reporting, "... Wayne Rains added the bonus points. Rains scored again in the second quarter on a three-yard run... It was Rains again in the third stanza and Prensner added extra points on a run. Lloyd Hawkins passed eight yards to David Brakebill for the final Pearland touchdown in the fourth period.... Pearland received good defensive play from Hughie Raney, Joe Norton, and Hawkins."

Pearland played its last regular season game at Eagle Lake on November 16th. The next day's headline read "Oilers Win 27-A Title," with a story that began, "The Pearland Oilers grounded the Eagle Lake Eagles 34-6 to capture the District 27-A championship with a season record of 10 victories and no defeats. . . . The Oilers led all the way on the passing and running of Gary Prensner and Wayne Rains. The Oilers scored in the first quarter on a 19-yard pass from Prensner to End David Brakebill. ... Rains scored in the second quarter on a twoyard plunge climaxing a 42-yard drive and in the third period on a 19-yard run. Oiler Halfback David Griffin also scampered 41 yards for a third quarter touchdown. The final Pearland tally came in the last quarter on a 45-yard run up the middle by Prensner. Fullback James Porter plunged over for two extra points." Time to get on the bus, head

back home and eat some chicken-fried steak along the way.

There was joy in Pearland. District Champs. The pep squad girls sold an over-sized ribbon with a picture of the entire team and the names of the other Varsity players: Zeke Rodriguez, Bill Moss, Steve Gilcrease, Johnny Hall, Glenn Baker, Stanley Honeycutt, Billy Eignus, (Camilio Castro). At a steak dinner for the team and coaches, a local builder offered to fly the team anywhere in the state for the playoffs. Pearland's population of around three thousand people and the 274 students at the high school celebrated for a week and looked forward to the Bi-District game against Three Rivers in Alvin on November 23rd. Not a home game, but just a short bus ride down the road.

The Bulldogs were fast and as someone who played in the game said, "They could really pass." The Oilers gave up 41 points in the regular season, and 40 in the Bi-District game. Three Rivers, 40. Pearland, 20. With the team's first loss, the season ended. Just like that, and it was over. And the long drive home



All StateBrothers Wayne Rains#30 & Willie Rains #73

Eleven Oilers made the All-District team and brothers Wayne Rains and Willie Rains earned All-State honors. The pride of the graduating Class of 1963 was tempered by the death of senior All-District end David Brakebill, along with Robbie Bennett in an auto accident near Alvin on Friday, April 19, 1963. The next fall Pearland went 8-2, but missed the playoffs and at the end of November the President was assassinated on a day that now marks the end of an era.

Tom Hunter, PHS 65

Thanks, **Tom.** This story brings back a lot of memories; and I would venture to say it will be a topic of discussion at our **Reunion Luncheon**. Those of us who were at the **Three Rivers** game still wince somewhat when we think about that defeat. **Pearland** football fans of today take winning for granted. It certainly was not that way for a lot of years after 1962.

"With all the sadness and trauma going on in the news around the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person, which almost went unnoticed recently. Larry LaPrise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey", died peacefully at age 93. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in. And then the trouble started."

Editor's Note: I came across the above bit of humor recently while surfing the internet. For those of us who can remember the dances in the old gymnasium it certainly evokes some memories. We never had a dance which we didn't do the "hokey pokey" at least once.

DON'T FORGET OUR REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 15TH, 7:00 P.M. AT OUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOME ON GALVESON STREET. WE WILL HAVE GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE PEARLAND PLANNING DEPT. WHO WILL FILL US IN ON PLANS FOR THE OLD TOWNSITE. ALSO COOKIES, COFEE AND COLD DRINKS AND VISITATION FOLLOWING THE MEETING. SEE YOU THERE.

Thought of the day: "Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened?"

MEMBERSHIP FORM - - - - PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Date		
•		of \$covering membership dues of \$15 per the year 2013. Is this a gift membership?
Yes	No	
Name		Name
Mailing address	SS	
Mail to: Pearls Please note: If person who pro Name	and Historical Society f you are paying for a esenting the gift so w	of the year cover the following year: y, P.O. Box 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588 gift membership, please give the name and address of the e can notify the recipient.
Address		