

PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 21, Edition 3
July, 2016
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Pearland Historical Society
P. O. Box 1333
Pearland, Texas 77588

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

President's Message

As I am writing this **Newsletter** on the last day of **June**, the temperature is in the high 90's; and my thoughts turn to the upcoming **4th of July**. Once again the **City of Pearland** has announced they will be having a **4th of July** celebration at the **High School** stadium featuring a band called the "**Stags**"; and then at 9:00 P.M. there will be a fireworks display to celebrate our country's **Independence Day**.

Many of our older members remember working in the hayfields, rice fields or roust-a-bout work in the **Manvel** or **Hastings** oilfields back in the **40's** when air conditioning was a rarity. Our **4th of July** celebrations included our own fireworks displays plus enjoying cold "**black diamond**" watermelons bought from **Mrs. Cunningham's** ice house. (For our younger members in those days an ice house was not a beer joint; but actually a place to buy ice). Recently **Carleen** and I have been having a slice of watermelon with our meals. While the melons taste good, they certainly don't compare to those "**Black Diamonds**" from the 40's. The building which was **Mrs. Cunningham's** ice house and store is still standing on **Main St.** I believe it and **Joan's Beauty Shop** are probably the only two business buildings still standing in old **Pearland** from those days back in the early **40's**.

When I mentioned "our own fireworks displays" I am referring to the fact that in those days as we approached the **4th of July, Pearland**

sounded like a war zone with fireworks going off everywhere night and day. Some of us will remember buying a package of "**blackcat**" fireworks at the old corner drug store. Guys would go by the drugstore, buy a pack of "**blackcats**" or maybe "**torpedoes**" which were the size of a marble and would explode when thrown against the sidewalk or highway. Then they would drive all over town throwing **blackcats** out the windows or throwing **torpedoes** against the pavement.

The **4th of July** does bring back a lot of old memories and brings to mind our **Reunion Luncheon** coming up **Saturday, Oct. 22nd**. A reservation form is attached to this **Newsletter**. Don't miss the chance to relive some of those old memories with your long time friends.

Mickey Mark

What's Happening

On **Saturday, June 11th** and **Sunday, June 12th**, the **Pearland Convention Center** and **Visitor's Bureau** put on an event called "**Shake, Rattle and Roll**" at the **Pearland Town Center**. **Executive Director Kim Sinistore** was nice enough to offer our **Historical Society** a spot to set up a display to let visitors get information about our **Society** and also a chance to buy the **Pearland** history

books. **Kim** continues to be a great friend to our **Society**.

Don Hayes and **David DeHoyos** took charge of our set up with **Phil Amick** furnishing the canopy to cover our stand. Along with **Don, David and Phil**, others who volunteered to take a turn at our stand were **Cheryl and Don Patterson, Luther Cunningham and Karen Kliesing**.

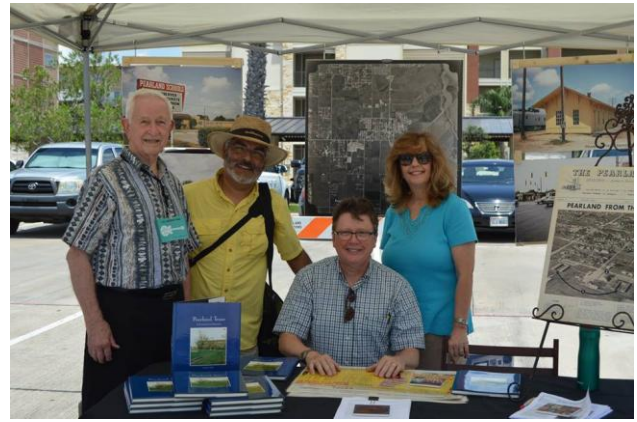
Don reported that there were at least five separate conversations at our stand about the old “**Pearland Depot**”. **Don** contacted **Michelle Graham (formerly Parks Director)**, now head of **HR** for the **City of Pearland**; and she said we could revisit her cost data for repairing the depot at the next **Pearland Parks Foundation Board Meeting**. **Don** and **Michelle** are both members of the board, so hopefully **Don** will have some information about the cost at our next meeting **July 21st**.

Sunday June 12th was a stormy, rainy day; but **Don** reported that the display was very well received with **David’s** framed vintage **Pearland** prints drawing a lot of interest.

Thanks **Don** and all for your work.



Don Hayes and Phil Amick at Shake, Rattle & Roll.



Mayor Reid, David DeHoyos, Don & Cheryl Patterson at Shake, Rattle and Roll.

In the **April** issue of the **Newsletter**, it was mentioned that the **Pearland History** video which **Boy Scout Rahul Popat** completed had turned out to a very good historical video; and **Ray Kliesing** made thirty copies to present to the **Supt. of Pearland** schools to be distributed to all the schools. The copies have now been given to the school district. If you have not seen the video, we will show it again after the meeting on **June 21st**.

Our **Pearland Historical Society Facebook** page continues to attract a lot of viewers thanks to the pictures **Don Hayes and David DeHoyos** have posted there. **Don** posted a video of a **1953 PHS Halloween** coronation ceremony which has really had a lot of comments. **Kathleen Childress** identified the king as her uncle **Leo “Butch” Parker**. The queen was **Aleta Shannon**.

If you haven’t been to the website here is the address:

[https://www.facebook.com/PearlandHistorical Society/](https://www.facebook.com/PearlandHistoricalSociety/)

Take a look. You will find it very interesting.

The picture below showed up on **Facebook** at some site which I don’t remember; but I did find it very interesting. It brings to mind “**Grandma**” **Hunter and Mrs. Coppinger’s** stories about how after **Witold Zychlinski** platted the **City of Pearland** in **1894**, prospective land buyers from the mid-west were

furnished rail transportation, brought to **Pearland** and put up at the **Suburban Gardens** hotel. **Mrs. Hunter and Mrs. Coppinger** both mentioned that **Zychlinski** would put the prospective buyers in his fancy buggy with two black shiny horses and show them land in **Pearland**. From the looks of this picture which is labeled “**Suburban Gardens Stables, Pearland**”, it appears there were several fancy buggies and several black shiny horses available to show prospective customers what a great place **Pearland** was. I had never seen this picture before and it would be interesting to know where it was in **Pearland** .



The sign on the roof says “**Allison Richey Co.; Suburban Gardens; 5 & 10 acre farms; No Interest No Taxes.**”

At the **April Historical Society** meeting, we discussed the possibility of opening our **Historical Society** site to the public a couple of **Saturdays** each month. It was suggested we open on the two **Saturdays** that the **Farmers Market** is open. We did not reach a conclusion as to whether or not to do this. We did talk about opening from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. and discussed getting members to volunteer for 2 hour shifts. We would put notices in the local papers letting people know when we would be open to visitors. With the big crowds at **Killeen’s Barbecue** right across the street, we probably would get visitors from there. What are your thoughts? Please e-mail me at mark325@prodigy.net if you might want to volunteer for a shift. We will be discussing this further at our **July** meeting.

AMONG OUR MEMBERS

Our deepest sympathies go out to **Society Member Sandra Gaidosek Jones** whose husband, **Russell Jones**, passed away suddenly **May 11th**. **Sandra and Russell** were in **Gulfport, Mississippi** at the **Island View Hotel** on a vacation trip they had cancelled several times due to **Russell’s** health. They arrived in **Gulfport** on **Sunday, May 10th**. On **Monday** afternoon they went up to their room to rest before going to dinner. Both took a nap and **Sandra** awoke from her nap but her husband never did awaken from his. He passed away in his sleep. Please keep **Sandra** and family in your prayers.

Long time **Pearlander** and **1954 PHS graduate Charlie Hunt** passed away in early **May**. **Charlie** is survived by his sister, **Camille Hunt Garner**, who was also a **1954 PHS** graduate. **Charlie’s** father was a long time tax assessor/collector for the **Pearland Water District**.

Henry Ford, 1959 graduate of PHS passed away sometime in late June. His brother, **Danny Ford**, found him in his home here in **Pearland** after he apparently had been dead for at least one week. **Henry** was the oldest of the four children of **Richard and LaDora Ford** who for many years owned and operated **Ford’s** café on **Main St**. **Brother, Clifton**, preceded **Henry** in death. **Sister Betty** and **brother Danny** are the surviving siblings. A memorial service for **Henry** will be held at **South Park Funeral Home** on **Wednesday, July 13th** at 10:00 A.M.

(Editor’s Note: Many of our members recall eating **Ford’s** delicious plate lunches for many years.)

Our sympathies go out to **Society Member Willene Tindall**. Her sister, **Peggy Holt Stone**, passed away **June 9th** in **Nacogdoches, Texas**.

Society Member Armilda Nichols Hall advised that **1956** graduate, **Billie Ann Rozell Hollier**

passed away **April 22** at her home in **Weston Lakes** at the age of **77**. **Billie Ann** was the youngest of the **Rozell** family which ran the sandwich shop on the corner of **Broadway and Main**. I believe it was called the corner. **Billie Ann** was the youngest of five children, **Rita, Nellie Joy, Buddy, Orville and Billie Ann** I believe **Nellie Joy**, a **1948 graduate**, is the only one still living. She is a retired high school art teacher.

We still have a number of our members who are going through health problems. **Jennie Forbes Talbot** continues to undergo in home therapy. Her husband, **Carl Talbot**, reports that **Jennie** has made some progress; but it remains difficult for her to walk. **Jennie's** problems started a year ago this **July** when she had heart surgery and then after the successful surgery she had a stroke. After the stroke, **Jennie** fell and broke her hip. She spent several weeks in **Windsong Village** and has been receiving in home therapy twice a week.

Also **Carl and Jennie's** son, **Society Member Rick Talbot** is recovering from a heart attack which occurred after he had undergone surgery for a heart stent. It is good to report that although he is still going through rehab **Rick** has regained his strength and is recovering quite well.

Carleen Mark continues also to have a rough time since having a hospital stay back in **March** and spending time also in **Windsong Village**. She no longer requires in home therapy and although still very weak, she continues to walk better both with and without a walker

It is good to report that **Society Member David Smith** is now back in **Trinity Oaks** and doing well. **David** had a stent put in his main coronary artery in **March**; and then on **May 9th** had a cancerous tumor removed from his colon. There was no lymph node involvement and no follow up chemo or radiation therapy will be required. **David** will turn **90** on **August 15th**; but will be having an early **90th** birthday party

Saturday, July 16th from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. at **Trinity Oaks**.

Society Member Barbara Burkett Lilley continues to go through a rough time after falling and breaking her hip sometime back. Her husband, **Claude Lilley**, says she is still in a wheel chair and experiencing a lot of pain. Keep **Barbara** and family in your prayers.

It is good to report that **Society Member Bill Hall** continues to improve as he recovers from surgery for a brain infection. **Bill** is back doing most of the things he did before having the surgery i.e. walking, driving, etc. Keep it up, **Bill**.

Society member Dwight Bittick recently had a heart stent implant. Good to report that everything went well and **Dwight** came home after an overnight stay at **Southeast Memorial** after the surgery and reports he is feeling much better now. **Dwight** has found a lot of **Pearland** history for our Society.

SOME GOOD NEWS

Several of our members have some good news to share.

Society Member Lillian Hood is excited that she is now a "Great" grandmother. Her younger granddaughter, **Kathryn**, gave birth on June 23rd to an 8 lb. baby boy named **Samuel Thomas Wright**. He will be called "**Sam**", which was in honor of his late great grandfather, **Samuel Lester Hood**. **Kathryn** is a pediatrician at **Kelsey Seabold Clinic** in **Tanglewood**. **Lester** never used his first name, **Samuel**, except for legal documents. Congratulations, **Lillian**.

Earlier in the **Newsletter** we wrote about enjoying "**black diamond**" watermelons from **Mrs. Cunningham's** ice house. The **Cunningham** twins, **Luther (Big Boy)** and **John (Little Boy)** were the ice house attendants

who would take your order and get your block of ice or watermelon for you. They graduated from **PHS** in **1951**. Both **Luther** and **John** recently celebrated **60** years of marriage.

Luther and his wife, **Helen**, were married on **June 29th, 1956**. **John** and wife, **Leigh**, were married **April 6th, 1956**. **John (Little Boy)** and **Leigh** live in **Palestine, Texas**. They have one son and one daughter, 3 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

Luther (Big Boy) and **Helen** live here in **Pearland** in their beautiful historic home on **Washington Ave**. They are the owners of three car washes here in **Pearland: Pear Square, Oiler and Circle**. **Luther and Helen** have 3 children and 5 grandchildren.

Congratulations Leigh and John and Helen and Luther!!!!!!



Helen & Luther at their Historic Home built around 1910

In the **April** issue of the **Newsletter** was a story about **Brenda Martin Riggs** great grandson, **Connor Harrell**, being the **7th** generation **Martin** to attend school in **Pearland**. The question was asked “do we have any other families who have had so many generations grow up and go to school here”? Below is an interesting message from **Society Member Jerry Johnston** regarding the **Thelma** and “**Tud**” **Johnston** family.

“I can’t outdo Brenda Riggs, but our family has had many generations in Pearland Schools.”

My grandmother, Thelma Hollingsworth Johnston attended Pearland school. She always said it was one room and she was taught by Berry Miller. My father H. D. Buck Johnston, his brothers Gene and Tunney and sister Lorraine all attended school here. Besides being fire chief, Buck also served on the school board for 12 years. I graduated from Pearland along with my brothers Randy and Ricky and our sister Kathy.

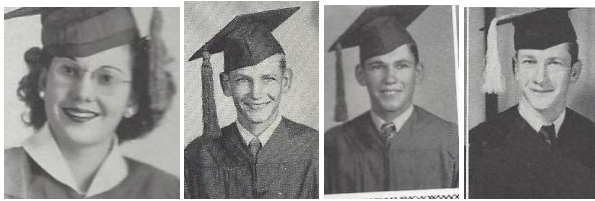
My children Erin, Andy, and Johanna graduated from Pearland,

My grandson Alex attends Sam Jamison middle school. I have told him how Sam hauled me to school on Bus 2.

My grandson Emerson will attend CJ Harris this next year Randy's son Nathan attended Pearland schools but graduated from Friendswood. Nathan's daughter Dakato attended Cockrell elementary before moving away. Ricky's son, Larry (Trey) graduated from Pearland,

So that's 6 generations in Pearland, with 5 generations in Pearland schools”

Thanks, **Jerry**. Those of us who attended school back in the 40’s and particularly those of us who rode the “big bus” will remember the **Johnstons** quite well. **Tud** and **Thelma**’s home was very near the intersection of **Highway 518 and Walnut St**. At that time this was out in the country. **Tud Johnston** was certainly a man who was a “jack of all trades”. He was at one time the foreman of the old fig plant, he farmed rice and raised hay along **Harkey Road and Garden Road**. He was also the first president of the **Pearland Water District**. The **Johnston** house was the last stop for the big bus making pickups in the mornings and first stop in the afternoons for students returning home. **Buck** and **Gene** graduated in **1943**, **Lorraine (Sis)** in **1945** and **Tunney** in **1951**. Several members of the long time **Johnston** family are members of our **Historical Society**.



Pictures from 1962 Silver Anniversary Yearbook.
L/R: Lorraine, Gene, Buck and Tunney Johnson

Another member who responded to our request for information about our members was **Carrie Ann Keith Mitchell**. Below is **Carrie's** very interesting story:

"I thought this might be a little different since so many times we hear sad news.

I hope this will be an inspiration for some of our "old timers".

Have you ever been asked ?."if you could go anywhere in the world ,where would you go"? WOW ! That was presented to Jerry and me Christmas 2015 from my nephew Jeffrey Triplett and his wife Mary. After much thought and research and looking over the most popular destinations in 2015, we decided the French Polynesia Islands were our perfect destination.

We spent 10 glorious days on 4 of the islands. Tahiti, the main island ,Moorea, Taha'a and Boro Boro. We stayed in over water bungalows, where the views were breathtaking .All the islands are lush with flowering shrubs, trees heavy with fruit , moss-green peaks, humid breezes blowing,turquoise water as far as one can see,and many lagoons . There are also many black beaches and all the islands are surrounded by natural coral reefs. The islands are very clean and the residents are very hospitable. The islands are influenced by the French and most of the hotel chefs are trained in France. The food was fantastic! This trip will definitely be one to remember. (Thanks to Jeffrey and Mary)

Jerry and I have traveled extensively , as

Jerry was an executive pilot for 25 years and on several occasions we had the use of the company plane at our disposal and did some island hopping. When I retired from Uncle Ben's (a part of the Mars Candy Co.) after 41 1/2 years, I was given a trip of my choice to any of Mars companies .(they have companies all over the world). I chose companies in the United Kingdom ,Germany, Holland, Sweden, Norway and Russia. On that trip we had a limo and driver who drove us over all the countries we visited. What a trip!! We have also visited most of the islands in the caribbean, ,Bermuda , Canada, and Hawaii. On our trip to Australia ,New Zealand and Tasmania, we had the pleasure of Sally and Leon Garner (class of 55 and 56) We stayed 6 weeks on that trip, and later Sally and I traveled to Europe and traveled by Euro-rail all over Europe. On another trip Carlene Jamison(class of 55) and I made that same trip. Yet another trip ,our son Keith and I traveled over England , Wales , Ireland and Scotland.

I guess Jerry and I can be proud of undertaking such a long trip at our ages, (80 and 84)and I hope this can be an inspiration to our friends to keep traveling , no matter what your age.

Out of all the countries we 've visited , we're very proud to be from America, still the greatest country on earth.

Carrie Mitchell

Editor's note: Thanks, **Carrie**, I think "WOW" is appropriate. In the last issue of the Newsletter we mentioned **Florence Jamison Gum's** travel pictures she posts on **Facebook**. What a great lot of memories. **Jerry Mitchell** does also have a place in **Pearland** history. He was **valedictorian** of the **PHS class of 1950** which was the smallest ever **PHS** graduating class with seven (7) members. Others in the class were **Billie Jack Baggett, Dana Ruth**

Baggett, Odis “Brownie” Eddings, Don Ellis, Juanita Guitierrez, and John Saffle.

One good thing about graduating in a class that small is that you can always brag that you were in the top ten in of your class!!!!

Do you have a story to share with our members? **Nancy Bristow Bridgen** sent us an e-mail requesting that we ask members to write stories about what they remember as a child growing up in **Pearland**. I’m sure there are a lot interesting stories. Do you have one to share?

In the **June 7th** issue of the **Wall Street Journal** there is a story about the rise of arm injuries among **Little League** players due to managers overuse of pitchers. The story has a picture of the **Pearland 2015 Little League** team which was second in the USA. It is pointed out that the **Pearland coach, Andrew Solomon**, uses just about every 12 or 13 year old player on his team to take his turn on the mound to avoid the shoulder and elbow injuries which have become so very common. The story goes on to point out that **Mr. Solomon’s** rigidity in following the **Little League** rules about how often a player can pitch, how many pitches per game and how many days in between pitching has made his team injury free in the 6 or 7 years **Mr. Solomon** has been coaching.

The article goes on to talk about the prevalence of all types of arm injuries to young athletes stating that youth baseball arm injuries have gone up five to seven fold since the year 2000. If you are a baseball fan, you have noticed that today major league managers will try to keep the pitch count for a pitcher down and after he reaches 100 pitches in the game will usually start looking to the bullpen.

Also if you are a baseball fan you will recall that **Nolan Ryan**, who was one of the hardest

throwers of all time, would routinely throw 140 or 150 pitches per game. **Nolan**, in a game in **1974**, against the **Boston Red Sox**, actually threw 235 pitches in working 13 innings striking out 19. **Ryan** was taken out after 13 innings and he later said he really wanted to continue.. Also **Nolan**, in talking about the limited pitch counts for pitchers today, said he thought the problem was that today’s kids just don’t get out and throw enough to really strengthen their arms to avoid injury when they do start pitching.

This has been a subject among the coffee group. Most agree with **Nolan**, noting that not only were we out throwing baseballs a lot more than kids today, we also spent time throwing rocks, skipping oyster shells, or throwing sinia beans at each other.

When we started the **Pearland Youth Baseball** program back in **1957**, we did play by **Little League** rules which at that time limited the number of innings a pitcher could throw in one week but not the number of pitches. I can’t remember a player sustaining an arm injury.

Herman Raney tells a story about several young **Pearland** guys going down to **Friendswood** one night and throwing rocks to knock out all the street lights. Fortunately the local constable never caught them. Although the statute of limitations obviously has expired we will not disclose any names. Ask **Herman**.

Do you ever see boys in your neighborhood out just playing catch or a group playing “workup” baseball? Certainly not in our neighborhood. **Coach Solomon** has done a great job managing the **Pearland Little Leaguers**; and deserves a lot of credit for looking after the arm health of his players; and he probably deserves a lot of credit for the TV reporters now saying **Pearland** instead of “**Pearl-land**”. It is just another example of the changing times.

Still talking about baseball. Here are some famous **Yogi Berra** quotes.

***Baseball is 90% mental. The other half is physical.**

•Think! How the hell are you gonna think and hit at the same time?

•It's like déjà vu all over again.

•It ain't over 'til it's over.

•Never answer an anonymous letter.

•His wife Carmen asked Yogi where he would like to be buried, to which he replied, "Surprise me!"

Class of 1966

Invitations to our annual **Reunion Luncheon** will be mailed to the members of the class of 1966 in the next few days. Below is a list of names from the class which we currently have on hand and will be mailing the invitations. Please review the list and if you know the name and address of any member who is not on this list send it to me at mark325@prodigy.net.

Dorothy Jo. Theriot Allen, Linda Wilson Ballard, John Browning, Myra Pledger Casey, Susan Castleberry Smith, Betty Hart Christensen, Lucy Athony Cox, Eugene Fisher, Virginia Griffin Franklin, Maria Uresti Garcia, Alice Halik Gehring, Vicki Barlow Ghosthorse, Karen Nelson Harpole, Sally Dunbar Hodge, Charlene Guidry Hunt, Wayne Kaminsky, Joe Keys, Becky Hill Lang, George Ann Brakebill Leonard, Lou Nell Lauhon, Bonnie Waling Lehoski, Jackie Watts Martin, Karen Massey Kagy, Dona Moser, Jeanette Morris Neff, Ron O'Brien, Jill Ivy Oliver, Lucy Gonzales Padilla, Liz Beck Plaster, Kenny Price, John Rains, Paul Raney, Jo Lynn Cameron Reynolds, Robert Riley, Brenda Clark Shaver Darlene Maness Sheehan, Bob Simonds, Martha Smith Singleton, Barbara Hosmer Smith, Richard Smith, Vicki Dalton Talley, Chris Forgie VanWyck, Sharon Wade, Edwin Barnes, Gwen Watts Thompson, Larry Cornwall, Benny Dugy, Bill Ellis, Marvin Ellis, Frank Fernandez, Danny Green, Charlotte Henry, Janis Leazer Stuckey, Sharon McWhirter Prebilsky, Jeanie Martin Farina, Don Nelson, Guy Nelson

Alan Oliver, Liz Raney Alley, Gene Sanders, David Wahlers, Kenneth Warbrick, Betty Williams Whistler, Elton Williams, Lynn Wright, Linda Wilson

HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLDER

***Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.**

***You feel like the night before and you haven't been anywhere.**

***You get winded playing cards.**

***You need glasses to find your glasses.**

***Your back goes out more than you do.**

***You know all the answers but nobody asks you the questions.**

***You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.**

Don't forget our regular Historical

Society meeting Thursday night, July

21st at 7:00 P.M. at our Historical

Society home on Galveston Ave.

Cookies, coffee, cold drinks and

Visitation will follow the meeting.

See you there.

RETURN THIS FORM TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY "REUNION LUNCHEON" SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22nd, 2016 AT THE PEARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (OLD WALMART BUILDING) ON HWY 35. TICKETS ARE \$10.00 PER PERSON. PLEASE NOTE: TICKETS PURCHASED AT THE DOOR WILL BE \$15 PER PERSON.

_____ Yes, count me in for a good time at the annual Historical Society Reunion Luncheon.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ for luncheon tickets.

NAME _____

SPOUSE OR GUEST'S NAME _____

Mail to: Pearland Historical Society, P.O. Box 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588

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Membership Form - - Pearland Historical Society

Date _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ covering membership dues _____ of \$15 per person for the following persons for the year 2016. Is this a gift membership?

Yes _____ No _____

Name _____ Name _____

Mailing Address _____

e-mail address _____

Note: Dues paid in the last quarter of the year cover the following year.

Mail to: Pearland Historical Society, P.O. Bo 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588

Please note: If you are paying for gift memberships, please give the name and address of the person who is presenting the gift so that we can notify the recipient.

Name _____

Address: _____

