The 23rd Annual Meeting of the Sachse Historical Society was held on Sunday, March 4, 2012. Preceding the meeting, old friendships were renewed and conversations abounded between acquaintances and newcomers alike. The attendance was large, approximately 150, and the business portion of the meeting was kept swift in anticipation of the special program presentation and Lloyd Henderson’s book signing. Lloyd Henderson presented the new slate of officers and directors. A motion was made and seconded and the new slate was approved:

**Officers:**
- Janis Tillerson, President
- Lloyd Henderson, Vice President
- Virginia Stone, Secretary
- Roger Brand, Treasurer

**Directors:**
- Pat Aston
- Sandy Baker
- Kathy Cobb
- Charles Smith

After thanking the members that he had worked with during 2011, Lloyd turned the meeting over to the new President, Janis Tillerson. Roger Brand presented the new Operating and Project Budgets for the 2012 year and they were approved. Janis then discussed the Accomplishments during 2011, especially the Veteran’s Day Celebration which was a tremendous success, completion of the WWII Memorial Book, Flag Pole light and starting the publication of Lloyd Henderson’s book about the development and growth of Sachse. Janis then followed with the Projects for this 2012 year, perhaps another Veteran’s Day Celebration, preserving of all of the donated photos, digitizing the Sachse Sentinel, obtaining a new design for the Museum displays and storage areas and, of course, book sales.

The meeting was highlighted by the featured program of an interview with the author of the newly published book, *City of Sachse, The Beginning Years, 1886-1996*. The featured program was entitled “An Interview with Lloyd,” with Lloyd as the “interviewer” being “I” and Lloyd as the “author” being “Me.” As we found out, Lloyd (“Me”) is the author of the book! “I” was asking “Me” about the writing of his book. “Me” talked about several

Continued page 2
about several items that are in the book with a lot of information concerning the railroad’s part in starting the City of Sachse. Lloyd’s presentation included little known slides of the early years (shown on an old transparency type optical projector of the middle of the last century, in keeping with the times of the book). Several anecdotes were presented from Lloyd’s book, and some from Lloyd’s personal history. For example, Lloyd said he was encouraged to write the book after several years of talking to Sachse icon, Joe Stone (read the book!), who grew up in Sachse and for whom the big red fire engine at the Sachse Historical Society is named. Joe didn’t mind talking, but he was not a writing type, so Lloyd resorted to writing notes about the early Sachse years, and asked Joe why he didn’t write a book about the early Sachse years? Joe’s retort was “Why don’t you write a book?” And thus the idea was implanted! Lloyd said he began keeping a notebook, researching old records, developing a plan, and writing more stories. Last summer (2011), Lloyd presented a 3-ring notebook to the SHS Board of Directors. This book contained documented history of the growth of Sachse from 1886 – 1996. Rather than relegating the notebook to the museum library, for occasional reference, the Board of Directors decided to have it published. Lloyd signed the copyrights over to the museum, a printer was found and we now have the book. During the annual meeting, Lloyd then presented books to Mayor Mike Felix for the City of Sachse, to Kathy Cobb for the Sachse City Library and to Principal Steven Hammerle for the Sachse High School Library. As a part of the History of Sachse, Lloyd introduced Pat Boyd who had served as the first president of the Sachse Historical Society and Pat’s wife Brenda. Brenda was the person that found the caboosa that Sachse now has as a landmark.

The meeting was adjourned and the book signing began. The membership lined up to buy the book and chat with Lloyd as he signed their books, followed by refreshment and more fellowship at the Museum.

The book, “City of Sachse, The Beginning Years, 1886-1996”, is available from the Sachse Historical Society and you may purchase the book by sending a check made out to the Sachse Historical Society for $25.00 plus $10.00 postage (total $35.00). You may request a signed copy by the author, Lloyd Henderson, or you may request a dedication (be specific and print clearly). The address to send the check is Sachse Historical Society, 3033 Sixth St., Sachse, TX 75048.
The year was 1888 in Sachse Texas. Sachse’s founders, William Sachse and Daniel Herring, already had their 640 acre Texas Land Grants and they were working their land for crops, starting families and fighting the hardships of getting started in this new land of Texas. Not only did their land grants touch, but their families became intertwined by marriage. These two families were among the few in Texas who stayed the longest on their lands and so their descendents began to increase. It happened on April 1, 1888, that Joshua Herring decided to plant a cedar tree to celebrate the birth of his daughter, Anna Ethel Herring. And the tree grew on there on the Herring farm acreage on what is now Dewitt Street.

That cedar tree was there growing to observe the scenes of many Herring Family activities, as holiday celebrations, wedding anniversaries, remembering loved ones, posing for pictures, and other activities of the Herring Family and spouses from families like the Sachses, Bachmans, and others in the Dallas area. During the life span of the cedar tree, it was there when Sachse was growing and the railroad came through, biplanes flew overhead in the early part of the last century, the Titanic sank, the Great Wars came and went, the first satellite Sputnik (October, 1957) passed overhead about the time Sachse was incorporated (April, 1956), and during contemporary times saw the growth of Sachse from a two lane main street to the thriving city it is today. During part of this growth, the Herring family farms that the cedar tree oversaw around it were diminished by sales of farm land for development and the growth of Sachse, but the cedar tree still stood and grew as a sentinel on the remaining acreage there on Dewitt Street. But, alas! because of the expansion of the street and the drought of 2011, the cedar tree decided to leave us as a living entity and passed on with the spirit of all those family members in the good times and bad times, leaving no shade this spring of 2012. However, a remaining Herring family member, Craig Jones, plans to preserve this historical piece of North Texas history by cutting the trunk into slabs, and we can look into the heart of this tree and the tree rings will illustrate the history of the cedar tree, and provide memories to future generations of a part of the history of Sachse. Pieces of the tree will go to the Sachse Historical Society, the city of Sachse and possibly for furniture and art items. Probably one of the best memorials will be incorporated into an old rugged cross made by Craig’s son. Lance Jones, as an everlasting tribute to a member of Sachse that has stood there for 124 years.

Adieu, Old Friend!

Anna Ethel Herring 1888-1989
-Sachse Remembered

Anna Ethel Herring and Edgar A. “Bus” Wharton on their wedding day in 1910 at the Sachse Christian Church.
-Mary Allene Jones

Craig Jones, Herring Family Member and Sachse’s 124 Year Old Cedar Tree on Dewitt Street

Some of the crosses Craig’s son, Lance Jones has in work and similar to the cross he will make from the historical cedar tree.

April 14, 2012, Herring descendent, Craig Jones, center, meets with members of the Sachse Historical Society about the 124 year old historical cedar tree in the background that has succumbed to progress.
L to R are Kathy Cobb, Virginia Stone, Craig Jones, Sandy Baker, and SHS President, Janis Tillerson.

Members present were Mark Caldwell, Eric Dumesic, Kenneth Thomas, Darrell Lensch, Jared Patterson, Susane Politz, Brian Poff (not pictured) and Carlos Vigil. Lloyd mentioned the years of support the EDC had provided to the SHS. The EDC had assisted with other contributors to the fire engine project, the onion shed to house the renovated fire engine, and the book that the SHS has just published. The chairman, Kenneth Thomas, of the EDC, accepted the gifts on behalf of the EDC and complimented the SHS on the work they do.

Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church was founded in 1862 and has been in the location of Pleasant Valley and Merritt Roads since the congregation first gathered. In the fall of this year, 2012, the church will celebrate their 150th anniversary and plans are being made for the big event.

On May of 2011, the City of Sachse informed the church that Pleasant Valley and Merritt Rd. would be widened to four lanes and that PVUMC would lose about 35 feet on each street side of the church as a result of the construction of the Pres. George Bush Turnpike. After PVUMC had their property surveyed and Dallas County had drawings, it was determined that the church would lose one-half acre, leaving the church with only 1.8 acres for any future plans to grow. This church is now confronted with the dilemma that they cannot expand on 1.8 acres with buildings and additional parking spaces expansion would require. The church is now faced with the decision to stay as they are now or to move with the anticipation of growing. Progress creates difficult situations, but the church will survive and prosper as it has done all of these many years serving the surrounding community and will do so in the future wherever God wants to put the church.