

# Chalkboard Notes

## Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools, Inc.

Volume 12:

Issue: Fall 2023 QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### 2023 FRIENDS' ENDOWMENT UPDATE

The Endowment, created September 2015, by Dr Alice White, has a current Balance of \$20,726.08!!! We broke our goal of \$20,000. WE DID IT with help from members and friends. THANK YOU. Even though the Endowment has a Spendable Balance of \$856.47~~~~ Friends treat the Endowment as a source for emergency and as a way to build a bright future for our 12 historical country schools. This means they can continue to serve as rural community centers. To contribute and learn more, go to:

[www.communityfoundation.net/donate](http://www.communityfoundation.net/donate) Charity Navigator gives Community Foundation a FOUR STAR CHARITY Rating!

### TWO WAYS TO SUPPORT FRIENDS OF GILLESPIE COUNTY COUNTRY SCHOOLS, INC

#### 1. FRIENDS ENDOWMENT

Contribute online or find information for mailing a check to the Community Foundation. Contributions begin at \$50.

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP

Become a Friends GCCS Member-at-Large with choice of membership levels beginning at \$25: Go to [www.historicschools.org/become-a-member.html](http://www.historicschools.org/become-a-member.html)

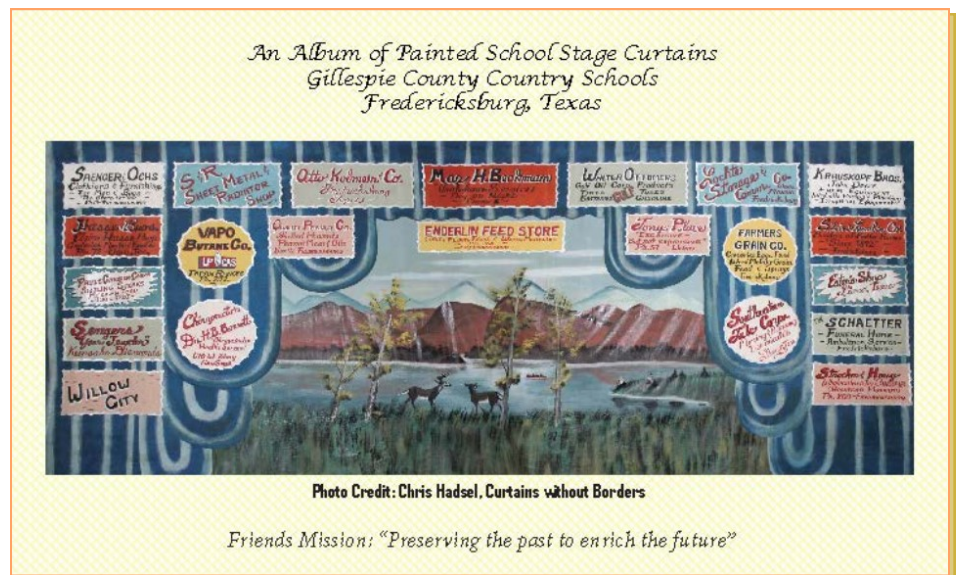
or contact Jane Woellhof at [jane423@austin.rr.com](mailto:jane423@austin.rr.com) or phone: 830-990-8059 for a Friends' Membership Envelope.

### AN ALBUM of PAINTED SCHOOL STAGE CURTAINS

The long awaited album was placed on Friends GCCS website: <https://www.historicschools.org/school-curtains.html>.

It took an army of Friends' volunteers and the extra assistance of Friends' webmaster Kay Guenther to accomplish our goal. Country School teachers, students, and rural communities understand the concept of everyone doing their part to make it happen---THANK YOU EVERYONE! With gratitude for every great or small assistance in seeing this project to completion. Friends GCCS are members of the Country School Association of America. Their Blog by Susan Fineman also shares our album.

<https://www.countryschoolassociation.org/the-report-card---blog/tx-stage-curtains> Thank you CSAA.



The FRIENDS OF GILLESPIE COUNTY COUNTRY SCHOOLS DRIVING & DISTANCE CHART was designed to assist visitors, locals, and those serving visitors in planning a country drive to view some of our 12 member-historic-country schools. The chart complements The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools Driving Trail Brochure. Nearest school to Fredericksburg is Wrede at 3.8 miles with a drive time of 7 minutes based upon Map Quest Online. Most distant school is Williams Creek School at 20.7 miles and a drive time of 25 minutes. Our goal is to assist our members, residents, local employees and volunteers around town in answering customers' questions. The Chart will be posted on the Friends of GCCS website: [www.historicschools.org](http://www.historicschools.org).



**Early Schoolbooks** available to our 12 Member Schools: Take a look at your school's early schoolbooks. Do you have a good general selection from the time your school operated? Books are important artifacts for visitors to learn more about what and how one-room school teachers taught. A basic selection includes: Reader, Arithmetic (Math), Geography, Spelling, Writing, History, Science and Health schoolbooks. Currently we have a small schoolbook donation of ten books. Contact Jane Woellhof at [jane423@austin.rr.com](mailto:jane423@austin.rr.com). If your school has not inventoried your books; this would be a good time to inventory!

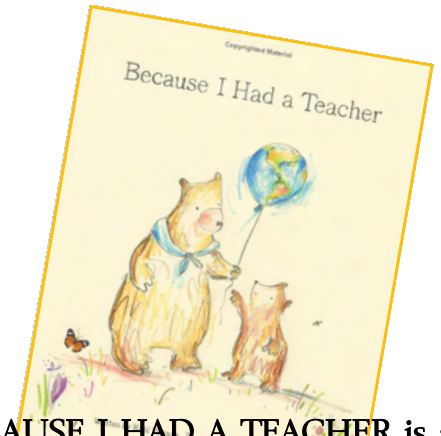
HISTORY OF TEXTBOOKS purchased by State of Texas began in 1919 when Texas passed the initial law charging the State with purchasing textbooks for students attending public schools. In 1924 many changes were made to the law and a State Textbook Commission was formed. You can see the 1946 Textbooks Adopted List by searching online—see Texas Scholar Works University of Texas.

## News from Schools

**Jenny Voigt, Pecan Creek School secretary and representative to Friends Board of Directors has created a Facebook page for Pecan Creek School. Here is the Link:**

[www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090978742394](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090978742394)

**THANK YOU Jenny, you make it easy for everyone to learn and check current information. We'll continue to report Links for Cherry Spring and Crabapple School Facebook and any other schools in next issue.**



**BECAUSE I HAD A TEACHER** is a very small book by Kobi Yamada, a New York Times Best Seller, March, 2017. ISBN-13 and costs about eight dollars. Recommend it.



Willow City was the first school in the county to have a bus. Dudley Althaus started school in 1939 and rode the new bus, a 1939 GMC that the Willow City School District purchased. It had bench seats on the sides and two-person seats in the middle. The bus transported pupils from smaller consolidated schools, like Big Flat to Willow City School. Shown are students who rode the bus and their driver, Ernest Schilling.



WILLOW CITY SCHOOL has a new visitor-sign-in stand in front of their schoolhouse. Thanks to Zip Zimmerman for his design and construction of the stand. Friends GCCS document visitor-numbers and use this data to show amount of visitation and use of each schoolhouse. This data is important as Friends assess advertising needs and request funding for advertising and funding for schoolhouse preservation projects as a non-profit group.

Design: nelda roessler [rbizniz@gmail.com](mailto:rbizniz@gmail.com)

Contact Directors-at-Large, Jane Woellhof at 830-990-8059 or Jim Lindley at 830-997-2103 to submit newsletter items.

The Friends of Gillespie County Country Schools, Inc. P.O. Box 55, Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

Friends' website: [www.historicschools.org](http://www.historicschools.org)

*OUR MISSION: Preserving the past to enrich the future.*

*+To further the preservation and maintenance of historic community school buildings in Gillespie County*

You receive this newsletter as a Friends' member or member-at-large. If you wish to unsubscribe, please e-mail Jane at

[jane423@austin.rr.com](mailto:jane423@austin.rr.com).

