

CCGS FIELD TRIP 14 JULY 2009 TO FISCHER TEXAS AND THE NARROWS

The group making this trip met at the First Methodist Church 572 W. San Antonio St. In New Braunfels at 8:15 AM. After collecting release forms they formed groups for car pooling and driving the 30 + miles to the Narrows. Three cars with more attendees met at the intersection of Hwy 32 and the Narrows Road in Blanco Co. A short drive down Narrows Rd brought us to the tip of Comal Co. Where the caretaker of the Wessendorf Ranch led the group to the gate to the Narrows ranch road. The plan of the schedule was to spend time at the tip of the county, but because we were delayed by a slow concrete truck for many miles we went to the parking area at the Narrows canyon.

A tour of the Narrows in 2007 found much more water in the river flowing several hundred cubic feet per second. This year there was no water coming down the river channel, the only source of water was from seepage in the sides of the canyon and from the bottom of the river channel. With the severe drought it was surprising to see the ferns on the walls still green and thriving, although diminished from the very wet year 2007.

The geologist scheduled for the tour came behind our group and tried to make contact via cell phone. The phone service at the Narrows is limited, and no contact was made with Amy Clark, and she found the gate closed and it looked locked to her. Subsequently she left her notes at the Restaurant next on the schedule.

After coming out of the river canyon, we went to the tip of the county marker in the dry bed of the Little Blanco river. This river was flowing strong as well in 2007.

Lunch was had at about 12 Noon at The Windmill restaurant. The drinks were especially welcome as the temperature at this time was approaching 100 degrees outside.

After lunch the tour went to the Fischer Cemetery. Some of the group did have relatives buried at this spot. Some grave dousing was attempted, but the strong winds seemed to interfere with the effort.

The next stop was the Hall of the Fischer Agriculture Society. Remarks were made that it looked like the building interior of the Clear Springs Restaurant on Hwy 46 south of New Braunfels. This is likely as it was the same carpenter that built both structures.

At the Fischer School building a short history of Fischer was given by Terry Fischer with the help of Charlene Fischer. Some photos were passed around to show a bit of the history visually.

Next a brief stop was made at the Fischer Bed and Breakfast owned by Jan Hubbard. This was the old Willie Fischer residence, site of the first store, second store, mule and horse barns, pump house .

The last item on the tour was Fischer Store owned by Charlene Fischer. There are a great deal of items that were original, and lots of other antiques for sale by Ms. Fischer. Another round of drinks of water were passed around and accepted more readily than the morning efforts. It was HOT.

At around 4:15 PM the group made its way back to New Braunels, (or home) to rehydrate further and reflect on the day.