



# THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

Volume XXXI, Number 1

March 2003

## DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### MEMBERSHIP

Buddy Frazer, Chairman  
ADDISON

Dr. Clare Buie Chaney,  
Vice Chairman  
DALLAS

Carol Anderson Bell  
GRAND PRAIRIE

Margaret Bentley  
DESOTO

Lois Cannaday  
CEDAR HILL

Elizabeth Chandler  
DALLAS

Shirley Cmar-Jones  
RICHARDSON

James Foster  
DALLAS

Michael Hayslip  
GARLAND

Joyce Hicks  
MESQUITE

Cynthia Postell  
DESOTO

Jon Eric Simmons  
CARROLLTON

Dr. Carr Suter  
GARLAND

Melinda Thomas  
COPPELL

### COMMISSIONERS COURT LIAISON

Rick Loessberg  
DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
411 ELM STREET, 3RD FLOOR  
DALLAS, TX 75202-3301  
214-653-7601

## Members Bring New Vitality to Historical Commission for 2003

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

The year 2003 has brought some major changes to the Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC). The Commissioners Court appoints DCHC members at the beginning of each odd-numbered year to serve two-year terms. Members can serve up to three consecutive terms.

This year two members, Jeff Dunn and Angela Giessner, could not be re-appointed due to the term limits. Mr. Dunn had been the DCHC chairman since 1999. Ms. Giessner was an active member of the DCHC marker review committee.

The new chairman is Buddy Frazer. Mr. Frazer, who owns a video production company, has been on the Commission since 1999. He is also the President of the Board of Directors of the WaterTower Theatre in Addison, where he lives. He is a past chairman of the Addison Planning and Zoning Commission.

The new vice-chair is Dr. Clare Buie Chaney. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice in Dallas. Dr. Chaney's

many civic activities include serving as a board member of the Texas Cancer Council (a state agency). She previously served as President of the Winnetka Heights Historic District.

Also returning to the DCHC are:

Lois Cannady is a retired oil land supervisor from Cedar Hill. She is a member of the Cedar Hill Historical Society and past member of the Cedar Hill Planning and Zoning Commission.

James Foster is president of an alarm company and served in the US Army during Viet Nam. He is on the executive committee of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. He currently lives in Oak Cliff, but has been heavily involved in civic activities in northeast Dallas County. He is the author of three books and is a co-editor of the DCHC *Chroni-*

*cle.*

Michael Hayslip represents a company which markets advertising specialties. He lives in Garland where he is president of the Garland Landmark Society and a member of the Pioneer Association. He authored a book on Garland history and has written numerous newspaper articles. He is a member of the DCHC's marker review committee and helps edit the *Chronicle*.

Joyce Hicks is self-employed and lives in Mesquite. She serves with Historic Mesquite, Inc. and chairs the Mesquite Parks Board. (She related article on page XX.)

Jon Eric Simmons lives in Carrollton and is in commercial real estate. His long list of civic activities includes membership in the Elm Fork Nature Preserve Association. He is a past member of the Dallas County Park and Open Space

(Continued on page 4)

### Inside this issue:

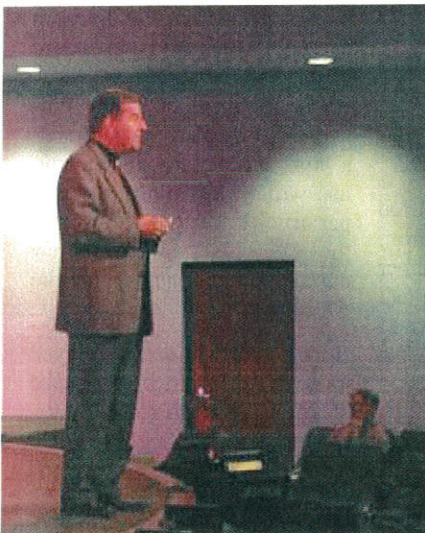
- Texas Historical Commission workshop held in Denton, page 2
- Legacies Dallas History Conference, page 2
- New Dallas Historical Society CEO, page 4

## THC Regional Workshop Held in Denton

By Elizabeth Chandler, DCHC Member

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) held a free Lakes/Brazos Regional Workshop on February 28 in Denton. The program emphasized preservation issues specific to North Central Texas. Sessions included heritage tourism, tools for local preservation and museum assistance. During lunch, attendees participated in round table discussions with THC staff. The luncheon also celebrated THC's **50th anniversary** by recognizing the many local partners that carry out preservation activities.

The THC began the outreach program



Texas Historical Commission Executive Director Larry Oaks addressed the workshop

in 2001 with six workshops held around the state. The workshops drew more than 600 preservationists, including county historical commission members, Main Street managers, city planners, architects, volunteers, museum staff and tourism professionals. Interdisciplinary teams assigned to each region provide training, planning assistance and project reviews. Each team includes at least one archeology reviewer and historian.

Over 190 from the 39 county Region attended the daylong workshop that convened at the recently restored Campus Theatre in the historic Main Street area of Denton. Preservationists were welcomed by members of the Chamber of Commerce and Mayor Euline Brock. THC executive director, Larry Oaks reviewed the ten year Statewide Plan for Preserving Our Heritage and Daniel Carey, SW Regional Office Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation gave the keynote address.

Participants were given the opportunity to tour the Denton County Court House on Square Museum and to enjoy the shops around the square. Many shop owners have wholeheartedly participated in the Denton Main Street



A cake commemorated the THC's 50th Anniversary

Program. The workshop reconvened at the 1925 First Methodist Church building.

Communities working together can plan presentations and promote stronger communication throughout a region with the THC's help. The Denton County Historical Commission, Denton Main Street Program, Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau, Denton County Court House on the Square Museum, Texas Bank and Wells Fargo Bank put the Lakes/Brazos Regional Workshop together. The workshop generated renewed enthusiasm in the midst of challenging times in the history of the State.

## Annual Dallas History Conference To Be Held September 20 at Dallas Public Library

By Michael V. Hazel, Ph.D.

The planners of the Fifth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference have recently announced that this fall's conference will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Public Library

in downtown Dallas.

Seven local historians will present papers about people who helped shaped Dallas. Watch the next issue of the *County Chronicle* for more informa-

tion, but meanwhile, be sure to mark your calendars for September 20. The Dallas County Historical Commission has been a co-sponsor of the conference since 2000.

## Joyce Hicks: Volunteer Extraordinaire

By Charlene Orr, Executive Director, Historic Mesquite, Inc.

Historic Mesquite, Inc., which is the incorporated form of the Mesquite Historical Commission, has benefited from the efforts of a dedicated volunteer who has served as chairman of the organization and the sole designer/administrator of school tours.

For the past nine years, one of Joyce Hicks' duties has been to open the Florence Ranch Homestead, a restored 19<sup>th</sup> century Texas farmhouse, every second Saturday of the month for public tours. But beyond the public tours, she also handles all the requests for larger group tours, which include several of the third grade classes in Mesquite.

It's the third-graders who learn about their community's heritage through the written word, interviews and field trips. For seven of Joyce's nine years, at least eight schools tour, with sometimes as many as 300 children, the Florence Ranch. "Most of the children don't know about outhouses, slop jars, no bathrooms in the house and – what!! – no internet connections," Joyce said. "It is interesting to see their faces as you talk about these

things as well as when you explain about lye soap and hog-killing time."

Many times, Joyce remains in her docent apron and bonnet and jets over to Opal Lawrence Historical Park, which is currently under restoration, to show the children around the grounds and explain what will take place there. Because of her dedication, many of the schools then have penny collections and donate their funds to Historic Mesquite, Inc. for work on the Lawrence house.

Another partnership Joyce has formed is with the Parks Department of Mesquite. This past December sheets of plywood were decorated into Christmas trees by the after-school programs in the recreation centers. The trees were displayed at the Parks Department's annual Christmas in the Park event and then moved to the Florence Ranch for the annual open house.

In her spare time, Joyce is the lead speaker in Historic Mesquite's speakers bureau and talks to interested groups several times per year about saving the past for our future. She also has begun going into the recreation centers in her



Joyce Hicks shown in her docent outfit.

bonnet and apron for show-and-tell of historical items.

Joyce is a member of Historic Mesquite, Inc.'s emeritus board and said she hopes to continue her tours and history talks for many years to come.

## Downtown Rowlett Make Over Started

By James Foster, DCHC Member

Rowlett Mayor Shane Johnson and Rowlett Historical Society President, Gale Farr, announced the kickoff of simultaneous historical projects at a recent meeting of the Rowlett Historical Society.

Mayor Johnson announced that construction is scheduled to start in April on the complete make over of historical downtown Rowlett. The project will continue nonstop and will take approximately one year to complete. This project will focus on Rowlett's past histori-

cal significance while serving as an inspiration for its future.

Ms. Farr announced that the Rowlett Historical Society is simultaneously kicking off its new project. A twelve member committee has been formed and will immediately commence gathering stories and materials for their book on pioneers and early settlers in and around Rowlett. Anyone wishing to contribute information for this book should contact the editor, Jessica LeBeau at 972-475-4935.



Rowlett Mayor Shane Johnson and Rowlett Historical Society President Gale Farr.

## Dallas Historical Society Names New CEO

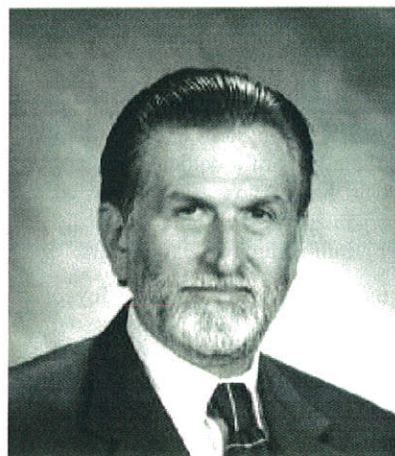
The Board of Trustees of the Dallas Historical Society announced on March 4, 2003 the appointment of Avelino F. Segura as the Chief Executive Officer of the Dallas Historical Society.

DHS now has the ability to work more closely with organizations in developing their presentations of their "Dallas History." Mr. Segura joins the Society with over 23 years of experience curating exhibits, most recently "Baylor Milestones: Remembering the Past Embracing the Future", a permanent historical exhibit at Baylor Hospital celebrating their 100th anniversary. Mr. Segura has also collabo-

rated with several other notable exhibits for the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man at SMU and "The Legend of Bonnie & Clyde" for DHS. He served as Director of Exhibits for The Museum of Natural History for 14 years and as an Educator in the Dallas Independent School District.

He brings a wealth of experience that the Dallas Historical Society will be able to utilize to benefit those members and corporations wanting to celebrate their history.

*Material for this article was provided by the Dallas Historical Society*



New DHS CEO Avelino F. Segura

## DCHC Membership for 2003

*(Continued from page 1)*

Commission, the A.W. Perry Museum Board of Directors, and the Maple Avenue Economic Development Corporation. He holds the record for the longest tenure on the DCHC, having served from 1980-1978 before being re-appointed in 1999.

Dr. Carr Suter is a retire minister from Garland. He serves on the Garland Library Board and is a member of the Garland Landmark Society. He is chairman of the Dallas Baptist Association's history committee. Dr. Suter is chairman of the DCHC marker review committee.

Melinda Thomas is from Coppell. Her credits include work with the Coppell Historical Society and the Coppell Historic District Committee. She has held numerous other positions with civic and educational groups.

New to the DCHC this year are:

Carol Bell brings a long list of civic accomplishments to the commission. She has a degree from Texas Tech in Home and Family Studies and now lives in Grand Prairie. She was a member of the Leadership Lubbock Steering Committee and has chaired the Texas Coalition for Mental Health.

Margaret Bentley is chief operation officer of Autism Treatment Centers of Texas. She has been a member of the DeSoto Arts Commission, American Association of University Women and the State Board of Physician Assistant Examiners. She lives in DeSoto.

Elizabeth Chandler works for the Meadows Foundation and lives in Dallas. She has served as an election judge and is a member of Meeting Planners International and the Wilshire Heights Neighborhood Association Board.

Shirley Cmar-Jones is a realtor from Mesquite and is studying to be an attorney. She is a member of the Women's Council of Realtors and American Business Women and serves on the DCHC Marker Review Committee.

Cynthia Mickens-Postell is general manager of a funeral home and lives in DeSoto. She is a board member of Girls Incorporated and has served with the American Heart Association, the Women's Council and the Texas State Board of Insurance. She is a graduate of Leadership Dallas.

These individuals bring an outstanding blend of talents to the Commission. Their contributions will bring new dynamics to the Commission's efforts over the next two years.

### THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

The Dallas County Historical Commission is a county board appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court. The Dallas County Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the DCHC for historical groups in Dallas County and the general public. This edition was edited by Buddy Frazer and published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Articles should be sent to Buddy Frazer, via email at [email@mpfservices.net](mailto:email@mpfservices.net), or by mail to Dallas County Historical Commission, 411 Elm Street, 3rd Floor, Dallas, TX 75202-3301. Visit the DCHC on the web at [www.dallaschc.org](http://www.dallaschc.org) and the Dallas County government website at [www.dallascounty.org](http://www.dallascounty.org).