



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

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Marker Applications Due Dec. 1

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) has issued new procedures for historical markers effective immediately. As in the past, marker applications must first be approved by the County Historical Commission before being reviewed by the state. In order to meet THC deadlines, marker applications for this year, should be submitted to the Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC) by December 1. All applications for THC approval in 2007 must be submitted by then to allow time for the CHC to work with the applicant on any problems and file the application with the THC by the end of the year.

The new procedures call for applications and supporting documentation to be submitted electronically by email. For the time being, marker applications and questions about the process in Dallas County should be emailed to email@mpfservices.net. The document forms, which must be used, can be found on the Texas Historical Commission website, www.thc.state.tx.us, by clicking on the Markers link. That site can be also be accessed through the DCHC Internet website at www.dallaschc.org. At the bottom of the page is a link

to the THC marker page. There one can download the marker forms, the new procedures, and research guidelines.

The THC has also imposed a \$100 application fee in addition to the cost of the marker itself. The fee is collected by the THC, not the DCHC, and is due after the THC's preliminary approval of the application.

The basic documentation for markers has not changed. Each application must be well-researched and include a narrative that is documented with footnotes or endnotes.

There are three types of markers, and each has a different application form and slightly different criteria and procedures.

Subject markers are educational in nature and mark topics of historical interest. The subject must date back at least 50 years, although historic events may be marked after 30 years, and



individuals may be marked or may be mentioned in the marker text if they have been dead for 10 years.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers designate structures of architectural and historical significance. They must be 50 years old and must maintain their appearance from the period of historical significance.

Historic Texas Cemetery markers can only be given to burial grounds previously approved for Texas Historic Cemetery designation. A cemetery marker, with interpretive plaque can convey the significance of the site to the public.

The Dallas County Historical Commission will post new information on its website as it becomes available.

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CCC Honored at White Rock Lake

By Steven Butler

On Saturday, September 30, 2006 volunteers and officers of For The Love Of The Lake (FTLOTL), Dallas Park and Recreation Department (DPARD) officials, and former members of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) "Tree Army" gathered at White Rock Lake Park to dedicate a Texas Historical Commission (THC) marker commemorating CCC Company 2896, which operated from 1935 to 1942 at a camp located near Winfrey Point. For about a year during World War II, the United States Army Air Corps used the camp as an induction center for new recruits. Before the war was over, the former CCC barracks also housed several hundred German Prisoners-of-War. After the war, Southern Methodist University utilized the site for overflow student housing as returning veterans rushed to take advantage of FDR's "GI Bill," which made it possible for former soldiers to get a college education.

Placement of the marker was initiated by Steven Butler, a Richland College history professor and author of *From Water Supply to Urban Oasis: A History of White Rock Lake Park*. Butler

wrote the historical narrative from which the marker text was derived. FTLOTL, a non-profit citizens action group, paid for the marker and for the CCC-style stone surrounding the marker, which was designed by DPARD official Willis Winters.

At the ceremony, which was chaired by FTLOTL president Kevin Felton, FTLOTL founder Marci Novak spoke first, followed by Professor Butler, who praised and thanked the CCC veterans for their service to the nation and for the improvements to White Rock Lake Park that were made by the "Boys in Green." He also paid tribute to President Roosevelt, calling him "the greatest president of the twentieth century," a sentiment that brought forth a resounding cheer from the CCC enrollees in attendance and their guests.

Unfortunately, due to a delivery mix-up, the actual marker did not arrive in time for the ceremony which had been planned to coincide with the CCC Alumni's annual reunion. Instead, a replica marker, provided by FTLOTL, was unveiled in its place. Immediately following the unveiling, in which CCC



From left to right: Sheffie Kidane (DPARD), Willis Winters (DPARD), CCC Alumni President Walter Atwood, FTLOTL President Kevin Felton, Sally Rodriguez (DPARD), and Professor Steven Butler.

Alumni president Walter Atwood participated, Willis Winters read the text aloud to ceremony attendees.

The actual marker finally arrived and was put in place on Saturday, October 14, 2006. It is located alongside the park road just below Winfrey Point, under the shade of a tree, and overlooking the park's two baseball diamonds, which were built after World War II on the site of the CCC camp after the old barracks and other buildings were sold or demolished.

Long Creek Cemetery Dedication Planned

By Sandra Stone, Long Creek Cemetery Association

You may laugh, but I could swear I heard that "great cloud of witnesses" cheer today! Today was the day so many had dreamed of, yet few from the old days are here to see. It is the day Long Creek Cemetery received the honor of being designated as a Texas Historical Cemetery and began to plan the dedication of its Historical Marker on the grounds of Long Creek Cemetery.

As we went through the process of completing our application, I thought many times of the stories I had been told about the first burial at Long Creek Cemetery of Leona Crownover

Caldwell on October 2, 1855. I thought about the ladies who had started the Association in 1910 so that they could care for the burial grounds of their loved ones. I thought of the many hours that I knew they had spent toiling over the graves, planning box dinners and ice cream socials to raise funds for its care. I thought of the rich history of a time and a place that was slipping away and would no longer be here for our children and grandchildren to witness, and I was reminded of those we had said goodbye to in just the last few years.

It is with great celebration that we come together once more to honor the memory

of our cemetery's founders A.W. Webb and William H. Caldwell, the ladies who gave of their time to care for the burial places of our ancestors and to all

those families of yesterday who settled the land at Long Creek, Tripp, New

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“Dallas: Lost & Found” January 27, 2007

By Michael V. Hazel, PhD, Dallas History Conference Coordinator

Many people, places, and events played significant roles in Dallas history, but are largely forgotten today. With this in mind, the steering committee for the 8th Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference has picked as its theme, “Dallas: Lost and Found.”

Among the individuals being profiled are Thomas L. Marsalis, the developer of Oak Cliff; Benjamin Bluit, the first African-American surgeon in Texas; and Polly Smith, a Depression-era photographer whose work adorns the walls in the Hall of State. Other papers will look at historic hotels and restaurants, African-American neighborhoods during the

era of Jim Crow, some forgotten literary connections to Dallas, and the lost opportunity to beautify Mill Creek.

Speakers include popular Dallas historians Darwin Payne and Jackie McElhane, architects Jim Barnes and Marcel Quimby, Evelyn Barker of UTA, Sam Childers of the Old Red Museum, Dwayne Jones of Preservation Dallas, and Theodore M. Lawe of the A. R. McMillan African American Museum.

The conference will take place on Saturday, January 27, 2007, in the Hatton W. Sumners Courtroom on the fourth floor of the restored Old Red Courthouse—one of the first functions to be held there. A tour of the building will

follow.

The Dallas County Historical Commission is one of eleven organizations sponsoring the conference. Registration forms will be mailed in early December.

For more information, contact conference coordinator Michael V. Hazel at mvhazel@sbcglobal.net.



Photo courtesy of Dallas Heritage Village.

El Camposanto de Cemento Grande

By Frances James, DCHC Cemetery Contact

El Camposanto de Cemento Grande de la Compania Trinity Portland is a small cemetery located about six miles west of the Dallas County Courthouse surrounded by large warehouses and behind an SBC building. The ample parking lot of the telephone company makes access easy after you clear with the guard. However, it has not always been easy to find this cemetery because it was stranded in the middle of the 900-acre site that had produced cement since 1907. Many of the workers at the cement plant were from Mexico, and the company provided the land for a cemetery for them.

The Trinity Portland Cement Company also provided housing for the workers as public transportation to and from this site was inadequate. This housing could be rented for \$2.00 per month per room. The last house was moved from this site in 1959.

Many of these workers had heard there was opportunity for work in North Texas, where they could escape the killing during the Mexican Revolution,

where one in five men died. They crossed the border, received a green card, and walked from Laredo to Dallas to work.

The history for this site was provided by workers and their descendants as no records were kept. Many of the graves in the small cemetery are made from cement with names imbedded in Spanish. A few head stones exist in the cemetery. One is a government issue for Eladio Martinez. Eladio was killed in the Philippines in 1945. Eladio received a Purple Heart and was first buried in Santa Barbara south of the summer capitol of the Philippines and was re-interred in this small cemetery in the 1950s. Eladio's father worked for fifty years for the cement company and received a pension. Eladio's mother, also from Mexico, was afraid of lightning and had a special ritual she performed on the small porch of the house.

Another family has a son buried here who was shot and killed by a nearby landowner when the young man was picking pecans on his land. The land-

owner took the body in to the sheriff by putting it across his horse. He told the law officer that the Mexican had shot at him and that he had killed him in self defense. The young Mexican man had never had a gun. The landowner was not prosecuted.

The land in this area was first occupied by La Reunion Colonists in 1850s. After the colony disbanded, some of the Europeans went back to Europe, but others stayed in Dallas County, and some made bricks and cement from these special limestone quarries. Texaco had a tank farm in this vicinity, and the Horton family house and cemetery was nearby. The town of Eagle Ford sprang up in the 1870s when the MKT Railroad to Ft. Worth stopped building because of lack of funds. John Horton donated land for the railway right-of-way, and the town had a depot. This western side of Dallas County has seen many changes the last few years, but the small cemetery remains within its fenced-in area to tell the story of these early workers seeking a better life.

Join the "Friends of the DCHC"

The "Friends of the Dallas County Historical Commission" is a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation. The mission of the Friends is to provide private funding support for Texas historical markers and other educational programs sponsored by the Dallas County Historical Commission ("DCHC") and to raise awareness of the history of Dallas County and its cities, neighborhoods and communities.

Your membership contribution is tax deductible as allowed by law. The Friends has no paid staff. As a result, all of your contributions support DCHC activities except for out-of-pocket expenses incurred in operating the Friends. All members receive a hard copy of the DCHC Newsletter and invitations to the Friends annual meeting and other events. To join, complete the following information, pick one of the levels of membership, and send your check, payable to the "Friends of the Dallas County Historical Commission," to:

Charlene Orr
Historic Mesquite, Inc./City of Mesquite
Box 850137
Mesquite, Texas 75185-0137

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Membership Level: _____

Membership Levels

Basic \$35
Big D \$100
Pioneer \$500

Charter memberships (limited to contributors who join by December 31, 2006) will be valid until December 31, 2007.

For information, call Charlene Orr at (972) 216-6468.

Three to Leave DCHC

Three members of the Dallas County Historical Commission will be leaving at the end of their terms January 31. Joyce Hicks and Buddy Frazer have reached the term-limits of three two-year terms. Hicks been a major resource for the DCHC and will continue to be active in Mesquite historical activities. Frazer has served as DCHC Chairman for the past several years. Eric Johnson has asked not to be re-appointed to the DCHC because of pressing business commitments. Johnson helped found and is chairman of the DCHC's African-American Marker Committee.

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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 issue was edited by Buddy Frazer and Rick Loessberg. It is published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Articles should be sent to Buddy Frazer, via email at email@mpfservices.net, or by mail to the Dallas County Historical Commission, 411 Elm Street, 3rd Floor, Dallas, TX 75202-3301. Visit the DCHC on the web at www.dallaschc.org and the Dallas County government website at www.dallascounty.org.

Long Creek Con't

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Hope, Locust Grove and other communities who now make Long Creek Cemetery their final resting place.

Join families and friends as we celebrate the Texas Historical Commission's designation of Long Creek Cemetery, Sunnyvale, Texas as a Texas Historical Cemetery and the dedication of our Historical Marker at Long Creek Cemetery, Saturday, November 18, 2006, beginning at 1:00 pm.