

THE *County Chronicle*

NEWSLETTER OF THE DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Fall 1996

JFK FOR A NEW GENERATION

By County Commissioner Mike Cantrell

The Sixth Floor Museum and The Southern Methodist University Press have co-published a new book on John F. Kennedy. Historian Conover Hunt, with a foreword by Hugh Sidey, authored *JFK for a New Generation*. Hunt has worked with international audiences at Dealey Plaza. She was the project director who organized The Sixth Floor Museum and has preserved the actual site of Kennedy's assassination.

JFK for a New Generation is devoted to the generation that was born after 1960 who do not remember, or are confused, about the Kennedy years. This generation lacks the personal memory of that eventful day and this book provides priceless insights into the myths, the history, the arguments and the foundation for the differing opinions of Kennedy's assassination on November 22, 1963.

The book provides a re-creation of the assassination, what took place the days following and an historical and cultural look into JFK's life, career and legacy. Also included is an explanation of the role of the media and, finally, a description of the nationwide efforts to preserve the memory of a great

president. Hunt also gives a broad historical account of Kennedy's career and death and does not influence the reader to take sides regarding Kennedy's efficiency as a leader, his integrity or the circumstances of his death. She also refrains from taking sides so that the readers can make their own conclusions.

Hugh Sidey was quoted as saying, "This is the best account yet of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. It is, at once, a picture of the man and his times and a concise, illustrated narrative of his journey through Dallas." The magnificent illustrations take the reader through the changing events between the years of 1963 through 1995. These events have influenced the image of Kennedy in every aspect.

JFK for a New Generation is being sold in the Visitor's Center of the Sixth Floor Museum at 411 Elm St. The price is \$19.95 for paper back and \$34.95 for hard cover. The Museum is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. (excluding Christmas Day).

I hope you will bring your friends and come visit the Sixth Floor Museum and the Visitor's Center to experience one of the most powerful events in history.

**MAKE SURE YOU GET YOUR TICKETS EARLY ...
FOR THE 1996 DCHC SESQUICENTENNIAL AWARDS
BANQUET AT UNION STATION ON NOVEMBER 21st.
CALL 214/653-7601 FOR INFORMATION.**

CHAIR'S REPORT

We have had a very busy third quarter. Among other things, we have had several inquiries from the Department of Transportation regarding the historic status of three bridges before they tear them down. It's really great that there is the recognition that checks need to be made to avoid destroying a structure which could be immensely valuable from an historical standpoint.

Thanks to Jackie Deaton and Martha Carlson, we are educating the public about the value of recording history. Recently, when my mother died, I was appalled at how lightly my own family valued some of the items we found. It demonstrates how much work we need to do to get people to evaluate items before they discard them. Apparently, education needs to begin at home.

One of the most moving ceremonies I attended recently was the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Pioneer Cemetery. The people involved in this project did not give up. It took them several years to get it done, but it was certainly worth it. Visitors from all over the world, and especially from this country, will be educated about these Texas soldiers who played such an integral role in World War II. The tears flowed freely at the end of the ceremony as "Taps" was played.

Kay Tiller, the Commission's public relations chair, and I met with Camilla Hardee of Woodbine Corporation and Karol Wilson of the Hyatt Regency Hotel recently. We are joining in a partnership to highlight Union Station's historic value at our banquet. The Commission is excited about this because we want to bring other people in to work with us on as many projects as possible. There are 2 million people living in Dallas County. The more people we have involved in preservation, the better. Woodbine Corporation has a history of working with historic projects to restore them to their original splendor, as they did with Union Station. The Hyatt Regency Hotel in essence, leases the second floor of the property from Woodbine for their banquet and meeting room use.

As representative for the Commission on The Sixth Floor Museum Board of Trustees, I attended a lecture by Pierre Salinger, press secretary for President Kennedy. Mr. Salinger was very frank and witty as he gave accounts of his experiences. On the eve of the President's assassination, Mr. Salinger proposed a poker game to distract everyone. **He said they played and cried.**

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Following his talk, he answered questions from the audience and then retired for dinner with the Board of Trustees and some of The Sixth Floor staff. It was an immensely informative evening and it demonstrates that the healing process is occurring regarding the assassination. Mr. Salinger has written a book entitled "P. S. A Memoir" and it is available in The Sixth Floor Visitor's Center.

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ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED

The Dallas County Historical Commission has appointed former chair, Helen Jankowski, to head an advisory committee which will be composed of members of historical organizations throughout Dallas County. This committee will facilitate more preservation of the history of the county.

Since the Dallas County Historical Commission has only fifteen members, it has to draw on other resources to complete the many activities which are needed to seriously contribute to the preservation of the past. Some of the advisory committee members have been attending the Commission's meetings to identify areas where they can have an impact.

Jackie Townsend treated the members of the advisory committee to lunch at her store and restaurant in Irving in September. We then went on a tour of some of the historical sites of Irving.

The advisory group is active in helping with the DCHC Sesquicentennial Awards Banquet and organizing the office. Betty Agee, former DCHC chair, Frances James and others worked on addressing invitations and in organizing the DCHC materials in the DCHC office in the Records Building.

Helen Jankowski

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**GLORIA CAMPOS
TO EMCEE
DCHC AWARDS
PRESENTATION**

Jean Sims, Chair of the Dallas County Historical Commission and chair of the 1996 DCHC Sesquicentennial Awards Banquet, has announced that plans have been completed for the affair, which is to be held on November 21 at Union Station in downtown Dallas.

According to Mrs. Sims, a reception will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Pullman Room and the banquet will be at 7:30 p.m. Musical groups will entertain during the evening. Gloria Campos of WFAA will emcee the Awards Presentation.

*For information or tickets to the
Nov. 21 banquet,
call 214/653-7601*

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
411 ELM STREET
DALLAS, TX 75202

**COMMISSION MEMBERS
MAKE PRESENTATIONS**

Martha Carlson and Jackie Deaton have been busy making presentations to groups, urging them to document their family history.

One of Martha Carlson's presentations was to the Greater Dallas Association of Realtors Education Committee where she distributed the DCHC's brochure, "Document Your History." She also placed these brochures in the Association's library and in the lobby of Texas Commerce Bank on Hillcrest.

Meanwhile, Jackie Deaton was making a presentation to the North Dallas Women's Club. She stressed the way that everyone can play a major role in making sure their family, organization or business has its place in history by documenting its activities. Ms. Deaton also distributed the DCHC brochures.

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SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM. . . A TREASURE WAITING FOR YOU!

The Dallas County Historical Commission's Chair, Jean Sims, serves as the Commission's representative on the Board of Directors for The Sixth Floor Museum. Unfortunately, few of the people of Dallas County have visited this exceptional exhibit. The Historical Commission encourages each of you who have not experienced this tremendously moving display to do so.

When you walk through the area on the sixth floor, you travel back in time to those moments. There are 400 historic photographs, original interviews, artifacts, 40 minutes of specially commissioned documentary film and interpretative displays.

Visitors can take an audio tour, which includes oral history interviews with many participants in the events of the era. At the end of the tour, visitors may write their

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**HIGHLAND PARK UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH SETS
HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATIONS**

At all three morning services on Sunday, November 24th, Highland Park United Methodist Church will dedicate their Texas Historical Marker. The services are to be held at 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m.

The present Sanctuary at 3300 Mockingbird Lane was built in 1926 and, in July 1994, was granted the designation of "Recorded Texas historic Landmark."

Members of the Dallas County Historical Commission will be in attendance at these services and invite everyone else to come and help this fine church celebrate.

thoughts in a memory book. One visitor from Chicago, Illinois wrote, "I'm glad the past has been preserved for all Americans to observe." The exhibits will be further enhanced by items that were recently secured from the auction of Jackie Onassis' estate.

Recently, the Museum donated tickets to a class with which the Historical Commission has worked and the exhibit was highly educational for these young people. One of the Museum's main goals is to educate younger audiences about the meaning of this unforgettable chapter in American history.

Again, Dallas County Residents, "Please take time to visit the Sixth Floor Museum. This exhibit enables John F. Kennedy to break the barrier of death. It enables the viewer to escape into time.

Jean Sims

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**WELCOME NEW
COMMISSION MEMBERS**

We are delighted to have three new members of The Dallas County Historical Commission. Commissioner Mayfield has appointed Angela Giessner and Commissioner Price appointed James Murphy Spigner and Barbara Steele.

They come at a good time as we prepare for the awards banquet.