



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

Volume XXX, Number 1

Winter 2002

DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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411 ELM STREET, 3RD FLOOR
DALLAS, TX 75202-3301
214-653-7601

Commission's Year in Review

by Jeff Dunn, Chairman, DCHC

The Dallas County Historical Commission completed 2001 after having met eleven times, including eight meetings at the county administration building and special meetings at the Sara Ellen & Samuel Weisfeld Center, the Hall of State, and Old City Park. During



Pictured during April meeting at Old City Park are DCHC chairman, Jeff Dunn, and Old City Park head Gary Smith.

the year the DCHC approved many historical marker applications and assisted in dedicating new markers. We also worked with the Texas Historical Commission on new legislation affecting county historical commissions across the state. The DCHC participated in the THC's pilot "Visionaries in Preservation" task force, a county-wide preservation planning initiative, and won the THC's Distinguished Service Award for 2000.

The DCHC's archives recently have been rearranged and organized by the Dallas Genealogical Society. DGS also produced a comprehensive written inventory of DCHC surveys and reports that fit within the category covered by the Texas State retention code. This useful survey has already assisted the Old Red Courthouse Museum Project by enabling quick access to historical narratives and marker applications. The DCHC has formally commended DGS for this effort which was part of a larger project that encompassed all of the county's historical and genealogical records.

DCHC member Buddy Frazer, who doubles as the DCHC's webmaster, has completed an Excel spreadsheet listing every official Texas historical marker in Dallas County, including the full inscriptions of each marker. This spreadsheet is now posted on the DCHC

website at www.dallaschc.org. With this addition to the website, it is now possible for researchers anywhere in the world to download historical information on 284 Dallas County historical markers in one easily accessible location.

The DCHC continues to support area historical societies and museums in an effort to encourage greater cooperation and promotion of common goals. We support the ongoing efforts of the Old Red Courthouse Foundation to restore our city's most impressive government landmark and create a first class local museum. This effort promises to have lasting benefits to the people of Dallas County. We are also strong supporters of the Sixth Floor Museum and assisted in the museum in 2001 with donations and loans of historical artifacts and records. We also co-sponsored the third annual Dallas History Conference and intend to support that conference again in 2002.

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Third Dallas History Conference Held

By Michael V. Hazel, Ph.D.

Nearly 200 history lovers turned out for the Third Annual Dallas History Conference on October 6 to learn more about "Women Who Made a Difference." The luncheon speaker was a true woman pioneer, 86-year-old Lillian Moore Bradshaw, who delighted the audience with her account of "Tackling



Lillian Bradshaw, former director of the Dallas Public Library, was the luncheon speaker. (Photo courtesy Texas/Dallas History & Achieves Division, Dallas Public Library.)

the Status Quo" during her long career as director of the Dallas Public Library.

Pat Coggan, a history teacher at The Hockaday School, where the conference was held, opened the morning with a paper on Miss Ela Hockaday and the development of the school. James Pratt, architect for the Old Red Courthouse project, followed with a look at the women of the old La Reunion Colony. Local historian Jackie McElhaney discussed Blanche Greenburg and the campaign to provide free milk for poor children in the early 20th century, and Marsha Prior and Terry Schulte looked at attempts by African-American women to improve educational opportunities in their community between 1905 and 1930. After lunch, Dr. Elizabeth York Enstam spoke on the campaign for woman suffrage in Dallas; Jerrie Marcus Smith recounted stories about her great-aunt, Carrie Marcus Neiman; and Yvonne Frear delivered a paper on civil rights pioneer Juanita Craft.

Throughout the day, conference atten-



Carrie Marcus Neiman (Photo courtesy of Stanley Marcus.)

dees had an opportunity to browse among a selection of new and used books, historic maps, and other items in the book sale area, and obtain literature about the twelve sponsoring organizations.

Call for Proposals 2002 History Conference

By Michael V. Hazel, Ph.D.

The organizers of the Fourth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference welcome proposals from both professional and lay historians on topics related to the theme: "Historic Neighborhoods: Basis of a Community." The Dallas County Historical Commission is one of twelve institutional sponsors of the conference.

Dallas is composed of dozens of distinct neighborhoods, each with its unique history and identity, from Winnetka Heights to Junius Heights, and from Wheatley Place to Preston Hollow. Some began as "streetcar suburbs," while others were influenced by the "City Beautiful" movement. Other cities in Dallas County also contain

historic neighborhoods, often centered on the old town square, or near an early railroad right-of-way. Residents of these neighborhoods have often fought long and hard to preserve the architectural and cultural history that gives them character and makes them distinctive. Papers might focus on a developer, an architect, a preservation leader, an urban planner, a neighborhood association, or a community organization that supports neighborhoods. Or they might examine the impact of urban planning, zoning, transportation routes, retail outlets, or changing demographics on specific neighborhoods.

All papers must be based on original

research and must not have been presented or published elsewhere. All presenters will receive an honorarium of \$300, and the best papers will be published in a subsequent issue of *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*. Those interested in presenting papers should submit a brief summary of their proposal by FEBRUARY 1, 2002, to "Dallas History Conference, 1717 Gano St., Dallas, TX 75215." Those selected will be notified by March 1, 2002.

The Fourth Annual Dallas History Conference will be held on September 28, 2002, at the Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel.

Cox Cemetery Marked Dedicated in October

By Frances James

October 20, 2001, the Cox Cemetery historical marker dedication was really an event. A beautiful day, no rain or wind and so many people came, we ran out of programs.

The Cox Cemetery is located within the city limits of the City of Dallas near White Rock Lake on Dalgreen, northwest of Lawther Drive. Dalgreen Lane was called Humbard Lane for many years, named after an early settler. Lawther Drive is named for Lynn Lawther who was a Dallas County Commissioner for Precinct 1 from 1943 until 1959. Lawther Drive circles around White Rock Lake.

This cemetery contains the final rest-

ing place for many of the settlers in this community sometimes known as Calhoun or Fisher. There are over four hundred grave markers still in place although some are nearly illegible. It is estimated nearly one hundred sites either have no markers or they have been vandalized or removed. This cemetery is located on a portion of the John H. Hyde headright. He was a resident of Nacogdoches County (before Dallas County was formed in 1845).

The earliest marked burial in this cemetery was that of Margaret Frances Dixon, born September 6, 1848 and died November 15 (16) 1848.

This is the last burial at the site was

that of 18 year old Wendy Soltero who was murdered on October 18, 2000 during a car-jacking. The family asked to have her buried at the Cox Cemetery because it is just around the corner from their house.

At the ceremony, Mary Bess, then mayor pro tem (now mayor) of Dallas, attended and spoke a few words. The cemetery is in what was her council district.

The pastors from the Pleasant View Baptist Church gave the invocation and benediction. Pleasant View is one of or maybe the oldest Baptist Church in the County.



Sixth Floor Museum Exhibit Recalls the Nation's Tragedies

Pictured at right is a makeshift memorial from the World Trade Center site in New York City. The item is part of the "Loss and Renewal: Transforming Tragic Sites" exhibit at the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealy Plaza which opened in November.

The exhibit examines how sites of ma-

major tragedies have been preserved. The sites include Ford's Theatre in Washington, Pearl Harbor near Honolulu, the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, The World Trade Center, and the Texas Schoolbook Depository where the museum is located.

The Year in Review

(Continued from page 1)

The year 2001 will be remembered in American history for the tragic events of September 11. But out of this tragedy came a new resolve in America and a greater appreciation for our country's heritage. Local history is

the essence of American history, and the DCHC is proud to play its own small role in promoting Dallas County's history so that residents and visitors alike can better appreciate the greatness of our community in the context of our proud national history.

I wish to thank each of the members of the DCHC for their volunteer work, as well as County Judge Lee Jackson and Commissioners Jim Jackson, John Wiley Price, Mike Cantrell, and Ken Mayfield for their continued support of our activities.

Galloway Farmstead Gets Historical Marker

The dedication of an historical marker at the Galloway Farmstead in Mesquite was held October 20, 2001. The event was sponsored by the Saltgrass Steak House, which now occupies a portion of the site.

Confederate veteran, Benjamin Franklin Galloway (1833-1912), and his wife, Eliza (Fletcher) (1862-1883) came to Texas from Tennessee in 1872. Their son, Bedford Forest is said to have been born in a covered wagon at Duck Creek (Garland) in 1873. They purchased 101 acres in 1874 and Benjamin Galloway erected a cabin where they lived while a two-room house was built. A farmer, he also raised houses, mules, and cattle. A second son, Nathan Lemmon, was born in 1876. Twin sons were born in 1883, but they lived only a day, and Eliza Galloway died soon after. Her niece, Clara Gentry, came to live with the family that year.



Rita Crump, Historic Mesquite, Inc. Chair.
(Photo by DCHC member Joyce Hicks)

Benjamin Galloway married Amanda Jane Miller (1848-1938) of Tennessee in 1887 and built a 1½ story addition onto the home place. The structure eventually featured an entrance hall, bedroom, parlor, and kitchen on the first level, with children's rooms upstairs.

Bedford returned home after attending college in Waco and New Orleans, and made his living farming, baling hay, and ginning cotton. He and his first wife, Nannie Lawrence, had four children. After her death in 1915, he married Bertha Dakan in 1917 and they had two daughters. Bedford was a city alderman, a member of the school board, and served as mayor of Mesquite from 1927 to 1940.

A Galloway descendent restored the house between 1949 and 1950, and built another addition in 1955. Designated a recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1973, the Galloway home place was moved to a more rural location in Sunnyvale in an effort to protect it from encroaching urban development.

Speakers at the dedication ceremony included Saltgrass Steak House Managing Partner Matt Hanifen, District 2 County Commissioner Mike Cantrell, Mesquite Mayor Mike Anderson, DCHC Chairman



Dallas County Commissioner Mike Cantrell (District 2). (Photo by DCHC member Joyce Hicks)

Jeff Dunn, Historic Mesquite, Inc. Chair Rita Crump, Galloway family descendent Deborah Franklin. Boy Scout Troop 65 presented the colors and the Mesquite High School *Pizzazz* played the National Anthem.



Mesquite Mayor Mike Anderson is shown unveiling the marker. (Photo by DCHC member Joyce Hicks)

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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 edition was edited by Buddy Frazer and published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Contributions should be sent to Jeff Dunn, via email at jddunn@flash.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 and the Dallas County government website at www.dallascounty.org

Betty Agee (1926-2001)

Betty Agee, former Chair of the Dallas County Historical Commission passed away in November. She served on the Commission in the 1980's and was involved in a number of other civic activities in Dallas. The Dallas County Historical Commission extends its sympathy to her family.