



# THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

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## Baylor Hospital Celebrates its First Century

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

In the early 1900's a growing Dallas was in critical need of expanded medical facilities. In 1903, First Baptist Church pastor Dr. George W. Truett garnered the support of local citizens and the Baptist General Convention of Texas to create a new hospital, which became known as the Texas Baptist Memorial Sanitarium. The same year, they purchased the University of Dallas Medical School which had been established

in Waco sponsored the hospital's educational activities which led to changing the name to Baylor University Hospital in the 1920's. In 1929, Baylor created one of the first hospital insurance programs, which later became Blue Cross. The college of medicine was moved to Houston in 1943 and the Dallas facility's name was changed to Baylor University Medical Center in 1959.



Dallas County Judge Margaret Keliher spoke at the dedication ceremony.

in 1900 by Dr. Charles M. Rosser. That facility was renamed the Baylor College of Medicine. The first board president was Dr. Robert C. Buckner.

In 1909, cattle baron Col. Christopher C. Slaughter and others donated funds to establish a new 250-bed facility. Baylor University

This year Baylor University Medical Center marks its 100th anniversary. The center focuses on research, patient care and medical training. It has become one of the nation's major transplant and cardiovascular surgery centers.

As a part of the centennial celebration, a Texas State Historical Marker was dedicated in ceremonies on Sep-



Baylor dignitaries unveil marker.

tember 23. The marker is located on Junius Street on the south side of the Erik and Margaret Jonsson Hospital. County and hospital dignitaries participated in the event. They included Dallas County Judge Margaret Keliher, Baylor Health Care System President and CEO Joel Allison, and Baylor University Medical Center President Tim Parris. Helping to unveil the marker were Chris Adams, great granddaughter of Dr. Truett; Kathleen Boehme, granddaughter of Dr. Rosser; and James DeLoache, grandson of Col. Slaughter.

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## Original Stamps Quartet Member Marion Snider, A Living Legend

By Jim Foster, DCHC Member

If you were around in the 30s or 40s, then you already know about this group. The legendary Stamps Quartet grew out of the Dallas-based Stamps-Baxter company that had gained nationwide prominence in the shape-note publishing industry by the early 1930s.

Marion Snider, 89, was born in Collin County in 1914, but had moved into Dallas in 1934 so that he could attend

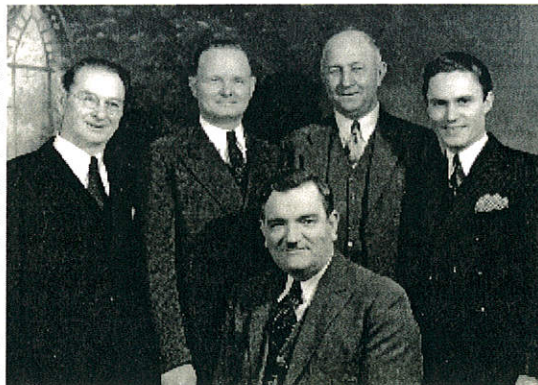


Marion Snider in a recent photograph.

one of the Stamps-Baxter music classes. The classes were held over the old Oak Cliff Drug Store located at Jefferson Blvd. and Beckley Ave. and were known as the Mid-Winter Normal Singing School which was an advanced class for music teachers.

Mr. Snider had made a trip out to the West Texas plains in 1936 to teach piano lessons. He and some of his friends were having lunch under an old oak tree near Lubbock when the Western Union messenger rode his bicycle up and handed him a telegram which requested that he come to Dallas and appear on KRLD Radio as the pianist for the original Stamps Quartet.

This group made its debut appearance in Dallas during the 1936 Texas Centennial celebration at the Texas State Fair where they broadcast two programs each day. The quartet was so popular that it became the first gospel



The original Stamps Quartet L to R: Jim Gaither, Walter Rippe-toe, Bob Bacon, Marion Snider. V. O. Stamps is in front.

quartet to have a daily radio show. During this time the quartet received as many as 5,000 fan letters per day.

Mr. Snider is the last living member of the original Stamps Quartet. He was recently inducted into the Southern Gospel Music Association where he received the Living Legend Award. He has lived in University Park since he retired 29 years ago, but has a dream of opening a gospel music museum in Oak Cliff which was once home of the Stamps-Baxter gospel music empire.

## Greenhill Class Revises DCHC Website

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

Vince Mikulski's computer design class at Greenhill School in Addison has been kind enough to help redesign the Dallas County Historical Commission's website ([www.dallaschc.org](http://www.dallaschc.org)). They have taken on the task as their class project for this term. The website design has not changed since its inception in the 1990s. They are adding enhanced graphics and animation as well as updating and expanding the content. The project was completed in November and the updates will be incorporate into the website by early next year.



The Greenhill class that redesigned the DCHC website. Mr. Mikulski is fourth from the right. Dr. Clare Chaney, DCHC Vice-Chair, who arranged the project, is in front.



# St. Mark's School Marker Dedication Held

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

Dedication ceremonies for a Texas State Historical Marker for St. Mark's School were held October 24 on the school's campus in Dallas.

What was to become St. Mark's was founded in 1906 by Menter and Ada Terrill on Swiss Avenue. In the late 1920s, the Texas Country Day School for Boys was spun-off from the Terrill School. It opened in 1933 with ten students and four teachers at the present St. Mark's site which was then two miles north of the Dallas city limits. After World War II, the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas opened the Cathedral School for Boys after the Terrill School was closed. The Texas

Country Day School and the Cathedral School merged to form St. Mark's School of Texas in 1949.

Attending the ceremonies were U.S. Congressman Pete Sessions, members of the Texas Historical Commission, and members of the Dallas County Historical Commission. Speakers at the event included St. Mark's Headmaster Arnold Holtberg, Board of Trustees President Leonard Riggs, Texas Historical Commission Executive Director Larry Oaks, and Peter Maxson, an architectural historian from Austin and 1965 St. Mark's graduate, who led the effort to obtain the historical marker.



Officials unveil a historical marker at St. Mark's School.

# New Website Links Dallas Preservation Organizations

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

A new website bringing together most of the important organizations in Dallas County will be launched soon. The website, [dallasheritage.net](http://dallasheritage.net), is the outgrowth of a combined effort between a number of organizations to create "one-stop shopping" for preservation and historical information in the Dallas area. The website is an outgrowth of the Texas Historical Commission's Visionaries in Preservation program. Its mission is to "develop a clear path for our city and county and capitalize on its historic assets, and to cultivate a network and culture where preservation is a valued and thriving endeavor."

The project began in 2000 with a series of meetings between the Texas Historical Commission, the Dallas County Historical Commission, and local preservationists. Those meetings looked at numerous options to enhance the coordination among the various preservation organizations. The decision to create the website was the outgrowth of those meetings. The Texas Histori-

cal Commission provided seed money, and a grant from the Belo Foundation got the program rolling. Funding from various participating local organizations, including the Dallas County Historical Commission, have resulted in the completed site. Preservation Dallas has agreed to administer the project and *mpf creative* was hired as the website developer.

Dallas is one of three pilot communities in the Visionaries program, and it is intended to serve as a model for urban preservation planning. The website includes pages with information about each organization, with tabs on the homepage to direct readers to organizations based on their interest. Tabs include links for residents, historians, students and tourists. In addition to the



DCHC, participating organizations include the Age of Steam Railroad Museum, the Central Dallas Association, the City of Dallas Landmark Commission, Historic Mesquite, Inc., Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture, Preservation Dallas, and the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.



# Coppell Preservation Conference Draws 145

By Lindy Thomas, DCHC Member

The Coppell Historical Society and the City of Coppell sponsored a preservation conference entitled "Revitalizing the Urban Village in North Texas" on October 24 and 25. The event featured keynote speaker Lonn Taylor, a former historian for the Smithsonian Institution. Taylor's opening speech addressed why preservation is necessary, and his anecdotes from his experiences in Washington offered inspiration.

The conference was attended by 145 people from 22 North Texas cities, and included city employees, historical group members, and individuals with an interest in historic preservation. Carol Bell, Elizabeth Chandler, Jon Eric Simmons, and Lindy Thomas from the Dallas County Historical Commission were in

attendance.

Other speakers featured at the Conference were architects Marcel Quimby and Michael Arbour, who addressed trends in historic preservation as it related to neighborhood revitalization. Kate Singleton spoke about economic development and how public programs and projects can create a sense of community. "Finding the Money" was the title of a presentation by Lynn Vogt, past President of Preservation Texas, Inc. Thomas H. Smith of the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture gave a fascinating account of where records can be found in the Dallas area. Author James Haley, who recently published a biography of Sam Houston, spoke about Hous-



Representing the DCHC were members (L to R) Lindy Thomas, Elizabeth Chandler, Carol Bell and Jon Eric Simmons.

ton at a picnic lunch at Grapevine Springs Park in Coppell, where Houston once camped.

A tremendous amount of information was presented at the conference, but one of the great values of the event was the chance for the attendees to share their knowledge and experiences with each other. A tour of historic Grapevine, as well as a tour of the Gaylord Opryland Texas Hotel, completed the weekend.



Events included a hardhat tour of the Gaylord Opryland Texas Hotel under construction in Grapevine.



Conference attendees lunched at Grapevine Springs Park where Sam Houston once camped.

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