



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

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DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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2006 Marks Banner DCHC Year Buddy Frazer, Former Chairman

The Texas Historical Commission implemented significant changes to its Historical Marker program in 2006. The new procedures are designed to streamline the marker application process, limit the number of markers approved, and place more responsibility on county historical commissions. The impact of these changes included a moratorium on applications from early summer through the fall.

Despite the marker moratorium, the Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC) continued its record of notable achievements in 2006, including using its website (www.dallaschc.org) to inform the citizens of the marker program changes. The December issue of *The Dallas County Chronicle* was published early and distributed in November soon after the issuance of the new procedures.

Dallas is fortunate to have many historical organizations, but there can be confusion as to what each one does. To minimize that confusion, the DCHC participated in developing www.dallasheritage.net, a website that describes and

provides links to a number of the County's major historical organizations. The DCHC also published a summary of some of the larger organizations in *The Dallas County Chronicle* to help County residents know which to contact with their questions.

The DCHC African-American Marker Committee didn't let the marker moratorium slow it down. The Committee developed plans with the Dallas County Community College District's downtown El Centro campus to add identification of potential marker sites into its curriculum.

DCHC participated in, or provided support to, four marker dedications. These were The Baylor College of Dentistry, which cele-

brated its 100th anniversary; The Long Creek Cemetery and Tripp Baptist Church, both in Sunnyvale; and the White Rock Lake Civilian Conservation Corp site.

The reconstruction of Founders Plaza adjacent to the Old Red Courthouse continued in 2006. DCHC monitored plans for placement of the Bryan Cabin in the newly designed plaza. The cabin, which represents the early founding of Dallas County, was removed temporarily during the reconstruction. It is scheduled to be returned to a prominent spot in the plaza this year.

DCHC continued to be a major financial sponsor of the annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, which began in 1999. Several DCHC members attended the 2007 conference at the Old Red Courthouse on January 27.

Thomas to Head DCHC

Lindy Thomas, a Board member since 2002, has been appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court to serve as DCHC Chairman for the period of February 1, 2007, to January 31, 2009.

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Four New Appointees Join DCHC

Charles Powers, Carmen Ramón, Bob Reagan, and Ann Spillman were appointed as new members of the Dallas County Historical Commission in February. They have many ties to Dallas County.

Charles Powers was appointed by County Judge Jim Foster. He is a retired senior vice president commercial lending officer for Bank of America and also served as chief financial officer for Charles A. Sammons. He has lived in Dallas since 1956.

Charles received his BBA from the University of Texas at Austin in 1949. He left school after completing three parts of the CPA exam and was certified in 1951.

He served ten years in the US Air Force, including five years of active duty during World War II and the Korean Conflict. Charles was a first navigator-bombardier-radar operator with the 314th wing of the 20th Air Force in Guam.

Charles and his wife, Nancy, a retired teacher, have a daughter and two sons.

Carmen Echevarría Ramón was appointed by Commissioner Maurine Dickey. She is a central administrator for the Dallas Independent School District. She has called Texas home since age 5, when she arrived from Havana as part of a humanitarian program that helped children escape communist Cuba.

Carmen received a BA from The University of Texas at Austin and an MA from George Washington University. While living in Washington, DC, she served as a Title 1 Community Liaison in Prince George's County, Maryland, and an administrator in the Bilingual Division for DC Public Schools.

She taught for eight years at Preston Hollow Elementary School. Carmen served as president of the Parent Board of Ursuline Academy in 2003-2004 and is currently a member of the Parents of Alumnae for the school. She actively supports the United Way and the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

Carmen and her husband, Jaime, a partner with Kirkpatrick, Lockhart, Gates LLP, have lived in Dallas since 1994. They reside in North Dallas and have three grown daughters, Ana Elizabeth, Jacqueline and Sara Cristina.

Bob Reagan, a lawyer in private practice, was appointed by Commissioner Mike Cantrell. He represents individuals and businesses in civil matters, including contract disputes and probate matters. He also teaches American history at El Centro Community College.

He received a BA in history from Loyola University in 1967 and a JD from Texas Tech in 1990. While in law school, Mr. Reagan was a Research Editor for the Texas Tech Law Review.

Before practicing law, Mr. Reagan served in the United States Army with

overseas tours in Korea. He also was a detective in the Dallas Police Department, working in the Crimes Against Property Section and the Special Investigations Unit. He founded and operated a private security business that installed and maintained alarm and television surveillance systems.

Bob and his wife Martha, a practicing pharmacist and lawyer, live in the M Streets section of Old East Dallas.

Ann Spillman, who was appointed by Commissioner Dickey, is a freelance editor. She is active in many community groups, including The Gladney Family Association of Greater Dallas, for which she served as president in 2005-2006 and co-chair of the Gladney Skittle in 2004. She has been involved with such organizations as The Junior League of Dallas, Highland Park United Methodist Church and Highland Park Middle School PTA.

She received a BA in psychology in 1976 and an MA in journalism in 1978 from The University of Texas at Austin. While at UT, Ann was a member of Mortar Board and founding member of a secret campus organization that is still going strong more than 30 years later.

Ann worked for the American College of Emergency Physicians, where she served as managing editor of the association's monthly medical journal.

She lives in Highland Park with her husband, Jeff Margolies, a business consultant, and their daughter, Caroline.

Annual Historic Preservation Conference

What: The Texas Historical Commission, in association with Preservation Texas and the Texas Historical Foundation, will host the 2007 Texas Historical Commission's Annual Historic Preservation Conference.

Seminars, workshops and panels on important preservation issues will be conducted by experts in architecture, archeology, economic development,

heritage tourism and other fields. The conference will offer opportunities to explore community preservation efforts and historic sites.

When: Thursday, April 12, through Saturday, April 14, 2007. The pre-registration deadline is March 26. All registrations after this date must be made at the conference.

Where: Lakeway Inn and Conference

Center, 101 Lakeway Drive, Lakeway.

Reserve your hotel room now. Special conference rates of \$85 per night for a single or \$110 for a double room, plus applicable state and local taxes, are available at the inn for conference registrants. You must identify yourself as part of the Texas Historical Commission's Annual Historic Preservation Conference

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Dallas History Conference Sets Records

By Mike Hazel, Conference Coordinator

The eighth annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference on January 27 set several records. The first major event to be held at the newly renovated Old Red Courthouse, the conference drew more than 250 people, almost double the number who attended in 2006. The patron event the evening before, at the Harlan Crow Library, also drew a record crowd of about 65, again nearly double last year's number.

Focusing on the theme, "Dallas: Lost and Found," speakers discussed such topics as historic hotels and restaurants, a pioneering African-American physician, the developer of Oak Cliff, and some surprising connections of famous literary figures to Dallas.

More than 120 attendees turned in evaluation forms following the conference, and to the question, "Would you attend another Dallas History Conference?" everyone responded, "Yes."

Next year's conference will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008, in the Lecture Hall at the Hall of State at Fair Park. The Dallas County Historical Commission is one of a dozen history groups that co-sponsors the annual conference.



Dr. Tom Smith, Executive Director of the Old Red Museum, addresses participants at the 2007 Dallas History Conference.

History Conference Issues Call for Proposals

By Mike Hazel, Conference Coordinator

The organizers of the Ninth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference welcome proposals from professional and lay historians on topics related to the theme: "Dallas Goes to War: Life on the Homefront."

Papers can focus on such topics as the role of women or minorities in Dallas County during the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World War I or II, or the Korean Conflict; the impact of World War I or II on suburban communities; war industries; civil defense efforts; the great influenza epidemic at the end of World War I; sports and entertainment during World War II; the impact of wartime rationing on the local economy; and the protest activities that took place

during the years of the Vietnam War.

All papers must be based on original research and must not have been presented or published elsewhere. Selected

papers will be published in a subsequent issue of *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*.

Persons interested in presenting papers should submit a brief summary of their proposal by **June 1, 2007**, to Dallas History Conference, 1515 S. Harwood St., Dallas, TX 75215. Those whose proposals are selected will be notified by July 1.

The Ninth Annual *Legacies* History Conference will be held on Saturday, January 26, 2008. The Dallas County Historical Commission is one of a dozen local history organizations that jointly sponsor the conference each year.



Red Cross volunteers in Lancaster during World War II. Courtesy of Lancaster Historical Society.

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 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 copy of *The Dallas County Chronicle* and invitations to the Friends annual meeting and other events. To join, complete the following information, pick a membership level 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 joined by December 31, 2006) will be valid until December 31, 2007.

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

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to receive these rates. Non-smoking and wheelchair-accessible rooms are available on request. To make reservations, contact the hotel at 512/261-6600.

Who: Professional and volunteer preservationists, county historical commission members, local government officials, history buffs, students,

teachers, community activists and those considering a career in preservation or history are encouraged to attend.

Why: The conference is an opportunity to network, learn new skills and enjoy the sights and sounds of Lakeway and Austin. Whether a novice or a seasoned veteran, everyone will leave this event with innovative ideas, fresh approaches and renewed enthusiasm for preserving

the history of the great state of Texas.

Bring your questions! Ask-the-staff sessions and Q&A portions of the seminars will provide opportunities to interact with preservation professionals from diverse fields.

For more information: Conference registration information is available at www.thc.state.tx.us/annual_conference/cof2007.html.

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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 Ann Spillman and Rick Loessberg, and was published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Articles should be sent to Ann Spillman via email at acspillman@sbcglobal.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.

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She previously served as the Marker Committee chair.

Lindy is Communications Coordinator of the First United Methodist Church in Carrollton and is a past president of the Coppell Historical Society.

She has served as president of the Coppell Intermediate School Parent Teacher Organization, Lee Elementary Parent Teacher Organization and the Coppell High School Choir Boosters Club.