

DALLAS COUNTY  
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

# THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

Winter 2017

## The Historic Fair Park Carousel

*By Fred Durham*



It is easy to attend the State Fair of Texas every year—watching the people, riding the scary rides, taking in the exhibits, and visiting Big Tex—without ever realizing that it all takes place amidst a true cultural and historic national treasure: the grand art deco buildings, murals, and statuary that constitute the grounds and that are the legacy of the Texas Centennial Exposition of 1936. They are glorious, and seeing them alone is worth the price of admission—although they are, of course, best viewed while eating a corny dog!

But may I also suggest another, more modest, historic treasure which could be overlooked, but which definitely deserves a few moments of your time and admiration as you wind your way through the State Fair. It is the magnificent Dentzel #2314 Carousel which has charmed generations of riders since it was introduced to the Fair in 1951.

This beautiful iconic ride predates the surrounding art deco buildings and sculptures of the Centennial by at least thirteen years. Produced by the Dentzel Carousel Company

*See **Carousel** on page 2*

### CONTENTS

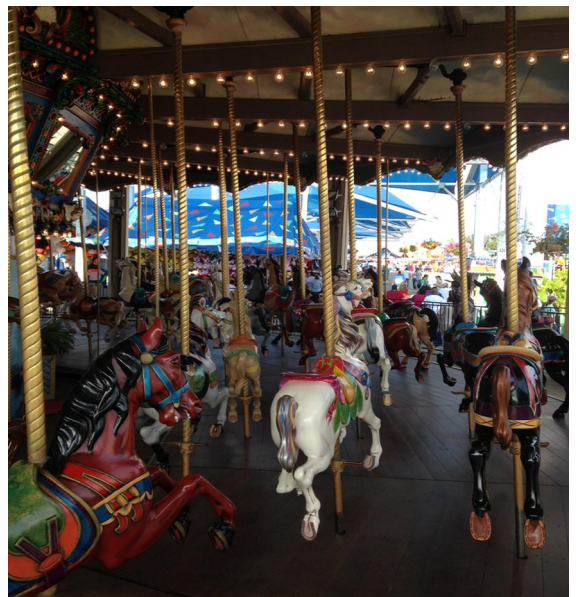
<u>Fair Park Carousel</u>	<u>page 1</u>
<u>Samuel Dealey, Jr.</u>	<u>page 2</u>
<u>Jimmy Porter</u>	<u>page 3</u>
<u>History Conference</u>	<u>page 4</u>
<u>Sachse Survey</u>	<u>page 5</u>

### DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

FRED DURHAM, Chairman – Dallas  
MILDRED DERROUGH POPE, Vice  
Chairman – Dallas  
COY L. POITIER – Dallas  
JESSE TAFALLA, JR. – Dallas  
MARIA ROMERO – Garland  
JOHN ROPPOLO – Carrollton  
CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH – Rowlett  
RICHARD G. STEWART, JR – Irving  
REINA GONZALEZ – Dallas

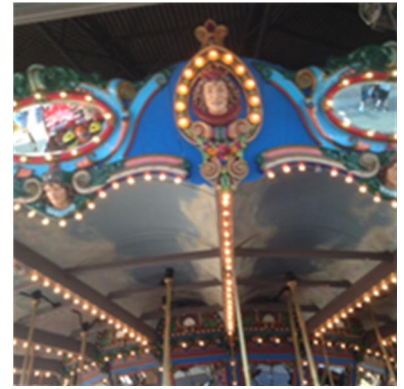
### COMMISSIONERS COURT LIAISON

Rick Loessberg  
Director of Planning and Development  
411 Elm Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Dallas, TX 75202-3301  
214.653.7601  
[rloessberg@dallascounty.org](mailto:rloessberg@dallascounty.org)



## Fair Park Carousel *(continued from page 1)*

of Philadelphia in 1923 (with some parts possibly dating back to 1914), the carousel operated at Carsonia Park in Reading, Pennsylvania until 1950 when it was bought by the State Fair to replace one that had been destroyed by fire the year before. According to a 2011 *Dallas Morning News* article, it is one of “a half-dozen classic wooden carousels in Texas and one of only about 275 nationwide.” Moreover, it is one of the greatest of all that remain, a true Cadillac of historic carousels, painstakingly restored over the last decade to its original glory.



The carousel is also one of the largest in existence: 66 horses in four rows and two chariots. The outer rows of horses and the chariots are all hand-carved while the inner rows were probably turned on a lathe. All are elaborately decorated and hand-painted. It is still powered by its original fifteen-horsepower electric motor, and the music is provided by a 1915 roll operated Wurlitzer band organ. Some of the original rolls still work, but they have been supplemented with newer and more contemporary songs.

Although the carousel is only operational during the State Fair, one can take a virtual ride any time thanks to YouTube and the many fairgoers who have posted videos of the ride in operation. While they are all a delight, two of the best have been posted by Kary Barnett who is the carousel’s caretaker and who oversaw its restoration. What is so special about these two videos is that one shows the carousel as it is being restored, and the other shows an almost completed work. Even better, both take a tour inside the machine to show its inner workings, a view not possible anywhere else. The first video, “Carousel State Fair of Texas, Dallas,” was uploaded to YouTube on June 9, 2008. The second video, entitled “Carousel at the 2008 State Fair of Texas,” was uploaded on October 24, 2008.

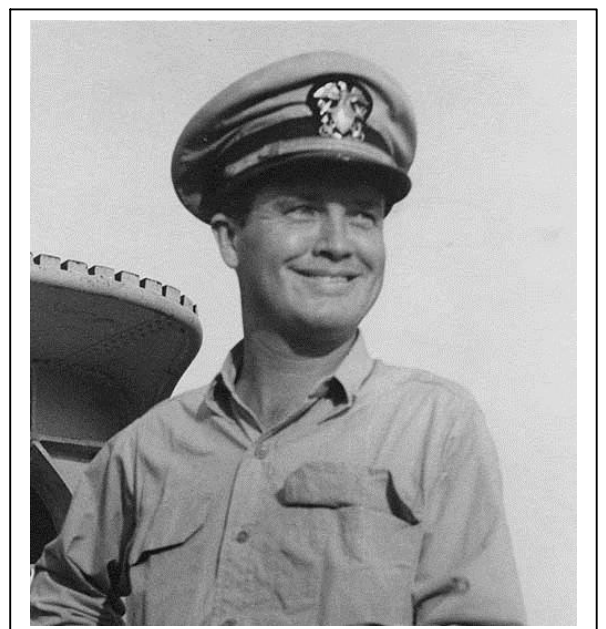
As interesting as all of these videos are, the best way to experience this magnificent machine is still in its natural habitat—the 24-day run of the State Fair of Texas. It is estimated that the carousel has been ridden more than three million times in the last sixty-six years. For many, it is the first ride they can remember ever taking at the Fair; for others, it is the first ride their children ask to ride each year; and for many more, it is the first ride they introduce to their grandchildren, telling them of their own first ride many years before. And perhaps this is its greatest historical significance—the community of personal memories from generations of fairgoers that continues to grow.

---

## Samuel David Dealey, Jr. *An American Naval Hero*

*By Fred Durham*

Sometime in the last few days of 2016, workers from the Dallas Park Department quietly installed a new Texas Historical Marker in Lake Cliff Park at the southeast corner of Zang and Colorado in Oak Cliff. The marker is titled simply: *Samuel David Dealey, Jr. - Commander, United States Navy*. It is a long overdue commemoration of the life of one man who, being the recipient of the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, four Navy Crosses, the Distinguished Service Cross, a Purple Heart, and a Presidential Unit Citation, is the most highly-decorated sailor of World War II and the fourth-most highly-decorated service person in American history.



Commander Dealey was born on September 13, 1906 only a few blocks from the site of his historical marker on property that is now part of Methodist Hospital. When his father, a prominent real estate man (and brother of George Bannerman Dealey, the publisher of the *Dallas Morning News*), died in 1912, the Dealey family first moved to Colorado and then to California before returning to Dallas in 1923. In 1925, Dealey graduated from Oak Cliff (W.H. Adamson) High School and was appointed to the United States Naval Academy from which he graduated in 1930. Over the next eleven years, Dealey served the Navy in a variety of roles, and by Pearl Harbor, was already an experienced submarine officer.

*See Dealey on page 3*

## Samuel David Dealey, Jr. *(continued from page 2)*

In September of 1942, Dealey was given command of the USS *Harder*, a new 1,525 ton *Gato*-class submarine. By late June of 1943, the *Harder* was in the Pacific war zone and on patrol south of Tokyo Bay. This began a year of daring, heroic war patrols, six in all, against the Imperial Japanese Fleet and Japanese shipping. During that period, the *Harder*, under Commander Dealey, sank a total of sixteen Japanese ships with a combined tonnage of 54,000 tons—figures that were surpassed by only four other submarine skippers in World War II.

It was for his actions on the *Harder*'s fifth patrol that led to him receiving the Medal of Honor. During this patrol, the *Harder* sank four destroyers in a series of intense, short-range attacks near Tawi Tawi despite always being outnumbered. His Medal of Honor cited his "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty." His actions during this patrol also resulted in the Japanese abandoning Tawi Tawi as an anchorage site which, in turn, precipitated the Battle of the Philippine Sea.



*Cmdr. Dealey, fourth from right, with crew from the USS Harder.*

Tragically, during its sixth patrol, on August, 24 1944, off the west coast of the Philippines near Dasol Bay, the *Harder* was sunk in a depth charge attack by an enemy frigate. Commander Dealey and his entire 79-man crew lost their lives. Even in this last encounter Commander Dealey and crew demonstrated the audacity and valor which had made them legendary. As the frigate came toward the *Harder* head-on, Commander Dealey, instead of taking evasive action, ordered the *Harder* to attack. He launched three torpedoes "down the throat." It was a very risky maneuver, but one which he had successfully used in the past. Sadly, this time two torpedoes went wide to port and the other wide to starboard. Minutes later, the frigate was on top of the *Harder*, releasing its charges. Following a string of fifteen depth charge explosions, there was only silence. Over the next two weeks, the Navy searched for the *Harder*, but found nothing. Commander Dealey was officially declared missing in action and presumed dead on October 2, 1944. He is one of only seven submariners to have ever received the Medal of Honor.

---

## Jimmy Porter

### *Legendary Citizen of Carrollton*

*By John W. Roppolo*



The City of Carrollton recently paid homage to one of its greatest citizens—Jimmy Porter—at the newly refurbished park that bears his name. Mayor Matthew Marchant unveiled a new sign at the park which features a photograph of Porter and a brief biography.

Porter, a Carrollton institution for more than 50 years and a onetime player in the Negro American League, died in 1984 at the age of 84. He loved the game of baseball. Born in Jacksonville, Texas in 1900, he moved to Carrollton by the 1930s, after spending time as a semi-professional baseball player during the era of segregation.

Throughout the time Porter lived in Carrollton, he helped bridge the racial divide in the community by coaching anyone who wanted to play, regardless of race or even gender.

"It was an everyday sight in the 1950s and '60s, strolling down the street with a bat slung over his shoulder a glove hung on the bat's tip and a pack of young boys running after him," wrote Rachel Horton in a 2001 article in the *Dallas Morning News*.

Porter lived a simple life, residing for almost 40 years near Old Denton Road in a railroad box-car until the community built him a new house in the Carrollton Heights neighborhood shortly before his death.

## Jimmy Porter *(continued from page 3)*

Even though he lacked material possessions, he gave what he had and loved to share with others. He founded the Carrollton Little League and also helped organize the Carrollton Cats, a black semi-pro team of the 1950s and 1960s. Every year, he rode in front of the fire truck that led the opening day ceremonies of the Carrollton Little League, throwing candy to the children running down the street yelling his name.

Toya Pointer, longtime historical curator in Carrollton, wrote that “Mr. Porter showed that, no matter who you are, you can always give back to your community, even if all you have to give back is yourself.”

In 1976, the City of Carrollton honored him by naming the park on Sherwood and Josey Lanes after him, and one year later, the Texas PTA awarded him an honorary life membership.

In a previous exhibit at the A. W. Perry Homestead Museum, a number of items once belonging to Porter were on display: a guitar, trading cards, a set of dominoes, a salt shaker with a little dog, and of course, baseball paraphernalia.



*The City of Carrollton's new tribute to Jimmy Porter.*

Jimmy was a role model to the children who idolized him. He had a gift for making every child, regardless of skill or lack of athleticism, feel special. As time went by, the children who adored him grew to become the citizens of the city he had embraced so many years before.

## Annual History Conference to Highlight “Dallas Rediscovered”

*By Fred Durham*



**18<sup>th</sup> Annual LEGACIES Dallas History Conference**  
Saturday, January 28, 2017  
The Hall of State, Fair Park  
Registration: 8:00 A.M.  
Conference: 9:00 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.

**Dallas Rediscovered**

**Conference Presentations**  
Linda East, "Thomas Stoll's Cosmic Moods for Texas Instruments"  
Nancy McCoy AIA, "Dallas and the Drive-In"  
Mark Rice, "The Other Expo: The 1937 Greater Texas and Pan-American Exposition"  
Cecil Rouse, "The Story of the Knights of Pythias Building"

**Special Feature**  
"Conversation with a History Maker: Lindalyn Adams" conducted by Gary N. Smith

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Legacies Dallas History Conference Sponsors\***  
Dallas Chapter for Architecture  
Dallas County Historical Commission  
Dallas County Rowing Association  
Dallas HeritageVillage at Old City Park  
Dallas Historical Society  
Dallas Library & Archives Division, Dallas Public Library  
Dallas Municipal Archives  
Daly-Camp Library at SMU  
Cecil Rouse Museum at Dallas County Library at Culture Park  
Dallas Historical and Preservation Society  
Preservation Dallas  
The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza  
Texas State Historical Association  
William B. Chesser Center for Southwest Studies at SMU  
\*As of September 15, 2016

Morning refreshments will be included in the registration fee of \$35. Persons \$100 will be invited to a reception with the speaker on Thursday evening January 26. Registration forms will be mailed in December 2016. For more information, please contact Conference Coordinator Michael V. Hand at 214-413-3665, or email [mhand@dallasheritagelegacies.org](mailto:mhand@dallasheritagelegacies.org).

“Dallas Rediscovered” is the theme of the upcoming Legacies Dallas History Conference on January 28. Speakers will look back at such topics as drive-in movie theaters, the Knights of Pythias building in Deep Ellum, and the 1937 Pan-American Exposition at Fair Park. Lindalyn Adams, a former chair of the Dallas County Historical Commission and the stalwart behind so many preservation projects in Dallas including Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park, the Sixth Floor Museum, and the Old Red Museum, will also be interviewed in a “Conversation with a History Maker” feature.

This will be the eighteenth annual holding of this conference which has become one of the Dallas area’s most prominent history-related events and which is solely dedicated to Dallas-area history. The conference is once again being sponsored by a number of organizations, including the Dallas Heritage Village at Old City Park, the Dallas Historical Society, the County Historical

Commission, Preservation Dallas, The Sixth Floor Museum, the Dallas Public Library, and the Dallas County Pioneer Association. Past conferences have discussed the coming of railroads to Dallas, the founding of Highland Park, integration, Dallas city planning, historic hotels, and “the people who shaped Dallas.”

The conference will be held at the Hall of State in Fair Park (Dallas) and will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:30 p.m. The cost of attending the conference is \$35 and includes morning refreshments. In-person registration will begin at 8:00 a.m. Online conference registration is also available at [www.dallasheritagevillage.org](http://www.dallasheritagevillage.org).

# Sachse's New Landmark Survey

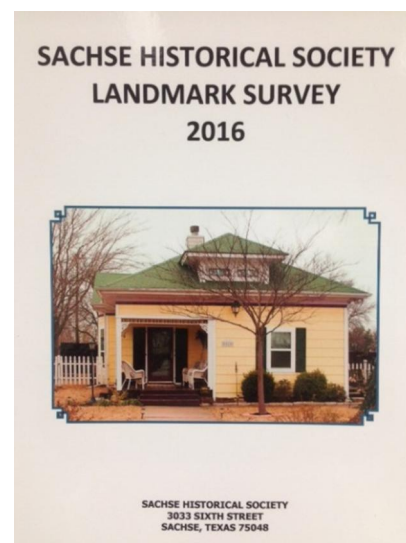


**By Rick Loessberg**

People often think that a structure can only be historic if someone important slept there, if it was a log cabin, or if it was designed by someone who subsequently became famous. However, the reality is that it is the everyday features of a community—its homes, its schools, its stores, and its churches—that we remember and that create its identity and history.

Recognizing this, the Sachse Historical Society recently completed a survey of the structures and properties located within Sachse which it deemed as historic. In all, a total of forty-nine structures and properties were identified as being noteworthy with the majority of these being wood frame residences built between 1925 and 1965.

The 60-page survey notes that such structures typically feature wood siding, pier and beam foundations, gable roofs, and less than 1000 square feet of living space. Although often of simple design, these structures are noteworthy because they represent what was once a popular form of construction within the community when it was a small outlying town, and in fact, such structures are no longer permitted under the city's existing building code.



One of the more interesting structures identified in the survey is a 192-square-foot cinder block, flat-roofed building. Architecturally, the building is very “boxy” and relatively unappealing. However, this building, which was constructed in 1952, served as Sachse's first city hall for eleven years.



*The building that served as Sachse's first city hall.*

residents are too familiar with it—“that’s the Smith house; it’s not historic, it’s just old”—or because the new growth is built on top of where the town’s history once stood, these histories are frequently lost before anyone realizes it.

Surveys such as Sachse's are thus important because they help identify and document existing history, and if such history cannot be preserved, it cannot be appreciated. They also help guide decisions related to the location and nature of public improvements, the development of zoning ordinances, private investment, and tourism.

Copies of the Sachse survey, which was conducted by Historical Society members Lloyd Henderson, Ed Brown, and Tricia Lindsey, can be purchased by sending a \$35 check to the Society at 3303 Sixth Street, Sachse, TX, 75048. All proceeds from the sale of the survey benefit the Society which also operates a museum at the same Sixth Street address and which is open to the public on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

That the Sachse Historical Society has undertaken this survey is especially significant. Located in the far northeastern corner of Dallas County, Sachse is one of the area's fastest growing cities with its population having more than doubled in the last fifteen years. Since the history of rapidly growing communities is sometimes easily dismissed or overlooked either because the new residents are not aware of it or because long-term



*The Dallas County Chronicle is the official newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission.*

*The Historical Commission serves as the primary advisory body on historic preservation matters for the County.*

*Its meetings are open to the public and are typically held on the second Thursday of every month at noon. For more information about the Commission and its meetings, please call 214.653.7601.*