

VOL 5

1977 - 78

VOLUME 5

WILLIAMSON
COUNTY
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

1877

1878

C O N T E N T S

A. ORGANIZATION

1. Officers and Members

2. Members

3. Committees

4. National Register of Historic Places

5. Texas Family Heritage Registry

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B. ACTIVITIES

1. New Chairman, Myreta Matthews. presented Gavel.
2. Clara Scarbrough given Postal Award for work on History of 10th District.
Archeologists to study Indian Village Site.
3. Historic Palm Home moved to Round Rock.
4. Moving Palm Home to Round Rock.
5. Ancient Roman Coin found near Round Rock.
6. February Meeting of Commission.
Liberty Hill History Teacher starting Junior Historians Club in School.
7. Historical Commission Committees appointed.
Pictures of Round Rock.
8. Moody Museum opens in Taylor.
Dr. Latimer to Address Coupland Club.
New Historical Commission Chairman, Myreta Matthews.
9. Antique Tractor Show, in Georgetown.
- 10 - 11. Pictures of old Tractors.
12. March - Newsletter
- 13 - 14. Tracks of early monster found at Booty's Crossing.
15. Moving Old Palm Home to Round Rock.
16. Historic Hoxie Bridge to be moved.
17. April Meeting of County Historical Commission.
18. County Chairman's Workshop - Austin.
19. Anthropologists Digging in Area.
20. County Chairman attends Food Friday Meeting in Miller Community.
- 21 - 22. Old Coupland Depot moved back to town.
23. Commission to sponsor a High Student's Original Research Project.
A. M. Ahlgreen takes part in Taylor High School Local History Day.
24. Taylor High School Local History Day.
Taylor's Ross Wilder, who flew on Tokyo Raid.
- 25 - 26. Marker on grave of Elisha Allen dedicated - Bartlett Cemetery.
- 27 - 28. Life of Elisha Allen.
29. May 1, 1977 Newsletter.
30. Old Morelle Home being moved.
May Meeting of Commission.
- 31 - 32. Centennial of WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN.
33. Old Picture of Williamson County Courthouse.

- 34 - 35. First National Bank 1893 - 1977. Georgetown, Texas
Belford Lumber Company.
36. Atkin Furniture Company. Mr. & Mrs. S. T. Atkin and Mr. & Mrs.
J. Thatcher Atkin.
37. Williamson County Courthouse - Historic District.
38. Drawing of Georgetown.
39. Masonic Temple 1900, Georgetown.
Snyder Livery Stable - Georgetown.
40. Brushy Street (Austin Avenue) Georgetown.
Dr. Page's Mineral Wells Sanitarium.
41. Street Sprinkler 1894 - Georgetown
Stand Pipe erected 1884. The "Nook".
42. Prep Building built 1870 - Georgetown. Woman's Building.
Bridge to Chautauque Grounds.
43. Cornerstone for Southwestern University Main Building laid 1898.
First Train between Georgetown and Granger, 1903. "Katy Lake".
44. Entries in Fireman's Picnic Parade, 1910. Georgetown.
45. List of Automobiles in County in 1909.
Judge Sam V. Stone greets President Truman.
- 46 - 49. Churches in Georgetown, Texas 1977.
50. Myreta Matthews sends Reunion Invitation to members of the Liberty
Hill Cemetery Association.
51. Bartlett Tribune praises Myreta Matthews for work in Williamson
County Historical Commission.
Bob Watson, of Texas Historical Commission, resigns.
Junior Historians present a list of grave Inscriptions to the
Weir Cemetery Association.
- 52 - 55. Old Caboose transported to Coupland.
Historic Georgetown theme of a Float in Western Week Parade.
- 56 - 57. Maureen Neuman, Flag Maker.
- 58 - 59. Old Palm Home dedicated in Round Rock.
60. Commission meets in Pullman Parlor Car at Texas Crushed Stone Company.
61. Georgetown Railroad.
62. July Meeting of Commission.
63. July Newsletter.

64. Harold Asher displays items from old Blacksmith at Gabriel Mills.
65. August Newsletter.
66. Commission member, Marietta Mugford, speaks to State-wide History Workshop - Dallas, Texas
History Appreciation Week set for September 25th to October 1st.
67. Winners of the High School Student Original Research Contest announced and Subjects listed.
68. Picture of Bagdad Cemetery.
August meeting of Commission.
69. Georgetown Courthouse and encircling buildings placed on National Register.
Marker to be placed at Site of Rice's Crossing.
70. Judge Sam V. Stone, first Chairman of Williamson County Historical Survey Committee, dies August 24, 1977.
Text of Marker to be placed at Rice's Crossing.
71. Maureen Neuman, Maker of Flags.
72. September Newsletter.
73. September Meeting of Commission.
Owners of Business Property around Courthouse Square, which was listed in National Register as a Historical District.
Mayor of Florence, Texas proclaims History Week.
74. Pictures of History Week which was celebrated in Florence.
75. Georgetown High School Junior Historians celebrating History Appreciation Week.
Commission sponsors Forum at Southwestern University.
76. Berry's Creek Cemetery.
78. Stearns Orchard, owned by Mr. & Mrs. Don Scarbrough, placed on list of Texas Family Heritage Register.
Jack McGuire, writes of Judge Robert McAlpin Williamson in Austin American-Statesman.
79. October Newsletter.
80. Grave of Mrs. Jennie Belle Decker, grand daughter of Gen. Sam Houston, marked by Daughters of the War of 1812. Junior Historians take part.

81. A Prize winning entry in the Historical Research Contest.
82. Clara Scarbrough recognized as Historic Land Owner.
Old George Washington Glasscock home, built in 1879, being moved
to Weir.
Rice's Crossing Marker dedicated.
- 83 - 87. James O. Rice.
88. City of Round Rock may buy the round rock.

C. OUT OF COUNTY

1. Balcones Fault - Marker
2. Marble Falls - Chamber of Commerce
Austin - St. Mary's Cathedral and Carver Library
3. Dedication of Markers for - - Gov. Elisha Marshall Pease,
Gov. Edmund Jackson Davis, Gov. James Edward Ferguson,
Gov. Miriam Amanda Ferguson

OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1977 - 1978

	Phone
Chariman: Miss Myreta Matthews Box 127, Liberty Hill, Texas 78642	778-5249
Vice Chairman: Miss Ruth Mantor 1118 West 7th St. Taylor, Texas 76574	352-2703
Sec. Treasurer: Mrs. Harold G. Scoggins 1707 Main St. Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-3392
A. M. Ahlgreen 708 McClure St. Taylor, Texas 76574	352-2379
Harold Asher Route 1, Liberty Hill, Texas 78642	778-5091
Mrs. J. T. Atkin Box 13, Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-3173
Mrs. Edna Beasley Route 1, Box 963, Leander, Texas 78641	259-1206
Mr. & Mrs. Emery Blackman Box 111, Hutto, Texas 78634	846-2155
Mrs. F. W. Buchanan Box 376, Jarrell, Texas 76537	746-2154
Judge & Mrs. C. L. Chance 1610 Pecan Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-5018
Burney Downing Route 4, Box 255-A, Elgin, Texas 78621	
Mrs. Camilla Durmenberger 1237 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-5474
Frank Paris 320 University Ave. Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-2268
Miss Laverne Faubion 712 Myrtle St. Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-2179
Mrs. Joe Hannah Porson Box 842, Taylor, Texas 76574	352-2234
Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Gary Route 2, Taylor, Texas 76574	
Mrs. D. B. Gregg 400 East Main St. Round Rock, Texas 78664	255-3763
Ranken Kennedy Box 804, Taylor, Texas 76574	352-5368
Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter 212 West Main St. Round Rock, Texas 78664	255-3891

Lloyd L. Longley Box 346, Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-2251
Mrs. Ed. Huggford 1409 Olive St. Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-3964
Thomas McDonald 2203 Lathan Lane, Taylor, Texas 76574	352-5658
Miss Effie McLeod Route 1, Box 64, Florence, Texas 76527	783-2896
Mrs. Robert F. Morse 509 Oak Crest, Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-3117
Mrs. Clara Scarbrough 1318 E. University Ave. Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-2115
Miss Cora Sexton Box 352, Jarrell, Texas 76537	746-2964
Mrs. Russell Schmidt Box 235, Coupland, Texas 78615	
Bill Stubblefield Box 565, Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-2311
Dr. & Mrs. Van C. Tipton 1405 East 15th St. Georgetown, Texas 78626	863-3009
Jeff Townsend 4205 Speedway, # 110, Austin, Texas 78751	

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS - 1977

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mrs. Don Scarbrough
Mrs. Emery Blackman, Frank Faris, Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson, Miss Effie McLead
Sub-Chairman for Museums: Mrs. Russell Schmidt, Mrs. D.B. Gregg
Sub-Chairman for Cemetery Lists: Miss Laverne Faubion, Thomas McDonald
Mrs. Van C. Tipton
Sub-Chairman for Junior Historians: Mrs. Camilla Durrenberger
Sub-Chairman for Oral History: Mrs. Ed Mugford

HISTORICAL MARKER COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen: Mrs. D.B. Gregg and Mrs. John W. Ledbetter
A.M. Ahlgreen, Harold Asher, Mrs. Don Scarbrough, Mrs. Russel Schmidt,
Dr. Van C. Tipton, Jeff Townsend

HISTORY APPRECIATION COMMITTEE

Chairman: Miss Ruth Mantor
Mrs. Edna Beasley, Mrs. F.W. Buchanan, Mrs. Emery Blackman, Mrs. C.L.
Chance, Mr. & Mrs. Mahon Garry, Mrs. Robert Morse

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman: Dr. Van C. Tipton
Mrs. Estha Scoggins, Judge C.L. Chance, Ranken Kennedy, Miss Cora Sexton,
Miss Laverne Faubion

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman: A.M. Ahlgreen
Harold Asher, Emery Blackman, Bill Stubblefield

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION

Andice-Gabriel Mills: Harold Asher
Bartlett: _____
Cedar Park: _____
Coupland: Mrs. Russell Schmidt
Florence: Miss Effie McLeod
Georgetown: Mrs. J.T. Atkin, Judge and Mrs. C.L. Chance, Mrs. Camilla
Durrenberger, Frank Faris, Miss Laverne Faubion, Mrs. Robert
Morse, Mrs. Ed Mugford, Mrs. Don Scarbrough, Mrs. Mrs. Estha
Scoggins, Co. Att'y Bill Stubblefield, Dr. & Mrs. Van C. Tipton
Granger: _____
Hutto: Mr. & Mrs. Emery Blackman
Jarrell: Mrs. F.W. Buchanan, Miss Cora Sexton
Jonah: Thomas McDonald
Leander: Mrs. Edna Beasley
Liberty Hill: Myreta Matthews
Rice's Crossing: Mr. & Mrs. Mahon Garry
Round Rock: Mrs. D.B. Gregg, Mrs. John W. Ledbetter, Jeff Townsend
Taylor: A.M. Ahlgreen, Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson, Ranken Kennedy, Miss Ruth Mantor
Thrall: _____

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Carl Lidell, No. 1, Georgetown; Wesley Foust, No. 2, Liberty Hill
Raymond H. Rister, No. 3, Granger; W.F. Schlickeisen, No. 4, Taylor

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

GEORGETOWN

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING now known as CULLEN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ___1000 East University Avenue

The oldest institution of higher education in continuous operation in Texas, built in 1900, and MOOD HALL, built in 1908. Both reflect Romanesque Revival architecture and are SOUTHWESTERN'S earliest remaining structures. Private.

TINNEN HOUSE _____ 1220 Austin Avenue
1880 ___ The two-story frame Italianate residence has a three-story campanile-type tower and two-story bay on the west side.

ROUND ROCK

COLE HOUSE - (INN AT BRUSHY CREEK)
Highway 79, West of IH 35
c. 1860 ___ The one-story limestone residence features a three-bay, square-columned gallery on the main facade. Private.

CAPTAIN N. MERRELL HOUSE
HIGHWAY 79, East of IH 35
1870-1871 ___ This two-story stone late Greek Revival residence has a double gallery across the main facade and an unusually large flat-roofed cupola with widow's walk. Private.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT was entered in the National Register on July 26, 1977. This includes the courthouse, the jail and 36 other buildings on the square or in the adjoining blocks.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

TEXAS FAMILY LAND HERITAGE REGISTRY

FIRST EDITION

1974

ANDERSON RANCH-1854- Six miles west of Round Rock on Brushy Creek
Founder: Nathan D. Gilreath of South Carolina
1974 Owner: William Brady Anderson, Round Rock

J.L. STARNES PARM-1855- Two miles east of Jonah on Highway 29
Founder: John McAninch Whitley of Elk River, Tennessee
1974 Owner: Mrs. Edith Starnes Busshart, Georgetown

STEARNS-CURIK PECAN ORCHARD-1857- North of San Gabriel River, Circleville
Founder: James Eubank of Kentucky
1974 Owners: Mrs. Iris Stearns Curik and Joe Curik, Rockdale

MOZELLE SMART HULING RANCH-1852- About one mile west of Berry's Creek
Founder: William Smart of Indiana via Missouri
1974 Owner: Mozelle Smart Huling, Florence

McDANIEL PLACE-1855- Three and one-half miles northwest of Leander
Founder: Thomas Huddleston of Bagdad, Tennessee
1974 Owner: Mrs. Thelma Wells Lackey

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Historical Commission holds first meeting

The Williamson County Historical Commission met January 8 in the Commissioner's Courtroom in the Courthouse in Georgetown with Dr. Van C. Tipton, chairman, presiding.

Activity reports were made by the area representatives.

Mrs. John T. Ledbetter and Mrs. D. B. Gregg announced that Round Rock will soon have a museum. The historic Palm house has been moved into a space on Main Street next to the city hall. The City of Round Rock and the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce Bicen-

tennial Committee are working together to renovate the building for use as Chamber of Commerce offices with two rooms and a hall being converted into a museum.

THE ANDREW J. PALM House is a gift from Miss Mary Palm and Mrs. Marguerite Palm Stockman.

The discovery of an ancient Roman coin in the Round Rock area is causing some excitement because of its archeological significance. It was uncovered by University of

Texas scientists digging in an Indian mound.

A scientific first is also located in southwest Williamson County near Round Rock. A new solar home has been erected just off F.M. 1323.

Mrs. Harold G. Seiggins, Commission Secretary, has completed four scrapbooks and placed them in the Georgetown Public Library. They contain a vast amount of historic news, including accounts of events sponsored not only by the Williamson County Historical

Commission but those achieved by other organizations throughout the county.

WORK ON CEMETERY listing has slowed down this month due to the severe winter weather.

The holiday break has caused a lapse in recruiting junior history clubs in the high schools in the county.

Members present at this first meeting of the year represented Florence, Georgetown, Hutto, Liberty Hill, Round Rock and Taylor.



ALL YOURS, MYRETA say Dr. Van C. Tipton and Mrs. Katha Seiggins as they formally proclaim Miss Myreta Matthews of Liberty Hill the 1977 County Chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission. Dr. Tipton, the 1976 Chairman, and Mrs. Seiggins, Commission Secretary, completed the transfer of duties, complete with the chairman's gavel, during ceremonies at the Commission's meeting Thursday afternoon.

Clara Scarbrough given Postal Award for work on history of 10th district

AUSTIN, U.S. Rep. J. Jake Pickle recently presented the U.S. Postal Service Employees Bicentennial Award to Clara Scarbrough of Georgetown and to 15 present and former Central Texas postmasters.

IN CEREMONIES HELD in the Lyndon B. Johnson suite at the Federal Building in Austin, the group was presented the award for their work on the historical survey, "Postmasters and Post Offices of the Tenth Congressional District," which was published last spring.

"I was very proud to have personally participated in design and development of this project and I was particularly pleased to see our postmasters recognized for their work and dedication in putting together this historical record of Central Texas Post Offices," Pickle said.

"MANY PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED their efforts to this unique bicentennial project. This award is a way of recognizing them for their contribution and also a means of thanking them for many years of hard work with the Postal Service."

"Post Offices and Postmasters have been the nerve center of the development of every town in Central Texas just as they have been throughout the nation. There is no more vital link in the chain of growth than is the service of the Post Offices."

Mrs. Scarbrough was given the award because she did much of the work and the writing of the Williamson County post office history. Postmaster Martin Parker of Round Rock got special praise from Congressman Pickle for his contribution to the history and his dedicated manner of operating his post office.

"If we had more postmasters like Martin there wouldn't be any postal deficit, ever," Pickle added.



CLARA SCARBROUGH, SECOND from left, gets an approving arm from Congressman Jake Pickle, as does her daughter, Linda, at his right. Mrs. Scarbrough had just received a U.S. Postal award for her assistance in preparing a history of postmasters in the 10th Congressional District that's her husband, Don, at left of picture.

Pickle pointed out that the Post Offices and Postmasters of this district have made significant contributions to the history of our state. "In the formative years prior to Texas independence, from Mexico, John Rice Jones of San Felipe was named the first Postmaster General of Texas. And in 1851, Albert Sidney Barleson of San Marcos was chosen Postmaster General of the United States Postal Service."

"Although we often make complaints about our Postal Service, we should remember that we have the most proficient postal system in the world - especially at this time of the year! I wish to compliment the Post Office for the constant and reliable job they do."

The Sunday SUN
Page 6

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, February 13, 1977

Archeologists will study Taylor Indian village site

Texas A&M University archeologists have been awarded \$28,811 by the National Park Service to study a possible Indian village site and two nearby stone quarries in Williamson County.

Researchers will begin in two weeks to make an integrated examination of the locations to see if specific camp areas were used for particular duties and if some types of stone tools can be traced back to the quarries.

SUCH A STUDY would be among the first of its kind, says principal investigator Dr. Harry Shafer, Texas A&M associate professor of

anthropology.

The sites are on the grounds of 65,000-acre-leaf Lake Granger, now being constructed on the San Gabriel River near Taylor.

The village dates back in excess of 2,000 years, Shafer concludes, but how much farther back is not presently known. Its inhabitants were probably of the pre-ceramic period.

The importance of lithic studies lies in that archeologists are able to work from something observable toward something inferable," notes Shafer.

The Sunday SUN
Page 6
Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, January 2, 1977

Round Rock Leader

Volume 100 Number 60

Thursday, December 23, 1976

Fifteen Cents



Moving Down Main Street

Crowds gathered and activity came to a standstill Friday morning as the 100-year-old Palm House made its debut in downtown Round Rock. Formerly located east of the city, the home in which they were born was donated to Round Rock by Miss Mary Palm and her sister, Mrs. Marguerite Palm Stockman, both now residents of Trinity Lutheran Home. At its new

site next to city hall, the house now awaits repair and renovation to be accomplished by the chamber of commerce historical and beautification committee with community support. When the work is complete, the structure is to serve both as a chamber office and a museum.



How House Once Looked

This sketch depicts the Palm House as it looked originally. Renovation should restore it to its former good condition and appearance. The structure will eventually house both a museum and a chamber of commerce office.

Historic Farm House Comes To Town

Round Rock's Main Street merchants gained a new neighbor last week.

The "new face" is that of the 100-year-old Palm House, which was moved from its former location east of Round Rock to its new home next to city hall Friday.

Roof, chimneys, porch and window repairs are to begin immediately "because we

want it to look pretty," N.G. Whitlow, chairman of the chamber of commerce historical and beautification committee, said. Some of the repairs needed are to sections of the home that had to be removed or dismantled before moving. Some of the porch beams are to be replaced with those from a house of the same vintage near the flagpole

in Salado.

The cost of moving the home will be about \$1,000, and the cost of renovation from \$1,000 to \$4,000, Whitlow said recently.

Miss Mary Palm and Mrs. Marguerite Palm Stockman sketched to the city the home in which they were born. The two sisters are now residents of Trinity Lutheran Home,

Due to its close ties to the city's history, the chamber will soon place a historical marker for the old building upon completion of rehabilitation. The Palm sisters' family was among the first Swedish settlers in Central Texas. Anna Palm and her family settled in the area east of Round Rock in 1831, while her brother, Gustav Palm, settled

in Austin. It was for Anna Palm and her family that Palm Valley was named.

The Palm House at its new location represents the fulfillment of one of two goals the Round Rock Bicentennial Committee set last year. The second goal, to establish a museum in the city, will come when renovation of the house is complete. The other half of the

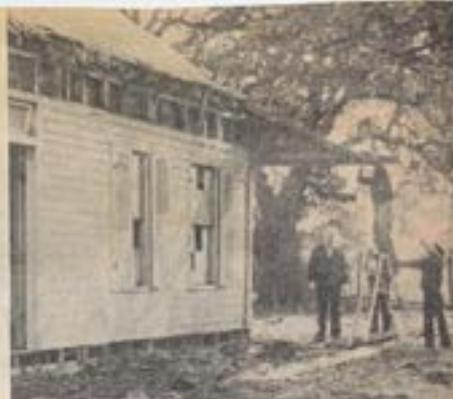
structure is to be used a chamber office. The bicentennial committee and the chamber have been working together on the Palm House project.

All those wanting to make a contribution to the Palm House effort can mail it to secretary treasurer of the chamber, Clyde Parker, Farmers State Bank, 201 East Main Street.



Checking Shutters...

Movers work busily to clear the former site of the Palm House and to remove shutters and other items that could come loose in transit.



...Removing Porch...

Some sections of the Palm House, including porch boards, portions of the roof, and the fireplace had to be removed or dismantled before the house could be relocated next to city hall. Above, workmen attempt to take off the remainder of the roof that once shaded the porch.



...Under The Light...

Moving the Palm House down Main Street did present a few problems. But with a little help from that brave soul perched on the roof, the house was inched slowly under the lines that blocked its path.

The Country House Comes To Town



...And Where It Belongs

With the arrival of the Palm House at its new location, a major portion of a project begun by the Round Rock Bicentennial Committee and the chamber of commerce historical and

beautification committee is complete. The next step is to solicit community support to repair and renovate the home.



By PATSY WATKINS

How could a Roman coin minted in London in 313-314 A.D. end up in an Indian mound in Round Rock, Texas, in 1963?

That's the question facing Dr. Jeremiah Epstein, professor of anthropology at The University of Texas at Austin, these days.

The coin was found by Walter L. Horton, Jr., in 1963 in the vicinity of construction for Interstate Highway 35 near Round Rock. Horton, a surveyor and amateur archaeologist, didn't place much value on the coin and planned to have it gold-plated for a piece of jewelry.

Epstein learned of the coin recently through a student in one of his classes after he gave a lecture on transoceanic contact in pre-Columbian (pre-Columbus) times. Little hard evidence has been found to support the theory of such contact, he told the class. Similarities between pottery and games found on two different continents could be coincidental, but evidence such as coins would be better proof of contact.

The student's information then directed Epstein to Horton, who had found the ancient coin.

Dr. John Kroll, assistant professor of classics at UT Austin, identified the coin as a bronze *Follis* about the size of a dime. On one side is the head of a young emperor wearing a laurel crown, cloak and cuirass (breastplate); on the other is the sun, personified, standing with a cloak over the left shoulder, raising the right hand and holding a globe in the left hand.

According to Kroll, the coin is found so frequently across Europe that it is not worth taking. In fact, the coin, which was worth probably about a nickel in its time, is worth only about 10¢ today, says Epstein, although "for my purposes, it's invaluable."

Inscriptions on the coin refer to the Emperor Constantine and his "Loyal Son Augustus," and to "The Invincible Son, Companion of the Emperor."

About 15 similar coins have been found in the United States — in Connecticut, Maine, Wisconsin, Georgia, Ohio and Montana.

"But the trouble with these is they were never found under verifiable conditions by people who had archaeological training," explains Epstein. "Mr. Horton, besides being an amateur archaeologist, is an engineer and surveyor, so he has the educational equipment to understand what is going on."

From information he had obtained from Horton, Epstein believes the date of the Indian mound may be around 800 A.D. He terms the find "rather interesting, what seems to be the best documented Roman coin found in America."

Epstein, a specialist in pre-Columbian archaeology of the New World, is exploring all possible explanations. One theory involves the idea of drift voyages, he says. Occasionally, a ship which had lost its crew would drift across the ocean and eventually land on the American coast. A number of such occurrences have been documented on the West Coast, he explains, and Chinese coins have been found in the U.S. at various times.

But suppose a Roman ship had drifted ashore, carrying a treasure of coins.

Ancient Roman coin found near Round Rock

An anthropologist at UT Austin attempts to trace the pre-Columbian coin's journey to an Indian mound in Central Texas



The Roman *Follis*, minted in London in 313 A.D., compared to a modern dime.

"I can picture Indians gathering coins from the ship and passing them around, passing them from one person to another in trade."

Another interesting feature of the Round Rock *Follis* is that no hole had been drilled in it, Epstein explains that recent

Indians often drilled holes in such coins for wearing, but little is known about earlier American Indians who may not have had the same practice.

Referring to his dating of the mound at approximately 800 A.D., Epstein notes:

"There's always the possibility that the mound dates later than I am assuming and that the coin landed in Round Rock in post-Columbian times."

"There probably were such coin collectors in the U.S. even in Washington's day, and some early settlers may have dropped it accidentally or have given it to the Indians." Therefore, Epstein is checking with the American Numismatic Society for information on early American coin collectors.

"The problem of working all this out is something we have to do yet," he says.

The next step will be a visit to the site, the Indian mound around Round Rock, in which Horton dug his three-and-a-half foot-deep trench in 1963.

Epstein's attitude is enthusiastic, but careful:

"One must view these things with a certain amount of caution."

If the mound does prove to be pre-Columbian, Epstein will prepare a paper on the coin and its discovery. ■

TexasTimes

Historical Commission sets goals for term

The Williamson County Historical Commission met February 3 in the courthouse in Georgetown with Dr. Van C. Tipton in charge.

Members of the Commission were appointed by the Commissioner's Court at their January meeting. They will serve two years. All members were recognized and some new ones were introduced.

Bicentennial year momentum is still in full swing at Coupland according to Barney Downing. He and others attended a Museum Workshop in Waco on January 8 and expect to use the information gained to enhance and expand the old "Depot Museum" at Coupland. They are negotiating for the addition of a train "Caboose" to place nearby.

On March 1, a chili supper will be held to raise funds for this and other developments on a their lake.

MISS EFFIE McLEOD reported much interest in a founders marker for the City of Florence in encouraging and material is being assembled.

Miss Laverne Faubus in charge of cemetery listing is compiling Volume Number II and is accepting lists that are turned in. Many burial grounds are as yet unrecorded and some have not been updated.

Two Junior Historian Clubs are well organized and working, according to Mrs. Camilla Darrenberger. They are in Georgetown High School, sponsored by Mrs. Ed Mugford and in Round Rock High School, sponsored by Jeff Townsend.

Mrs. Mahon Garry of Taylor told of the difficulty in moving the one hundred year old Sauls house from near Hutto to the Berkman-Pfizer place at Rice's Crossing, because of the severe weather.

A. M. ALLGREEN discussed the possibility of some areas in Taylor being eligible for inclusion in a "Designated Historic District."

The Williamson County SUN will celebrate one hundred years of publication in May. Mrs. Don Scarborough said that an application for a subject marker has been accepted at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin and is expected to be approved shortly.

Projects to implement goals for the next biennium will be promotion of history appreciation, preserving and marking historical sites and structures, cemetery listing, recording oral history and tourism.

Special attention will be given to preservation of local

history in various forms, written essays, tape recordings, pictures or slides and the protection of old documents.

As part of history appreciation and preservation the Williamson County Historical Commission will again sponsor a contest in the High Schools in this county. All students living

in the county who are in the ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades are eligible to enter. It is not necessary for them to be a member of a history club. Notice of the rules will be sent to all high schools soon. Ruth Mastor of Taylor and Effie McLeod of Florence will help promote this project.

The Sunday SUN
Page 7

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, February 13, 1977

Page 12, The Libertarian, Thursday, March 10, 1977

LH History Teacher Starting Junior Historian Club At LHS

Larry Bonnett, a Liberty Hill High School History instructor attended last Wednesday's meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission to learn more about the organization's current promotion of junior historian groups. "I just came to listen and find out more about all this," commented Bonnett who hopes to establish a similar program at the high school. Students interested would be able to participate in upcoming junior historian essay and research projects possibly winning scholarships to help ease those heavy college expenses ahead.

Also, Wednesday, Mrs. Ruth Mastor of Taylor was elected vice president of the Commission joining Chairman Myreia Matthews of Liberty Hill in the organization's drive to attract new memberships in cities throughout Williamson County.

Mrs. Ed Mugford of Georgetown High School said a scholarship will be given to a contributing student at the school this semester to further a college career. "We want to think of the students; it won't be a large amount of money," commented the history teacher hoping to generate interest there.

Jeff Townsend of Round Rock High School also plans an excursion to San Antonio with his students to partake in the church mission tour and has

been working to promote junior historian enthusiasm in his area.

Initial planning phases for a junior historian group at Liberty Hill High School are being organized by history instructor Larry Bonnett. The commission also hopes to approach officials in the Leander High School for a group organization there.

Members also voted Thursday to purchase cassette tapes not exceeding \$50 to be used throughout the county to record the memoirs of older residents in various cities.

"Taylor has a wealth of historical information," said Miss Mastor who plans to conduct interviews there and encourage more in other eastern cities such as Schwertner and Hutto.

A name list for the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery west of Taylor has been compiled and more such projects are underway at the Hutto City Cemetery and Hutto Lutheran.

Chairman Matthew's campaign to obtain a larger cross-section of membership across the county seems to be progressing well in the east and west. Mrs. Joe Hanna Farson joined with Miss Mastor, Ahlgren and Rankin Kennedy representing Taylor at the meeting. Mrs. Edna Beasley of Leander has also joined the group.



CARLO CARLSON BROUGHT this interesting picture, faded and dim, to the SUN. His father, Bob Carlson is on the left and the bearded gentleman, second from the left in the center group, is postmaster Rob. Hyland. The elder Carlson was a rural route carrier out of Round Rock and when he retired his route was given to Carlo, his son. Between the two Carlsons, the route was served from 1891 to 1893. The building, then post office of Round Rock, still stands.



HERE'S A FINE OLD PICTURE, faded and dim now, taken in Round Rock about 90 years ago. The men in the picture, taken in front of the building now occupied by the Tomp Joseph offices, are identified as Jack Harris, Morris Myers, Hugh Harris and Mack Pate a store customer.

The Sunday SUN
Page 7

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, March 6, 1977

Historical Commission appoints committees

The Williamson County Historical Commission met Thursday, March 3, in the Conference Room of the Georgetown Public Library.

Organization plans for the year were announced with all members accepting a position on one or more committees. The basic working committees and their chairmen are Historical Markers, Mrs. John W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D. B. Gregg; Historical Preservation, Mrs. Don Scarborough; History Appreciation, Miss Ruth Mantor; Budget and Finances, Dr. Van C. Tipton and Advisory, A. M. Ahlgren. Sub-committees were also designated.

Reports were made by all members regarding activities in their towns or communities and in their area of work.

Miss Laverne Fashion continues as chairman of the Williamson County Cemetery listing. Lists are being compiled for Volume II and several were reported at this meeting. These will be tabulated later.

Oval History is an important and interesting way to keep up with our past. The commission decided to encourage and aid groups working in this field, by offering to finance tape recording up to a specified amount.

The High School Original Research contest sponsored by the Williamson County Historical Commission for the second year is showing promise. Student activity on several projects were reported by Miss Ruth Mantor in Taylor High School, Miss Effie McLeod in Florence High School, Mrs. Ed Magford in Georgetown High School and Jeff Townsend in Round Rock.

Rogken Kennedy of Taylor announced that the Moody Museum in Taylor will be open on weekends. The hours are 2 to 5 on Saturday and Sunday. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome.

The Palm Museum in Round Rock is a fine addition to that city's historic structures. Work

on restoration of the house is going well. A donation of a 100 year old Rosewood piano has been received with enthusiasm.

The Depot Museum at Coupland will soon have another railway relic added to its complex.

Lloyd L. Longley told of a large collection of antique tractors and early gas engines that were on display Saturday, March 5, at 806 E. 8th Street in Georgetown. Louis and Ray Miller are the owners and hosts.

Attending the Commission meeting were 18 members representing Taylor, Gabriel Mills-Andite, Leander, Hutto, Georgetown, Liberty Hill, Florence and Round Rock.

The Williamson County Historical Commission needs historian representatives from Bartlett, Granger, Cedar Park, Jollyville, Walburg-Weir and Thrall.

The Williamson County SUN
Section 2, Page 7
Georgetown, Texas
Thursday, March 10, 1977

Moody Museum open Sundays

Taylor's Moody Museum, birthplace of former Texas Governor Dan Moody, is now open to the public on Sunday afternoons from 2:30 p.m. The museum is located at 114 W. 8th Street and admission is free although donations are accepted.

The Moody Museum is located in the old Moody home place and has been renovated and restored using many of the furnishings and fixtures of the Moody family. Each room in the museum contains memorabilia of the Moody family or of the Taylor area.

Hostesses will be on duty to escort visitors through the museum during the hours of visiting. In addition, club, groups or other organizations may make special arrangements to tour the museum any time by calling AC 312-252-2485.

Two Sunday Sun papers

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, March 20, 1977

Dr. Lattimer To Address Coupland Club

The Coupland Community Club will meet Monday night, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. at the Coupland School. Everyone is asked to bring one or two dishes of salad and dessert, or vegetable and dessert. Turkey and dressing will be furnished.

Dr. Truett Lattimer, director of the Texas Historical Commission will be a guest at the meeting and the Coupland Drama Club will present a play. All people of the area are invited.

Taylor Daily Press, Wednesday, March 23, 1977

New County Historical Chairman Has Background, Education For Job



MYRETA MATTHEWS
County Historical Chairman

By ROBIN STRINGFELLOW
Staff Writer

LIBERTY HILL. — The continuing dedication of historical landmarks in Williamson County attract large throngs of onlookers jostling together in a mutual spirit of pride in the preservation of eras gone by, but the energetic efforts of those behind the scenes spending hours researching records and investigating verbal clues are not always apparent.

One such notable is Liberty Hill's Myreta Matthews, newly appointed chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission. "It's all yours," said Dr. Van C. Tipton, outgoing chairman, as he turned over the gavel to Miss Matthews who has served the commission (as newsletter writer since 1972. Winning third

place in the 1973 and 1976 statewide newsletter writing competition. Miss Matthews has helped bring the Texas Historical Commission's Distinguished Service Award to Williamson County for 1976. She has now taken over coordination of the 37 members spread across the county who devote their time willingly toward recording the county's heritage.

"It's a great honor, but with honor comes big responsibility," said Miss Matthews, examining remains of her track record seated at the same table as used as a school girl. A retired veteran of the Austin I.S.D., as well as schools in Georgetown and Houston, the former teacher will only say she is now "three score and twolding."

When asked her age, but years of her own history are by no

means visible in the enthusiastic eyes of this dedicated descendant of one of Williamson County's historic families.

Her career as an educator seems a likely choice considering the Matthews' family establishment of a private school located just south of Liberty Hill in 1872. The one-room log house was opened as a free school in 1874 and her father, John Neely Matthews, became a teacher at Bagdad and Concord and superintendent at Hutto, Jonah, Florence, Leander and Liberty Hill after his education at the Liberty Normal and Business College.

Perhaps her father's preservation of the family history in a book prompted Miss Matthews' interest when she chose her area of study at South Texas State Teachers

College in San Marco. Earning her masters degree history at the University of Texas, she recalls, "Even elective course I could take a history."

John Neely Matthews' biography proved valuable on numerous occasions including research contributions to "The Ship On Hedge Folk" and "Land of Go Water," two historical books Williamson County within recent years.

"It's a blessing when people have ancestors who leave things written down," drama Miss Matthews who plans to update her father's book and But the Liberty Hill historical has also researched the Liberty Hill Cemetery, Stubbie building, Masonic Lodge, First Baptist Church and the John Matthews farm, all of who received medallions during

Taylor Daily Press

"Williamson County's Only Daily Newspaper"

TAYLOR, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1977

(See HISTORICAL, Page 11)

Still rolling

Antique tractor era revived in G'town show

By PEGGY SWIFT

Eighth street was crowded with vehicles on Saturday as the people came from all over the state to the Miller Brothers Mechanical Mart for the meeting of the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association.

Folks came from Florence, Taylor, Barnet, Burleson, Killeen, Giddings and the far corners of the state to show their engines and grist mills and to marvel at the Millers' collection of antique tractors.

RAY AND LOUIS MILLER of Georgetown have 82 old tractors, a collection to rival that of the Smithsonian Institute, in all conditions, from rusted and stationary to restored and running. According to Ray, about 25 of the machines are in running condition. Louis thrilled all the youngsters and

many of the adults in the crowd by cranking the old timers up during the day and driving them around the machine yard.

The oldest tractor in the group is a Garr-Scott steam tractor. These mammoth creations were last made in 1908. The Millers happened upon their specimen on the Stablesfield ranch near Victoria and were able to add it to their growing number of implements last September.

Farmer Georgetownite, John Gamble, told the brothers about the giant. It was stuck in three to four feet of mud on a high cliff near the Guadalupe River. Another steam tractor just like the one rescued had already fallen to a watery grave in the river waters, according to Louis Miller.

A 1914 TITAN made by International Harvester (today Farmall) is another of the vintage jewels in the brothers' collection.

A newly painted and restored Waterloo Boy is a prize antique. This old timer came from Pflugerville with a hive of bees in the crank case. The Millers have vivid memories of trying to work on this tractor's insides with the angry bees buzzing their labors.

The grist mills were another big attraction at the association meeting.

RAY BIZZELL, principal at Florence High School, was the proud owner of one of the mills at the show. His stone burr grist mill previously belonged to Charlie Cole from the Rock House near Liberty Hill.

Bizzell bought the machine because he likes to tinker with old engines. He has it in perfect working order and hopes eventually to be able to grind grain for local farmers.

Another group of restored mills, owned by the Ware Brothers, was not only displayed but operating. Bradley and Heagen Ware of Route 2, Killeen, had three of their restored mills at the Millers'. Bradley told the SUN that he became interested in the machines in a class. He restored one of them for a class project and that started him on the road to becoming a collector.

THE MAIN SHOWING for the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association will be the Sixth Annual Antique Machinery Show July 9 and 10 in Meridian. At this two-day event, antique tractors, threshers, small steam and gas engines will all be displayed and operating. There will also be special events such as peanut threshing, wheat threshing, corn grinding, tractor plowing, corn shelling, tractor races and a daily tractor parade.

Old machine enthusiasts, farmers, ranchers and persons just looking for an old-fashioned good time are invited to come to the July show. Hobbyists, antique collectors and dealers are also encouraged to come to Meridian to display their wares at no charge.

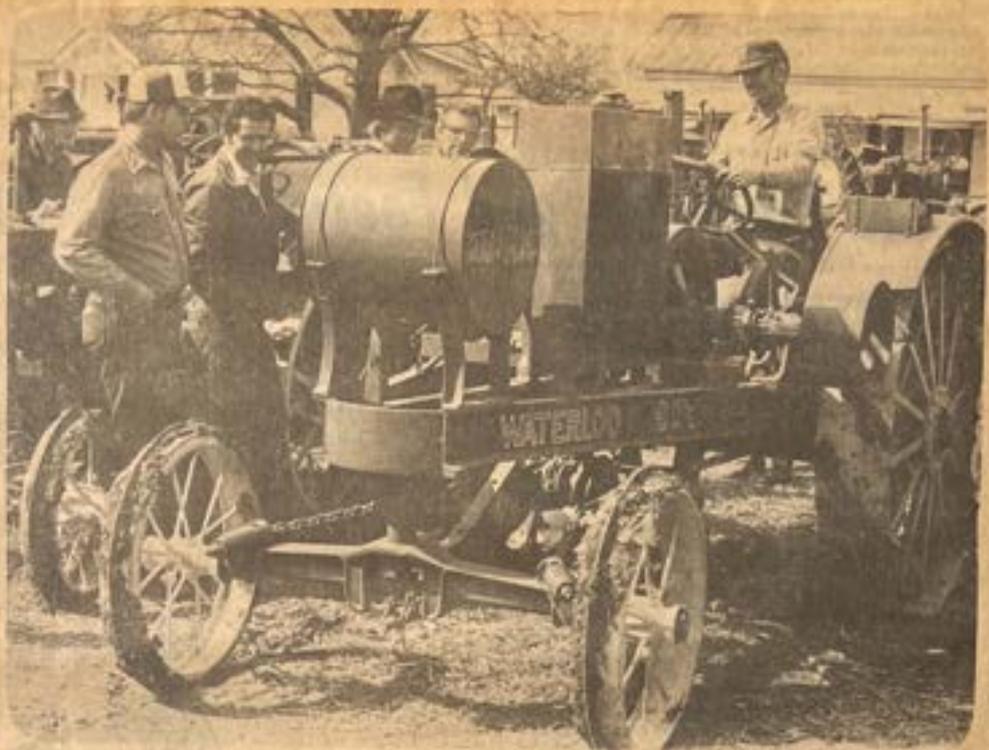
The July event will take place on the Duncan Seawright Farm, one mile east of Meridian on Highway 22.

The Williamson County SUN
Section 1, Page 3
Georgetown, Texas
Thursday, March 18, 1977



THEY MAY BE ANTIQUES BUT THEY CAN STILL PULL THEIR WEIGHT — Ray and Louis Miller (left) get ready to crank up one of their collection of old tractors to delight their guests at the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association meeting held at their shop on Eighth Street. Grist mills were also a big attraction at the meeting. Ray Bizzell (right), Principal at Florence High School, explains the workings of his stone burr mill to a group of enthusiasts. Elwood Ware (below left), father of Bradley and Reagan Ware of Ware Brothers Mills, sells a bag of his freshly milled corn meal to young Rusty Monday of Barleson. Vin McFarland and Jonathan Lamb (below right) enjoy one of the joy rides on the old timers given by Louis Miller to his young admirers throughout the day.





THOSE OLD TIMERS STILL ROLL — Louis Miller of Miller's Mechanical Mart, 806 East 8th St., cranked up several of his antique tractors at the Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Association meeting in Georgetown on Satur-

day, March 5. All those attending were delighted with the roar of the giant machines and the grinding of ancient gears. The group will meet again on July 9 and 10 in Meridian.

photo by Peggy Swift



TEXAS

NEWSLETTER NUMBER ONE MARCH 10, 1977

WILLIAMSON
1848Volume Six

The Williamson County Historical Commission meets, traditionally, on the first Thursday of each month and continues to have a good attendance representing many areas of the county. There is a need for more members from the northeastern part of the county and from the southwestern part. Historians would be welcome from Bartlett, Granger and Thrall in the east and from Cedar Park and Jollyville in the west.

The Williamson County flag was created in 1973 to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the founding of the county. The flag, on display in the Georgetown Public Library, is the product of a combination of designs submitted by elementary school children from throughout the county, sponsored by the Historical Commission. A red map of Williamson County and the date 1848 are placed on a larger white map of Texas, and this is on a field of blue. Thirty three gold stars form a circle around the state map. These stars represent that number of communities that have been significant in the history of the county. At present fourteen of these communities are actively represented by members on the Commission.

ORGANIZATION

The March 3rd meeting was devoted to the organization of working committees. While every member is encouraged to be responsible for all phases of historical interest in his or her own community, it is necessary to designate some committee chairmen and groups to coordinate the efforts of the Commission as a whole. The Committees and Chairmen are as follows: Historical Markers, Mrs. John W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D.B. Gregg of Round Rock; Historical Preservation, Mrs. Don Scarbrough of Georgetown; History Appreciation, Miss Ruth Mantor of Taylor; Budget and Finance, Dr. Van C. Tipton of Georgetown; Advisory, Mr. A.M. Ahlgren of Taylor.

GOALS

Program of Work Plans for 1977-78 include:

- 1 Continuation of research for sites, structures and persons eligible for and worthy of Historical Markers.
- 2 Continue listing cemeteries for Volume II. Miss Laverne Faubion, 712 Myrtle, Georgetown, Texas 78626 is accepting lists and compiling this book.
- 3 Offering, for the second year, cash awards to High School students for the best project of Original Research on the History of Williamson County. Entries may be essays, annotated pictures or slides, tape recordings or a combination of these. All must be well documented. All material should be sent by June 1st, 1977 to Myreta Matthews, Box 127, Liberty Hill, Texas 78642 -- Miss Effie McLeod, Rt. 1, Box 64, Florence, Texas - 76527 or Miss Ruth Mantor, 1118 West 7th, Taylor, Texas 76574.

- 4 Promote Museums. Create interest on a local level.
- 5 Give financial aid (up to a specified amount) to an oral history recording project by students.
- 6 Encourage and sponsor Junior Historian Clubs in Junior and High Schools. Mrs. Camilla Durrenberger, 1237 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626, will continue to lend assistance.
- 7 Add to old picture files and find a place to preserve them.
- 8 Preserve or copy old documents and valuable papers.
- 9 Reprint out of print historical booklets or books.
- 10 Help publish a WILLIAMSON COUNTY DIRECTORY similar to the one published by the Commissioners Court and Judge Sam V. Stone in 1968
- 11 Establish a BIBLIOGRAPHY of county source materials and place it in Williamson County Libraries.
- 12 Adopt a set of easy-to-live-with By-Laws.

DEDICATIONS

No dedications have taken place in 1977 but four markers have been received and await public programs. They are the Town of Thrall in City Hall Square, Thrall, Texas; Cabin From Gabriel Mills on Austin Avenue in Georgetown, Texas; John, O. Rice at Rice's Crossing near Taylor, Texas; Elisha Allen, Veteran of Texas War of Independence in the Bartlett Cemetery on SH 95.

Markers on the Harrell-Stone House in Georgetown and the John G. Matthews House, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Liberty Hill, were dedicated in 1976 with family members taking part.

APPLICATIONS

A subject marker has been approved for The Williamson County Sun in celebration of one hundred years of publication as a county newspaper. Word is being awaited from the Texas Historical Commission.

The descendants of John Berry, Frontiersman have applied for a marker to be placed near the Berry "buhr-stone" on the courthouse lawn.

Travis County Dedication

The Balcones Fault, which curves thru the center of the Hill Country west of Austin, received a Texas Historical Marker on Monday, February 28 at 2 P.M. The Marker, a Bicentennial gift from the Treaty Oak Chapter of the Daughters of the American Colonists, is 1.3 miles west of U.S. 183 north on State Road 360 at a bridge on Bull Creek. The Williamson County Historical Commission was represented at the ceremony.

MUSEUMS

Williamson County now boasts three Museums. The Moody Home, Taylor boyhood home of former Governor Dan Moody, the restored Old Depot in Coupland and most recently the Palm House in Round Rock. These belong to the respective cities. Still needed is Williamson County Museum, with a place to store old county documents and serve as a source for research.

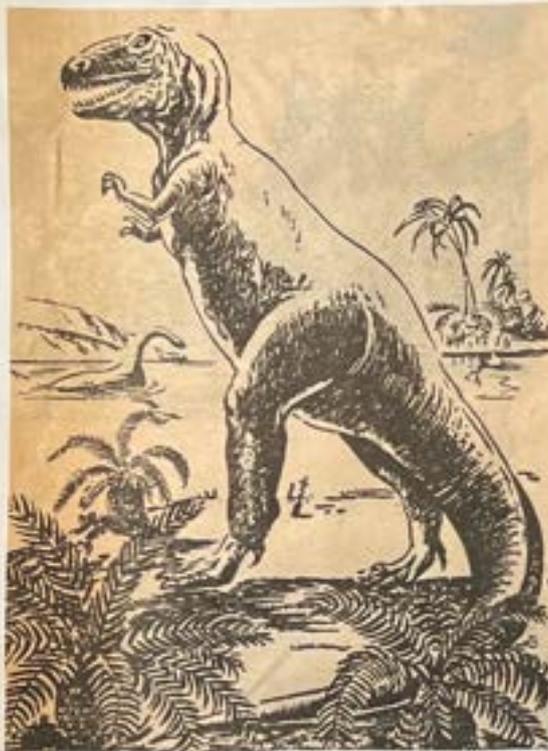
HISTORICAL SPEECHES

Mrs. Ledbetter, Miss McLeod, Mrs. Scoggins and County Attorney Stubblefield promoted history in speeches to several groups.

Myreta Matthews, Reporter-Chairman
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

Tracking The "King Of The Tyrants"

Robin Stringfellow



Seventy million years ago the area around Booty's Crossing Four near Liberty Hill would have been more aptly termed a marshy lagoon rather than the banks of the San Gabriel River. The massive prehistoric figures of dinosaurs quenched their powerful thirsts in the cool waters and feasted on plentiful vegetation, but the mightiest of all creatures ever to walk the earth, the Tyrannosaurus rex, terrorized many of its cohort species with its carnivorous nature. The daggerous six-inch teeth that lined four-foot-long jaws were known to have wrenched the life from such vegetarians of comparable size as the fifty-foot Trachodon that also walked on its two hind legs.

"That's an interesting place along the river, there are lots of layers of clay and strata," comments track discoverer Jack Harris of Georgetown's Southwestern University. "We knew what they were immediately," adds Norma Harris of the hot summer's day outing with their three children in 1976. Harris notes that the species flourished here during the Cretaceous Period and that other such tracks have been found near Briggs and Bertram shorelines of the San Gabriel River.

Though shortages of vegetation wrought by the glacier period lead to the extinction of the "Tyrant King," evidence of its presence in our area still lingers in the form of foot prints left on the shore near Booty's Crossing Four.

The four tracks that measure about 13' wide and 18' long were probably deeper than their current 6 inches but years of erosion and exposure now reveal a shallower version.

"I'm just glad they're not around these days, since I like to hunt deer," says Rev. Ed Steelman of Georgetown who has examined the tracks at the Harris's request. Steelman learned archeological field techniques while attending Cambridge University in England and visiting digs in Palestine. "Archaeology is a strange science, I've always liked it," he explains of his hobby that he combines with biblical study courses at Southwestern.

Referring affectionately to the Tyrannosaurus rex as a "critter," Steelman proudly points out two cement casts of tracks used as rain drainages from gutters on his roof. "One guy once asked me if those came with the house."

A recent meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission revealed interest in preserving the tracks by either attempting to lift them directly or making plaster casts from the imprints. Steelman warns that lifting might be very difficult and could result in destruction, but that the castings would not endanger foot-prints.

So it seems that the trackings of the colossal Tyrannosaurus rex may be an added feature of the shoreline near Booty's Crossing for a few million more years proving the area was a popular swimming hole even in prehistoric times.

The Librarian: Thursday, March 17, 1977



Track Discoverer

Norma Harris uncovers still another track embedded in limestone.



Archeologist

Rev. Edward Steelman of Southwestern University seated next to a cast he made of a track near Briggs.



Big Foot?

This track of the "Tyrant" is especially prominent on the shore of the San Gabriel River.



Fossil Hunters

Jack Harris and family spend endless hours surveying and digging for fossils near Booty's Crossing Ford.



Preservation

Steelman cleverly preserves the tracks as rain drainages.

Round Rock Leader

Volume 100 Number 71

Thursday, March 24, 1977

Fifteen Cents



A Big Bite

Like a giant spade, the tree mover lifts a 30-foot elm from its home at Lake Creek Park. The tree was moved from the park to a spot in front of the Palm House by Provident Development Co. on Monday.



On The Move

The elm tree destined for the Palm House yard is carried down Main Street Monday morning. Provident Development Co., who sponsored the move, hopes to transplant more trees at a park in Mesa Park East if this tree survives.

..And Down

Transplant Gives New Look To Palm House Appearance

The Palm House, located next to Round Rock City Hall, now has a new item to compliment its 100-year-old charm.

A 30-foot elm tree was moved from Lake Creek Park to a spot in front of the house early Monday morning.

And what a procedure it was to transplant the tree.

First, a large spade-type machine plucked the tree and its roots from the original Lake Creek Park site. The tree was then transported down Deerfoot Drive, Barnett Street and Main Street, and replanted in front of the house, which is presently under renovation.

The Palm House, donated to the city by Miss Mary Palm and Mrs. Marguerite Palm Stockman, is being renovated to serve as a combined museum and Round Rock Chamber of Commerce office.

According to Bob Bennett, city planner, the project is an experiment in tree moving. If the tree survives, others will be moved to a six-acre park being developed as part of the Mesa Park East Subdivision. Provident Development Co. sponsored the move of the tree.

"We should know by this summer if the tree will live," Bennett said Monday.

He added that the tree will probably go into "shock" from the move and will lose most of its foliage. With luck, it will then regain its health and sprout new leaves.



Historic Hoxie Bridge To Be Moved, But Memories And Stories To Live On

By ROBIN STRINGFELLOW
Staff Writer

Beneath a full moon at midnight on Friday has long been the favored setting for capturing a glimpse of the legendary "headless ghost of Hoxie Bridge," perched high atop the weathered rafters of the century-old structure that spans the San Gabriel River to the east of Taylor. The figure is said to have maintained a guard on the bridge as well as the lives of those venturing across its supports, but the fate of Hoxie Bridge was destined to come under the scrutiny of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the 19's.

With plans for a 11,000-acre lake site (Lake Granger), Hoxie Bridge was scheduled to be dropped into the basin never to be seen again except by a few

curious skidners, but the respect and remembrances of area residents spawned an interest in its historical significance, saving the structure.

"We have received approval for the relocation of the Hoxie and Wills Creek bridges," says Sam Garrett, outdoor recreation planner in the Corps' Fort Worth office. Both structures will begin new lives as walk bridges in a 475-acre park on the west shore of the lake. Studies determining the historical significance and environmental impact to the project were directed to include the bridges at the prodding of Dr. Charles Allison, a part landowner of the 1882 Hoxie Ranch that covered some 2,000 acres.

"I thought it should remain in

the area where it had its original significance," recalls Allison of his tireless struggle to save the bridge and to promote the park as one of seven major tours in Texas. Allison's original request included plans for a pavilion museum at the Hoxie home site depicting the history of the area, but cost-prohibiting factors cited by the Corps resulted in a more conservative version resembling a highway rest area.

Allison began his preservation efforts in 1971, later enlisting the sentiments of the Taylor Garden Club as supporters of the request to save Hoxie Bridge. "It would have had as much to offer as Yellowstone," says Allison of the first plans, but satisfied that the bridge will be salvaged

in some manner.

"We have been working with the State Historical Preservation Officer, National Park Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation," explains Garrett of the procedures undertaken since Allison made the Corps aware of the significance of the bridge. "He has made the Corps aware of the significance of the bridge. He has put a lot of time, money and effort into this project," adds Garrett.

Scheduled for completion in early 1975, the park will feature a three-lane launch ramp, 40 parking spaces, restrooms facilities, potable water, picnic areas and hike and bike trails. The bridges will be integrated into the trails as walk bridges undergoing only minor restoration, according to Garrett. "We will be willing to work with the city to coordinate the park's maintenance if they wish," added Garrett noting that some areas prefer to maintain such parks themselves rather than allowing the Corps to remain with the project after completion.

And what of the headless ghost now that the bridge will be spanning two small hills rather than the swift water of the San Gabriel where he is said to have ridden the currents on some evenings?

"If you promise someone something and they die without it, the ghost will get you," warns R. C. Polasek a 64-year resident of the area who has reportedly seen the figure on several occasions. Only one in a menagerie of mystical tales, the story of the ghost endures in the hearts of many area residents who recall camping trips and romantic evenings spent in the moonlight over Hoxie Bridge.

"Prominent people claimed to have seen the ghost."

verifies Langdon Richter of Taylor. According to Polasek, the figure was that of a convict who was a member of a work crew reinstating the bridge after the floods of 1921 claimed the approaches and five spans. The man was said to have been hung from a nearby tree and left visible for sometime after the execution.

Today inscriptions declaring the love of many couples that spanned the night away at Hoxie Bridge are intermingled with victory cheers of the Taylor Ducks on the iron beam supports.

Rotting boards that cry out for relief from the burden of heavy vehicles that cross will soon shoulder only footsteps and personal memories of Hoxie Bridge will continue to drive when 1977 is yesterday.



HOXIE BRIDGE AS IT IS TODAY.

Taylor Daily Press, Thursday, March 24, 1977



HOXIE BRIDGE IN THE EARLY 1900s.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 15 Thursday, April 14, 1977

Historical Commission urges youth to become involved in history

The Williamson County Historical Commission met in the Georgetown Public Library on Thursday, April 7 to make reports on historical activities all over the county. The high school student Original Research Project is well under way. Students from Florence, Jarrell, Georgetown, Round Rock and Taylor are responding well to this Williamson County Historical competition.

In addition, Georgetown students have surveyed at least one cemetery and have other such projects going under the guidance of Mrs. Ed Magford.

Taylor High School will have a full day of History Appreciation on April 21. The Library Club plans to have their third "Local History Day in the Library". Mrs. Livingood, the sponsor has scheduled speakers from several ethnic groups.

Five Round Rock High School students, accompanied by Jeff Townsend, their sponsor, attended the Junior Historian Conference in Austin, recently. They also toured some of Austin's fine museums.

Miss Laverne Faubion, chairman in charge of compiling the second volume of Williamson County Cemeteries, accepted some newly surveyed lists and was told of others of which the group had not been aware. Those turned in Thursday were Lawrence Chapel, Bullion

Family and Palm Valley cemeteries.

The John Berry, Frontiersman marker application has been approved in principle and is now in the hands of the State Marker Committee who will compose the inscription.

The Elijah Allen Grave Marker Dedication program will take place at the Old Bartlett Cemetery on State Highway 95, three miles south of Bartlett at 2:30 p.m. on May 1, 1977.

Judge C. L. Chance presented an inscribed medallion paperweight to Dr. Van C. Tipton, honoring him for his leadership as chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission during the important 1976 Year of the Bicentennial.

All Texas Historical Commissions have been asked by the Texas Department of Agriculture to cooperate with them in the 1977 Family Land Heritage Program. The form will be ready for distribution by May 1 for families who have maintained a productive piece of land for 100 years or more. The land must not have been leased out but must have been under the control of the family in the overall operation.

Members present at this meeting represented Copland, Florence, Georgetown, Liberty Hill, Round Rock and Taylor.

Mrs. W. A. Winterrowd of Thrall was a

COUNTY CHAIRMAN'S WORKSHOP

Friday, April 1, 1977

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN HOTEL

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.	Registration - Mezzanine Book Mart - Mezzanine
9 a.m. - 12 noon Bowie Room	Orientation for Newly Appointed County Chairmen This period will be devoted to a basic orientation on THC services. It will feature presentations by the following agency personnel: Truett Latimer, Executive Director Mrs. Deolece Parmelee, Director of Research Bob Watson, Director of Programs Joe Williams, Director of National Register Programs Cindy Sherrell, Director of Museums Services Kit Fontaine, Director of Publications
12 noon	Lunch Break
1 p.m. Bowie Room	Workshop Opening Session Welcome - Vernon Snyde, Chairman, THC
1:10 - 1:30	National and State Legislation Affecting Historic Preservation - Truett Latimer
1:30 - 2:00	Survey of Cultural Resources Leading to National Register Nomination and to a Local Preservation Plan - Joe Williams
2:00 - 2:30	Developing Sound Research Techniques and Practices - Mrs. Deolece Parmelee
2:30 - 2:50	Questions and Answers
2:50 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 3:30	Review of Marker Policies and Procedures - Bob Watson
3:30 - 4:00	The Future of Historical Museums in Texas - Cindy Sherrell
4:00 - 4:30	The Use of Local Archival Collections and Oral History as Research Tools - Mrs. Deolece Parmelee
4:30 - 5:00	Questions and Answers
6:30 p.m.	Dinner - Bonham and Crockett Rooms

Saturday, April 2, 1977

8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Bowie Room	Archeology for the County Historical Commission - Curtis Tunnell
8:30 - 9:15	Researching, Writing and Publishing Local History - Mrs. Deolece Parmelee
9:15 - 9:45	Publicizing Your Historic Preservation Activities - Kit Fontaine
9:45 - 10:05	Questions and Answers
10:05 - 10:15	Break

Taylor Daily Press

"Williamson County's Only Daily Newspaper"

TAYLOR, TEXAS, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1977

Along San Gabriel

Anthropologists Digging In Area

By ALMA LEE HOLMAN
Staff Writer

Who lived on the banks of the San Gabriel River long ago? What were their habits, their modes of living, their associations with others in nearby areas?

Answers to some of these questions are expected to develop as a research contract between the U.S. Corps of Engineers and Texas A. & M. University Anthropology Department continues at least through the summer of 1977, and possibly until impounded water in Lake Granger covers some of the sites being explored.

Five full-time workers under the supervision of Clell Boyd, research specialist at A&M, are carefully digging and working at a site just east of Hoxie Bridge across the San Gabriel. Several pits have already been systematically dug at the site, with gentle sweeping and judicious use of digging tools as workers uncover evidence of rocks placed in patterns that were probably used in cooking processes by the inhabitants of the area, possibly 1,000 years ago although definite dating is yet to be determined after

(See DIGGING, Page 18)



DEEPENING THE PITS — Digging in the several pits being worked by anthropology department workers proceeds in careful layers of not more than four inches at a time. The dirt piled in the background here has been sifted for findings that are tagged and sent to A&M for detailed study to determine age and use of the various fragments.



PITS — A number of pits have already been dug along the south bank of the river near Hoxie Bridge. This one, just underway, has reached what may have been the ground level at the time of Indians whose relics are being found by A&M University researchers. Careful records of every find are kept, and pits are covered with the heavy plastic in the background as work proceeds.



SCREENING — Each day's scrapings and diggings are carefully screened by workers, who search for fragments that might add information about the early inhabitants along San Gabriel River banks.



A Distinguished Guest

Myrela Matthews, County Historical Commission Chairman, passes out copies of the History of Jenk's Branch to Mrs. Correne Correll, Mrs. Ella Hollingsworth and Earline Miller.

Spirit Of Jenk's Branch Alive

Robin Stringfellow

LIBERTY HILL — "We all live away from home now, but when it comes Good Friday we all come to clean up the cemeteries," summed 73-year-old Marshall Miller Friday clearing the graves of his ancestors who settled in Liberty Hill during the early 1870's.

Miller was one of nearly 40 descendants of the Jenk's Branch or Miller Community who gathered south of the city in their annual task of refurbishing the grounds of the Community and Cedar-Break Cemeteries. The event attracted even the youngest generations of black families whose forefathers established a school and later, the Liberty Chapel in the years after the Civil War.

First purchased by Milas, Richard and Nelson Miller, the Jenk's Branch Community was the scene of numerous large camp meetings, community socials, box suppers and church meetings held in a lodge hall just east of the original chapel site. The younger members of the community were known to have furnished their own guitar, fiddle and piano music for square dances and that same spirit of fellowship characterized pilgrimage home to Jenk's Branch.

After this year's full day, the loyal descendants took time out to survey their efforts then sat down to a picnic supper in much the same fashion as the original founders of the Jenk's Branch Community.

(See TRADITION, Page 14)

"A Voice Of The People"

The Libertarian

"Serving the Liberty Hill, Bertram, Leander, and Cedar Park Areas"

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 41

THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1977

PRICE: 15 CENTS



Tradition...

of the occasion. "This is the first good Good Friday we've had in some time," commented 81-year-old Bill Houston of Burnet, wasting no time putting his hoe to work.

The reunion of these historic families has become a tradition and you can be sure they'll all return next year to see that the memory of the Jenk's Branch Community remains visible for generations to come.

"We work as long as we are able, but sometimes you just give out," said 83-year-old Mrs. Ella Hollingsworth who unable to withstand the strenuous work, opted to supervise this year's clean up.

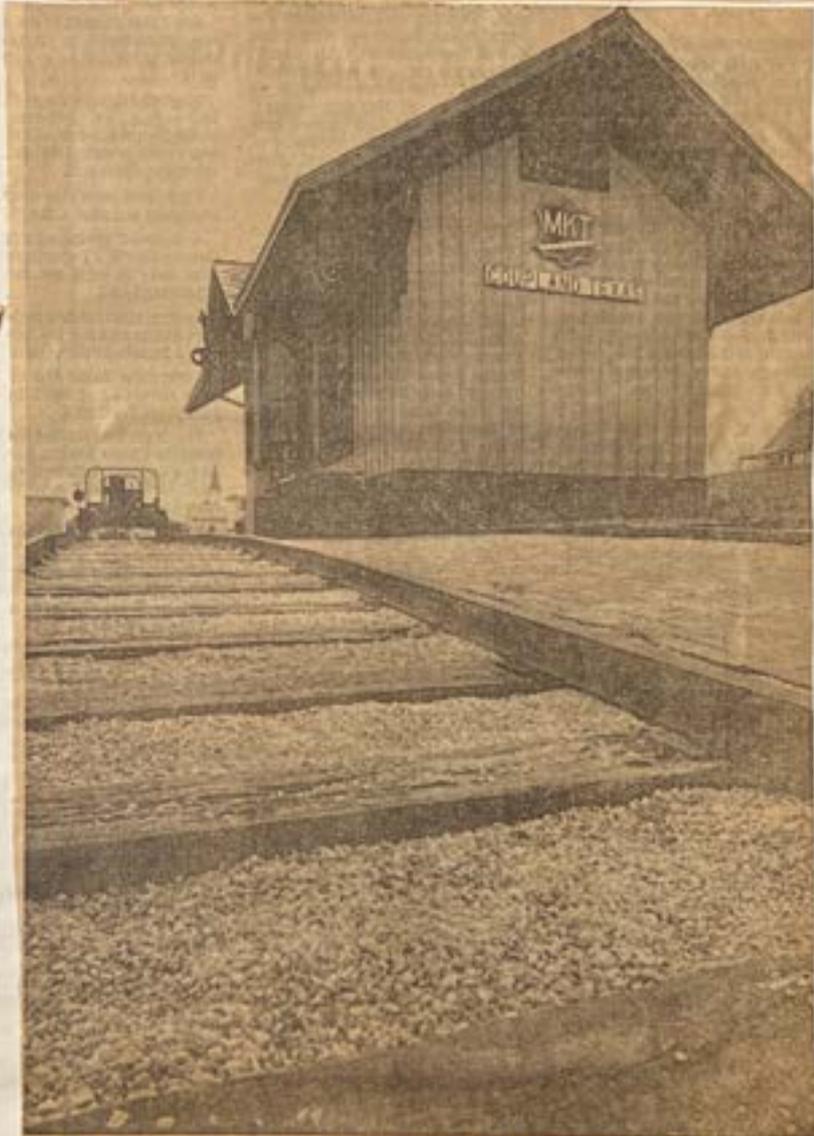
Reveling in the mild sunshine last Friday, many of the workers recalled a string of past inlimate holidays which threatened to dampen the spirit



Community saves

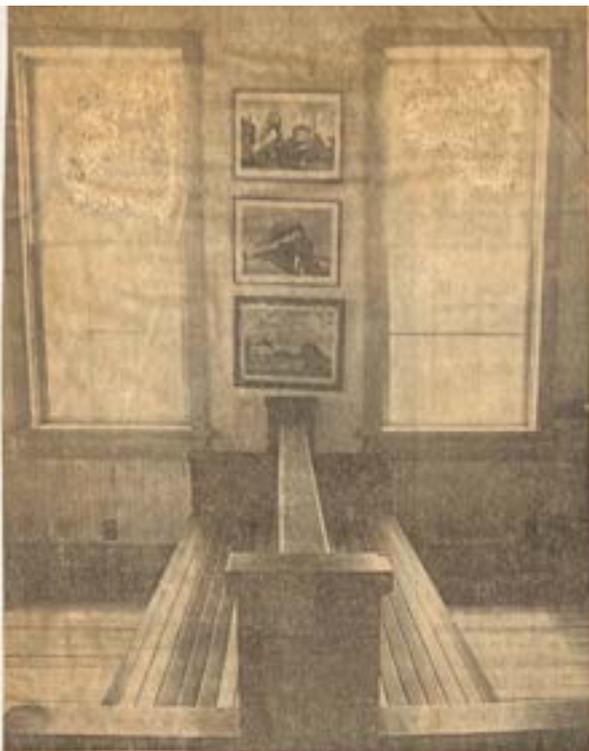
Coupland train depot

The Austin American-Statesman
Monday, April 11, 1977



Staff Photos by Tom Larkin

OLD COUPLAND DEPOT WAS MOVED FROM A FIELD BACK TO TOWN
Local residents turned the building into a museum



PASSENGER SEATS INSIDE DEPOT EMPTY NOW

Passenger and freight service ceased in the 1950s for Coupland

The old depot — the railroad museum in Coupland, about 30 miles northwest of Austin on State Hwy. 30, was not built easily.

The old Missouri-Kansas-Texas (Katy) Railroad depot, during the early 1970's, stood abandoned and paintless in a plowed field outside of Coupland.

Its windows were broken and its roof was full of holes. But the building was not long forgotten. A group of area residents, the Coupland Community Club, decided to turn the depot into a museum as a part of their Bicentennial project.

The old building had been purchased by a local farmer in the 1950's shortly after the Katy Railroad had ceased its passenger and mail service to Coupland.

The community club, along with other individuals and groups, held fund raising events to generate enough money to purchase the building and move it to back to town.

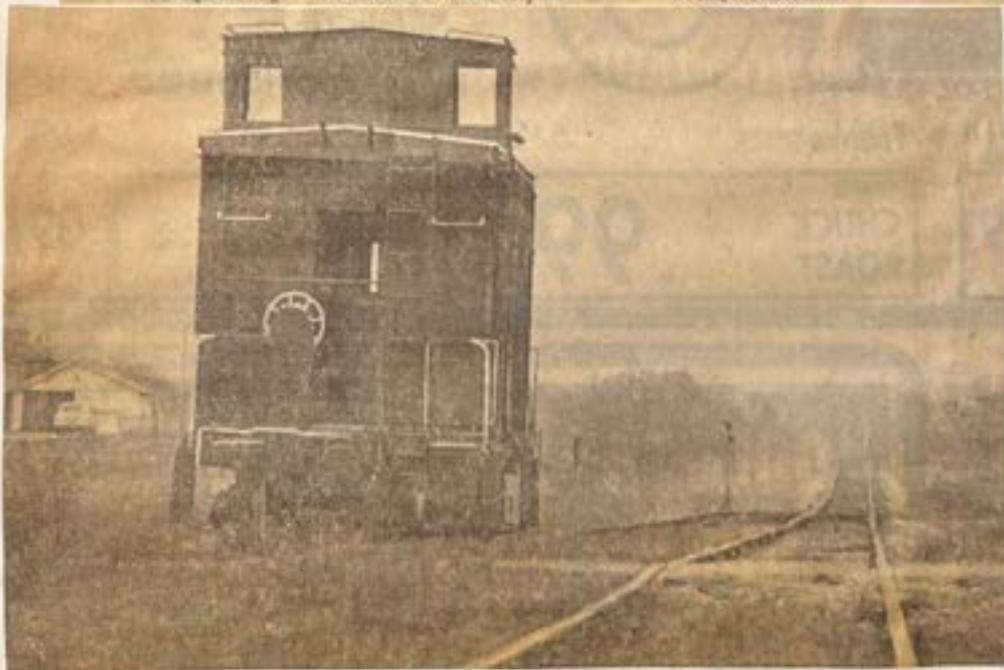
Stocking the building — now repainted and renovated — with antique railroad depot equipment was not too difficult, since a number of area residents had saved railroad mementos and other artifacts from earlier days.

The old depot is a fitting place for an area museum, since it was the railroad and dreams of riches that would come from it that established the town of Coupland.

In 1867, the Taylor, Bastrop, and Austin Railway bought a 100-foot right of way from Civil War veteran Maj. Theodore Coupland to extend the rail line from Taylor to Boggy Creek toward Houston.

Coupland and two Taylor men, C.H. Welch and H. Dickson, joined to form a land corporation. The Coupland City Company bought 200 acres of land on both sides of the railroad tracks.

Coupland never became the big town that Theodore Coupland had envisioned, but in 1900, the community had three blacksmith shops, three cotton gins, a dray line, a three-story hotel near the tracks, and three saloons.



OFF THE TRACK — This old caboose stands beside the Missouri-Pacific tracks it rode in its younger days. The wooden caboose, made in the 1920s, has

been moved to Coupland, where it will become part of the Coupland Museum. (Staff Photo by Tom Lankes)

Taylor Daily Press

Published Every Day Except Sundays

Historical Committee Continues County Work

The historical committee of the Taylor County Historical Society is continuing its work on the county's history. The committee is currently working on a book about the county's early settlers. The book will be published in the next few months. The committee is also working on a series of articles about the county's history. The articles will be published in the Taylor Daily Press. The committee is also working on a series of exhibits about the county's history. The exhibits will be displayed in the county's historical society building.

Local News

The local news section of the Taylor Daily Press contains information about events in the county. The section includes news about the county's schools, government, and businesses. The section also includes news about the county's sports teams. The local news section is a valuable source of information for residents of Taylor County.

Taylor Daily Press

"Williamson County's Only Daily Newspaper"

TAYLOR, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 1977

35 Years Ago

Taylorite Flew In Doolittle Raid On Tokyo

On April 18, 1942 sixteen flyers under the command of Brig. Gen. James H. Doolittle left an aircraft carrier in the Pacific for a "dangerous secret mission."

To be chosen one of the 16 for this mission was tantamount to the highest recognition for flying ability and cool courage that could be given any flyer, one officer said. All 16 men in the B25 bombers accomplished their mission, landed in at least semi-friendly territory and later made their way back to the United States, proclaimed as heroes.

The mission was the bombing of Tokyo, not too many months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.

One of the men in the group was Taylor's Ross Wilder, then a First Lieutenant in the Air Corps who had already accounted for sinking two Japanese submarines and later flew missions in the European and the North African theaters. Wilder, son of the late Mr.

and Mrs. L. A. Wilder of Taylor and brother of Mrs. Newton (Catherine) Holman, rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel before he started his terminal leave. He and others on the historic flight were awarded Distinguished Service Crosses for their valor.

The story of the raid is interesting, and a scrapbook is being kept by Wilder's sister to pass on to her two sons.

According to Wilder's account, and accounts of others on the mission, there was extensive and intensive training, with the target unidentified until the last minute. Approach to Tokyo was almost tree-top height, so low that the flyers could see Japanese waving to them, evidently thinking that the incoming planes had been captured by their own country and were being flown in for exhibit.

The Japanese had fortifications on mountains surrounding Tokyo, but the

bombers came in so low that the enemy actually shelled their own territory in trying to hit the planes.

Wilder's plane carried four bombs, he reported. Three were demolitions, one was

incendiary. In only 15 seconds, Wilder's plane hit targets assigned to him — a big power house, an oil tank farm, an engine manufacturing plant that was hit by the incendiary bomb, and another manufacturing plant.

Anti-aircraft fire was surrounding them, but the enemy shells missed their target. Flying on through rain and darkness until the gas gauge registered zero, Wilder and his four crewmen parachuted out of the plane, landing in Chinese territory.

The flyers were given the Military Order of China by Chang Kai-Shek before their departure from the Orient.

Thirty days after the raid, all crewmen of the mission were out of China and back on their way to the United States.

For Wilder, it meant the beginning of duty in Europe and North Africa, but not until after he had been honored as a hero by his hometown. Then Major Robert H. Hewitt

proclaimed Thursday, May 21, 1942 as Ross Wilder Day, honoring the 26-year-old son of the principal of the Southside School and of an employee of the Texas Liquor Control Board.

After leaving the service, Wilder and his wife, the former Mildred Poth of Seguin, and his two children, Morris and Shelby, made their home in Dallas where Wilder died in 1964.

Morris is now in law work in Houston and Shelby is Mrs. Kantenberger of Dallas.

First word of the Tokyo raid came in a brief item over the teletype in the Taylor Daily Press office on the day of the raid. It consisted of only one sentence, and most editors overlooked it, thinking it was only a rumor and could not possibly be true. But George Peeler, then owner and editor of the Press, published the small item then later gloried in the fact that he had spotted the "report" which included the deeds of a Taylor boy.



TOKYO BOMBER
ROSS WILDER

THS Slates History Day On Thursday

History students at Taylor High School will go to the library Thursday, not to check out books, but to listen to first hand accounts of life in Taylor and surrounding communities in "the old days" from such "old timers" as T. J. Johnson, Myrella Matthews, Mignon L. Hicks and A. M. "Swede" Ahlgren.

Johnson, now a gentleman farmer at Plum, Texas was formerly superintendent of schools in Taylor and still keeps records of Taylor Duck athletes and keeps up to date a history of the schools here.

Miss Matthews, who is serving as chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission, is a former public school teacher.

Mrs. Hicks grew up in Taylor and attended Blackbear school, Praine View A&M and then taught for a time at Georgetown before moving to Washington, D.C. where she worked at the General Accounting Office.

Ahlgren served Taylor for many years as city clerk and is still active with many organizations including the Williamson County Historical Society.

Other speakers will be Mrs. Dorene Anderson, great niece of the legendary Big Pickett, who will tell about the world famous rodeo rider; Kermit Nygard of Elgin who will give the history of some guns and coins from his collections; Father Albert Ruiz who will speak about the Mexican Americans in Taylor; Barney Downing, who has worked on the restoration of the depot and railroad car which now serves as a museum in Coupland; the Rev. Jewel K. Johnson, who has written a booklet about

Coupland called, City on a Hill, and who will tell of the Indian battles which took place in that area.

Jane B. Welch of Dallas, author of eight books about Texas and chairman of the Department of History at the University of Dallas, will speak at 12:30, 1:30 and 2:30 p.m. Her subject will be "Things That Fall Down Between the Cracks of Texas History." Her books have been described as gift books because they are often

large and lavishly illustrated with old photographs, but he has also written Texas: New Perspectives, a Texas history text and two novels. Here's to Charley Boyd and Dave's Tune. Anyone from the community who would like to meet Dr. Welch or hear him speak is invited to come to the High School library.

Sure to be a center of interest is the tasting table of ethnic foods which will be provided by the Spanish Club. It will offer bite size bits of soul food, Spanish delicacies and Czech kolaches among other things. "Local History Day in the Library" is the annual project of the Library Club of which Casey Smith is president.

Elisha Allen historical grave marker erected in Williamson County

An Official Texas Historical Grave Marker honoring Elisha Allen has been erected in Williamson County, and a Dedication Program will be held on May 1, 1977 at 2:30 p.m. at the grave site in the Old Bartlett Cemetery, on State Highway 95, 3 miles South of Bartlett. According to an announcement made by Myrleta Matthews of Liberty Hill,

Chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

The marking of graves of outstanding pioneer Texans is one part of the general marking program of the Texas Historical Commission.

AMONG THE GRAVES that have been recognized are those of former Texas governors and statesmen, heroes of the Texas Revolution, veterans of every

major war in which the United States has fought, frontiersmen, school teachers, buffalo hunters and ordinary citizens who were in the vanguard of settlers who migrated to Texas in the early 19th century.

Among the other preservation activities of the Historical Commission are archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and the ad-

ministration of the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas.

The name and location of this marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers. As of 1974 the Historical Commission had erected more than 4,000 markers throughout the state.

THE INSCRIPTION on the

Bartlett marker reads:

"ELISHA ALLEN
(DECEMBER 16, 1823-MARCH
6, 1892) —

A native of Louisiana, Elisha Allen moved with his parents in 1827 to what is now Orange County. When the Texas revolution began, Allen joined the Army and fought at the siege of Bexar, Dec. 3-9, 1835. He explored the Texas Frontier with

a survey party in 1838. In 1848 he married Margaret Wood; they had eight children. A Williamson County pioneer, 1856-1876, Allen settled on Indian Creek in Bell County in 1876 and helped build a community church and schoolhouse.

The Williamson County SUN - Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 9 Thursday, May 5, 1977

Marker dedicated

The Elisha Allen (1823-1892) Historical Grave Marker dedication program took place in the Old Bartlett Cemetery on SH 95, near Bartlett Sunday, May 1, at 2:30 p.m.

More than 40 descendants and friends attended the ceremony honoring this veteran of the Texas Revolution for Independence. He was a volunteer in the army and fought in the Battle of San Antonio in December 1835.

Bobby A. Hill, Mayor of the City of Bartlett, presided and made the introductions.

Rev. Estill Allen Jr. of Market, Texas, a descendant, gave the invocation

and made the dedication address. Mattie Stockton of Bartlett, a granddaughter, unveiled the marker. Ollie Kuykenhall of San Angelo, a descendant, read the script on the marker and Myrleta Stockton Bridges of Sonora, a great-granddaughter accepted a framed copy of the marker script. Rev. Allen pronounced the benediction.

The Williamson County Historical Commission, under whose auspices the Marker was erected, was represented by Dr. and Mrs. Van C. Tipton of Georgetown and Myrleta Matthews of Liberty Hill.



Rev. Estill Allen, Dr. Van C. Tipton, Mayor Hill, Mrs. Tipton.



Official Texas Historical Grave Marker X5
Williamson County (SMF) - 9/13/76 - Old
Bartlett Cemetery, on SH 95, 3 mi. S of Bartlett

ELISHA ALLEN
(DECEMBER 16, 1813-MARCH 6, 1893)

A NATIVE OF LOUISIANA, ELISHA ALLEN
MOVED WITH HIS PARENTS IN 1827 TO
WHAT IS NOW ORANGE COUNTY. WHEN
THE TEXAS REVOLUTION BEGAN, ALLEN
JOINED THE ARMY AND FOUGHT AT
THE SIEGE OF BEXAR, DEC. 5-9, 1835. HE
EXPLORED THE TEXAS FRONTIER WITH
A SURVEY PARTY IN 1838. IN 1849 HE
MARRIED MARGARET WOOD; THEY HAD
8 CHILDREN. A WILLIAMSON COUNTY
PIONEER, 1850-1870, ALLEN SETTLED ON
INDIAN CREEK IN BELL COUNTY IN 1870
AND HELPED BUILD A COMMUNITY
CHURCH AND SCHOOLHOUSE.

RECORDED - 1976

James A. Duncan attended school at St. Andrews, and when his education was completed he entered the English navy, and served Her Majesty's Government four years. At the expiration of that period he resigned his position, and emigrated to the United States, settling in New Orleans, Louisiana, in 1848. Here he began the study of theology, and in 1849 united with the Episcopal Church at Algiers; he at once began work there, and assisted in the building of the Church of Mt. Olivet. In 1853 he went to Canada, but at the end of a year returned to Louisiana. The following year he purchased property in Grimes county, Texas, and for twenty-two years made that his abiding place. He opened a plantation and also gave some attention to the raising of sheep on a large scale. The nearest Episcopal Church being 100 miles from his plantation, he took membership in the Methodist Church South, and was ordained a Deacon at La Grange, Texas, about 1861, and three years later, at the same place, he was ordained an Elder. For twenty-two years he preached in Madison, Grimes and Leon counties, and organized several churches. He afterward went to Bastrop county, where he remained two years; he was then stationed at Columbus and Weimar for three years. Mr. Duncan returned to the Episcopal Church in 1888. Then for ten months he filled the post of missionary at Lampasas, while Mrs. Duncan was in ill health. In 1888 he was called to St. Luke's parish, Belton and the Mission Church at Temple. He made his home at Belton for three years; and in December, 1891, removed to Temple; here he owns some valuable property; he has erected four dwellings, and has an interest in Duncan & Co.'s addition of eighty-two lots, situated on an elevated ridge in the north-eastern part of Temple. This is certain to increase in value, and is destined to be one of the most desirable portions of the city.

Mr. Duncan has been twice married; at Watertown, New York, he was united to Miss Marion Locke, a daughter of Captain Locke,

a member of a Scotch regiment, who lost his life in the Island of Ceylon. Mrs. Duncan died in December, 1888, at Belton, leaving five children: Silas A. D., Elizabeth, wife of J. W. Martin; James E., Alexander Perry, Emma, wife of Louis Ellers; and Louisa, who died in Canada. Mr. Duncan was married October 6, 1891, to Mrs. E. T. Young.

In all the walks of life Mr. Duncan has proven himself worthy to fill any position to which he might be called. He is a gentleman of scholarly attainments, is affable and genial in his bearing, and is highly esteemed and beloved by all classes, irrespective of religious denominations.



WILSHIA ALLEN, one of the oldest citizens of Bell county, although one of the oldest men in the county, is one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers. He has been identified with the best interests of Texas from his youth up, and it is eminently fitting that a biography of him should occupy a conspicuous place in the history of Bell county.

Mr. Allen was born in St. Helena parish, Louisiana, son of William and Hannah (Pride) Allen, natives of North Carolina and Tennessee respectively. His parents were married in Tennessee, went to Natchez, Mississippi, at an early day, and remained there for two or three years, after which they removed to St. Helena Parish, Louisiana. They were living within sound of the guns when Jackson fought the battle of New Orleans, in 1814. They subsequently moved from there to the western part of that State, and in 1827 came to Texas. Here Mr. Allen located on Cow Bayou, near Sabine bay, in what is now Orange county, where he resided until his death, about 1830. He was engaged in stock-raising and farming, in a small way. By his first wife, whose maiden name was Hazial, Mr. Allen had the following named children: Nathaniel, born November 15, 1783; Peter, born May 24, 1785;

Lydia, born February 10, 1788, became the wife of John Stephenson; William, born June 16, 1790; Mary, born June 14, 1822, married a Mr. Speillers; and John B., born November 9, 1795. By his second wife, mother of the subject of this article, the issue was as follows: Daniel, born June 13, 1797; Thomas, July 16, 1799; Sarah, wife of George A. Pattillo, March 29, 1801; Elizabeth, December 18, 1802, married Eli Chaney; Jemima, October 9, 1804, was the wife of Charles Morgan; Aaron, October 9, 1806; Moses, December 14, 1808; George, May 1, 1811; Elisha, December 16, 1813; Benjamin, November 4, 1815; and Elijah, September 24, 1817. All except Thomas reared a family of children, and of this large number of brothers and sisters Elisha is the only one now living. John and Daniel were in the war of 1812, and both participated in the battle of New Orleans.

Elisha Allen was principally reared in Orange county, Texas. His parents being poor, he received little education. However, being a close observer and possessing natural ability, he gained sufficient knowledge to enable him to transact business successfully, and from a poor boy he worked his way up in the world.

At the commencement of the war of 1835, he volunteered his services to the State. After the battle of San Antonio, in which he participated, he was discharged and returned home. His brother-in-law, George A. Pattillo, owned a mill in Orange county, the only mill available in that part of the Republic, and this young Allen helped his brother-in-law to run, it being conducted in the interest of Texas.

Mr. Allen continued to call Orange county his home till 1850, although much of the time he was traveling through other portions of the State, and was frequently among the savage tribes. In 1838 he was with a surveying party in this section of the country and was often with the Indians, although he was never troubled by them. The country was covered with wild cattle, horses, buffaloes and deer, and Mr. Allen remembers when there were only

three families living at the mouth of the Brazos. He is a great admirer of that distinguished statesman, Sam Houston, with whom he was well acquainted. At the time Santa Anna was captured, and while on his way to New Orleans, he and his escort of three men stopped at the home of Mr. Pattillo, and stayed all night. Santa Anna is described by Mr. Allen as being a fine-looking man, but some historians have pictured him as the opposite.

In 1850 the subject of our sketch became one of the pioneer settlers of Williamson county, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising, remaining there till 1870. While he never had any trouble with the Indians many of his neighbors did, and all the young men with whom he was acquainted in 1838 were afterward killed by them.

From Williamson county Mr. Allen moved in 1870 to his present farm on Indian creek, in Bell county. Here he settled on a tract of wild land, 633 acres, having at that time only about half a dozen neighbors within several miles. Between here and Belton there were only two or three families. The Indians frequently made raids through the country, stealing stock and occasionally killing a man.

Mr. Allen was married in 1849, to Miss Margaret Wood, of Mississippi, daughter of William and Sallie (Frost) Wood. After the death of Mr. Wood, which occurred when Mrs. Wood was small, Mrs. Wood married William Gillmore, and in 1840 or 1841 came to Texas. By Mr. Wood she had three children, viz.: Mary M., wife of George Tollison; Margaret, and Cynthia M., who was never married. By her last husband she also had three children: Sarah, Matilda and Artemissa. Sarah is deceased. Mrs. Allen's maternal grandfather, John Frazier, was for many years County Clerk of Jasper county, Texas. He and his wife were natives of Scotland. The children born to Mr. and Mrs. Allen are as follows: George A., born July 19, 1850; E. M., January 28, 1854; Sarah A., April 21, 1856, became the wife of Thomas Denson; William B., May 20, 1859;

Mary M., July 14, 1862, is the wife of Edward Lughlin; J. M., March 24, 1865; S. O., December 6, 1867; Rachel D., September 8, 1872, married J. D. Phillips; S. O. Allen died March 29, 1887. Mrs. Allen is a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In his declining years Mr. Allen is well situated to enjoy life. Besides his home farm already referred to, and of which 200 acres are under cultivation, he owns 400 acres in Williamson county, eighty acres of this being cultivated. He is a man held in high respect by all who know him. Politically he has been a life-long Democrat. He is a demitted member of the A. F. & A. M.

Such is a brief outline of the life of one of Bell county's venerable pioneers.



JOHAN W. JOHNSON, a farmer of McLennan county, was born in West Virginia in 1840, a son of John S. and Eliza (LaFevor) Johnson, natives of Baltimore, Maryland, and the Emerald Isle. The parents were married in 1829 and settled in what is now West Virginia. The Johnson family came from Scotland previous to the war of Independence, and the paternal grandfather of our subject, Solomon Johnson, and his two brothers, Joseph and William, were prominent men of their day. Joseph Johnson was a famous politician, and in an early day was Governor of Virginia. He is well known to any who have read the history of that State and its Governors. William Johnson was a farmer and merchant by occupation. Solomon reared a family of eight children, many of whom were farmers and mechanics. John S. Johnson, the father of our subject, came to this State at the age of twelve years, and he selected farming as his chief profession through life. Of the parents' thirteen children, eleven lived to be grown, viz.: Jehu W., who served as County Judge of Colorado county, Texas, for some years; Solomon M., a resident of Jonesboro, Texas; Mary, deceased, was the wife of

Allen Hughes; John W., our subject; Martha A., wife of Judson Deison, of Clarksburg, West Virginia; Jesse H., Tax Collector of Columbus, Colorado county, Texas; Columbus, of Corpus Christi county; Jerome, of Colorado county; Elias, of Terrell, Texas; Bruce, of Ohio; and Bell, wife of Frank Jacob, of West Virginia. Mr. Johnson died in 1885, aged eighty years, and his widow, born in 1811, still resides at Clarksburg, West Virginia.

John W. Johnson, our subject, commenced life for himself at the age of twenty years, going first, in 1861, to New York. October 1, of that year he left Wassaic, New York, for West Virginia, and ten days later, in company with his brother Jehu and his family, they ran the blockade and came to this State. The party were arrested first at Pittsburg, as they were going to West Virginia, and after arriving at Clarksburg were arrested before leaving the train and forced to accept a parole of honor. Mr. Johnson went to the headquarters of General Rosecrans and tried to secure a permit to come to Texas, but, being refused, succeeded in running the blockade.

In 1861 our subject arrived in Fort Bend county, Texas, and in February, 1862, joined Waul's Legion, Company E, Willis' battalion, and served in the Eastern Division of the army. He was with General Forrest three years and attached to McCullough's brigade, and participated in the battles of Harrisburg, Fort Pillow, Town Creek, Coldwater, and numerous other minor engagements. Under ex-Governor Ross they made a raid into north Alabama and fought A. J. Smith, who was rebuilding a railroad through that country. Ross' command tore up the road for eleven days, fighting General Smith each day with his army of about 30,000 men, while the Confederates under Ross, only numbered some 3,000. They surrendered at Canton, Mississippi, after which Mr. Johnson returned to his father's home at Clarksburg, Virginia. During the latter part of the struggle the father commanded a regiment of State militia, and for a short time had his men out

STATE FINANCED
GRAVE MARKER

Texas Historical Commission
Truett Latimer, Executive Director
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711

September 23, 1976

(date)

An Official Texas Historical Grave Marker honoring

Elisha Allen

(name of marker)

will be erected in _____

Williamson

County on _____

(date)

Dr. Van C. Tipton

(name of chairman)

of

Georgetown

(town)

chairman of the County Historical Survey Committee, made the announcement.

The marker will be placed in Old Bartlett Cemetery, on SH 95

3 mi. S of Bartlett. The inscription reads: (see attached copy)

The marking of graves of outstanding pioneer Texans is one part of the general marking program of the Texas Historical Commission. Among the graves that have been recognized are those of former Texas governors and statemen, heroes of the Texas Revolution, veterans of every major war in which the United States has fought, frontier doctors, school teachers, buffalo hunters, and ordinary citizens who were in the vanguard of settlers who migrated to Texas in the early 19th century.

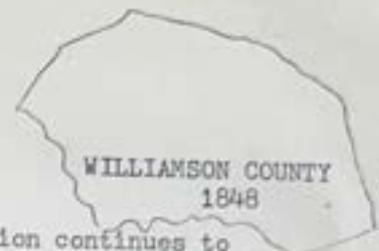
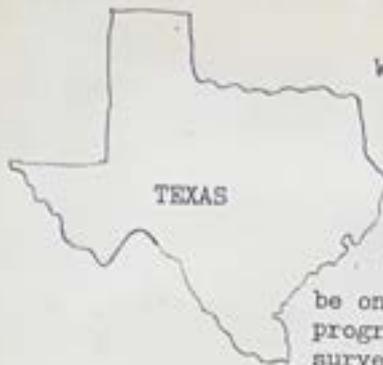
Among the other preservation activities of the Historical Commission are archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and the administration of the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas.

The name and location of this marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers. As of 1974 the Historical Commission had erected more than 6,800 markers throughout the state.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWO MAY 1, 1977

VOLUME SIX



The Williamson County Historical Commission continues to be on the alert in promoting history in the county by having dedication programs, appreciation programs, continued research into family history, surveying and listing cemeteries and other preservation methods.

DEDICATION

A Texas Historical Grave Marker, honoring Elisha Allen (1813-1893), was dedicated at the Old Bartlett Cemetery, May 1, 1977 at 2:30. The program for this Veteran of the Texas Revolution for Independence was planned and carried out by some of his descendants. Mrs. Mattie Stockton of Bartlett, a grand daughter, lifted the appropriate red, white and blue satin ribbon bow from the medallion. Rev. Estill Allen, Jr. of Blanket, Texas gave the invocation and the address, Miss Ollie Kuykendall, of San Angelo, and Mrs. Myrtle Stockton, of Sonora were on the program. All were great-grand children of Elisha Allen. The mayor of Bartlett, Bobby A. Hill presided.

The script for the John Berry Historical Marker has been received by the sponsors.

PROGRAMS

On April 21st the Library Club of the Taylor High School had its 3rd annual "Local History Day in the Library". Mrs. Mary Jean Livingood, Librarian and Sponsor, arranged to have speakers for every class that came into the library throughout the day. Several ethnic groups and the Historical Commission were represented in the ten or more participants. The Williamson County Flag was displayed and explained. In the afternoon the featured speaker was June R. Welch, author of several books including Texas Courthouses. He made quite a hit with his tall tales as he spoke to all the students who came into the library at the beginning of each class period. Students were then divided into smaller groups to hear other speakers.

Spicewood School in the Round Rock Independent School District celebrated its Second Annual P.T.A. Heritage Day with a parade on April 19th at the school. The pupils dressed in clothing depicting the nation's heritage and marched in the parade or rode on small decorated vehicles. The Williamson County Flag carried by two girls in costume led the parade. Mrs. Mary Ann Kesmerer, P.T.A. President, presided.

CEMETERY LISTS

The listing goes on. Cemetery lists completed recently are Lawrence Chapel, Palm Valley, Barker Family on the Bullion Farm and the Bolding Family about nine miles southwest of Bartlett. This makes more than thirty entries for Volume 2. There are at least that many more not yet surveyed. We have the knowledge of these but not the names and dates. Cemetery surveying is not an easy task. It requires time, talent, tact and tough touring and thorough dedication for transcribing.

Historical Societies

The Williamson County Historical Commission welcomes the formation of a new group of Historians, the Georgetown Heritage Society. We pledge full support and cooperation. There is a need for such a group in other communities in the county.

FAMILY LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM

"Along with providing a means of honoring the Heritage families, the Program has enabled the gathering of uniquely personal agricultural histories.

Each entry stems mainly from oral histories which might be lost forever if not recorded in the Registry. The Department is proud to provide this record of Texas Agriculture." John C. White, Commissioner

Reagan V. Brown, the new Commissioner, has announced the continuation of the program and asked all County Historical Commissions to cooperate with the County Judges in helping with applications for this Family Farm recognition.

Myreta Matthews



IT WILL SOON BE GONE—The old Morelle house at 802 Elm Street will soon be only a memory in Georgetown. The lot and house were bought by Arthur Landeiss of 306 East Eighth Street. He sold the house to Arthur and Ola Calk of Austin who plan to move the old structure to that city. Built almost 99 years ago by Charles Morelle, the oldest part of

the structure (the two story front of the house) is the portion the Calks plan to move and restore. The back addition will simply be torn down. The house was last occupied in 1973 by Mrs. Pearl Morelle McKenzie, who moved to the Wesleyan in that year. Mrs. McKenzie died in June of 1976, leaving the house to her nephew, Virgil Morelle.

The Sunday SUN
page 11
Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, May 1, 1977

Historical activities continue in county

The Williamson County Historical Commission met May 3, in the Georgetown Public Library. Members present represented Andice-Gabriel Mills, Florence, Georgetown, Jarrell, Liberty Hill, Round Rock and Taylor.

Historical activities are continuing in various ways throughout the county, with

History Appreciation taking the lead especially in the schools of the county.

The Library Club of the Taylor High School had its 3rd annual "Local History Day in the Library" on April 21. Mrs. Mary Jean Livingood, librarian and sponsor, arranged to have speakers for every class that came into the library throughout the day. Several ethnic groups were represented as well as three members of the Historical Commission. In the afternoon the featured speaker was June R. Welch, author of several books including "Texas Courthouses." His "tall tales" were well received by the listeners.

Georgetown High School students are continuing to work on research projects. Some classes are continuing to survey and record area cemeteries. Others are making a file of old pictures.

Leander High School Junior Historians are also active.

Out-of-county Heritage Tours were participated in by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Paris, Mrs. D. B. Gregg and Mrs. Camilla Durrenberger.

Places visited were Beaumont, Nacogdoches, Crockett, Salado and the L.B.J. Country. Miss Cora Sexton took part as a guide in the Salado Historic Tour.

A Texas Historical Grave Marker, honoring Elisha Allen (1812-1893), was dedicated at the Old Bartlett Cemetery on May 3. His descendants participating in the program were Mrs. Matie Stockton, granddaughter of Bartlett, Texas and the following great grandchildren: Mrs. Myrtle Bridges of Sonora, Texas, Miss Ollie Kuykendall of San Angelo and Rev. Estill Allen, Jr. of Blanket, Texas.

The scripts for the John Berry Historical Marker has been received by the sponsors for their approval.

Williamson County HISTORY APPRECIATION WEEK was tentatively set for the week which includes July 4.

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 7, Page 3
Thursday, May 12, 1977

Mrs. Etha Scoggins
1707 Main St.
City 78626

6-1

Centennial Edition

The Williamson County Sun

Oldest newspaper in Williamson County — established May 19, 1877

Please Recycle This
and All Newspapers!

Georgetown, Texas 78626, Thursday, May 19, 1977

Call 864-4433
To Place Your Ads

\$1.50 per copy
Price .60¢ p



photo by John King

Publishers Don and Clara Scarbrough were up to their ears, head over heels in their Centennial Edition this week. Stacks of papers were all over the back end of the SUN, just waiting for the postman to do his act. The 108 page edition is the largest single paper ever published in Williamson County.



HERE'S OUR 100 YEAR OLD POSE, and some of us feel the age after putting the final section of our 108 page Centennial Issue together Wednesday. In the first row, left to right, are Clara Scarbrough, Patty Raby, Fairy Brast, Buddy Adams,

Quana "Snooky" Austin, Gene Bracamoster and Don Scarbrough. Back row, same way, Marilyn Rosenblad, Bonnie Gradnitski, Peggy Swift, Vi Sandberg, Oline Behrens, Elmina Pope, John King and Steve Gelub.

They published the SUN----



DON SCARBROUGH



JOHN M. SHARPE



FRANK T. ROCHE



JESSIE EUGENE COOPER



Williamson County's New \$120,000 Court House.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK

Established In 1893

CAPTAIN EMZY TAYLOR
WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT



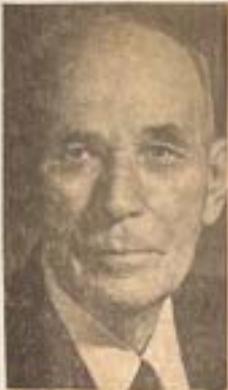
Some warm tears were shed when the above bank building was razed in 1968 so that it could be replaced by a larger and more modern structure.

Many felt the old building, built early this century, was one of the most handsome buildings in the county.



Interior of the first building of the First National Bank, organized by Capt. Emzy Taylor

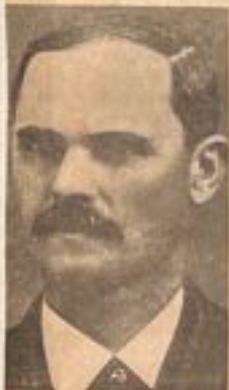
March 15, 1890, and chartered May 1, 1890. Identity of the people is not known, unfortunately.



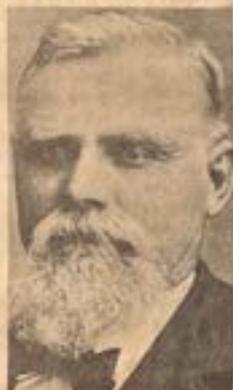
E. H. Eanes
1936-1969



Wm. R. Eanes
1959-



Emory Taylor
1890-1893



A. J. Nelson
1893-1895



J. E. Cooper
1896-1906
1913-1936



F. W. Carothers
1906-1911



THERE ARE THE BANKERS: President William R. Eanes sits in the center, flanked by Vice-President Leroy Berkman on the left and Vice-President Kenzie Wiley on the right. E. L. "Pop" Williams, Public Relations officer, is at the right of the picture. Others, reading left to right, are Lena Williams, Sue Marshall, Joyce Wilson, Charisie Milligan, Goldie Glass, Beatrice Guajardo, Louise Jordan, Connie Landry, Jo Karr, Diane Collins and Sybil Wyatt. Not pictured is Irvin Leschber.



Bellard Lumber Company office in Georgetown, was an important contracting and lumber business in this area for more than half a century. The wagon and team of horses, stopping moments across the mud and lightly graveled street are typical of the late 1800s.



THE FOUNDER, S. T. ATKIN

MRS. S. T. ATKIN



J. THATCHER ATKIN

MRS. J. T. ATKIN

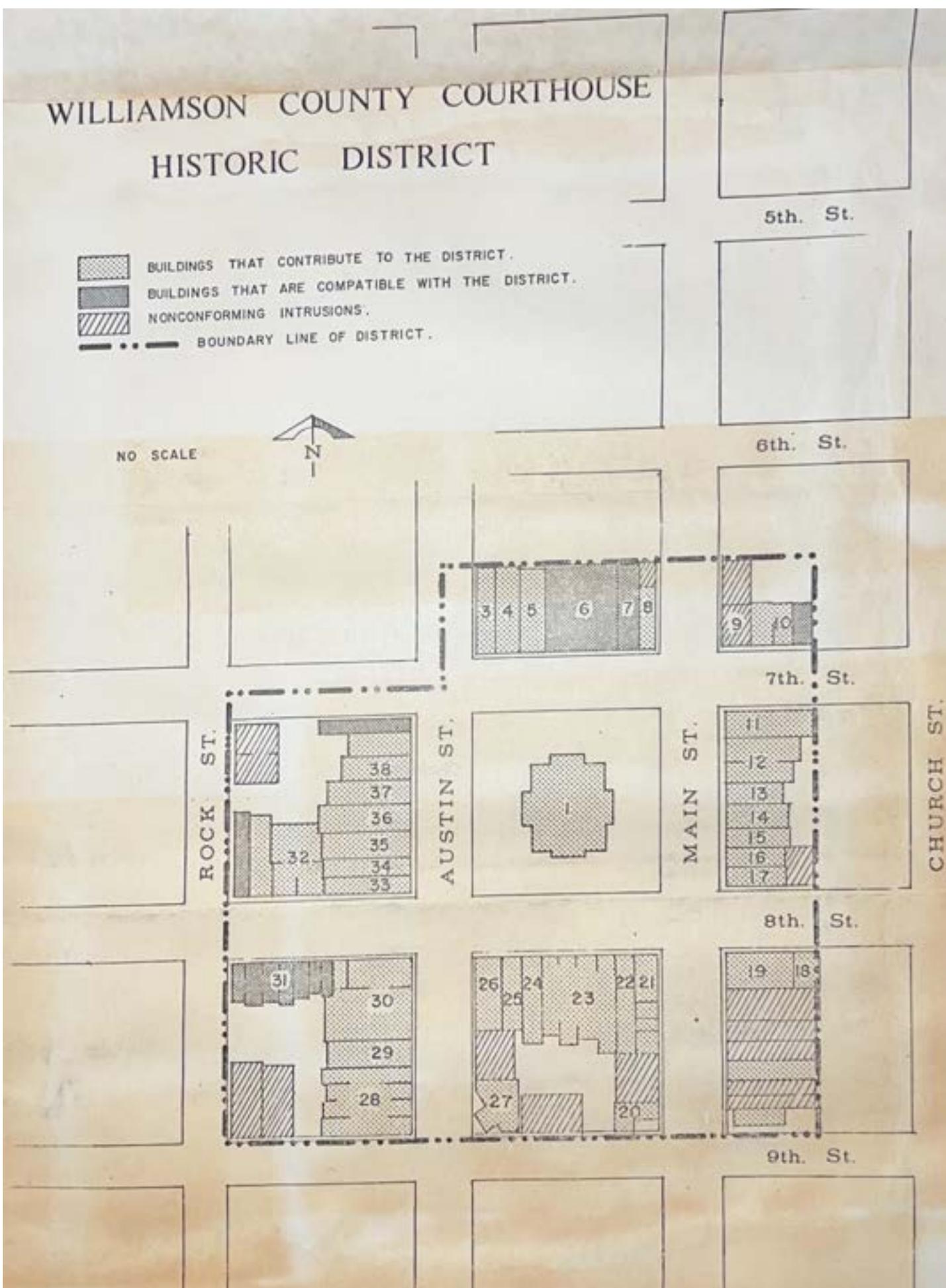


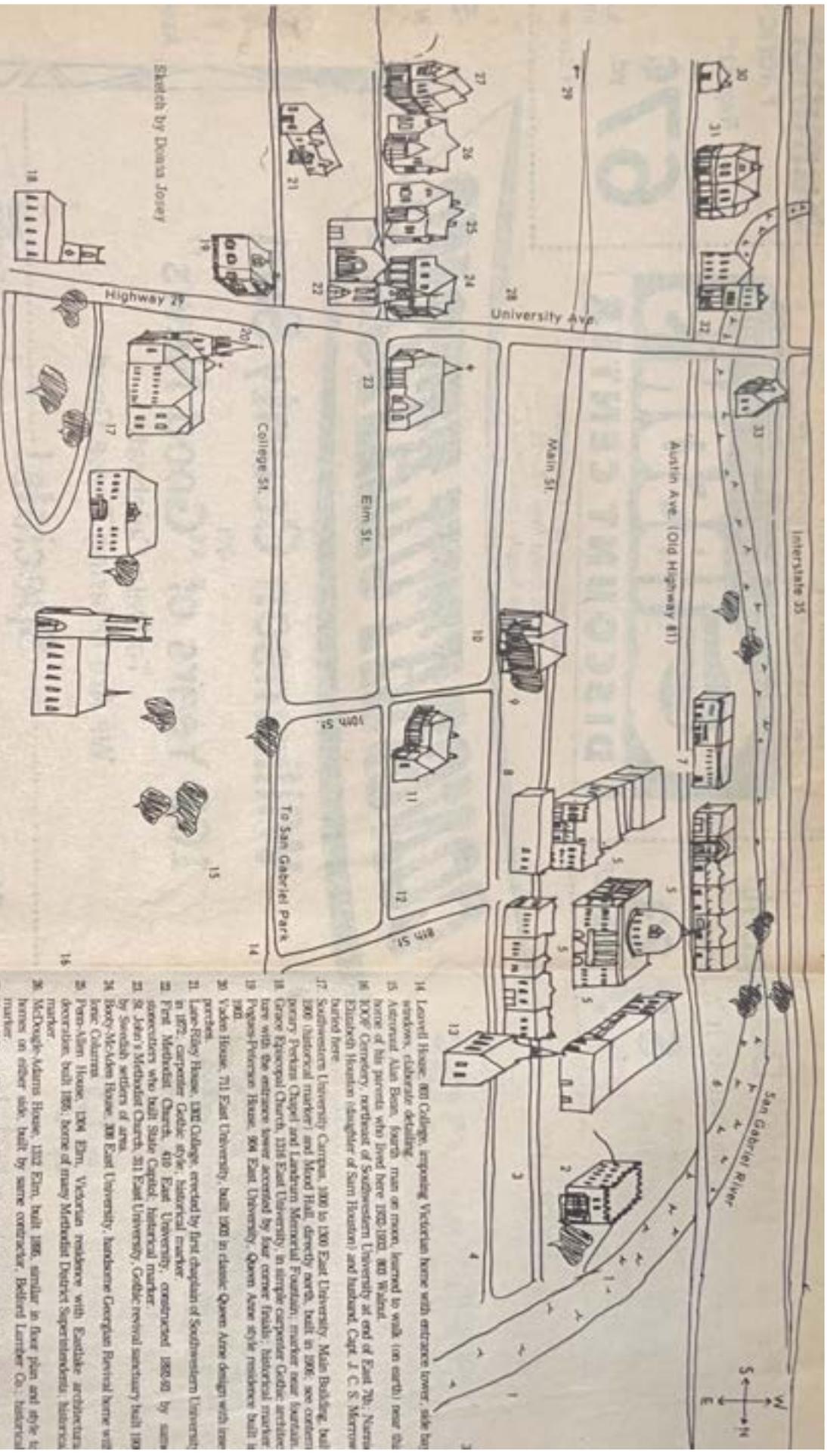
The S. T. Atkin Furniture Company has been in business "On the Square in Georgetown" since 1917. It was first located in a building where the Georgetown Public Library now stands and in 1925 moved into its present location. S. T. Atkin, father of the present owner, J. Thatcher Atkin, and his wife were active in the business until his death in 1926. J. Thatcher Atkin left his other interests, teaching mathematics on the university level, to take over the reins of the business in 1935.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT

- BUILDINGS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE DISTRICT.
- BUILDINGS THAT ARE COMPATIBLE WITH THE DISTRICT.
- NONCONFORMING INTRUSIONS.
- BOUNDARY LINE OF DISTRICT.

NO SCALE





GEORGETOWN

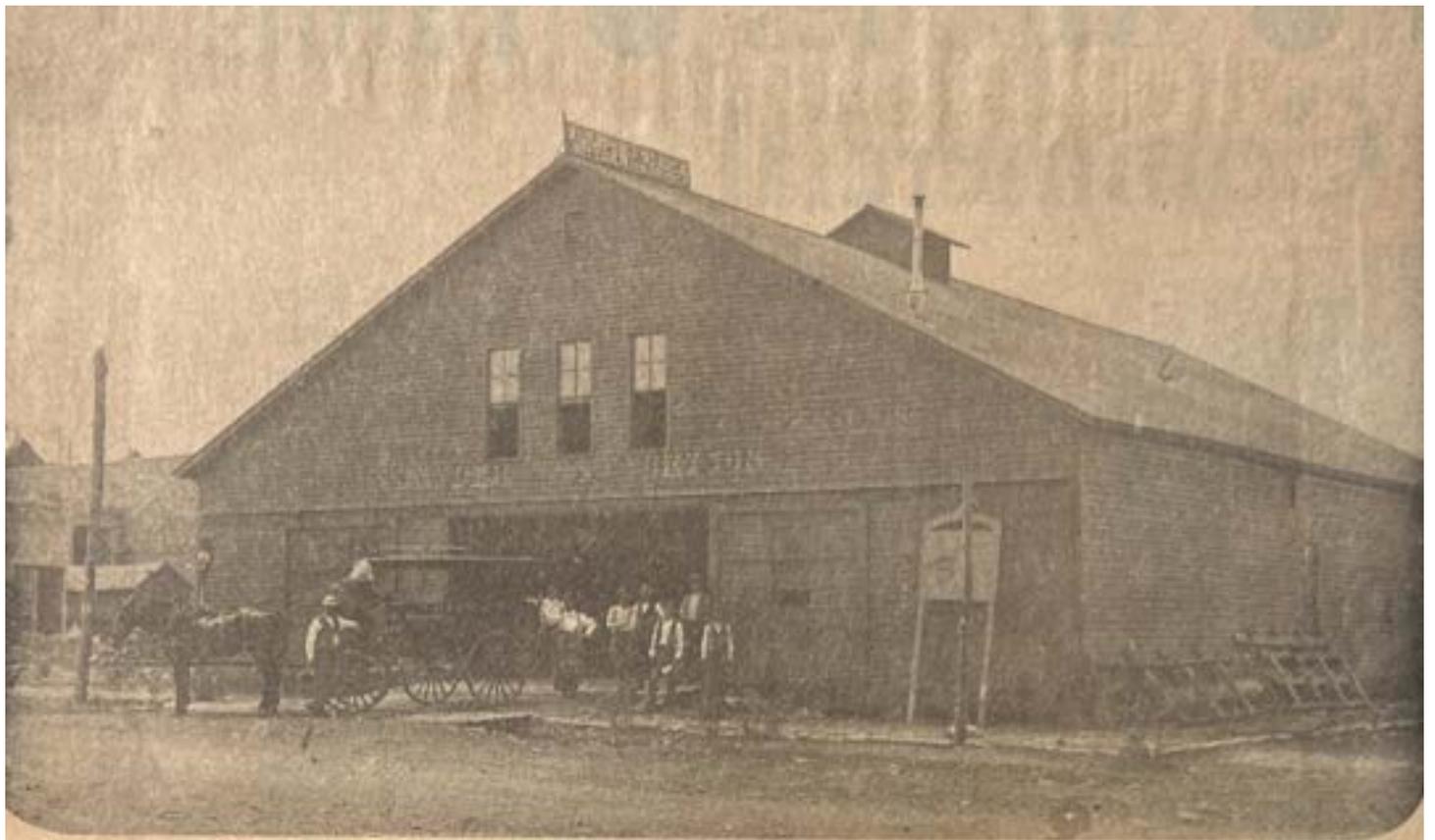
Sketch by Donna Jorey

- San Gabriel River and Park, site of early Tonkawa Indian village near Tonkawa Springs and confluence of the north and south forks of river; site of camp meetings, Old Settlers Association encampment, fairs, revivals, political rallies. Sam Houston made political appearances here.
- Williamson County Jail, 212 Main, built 1888 in handle style atop "Jail Hill." Cattle drives passed to west of jail along SH 81, historical marker.
- Cooper House, 105 East 5, built 1860-71, still owned by descendants.
- Site of Edna Tabbot home, near 220 Church Street, which had underground tunnel, was used by Negroes escaping the South during Civil War. Home was meeting place for orators of President Lincoln and Governor Sam Houston.
- Georgetown Square Historic District, 700 block of Austin Avenue and Main - five examples of Victorian ornamental architecture; historic markers on square and to west.
- San Gabriel (Old Georgetown) Cemetery, burial place of frontier families, Judge Robert Jones Rivers, great grandfather of Admiral Richard E. Byrd, historical marker.
- Site of first building in Georgetown, 800 Austin Avenue, built summer 1804. (1) story 18 foot-square log house used as hotel, post office, telegraph stop, frequented by early settlers including Judge R. M. Williamson, for whom county was named, Judge R. E. Baylor, J. W. Throckmorton, Judge Robert Jones Rivers, who died in hotel 1864.
- Site of Founding of Georgetown and County Seat, corner 9th and Church, historical marker.
- James Daniel Ayres Home, 1004 Church, where famed woman's leader reformed life of other being widowed.
- Price Home, 320 Church, Victorian residence with finely marked segmented with dove.
- Edna Price Home, 207-09 East Tenth, unusual frame "T" shape with base of "T" toward street.
- Morelle House, 302 Elm, carpenter Gothic style with triple gables, with finials and Eastlake trim accentuating them.
- First Presbyterian Church, 720 Church, built 1875-77, private school held in house part of church was attended by Temple Houston, Sam Houston's youngest son.
- Levell House, 803 College, imposing Victorian home with entrance tower, side bay windows, elaborate detailing.
- Astronaut Alan Bean, fourth man on moon, learned to walk (on earth) near old home of his parents who lived here 1932-1962, 803 Walnut.
- 100th Anniversary, northeast of Southwestern University at end of East 7th, Norma Elizabeth Houston (daughter of Sam Houston) and husband, Capt. J. C. S. Morrow buried here.
- Southwestern University Campus, 300 to 1300 East University, Main Building, built 1906 (historical marker) and Mood Hall, directly north, built in 1908; see caption nearby; Perkins Chapel and Landrum Memorial Fountain, marker near fountain.
- Grace Episcopal Church, 1116 East University, in simple carpenter Gothic architecture with the entrance tower accented by four corner finials; historical marker.
- Pygoss-Petersen House, 904 East University, Queen Anne style residence built in 1902.
- Vaden House, 711 East University, built 1902 in classic Queen Anne design with tower porch.
- Lape-Riley House, 1302 College, erected by first deacon of Southwestern University in 1872; carpenter Gothic style; historical marker.
- First Methodist Church, 410 East University, constructed 1882-83 by same architects who built State Capitol, historical marker.
- St. John's Methodist Church, 311 East University, Gothic revival sanctuary built 1893 by Swedish settlers of area.
- Bony-McAdams House, 308 East University, handsome Georgian Provincial home with rare columns.
- Perrin-Alan House, 1204 Elm, Victorian residence with Eastlake architectural decoration, built 1885; home of many Methodist District Superintendents; historical marker.
- McDougle-Madams House, 1212 Elm, built 1885, similar in floor plan and style to home on other side, built by same contractor, Bedford Lattier Co.; historical marker.
- Harrill-Saxe House, 1404 Elm, erected 1885-86 in similar Victorian style of two homes north; historical marker.
- Cady-Ingles House, 304 East University, built about 1900 in Queen Anne period.
- Presbyterian Cemetery, land given by Captain John Sparks of Georgetown, later Governor of Nevada, at South Main and 30th.
- Flower Log Cabin, Austin Avenue and 16th Street, built 1820-34 near Gabriel Mill, near school, church, lodge meeting place and home; razed here, restored 1975-78; historical marker.
- Bedford Brown House, 1230 Austin Avenue, built 1885-88 by owner of Bedford Lattier Co.; see large halterstrapped gallery.
- Diller-Tamm House, 1228 Austin Avenue, built 1873 by New Orleans importer for his wife; Italianate style with three story carriage tower; owned by John Tamm, cartoonist who founded famed Winship Ranch, Nevada.
- Darwell-Gamble House, 511 2d west just east of 191st, built 1906 Texas Chausseaux Assembly grounds located 1885-96 on north bank of river near this home. Historical marker.
- San Gabriel Center, modern stone building began in 1928 under National Youth Administration; Lyndee Patson Johnson and State Director J. J. Finkle, located in San

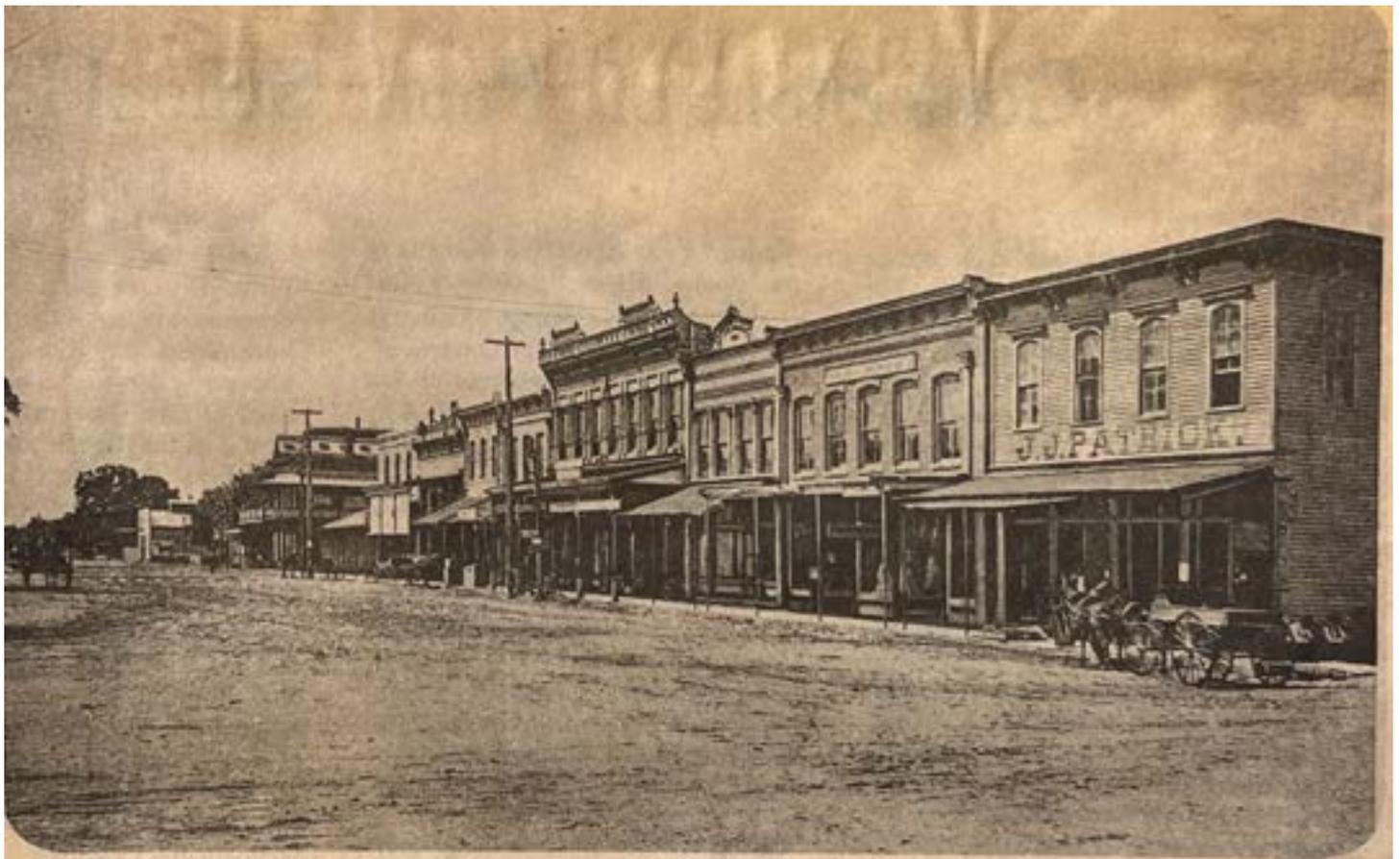


THE MASONIC TEMPLE, erected in 1900, is shown from a photograph about 1909, along with a view of Main Street looking south in Georgetown. The turreted corner on the Masonic building has an oriental flavor, and the Masonic insignia is worked in stone at the top center of the facade facing west. Note the

dirt streets, and other buildings, still standing in 1977, which are a part of Georgetown's Historic Square District. On the west side of the street in the distance, you see the old Stone Drug Store Building, now KGTV, and south of it, the (then) City Hall. Fire

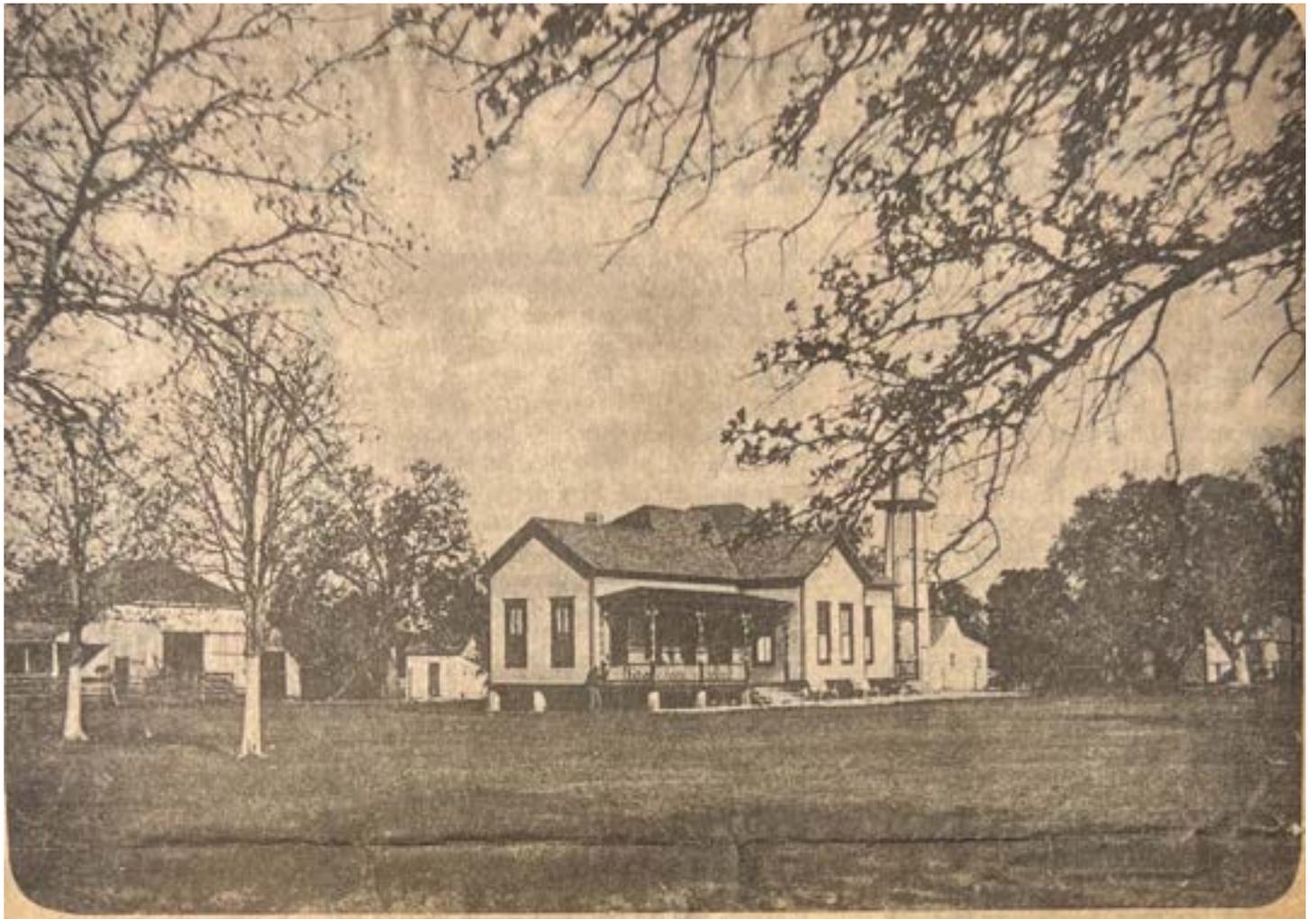


SNYDER & BRYSON LIVERY STABLE AND UNDERTAKERS frame building stood in 1895 about where the U. S. Post Office of Georgetown now is located. Standing in front of the horse-drawn wagonette is J. H. Bryson, and team driver is Dave Goodlett. The small window to the right of the group of men is in the office. The hearse was kept in the room on the corner, just to the right (behind the sign propped against the wall). Caskets were stored in the center front behind the open doorway, and horses were stabled in the rear. The business sign reads **ECLIPSE STABLE, SNYDER & BRYSON**, and the wagon reads "Snyder & Brysons Transfer. In the far left of the photo is seen the rear of the present Williamson County **SUN** and Heritage Printing buildings, with triangular ornaments showing above the roof.



Looking South on Brushy Street (Austin Avenue) around the turn of the century. Most of the buildings pictured still stand. At the intersection of Oak Street (Eighth), near the farthest telephone pole, was the old Makemson Hotel, earlier the Ake Hotel, and in front the covered drinking trough in the street, fed

by a spring which bubbled from the ground at this place. Here the early stagecoaches stopped to water their horses, and passengers revived themselves in Ake's Hotel on the corner, diagonally across from the Square. A drinking fountain was later installed nearby.



"Dr. Page's Mineral Wells Sanitarium" near the South San Gabriel River, close to the present site of Westside School, was a

popular mineral spa during the 1890s. "The baths" were considered therapeutic, as well as fashionable, at that time.



GEORGETOWN'S NEW WATER SPRINKLER at work June 1, 1894, on what was then called Brushy Street, now Austin Avenue, at the corner of Eighth Street (then called Oak). The streets were muddy in wet weather and extremely dusty during dry times.



"THE NOOK"

Shown here is a turn-of-the-century store, located south of the square (104 West 8th Street) just west of the old corner Stone Drug Store. "The Nook" was owned by R. A. Brenneke, who had a jewelry store, an ice cream parlor, and employed a Chinaman who made candy to sell. The Nook was moved in 1920.



Georgetown Water Works System was developed during 1880s, and the final step in the long process was the erecting of this standpipe on Main Street. It was built, filled and put into use in 1884. The fire station was built adjacent a little later, in 1889. Note carefully the wire fencing which covers the doorways of the station. The fire trucks were drawn by horses stabled in the building. The restored and enlarged station is still in use almost a century later as the Georgetown Fire Station.



Georgetown College, built in 1878, was only two stories high, without bell tower and decorations. It housed Southwestern University when it opened here in 1873. The third story was added in 1880-82 and it continued to be the University's classroom building-library-auditorium until the Administration Building was erected in 1906, five blocks to the east. The original building then became the Preparatory Department of the University, the equivalent of present-day high schools, and on its site the old Georgetown High school (now Junior High) was erected in 1927.

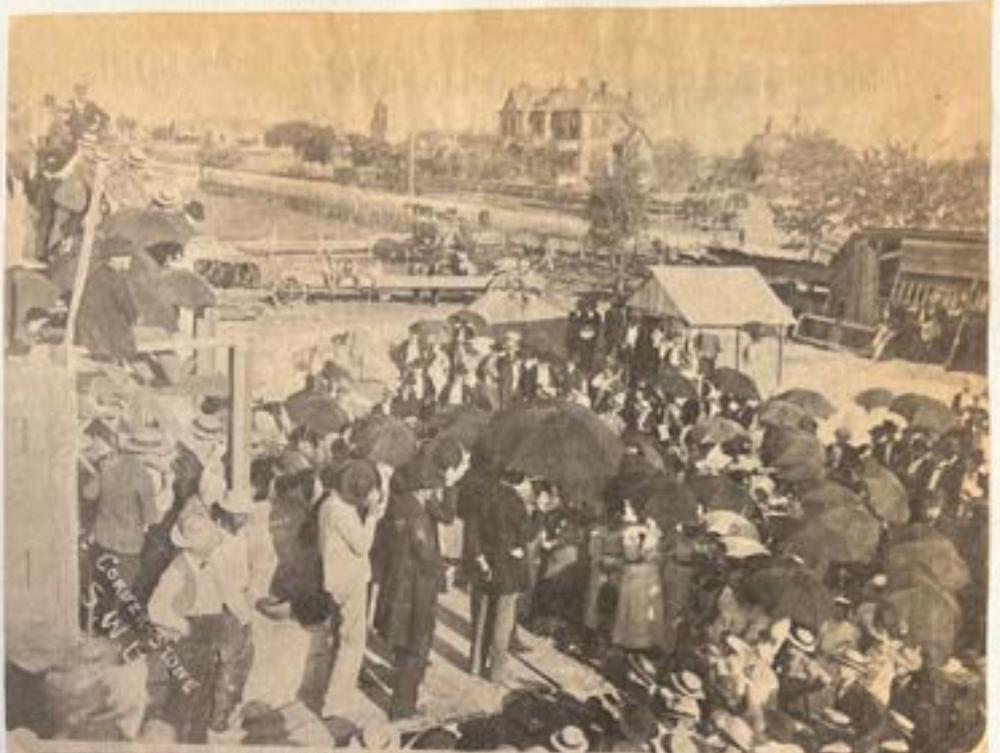


Two views of the suspension footbridge which spanned the South San Gabriel at the Chautauque grounds from 1889 until after 1895. Some of the summer houses, a smoke stack, and concession stands can be detected in the background on the bluff.



Woman's Building Destroyed—One of Most Imposing Dormitories in the South.

Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas, Friday, January 9, 1925



The cornerstone to the Southwestern University Building, later known as the Main Building or Administration Building, was laid Sept. 8, 1898, and the building was ready for use in 1900. This scene of the cornerstone ceremony also shows University Avenue, on which the few scattered homes in the area were built by that time.



First train through Georgetown over the newly-finished line between Georgetown and Granger, in 1903, and the crowd on hand to see it.



KATY LAKE, a recreational center for the Georgetown area, was developed soon after 1900, and here two couples enjoy a boating adventure there, just above Towns Mill dam. The photograph was published in a Southwestern University pamphlet in 1907.



This Fireman's Picnic Parade float is photographed on the south side of the Square, and may have been taken around 1910, since there are some early automobiles in the background. Among the persons pictured are Mrs. Heeder Mood, lady on left,

and, peering around to the right of the gazebo was Miss Velma Tisdale. The man nearest Miss Tisdale is Robert Mann, and the one on the horse nearest the float is Gene Eames. The next man on a horse is Marshall Richardson.



The annual Fireman's Parade in Georgetown was a big event during the early decades of the twentieth century. Riding this march-decorated buggy are Mary Marx (Mrs. Ray Richardson) on the left, and an unidentified friend. The photo was taken about 1908 by R. J. Stone in front of his shop on Main Street, one block south of the Square. Henry and James Price operated the Price Brothers Grocery.

AUTOS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

from The Williamson County Sun
JUNE 10, 1929

Below appears the names of the owners, and the numbers, of the automobiles operated in Williamson county, as shown by the register in the county clerk's office:

1. C. E. Wayman, Granger.
2. T. M. Crawford, Georgetown.
3. C. A. Howard, Georgetown.
5. Dr. J. P. Flinn, Hutto.
6. D. C. Young, Granger.
7. Arthur W. Storrs, Granger.
8. Dr. G. L. Robertson, Leander.
9. J. E. Humble, Leander.
10. D. W. Stephens, Georgetown.
11. G. M. Booth, Taylor.
12. T. J. Caswell, Georgetown.
13. J. W. Nunn, Granger.
14. W. H. Cowley, Georgetown.
15. F. T. Turner, Granger.
16. Dr. T. M. Harrell, Round Rock.
17. O. A. Nelson, Round Rock.
18. Dr. W. G. Weber, Round Rock.
19. A. B. Dozier, Taylor.
20. Chas. C. Bailey, Bartlett.
21. Oscar Humphrey, Hutto.
22. Jno. A. Nelson, Round Rock.
23. V. E. Bird, Granger.
24. A. W. Storrs, Granger.
25. A. A. Young, Granger.
26. H. M. Muse, Taylor.
27. Dr. W. R. Hazlewood, Leander.
28. Wm. Walsh, Round Round Rock.
29. C. A. Nelson, Round Rock.
30. O. E. Anderson, Taylor.
31. F. H. Welch, Taylor.
32. J. F. Pope, Granger.
33. T. W. Marse, Taylor.
34. C. Mendel, Taylor.
35. Dan Murphy, Taylor.
36. A. A. Zizinia, Taylor.
37. Claude McDaniel, Granger.
38. W. P. Young, Granger.
39. A. B. Dozier, Taylor.
40. W. W. Taylor, Taylor.
41. O. E. Schill, Taylor.
42. W. R. Mood, Georgetown.
43. Dr. E. Doak, Taylor.
44. C. J. Kelleher, Granger.
45. E. M. Wilson, Bartlett.
46. E. F. Booty, Georgetown.
47. W. R. McElroy, Georgetown.
48. Claus Oman, Hutto.
49. M. F. Smith, Georgetown.
50. P. M. Lemon, Georgetown.
51. K. J. Peterson, Taylor.
52. D. A. Young, Taylor.
53. T. H. Heard, Georgetown.
54. J. W. Connell, Liberty Hill.
55. Dr. C. M. Blair, Bartlett.
56. J. D. Bell, Bartlett.
57. Carl Grau, Taylor.
58. Wilfred McDaniel, Granger.
59. Claude D. Teer, Granger.
60. W. C. Smith, Taylor.
61. John A. Johnson, Hutto.
62. Gus Hyltin, Hutto.
63. Miller & Lockett, Hutto.
64. A. W. Swenson, Hutto.
65. Dr. C. C. Gidsey, Granger.
66. Ekkel Hardware Co., Taylor.
67. Dr. J. C. Anderson, Granger.
68. G. D. Patterson, Taylor.
69. J. B. Beard, Granger.
70. E. A. Robertson, Taylor.
71. J. W. Hightower, Bartlett.
72. E. R. Bartlett.
73. John T. Coffee, Georgetown.
74. S. G. Yakey, Taylor.
75. O. R. Frame, Taylor.
76. A. A. Zizinia, Taylor.
77. John Busch, Hutto.
78. Chas. Hanstrom, Hutto.
79. L. W. Wilshire, Bartlett.
80. Dr. I. H. McDaniel, Weir.
81. H. F. Overby, Bartlett.
82. Dr. C. D. Johnson, Hare.
83. E. L. Hardin, Granger.
84. E. M. Wilson, Bartlett.
85. J. W. Thorpe, Liberty Hill.
86. John McDowell, Florence.
87. E. R. Bartlett, Bartlett.
88. W. R. Dolaney, Bartlett.
89. J. W. Jackson, Bartlett.
90. J. P. Teburg, Circleville.
91. D. D. Nowlin, Circleville.
92. Dr. O. B. Atkinson, Flor.
93. Dr. A. Nowlin, Hutto.
94. A. B. Dozier & Co.
95. A. B. Dozier & Co., Taylor.
96. Howard Bland, Taylor.

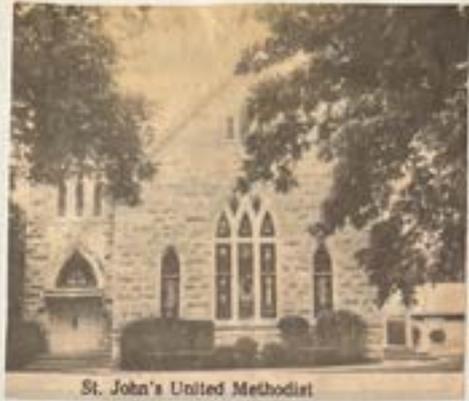


County Judge SAM V. STONE extends hearty welcome to the nation's Chief when Presidential Special stops in Georgetown for three minutes, extending time to eleven minutes due to large crowd and warm reception received Monday morning. Photo by Kay.

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1929



First United Methodist



St. John's United Methodist



First Presbyterian



Grace Episcopal



Christ Lutheran



Southwestern University Perkins Chapel



First Baptist



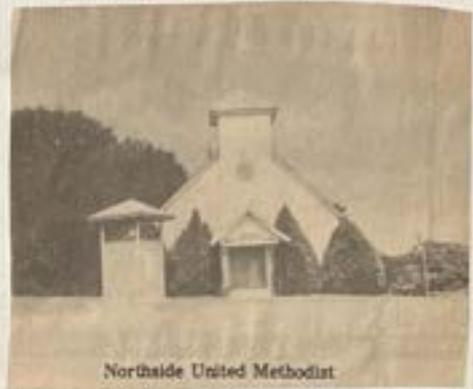
Church of Christ



Evangelical Free



St. Helen's Catholic



Northside United Methodist



Crestview Baptist



Getsemani Iglesia Pentecoste



Faith Fundamental



First Assembly of God



St. Paul United Methodist



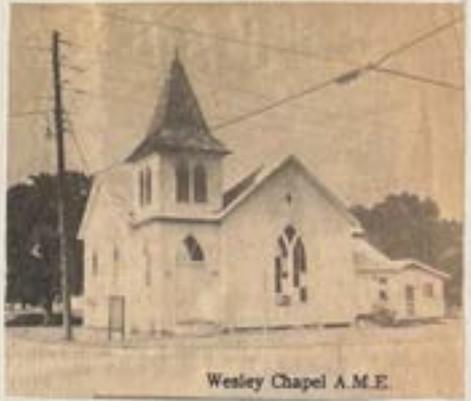
Gethsemane United Methodist



Macedonia Baptist



Friendly Will Baptist



Wesley Chapel A.M.E.



Jehovah's Witnesses



Gav Hill Baptist



Pentecostal

Liberty Hill Cemetery Association

(Incorporated)

Liberty Hill, Texas

May 1977

TWENTY FIFTH ANNUAL MEMORIAL HOMECOMING AND REUNION-SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 1977

Dear Friends,

The members of the Liberty Hill Cemetery Association who live here in Liberty Hill extend to you a warm invitation to be with us on this important day.

Twenty five years is a long time for a volunteer organization to function as well as this one has and it seems appropriate for us to honor the founders for their forethought in bringing the group into being. The minutes book reveals that the first meeting was held on Friday, October 22, 1952. Citizens met and cleaned the cemetery and after a lunch time, organized the Cemetery Association. The officers elected were Dr. J. Gordon Bryson, President; C.F. Hickman, Treasurer and Mrs. Letitia M. Russell, Secretary. On July 26, 1953, after a Homecoming in June, a meeting was held and Dr. Bryson asked to be relieved of the Presidency, saying his home in Bastrop was too far away. Wayne K. Smith was elected to that place, Luther Chance was elected Vice-President and both men have served continuously since that date. Mr. Hickman served as Treasurer until his death in 1960. Mrs. Russell was Secretary until her death in 1967. Dr. Bryson died in 1968. Directors were W.C. Bowman, S.S. Vaughan, J.P. Atkinson, C.C. Ellason, all deceased, and the following who still serve; John Logan Bryson, W.K. Seward and Mark Smith.

The Cemetery is well kept and beautiful but it doesn't just happen. Many hours of planning and hard work are put in by the officers and directors. These ten men are dedicated to keeping these hallowed acres in perfect condition. There are times when this is not easy to come by but they keep on trying and use a hoe and shovel often and long.

A catered lunch will be served at noon for \$ 2.00 per plate and meat available, to go. The Memorial Program will begin at 1:30 with Judge C.L. Chance in charge. Rev. Steve Perry of Elgin will be the main speaker. The Memorial Roll will be read and there will be music.

Copies of Dr. Bryson's book, Culture of the Shin Oak Ridge Folk and the Cemetery List will be on display and for sale. All proceeds from the books are for cemetery use.

If you know the names of persons buried in unmarked graves in the Liberty Hill cemetery we ask your help in locating the graves for marking.

Some paragraphs from a letter of twenty years ago.

May 1957

"DEAR FRIEND;

As the first Sunday in June draws near we wish to remind you of the fifth annual Memorial Homecoming of the Liberty Hill Cemetery Association. This year it falls on June 2nd (1957). Please tell your friends that may not get this letter.

For four years we have been able to retain a caretaker for full time. You have to see the Cemetery to know just what this has meant.

All graves are given equal attention and if you are in a position to help in this work it would be sincerely appreciated. We are sure that everyone wishes the care of the Cemetery to continue. Just ask yourself the question, "Am I doing my part?" Your contributions are deductible from income when you make your annual return.

We have recently had a fund started that I think all of you would like to know about. I would not discount the beauty, fragrance or comfort of flowers in times of sorrow, but there can be more flowers than are sometimes needed. For a lasting gift a check to the Liberty Hill Cemetery Association, in memory of a loved One, would be equally appreciated. We notify the family, thank the donor and the amount is added to our permanent fund where it draws interest from that day and when our Perpetual Care Fund is completed it will care for our Cemetery forever.

The work at our Cemetery must go on. Eternal vigilance is the price of success.

Very sincerely yours, Mrs. W.B. Russell, Secretary"

Directors :

G.N. Atkinson, J.L. Bryson, J.C. Canady,
N.B. Crider, Raymond Hefner, W.K. Seward
and Mark Smith ---W.K. Smith, Pres., C.L. Chance, V. Pres., J.S. Vaughan, Treasurer

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary

Myrtle Matthews

Thursday, May 26, 1977
THE BARTLETT TRIBUNE
Bartlett, Texas

Myreta Matthew of Liberty Hill, Williamson County Chairman of the Historical Commission, recently subscribed to the Bartlett Tribune. She made the following statement in her letter. "Thanks for the boost toward the listing of cemeteries in the county."

"Mrs. Nola B. Kinney of Bartlett mailed me this information on the old Bolding Family Cemetery, and we appreciate her thoughtfulness. We are trying to secure the listing and locations of all burial plots in the county, and no record had been secured on the Bolding Family plot. J. B. Bolding could be a Veteran of some early war and entitled to a Historical Marker. His dates are 1815-1884 and such information could be contained in other outlying family plots. We are in dire need of this information."

"Some known cemeteries in your area have not been listed, and we are gathering this information from throughout the county through interested persons."

"All this information is placed in printed books and serves as permanent records which are referred to often."

"The Historical Commission meets every first Thursday at 2 p. m. in the Georgetown Public Library and visitors are always welcome to attend."

"These permanent record books should be placed in every town library and they would be referred to more than many books."

"We are looking forward to other interested residents as your Mrs. Nola B. Kinney."

"Contact me, Myreta Matthew, Liberty Hill, if I can assist in any way."

Sincerely,
Myreta Matthew

Bob Watson Leaves THC

Bob Watson, director of program for the Texas Historical Commission for the past 11 years, resigned recently to enter a family business in Corpus Christi.

He received standing ovations on two separate occasions during the April 1-2 County Chairman's Workshop, once when his departure was officially announced by THC Executive Director Truett Lafimer, and a second time when he made his farewell remarks.

A special resolution passed by the THC on April 1 recognized Watson for his "years of dedicated service to the ideals and programs of the Commission in the advancement of the historic preservation effort in Texas."

Citing in particular his achievement in developing the statewide marker program, the resolution also commended Watson for his success as THC liaison with the 254 county historical commissions, and for his role in coordinating the THC/THF Annual Meetings between 1966 and 1976.

Watson joined the Commission staff in 1966 as assistant director of field operations, and served from that year until 1971 as executive director of the Texas Historical Foundation.



BOB WATSON said farewell at the County Chairman's Workshop.



PRESENTING a map and list of graves in the Weir Community Cemetery to Cemetery Association Treasurer Jerry Burran (far left) and Assn. President Mervin Walker are (from left) Marietta Muggford, Deborah Duncan, and Yena Thomas, all representing the Georgetown High School Junior Historians Club. The GHS group and their Round Rock High School counterparts, under the combined direction of Mrs. Muggford, a history teacher, and RRHS history teacher Jeff Townsend, made a survey of the cemetery located just south of Weir and identified as many of the graves as possible for the Cemetery Association, which for some time had lacked a comprehensive index of the area where generations of Weir residents have been buried. GHS student Audrey Dunsell put the field notes from the survey in order and prepared a plot map, while Miss Duncan, a freshman, and Miss Thomas, a junior, typed the results of the survey and prepared an alphabetized cross-reference. The entire package was presented to the Cemetery Association during its third annual meeting last Sunday afternoon in the Weir Community Building.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 10
Thursday, June 2, 1977

Taylor Daily Press, Friday, June 3, 1977.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, COUPLAND DEPOT

Photos and Text by Alice Aanstoos

The Coupland Museum, born in a bicentennial year of history, is having a birthday. On Monday, the old depot-turned-museum will be one year old.

In its first life, the Missouri-Kansas-Texas line made routine stops at the depot, then located across the street from the Coupland State Bank. In the early 1960's, after long service to the Coupland area, the end of passenger stops in the community spelled doom for the old depot.

The building was put on the auction block and sold to area farmer Willie Mayer for a mere \$40. It sat on Mayer's farm half-way between Taylor and Coupland for over 20 years and was used as a tenant house.

The old relic was all but forgotten when Clara Soarns Scarborough, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Committee, spoke to the Coupland Community Club in early 1976. The club was searching for a bicentennial project, and Mrs. Scarborough inspired it to recover the depot and move it back home.

BY THIS TIME, the once formidable depot was in a "deplorable" state, according to Mrs. C.W. Pfleger, but that did not deter inspired Couplandites. They paid \$100 to reclaim it. Then, hoping the decrepit structure would hold together long enough, they hauled it over the five-mile trek and put it to rest once again in downtown Coupland where it now sits.

The Community Club Historical Committee went to work raising funds for their project through bake sales, rummage sales and some donations from area businesses. Repair was the main obstacle now — the rotten roof needed to be replaced, the foundation had to be reinforced and the entire building scraped and repaired. The job was a long one, but the dream was finally realized through the labor of local people and the Green Thumb organization of retired workers.

The structure remains basically the same as the original depot with one major change. One wall was removed from the waiting room area which set off the division between the "white folk" and the "colored folk" areas. The turn-of-the-century product even had separate entrances for whites and blacks, one of which was knocked-out in its restoration.

Aside from these changes, renovation was aimed at maintaining the authentic flavor. It is the rustic wooden floors, bare ceiling beams and unscrubbed windows which instill old-time appeal to the place and make it an attraction for history buffs.

But it is not only historians who have wandered through the museum. The old depot is a haven for the oldsters who reminisce about the "good old days" as well as a fantasy land for the youngsters who marvel at the past.

THE FIRST TWO ROOMS of the depot house artifacts pertaining to railroads and the Coupland depot in particular.

When the depot was taken out of commission in the early 50's, its station master was Roger Turner. With the help of Turner's family, most of the original office equipment was returned and is located exactly where it was decades ago.

The old telegraph, typewriter, adding machine, swivel chair and pot-bellied stove are all the depot's original ones.

Other railroad mementoes include early MKT logos and shipping records as far back as 1901 when a ton of coal could be purchased for \$2.80. Picture reproductions depict a train wreck from that same era when a small wooden bridge collapsed under a MKT train, sending several cars toppling into the waters of Brushy Creek. More photos give an account of a tank explosion at a sign near Coupland on Highway 95.

In the back room, which initially served as the baggage area, many artifacts dealing with early Coupland history are on display. There is a small picture of Coupland's founder, Theodore Van Buren Coupland, and plans are being made to enlarge this photo to give it a more prominent position.

THEODORE COUPLAND and a small group of English-speaking people settled in the community in 1807 and the area was quickly populated by groups of Germans and Swiss. Included among the remnants of these early settlers are ancient prayer books, written in both Spanish and German, a lunch kit brought over by one 5-year-old girl from her Swiss homeland, and authentic Swiss costumes and framed wedding pictures delicately surrounded by lace wedding veils.

Other items which afford national interest include a pair of dice that belonged to half of the notorious bank robbing duo, Bonnie Parker, and taken away from her by George Dillinger. There is also some business correspondence between Leon Jaworski's father to C.W. Pfleger Sr. and one letter from a criminal cohort of Jesse and Frank James who later turned "travelling preacher" and passed through to harangue Coupland citizens. And old stock certificates remind businessmen of trading Coupland Oil stock on the market.

There are many more items on display though a few have been temporarily removed from the museum while they are being preserved in protective casing. All of the display items are donated or on loan to the museum.

Outside of the museum sits an early red caboose on a 25-yard strip of old railroad track. The Community Club Historical Committee recently purchased the caboose from a historical group in Austin. The Katy line helped move it to its new location and donated the track on which it sits. The Historical Committee hopes to renovate the train car and fill it, too, with railroad mementoes, perhaps converting it to a coffeehouse one day.

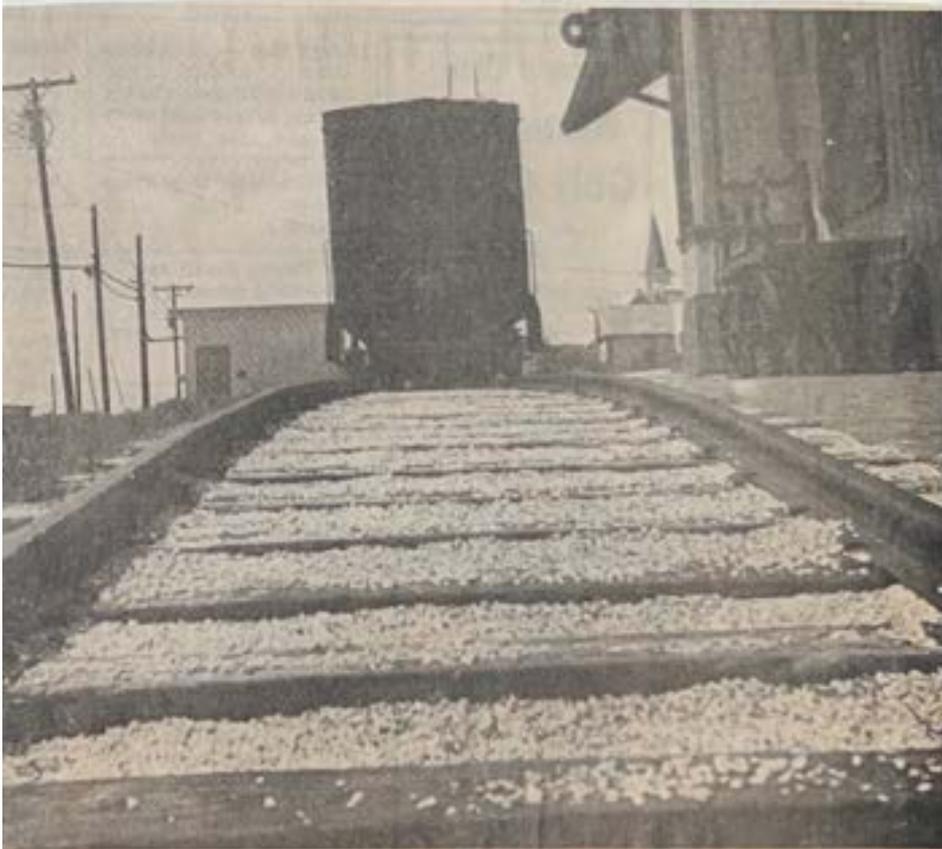
IN ITS FIRST YEAR as a museum, the old depot has attracted visitors from countries all over the world including Spain, Germany, Mexico, England, Nova Scotia, India, Africa, Central America, Israel, Iran and South America.

Future plans for the museum focus on landscaping and grounds improvement around the building. "We will also try to keep adding displays but we won't enlarge the building because it would ruin its authenticity," Mrs. Pfleger said.

Whatever the future holds for the old depot, one thing is certain — it's found a home and it will never move again.



ation hopes is this old caboose, which was
il group in Austin fell through on their plans to



These tracks don't go ever on and on, but they do span a 23-yard distance in front of the depot. The caboose at the end gives the illusion of just having left the depot as many



It got mighty cold in those early days without central heat. This heavy pot-bellied stove served its purpose to keep the depot warm.

The Sunday SUN
Page 7

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, July 2, 1977

Response to research contest improving

High school history students have responded well to the Original Research Contest sponsored by the Williamson County Historical Commission.

Two high schools have submitted between thirty and forty entries and other schools, having been granted more time, are expected to file reports soon. The competition was offered to all high schools in Williamson County.

The rules of the contest stressed originality and proof of the source of the subject which must be a phase of Williamson County history. All of the essays and tapes received by the Commission reflect much time and thought in their preparation and are refreshingly original.

These young historians are making an outstanding contribution to the present day history of Williamson County in their own locality. The entries include biographies, some based on personal interviews, family histories, histories of homes, churches, schools, businesses, events and places of interest. The collection would make interesting reading in published form.

All entries are being carefully read by the special committee and all will be passed on to an impartial judge as soon as all participating schools have replied.

Members of the Williamson County Historical Commission are pleased that an increased number of students took part in the competition this year and hope an even greater number will plan to enter next year.

Without the thrust of motivation and continued guidance of the high school teachers this project would not have been possible.



HISTORIC GEORGETOWN is the theme of the float sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce featuring Miss Georgetown, Rebecca Cummings, and her duchesses, Missy Kugery and Cindy Stefanov. Bonnie Schaefer is shown here sprucing up the float for the Western Week Parade June 22. Incidentally, Mrs. Schaefer and the royalty won a second place ribbon Thursday in a parade in Llano.

The Sunday SUN
Page 3

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, June 5, 1977

keeps flags waving

The fourth of July is flag-waving time for many Americans but for Maureen Neumann of Georgetown it's flag-making time, like always.

Mrs. Neumann could easily be called the Betty Hoos of Williamson County as she is one of the few flag-makers in the state of Texas.

"It all started about 22 years ago," she said, "when I went from making the costumes for the Apache Belia, the Tyler Junior College Drill Team, and started making banners."

She said that she thought it first began when someone asked her if she thought that she could make a flag and she emphatically replied, "of course I could."

It takes Mrs. Neumann an average of two days to make a flag that measures 4'x8' or larger. Some do take longer to make and Mrs. Neumann remembered the largest flag she ever constructed.

"I made the flag for the Ford Company over in Sweeney, Texas and it measured 20 x 30 feet," she said. The lettering on that one was over eight feet tall.

She said that the flag required more than 50 yards of fabric that is 15 feet wide.

"It was so big and so heavy," Mrs. Neumann said, "that I thought it would never fly — but it did!"

Mrs. Neumann explained that flag-making is a lost art. "It is a very precise kind of work and not many people know that."

She said that most flags (the American, state or signal flags) have to be made in a specific manner with seams in certain places and everything measured correctly. Other flags she makes are her own designs and they are simpler to put together because they don't have to be so precise.

All flags are made from a special fabric, nylon and cotton busting, that Mrs. Neumann orders from New Jersey and they are sewn together on an industrial-weight machine. Many of the intricate designs are applied or embroidered on another special sewing machine.

The hardest flag to make to Mrs. Neumann was for a German organization and she had to copy a 50-year old flag that had been entirely hand-embroidered.

"The designs were very intricate," she remembers, "but I used my embroidery machine so that made it quicker."

Some people that bring their business to Mrs. Neumann know exactly what they want but others only have a vague idea and then it is up to Mrs. Neumann to design the flag, make a pattern and then do the actual sewing.

The Georgetown woman also gets some work from the Capital Flag Company in Houston which is owned by her long-time friend Lucille Parish.

"I taught Lucille how to make flags and helped her get started in the company. We have worked together more than 22 years," Mrs. Neumann said.

She added that she still does a lot of work for the company and is almost always asked to make the hard, large and more intricate orders.

Mrs. Neumann is presently constructing a 4'x8' flag

for the Santa Fe Indians of Henderson High School in Henderson, Texas. And she has the order from the Stagecoach Inn in Salado to do next.

Some of the more interesting flags that Mrs. Neumann has made over the years include the Galveston municipal flag, the Georgetown Railroad, Six Flags over Texas, Texas Crushed Stone, the Williamson, Travis and Bell County Sheriff's Poses, the Belton Riding Club, the Williamson County Centennial flag that hangs in the Georgetown Public Library.



USING A SPECIAL industrial-weight sewing machine Mrs. Neumann carefully applies the large white star onto an almost-complete Texas state flag.



SOME OF THE MORE INTRICATE designs that Mrs. Neumann incorporates into finished flags require her to machine embroider tiny details. She is shown here working a special sewing machine that only does the embroidery work.

One of Mrs. Neumann's Texas flags is presently being displayed at Valley Forge where it was delivered by the Texas Bicentennial Wagon Trail last July 4.

"One morning I heard that the wagon train would be coming through Georgetown on its way to Valley Forge so I ran home, made a Texas flag and delivered it to them a few hours later as they were just making it across town," Mrs. Neumann relayed with a smile.

The nice thing about being a flag-maker, Mrs. Neumann said, "is that when I make a flag no one can argue with me about it."

The flag-maker also told of many times when she was called on to make a flag for a ship waiting to port in Houston.

"A ship can't dock if it isn't flying a flag," she explained, "and if the ship's was torn or something in a storm while they are in quarantine they will call me to make them a flag so they can dock."

"I think I have made a flag for almost every country in the world except the Arabian flag and I have made signal flags for several prominent people."

Signal flags, Mrs. Neumann clarified, are usually flown from boats, home or estate flag poles and carry the special and individual "signal" of the owners. "It is really like a brand or logo," she said.

She designed and constructed private signal flags for Lyndon Johnson while he was president and for TV personality Arthur Godfrey.

Mrs. Neumann has also made most of the flags that are flown in the Georgetown area including the Christ Lutheran Church, Walburg Lutheran Church, Pflugerville Baptist Church and one

church in Holland. The rock music bands Z.Z.

Top also called on Mrs. Neumann when they wanted a signal flag made. "It was 8'x12" and had a coyote and a moon design on it," she remembered. "It is probably one of the smallest flags I've ever made."

There aren't many flag-makers around these days Mrs. Neumann said, "but there are still some good ones and then some not so good ones."

"My name is pretty well known for flag-making," she said with a smile of pride.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY'S FLAG is another one of Mrs. Neumann's projects and it is proudly displayed in the Community Room of the Georgetown Public Library.

The Betsy Ross of Williamson County



MRS. NEUMANN has made so many Texas state flags like this that it now only takes her a few hours to complete one.

Palm House Dedicated To Citizens

Round Rock's historic Palm House officials took its place on Main Street during dedication ceremonies Friday at 4 p.m.

A ribbon cutting and reception for dignitaries were held at the renovated 100-year-old home the following afternoon.

Councilman Bob Griffin served as master of ceremonies for the event. Among the crowd of well-wishers were honored guests Miss Mary Palm and Mrs. Marguerite Palm Stockman, who donated the home in which they were born to the city. The Palm sisters' family was among the first Swedish settlers in Central Texas. Moved from the Palm Valley area, and repaired and renovated by the chamber of commerce, the home is to serve as a chamber office and museum.

Chamber of commerce president Jack Hoover told those attending the chamber was "deeply appreciative" of its part in the Palm House project, and sends thanks to

the vital part the Palm sisters have played.

N.G. Whitlow, chairman of the renovation effort for the chamber, said he had had "fun" working on the Palm House, and he thanked the

many persons who had supported or worked on the restoration project. He also expressed appreciation for substantial donations by Mrs. D.B. Gregg, the Kiwanis Club and the Chapparral Club.

Whitlow's remarks were followed by a brief account of the hardship experienced by the Palm family in coming to and settling in this area by Mrs. J.W. Ledbetter, chairman of the Palm House

museum committee.

"I think when we look at what our forefathers have done, we can have hope about the future," she said.

The Palm House Museum Committee officially incorporated as the Round Rock Museum Association Friday. It was announced at the dedication. With meetings scheduled every Tuesday, the association plans an organizational meeting with election of officers soon. Its primary function will be the direction and operation of the Palm House Museum.

While the committee, now the association, had hoped to have the museum ready for Frontier Days, the group decided to extend for a while longer their effort to collect items for the museum. One part of the museum is to be fashioned after a Swedish pioneer kitchen of the 1870s, the other after a Round Rock area parlor from that era. Among articles already accepted, promised or loaned for the museum are a 100-year-old rosewood piano, a butter churn, spinning wheel, kettle, cornsheller, showcase, waffle iron, milk bowl, family Bible, coffee grinder, butter mold, cheese basket and cotton cards.

Artist Lynn Heptinstall presented a painting of the old castles on Chisholm Trail to the chamber, which will occupy a room recently added to the rear of the home. He promised a painting of the Palm House within a year.

Identifying the home as a symbol of community pride, Councilman Bob Griffin said the "touch of the Master's hand" must be on people's hearts for a project such as the Palm House to be completed. He concluded the ceremony by reciting the poem "The Touch of the Master's Hand" by Edward R. Sill.

Following ribbon cutting Saturday afternoon, dignitaries were welcomed at a reception in the Palm House. Among some 50 persons attending were U.S. Sen. John Tower, U.S. Rep. Jake Pickle, Hogan's Heroes television star Bob Crane and the Country Dinner Playhouse cast, District Judge Bill Lott, Precinct 1 County Commissioner Carl Lidell, County Judge C.L. Chance, Round Rock school officials including Supt. Noel Gratham, Mayor Ray Litton and city officials and many others who supported or worked on the



Once They Called It Home

Councilman Bob Griffin welcomes honored dedication ceremonies Friday. The Palm guests Miss Mary Palm (right) and Mrs. Marguerite Palm Stockman to Palm House. They were born in the city.

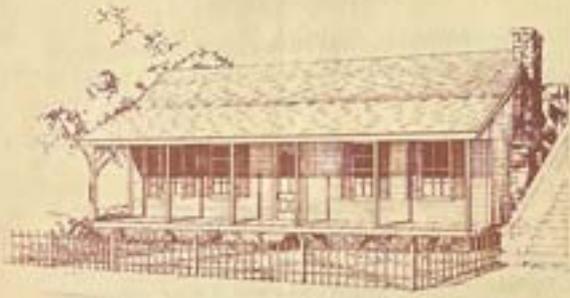
Preservation Of Past, Headquarters For Future



A Sweet Expression

As much an architectural as culinary triumph, this cake was presented to Miss Mary Palm and Mrs. Marguerite Palm Stockman at the Palm House dedication Friday by Round Rock Chamber of Commerce secretary Sheron Richardson.

***Dedication
of the
Palm House***



***Round Rock
Chamber of Commerce***



*Senators, congressmen, bankers, mayors, celebrities
come to museum open house.*



Riding the rails in Georgetown



A BIT OF HISTORY — The Williamson County Historical Commission recently took time out to relax aboard a restored 1920's Pullman parlor car that will be departing for a board tour later this month. The car has been renovated by Chairman of the Board for Texas Crushed Stone Edward Steed Jr. Former notables President Harry S. Truman, Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower and Sam Rayburn are said to have traveled in the car during its glory days.

(Photo by Stringfellow)

By Robin Stringfellow
News Staff

GEORGETOWN — After six years as cook-maker for a very active string of four executive business railroad cars, Georgetown's Donnell Scroggins is finally going along for the ride.

"This will be my first time," said Scroggins recently entertaining members of the Williamson County Historical Commission, while aboard three of the cars that date back to the late 20's and early 30's. Restored by Chairman of the Board for Texas Crushed Stone Edmond Ford Jr., the two sleepers and parlor car will be departing for a board tour of new railroad improvements later this month.

Scroggins will then take his place among many great notables said to have ridden in the 1929 Pullman business car such as former President Harry S. Truman, Mrs. Mamie Eisenhower and

Sam Rayburn. "We have a good many out-of-town visitors," says Steed



Scroggins

of the regular ritual of lavish dinners and luncheons served aboard the train. The cars are used primarily as

for dignitaries connected with either the Georgetown Railroad or Texas Crushed Stone.

Steam hot water heaters, old fashioned ice boxes, and charcoal stoves have gradually given way to more convenient, modern day appliances, but Steed has kept the motif of a rail-ere gone by in his restoration efforts.

"I've gotten a real kick out of it," he remarks of the restoration that began six years ago when the cars were purchased from the MKT (Missouri, Kansas, Texas) GMD (Gulf, Mohil, Ohio) and Illinois-Central. All four cars were then owned by the Katy Railroad.

Inside, the cars instantly transport the visitor to a time when the rhythm of the rails was heard more frequently than the roar of jet engines. Several original furnishings are kept in immaculate condition through Scroggins' dedicated care.



W.P. LUDWIG ON REAR PLATFORM
Harry Truman (left) with Scroggins (right) from the car

The Austin
American-Statesman

'Georgetown Railroad'

Shortline Rail Carrier Stays Busy

By JANEY JOYCE
Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN — Visitors to Georgetown may get a surprise if they stop for a passing train in this small Central Texas city.

The train is very likely to be composed of a number of pale creamy yellow railroad cars marked "Georgetown Railroad."

The Georgetown Railroad is not one of the nation's giant rail lines with a name that is familiar to motorists who read the names on box cars in white away the time as they wait for a train to pass.

But it is a respectable shortline carrier that does a lot of business in the Georgetown area.

It owns 7.8 miles of mainline track which connects with both the Missouri Pacific and Missouri-Kansas-Texas (Katy) Railroads plus another seven or so miles of auxiliary trackage.

It also owns four diesel electric locomotives, 200 gondola cars and 230 hopper cars.

Each day the railroad collects full freight cars from its customers, blocks them into segments of cars headed for one location and makes up two outgoing trains.

One of the trains is delivered to the switch track which connects with the Missouri Pacific and the other is delivered to the track which connects with the Katy.

From thence they may travel all over the U.S. although most end up in the Houston area, according to W. P. Ludwig, Jr., Georgetown Railroad president.

The railroad also picks up incoming cars of freight for customers and delivers them to the customer's track, although incoming freight amounts to only about two per cent of the company's business, Ludwig said.

All of the Georgetown Railroad's cars are painted the same distinctive creamy yellow for two reasons, Ludwig said.

The railroad's major customer, Texas Crushed Stone Co., ships many car loads of crushed limestone, and the yellow color does not show the inevitable limestone dust.

Also, Ludwig said, a check of other railroads revealed that no other railroad uses yellow for its rolling stock, so the Georgetown's Railroad's cars can be easily spotted in a crowded switching yard.

The first Georgetown Railroad was built in 1876 but it was soon absorbed by larger companies.

The second Georgetown Railroad came into being in 1957 when Missouri Pacific filed an application with the Interstate Commerce Commission to abandon 7.8 miles of track from near Round Rock to Georgetown.

Several local men and some out of town businessmen formed the new railroad corporation and petitioned the commerce commission for permission to buy the track.

Permission was granted and the purchase was made in late 1958. The new railroad leased a diesel locomotive and hired four employees and carried its first load of freight in cars leased from other railroads on April 18, 1959.

The company's senior employe, Hershel Shepherd, started out as a brakeman on that first diesel engine in 1959.

During the first months of the railroad's life, Shepherd said, he and the engineer moved 35 to 40 cars of freight a day. When they finished that chore, they worked on the track, he said.

During his years on the Georgetown Railroad, Shepherd has developed into a jack of all trades. According to Ludwig, he supervises all the mechanical work on locomotives and cars, works in maintenance of way and is a skilled locomotive engineer "although he doesn't do that too much now."

Shepherd learned his railroad mechanical skills on his own, just trying to do what needed to be done at the time. "I'm still learning," he said.

All of the railroad's employes are flexible and "capable of doing several different jobs," Ludwig said. "If they weren't, the small railroad just couldn't function."

The employes do not work some of the strange hours common to most railroad men.

The Georgetown Railroad operates 12 hours a day — from about 6 a.m. to about 6 p.m. — and it is closed on Sundays and all major holidays, Ludwig said.

The Georgetown Railroad, like many railroads, issues "passes." But the passes are void on north and south bound trains, the only direction the railroad runs.

Although the company does not have passenger service over its 7.8 miles of track, it does own three pretty fancy cars meant for passengers.

Two of them are old Katy business or private cars and each has a kitchen, a dining room, a lounge and several bedrooms.

One of these cars, now named "Houston," was used by the late President Harry S. Truman during his 1948 grassroots campaign which ended in the defeat of favored Thomas E. Dewey.

The beautifully decorated car still has its original silver, china, and crystal nestling snugly in plush lined cabinets in the car's dining room.

The third car is a lounge car with upholstered arm chairs and tables. The three cars are leased to Texas Crushed Stone Co. and are used as a club house and auxiliary office by company officials.



Historical Commission strives to preserve Texas' historical legacy

The monthly meeting of Williamson County's Historical Commission occurred at the Texas Crushed Stone site, enabling members to view the restored M.K.T. Presidential railroad cars at that facility.

The Williamson County branch of the Texas Historical Commission is presently involved in a number of projects deserving your attention.

First, some background on the origins and purposes of the Commission.

Williamson County's Historical Commission acts through the Texas Historical Commission, established in

1953 as the Texas State Historical Survey Committee by the Texas Legislature.

They began, at that time, an aggressive program of surveying and marking with the aid of the Texas Historical Foundation which financed the activities of the Commission during its early years.

In 1969 the State began funding the Commission and in 1963 the present day organization was set up in Austin.

"Our local offshoot consists of a number of committees working to promote, preserve, and mark Texas' rich historical legacy," said Myretha Matthews, Chair-

man. The activities of the local WCHC are channeled through five major committees, broken down as follows:

1. The Historical Preservation Committee. Members have established an active historical preservation program in Williamson County concerned with preserving, restoring and recording tangible evidences of history.

They work toward securing old papers, documents and records relating to the county's history. They seek to record and document living history by tape recording both significant contem-

porary events and interviews with oldtimers.

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough is Chairman.

2. The Historical Marker and Research Committee surveys sites for possible historic marking. They update landmark lists, secure locations for and obtain permission to erect markers. They assist marker applicants with research procedures and review applications for completeness before they go to the Texas Historical Commission.

Mrs. John W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D. B. Gregg of Round Rock are co-chairpersons.

3. The History Appreciation Committee conducts Texas and Williamson County appreciation programs. They publicize Commission work through the media, tourist and history-related groups, chambers of commerce, and civic groups. They cooperate in research for preparation and publication of historic, recreation and scenic maps, guides and pamphlets.

The HAC also sponsors historical tours, dedications, commemorations and observances and makes visitation arrangements with neighboring County Commissions for idea exchange programs.

Chairman is Miss Ruth Mastor of Taylor.

4. The Finance and Budget Committee, headed by Dr. Van C. Tipton of Georgetown, determines the county budget. At present the Commissioner's Court allocates \$500 per year to the WCHC to accomplish their programs.

5. The Advisory Committee, headed by Mr. A.M. Aldgreen, advises the WCHC on citizen thinking and interests, and acts as liaison between Williamson County and the Texas Historical Commission.

The WCHC is currently compiling a list of all persons buried in Williamson County cemeteries, public or private. "We filled one

gigantic book already," Matthews said, "and have another well under way. These lists are valuable to people wanting to know about those who have lived in Williamson County."

The WCHC is also sponsoring a historical research-essays contest. Matthews says a large number of youngsters have entered, many of the projects look extremely good, and winners will be announced as soon as possible.

For history buffs three scrapbooks pertaining to Williamson County History and containing rare photos are available for research or leisurely perusing at the Georgetown Library.

The scrapbooks, assembled by Secretary Esthe Scoggins, provide much insight into Williamson County's rich historical legacy.

County Historical Commission meets

The three Georgetown Rail Road Company train coaches located on the grounds of the Texas Crushed Stone Company provided the meeting place for the July meeting of the

Williamson County Historical Commission.

Special arrangements with Wm. P. Ludwig, President of the Georgetown Rail Road Company, were made by Frank Farris for the group to tour the elegantly restored Presidential cars, the AUSTIN and the HOUSTON and to converse for business in the plush parlor car, the GEORGETOWN.

The preservation of these historic coaches, in which President Truman and President Eisenhower traveled through Texas, reflect respect and a true sense of values for treasures of the past.

Communities represented at the meeting were Andice-Gabriel Mills, Florence, Georgetown, Jarrell, Leander, Liberty Hill and Taylor.

The Round Rock members, Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D. B. Gregg, were unable to attend because of many last minute details to be completed for the dedication of the new Round Rock Museum. The century-old Palm Home, recently moved into town and restored opened Round Rock Frontier Days Festivities Friday at 6 p.m.

Activities reported on for the past month included visits to historic places by several members and a guided tour conducted by Harold Asher of Gabriel Mills. He took a group to see and learn about historical markers in western Williamson County.

Effie McLeod and Mrs. Marietta Mugford indicated more High School Student Research papers are currently being prepared and turned in. The competition should end by July 15.

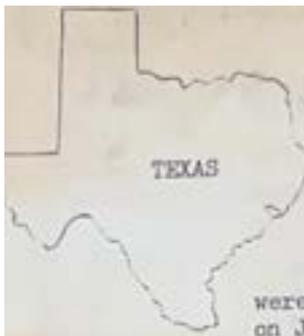
Ruth Mastor of Taylor presented a completed Lawrence Chapel Cemetery List for Lavonne Fautton for inclusion in Volume II of Williamson County Cemeteries. Miss Fautton, who is editing this work, stated that this book is already as large as Volume I and there are many more cemeteries to be listed.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Farris of Georgetown attended the 140th Birthday Celebration of Houston County in Crockett on June 12 and extended greetings from Williamson County.

Houston County Historical Commission sponsored the event which initially celebrated another milestone for the first county of the Republic of Texas by order of President Sam Houston June 12, 1837.

Mrs. Marietta Mugford and Mrs. Camilla Durrenberger, of Georgetown, plan to attend the fifth History Awareness In-Service Workshop for Junior Historian sponsors and cosponsors, August 4-5, in Dallas.

This conference is sponsored by the Texas Historical Association and the Texas Historical Commission. Mrs. Mugford has a part on the program. Her subject will be "The Cemetery as a Historical Research Laboratory."



WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER THREE

JULY 15, 1977



VOLUME SIX

For "One Shining Hour" the members of the Williamson County Historical were privileged to walk where Presidents had walked at the regular meeting on July 7, 1977. By special arrangements the meeting was held on the grounds of the Texas Crushed Stone Company in the beautifully restored M.K. & T. coaches owned by the Georgetown Rail Road Company. President Truman and President Eisenhower traveled through Texas in these elegant cars. Sincere thanks go to Frank Paris for his planning and to Mr. Ludwig of the Rail Road Company and Mr. Sned of the Stone Company for the invitation to see these three historical treasures.

STUDENT RESEARCH

High School Student Research Projects have come in from Georgetown High School and Leander High School. They reflect a great amount of work and originality. Some are decidedly unique and are on subjects of local interest that have not been explored before. They may prove a fine resource for recording present day history. This contest, sponsored by the Williamson County Historical Commission is due to close by July 20. More entries are expected this week.

NOTED PUBLICATION

THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN celebrated 100 years of continuous, reliable publication with a 108 page Centennial Edition. This, the oldest newspaper in Williamson County was established on May 19, 1877 as a weekly. It is now a bi-weekly. The May 19, 1977 edition, in which ninety-eight percent of the editorial material came directly from the 100 year-old files is a great accumulation of history and is worthy of being preserved for use in every school and public library in the county. Don Scarbrough, owner and editor, is to be commended for his forethought and effort in this big undertaking. Don gives his wife, Clara such credit for the finished product. She is the historian of this county.

MARKER PROGRAM

The Williamson County Sun has been accepted in principle for an Official Texas Historical Marker. The script will be coming soon.

The script for the James O. Rice marker has been approved by the sponsors and the Commission.

The script for the John Berry subject marker has been received by his descendants and is being reviewed.

COUNTY CELEBRATION ACTIVITIES

Historical Commission members have been busy in their own communities with big summertime celebrations. Georgetown had Western Week and the Annual Sheriff's Posse Rodeo beginning on June 27. Taylor held the Williamson County Fair and Independence Festival for four days beginning July 1. Round Rock Frontier Days began Friday, July 8 and continued into the next week with the Annual Williamson County Old Settlers Reunion. All three towns had colorful parades and were historically oriented by use of costumes and paraphernalia.

JUNIOR HISTORIANS

Georgetown High School Junior Historians are beginning a program of taping oral history. They have been briefed by Dr. Ken Pagsdale in a session at the Wesleyan Retirement Home in Georgetown. Mariotta Mugford is their sponsor and she reports interest is running high in that field and in other projects, also. The club recently reviewed a nearby cemetery and presented the Cemetery Trustees with their report.

Mrs. Mugford has been asked to take part in a program in Dallas on August 4 - 5 at the Hall of State. At the History Awareness In-Service Workshop her topic will be "The Cemetery as a Historical Research Laboratory".

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FAMILY LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM

The Texas Family Land Heritage Program is being sponsored for the fourth consecutive year by The Texas Department Of Agriculture. It is designed to honor those families who have owned and operated a farm or ranch, continuously for 100 years or more.

In Williamson County sixteen families have qualified and have received certificates of honor. In the Volume 3 Registry published in 1976 only one ranch in Williamson County is listed. It is the Timmerman Ranch - 1876- Four miles north of Pflugerville - Founder: Heinrich Timmerman of Germany. 1976 Owners : Mrs. Monroe Hagn of Austin, Theo Timmerman of Pflugerville and Theodor Timmerman of Pflugerville.

Many interesting historical facts are uncovered in the family records used in the applications for this program. The Historical Commission members need to be aware of such families in their areas and offer any assistance that they may possess in filing the applications. The forms are available in the county Judge's office or may be ordered from TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Family Land Heritage Program, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, Texas 78711.

DEDICATION OF THE PALM HOUSE MUSEUM

Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, Round Rock, Texas - July 8th, 1977 - 6:00 P.M.



Originally located near Palm Valley, the Palm House is a century-old farm home donated to the citizens of Round Rock by Mary Palm and Marguerite Palm Stockman.

Moved, repaired and renovated by the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce, the historic building exemplifies the sturdy pioneer spirit of the Swedish immigrants who settled the Palm Valley community east of Round Rock and who have contributed greatly to the making of modern Round Rock.

In its dual use as Chamber of Commerce office and Round Rock Museum, the Palm House is dedicated to the people of Round Rock -- a city of good living with a proud heritage.

Mrs. J.W.Ledbetter is Chairman of the Round Rock Museum Committee and was a part of the program of dedication. Mrs. D.B.Gregg is also active on the committee and helped with arrangements. They are collecting authentic 1880 furnishings for the house.

There is a wealth of museum material of many kinds and periods in Williamson County. It is hoped that something can be done before they are forever lost.

Myreta Matthews
P.O. Box 127
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

Blacksmiths remembered in Gabriel Mills report

Robin Strangefellow

"Under the spreading chestnut tree, the village smithy stands. The smith, a mighty man is he, with large and sinewy hands; as strong as iron bands . . ."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



SAN GABRIEL MILLS COMMUNITY — Inspired by an 1870 Cambridge, Massachusetts blacksmith shop, Longfellow recorded his impression of the village smithy as man of character and strength, an example for all to follow.

And it would seem early Texas communities revered this breed of craftsman in a 1966 report on blacksmiths prepared by Harold Asher of San Gabriel Mills.

"I'm still working on it," says the 67-year-old son of blacksmith William Asher who practiced his trade in this now forgotten community from 1960 to 1911. A member of the Williamson County Historical Commission, Asher hopes to one day publish his research in book form.



hundreds of settlers are said to have gathered in old time camp meetings usually around the village blacksmith shop where their bodies were shorn, their buggies maintained, and their plowshares sharpened. And in Gabriel Mills, this was much the scene in the early 1900's as doctors, lawyers, farmers and businessmen discussed politics and religion or just took time out to pitch horseshoes or face off in a game of dominoes.

"The blacksmith made many useful items such as branding irons, crow bars, hay hooks, wagon rods, andirons, chains, bridle bits, horseshoes, spurs, baby cribs and more," describes Asher of his father's craft that once was the center of a thriving town.

Today, San Gabriel Mills is barely a remnant of the past displaying only well-kept graveyards as a reminder

that a city once claimed this area. But men like Asher have not forgotten the wide-eyed amazement of the children who gazed through the blacksmith's window at the flaming forge and the whistling bellows that fanned the fire.

Asher's report focuses on the two highlights of the central Texas blacksmith shop. Comanche chieftain Yellow Wolf is said to have brought silver bars from the now famous Lost San Saba.

Mine to Gabriel Mills where the blacksmith made ornaments for the tribe in the early 1900's.

And in 1836, the Texas Declaration of Independence was formalized by Congress in a blacksmith shop at Washington on the Brazos.

The report also notes other outstanding blacksmith shops in Williamson County such as one established in the 1800's by Jeremiah Clark Messer in Rutledge just north of Jollyville. Messer's son, Joey, opened a shop in Austin on the present location of American National Bank and soon became the owner of the largest welding and machine shop in Austin.

In 1880, John Schwaach opened a shop in Walburg

and another shop was established in Bartlett about that same time by a man named Byers. Studying under Byers, apprentice Henry Jacob opened another shop in Walburg in 1901 still operated by Byers descendants today.

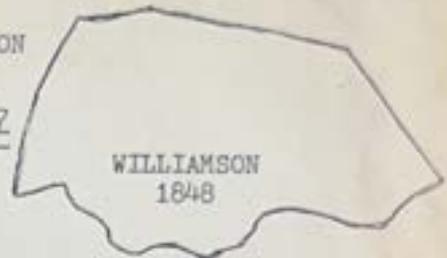
The primitive methods used by the early blacksmith to fashion tools have since given way to more modern manufacturing techniques except in a very few instances. But folklore such as one tale of a smithy who pulled teeth still remains fresh in Harold Asher's memory, recalling a time when the village blacksmith began shaping a future for Texas.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER FOUR AUGUST 1, 1977

VOLUME SIX



AUGUST 4th MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission will be an important one. Mr. Don Stence, of The Capitol Area Planning Council in Austin, and other guests will introduce and explain a challenging program of work which seems to be compatible with some of the goals of the Historical Commission, that is, recognizing and preserving significant historical assets.

Williamson is one of nine counties taking part in this activity. Under a special grant, the Texas Committee for the Humanities through the Capitol Area Planning Council is implementing the project in each county with the cooperation of the County Judges. Since it is to be county-wide in scope and as an established county-wide "Arm of the Government", Judge C.L. Chance recommended this County Historical Commission as the vehicle to launch the program. In order to get it going in as short a time as possible he suggested the regular meeting date be used.

More specifically, Williamson will serve as one of the host counties for a series of programs that will be planned to draw attention to our special resources in the field of: Archeology, Architecture, Art, Drama, Music, Geology, Plant and Animal Life, Soil Conservation and any other significant Natural or Cultural resource including people.

From a pedagogical point of view the project appears to resemble an elementary Social Studies / Science Unit of work covering any where from 4 weeks to half a semester. The conclusion of the Unit will be a Culminating Program complete with - exhibits, slide shows, demonstrations, speeches and whatever can be worked out in and by committees or task forces.

As all members of the historical commission are truly volunteers, work on these special committees will of course be on that same basis. Some of these committees may be defined in terms of - Community Involvement - Publicity and Promotion - Resource Persons in each area - Finding Subjects for Interviews - Finding Subjects for Photography - Finding Display Space - Meeting Places - etc.

STUDENT RESEARCH

Thirty eight industrious High School Students responded to the Original Research Contest sponsored by the Williamson County Historical Commission. The teachers from Florence, Georgetown, Leander and Round Rock are to be praised for inspiring the students to enter. The Competent Judges have promised to report their decisions soon.

HISTORY APPRECIATION WEEK

At the June 2nd meeting the Commission decided to observe the week beginning September 25 as History Appreciation Week in Williamson County.

MUSEUMS

Invitations have been extended to the Commission to hold meetings in the Palm House Museum in Round Rock and in the Moody Museum in Taylor. Mrs. J.W. Ledbetter is Chairman of the Museum Committee for the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce and Mrs. John Cornforth is President of the Board of Trustees of the Moody Museum in Taylor. Mrs. Cornforth and Mrs. Ledbetter have made invaluable contributions to the work of the Williamson County Historical Commission, and their services are truly appreciated.

Nyreta Matthews

GHS history teacher speaks at Dallas in state workshop



MARIETTA MUGFORD

Marietta Mugford, history teacher at Georgetown High School will speak at the Hall of State in Dallas at a state-wide history workshop to be held August 3, 4 and 5.

Mrs. Mugford, who has been teaching at GHS since 1972 and is a member of the Georgetown Heritage Society, The Williamson County Historical Commission, the Texas Historical Foundation, and the Texas State Historical Association, has received statewide recognition for her work with the Junior Historian Club of Georgetown High School in

researching and restoring records of early Texas cemeteries.

The survey of the Weir cemetery is the most recent effort of this GHS club. Mrs. Mugford's topic in Dallas will be "The Cemetery as a Historical Research Laboratory."

Mrs. Mugford will be accompanied to Dallas by Mrs. Farley Soell, an officer and organizer of the Georgetown Heritage Society. Headquartered at the Baker Hotel, the workshop will conduct tours of points of historic interest in the

Dallas Restoration Project including historic La Beamon Square, the Old South Boulevard District, and the classic Swiss Avenue Historic Homes District.

Mrs. Mugford and Mrs. Soell also will attend the special banquet dinner given in honor of workshop speakers in the historic restored Ehrhardt Mansion, by Mrs. Harryette Ehrhardt, Chairperson of the Dallas School Board and Mrs. Dorothy Savage, President of the Dallas Preservation League.

Other speakers on the

three-day program are drawn from Texas colleges and universities, and the workshop is cosponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, the Dallas Historical Society, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Texas Education Agency, and the Dallas County Heritage Society.

Program coordinators include Dr. Ken Hagedale of the Texas State Historical Association, who has worked closely with Mrs. Mugford's Junior Historian Research Group at GHS.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 5 Thursday, August 4, 1977

County's History Week Receives Strong Boost

(Staff Report)
GEORGETOWN — Plans for Williamson County's History Appreciation Week, set for Sept. 25 through October 1, got off to a strong start Thursday with the unexpected cooperation of a special history preservation program directed by the Capital Area Planning Council.

CAPCO representative Donald Stence and a team of experts in the arts and humanities will join with members of the Williamson County Historical Commission to direct a one-day program devoted to expressing the need for county preservation of natural resources, wildlife and architecture.

"We want to use dance, music and the arts to promote an historical theme," said University of Texas art professor Bill Francis of CAPCO's plan to conduct 10 such extravaganzas and in Central Texas counties by late November.

Stence explained that funds to use professionals to direct a program in Williamson County have been made available through special grant supplied by the National Endowment For Humanities.

"We just couldn't swing this sort of production without local citizens," added Stence pleasantly surprised that proper scheduling of the CAPCO proposal could easily be included in Williamson

County History Appreciation Week activities.

A pre-forum organizing committee headed by Arthur Ahlgren of Taylor and Southwestern University Fine Arts Chairman Claude Kennard will be seeking citizen input into the program that could become an annual event providing a lasting history preservation effort in the county.

Loree Neiman and Jeff Townsend of Round Rock will chair the actual forum committee charged with coordination and scheduling of the day's activities.

The Austin American-Statesman

Saturday, August 6, 1977

Georgetown

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By 12 Taylor Daily Press Friday, August 5, 1977

—central texas briefs—

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Liberty Hill, Texas
August 9, 1977

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL ORIGINAL RESEARCH PARTICIPANTS

Dear Friends,

Thank you for taking the time and trouble to send in an entry in the Historical Research Contest. Whether you won an award or not you have contributed to the preservation of history in this county.

Every paper or tape submitted shows merit and I am extremely proud of you. Now, that you have made a start, I hope that you will continue to record local history. Don't forget your parents. Find out about them and write it down. Every one tends to forget, so do write it down. The written word surprises even the writer, sometimes, when viewed later.

A contest of this kind is very difficult to judge and I am sure there was such thought and unbiased questioning put into the final decisions by Dr. William B. Jones of Southwestern University and Mrs. Jones.

So that you may better understand some of the evaluation points, I shall list a few of the judges' comments. These may help you in your future writing.

Good literary style
Interesting
Personal interview
Simple straight-forward narrative

Good research - Extensive
Interesting
Has some literary weaknesses

Moderately well written
Personal interview
Interesting
Some paragraphing needed

An interesting topic
Shows considerable work
The literary style leaves something to be desired. Too involved.

A very interesting topic
The title should be changed
The omission of the first paragraph would have made it a better paper.

High School Students let us hear from you next year. College Students do continue to write, you will grow and you will enjoy it.

Yours very truly,

Myrta Matthews

Myrta Matthews, Chairman
Williamson County Historical Commission
Box 127
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

Jack Harvey
Don Hernandez
Dave Summers

JUSTICE UNACHIEVED AFTER 47 YEARS
ORIGINS OF EL AHISTAN
THE WEBB HOUSE

Judges Report on August 4, 1977

FIRST PLACE - Kevin Standifer

SECOND PLACE - Jack Harvey

THIRD PLACE - Julia Shepherd

HONORABLE MENTION

Frances Myers

James Miller

THE FLOOD OF 1921

JUSTICE UNACHIEVED

HISTORY OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD

THE OLDEST HOUSE

ANTIQUE MOTORS

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION ORIGINAL RESEARCH CONTEST
SPONSORED FOR ALL WILLIAMSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS - 1977 ENTRIES

FLORENCE HIGH SCHOOL

Narsha Kin Stiles A NEW HOME TOWN AND A NEW WAY OF LIFE

GEORGETOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Margie Bailey Essay on CARVER HIGH SCHOOL
Mark Brown THE HISTORY OF A HOUSE (MORGAN HOME)
Michael Buchorn A WILLIAMSON COUNTY FAMILY
Andy Burnette JOHN ISCHY RANCH (Tape)
Jeff Coldcroft THE LITTLE CHURCH (FIRST PRESBYTERIAN)
Bobby Foust TOMMY FOUST CONSTRUCTION COMPANY
Diana Harrison PAST AND PRESENT OF GEORGETOWN RAIL ROAD
Sarah Hilgeman INTERVIEW - MRS. WINNIE BUCY MORROW
Ricky King WEIR GRAIN AND ELEVATOR
Lori Lacy RECIPES
Sarah Liese CHRISTIAN BRAUN - Biography
Tim Mickan HICKAN MOTOR COMPANY
James Miller ANTIQUA TRACTORS (Texas Early Day Gas Engine And
Frances Myers THE OLDEST HOUSE Tractor Association)
Chris Osborne THE BIOGRAPHY OF C.A.D. CLAMP
Dawn Parker MY GRANDMOTHER'S PARENTS - GLASSCOCK HOUSE
Lynn Parr THE BIOGRAPHY OF OSCAR MOTT
David Riethmeyer THE HISTORY OF LINCO PARTS WAREHOUSE
Brian Schneider CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Julia Shepherd HISTORY OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD
Dori Sims ACORN ACRES
Donna Smith THE HISTORY OF TEXAS CRUSHED STONE AS TOLD BY LEE FULKES
Julie Soulen THE RURAL ROUTE - MR. PAT BRADY
Kevin Standifer THE FLOOD OF 1921 (SAN GABRIEL RIVER IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY)
Sandra Tanksley THE LIFE OF MARTHA TANKSLEY
Celia Taylor ISCHY RANCH - (ESSAY)
Mike Thomson ROCKY HOLLOW RANCH
Melinda Tolliver SAN GABRIEL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Kent Turner SAN GABRIEL CEMETERY
Jack Wade RATH'S BAKERY
Jan Wakefield HISTORICAL INNER SPACE
Mike Zrubek HISTORY OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY (Weir, Walburg, Granger and
Circleville Area)

LEANDER HIGH SCHOOL

Kern Faubion THE HISTORY OF LEANDER (SCHOOL)

ROUND ROCK HIGH SCHOOL

Bob Criss REFLECTIONS OF ROUND ROCK HIGH
Jack Harvey JUSTICE UNACHIEVED AFTER 47 YEARS
Don Hernandez ORIGINS OF EL AMISTAD
Dave Summers THE WEIR HOUSE

Judges Report on August 4, 1977

FIRST PLACE - Kevin Standifer THE FLOOD OF 1921
SECOND PLACE - Jack Harvey JUSTICE UNACHIEVED
THIRD PLACE - Julia Shepherd HISTORY OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD
HONORABLE MENTION

Frances Myers THE OLDEST HOUSE
James Miller ANTIQUA MOTORS



Bagdad Cemetery opened in 1837. The first burial was three-year-old John Babcock whose father Charles later gave the tract to the community. Other early burials were Civil War veteran John Haile and Col. C. C. Mason. Leander, founded 1882, began when the railroad bypassed Bagdad. Today Leander shares this tract which was enlarged in 1959, 1966, and 1972.

Historical Commission is planning Forum

Crowded into the Community Room at the Georgetown Public Library Thursday, the members of the Williamson County Historical Commission met with representatives of the Capitol Area Planning Council to discuss plans for an upcoming history program.

Don Steetz, Judy Burton and Bill Francis spoke to the group about developing a program of cultural preservation. Several possibilities were discussed and committees were formed to begin plans for the historical day.

The plan being considered consists of a pre-forum event, possibly an art show, drama, dance or historical presentation, which is followed by a forum on natural and cultural resource preservation.

The pre-forum event enables local citizens to express their feelings, ideas and values toward natural

and cultural resources in their area through their contributions to and participation in the arts and humanities.

Members of the Historical Commission discussed and considered centering the program around county architectural resources.

The forum following each special event is designed to bring together professionals and interested local citizens in order to exchange information and ideas through public discussion of natural and cultural resource preservation.

Claude Kenard, Professor of Fine Arts at Southwestern University, was selected chairman and A. M. Ahlgren of Taylor was selected to serve as co-chairman of the Pre-Forum special event. Jeff Townsend and Loree Neimann, both of Round Rock, were appointed co-chairmen of the Forum.

Kelvin Standifer named winner in 1977 original research contest

Kelvin Standifer, one of 33 Georgetown High School students who submitted entries, has been named first place winner in the Williamson County Historical Commission original research contest for 1977.

Standifer's entry was *The Flood of 1921*.

Second place went to Jack Harvey of Round Rock for

his paper *Justice Unachieved*, and Georgetown's Julie Shepherd's *History of My Neighborhood* won 2nd place.

Two other Georgetown students, Frances Myers and James Miller won honorable mention with their entries.

Florescence, Georgetown, Leander and Round Rock High School students participated.

Square given recognition

Georgetown's Courthouse and buildings erected if have been recognized as distinctive architecturally and historically by the most prestigious organization of its kind in the United States — the National Register of Historic Places.

THE NEWS WAS ANNOUNCED this week by Joe R. Williams, director of National Register Programs for Texas, and by Trevor Latimer, Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission. Word of the honor was transmitted to County Judge Luther Chance, to Miss Myreta Matthews, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission, and to Mrs. Clara Scarborough, former chairman of the Commission under whose direction the move to have the Square District accepted by the

National Register was initiated in 1973.

The County Historical Commission approved the Historic Square project and work got underway here during 1974-75 with meetings of property owners, city officials, and other interested persons, in which the advantages and any possible disadvantages of a listing in the National Register were discussed. The Town Square Historical District emerged in a City Ordinance in 1975, with two readings, under Joe Crawford's Mayorship.

Early in 1976 the Georgetown Bicentennial Commission adopted the Historical District plan as one of its projects. Mrs. Scarborough continued to supply research data and related information to the State Office and Robert "Skip" Morse served as local Bicentennial chairman of the project. He arranged a number of meetings at which National Register representatives answered questions of City of Georgetown administrators and property owners around the Square.

GEORGETOWN CITY COUNCIL gave its final approval to establishing the District in 1976, and by about this time Mrs. Scarborough had completed most of the research required for the application.

"I had collected by then file folders of typed material more than three inches thick," Mrs. Scarborough said. "It took lots of digging and time, but most people were helpful when I called on them. The application went to Austin under the new mayor's signature — John Doerfler. I couldn't have had nicer people to work with than Joe R.

Williams and Marie Landon, his assistant in the State Office. They and their technical experts helped us and several times late last year and early this year they asked for additional information which we were able to supply. This kind of research takes a

tremendous amount of time."

The Texas Board for the National Register considered and approved Georgetown's application in the spring of this year (1977) and shortly after, forwarded the application to the National Register's Washington, D.C. office. On July 28, the Williamson County Courthouse Historical District, Georgetown, Texas, was entered in the National Register and is now afforded the privilege granted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Latimer and Williams announced jointly.

"IT HAS BEEN A LONG, often tedious undertaking. I hope and believe that it will be well worth all the effort in our community for many years to come," Mrs. Scarborough said Thursday.

A direct spinoff of this and similar projects was the recent organization of the Georgetown Heritage Society. "Many of us dreamed and hoped for such a group as this, but it was made possible largely through the hard work of Lynn (Mrs. Carl) Burnette, with considerable help from Genevieve (Mrs. J. Thatcher) Atkin. Quite a large number of others contributed heavily, but these two ladies provided the fuel and sparks we needed. I trust that the Heritage Society and the Courthouse Square District

will become fast friends and colleagues in preserving and enhancing what is fine about the quality of life in Georgetown," Mrs. Scarborough commented.

In the near future, the SUN will have articles about the meaning and significance of the National Register listing, and about the history and architecture of buildings in Georgetown's Historic District.

Rice Historical Marker Planned South Of City

An official Texas Historical Marker for James O. Rice will be erected soon at the intersection of FM 1660 and FM 373, eight miles south of Taylor, according to an announcement by Carl E. Burney, chairman of the Texas Historical Commission.

This marker, awarded through a special Legislative appropriation, recognizes the outstanding work of the Williamson County Historical Commission. This

group is headed by Miss Myreta Matthews of Liberty Hill, chairman. Plans for dedication ceremonies will be announced in the near future.

The inscription on the marker reads:

JAMES O. RICE
(1815-About 1875)

South Carolina-born James O. Rice migrated to Texas by 1835 and served in the Texas Army during the

war for independence. In early days of the republic of Texas, he protected frontier settlements as part of a Texas Ranger Company. On May 17, 1836, in command of a volunteer force, clashing with Mexican troops led by Manuel Flores on the North San Gabriel River, Rice captured vitally important documents related to the Cordova Rebellion against the Republic of Texas. He joined the Somervell and Mier expeditions of 1842 and the Saavey expedition of 1843. He also served in the Mexican War (1846-48). For military services, he received several counties of land.

When Williamson County was created in 1846, Rice was one of the commissioners named to select a site for the county seat. One of the county's largest landowners, Rice built his home on Brushy Creek about one mile west of here at a site then known as Blue Hill and later called Rice's Crossing. He ran a store and was postmaster of Blue Hill Post Office, 1849-57. For a short time, he had a Tannery in Georgetown.

Rice married Nancy D. Gilliland in 1860, of an early Texas family. The couple had four daughters. Rice is buried in the Seefeld family cemetery near Austin.

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas Historical Commission's program of preservation activities. They also include archeological investigations, history museum consultations, and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1976 the Historical Commission had erected approximately 7200 official markers.

The name of this marker and its location will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locality with their unique heritage.

Had long political career

Judge Sam Stone dies

Longtime public official Judge Samuel Vaughan Stone died at the age of 83 at the Wesleyan Home in Georgetown Wednesday morning, August 28.

The Judge, as he was familiarly called, had lived in Georgetown since a young man and was known by nearly every citizen of Williamson County who has lived here prior to his retirement from public office at the end of 1975.

He is survived by his wife, Berenice, and by two sons, Michael Stone of Dallas and Sam V. Stone, Jr., of Austin; a brother, Kenneth Waverly Stone of Houston, and seven grandchildren.

Funeral rites were read at the First Methodist Church, Georgetown, Friday morning, and committal services were held at the I. O. O. F. Cemetery with the Rev. Tom Graves officiating. Davis Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Palbearers were Charles Furber, Ed Harris, Jr., Thomas E. Nelson, Jr., J. Thatcher Atkin, Marvin Behrens, Mac Birlchet, Dr. Douglas Benold, and Judge William S. Lott.

Samuel Vaughan Stone was born July 23, 1890, the son of Addie Vaughan and James

Abner Stone, who lived in Wallis, Austin County, Texas. The family moved to Georgetown in 1905 so that their four sons could attend Southwestern University. Sam Stone received his B.A. degree from Southwestern in June 1913. He then took a brief business course at Waco, after which he



JUDGE SAM STONE

was employed at Georgetown Oil Mill.

In 1917, Stone volunteered for service in World War I, was in the Signal Corps of the Aviation Section and went overseas in July 1918 as an Aero Squadron Commander. He was discharged in January 1919, returning to his position with the Georgetown Oil Mill.

Entering politics in 1923, the young Stone ran successfully for the place of County Tax Assessor-Collector, and served at that post until he was elected in 1934 to the office of County Judge. He served in that office from January 1935 until Dec. 31, 1970.

Sam Stone and Berenice B. Hatstuler, also of Georgetown, were married August 23, 1921. In August 1929, Stone won his degree in law from the University of Texas.

Judge Stone was active in numerous civic affairs through the years. He was selected as Georgetown's "Worthy Citizen," was active in the local American Legion and helped organize a number of other posts in the area. He was a civil defense director during World War II, a member of the Lions Club, Country Club, Williamson County Bar Association, and served on the Board of Trustees of the First Methodist Church. He was one of the county's strong workers for dams on the San Gabriel River.

An avid supporter of Boy Scout work, Judge Stone was a Scoutmaster for 45 years and was given the honorary Silver Beaver award. He also served for a number of years as the chairman of the Williamson County Historical Survey Committee (now Historical Commission) and was instrumental in having a number of markers placed in the county in 1938 during the state's centennial year. He remained active in the Commission until his frail health prevented his participation more than a year ago.

Historical marker cites James Rice

An official Texas Historical Marker for James O. Rice will be erected at the intersection of FM 1660 and FM 913, 8 miles south of Taylor, it was announced today by Cecil E. Burney, Chairman of the Texas Historical Commission.

This marker, awarded through a special Legislative appropriation, recognizes the outstanding work of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

This group is headed by Miss Myreta Matthews of Liberty Hills, chairman. Plans for dedication ceremonies will be announced in the near future. The inscription on the marker reads:

JAMES O. RICE
(1813-ABOUT 1871)
SOUTH CAROLINA BORN JAMES O. RICE MIGRATED TO TEXAS BY 1833 AND SERVED IN THE TEXAS ARMY DURING THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE IN EARLY DAYS OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS. HE PROTECTED FRONTIER SETTLEMENTS AS PART OF A TEXAS RANGER COMPANY. ON MAY 27, 1836, IN COMMAND OF A VOLUNTEER FORCE CLASHING WITH MEXICAN TROOPS LED BY MANUEL FLORES ON THE NORTH SAN GABRIEL RIVER, RICE CAPTURED VITALLY

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE CORDOBA REBELLION AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS. HE JOINED THE SOMERVILLE AND MIER EXPEDITIONS OF 1842 AND THE SNYDELL EXPEDITION OF 1843. HE ALSO SERVED IN THE MEXICAN WAR (1846-48) FOR MILITARY SERVICES. HE RECEIVED SEVERAL BOUNTIES OF LAND.

WHEN WILLIAMSON COUNTY WAS CREATED IN 1848, RICE WAS ONE OF THE COMMISSIONERS NAMED TO SELECT A SITE FOR THE COUNTY SEAT. ONE OF THE COUNTY'S LARGEST LANDOWNERS, RICE BUILT HIS HOME ON BRUSHY CREEK ABOUT ONE MILE WEST OF HERE AT A SITE THEN KNOWN AS BLUE HILL AND LATER CALLED RICE'S CROSSING. HE RAN A STORE AND WAS POSTMASTER OF BLUE HILL POST OFFICE, 1849-57. FOR A SHORT TIME, HE HAD A TANYARD IN

GEORGETOWN. RICE MARRIED NANCY D. GIELLANDER 1848. OF AN EARLY TEXAS FAMILY, THE COUPLE HAD FOUR DAUGHTERS. RICE IS BURIED IN THE SNEYD FAMILY CEMETERY NEAR AUSTIN.

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas Historical Commission's program of preservation activities. There also includes archeological investigations, history museum consultations and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1976 the Historical Commission had erected approximately 7,300 official markers.

The name of this marker and its location will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locality with their unique heritage.

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, August 28, 1977
The Sunday SUN
Page 3

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 6 Thursday, September 1, 1977

Modern-day Betsy Ross proudly hails her work



Staff Photo by Kim Breckling
MAUREEN NEUMANN RELAXES
She's among handful of flagmakers left.

By KATHY HAWORTH
Staff Writer

GEORGETOWN — Maureen Neumann is the first to admit that being one of the state's few flag-makers can have its disadvantages.

After all, it's not just anybody who is called on emergency runs to the Houston Ship Channel when an incoming ship has lost its flag.

The Georgetown woman laughingly refers to a recent call summoning her to Houston to help out a Danish ship waiting for entry.

"That was really a rush job. The ship was quarantined (a routine wait before any ship is allowed to dock) and getting ready to go in, but it had lost its flag — bad weather or something — and I had to really race down there and get one out to them," she said.

Ships may not dock unless they are flying their country's colors.

Fortunately, the profession is not always so hectic. After being in business for more than 20 years, Maureen says, "I can pretty much sit back, take the jobs that I want to do and work right here" at her ranch just south of Georgetown.

And after so long in the business, her reputation is such that she does not advertise and yet still turns down requests from throughout the nation.

Some of her "jobs" are the spur-of-the-moment type, such as the Texas flag she made for the state's Bicentennial Wagon Train in the brief 30

minutes it passed through Georgetown in July 1976.

"I was driving back from Houston and spotted them between Round Rock and Georgetown. I stopped and found out that they weren't even flying a Texas flag. I thought, 'Well, that just couldn't be,'" she said.

So while her sister drove into town to round up coffee and doughnuts for the crew, Maureen hustled home and sewed a Texas flag. It is kept at Valley Forge where wagon trains from the 50 states converged for the Bicentennial.

For the uninitiated, flagmaking involves more than cutting out a replica of Old Glory and running it up a flagpole. Flags come in an unexpected variety of forms — from the corporate and family symbols to the one-of-a-kind, registered signal flags used to identify private yachts and boats.

Maureen has done everything from personal flags for notables such as Lyndon Johnson and Arthur Godfrey to flags for cities, schools, churches, organizations, and corporations such as Gulf, Texaco, and Ford Motor Co.

Some of the most tedious work is often the flags of the various countries. "They have to be made just so — right down to the number of stitches on a certain piece — or they won't be regulation," she said.

But Maureen's love obviously is more with the designing end of the profession. She particularly enjoys the jobs where she can develop the symbols for the family or organization interested in a flag.

One of her favorite creations is the

official flag for Indiantown, U.S.A., in Oklahoma, a design which obviously comes closest to her heart.

Surrounded by the comfortable clutter of knickknacks and paintings from the Old West — sketches of cowboys and Indians, old wagon wheels, Indian pottery and jewelry — Maureen speaks proudly of her relationship with members of the Tonkawa tribe in Oklahoma for which she also designs tribal costumes.

"They had come down to be in a parade at Thrall in 1967. I had sewn an Indian costume for my daughter, who was also riding in the parade," she said. "They were so surprised that the (costume's) designs were authentic they came and met me. We've been very close friends ever since."

Indian costumes require extensive research, she said. "Symbols used by Plains Indians, for instance, are never used by the woodlands tribes. You really have to know what you're doing, just as in the flagmaking," she said.

"Flagmaking is really sort of a lost art. There are fewer and fewer people now who really know how to do it," she said. "And there don't seem to be that many good ones anymore — at least I see a lot of them that I know I wouldn't want to put my name on."

With constant use, the flags have only about a six-to-eight-month life expectancy. "They don't last that long, especially if they're out in the weather every day. But I know that even when my flags are worn and torn apart, I still can be proud of them."

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION



NEWSLETTER NUMBER FIVE

SEPTEMBER 15, 1977

VOLUME SIX



HISTORY APPRECIATION WEEK

The Williamson County Historical Commission chose the week of September 25 through October 1 to observe history appreciation in Williamson County. An Official Proclamation signed by Dolph Briscoe, Governor of Texas, C.L.Chance, Williamson County Judge and all four County Commissioners, Carl E. Lidell, Wesley Foust, Raymond H. Rister, and W.F. Schlickelsen makes it indeed a very impressive period. Perhaps the Mayors of the towns in the County would also like to approve it.

Included with this letter are copies of pages taken from the HISTORICAL PRESERVATION HANDBOOK, published by the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION. Please note the valuable suggestions for local historical observances.

OCTOBER 1 - A VERY SPECIAL DAY

The Capital Area Planning Council, The Williamson County Commissioners Court and the Williamson County Historical Commission are cooperating in an effort to make Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources an important issue in today's living. Plans are nearing completion for the last day of History Appreciation Week, Saturday, October 1st. The Williamson County Resource Preservation Program will take place at Southwestern University Student Union Center in Georgetown.

Exhibits will be on display in the various rooms and halls. A panel discussion on Natural and Cultural Resources - their recognition and preservation - will start at 1 P.M. This will include resident panelists from Southwestern University and Williamson County as well as visiting members from various other Universities and State Departments.

Every community and school in Williamson County is invited to take part in this unique program. It is of great importance to the Williamson County Historical Commission and the Capital Area Planning Council of Governments that the many fine natural and cultural resources be brought to light, evaluated in terms of use to people and make plans to save it for future citizens.

Remember, people make history. Look about for old photographs (even if you may not know who they are) that show life as it was in Williamson County in earlier days. Find pictures of old industries that were carried on with methods now obsolete. An art display is planned and is open to all. It will be restricted to realistic pictures, either paintings or photographs. A label should carry the location and date such as landscapes, structures, transportation, farm activities, native wildlife both plants and animals and of course people.

There will be other exhibits such as needlework, tools, utensils and perhaps artifacts and fossils.

All High Schools are urged to present an exhibit of their choosing. This could be done through History Clubs, Library Clubs, G N Clubs or individuals.

For more information on displays you may contact any member of the Historical Commission or Dr. Claude Kennard at Southwestern University, Georgetown, Tx 78626.

Watch for more information in your local paper.

Nyreta Matthews, Chairman
Williamson County Historical Commission
Box 127, Liberty Hill, Texas 78642



Official Memorandum

By

DOLPH BRISCOE

Governor of Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS

GREETINGS:

The State of Texas has had a proud and colorful history; an unsurpassed heritage filled with dedication, devotion and individualism.

We owe a great debt to our forefathers; the pioneers and early settlers whose accomplishments have been an inspiration and a guiding light to all Texans.

All too often, in these modern times, we tend to overlook and fail to recognize and appreciate the labors of these great men and women.

Increased public appreciation is needed for the men and women who toiled, under extreme hardships, and traveled to the far corners of our great state, and established themselves as the pioneers of our proud heritage.

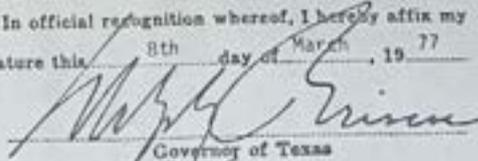
The Texas Historical Commission and the two hundred fifty-four County Historical Commissions are working diligently and efficiently to preserve Texas' historic past. The County Commissions, this year, are making a special effort to focus public attention to the dramatic course of events in their Counties, thus designating each day of a week for special activities highlighting the various elements of the state preservation program such as the beautification of the approaches to and areas surrounding historic sites and markers; the locating and recording of noteworthy landmarks; honoring pioneers and early settlers; involving the youth in historic work, and touring historical exhibits, sites and markers.

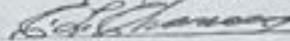
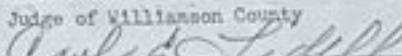
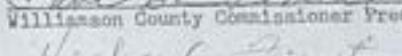
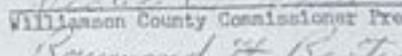
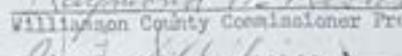
THEREFORE, I, as Governor of Texas, do hereby designate the week of September 25th through October 1st, 1977, as

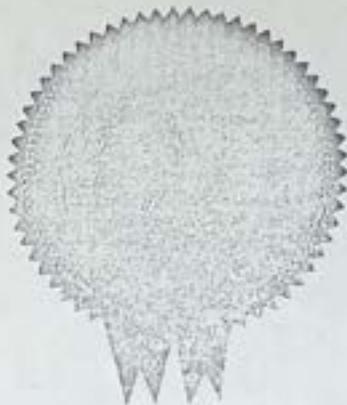
COUNTY HISTORY APPRECIATION WEEK

in Williamson, County, Texas, and urge all citizens to support and participate in the activities of this observance.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 8th day of March, 1977


Governor of Texas


Judge of Williamson County

Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 1

Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 2

Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 3

Williamson County Commissioner Precinct 4



73A

WILLIAMSON COUNTY PRESERVATION PROGRAM AGENDA
STUDENT UNION BUILDING
Southwestern University - Georgetown

Saturday, October 1, 1977
1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

- 1:00 p.m. Registration begins - Visual Displays open for viewing and discussion
- 2:00 p.m. FORUM BEGINS
WELCOME
Commissioner Carl Lidell, Williamson County
Harry Gold, Past-Chairman CAPCO Executive Committee
Moderator - Claude Kennard, Department of Art, Southwestern University
Program Explanation
- 2:15 p.m. Czech Choir from Taylor
Discussion of Czech Heritage and community values
- 2:35 p.m. SLIDE SHOW - featuring natural and cultural resources Williamson County
- 2:50 p.m. PUBLIC DISCUSSION
CAPCO staff, Regional Resource Preservation Committee members, and Technical panelists discuss points important in planning for the protection of resource
Critical Preservation questions are raised.
- 3:20 p.m. BREAK
- 3:30 p.m. PUBLIC DISCUSSION CONTINUES - focus is on natural and cultural resources specific to Williamson County - Technical panelists available to assist with specific questions and to explain current programs of possible importance to local residents
- 4:30 p.m. Choir members, Sweethome Baptist Church of Round Rock
Discussion of Black heritage and community values
- 4:50 p.m. WRAP-UP by local civic leaders
- ADJOURN

History appreciation week is scheduled

The week of September 25 through October 1 has been designated by the Williamson County Historical Commission to observe history appreciation in the county.

A proclamation signed by Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe, Williamson County Judge C. L. Chance, and Williamson County Commissioners Carl E. Lidell, Wesley Foust, Raymond H. Rister and W. F. Schlickeisen has officiated History Appreciation Week.

The Capital Area Planning Council, the Williamson County Commissioners Court and the Williamson County Historical Commission are cooperating in an effort to make the preservation of natural and cultural resources an important issue in today's living. Plans are nearing completion for the last day of History Appreciation Week, Saturday, October 1, when a resource preservation program will take place at the Student Union Center on the campus of Southwestern University in Georgetown.

Exhibits will be on display in various rooms and halls and a panel discussion on natural and cultural resources—their recognition and preservation — will begin at 1 p.m. This will include resident panelists from Southwestern University and Williamson County as well as visiting members from various other Universities and state departments.

Exhibits will include photographs and paintings showing life as it was in Williamson County in earlier days. An art display featuring these items is planned and is open to all. It will be restricted to realistic paintings and photographs and each should be marked with a label noting the location and date of landscapes, structures, transportation, farm activities, native wildlife, plants and wildlife and, of course, people.

There will be other exhibits such as needlework, tools, stencils and perhaps artifacts and fossils.

All high schools are urged to present an exhibit of their choosing. This could be done through history clubs, library clubs, 4-H clubs, other organizations or individuals.

For more information on the displays and exhibits contact any member of the Historical Commission or Dr. Claude Kennard at Southwestern University in Georgetown.



OWNERS OF BUSINESS PROPERTY around the Square of Georgetown, which was recently listed in the National Registry as a historical district, were interested in hearing Joe R. Williams, Director of the National Register program for Texas, tell them of programs and grants available to assist them restore their buildings, should they so desire. Carl Doering and Ed Evans are at the left of Williams. Joe Long, Mrs. J. T. Atkin and Lynn Burnette, president of the Georgetown Heritage Society are on the right. The meeting took place Thursday night at the Ames-Eanes Annex and a capacity crowd was on hand.

The Sunday SUN
Page 3

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, September 25, 1977

Florence mayor proclaims History Week

Florence Mayor Foy Haydon has issued an official proclamation designating the week of Sunday, September 25, through Saturday, October 1, as History Awareness Week in the city.

The effort to learn more about local heritage and historic preservation is in conjunction with the Williamson County Historical Commission's Forum planned for Saturday, October 1.

Many displays and exhibits have been planned for the Florence Public Library, downtown shop windows and at both the Florence schools featuring items of historic interest for the public.

At 8 p.m. Tuesday, September 27, the Florence Public Library will host a special Open House at which time the exhibits will be on display.

The same evening the Florence Chamber of Commerce will have a

barbecue in the City Park featuring State Representative Dan Kubiak as the guest speaker.

At 1:20 p.m. Thursday, September 29, students in the Florence schools will join together for an assembly featuring Mrs. Don Scarbrough as the speaker. She will speak on the topic of local historical research and kinds of historical research.

Florence students have been busy in the past weeks collecting items to be exhibited in the halls and show-cases at the Primary School and at the High School. The FHS class in Texas History has also been working on a special project.

The public is invited to the school assembly and the Library Open House and everyone is urged to participate in the observance of History Awareness Week.

Historical Commission considers history book

Meeting in the Community Room of the Georgetown Public Library Thursday afternoon, members of the Williamson County Historical Commission considered a family history book project presented by Nan Mulvan of Taylor Publishing Company in Dallas.

The publishing company representative appeared before the commission to

suggest that they compile a yearbook of histories of Williamson County families, with articles written by one of the family members.

Examples of the type of book suggested were inspected by commission members and Myreta Matthews, president of the Williamson County Historical Commission, appointed a committee to "sound out" clubs and

organizations as well as individuals in the different towns of the county to see if there would be sufficient interest to undertake the project.

In other business the commission voted to reimburse Miss Matthews for the printing and mailing expenses she incurred while organizing and publicizing the Williamson County preservation program held Saturday, October 1, at the Student Union at Southwestern University in Georgetown.

The commission members also gave reports from each community on activities coordinated with the preservation program.

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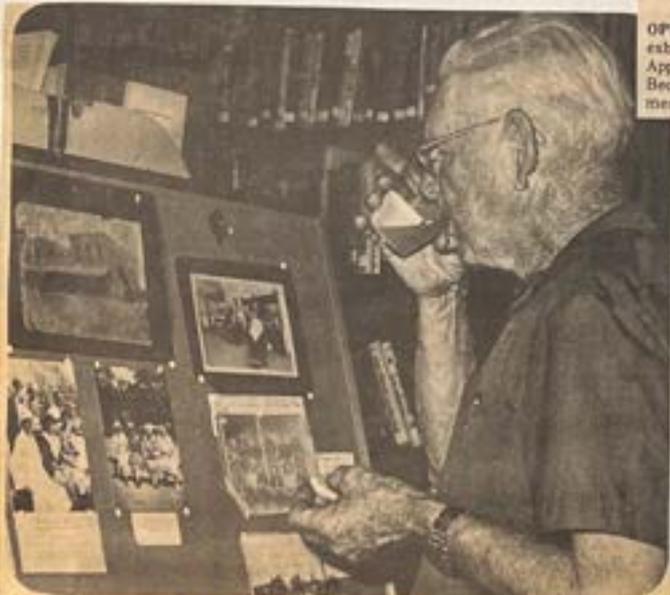
Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, October 9, 1977

The Sunday SUN
Page 11

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, October 2, 1977



OPEN HOUSE was held Tuesday evening at the Florence Public Library to display several exhibits set up by local clubs and organizations participating in Williamson County History Appreciation Week. Library volunteers Sia Beck, Pat Howe, Evelyn Tucker and Margaret Beck are shown with one of the many new books purchased for the library through the memorial fund.



OLD PHOTOGRAPHS of early Florence were displayed at the Florence Public Library during the Open House last Tuesday evening. P. L. Ulstad of Brady is shown looking at the display.



JUNIOR HISTORIANS at Georgetown High School have been busy in the past few weeks preparing a special display for Williamson County Historical Appreciation Week. Peri Mashburn was chairman of the project committee. Edward Magford (left), Dennis Brabant and Divya Goel collected and assembled items of everyday life used in early Williamson County for the display. Vincent Paskarich (not pictured) also worked on the exhibit.

The Sunday SUN
Page 5

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, October 2, 1977

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 6 Thursday, October 6, 1977



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JUNIOR HISTORIANS Club at Georgetown High School served lemonade to the many Williamson County residents attending the preservation program in the Student Union at Southwestern University Saturday afternoon. Pictured are (l to r) club sponsor Marietta Magford, and club members Sandy Dillard and Deborah Duncan.

Historical Commission sponsors forum Saturday at Southwestern

The Williamson County Historical Commission and the Capitol Area Planning Council (CAPCO) are to sponsor a Forum Saturday, October 7, in the Student Union of Southwestern University in Georgetown.

The event is an effort to develop a balance between regional development and the preservation of natural and cultural resources and it is designed to encourage the exchange of information about local area resources. The Forum will focus on developing a community appreciation and understanding of cultural resource value.

A. Ahlgren of Taylor, Claude Kennard of Georgetown, Jeff Townsend and Loree Neiman of Round

Rock are coordinating the event, which was stimulated by a grant from the Texas Committee for the Humanities and Public Policy and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

All county schools, communities and organizations were invited to participate in the Forum schedule with displays and questions.

Displays and exhibits of old photographs depicting community life, industries and buildings in Williamson County were accepted and other art displays, restricted to realistic pictures and photographs of county life were to be displayed.

The Forum will open at 1 p.m. in the Southwestern University Student Union

with displays and it will continue through the afternoon. A slide show, introductions and music by ethnic groups were scheduled.

The actual Forum and introduction of panelists is to begin at 3 p.m. with public discussions scheduled to last through the closing at 5 p.m.

At 2 p.m. Williamson County Commissioner Carl Lutell and a CAPCO Executive Committee member will make the official introductions and opening statements.

Music presentations will begin at 2:15 p.m. and a slide show is set for 2:30 p.m.

The public discussion will get started at 2:50 p.m. and technical panelists will be introduced and will discuss planning considerations.

At 3:30 p.m. the public discussion will focus on resources specific to Williamson County. Natural and cultural areas will also be considered for discussion.

Music will again be presented at 4:30 p.m. and a local civic leader will wrap-up the afternoon with a conclusion speech at 4:50 p.m.

The Sunday SUN
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Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, October 2, 1977

Taking on a cemetery is work, not a hobby

By BONNIE GARRINGTON

I. M. Hausenfluke's grand-
parents, I. M. Hausenfluke
and Elizabeth E. Williams,
gave the land for the
cemetery plot, land given
them by ancestors with the
family names of Williams
and Roberts, out of what was
originally a Spanish land
grant known as the Roberts
Survey.

The plaque at the
cemetery entrance reads
Berry's Creek Cemetery, the
Berry's early settlers on a
creek subsequently named
after them.

It's not certain when the
land began to be used as a
community burial ground.
The oldest stones on the site
— a cluster of handmade
stones engraved with
"Roberts" — are dated 1855
and 1857.

The cemetery "organ-
ized" in 1960 — with I. M.
Hausenfluke, president,
Murdell Williams,
secretary-treasurer, and
directors Henry Ferriraz, A.

mother he loved so well
(plus a host of aunts and un-
cles and other kin) rest in
what he considers the "pre-
ferred place you ever saw"
come spring, gives him
much satisfaction, his
feelings mirrored among the
other directors, both past
and present.

The people buried here are
mostly kinfolks.
Hausenfluke continued,
sweeping his hand in an arc
as if to unfold the entire site.
As a boy he recalled that he
used to work the land in
what were logically called
"cemetery workings."

Families would get together
and spend the day cutting
weeds, trimming bushes,
and tending the grave sites
of their relatives, until there
came a time in the early 30s
when no one worked it at all.

From the early 30s until
1960 it was abandoned and
all but forgotten, except for
a few persistent kinfolk who
struggled through the tall

J. Winger, R. C. Walker,
and Fred Luby, Sr. — the
reason being, the directors
concluded, the cemetery
was in drastic need of some
organization.

Unusual, taking on a
cemetery, especially for 17
years, as has I. M.
Hausenfluke. And it wasn't
as if the directors had
nothing else to do. "It's not
a hobby, it's not a pastime,
it's WORK!" Hausenfluke
declared.

He said the directors were
motivated by a simple
respect for their ancestors,
no one of them particularly
steeped in family
background. Just knowing
that his great grandfather,
grandfather, and a grand-

grasses, fearful of
rattlesnakes, to tend to the
caretaking of forbears.

Hausenfluke's own family
skips a generation as one
follows the grave markers
through the cemetery, and
Hausenfluke is acutely
aware of the reason for the
gap. He says his father made
few requests concerning his
burial, but the request that
he not be buried in the
"wilderness" left an indeli-
ble impression in
Hausenfluke's memory.

And so it was, in 1960, that
a few of the kinfolk viewed
the cemetery — grass head
high, barb wire fence more
down than up, and cattle
grazing the land — and
decided enough was enough.

Time has passed, and
times have changed for the
cemetery. "I'm going to be
buried here," Hausenfluke
said, and the lots for his next
generation have also been
purchased.

It happens all the time
now, he said. People call up
directors to say they want to
be buried at Berry's Creek.
In the Edwards' family, for
instance, two living
generations have requested
burial at the site, requests
which give members much
hope in the continuance of
the cemetery.

Once directors had taken
care of the past, they looked
ahead to assure care of the
future, and hit upon the idea
of the Perpetual Care Fund

at the time they incor-
porated two years ago.

They're proud that they've
only had to dip into the fund
once since then, and that
was to pay for the chain link
fence which bounds the
cemetery. Besides member
contributions, they're also
fortunate enough to have had
major volunteer contribu-
tions to keep it the way
they want it kept. Minnie
Thwing gave a third of her
estate to the cemetery, W.

P. Conway and sons drilled
and gave the well, sisters
Iva Thomas and Olive
Walker gave an acre of land
used for parking and as
access to the property, and
additional land was given by
W. W. Edwards.

The corporation receives

contributions from as far
away as St. Louis, Portland,
and even South America, in
response to an annual
newsletter sent to in-
dividuals considered to live
too far away to attend the
annual Cemetery Homecom-
ing, a phenomenon seem-
ingly localized in the Central
Texas area.

It's held the second Sun-
day in June, and about 60
percent of the 200
registrants come from out-
side the locality. There's a
Devotional and Memorial
Service held in an on-site
tabernacle, followed by a
luncheon and business
meeting. It's a chance to
renew old acquaintances and
friendships and, in a way,
touch base with their roots.

The Berry's Creek direc-
tors admittedly took a look
at Liberty Hill, Andice and
Jonah to see what they had
done, with abandoned
cemetaries, but A. J. Spicer,

Winger, an original and
current director, harbors no
doubts about the originality
of Berry's Creek. "We
modelled it after
ourselves," he said, indeed
with the resolution of a rock.

For the most part the
"care" in the cemetery's
perpetual care service in-
volves cutting the grass and
keeping the fence in good
shape. Where there was a
lime in the early years that
the directors did all the up-
keep themselves, they now
farm out most of the upkeep
and hold directors' meetings
about four times a year.

Right now they're in the
process of staking out a road
which skirts the entire
cemetery and crosses part
of it, with the hope that it
will be finished by next
homecoming.

And so it continues. A liv-
ing tribute to the founders
and settlers of the commu-
nity of Berry's Creek.



BEFORE — And it doesn't look half bad here, compared to its appearance a year earlier in 1960 when kinfolk with ancestors buried here formed what was known then as Berry Creek Cemetery Association.



AFTER — Directors A. J. (Spec) Winger, left, and L. M. Haasemilake, conduct a modern day cemetery workin', as they stake out a roadway which will cut through and follow the perimeter of Berry Creek Cemetery, Inc. The two are original members of the cemetery organization, founded in 1960.

Orchard earns Heritage spot

The Williamson County Stearns Orchard at Cotopaxo Springs, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Don Scarborough, Georgetown, has been accepted in the 1977 Texas Family Land Heritage Program. Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown has announced.

Some 45 farms and ranches are included among those being added this year to the list of more than 1,100

properties which have been honored since the Program began in 1974.

"The Land Heritage farms and ranches, as well as their dedicated owners, stand out as optimistic examples of family perseverance," Commissioner Brown noted. "I think that it is very important that we recognize their monumental achievements which can help us maintain our historical perspective of the basic strength of Texas

agriculture," he added.

Plans are now underway for a special honors ceremony for the 1977 recipients at the Institute of Texan Cultures of San Antonio, Nov. 16. Honorees will also be included in the upcoming fourth edition of the Texas Family Land Heritage Registry, which lists an historical description of each property.

The Land Heritage Program was initiated four

years ago as a means of locating and recognizing all the Texas farms and ranches which have been in continuous production at the hands of one family for a century or more.

Since its inception, the Heritage Program has received national attention from the American Association for State and Local History as well as the praise of state and local historical groups and people.

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Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, October 9, 1977

Sunday, November 6, 1977

THE ASTOR ASTORIA-OREGONIAN

'Three-Legged Willie' famous Texas orator

FOOTNOTE TO HISTORY — Judge Robert McAlpin Williamson, better known to history as "Three-Legged Willie," had no rival when it came to advocating that Texas become one of United States.

Williamson wanted statehood for Texas so much that he named a son Annexus.

"Three-Legged Willie" got his unusual nickname when a boyhood bout with polio drew his lower right leg back at the knee until it was horizontal. A peg leg was fitted at the knee. This made him appear to have three legs.

The handicap didn't slow Williamson's career. A Georgia native, he migrated to Texas in 1827 when he was 21. Soon he became the loudest voice for independence from Mexico. Despite his bad leg, he was a cavalryman at San Jacinto, later was a major in the Texas Rangers and served four terms in the Congress and one in the Senate of the Republic of Texas.

He was famous for his oratory, and his thunderous speeches supporting annexation enthralled his colleagues in the Texas Congress. Once Texas became a state, though, Williamson's political career waned. He was defeated in a race for Congress in 1849 and was an unsuccessful candidate for lieutenant governor in 1851.

Williamson died in 1859 without serving as an official of the state he had fought so hard to bring into the Union.



talk of texas

Jack McGuire

Junior Historians plan used book sale

The Junior Historians Club at Georgetown High School are seeking donations of used books for a book sale planned to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 19.

The club members will accept hardback and paperback books on all topics for the sale, which will be held on Eighth Street in front of the Georgetown Public Library.

Anyone seeking more information or wishing to donate books for the sale can telephone the Junior Historians' sponsor, Marietta Magford, at 862-2954.

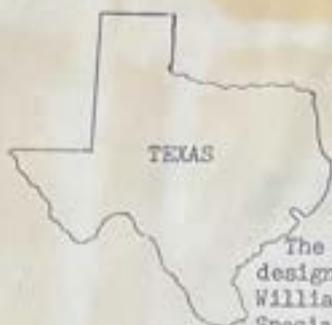
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Sunday, November 6, 1977

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 30, 1977

VOLUME SIX NUMBER SIX



HISTORY APPRECIATION WEEK

The week of September 25 through October 1, designated as History Appreciation Week in Williamson County was observed quite successfully.

Special recognition goes to the City of Florence and the Florence High School. Through the untiring efforts of Commission member, Effie McLeod, the Mayor issued a proclamation and the whole City cooperated with exhibits and Programs. Mrs. Betty Porter, Florence history teacher, planned programs and activities for her students which included inviting Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, a Historian of Georgetown, to speak to the class on research. She answered many questions for the enthusiastic students.

Georgetown Junior Historians, under the guidance of Mrs. Marietta Mugford also a Commission member, put together a large display at school. They took part in the October 1 Preservation Program at Southwestern University. Their drawings of native wild flowers made an attractive bulletin board. Their cold drink table was enjoyed by conference participants.

Round Rock Junior Historians sponsored by Jeff Townsend, Commission member, had some ethnic exhibits. One group represented the early Swedish settlers in the Round Rock area.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL PRESERVATION FORUM

The Williamson County Historical Commission appreciates being a part of the Natural and Cultural Preservation and Conservation Program, and is grateful for the benefits derived from the culminating forum which so fittingly closed the History Appreciation Week. Sponsored by the Capital Area Planning Council, it was efficiently guided by Don Stence, Judy Burton and Susan Souby. It was their hard work and imagination that made the day a great success.

Commission members who contributed time and talent were A.M. Ahlgreen and Jeff Townsend^{WHO} served as co-chairmen on the forum and pre-forum committees, respectively. Their co-workers were Dr. Claude Kennard of Southwestern University and Mrs. Loree Neiman of Round Rock. Laverne Faubion and Marietta Mugford attended many planning sessions and worked on exhibits. Clara Scarbrough helped with choosing the sites for photographing and made the "wrap-up" speech. Many Commission members were present for the forum.

Special thanks is due Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Rowland and Mrs. Williams of Round Rock and Mrs. Patsy Bartosch and the Czech Choir of Taylor. Their contributions to the exhibits and program are appreciated.

The Williamson County Historical Commission is indebted to the specialists in many fields who came to be on the panel and offer their expert views on conservation and preservation. Dr. Claude Kennard of the Fine Arts Department of Southwestern University was the moderator and the following panelists who introduced themselves were: Blake Alexander, University of Texas Professor of Archeology; Alton Briggs, Archeologist with the Texas Historical Commission; Mrs. Marie Landon, Historian with the Texas Historical Commission; Sam Goldenberg, Jr., of Georgetown, Fossil Authority; Anthony Mulkern, Southwest Texas University Department of Philosophy; Elton Prewitt, Archeologist at University of Texas Balcones Research Center; Bob Reagan, Soil Conservation Service of Williamson County; Stanley Sisson, Southwest Texas University Department of Biology; Keith Young, University of Texas Department of Geological Science; and Don Stence of C A P C O.

October 30, 1977

TOURS

Harold Asher has conducted another historical tour for Liberty Hill school children. He went with a bus load of students to sites in western Williamson County.

Miss Cora Sexton participated in two conducted tours. One tour was to the Big Thicket and the other was to historic Galveston.

Mrs. D.B. Gregg took part in a tour of Fredericksburg which included the Nimitz Museum.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY CEMETERIES VOLUME II

Laverne Faubion, who is editing the list of cemeteries as they are compiled, stated at the last meeting that it is necessary to close Volume II because of the size. This means there will be more Volumes to come since many known cemeteries have not been surveyed. Many commission members are working on this task.

Mrs. Harold G. Scoggins has prepared a special list of Civil War Veterans buried in this county and the list will be included in Volume II.

FAMILY LAND HERITAGE PROGRAM

Through the courtesy of Commissioner Reagan V. Brown of the Texas Department of Agriculture the FAMILY LAND HERITAGE Volumes I, II and III have been added to a growing collection of history books in the files of the Williamson County Historical Commission. These books for the years 1974, 1975 and 1976 contain information on families who have held the land for agricultural production for 100 years or more. Sixteen families in Williamson County qualified for this award in the three years that the program has been in effect.

A Pecan Orchard near Circleville owned by Don and Clara Scarbrough will be honored at ceremonies in November 1977. There may be others.

A FAMILY HISTORY OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY

At the October 1st meeting of the Commission Nan Mulvaney of Dallas presented a display of County Histories which the company she represented had published. The idea was advanced that perhaps this group might be interested in sponsoring a "Family History of Williamson County". A number of small histories of the county have been published through the years besides the very comprehensive and well documented Land of Good Water by Clara Scarbrough.

The books shown were similar to the Lewis Publishing Company book dated 1893. It is called "The Lone Star State" and contains biographical sketches of many families in Williamson and five other counties. These families may have written their own stories and that is what is proposed for this one. A county the size of Williamson might require two volumes. It most certainly would demand a great amount of time and work and such cooperation from many people. The Commission agreed to consider the project and make inquiries to ascertain interest in such an undertaking. This will be discussed at the November 3rd meeting.

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

It is almost time to renew membership in the Texas Historical Foundation. In that the Foundation is a supportive organization to the Texas Historical Commission, it is recommended that every member of the County Commission become a member of the Foundation. Dues are \$ 10 and are for the calendar year.

Nyreta Matthews, Chairman - Reporter
Williamson County Historical Commission
Box 127, Liberty Hill, Texas 78642
Phone 512-778-5249



GEORGETOWN resident Edith Caswell, right, poses with Margaret K. Everett, following the ceremony of the marker dedication to Mrs. Everett's mother, Mrs. Jennie Belle Morrow Decker. The state board of the Daughters of the War of 1812 met in Georgetown Thursday to hold the special graveside service.



JUNIOR HISTORIAN club members from Georgetown High School were among the guests who attended the marker dedication held by state board of the Daughters of the War of 1812 Thursday, November 10, at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Georgetown. Pictured are (l to r) Divya Goel, Carol Pestel, Felicia Mickan, Dennis Ibrahim, Sheila Miller, Bobby Baldwin, Deborah Duncan, sponsor Mrs. Marietta Magford, and a member of the ROTC color guard from the University of Texas, Jim Pippin.

Daughters of 1812 conduct impressive graveside service

At a very impressive ceremony held at 2 p.m. Thursday afternoon at the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Georgetown the state board of the United States Daughters of 1812 dedicated a marker to the memory of a real granddaughter of a hero of the War of 1812.

The grave of Mrs. Jennie Belle Morrow Decker was covered with wreaths and the marker was unveiled from beneath a flag.

State president of the society, Mrs. Lorenzo Lemuel Skaggs presided at the meeting. As ROTC honor guard from the University of Texas at Austin presented the colors and members paid tribute to the U.S. flag, the Texas state flag and the flag of 1812.

Mrs. Donald E. Mathes, state chairman of the real granddaughter committee, conducted the memorial service and the marker dedication was presented by Lacy

Alice Posey, state chairman for the 1812 marker committee.

Special guests at the ceremony included Mrs. Margaret D. Everett, daughter of Jennie Belle Morrow Decker, girl scouts from Troop 266 in Georgetown and members of the Junior Historian club of Georgetown High School.

Mrs. Decker was the granddaughter of General Sam Houston who commanded troops at the Battle of San Jacinto in 1836, was elected the first president of the Republic of Texas and later governor of the state. She was one of six children born to Nancy Elizabeth Houston Morrow, the General's eldest daughter. Both Mrs. Decker and her grandfather were born on March 3, a day now celebrated as Texas Independence Day.

Historical Commission meets in Georgetown

The regular monthly meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held at the Georgetown Public Library, Thursday, November 3. Reports were made by representatives from Andice-Gabriel Mills, Florence, Georgetown, Jarrell, Liberty Hill and Taylor.

Miss Effie McLeod stated that Florence citizens are interested in securing historical markers for historic buildings and sites in that city. History classes in Florence High School are becoming more aware of their heritage and are working on research projects relative to buildings and people.

Mrs. Marietta Magford and Mrs. Camilla Durvenberger accompanied a class of Junior Historians from Georgetown on historical tours in Bell County. They visited several sites near Salado that have been declared Historical Landmarks. Some Junior

Historians also attended, by special invitation, a preview of a movie in Austin called "A Lincoln Conspiracy."

The publication of "A Family History of Williamson County" was discussed. This type of family history has not been updated since 1893. The consensus of the group was that this type of history would grow in value from year to year and that it should be done. However, since many worthwhile projects are already under way, no decision was reached to take on this responsibility, at this time. A countywide family history would require a great amount of time and effort and would demand cooperation from many families if it is to become a fair representation of a county of this size.

Three visitors attending this meeting were Mrs. Frances Boyd of Cedar Park, Miss Nan Maloney of Dallas and Mrs. Bill Bryson, Burnet County Historical Commission Chairman of Bertram.

The Taylor Daily Press



By Water
Delivered
to You

Research papers give insight to past times

"The History of My Neighborhood," is one of the prize-winning entries in the Historical Research Contest sponsored this year by the Williamson County Historical Commission.

The essay-interview was written by Julia Shepherd of Georgetown, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James L. Shepherd.

THE HISTORY OF MY NEIGHBORHOOD

By Julia Shepherd

(Interview with Agnes and Hallie Wilcox)

The Wilcox sisters have lived in my neighborhood for their entire lives. Agnes was born in the white house currently owned by Mrs. Byers. When Agnes was three years of age, she and her parents moved into the house presently owned by John Chapman and his family. Hallie and the other children were born in the Chapman's house. Other kinfolks lived in the neighborhood such as an aunt and uncle who lived in the house presently owned by Ed Magford, grandparents who lived in the Virgil Carlson's house, a great aunt and uncle lived in the James Raper house, and other kin lived in

the house presently owned by Charles Steger.

The two sisters had a very happy childhood, although they say that a great deal of disagreement existed between kinfolk. As young children, the Wilcox's had two German houseworkers who lived with them for about four years. These German women took care of the children. They also made terrific foods and made such items as lye soap. One of these ladies was the mother of Virgil Carlson and the other was the mother of Vickie Lescher (a junior attending Georgetown High School).

The neighbors living across the street were Eanleys who are in relation to the former Lindbergs and the Gordon Mashburns of Georgetown. This house is presently the property of Earl Brooks.

The Wilcoxs owned a barn, a large garden, pigs, cows, goats and everything needed to provide for themselves. The sisters recall warm afternoons with fresh sheets hanging on the clothesline and fruits, fresh and ripe. All of the surrounding area in back of their house were pastures. In fact at one time a small bi-plane was landed in the field behind their house. The Keith family owned an orchard on the present location of 15th and Laurel Street.

The Steiger house was owned some years ago by a chemistry professor at Southwestern University, by the name of Doctor Godbey. Dr. Godbey and his wife both were known to be very brilliant people. They had two children which were twins. One was a boy who was known to be very feminine. He loved to cook, sew and even decorated his mother's hats. The other child was a girl who was known as a total tomboy. Several fraternities were in the nearby vicinity such as the K. A. house, formerly located near the Melburns,

the Sig house was located at the McClain's household, and even the Steger house was a fraternity house at one time.

The Wilcox sisters feel fortunate to have known the years in past. They recall the horse and buggies, the firetrucks which had to be pulled and home being much different from the present. They remember the home-made bread, cottage cheese, pickles, pork sausage, and many other delicacies to this day in time. They even remember the first time that the family gathered together to listen to the radio. They said that when the moment came, and the radio was turned on, only static was heard.

Mood Hall (one of the buildings at Southwestern) was an open building as the sisters were growing up. It was closed when the navy came to Southwestern, for the girl's privacy. In fact the only buildings existing were the former women's dormitory, one boy's dorm, the main building, and Mood Hall. When the women's dorm burned down the Wilcox family kept four of the girls who had been living there. The parents of the Wilcox sisters met at Southwestern while attending college. The father of the two sisters ran a livery stable which also was the storehouse for caskets and such like a funeral home. In later life he ran a book store. Many of the books for schooling were purchased there. During this time their father was also on the volunteer fire department.

Another interesting fact was given to me by the Sam Bradys, who told me that the house presently owned by Doctor O'Brien was the home-place of Mrs. Brady. She was born and raised there and in later years she was married there to Mr. Brady. The Bradys have lived in the neighborhood for over fifty years.

Another piece of interest

in the neighborhood is the pecan tree located in the backyard of the Virgil Carlsons. This tree originated from a pecan off of the tree planted in memory of former Gov. Hogg of Texas, which was located over his gravesite. The tree was always called the Hogg tree because of this incident.

Another annual tree is located on the boundary of the Ed Magford's house and the James/Shepherd's house. This pecan tree was planted over a century ago by the aunt and uncle of the Wilcox sisters. Their uncle was the former judge and governor of Texas, Judge Graves. The Graves lived in the present household of Ed Magford and family.

Another person of great renown boarded in the present household of Earl Brooks. This man was a governor in later years, named Dan Moody. In fact Mr. Moody used to give Agnes Wilcox a ride to school every day.

There are many interesting stories and realms of living that have developed in my neighborhood, but this is just one facet of the past.

The Sunday SUN
Page J

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, November 27, 1977

Rice's Crossing marker to be dedicated Sunday

The James O. Rice Texas Official Historical Marker will be dedicated in ceremonies at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, December 4, at Rice's Crossing.

The marker has been erected south of Taylor at

the intersection of Farm Roads 973 and 1060. Mrs. M. B. Garry has arranged the program and Charles Haislett will be master of ceremonies. Mrs. Don Scarbrough will be the main speaker.

The author of "Land of Good Water, A Williamson County History," Mrs. Scarbrough has done extensive research on this military man who took part in many vital events at the years when Texas was young.

Special guests at the dedication ceremony will include elected county officials as well as Texas Historical Commission officials.

The public is invited to attend.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 7 Thursday, December 1, 1977



AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER Reagan V. Brown (center) presents a Texas Family Land Heritage Program certificate to Mrs. Don Scarbrough, Georgetown, during ceremonies in San Antonio Nov. 18. Also on hand to congratulate the Williamson County landowner is San Antonio Mayor Lila B. Cockrell. (right)

Clara Scarbrough recognized as historic land owner

Mrs. Don Scarbrough of Georgetown was one of a number of Texas citizens who were on hand to accept Texas Family Land Heritage certificates as owners of land that have been continuously used in their family for more than 100 years.

Mrs. Scarbrough's property came to her through her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Stearns of Taylor. Stearns, who died in 1975, was a pioneer pecan producer in this county and developed the orchard on the San Gabriel, about 2 miles west of Circleville, that was an outstanding producer for more than half a century.

In all, 1,179 properties, farms and ranches, have not been recognized by the Texas Department of Agriculture since the program began in 1974. To qualify, a Texas farm or ranch must have been in continuous production at the hands of one family for a century or more.

Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown and his wife Gladys were on hand to present the honor certificates along with San Antonio mayor Lila B. Cockrell, who welcomed the honorees, family, and friends to San Antonio.

"We are particularly proud to be able to recognize these families," Com-

missioner Brown commented. "At a time when agricultural producers in the state are facing severe economic problems which are forcing many to give up their way of life, these people stand as an example of perseverance and hope."

"They demonstrate the strength and durability which has made Texas agriculture one of the leaders in providing food and fiber for our nation and the world," Brown stated.

The 1977 honorees will also be included in the Texas Family Land Heritage Registry, Vol. IV, which chronicles individual family histories.

The Sunday SUN
Page 4
Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, December 4, 1977



HOUSE MOVING — The old George Washington Glasscock Jr. home, built in 1879 by the son of the man for whom Georgetown was named, was moved to Weir last January. The house, which used to sit at the corner of Austin Avenue and Williams Drive, is shown here split in half and rolling down the road to Weir.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 9 Thursday, December 29, 1977

JAMES O. RICE by James S. Scarborough, Fort Worth,
August 1, 1976

James O. Rice, one of the founders and early citizens of Williamson County, was a member of one of the first three Texas Ranger companies formed in Texas; served in the Texas Revolutionary War, and in the war with Mexico, in which he won particular distinction for his military leadership; was the 2nd postmaster in Va. Co. and the namesake of the community where he lived.
On the 1833 petition to form Williamson County, Rice wrote his name "James O. Rice."¹ He is likewise listed in the records of the Texas Rangers, the U. S. Census of Williamson County for 1850 and 1860, in marriage, bounty, donation, and probate records, in land deeds and by early historians. The name was frequently abbreviated to Jan. O. Rice. It occasionally appeared as James Rice, as in the U. S. Census of Travis County of 1870 and in the Republic of Texas Census of 1890. The form J. O. Rice was infrequently used.

James O. Rice apparently was born either Sept. 13, 14, 15, or 16, of 1815, as determined from U. S. Census records. He was listed as age 35 on Sept. 16, 1850; age 44, July 20, 1860, and age 50 on Sept. 12, 1870.

Two clues suggest that James O. Rice died in 1875: (1) The Colorado Citizen of Columbus, Texas, June 22, 1876, contained this item: "Enclosed I send you a list as reported at the Veteran [sic] Association at Austin on the 21st of April, of those who were reported as having died since our last annual meeting. . . [including] James O. Rice. . . ." (2) Frank Brown wrote in 1901: "James O. Rice. . . lived in Travis and Williamson Counties from 1836, or earlier, to the time of his death, about twenty-five years ago."² He was buried in the Sneed Family Cemetery at Coral Bluff, near Bluff Springs, Austin. The grave is not marked by a headstone, but with a simple stone with Rice's initials carved upon it.³

Rice was connected to the Sneed family through his third daughter's marriage. She was Almada Melissa Rice, who married Newton Sneed on Dec. 25, 1870.⁴ (written Sneed on mar. license) between 1870 and 1875, records indicate Rice was attempting to put his financial affairs in order and that his health was failing. The last date on this group of records is July 15, 1870. The previous month, two Austin doctors examined Rice and stated in writing that he could not perform physical labor because of a double inguinal hernia.⁵

¹Wm. O. Karcher, 2603 Wooldridge Dr., Austin, holds power of attorney on Sneed place and allows no access to it. Sneed genealogists (see f. 3) do not recall whether the grave stone has a date on it.

No obituary has been located in the files of the Austin Daily Democratic Statesman or of the Austin Weekly Democratic Statesman of 1875, or of the first four months of 1876.

Both the 1850 and 1870 U. S. Census records list Rice's native state as South Carolina; the 1860 Census gives Illinois. South Carolina is probably correct. (The 1790 census of South Carolina shows 25 heads of families named Rice, including two named James Rice. The Illinois census for 1810 lists only three heads of families carrying the Rice name.)⁶

James O. Rice and Nancy D. Gilliland were married on Nov. 5, 1846, in Travis County by an Austin Justice of the Peace, William J. Ketchum.⁷ Nancy was the daughter of James and Diana Gilliland (the name is also spelled Gilleland), members of Austin's Colony. This means the ^{Gillilands} could have been in Texas by 1821, certainly by 1825, for Nancy was 25 years old in 1850 and was born in Texas.⁸

The Gillilands were substantial people for that time. He was a Methodist minister, owned a large tract of land on the Colorado River between Webberville and Hornsby's Bend, and in 1840 also had land in "Accoedoches County", as well as 25 cattle and 7 horses. Diana Gilliland owned considerable real estate of her own and had two slaves and 30 cattle in the 1840 census of the Republic of Texas.⁹ Gilliland and his family, along with Josiah Wilbarger and the Barker and Burlison families, "first penetrated the 'Little Colony'" where the "Lost Pines" near present Bastrop provided "a hiding place against the Indians."¹⁰ Gilliland preached at Bastrop and in the spring of 1835 organized a Methodist Church there, the first church in the settlement. In the spring of 1839, Rev. Gilliland was severely wounded in a battle with Lipan Indians, in what would become Williamson County. The several units in the battle were commanded by General Edward Burlison, Capt. Jesse Williamsley, Capt. Jacob "Jake" Burlison. Rev. Gilliland died ten days after the battle.¹¹

Census records reveal this information about Rice and his family:

Census, Republic of Texas, 1840, lists "Jas. Rice"; no property listed;
Travis Co.

U. S. Census, Williamson County, Texas, Sept. 16, 1850:

James O. Rice, 35, farmer, born S. C.; \$15,000 taxable real estate.

Nancy D. Rice, 25, housewife, born Texas.

Elizabeth Rice, 2, born Texas.

Mary E. Fox, 13, born in Germany, also in the household.

U. S. Census, Williamson County, Texas, July 20, 1860:

- James C. Rice, 44, farmer, born Illinois [sic]: \$10,000 taxable real estate; \$500 personal estate.
- Elizabeth A. Rice, 12, born Texas.
- Sarah F. Rice, 10, born Texas.
- Annellia [sic] M. Rice, 6, born Texas. (Apparently the name is correctly written Almada, or Almada Melissa.)
- Allies [sic] Rice, 4, born in Texas. (Correct name: Alice D.)

U. S. Census, Austin (as opposed to Austin City listings), Travis County, Texas, Sept. 12, 1870:

- James Rice, 54, farmer, born S. C.; \$1,000 taxable real estate; \$100 personal estate.
- Melissa Rice, 16, born Texas. "Keeping house."
- Alice Rice, 14, born Texas. "At home."

Rice's wife, Nancy, died sometime prior to the April 1860 term of Williamson County Probate Court, at which time James O. Rice was present and petitioned Chief Justice J. E. King to appoint Charles Sauls, James Sauls, ^{Deceased, said J} and Benjamin Allen (neighbors near Rice's Crossing) to appraise and value the community property belonging to him and his "late deceased wife." The inventory was submitted and signed by Rice on April 30, 1860, with the following common property and evaluations: 14 head horses, \$80.85; 272 acres land on Brushy Creek, \$544, less 45 acres at \$15 per acre; 472 acres land on Colorado River, Travis County, \$645; 35 head stock cattle, \$210; 30 head stock hogs, \$60; 1 yoke oxen, \$35. ¹²

No record of marriages of the two older daughters, Elizabeth A. and Sarah F., have been located either in Williamson or Travis counties, but James O. Rice stated that both were married prior to June 1871. ¹³ Almada Melissa, the third eldest daughter, married Newton Owen Sneed, Dec. 25, 1870. Rev. John Henry Ziveley, a Presbyterian minister who lived near Bluff Springs, Austin, and who ministered to churches in central Texas, officiated. The Sneed family home at Comal Bluff was located near Bluff Springs. ¹⁴

In September 1871, James O. Rice and his attorneys petitioned the Travis County Probate Court for permission to sell 136 acres of land in Travis County belonging to his youngest daughter, Alice D., to pay for her education and maintenance. Rice stated that her education "is limited and very imperfect," and that he had no property of his own with which to support her. The Court allowed the sale. Carefully itemized

Bills were submitted during 1872, 1873 and 1874 for Alice's expenses. These included statements for board and tuition; dresses at 50 and 75 cents each; four chemises for \$2; a "polonaise" dress for \$2; candy, ink, paper, thread, fans, braid, ribbon, box of paint, pair of "boas," muslin, pins and needles, starch gloves, lace collar, bottles extract, penholder and cap, shooting, lawn, shoes, buttons and calico. One of the boarding statements was from Mrs. Marianda Reed, for Alice's board from May 10 to August 1873, \$30. The June 1874 District Court of Travis County declared that Alice D. Rice was no longer a minor, so her father's guardianship was closed and a full accounting completed by July 8, 1874.¹⁵

Alice D. Rice and Francis W. Crow were married on Nov. 10, 1875, by Albert Brown, Justice of the Peace, Precinct I, Austin. Mrs. Alice D. Crow was buried Nov. 5, 1913, in Oakwood Cemetery, Austin.¹⁶

James C. Rice was in Texas at least by 1835. He was then 20 and a private in the Texas Revolutionary Army. He was in John J. Tulinson's frontier ranger company, created in October-November 1835 by the Texas Provisional Government and authorized to build a fort near the headquarters of Brushy Creek.¹⁷ Tulinson and 60 men, including Rice, went to Block House Creek early in January 1836 and built a log fort (south of present Leander). They remained there until they were recalled to Bastrop early in March to protect frontier families fleeing from Santa Anna and his Mexican forces who were marching into Texas. Tulinson's unit was then ordered to San Jacinto, but arrived after the battle was over.¹⁸ Rice received bounties totaling 1200 acres of land for his service Oct. 12, 1836 to April 12, 1837. He again served from June to December, 1837, participating in October in a fight with Indians at Stone House, 200 miles from the nearest settlement, and was awarded a bounty of 640 acres.¹⁹

Rice was one of fifteen men who occupied Kenney's Fort when it was completed in the spring of 1838 at Brushy Cove on Brushy Creek where the Double File Trail crossed the stream. The Fort consisted of "four log cabins with port holes on the exposed sides, and was enclosed with a picket stockade of logs about eight feet high, with wide, strong gates on the east and west. It fronted north on the bluff of Brushy Creek, and the east side was near the branch." Rice lived there until 1840,²⁰ according to W. K. Makenson, but the following narratives suggest that he was away frequently.

The account describes a 'buffalo hunt on the Colorado River, or ordered by General Mirabeau B. Lamar, who had an escort of six rangers, including James O. Rice, in the fall of 1837 or 1838. At the end of the hunt, the men assembled on a hill where the present State Capitol of Texas stands. Lamar looked out to the valley covered with wild rye, to the mountains up the river, and to "the charming view to the south" and declared, "this should be the seat of future empire."²¹

Rice's most notable military exploit and probably his greatest contribution to his adopted state took place in May 1839 when he commanded the small company which captured crucial, revealing documents telling of widespread plots against the Texans by Mexico and the Indians. Rice's role has been described in varying detail by respected historians who judged the encounter second only in importance to the battle of San Jacinto in relation to Texas' independence.²²

The story began in 1836 when the Mexican government started plans for a general war over all of Texas. Frontier Indians were to be incited "to hang on to the border, and harass the Texans, destroy their trade, break up their commerce, burn their houses, and divide the spoils, according to Indian custom."²³ If groups of Texans gathered in large bodies, the Indians were instructed to hover close by and hold them together, while other bands plundered their settlements.²⁴ General Valentin Gonzalez of Matamoros was in charge of the plot. Early in 1839, he wrote about the intrigue to Vicente Cordova who was directing the insurgents at Mesquedochas, and to the chiefs of the Seminoles and Caddoes, and to Big Bush and Bowles of the Cherokees. Cordova, in turn, wrote to Manuel Flores, a Mexican agent, that the Cherokees would cooperate.²⁵ He returned to Mexico briefly, and in the spring of 1839 he and Flores and their soldiers left for Texas. Settlers spotted their trail near the Colorado River, assumed they were Indians, and gathered a volunteer force in case they proved hostile. The volunteers included Col. Edward Mirison, James O. Rice, Jesse Billingsley, and Micah "Mike" Andrews. They trailed Cordova toward Seguin and in a skirmish March 20-30, killed 30 of the Mexican force and took several prisoners. Cordova escaped and returned to Mexico, and Flores and some of his men eluded the volunteers, moving farther into Texas.²⁶ Among the prisoners was a 200-pound French Negro named Raphael who was extremely antagonistic toward his captors, vowing

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the Texans that he would never cooperate with them. He was court
 martialled and sentenced to be shot. Andrews assigned six rangers to
 pursue him. Rice was not chosen, so he offered five dollars to
 one of the six men who would give him his place. The trade was
 made, but Rice's gun failed on the signal to fire. Rice remarked,
 "There my gun snapped, for the first time in my life."²⁷
 Settlers along the Colorado River were alerted that Flores was at
 camp and running companies were formed to protect the settlements. One
 company was headed by Capt. Mike Andrews and Lt. James C. Rice. About
 May 15, late in the afternoon, Rice and B. E. Castleberry went scouting
 on Crion Creek south of Austin, hunting deer for supper when they
 stumbled onto what proved to be Flores' trail, made by a large number
 of horses and leading north. Rice and Castleberry hurried to camp with
 the news. Andrews, convinced it was Flores' trail, was determined to
 follow. They found where the trail went under a "stooping tree," and
 could count 25 or 30 horses that had gone around the tree, indicating
 that they had riders, and that many more horses had gone under the low
 hanging limbs. They were somewhat uncertain of this estimate of the
 party. There were 27 in the Texas group.²⁸ One of the civilians,
 Jayne Torton, believed the Mexicans vastly outnumbered Andrews, warned they
 might all be slaughtered. Flores had moved into a cedar brake. The
 captain decided to turn his men toward home. A. J. "Ad" Adkisson wanted
 to pursue Flores, however, and after riding about three miles toward
 home, he asked permission of the Captain to do so, along with any others
 who wished to join him. Andrews assented, saying that he would join in
 the search, but released those who did not care to continue the pursuit.
 Six men continued toward home, leaving 21 Texans to hunt Flores. Andrews
 turned west on the trail, made camp that night north of the Colorado
 River "near the mountains." They went into the mountains at a rapid rate
 the next morning.²⁹ But a hard rain the previous night soon made the trail
 as hard to find in what was already difficult terrain. To compound the
 problem, Captain Andrews' horse became lame. Andrews weighed about 200
 pounds and there was nothing for him to do but turn back. Two other men
 with disabled horses joined him and the three headed for home. This
 left Lt. Rice in command, with seventeen other men in his force. The
 company moved as best they could, considering all their horses were tired
 and many lame from the long chase. The trail finally led onto the

prairies and they reached the South San Gabriel River, southeast of present Liberty Hill, about 2 p. m., May 17. The Mexicans had camped near a good spring on the river the previous night, had "nooned and cut down a bee tree." The bees had not settled when the rangers came along, so they knew the Mexicans were not far ahead. Flores had left only four camp fires, suggesting a relatively small number in his company. Rice hurried the pursuit. Two of his men went ahead to scout and soon signaled for the others to dismount and cut switches, for the Mexicans were just over the hill a quarter of a mile away. As the Texans approached, Flores tried to maneuver and lose the enemy, but Rice and his men charged ahead until Flores was caught at a steep bluff on the south bank of the North San Gabriel River. The bluff was too steep to descend. Flores and his men were cornered. Flores charged and fired, but William Wallace, the first Texan ready for action, fired and Flores fell from his horse. He was shot through the heart. Two other Mexicans were killed. The remainder of their small party fled, abandoning their extra horses, mules, baggage, arms, and supplies. The rangers collected about 114 horses and mules, 300 pounds of powder, shot, balls and bar lead, and other items. The "other items" proved by far the most significant, for they included numerous official documents and letters detailing the plot between Mexican general Canulizo, Cordova, and various Indian tribes of Texas against the Republic of Texas. Not until this point did the Texans realize the extent and danger of this widespread plan.³⁰

Flores' companions apparently fled to a crossing they had located on the North Gabriel and on toward the mountains beyond. The rangers were exhausted and their horses in poor condition, so did not follow. The eighteen weary Texans rode five or six miles to their recent crossing on the South Gabriel to make camp for the night, where Flores had been the night before. There they met Capt. James F. Owensby and 30 rangers sent as reinforcements for Rice. Owensby's men asked for their share of the spoils, but Rice's men declined since they had done all the fighting, and Owensby's company refused to share their food and guard with Rice's soldiers. Next day, Rice and company moved on toward Austin, meeting Col. Edward Burleson and another party of men, who offered provisions without asking for a share of the booty. Rice and company stopped long enough to eat, then continued to Austin.³¹

In describing the affair, Walter Prescott Webb, the historian, states

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That this is probably one of the most important fights that ever took place in Texas. Col. Burleson's official report stated, "his Lt. Rice and his seventeen gallant men deserve the highest esteem." 32

James C. Rice's name is on the "Master Rolls of Certain Select Frontier Forces, 1839 to 1861" under Col. Edward Burleson; "Master Roll, Capt. Nichol Andrew's Rangers, March 10-June 10, 1837"; the "First Texas Ranger" list, under Capt. Nelson Correll; was with the Postrop Rangers June 10 to Sept. 10, 1839; and "Spies for Travis County" under Capt. G. W. Tolson, April 3 to May 20, 1841. 33

Rice was with Somervell's troops slated to invade Mexico in 1842, and remained with the men who entered Mier, Mexico. He fought Dec. 25-26 in the Battle of Mier, was wounded, captured, and hospitalized, but managed to escape two days later. In an application for pension filed by Rice October 10, 1870, he further described the Mier events. He was in Capt. ... B. Pierson's Company under Fisher's command. His wound caused by a ball fired by a Mexican, was about two inches and to the left of the right nipple, the wound penetrating to the hollow. The wounded prisoners were confined in a church of Mier "for two Sundays," after which Rice and seven others bribed their guard and escaped to Texas. On Sept. 29, he was paid \$40 for Mier services Oct. 17, 1842, to Feb. 17, 1843; and on Oct. 15, 1850, an additional sum for 24 months' service on the Mier Expedition. 34

From late April to early August 1843, Rice was guide for an expedition led by Col. Jacob Snively, who planned to intercept and attack a caravan of goods heading for Mexico. 35

By 1846, Rice must have decided to lead a more settled life, for he began collecting his land bounty and to acquire additional property. He and Nancy D. Gilliland were married in Travis County on Nov. 5, 1846, and ~~settled on~~ Blue Hill on Brushy Creek ^{seen after} 37

Among Rice's land acquisitions were 640 acres for \$200, Aug. 3, 1846; 370 acres, Aug. 6, 1846; 640 acres for \$100, Sept. 1, 1846--most of the foregoing being along Brushy Creek; 5 acres for \$100, Dec. 27, 1856, located at Round Rock; 40 acres for \$400 (Confederate money) Jan. 1, 1863, located between the two forks of the San Gabriel River, near where the present Georgetown Country Club stands; 610 acres for \$1600 (Confederate bills) Nov. 5, 1863, on Berry's Creek. 36 Rice's 1850 census listing of \$15,000 in real estate was the fourth largest in the county at that time. 36

James C. Rice chose for his homestead a place on the north bank of Brushy Creek, then known as Blue Hill for the ^{off road by} bluish shale ^{or white sandstone} banks of the

the office was discontinued on April 10, 1857.

Early Spanish expeditions crossed central Texas near Blue Hill, as did the Comanche
road to East Texas via Teneatitan or Nashville on the Brazos. Austin mail Route 6288 went through Blue
Hill to Comstock. A much-used cattle trail crossed the Colorado at Webberville, Brushy Creek at Rice's
crossing, and intersected the Western Trail near Georgetown.
The site was about 1 mile west of the present Rice's Crossing store.

It was in the heart of blacklands, and south of present Taylor.
A few decades later, the community was renamed Rice's Crossing in honor
of Rice and it still goes by that name. Among Rice's neighbors up and
down Brushy Creek were other pioneer families including Bartlett Sinms,
Willis Avery, Daniel Kimbro, David P. Knight, Zara Stearns, Joseph
Kuykendall, Matthias Wilbarrer, and Calvin Barker.³⁷

Early in 1848, Rice and Washington Anderson, who lived on Brushy Creek
east of present Round Rock, circulated a petition to form a new county,
which would become Williamson County. They had identical documents for
signatures except that one suggested the county be named "Clear Water"
and the other suggested "San Gabriel." Rice signed "James O. Rice" on
one of the sheets. Dated Feb. 2, 1848, the petition may have been
worded by Rice and Anderson. One is written in Anderson's distinctive
hand; the other, in a different hand, may have been written by Rice.
The State Legislature approved creation of the new county on March 13,
1848, and in the same act appointed J. O. Rice and five other commissioners
to select the county seat. The six men met in May 1848 under a large live
oak tree a mile south of the confluence of the two forks of the San Gabriel.
They were offered free land if that site were chosen and the town named
Georgetown for one of the donors. The offer was accepted and the site
determined.³⁸

The first civil suit of the county, M. C. Hamilton vs. James O. Rice,
was considered in October 1848 District Court, also held under the live
oak tree where the county seat was selected. The case was "trespass to
try title" and was not settled until nearly two decades later.³⁹

Hordes of wild cattle lived along Brushy Creek and most of the
pioneer residents of that area became leading cattlemen of the county.
Nancy D. Rice registered her own cattle brand with the County Clerk on
March 28, 1849. J. W. and J. O. Rice listed their brand, "J O," in the
same book, but no date is given for the registration. No other mention
has been found in Williamson County records of J. W. Rice and he was not
in the 1850 census of the county. After Nancy D. Rice's death in 1860,
the list of community property included 35 head of stock cattle.⁴⁰

James C. Rice became postmaster of a new post office, established
Nov. 12, 1849, at Blue Hill, the second post office in the county.
Mann, who did some research on Rice in the 1930s, stated that Rice
operated a tavern at Blue Hill.⁴¹ Rice continued his postmastership until
the office was discontinued on April 10, 1857.⁴²

Rice began selling some land in 1854 and by 1860 had reduced his real estate holdings from \$15,000 in 1850 to \$10,000 in 1860; he added \$500 worth of personal property in 1860. The totals were further reduced by the 1870 census, when he had \$1,000 in real estate and \$100 in personal property. By September 1871 he stated before a notary that he "had no property." His land sales include 370 acres for \$45, May 31, 1854; 640 acres for \$3340, Sept. 14, 1858, located on Brushy Creek; 213 1/3 acres for \$300 out of his headright survey on Brushy Creek, July 3, 1862; and 320 acres of the headright for \$3200, Nov. 15, 1862; 40 acres and a tanyard northwest of Georgetown between the forks of the San Gabriel River, for \$1500, Jan. 15, 1864; 640 acres for \$1940, Oct. 6, 1865, on Berry's Creek; and 640 acres for \$1200, Dec. 19, 1865, on Brushy Creek. ⁴²

Judging from the deed records, Rice bought his 40 acres near Georgetown on Jan. 1, 1863, on which to establish a tanyard. Apparently during the year he took a partner, Peter B. Mills, for it was only a year later, Jan. 15, 1864, that Rice sold the 40 acres. The deed mentions as part of the transaction 7 1/2 acres "whereupon is the tan-yard of the late firm of Rice and Mills." Rice sold his interest in the business and the land to Mills, including "the stock materials fixtures &c for tanning & located on land between the north and south San Gabriel near Georgetown." ⁴³ No other information about the tanyard has been found other than that contained in the deed.

The title suit of H.C. Hamilton vs. James O. Rice, first considered in October 1848, was similar to others filed by Hamilton against a number of citizens along Brushy Creek such as Willie Avery, Calvin Barker, Reuben Hornsby, Bartlett Sims/Simms, and about eight others. Rice's case came up periodically, but was continued until Oct. 11, 1850, when a jury found for the defendant "on account of fraud" and declaring that Hamilton had obtained a title to the land in question through fraudulent means, and that Rice had a "valid and subsisting location and survey upon said land." The plaintiff moved for a new trial, was overruled; he then gave notice of appeal to the Supreme Court. The case was reopened, however, at District Court of Williamson County, and on March 12, 1867, the Court ruled for Hamilton, who was to take possession of one-third league of land on the north side of Brushy Creek from Rice. ⁴⁴

It appears safe to assume that Rice moved from Williamson County to Travis County, in or near Austin, between the time he sold his tanyard early in 1864 and the enumeration of the Travis County census of 1870. For

whatever reasons, his finances were in poor shape and he was physically incapacitated by October 10, 1870, when he applied for an annual pension of \$500 for his service in the Mexican War, as the application reveals.⁴⁵ He was granted the pension in Certificate No. 71 dated Oct. 25, 1870. Economic pressures must have continued to mount, for on July 15, 1874, Rice transferred his Pension Certificate No. 71 to E. W. Penn "for a valuable consideration. . . on which there is due \$1750," giving Penn the right to claim and own the certificate thereafter.⁴⁶ Whether it was legal at that time to make such a transfer has not been checked out, but the point is that the incident reveals Rice's circumstances. One can speculate that Rice's financial losses from the position in 1850 of the fourth largest landholder in Williamson County to one of financial need in 1870 could be explained by several known (and possibly some unknown) factors. The long drawn out litigation for Rice's land grant, which suit Rice finally lost, covered the years 1848 through 1867, and, no doubt, required extensive attorneys' fees. The exchange of land during the 1860s indicates that Rice dealt in Confederate money, as revealed in the deeds already cited, which could have brought heavy losses to Rice. Probate and Pension records in Travis County from 1870 to 1874 tell of Rice's falling health. All these factors may have contributed to his losses.

Rice's record speaks for itself as worthy of commemoration. In addition, the statements of Dr. Walter Prescott Webb, historian, and Col. Edward Burleson, Rice's commanding officer, both already cited, indicate Rice's notable contribution to his state. Such a commemoration may also aid in setting the record straight regarding one article about James O. Rice in the Southeastern Historical Quarterly for July 1951, in which the research was incomplete and thus led to some faulty conclusions. The Williamson County Historical Commission is happy to honor Rice's service with the Texas Rangers, his founding of Williamson County, his service in the Texas Revolution and War with Mexico, and his contributions as a citizen of this county.

FOONW44-article on JAMES O. RICE

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7. Lucie Clift Price, 139.
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13. File no. 457, Estate of Alice D. Rice, Probate Records, Travis County.
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- Research and writing by Clara Stearns Scarbrough (Mrs. Don), 1318 East University Avenue, Georgetown, Texas 73626.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVEN - DECEMBER 31, 1977

VOLUME SIX

TEXAS

WILLIAMSON
1848

Williamson County Historical Commission set some goals at the beginning of the new year of 1977. Now the year is gone and not all goals were reached but since this is a continuing effort, some things started by our predecessors years ago, have come to pass this year. Hopefully some ideas projected in 1977 will be achieved in later years.

JAMES O. RICE MARKER DEDICATION

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Box 127
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

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Refreshments were served from a tea table centered with an arrangement of fall colored flowers, complimented with silver serving pieces.



Lou Bell Harris Cuts Ribbon

Taylor Daily Press, Monday, December 5, 1977

20. W. K. Makenson, 2; also Makenson's article in Williamson County Sun for Aug. 7, 1922.
Clara Stearns Scarborough, footnote p. 83.
21. Alexander M. Terrell. "The City of Austin from 1839 to 1865," Quarterly of Texas State Historical Association, July 1910, 113-14.
22. Senate Executive Document 14, 32nd Congress, 2nd Session, Serial 660, Report of the Secretary of State Correspondence.
Walter Prescott Webb, 43-50.
Joseph Milton Nance. Africanian, 113-141.
Anderson K. Yoakum. History of Texas, II, 257, 259-60.
W. K. Makenson, 12.
John Wesley Wilbarger, 157-60, 163-65.
John Henry Brown. Indian Wars and Pioneers of Texas, 62-66.
Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston), April 17, 1839.
23. Walter Prescott Webb, 49.
24. Webb, *ibid.*; Yoakum II, 257-59; Wilbarger, 156.
25. Joseph Milton Nance, 137.
26. Nance, 123; Wilbarger, 153; Jesse Billingsley Papers, University of Texas Archives.
27. Wilbarger, 156-57.
28. Nance, 132.
29. Nance, 134.
30. Nance, 132-37; Wilbarger 157-60; Yoakum II, 259-60.
31. Nance, 136-39; Webb, 48.
Burlison to Albert Sidney Johnston, Senate Executive Documents, 32nd Congress, 2nd Session, Serial No. 660, Document 14.
32. Webb, 48; Burlison, *ibid.*
33. Nance, 549, 551.
Water Rolls, Texas State Library Archives.
Water Rolls.
34. Sanjour Papers, 71, Texas State Library Archives.
Sanjour File 2-12-46, Texas State Library Archives.
35. William L. Mann. "James C. Rice, Hero of the Battle on the San Gabriels," The Southwestern Historical Quarterly, July 1951.
36. Williamson County Deed Record Books, VIII, 100; VIII, 101; V, 362; VII, 19; VII, 367; X, 7.
37. Scarborough, 114, 119, 121-22.
Scarborough, 114, 119, 121-22.
Scarborough, 114, 119, 121-22.
38. Scarborough, 125.
Cause No. 2033, Williamson County District Court Records, March 12, 1867; Deed Records Williamson County, XIV, 523.
39. Cattle Brand Book I, Williamson County, 1848-1859.
File 3-2, Probate Records of Williamson County.
40. M. S. Post Office Records of Appointments of Postmasters, Williamson County, Texas.
Mann, *ibid.*
41. M. S. Post Office Records, *ibid.*; Mann and Mrs. Nathan Curry, Rice's Crossing.

43. Williamson County Deeds, X, 116-20.
 44. District Court Records, Williamson County, Minute Book A-1, pp. 2-12, 15-17, 31, 36, 38, 43; Minute Book 2, p. 292. Deed Records, XIV, 528.
 45. Pension File 2-12-46, Texas State Library Archives.
 46. Ibid.

* * * * *

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Williamson County Deed Record Books, VIII, 100-101; V, 362; VII, 18, 367; X, 7; 116-20; XIV, 528.
Cattle Brand Book I, Williamson County, 1848-1859.
 U. S. Postal Records.
District Court Records, Williamson County, Minute Books 1 and 2.
 U. S. and Republic of Texas Census Records, 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870.
 Files of the Austin Daily (and Weekly) Democratic Statesman for 1875, 1876
- Research and writing by Clara Stearns Scarbrough (Mrs. Don), 1318 East University Avenue, Georgetown, Texas 73626.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER SEVEN - DECEMBER 31, 1977

VOLUME SIX

TEXAS

WILLIAMSON
1848

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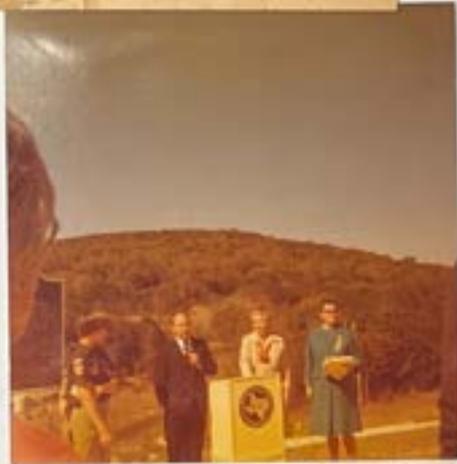
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Taylor Daily Press, Monday, December 5, 1977

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Bob Watson, Mrs. Jessie Smith,
Mrs. John C. Horton.



Mr. L. E. Garner, Mrs. John C.
Horton, Mrs. Maline McCalla.



BALCONES FAULT
AND COLONIZATION OF TEXAS

CUTTING THROUGH THE CENTER OF TEXAS FROM HILL COUNTY SOUTH AND WEST TO UNALIKI COUNTY IS THE BIGGEST ESCARPMENT-FAULT CALLED BALCONES. THE ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS GEOLOGIC FORMATION AFFECTED THE PATTERN OF COLONIZATION IN TEXAS. THE WINDING SPRINGS AND WOODED HILLS OF THE ESCARPMENT AND ADJACENT FERTILE PRAIRIES ATTRACTED INDIAN TRIBES AND SPANISH COLONISTS BEFORE THE AREA WAS PERMANENTLY SETTLED BY ANGLO-AMERICAN PIONEERS. SPANISH EXPLORER BERNARDO DE NEBARZA IN 1716 NAMED THE FORMATION "LOS BALCONES", MEANING "BALCONIES". PART OF EL CAMINO REAL, THE "KING'S HIGHWAY", FEEDS THE FAULT LINE. SPANISH RESIDIOS AND PRESIDIOS WERE LOCATED AT SPRINGS NEAR SAN ANTONIO, AUSTIN AND EL PASO, BUT MANY SPANISH SETTLEMENTS DISAPPEARED BEFORE 1800.

ANGLO-AMERICANS LED BY STEPHEN F. AUSTIN BEGAN TO SETTLE NEAR THE BALCONES ESCARPMENT BEFORE 1830. THROUGH THEIR COURAGE AND DETERMINATION, EARLY PIONEER SETTLEMENTS GROW INTO THE TOWNS AND CITIES THAT TODAY DOT THE FAULT LINE. THE TOWN OF AUSTIN, WITH ITS COMBINATION OF BEAUTY AND NATURAL RESOURCES, WAS CHOSEN CAPITAL OF THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, WHICH BECAME THE 29TH STATE OF THE UNITED STATES. (1874)

MARKER SPONSOR: TREATY-OAK CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN COLONISTS



Governor Dolph Briscoe has officially proclaimed the week of December 4 through 8, 1977, HISTORY APPRECIATION WEEK FOR TRAVIS COUNTY. Travis County was created by Acts of the Republic of Texas on January 25, 1840. Mirabeau B. Lamar was then President of the Republic of Texas. David G. Burnet, President of the Senate and David S. Kaufman, Speaker of the House. Several leaders in the Republic including Stephen F. Austin selected Austin as site for the new capital of the Republic. Travis County was formed out of Bastrop County and named for our Alamo Commander, Colonel William B. Travis.

Planned activities by Travis County Historical Commissions, supported by the Texas Historical Commission, and with the approval of Mayor Carol McChellan and the City Council, and in conjunction with Capitol Area Planning Council include:

Opening with HISTORICAL MARKERS DEDICATIONS:

Sunday

December 4, 1977

10:30 a.m.

2:30 p.m.

4:00 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL, 201 East 10
Governor's — on Bicentennial Square - 11th & Congress Ave.
Followed by tour of Governor's Mansion and Gardens.
CARVER LIBRARY — 1129 Angelina

Everyone in the City of Austin and the County of Travis is cordially invited to attend and participate in any or all of the above.



MARBLE FALLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

DEDICATION
MARCH 26, 1977

ELISHA MARSHALL PEASE

The fifth Governor of Texas and first to occupy the Mansion
DECEMBER 21, 1853-DECEMBER 21, 1857
AUGUST 8, 1867-SEPTEMBER 30, 1869

Born January 3, 1812, at Enfield, Conn. Died August 26, 1883, in Austin.



EDMUND JACKSON DAVIS

The thirteenth Governor of Texas.
JANUARY 8, 1870-JANUARY 15, 1874

Born Oct. 2, 1827, in St. Augustine, Florida. Died Feb. 7, 1883, in Austin.



JAMES EDWARD FERGUSON

The twenty-fifth Governor of Texas.
JANUARY 19, 1915-AUGUST 25, 1917

Born near Salado in Bell County on August 31, 1871. Died Sept. 21, 1944, in Austin.



MIRIAM AMANDA FERGUSON

The twenty-eighth Governor of Texas.
JANUARY 20, 1925-JANUARY 17, 1927
JANUARY 17, 1933-JANUARY 15, 1935

Born in Bell County on June 13, 1875. Died June 25, 1961 in Austin.



DEDICATION OF OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS for

FOUR TEXAS GOVERNORS
Bicentennial Square Austin, Texas
Sunday, December 4, 1977 2:30 P.M.

Music The Madrigal Singers of Austin High School. Dan Corbin, Director
Invocation Dr. James L. Stoner, Pastor, Central Christian Church
Welcome Sybil Dickinson, Member, Texas Historical Commission
Master of Ceremonies Dr. David B. Gracy, II, Director, State Archives of Texas

DEDICATORY REMARKS and UNVEILING OF MARKERS

Governor Edmund J. Davis Audray Bateman, Curator
Austin/Travis County Collection, Austin Public Library
Unveiling George Sampson Nalle, Sr., George S. Nalle, Jr., & George S. Nalle, III
Governors James E. and Miriam A. Ferguson The Honorable Preston Smith, 38th Governor of Texas, Lubbock, Texas
Unveiling Doris Ferguson Watt and James Stuart Watt
Governor Elisha M. Pease Judge Thomas M. Reavley, Former Associate Justice, Supreme Court of Texas
Unveiling Mrs. James Harman and Thomas A. Graham

Benediction The Rev. James A. Mahon, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
ON BEHALF OF GOVERNOR AND MRS. DOLPH BRISCOE, THE TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION EXTENDS A
CORDIAL INVITATION TO ALL GUESTS TO TOUR THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION AND GARDENS FOLLOWING THIS
DEDICATORY CEREMONY.

AGENDA
FAYETTE COUNTY FORUM
AUGUST 20, 1977
PAGE TWO

This Program was attended by Myreta
Mr. and Mrs. Ahlgreen of Taylor.

A G E N D A

FAYETTE COUNTY FORUM

Sacred Heart Center
539 East Pearl
La Grange, Texas 78945
Saturday, August 20, 1977
3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.

3:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

Judge Fritz Lobpries - Fayette County
Kermit Moallenberndt - CAPCO Executive Committee Member

MODERATOR

Don Chovanec - KVLG Radio - La Grange

SLIDE SHOW

NATURAL AREAS

Geology, Landforms, Fossils

Visiting Panelist:
Charles Woodruff, Jr. - Geologist
Bureau of Economic Geology
University of Texas at Austin

Significant Land and Water Resources

Resident Panelist:
Benny Billington - Soil Conservation Service

GROUP DISCUSSION

Plants and Animals

Visiting Panelists:
Anders Saustrup - Associate Director
Rare Plant Study Center
University of Texas at Austin

Bill Brownlee - Biologist
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Resident Panelist:
Leroy Bennetsen
Texas Parks and Wildlife

GROUP DISCUSSION
BREAK

3:35 P.M.

ation

AGENDA
FAYETTE COUNTY FORUM
AUGUST 20, 1977
PAGE TWO

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Mr. and Mrs. Ahlgreen of Taylor.

4:00 P.M. CULTURAL AREAS

Archeology

Visiting Panelist:

Elton Prewitt - Archeologist
Balcones Research Center

Resident Panelist:

Ray Nauman - Local Naturalist

GROUP DISCUSSION

4:20 P.M. History/Architecture

Visiting Panelists:

Joe Williams, AIA
Director of National Register Program
Texas Historical Commission

Wayne Bell - Associate Professor of Architecture
University of Texas at Austin and
Coordinator for Winedale Museum

Resident Panelists:

John Banik - Peet/Historian
Walter Freytag - Fayette County Historical Commission

GROUP DISCUSSION

BREAK

5:00 P.M. COUNTY-COMMUNITY RESOURCE PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Visiting Panelist:

Clair Gunn - Professor and Specialist in Tourism/Recreation
Department of Parks and Recreation
Texas A & M University

Resident Panelist:

Jason Merritt - Architect and Planner

GROUP DISCUSSION

CLOSING REMARKS

C O N T E N T S

A. O R G A N I Z A T I O N

1. Officers and Members
2. Members
3. Williamson County Commission Committees
Williamson County Commissioners.
4. The National Register of Historic Places in Williamson County.
5. Texas Family Land Heritage Register 1974 - 1978.
6. Family Land Heritage Register.
7. Family Land Heritage Register.

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Chairman: Miss Myreta Matthews
Box 127. Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

Vice Chairman: Miss Ruth Mantor
1118 West 7th Street, Taylor, Texas 76574

Sec. Treasurer: Mrs. Harold G. Scoggins
1707 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626

A. M. Ahlgreen
708 McClure Street, Taylor, Texas 76574

Harold Asher
Route 1, Box 125, Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

Nrs. J. T. Atkin
Box 13, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mrs. Edna Beasley
Route 1, Box 963, Leander, Texas 78641

Mr. & Mrs. Emery Blackman
Box 111, Hutto, Texas 78634

Mrs. F. W. Buchanan
Box 376, Jarrell, Texas 76537

Judge & Mrs. C. L. Chance
1610 Pecan Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mrs. Camilla Durrenberger
1237 Main Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mr. Frank Paris,
1320 E. University Ave. Georgetown, Texas 78626

Miss Laverne Faubion
712 Myrtle Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson
Box 842, Taylor, Texas 76574

Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Garry
Route 2, Taylor, Texas 76574

Mrs. D. B. Gregg
400 East Main Street, Round Rock, Texas 78664

Mr. Ranken Kennedy
Box 804, Taylor, Texas 76574

Mrs. J. W. Ledbetter
212 West Main Street, Round Rock, Texas 78664

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mugford
1409 Olive Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mr. Thomas McDonald
2203 Latham Lane, Taylor, Texas 76574

Miss Effie McLeod
Route 1, Box 64, Florence, Texas 76527

Mrs. Robert F. Morse
509 Oak Crest, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mrs. E. L. Neiman
908 Brushy Bend Drive, Round Rock, Texas 78664

Mrs. Clara Scarbrough
1318 E. University Ave. Georgetown, Texas 78626

Miss Cora Sexton
Box 352, Jarrell, Texas 76537

Mrs. Russell Schmidt
Box 235, Coupland, Texas 78615

Mr. Bill Stubblefield
Box 565, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mrs. David L. Thompson
7203 Ute Trail, Round Rock, Texas 78664

Dr. & Mrs. Van C. Tipton
1405 East 15th Street, Georgetown, Texas 78626

Mr. Jeff Townsend
4205 Speedway, Austin, Texas 78751

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY 101
Lectures on the Philosophy of Language
Lecturer: [Name]

PHILOSOPHY 102
Lectures on the Philosophy of Mind
Lecturer: [Name]

PHILOSOPHY 103
Lectures on the Philosophy of Action
Lecturer: [Name]

PHILOSOPHY 104
Lectures on the Philosophy of Law
Lecturer: [Name]

PHILOSOPHY 105
Lectures on the Philosophy of Science
Lecturer: [Name]

PHILOSOPHY 106
Lectures on the Philosophy of Mathematics
Lecturer: [Name]

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

GEORGETOWN

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING now known as CULLEN ADMINISTRATION BUILDING ___ 1000 East University Avenue

The oldest institution of higher education in continuous operation in Texas, built in 1900, and MOOD HALL, built in 1908. Both reflect Romanesque Revival architecture and are SOUTHWESTERN'S earliest remaining structures. Private.

TINNEN HOUSE _____ 1220 Austin Avenue

1880 ___ The two-story frame Italianate residence has a three-story campanile-type tower and two-story bay on the west side.

ROUND ROCK

COLE HOUSE - (INN AT BRUSHY CREEK)

Highway 79, West of IH 35

c. 1860 ___ The one-story limestone residence features a three-bay, square-columned gallery on the main facade. Private.

CAPTAIN N. MERRELL HOUSE

HIGHWAY 79, East of IH 35

1870-1871 ___ This two-story stone late Greek Revival residence has a double gallery across the main facade and an unusually large flat-roofed cupola with widow's walk. Private.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT was entered in the National Register on July 26, 1977. This includes the courthouse, the jail and 36 other buildings on the square or in the adjoining blocks.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

TEXAS FAMILY LAND HERITAGE REGISTRY

FIRST EDITION

1974

ANDERSON RANCH-1854- Six miles west of Round Rock on Brushy Creek
Founder: Nathan D. Gilreath of South Carolina
1974 Owner: William Brady Anderson, Round Rock

J.L. STARNES FARM-1855- Two miles east of Jonah on Highway 29
Founder: John McAninch Whitley of Elk River, Tennessee
1974 Owner: Mrs. Edith Starnes Busshart, Georgetown

STEARNS-CURIK PECAN ORCHARD-1857- North of San Gabriel River, Circleville
Founder: James Eubank of Kentucky
1974 Owners: Mrs. Iris Stearns Curik and Joe Curik, Rockdale

MOZELLE SMART HULING RANCH-1852- About one mile west of Berry's Creek
Founder: William Smart of Indiana via Missouri
1974 Owner: Mozelle Smart Huling, Florence

McDANIEL PLACE-1855- Three and one-half miles northwest of Leander
Founder: Thomas Huddleston of Bagdad, Tennessee
1974 Owner: Mrs. Thelma Wells Lackey

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

McCORMICK RANCH-1852- Ten miles west of Florence

Founder: Bryce M. Smart of Missouri

1974 Owners: Mrs. Charles P. (Maude) McCormick and children, Florence

McNEESE FARM-RANCH-1850- Fifteen miles north of Austin on FM 1325

Founder: William Bratton of Indiana

1974 Owner: Mrs. Martha McNeese, Round Rock

SAUL RANCH-1862- Six miles south of Hutto

Founder: Charles Saul of Walker County, Texas

1974 Owner: John Russel Saul, Columbus

Jack Saul II, Hutto

John Saul, Hutto

TELANDER FARM-1871- Three and one-half miles east of Round Rock

Founder: Gustaf Israelson and John Israelson of Sweden

1974 Owner: Mrs. Alfred Telander, Round Rock

YEARWOOD RANCH-1871- Nine miles northwest of Georgetown

Founder: Col. John Trousdale Coffee of Tennessee and Missouri

1974 Owners: Miss Eunice Yearwood, Georgetown, Robert S. Yearwood,

Georgetown, Florence Y. Wray, Georgetown, John F.

Yearwood III, Stephenville, Dorothy Y. Mash, Dallas

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

TEXAS FAMILY LAND HERITAGE REGISTRY

SECOND EDITION

Volume 2

1975

LEWIS RANCH SUNSET LANE-1872- Seven miles southwest of Florence

Founders: Robert Dixon and Martha Jane Love of Mississippi
and Illinois respectively

1975 Owners: Mr. and Mrs. James D. Lewis, Florence

JOHN D. MASON FARM-1869- South and southeast of Leander

Founder: John D. Mason of Tennessee

1975 Owners: Mr. and Mrs. John T. Atkin, Georgetown

JOHN G. MATTHEWS HOMESTEAD FARM^{*}-1861- Three and one-half miles
southeast of Liberty Hill

Founder: John G. Matthews of Tennessee

1975 Owner: Miss Myreta Matthews, Liberty Hill

JOHN VERNON STILES FARM & RANCH-1866- Six miles southeast of Thrall

Founder: Daniel Forney Ramsour of Lincoln County, North Carolina

1975 Owners: Mr. and Mrs. John Vernon Stiles, Thorndale

TEXAS FAMILY LAND HERITAGE REGISTRY

Volume 3

TIMMERMAN RANCH^{*}-1876- Four miles north of Pflugerville

Founder: Heinrich Timmerman of Germany

1976 Owners: Mrs. Monroe Hagn of Austin
Theo Timmerman of Pflugerville
Theodor Timmerman of Pflugerville

* by the Registry entry indicates that a structure at least 100 years
old remains on the property.

TEXAS FAMILY LAND HERITAGE REGISTRY

HONORED IN 1977

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

STEARNS ORCHARD AT CAMP SPRINGS - 1876 (Circleville)

Present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Don Scarbrough, Georgetown

HONORED IN 1978

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

GARRY FARM - 1858 (Rice's Crossing)

Present owner, Mahon Barker Garry, Sr., Rt. 2, Taylor.

ILSE FARM - 1878 (North of Georgetown)

Present owners, Dalhart Ilse and Raymond Ilse, Georgetown, Rt. 2.

Mashburn Farm - 1853 (Jonah area)

Present owner, Mrs. Clare Easley Mashburn, Georgetown.

B. ACTIVITIES

- 1 - 2. Williamson County Historical Commission makes Report.
3. James Rice Historical Marker - Dedicated.
4. Arbor Day Celebration at Palm House in Round Rock, Texas.
5. Historical Association forms for Jollyville - Pond Springs.
- 6 - 7. Schools in Jollyville and Pond Springs in 1893 and 1900.
8. Junior Historians report to Historical Commission.
9. Historic Photographs and Documents to be Preserved.
Three New Members are Appointed by Commissioners.
Courthouse Records Inventory to Start.
10. Tumlinson Block House may be turned into a Park.
11. Historical Commission meets on Texas Independence Day.
12. February 1978 Newsletter.
13. Georgetown Heritage Society has 1978 Tour of Homes and Churches.
14. Workday for Florence Library.
Williamson County SUN to receive Historical Marker.
Marietta Mugford to be Speaker at Texas Historical Conference.
April 1978 Newsletter.
15. Texas Historical Commission has Annual Conference, on
April 28 - 29 in San Antonio.
16. Old Grave found in Chisholm Valley.
Texas Historical Commission meeting at St. Anthony Hotel
in San Antonio.
17. New Historical Association at work on Jollyville History.
A Distinguished Award given.
18. Name Plate and Ribbons worn by Myreta Matthews, Williamson
County Chairman.
19. List of Events at Texas Conference April 28 - 29, 1978.
20. Williamson County Chairman, Myreta Matthews, wins the
John Ben Shepperd Award.
Four Williamson County Commission Members attend Conference.
21. Old Tombstone unearthed near Round Rock, Texas.
22. Picture of 105 year old Tombstone.
23. History of Mrs. Virginia Masterson, buried 105 years ago.
Buildings in Georgetown to be placed on National Register
of Historic Places.
- 24.

25. Georgetown wins Beautification Award.
26. Historical Marker for Williamson County SUN unveiled
May 20, 1978.
27. Editors of Williamson County SUN.
28. Congratulations from City of Georgetown for the 100 years.
- 29.30.31. History of Williamson County SUN.
32. History of Williamson County SUN.
- 33.34. Lettering on Marker - Date and Location.
35. Marker to be erected honoring John Berry.
36. Picture of John Berry Historical Marker.
- 37.38.39.40. History of John Berry.
- 41-42. Lettering on John Berry Marker - Date and Location.
43. Myreta Matthews unveils Marker on on Pioneer Log Cabin on
corner of 16th Street and Austin Avenue - Georgetown, Texas.
- 44-45. Lettering on Log Cabin. . Shawn Stidham guards the United
States and Texas Flags.
- 46.47.48. History of Pioneer Log Cabin.
49. June 1978 Newsletter.
- 50-51. Top County Commissions Honored.
Old Bell on Grace Episcopal Church - Georgetown, Texas.
- 52.52. Candy Jim - Taylor, Texas
- 54.55. Moody Museum - Taylor, Texas.
56. T. W. Marse Home - Taylor, Texas.
57. Elijah Lamberton - Taylor, Texas.
58. Activities of Williamson County Historical Commission.
Heritage Program honors Founders.
- 59.60. Old Newspaper Building, 4th and Talbot Streets - Taylor, Texas.
61. Williamson County's First Bank, 1883 - Taylor, Texas.
62. Historical Commission Meeting in August 1978.
63. August 1978 Newsletter.
64. Texas Historical Foundation notes assistance of Williamson
County SUN.
Old Photograph - 1905. Car and Prominent Citizens of of
Georgetown, Texas.

- 65.66. Influence of the Conoleys - Taylor, Texas.
67. Bagdad - near Leander, Texas.
68. Restoration at Jollyville - Pond Springs.
69. History of Down Town Round Rock, Texas.
70. Museum Seminar at Southwestern University - Georgetown, Texas.
Ranken Kennedy sponsors International Student Program, Taylor.
71. Antique Lions stolen from Odd Fellows Cemetery - Georgetown.
72. Georgetown and Round Rock Junior Historians win in
Essay Contest.
Jollyville Cemetery Fund Established.
73. Outstanding Taylorites Listed.
74. History of Weather Bureau in Taylor, Texas.
75. Old Home of Professor Ryland Young moved to Main Street,
Georgetown, Texas.
76. Georgetown's First Museum.
Williamson County Historical Commission meets October 5, 1978.
- 77.78. Mood - Birdwell Hall - Opened.
79. Old Cattle Brands on door of Anderson's Blacksmith Shop.
80. Stolen Lions from Odd Fellows Cemetery in Georgetown - Found.
81. October 1978 Newsletter.
82. Moody Home - now a Museum - Taylor, Texas.
83. Easley Farm named on Texas Family Heritage Program.
Double File Trail earns Historical Marker.
Stolen Lions from Odd Fellows Cemetery in Georgetown - Returned.
- 84.85. Garry Family Honored.
86. November Newsletter.
87. Rep. Poage Guest of Honor at Dedication of Dam.
List of Museums in Williamson County.
- 88.89.90. Mood - Bridwell Hall Museum.
91. Williamson County History Appreciation December 1 - 11 1978.
- 92.93. Ilse Family Honored.
94. Mager Cemetery Sign replaced.
Granger Dam Dedication, County History Appreciation
Day planned
Sixteen Years Ago - - First Presbyterian Church, Georgetown,
and Liberty Hill Methodist Church receive Historical Markers.
95. Judge Chance declares December 1st to 11th as History
Celebration Week.

- Commorative Plaque unveiled in Liberty Hill by
Mrs. Dolph Briscoe.
- Georgetown Beautification Committee has Meeting.
96. Double File Trail to have Historical Marker.
Slave Cemetery - in Round Rock, Texas
97. Slave Cemetery O Round Rock, Texas.
Palm House - Round Rock, Texas to have Dedication of
Historical Marker.
- 98.99. Webster Massacre - Graves.
- 100.101. INDEX to Williamson County Historical Markers.

The Williamson County Historical Commission held its first meeting of the year at the Georgetown Public Library on January 5.

The main business of the day centered around annual reports of the five important Commission Committees: Historical Marker, Historical Preservation, History Appreciation, Budget and Finance and Advisory.

All committees have functioned effectively with many members taking leading parts in all committee work. Historical Preservation projects resulted in the dedication of two markers this year. Two more have been approved. Several interested people have requested and received application forms and are now researching the required historical details needed for marking structures or sites. History Appreciation came to a satisfactory culmination on October 1st, with a four hour program at Southwestern University. The Forum on Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources was enhanced by a panel of specialists in several fields and by exhibits and music.

The Commission plans to continue the High School Student Original Research Contest but a few changes need to be made in the rules, in order to be fair to all students who wish to participate.

Adoption of By-Laws was postponed for further study.

According to Texas Civil Statutes---Each County Commission shall institute and carry out a continuing survey of the county to determine the existence of Historical buildings or other historical features within the county and report the data collected to the Commissioners Court and the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION..The state Commission strongly recommends that the lists compiled be kept up-to-date and has suggested the following nominations for marker subjects: Indian habitats; paths of colonial explorers; trails; traces; post offices; ghost towns; military sites; mines; buried treasure; disasters; battles; ferries; canals; railroads; ranches; industrial complexes; birthplaces, homes or graves of noteworthy persons; pre-historic remains; early-man sites and the like.

Such a list will be of value indefinitely. This program will not lose , but will continue to gain, momentum, because its documentation is of lasting value.

The Texas Historical Foundation is a supportive organization for the Texas Historical Commission. The primary tasks of the Foundation, at its incorporation in 1954, were preservation and designation of historical houses, sites, and landmarks; preservation of important papers, documents and relics that record Texas life; publication and distribution of materials concerning Texas life and history and materials concerning other areas of historical importance

The foundation continues to process applications for Official Texas Historical Markers, and to serve as "banker" for annual historic preservation conferences and educational seminars.

Membership in the Texas Historical Foundation is open to individuals organizations and businesses interested in historic preservation. Programs are supported by membership dues ,which are \$ 10.00, and by contributions. The Texas Historical Foundation is a non-profit educational organization and all gifts are tax-deductible. To become a member send your name and address with dues to-- TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 12243, CAPITOL STATION, AUSTIN TEXAS 78711

The Williamson County Historical Commission is appointed by the Williamson County Commissioners Court and as ^{such} is an arm of the Government. All meetings are open and visitors and suggestions are welcome. Your help will be appreciated.

Myreta Matthews, Chairman

Historical Committees Make Report

The Williamson County Historical Commission held its first meeting of the year at the Georgetown Public Library recently.

The main business of the day centered around annual reports of the five important Commission Committees: Historical Marker, Historical Preservation, History Appreciation, Budget and Finance and Advisory.

All committees have functioned effectively with many members taking leading parts in all committee work. Miss Myra Matthews, chairman, said Historical Preservation projects resulted in the dedication of two markers this year. Two more have been approved. Several interested people have requested and received application forms and are now researching the required historical details needed for marking structures or sites.

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Taylor Daily Press, Monday, December 3, 1977

James Rice Remembered; Plaque Unveiled Sunday

More than 100 persons stood in the brisk wind Sunday afternoon to hear the history of James O. Rice, early settler in Williamson County, and to pay tribute to his memory as a plaque was unveiled at Rice's Crossing.

Charles Haireston, long time resident of the community just south of Taylor, introduced Mr. and Mrs. Mahon Garry who unveiled the plaques, and Mrs. Don Scarbrough who related the history of the man for whom the community is named.

High point of the dedication was the presence of Rice's

great grandson, Johnny Crow, long-time treasurer of Travis County who related some instances in his forefather's life that were handed down in family stories.

He also sang a folksong, handed down by descendants of Rice.

Rice was lauded as an early Texas angler and an officer in the Texas army who was primarily responsible for thwarting a Mexican and Indian plot to harass and ultimately defeat early settlers who were loyal to the Republic of Texas.



RICE DESCENDANT IN WHEELCHAIR
(Staff Photo)

The Taylor Daily Press, Wednesday, January 18, 1978

County Historical Commission hears reports for last year

The Williamson County Historical Commission held its first meeting of the year at the Georgetown Public Library on January 3.

The main business of the day centered around annual reports of the five important Commission Committees: Historical Marker, Historical Preservation, History Appreciation, Budget and Finance and Advisory.

All committees have functioned effectively with many members taking leading parts in all committee work. Historical Preservation projects resulted in the dedication of two markers this year. Two more have been approved. Several interested people have requested and received application forms and are now researching the required historical details needed for marking structures or sites. History Appreciation came to a satisfactory culmination on October 1, with a four hour program at Southwestern University. The Forum on Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources was enhanced by a panel of specialists in several fields and by exhibits and music.

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The Williamson County Historical Commission is appointed by the Williamson County Commissioners Court and as such is an arm of the Government. All meetings are open and visitors and suggestions are welcome. Your help will be appreciated.

Myreia Matthews,
Chairman

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 3 Thursday, January 19, 1978



Arbor Day Planting

Joyce Daniels (left) and Emma Holt plant a redwood tree in front of the Palm House in preparation for the official planting ceremonies Saturday. The tree was donated by the Brasby Bloomers Garden Club as part of Arbor Day celebrations.

Round Rock Leader

January 26, 1978

Historical Group Forms In Area

A historical plaque for Pond Springs Elementary School is one of the goals of the newly established Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association.

Temporary President Karen Thompson, along with Vice-President Luema Moon, Secretary Trudy Ford and Treasurer Reese Griffin, are working with the Williamson County Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Commission to obtain markers for the school, old family cemeteries and other historical sites and structures in the Jollyville area.

A formal organizational meeting of the association is planned for February at Pond Springs School. The date for the meeting will be set later.

"We urge anyone with a family who has lived in this area for a long time or anyone interested in Texas history to contact me. We are trying to gather information about the school and historical pictures," Mrs. Thompson said.

Her phone number is 258-5648.

She hopes that the association will eventually purchase an historical building, possibly an old store, and use it as a museum and association headquarters. Also, Pond Springs Elementary Principal Gene Stokes has given his permission to establish a special section in the school library to display historical books, maps and pictures.



Historical Association's Officers

Temporary officers of the new Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association prepare for their first meeting in February. They are, from the left, Karen Thompson, president;

Reese Griffin, treasurer; and Trudy Ford, secretary. The association plans to obtain an historical marker for the Pond Springs School as one of its first official acts.



Mary Ellen Shoop, secretary of the Governor's Beautify Texas Council, at left, and Neil Wilkerson and Genevieve Atkin, co-chairmen of the Property Improvement Committee of Georgetown's Beautification Committee at right, talk over plans for the local project at an open meeting Monday night in San Gabriel Center.

Beautification rewards investors and citizens

"Georgetown is a beautiful town and a good place to live, in spite of having some areas which need improvement, and you are making the right kind of beginning to solve these problems," Mrs. Mary Ellen Shoop told a large gathering of beautification-minded Georgetowners Monday night.

Mrs. Shoop is secretary of the Governor's Beautify Texas Council in Austin.

The speaker was introduced by Mrs. Genevieve Atkin, local co-chairman of Property Improvement committee. Mrs. Shoop told about the beginnings of the state beautification organization 10 years ago, when a San Antonio man, P. B. Schnabel, who jokingly referred to his name as "pushbrown" Schnabel, set out to beautify his city, and others joined him in the effort.

Round Rock Leader

January 25, 1978

Future Brighter Than Ever

For several years prior to the turn of the century both Pond Springs and Jollyville operated their own schools. As need for the two separate facilities diminished, a consolidation of the two schools came about.

The old log cabin that served as the first Pond Springs school was moved from its original site near the spring fed pond (its namesake) to a location about a mile to the south, and in 1953 the Jollyville and Pond Springs schools consolidated. School was held in the Pond Springs building.

Old timers remember the school house as the center of the community. Not only was it used as a school, but also as a church on Sundays and a place to hold prayer meetings on Wednesday nights.

"I recall going to church in the school. Once a month a preacher would visit. That was a real event," says Helen Cahill who grew up in the community of Kettleford.

A favorite story of hers is when a chicken snake made its appearance during church service one Sunday, prompting everyone to jump up on the benches.

During the early 1900s, sessions were often cut short so the students could help their parents on the farm.

A former Pond Springs teacher, Mrs. G.H. Mays Jr., recalled some of her early teaching experiences in an interview held ten years ago when she was 93. She was the granddaughter of John G. Jolly, the man for whom Jollyville was named. Reading, writing and arithmetic were emphasized in the one, and later two, classroom school, with all the youngsters learning how to spell "or else," she said. Students worked out arithmetic problems on the board under the scrutiny of the teacher.

There were no drinking fountains back then. "The boys would bring the water in a bucket and everybody drank out of the same dipper," Mrs. Mays recalled.

All the custodial work was performed by students and the teacher. The chore of sweeping was left to the teacher and female students while the boys' job was to start the fire.

The original Pond Springs school remained until about 1927, when a new four-room school was opened at the present Pond Springs School site. The school was relocated because of the new highway being constructed at that time, which is now Old U.S. 133.

Teachers were generally unmarried women who earned an average of \$33.55 a month in

1883, a salary which steadily increased over the years.

Enrollment in the Pond Springs Common School District remained low through the 1950s, says Round Rock Supt. Noel Grisham. He was familiar with the school because all students from the Jollyville area in grades 3-12 attended Round Rock High School. Pond Springs only housed youngsters in grades 1-2.

"In 1954-55 Pond Springs had 27 students and two teachers, while in 1962 there were about 47 students and three teachers," Grisham recalls.

A campaign to consolidate Pond Springs Common School District with the Round Rock ISD got underway in 1969 headed by developer Bill Colton and others. Consolidation was completed after an election was held in the two districts.

"The consolidation carried by a sizeable amount in Round Rock and by a smaller margin in Pond Springs," Grisham said.

Proponents of the consolidation predicted the rapid growth that soon occurred in the area. The growth, as a matter of fact, had already started at the time of consolidation with construction of the first houses in Balcones Village.

Since the Round Rock ISD

took over in 1969 many improvements to the Pond Springs campus have been made, says Grisham. In 1970 a cafeteria and four extra classrooms were added to the old building. Portable buildings were brought in about 1972.

More recently, three elementary schools, Spicewood, Anderson Mill and Forest North have opened to serve the same Pond Springs community that formerly only had one school. Another school will open this fall in the Barrington Oaks subdivision, subdivision.

When the consolidation was completed in 1969, the Pond Springs school had an enrollment of between 80-90 youngsters in grades 1-8. Today, enrolled in the three elementary schools in grades K-5 are over 1,700 students. Adding the 800 Grisham Middle School students in grades 6-8, the entire Pond Springs area has some 2,500 students.

Today, as 50 years ago, Pond Springs Elementary remains the center of the community. "It's one of the only things we have," said Karen Thompson. Her two children, Kathy, 8, and Mason, 6, are the only youngsters now attending Pond Springs who had a father, grandfather and great-grandfather who were once students at Pond Springs.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This second article of a two part series on the heritage of Pond Springs and Jollyville takes a look at the central role of the school house in the early days. Readers can learn a little about the life of a teacher and student at the turn of the century, in a area that is new and modern today.

The Past Still Present

By Chris Peterson

This class picture of the old Pond Springs school when it was still located near the spring fed pond was taken about 1885. Sitting in the center of the middle row were the school trustees.



By the early 1900's the Pond Springs and Jollyville schools had consolidated with all students attending the Pond Springs elementary. This picture was taken several years after the consolidation.



Junior historians report to historical commission

The Williamson County Historical Commission met February 2, in the Georgetown Public Library. Seven communities were represented by the fifteen members present.

Reports were made by individuals concerning activities in their area and on special projects in Historical Preservation.

Junior Historian Clubs in county High Schools are doing many interesting things and their sponsors are justly proud of their enthusiasm and creativity. Miss Effie McLeod works with the Florence Junior Historians and is pleased with their attitude and willingness to work and do thorough research. The group plans to survey two old cemeteries in out-of-the-way places. Mrs. Marietta Magford, sponsor of the Georgetown Junior Historians, reported that this group entertained Miss Laverne Paulson at a luncheon recently. She spoke to them on the value of surveying cemeteries and what to look for in order to gain

the important historical information.

Cemetery listing has been almost impossible, because of the continued cold weather, but the work does go on. Miss Paulson continues to edit the second volume of Williamson County Cemeteries. Several old cemeteries that have been listed are being considered for Historical Markers. The history is being researched.

Three new Commission members were appointed in January by the County Commissioners Court. Ed Magford of Georgetown will join Jeff Townsend as co-sponsor of Round Rock High School Junior Historians. Mrs. Karen Thompson has a Round Rock address but her interest and efforts will be directed toward Jollyville-Pond Springs history and preservation of landmarks. She is actively organizing a group of other interested citizens and is forming an association. Mrs. Loree Neiman of Round Rock will cooperate with Mrs. D. B. Gregg and Mrs. John W. Ledbetter, two long time members who have done much to preserve the History of Round Rock. Mrs.

Neiman's area will include the area west toward Cedar Park, also.

Mrs. M. B. Garry brought greetings from the citizens of Rice's Crossing Community. They expressed their appreciation for the James O. Rice Marker

which was erected under the auspices of the Commission on December 4. Carl Vought of the Texas Highway Department installed the marker and created an inviting driveway near it, making it easily accessible for reading.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 12 Thursday, February 2, 1978

Historic site to be developed

An Austin-based development firm plans to establish a "theme" type residential complex on the former A. S. Walker estate, historic site of the first Anglo-American structure in Williamson County.

The property to be developed includes Tullimason Spring, near where a company of Texas Rangers erected a wooden fortress in January of 1836. This block house structure was burned by the Indians later that same year, but an ancient oak tree used by the rangers as a lookout remains. The tract may also include an undetermined number of unexcavated Indian mounds.

According to Robert L. Knight, spokesman for Block House Development Corporation, the company will try to emphasize the historic qualities of the property much as was done

with some earlier residential developments in the county.

"However," says Knight, "we think we have a superior historical site."

The property was sold to Knight last year after having been in the Walker family for more than a century. Judge Alexander Stuart Walker received the land as a law fee just after the Civil War.

The corporation plans to set aside "two or three acres" for an open park area on the site of the fort and spring. They would also be willing to restore the old Walker family home if the state provides financial assistance.

"Unfortunately," says Knight, "the old tree is dead. We have contacted experts who will try to save it, but it probably is dead."

Miss Myreta Matthew, chairwoman of the Williamson County Historical Commission, has described the property as being of "immense historical value."

Knight agrees that some of it might qualify as an "archeologically sensitive area."

Miss Matthew has requested and received permission to inspect the area.

Commissioners given unpleasant surprise

Williamson County Commissioners were afraid of an unpleasant surprise in the jail renovation bids and they got it Monday when they opened the bids.

The low bids came to almost \$60,000, well over the half million dollars the commissioners had planned to spend to enlarge and renovate the jail.

The commissioners turned the bids over to the architects to analyze them and try to come up with some ways to cut the costs.

Low bidders were J. C. Evans Construction Co. of Austin, for construction, and Southern Steel Co. of San Antonio for the iron and steel work, including kitchen equipment.

During the same meeting Monday, the commissioners adopted a revenue sharing budget which gives the jail project \$215,000 of federal revenue sharing money. The remainder of the federal money, \$86,500, will go to the Williamson County Emergency Medical Services.

The commissioners expect to pay for the balance of the jail renovation from general funds. Williamson County has had a surplus for many years that is sometimes as much as 25 percent of the budget.

Emergency Medical Services will get a little more income this year from a rate increase approved Monday by the commissioners.

The cost of an ambulance transfer inside Williamson County will go from \$5 to \$45, while an emergency call will also go up \$10, to \$50. The waiting time fee will be doubled, from \$10 an hour to \$20 an hour, with any waiting time under 30 minutes still free. Oxygen use will cost \$10 but use of other equipment remains free. Outside Williamson County, the fee will be \$1 a mile one way from the county line, plus the base charge. The fee for

a non-emergency night call will be \$5.

EMS director George Sophness told the commissioners that the costs of salaries, gasoline, oil, parts, labor and medical supplies have increased considerably since 1975, when the rates were set.

Other county departments have been waiting for the jail bids to be opened to find out whether the county is going to spend any new money for their projects.

The county attorney, for example, asked for a part time juvenile prosecutor to prepare cases against juveniles.

The sheriff had asked for dictating equipment to speed the writing of reports.

Consideration of both requests was postponed after the bids were opened. Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Boutwell, after the bids were read aloud in the Commissioners meeting room, withdrew the request for dictating equipment.

The sheriff's department had already received approval to hire a new deputy to patrol the western end of the county, where the population and the crime has been increasing for some time.

The commissioners met the new deputy Monday. He is Will Schutze, 23, of Cedar Park. Schutze is a former Cedar Park police officer.

Another new public job in the county was created Monday when the commissioners agreed to use federal Comprehensive Employment Training Act (CETA) funds to hire a temporary employe for the Historical Commission. The new employe will be used to set up archives for historical photographs and documents or to restore old neglected cemeteries, or both, depending on the person hired.

Three members join commission

Three new members will be welcomed to the Williamson County Historical Commission when it meets at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Georgetown Library.

The three, Ed Magford, Karen Thompson, and Loretta Neiman, will bring the Commission's membership to a total of 25. Membership is by appointment of the County Judge.

Courthouse records inventory to start

Texas courthouses are bursting at the seams with county records and documents that have been piling up for years and in some places, basements, attics, and even barns are used to store historical records, according to information released by the staff of a special statewide County Records Inventory Project at North Texas State University in Denton.

Williamson County is due to be involved in the County Records Inventory program when an inventory of courthouse records gets underway in Georgetown Monday. County Judge C. L. Chance and the commissioners will greet Jim Riney, field director of the Inventory Project, when he arrives at the courthouse to introduce county officials and interested citizens to the work.

Riney was invited here as a consultant by the Williamson County Historical Commission when it decided to participate in the Records Inventory Project. He will consult with Stephen Zacher, an archivist and resident of Round Rock, who will supervise the project for Williamson County.

Zacher was recently hired with CETA funds to do preservation planning for the Williamson County Historical Commission. He will

cooperate with Williamson County Courthouse officials over a period of months to prepare the records inventory for the county. His findings will be edited at the project headquarters in Denton and published by the Texas State Library, Archives Division, Austin.

The Inventory Project hopes to publish a complete records survey for each one of 254 Texas counties by 1981. To date, over 75 counties have been surveyed. When complete, the massive undertaking will be the basis for a statewide records management program mandated by the 1971 Texas Legislature.

A Regional Historical Resource Depository Program will be administered by the Texas State Archives. Records in these depositories will be carefully preserved and made available to researchers and members of the community.

The first step in the Depository Program is to determine what is actually in Texas courthouses so that informed decisions can be made on records preservation. The published inventories will also enable county officials to formulate guidelines for the disposal and retention of county records.

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Blockhouse area may be

turned into park

The Sunday SUN
Page 9

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, February 26, 1978

Several members of the Williamson County Historical Commission inspected Wednesday the former A. S. Walker estate, which faces imminent residential and industrial development.

The property was sold last year to Austin-based developer Robert Knight after having been owned by the Walker family for more than a hundred years. Judge Alexander Stuart Walker received the land as a law fee just after the Civil War.

The Walker estate is famous for having been the site of a crude, blockhouse fortress, one of several built by Texans in 1835-36, about one day's ride apart, to guard the frontier against Indians. Shortly after construction, the fort's garrison of Texas Rangers was withdrawn in haste during Santa Anna's spring offensive. Some of those Rangers went on to fight with Sam Houston in his victory over the Mexican dictator at San Jacinto.

AFTER THE RANGERS abandoned it, the fort was burned by Indians, but an ancient oak tree once used as a



By RAY JONES

THE OLD A. S. WALKER HOME was built on land Judge Walker received as a law fee over a hundred years ago. Nearby is the spring where Texas rangers under Captain John Terrilson built a fort in 1835-36.

lookout can still be seen in the yard of the old Walker home.

Knight told the commissioners he plans to eregrate the property's rich historic and prehistoric heritage when lots are offered for sale later this year. He also said he wants to cooperate with the county and state Historical Commission in preserving as many relics as possible.

"We want to make a two or three acre park around the site of the old fort and spring," said Knight. "We could possibly have a restaurant in there and possibly a museum to house some of the relics."

However, Knight said, his Blockhouse Development Corporation plans to discourage free public access to the area.

"It will be largely for the use of the home owners," he said.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY Historical Commission members present Wednesday apparently approved of the developer's plan.

"I think he's doing a wonderful job," said Commission chairwoman Myrta Mathews.

According to state Commission archaeologist John Clark, the property contains an as yet undetermined number of unexcavated Indian mounds. Clark said the mounds were of an easily identifiable variety which might make it easier for the developer to avoid damaging them. On inspecting the property last week, the archaeologist found that many of the mounds had already been despoiled by generations of arrowhead seekers.

Knight says he hopes to obtain federal or state assistance for the preservation work.

"The house is not old enough," he said, "but if we throw in the fort, the spring, and the Indian mounds, we might qualify."

Knight said Wednesday he plans to call his development, "The Settlement on Blockhouse Creek." He said he hopes to sell approximately 2,400 home sites in lots of one-third acre.

Another section of the property will be offered for industrial development.



THE BLOCKHOUSE FORT stood here where the Walker family later erected this windmill. The fort was burned by Indians while its garrison was away fighting Santa Anna's Mexicans. It was never rebuilt.

Historical Commission reports on activities

Texas Independence Day was the regular meeting date for the Williamson County Historical Commission at the Georgetown Public Library. Since History Appreciation is an important part of the Historical Commission Program, this was a good day to recall incidents leading up to the writing of the Texas Declaration of Independence 142 years ago. Texas citizens have just cause to be thankful for the courageous men who composed and signed that vital document.

History Appreciation activities reported on for January and February included talks and programs given by members to interested groups throughout the county. Programs of an historical nature were presented to

Junior Historian Clubs in Georgetown and Florence, Church and Rotary Groups in Taylor, and P.T.A. and Woman's Study Clubs in Round Rock. Several members are regularly promoting history appreciation on a one to one basis through conversation and in showing collections.

Mrs. C. L. Chance will serve as chairman of the History Appreciation Committee for 1978. She succeeds Miss Ruth Manlar, who will be head of the High School Student Original Research Contest, now in the third year of existence. Judge Chance will assist Mrs. Chance.

The Historical Marker Committee reports three markers are in order

and dedications will be announced within the next few months or as soon as the markers have been cast and received.

The Historical Preservation Committee, through Mrs. Clara Scarborough, Chairman, reports a wide range of projects are in progress. There are three community museums in the county now doing their part in preservation. Presently, the fourth one is slowly but definitely becoming a reality. The MOOD-HERITAGE MUSEUM will be housed in the restored Mood Hall some time in the near future. It will be recognized as the joint property of Southwestern University and the Georgetown Heritage Society.

The Round Rock Junior Historians, sponsored by Jeff Townsend, are ac-

tively recording oral history and will have slides to accompany the tapes. They plan to present the finished project to the proposed Williamson County Archives Collection. It is generally agreed among historians that the establishment of facilities to store this type of historical material is greatly needed.

There is a state-wide movement to inventory all courthouse papers and records. About 30 counties have been documented at this time. The project is sponsored primarily by the Texas State Library Archives division and is being participated in by many universities and colleges in Texas. Williamson County is now into this documentation. The work is being done by Stephen Zacher, who is well-qualified, having had experience similar to this in other states.

Funds for this work came to the Commissioners Court by way of the Williamson-Burnet County Opportunities, Inc. The Court created the job and the Historical Commission readily endorsed it. The Historical Commission will act as the sponsoring group with the responsibility of giving aid when needed.

An inventory of Williamson County papers will be of great assistance to courthouse employees, lawyers and others who need information in regard to transactions that have taken place in this county from the earliest days of its organization up to and including present day records.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER ONE - Feb. 22, 1978

VOLUME SEVEN



Winter in Texas can be a time for planning and concentrating on Historical Preservation. It can be a time for surveying and seeking, searching and researching, reading and recording, storing and restoring. Much of which has to be done inside.

Spring, summer and fall lend themselves to History Appreciation Activities in tours, festivals and celebrations. Marking of Historical Landmarks can be the rightful reward of patient preservation work and can come at any time of year.

The Williamson County Historical Commission is a working organization. Both individually and collectively much is being accomplished in the many facets of Historical Preservation.

COUNTY ARCHIVES

The Commission has often felt the need for a comprehensive and authentic bibliography of County Source Materials. Thanks to the Historical Preservation Committee Chairman, Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, there is now a distinct opportunity to get the work started and establish a Williamson County Historical Source Archives. Mrs. Scarbrough, through her know how and insight, learned of funds available for just such a project. A grant from Williamson-Burnet County Opportunities, Inc. was being given to this county by-way-of C.B.T.A. (Comprehensive Employment Training Act). The Commissioners Court created the job at the request of the Historical Commission members present and gave them the authority to work out the details and supervise the project. As a matter of great timing a well qualified person came along. Stephen Zacher applied at the Williamson-Burnet County Opportunity Office, and after a few conferences he was employed. Hopefully the work will be well under way before March 1st.

This will be a county project and every member of the Historical Commission is urged to become involved by calling attention to collections in his or her community or family. It is not known, at present, what will constitute the final results. It could include such specifics as documents, letters, pictures, maps, books, costumes or any other object of historical importance that may come to light. Many questions are expected to arise and these will be discussed at the March 2nd meeting. Mr. Zacher will be there.

Museums

Museums are important preservation strongholds. One of the first public collections in Williamson County was placed in the foyer of the County Building in Taylor when Mrs. John Cornforth was Chairman of the Historical Commission. Now, there are three museums in their own buildings and others are in the planning stage. The Moody Museum in Taylor is the boyhood home of Governor Dan Moody and is preserving the life style of the turn of the century, upper-middle-class Texa family. The old Depot Museum at Copeland is just that- an old railroad depot that has been restored to its original function in the period including the late 1800 and early 1900s. The Palm House Museum in down town Round Rock is the restored farm home of Swedish immigrants. Two rooms are furnished with authentic kitchen and parlor furnishings of that period about 1880.

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Great plans are being made for a museum in Mood Hall on the Southwestern University Campus. The University has many worthy collections but this will be a joint venture with the community. The Williamson County Historical Commission will be a part of this undertaking.

MARKERS HELP PRESERVATION

Although Williamson County was organized one hundred and thirty years ago - many historic events were happening here before 1848. In 1936 the Texas Centennial Committee erected granite markers in significant places all over the state. There are fourteen such markers in Williamson County. The earliest known incident is identified by a gray granite shaft 5 1/2 feet high on U.S. 183 about two miles south of Leander. Historically speaking, on November 28, 1835, the Provisional Government of Texas organized the first Ranger Corps. The Major in command of the three companies was R.M. Williamson for whom this county was named. A Ranger Company under Texas Government orders established a small military post northwest of Austin for a pioneer refuge against the Indians. The Fort was a block house built of wood (possibly logs?) by Captain Tumlinson and his party of Rangers and manned by them until 1837 when Comanche Indians destroyed it by fire in the absence of the garrison. It was never rebuilt.

The inscription on the marker reads;

SITE OF
A BLOCK HOUSE
BUILT BY TEXAS RANGERS UNDER
CAPTAIN JOHN J. TURLINSON IN
1836. DESTROYED BY INDIANS IN
1837. THIS WAS THE FIRST WHITE
MAN'S POST IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY.

ERECTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS
1936

The large ranch which encompassed the Block House site was acquired by Judge Alexander Stuart Walker soon after the Civil War and was owned by his descendants until it was sold recently.

Some interesting plans are are being made for developing part of the ranch for residential and commercial use. Much thought has been given to the best way to preserve the integrity of the historic spot. The fort is no more and other structures are in poor condition and will require much time and money to restore if it can be proved that they are indeed historically significant.

Robert Knight of Austin will be at the March 2nd meeting of the Historical Commission and will tell of plans that have been made by his Company, Knight Realty in Austin. His concern for this preservation is greatly appreciated and it is hoped that the Commission may be of some help in creating a lasting reminder of a "first in Williamson County" site.

Three new members were appointed for 1978 and are cordially received. They are Ed Mugford, 1409 Olive St., Georgetown, Texas-Round Rock High School Staff
Mrs. Loree Neiman, 908 Brushy Bend, Round Rock, Texas 78664 -512/255-4850
Mrs. Karen Thompson, McNeil Rd., 7203 S. Ute Trail, Round Rock, Tx. 78664-258-5688

Myreta Matthews, Box 127
Liberty Hill, Texas 78642 - 512/778-5249



**GEORGETOWN
HERITAGE SOCIETY**

presents

**THE 1978 TOUR
OF
HISTORIC HOMES
AND BUILDINGS**

SUNDAY, APRIL 16, 1978
1 - 6 P.M.

\$2.50 Donation





SUN to receive historic marker

An Official Texas Historical Marker for the 101 year-old Williamson County SUN will be erected on May 20, 1978. It was announced today by Myreta Matthews of Liberty Hill, Chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

The marker will be placed at 799 Main Street, Georgetown. Dedication plans are being made for Saturday, May 20 at 3:30 p.m.

Made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect, the marker measures 18 by 28 inches.

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas

Historical Commission's program of preservation activities. These include archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1976 the Historical Commission had erected more than 7,200 official markers.

The name and location of the present marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locale with their unique heritage.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 2
Thursday, April 13, 1978

HILL COUNTRY NEWS, April 20, 1978

Florence Library News

Last Friday was designated as a "Workday" for the Library, but only three workers showed up, so not much work was done on the several hundred books needing cataloging and placing in the shelves.

However, the day was not entirely wasted. A visitor from Odessa, Texas, Mr. Wallace Reed, a geneology buff, came by looking for directions to the old Matlifer Cemetery and to verify if this great-grandfather, Blake Forehand was actually buried there. The library has list of all cemeteries of Williamson County so we were able to help this gentleman and he was so pleased.

Mr. Reed has traced his ancestors back to the early 1800's. His mother was a Forehand and is buried in Goldthwaite and it is her grandfather, Blake Forehand who was buried in the Matlifer Cemetery in 1871.

He was born in 1810 in Mills County, and came into the Williamson County area in 1856 and was a blacksmith by trade. Our thanks to Mrs. Wiltha Swope who is helping us with some typing, also thanks to the West End Home Demonstration Club who will be using our library on Wednesday for their meeting and program.

Also, we want to thank Mr. David Meredith of Meredith Plumbing Company for repairing our restroom facility.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 5
Thursday, April 27, 1978

Mugford to speak at historic meet

Marietta Mugford, a leading Texas Junior Historian sponsor, and a six-year veteran of teaching history at Georgetown High School, will address a session of the annual Historic Preservation Conference. The conference begins Friday at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio, and is an official annual activity of the Texas Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Foundation.

Mrs. Mugford is a member of the Georgetown Heritage Society, the Williamson County Historical Commission and the Texas State Historical Association. She has been involved in researching, recording and surveying early Texas cemeteries as part of her work as the GHS Junior Historian Sponsor since 1974, and last year was a featured speaker at the Annual Texas Historical Association Conference in Dallas. She was recently a guest speaker for the DAH, and will speak to various historical societies this summer in New York.

Under Mrs. Mugford's direction, the Georgetown High School Junior Historian Chapter has become well known in the state for its active membership and its contributions to county and state history.

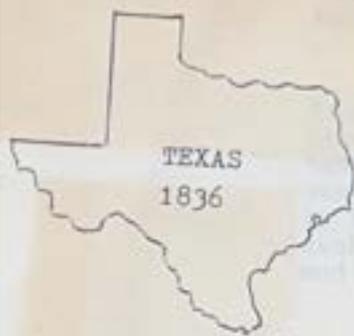
She will speak on the topic, "How to Strengthen Texas Junior Historians," and other topics on the program will include, "How to Get Strong Zoning Ordinances," "How to Get Community Support," "Conducting Community Surveys," "Encouraging State and Federal Preservation Measures," "How to Write National Register Nominations," and "Techniques of Preservation." Tours of the missions and of the historic King William District will be led by leading authorities from universities and state and federal agencies.

The conference will also include an evening at the Institute of Texas Cultures, followed by an awards luncheon and reception. Miss Myreta Mathews of Liberty Hill, Chairman of the Williamson County



MARIETTA MUGFORD JUST KEEPS ON ROCKING

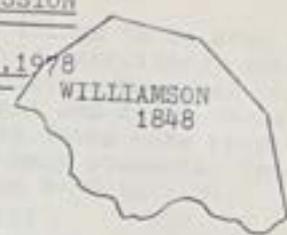
Historical Commission, will receive an award at the luncheon in recognition of the Williamson County Historical Commission's outstanding program.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWO - APRIL 22, 1978

VOLUME SEVEN



ANNUAL HISTORIC MEETING

The Annual Historic Preservation Conference of the Texas State Historical Commission and the Texas Historical Foundation will take place on April 28 and 29. This is the first Spring Conference and promises to be one of the best with a new setting in the fine old new and old city of San Antonio. The famous St. Anthony Hotel will be headquarters and most of the sessions will be there. The Institute of Texas Cultures will provide much in the area of space, exhibits and tours.

Mrs. Marietta Mugford, a Georgetown High School History Teacher and Junior Historian Sponsor is one of the speakers at a Saturday morning session of the Preservation Conference. The Williamson County Historical Commission is delighted to be represented by a member of the group. She attends the monthly meetings regularly, with permission from Superintendent Jack Frost, Georgetown.

The subject of that Session is How To Strengthen Your Junior Historian Program. It is well known that Marietta and her students are high achievers and the Commission is pleased to have her ability recognized at this important Conference.

HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY STUDENTS

Other High Schools in Williamson County taking an interest in History (that we know about) are Florence, Round Rock and Taylor.

Florence students have been surveying cemeteries and making gravestone rubbings guided by their teacher, Mrs. Betty Porter. Miss Effie McLeod is cosponsoring the Junior High School Students and has judged their historical essays, which she says are good.

Round Rock Junior Historians are actively involved in recording Oral History. They are making tapes and slides of interviews with long time Round Rock residents. Jeff Townsend, the sponsor is a member of the Historical Commission. He says the results of their work will be available to the Commission. Jeff also attends the regular meetings with the consent of Superintendent Noel Grisham, Round Rock. Mr. Grisham is a promoter of history in his own right.

The Taylor High School Library Club, sponsored by Mrs. Mary Jean Livingood, held the Fourth Annual Local History In The Library Day on March 31. The Librarian and students worked tirelessly to get a variety of collections and craftsmen for exhibitions that rivalled the Oct. 1st CAPCO Forum on Preservation of Natural and Cultural Resources, which the Williamson County Historical Commission helped sponsor at Southwestern University. Invited artizans came

from over this county and from Austin. Things to be seen included portrait sketching, silk screening, liquid embroidery, knitting, needlepoint, collections of weaving, quilts, commercial posters, wooden household items, Indian arrow heads and flint tools found in the area and historic maps and charts. There were people at each exhibit to tell the story to the many students, teachers and parents who came to the library from 8:30 to 3:30.

COUNTY RECORDS INVENTORY

Stephen Zacher is busily engaged in compiling the Williamson County Records Inventory. He is a trained archivist and knows how to do it. The work is tedious and hard and can be compared to restoring an old house, picking away at old plaster to find the real substance of the ancient structure. The Statewide County Inventory Project is conducted by North Texas State University Center for Community Services in cooperation with the Archives Division, Texas State Library. The Inventory lists titles, dates, and arrangements of every type of record, describes its contents, and notes whether it has been indexed. Much valuable historical research material is uncovered while records are being inventoried. This information will be published and made available in booklet form.

The project in Williamson County is sponsored by the Historical Commission with the approval of the Commissioners Court, who created the job to qualify for the grant.

SUN MARKER DEDICATION

The WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN Historical Marker will be dedicated in a ceremony on Saturday, May 20 at 3:30 P.M. The Medallion and plack will be installed on the building at 709 Main Street in Georgetown. The building is in the middle of the block on the east side of the square in the noted Williamson County Courthouse Historic District.

This great newspaper is not only 101 years old but is credited with doing as much or more for Williamson County than any other institution. It has participated in educating the citizens, improving the towns, promoting worthy causes, supporting the government - city, county, state and national, and generally enlightening the population.

Don and Clara Scarbrough, the present editors and owners, have been recognized many times for excellence by various Press Association and Publishing groups. New printing machinery will be on display for the first time at the open house following the marker program.

Calendar dates to remember:

April 28-29 Annual Historic Preservation Conference
May 4 Monthly Williamson County Historical Commission Meeting
May 20 Marker Dedication - SUN

Myreta Matthews

Williamson County Historical Comm.

P.O. Bx127-Liberty Hill, Texas 78642

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Annual Historic
Preservation Conference

of the
Texas Historical Commission
and the
Texas Historical Foundation

April 28-29

St. Anthony Hotel

San Antonio



**Annual Historic
Preservation Conference**
of the
Texas Historical Commission
and the
Texas Historical Foundation

April 28-29

St. Anthony Hotel

San Antonio

THURSDAY

REGISTRATION

FRIDAY

REGISTRATION

FILM FESTIVAL

TEXAS HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION
ANNUAL MEETING

PRESERVATION — A WAY OF LIFE, Keynote Address, Mrs. Frances Edwards, Director, Historic Charleston Foundation, Charleston, South Carolina

LUNCH BREAK

CONVERSATIONS AT LUNCH
(Preregistrants only)

19TH CENTURY TEXAS GARDENS, James David, Landscape Architect, Design and Construction Division, Parks and Wildlife Department, Austin

HOW TO GET GRANT MONEY FOR PRESERVATION PROJECTS, Representative of the National Endowment for the Humanities

BREAK

TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY — THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE, Dr. Thomas K. Heister, Director and Associate Professor of Anthropology, The University of Texas at San Antonio

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Cavalier Room
HOW TO GET A STRONG HISTORIC ZONING ORDINANCE ADOPTED IN YOUR COMMUNITY, Max Labe, Harris County Historical Commission Chairman, and Boone Powell, AIA, Fort, Powell, and Carson, San Antonio

Anacacho Room
HOW TO GET COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR YOUR HISTORIC PROJECTS, with IN YOUR COMMUNITY, Max Labe, Harris County Historical Commission Chairman, Jenkins, Denton, Genevieve Valentine, Gonzalez

Navarro Room
HOW TO WRITE A NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION, Marie London, National Register Nominations Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission



Evening at the Institute

Transportation provided from the St. Anthony Hotel to the Institute of Texan Cultures

Dinner and dancing, cash bar, and tours and live demonstrations of early Texas life—all at the Institute of Texan Cultures. Buses will return to the Hotel throughout the evening.



SATURDAY

CONVERSATIONS AT

BREAKFAST

(Preregistrants only)

REGISTRATION



A PLACE IN TIME, a film documenting the growth of historic preservation in the United States

MUSEUM AND COMMUNITY — A VITAL CONNECTION, Sherry Kafka Wagner, Museum Consultant, Austin

RESTORATION OF THE KING WILLIAM HISTORIC DISTRICT, MISSIONS AND OTHER SAN ANTONIO STRUCTURES, Lynn Bobbett, San Antonio Conservation Society

BREAK

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Navarro Room
HOW TO ENCOURAGE USE OF STATE AND FEDERAL PRESERVATION MEASURES, Truett Lattimer, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission, Joe Williams, Director, National Register Program, Texas Historical Commission, Warren Martin, Executive Director, San Antonio Development Agency, and Louis Rosenberg, Attorney, San Antonio

Room 300
HOW TO CONDUCT A COMMUNITY SURVEY, Edna Bentley, Preservation Consultant, San Antonio, and Marlene Berk, Architectural Historian, Texas Historical Commission

Parson Room
TECHNIQUES OF GOOD RESTORATION, Eugene George, AIA, Austin, and Joe Opperman, National Register Grants-to-Aid Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission

Cavalier Room
HOW TO STRENGTHEN YOUR JUNIOR HISTORIAN PROGRAM, David DeBow, Director of Educational Services, Texas State Historical Association, Maryetta Magford, Junior Historian Sponsor, Georgetown, Annette Bostic, Junior Historian Sponsor, San Antonio, and Marina Elvira Bauman, President, Harlandale Junior Historian Club, San Antonio

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Recognizing top county historical commission programs and individuals

TWO TOURS are available. Please indicate choice on the registration form. Buses will pick up participants in front of the St. Anthony Hotel

TOUR I—Visit the restored Mission San José and Mission San Francisco de la Espada, the Espada Dam and Espada Aqueduct, and the King William Historic District

TOUR II—Visit historic San Antonio buildings which have been restored through public funding: the Market, Ursuline Academy, St. Paul's School, Crockett School and Plaza de Armas. Then tour the King William Historic District

RECEPTION

A reception honoring top county programs and individuals. Punch and hors d'oeuvres provided, cash bar available

FREE—Take this opportunity to wander down the River Walk and sample the food at one of the excellent restaurants along the way

7:30 am
Madrid Room

8 am-noon
St. Anthony Lobby
8:30 am
Anacacho Room

9 am
Anacacho Room

9:45 am
Anacacho Room

10:30 am

10:45 am

Noon
Anacacho Room

2 pm
San Antonio

5 pm-7 pm
Parson Room

Evening
San Antonio

3 pm-5:00 pm
St. Anthony Lobby

9 am-5 pm
St. Anthony Lobby
8 am
Anacacho Room
10 am
Anacacho Room

10:30 am
Anacacho Room

Noon

Noon
Madrid Room

1:30 pm
Anacacho Room

2:15 pm
Anacacho Room

3 pm
Anacacho Room

3:15 pm
Anacacho Room

4:15 pm

6 pm-7 pm

6:30 pm-10 pm

REGISTRATION FORM
1978 HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE
Early bird registration \$30 Registration at door \$45

YES I am able to attend. YES I am unable to attend. Please indicate reason for inability to attend.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ COUNTY _____ STATE _____

Phone include your area code. If you are unable to include area code, please indicate on the back of this form.

RESERVATION FORM
St. Anthony Hotel

CLASS _____

ROOM _____

DATE _____

Rooming room only _____

Amount paid _____

Deposit paid _____

To obtain confirmation registration must be received by April 15, 1978.
Please complete form on reverse side.

Possible Pioneer Cemetery Found In Chisholm Valley

By CHRIS PETERSON

Talks in Chisholm Valley West Section Two may have a surprise in store for them. That new home they recently purchased might sit atop an old pioneer cemetery.

Sherie Dunham, 808 Pack Saddle Pass, and her sons have discovered what they believe to be an old cemetery on property adjacent to their Chisholm Valley lot.

"We found numerous stones on the lot north of ours. When we looked closer we saw that they were coming from what appeared to be a grave," she said.

Farther study revealed that there could possibly be a total of five graves, including one child, one infant and three adult burial plots. Located in a grove of trees, the flat white stones were found everywhere. In one instance, the stones covered a small rectangular area in a corner of the "cemetery." The rectangle was placed in an east-west position.

Also, several other rock concentrations are visible.

Remnants of an old fence appear, leading Mrs. Dunham to speculate that it once surrounded the tree grove and

possible cemetery.

During the Texas pioneer era, it was not uncommon for people to bury their dead in shallow graves and then cover them with rocks to make sure that animals stayed away.

There are also rumors that a wooden cross once marked one of the "graves." Workmen who were building the Dunham house said they saw it, stated Mrs. Dunham.

No one seems to know, however, what became of the cross.

Mrs. J.W. Ledbetter and Mrs. D.B. Gregg, Round Rock members of the Williamson County Historical Association, visited the Chisholm Valley site last week. Both agreed that it could be a cemetery but, because of a lack of markers, that they would be difficult to prove.

"It seemed very natural that it would be a cemetery," Mrs. Ledbetter said.

They plan to report the find to Williamson County Historical Association officials.

Round Rock Leader

April 27, 1974



Could It Be A Grave?

Todd, Sean and Trevor Dunham take a closer look at what could possibly be an old grave in the yard adjacent to their Chisholm Valley home. The stones are arranged in such a

manner that they could be part of a pioneer cemetery, their mother, Sherie Dunham thinks.

THE SAN ANTONIO LIGHT Saturday, April 29, 1978

Historic Group Holds Talks

Once preservation efforts have started in a community, a random neighborhood survey begins a process of restoring itself, explained a historical preservation official from South Carolina.

Frances Edmunds, director of the Historic Charleston Foundation, spoke Friday to the annual Historic Preservation Conference of the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Historical Foundation at the St. Anthony Hotel, explaining how the process worked in Charleston, S.C.

Mrs. Edmunds described how her group had expanded their operations

since beginning in 1947, buying and restoring historic buildings, selling them and going on to others.

The trend would spread to neighboring buildings, and one area that was a slum when they approached it is now well to do, she said.

"As soon as the real estate agents found the foundation was interested in a neighborhood, they were out there knocking on doors," she noted.

Her group supports itself through donations, a museum, and royalties from reproduction of antique furniture and tableware, she told the 150 delegates.

15

New Association At Work On Jollyville Area History

Round Rock Leader
April 27, 1978

The acquisition of historical markers and purchase of an old building to serve as a country store are just some of the goals for the newly formed Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association, says Karen Thompson, president of the organization.

The group is having a meeting May 1 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pond Springs Elementary and new members are welcome to attend.

"We need members to help gather data about our school and other historic structures in the area," Mrs. Thompson

argued.

"She added that it is actually a gift to the future to "preserve our past."

"Not only big cities, but small communities like ours need to save some of our heritage and it takes action now. Later might be too late," the president said.

The Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association will be working closely with the Williamson County Historical Commission, Texas Historical Commission and Texas Historical Foundation.

Besides obtaining historical

markers for old buildings in the community, particularly the Pond Springs Elementary School, the association plans to purchase an old store to preserve and run as an "Old Country Store." It would be available for community meetings and sale of locally made hand crafts. People with experience along these lines are encouraged to join the group.

The association also deals with family history.

"We have free forms for family trees and offer research information," Mrs. Thompson said.

According to Mrs. Thompson, it was not too many years after 1836 and the Battle of San Jacinto that people began to settle in Jollyville and Pond Springs. The Pond Springs Elementary, which is nearly 120 years old, was started to serve farmers and other settlers.

The present school site is its third location. In 1927 the site was purchased from the William Carter family for \$105. It was known as the Pond Springs-Campbell County Line School District until it consolidated with the Round Rock ISD in the late 1960's.

Goals for the newly formed organization are 13.

THE SAN ANTONIO LIGHT Sunday, April 30, 1978



A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD is presented by Texas Historical Commission Chairman Cecil Burney (R) to Dr. Felix D. Almaraz Jr., representing the Bexar County Historical Commission. The award, which is based on the fulfillment of 16 requirements, was presented Saturday at the St. Anthony Hotel. (Staff Photo.)



*Annual Historic
Preservation Conference*

*April 28-29,
1978*

San Antonio

*of the
Texas Historical Commission
and the
Texas Historical Foundation*

*St. Anthony
Hotel*

Anacacho Room



MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

This first Spring conference blends the best of our Fall annual meetings into a new setting and format, complete with some highly engaging sessions and excellent speakers:

- Frances Edmonds, Director, Historic Charleston Foundation, Charleston, S.C., Keynote Speaker
- Dr. Thomas Hester, Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Texas at San Antonio
- Sherry Kafka Wagner, writer, educator, planning and development consultant
- Concurrent sessions on junior historian programs, pointers on restoration, historic zoning ordinances, writing National Register nominations, conducting historic community surveys, and using new state and federal tax laws, loan programs and easements to encourage preservation

Come share your ideas and experiences with us again and sample Spring in the fine old and new city of San Antonio. Other conference happenings not to be missed:

- Friday morning opening session -- the Texas Historical Foundation annual meeting and election of officers
- General session on grants with representatives of the National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities
- An exceptional evening of tours of exhibits, dinner and dancing at the Institute of Texan Cultures
- Annual Awards Luncheon recognizing the top county programs and individuals
- Tours Saturday afternoon of the Missions and the King William Historic District previewed that morning by a session on the restoration of these areas
- Saturday evening reception -- a special tribute to our award winners



The Texas Historical Foundation
awards this
Quota Buster Certificate
to
Williamson County

In recognition of the County Historical Commission's support of
Historical Preservation in Texas.

April 1978

Ohio Keesie Jo. Fessenden
President
Laura Ann Rowe
Secretary

The Austin Citizen

Small text block, likely a date or page number.

Matthews given Shepperd Award

Matthews given Shepperd Award
The Shepperd Award was presented to Matthews...

Four represent county in historic conference

Four represent county in historic conference
A historic conference was held in Austin...



Small caption text below the portrait.



Kids Find The Strangest Things

Eleven-year-old Paul Szendrey poses with the 105-year-old tombstone that he and his brother Eric found behind their Dove Creek house. The marker, carved out of local stone, apparently

indicates the grave of Virginia B. Masterson, who was born Feb. 14, 1840 and died Sept. 14, 1873.



Sam Bass' Doc?

Nash Phillips Copus workmen unearth remains of Virginia B. Masterson and prepare to move them to the Round Rock Cemetery. Her grave and tombstone were discovered two weeks ago near a road being cut into the new Greenslopes subdivision located adjacent to Dove Creek. She was the wife of Dr. Robert Masterson who is reported to have been the physician attending outlaw Sam Bass after he was mortally wounded in Round Rock 109 years ago.

105-year-old bones found in Round Rock

"The first thing we found was the leg bone," recalled Joe Smith of Condra Funeral Home in Round Rock.

The leg bone belonged to a woman who has been dead 105 years. Her tombstone and coffin were discovered two weeks ago in the Round Rock subdivision of Greenslopes.

Smith was one of those who unearthed the remains of the crumbling cedar coffin, which at first appeared to be intact.

But it wasn't, says Smith.

"We found a pelvic bone, half of the skull, then a lot of little bones -- vertebrae and ribs, things like that."

Workers at the site had been told to look for a coffin there because earlier digging had accidentally uncovered a tombstone.

"In memory of Virginia B., beloved wife of Dr. R. Masterson," read the marker, which showed that the woman lived from 1840 to 1873. Local historians say Masterson was an early Round Rock physician who used to own the land on which Virginia was buried.

Masterson himself is buried in the old Round Rock cemetery, and, as of Thursday, his wife's remains are nearby. The Nash Phillips Copus Co., which owns the land where the grave was discovered, paid for the reburial. So far, no descendants have been found.

Austin American-Statesman

Sunday, May 7, 1978

Local Attorney Clears Mystery

May 11, 1978

Grave Leads To Woman's Roots

By CHRIS PETRISON

Editor's Note—Historical buffs in Austin and Round Rock combined their efforts to learn the stories of Dr. Robert Masterson and his wife Virginia B. Masterson after the woman's 195-year-old tombstone and grave were found two weeks ago near a road being cut into the Greenslopes subdivision adjacent to Dove Creek.

One of those interested was Carlos Higgins, attorney for Nash Phillips-Copus, developers of the new Greenslopes subdivision. It was he, along with the help of Sarakay Jordan with the Texas State Library Geology Collection, Mrs. Zachary Scott and Mary Fleisher with the Texas State History Department of the University of Texas Library who revealed the following story.

Dr. Robert Masterson was a self-educated doctor who practiced medicine in and around Round Rock in the mid-1800's. Although he never received any formal medical training, his apparent skill led his neighbors to give him the title of "doctor."

Born in Alabama in Dec. 24, 1816, he and his first wife Elizabeth Ann Gotcher Masterson settled in his home state. The approaching North-South conflict in the Civil War apparently caused her, his wife and son Robert Benjamin to leave Alabama and move to Texas in 1854. Masterson supported the Confederate cause.

Their new home was in Travis County near Austin. In 1856 he sold all his slaves and his interest in 10,000 head of cattle and two years later moved to Sea Sata County. Masterson was listed on the tax rolls there in 1858 and 1863.

His first wife died in 1859. The doctor returned to Central Texas in 1864, this time moving to Williamson County near Round Rock. The 48-year-old man married his second wife, Virginia B. Clark, on Nov. 18, 1864 here. Virginia was then age 24.

The couple had two children, William R. Masterson and Martha Masterson. Mrs. Masterson, who was born on Valentine's Day in 1840, died in the small town on Sept. 16, 1872 and was buried on a

hilltop just south of Round Rock. The grave site, local historians believe, could have been on property that once belonged to the doctor.

Her marker became covered with dirt and her grave lost. Its existence was not re-discovered until about two weeks ago when two Dove Creek brothers, Paul and Eric Steadrey, found the headstone after earth was moved in preparation for road construction.

After Virginia's death, Masterson continued practicing medicine in Round Rock. The prominent citizen again remained in the year 1877 at the age of 60. His third wife was 26-year-old Flora Owen, the daughter of Dr. W.M. and Sarah Owen of Round Rock.

According to records the marriage was performed on April 26 in the Owen's home by J.J. Bruce. Their marriage lasted seven years until the doctor's death. He was buried in the Round Rock Cemetery.

Rumors have it that Masterson was the attending physician to outlaw Sam Bass after he was gunned down in Round Rock on July 19, 1878.

Although Masterson never achieved great notoriety and fame, his descendants were well-known in Austin and even in the acting world. The link extends to Zachary Scott, the actor.

The line goes like this. The doctor's son, Robert Benjamin Masterson was married twice. His first wife Sallie Lee Masterson died in January, 1884 at the age of 23. She is buried in the Masterson plot next to her father-in-law. Robert then married Sallie's sister Theropie settled near Amarillo where they were buried.

Two of their daughters still live in Amarillo while a third daughter Mrs. Zachary Scott, mother of the well-known actor, resides in Austin. Her husband was a physician.

It is also believed that Virginia and Robert Masterson's daughter Martha married a Round Rock Anderson and his descendants living here today.

Virginia's remains were reburied in the Round Rock Cemetery last week next to Masterson with Contra Funeral Home handling arrangements.

The Sunday SUN
Page 4

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, May 14, 1978

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 3 Thursday, May 18, 1978

SUN open house Saturday afternoon

The Williamson County Sun will observe its 101st anniversary on Friday, and to mark this event will hold an open house Saturday afternoon, May 20 from 3:30 until 5:30 at the SUN building east of the Courthouse.

The newspaper was established May 19, 1877.

At 3:30, Miss Myreta Matthews, chairman of the County Historical Commission, will preside during brief ceremonies unveiling the Texas Historical Marker recently awarded the SUN. Don Scarbrough, publisher of the newspaper, will make a few remarks and special guests will be introduced.

Afterwards, visitors will be invited

to inspect the editorial offices, and the production, press and mailing rooms of the newspaper.

Members of the staff will be on hand to explain some of the workings of putting together a newspaper, and will answer questions. Both full-time employees and part-time people including special columnists, correspondents, newsgirls and newsboys, mailing room workers, and student apprentices will be among those receiving the guests during the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Scarbrough cordially invite anyone interested in the functioning of a newspaper to come by on Saturday afternoon.

Georgetown area receives nomination by review board

The Texas Review Board recently approved the University Avenue-Elm Street Historic District in Georgetown for nomination by the Texas Historical Commission to the National Register of Historic Places. The district contains two churches and five residences.

The National Register is the nationwide inventory of historic properties considered to be worthy of preservation for their cultural and historic values. It is administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior.

The Review Board, a body of seven professionals from around the state in the fields of history, architecture and

archeology, meets quarterly to consider nominations. Districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects can be nominated.

Federal agencies use the National Register while planning projects in an attempt to take into account historic resources in an area that might be affected by the projects. While State and local bodies are encouraged to make use of the National Register for planning purposes, ordinances or laws which establish such preservation measures as restrictive zoning, special design review committees, or provisions to halt demolition are not part of the National Register program.

Listing on the National Register does give a prop-

erty national recognition of significance and limited protection where federally funded or licensed projects are concerned. A National Register property also can qualify for very limited federal matching grants-in-aid for preservation, rehabilitation, acquisition and development.

In addition, the Tax Reform Act of 1976 contains several provisions which encourage rehabilitation of National Register properties and discourage their destruction.

National Register programs in Texas are administered by the Texas Historical Commission under the direction of Trevert Latimer, State Historic Preservation Officer.

Georgetown captures beautification award

Smiling faces were in abundance Wednesday at Southwestern's Student Union Building as the announcement was made to Beautification project workers that Georgetown has been selected as a recipient of the Governor's Beautification Award. Competing with other cities in Texas of comparable size, Georgetown's effort got off to a late

start, picked up steam like a locomotive, ripped through completion deadline, and currently shows no signs of coming to a halt.

To the contrary, a permanent Beautify Georgetown Council has been set up through the Chamber of Commerce. Committee chairmen and alternates will now have the privilege of attending the Beautify Texas Council's convention June 28 and 29 to witness and participate in the awards ceremonies.

TO CLEMAX Georgetown's competition for the Governor's Award, a narrative report had to be submitted to relate to the judges all happenings. The first paragraph of Georgetown's report gives an insight into the project's beginnings: "The City of Georgetown is a charming, historic and beautiful city nestled in the confluence of the North and South San Gabriel Rivers. For many years, Georgetown was a sleepy county seat of Williamson County somewhere north of Austin. Then, in the mid-

70's, the combined influence of IH-35, the back-to-rural-living attitudes, low cost of living, and other factors, brought Georgetown to life. Population and economic growth exploded into the city.

By 1977, the two faces of rapid growth began to become evident. On the one hand, Georgetown was becoming a vital bustling city with an economic base which prevented the bedroom community image often associated with attractive smaller communities in close proximity to metropolitan areas. But there was another side to growth.

THE OLDER, historic parts of town were becoming neglected and rundown as new subdivisions became more attractive to new residents. Litter, builder's scrap, and junk began to mar the city street and vacant lots. The rapid influx of commercialism began to ravage beautiful, scenic areas. Baldness and concrete started to become more apparent than century-old oak trees. A swift, decisive and well-supported program was needed if Georgetown was to maintain the atmosphere and charm so many residents valued — a program was needed to regain and then to maintain the beauty of Georgetown.

The 1978 Governor's Achievement Award became the catalyst for the program so vitally needed in Georgetown. The competition had all the necessary elements which were being sought: it demanded quick action, it required broad-based support, it spoke to most of the problems facing Georgetown, and most important, it would bring the pride, enthusiasm and progressive spirit lying dormant in Georgetown to the surface. With this background, the Georgetown Beautification Program was waiting in the wings, waiting to take center stage.

AND INDEED IT DID! A community-wide people's program of beauty began to take shape. Innumerable phone calls, meetings, work sessions, speeches, etc., dotted the five short months before competition deadline. To quote again from the narrative: "... many diverse groups, as well as many, many individuals worked together as a cohesive unit to make Georgetown a more beautiful city in which to live and grow. And because this was a 'people's' campaign..." and "The people of Georgetown were working for their city, not an award!

Consequently, the effort shows no signs of slowing down, but continues to increase..." and "in the final analysis, this was the initial goal — to utilize the Governor's Achievement Award as a vehicle to make Georgetown the finest, most beautiful, charming city in the STATE OF TEXAS."

It is! We are! At least the 5,000-10,000 population category!



ANNOUNCING AWARD — Georgetown Mayor John Doerfler and Chamber of Commerce Manager Vivian Wood happily announced Tuesday that Georgetown had won first place in the Governor's Community Achievement Awards competition for cities in the 5,000-10,000 category. Georgetown representatives will now present a slides and table display at the "Beautify Texas Council" meeting June 29 in Waco and accept a plaque from Gov. Dolph Bruce.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 3
Thursday, June 1, 1978

County Sun to unveil historical marker May 20

The WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN will unveil a Texas Historical Marker on Saturday afternoon, May 20, at 2:30 in front of the SUN office on the Georgetown Square, 209 Main.

The occasion will commemorate the SUN's one hundred and first birthday which it observes one day earlier. It was founded May 19, 1877.

MISS MYRETA MATTHEWS, Williamson County Historical Commission Chairman, will be in charge of the brief ceremonies and will introduce those on the program as well as special guests and Commission members who are present.

Following the dedication of the marker, Mr. and Mrs. Don Scarbrough, owners of the SUN, invite the public to visit the editorial, production, press and mailing rooms of the newspaper for a look at how the publication is put together and printed. The open house continues until 5:30 o'clock.

Wording of the marker inscription follows:

WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN FIRST PUBLISHED ON MAY 19, 1877. THE "WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN" WAS FOUNDED BY JESSIE E. COOPER (1855-1944). IN ITS FIRST CENTURY OF OPERATION, THE "SUN" INITIATED NUMEROUS CIVIC PROJECTS SUCH AS THE BUILDING OF THE FIRST RAILROAD IN GEORGETOWN, WESLEYAN RETIREMENT HOME, AND LOW COST HOUSING. EDITORS OF THE PAPER INCLUDED FRANK T. ROCHE, JOHN R. ALLEN, JOHN M. SHARPE, AND ROBERT W. COOPER, SON OF THE FOUNDER. DONALD AND CLARA SCARBROUGH BECAME THE SECOND FULL OWNERS OF THE ENTERPRISE IN 1948. THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY, THE WEEKLY "SUN" BECAME A SEMI-WEEKLY IN 1974.

(1878)***

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 13 Thursday, May 11, 1978

Historical Commission Honored At Conference

SAN ANTONIO — The Williamson County Historical Commission was honored in one category at the 1978 Annual Historic Preservation Conference, held here April 28-29.

Myreia Matthews, commission chairman, was among three preservationists statewide to receive the John Ben Shepperd Award, presented each year to outstanding chairmen of county historical commissions.

The award competition is sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, which also administers four other categories of competition annually for county historical commissions from throughout the state.

The Taylor Daily Press, Friday, May 4, 1978

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 3 Thursday, May 25, 1978



UNVEILING — Donna Joney, daughter of SUN publisher Don Scarbrough, unveils a historic plaque which was presented to the SUN in celebration of its 101st birthday last Saturday. Between 40 and 50 people visited the newspaper office during its open house in conjunction with the unveiling ceremony.

Centennial Edition
The Williamson County Sun

They published the SUN—



TO THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN

1877 * 100 YEARS OF PROGRESS * 1977

GREETINGS AND SALUTATION FROM THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF GEORGETOWN

On the occasion of the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the business of The Williamson County Sun, in the year 1877, the Council of the City of Georgetown issues this Testimonial in grateful appreciation and acknowledgement of the vital contribution made by this Newspaper to the orderly progress and development of the City of Georgetown.

In the year 1877, Jessie Eugene Cooper and Gus Ivey founded The Williamson County Sun. This was the beginning of the newspaper serving Georgetown and surrounding communities which has continued to this time. There have been various editors up until October of 1948, at which time, the present owner, Don Scarborough purchased controlling interest in The Williamson County Sun. Under the guidance and capable leadership of this outstanding citizen, the "Sun" has steadily expanded and improved until today it is recognized as one of the leading weekly newspapers in the State of Texas.

The sound progressive expansion of The Williamson County Sun during the past 100 years has been achieved by hard work and strong adherence to a code of reporting ethics, supplemented by the assistance of a host of loyal employees, expert in the field of their chosen line of endeavour. The continuing success achieved by this pioneer firm over the past century has been the result of the courage and vision of its founders and reflects great credit on all those responsible for its continuing policy, who have guided its affairs so carefully throughout the peaks and valleys of the past century.

The Council of the City of Georgetown takes pleasure in recognizing and publicly acclaiming The Williamson County Sun upon its centenary of progress and its great contribution to the advancement of the community of the City of Georgetown.

Signed and sealed on behalf of the Council of the City
of Georgetown, in the year one thousand nine hundred
and seventy-seven.



John C. Daefler
Mayor

W. F. Walker
City Secretary

For 100 years, the SUN told it like it was, promoted County

by Clara Stearns Scarborough

The Williamson County Sun, oldest newspaper of its county, observes its 100th anniversary on May 19, 1977. The Sun was established in Georgetown, Texas, seat of Williamson County, on Saturday May 19, 1877, when its first issue was printed by Jessie Eugene Cooper and Gus Ivey, the latter member of the firm bowing out a month later.

The Sun followed by 20 years the appearance of the first newspaper in the county — the Georgetown Independent, published about six months beginning Sept. 8, 1856. Records exist of four other papers which were likewise published only briefly preceding the founding of the Sun. Some of these short-lived newspapers, wrote Cooper, "had been penned by literary giants of their day."

The Sun supported the Democratic Party, was designed to serve as the official county paper, and had as one of its goals the support of measures to solve some of the problems facing citizens of the area in Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction years.

Editor Cooper himself described the times of 1877 and the needs for a newspaper: "When the Sun was established there were no telephones, no electric lights, no automobiles; no barbed-wire fences; no deep wells; no settlements on the prairies; no radios; few hotels;

no road houses, but plenty of saloons.

"All settlements were on streams, near wood and water and as many as possible near at least one never-failing spring. At that time Texas had been a member of the United States thirty-nine years, and the Democrats in charge of the State government only two years following the rigors and hardships of reconstruction, which was under full headway. Dangerous outlaws did not fear the officers, nor respect the lives and property of the good citizens. The Sun was born in the midst of such conditions, and it followed the lead of courageous citizens who gave their time and influence toward making the county and State a safer and better place in which to live."

Jessie Eugene Cooper was born near Mt. Pleasant, Tenn., Feb. 5, 1855, the eldest of five children. His father was a sheriff and was killed in the Confederate Army in 1863, at the age of 35. As the eldest son, Cooper helped his widowed mother care for the family. He clerked in the Maury County Chancery Clerk's office for about two years, during which time he did extensive writing, an unplanned preparation for his future career.

In January 1876, Cooper came to Georgetown, Texas. In February he took a rural school teaching position at Matsler School located northwest of

Georgetown, remaining at that post until July. Although he considered his teaching a success, he decided he was better suited to other pursuits and began clerking in Capt. J. C. S. Morrow's stores in Georgetown and nearby Round Rock. By April of 1877, Cooper and Gus Ivey had formed a partnership, planning to publish a newspaper. The first copy appeared Saturday, May 19, 1877, and in a few weeks, Cooper bought out Ivey's interest. Cooper "started without money (but his) energy, determination and zeal compensated for that lack." In 1893, the paper had a circulation of 1500 and had been the official paper of the city and county for many years.

In 1878, Cooper married Miss Mary Sansom (1861-1907), daughter of Colonel and Mrs. Richard Sansom of Georgetown. He remarried after her death, his second wife being Miss Sarah Wilbarger, daughter of Captain and Mrs. Clay Wilbarger. Their marriage was in 1910 and she died May 7, 1925. Cooper was an elder in the Presbyterian Church, a member of Knights of Honor, Knight and Ladies of Honor, Knights of Pythias, was chairman of the Williamson County Executive Committee and member of the Congressional Executive Committee. In 1890, he helped organize the First National Bank of Georgetown, which he served as director, vice president, president, and chairman of

the board. "For sixty-nine years Mr. Cooper was closely associated with every movement for the material, civic, moral and spiritual advancement of Georgetown, Williamson county and Central Texas, was interested in business and industry that would supply a market for raw products of the county, provide employment, was one of the organizers of the Georgetown Oil Mill," serving as its president for several years, was president of the Cotton Seed Crusher's Association of Texas for a term, and was president of the Belford Lumber Co. at the time of his death.

In his publishing life, he referred to himself as "The Snatcher" because of his weekly column in the Sun called "Snatches." Although Cooper periodically shared editorial duties with others, for many years he maintained an active interest in the paper and often influenced its policies. He was chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sun Publishing Company as late as Jan. 23, 1940, and continued to serve as a member of the Board until his death, Dec. 11, 1944.

The editors who worked under Cooper were:

Gus Ivey, a newspaperman from Ohio. He apparently was the pace setter for a short time, as the first issue states that Ivey was editor "with the assistance

30

of Mr. J. E. Cooper as local editor." In an announcement published June 23, 1877, in the paper, Ivey announced he was leaving the firm because of other business commitments.

W. H. Neill, editor from June 23, 1877 to July 14, 1877.
R. Theodore Cooper, editor 1879.

In 1881, J. Charles Cameron, Sr., became Cooper's partner and business manager, and others in the firm at that time were Cooper Sanson, R. T. Cooper and M. D. Sanson.

Marvin M. McLean, editor from July 30, 1891 to June 8, 1893, owned an interest in the Sun. He was an attorney and the son of Southwestern University Regent (President) John H. McLean.

In February 1894, J. E. Cooper formed a stock company with W. E. Chapman, Jack Steele, T. B. Stone, M. B. Lockett, A. L. Sharp, and T. S. Snyder, thus establishing the Sun Publishing Co., Inc.

Frank T. Roche, who bought stock in the Sun, was editor from March 29, 1894, until 1915, and was assisted by R. F. Cates, business manager. Often called Captain Roche, the onetime Confederate soldier had lost a leg in the Civil War. He was chief clerk in the Texas General Land Office for several years, was an Episcopalian, and "positive in his approach to political and personal questions and appalled by the policies of Reconstruction which had faded some but did not disappear until the administration of Pres. Woodrow Wilson." Roche was always attired in a frock coat when he followed his editorial tasks at his office. After being appointed postmaster of Georgetown in 1914, he withdrew from the Sun Company. He died as the result of a street car accident in El Paso in 1916.

Dr. John R. Allen and a group of printers and publishers, George Keabeey, Lowrey Foster, and Howard Harrison, Sr., purchased Roche's interest in the Sun in 1915, and Allen became editor. He was a former Methodist minister, world-traveler, and was for many years head of the Dept. of Romance Languages at Southwestern University, serving at the same time as director of the Ladies Annex, a girls' dormitory at the University. He left his editing position May 17, 1918, to return to the ministry.

John M. Sharpe in 1918 bought Allen's interest in the Sun Publishing Co. and became its executive head and editor. That same year, the Sun purchased the Georgetown Commercial from Lee J. Rountree and combined the two shops. John M. Sharpe was born Sept. 2, 1881 and died Sept. 12, 1963. He served three terms as Mayor of Georgetown, was three times appointed Postmaster there, was secretary of the Williamson County Democratic Executive Committee more than 20 years, was on Southwestern University's Executive Committee during the Depression, was a member of

the Odd Fellows, Woodmen of the World, charter member of the local Country Club, and of the Methodist Church. "He denounced the Ku Klux Klan and won their hatred and threats including the threat to burn his home and business, and his family." Sharpe worked for the development and control of the Brazos and San Gabriel rivers and served on the Brazos River Authority.

W. W. Jenkins, a school teacher and administrator, became editor of the Sun in 1919, with John M. Sharpe serving as president of the company. At this time, Sharpe acquired controlling interest in the business. Sharpe took leave of absence from his editorial duties from 1933 to 1944 when he was Georgetown's Postmaster, but even then maintained close association with the paper and its policies.

Robert W. Cooper, son of the founder, was a talented writer and was editor of the Williamson County Sun from 1933 until 1944. His wife also served on the staff of the paper. Cooper worked closely with major stockholder Sharpe during this period.

John M. Sharpe was editor and Fred W. Millhollin was assistant editor from 1944 until 1948.

Don (Donald Lee) Scarbrough purchased controlling interest in the Sun Publishing Company in October 1948, acquired the remaining stock within a few years, and has owned and published the Williamson County Sun since that time (1948-1977), maintaining business and editorial control of it through those years. He has been assisted in active management of the business by his wife, Clara Scarbrough. Mr. Scarbrough was born in Hicks, Texas, Sept. 24, 1913, received his secondary education in Taylor, Texas. He attended Southwestern University where he served as editor of the school newspaper, *The Megaphone*, for three years, was public relations officer of the University, special correspondent for Associated Press, correspondent for the Texas Conference Athletic Association, and a member of Phi Delta Theta. In 1940, he founded the *Taylor Times*, and during the years between 1940 and 1977 has at one time or another owned and operated the *Elgin Courier*, *Granger News*, *Thorndale Champion*, *Llano News*, and the *Cameron Herald*. He also established Radio Station KGTN in Georgetown. Scarbrough by 1977 had divested himself of all the newspapers with the exception of the Williamson County Sun. He worked to establish the Wesleyan Retirement Home in Georgetown and serves on its Board of Directors; was largely instrumental in the creation of Georgetown Housing Authority whose low cost housing project has been recognized as an innovative and successful model, serving as chairman of that Authority during the planning and building of the town's first low cost housing. He served four years on the Texas State Library and Historical Commission; has been secretary-treasurer and member of the Editorial Board and of the Board of Directors of Texas Press Association; received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Southwestern University; in 1955 was named Worthy Citizen of the Year in Georgetown; has been a member of the Board of Directors of both Citizens State Bank and Georgetown Savings and Loan

Association; has been on the Board of Directors of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Kiwanis Club, Lions Club, and of the Methodist Church, which he has also served as member of the Board. The Williamson County Sun, under his direction, has won awards in all fields of press competition in the Texas Press Association and in other regional press groups. In 1940, he married Clara Stearns, who has remained through the years an active participant, writer, and researcher in the family business. Their daughters are Linda (Mrs. Hiram Knott) and Donna

(Mrs. Jack Josey).

The Sun was born on a George Washington hand press, a relatively inexpensive piece of equipment at the time the Williamson County Sun was established in 1877. The paper was set with hand type. For a four-page paper, as the Sun was, one or two writers, a printer and possibly a part-time pressman (whose job could be done by the printer) were required in order to publish the four pages once a week. A large investment was not at all necessary to start such a newspaper, nor was a large one made, as previously indicated in J. E. Cooper's biography.

The Williamson County Sun, from its first issue May 19, 1877, has maintained the same name. It has bound files of the newspapers published since then and microfilm of these files, and has always had its offices in Georgetown, Texas, within a one-block radius of the Courthouse, mostly to the east side. The issue of Sept. 13, 1877, stated that the firm had purchased an office. In Sept. 1878, the Sun rented the third floor of the new Courthouse (designed by famed Italian architect Raffini) for \$100 a year. In December 1881, the paper announced "we have purchased the stone building on the east side of the square" built by John Shaffer in 1870 for a saddlery, located just south of the first Courthouse, a log cabin. The Shaffer Building has a Texas Historical Marker. The Sun remained in the Saddlery Building for many years. The firm's letterhead in 1918 located "The Oldest & Most Progressive Newspaper in Williamson County" at the corner of Main and Seventh streets. It was upstairs in the corner (east) building north of the Square. On April 14, 1934, the Sun bought the stone building just north of the Saddlery, at 709 1/2 Main. In this location

the editorial offices and printing press were downstairs, the Linotype machines and handset type facilities upstairs where the paper was composed. In October 1961 Scarbrough leased the adjoining building to the north, at 709 Main Street, moved the newspaper operation into that building, keeping the print shop at the 709 1/2 Main Street location. The Heritage Printing wing of the business was sold in 1974 to John and Della King.

For about two decades, the Sun was a four-page weekly paper, published on Thursday, democratic in political affiliation. In 1877 its subscription rate per year was \$2.20 and its circulation was under 500. By

1888 its circulation was between 750 and 1,000, and in 1895 the circulation had reached 1,392, with a subscription rate of \$1 per year. Between 1895 and 1900, the Sun had increased its size to eight pages, and its circulation in 1900 was 1,596. Other newspapers being published in Williamson County in 1977 and their founding dates are: The Bartlett Tribune, established in 1886 as the Bartlett Headlight; The Granger News, established in October 1892, called the Granger Times from 1899 to 1904, thereafter resuming the name, News; The Round Rock Leader, founded as the Round Rock Searchlight in 1896, the name Leader being first listed in N. W. Ayer & Son's Directory of Newspapers and Periodicals in 1902; The Taylor Daily Press, founded by a stock company in 1913; The Taylor Times, founded in March 1940 by Don Scarbrough; The Liberty Hill Libertarian, founded in 1975; and the Village Crier (Florence), founded in 1974.

Between 1900 and 1948, the Sun grew from an eight-page paper to one of 10-12 pages. In 1977, it averages 38-40 pages per week, counting its Sunday issue, established in June 1974 as a partner to the Thursday Sun. The 1977 circulation is over 5,000.

From its birth, this newspaper has carried an editorial page, most of which is locally written, and which has been open to expression of diverse views. The paper has reflected the community needs of the time and has supported in a forthright manner the solutions of area problems. In the early years, the Sun urged firm but fair law enforcement, particularly during the violence of Reconstruction; supported good county government, improvement of schools, the building of bridges and better roads, the founding of a railroad in Georgetown, the building of water and electrical systems, telegraphic and telephone systems, and took special note of new churches and new homes erected in the town. The early Sun gave special attention to the need for expansion of business and the establishment of small industry in the county, and provided farmers with news of better farming methods. It attempted to keep area citizens well informed on economic and political developments and issues, as it continues to do to the present time, and it has always carried special columns of news reports from communities from all over the county. The format of the first two decades of the Sun showed page one with national and state news, small, one column headlines, and advertising.

After 1900, the format gradually took on a more varied makeup and less advertising appeared on the front page, although until 1948, most stories, regardless of relative interest or importance, carried one-column headlines. A few photographic reproductions were used after 1900, but large numbers did not appear until about 1950. In 1966, the Sun gradually converted to a complete offset plant, which gives better quality reproduction. Establishment of the Sunday Sun June 1, 1974 made the publication a semi-weekly. The paper continues to encourage the public expression of ideas and opinions in its columns. In recent decades it has received special awards in the categories of news writing, editorials, column writing, public service, feature writing, creative advertising, news photos and appearance.

Since 1906, the following roles of the Sun have been of particular significance in the community, state and nation: its support of war efforts during World War I and World War II; its support of soil conservation, flood control, and improved agricultural techniques. Just as the Sun was one of the first newspapers anywhere to report the demise of outlaw Sam Bass in 1878 in the nearby town of Round Rock, so the Sun gave immediate and full coverage to the nationally-watched Ku Klux Klan trials in the Georgetown Courthouse in 1923 and 1924, trials which catapulted the young prosecuting District Attorney, Dan Moody, to a prominence that eventually led him to the Governor's office.

Among the policies of the Sun under the ownership of Don Scarbrough (since 1948) have been his stand supporting open meetings laws and the right of the public to hold its elected and appointed officials accountable to the people, and his opposition to practices by public officials amounting to conflict of interest. Before many retirement homes were established in Texas, publisher Scarbrough editorially introduced a project to locate such a home in Georgetown, which materialized in the handsome and functional Wesleyan Home there. In the early 1950s, his wife, Clara Scarbrough, wrote a series of features on the overcrowded condition of public schools in Georgetown, which led a hesitant school board to call a bond election and provide the needed space. The Sun editorialized for some years favoring low-cost housing and urban renewal for Georgetown, which have been obtained. From 1974 through 1978, Scarbrough supported the building of a new hospital in the community, and has been publicly credited with an important role in the success of this project, which is now underway. As a college student, Scarbrough began a long association with the then Congressional candidate, Lyndon B. Johnson — Scarbrough tacking up placards enlisting votes for Johnson in his first campaign. The Sun was among the first publications to endorse Johnson for President in 1959, and after he became the vice-presidential nominee with John F. Kennedy, Don and Clara Scarbrough were volunteer advance press agents for Johnson's whistle stop trip through a section of Alabama. The Sun was also the first newspaper in Texas to endorse the candidacy of Price Daniel for Governor of Texas and first to endorse J. J. "Jake" Pickle for Congress.

The preservation of 100 years' files of the Sun has, in itself, been a contribution to researchers, historians, genealogists, and others seeking information about the past. These files attest to the newspaper's steady, lively, and active life and growth over its first century of existence. Researchers have often remarked at their ability to feel the tempo and mood of the period they read about in these pages. The fact that the Williamson County Sun has had so few owners in 100 years, all of them deeply concerned and actively involved with the life and welfare of their community, state, and nation, attest to stability in a business always concerned with the area's health and well being.

STATE OF TEXAS
Office of the Governor
Austin
May 10, 1977

Greetings to The SUN

It is a pleasure for me to have the opportunity of the publication of this special edition to extend congratulations to the Williamson County Sun on the occasion of the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of its founding.

This is a milestone worthy of special commemoration.

Texas newspapers and newspapermen and women have provided capable leadership in Texas since the earliest days. For a Century the Williamson County Sun has exemplified the finest traditions of a local newspaper.

My sincere best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,
Dolph Briscoe

Dear Don:

It was my pleasure to have been born in Williamson County. My father was Mr. Charles Kirby-Smith, and he, along with the family, farmed near the Walburg and Weir communities until we moved to West Texas in 1923.

During the years that I remember living in Williamson County and the balance of years that my father lived in West Texas, we always had the Williamson County Sun to read, and I can assure you that this was the one publication to which my father looked forward each week, because he could review and read of all the happenings in and around Williamson County. It is impossible to measure the satisfaction that we received from reading this paper in a material or monetary way, because the news stories that appeared concerning people we knew were something that cannot be measured in that manner.

It surely was an honor to serve with the people of Texas as Governor and, of course, to be associated with you on many occasions.

As a Former Governor of Texas, and now as an ordinary citizen, I would like to take this opportunity of extending my very best wishes to you and the Williamson County Sun as you observe your 100th anniversary.

Sincerely,
Preston Smith

Texas Historical Commission (JM), 7/25/77, revised 12/15/77

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker without post
for attachment to stone
Williamson County (Order #4959)
Location: 709 Main St., Georgetown

WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN

FIRST PUBLISHED ON MAY 19, 1877,

THE "WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN" WAS

FOUNDED BY JESSIE E. COOPER (1855-1944).^{***}^{***}

IN ITS FIRST CENTURY OF OPERATION,

THE "SUN" INITIATED NUMEROUS CIVIC

PROJECTS, SUCH AS THE BUILDING OF

THE FIRST RAILROAD IN GEORGETOWN,

WESLEYAN RETIREMENT HOME, AND

LOW COST HOUSING. EDITORS OF THE

PAPER INCLUDED FRANK T. ROCHE, JOHN

R. ALLEN, JOHN M. SHARPE, AND ROBERT

W. COOPER, SON OF THE POUNDER.

DONALD AND CLARA SCARBROUGH

BECAME THE SECOND FULL OWNERS

OF THE ENTERPRISE IN 1948. THE

OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN WILLIAMSON

COUNTY, THE WEEKLY "SUN" BECAME

A SEMI-WEEKLY IN 1974. **

(1978) ***

*3/4 inch lettering

**1/2 inch lettering

***1/4 inch lettering

APPROVED
Truett Latimer

DATE: Dec 11-1977

SUBJECT MARKER

Texas Historical Commission
Truett Latimer, Executive Director
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711

March 21, 1978

(date)

An Official Texas Historical Marker for Williams County Sun

(name of marker)

will be erected on May 20, 1978

(date)

it was announced today by Myrota Matthews

~~Dr. Van G. Tipton~~

of

(name of chairman)

Liberty Hill

~~Georgetown~~

(town)

, Chairman of the

Williamson

(county)

County Historical Commission.

The marker will be placed at 709 Main Street, Georgetown

are being made for Saturday, May 20 at 3:30 P.M.

(Dedication plans) ~~will be announced in the near future.~~

Made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect, the marker measures

18 by 28 inches and is sponsored by The Williamson County

(name of organization

Sun

or individual sponsoring marker)

reads: (See attached copy)

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas Historical Commission's program of preservation activities. These include archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1976 the Historical Commission had erected more than 7,200 official markers.

The name and location of the present marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locale with their unique heritage.

Berry to be honored by historical marker

An official Texas Historical Marker for frontiersman John Berry will be erected Sunday at 10:30 a.m., according to Myrta Matthews of Liberty Hill, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

The marker will be on the west side of the rickhouse lawn in Georgetown and the ceremonies will be conducted by Judge Jack Pope of Austin and former State Representative O. C. Fisher of Junction.

The marker is made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect and measures 27 by 42 inches. It is sponsored by the John Berry Association. Mrs. Homer Anderson of Georgetown and Mrs. James Knight of Arlington are in charge of arrangements.

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The inscription on the marker reads as follows:

A native of Kentucky and veteran of the War of 1812, John Berry moved in 1816 to Indiana. In 1827 he brought his family to the Alamo district of Texas, Mexico awarded him lots in Liberty and Mina (Bastrap) when those towns were founded.

Berry's oldest sons, Joseph (1811-1842), John Bate (1813-1891), and Andrew Jackson (1808-1889), served in the Republic of

Texas Army. All three were Texas Rangers before and after the War for Independence (1836) and in the Battle of Plum Creek (1849). Joseph was the first casualty in the Mier Expedition (1842), and John Bate was in Pecos Prison for a year.

A Williamson County pioneer, John Berry settled three miles northeast of Georgetown in 1846. He built a blacksmith and gun shop and a spring-driven grist mill near Berry Creek. Berry had 18 children by his three wives: Betsy Smeathers (d. 1818), daughter of pioneer Texas William Smeathers (Smothers); Gracie Treal (d. 1810); and Hannah Devore (1812-1904). Five sons and three sons-in-law served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War (1862-1865). Berry died at age 80 and was buried near his home. His descendants include a great-grandson, Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier in American history.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Thursday, June 15, 1973
Section 2, Page 8

The Taylor Daily Press, Tuesday, April 18, 1973, Page 7

Diedrich Goetz, Area Farmer Introduced Maize In Nebraska

Descendants of Diedrich and Trintje Goetz, most of whom still live in the Taylor and Coupland areas, were delighted recently with the account of the result of what might have been a passing fancy with Goetz, but which has turned out to be a major crop in Nebraska.

Goetz in 1812 brought some "club milt maize" to relatives of his in Nebraska. Goetz farmed in the Coupland area, and had found the maize a profitable crop for himself. He thought the relatives in Nebraska would find it to their liking.

Those few heads of maize, taken just to show what grows in Texas, gave rise to interest in the crop and presently Carleton, Nebraska, the home of Goetz's sister-in-law where he took the maize, is now listed as the Milt Capitol of Nebraska and has an annual Milt Festival each September.

The story of the family was recently published in the *Klan Courier*. It reads:

IN NEBRASKA MILT HISTORY

LOCAL TEXAN REMEMBERED

"If it is true that no better favor can be done for the society of man than to add a new plant to the economy, a Texas farmer named Diedrich Goetz should rate laurels in Thayer County, Nebraska.

"He brought some milt seed to the county in 1812. In that year at 68 years old and a widower he came to Nebraska from Coupland, Texas, to visit relatives in the Goertzen and Lubben families and brought along just a few heads of what he called "club milt maize." He advised some relatives, who had never seen the plant before, to plant it, saying "I know it will grow here."

"Diedrich then visited the Nebraska State Fair in Lincoln with Johann F. Goertzen and his niece Ella Goertzen, now Mrs. Frank

"He returned to Coupland, Texas, and lived until 1823 when he contracted double pneumonia from a fall day of husking corn in the cool mid-November weather. Diedrich was 79.

"He and his wife had migrated with four small children from Tannenhansen in the German province of Ostfriesland to Mionok, Illinois in 1871. They re-established themselves at Coupland, Texas, in 1889, and raised 11 children.

"A history of the Diedrich Goetz family was brought to the Carl Voss home in Carleton Jan. 28 by Clarence Benkel of Goshone and given to the descendants of Ahljen and Gerd Lubben. It listed 611 persons descended from or married into the family of Diedrich and Trintje Goetz.

"Yes, in 1812 the club milt from Texas was planted in Thayer County. Diedrich was right; it grew well, but the

combine and shorter miles were still in the future. Diedrich was a man with the future in mind.

"Last year Thayer County grew about 4,000,000 bushels of milt.

Carleton, Nebraska, the home of Diedrich's sister-in-law, is now widely known as the Milt Capitol of Nebraska. It celebrated a 25th Annual Milt Festival last September."

Mary Groba, a grandchild of Diedrich and Trintje Goetz, says a majority of the 611 descendants mentioned in the article are farmers in the Taylor and Coupland areas, with only a few having moved to West Texas areas.

While the elder Goetz died in 1823, his sons Fred, John and Klas Goetz farmed in and around Taylor. Herman made his home near Coupland; Gerhardt made his near Sandoval; and William's land is near Circleville.

Berry descendents hold 20th reunion

Travelling from several different states as far away as Oregon, as well as from many points in Texas, the descendents of John Berry met at the Georgetown Inn

June 17 and 18 for their twentieth annual reunion. Some 116 members registered for the two-day meeting.

After spending the day visiting and reminiscing, the

group enjoyed a buffet dinner Saturday evening, with entertainment provided by Deanna Ramey, Mark Collins and Bill Buckner, all local youths who sang with

guitar accompaniment. A business meeting was later called to order by this year's president, O. F. ("Bill") Berry of Austin.

The devotional service held Sunday morning in the Banquet Room of the Inn was dedicated to the memory of R. M. Smothers of Wharton, who passed away quietly in his room at the Inn as he rested Saturday afternoon. The message was brought by Reverend Cedric Day of Llano.

Immediately following the devotional service, there was a dedication ceremony of a Texas State Historical Commission Marker honoring John Berry of Williamson County. Delivering the dedicatory address was the Honorable O. C. Fisher of Junction, a Berry descendant and a 32-year veteran member of Congress. Boy Scout Troop No. 151 of Georgetown presented the colors, including the flag of the War of 1812, preceding the unveiling of the marker on the Williamson County Courthouse lawn. Participating in the unveiling were descendants representing the three marriages of John Berry; namely, Andrew Jackson Pope, IV; Michael Spurlock and John Berry.

Present for the meeting and dedication ceremony was the last known living grandchild of John Berry, Pearl Berry Gaines of Abilene, affectionately known as "Aunt Pearl", now 98 years old, whose father Andrew Jackson Berry, was a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto.

The group voted to hold the 1979 meeting at Grams Prairie with the following officers serving: president Corinne Burns of Grams Prairie (sister of Audie Murphy); vice-president Thelma Goodloe of Amarillo; and secretary Gertrude Anderson of Georgetown.



BERRY MARKER — Pearl Berry Gaines of Abilene, known as "Aunt Pearl," now 98 years old, was present for the dedication ceremony honoring the last John Berry recently. The historic plaque behind Mrs. Gaines was dedicated during the ceremonies on the Williamson County Courthouse lawn.

JOHN BERRY, FRONTIERSMAN

(1786 - 1866)

John Berry was born in West Louisville, Kentucky, in 1786. He died of the infirmities of old age on December 24, 1866, at his home on the Berry League in Williamson County, Texas. He was one of ten children of John and Hannah Berry of Lincoln County, Kentucky. His father, John, served in the army during the American Revolution in the Lincoln County Militia, under the command of Col. Benjamin Logan, and for this service he received land grants in several parts of Kentucky.

John was married about 1810, probably in Kentucky, to Betsey Smeathers (also spelled Smothers), the daughter of Captain William Smeathers, a celebrated pioneer leader and the first settler of Owensboro, Kentucky. The Bill Smothers Pioneer Park, located along the banks of the Ohio River, was dedicated to his memory by the citizens of Owensboro several years ago. Smeathers later emigrated to Texas, where he died at Columbia in 1837.

John volunteered for service in the U.S. Army during the war of 1812 at Rockport, Indiana Territory, a small town across the Ohio River from Owensboro.⁽¹⁾ He served for a short time in Captain Thomas Spencer's company of spies, Indiana Militia, but soon transferred to a mounted unit commanded by Captain William Smeathers, his father-in-law.⁽²⁾ This unit of Kentucky Militia formed the spy company for General Samuel Hopkins on the march from Vincennes to Ft. Harrison, and also fought the Indians at Tippecanoe and the Thames, under the general command of William Henry Harrison.⁽³⁾ John was discharged at Shakertown, Indiana, on October 30, 1812.⁽⁴⁾

In 1815, John and His family, along with his brother Joseph, moved to Christian Settlement, Illinois, while they waited for land to be made available to settlers in Indiana Territory for one dollar an acre. The brothers applied for land in 1816 in what is now Monroe County, Indiana, near the site of a big blue spring, about six miles southwest of present-day Bloomington.⁽⁵⁾ The settlement that grew up there came to be known as Blue Spring, but is now called Harmony. The Berry family remained in this area for a period of about ten years. By this time, three sons had been born to John and Betsey - Joseph, born 1811, John Bate, born 1813, and Andrew Jackson ("Jack"), born 1816. Betsey died about 1818, and on July 13, 1819, John married Gracie Treat, the daughter of John Treat of Monroe County. They became the parents of three daughters, all born in Blue Spring - Elizabeth, born 1820, Hannah, born 1822, and Margaret, born 1825. It was at Blue Spring that John Berry first learned the trade of a miller. He helped operate the Hamilton Grist Mill on Indian Creek, first mill in the area, built and operated by the husband of one of John's many relatives.

In 1826, John and his family prepared to migrate to Texas, possibly after hearing reports of its many opportunities from his former father-in-law, Bill Smothers. The Mexican government required of all land applicants a character reference from residents of his former home. A citation commending John Berry and Burton Tarkington (his niece's husband, who was also making the journey) was drawn up and executed Sept. 23, 1826, in Bloomington, Indiana. It was signed by about 25 friends and relatives, and attested to "the honesty, sobriety, morality, and industry of John Berry and Burton Tarkington." ⁽⁶⁾

The Berry and Tarkington families set out for Texas, arriving in

Atascosito (later Liberty) County early in 1827. The Mexican government on May 2, 1831 granted John Berry one of the original town lots in the city of Liberty. It was located at the southeast intersection of present-day Cos and Milam Streets, and on it, John built a blacksmith shop.⁽⁷⁾ The Tarkingtons received land near Cleveland, Texas.

With the death of Gracie Treat Berry about 1830 in Liberty County, John became a widower for the second time. On May 8, 1831, John married Hannah Devore, born 1812 in Catahoula Parish, Louisiana, the daughter of Jesse Devore and Polly Black, The Devores were Vehlein Colonists, and as such received a league of land from the Mexican government.⁽⁸⁾

The Berry family moved to Bastrop in 1834, where John once again established a blacksmith shop.⁽⁹⁾ There he played host to a famous visitor early in 1836. David Crockett, on his way to eventual death and glory in the Battle of the Alamo, stopped at John's smithy to have his rifle, "Old Betsey", repaired. John affixed to the broken breech a silver band while Crockett visited with the family, holding on his lap the two eldest of John and Hannah's children - Mary and Emanuel.⁽¹⁰⁾

John and his three eldest sons by Betsey Smeathers were sworn in as Robertson Colonists on November 6, 1835,⁽¹¹⁾ hoping to receive some of the choice land further north in Colonel Robertson's domain. While waiting for his land to be allocated, the family continued to live in Bastrop, and in the meantime, the struggle for Texas' independence from Mexico had begun. The Berry family, except for the three sons just mentioned, took refuge at Fort Parker during the "Runaway Scrape" when settlers fled the conquering army of Santa Anna.⁽¹²⁾ Both Bate and Jack Berry were with General Sam Houston's forces at the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, which Texas' independence was at last secured.⁽¹³⁾ Joseph was in the army but not in the fight. Following the war, all three of the Berry boys served in the "ranging force" under such

rangers as Seth Billingsley, John G. McGehee, William W. Hill and John L. Lynch.

In 1840, the family moved to Burleson County to a locality near the town of Caldwell, while still waiting for fulfillment of the dream of land on which to make their permanent home. During this time, Joe, Bate, and Jack Berry played a prominent part in many Indian fights, and all three fought in the Battle of Plum Creek on August 12, 1840.⁽¹⁴⁾

Joe and Bate were members of the ill-fated Mier Expedition to Mexico. Joe was killed at Mier on December 26, 1842, by a Mexican soldier while lying helpless with a broken leg.⁽¹⁵⁾ Bate was taken prisoner with the rest of the army, escaped at Saltillo, was recaptured, and then drew a white bean. He was a prisoner in Perote prison east of Mexico City until September 16, 1844, almost twenty-one months after his brother was killed.

John Berry received title to his long-awaited land grant from the Republic of Texas on August 29, 1845. It was a league and labor in size, located in western Milam County (later Williamson County) about three miles north of Georgetown. The property was traversed by a swift stream of water, which came to be known as "Berry's Creek" with the passing years. By this time, John and Hannah had six children, and six more, including two sets of twins were born on the Berry League, where John Berry was to spend the rest of his days. He and his sons cleared the land, erected split-rail fences, and built several cabins to house their families. As always, John built a blacksmith shop and forge. The usual crops were planted, along with a kitchen garden and a fruit orchard, and row upon row of pecan trees, some of which still stand today.

John also built a large grist mill, one of the first in Williamson County, to which other settlers in the area came to grind their corn

57

and wheat. It was constructed at the site of a swift-flowing spring of water, which came out of the ground at an estimated rate of two to three million gallons each day. A dam was erected, behind which a millpond soon formed. For many years it served the needs of hundreds of families in the vicinity, and even the Indians of the area brought their corn to be ground at Berry's Mill.

Concerning his new home, John wrote to a relative in Louisiana: "They come from far and near to see my mill spring; to see this great fountain of water boiling up out of the earth, pure and cold. This land is the best farming land I have ever seen. The country is pleasant and healthful. There is some fever here in wet years, but not fatal like in most places."

Others who came after John Berry have also found this a pleasant and desirable land. In more than one hundred years since John filed his original deed, only four families have owned the homestead tract of the property:

John Berry family -	Aug. 29, 1845 - Sept. 10, 1883
W. F. Gann family -	Sept. 10, 1883 - June 26, 1896
J. W. Watson family -	June 26, 1896 - Apr. 19, 1906
R. F. Young family -	Apr. 19, 1906 - Nov. 22, 1924
William L. Mann -	Nov. 22, 1924 to present (17)

The property was known as Gann's Mill Farm for a number of years prior to the destruction of the mill in a flood in 1921. The Gann family had enlarged and improved upon the original Berry mill. The burrstone from the mill is now on the courthouse lawn in Georgetown. In 1967, the Daughters of 1812 presided at a dedication ceremony in which a marker was placed on the stone, commemorating the mill's original owner.

John Berry served as one of the county commissioners when the new county of Williarson formed, (18) and was a member of its first

grand jury.⁽¹⁹⁾ The Berry home was a center of worship in the community for many years. Hannah Berry made their home available for meetings of the Baptist church members for over 14 years, until the congregation could erect a place of worship.

Here John Berry lived out his life, surrounded by his numerous children and grandchildren, until death came to him in his eightieth year. He is buried in a small family cemetery on the hill overlooking the old mill pond, near where the Berry home once stood. His gravestone reads: "In Memory of John Berry - Died Dec. 24, 1867, Aged 80 Years." (When a copy of his will was obtained from the probate court, it was learned that the death date on the gravestone is in error. He died in 1866, and his will was filed for probate in 1867.) Hannah Berry died in Jones County, Texas, in April, 1904, and is buried there, surviving her husband by some 37 years.

Besides Joe Berry (killed on the Mier Expedition), Bate Berry (who took part in the siege of San Antonio, the Battle of San Jacinto, the Plum Creek Fight, the Mier Expedition, and the Civil War), and Jack Berry (who was in the Battle of San Jacinto, the Plum Creek Fight, and the Civil War), John Berry had three other sons in the Civil War. They were Emanuel Berry and John Berry Jr., both involved in the capture of the Federal steamer, the Harriett Lane, at Galveston,⁽²⁰⁾ and Joseph Berry (named in honor of the Joseph above) who was killed in action in 1865, at the age of 18.⁽²¹⁾ He was with a unit of Parsons' Cavalry. Three of John Berry's sons-in-law were also in the Civil War: John Compton, James Runsey, and Samuel Jackson. James Runsey, husband of John's daughter, Jane, was a member of the 16th Legislature of Texas, which approved plans and selected the granite for the present State Capitol building.⁽²²⁾

pay tribute to the memory of their pioneer forefather. The Berry Association has several hundred members on its roll, but there are more than 2,000 descendants of this one man, who had eighteen children by three wives. Perhaps the most noteworthy of John's descendants is the late Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of World War II, who later had a twenty year movie career before his death. Audie was the grandson of Virginia Berry and George Murphy. Virginia Berry was the youngest daughter of John and Hannah Berry.

The Berry Association would like very much to have erected a Texas State Historical Marker to honor the memory and the contributions of John Berry and his family to the early history of Texas. To quote the late Admiral William L. Mann, whose research into Berry family history is the basis for much of our knowledge:

"To appraise the man, John Berry, is not difficult. He held no high office; he held no captaincy; the harper does not sing of his valor; history does not give him many pages; yet he left his mark upon the land he loved. He gave his name to a living stream that later generations shall continue to enjoy. He loved and was loved by his family and kinsmen. He raised his sons in his likeness, taught them to stand and fight for what they believed to be right, and with Christian fortitude accepted the loss of two of his sons in battle. He walked unafraid before all mankind, and was respected and honored by all who knew him. He had the courage, the daring, and the will to set out upon an unknown track to a new frontier, there to share in the founding of a new state, and for his reward, lived to see the Lone Star of Texas rise to its zenith, finally become a white star, and take its rightful place on a field of blue. The evidence has been submitted. The mark is there, and history is its proof that John Berry 'paso por aqui'." (23)

By Judge Jack Pope
2803 Stratford Dr.
Austin, Tex. 78746

and

Mrs. James P. Knight
1201 Greenbriar La.
Arlington, Tex 76013

The following inscription is on the plaque on John Berry's Mill Burhwheel. It is located on the southwest corner of the Williamson County Courthouse lawn in Georgetown, Texas.

IN HONOR OF SERVICE

N S
U S D
1812

IN THE WAR OF 1812

JOHN BERRY

1786--1866

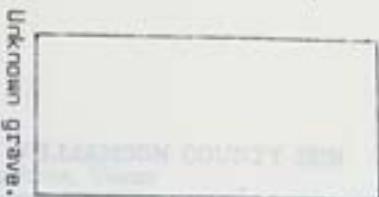
THIS BURRSTONE FROM
JOHN BERRY'S MILL 1846
FIRST MILL IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY
PLACED BY OLD SETTLERS ASSOCIATION 1906
MARKER DEDICATED JUNE 15, 1967
AT BERRY FAMILY REUNION
BY TEXAS SOCIETY ON 75th ANNIVERSARY
NATIONAL SOCIETY UNITED STATES
DAUGHTERS OF 1812

EN
967

JOHN BERRY CEMETERY CO
MILLS

JOHN BERRY CEMETERY on
Mrs. William L. Mann's
property. Near Berry Creek.

From Georgetown, go east on FM Road 971, turn north on County Road #152, cross Berry's Creek, turn into the old Berry place (now, 1975, the Mann property). Cemetery is located northwest of the first house and enclosed by chain link fence.



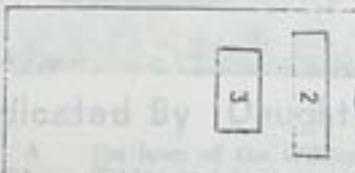
Unknown grave.



5. George Washington
Berry grave
Undecipherable-----
Letters ACRED visible.



4. Patrick Henry
Berry grave
(Only underlined
letters are de-
cipherable - 1975)
He died at 4



JOHN BERRY
Graves

1. In Honor of Service N. S.
U.S.D. 1012
The War of 1012
JOHN BERRY

2. In Memory of JOHN BERRY
Died Dec. 24, 1867
Aged 80 years.

3. JOHN BERRY
PVT KY Militia
War of 1812
1766 1866

Submitted by Judge Jack Pope
Austin, Texas
July 25, 1975



John Berry's Buhrwheel Dedicated By Daughters of 1812

"IN MEMORY OF JOHN BERRY, A SOLDIER OF THE WAR OF 1812. — This Buhrstone from John Berry's Mill - 1846 - First Mill in Williamson County (Placed by Old Settlers Association, 1906) Marker Dedicated June 15, 1967 by Texas Society, on 75th Anniversary of NATIONAL SOCIETY UNITED STATES DAUGHTERS OF 1812"

Dedication was made Sunday afternoon, June 25, at the site of the buhrstone's resting place,

the lawn of the Williamson County Courthouse. Taking part in the impressive ceremonies, left to right, Judge Sam V. Stone, Mrs. Ruth Likins, State President of Daughters of 1812, Miss Florine Tye, Mrs. Gertrude Anderson, Miss Jana Anderson, both descendants of John Berry; Mrs. Homer Caswell, local member of Daughters of 1812, Mrs. Belle Walton of San Antonio, Mrs. Ethel Weatherbee of Santa Barbara, newly elected president of the John Berry Association.

- (1) John Berry's Application for Bounty Land in the National Archives, GSA, Claim # 295325, dated Oct. 16, 1858.
- (2) Ibid.
- (3) O.C. Fisher, THE TEXAS HERITAGE OF THE FISHERS AND THE CLARKS, (Salado, The Anson Jones Press, 1963), p.27. .)
- (4) Adm. W. L. Mann, THE JOHN BERRY FAMILY OF BERRY'S CREEK, TEXAS PIONEERS, privately printed family history, revised and edited by Berry family in 1958, p. 3.
- (5) Unpublished family ms. of Mrs. A.L. Walker, Lovington, N.M. s,
- (6) Mann, p. 2.
- (7) Miriam Partlow, LIBERTY, LIBERTY COUNTY, AND THE ATASCOSITO DISTRICT, (Austin, The Pemberton Press, Jenkins Publishing Co., 1974, p. 80. e
- (8) Vol. 20, LAND APPLICATIONS, p. 575, General Land Office, Austin, Tex.
- (9) John H. Jenkins III, RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY TEXAS, (Austin, Univ. of Tex. Press, 1964). exas.
as,
- (10) A.J. Sowell, EARLY SETTLERS AND INDIAN FIGHTERS OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS, (Austin, B. C. Jones & Co., 1900) p. 46-51. s-
- (11) Memorandum by William H. Steele, Land Commissioner of Robertson's Colony, now in possession of historian Malcolm D. McLean and used with his permission. y.
rds
- (12) Sowell, P. 46-51.
- (13) Mann, p. 14.
- (14) Olive T. Walker, MAJOR WHITFIELD CHALK, HERO OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS, (Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. 60, #3) p. 360 & 361.
- (15) Fisher, pp. 31 32.

- (16) File 54, Milam County, General Land Office Records, Austin, Tex.
- (17) Mann, p. 1.
- (18) Clara Stearns Scarbrough, LAND OF GOOD WATER, A WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS HISTORY, (Georgetown, Williamson County SUN Publishers, 1973), p. 122.
- (19) Ibid, p. 125.
- (20) Sowell, p. 46-51.
- (21) Sowell, p. 46-51.
- (22) BIOGRAPHICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF TEXAS (No editor or compiler given), Southern Publishing Co., 1880) p. 568.
- (23) Mann, p. 11 & 12.

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- Steele, William H. Memorandum of Land Commissioner of Robertson's Colony.
Used with permission of historian Malcolm D. McLean.
- Walker, Mary Artress Coons (Mrs. Albert L.) Personal File of Family Records
and Unpublished Family Manuscript., Lovington, New Mexico.
- Walker Olive T. Major Whitfield Chalk, Hero of the Republic of Texas,
Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. 60, No. 3.

41
Texas Historical Commission Staff (CW), 4/13/77, revised 2/27/78
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Williamson County (Order #4988)

Location: Courthouse lawn, Georgetown
JOHN BERRY, FRONTIERSMAN*
(1786-1866)***

4988

A NATIVE OF KENTUCKY AND VETERAN OF THE WAR OF 1812,
JOHN BERRY MOVED IN 1816 TO INDIANA. IN 1827 HE BROUGHT
HIS FAMILY TO THE ATASCOSITO DISTRICT OF TEXAS. MEXICO
AWARDED HIM LOTS IN LIBERTY AND MINA (BASTROP) WHEN
THOSE TOWNS WERE FOUNDED.

BERRY'S OLDEST SONS, JOSEPH (1811-1842), JOHN BATE (1813-1891),
AND ANDREW JACKSON (1816-1899), SERVED IN THE REPUBLIC OF
TEXAS ARMY. ALL THREE WERE TEXAS RANGERS BEFORE
AND AFTER THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE (1836) AND IN THE
BATTLE OF PLUM CREEK (1840). JOSEPH WAS THE FIRST
CASUALTY IN THE MIER EXPEDITION (1842), AND JOHN BATE
WAS IN PEROTE PRISON FOR A YEAR.

A WILLIAMSON COUNTY PIONEER, JOHN BERRY SETTLED
THREE MILES NORTHEAST OF GEORGETOWN IN 1846. HE BUILT
A BLACKSMITH AND GUN SHOP AND A SPRING-DRIVEN GRIST
MILL NEAR BERRY CREEK. BERRY HAD 18 CHILDREN BY HIS
THREE WIVES: BETSY SMEATHERS (d. 1818), DAUGHTER OF PIONEER
TEXAN WILLIAM SMEATHERS (SMOTHERS); GRACIE TREAT (d. 1830);
AND HANNAH DEVORE (1812-1904). FIVE SONS AND THREE SONS-IN-
LAW SERVED IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY DURING THE
CIVIL WAR (1861-1865). BERRY DIED AT AGE 80 AND WAS
BURIED NEAR HIS HOME. HIS DESCENDANTS INCLUDE A GREAT-
GRANDSON, AUDIE MURPHY, THE MOST DECORATED SOLDIER

IN AMERICAN HISTORY.**

*3/4 inch lettering

**1/2 inch lettering

APPROVED

Trustt Lotimer

(1978)**

Lyndon Road 3-6-71

SUBJECT MARKER

Texas Historical Commission
Truett Latimer, Executive Director
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711

June 6, 1978

(date)

An Official Texas Historical Marker for John Berry, Frontiersman
(name of marker)

has been

~~will~~ be erected on

(date)

it was announced today by Miss Myreta Matthews of
(name of chairman)

Liberty Hill

(town)

, Chairman of the

Williamson

(county)

County Historical Commission.

The marker ~~will be~~ placed at Courthouse lawn, Georgetown
has been on SW corner of

Sunday June 18 - at 10:30 A.M.
Dedication ~~plans~~ will be announced in the near future.

Made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect, the marker measures

27

by

42

inches and is sponsored by

John Berry Association

(name of organization)

or individual sponsoring marker). The inscription on the marker

reads: (See attached copy)

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas Historical Commission's program of preservation activities. These include archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1976 the Historical Commission had erected more than 7,200 official markers.

The name and location of the present marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locale with their unique heritage.

Former Lions Park now 'Old Town Park' Park gets face-lift, new name

By RAY JONES
SUN Staff Writer
The Lions Park at Austin Avenue and 16th Street in Georgetown got a

new name to go with its recent face-lifting during rededication ceremonies Sunday evening. Approximately 200 area residents look-

ed on as Mayor John Doerfler put up a sign reading "Old Town Park" on the greenbelted recreational facility enhanced by a 128-year-old pioneer cabin and a menagerie of bright new playground equipment.

and shrubs, and construction of a basketball court.

Corbett says some or all the future improvements may be helped along by the Old Town Neighborhood Association, now in the planning stage. Once organized, says Corbett, the

According to Kathy Corbett, who helped organize the ice cream social celebrating the rededication, the park's new name "reflects the historical significance" of the neighborhood in which it is found.

The Sunday social also celebrated the numerous park improvements accomplished through months of effort put in by dozens of volunteers. Materials and equipment for the park "rejuvenation" were donated by businesses throughout the Georgetown area.

DURING THE REDEDICATION ceremony, Miss Myreta Matthews and Mrs. Don Scarbrough, both of the Williamson County Historical Commission, unveiled an historical marker on the log cabin built by Samuel Mather more than a century ago and moved to Georgetown from Gabriel Mills in 1876 as a Bicentennial project.

"This cabin is part of the heritage left us by the pioneers who came here and literally bequeathed their living out of the land," said Mrs. Scarbrough.

After listening to a number of speakers introduced by Herb Hanson, who hosted the event, the crowd enjoyed ice cream, homebaked goodies, and a volleyball game. Children of all ages took turns on the park's new "Southwestern Super Slide," a unique piece of playground equipment made from two old fire escapes removed from Mood Hall and the Cullett Building at Southwestern University during a recent remodeling. Mayor Doerfler and City Manager Les Wood were also seen on the big 32-foot slide.

THE REJUVENATION and renaming of Old Town Park was a cooperative undertaking of the Georgetown Evening Lions Club, the City of Georgetown, and a large number of neighborhood residents.

Future improvements planned for the park include paving of a parking lot, installation of a softball backstop, planting of grass, trees,



UNVEILING TIME - Miss Myreta Matthews of the Williamson County Historical Commission unveils an official historic medallion at the log cabin in Old Town Park, formerly Lions Park, on the corner of 16th and Austin Avenue. The 128-year-old log cabin, built by pioneer Samuel Mather, was moved to the park site in 1876 from Gabriel Mills.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Thursday, June 27, 1978
Section 1, Page 11

Associates would provide warm welcomes to families moving into the old section of town, host family social events, and work with the Beauty Georgetown Association in "sprucing up" the older, historical part of town.

Among those who joined in the eight-month park improvement effort were: (Park Committee) Bill and Kathy Corbett, Larry and Janet Crompton, Sharon and Archer Mayor, Walt and Marjorie Herbert, Gayland Thorn, and Tommy Magness; (City Coordinators) Wink Wadden, H. L. Sullivan, and Jim Colbert; (General Assistance) Mr. and Mrs. Herb Hanson, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rambo, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Studham, and Mr. and Mrs. James Murdoch.

(YOUNG PARK SUPPORTERS) Laurie Crompton, Chris Crompton, Shannon Studham, Jake Hanson, Kevin Hanson, Tom Herbert, Criss Herbert, Regisa Rodgers, Brent Rodgers, and Chris Rodgers.

(Cabin and Greenbelt) Texas Crushed Stone, Tom Sams, Georgetown Heritage Society, St. Helen's Men's Club, Kappa Alpha Fraternity, Mr. and Mrs. Tillman Barron, Mrs. Clara Williams, Dr. and Mrs. Frank Calcott, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Bird Christberg, Georgetown Evening Lions Club, Hill Country Landscaping, McIntire's Nursery, Brewster Troop 331, Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Girvin, Florence Harper, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Behrens, and Bill Corbett.

(Playground) Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Stephens, Green Thumbs, Youth Conservation Corps, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Tim Wright, Rev. Tim Van Antwerp, Don Comper, Mike Hawthorne, Bill Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Marc Haney, Mr. and Mrs. Hoy Rodgers, Mr. and Mrs. John Bergmann, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Crabill, Col. and Mrs. Marvin Lackey, Georgetown Optimist Club, Ray Miller, Johnnie Lewis, and John Doerfler.



OLD GLORY — Shawn Studham guards the American flag, along with a smaller Texas flag, during dedication ceremonies Sunday at Old Town Park, being renamed from Lions Park.

Official Texas Historical Building Marker
Williamson County (Order #4684) - 9/10/76 -
16th St. at Austin Ave., Georgetown

DS

CABIN FROM GABRIEL MILLS AREA

THIS CABIN OF SQUARED LOGS AND
HAND-HEWN LIMESTONE WAS BUILT IN
THE EARLY 1850s NEAR THE VILLAGE
OF GABRIEL MILLS (20 MI. NW). IT STOOD
ON PROPERTY OWNED IN 1850-53 BY
SAMUEL MATHER (1812-78), MILLER AND
BLACKSMITH WHO FIRST SETTLED THE
AREA. THE STRUCTURE HOUSED CHURCH,
SCHOOL, AND MASONIC LODGE MEETINGS
BEFORE IT BECAME A DWELLING. GIVEN
TO GEORGETOWN BY MR. AND MRS.
EMILE JAMAIL, IT WAS RESTORED IN
1975 IN A COMMUNITY EFFORT TO
PRESERVE LOCAL PIONEER HERITAGE.
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1976

Incise
in base: SPONSORS: MR. AND MRS. DON SCARBROUGH

PIONEER LOG CABIN

By Clara (Mrs. Don) Scarbrough, Georgetown
1976

A simple pioneer log cabin, built near the village of Gabriel Mills about 1850-54, was moved to Georgetown January 11, 1975, and was restored in 1975-76 as the town's Bicentennial project.

The property upon which the cabin was originally built belonged to the following: The State of Texas, which patented it to Thomas E. Rowe of Travis Co., assignee of John Carothers, on June 6, 1848;¹ Rowe sold 4428 acres out of this John Carothers Survey to Samuel Mather for \$2400, Aug. 17, 1850.² Mather sold 450 acres of the tract to Benjamin K. Stewart for \$280 on July 3, 1853.³ On Jan. 23, 1863, Benjamin K. Stewart and his wife Sarah deeded 450 acres "with improvements" and "appurtenances" to E. M. Hurst of Travis Co. for \$2,000.⁴ Hurst is not known to have lived on the property. On March 17, 1870, Hurst sold the 450-acre tract to William P. Smart for \$600.⁵ On May 1, 1907, W. P. Smart and wife Mary F. executed a deed of trust to John Robert Casbeer and N. G. Allen for 273 acres of the land, but Allen withdrew from the partnership because of his health, and somewhat later Casbeer took over all the property.⁶ After Casbeer died, his widow, Cassie, and other heirs--Avis Casbeer Vinson and husband, R. E. Vinson; Alta Casbeer Jennings and husband, Walter B. Jennings; and James Robert Casbeer--sold the property to Neal Douglass, June 2, 1953.⁷ The same year, Neal A. Douglass and wife Patricia declared a 200-acre tract, on which the log cabin stood, as homestead.⁸ Neal A. and Patricia K. Douglass sold the property to Emile Jamail of Austin on Jan. 7, 1972. Mr. Jamail and wife, Nancy, still own the property at this time.⁹

The log cabin was built in the early 1850s, probably in 1854, although it could have been as early as 1850.¹⁰

The site of the cabin was a mile from the village of Gabriel Mills, first settled in 1849. Before then, the place was frequented by Indian tribes whose encampments dotted the area. (It was upon one of their middens that Mount Horeb Church was built in 1856.) The cabin was on a rise just above the alluvial plain of the North San Gabriel River, and near a small branch and good spring which provided pure water. Timber was also abundant and even today, walnut trees are harvested from

... for cabinet makers. The first settlers found plentiful wild game for food.¹¹ Joseph Hutchison Love, a centenarian of the area, said that a man named Walter Hobbs built the one room cabin in the early 1850s.¹² A strong oral tradition in the Gabriel Mills community states that this cabin was used for Masonic Lodge meetings for a short time prior to 1856. Since Hobbs never owned the land, he must have been hired to build the cabin. Its location and size match the one built in 1854 and described in Lodge records. Samuel Mather had owned the site 1850-53, Benjamin K. Stewart in 1854, and both were known to be concerned with education, the church, and the Masonic Lodge, and could have cooperated with the handful of settlers to put up the school-church in 1854. Deed records show that these two men contributed generously toward building a larger school-church-lodge in 1856. It should be added that another tradition calls the room Mather's log cabin, which could mean that he built it or had it built as early as 1850. However, his strong leadership role in the community and particularly in the Masonic Lodge, which met in the cabin, might have led to the designation. Of the persons associated with the cabin, Samuel Mather is the earliest and most prominent. He was born Oct. 8, 1812, in Northumbria, Tyne, Scotland. He and some of his family migrated to America and Samuel Mather went to Louisiana, where he was a member of Sam Houston Masonic Lodge No. 32 at Shelbyville, on Dec. 18, 1846. He married Sarah Parker Smith in Middleville, Ga., in Aug. 1847, and in 1849 they came to the site which would become Gabriel Mills. As the first settler in that frontier location, he is said by descendants to have lived in a dugout for a time. Eleven children were born to the couple between 1850 and 1872, including Andrew "Andy" Mather, born June 11, 1851, who became a well known Indian fighter and Texas Ranger. In 1852, he built a water powered grist mill on the bank of the North Gabriel, patronized by people as much as 50 miles away. Mather also set up a blacksmith shop near his mill, was often visited by Comanche Chief Yellow Wolf, who once brought him silver ore to make into ornaments. Yellow Wolf offered to show Mather where the ore could be found, but Mather declined to leave his family. On Sept. 17, 1853, Mather and six others trained in Masonic rites met in the "lodge room" of his mill house to organize a Gabriel Mills chapter. Mount Horeb Lodge No. 137 was chartered Jan. 18, 1854, and the Lodge continued to meet in Samuel Mather's mill house lodge room.¹⁴

A history of the Mount Horeb Lodge has valuable information in the identification of the log cabin recently restored. It states that in 1854 a small log house, 14 x 16, was erected about a mile from the village of Gabriel Mills to serve as a community church and school. In July of that year, "a heavy freshet" washed away the Mather mill and lodge room, so the lodge asked for and received permission to meet in the recently-built school and church. "Here in this small house, on a dirt floor, those golden hearted men & masons [met] around [a] crude altar until the early part of 1856." (In 1856, Mather and Benjamin K. Stewart each gave 25 acres of land where their boundaries joined to Mt. Horeb Lodge and on this site a two story frame building was erected by the Lodge. The ground floor was reserved for school and church services, the second floor for lodge activities.)¹⁵ Harold Asher of Gabriel Mills, descendant of pioneers there, and Emile Jamail, present owner of the land, have both been told by old timers of the area that the cabin meant as a school and church, where the Lodge met for a time after the 1854 flood, was the same cabin which was moved from the Jamail place in 1975.¹⁶

Samuel Mather remained prominent in community affairs at Gabriel Mills and in the Texas Grand Lodge. Mather brought slaves with him to the settlement and they are credited by Mather's great grandson, Charley Mather, with building most of the rock fences around the village. Several such fences remain on the Jamail place in 1976. Among his many accomplishments in the Masonic Lodge, Mather helped charter San Gabriel Lodge No. 89 at Georgetown, the county seat, in 1851; he held more than a dozen appointive offices in the Texas State Grand Lodge; was elected to the State offices of Grand Junior Warden in 1859, Grand Senior Warden in 1859, Deputy Grand Master in 1860, and Most Worshipful Grand Master in 1863, the highest office in the state organization. He also held offices in his home chapter and at San Gabriel Lodge, Georgetown; Comal Lodge at New Braunfels (1864), and Cibolo Lodge at Selma (1875). Mather was the first postmaster of Gabriel Mills, serving from 1858 until he moved away in 1863.¹⁷

A newspaper article in 1863 carried the story that "Samuel Mather, civil engineer, David Richardson, Galveston News, Dr. Theo Koester, New Braunfels, formed a body corporate and secured a charter for the Texas Paper Company," buying out the paper mill called Hallkamp Mill in early years, then Thomas Mill, and later known as Camp Landa. The new

company owned the land between the forks of the Comal and Guadalupe rivers, and presumably used timber from it at the mill. One of the streets in that locality was named Mather.¹⁸ On May 17, 1878, "Capt. Sam Mather, of Atascosa County, an old Texan," died at the home of a daughter near Mountain City in Hays County. He was buried in the Kyle Cemetery.¹⁹

The family of John G. Stewart of Tennessee arrived at Gabriel Mills March 5, 1852, to settle. J. G. Stewart (1809-1875) built a three room log cabin which became the first store at the village. He put up a two story rock store about 1855, using the lower floor as the post office and store, and the upper story as a Grange Hall, where game suppers and other social gatherings were held. Two genealogists of the Stewart family are certain that Benjamin K. Stewart (who purchased the log cabin site from Mather) was a close relative of J. G. Stewart, but they have lost track of the B. K. Stewart line. It has been noted that B. K. Stewart gave 25 acres of land to Mt. Horeb Lodge, and that he sold his property nearby in 1863. We have found no record of him after that time, and he is not buried at Gabriel Mills cemeteries. C. C. and B. H. Stewart, sons of J. G. Stewart, also were active in the Mt. Horeb Masonic Lodge.²⁰

Nothing is known about Walter Hobbs except the report of Joseph Hutchison Love that Hobbs came at an early date to Gabriel Mills, traded two mules and a horse for some land there, and was engaged to build the cabin which stood in 1975 on the Jamail place. Hobbs specialized in building cisterns, and was killed by a dynamite explosion at Mahomet in Burnet County.²¹

William P. Smart (1844-1939) came to Texas with his parents in 1851, settling on the North Gabriel River several miles above Gabriel Mills. William P., the fifth of twelve children, served in the Confederate Army. According to descendants, his father purchased the land formerly belonging to Samuel Mather and Benjamin K. Stewart for the son, Wm. P. Smart, who made the cabin into what the family called "honeymoon cabin" for himself and his 15-year-old bride, Mary Blackwell. The land was purchased in 1870; therefore, it is believed that the second log room was added at this time and that the dirt floor of the original room was finished with a wood floor. Their five children were born here and the family moved to Burnet in 1890. Meanwhile several frame rooms were added to the two log rooms, as the children grew.²²

John Robert Casbeer (1867-1941), a nephew of W. P. Smart, was born and reared near Liberty Hill and never did live on the property he acquired from Smart. Casbeer farmed, quarried, was a constable, cotton weigher, and county commissioner. The Gabriel Mills property was rented or leased a portion of the time Casbeer had it, and for about twelve years, his daughter, Alta Lucinda Casbeer (1900-still living) and her husband, Walter Jennings, lived in the cabin-home.²³

Neal A. Douglass was a photographer for the Austin American for many years. He and his wife now live near Tow, Texas.²⁴

Emile Jamail and his family reside in Austin and he is in the contracting and real estate business.²⁵

The cabin restored in 1975-76 was 14 x 16 feet in size, built of hand hewn squared logs of an extremely hard wood. Tradition says it is walnut, but experts have not been able to corroborate this. The limestone fireplace and chimney was also hand hewn; it stood at the north end of the room. The square notch typical of all southern states was used on the ends of the logs, and the notches were so perfectly fitted that nothing was used to fasten the logs together other than the notches. The four walls of the original cabin, as well as the fireplace and chimney, had remained intact from the 1850s until 1975. The log room and another chimney which were built considerably later, had fallen by 1975, as had the roof of the entire house. The original floor was probably dirt, but later round cedar logs were added as floor sills, and these logs were also in fine condition in 1975. All materials were available on the premises. Logs were shaped by the hand adz, a tool blacksmith Mather could have made. Round holes across the outer wall on the south side indicate places where poles could be fastened to form a support for temporary lean-to. No nails could be found which were used in the original structure, but square nails appeared to have been used when other rooms were added.²⁶

Dr. Duncan Muckelroy of the Texas Historical Commission and National Register staff noted with particular interest that notches for rafters had been cut at two different levels--the lower ones for rafters of the original room and the higher ones cut when two logs were added above each of the four original walls in order to raise the roof and provide space to shed off another log room to the east. This shed room and chimney are believed to have been added after 1870, for

there was a marked difference in the weathering of the original log walls as contrasted to the two top logs added for the shed room rafters. Dr. Muckelroy estimated that something like twenty years would have elapsed to result in the distinct differences in weathering. W. P. Smart probably added the second log room, and later another (frame) room on the east, a shed room on the north, and a small room south of the original log room. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jennings added sheet rock walls and floor to the inside of the original log room. 27

In October 1974, Mr. and Mrs. Emile Jamail, owners of the cabin, stated to members of the Williamson County Historical Commission and the Georgetown Bicentennial Commission that they did not plan to restore the cabin and that, since the roof had fallen, the remainder of the room would deteriorate rapidly unless repaired. The Jamails wished to see the cabin preserved and were willing to present it to the Georgetown Bicentennial Commission to be moved into town and restored. An agreement was reached and plans were made for the move. Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, Bicentennial Heritage Committee chairman, and students from industrial cooperative training classes of Georgetown High School numbered and photographed the logs, and on January 11, 1975, the same classes with the aid of a City of Georgetown truck, moved the logs to town. The new site for the cabin was selected at the corner of Austin Avenue and 16th Street on property owned by the City of Georgetown and maintained by Georgetown Lions Club as a half-block recreational area. Although the original cabin stood on unmortared rock footings, a more substantial foundation was planned. Concrete footings were set in the ground up to ground level, and the original rock piers were set on top. The cabin walls were again raised on Feb. 12, 1975. Subsequent restoration steps took place in the remainder of 1975 and early 1976. The cabin logs have been treated several times with preservative, as has the wood shingle roof. The City of Georgetown now owns the building and is responsible for its upkeep. 28

Besides the early roles of the cabin as a home and probably a school-church-masonic lodge meeting house, since its move it has served as a training laboratory for the industrial classes who have studied techniques of construction and restoration of such a cabin and who have volunteered most of the labor involved in the restoration. The

major exception is the stone chimney which was moved and restored by a competent stone mason. The cabin is now in excellent condition, is a fine example of pioneer log rooms and is located where other historic buildings could be placed nearby. It can also be utilized on special occasions as a meeting place for small groups.

The Georgetown Bicentennial Commission wishes to commemorate this cabin whose history is closely tied to a distinguished pioneer, Samuel Mather, because it represents a typical pioneer log building, used either as school and church or as a home in the 1850s and because it is now located where it can be seen and appreciated as a remnant of the past.

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WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER VOL.7, No.3 - JUNE 22, 1978



ANNUAL EVENTS

Many traditional annual events occurring in April, May and June through out Williamson County were participated in by Historical Commission members. Not sponsored by the Commission they were never the less promoted by Community representatives who are upholders of the Williamson County group. The Lawler Community Homecoming at the Church and Cemetery east of Florence attracted about 90 people. The Andice Community Homecoming held for the 23rd time this year always draws several hundred friends together. Liberty Hill Cemetery Association Memorial Homecoming was held for the 26th time on the first Sunday in June. More than 800 friends and friends of friends attended. Each of these all day meetings were complete with a program and a barbeque lunch at noon. Hopewell Community west of Liberty Hill will host the same type of memorial gathering on June 25th at the Cemetery off FM 1869 West.

Bartlett, Granger and Schwertner have held days of Community Festivities on a more or less elaborate scale including parades and fairs.

Round Rock is active with traditional celebrations. Williamson County Old Settlers Association held the Annual Reunion in Harrell Park the week of June 10-17. Frontier Days, another annual affair in Round Rock will take place the week-end of July 7-8. This year the Sam Bass Commission is planning to observe the 100th year anniversary of the death of the outlaw, Sam Bass on July 8 in conjunction with the Frontier Days celebration.

MARKER DEDICATIONS

Donna Josey, daughter of SUN publishers, Don and Clara Scarbrough unveiled and read the Official Historical Marker honoring Williamson County's oldest newspaper on Saturday, May 20th. More than fifty people attended the open house which followed the dedication ceremony and toured the offices to see the new and sophisticated equipment being used by the 101 year old publication. Fourteen Williamson County Historical Commission members were present.

The SUN and the SUNDAY SUN have been strong supporters of the Historical Commission and are being recognized by the Texas Historical Commission with a certificate of appreciation, HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AWARD. The award is presented for the support and coverage given above and beyond the normal call of community responsibility to the Historical Preservation Program of local and state history.

The JOHN BERRY, FRONTIERSMAN Official Marker was unveiled with a brief ceremony at 10:30 Sunday morning, June 18 on the Courthouse Lawn. Honorable O.C. Fisher, Former Congressman of Junction made the main address. This was the climax of a two day Annual meeting of the John Berry Association. Of the several hundred descendants of John Berry more than one hundred registered for this reunion.

The CABIN FROM GABRIEL WILLS AREA will have a Marker dedication program at 7 o'clock in the evening on Sunday, June 25, followed by an ice cream social. The CABIN is located in LIONS PARK, 1600 Austin Ave. in Georgetown.

PRESERVATION OF RECORDS

Williamson County Cemeteries Volume II has been added to the six Public Libraries in the county. Volume I, completed in 1974, was edited by Mrs. Clara Scarbrough. It contains 86 cemeteries with 343 pages of listings. Volume II was edited by Miss Laverne Faubion and contains 37 cemeteries with 365 pages of names and dates. Both Volumes have a well alphabetized index of names. Many more known cemeteries are yet to be surveyed in the county and these will be included in subsequent volumes. Many people are responsible for preservation of these records and it is expected that they will continue to be on the lookout for more listings.

The Taylor Woman's Study Club, at a recent meeting, voted to suggest to the Taylor City Commission that the TWO PRE-1900 CENSUS RECORDS now in the City's vaults be duplicated and placed in the Taylor Public Library's historical section. Miss Ruth Mantor, president of the club also reported that the program for the meeting was a slide presentation of historical Scenes of Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Peterson of Round Rock have made an extensive collection of slides which show historical places. The program includes scenes from the Texas Coast to the Santa Elena Canyon on the Rio Grande with tape recorded narration and appropriate background music.

STUDENT RESEARCH CONTEST

High School Original Research entries are now being received and reviewed. To date 56 entries have been submitted. They represent a varied range of topics and originality and several levels of research. The result of the judging will be announced later in the summer.

MORE SUMMERTIME EVENTS

T.I.F. Days is a special happening in Taylor. TAYLOR INDEPENDENCE FESTIVAL will take place July 1 - 4. One feature will be the Tiny Tot Review on July 2 at 4 P.M. at Taylor High School Auditorium.

June 18 - 24 has been designated "Western Week" in Georgetown when the 35th annual Williamson County Sheriffs Posse Rodeo will be held. The annual parade is set for 4:30 P.M., Thursday, kicking off three nights of exciting rodeo at the rodeo arena in San Gabriel Park. A dance will follow the rodeo each night.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR HELPING TO PROMOTE PRESERVATION IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Keep alert for old structures that are being sold and torn down.

Be on the lookout for abandoned cemeteries.

Encourage school children of all ages to participate in research and tell them how.

Take a picture - make a tape - write it down.

Collect TEXANA books - watch for booklets that come from communities that tell of schools or families. Bring it to the attention of the Commission. Talk about what you find. A collection of books and pamphlets is being made now.

A copy of an Abstract of Title can be of great value in writing the history of a structure. Abstracts may have bearing on several pieces of property.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION next meeting date July 6, 1978.

KYRETA MATTHEWS
BOX 127
LIBERTY HILL, TEX.
78642

Annual Historic Preservation Conference Top County Commissions Honored at Awards Luncheon

Informative discussion sessions, documentary films, historical tours and awards festivities were among the features that recently attracted 400 Texas preservationists to San Antonio for the 1978 Annual Historic Preservation Conference.

Held April 28-29, the conference was sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and Texas Historical Foundation for all Texans interested in helping to preserve the state's heritage and cultural resources.

During sessions at the gathering, preservation professionals gave conference participants a wealth of valuable advice on how to do just that. Topics covered by various authorities included: preservation grant programs of the National Endowment for the Humanities; procedures for getting local historic zoning ordinances passed; State and Federal tax laws that can be used to benefit preservation; the current status of Texas archeology and its prospects for the future; and techniques of good restoration.

On the lighter side, many conference delegates enjoyed informal tours and live entertainments during an evening at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

At noon Saturday, prior to his tour of San Antonio historic sites, outstanding county historical commissions and commission members were honored at the annual awards luncheon.

County historical commissions are the official bodies responsible for carrying out the state preservation program at the local level. Members of each commission are appointed by their county commissioners' court.

The THC annually sponsors competition in five areas of county commission activity. Award categories and recipients announced at this year's ceremonies were:

John Ben Shippard Award for Outstanding County Chairmen

Yvonne A. Jenkins, Denton County
John T. White, Hutchinson County
Myrta Matthews, Williamson County

Millard C. Cope Award for Best Program of Work

First Place: Dallas County Historical Commission
Second Place: Crosby County Historical Commission
Third Place: Gillespie County Historical Commission

THC member Mrs. Manton Murray, Sr. announced the awards while THC Chairman Cecil E. Burney presented plaques to the winners.



Yvonne A. Jenkins



Myrta Matthews



John T. White



Dallas County Historical Commission
Chairman Lindalyn Adams



Crosby County Historical Commission
Chairman Mrs. M. L. Sanders



Gillespie County Historical Commission
Chairman Miss Margaret Brecher



Myrtle Watson

**Outstanding Committee Chairmen
of County Commissions**
Myrtle Watson, Denton County
Hugo A. Riemer, Jr., Hutchinson County
Norma Z. Bravides, Webb County
**Outstanding County Commission
Members**

Charles T. Dailey, Houston County
Cecile Parsons Benz, Hutchinson County
Margaret Walberg, Nueces County
**Best Newsletter for a
County Commission**

First Place: Dallas County Historical Commission

Second Place: Crosby County Historical Commission

Third Place: Gillespie County Historical Commission



Cecile Parsons Benz



Hugo A. Riemer, Jr.

Also recognized at the awards luncheon were 44 county historical commissions receiving the Distinguished Service Award for 1977. The DSA is presented annually to all county commissions that have executed a well-rounded preservation program during the preceding year.

Commissions honored with the award were: Anderson, Bexar, Brazoria, Brooks, Burleson, Carbon, Chambers, Cherokee, Colorado, Crosby, Dallas, Denton, DeWitt, Fannin, Fort Bend, Freestone, Galveston, Gillespie, Gonzales, Gray, Gregg, Grimes, Hale, Harrison, Hidalgo, Hill, Hopkins, Houston, Jasper, Kaufman, Kimble, Marion, Midland, Newton, Nueces, Rusk, Taylor, Trinity, Van Zandt, Walker, Waller, Wichita, Williamson and Wise.

In addition, the commissions of Atascosa, Bexar, Ector and Montgomery Counties each received an Award of Merit for sponsoring at least one superior preservation project within the past year.



Margaret Walberg

There's another church bell that (sometimes) rings in Georgetown

After the publication of a recent article about the church bells in Georgetown, the presence of another bell has been called to attention — that of the bell at Grace Episcopal Church.

Bishop F. Percy Goddard presided at the blessing of this bell on November 19, 1968, while Rev. Al Johnson was vicar. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Lain Henich of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Bellon were the donors of this bronze bell. The inscription reads "To the Glory of God and Thanksgiving for the Life of Lem Clinton Green."



THE GRACE BELL — Pictured are: Ben Reid, Robert French, Sidney Pappas, R. Cochran, Penick, Rev. Mr. Whitford, De. Thomas Penick, Alfred Johnson, Bishop F. Percy Goddard, Harry Dalton, Mrs. R. Cochran, Franck, Mrs. S. H. Oliver, Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley, Richard, Mrs. Marjorie.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 2
Thursday, July 6, 1978

Remember Candy Jim?

Down Memory Lane

By Helga Patterson

"Memory is composed of fragments. We recall a fleeting fragrance carried on a spring breeze."

Once a mouth-watering fragrance drifted out the doors of a place on Main Street, the Palace of Sweets fairyland to children and a pleasant retreat for grown-ups. It was owned and operated by a friendly, jovial Greek whom everyone affectionately called Candy Jim.

And now from the pen of his daughter, Thanassa (Mrs. Carey) Crane of Austin, comes the story of his life.

James Arthur Athas (christened Dimitrios Athanassios Athanassoulas) was born June 3, 1877 in Platana, Greece, a village about five miles from Sparta,

His father died when Jim, the only child, was eight months old. His mother cared for him until he was 13, then permitted him to accompany his uncle to the United States. Here the uncle taught him the art of candy making. They started their first candy business in Waco in 1892.

Wishing to try his wings at the age of 23, he moved to Taylor to start his own candy business from a pushcart. That same year he met Miss Lala Dosaer, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dosaer Sr. After a brief courtship, Lala and Jim were married on Sept. 22, 1896, in Corpus Christi. She became his wife and business partner in a union that lasted 58 years.

The pushcart prospered,

and a confectionery was established on Main Street where Duke and Ayers is presently located. In 1907 the young couple pioneered a new business in Taylor — the first picture show. It was housed in the same building with the confectionery, through which patrons would pass for refreshments before entering the theatre at the rear. This business prospered also; the theatre remained and the sweet store moved into the adjacent building.

One of Taylor's celebrities and very talented musicians, Elmer (Hank) Patterson, played the piano in the theatre, matching the mood of the music to the scene.

Several Taylor men started their careers as motion picture projectionists in this picture show. Perhaps some readers will remember Charles Shubbert, Ray Wilson, Frank Sykes, Lee Bonnell, and Luther Thompson. They all ran those flickers.

Eventually Athas' love of the candy business proved stronger, and in 1918, Candy Jim's Theatre was sold to H. Blandard Co.

The ice cream parlor and confectionery, which longtime citizens of Taylor and the surrounding communities will remember, was the Palace of Sweets, established in 1917 in the present location of The Twin's Shop. The "Candy Man" made many varieties of candy — brittles of all kinds, soft candies, hard candies, divinity, pecan roll, special order creme mints — but perhaps the most popular was Sauerkraut. The delicious concoction of sugar, pure cream, butter and coconut when mixed together looked like a kettle of sauerkraut — hence the name. He also made all of the

ice cream and syrups for the fountain drinks, mostly from fresh fruits.

Another old time Taylorite was Miss Nell Landers, Mrs. Athas' niece, who worked in the Athas business for many years. She resided with the family Mr. and Mrs. Athas had two daughters, Dimitra (1896-1971), married Roy White, Thanassa was born in March, 1917. She and her husband, Carey Crane, reside in Austin.

Mrs. Athas died Nov. 7, 1966. They had planned a trip to Greece to fulfill Jim's wish to revisit his birthplace. In 1967 he made the journey alone and found the little village of Platana just as he had left it 45 years before. His homelace was still there, the sparkling mountain-fed river still clear and full of fish. He enjoyed going back, but was very, very happy to return to Taylor. He died Dec. 31, 1966.

In reminiscing about the picture show, Sig Cinnamon said that during the showing, Athas would stand out on the walk and announce through a megaphone, "Moving, moving, all the time moving!" Even though the movies were silent, they were indeed moving.

In front of the picture show was a popcorn machine which sent out an irresistible aroma. One took a sack along inside to devour while eyes were glued to the screen. Roma Stiles Alexander says it was the best popcorn she ever tasted.



IN 1902 — Mr. and Mrs. Athas are shown by their popular pop corn machine in 1902. By this time the couple had restricted their activities.



PALACE OF SWEETS AND BLACK CAT CAFE — There is no date on this picture, made available through the courtesy of "Candy Jim's" daughter, Mrs. Carey Crase. Could this have been a 4th of July celebration? Or a big

Trades Day? Mrs. Patterson, writer of the accompanying article, thinks the man facing the camera, just to the right of the little girl on the platform, may be Fred J. Fisher, long time fire insurance man and Taylor Retail Merchants official.

Asked what she thought about at the mention of Candy Jim, Joe Hannah Finsen said, "Sauerkraut Candy." Veta Richter remembered, too — "Gosh, it was good." And Joan Lee laughed, "I just wish we could walk into a store and once again get the wonderful candies that Candy Jim made."

the school grounds right at recess time, pushing his little red cart laden with sweets. Many were the nickels spent for a square of taffy — the taste of which still lingers in memory.

The Athas had a parrot in their backyard. Children loved to call to him and hear him say, "Fally wants cracker." He had been taught other words, too, by

Candy Jim would appear at

some who thought it amusing; words which Lila Athas didn't think were funny. On occasion, she would come the forbidden words — sometimes at the most inopportune times.

So Candy Jim, through hard work and perseverance all the days of his life, left a heritage — recollection of delicious candies and ice creams, and hours spent in the newly found pleasure of watching moving pictures. He was known by many and all were his friends.

As Virgil Patterson summed it all up, "He was a nice man."



CANDY JIM'S THEATER — A soda fountain, and the many delights of homemade candies — sauerkraut, hard taffy, licorice, fudges, and other delights tempted the would-be theater goer to spend much of his money before going to the picture show back of the curtains. The theater occupied the building now used by Duke and Ayres on South Main St. This was in the early thirties.

Interest Grows In Heirloom Exhibits Moody Museum

Have you visited the Moody Museum lately?

More and more interesting items are being added to the boyhood home of Governor Dan Moody on the corner of fifth and Talbot Streets.

There are two new marble topped tables, a lectern for the memorial Book, two air conditioners that provide relief from the summer heat when visitors are expected, and red brick terrace and walks that add beauty to the exterior of the old home.

Many of the items on display were used by the governor and his family. Others are gifts of area people interested in the preservation of local history and culture.

The house itself was built in 1887 by W. F. Robertson and his sister, Miss Nannie E. Robertson who became the bride of Dan'l Moody (as the elder Moody liked to sign his name) in 1890. Two children, Mary and Daniel, were born to the couple. Daniel became Texas' youngest governor after he made a name for himself prosecuting a Ku Klux Klan incident that occurred in Taylor in the early '20s. After retirement from the governor's office in 1931, Moody moved to Austin where his family still resides.

Mary, known in Taylor simply as 'Miss Mary', lived in the home in Taylor and continued her father's in-

surance business until her health failed. She is now living in Austin, and the house became a gift to the City of Taylor as a memorial, not only to the young governor, but to his entire family.

Mementoes from early days of the family add interest to the displays throughout the home.

A spinning wheel in the alcove off the living room; an old-fashioned derby that belonged to the elder Moody; a quilt pieced and quilted in 1810 by Miss Mary's grandmother; the 1890 wedding dress worn by the elder Mrs. Moody - these things and much of the furniture speak of the fashions of the times in which they were acquired.

Two wedding presents presented to Dan'l and his wife are unique. Gold leaf frames surround two hand-painted rose pictures. Their uniqueness lies in the fact that the roses are painted on the glass, not on canvas. Mrs. John Cornforth, president of the Moody Museum board of directors and an experienced antique dealer, says she has never seen this type of painting anywhere else.

One of the latest acquisitions to the museum is the chandelier that Alf. Otto, immigrant from Germany and an early day photographer in Taylor, made for his bride.

The oil-burning, four-



CAMPAIGN HAT — On the halltree in the entrance hall hangs a straw hat — probably won by the youthful Daniel Moody as he campaigned for governor of Texas, a race which he won and became the youngest governor Texas had ever elected.

on Sixth Street.

Another pioneer family, the Sloans who owned land along the Gabriel where Rowe Valley now is, is also represented through gifts from Mame Sloan Steadman. One of the most interesting, displayed in a case on the second floor of the museum, is a history of the family and a copy of an early will.

Both the museum's board of directors and the Moody family want the museum used by people of the area.

Regular hours for volunteer hostesses to be on duty, so that the home may be open to the public, are from 2 to 5 p.m. each Saturday and Sunday. Special arrangements for a visit by individuals or groups can be arranged by appointment, either with Mrs. Cornforth, or Miss Ruby Neubauer.

Comfortable folding chairs have been bought by the museum board so that civic clubs, music clubs, home demonstration clubs, or other groups can hold meetings in the living room that opens into the dining room and the entrance hall.

Miss Mary's piano (she was a musician) is available in the living room. The polished wood floors and the handsome staircase banister make the rooms attractive for such meetings.

When the red brick patio is completed soon, the gardens will have added beauty. In fact, it is rumored that one couple wants to use the patio and grounds for their wed-



UNIQUE — An oil painting on a glass, a wedding present for the elder Moodys, hangs above a marble-top table from the G. E. King family, with a handsome oil lamp to complete the setting.

ding. Gifts and memorials to the museum, both in the form of items of interest and in cash, are solicited so that the institution can continue its growth.

Gifts may be made to the museum direct, or to the Friends of the Moody Museum, an organization of supporters who have been instrumental in supplying many of the needed improvements in the home or its facilities.



OLD KITCHEN WARE — Mrs. John Cornforth, chairman of the Board of Directors for the Moody Museum, and Taylor City Manager Dan Mize, inspect the array of old-time kitchen accessories — the wooden churn, the old

ight chandelier has globular
etched crystal chimneys
Otto was apprenticed to a
welding artist before he
came to the United States,
and he fashioned the brass
and metal device as his
wedding gift to his bride.
Mrs. Otto died in 1977, 22
years after her husband's
death. When the family
leaved the house after her
death, they gave the chan-
delier to the museum in
memory of their parents.

Two marble topped tables
are the latest gifts to the
museum. They are from the
family of G. E. King, early
pioneer of the area. A large
family of daughters is now
reduced to only Ione King
Bergstrom who lives in
Houston.

One of the King daughters,
Ethel, was married to Dr. E.
Doak, son of a pioneer
physician in Taylor. The
third generation of
physicians, Dr. Edmond
Doak, lives in Houston. It
was the elder Dr. A. V. Doak
who owned and operated the
mule drawn trolley system
that once was the pride of
Taylor. His son, the late Dr.
E. Doak, was a student of
history, and during the later
years of his life saw to it that
many mementoes of his
family came to the then
wedding museum that was
first just a Taylor museum,
housed in the county building



WEDDING PRESENTS— Wedding presents given to the
elder Moodys, along with a few pieces from other families
who support the museum with their heirlooms, are
displayed in the dining room. On the table in the
foreground is a covered compote with an interesting
design in crystal, a gift of the G. E. King descendants.



FOR HIS BRIDE — An
Otto, long-time
photographer in Taylor,
made this hanging oil
chandelier for his bride. It
hangs in the kitchen of the
Moody Museum. Other
items in the kitchen por-
tray early day living
routines and display the
artistry which went into
even the simplest ac-
cessories. It was in the
kitchen that the family
spent much of their time
sitting in the warmth
provided by a wood stove
studying by the light of an
oil lamp, and watching
mother prepare meal
without the help of modern
day mixes.

Early Day Taylor Changes Noted In Directory Study

Verlon Hafernia has found a 1914-1915 Taylor City Directory, and changes in the years between the 1910 directory described last week and the one published four years later are noteworthy.

While Taylor's one sanitarium in the 1910 directory was located up stairs in the Bowers building at 215 1/2 North Main Street, by 1914, there was a two-story hospital building at 720 West 6th Street, now occupied by the John Clinic. Dr. Frank C. Floeckinger, owner of

the hospital, had been joined by Dr. E. F. Mikeska in 1914.

A mattress factory is mentioned, without name, in the 1910 directory, but in 1914, Taylor Bedding Manufacturing Co. is listed, with offices shown on Third St., the present location of Richter Furniture Co., and with the factory address given as 210 East Second St.

One section of the directory deals with postage. Post cards for domestic delivery are listed at 1 cent and foreign delivery

at 2 cents each. First class mail was at that time 2 cents for one ounce or fraction thereof.

Growth of the town was shown in population figures as well as in increased number of businesses listed. According to the preface, 4,864 individuals are listed in the directory, and with 2 1/2 persons figured per individual, which seemed to be a popular figure, the town's population was estimated at 10,900 while the official census figures, still holding from 1910, showed 5,314.

The manager of the directory, however, said the figure represents population in all the suburbs included in the directory.

C. M. Still, father of Miss Mary B. and Emma Still, was listed as mayor of Taylor, and Louis Lowe, later sheriff of Williamson County, was shown as chief of police. James W. Dellinger, father of Mrs. Joe Hannah Forson, was shown as fire chief. He later became chief of police.

Instead of a Chamber of Commerce, there was a Board of Trade, with James A. Thompson, father of Mrs. J. Monroe Sweeney as president.

Five churches listed in the 1914 directory are in the same location today. The First Christian Church, the First Presbyterian Church, and St. James Episcopal Church. The

Library Notes

The Teichert Memorial Public Library wishes to acknowledge with appreciation a generous gift to the book fund from Mrs. Effie Frank of San Antonio, Texas. A substantial memorial gift was made in the name of Mrs. Eva Belle Hulin Klipsch of Hope, Arkansas.

It was our pleasure to welcome Mrs. Ida Jessie Rush, a sister of Mrs. Alma Teichert, our benefactress, her son, and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rush, as visitors recently. We are always happy to have those interested in the Library stop by to visit with us.

Miss Myreta Matthews, of Liberty Hill, representing the Williamson County Historical Association, was a recent visitor. Miss Matthews brought us Volume II of the Williamson County Cemeteries listings. We now have Volumes I and II.

There are approximately 25 young people who have signed up for the Summer Reading Program. It is still not too late to participate.

We have a number of recent books which have appeared on best seller lists. Come in and inquire about them. If they are in circulation, we can place a "reserve" on them and you will have them in two weeks or less.



ONE TIME TAYLOR HOME — This home once stood on the corner of 5th and Main Street where a drug station is now located. It belonged to T. W. Marse, an early merchant in Taylor. After Marse moved to California, a store still bore his name here for many years. The house just back of the one pictured here, is still standing and is presently an apartment house.

other two, still in the same location, have changed names. What was known as the Bohemian Lutheran Church is now Taylor Brethren Church, and what was the Swedish Methodist Church is now Tenth Street United Methodist.

The First Baptist Church, now on the corner of 7th and Davis St., was then on 6th and Fowler where the St. Paul Lutheran Church now has its educational building. The First Methodist Church, now on the corner of Lake Drive and Kumbro, was on the corner of 5th and Talbot, present location of the First Federal Savings and Loan. St. Mary's Catholic Church was on the corner of 5th and Washburn while it now stands on 4th and Washburn.

Mrs. Edmund Doak, wife of the doctor, was president of the Ladies Civic Improvement League and Mrs. D. D. Fairchild was president of the Sesame Club. There was a Taylor Public Library, conducted by the Sesame Club, and located in the City Hall, open three evenings each week.

Two telephone companies operated in Taylor in 1914, the Independent Telephone Co., located at 147 1/2 East 2nd St., and the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Co. in the 'Goldstein building', 403 1/2 N. Main Street, the location of Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. until it built its present building.

Historians Plan Taylor Session

The regular monthly meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission was held July 6, with reports on various activities given.

Two historical markers were dedicated in Georgetown in June. Dr. Van C. Tipton spoke about the program presented at the John Berry dedication by descendants of the noted frontiersman. Mrs. Don Scarborough was principal speaker for the unveiling of the marker on the cabin from Gabriel Mills.

Laverne Faubus, chairman for editing the cemetery lists, reported two more survey lists have been received. Georgetown Junior Historians, under the guidance of Mrs. Ed Magford, have surveyed and

recorded Patrick Cemetery and Zion Lutheran Cemetery in Walburg.

Mrs. Thatcher Atkin described the meeting in Waco in which Georgetown received the Beautification Award.

Mrs. David Thompson and the Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association have obtained permission from interested and responsible persons in that area to restore the Old Jolly Family Cemetery.

Cora Sexton announced that the Annual Jarrell Volunteer Fire Department Barbecue will be held this week.

The Historical Commission received an invitation from Mrs. John Cornforth to hold a meeting in the Moody Museum in Taylor. Mrs. Cornforth, president of the Museum Board of Directors, is former chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission. Members voted to accept the invitation.

Mrs. John W. Ledbetter, an officer of the Palm Blouse Museum Association in Round Rock, previously extended an invitation for the group to meet in the Palm Blouse.

Come and Get 'Em While They're Hot Down Memory Lane

By BELGA PATTERSON

Elijah "Hot" Lambertson.
Occupation—Tamales vendor.
Location—Street corner.
Home address—Buttermilk Hill.

Elijah Lambertson was born May 7, 1870 in Arkansas. It is not known when he came to Taylor, but we do know that he was here in 1910.

It was in October of that year he joined the First Methodist Episcopal Church South, by vows. The Rev. E. P. Williams was pastor of the church.

"Hot," as he was affectionately called by everyone, was a familiar figure in the town for many years, remembered for the delectable product that he sold—the most delicious hot tamales ever. Never will there be any others like these.



ELIJAH LAMBERTSON

His familiar cry: "Hot tamales, hot tamales, get 'em while they're hot," echoes back through the corridors of time, teasing our taste buds even to this day.

A daily occurrence was seeing Hot riding his bicycle up Main Street with a large bundle of corn stalks on his back, pedaling as fast as he could, both pants legs turned up out of the way of the bicycle chain.

In those days, there was a corn shelling plant down by the International and Great Northern Railroad, now known as Missouri Pacific.

Let us hope that Hot got his stalks there free (at one of the markets recently, an eight ounce package of corn stalks, imported from Mexico, was priced at \$1.15.)

There is a difference of opinion about the price of Hot's tamales. Some remember 18 cents a dozen, three dozen for a quarter, others think it was 15 cents a dozen, two dozen for a quarter.

This we do know, however, that when the First Methodist Church added the Educational Building to the location on Fifth Street, tamales were 25 cents a dozen.

Albert Richter recalls that one day Hot came to the committee at the church and handed them \$50 in cash, saying, "This represents 200 dozen tamales." This was in 1930.

Another thing remembered by several of his customers is that Hot adhered to the old custom of measuring out a baker's dozen—he always gave 13 tamales for a dozen, sometimes a couple of extras.

Further demonstrating his loyalty to the church, one of the stewards, as they were called at that time, said that Lambertson gave \$50 a year

as his support. At Christmas time he made a special trip to the parsonage to hand it personally to the pastor.

Hot was a man of small build, always neat and clean. Joe Hannah Forson recalls that he wore a vest and a gold chain across his chest, from one pocket to the other.

He wore a red bandana around his neck and almost always wore striped, long-sleeved shirts with armbands to hold the sleeves up out of the way. On the job he wore a large black hat. He was a mild mannered, courteous, and friendly person.

The mode of transportation for his wares was a two-wheeled push cart. Onto this he loaded two large lard cans, filled with his wares. Each order, carefully wrapped in newspapers to conserve the heat, was placed over the hot bricks under the tamale cans. When the package was opened, the tamales were still steaming hot.

Summer and winter, Hot made his rounds.

One corner was at Main Street on the City Hall square. Another was at Stanny's on Main and Third Streets.

Sometimes, when he failed to sell out down town, he'd push his cart to the residential part of town.

This was always a great occasion for the children, for when they were sent out to purchase tamales, they knew they would always be treated to a little poem.

Hot could make up a little rhyme as quick as a wink—the child suggesting the subject—as witness the couplet which his niece, Dorothy, remembers:
I don't care how funny I look,
I'm gonna have my picture took.

Which he did, because we have two proofs of his in-



"HOT" LAMBERTSON
READY FOR WORK

vention included with this story. Taylor, Mrs. Dorothy Hauke of San Antonio, Mrs. Ruth Fledge of San Antonio, and Mrs. Aileen Roderick of New York.

Hot had another hobby which gave him much pleasure. He bought the necessary equipment and learned how to grind and polish stones. His work was meticulous and the facets were beautifully cut—eyes though he worked with quartz.

They had no monetary value, their worth being only in the satisfaction of doing well a difficult process.

The church records show that Lambertson was dismissed from the rolls, by death, Jan. 3, 1936. The Rev. George W. Davis was the pastor, and the death certificate was signed by Dr. V. F. Hopkins.

Lambertson never married, but his sister, Mrs. Nannie Powers, lived next door to him on Buttermilk Hill. His niece, Mrs. H. A. Bryan, daughter of Mrs. Powers, had four daughters: Mrs. Doris Roznovak of

These great nieces provided the most personal of information herein recorded, and the pictures.

So ends the story of Hot, one of Taylor's most colorful and affectionately remembered early citizens. And it can be said of him, as of the village blacksmith whom Longfellow immortalized,

"His brow is wet with honest sweat,

He earns what'er he can,
And looks the whole world in the face,

For he owes not any man."

Page 2, The Taylor Daily Press, Thursday, July 13, 1972

Historical Commission's activities are reported

Members of the Williamson County Historical Commission have continued to work during the summer and their activities were reported on at the regular monthly meeting July 6 at the Georgetown Public Library.

Two Official Historical Markers were dedicated in Georgetown in the month of June. Dr. Van C. Tipton told of the impressive program presented at the John Berry dedication by the descendants of that noted frontiersman. Mrs. Don Scarborough was the principal speaker for the unveiling of the marker on the Cabin from Gabriel Mills.

Laverne Fashion, chairman, for editing the Cemetery Lists, reported two more survey lists have been received for Volume

III. Georgetown Junior Historians, under the guidance of Mrs. Ed Magford, have surveyed and recorded Patrick Cemetery and the Zion Lutheran Cemetery at Walburg.

Mrs. Thatcher Atkin described the interesting meeting in Waco at which Georgetown received the Beautification Award. She told of touring some beautiful restored homes and visiting some that are kept open as museums. This is being done in Williamson County but in a very limited way. There must be a challenge here for this Commission to try to encourage restoration and museums more here in this county.

Mrs. David Thompson and the Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association have

obtained permission from interested and responsible persons in that area to restore the Old Jolly Family Cemetery.

Mrs. John Cornforth of Taylor has invited the Historical Commission to hold a regular or special meeting in the Moody Museum. Mrs. Cornforth, president of the Museum Board of Directors, is a former chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission. Members voted to accept the invitation and to set the date later.

Mrs. John W. Ledbetter of Round Rock, an officer in Palm House Museum Association, has previously asked the group to meet there. This invitation will be accepted also.

Heritage program honors founders

A German from Westphalia seeking adventure, a Civil War soldier looking for land, and a Spanish Empresario establishing colonies in Texas for Mexico are among the diverse founders of land to be honored in the Family Land Heritage Program this year. Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown has reported.

The program is one established by the Texas Department of Agriculture in 1974 to honor farmers and ranchers whose families have maintained agri-

cultural production on the same land for 100 years or more.

Williamson County already has 17 in the more than 1,100 who have been honored so far, Brown said.

"With its rich historical legacy, I'm sure that there are more in Williamson County," Brown added.

The Commissioner urged families who think they may qualify to contact the County Judge or the Texas Historical Survey Commission Chairman, Miss Myrleta Matthews.

These forms are also available from the Texas Department of Agriculture, P. O. Box 12847, Austin 78711.

The stories of the farms and ranches which have qualified appear in the Family Land Heritage Registry, which has been published annually. Because the number had dropped in 1977, last year's honorees will be listed in this year's publication.

"We have found a lot of interest in the Registry from genealogists and other researchers in Texas history," Brown said. "We want to make these Registries as complete as possible."

Basic rules for qualifying include proof of ownership of the land by family members, continuous production of crops or livestock for a century or more, and prohibition of land which is used exclusively for timber rights or recreation.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 3
Thursday, July 13, 1978

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 2
Thursday, July 20, 1978

County's First National Bank Organized In 1883



ABOVE — John R. Hoxie, first president of the First National Bank as he appeared on checks issued by the bank. The date line on the check reads 1881.

BELOW — This handsomely designed gate can be closed between the thick outer door to the vault and safe and the plain gray doors directly guarding the contents of the vault. Its black wrought iron bars and graceful designs are accented by the bright brass balls atop the bars, and the gold lettering on the polished metal cross-pieces.



By ALMA ECKHOLMAN
Staff Writer

Beauty was evidently a main consideration when the First National Bank was built in 1883.

Although the building on the southwest corner of Second and Main Streets is no longer used for a bank, much of its original beauty still exists.

Leaded, beveled glass is used in three large openings over the windows and over the entrance door. In addition to the scroll patterns in the thick, clear glass, there are stained glass quarter-circles on each side of the large panes.

One of the large panes in a window on the north side has been removed to allow placement of an air-conditioning unit, but the pane has been carefully preserved despite the fact it lies in a store room section of the building.

The real jewel of the building is the vault, now back of a private office for Eddie or Raymond Kollman, present occupants of the first floor.

The vault must have been designed by an artist, and installed by hard-nosed businessmen.

The door to the vault is 12 to 12 inches thick. Its black smooth exterior looks much like any other Mosler safe with "The First National Bank" emblazoned on it.

But open the door — and there the beauty begins. Backing the thick wall of the safe door are several three-inch panels that appear to be brass. An etched scroll design is on each of the panels that reach from top to bottom of the door. Of course, there are the appointments of a time clock and necessary dials and knobs.

Just inside the door is a gate made of vertical metal bars. Over the bars is a handsome design in wrought iron, and each bar is topped with a bright brass ball. A gate in an opulent movie setting couldn't be prettier.

Inside the gate are two gray, unadorned doors that close off the deep, walk-in vault or safe.

On the sides of the opening for the doors, gate, and outside closure are more of the etched brass panels.

One viewing the old safe wishes that Eddie Kollman

would carry out his dreams of restoring the building to its original handsome state, with the "Tabor-walled" office being dismantled and the safe exposed to view without the trappings of the store room that now surround it.

As for the hard-nosed businessmen — the safe is three steps below street and floor level. Try getting that vault out of its concrete and metal shroud and hauled off!

There is also a second safe, a plain, unadorned vault that sits atop the one that opens to the east. Probably used just in store records during the bank days, the upper safe is reached by a narrow stairway and opens to the west. Its top is about even with the upper story floor, where offices have been located since early days of the building. Even now, the rest rooms on the upper floor are said to be "fabulous."

The bank was the first national bank to be organized and chartered in Williamson County. The building is reported to be the first brick building in the downtown area. A fire in 1879 destroyed all the frame buildings in the young town of Taylor, and the bank, organized in 1883, erected the handsome building to replace a small wooden building located on the northeast corner of Main and Second Streets.

The organizing group was headed by John R. Hoxie, land owner, rancher, and a sometime hunt for the fabulous Jay Gould, owner of the Katy Railroad and the International and Great Northern Railroad (I&GN) as the Missouri Pacific was known in those early days. Hoxie was a vice-president of the I&GN.

Among the original board of directors for the bank were C. H. Booth Sr., J. P. Sturgis, C. H. Welch, R. J. Eckhardt and Francis A. Allison.

Officers of the bank were elected by the stockholders on Sept. 1883, according to information supplied by Langdon Richter, whose memory doesn't extend back that far, but who has a wealth of memories of early days in Taylor.

According to Richter's records, the first meeting of the directors was not held until January 8, 1884, four months after the organization of the board.

The Taylor Daily Press, Thursday, July 12, 1979



ART GLASS — Heavy beveled glass designs, flanked by stained glass small panels, appear over the three large windows in the main portion of the building. Over the doorway, the figures 117, the street number, appear also in the beveled glass. A smaller window on the east side of the building may have originally been a doorway. It is without the art glass designs of the other openings.

Authorized capital stock of the fledgling bank was \$500,000 with \$50,000 the paid-in capital. That paid-in amount was raised to \$100,000 after six months of operation.

One story rampant about the bank's organization is that "Cap" Booth, as C. H. Booth Sr. was usually called, wanted the bank to be people owned, and wanted a wide range of stockholders. Others in the original group wanted to keep the stockholders and the directors to a small, close-knit group. Although Booth is reported to have made no overt remarks when his idea was not approved, he decided that he still wanted an "open" bank, and just five years later, in 1888, was instrumental in organizing the Taylor National Bank.

Both banks continued in operation until the depression years in 1929 and 1930. In 1931, the two banks merged and the name became First-Taylor National Bank, with the hyphen between First and Taylor officially incorporated in the name.

Only one former employee of the bank still lives in Taylor. Mrs. C. F. McIntire, then Miss Lizzie Hannan, was stenographer, as secretaries were called in those days. She worked for the bank for eight years and likes to remember some of the directors and employees she knew. Mrs. McIntire said only one other employee is alive, as far as she knows. That is Carroll Hyde who moved to Houston some years ago.

Among those First National Bank employees, directors, officers and stockholders whom Mrs.

McIntire mentioned are S. G. Gernert, Walter Lundell, Jess and Ernie Womack, Thompson Hague, and Jack Kritser, many of whom helped shape the course of Taylor. Descendants of these businessmen are still helping shape the city's policies.

Present owners of the building are Mrs. Fred Chalupa (Pat Duffy) and her son David Honeycutt. Her

father Tom Duffy Sr. and his brother-in-law Ernest Matteck bought the building from the banking interests and family ownership has continued through the intervening years.

Upstairs, various businesses occupied spacious offices.

Various grocery stores occupied the ground floor after the merger of the two

banks. Charlie Ryan, Conoley brothers, and Werchan brothers are among those former grocers who rented the space.

While occupants have come and gone, the windows, the safe, and even the ornamental metal molding around the ceiling and the tile patterns in the floor have kept the beauty of the building intact.



IN 1908 — This picture, dated 1908, is among Langdon Richter's files. Identified on the back of the yellowed picture, left to right, are Francis A. Allison, Walter Lundell, Francis H. Welch, Jess Womack, Robert J. Eckhardt, Ruby Lankford, Thompson Hague, and Fred L. Welch.

Some Things Never Change

Old Newspaper Building Still Stands On Fourth

By ALCELAANSTOGS
Staff Writer

Some things never change. The old International Order of Odd Fellows

building in downtown Taylor is a tribute to that statement. The structure, at the corner of Talbot and Fourth Streets, has changed hands only twice in its 71-year history and it still remains much the same as it was in 1887 when its original occupant, The Taylor Daily Democrat, moved into the lower level.

The IOOF and Woodmen of the World occupied the upper level, followed by Knights of Pythias, a fraternal organization.

The Taylor Daily Democrat was the first daily paper to serve Taylor. Its weekly counterpart, The Weekly Texas, was also housed in the old building. The Taylor Journal, another weekly, went out of business when a young, enterprising man by the name of George Foeler started his own paper, The Taylor Daily Press.

Both the Democrat and the Press existed for ten years until merchants decided to advertise in only one paper. They chose the Press since it had a wider circulation.

The Democrat and Texas folded in 1927, but they left behind a reminder of newsprint, ink and an early, heavy linotype machine — the concrete base for the linotype machine still sits on the building's bottom floor.

Following the demise of the Democrat, John Cornforth moved into the hollowed building and operated a furniture and antique store there for the next 21 years. Cornforth had the "best floor covering in town" and made his own furniture on the east side of the first floor and sold antiques on the west side.

According to Mrs. Cornforth, she and her husband ran their store from 1927 to 1948.

In 1958 the present occupant, Cowan's Home Decorating Supply, took its place in the lower level and has been there since.

The United Pentecostal Church now occupies the upper floor.

The building was one of the first brick structures in Taylor, according to historian Sewde Ahlgren, but it certainly isn't one of the last in this growing town.

It is also not one of the forgotten.



AFTER 71 YEARS, the International Organization of Odd Fellows building still stands at the corner of Fourth and Talbot Streets. The building, pictured above, originally housed the IOOF lodge on the upper level and The Taylor Daily Democrat on the bottom level. The Democrat staff is pictured standing in front of their office in the old picture postcard above, part of the collection of Bill Duffy of Taylor. Below is the structure today, now occupied by Cowan Home Decorating Supply.



The Taylor Daily Press, Tuesday, August 1, 1927



talk of texas

Jack Maguire

If it made history, a marker is there

X MARKS THE SPOT — George Washington never saw Texas and thus never slept here. If he had, there certainly would be a metal plaque marking the spot.

Texas leads the United States in the production of oil, cotton and historical markers. Commemorative stones or just plain signs painted on wood have been recording the state's history on site for 130 years.

The Eighth Texas Legislature, convening in 1859, was so proud of the young state's history that it authorized the marking of locations important to the chronicle. By 1866, when Texas celebrated the centennial of its independence from Mexico, hundreds of new markers went up on battlefields, in courtyards named for heroes and at all points connected with the conflict.

Marking historical sites was small time, however, until 1953. That's when the Texas Historical Survey Committee was created and medallions began to appear on old homes, forts and even some shops. Graves of veterans of the War for Independence were given a special marker.

Today, there is hardly an Indian habitat, trail or trace without at least one historical marker. Sites of ghost towns, mines and disasters bear the commemorative medallions. Dozens of other landmarks and locations that contributed a chapter, or even a footnote, to Texas history also bear medallions.

In 1973, the Survey Committee became the Texas Historical Commission and local counterparts were established in each of the 254 counties. Now rigid policies and procedures govern the placement of all historical medallions.

Many authentically historic spots remained to be marked. They will be. Texas seems bent on having as many historical medallions as it does miles of highway.

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 5
Thursday, August 10, 1978

Historical Commission has monthly meeting

At the monthly meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission, members attending to make reports were from Andice, Cedar Park, Georgetown, Rice's Crossing, Round Rock and Taylor.

A letter from Judy Dedock, County Extension Agent, suggests that this Commission nominate two brands to be used in the new Animal and Food Sciences Center, called the Kleberg Center, at Texas A&M University. Those brands selected will be burned into the oak walls of the new center, adding to the 140 brands already burned into the paneling by the Texas A&M Board of Regents and others.

The Texas Department of Agriculture is asking the cooperation and help of the Historical Commission in the Family Land Heritage Program. 1978 marks the fifth year of honoring the families who have farmed or ranched the same land for 100 years or more.

The Texas Historical Foundation is a sister organization to the Texas Historical Commission. It assists the County Commissions by sponsoring programs, workshops and other educational factors.

The Williamson County Historical Commission recently received from the Foundation the "Quota Buster Certificate" in recognition of its support of Historical Preservation in Texas. One qualification for this award is that at least a nominal amount of money be given through membership in the Foundation. Memorials also count.

Two new plaques have been received and will be placed on the Courthouse and on the County Jail. The inscription on the small sign state, "Entered in the National Register of Historic Places" 1977. These buildings are eligible because they already have Official Texas Historical Markers and are located in the Williamson County Courthouse Historic District.

Who owns the First Motorized Fire Truck in Williamson County? A county in West Texas is preparing material to secure an historical marker commemorating the ownership of the First Motorized Fire Truck in Texas. The Williamson County Historical Commission is asked to cooperate with them by supplying the county's dated fire trucks. Contacts will be made by members.

Activities at the county level include a talk of historical facts to a group of young people, and a tour of local historical markers sponsored by a member who explained why markers are erected. Two carloads of youngsters participated. Two members made out of county tours to historic places.

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 2
Thursday, August 3, 1978

County Agent's Column

By John Wakefield



The Williamson County Livestock Committee has been asked to nominate 8 brands of outstanding cattlemen who would be interested in having their brand displayed in the new Kleberg Center at Texas A&M University. Those cattlemen selected will be allowed to burn their brands into the oak walls of the stairway at the new center. These brands will be added to the 140 brands already burned into the paneling by

members of the Texas A&M Board of Regents, Officers and Directors of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association and other groups are also invited to participate. Each county of Texas has an oak panel six feet long and seven inches wide. If you would like to suggest a brand to be used please contact Andy Prude or me.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER VOL.7.No.4 - AUGUST 28,1978



Williamson County Historical Commission members have the opportunity of attending some important historical meetings, that are to be held in near-by Austin, soon.

AREA WORKSHOPS - CONFERENCES - SEMINARS

The **SECOND ANNUAL TEXAS HERITAGE CONFERENCE** is to be held September 15-16, 1978, at the Marriott Hotel in Austin. The Conference will bring state and national preservation leaders together to discuss the preservation and interpretation of the state's historical resources.

The **TEXAS STATE ARCHIVES** will hold a one-day **WORKSHOP** September 14, in Austin to examine the basic aspects of archival work. The **WORKSHOP** requires no registration fee and will take place in the old **SUPREME COURT (Rm 309)** in the Capitol Building from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Seating is limited. (Preregistration advised).

RESEARCH SEMINARS or **WORKSHOPS** are planned for October 11-12, and November 15-16, in Austin at the Gethsemane Church. The workshops are sponsored by the Texas Historical Foundation and the Texas Historical Commission and will be conducted by the Director of Research of the Commission, Mrs. Deolece Parneles.

STUDENT ORIGINAL RESEARCH ENTRIES

The response to the High School Student Original Research contest sponsored by the Williamson County Historical Commission was very good. It is always a delight to have young people interested in history. A total of fifty six papers and two tapes were submitted and represented the involvement of sixty three students or more. Much credit goes to Mrs. Marietta Hugford of Georgetown High School and Jeff Townsend of Round Rock High School for giving guidance and leadership in this scholarly project.

Three Williamson County High School teachers, not residents of either Round Rock or Georgetown, have read all of the entries in this contest and independently and individually - - chose ten papers they considered best in meeting the requirements of the rules. Of the total lot - four were selected by all three judges, four others were selected by two and seven were named by only one. This narrowed the list down to fifteen or roughly one fourth of the stack.

These fifteen papers are now in the office of Dr. David DeBee in Austin for final review and judging. Dr. DeBee is Educational Director of The Texas State Historical Association and all of the historians in the Association Office are extremely busy, so it may take a while for them to get to these papers. The knowledge that they will be judged in fairness by an expert in the field should make the wait worthwhile.

ANNUAL HISTORY AWARENESS CONFERENCE

Sponsored by the **TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION** this conference was held August 10-11 in Austin. Set up primarily for Sponsors of Junior Historian Clubs it was attended by many other interested friends of history. Many helpful

WILLIAMSON COUNTY NEWSLETTER
VOL. 7, No.4 - August 28,1978

and workable ideas were presented. Jeff Townsend, Commission member and Junior Historian Sponsor at Round Rock High School attended all of these meetings.

Research is such a vital part of history that it is not surprising to have the subject come up at any and all meetings. Dr. DeBoe was the director of this conference and these are his words on it. He said, "Primary research is something that has not been written down before".

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION RESEARCH SEMINAR

Mrs. Deolece Parmelee taught a Research Seminar August 16-17 at the Gethsemane Church in Austin. Her helpful directions were reinforced by conducted tours to some of the most important research sources in the various libraries, archives and offices in the Capitol City.

The text used was Researching, Writing and Publishing Local History by Thomas E. Felts. The author makes some statements worth remembering. He says in his foreword that "The backbone of the study of history is still the printed word", and that "Research is the process of trying to make sure that you know what you are saying is correct". He lists this criteria for judging research sources:

- (1) Closeness - to event in time and space
- (2) Competence - the source most capable of understanding and describing a situation
- (3) Impartiality - source with least to gain from distortion of the record.

OLDEST MOTORIZED FIRE TRUCK IN TEXAS

Mrs. Floyd Mays of Big Spring, Texas is trying to find out where the oldest motorized Fire Fighting equipment is. She thinks they may have it in her town. So far - the two oldest, that have been located in Williamson County, are in the City of Taylor. According to A.M. Ahlgreen, their dates are 1916 and 1920. A later newsletter will list all in this county and their dates.

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY BRANDING IRON PROJECT

This Commission has been asked to nominate two abandoned cattle brands to be burned into the oak wall of the branded stairway of the Robert J. Kleberg, Jr. Animal & Food Sciences Center at TEXAS A & M University. These brands will be added to the 140 brands already burned into the oak paneling. The name of each county in Texas is carved into oak panels. The panels for branding are beneath the county's name. This must be a great historical honor.

NEXT MEETING ----SEPTEMBER 7, 1978
2 P.M. GEORGETOWN LIBRARY

ANITA MATTHEWS
604 127
LIBERTY HILL, TEX.
73552

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Texas Historical Foundation notes assistance roles of SUN, Sunday Sun

Recently, A special Historical Preservation Award for News Media was accepted by Mrs. Don Scarbrough for the Williamson County Sun and the Sunday Sun. Each year this award is offered by the Texas Historical Foundation and Commission to honor and recognize newspapers and/or radio and/or TV Stations that have actively supported the cause of Historical Preservation and marking and/or have been cooperative beyond what is ordinarily expected in supporting Historical Preservation Programs.

THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY Historical Commission officers and members feel that they have had the full support of The Williamson County Sun and The Sunday Sun

throughout the year, 1977 and nominated the two papers for the special award.

In making the nomination all eight required points of judging were noted. The consistent coverage of this newspaper through editorial comment, news pictures and reproductions of old (and historic) pictures, and through feature stories as well as news stories, has been a most effective tool in creating community awareness of the local heritage, and has assisted materially in the success of the Williamson County Historical Commission's program.

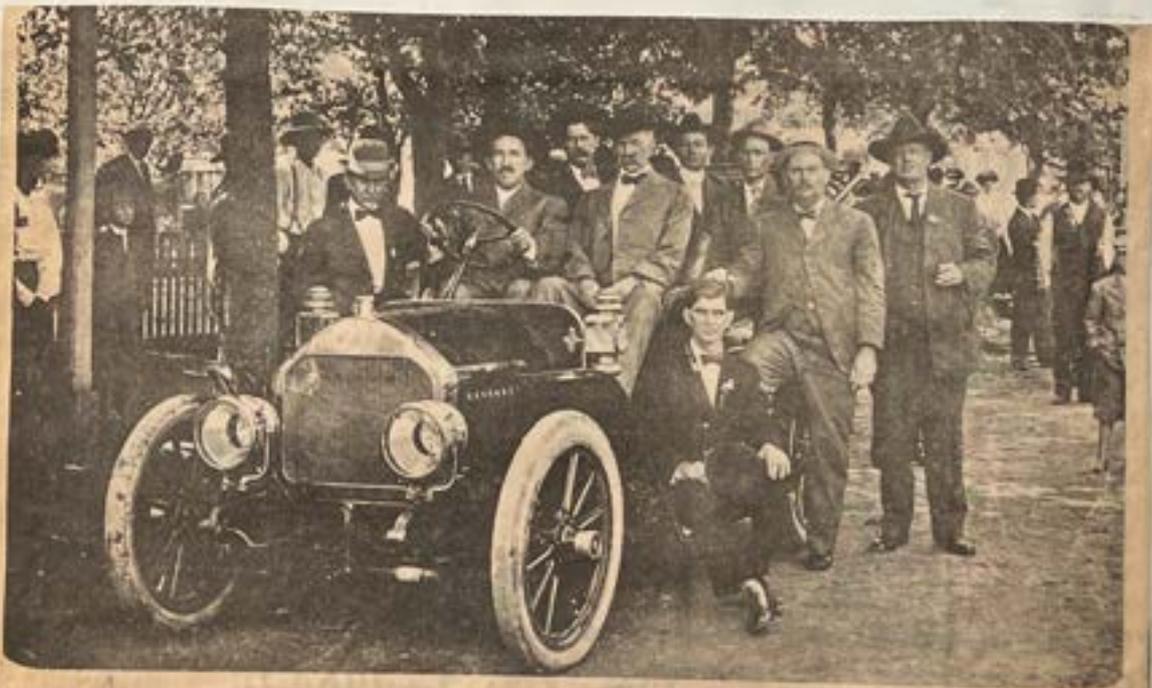
Don Scarbrough and his wife Clara, owners and editors of the Sun, are dedicated to preserving the integrity of the

news and document all historical facts through research Myreta Matthews, Chairman of Williamson County Historical Commission, said in making the presentation.

THE INSCRIPTION on the framed certificate states: The Texas Historical Commission presents this Historical Preservation Award to The Williamson County Sun and The Sunday Sun with sincere appreciation for the support and coverage given above and beyond the normal call of community responsibility to the Historical Preservation Program of local and state history. It is signed by Cecil Burney, Chairman of Texas Historical Commission, Mrs. Will Wilson, President of Texas Historical Foundation and Myreta Matthews.

The Sunday SUN
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Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, August 13, 1978



ANOTHER FINE OLD PHOTOGRAPH — probably taken around 1905, shows prominent Georgetown leaders aboard a new Royal touring car. The people, left to right, are Dr. Schultz, W. R. Starnes, Mayor R. E. Ward, Chris Hamilton, D. W. Griffith, Dave Wixom, Lee M. Taylor, and legendary Chief of Police C. J. Brady. Sitting on the running board — Sam Hodges.

Influence Of Conoleys Still Lives On

Down Memory Lane

Malcolm Boyd and Ellie McMillan Conoley are the main characters in this story, but the tale begins long before they come on the scene. Just as they have influenced and will continue to influence the lives of others, so their characters were molded by those who came before them.

Almost 200 years ago, the first of the Conoley clan set sail for America. Daniel Conoley and his wife, Nancy Anna Campbell Conoley, set foot on North Carolina soil early enough to be included in the 1800 census.

Dates of their birth are unknown, but records show that they were married in Scotland in 1792. Both are buried in Lumber Bridge, North Carolina.

Daniel and Nancy came from the islands of Inlay and Jara which are situated west

of Dumfriesshire and Glasgow on the mainland of Scotland.

The usual time for the journey from Liverpool to New York in those days was five or six weeks, or longer—depending on a wind and weather, or even a localized sea, when the sails hung useless on the masts.

From North Carolina during the next 175 years, descendants of Daniel and Nancy migrated and settled from the east to the west coast of this continent.

Malcolm Campbell Conoley, son of Daniel and Nancy, was born at Lumber Bridge, North Carolina, in 1807. The Patriarch-to-be of the Conoley family in Texas was a missionary, pastor, and teacher educated at Union Theological Seminary.

In 1827 he married Nancy Ann Thomson. He was ordained a Presbyterian

minister in 1848 and was pastor for both Union and Grove churches, a few miles from Turkey, North Carolina. Grove church is the oldest Presbyterian church in the United States.

In 1851 he came to Texas bringing his wife, eight children, and five slaves, aboard a sailing vessel from Wilmington, N.C., and landing at Galveston.

He first settled in Brazoria County as pastor and teacher at West Columbia. In 1860 he moved in Milam County, settling five miles south of Thorndale. Bringing lumber from a sawmill in Brenham, hauled by oxen-drawn wagons, he built a church which was also used as a school. He taught school five days a week and held services on Sundays. Four generations of Conoley

descendants were destined to teach in the Conoley School: the Rev. Mr. Conoley, then his son, Alexander H., his granddaughter, Katie Lockridge Conoley, and his great-granddaughter, Clyde Conoley.

Rona Stiles Alexander, Katie Lockridge Conoley's daughter, has a beautiful solid walnut desk made from the original floor of the church. Her husband heard that the planks, rough and hand-sawn, were stored up on the rafters in Mrs. Knox Conoley's brother's smokehouse. So Henny hauled them to Taylor and after many months made and refinished the desk. It is willed to one of the Conoley descendants.

The Rev. Malcolm Campbell Conoley died in Rockdale in 1878. He is buried at the Conoley cemetery near the church and school which he founded and built.

Nancy Ann's ancestors came from Sterling County, Scotland. Her paternal grandfather served in the North Carolina Militia during the Revolution. Her father and his wife accompanied the Conoleys when they came to Texas. They are buried in the old Miller cemetery east of Sally.

Nancy Ann bore 11 children

on the frontier of North Carolina and Texas. She reared and helped to rear 18 orphan children. Nancy Ann is buried with her husband in the Conoley cemetery.

Alexander Hamilton Conoley, the seventh child and eldest son of Malcolm and Nancy, was born in Clinton, North Carolina, in 1847. He came to Texas with his family in 1851. At 17 he volunteered for the Confederate Army and participated in one battle. Returning home, he taught school in the Conoley Community school. In 1867 he married Virginia Designa Lydia Lavine Sullivan Thomson. She was 17. At an early age Jennie, as she was called, had been adopted by the Rev. William King Thomson, Alexander's uncle.

To this couple 11 children were born, seven of whom lived to maturity. Malcolm Boyd, the fifth child, born in 1874 was the first to survive childhood.

Alexander H. had a pack of hunting hounds for fox hunting and knew the "bagle" of each. One of his great loves was children, especially grandchildren. He would sit by the hour with them at his knees and tell them stories of his early life: the Civil War; the sad, cruel days of Reconstruction; all the stories children wanted to hear. His home was the center for all family reunions, or in time of trouble and crises. Jennie died in 1924 and he died in 1931.

Family legend says that Alexander promised God that if Malcolm Boyd survived his childhood, he would become a preacher. Although he never became a formal minister of any faith, he was dedicated to the Presbyterian denomination. His wife, Ellie, was equally dedicated, and together they spent their lives giving help when needed to the unfortunate: an elderly neighbor, a poor family, or an orphan.

M.B. and Ellie, who was born in 1878, both attended school in the Conoley community. They were married

Jan. 18, 1897, and farmed there for two years. In 1900 they moved to Taylor where M.B. got a job on the railroad. He worked five days, when he was told he'd have to work on Sundays, he quit.

His next job was the Diamond Roller Flour Mill. This business occupied the tallest building in town, which still would be true—it was four stories high. The mill produced 225 barrels of flour a day.

In the 1920's, Conoley and Howard Bland, Jr. farmed a partnership. They dealt in grain, cotton seed, wool, pecans, hogs, coal, and wood. This business lasted over 40 years. After Bland died, Conoley retired.

Actually, he didn't retire, he only changed priorities. Now his daily life was fuller than ever. All through the years he had been active in his church and various civic affairs. He had taught a class of boys at Sunday School, and then the popular 1st Men's Bible Class. This was an interdenominational group which met in the Presbyterian "Home By the Side of the Road." He was an elder in his church, was a member of the Rotary Club, and served on the Taylor school board among other activities.

During World War II, Conoley, Sam Easley, and Harris Melaky were the only men in Texas who served during the entire war on the Draft board. They all received a citation from General Lewis Harshey, head of the Selective Service for the U.S.A. These three met every bus and train on which any of their children were leaving, and gave each one a carton of cigarettes.

In her youth, Mrs. Conoley, Ellie, was a seamstress. In these days many housewives chose this remunerative work which could be carried on in their homes. Remember, this was before the Day of Women's Liberation and not many



FLOUR MILL — The Diamond Roller Mill, located in southeast Taylor, produced 225 barrels of flour in this four-story building each day. It was one of the first job locations for M. B. Conoley when he moved to Taylor in the early 1900's.

by Helga Patterson

women worked outside their homes. The alternative was working as a cook or maid in the homes of others.

Mrs. Conoley's father, Newton McMillan, fought in the Civil War, wearing the grey of the Confederacy. So it naturally followed that Mrs. Conoley was active in the United Daughters of the Confederacy all the days of her life. She served as president of the U.D.C., taught Sunday school classes, had charge of the Cradle Roll for many years, was active in the woman's work of the Presbyterian Church, and a member of the Taylor Federation of Church Women. To the end of her days she sent sympathy or get well cards from her church to the sick or grieved. She organized the first night circle for the working women of her church.

Seven children, six of them adopted, were provided a Christian home, reared and educated by this couple. Their children are: William Flaker of California; Karine (Mrs. Homer) Gilstrap of Taylor; Ruth (Mrs. D.A.) Wernli of Temple; Malcolm, who died in 1958; the twins, Graham Gillis of Taylor and Merton Gilbert of San Marcos; and David Ross of Midland.

There are eight grandchildren, six great-grand-



Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Conoley, about 1950

children, and one great-grandchild. Mrs. Conoley died in 1960, and Mr. Conoley in 1962. They are both buried in the Taylor cemetery.



Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Conoley Circa 1890

Bagdad to come to life near Leander

By CHRIS PETRISON
American Statesman Staff

Life will return to the abandoned town of Bagdad yet — thanks to an active group of Leander golden agers.

Members of the year-old Bagdad Activity Center Inc., a group of old-timers from Cedar Park and Leander, are seeking to restore the one remaining 1850 village store building in the ghost town and convert it into their senior citizens center.

THE STORE AND some grounds surrounding it were deeded to the center by Mrs. Temple Heitzel. A house of the same era, which sits next door to the store, was donated by Heitzel to the Austin Heritage Society.

Between 1854 and 1880 Bagdad was a thriving community complete with stores, banks, houses and a growing population. Because some of Bagdad's leading merchants refused to let the railroad come through their town in the 1880's, all activity moved less than a mile away to newly surveyed Leander. As a result, Bagdad became a ghost town.

THROUGH THE HELP of some \$4,000 given to the center last year from the Committee on Aging, another \$7,000 given them this year from the same federal agency and matching funds raised by local citizens, the Leander golden agers have begun renovation of the old store building.

Starting with a building that has gone unused since 1880, the Bagdad Activity Center members are adding a kitchen, bathroom and store room besides cleaning up and restoring the original facility. Their main goal is to maintain the 1850 appearance and outwardly change the building as little as possible. To do this, however, will take a lot of work, says W. D. Stockton, one of the center's founders.

"You have to remember that in 1880 when the building was last used there was no such thing as electrical wiring or indoor plumbing. We have to install all that," Stockton stated.

THIS, PLUS installation of insulation, must be completed before the group moves into their new home, hopefully by Christmas.

The senior citizens contracted out the first \$4,000 worth of work, but discovered that it was difficult to supervise the activity because of their ages.

They turned to the Springmill Sertoma Club for help and found the answer to their problem.

"The Sertoma Club has become our hands," Stockton stated.

According to Sertoma Club member Norman Hill, it will be up to his organization to supervise work done by contractors and even do some of the work themselves.

Once renovation is completed, Bagdad Activity Center will use the building as their headquarters and hold many of their meetings and arts and crafts activities in the 120-year-old facility. Eventually they plan on moving a congregate meals program now offered at the United Methodist Church in Leander to their new home.

FIVE DAYS A WEEK 20 to 25 senior citizens ranging in ages between their late 50's and mid 90's gather at the United Methodist Church for their noon meal. Besides making sure that these old-timers have at least one meal a day, the luncheon provides fellowship for all involved.

"The social life offered here is as important as the meal itself," said Carlene Nauman, chairman of the center's advisory committee.

Maimie Morgan, one of the program's regulars, says it's the fellowship that is the attraction for her.

"Everyone here can get better food at home," she said.

Every day musicians Roy Gallier on the fiddle and Bessie Lee Goodson on the piano provide entertainment for the oldsters. It is not uncommon to see the golden agers get up and dance to the music.

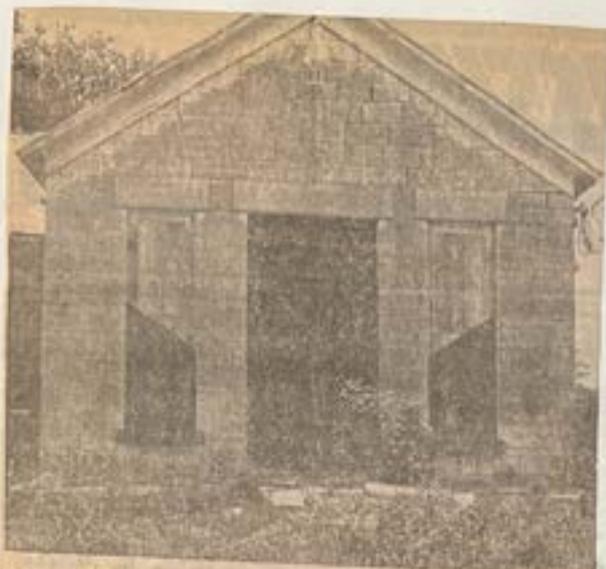
Coordinating the Leander meals program is Katie Stockton. Besides seeing that that meals are brought to the center at noon time, she also takes one or two meals a day to senior citizens who are bedridden and cannot come to the church.

THE MEALS ARE prepared at a neighborhood center in Georgetown and transferred by car to Leander.

Prior to the formation of the center last year, a steering group compiled some 300 names of senior citizens living in Leander, Liberty Hill, Jollyville and Cedar Park. Although all obviously cannot participate in the congregate meals program, they are invited to the arts and crafts offered every Wednesday afternoon after meal time.



Mr. and Mrs. Bonnie Morgan dancing



120-year-old store to be renovated as Bagdad activity center

Staff Photo by Dick Feltner

Committee Will Visit Tejas Church

Members of the Williamson County Historical Society Committee are planning to accept an invitation to participate in Mission Tejas Day at St. Francis Tejas Church on October 1.

The invitation to participate in the celebration of the establishment of the earliest Texas mission was read to the meeting of the county group last week by Miss Myreta Matthews, president.

Community Education teacher Mrs. McAden told the group of her work in adult continuing education and Miss Matthews named Karen Thompson and A. M. Ahlgren to a committee to study revision of the committee's constitution and by-laws.

The Taylor Daily Press, Wednesday, September 13, 1978

Thursday, September 7, 1978 ★★ Austin American-Statesman/Neighbor



Staff Photo by Charles Bunker

Restoration

Karen Thompson, president of the Jolyville-Pond Springs Historical Association, is shown at the site of the old Joly family cemetery located off Spicewood Springs Road just a few hundred yards from Research Blvd. The association is restoring the picturesque graveyard, and is seeking contributions of time and money from area residents interested in historical preservation. The association has set up a fund at the Farmer's State Bank in Round Rock, or donations may be sent to 7203 S. Uta Trail, Round Rock, 78664. For further information, call 258-5658.

History in downtown R.R.

By CHRIS PETRISON
American Statesman Staff

One-hundred years ago Swedish-born Andrew J. Palm built his homestead for his wife and growing family on lush farmland in Williamson County. Today that same house sits in downtown Round Rock and has become a reminder of a bygone era.

The two-room Texas-style house was moved two years ago from its original location one half mile past Palm Valley Lutheran Church on U.S. 79 to its present site next door to the Round Rock City Hall. After extensive renovation, the building was transformed into a combined Round Rock Chamber of Commerce office and museum.

It wasn't an easy job, though, renovating the old structure. The roof was in desperate need of repair and the porch had to be rebuilt. Stones from the fireplace were marked, moved and replaced in their original positions by workmen. Also, insulation was installed while general repairs were made inside the house.

"We were able to find old wood that matched the rotten wood in the house that needed to be replaced. We tried to maintain the style of the house in the renovation," said Jack Hoover, president of the Round Rock Museum Association.

Now, after nearly three years of planning and restoration, the old house has been granted a historical marker by the Texas Historical Association. The marker has not yet been delivered, but chamber of commerce members and museum as-

sociation officials are already planning a dedication ceremony for later this fall.

The renovation of the house was completed in July, 1977 during the annual Round Rock Frontier Days celebration. It was not until about a year later, however, that the museum in the house was completed.

According to Hoover, the museum depicts a Swedish home in Central Texas featuring an authentic kitchen and parlor. There is a rocker, spinning wheel, small kitchen lamp, table, blue crockery, dough table and more in the kitchen while the parlor area is filled with a 190-year-old piano, chaise, love seat chairs, tea service and Bible. Most items are antiques and have been donated by residents of Round Rock.

Museum association members are still looking for a few final items, such as an antique gun or wax fruit, to complete the museum.

Besides a museum in the two main rooms of the house and the large hallway (dog trot) that separate them, the house also has a back room added in the renovation. This is where the Round Rock Chamber of Commerce is headquartered.

Andrew J. Palm came to Texas with his mother and five brothers in 1863. Around the year 1871 he built his home near Round Rock. It was there that he and his wife raised their eight children.

One of his children, Marguerite Palm Stockman, is still alive. She resides at the Trinity Lutheran Home in Round Rock.



Sharon Richardson lights kitchen lamp

Museum seminar set Sept. 22-23

A museum seminar sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, Texas Historical Foundation, and Southwestern University will be held Sept. 22-23 at the Cullen Administration Building on the SU campus in Georgetown.

This seminar will address the problems inherent in developing museum programs that appeal to a broad spectrum of a museum's community. The seminar is designed to assist staff and volunteers in identifying and setting up programs and services that will increase community interest in, and support for, a museum.

Reservations should be made and fees paid no later than Sept. 18. The registration fee is \$5, which includes two noon lunches, three coffees, and a certificate of completion.

The program Sept. 22 will

include registration and coffee from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m., a welcome by Dr. Duane Wood Fleming of SU from 9 to 9:30, Sherry Wagner's presentation of "Museums are for people" from 9:30 to 11:30, lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., Louis Gorr's presentation of "Involving the community through volunteers" from 12:30 to 1, coffee from 1 to 2:15, and David Ross with "Utilizing the community in developing exhibits" from 2:15 to 3:15.

The Sept. 23 program will include coffee from 8:30 to 9 a.m., Jimmy Proquet with "One step at a time" developing community involvement through the schools from 9:30 to 11:30, lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 p.m., Jack Leo with "Security for the visitor" from 12:30 to 2:30, coffee from 2:30 to 3:45, and questions and answers with a panel of faculty from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 9 Thursday, September 14, 1978



Palm House finally gets historical marker after rebuilding



VISITING FOREIGN STUDENTS — This large group of International students are in Taylor today as guests of the Taylor Rotary Club — the students represent countries from throughout the world. The students are attending

colleges and universities over the U.S. The visitors were scheduled to tour the Daily Press plant this afternoon and attend Friday night's performance of the Taylor Rodeo.

National Barbecue Cookoff

The Taylor Daily Press, Friday, August 14, 1958.

About Town

Come and go farewell party for Rev. Vern Whittington wife Mollie to be held Sunday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church Fellowship Building in Taylor. The Whittingtons are moving to Coleman, Texas. Erwin Tregeman mighty jury man with the rodeo. Ranken Kennedy doing his usual outstanding job with Taylor Rotary Club's International Student Program. Steer Suddling Event at Taylor Rodeo proving to be highly popular with the crowd again. Some contestants disappointed with their individual performances, however. Taylor City League Softball Tournament scheduled Sunday at Hidalgo Park and Eastside Park in Taylor. Washer Throwing and Horseshoe Pitching Tournament set, Saturday afternoon at Murphy Park during National Barbecue Cookoff. Interested persons should contact Leroy Stadek for additional information. Mary Detwiler reportedly showing progress in recuperation and now accepting visitors at Seton Medical Center.

Lions stolen from cemetery

Georgetown police report that two 80-year-old metal lion statues are missing from the Odd Fellows Cemetery behind Southwestern University.

The lions, about a foot

wide by two feet tall and dark brown in color, had stood guard for many years at the Makemson family plot, which is located in the middle of the main cemetery.

The Williamson County SUN - Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 14 Thursday, September 14, 1978

Antique lions were landmark

Two vacant pedestals remain where once two majestic sculptured metal lions stood guard at the entrance to the Makemson family plot in the Georgetown IOOF Cemetery.

Their theft recently has brought much consternation to many old family friends of the Makemson's. The antique lions had kept their vigil for as long as most of them can remember and were a cemetery landmark. Although there are no Makemson family members still living in Georgetown, many of our older residents knew members of the family and visit the graves from time to time. One of these, Reba McKeithan, told the SUN that generations of children had enjoyed sitting on the lions while their adult relatives cared for nearby graves. Children don't change much, so no doubt today's youngsters will also miss the lions.

THE MAKEMSON family were some of Williamson County's earliest pioneers. Samuel L. and Martha Knight Makemson came to the area in November of 1847 with their family. In March of 1848, Makemson was one of the petitioners for the formation of Williamson County. One of their sons, William K. Makemson, was a prominent lawyer in the county. He assisted in starting Southwestern University and joined in the protest against its threatened removal to Dallas in 1916. William Makemson made his home in Georgetown until his death in 1917 and is buried in the family plot.

Aside from the pain that theft of the lions has caused members of this community, the thieves should take note of the fact that the Georgetown cemetery is a historic cemetery and covered by special laws. Vernon's Texas Codes Annotated states that "A person commits an offense if he intentionally or knowingly desecrates a place of burial, and an offense under this section is a Class A misdemeanor." According to Georgetown Police Chief Travis Thomas, a Class A misdemeanor is "punishable by a fine not to exceed \$2,000 or confinement to jail for a term not to exceed one year, or both."

At least one senior Georgetown citizen told The SUN that she devoutly hopes the thief is caught and that he gets both.



EMPTY PEDESTALS — Where two statues of lions once stood, there are now only a couple of empty pedestals, such as the one on the right of the Makemson family plot in the Georgetown IOOF Cemetery. Vandals apparently stole the two lion statues, as well as some other items, from the cemetery in recent days.

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Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, September 17, 1978



CONTEST WINNERS — GISD Supt. Jack Frost, left, presents certificates to the three top winners from Georgetown High School in a recent Original Research Contest. They are, left to right, first place winner Lisa Tonn, third place winner Sonja Knauth, and fourth place winner Jan Fielder. Looking on at right are GHS Principal Jerry D. Cox and contest sponsor Mrs. Marietta Magford.

GHS students win in contest

The 1978 Williamson County Historical Commission recently held an original research contest among high school students at Georgetown and Round Rock, under the sponsorship of Mrs. Marietta Magford of GHS and Jeff Townsend of HRHS.

Dr. David DeBoe, educational director for the Texas State Historical Association, has announced the winners from among the 56 papers submitted. Included in Dr. DeBoe's comment was a notation asking that some of the papers be sent to the state contest since they were particularly important and well-done.

A Williamson County Historical Commission panel of three judges selected 25 of the papers to be so honored.

Three of the top four winners in the contest are from Georgetown High School and nine of the 11 honorable mentions from Georgetown High School, as well as three others who received commendations.

The winning students and their respective research article titles included: (first place) Lisa Tonn of Georgetown, "Beginning of Georgetown Railroad"; (second place) Gregg Barr and Lockett Lowry of Round Rock, "The Ku Klux Klan: Moral Upholder or Violent Radical?"; (third place) Sonja Knauth of Georgetown, "Where is Weir?"; and (fourth place) Jan Fielder of Georgetown,

"Interview with John N. and Mary Emma Edyson."

Receiving honorable mention from Georgetown were Lisa Chagman, "And I remember when — Elmo Sherman interview"; Cheryl Harrison, "A young young lady"; Susan Hildebrand, "Georgetown history — Winnie Boy's Morrow interview"; Ronny Knight, "The old home place"; Carolyn Kotrla, "The Isaac Williams slave quarters"; Tracy McKay, "Anderson-Berbert home"; Kevin Miller, "History of Walburg, Texas"; Scott Penn, "Into the past"; and Danette Schwartz, "Mrs. Orla Ulrich — taped interview."

Honorable mentions from Round Rock were Sharon Burkland, "The Evangelical Lutheran College of Round Rock, Texas"; and John Garcia, "Origins of El Amistad Club: a study in Mexican American awareness II."

Commendations went to three Georgetown students who turned in cemetery listings which had been missing from the County Commission records. They were Donna Hamilton (Patrick Cemetery) and David Kidwell and Scott Hall (Zion Lutheran Cemetery).

Myrta Matthews, chairwoman of the Williamson County Historical Commission, offered her congratulatory notes to the winning students on behalf of the commission, and offered commendation support and encouragement for next year.

Jolly Cemetery fund established

The Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association has established a cemetery fund at the Farmers State Bank in Round Rock for the old Jolly Cemetery at Jollyville. This one-acre cemetery is located in the far southwest corner of Williamson County, right on the Travis County line.

In 1866, John Grey Jolly moved his family from Fiskville in Travis County to this part of Williamson County and established Jollyville. He built his log

home, a store, and a blacksmith shop. John Grey Jolly donated land for the cemetery and a school. Mrs. Evie Glem of Austin, Jolly's granddaughter, remembers attending this school around 1890. John G. Jolly, 1825-1899, and his wife, Nancy I. Jolly, 1825-1921, are buried in this old cemetery. Other family names include Strode, Venable, Johns, Robinson, Thorp, and Hudson.

Many grave identifications and locations are lost to history. The first significantly marked grave is Margaret E. Robinson, 1865-1872. The last person to be buried in the Jolly cemetery was Charles Strode, 1-3-1845-1-12-1929. The Williamson County Historical Commission cemetery inventory book lists 18 persons for the Jolly cemetery.

The Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association is taking donations to repair and restore the stones and iron fences. This group is also working on the family



CEMETERY WORK — David Thompson of the Jollyville-Pond Springs Historical Association works on one of the gravestones in the old Jolly Cemetery near Jollyville. The association is working on restoring the cemetery.

histories of the people and families in the cemetery. The Strode family was one of the early pioneer families in the area and the grave of T. V. Strode, 1863-1889, is believed to be that of

Thomas Strode, the postmaster of Pond Springs in 1857.

The Association asks that contributions be mailed to Karen Thompson at 7203 S. Ole Trail, Round Rock 78664.

Outstanding Taylorites Listed

1920 Texas Blue Book

If you would like to know "Who was who" in Taylor in 1920, find a copy of the 1920 Texas STANDARD BLUE BOOK.

A. J. Poeler, father of the late George H. Poeler who was owner and publisher of the Taylor Daily Press prior to his death, was the founder and president of the Standard Blue Book Publications.

The 1920 volume lists prominent business and social personages in Texas, with emphasis on San Antonio, Waco, Austin, Dallas, and Houston.

Among the pictures of outstanding Texans are 19 Taylorites. In addition there are listings and brief notes about 40 other residents of the town. Also listed are 35 from the county who "made the supreme sacrifice" in World War I.

Famously many of these people are still in the area, many have left names that are revered in one way or another, and some have been almost forgotten by the present generation.

Among the list are only

three women - Mrs. H. B. Floeckinger, Phoebe Garver, and Mrs. J. L. Price.

Mrs. Floeckinger, who many years after the 1920 Blue Book was published was named Outstanding Citizen of Taylor, was honored both for her work in the health field in Taylor and for her outstanding Red Cross work during the war years.

The wife of a prominent physician and surgeon at Taylor, Dr. Frank C. Floeckinger, Mrs. Floeckinger was superintendent of the hospital the two founded. It was a two story building on the corner of Sixth and Kinley, location of the Johns Clinic before the move last year to the Mallard Lane facility. The second floor portion was destroyed in a fire in the '60s.

Deeply interested in all phases of the health field, Mrs. Floeckinger continued operation of the "sanitarium" for a short while after the death of her husband, but gave herself without stint to the needs of the community.

The Phoebe Garver Junior Music Club was named in honor of the teacher who guided many young budding musicians in their early training. Miss Garver taught both piano and organ

lessons. Her studio was at 621 Vanne St. Born in Pennsylvania, Miss Garver had studied in New York, Boston, Pennsylvania, Berlin, and Paris.

The third woman mentioned in the book was also a musician. Mrs. James L. Price, according to the legend under her picture, was president of the Wednesday Music Club in Taylor, an organization of musicians and lovers of music that is still active in the community. She was also director of the Taylor Choral Club. She was an organist and teacher of organ. She served as organist of the First Presbyterian Church here and was state chairman of Program Exchange and Course of Study for the Texas Federation of Music Clubs.

The Retail Merchants Association wrote a page in the book looking the benefits of living in Taylor. Mentioned are the fertile farming acres surrounding the town and its favorable position as a trading center because of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad and the International and Great Northern Railroad, later Missouri Pacific Railroad.

There were 21 local miles of paving and water for the

city came from the largest deep well in the State - "Dowing 1,000,000 gallons of pure water within every date of the year." Four banks were listed as "strong, progressive and continuing to show increasing deposits each year."

Those contemplating a change of residence for social, business or health reasons should investigate the City of Taylor," the page concluded.

Health resources have always been a high priority item in Taylor. Of the 24 doctors pictured in the Blue Book, four were of Taylor physicians and surgeons.

One was Dr. Frank C. Floeckinger whose wife has already been mentioned. The doctor was born in Austria and got his training in that country. Of French-Hungarian ancestry, he was active in Red Cross work and built one of the early hospitals in the city.

Dr. E. W. Stromberg, a principal in the P. and S. Hospital, was also pictured as were Dr. Roy A. Olive and Dr. J. L. Collier. Dr. Stromberg of Swedish descent, was known for his nimble fingers as a surgeon, despite the bulkiness of his hands. It was after his death



OLD SANITARIUM - In the days of the 1920 Texas Blue Book, hospitals were often called sanitariums. This is the original building of the Floeckinger Sanitarium on the corner of Sixth and Kinley Streets. Later it became Johns Hospital, then was added on to after fire destroyed the top floor and became Johns Clinic prior to that firm's move to the Mallard Street location where it enjoys a new building. Both Dr. and Mrs. Floeckinger were outstanding in their fields of service.



SECOND ST. IN EARLY YEARS - This street scene, looking west across Main St. and beyond on Second St., may have been taken before 1920. It was printed for postcard use when postcards could be mailed for use only. Note the cupola atop the old red-brick Taylor National Bank building, the model T Fords, and the horse-drawn vehicles. Postcard, courtesy of Kitter Eagle Crawford.

that the hospital on Main Street and the one on Sixth were combined and the Sixth Street facility became a clinic only. Dr. Collier and Dr. Olive moved from Taylor.

Other doctors listed but not pictured included Dr. H. E. Hildes, another physician and surgeon; Dr. William Roddy, an osteopath whose family is still represented in the community; and Dr. H. A. Steadman, a dentist. One relation to the late Art Steadman.

Bankers were also prominent in the pictures and the listings in the book which can be compared to Who's Who publications of today.

But although four banks were mentioned in the write-up about the town, only three are included in the listing of persons.

Arthur E. Ake, Captain Crawford H. Booth and E. M. Bush are identified with the Taylor National Bank, Stephen G. Gersert and

Francis A. Welch with First National Bank; and Col. Oscar Edwin Roberts and E. L. Womack with First State Bank and Trust Co. The Taylor National and the First National later merged to become the present First-Taylor National, and the First State Bank and Trust went out of business in a few short years.

The tone of the entire volume is expressed in a Toast To Texas, written by Mrs. Beretta, president of the History Club of San Antonio. Said Mrs. Beretta: "To Texas, Ever - generous Mother of Man, whether under the fleur-de-lis of France, the gull and bloody hammer of Spain, the eagle and cactus of Mexico, the Lone Star of the Texas Republic, the Stars and Bars of the Confederacy, or the Stars and Stripes of the Union - glorious in your past history, may you be even prouder in the future - Texas, for Texas!"

History Of The Weather Bureau In Taylor

Down Memory Lane

by Helga Patterson

"Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

Now scientists are trying to do something about the weather. Some day they may be successful, but in the

meantime, everyone talks about it.

The ancient Babylonians, as long ago as 3000 B.C., wrote about the weather. It is mentioned many times in the Bible. It has been celebrated

in prose and poetry, in religious and secular music, in art, by many of the old masters and the modern. One rarely talks to friend or family that the weather isn't mentioned.

The United States Weather Bureau was officially established in Taylor Nov. 12, 1901. The office was situated on the third floor of the Taylor National Bank on Main and Broad Streets. (Second Street was Broad in those days.) The instruments were on top of the building as shown in the accompanying picture, dated Oct. 17, 1916.

On July 1, 1930, the facilities were moved to the new United States Post Office. From there they were moved on Aug. 1, 1933, to 308 West Eighth Street, the home of Herbert Patterson, who then became the first co-operative weather observer. In 1946 they were moved to 312 Husack Street and remained there until Aug. 1, 1972.

Now the weather instruments are under the care of the West End Fire Station on Victoria Street.

Through the courtesy of Dave Owens, Meteorologist in charge of the Austin office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce, we obtained the address of one of our early weather observers, J.P. McAuliffe. Now, at 84, he lives in Corpus Christi, where he retired after serving the Weather Bureau there for a number of years.

The most spectacular event in the annals of Taylor weather is, of course, the big rain in 1931. Says McAuliffe's letter: "The rains came — and did they! Twenty-one inches in 12 hours, one whole night. It was like Niagara Falls to look out and see the rain pouring off the roof, and inside, where all had fires for pot-bellied stoves, the deluge washed down water and soot — it was a mess. I waded to the office at 6:30 a.m., the time I went to work, in sometimes knee-deep water. But it was useless because the Western Union was out of business, and I didn't get my weather coded telegram off to Washington

"It was, at that time, the heaviest rain of record in the U.S.A.; it has since been surpassed. The San Gabriel, usually a wading stream, was 18 miles wide that morning. Trash was tangled in telegraph poles after the water subsided and a mule was caught in the fork of a tree 25 feet above the river; he had to be taken down by the electric light people. Taylor houses were washed away, some just a few feet, and no injuries or deaths, as there was no sudden rush in those areas; but, golly, what an expense to the owners!"

The official total for 24 hours Sept. 13-14, 1931, was 23.96 inches.

And again, McAuliffe: "We were great friends of the publishers of the two papers, The Taylor Daily Press and the Taylor Daily Democrat. They were all so nice to me when I would miss the forecasts and were not stingy in publishing our big wins (like the flood). But we didn't forecast that, just showers and thunderstorms, which came and how!"

McAuliffe also told how the weather flags were used and what they meant. One flag alone indicated the weather (fair or rain) without any temperature change; white for fair; blue — rain; half blue-half white — showers; white with black center — blizzard or cold wave. The black triangular pennant indicated a change of temperature; when it was displayed above a regular flag it meant warmer; if

below, it meant colder. The cold wave (white with black center) meant a fall in temperature of about 20 degrees within 24 hours.

Ray Lightner, who was messenger boy for Western Union in the 20s, says that the weather forecast always had to be the very first message delivered in the morning. He remembers racing to the bank and up the three flights of steps to the weather bureau office. With no radio, no television, the men waiting downtown would watch for the flags. If a white flag with a black center appeared on the pole, they promptly called home via either the "old phone" or the "new phone" and warned the

folks there of the pending blizzard. This was a signal to draw up water, drain car radiators, even take extra coats to the children at school.

The 1921 flood was not the only interesting phenomenon. For instance, the latest killing frost occurred April 5, 1929; earthquake tremors were felt at 5:45 the morning of Aug. 16, 1931; coldest weather on record was 5 degrees on Jan. 31, 1949; hottest day was 112 degrees on July 26, 1954; earliest killing frost was on Oct. 30, 1957. The Aurora Borealis appeared, probably more than once, but certainly and beautifully on April 27, 1956. Normal annual rainfall for Taylor is 20.47 inches.

The work of a co-operative weather observer is done without pay, but it is

rewarding work," Patterson said of his lengthy experience when he was promoted with a gold-40-year service pin.

Many things happened during these 40 years. People called when a cold wave was forecast, asking if they should shut off the water. Of course, the answer was always a cautious "yes." One matter wanted to know about the weather a week ahead as she was planning a garden party. On numerous occasions teachers brought their science classes out to see the instruments and hear how a co-operative observer kept his records.



TEMPERATURE GAUGE — Herbert Patterson, long time weather observer for Taylor, is shown standing beside one of the weather instruments stationed in his back yard on Husack St. Prior to Patterson's death, this temperature gauge and other equipment was moved to the West End Fire Station when Patterson retired after 40 years of service.

The Taylor Daily Press, Wednesday, September 27, 1976



EARLY WEATHER INSTRUMENTS — In this 1916 postcard photograph of Main Street from Third St. looking southeast, the weather instruments of that day are shown on top of the Taylor National Bank building (the red stone building on the corner of Second and Main Sts.)

Through the courtesy of the National Climatic Center in Asheville, N.C., we were able to obtain the names of the observers and terms served at Taylor from 1903 until 1973. They are:

D. F. McCalkum — 1903-1907;
 L. H. Daingerfield — 1907-1909;
 James M. Watson — 1909-1905;
 W. H. Alexander — 1905-1906;
 M. B. South — 1906-1912;
 H. Tolson — 1912-1917;
 Ellwood E. Unger — 1917-1918;
 Joseph P. McAuliffe — 1918-1922;
 W. D. Fulmer — 1922-1928;
 E. W. Terrence — 1928-1931;
 H. N. Patterson — 1931-1973.

One day, perhaps, someone will "do something" about the weather. Meanwhile, we will all just continue to talk about it. We may as well go along with James Whitcomb Riley, who wrote,

"I haven't no use to grumble and complain,
 It's jest as easy to rejoice:
 When God sorts out the weather and sends rain,
 Why, rain's my choice."



RAIN GAUGE — Accurate measurement of rainfall is made by catching the rain in a larger tube, directing it into a smaller tube with depth indications more easily read.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
 Section 1, Page 2 Thursday, October 5, 1978



MOVING TO ITS FINAL RESTING PLACE — The old Young home, a farmhouse from the abandoned dairy just north of Southwestern University, moves along Georgetown's University Avenue in sections. The house,

owned by the University, was sold to Don Semper, a construction foreman doing renovation work at the school. Semper had the old home moved to a vacant lot in the 1300 block of Main Street.



GEORGETOWN'S FIRST MUSEUM is being carefully prepared for its unveiling at Southwestern University October 20 at the formal opening of recently renovated Mood-Bridwell Hall. At the left, Mrs. Ed Steelman and Mrs. Judson Caster polish the old bell from Hutersville College which was chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1840 and is the

earliest roots for Southwestern. Bernice Faulk moves a chair used by Rev. Morgan, a pioneer Georgetown preacher and the father of former SU Dean Ruth Ferguson. Dr. Steelman and Dr. Caster get ready to place an early plan of the Southwestern campus in Georgetown.

Georgetown, Texas
 Sunday, October 8, 1978
 The Sunday SUN
 Page 12

Historical Commission holds monthly meeting in library

The Williamson County Historical Commission is a countywide arm of the government, having been appointed by the Commissioners' Court, which meets regularly at 2 p. m. on the first Thursday of each month at the Georgetown Public Library.

The purpose of this organization is to preserve, protect, and promote history within the county. At present, 15 communities or towns are represented in the membership. Three other towns were participants at one time and need to be enlisted again in the program. All meetings are open to visitors.

Present at the October 5 meeting were 29 members, representing Taylor-Josiah-Rice's Crossing, Round

Rock, Liberty Hill, Gabriel Mills-Andice, Florence, Cedar Park, and Jollyville.

The Historical Marker committee reported two markers have been officially approved but have not been received. Eventually, a site or subject marker for the "Old Double File Trail" will be erected on SH 29 about three miles east of Georgetown in the proximity of its crossing of the San Gabriel River. The building marker for the "Palm House Museum" at 208 East Main Avenue in Round Rock is also eagerly awaited. This historic barn was moved from the farm and has been beautifully restored and is functioning as a museum and an office for the Chamber of Commerce.

Historical material is be-

ing collected for marker applications for four homes, several cemeteries, and one town-site.

Commission members took advantage of at least three Historical Workshops or Conferences conducted in September. The most recent was at Southwestern University, sponsored by Mood-Heritage Museum, Texas Historical Commission, and Texas Historical Foundation.

A Research Workshop is scheduled by the Texas

Historical Commission for October 11-12 and again November 15-16. It will be conducted by Mrs. Deolise Parmelee at the historic Gethsemane Church.

Two Junior Historian Clubs have been organized in the county: Round Rock High School, sponsored by Jeff Townsend, and Georgetown High School, sponsored by Mrs. Marietta Magford. Both sponsors are active members of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
 Section 1, Page 11 Thursday, October 12, 1978

Mood-Birdwell Hall to open

It was first advertised as "a hall for young men, built of white stone, three stories high, 84 rooms and so constructed that every room has an outside opening, with electric lights, steam heat, sanitary plumbing, pure water and each floor supplied with four porcelain bath tubs."

A young man attending Southwestern University at Georgetown back in 1908 could rent a room in that new Mood Hall for \$15 to \$17 a month, and that included "a table supplied with a sufficient quantity of carefully selected, well cooked and neatly served food."

The formal opening of Mood Hall on Sept. 18, 1908, described in a newspaper article of the day, found students, faculty and townspeople joining enthusiastically in the celebration, with ladies from Georgetown bringing potted plants for a "flower shower" for the decoration of the "spacious entrances, magnificent court and galleries."

Seventy years later the same building will have another formal opening, this time with an expanded name of Mood-Birdwell Hall. The Birdwell Foundation of Wichita Falls gave a major portion of the \$1.15 million used to renovate the historic structure.

Formal opening ceremonies will be held during a reception in the atrium of the building which begins at 11 a.m. tomorrow.

The building was built at the state's oldest university to take care of a growing enrollment of men students.

Construction began after \$30,000 had been raised in "good" subscriptions and cash, with \$7,000 coming from the faculty and students themselves. Cornerstone for the building was laid in June, 1906, after a \$60,000 contract was awarded to the Belford Lumber Co. of Georgetown. Financial problems and lack of stonecutters stretched the construction time to two years.

The building was built during the administra-

tion of University President Robert Stewart Eyer, who later left Southwestern to organize and to serve as first president of Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

By vote of the faculty, the new dormitory was named in honor of Dr. Francis Ashbury Mood, the man most responsible for the creation of Southwestern University in Georgetown and the first regent (president) of the University.

Mood was the main force for combining the charters of Hutersville College, Wesleyan College, Soule University and McKenzie College into a central university in Georgetown (1872) when it was first called Texas University and later Southwestern University.

Mood Hall was used as a men's dormitory until 1966 with two exceptions when the women used it for housing, first when the women's dorm burned in 1925 and again during WWII when Navy V-12 students were assigned to campus and occupied the larger Kuykendall Hall for women.

When new men's dormitories opened in 1968, only the first floor of Mood Hall was then used for faculty offices. Two years ago the entire building was temporarily used to house faculty and some classes while the Cullen (Administration) Building was undergoing renovation.

Now Mood-Birdwell Hall includes Georgetown's first museum and a computer facility with the rest of the building again utilized for classrooms and faculty offices.

Two members of the architectural firm of Page Southerland Page of Austin which planned the renovation are the nephews of C.H. Page of Austin, the original architect on the building. Contractor for the renovation was J.C. Evans Construction Co., Inc. of Austin.

In addition to the gift from The Birdwell Foundation, a \$100,000 challenge grant was also given for the project by the J.E. and L.E. Maboe Foundation, Inc., of Tulsa, Okla.



Mood-Birdwell Hall At Southwestern University as it looks today after renovation.

A duet: our first museum

by LENDA SCARBROUGH

Georgetown's Heritage Society and Southwestern University proudly announce the birth of Georgetown's first permanent museum, conceived during Southwestern's 1973 centennial celebration and born Friday at Mood Hall.

The Mood-Heritage Museum's first exhibit, entitled "Beginnings," went on public view for the first time this weekend during Southwestern's Homecoming and the gala opening of the restored and renovated Mood Hall — one of Southwestern's most venerable buildings. Hundreds of Southwestern alumni and Georgetown citizens were expected to enjoy artifacts which told the story of the beginnings of Georgetown, Southwestern University and Mood Hall itself at the infant museum.

"Let our silverfish eat it up. . ."

"If you trace the history of the university and the history of Georgetown, you will see that they are linked," said Dr. Ted Custer, director of the museum. "Our professors were mayors of Georgetown. The big people here were big people in the town. That intertwining needs to be recognized. We're trading on the long-term relationship between the university and the town."

The museum show, which is the combined effort of the Heritage Society and the university, will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and is free to the public. Regular hours have not yet been established, but will probably fall on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons. As well, the museum will be open on demand by appointment for groups of students or interested citizens.

After putting on a temporary exhibit to celebrate Southwestern's 100th birthday in 1973, local citizens began thinking about

creating a permanent display. "I knew we should have a museum," said Custer. "We had a backlog of unclassified materials left over from 1973 and no place to put it."

So when Mood Hall was slated for revitalization, Custer and a number of cohorts — among them Ed Steelman, Claude Kennard, Bob Schwartz and Clara Scarbrough — maneuvered for space in the building. "We were an informal plotting committee," said Custer. "There were problems in getting the space, but with the cooperation of President Durwood Fleming, we got it. Then we were in a position to do something." Soon, the group had nailed down a \$400 planning grant from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the University Dames Club had sold \$1600 worth of "junk" for the planned museum's "raising money."

Six weeks ago, Fleming named a 14-person Board of Governors to the Mood-Heritage Museum — and this weekend's

show started taking shape. The Board includes Steelman, who was named curator; Raye McCoy, secretary; Lynn Burnette, president of Georgetown's Heritage Society; Marietta Magford, Georgetown High School history teacher; and Clara Scarbrough, local historian. Four of the 14 members are not linked to Southwestern University. In addition, some 50 volunteers have contributed their time and efforts to "Beginnings."

"We face a problem in continuing this thing," said Custer. "It's ok when you're putting a show together — you can get people all excited about working on it. But we have no money and no continuity. We're not really a museum yet. We're going to have to make the museum useful to the community, and keep up our momentum."

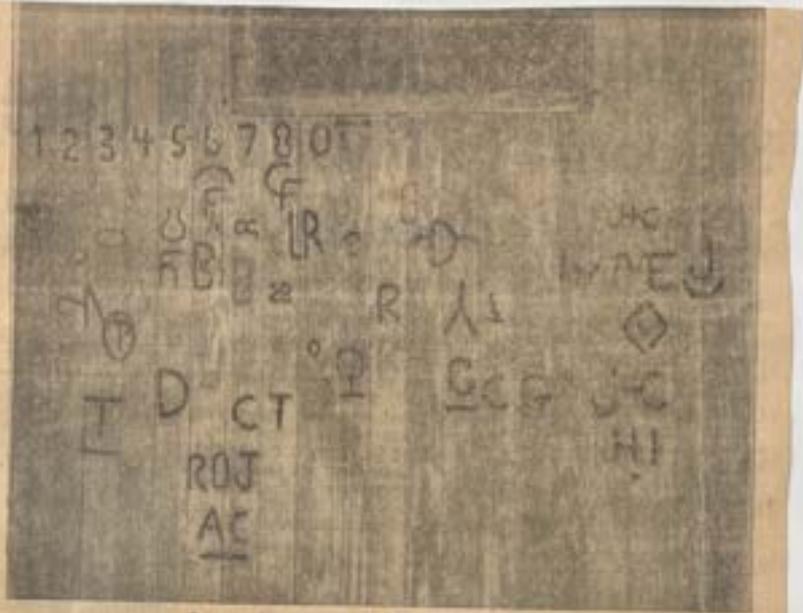
Why a new museum now? "The town is hungry for it," says Custer. "There's a kind of nostalgia right now, anyway. And people just walk in with historic stuff all the time."



IRONS AND RAKES. Clara Scarbrough, Lynn Burnette and Raye McCoy examine the accoutrements of 19th century civilization in Georgetown, in the new Mood-Heritage Museum which opened Friday.

This Sunday SUN
Page 16

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, October 22, 1978



Brands to be Preserved

These old-timer cattle brands (anyone who can identify one or more for The SUN is invited to do so) are burned into the doorways of an old building belonging to the Anderson Estate. The building, on 8th Street, is being dismantled — once

served the booming bicycle and carriage trade of Williamson County. The brands and doors, however, will be preserved by Professor Robert L. Lancaster of Southwestern's art department. He plans to incorporate them into his home.

The lion mystery: a tangled affair

By RAY JONES

Who told the Georgetown Police Department where to find the missing Makemson family cemetery lions, and how long did police know the big metal cats were decorating the front lawn of a residence in Austin before they were finally logged back home?

Questions like these brought puzzled and sometimes pained expressions to the faces of Georgetown's finest Thursday after Phyllis Brooks, of 112 Spanish Oak Circle in Kan Gabriel Heights, told the SUN she had reported seeing the lions on Childress Avenue in Austin almost a month before authorities made a move to recover them.

"I would drive by that address nearly every day before I moved to Georgetown late last month," said Brooks. "One day those silver lions appeared on the lawn of a house on Childress. They really caught my eye. I thought they might have been imported from England."

Brooks said she called police on "the 18th or 19th of September" after having read a description in the SUN of the apparently stolen statuary.

"Although I couldn't remember the house number, I gave them very precise directions, and they told me they would look into

it," she said.

At first Brooks' story seemed to stand in conflict with the statement of Georgetown Police Chief Travis Thomas that he had been given the Childress address by Genevieve Atkin, of 1306 Ash, who is said to have gotten it from a third party who wished to remain anonymous.

In describing the recovery, a front page article in the October 13 Williamson County SUN mentioned only "an informant," while on page 13 of the same issue, Taste Treats correspondent Oline Bekrens credited "Genevieve Atkin and her committee" with having found the lions. (Atkin had formed a committee to raise a reward for their return.)

"I was really shocked when I read that," said Brooks. "I don't even know Genevieve Atkin."

"I don't know Phyllis Brooks," Chief Thomas said when asked Thursday about her call. "The only calls I remember were one from Weir on a sitting that didn't check out and the one last Wednesday that led to the recovery."

However, when Thomas later questioned his staff about Brooks, Officer Walter Myers said he remembered speaking with her "about four weeks ago."

"She gave us perfect instructions," he said. "We could have followed them right to the spot."

"We would have gone down immediately, but we couldn't get a family member to go along and make an identification. Just because a man has a lion in front of his house doesn't mean you can go off and call him a thief."

Myers and Officer Don Wood acted only after a second informant had reached police through Atkin and she had put authorities in touch with Makemson heirs.

A question remains as to who is entitled to the \$50 reward the Atkin committee is said to have raised.

Brooks says she doesn't want it.

"I couldn't accept it," she says. "I have had some similar bad experiences with family memorials, and I'm just glad to see the lions go back where they belong."

Charges are still pending against Austin students Roy Smilek and Maurice Schiller who told police they bought the 400 pound felines from "a colored dude" in Georgetown. The two said they trucked the lions off to Smilek's residence in Austin where they were intended as a gift for Smilek's mother.

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, October 22, 1978

The Sunday SUN
Page 2

County farms honored

Three Williamson County properties will be among those honored in the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program this year. Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown has announced.

County farms in the program are the Garry Farm, established in 1856, and owned by Mahon Barker Garry Sr.; the Ilse Farm, established in 1878, and owned by Dahlart Ilse and Raymond Ilse, Georgetown; and the Mashburn Farm, established in 1853, and owned by Mrs. Clare Easley Mashburn, Georgetown.

The honorees have been invited to attend the Awards Ceremony, to be held Nov. 1, 1978, at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center, located on the campus of the Univer-

sity of Texas at Austin. Dr. L. Tuffy Ellis, director of the Texas State Historical Association, will deliver the welcome, and Commissioner Brown will make the Awards address.

Brown will also present the certificates affirming the fact that the properties have been maintained in agricultural production for at least 100 years by members of the same family.

Participants will have time to tour the nearby LBJ Library before the ceremonies begin at 1 p.m.

County judges and county Historical Commission chairmen have also been invited. "These persons have been very helpful to the Department in locating the families whose land

qualifies," Brown said. Over 1,200 Texas families have been honored since the program began in 1974.

In addition to the official certificate, each family will receive copies of the Family Land Heritage Registry, Vol. IV, which will contain background information on each of the some 134 farms and ranches honored for 1877-78. These will be published in January, 1979, and will also be distributed to high school and public libraries across the state.

The Williamson County SUN
Section 2, Page 12
Georgetown, Texas
Thursday, October 25, 1978

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME SEVEN, NUMBER FIVE

OCTOBER 31, 1978



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The Williamson County Historical Commission is a very active group and is involved in many phases of historical work. Frequently some new project appears and there is always some one ready to help work on it. Just one recent example is the event of the grand opening of the MOOD-HERITAGE MUSEUM on October 20. The initial exhibit entitled, "Beginnings" referring to the beginnings of Georgetown and Southwestern University, arranged in part by several members of the Commission was very attractive and historically appealing. This prized kind of cooperation is just what is needed to fill the little time space that is allotted to each of us on this planet.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

At the October Commission meeting the planned discussion of By-Laws resulted in the adoption of a rule or policy in regard to membership, attendance and quorum. With nineteen members present, from nine communities, the attendance was well over a majority of the appointed membership. That made the vote legal according to Vernon's Statutes. The substance of a motion which passed by unanimous vote is:

"The members sitting at any regular meeting of the Commission, or any regular legally called meeting thereof shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the Commission business and a majority vote shall prevail".

It was pointed out that each County Historical Commission, including Williamson County, is unique in its makeup of membership, projects and historical background and that attendance at meetings is not the only basis for judging the value of a member's contribution to the preservation of local history.

In regard to other rules and policies the consensus of the group was to work out original answers to problems in individual areas as they arise.

A NEW FIRST FOR WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Kathryn Ledbetter, a Round Rock native, is the best teacher in Texas this year. She teaches at the noted Oasis Elementary School in Austin, and was named teacher of the year on October 10th by the Texas Education Agency.

Kathryn is the daughter of Mrs. John W. Ledbetter, Sr. of Round Rock. Mrs. Ledbetter, a long time member of the Historical Commission has contribute many years of time and has compiled the histories of many landmarks that qualified for Mrs. Ledbetter's great grandparents, the Pooles came to western Williamson County in the early 1850s. Her grandmother, Mrs. Martha Chapman wrote the story of wagon trip to Texas for her grand children. The Leggetts lived at Jonah and Ledbetters were prominent in the history of early Round Rock. So Kathryn has interesting ancestors seems to be keeping up a tradition of accomplishments. Everyone has a great grandmother who had a dam named for her. The dam on the north San Gabriel River one mile south of Liberty Hill is named the "Mrs. Chapman Dam".

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G.M. Gainer

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Chevrolet

Please report any errors.

WANDA MATTHEWS
R24 127
LIBERTY HILL, TEX
78642

The
Historical
Commission
cooperating
-The First
Track in Texas
At the August
commission meeting
to supply Round
west Texas with data of
the track. Several
have to secure a historical
marker for its vehicle
The county historical
commission has received two

Historical
Certificate - in
recognition of its support of
historical preservation in
Texas

NOT FIRST - BUT AMONG THE FIRST

Mr. and Mrs. M.B. Garry and two other Williamson County families are among the 134 owners of Texas farms and ranches being honored in the Texas Department of Agriculture's Family Land Heritage Program for 1978. The others are Dalhart and Raymond Ilse of Georgetown and Mrs. Clare Easley Mashburn whose farm is near Circleville. This brings to twenty the families so recognized in this county. Mr. and Mrs. Garry are active and contributing members of the Williamson County Historical Commission. They live on their farm near historic Rice's Crossing.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ORIGINAL RESEARCH
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 1978 WINNERS

- First Place:
THE BEGINNING OF THE GEORGETOWN RAILROAD
By Lisa Tonn, Georgetown High School
- Second Place:
THE KU KLUX KLAN: MORAL UPHOLDERS OR VIOLENT RADICALS?
By Luckett Lowry and Gregg Barr, Round Rock High School
- Third Place:
WHERE IS WEIR? By Sonja Knauth, Georgetown High School
- Fourth Place:
INTERVIEW WITH JOHN N. AND MARY EMMA ELLYSON
By Jan Fielder, Georgetown High School

ANCIENT FIRE TRUCK SURVEY

A search for the oldest Motorized Fire Truck in Texas has produced this information from seven Fire Departments in Williamson County. Shown below are the make of the equipment and in some instances all of the fleet. The information giving the information is underlined.

- LaFrance Pumper, 500 gal. per min.
- LaFrance Hook and Ladder (Still in use)
- LaFrance Pumper - Sold Taylor group. A.M. Ahlgreen (Grades only)

Bartlett City Secret

- 50 gal. per min.
- Ladder Truck
- Pumper

Curtis Anderson

Cody Adolphson
(Now deceased)

Harold Asher

(Privately owned by Jerry David)

Benny Kubick

E.E. McFarland

Joe El Canady

Charles Johnson

Mike Gautier

Daniel Sumbra

Harvey Johnson

G.M. Gainer

Please report any errors.

MYRETA MATTHEWS
BOX 127
LIBERTY HILL, TEX
78642

Historical Group Aids Fire Truck Search

Williamson County Historical Commission is the search for Motorized Fire Truck

plagues from the Texas Dimmitt Building, which now houses Georgetown Savings and Loan Co. and the Williamson County Sun offices. Also eligible for the search are the National Register of Historical Places. Myreta Matthews says that four other buildings are eligible, but their owners have not applied for these plaques. Three of them on the Square in Georgetown are the old

Foundation has awarded Williamson County's unit a "Quota Buster Certificate" in recognition of its support of historical preservation in Texas.

August 24, 1978

Moody house now museum

By CHRIS PETRISON
American Statesman Staff

Former Texas Governor Daniel J. Moody's birthplace is a big rambling white house on West 5th St. in Taylor.

That same house can be seen today in its original gracefulness as a museum.

Built in 1827, the house was bought by Daniel Moody, the governor's father, as a home for his new bride Nannie E. Robertson.

It was in this house with its two bedrooms upstairs and one bedroom down that Daniel J. and his sister Mary were born and then roamed around as children. In fact, a gate at the top of the stairs was installed to keep them from falling down the steps.

The house today has the appearance of turn-of-the-century beauty, but it wasn't always that way, says Ruby Cornforth, president of the Moody Museum. Just three years ago the house was in a terrible state of disrepair having been unoccupied for almost six years.

Although a historical marker had been awarded the house in 1962, it was not until eight years later that the former governor's sister Mary agreed to donate the home to the City of Taylor.

That was when Cornforth, her husband and several others in the community began cleaning, seal-

ing and repairing the 88-year-old home.

"We found old photographs of family members thrown in the attic. It took us weeks just to clean them," Cornforth said.

She added that although many of these same pictures are on walls in the museum, no one knows who they are.

"The only person alive that could possibly identify them is Mary and she just can't remember anymore," the museum president stated.

The Cornforth's spent a total of nine months cleaning and repairing the house in preparation to make it a museum. Furniture that did not represent the era of the governor's birth were discarded or sold.

Many items, however, were kept and displayed in the museum. Among them are Nannie Moody's wedding dress, piano, mahogany love seat and matching barrel-back Queen Anne leg chair, hand-painted gold leaf framed rose pictures in the living room which were wedding gifts of the governor's parents, spinning wheel, china and glass items, dining room furniture, silver pieces and more.

The Taylor Garden Club has been working on landscaping and a garden to improve the once overgrown yard.

On display in the main bedroom downstairs is

Austin American-Statesman/Neighbor
Thursday, November 16, 1978



The living room area of the Moody Museum contains period furniture

the bed where the governor and his sister were born and on which their parents died. The quilt on the bed was made in 1810 by the governor's grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Robertson.

The governor's father came to Texas where he lived in various places while working as a claim agent for the International and Great Northern Railroad. He settled permanently in Taylor in 1836 where he was a justice of the peace and the city's first mayor.

His son Daniel J. was educated in Taylor Public Schools and attended the University of Texas. He was admitted to the bar in 1914 and began his law practice in his native city. He was the youngest county attorney of Williamson County (1920-21), youngest district attorney of Williamson and Travis Counties (1922-25), the youngest attorney general of Texas (1925-26) and the youngest governor of Texas.

He was elected to the governor's seat in 1926 and served from 1927 until 1931.

The Moody Museum is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 2-5 p.m. and by appointment for groups at other times. It is located at 114 West 9th St. in Taylor.

Double File Trail earns state plaque

An Official Texas Historical Marker for the Double File Trail will be erected in early December, it was announced today by Myrta Matthews of Liberty Hill, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Commission.

The marker will be placed at SH 29, 3.2 miles east of Georgetown. Dedication plans will be announced in the near future.

Made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect, the marker is sponsored by the Williamson County Historical Commission. The inscription on the marker reads:

THE DOUBLE FILE TRAIL— LAID OUT ABOUT 1828 BY DELAWARE INDIANS. THE DOUBLE FILE TRAIL GOT ITS NAME BECAUSE TWO HORSEMEN COULD RIDE

IT SIDE BY SIDE. THE DELAWARES CARVED THIS TRACE MIGRATING AHEAD OF EXPANDING WHITE SETTLEMENTS. THEY MOVED FROM WHAT THEY CALLED "THE REDLANDS" IN EAST TEXAS TO MEXICO NEAR PRESENT NUEVO LAREDO. OF THE 306 TO 256 FAMILIES REPORTED IN EAST TEXAS IN THE 1820s, ONLY ABOUT 150 REMAINED AFTER THE MOVE. EARLY SITES IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY WERE SETTLED WHERE THIS TRAIL CROSSED WATERWAYS. TEXAS RANGERS AND THE SANTA FE EXPEDITION ALSO TRAVELED THE TRACK."

(1978)**

The marking of local historic sites and landmarks is part of the Texas

Historical Commission's program of preservation activities. These include archeological investigations, history museum consultation, and administering the National Historic Preservation Act in Texas. As of 1978 the Historical Commission had erected more than 7,200 official markers.

The name and location of the present marker will appear in the next edition of the Guide to Official Texas Historical Markers in order to stimulate tourist travel in this area, to arouse interest in historical tours, and to acquaint the people of this locale with their unique heritage.

The Sunday SUN
Page 13

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, November 26, 1978



AWARD — Mrs. Clare E. Maaburn and Gordon C. Maaburn, Georgetown, accept a Texas Family Land Heritage Program certificate from Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown (right) for their Williamson County Maaburn Farm. The land is among 66 properties being honored this year by the Texas Department of Agriculture for a century and more of continuous production by one family.

The Sunday SUN
Page 7

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, November 19, 1978



THE LIONS RETURN — is Georgetown's Odd Fellows Cemetery after spending weeks in the Police Department. Georgetown citizens and police recovered the metal lions from the front porch of an Austin residence after the beasts

mysteriously disappeared this summer. Left to right are Justin Witt, Georgetown policeman Walt Myers, and city employees, Arnolfo Gerara, Ernest Mendes and Joe Torres.

The Sunday SUN
Page 3

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, November 26, 1978

The Taylor Daily Press

Published by the Taylor Daily Press Co.

Gerry Family is Honored

The Gerry family was honored at a special dinner held at the home of Mrs. Gerry last evening. The occasion was the anniversary of the birth of the late Mr. Gerry. The dinner was a most enjoyable one and was attended by many of the family and friends. The evening was spent in conversation and the singing of songs. The dinner was a most successful one and the family was honored in a most fitting manner.



this state.

The Texas Family Land Heritage Program honors a century or more of continuous ownership and operation of a family agricultural enterprise and the dedication and persistence of its founders and their heirs.

Today, Wednesday, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Garry were among the landowners in Texas to receive a certificate honoring their family and their land in ceremonies at the Joe C. Thompson Conference Center in Austin. Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown made the award.

"This Program is a symbol of the State's appreciation of the persistence and dedication of the generations represented in the ownership of your land," says Commissioner Brown. "With the many pressures on rural land owners now to release their land for development other than agricultural, it is especially heartening to read of so many in the Program who are devoted to a way of life that has made Texas the great state it is."

Mr. and Mrs. Garry today raise maize and cane, some cotton, have a few sheep, but have sold most of their Santa Gertrudis cattle. They have left standing many of the old out buildings which are part of the original ranch.

And the buildings may remain standing, along with everything else on the farm, if the Garry's children have their way. One son and his family now live in an old home which they moved onto the land. And the other son and daughter are eager to see the farm remain as it is.

The Barker land may see yet another century as a family-owned and operated agricultural enterprise.



STILL STANDING—The old barn and buggy shed, which are part of the original Barker ranch south of Taylor, still stand on the land presently owned and managed by Mr. and Mrs. Mabon Barker Garry, Garry in the fourth generation of Barkers living on the Texas ranch, which has been recognized by the Texas Family Land Heritage Program.



FAMILY LAND HONORED—Mabon Barker Garry, Sr., (center) and his son Mabon Barker Garry, Jr., Taylor, accept a Texas Family Land Heritage Program certificate from Agriculture Commissioner Reagan V. Brown (right) for their Williamson County Garry Farm. The land is among 66 properties being honored this year by the Texas Department of Agriculture for a century and more of continuous production by one family. In the background is Deputy Agriculture Commissioner B. T. Williams.



WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME SEVEN, NUMBER SIX

November 23, 1978



WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORY APPRECIATION

History Appreciation Day in Williamson County was set for December 11 at the November 2nd meeting of the Williamson County Historical Commission. However, history is evolving constantly and doesn't wait for a set day, and it behoves us to appreciate and take advantage of historical current events. One event of great historical significance is the dedication of the Granger Dam on the San Gabriel River on December 1, 1978.

Granger Dam Completion Means Recreation And Protection From Floods

The Taylor Daily Press

After decades of floods and the resultant destruction of property and disruption of farming operations the San Gabriel River is about to be tamed.

Climaxing nearly 20 years of organizational and planning work, the North Fork and Granger Dams are near completion. Dedication ceremonies for Granger Dam have been scheduled for Dec. 1 at 10 a.m. near the engineers office at the dam site.

Study of the flooding situation began in the early 1950's. Citizens organized action groups and Congress appropriated money for a

survey of flood control requirements.

It was eventually decided that both North Fork and Granger Dams should be built simultaneously for the best results.

Construction began in June of 1970 after Congress approved an initial \$4 million. Today the cost of the Granger Dam alone is over \$57 million.

Aside from some initial objection from area citizens the project has proceeded with little opposition.

U.S. Corp of Engineers, Chief Engineer at the dam is Ron Zunker.

The community of

Friendship was located in the bed of the lake and residents had to move out. Three cemeteries were also relocated.

This Sunday, Nov. 19, beginning at 9 a.m., the ex-students and ex-teachers of the Friendship School and ex-residents of the community will hold a reunion at the American Legion Hall in Granger.

In addition to its flood control usage, the Granger Dam will also be a recreational area. There will be four parks and four wildlife areas.

Dedication Committee Is Selected

Members of a Committee for Dedication of Granger Dam have been named by the committee's general chairman, Charles Schulz.

Dedication ceremonies, featuring retiring Congressman Bob Poage, are slated for 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1, near the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offices at the dam site.

The festivities will include bands, refreshments and persons attending will get a view of the new dam and site for the Granger Lake.

Co-chairman of the committee with Schulz is H. L. Farrell.

Other chairpersons named by Schulz include:

Program Committee: James Bartosh, chairman; Truett Beard, co-chairman.

Invitation Committee: Taylor Chamber of Commerce.

Arrangements Committee: Raymond Rister, chairman; Dan Mine, co-chairman.

Publicity Committee: George Ferguson, chairman; Fred Switzer, co-chairman.

Entertainment Committee: Bettie Frederick, chairman; David Teague, co-chairman.

Parking Committee: Sheriff Jim Boutwell, chairman; Stafford Bengtson, Taylor police chief, co-chairman.

Refreshments Committee: Jude Gustafson, chairman; George Heger, co-chairman.

Dedication of the Granger Dam on Friday, Dec. 1, is being viewed by the Granger school faculty as an historical event—students will be bused to the ceremonies at the dam site.

BUILDING TOMORROW TODAY  The Taylor Daily Press

Visitors Welcome



GRANGER LAKE

FLOOD CONTROL	EARTH FILL
WATER CONSERVATION	16,575 FEET
FISH AND WILDLIFE	115 FEET
RECREATION	162,200 ACRE FEET

TYPE OF DAM: EARTH FILL
 LENGTH OF DAM (INCLUDING SPILLWAY): 16,575 FEET
 MAXIMUM HEIGHT: 115 FEET
 LAKE CAPACITY: 162,200 ACRE FEET
 LAKE AREA:
 NORMAL POOL ELEVATION 504: 4,400 ACRES
 FLOOD CONTROL POOL ELEV. 520: 11,040 ACRES

UNDER CONSTRUCTION BY
 U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, FORT WORTH
 CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WITH RECOMMENDATION OF BRASSIE RIVER AUTHORITY

GRANGER DAM dedication ceremonies are set for 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1 at the dam site just east of Granger. Congressman Bob Poage, retiring after 42 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, will be honored during the dedication ceremonies, expected to be attended by upwards of 1,000 persons. Additional information on the festivities may be obtained from personnel at the Taylor Area Chamber of Commerce.

Do make plans to attend this important occasion.
 M. Matthews

The Taylor Daily Press

Page To Be Guest Of Honor At Dedication



...the Taylor Daily Press will be the guest of honor at the dedication of the new building...

...the Taylor Daily Press will be the guest of honor at the dedication of the new building...

Whirligig

Whirligig

factory

...the Taylor Daily Press will be the guest of honor at the dedication of the new building...

...the Taylor Daily Press will be the guest of honor at the dedication of the new building...

MOOD-HERITAGE MUSEUM

Exhibits

- Entry Room: BEGINNINGS OF THE GEORGETOWN AREA - Dr. Edmund Steelman
Fossils, Indian artifacts, buffalo robe and skulls
- South Room: BEGINNINGS OF GEORGETOWN - Mrs. Lynn Burnette
Log cabin and early housekeeping and ranching, furniture
and implements, hand-woven fabrics, wedding dress of Nancy
Elizabeth Houston (daughter of Sam Houston), local cattle
brands, early bathtub, local historic paintings, counterpane
- Corner Room: BEGINNINGS OF SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY - Dr. Martha Allen
S.W.U. hatpins and jewelry, beam from old Georgetown
College, painted porcelain, Rutersville bill, photographs,
Reverend Morgan's carpet chair
- Alumni Research Room - Dr. Judson Custer
Southwester annuals, histories of Southwestern, Mood biography
and autobiography, history of education in Texas, biography
of Robert Stewart Hyer
- North Room and Atrium: BEGINNINGS OF MOOD HALL - Mr. Claude Kennard
Primitive tools, portraits of Dr. Wood and Mrs. Margaret
Mood McKenna, desk, kitchen tools, photographs

* * * * *

The museum is a natural development of the tradition of cooperation between Georgetown and Southwestern University. Due to the continued interest of President Durwood Fleming, who authorized the first exhibit in 1972, the Mood-Heritage Museum now has a permanent location.

In the early stages, Professor F. Burr Clifford and Mr. Basil Phillips began to locate the area in Mood Hall. Later, Dr. Bill Jones and Mr. Kirk Treible assisted in the full planning of the site. The Dames Club assisted in various ways to help launch the museum.

The cooperation of the Georgetown Heritage Society and the city of Georgetown with Southwestern University led to the receipt of an H.E.W. grant to plan a museum and museum seminars. Since the September move to Mood-Bridwell Hall, the organization has been very busy. President Fleming named the following to the governing board: Dr. Judson S. Custer, Dr. Edmund Steelman, Mr. Claude Kennard, Dr. Martha Allen, Mr. Bob Schwartz, Mr. Marc Raney, Dr. Bill Jones, Mr. Kirk Treible, Mrs. Lynn Burnette, Mrs. Bernice Faulk, Mrs. Clara Scarbrough, Mrs. Raye McCoy, Mrs. Marietta Hugford, and Mrs. Louise Custer.

Other regular volunteers who have helped to sell surplus property and have worked for months in accessioning, restoring, and filing artifacts, are Mrs. Pearl Steelman, Mrs. Elizabeth Brown, Mrs. Zerline Anderson, Mrs. Helen Kassen, Mrs. Chris Medley, Mrs. Wanda Lancaster, Mrs. Sue Peterson, Mrs. Elsie Jackson, Mrs. Ida Williams, Mrs. Otha Ullrich, Mrs. Ginger Girvin, Mrs. Maureen McCurtain, and Mrs. Norma Harris.

LENDERS AND DONORS

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Fuchs
 Mrs. Clara Sloan Carlton
 Mrs. Wanda Lancaster
 Mrs. Clare Easley Mashburn
 Mrs. Mildred McElroy
 Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Storm
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Storm
 Mrs. Vella Evans
 Mr. Earl G. Hodges
 Mrs. Clara Scarbrough
 Mrs. Raye McCoy
 Mrs. Betty Wolf
 Mrs. Seaton Olivieri
 Mrs. Harry Gold
 Mrs. Bernice Faulk
 Mr. O. T. Baker
 Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burnette
 Mrs. Marietta Mugford
 Mr. Claude Kennard
 Georgetown High School Students
 Dr. and Mrs. Van Tipton
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 Mrs. Elmo Reed
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kucler
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 Dr. and Mrs. Ed Steelman
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 Mr. John Lesesne
 Mr. and Mrs. Sam Brady
 Judge C. L. Chance
 Dr. and Mrs. Durwood Fleming
 Miss Marjorie Beech
 Mrs. Grace Jones
 Dr. Connie Venable
 Mrs. Janice Hester
 Mr. Mark Raney
 Mr. and Mrs. Merle Leffler

MUSEUM GUIDES

Mrs. Elizabeth Brown
 Mrs. Corinne Douglass
 Mrs. Maurine McCurtain
 Mrs. Marji Sikes
 Mrs. Doris Clifford
 Mrs. Helen Buckner
 Mrs. Helen Kassen
 Mrs. Melinda Eidson
 Mrs. Carol Treible
 Mrs. Pat Crowley
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 Mrs. Ida Williams
 Mrs. Otha Ullrich
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 Mrs. Jo Sloan
 Mrs. Ann McKay
 Mrs. Jean Howell
 Mrs. Oline Behrens
 Mrs. Dorothy Leffler
 Mrs. Betty Todd
 Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Mills
 Mrs. Clare Mashburn
 Mrs. Shirley Dedear
 Mrs. Patsy Brady
 Mrs. Raye McCoy
 Mrs. Elsie Jackson

Southwestern

Mood-Bridwell Hall Opened

Friday, October 20, was a festive day at Southwestern with several hundred alumni and friends of the University gathering for the formal opening of the newly restored and renovated Mood-Bridwell Hall. Those who toured the building on Friday and on Saturday during the Homecoming celebration found it hard to believe that the venerable old building could be brought back to such elegance and utilitarianism. Of particular interest were the restored atrium and the new museum located on the first floor. Alumni were also interested in locating the rooms in which they had lived during their college days. All were impressed with the use to which the building is now being put—faculty offices, classrooms, and the computer center, along with the Mood-Heritage Museum established jointly by the University and the Georgetown Heritage Society.

Events surrounding the formal opening began with a dinner on Thursday evening, October 19, honoring the trustees of The Bridwell Foundation, Mr. Herbert Story, Mr. Ralph Bridwell, and Mr. Clifford C. Tinsley. The Bridwell Foundation of Wichita Falls, Texas, provided the initial gift making the renovation of the building

possible. Speaker at the dinner was Dr. John R. Hubbard, President of The University of Southern California, who addressed the guests on "The Role of the Private University." The Thursday night dinner was also the annual meeting of the President's Council, with the report of that group being given by its Chairman, Mr. C. C. Gunn.

The opening ceremony was followed by a luncheon honoring the trustees of the J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma. They are Mr. John H. Conway, Mr. John W. Cox, Mr. C. D. Forrest, Mr. Guy R. Mabee, and Mr. Donald P. Meyers. A grant from the Foundation played an important part in the funding of the restoration of Mood-Bridwell Hall. President Durwood Fleming spoke on "Enlightened Philanthropy—The Basis for Hope for Our Future," and expressions of appreciation were voiced by faculty and students.

The ceremony formally opening and renaming the Hall featured statements by Mr. Herbert Story of The Bridwell Foundation, Mr. John Cox of the Mabee Foundation, President Fleming, and Dr. F. Burr Clifford, former Dean of The Brown College of Arts and Sciences.



Honored guests at the formal opening of Mood-Bridwell Hall were Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Story and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Cox, shown here with President and Mrs. Fleming.



The atrium of Mood-Bridwell Hall was crowded with alumni, faculty, students, and friends of the University as the formal opening ceremonies began.



Participants in the ceremony at the formal opening, shown here with President Fleming, were Mr. Herbert Shaw of the Bridwell Foundation, Mr. John W. Cox of the Mahoe Foundation, Board Chairman A. Frank Smith, Jr., Chaplain Farley Snell, and Dr. F. Burr Clifford, former Dean of The Brown College of Arts and Sciences.

26th JUDICIAL DISTRICT
WILLIAM S. LOTT, DISTRICT JUDGE
KENNETH B. JORDAN, DISTRICT CLERK
EDWARD J. WALSH, DISTRICT ATTORNEY
WILLIAMSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE



COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARL E. LIDELL, PRECINCT NO. 1 GEORGETOWN
WESLEY FOUST, PRECINCT NO. 2 FLORENCE
RAYMOND H. RISTER, PRECINCT NO. 3 GRANGER
JERRY L. MEHEVIC, PRECINCT NO. 4 FALLON

Williamson County Official Memorandum

By
C.L. CHANCE

JUDGE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

GREETINGS:

THE COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON IN THE STATE OF TEXAS HAS HAD A PROUD AND COLORFUL HISTORY; AN UNSUPPASSED HERITAGE FILLED WITH DEDICATION, DEVOTION AND INDIVIDUALISM.

WE OWE A GREAT DEBT TO OUR FOREFATHERS; THE PIONEERS AND EARLY SETTLERS WHOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN AN INSPIRATION AND A GUIDING LIGHT TO ALL TEXANS.

ALL TOO OFTEN, IN THESE MODERN TIMES, WE TEND TO OVERLOOK AND FAIL TO RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE LABORS OF THESE GREAT MEN AND WOMEN.

INCREASED PUBLIC APPRECIATION IS NEEDED FOR THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO TOILED, UNDER EXTREME HARDSHIPS, AND TRAVELED MANY WEARY MILES TO WILLIAMSON COUNTY, AND ESTABLISHED THEMSELVES AS PIONEERS OF OUR PROUD HERITAGE.

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARE WORKING COOPERATIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY TO PRESERVE TEXAS' GREAT HISTORIC PAST. THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION IS MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE DRAMATIC COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE COUNTY. IT IS OBSERVING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE STATE PRESERVATION PROGRAM, SUCH AS BEAUTIFICATION OF THE APPROACHES TO AND AREAS SURROUNDING THE HISTORIC SITES AND MARKERS; THE LOCATING AND RECORDING NOTEWORTHY LANDMARKS; HONORING PIONEERS AND EARLY SETTLERS; INVOLVING THE YOUTH IN HISTORIC WORK AND TOURING HISTORICAL EXHIBITS, SITES, DISTRICTS AND MARKERS.

THEREFORE, I, AS JUDGE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, DO HEREBY DESIGNATE THE FOLLOWING DAYS DECEMBER 1 and DECEMBER 11, 1978, AS

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORY APPRECIATION DAYS

AND URGE ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS PATRIOTIC AND MEMORIAL OBSERVATION.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 27th day of November, 1978.

C.L. Chance
Judge of Williamson County

ALSO APPROVED BY THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS;

Carl E. Lidell
Precinct 1

Wesley C. Foust
Precinct 2

Raymond H. Rister
Precinct 3

Jerry L. Mehevic
Precinct 4

Ilse family honored

Four generations of this family operated farm
north of Georgetown



IN 1892 . . . the William Ilse farm was ornamented in the typical manner of settlers who had come to this country from Germany. The family group, front row, are Ed Ilse,

(mother) Anna Ilse, Louis Ilse, (father) William Ilse, and Will Ilse. Back row, Gus Ilse, Ella Ilse, Lillie Ilse, and a young lady whom the Ilses reared.

There were no bridges until after the Civil War and Reconstruction were over. Bridges appeared in Williamson County in the 1880's and 1890's. The name had been changed to Meridian Highway by the time automobile traffic first appeared on it early this century. Graveling of roads was started after the automobile's advent, and the stretch past the Ilse Farm was gravelled about 1918. Macadamized roads were the first form of paving. During transitions in highway improvement, sharp turns and curves were gradually straightened out to accommodate increased traffic and permit more speed.

Finally, the State of Texas abolished use of personalized names for highways, and named this one State Highway 81. In 1962, Highway 11 was expanded to become Interstate 35. Highway crews and truckers who worked on the new projects from time to time designated the area near the Ilse Farm as Ilse Hill.

The Ilse children attended school at nearby Mount Prospect, a rural school which was in operation at least by 1888. On September 3, 1899, William Ilse died, leaving his wife and their six young children: Gus, Ella, Lillie, Willie, Edward, and Louise. She and the older children continued to run the farm. She died in 1921, and the estate was settled when the children purchased the land in 1923.

Ed Ilse, second youngest of the children, was still living at home at the time of his mother's death. He bought the original farmland and added more until he had 120 acres. He and his wife, Louise Ilse, improved the house, and it was always open to relatives and friends who were made welcome whether they stayed a few days, months, or years.

Ed Ilse was active in school affairs and became a trustee of Mount Prospect School. He and his wife boarded the teachers for this one-room school for more than 40

years. Many school children stopped at the Ilse home to warm up during cold or rainy weather, as they walked to or from school to their own homes.

The Ilses farmed with mules until 1935 when tractors came into use, raising cotton, corn, maize and cane. They also had cows, chickens, turkeys and hogs which they butchered for meat. They milked a herd of Jersey cows and sold cream and butter, some of the milk being sold to Round Rock Cheese Factory.

In 1936 when the highway was widened, Ed Ilse furnished some land and a gravel pit for the project. In 1950, the Ilses built a Grade A Dairy and used Holstein cows to furnish the milk.

The Sunday SUN
Page 5
Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, December 3, 1978

Ed Ise died in 1908, leaving his wife and son Raymond to care for the farm and dairy, along with the help of Raymond's wife, Alice, and their young son, Dalhart. In 1962, 14 acres were sold for the right-of-way for the new four-lane Interstate 35 Highway.

By this time traffic was a serious problem, dividing the home from the barn. The house and other buildings were moved east of the highway to join the barn and the well located there. A half-acre tract was leased in 1971 to the N-Triple C Company for construction of a communication tower — the site chosen as the highest point along the highway between other towers.

Illness in the family led to the decision to sell the Dairy in 1973, and in 1974, Mrs. Ed Ise passed away. Her son, Raymond, and grandson Dalhart, continued to work the land, and in 1975, they inherited the farm. They remain co-owners and operators in 1978. They have a herd of cattle and raise oats, wheat, maize, and sodas. Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ise live a few miles away, and Dalhart and his wife, Darlene, and their small daughter, Kristy, have lived in the old family homestead since 1977 — the fourth and fifth generations to live there.

Dalhart is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University with a B.S. degree in agriculture. He carries on the traditions of his great grandfather, who lived there 100 years ago.

Four generations of the Ise family have operated the Ise Farm a few miles north of Georgetown. The farm was recently honored by the Texas Department of Agriculture in recognition of the Ise's contribution to the agriculture of Texas since 1878. The farm is owned and run jointly by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ise and their son, Dalhart Ise, and his family.

William Ise, founder of the farm, was born in Germany in 1846. As a young man, he came to the United States, landing at Galveston and moving from there to Warrenton, Fayette County. He was a blacksmith by trade. While living there, he married Anna Weishuhn, and they had three young children before they decided to look for more land and for open country. In 1878, they made the trip to Williamson County by covered wagon and found the land they wanted about eight miles north of the little county seat town of Georgetown.

73
William Ise bought a tract from the Marchess League of 188 acres, recorded in a deed of May 22, 1878. Gradually they acquired more acreage until by 1897 they had 1508 acres. A two-room house stood on the farm they bought in 1878, a short distance west of the dirt road which served as the highway from Georgetown to Belton and north. The road was then barely wide enough for one wagon to travel.

Soon after arriving in Williamson County, Ise bought lumber from a Georgetown firm, which had obtained it via the new "tap line" which was completed to Georgetown in 1878 and which joined that community with the International and Great Railway system.

He hauled the lumber to his homestead by wagon, and built onto the small house already standing on his place. The new home was a large, two-story one, with the usual living, dining and kitchen space downstairs, bedrooms and sleeping porch upstairs, and with several large porches. In more recent years, the sleeping porch was converted into a room, baths and closets were added, and other interior renovations made.

About 1888, a severe windstorm badly damaged the home, but the family gathered up all the lumber they could locate, brought it back to the homestead, and rebuilt it.

Although the residence stood just west of the dusty highway, the portion of the farmland which had been cleared was to the east of the road. This east section was put into pastures for Ise's livestock, and in order to care properly for this operation on the farm, he built the barn on the same side of the road. Traffic at that time was no problem — occasional wagons passed, and a few other horse-drawn vehicles or persons riding horseback.

This highway was probably once a part of a buffalo trail. It was laid out in 1840 by the Republic of Texas and called the Military Road, which joined "Austin City" with Preston on the Red River north of present Dallas. The highway went through what would become Georgetown near the convergence of the North and South forks of the San Gabriel River. Since it led to the settlement of Preston, it was often called Preston Road.

As early as 1852, two-horse backs carried mail from San Antonio to Dallas over this road, and soon stagecoaches made regular runs along this way. The highway was crude — more a pathway whose direction was determined by places in streams which could be forded.



CHANGES were made on the Ise home through the decades, and in 1948, it looked somewhat streamlined, much as it appears today.



Sign Is Replaced At Mager Cemetery

Mager Cemetery is again properly marked with a handsome sign, strongly reinforced, standing at the entrance.

A weak support post had threatened to damage the sign, and members of the Poldrack family had taken it down until the posts could be changed to care for the sign.

The absence of the sign for several weeks had led some people to believe that vandals had taken the marker and destroyed it, but no damage had occurred to the silent reminder of ancestors buried there.

Prising on the sign, which includes the name of the cemetery and a cross, gives the following historical facts:

"The Mager grade school once stood adjacent to this cemetery. The water supply was furnished by the well which still stands north of the cemetery. The school house also served for a number of years as a place of worship for the community."

Below the inscription is the notice that the sign was printed and erected by Florin (Poldrack) Woodward, and Ernest and Johanna Poldrack.

Page 2, The Taylor Daily Press, Wednesday, November 22, 1978

County Historians Plan History Appreciation Day

The Williamson County Historical Commission has set Dec. 11 to observe History Appreciation in the county.

With the Dedication of Granger Dam considered a day of historical significance, Dec. 1 was added to the official memorandum declaring both days for history appreciation, signed by County Judge C.L. Chance and approved by county commissioners.

Plans for observing history appreciation in the county are being made by the County Historical Commission.

The Taylor Daily Press, Monday, December 4, 1978



Granger dedication

U.S. Rep. W.R. Poage of the 11th district and U.S. Rep. J.J. (Jake) Pickle, show a picture of the Granger Dam site during dedication ceremonies last week. Several hundred people showed up for the ceremonies which included speeches by both Congressmen, music by the Fort Hood Army band and Taylor and Granger High School bands and a hot air balloon show. The dedication was held prior to the dam's completion because of the January retirement of Poage, in whose district it is located.

Staff Photo by Tom Larkin

Austin American Statesman
December 7, 1978

The Williamson County SUN, Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 3 Thursday, December 7, 1978

YESTERYEARS

By Doris Clifford

16 Years Ago

The First Presbyterian Church of Georgetown will receive an historical medallion from the Texas State Historical Survey this Sunday, the pastor, Rev. James Van Vleck, reports. The church was built in 1873.

The Liberty Hill Methodist Church received the Historical Building Medallion of the Texas State Historical Society this week. It was begun in 1870 and finished several years later.

Judge Chance signs historical memorandum

The Williamson County Historical Commission set the date of December 11, 1978, to observe History Appreciation in Williamson County. The outstanding program, the Dedication of the Granger Dam, taking place so near the chosen date and of such great historical significance, that date was added to the Official Memorandum signed by County Judge C. L. Chance and approved by all four County Commissioners.

There are some other plans for observing history appreciation in the county.

The memorandum GREETINGS
THE COUNTY OF WILLIAMSON IN THE STATE OF TEXAS HAS HAD A PROUD AND COLORFUL HISTORY, AN UNSURPASSED HERITAGE FILLED WITH DEDICATION, DEVOTION AND INDIVIDUALISM.

WE OWE A GREAT DEBT TO OUR FATHERS, THE PIONEERS AND EARLY SETTLERS WHOSE ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE

BEEN AN INSPIRATION AND A GUIDING LIGHT TO ALL TEXANS.

ALL TOO OFTEN, IN THESE MODERN TIMES, WE TEND TO OVERLOOK AND FAIL TO RECOGNIZE AND APPRECIATE THE LABORS OF THESE GREAT MEN AND WOMEN.

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION ARE WORKING COOPERATIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY TO PRESERVE TEXAS GREAT HISTORIC PAST. THE WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION IS MAKING A SPECIAL EFFORT TO FOCUS PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE DRAMATIC COURSE OF EVENTS IN THE COUNTY. IT IS OBSERVING THE VARIOUS ELEMENTS OF THE STATE PRESERVATION PROGRAM, SUCH AS BEAUTIFICATION OF THE APPROACHES TO AND AREAS SURROUNDING

THE HISTORIC SITES AND MARKERS, THE LOCATING AND RECORDING NOTEWORTHY LANDMARKS, HONORING PIONEERS AND EARLY SETTLERS, INVOLVING THE YOUTH IN HISTORIC WORK AND TOURING HISTORICAL EXHIBITS, SITES, DISTRICTS AND MARKERS.

THEREFORE, I, AS JUDGE OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS, DO HEREBY DESIGNATE THE FOLLOWING DAYS
DECEMBER 1 AND DECEMBER 11, 1978, AS WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORY APPRECIATION DAYS.

AND URGE ALL CITIZENS TO SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS PATRIOTIC AND MEMORIAL OBSERVATION.

In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my signature this 27th day of November, 1978.

J. L. Chance
Judge of Williamson County

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 1, Page 9 Thursday, December 7, 1978

Liberty Hill due to receive plaque

Mrs. Dolph Briscoe will unveil a commemorative bronze plaque in the Town Park at Liberty Hill at 9:30 a.m. Monday, December 11.

The Community of Liberty Hill was honored by a prestigious award in 1977 by the Texas Arts Alliance and the Texas Commission on the Arts for distinguished contributions to the arts. Liberty Hill won the award (which was the first of its kind) in competition with all the cities and communities of 100,000 population and less. It should be noted that Liberty Hill has a population of less than 400.

The award was presented in recognition of the outstanding efforts of the com-

munity in sponsoring the first International Sculpture Symposium to be conducted in Texas and the South. This Bi-Centennial project took place in October through December of 1975.

As a result, 23 monumental sculptures were created by sculptors from all over the world, who then donated them to the community of Liberty Hill for establishment of the first International Sculpture Park in Texas and the South. The symposium and the International Sculpture Park were the "Brain-child" of internationally known sculptor Mel Fowler, who maintains a studio and resides in Liberty Hill.

The Sunday SUN
Page 3

Georgetown, Texas
Sunday, December 17, 1978

Liberty Hill receives plaque

Mrs. Dolph Briscoe, wife of the Texas Governor, was in Liberty Hill Monday to unveil a bronze commemorative plaque presented to the town by the Texas Arts Alliance and the Texas Commission for the Arts.

The plaque was presented to the town for sponsoring

the International Sculpture Symposium, October through December of 1975. Twenty-five sculptors from all over the world were hosted by the people of Liberty Hill, who opened their homes and provided food and lodging for the sculptors. The first such symposium was conducted

in 1968 in St. Margarethen, Austria. Others have been held since then in Japan, Israel, Yugoslavia, Germany, Czechoslovakia, California, Vermont, Oregon, and Nebraska.

In return for its hospitality, Liberty Hill was given 23 huge limestone sculptures which were created at the Symposium and now has the only International Sculpture Park in Texas. Internationally-known sculptor Mel Fowler calls the park, "The Stonehenge of Texas."

Fowler, who in 1973 remodeled the old Stubblefield Building and moved his studio to Liberty Hill, inspired the Symposium and was on hand Monday to present Mrs. Briscoe to a large crowd of school children and Liberty Hill citizens.



TWO KNOWLEDGEABLE people from Grand Prairie talked to Georgetown Beautification Association members Thursday night in the Little Theater at Georgetown High School. Shown here are the two guests with Mrs. Vivian Wood, Chamber of Commerce manager, (left), speaker Mrs. Ruth Jackson, past President of the Beautify Texas Council and a five civic leader, Mrs. Genevieve Aiken, co-chairman of the Georgetown Beautification Association, and George Poff, Director of Public Services for the City of Grand Prairie, a active member and coordinator with the area and state Beautify Texas Council.

The Williamson County SUN Georgetown, Texas
Section 2, Page 15 Thursday, December 14, 1978

Slave cemetery still holds many secrets

By CHRIS PETRISON
American-Gatesville Staff

Few facts are known about the slave cemetery in Round Rock.

How many people are buried there, who they are or how old the cemetery is are all questions that still need to be answered, says Lorraine Ward. Stories told by older blacks in the community and deeds dating back to the 1800s pretty well confirm that at least some Williamson County slaves were buried there.

Ward is a director of the Round

Rock Cemetery Association, one of several organizations seeking information on the slave section of the community cemetery and trying to clean it up.

Located in the northwest corner of the Round Rock Cemetery in Old Town near the outlaw Sam Bass' grave, the one-half acre slave section was buried for years by brush. There was a time when only a few

people in the community knew it existed.

One was Joe Lee Johnson, who died last year at the age of 94. In a taped conversation with two Round Rock Optimist Club members he recalled that his grandfather and grandmother, both former slaves, were buried there.

Interest in the cemetery was developed about a year and a half ago by the Round Rock Optimist Club which decided to take it on as a club project.

"The cemetery was so overgrown that we agreed to clean it up. We even had to get a court order so we could go into it and restore it," said Sheldon Sheveland, who was president of the organization at the time.

He noted that it was the organization's intent to identify grave markers, clean up the cemetery and obtain a historical marker from the Texas Historical Commission.

Soon other clubs and organizations began to take an interest in the old cemetery. There was a local Boy Scout Troop, the Cemetery Association, Williamson County Historical Commission, the Round Rock Cemetery Association and Round Rock Parks and Recreation Department.

The parks department sent members of the Young Adult Work Corps out there which put a trail through the area and erected a sign designating it as a slave cemetery.

Workers who came out to the burial ground found much to do. Markers were piled and broken in a corner of the cemetery. Some had legible names and numbers on them,

others did not. It is believed that most came from the slave section, however.

Adding to the confusion was the fact that all but a few markers remained at their original spots with only a few legible. Rain and wind of the Central Texas countryside wore away much of the hand carved lettering that once told who was buried at the spot. A few of the larger and better made markers are in good condition.

Also, vandals struck the cemetery about five years ago breaking markers in both the slave cemetery and regular Round Rock cemetery.

The Optimist Club has plotted on a map 33 confirmed graves and determined who was buried there. Club members believe, however, that there are many other slave graves there because of the large number of markers scattered in the area and the number of graves that have caved in.

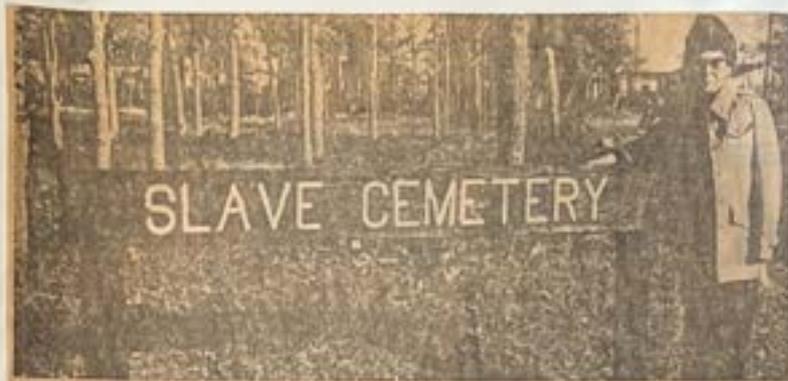
Among names found on tombstones in the slave section were Blair, Casey, Caldwell, Williams, Wilson, Dinger Oatts, Harris, Gault, Bowner and Kinckelbe.

Chairman of the Optimist committee which is working on the slave project is Murry Ham. He hopes that the organization will have enough information gathered about the old cemetery by February to submit a formal application for a historical marker. It should be confirmed in a "couple of months," he speculates. When this is done the Round Rock slave cemetery will be one of only a few in Texas so designated with a historical marker.

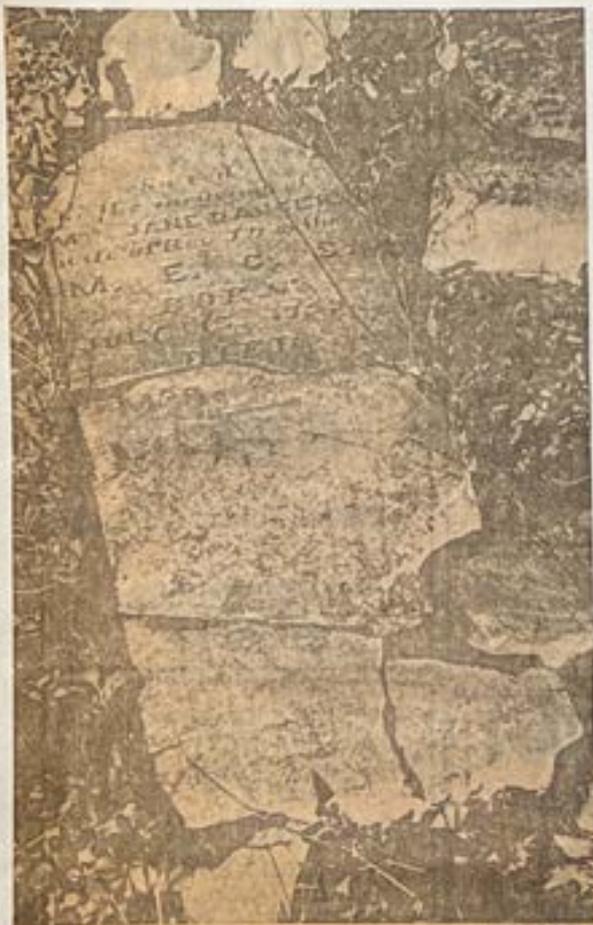
Talk About Town

An official Texas historical marker for the Double File Trail will be erected soon on State Highway 29, 1.2 miles east of Georgetown, according to Miss Myrtle Matthews of Liberty Hill, chairman of the Williamson County Historical Society. Plans are being finalized for the Granger Dam dedication ceremonies, set for 10 a.m. next Friday at the dam site. Debonaires on TV tonight, PBS Channel 3 in Taylor, 9:30-10:30 p.m. in benefit for station. Taylor Neighborhood Center reports transportation will be provided to all Department of Human Resources recipients with a valid medicare card—services will be provided to and from health services, such as doctor, dentist, family planning, clinics, pharmacies. Students from government classes at Taylor High School take over posts in city government. Tuesday—Government Day 1978.

Page 18, The Taylor Daily Press, Monday, November 27, 1978



Leriene Ward stands by the recently installed slave cemetery sign near Round Rock. Staff photo by Chris Peterson



Remaining grave marker lies broken but legible. Staff photo by Chris Peterson

Thursday, December 28, 1978 ★★ Austin American-Statesman

Palm House dedication of marker pending

The historical plaque for the Palm House museum in Round Rock is in but museum president Jack Hoover doesn't know when dedication ceremonies will be.

The two room 100 year old Texas style house, located next to city hall, is a combined Round Rock Chamber of Commerce office and museum. Museum officials learned several months ago that the marker was awarded, but it did not arrive in Round Rock until last week.

According to Hoover, the dedication will probably be in February or March and will be combined with the dedication of a plaque in honor of Dr. D.B. Gregg, a prominent local physician who died several years ago. The Gregg plaque will be located by the well in front of the Palm House.

The Palm house was the home of Andrew J. Palm, his wife and their eight children.

Hidden: Webster massacre

By Natalie Hubbard

A silent graveyard stands as cars race by its gates, on an empty stretch of road between Georgetown and Leander. Tombstones are scattered within the fence-bordered site, some broken, others hidden by time's untamed weeds.

Such a graveyard is not an unusual sight. Many cemeteries with a similar tone can be found all over Central Texas. Yet this plot boasts a history not shared by the others. The land itself does not reveal the bloody event that took place here more than a century and a half ago.

Using Hollywood "Cowboy and Indian" images, it is not difficult to visualize a similar scene. The white man versus the Indian. Anglo-Saxon settlers invading territory that had been held by white men attempting to protect themselves from inside a wagon fortress. Indians placing their attack upon the stationary target.

It is called the Webster Massacre.

On June 13, 1839, John Webster, his wife, two children, and fourteen men began a trip from their settlement below Austin.

Webster's heavily loaded wagons slowly traveled northward in west Williamson County. Upon spotting Comanche Indians, the group turned back on June 19 to wait for the remainder of the group.

While crossing the South San Gabriel River, a wagon axle broke. After spending a wretched day on repairs, the group continued their journey at 3 a.m. June 26.

The travelers reached Brushy Creek at sunset, only to find the Comanches awaiting their return.

The square-shaped wagon barricade they formed did not save them from the Indians' storm. Before noon, fourteen men were dead. Webster's family remained, taken captive by the victors.

The discovery of the massacre was made by a surveyor of Webster who had been delayed. The surveyor, John Harvey, returned to his settlement for the help of General Harrison and his men. The troop collected the unidentifiable remains in an old crate.

The Davis Cemetery, last resting place for fourteen men who struggled hopelessly for their lives. One remains stands — a westward facing tombstone, the common grave of John Webster and his friends.

If you're interested in poking around the site of the bloody Webster massacre, drive out FM 2242 to two miles shy of Leander. The cemetery is on the right side of the road, as you are heading towards Leander. There is no historic marker, and if you're not careful, you'll miss it.

Natalie Hubbard is a recent graduate of Georgetown High School, a student at Austin Community College and a photographer.



Stony silence



Repose in the grass



“Hidden by time’s untamed weeds,
a silent graveyard stands.”

Notate Hubbard

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS

INDEX

NAMES, LOCATION AND DATES

PRESENTED TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BY

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HISTORY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF WILLIAMSON COUNTY

APPROVED 11, 1978

More information on these markers may be found
in the Public Libraries in Williamson County.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MARKERS

A LIST COMPILED FROM THE

OFFICIAL GUIDE TO TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS - 1975 EDITION

PUBLISHED BY THE
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

AND

SUPPLEMENTED BY ADDITION OF MARKERS INSTALLED IN 1976, 1977 and 1978.

Markings are listed in chronological order, according to the date of their erection, under the towns in which they are located. In case of rural landmarks the nearest town is given.

The numbers in parentheses to the left of the marker listing refer to the following categories as assigned by the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION.

- 1 - 1936 Texas Centennial Markers and Texas War for Independence Markers erected by the State.
- 2 - Civil War Markers erected by the State especially for the Civil War Centennial, 1961 - 1965.
- 3 - Texas Historical Markers and Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks; also granite historical markers erected by the state.
- 4 - Private, State approved markers.
- 5 - 1936 Texas Centennial Grave Markers and Texas War for Independence Grave Markers.

Another list of Markers in Williamson County shows some of the privately erected Historical Markers that are not included in the State prepared list

Text of the markers, or stories in case of no inscription plate, may be found in most of the Public Libraries in the County or by contacting the Williamson County Historical Commission.

November 1978

Myreta Matthews

ANDICE

1. (3) ANDICE BAPTIST CHURCH on FM 970, Andice, (org.1850-51) (1976)

BARTLETT

2. (3) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Corner Pletch and Lindeman Streets (1970)
 3. (3) FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH on Clark Street (FM 487) (1976)
 4. (3) ELISHA ALLEN GRAVE MARKER, Old Bartlett Cemetery, SH 95 (1976)

CIRCLEVILLE

5. (5) DAVID HUTCHISON MCPADIN in Cemetery off FM 1331, 1 mi. East (1936)
 6. (2) C.S.A. COTTON CARDS FACTORY, off SH 95, SW of river bridge (1965)
 7. (3) MCPADIN HOME, On FM 1331, 1 mi. east (1966)

COUPLAND

8. (3) UNITED STATES SENATOR MORGAN C. HAMILTON, Moxie and Commerce (1976)

FLORENCE

9. (3) SMART-MCCORMICK HOME, 10 mi. W on Co Rd 208 W. of US 183 (1965)
 10. (3) EARLY CHURCH AND LOUNGE, NE part of City near Cemetery (1970)
 11. (3) LAWLER COMMUNITY, 3 mi. E on Co Rd 230, off FM 487 (1970)

GEORGETOWN

12. (4) LOCATION OF GEORGETOWN, 9th and CHURCH STREETS (DAR) (1930)
 13. (1) GEORGE WASHINGTON CHANDCOCK, South Entrance of Courthouse (in 1936)
 14. (1) Robert Jones Rivers, West Entrance of Courthouse (sidewalk) 1936
 15. (3) FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, (Medallion only) 703 Church Street 1962
 16. (3) SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION BLDG, 1300 E. Univ. Ave. 1962
 17. (3) OLD GEORGETOWN CEMETERY (SAN GABRIEL) 2nd and West Strts. 1963
 18. (3) GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1316 East Univ. AVE. (E. 12th) 1965
 19. (3) WILLIAMSON COUNTY JAIL, 311 Main Street 1965
 20. (3) OLD DIMMITT BUILDING, 801 Main Street 1965
 21. (3) OLD DIMMITT HOME, ON SH 29 at West edge of city 1965
 22. (4) JOHN BERRY BUHRSTONE, SW corner of Courthouse Lawn 1967
 23. (3) LAURA KUYKENDALL HALL, Southwestern University Campus E. 12th 1968
 24. (3) SANTA FE EXPEDITION, SH 29 East of City 2 or 3 miles 1970
 25. (3) FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 410 East University Univ. 1970
 26. (3) WILLIAMSON COUNTY (Org.1848) On Courthouse at 8th St. Entrance 1970
 27. (3) SHAPPER SADDLERY, 711 Main Street 1971
 28. (3) JOHN EDWARD HICKMAN, CHIEF JUSTICE TEXAS SUPREME COURT, Courthouse (1971)
 29. (3) G.W. RILEY HOUSE, 1302 College Street Lawn 1972
 30. (3) "INNER SPACE CAVERN", LAUBACH CAVE, 1 Mi. S on IH 35 1973
 31. (3) SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, 1300 East University Ave. on Mall 1973
 32. (3) JAMES B. WILLIAMS, Berry Creek Cemetery, 5 mi. NW on SH 195 1973
 33. (3) A.M. BROWN CABIN, 6 Mi. W off FM 2243 or 4 Mi. E of Leander 1974
 34. (3) W.Y. PENN HOME, 1304 Elm Street 1975
 35. (3) J.A. MCDUGLE HOME, 1314 Elm Street 1975
 36. (3) HARRELL-STONE HOUSE, 1404 Elm 1976
 37. (3) JUDGE GREENLEAF FISK, FIRST CHIEF JUSTICE, NW Courthouse Lawn 1976
 38. (3) CABIN FROM GABRIEL MILLS AREA, 16th and Austin Avenue 1976
 39. (3) WILLIAMSON COUNTY SUN, 709 Main Street 1978
 40. (3) JOHN BERRY, FRONTIERSMAN, SW Corner Courthouse Lawn 1978
 41. (3) THE DOUBLE FILE TRAIL, on SH 29 East 2 or 3 Miles. (1978)

HISTORICAL MARKERS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY

- GRANGER
42. (3) UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 201 Granger Street, South (1970)
- HUTTO
43. (3) HUTTO TOWN SITE, on SH 79 E of Juncture with FM 1660 (1976)
- JARRELL
44. (3) CORN HILL CEMETERY, 1.5 mi. SE on Co Rd 313, off IH 35 (1970)
- JONAH
45. (3) JONAH TOWN SITE, on SH 29 E, 7 mi. from Georgetown (1970)
- LAWRENCE CHAPEL
46. (5) ADAM LAWRENCE - GRAVE MARKER, off FM 112, 6 mi. SE of Thrall (1936)
47. (3) LAWRENCE CHAPEL CEMETERY, off FM 112, 15 mi. SE Taylor (1970)
48. (3) "WASHINGTON BOWER", ON Co Rd abt 1 mi. N of Cemetery (1971)
- LEANDER
49. (1) BLOCK HOUSE FORT, on US 183 South 2 mi. (1936)
50. (1) VICTIMS OF WEBSTER MASSACRE, on FM 2243-1.5 mi. E in Davis Cn (1936)
51. (1) WEBSTER MASSACRE, On US 183 in town of Leander (1936)
52. (3) PIONEER'S HOUSE, 1.5 mi. NE on US 183 (1970)
53. (3) BAGDAD CEMETERY, On FM 2243 West 1 mi. (1972)
54. (3) HEINATZ HOMESTEAD, On Co Rd 278, off FM 2243 W 1 mi. (1972)
55. (3) LEANDER TOWN, On SH 183 near juncture with FM 2243 (1975)
- LIBERTY HILL
56. (1) MANUEL FLORES, IN THIS VICINITY, On SH 29, 4 mi. East (1936)
57. (3) LIBERTY HILL METHODIST CHURCH, 1 block north of Loop 332 (1962)
58. (3) HALL RANCH HOUSE, 3 mi. NW on SH 29 (1963)
59. (3) "DOG RUN" LOG CABIN, 10 mi. N on Co Rd 202 (1968)
60. (3) LIBERTY HILL CEMETERY, 2.5 mi. NW on SH 29 (1971)
61. (3) FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Liberty Hill, on Loop 332, off SH 29 (1974)
62. (3) GABRIEL MILLS, 10 mi. North on Co Rd 200 (1975)
63. (3) STUBBLEFIELD BUILDING, Main Street at Myrtle (1976)
64. (3) LIBERTY HILL MASONIC HALL, Main street (1976)
65. (3) JOHN G. MATTHEWS HOUSE, 3.5 mi. SE off US 183 on Co Rd 259B (1976)
- RICE'S CROSSING
66. (3) JAMES O. RICE, Intersection FM 1660 & FM 973, S of Taylor 6 mi (1977)
- ROUND ROCK
67. (1) KENNEY FORT, Site of, on US 79 East 2.5 mi. (1936)
68. (1) COUNTY LINE, 3 mi. N on IH 35--East side in rest stop (1936)
69. (1) PIONEER BUILDERS, US 81 Juncture with US 79 (on N.Mays St.) (1936)
70. (3) EL MILAGRO (Washington Anderson Home) E .2 mi. on US 79, S .2 mi (1962)
71. (3) McNABB HOME, 603 Moffett Street, N of FM 260 (1963)
72. (3) OLD STAGE INN, 410 Chisholm at FM 620 (1963)
73. (5) MAJOR ROBERT McNUTT, Cemetery 2.5 mi. E off US 79 (1963)
74. (3) COUNCIL OAK, Wessels Home at 1002 N.Mays (1963)
75. (2) CONFEDERATE CHAPLAINS, Old Settlers Oak Entrance, FM 620 (1965)
76. (3) NELSON HOME, 5 mi. NE on FM 1460 (1965)
77. (4) PIONEER CITIZENS, In Harrell Park on FM 620 (1966)
78. (3) CALDWELL-PALM HOUSE, 3 mi. N off Chandler Road .5 mi (1967)

HISTORICAL MARKERS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY

ROUND ROCK - Continued

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|--------|
| 79. | (3) | OLD BROOM FACTORY, 100 East Main (corner at Mays Street) | (1970) |
| 80. | (3) | PALM VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH, US 79, 2.5 mi. E on private road | (1970) |
| 81. | (3) | EARLY COMMERCIAL BUILDING, 203 East Main Ave. | (1970) |
| 82. | (3) | TRINITY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, Site 1000 East Main Ave. | (1972) |
| 83. | (3) | NELSON-CRIER HOUSE, "WOODBINE", 405 East Main Ave. | (1973) |
| 84. | (3) | OTTO-REINEKE BUILDING, 102 East Main Ave. | (1973) |
| 85. | (3) | THE ROUND ROCK, In bed of Brushy Creek on Chisum Street | (1975) |
| 86. | (3) | ANDREW J. PALM HOUSE (and Museum) 208 East Main Ave. | (1978) |

TAYLOR

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|--------|
| 87. | (3) | SLOAN HOME, (near Jonah) OW SH 29 West 8 mi. | (1965) |
| 88. | (3) | DOAK HOMESTEAD, 600 West 7th Street | (1965) |
| 89. | (3) | DOAK PAVILLION SITE, 701 Sloan Street | (1967) |
| 90. | (3) | BIRTHPLACE OF GOVERNOR DAN MOODY, 114 West 9th Street | (1967) |
| 91. | (3) | St. JAMES CHURCH, 612 Davis Street | (1969) |
| 92. | (3) | WEDEMEYER HOSPITAL SITE, 800 West 7th Street | (1969) |
| 93. | (3) | FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF TAYLOR, Sixth and Talbot Streets | (1970) |
| 94. | (3) | TURKEY CREEK SCHOOL SITE, 6 mi. E off FM 619, on Co Rd 412 | (1972) |
| 95. | (3) | THE TENTH STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Tenth & Hackberry | (1976) |
| 96. | (3) | CITY OF TAYLOR, City Hall Square on North Main Street | (1976) |

THRALL

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|--------|
| 97. | (3) | DAVID ERWIN LAWHON, Subject Marker, S 11 mi. on FM 619
(Beaukiss area) | (1967) |
| 98. | (3) | SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH, on Co Rd 481, off FM 112, S 10 mi. | (1968) |
| 99. | (3) | TOWN OF THRALL, City Hall Square | (1976) |

HISTORICAL MARKERS IN WILLIAMSON COUNTY

NOT ON THE STATE PREPARED LIST in 1978

Arranged chronologically according to dates they were erected.

1. To the MEMORY of WILLIAM PARKER REESE and WASHINGTON REESE (1800s) ?
Davis Cemetery 1.5 mi. E of Leander on FM 2243.
2. CONFEDERATE MEMORIAL MARKER - Statue on the South side of the
Williamson County Courthouse in Georgetown (1916)
3. BATTLE OF BRUSHY CREEK, (School Children of Taylor) in a field
5 mi. S of Taylor near the Taylor-Elgin Highway (1928) ?
4. Monuments in MEMORY of ADAM LAWRENCE AND FAMILY near the home,
"WASHINGTON BOWER", SE of Thrall off FM 112 (6 mi.) () ?
5. NANNIE ELIZABETH MORROW - DAUGHTER OF SAM HOUSTON, Grave Marker
Erected by U.S. Daughters of 1812- I.O.O.F. Cemetery (1920) ?
Georgetown
6. JENNIE MORROW DECKER - GRANDDAUGHTER OF SAM HOUSTON, Grave Marker
Erected by the Daughters of 1812- I.O.O.F. Cemetery (1977)
7. MACEDONIA CEMETERY, 3 mi. SW of Granger on Co Rd 340 off FM 971 (1975)