



Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75225-12496

FALL NEWSLETTER 1992 - 03

NEXT MEETING 3rd SEPTEMBER 1992

PROGRAM: Paul F. Boller, Jr., Professor Emeritus of T. C. U., is the author of several books, one being a collection of essays which includes "McCarthy Days in Texas". Prof. Boller will speak on presidential elections from the 1800's. There will be a Question and Answer period following his presentation.

The DALLAS COUNTY PIONEER ASSOCIATION is dedicated to preserving the history of Dallas County and those who settled here before 1880. Anyone interested may apply for membership regardless of when their ancestors came here.

Membership dues are (Individual): \$10.00 initiation fee and \$15.00 per year, or \$150.00 for a Life Membership. Dues for a couple are initiation fee \$15.00 and \$25.00 per year, or \$250.00 for Life Memberships.

If interested, please contact: Membership Chairman, Dallas County Pioneer Association, P. O. Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225-0496 for brochures and Membership Application.

The organization meets for dinner and a program at 6:00 P. M. the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and December. Currently these meetings are held at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Forest and Marsh Lane in Dallas.

Visitors are always welcome. The meeting room is open at 5:30 P.M. for dining and fellowship. The program starts promptly at 7:00 P.M.

DCPA MINUTES of previous meeting JUNE 4th 1992

The Dallas County Pioneer Association held its quarterly meeting at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Forest and Marsh Lane, on June 4th 1992.

The meeting was called to order by President Mattie Hughes. The session was opened with a prayer by John Winniford, followed by Pledges of Allegiance to the flags of the United States and Texas. There were 72 in attendance, 11 visitors including the speaker and Jim Roster of the Dallas Public Library. Visitors were asked to stand and introduce themselves. They were:

Lucille B. Preston, Jen McLean, Bernard M. Coffey, M/M Ovale Glover, Billy & Georgia Turner, Jewell Mundell, Marilyn Floyd, Martha Miller, and Vic Armstrong. We hope you will come again.

The President awarded an Honorary Life Membership Certificate in absentia to Eloise Santerre, a charter member of DCPA, who has faithfully served the organization through the years on the Telephone/Transportation Committee. Eloise descends from ancestors of the French settlement of LaReunion in Oak Cliff.

The President offered condolences to several of our members who have lost loved ones recently, and prayers and best wishes on behalf of the organization to those who have loved ones who are ill.

DCPA member Louise Buhner was awarded a certificate from the National AARP for her many hours of volunteer service in several Dallas hospitals.

The president expressed our sincere appreciation to Earl O. Cullum for his service as Chairman of the Book Committee, and who will be unable to serve due to the illness in his family.

Proud Heritage - Vol. II is being readied for publishing. Publisher and date of release will be announced soon.

The meeting was turned over to Frances James who introduced Judge John Marshall of the 14th District Court in Dallas. Judge Marshall presented a timely and extremely interesting program on Riga, Latvia, the sister city of Dallas.

Judge Marshall and his two daughters, journeyed to Latvia a few weeks ago where he conducted a series of lectures, which he planned to deliver through an interpreter, but was asked to deliver in English "so they could practice their English".

Judge Marshall described Latvia as having a "split personality" and compared the present situation there with the period during our own Civil War years. Latvia is struggling to regain its ethnic identity after 50 years of suppression by the Russians.

The Judge said there were no single family free-standing houses in Latvia. Most are 2-room flats occupied by several families. The Latvians were amazed that the Marshall family occupied an 8 room house by themselves in Dallas.

Chicken, a staple in the diet of Dallasites and Southerners, in general, is rare and expensive in Latvia. Food is seasoned with coarse sea salt, sugar from sugar beets, and fine pepper. Food, in general is scarce, but available on the Black Market at a price too dear for the average family.

It was Judge Marshall's opinion the nation is near starvation, and that we, as a people, can help them by showing them, or teaching them, the basics of free enterprize and marketing.

After hearing about Latvia through Judge Marshall, it is this writer's observation, that even with all our problems in the U. S., we have so much to be thankful for, and we should count our blessings daily - one by one.

CORRECTION TO ROSTER: Please correct the telephone number of Louie-Payne Dyer to 423-3415.

Also change telephone number of Rhonda Morris to 289-8680.

UPDATE ON PROUD HERITAGE - VOL. II. - Irma Janicek, newly appointed Book Committee Chairman, advises preliminary work on Proud Heritage Vol. II is nearing completion. Contracts have been signed, and we are hopefully anticipating the release of Proud Heritage, Vol. II in time for Christmas delivery. Please contact Irma Janicek, or write to DCPA Book Committee, P. O. Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225-0496. A firm release date and price will be given as soon as available.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: LUCILLE B. PRESTON who has just joined us. Lucille lives at 3801 W. Beverly Dr., Dallas, 75209-5913.

: **MARILYN FLOYD** who lives at 403 Shadywood Ln., Richardson, TX 75080-5912, telephone 235-5512.

CONGRATULATIONS to Gus and Totsy (Casteel) Letot on their recent Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary.

DEATHS: We regret the deaths of two of our members recently, and the husband of a third member.

Louise Caillet Dieterich, born 1901 in Dallas, widow of Arthur Dieterich, passed away recently in Denton. Louise and Arthur had been active members of DCPA until recent years. Her grandfather was Jacques Maximilien Revershon of LaReunion Colony. Her parents, the Caillet's, farmed part of the area which is now Love Field.

Mary Cullum Nash, born 1908 in Oak Lawn, widow of George Nash, and a business woman in her own right, passed away June 14, 1992. She was a grand-daughter of Marcus H. Cullum who came to Dallas in 1872 and founded the Oak Lawn Methodist Church. Her father was A. W. Cullum.

Rev. Marlin Miller, husband of member, Dorothy Miller, passed away 6 August in Dallas. We extend our sincere sympathies to Dorothy and her family.

CLYTES ANDERSON MCCULLAR - Many of you longtime

members should remember this lady who was a very active member of DCPA until she became incapacitated a few years ago. Sunshine Chairman Sara McGee reports she has received word that Clytes McCullar, who suffers from post-polio syndrome, now resides at this address: VenCor Hospital, 1600 Abrams, Rm. 220-B, Dallas, TX 75214. She will be pleased to hear from you.

PERSONAL THANKS to those of you who called and sent cards when my mother and daughter were injured recently in an accident.

EDNA HART has had a "hitch in her git-along", but is up and around now. Edna has been hostess for the weekly meetings of the Book Committee the past few weeks. We want to extend our thanks to her for the use of her home.

HOSPITALIZED - Herbert Hughes, husband of Mattie, has been in the hospital. Mattie reports he is improving. We wish him a speedy recovery.

EARL CULLUM'S SISTER, aged over 70, was accosted recently by two young thugs while shopping at a neighborhood grocery. The wiry 98-pound lady swung a plastic bag of cans at one of her attackers felling him. When the second one grabbed her money out of her hand, she drew back to hit him too, and he gave her back her money. Earl says she has strong Cullum blood!

WYATT'S CAFETERIAS -- The management of Wyatt's Cafeterias has provided our organization with a meeting place for many years. We thought this brief history of Wyatt's might be of interest to some of our readers, and also a means of expressing our appreciation to the management and employees at Forest and Marsh for the excellent service we have received.

Earle Wyatt, founder of Wyatt's, started his career in the grocery business as a delivery boy in 1910.

His parents moved briefly to Waco, Texas, where his father was in the mercantile business. Earle entered military service from there in World War I. Following the war, Earle moved to Dallas permanently where he worked as a stock boy.

In the next few years Earle and his brother operated the Clarence Saunders Grocery Stores in Dallas. This chain felt the brunt of the depression and many of the stores filed for bankruptcy, including the owner, Mr. Saunders. At this point Earle Wyatt and a partner, Ed Congleton, bought 15 of the stores and renamed them Wyatt's Hometown Grocery Stores.

During the depression years the Wyatt stores gave credit to many of their customers, thereby gaining their loyalty and trust, when other stores only accepted cash. As a result, these customers

continued to support Wyatts as times improved, and the stores were able to expand.

In the 1930's Earle Wyatt introduced delicatessens into the stores. He could see that a lot of produce was being wasted, so he hired a cook to cook up peaches into cobblers and potatoes into potato salad to serve in the delis. He soon added barbecued meats and sold sandwiches and plate lunches. The concept was readily accepted by the luncheon crowd, and the delis evolved into dining rooms.

In 1941, and the advent of World War II, Wyatts became actively involved in managing and operating cafeterias throughout Texas in defense plants as an off-shoot of the grocery store business.

When the War was over it was Wyatt's decision to separate the grocery stores from the cafeterias, and the first of three independent cafeterias was opened in 1946, one at the Lakewood Shopping Center known as Wyatt's Deluxe Cafeteria.

Wyatt's Cafeterias continued to expand to more than 120 cafeterias across the state with more than 20 of them presently in the Dallas area.

Earle Wyatt remained Chairman of the Board until his death in 1975. In 1988 the shareholders sold their interest to an Employee Stock Option Plan, but the cafeterias retain the Wyatt name and Earle Wyatt's credo "Always give the best quality and the best service for an economical price".

JOHN R. NELMS, criminal attorney, and Charter Member of DCPA is seeking a judicial post in the November general election. John has been very helpful to our organization regarding legal contracts.

LUCILE BOYKIN LEAVES US - We are indeed sorry to hear that Lucile Boykin, formerly of the Dallas Public Library, Texas History Department, and ex-Historian of DCPA, is leaving Dallas for Kansas. Most of us in search of our ancestors have had occasion to meet Lucile. Lucile, we wish you "God Speed", and want you to know how much we have appreciated your helpfulness through the years. We hope you will remember us, and come back to visit us sometime in the future.

LLOYD D. BOCKSTRUCK HONORED - We would like to extend our congratulations to Honorary Member, Lloyd Bockstruck, who was awarded the highest honor given by the National Genealogical Society, that of fellow, at the 1992 NGS Conference held in April/May in Jacksonville, Fla. Lloyd's exceptional

capabilities in genealogical research are well known to those of us in the Dallas County area. We are proud to say you are one of us.

THE UNAUTHORIZED HISTORY OF DALLAS, TEXAS by Rose-Mary Rumbley, Eakin Press, Austin, Texas - This 170-plus page paperback brings back many memories of our parents' generation and our own.

One of the stories in the book was about the telephone which we take for granted. Many of us remember what it was like to borrow the use the neighbor's telephone until we could get a line in, and then it was a four-party one, and how irritating it was to have to wait until our neighbor finished his/her long-winded conversation before we could use our newly installed telephone, probably for something equally as long-winded. Some of you who lived "in the country" may remember listening for the "short ring, long ring" or combination thereof, codes on our rural party lines.

The first two phones in Dallas were at Browder Springs and the water works downtown, which primarily benefitted the Fire Department, enabling them to fight fires more effectively.

"On May 15, 1881, the first business in Dallas put in a telephone. This was J. M. Oram's Jewelry Store, 222 Elm Street" writes Ms. Brumbly. "The next business phone to go in was at Apperson's Drug Store at Main and Poydras...."Col. John C. McCoy, put in a phone at his home on Commerce and Lamar....By June 1881 there were forty phones in Dallas", she continues.

Rose-Mary Rumbley's book also contains articles captioned "Streets", and "And More Streets", which give the origin of the names of many Dallas streets, several of whom were named for early Dallas settlers. Some of interest were Peak Street, named for Captain Jefferson Peak who moved to Dallas in 1854 with his five sons, Carroll, Junius, Worth, Victor and Wallace.

Forney Avenue was named for John W. Forney, who was publicity agent for the Texas and Pacific Railroad when it came to Dallas in 1872.

Bruton Road was named for Richard Bruton who settled in Pleasant Grove in the 1840's.

McKinney Avenue was named for Collin McKinney, a signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence in 1836.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 13, 1992 when The Dallas Genealogical Society will hold its Fall Genealogical Symposium at the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, 9800 Preston Rd. The Workshop will consist of four sessions including Beginners, seven General Interest Groups, and two Computer Interest Topics. The Dallas County Pioneer Association

will maintain a vendor's table at the site.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - We want to remind you we are reaching the end of another year, and it is time to be thinking about new officers. If you have recommendations please notify Sara McGee, Chairman of the Nominating Committee.

Also, if you have some talent you think would be useful to DCPA, or want to become more active in the organization, please let us know.

NEWSLETTER MATERIAL - We always welcome material suitable for the newsletter - for example, a short story about an interesting incident in your parent's, or grandparents' life in Dallas. Did you ride in a "jitney"?, an interurban?, attend the silent movies? cut your own Christmas tree?, pick cotton? Some things are gone forever unless we put them in print.

BRICK R. KING'S 100TH BIRTHDAY - Brick R. King, Charter Life Member of DCPA, and native Dallasite, will celebrate his 100th birthday on November 11th, 1992. You have our sincere congratulations and best wishes, Brick!

Nona E. Williams, Secretary



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Dallas, Texas 75225



M/M Rayburn H. Williams
4160 Dunhaven Road
Dallas TX 75220-3740