



Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

FALL 1995

PROGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

President:
Frances James

Steven R. Butler, fifth-generation Dallasite, will be our speaker on September 7, bringing us a program on a subject we may never have had before, The Mexican War. An instructor at Richland College in Dallas, Steven wears so many hats, all of them history-related, we found it hard to ever contact him to get on his calendar.

Vice-President:
Nancy McRae

Secretary:
Nona Williams

Founder and current president of The Descendants of Mexican War Veterans, a non-profit national lineage society headquartered in Richardson, he is also editor of *The American Eagle*, the DMWV newsletter, and *The Mexican War Journal*, a periodical which focuses on the history of the 1846-1848 war with Mexico. He also contributes articles to other periodicals, including *Legacies*, *Genealogical Helper*, and *Heritage Quest* magazines.

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Edna Hart

Born in Dallas, Steven went 'way up to Rhode Island College in Providence for a Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He has been a volunteer in the Dallas Historical Society and researcher-writer-producer of a slide show on the history of Fair Park and the State Fair of Texas. He has been author or editor of several books on the Mexican War, and among the books he is currently writing is *Dallas County and the Mexican War*.

Program Chairman:
Edna Hart

We are looking forward to an interesting and informative program. Ω

Helen Swint

Membership Chairman:
Nancy McRae

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Telephone Chairman:
Bill McRae

Since our last newsletter I received a call from **Robbye Oram Jaggi** concerning her grandfather, **John M. Oram**. He installed his own telephone from his jewelry store to his house; he was really quite a genius. (Read all about him in *Proud Heritage*, pp. 183-184.) The article in the last newsletter was quoted from a different source. By the way, it was probably in 1902 when Mr. Oram was issued the first automobile license in Dallas—it cost 50 cents and was good for a year!

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

Meetings:
Wyatt's Cafeteria
Forest & Marsh Lanes

Continuing our account of Southwestern Bell in Dallas (started in Summer newsletter), the first central office was on an upper floor of a small two-story building on the south side of Elm Street next to Poydras. Headquarters were moved several times due to growth of the system, but finally settled in a building at the corner of Akard and Jackson in 1899.

In a Southwestern Bell newsletter in 1988 was an article about a records clerk finding at the bottom of a box of records that had been sent from Dallas to Austin, a document dating back 105 years. This document was a report of property purchased from 1883 to 1913. In writing the history of the telephone company, the following article compiled by **Linda Lockett** appeared in a company publication:

In 1929, the building at Akard and Jackson, 308 So. Akard, was in the way of the widening of Akard Street and had to be moved back eighteen feet. The planning took two years and the move took 36 hours and several hundred lifting jacks, shored with timber cribbing on railroad rails and steel rollers. Horizontal jacks arranged along the Akard Street side of the building were turned in unison, inching the eight million-pound, four-story red brick structure back eighteen feet.

With each blow of the work foreman's whistle, the jacks were turned moving the building one-sixteenth of an inch. More than 3500 whistles later, the red brick building was directly alongside its counterpart.

Amidst the whistle blowing and the jacks turning, 83 people inside the building continued to put calls through on the switching equipment and the operators' switchboards. There is a graphic picture of the operators standing at the switchboards amidst the debris, putting through the calls! This building was demolished in 1961. Also gone since 1980 is the Baker Hotel which was a neighbor on Akard.

In 1924 Dallas had more telephones than any other city in the world!!!

Texas Utilities keeps score on how many kilowatts of electricity we use. We broke the record several times in July! This statistical information reminded me of an article I had read in the *Dallas Morning News* on Sunday December 16, 1984. It was written by **Michael L. Graczyk** from Houston. It refers to a book written by historian **Raymond Arsenault** who was/is an associate professor of history at the University of

Florida. The name of the book is *The End of a Long Hot Summer: The Air Conditioner and Southern Culture*.

Professor Arsenault says that "air conditioning has changed the South's distinctive character, never to rise again". Arsenault gives a brief history of air conditioning beginning with the first attempts by a Florida doctor, **John Gorrie**, who, in the 1830s began experimenting with mechanical cooling in an attempt to lower body temperatures of malaria and yellow fever victims.

This article continues to describe air conditioning in buildings. One of the first movie houses in the South to be artificially cooled was the Palace Theater in Dallas in 1924. Home air conditioning became the rage in the 1950s when the price of window units was lowered enough some families could afford them.

A 1930 Cadillac in Houston was the first car to be air conditioned. This was with a condensing unit in the trunk of the car and a blower behind the driver's seat.

Now, in 1995, all we have to do is adjust the thermostat and figure out how to pay the bill which will be coming in a few days.

Something is happening to a County building! Scaffolding is up and workmen are cleaning and repairing the Criminal Courts Building. This Renaissance revival building was built in 1913 and was the primary jail for over fifty years. In *Dallas Rediscovered*, **William L. McDonald** says that this building was one of the few facilities in the nation to be planned with the humanistic treatment of prisoners in mind, including shower facilities, ice water supply, ventilated air flow, and adequate sanitation quarters. The King Court Room that was restored in the 1980s is in this building and still has some of its original features and now is being used as a probate court. There is a stained glass skylight in the hall outside the court room. The building was designed by **H.A. Overbeck**, who also designed the MKT Building at the corner of Commerce and Market, the University of Dallas

Building (now demolished), and St. Paul's Hospital (now demolished).

In our last newsletter we mentioned the Texas Historical Marker for Reverend **David Myers**. In the same item I quoted an 1886 newspaper item saying he was at the fifth annual reunion of the Dallas County Pioneers. That was wrong information: David Myers died in 1853. It was his son, Reverend **J.M. Myers**, who attended the reunion in 1886 and was described in the article as being "the longest resident preacher in Dallas County". The dedication of this Marker took place on July 29, 1995, at the Keenan Cemetery.

When I attended the dedication of the Marker for the Duck Creek Lodge last year County Commissioner **Mike Cantrell** (at that time he was Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3) was on the program and rendered this poem. I wrote him a note and he sent me this copy (he does not know the author):

"I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a heave ho and a lusty yell,
They swung a beam and the sidewalk fell.
I asked the foreman, 'Are these men skilled,
And the men you'd hire if you had to build?'
He gave a laugh and said, 'No, indeed,
Just common labor is all I need.
I can easily wreck in a day or two,
What builders have taken years to do.'
And I thought to myself as I went on my way,
Which of these roles have I tried to play.
Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square?
Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town
Content with the labor of tearing down." Ω

Frances James

MINUTES OF DCPA MEETING, JUNE 1, 1995

The Dallas County Pioneer Association held its regular meeting on Thursday June 1, 1995, at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Forest and Marsh Lane. There were thirty-eight registered members and three guests.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flags of the United States and the State of Texas were made.

Frances James, president, called the meeting to order.

Rhonda Morris, secretary, introduced speaker **Ron Harmon** of Farmers Branch Historical Park. A native Missourian, Ron graduated from the University of Missouri with a BA in Business Administration and a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He is a board member of three regional and state museum organizations and a founding board member of the Davis County Historical Society of Missouri. He has been with the Farmers Branch Historical Park since 1988 and in 1990 became involved with Texana Living History.

Acting in first person and dressed in full buckskin regalia, Ron portrayed early Dallas surveyor **Horace Burnam**. Horace Burnam was an acting attorney and surveyor for Nacogdoches County and founding member of the Texian Immigration and Land Company (Peter's Colony). The headquarters were located along Mustang Branch in present northwest Dallas County. The first headright awarded from the Peter's Colony was granted to the Keenan family. More settlers came to the area, mostly farmers, and one of these settlers, **William Cochran**, is attributed to changing the name to Farmers Branch. "Horace" told of the Hedgecox war of 1845 as well as the forming of militias in 1846 to guard against Indian raids. He also recounted the last buffalo seen east of the Trinity River as reportedly being killed by William Cochran and **Tom Barns**. Horace Burnam remained at Farmers Branch until the turn of the century.

The following announcements were made:

- Spectrum Consulting has developed a feasibility study to create a 501 (c)(3) museum at the Dallas County Courthouse (Old Red) that has been recommended to the Commissioners Court.
- Dallas County has made an agreement with the Dallas Public Library and the Dallas Genealogical Society to review county documents designated for destruction for possible retention at the library.

- According to the *Medallion*, the Alamo is currently getting a facelift.
- Old City Park has a new executive director, **Linda Burns**. The Park suffered severe damage during the recent rains and flooding.
- The Texas Historical Commission has signed on to the Internet. You can now access historical information about the State through this on-line service.
- DART is being very careful and cautious with historical sites along the light rail route.
- **Brooks Elwood** of the University of Texas at Arlington is interested in old cemeteries and their history and archeology.
- The Millwood Cemetery, located on land given to **Alexander Horton** for his service at the Battle of San Jacinto, has received a historical marker.
- The status of Crozier-Tech (old Dallas High School) is being monitored.
- The Bluff View Garden Club will care for the F.A. Brown farmhouse.
- The Red River Project is now complete, enabling river boats to navigate to Shreveport.
- The Winniford House in Lancaster is receiving an historical marker. Ω

Rhonda Morris

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

Dear Rhonda:

In accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the DCPA, the following proposed changes to the C/BL are hereby submitted at least thirty days prior to the September 1995 meeting. They should be printed in the newsletter announcing that meeting, the president should place on the agenda, and the changes read and voted on by the membership at that meeting.

(There is nothing really new in these changes, but rather an attempt to further clarify the C/BL. At the present the C/BL Article on Committees does not even mention the all-important Executive Committee, and the Membership Article does not mention Life Memberships.)

Article III, MEMBERSHIP, Sect. 2 - Delete the word "Associate" from the types of DCPA membership.

Sect. 3 - (add) Existing Honorary Members may be renewed each year by the Executive Committee, or dropped from that list.

Sect. 6 -LIFE MEMBERSHIP: (add) Any person qualified for membership may become a Life Member by one payment of dues as described in Article IV, with no further dues payment. Also, the Executive Committee may grant a Life Membership to a deserving person over age seventy (70).

Article V, OFFICERS, Sects. 3 and 4 - delete. (See 1-E below)

Sect. 8 - Change last sentence to read "The Secretary shall preside over the Publicity Committee and the Newsletter Editor."

Article VI, Para. 1-E: The Executive Committee shall consist of the current officers, three at-large members, and all past-presidents who are active current members. Four (4) members of this Committee shall constitute a quorum. Any Committee action shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of those present. This Committee shall meet at least once each year, at a time and place fixed by the President.

Para. 1-F: Telephone/Transportation Committee. This Committee will contact members to increase attendance and member activity; and identify and arrange for members' needing rides.

Para. 1-G: Ad Hoc Committees: the President shall appoint specialized Ad Hoc Committees as needed.

Article VIII, INSIGNIA, Sect. 3 - Delete words "stripe" and "stripes" and substitute "Vertical Royal Blue field" and "Horizontal White and UN Blue fields". Ω

Respectfully submitted (with copy to President).

(signed) Earl O. Cullum

A MUST ON THE 7TH FLOOR OF THE DOWNTOWN LIBRARY

If you haven't seen it, run—don't walk, to view one of the only twenty-three known existing copies of the United States Declaration of Independence. We have it on display in a special exhibit on the seventh floor of the downtown Dallas Public Library, and it belongs to the City of Dallas.

There were only 200 original copies of the Declaration printed by John Dunlap in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776. They were delivered by horseback throughout the colonies, copies nailed to walls in towns for everyone to read. It was the first time "United States of America" appeared in print. The one handwritten copy in handsome calligraphy on parchment, prepared for signing by the Congressional delegates, is on display in Washington, D.C.

The copy we have in Dallas has been called the "Lost Copy", discovered in Leary's Bookstore in Philadelphia in 1968 when the store closed after 132 years in business. Purchased by Dallas businessmen **Ira G. Corn, Jr.** and **Joseph P. Driscoll** at auction, they exhibited it around the country for several years. In 1978 ten Dallas citizens, including Corn and Driscoll, bought the document and donated it to the City of Dallas on July 4. Fragile, it is nonetheless complete; many of the other known twenty-two copies are in fragments.

The Library's copy is housed in a specially-designed exhibit, "The Declaration of Independence Room", which is a gift to the citizens of Dallas from the Friends of the Dallas Public Library, Inc. The dimly-lit air-tight case with humidity control is flanked by a curved oak partition with thirteen star sconces representing the thirteen colonies. Facing the display case are four metal story boards which briefly describe the document's significance.

This isn't all: in the adjacent spacious room several other documents related to the American Revolution are displayed, including rare books, among them a copy of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*. Ω

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

The Mary Ann Lawhon Chapter, Dallas, of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) dedicated a Texas Historical Marker in Millwood Cemetery near the small community called Millwood near the town of Lavon. The ceremony was at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 10.

The primary purpose of the DRT is to keep alive the memory of our Texas heroes. The historical marker honored **James Whitis Bulloch**, who led the forces at the Battle of Nacogdoches in 1832 and went on to fight at the Battle of Refugio.

The Millwood Cemetery Association is responsible for the restoration and clearing of the grounds after years of neglect. The Cemetery was founded in 1854 on land donated by Colonel **Alexander Horton** and was to be known as the Nancy Bulloch Cemetery. The name was never recorded by the county. Soon the local citizens began to refer to it as the Millwood Cemetery. **Nancy Horton Bulloch**, wife of James Whitis Bulloch, was the first to be buried there.

Over one hundred were in attendance as Boy Scout Troop #302 of Wylie, Texas, began the program with the flag-raising. The dedication was led by **Marie McMahan** of the Mary Ann Lawhon Chapter. Guest speakers were Attorney **Scott Luna** and **Joy Gould** of the Collin County Cemetery Preservation Committee. **Martha Rash**, past President-General DRT, was an honorary guest. Ω

June Shipley

ROSTER CHANGE

Please make the following change in your Roster:

Nell Deets Walker

Telephone: 903/887-0628, not 0627.

Please let us know of any error in your listing in the Roster so it can be corrected in the next one. Yes, we do copy last year's entry if we haven't been notified of any change. Ω

HOSPITAL WILL SAVE TREES— SOME OF THEM

Presbyterian Hospital has, in the words of *The Dallas Morning News* (July 28, 1995), "displayed a flexibility that ...officials had denied was possible". In March the Hospital said they had made every possible effort to design around the historic grove of trees due to be cut down to make way for expansion; in July their plans had been revised to save dozens of the trees, including two 150-year-old bur oaks. In the process they have estimated a savings of \$500,000.

In our Summer newsletter we noted that **Frances James** had checked her maps and named two possibilities who might have planted the ancient trees. She asked for someone to correct her if she was wrong, but has had no challenge to date.

The Dallas Historic Tree Coalition, formed in response to the threat to the trees, is not satisfied with Presbyterian's revised plans, which call for cutting down twenty of the ninety-two trees and transplanting forty-one others; partly because they were not asked to participate in the revisions. Ω

FINAL FAREWELLS

Graham Gordon Landrum died July 31 in Bristol, Tennessee, where he was a professor at King College. He was born in Dallas, the son of **Lynn Landrum**, editorial writer and columnist for forty years for the *Dallas Morning News*. Dr. Graham Landrum was a graduate of the University of Texas, where he also received his M.A. degree, then his Ph.D. from Princeton University. He taught at Austin College in Sherman and authored *An Illustrated History of Grayson County, Texas*. He has received national attention in recent years with the publication of a number of mystery novels. We extend our sympathies to the Landrum family.

Elizabeth Downing, sister of **Earl O. Cullum**, and former member of DCPA, died on June 2 in Dallas. She attended North Texas Agricultural College in

Arlington and was a lifelong member of Oak Lawn Methodist Church, which was founded by her great grandfather in 1874. Our sympathies go to Earl in this latest of many recent losses of family members.

Tommie Lee Cochran Hall, 92, died on August 15 in Dallas. She was not a member of DCPA, but was related to **Mary Alice Winniford**, and also distantly to other members of DCPA. She was the great granddaughter of **Nancy Jane Cochran**, named a vice-president at the first meeting of the DCPA in 1875, and the granddaughter of **John H. Cochran**, one of the speakers at that meeting and the author of a history of Dallas County in 1928.

Mary Campbell Harrison, 91, who died on June 20, was a member of DCPA in the 1980s and wrote an article on her family for *Proud Heritage*. She was close to our members, **Shearer** and **Donald Huffhines**, who donated a copy of *Proud Heritage, Vol. II*, to the Richardson Public Library in her memory. Mrs. Harrison was the granddaughter of **John Campbell**, who settled in the Richardson area in the 1850s and for whom Campbell Road was named. Ω

POSTHUMOUS PhD FOR RICHARD CULLUM

Colonel **Richard Owen Cullum**, son of **Earl O. Cullum**, was working on his final dissertation for his Doctorate at Virginia Tech University in his hospital bed at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore when he died of bone cancer in February 1994.

Virginia Tech considered that he had fully qualified for his Ph.D. degree and awarded it to him posthumously in July of this year.

Dr. Cullum was a 1961 graduate of West Point. He served two combat tours in Vietnam and spent five years on the Joint Chiefs' Staff at the Pentagon. He retired in 1986 and completed his studies for his Doctorate.

Besides his father, he is survived by his wife and two sons in St. Petersburg, Florida. Ω

ALEX TROUP'S RESEARCH PAYS OFF FOR SELZERS

In *Proud Heritage*, pp. 78-79, my daughter **Paula Selzer**, wrote about her great-great-great grandfather **Adolph F. Gouhenant** (spelling later changed to **Gounah**).

Her last paragraph stated that our last known record of Dr. Gouhenant was in 1866. (We only knew that he helped to establish the village of Fort Worth and had donated land for the Fort Worth Pioneer Cemetery. The side street is named for him.)

In *Proud Heritage, Vol II*, **Alex Troup** wrote in the foreword that Dr. Gouhenant's burial site was unknown. But Alex was determined to complete this history for our family, so he has researched Dr. Gouhenant for three years. And he finally succeeded in his search for the burial site!

The following letter appeared in the "Dallas People" column of the *Dallas Morning News* Sunday Reader Section on October 30, 1994.

I think the readers of the DCPA newsletter would enjoy this wonderful update.

We cannot thank Mr. Troup enough for his devotion and patience in his continued interest and research of many aspects of Dallas early history.

We also thank **Frances James** and the other hard-working DCPA officers and members for their commitment to preserving Dallas history.

Carolyn Selzer

(Letter)

DALLAS PEOPLE

Generous Mr. Troup

For five generations and 123 years our family has not known where our great-great grandfather Adolphus Gouhenant was buried. He came to Dallas in 1847 from France, but our family history lost track after he helped to establish the new village of Fort Worth. For three years, without compensation, Alex Troup, a

local historian, has been helping us solve this mystery. Recently Alex finally located the gravesite in Springfield, MO. Dr. Gouhenant died following an injury received while boarding a moving train at the Frisco Depot in April 1871. Alex is now planning to personally place a monument on the unmarked grave.

We want to publicly thank him.

Carolyn Selzer, Adelyn Hancock
Dallas

Carolyn added a note:

"History completed! Tombstone has been set!!" Ω

EARL CULLUM, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

Earl O. Cullum was honored on August 5 by induction as a Distinguished Alumnus of North Dallas High School, where he graduated in 1931 as an ROTC Lieutenant Colonel, two-year football letterman, and editor of the school newspaper.

More than sixty years later he was recognized by the Greater North Dallas Alumni Association for having commanded an Army battalion in the China-Burma-India Theater in World War II, retiring as a Colonel with thirty years Army Reserve service, thirty-eight years law-enforcement service including thirty years as an FBI Special Agent, and serving as president of Dallas Rotary and National Commander of the CBI Veterans Association.

Earl has also been honored by the University of Texas at Arlington, where he is in the Military Science Hall of Honor.

Sometimes we do recognize those who are role models in fields other than entertainment and athletics. Ω

In 1854 French settlers began "La Reunion" Colony west of Dallas. Then a few years later the colonists moved into town and became leading citizens here. Included were Santerre, Cretien, Nussbaumer, Reverchon, Long and Ball families. In 1856 Dallas became an incorporated town. Nat Burford drew up the charter and Dr. Samuel B. Pryor became mayor.

EARL'S PEARLS

(from Earl Cullum's Archives)

In 1840, Texas Army Colonel William G. Cooke was ordered to open a military road between Austin and the Red River. Enroute north to the Three Forks area (now Dallas) Cooke's party was attacked by Indians and five whites were killed. They then camped west of the Trinity (present Oak Cliff), and later laid out the route from Dallas to Bonham to the Red River. This became the Texas Central Highway, and John Neely Bryan later built a cabin where it crossed the Trinity River.

In 1841 Texas Army General E.H. Tarrant led a group of Texans in an attack on Village Creek, an Indian encampment north of present Arlington. The village was destroyed and the Indians dispersed. John B. Denton, one of Tarrant's scouts, was caught alone and killed by the Indians.

Incoming settlers soon established Bird's Fort near present Euless. From there Hamp Rattan and two companions scouted toward present Carrollton, where Indians attacked them and killed Rattan. His body was recovered and buried at Bird's Fort. Later the Beeman and Gilbert families left there and joined Bryan in establishing a small settlement at the site of present Dallas.

In 1843 Texas President Sam Houston, in an effort to allay the Indian problem in North Texas, invited the Indian tribes disputing the Three Forks settlement, to meet with him at Grapevine Springs (present Coppell). Enroute Houston visited Bryan's cabin on the Trinity, and rested under a large oak tree still shading the Oak Lawn Methodist Church on Cedar Springs Road. From the village of Cedar Springs he reached Grapevine Springs and awaited the Indians. The treaty was finally signed requiring the Indians to remain west of a Fort Worth-Gainesville line. Tribes signing the treaty were: Anadarko, Biloxi, Cherokee, Chickasaw, Comanche, Delaware, Hainai, Kichai, Tawakoni, and Waco.

Later, volunteers based at Bird's Fort patrolled this

Indian "line". Then in 1849 U.S. troops took over, at "Camp Worth" on the Trinity (now Fort Worth). In 1846 thefts by Indians north of Dallas led to formation of a "minuteman" group to combat this menace. Jesse V. Mounts was elected captain. In November 1846 marauding Indians were reported near present Carrollton. Twenty-two men rode after them and caught up with the Indians near present Decatur. Preston Witt caught one Indian and both dismounted with drawn knives. Witt used his Bowie knife to kill the Indian, and other riders killed another who was scalped by the white men. (Extracted from *Dallas Yesterday* by Sam Acheson) Ω

Our history really is in the making. The "history of the DCPA", that is. It will be in your hands by December — marking our 120th birthday as an organization.

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE IS EXCERPTED FROM
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS, AUGUST 16, 1995

ALIVE AND KICKING***Steel magnolias prove there's karate after 65***

He came out of nowhere, as he forcefully grabbed her shoulder. She'd been accosted before. All she could do was scream. But this time she was ready. She shoved the heel of her hand under his nose, then kicked him in the groin.

Not bad for an 80-year-old.

"You wouldn't expect that from a white-haired great-grandmother," says Martha Henderson.

After two years of practice, Ms. Henderson has earned her orange belt in karate.

Together with three other women over age 62, she's part of a karate demonstration group called "The Steel Magnolias". They've just returned from Washington, D.C., where they took part in a dedication ceremony at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. . .

The Steel Magnolias credit karate with multiple benefits. It has strengthened their bodies, improved their balance, increased their self-confidence—and

created a deep connection among them. . .

"I think the thing that hooked all of us is the self-defense," says Ms. Henderson, who has a hip replacement and has recovered from two bouts with cancer.

This **Martha Henderson**, of course, is our own. She and her companion Magnolias were spread all over the first and third pages of the "Today" section of *The News*. What an inspiration for us confirmed couch potatoes—maybe she will tell us how to join. **Ω**

UPDATE ON THE FRIENDS OF OLD RED

Lindalyn Adams, chairman of the Steering Committee of The Friends of Old Red, has given us the latest news from the Task Force on the ongoing plans for the restoration of the 1890 "jewel of downtown Dallas", our Old Red Courthouse.

The Friends of the Old Red Courthouse was formed in 1984, through the auspices of the Dallas County Historical Commission, in order to raise monies for the Dallas County's 1890 Old Red Courthouse. A fund to hold these monies was set up with the Communities Foundation of Texas, Inc., which also enabled the Friends to operate under Communities' 501 (c) (3) tax status. The Friends then raised private funds to restore the tile roof similar to the original roof on the Courthouse.

In 1992, the Friends was reconstituted to formulate a plan for the use of the first floor of the Courthouse. Working with nationally-known consultants, the plan called for major state-of-the-art exhibits, a visitors' center, a gift shop, reception room, and replication of the original grand staircase. When another consultant determined that revenue projections did not make the proposed exhibit economically feasible, in 1994 the County Commissioners Court appointed a fifteen-member Old Red Task Force to study the use of the Courthouse. The Task Force completed its work and presented the following recommendations to the Court on August 22, 1995:

- That a self-sustaining museum of Dallas County

History be established on the first two floors of the building.

- That the Dallas Historical Society be asked to plan, raise money for, and implement a museum.
- That a 501 (c) (3) Old Red Foundation Board be formed comprised of
 - four members appointed by the Commissioners Court
 - one member appointed by the Friends of Old Red
 - one member appointed by the Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce
 - one member appointed by the Central Dallas Association.
- That private funds be raised by the Board, the Friends, the Dallas Historical Society, and other historical groups, to complete the exterior and interior restoration over and above the \$1.7 million in bonds voted for the Courthouse in 1985. A future bond program might include restoration of the Clock Tower.

The preliminary cost projections for the entire project are in the \$9.5 million range.

David Biegler, chairman of the Old Red Task Force, made the presentation to the Court, which accepted and passed on the concept. **Ω**

*Early Dallas County memories live on and on in today's busy communities throughout the County. A little one-room church was founded in Oak Lawn in 1874, and **Epps G. Knight** became one of the "giants" who helped it grow to the great block-long Oak Lawn Methodist Church of today. Knight also became president of the DCPA, and often hosted the Pioneer reunions at nearby Oak Lawn (now Lee) Park. Then in 1995 the Knight homestead property on Cedar Springs Road was purchased by the Church for parking space for the 21st Century. It will also serve as an ideal outdoor site for Church special events.*

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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 initiation fee and \$15 per year, or \$150 for a Life Membership; and Couple, \$15 initiation fee and \$25 per year, or \$250 Life Membership. If interested, please contact: Membership Chairman, Dallas County Pioneer Association, P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, TX 75225-0496 for brochure and member 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 quarterly meetings are held at Wyatt's Cafeteria, Forest Lane and Marsh Lane in Dallas.

Visitors are always welcome. Meeting room opens at 5:30 p.m. for dining and fellowship. Program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Non. Committee

Noxa

Edna

Sara - chair

Mar. 30, 1996 - Dallas 150 yrs old.

Na. 11



Dallas County Pioneer Association



Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979

P.O. Box 12496

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