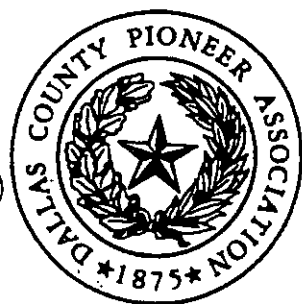




Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979

P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

214/969-0926

SUMMER 1998

President:
Willilam D. McRae

SUMMER DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1998

Vice-President:
Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

**Family Hall, Royal Lane Baptist Church
6707 Royal Lane (Royal and Hillcrest Road)**

Secretary:
Mae Riek

Dinner \$7 per person 6 p.m.

RSVP to DCPA Message Center 214/969-0926

or

Bill Clark at 214/528-1891

Treasurer:
John Winniford

Historian:
Susan Cargile

Please make your reservations no later than Monday, June 1, as we do need a head count for the caterer. If you do not care to eat with us, be here for the meeting by 7, but if you make a reservation and cannot come, you will be expected to pay. It would be helpful if you mailed your check to Bill Clark, at 4400 Potomac, Dallas, 75205. If you enter off Royal Lane at Thackery (west side of complex) you can park right by the Family Hall and enter through the glass door. (See Mapsco 25G.)

Membership:
Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

Suzanne Starling, author of the latest bestseller about the history of our area, *Land is the Cry!*, will bring our program. This book is the biography of **Warren Ferris**, a New York Yankee who came to the Three Forks region in 1839, years before **John Neely Bryan**. He came to survey the land for speculator **William P. King** and drew a map of the area showing a town called "Warwick" on the spot which became the city of Dallas.

Program:
Nancy McRae

Suzanne, a Dallas resident, is a historian and former teacher at Eastfield College. She has written a fascinating story about an important figure of American frontier life: Ferris had been a fur-trader in the Rockies and the Niagara frontier of western New York before coming to Texas, and kept a much-prized journal of his experiences. But he settled here to farm around White Rock Creek and helped to build a community, and lived out the next thirty-five years of his life in Texas.

Telephone:
Faye Evans

Sunshine:
Nona Williams

Publication of this book was supported by grants from the Summerfield G. Roberts Foundation and the Dallas County Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee.

Newsletter:
Marjori Sharp

We hope to see all of you on Thursday, June 4. Don't miss this fascinating speaker. Ω

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A monument memorializing Dallas men killed or serving in the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, and the Korean Conflict, will be rededicated on Memorial Day, Saturday May 30 at 10 a.m. First dedicated in 1957, the monument was removed in 1972 for the Dallas Convention Center extension and has been relocated near the corner of Akard and Canton Streets. DCPA member **Lloyd White** was instrumental in helping accomplish the reestablishment of this monument and urges all DCPA members and veterans to participate in the rededication ceremony. Let's have a good turnout of Pioneers!

The Dallas Historical Society sponsored a tour of southern Dallas on March 21, guided by **Darwin Payne**. This tour proved to be very interesting and worthwhile. A short walking tour of Fair Park with emphasis on the Hall of State and the location and purpose of buildings built for the 1936 Centennial Celebration was first on the agenda. From there, a drive through South Dallas included Park Row and South Avenues where former residences of distinguished Dallasites were identified. The group proceeded to Pemberton Hill south of US 175 to view the original Beeman property and visit the sites of John Neely Bryan's "bachelor cabin" and the Big Spring that still has a strong flow of cool, clear water. We next visited McComas' Bluff on the Trinity River before traveling northward through Pleasant Grove (centered at Buckner Boulevard and Elam Street).

We then turned eastward onto Scyene Road (which is the old Dallas-Jefferson turnpike) and returned westward via Military Parkway, noting the former Peacock Military School building for which the Parkway was named. We made a stop at the Beeman Memorial Cemetery and historical marker before traveling north on Dolphin Road and Samuell Boulevard. We toured several subdivisions between Lakewood and White Rock Lake where important residences and architectural styles were pointed out to the group.

Following lunch in the Lakewood Shopping Center,

the group toured more Southeast Dallas subdivisions and drove down Tokalon Street, named the most beautiful street in Dallas in *D Magazine*. A drive through the Swiss Avenue and Munger Place Historic Districts completed the tour as we returned to Fair Park. I highly recommend these tours for anyone wanting to learn more about Dallas. Two more tours are scheduled for this year: DCPA's **Frances James** will guide a cemetery tour on October 24 and **Darwin Payne** will lead a tour of Oak Cliff on November 7. Reservations can be made by calling Dallas Historical Society at 214/421-4500. Those of you who cannot attend night meetings should consider these tours. You will enjoy them.

Member **Linda S. Hart** has provided DCPA with a copy of her paper entitled "Grave Marking for Ellender Penny Witt" from which the following paragraph is quoted:

"The significance of this family history to the Dallas County Pioneer Association is that Ellender and John's son, Captain Wade Hampton Witt presided at the first meeting of the DCPA on 13 July 1875 as presiding President. Two of their other sons, twins Preston and Pleasant and their families were also Charter members. Their grandson's wife, Mrs. Thomas Ellis, also served on the first Executive Committee. There are many, many other descendants who still live in the Dallas County area and who are also eligible for membership through the heritage of Ellender Penny Witt and John Witt. Their descendants truly played an important part in the settling and growth of Dallas County."

Linda's paper is now in the Archives of our Association. Thanks, Linda! Linda is the fourth great-granddaughter of Ellender Witt and Linda's granddaughter, **Stacie Witcher**, is the sixth great-granddaughter!

Nancy and I will miss the June meeting since we will be in Copenhagen, Denmark, on our "once-in-a-lifetime" cruise to the Baltic capitals and St. Petersburg, Russia. We know that Vice-President **Clare Weakley** will be a strong leader and that you will

enjoy the program presented by **Suzanne Starling**. We plan to hear Suzanne, as well as our September speaker, **Jerry Cristol**, at Fair Park in a program sponsored by the Dallas Historical Society.

With the passage of Trinity River development bonds and continued progress in restoration of our Old Red Courthouse, it could be an exciting time for historic preservation in Dallas. Let's all be alert as these projects proceed so that we can put our "two cents' worth" into the dialogue. Ω

Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 5

President **Bill McRae** opened the first meeting of the new year and commented on the good turnout present: seventy-two members and guests signed in. He said this shows that the Telephone Committee is doing a good job.

The Invocation was given by Vice-President **Clare Weakley, Jr.**, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag and the Texas flag.

The President introduced seven new members and eight guests, and asked for prayers for our Pioneer members who are sick: **Millie Coffey, Earl Cullum, Marcelle Hull, Bill and Jackie Jacoby, Ruby Ledbetter, Sara McGee, and Sybil Skipworth.**

John Winniford gave the treasurer's report and reported that we have 208 members, eight honorary members, and six student members. The treasurer's books were audited and the auditor recommended that John Winniford be honored for the good records he keeps.

Under Old Business the President advised that there has been some delay getting out some of the membership certificates, but that is being worked on.

New Business: the President again thanked **Gerard Dickinson** for the presentation of the book *Our City:*

Dallas, which she gave in memory of **Andy Dickinson**. Also, he thanked **Jim Forster** for the gift of his book, *The Bois D'arc at Nacogdoches.*

Mattie Hughes will attend the Fort Worth Genealogy Society meeting and man a table to sell our books. We thank her most sincerely for doing this.

Frances James reported on "Historical Happenings". The Beeman Family is reorganizing to do what is necessary to keep their family cemetery. Frances said this has to be done every fifty years for the State to recognize it. The Glover Cemetery has paid the \$800 for a historical marker, and the Routh Cemetery is working on it.

Frances advised that at present we have lost Crozier Tech High, but with over 8,000 alumni working on it, maybe it can be saved.

President McRae introduced our speaker, **Henry Tatum**, who spoke about interesting people and events in early Dallas. He said he gets most of his material from two books, *The Lusty Texans of Dallas* by **John Williams Rogers** and *Big D* by **Darwin Payne**. It was an interesting talk and questions were asked and answered.

President McRae ended the meeting with "God be with you 'til we meet again." Ω
Secretary **Mae Riek**

HAPPY 100th BIRTHDAY, MAE!

One of our nearest and dearest, and certainly one of our most loyal members, MAE B. RIEK, was 100 years old May 28!

We are so blessed to have her as one of our own, and wish for her the happiest day as well as the next 100 years.

SUNSHINE REPORT

We offer our condolences to **David McGee** and family on the loss of our good friend and Sunshine Lady, **Sara McGee**. She will be sorely missed by all of us who have had the privilege of working closely with her in DCPA. She was a fine lady, and rightly proud of her pioneer heritage.

A generous memorial gift has been made in Sara's name to DCPA from our members Mr. and Mrs. **Frank Schulz, Jr.**, of Mesquite and Mr. and Mrs. **Doyle Morris** from Van Alstyne.

I called to get a report on **Marcelle Hull** and **Gene**, her husband, said she was having lunch with a friend and would call back. He says she is getting out a little and hopes to be at our June 4 meeting.

Earl Cullum is doing well after his surgery. He has moved to **Marriott Brighton Gardens**, 12400 Preston Road, Suite 248, Dallas 75230 telephone 972/385-1311. I'm sure he would love to hear from any of us. He also hopes to attend our next meeting.

Jackie Jacoby has had a flareup with lupus and has had another biopsy for breast cancer. We hope she is doing well.

We will keep all of these members in our thoughts and prayers. If you know of any illness in our membership, please call **Nona Williams**. ☺
Nancy McRae for Nona Williams

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER

Lynell Bennett Moss, retired Trade Association executive and avid genealogist, is our newest member. She comes from a long line of early Dallas County residents, with one ancestor coming in 1845 and another in the 1850s.

Hiram Bennett, a farmer who was born in Georgia, arrived in the County in 1845. He was a Justice of the Peace and an early constable in Dallas. He married

Sarah Dougan, born in Arkansas, in Dallas in 1846. Their son, **Enoch Noah**, married **Mary Ann Vanzant**, and they became the parents of **William Parish**.

William married **Hattie Middleton**, and this is where the line converges with the second family. **Hattie** was the daughter of **George A. Middleton** and **Emelina Love**. **Emelina** was the daughter of **Osborn Love**, also a farmer, who had come from North Carolina with his wife **Jane Fondren** (sister of early County settler, **John R. Fondren**) in the early 1850s.

Hattie and **William** were the parents of **Lloyd Allen Bennett** who married **Maxine Johanna Mannewitz**, and they became the parents of **Lynell**.

Lynell is a member of the National Genealogical Society, AGLL, Ancestry, Dallas Genealogical Society, and the Mesquite Historical & Genealogical Society. She and her husband, **Frederick E. Moss**, live at 6309 Glen Hollow Drive, Plano 75093, telephone 972/608-0236. ☺

METRO PAST

3/22/98

— From The Dallas Morning News Files

March 1923

Opposition to changing the name of Masten street to St. Paul was voiced Friday before the City Commission, when the ordinance which will change Masten, Evergreen and Rowley received its first reading. The protest follows: "The undersigned residents of this city have noted your decision to change the name of Masten street to St. Paul street and, while we are not disposed to criticize your action or that of the property owners on this street, we do feel that in this instance the work of obliterating the

name of this long established street is an injustice to the memory of a splendid pioneer citizen who did his full part to make possible our present advanced civilization. Masten street was named in honor of W.K. Masten, one of the best of our early settlers. He was County Clerk of this county for four years (1856-60), was master of Tannehill Masonic Lodge, member of the firm of Masten, Ross & Bro., pioneer merchants, and a minister of the gospel." The protest is signed by C.B. Gillespie, Frank M. Cockrell, June Peak, S.B. Scott and H.H. Smith.

This article was in The Dallas Morning News of March 22, 1998, and is interesting because we are opposing the same kind of re-naming actions now. The Roster of the Dallas County Pioneer Association for that period lists all the men who signed the protest petition as members and officers of the Association. C.B. Gillespie was vice-president, Henry H. Smith was historian, and June Peak and Frank Cockrell were on the Executive Committee. John Winniford

WHAT'S GOING ON IN DALLAS COUNTY

by Frances James

There is activity all over Dallas County, to preserve, promote, and publicize our History! Texas Historical Markers are an excellent way to preserve our history for the future. When we sell enough of our Volume II of *Proud Heritage*, we shall again gather family histories for Volume III. In the meantime, following are some of these activities I am aware of:

Some of the descendants of the pioneers buried in the Kit Cemetery in Irving are in the process of assembling the information to apply for a Texas Historical Marker for that site. If anyone has documents or information on these pioneers who are buried in the west side of Dallas County, let us know so that their history can be included.

There were two communities in Dallas County called Pleasant Valley. The one in the southwest corner near Ellis County already has a Texas Historical Marker.

One of our newest members, Jim Forster, is gathering information for an application for the northeast corner of Dallas County (some folks may have lived in Rockwall County). Jim has recently given the DCPA a copy of the book he was able to compile and publish about this section of the County.

The Sons and the Daughters of the Confederacy are starting to make plans to improve the fence around the Confederate Cemetery on Reed Lane between Second Avenue and Oakland. There are over 120 known veterans buried at this site. The land for this cemetery was donated by **Mattie and J.A. Crawford** in 1901. Mattie Crawford was the daughter of **William H. and Mary J. (Crockett) Hord**. Mary Jane Hord was the sister of **John Crockett**, the second mayor of Dallas and later the lieutenant governor of Texas under the Confederacy. This three-quarters of an acre cemetery is maintained by the Dallas Park Department. Vandals have removed some of the wrought iron fence and the retaining wall needs help. When the fund-raising process begins, arrange your budget to help the effort.

The LaPrada Church of Christ is planning to dedicate the Texas Historical Marker for their Church on June 7 at 2 p.m. This congregation met in their homes until 1907, when the first piece of property was purchased. At that time it was called the Workman Street Church of Christ. Then, when the street name was changed to Dallas Street, so was the Church's name. By 1914 the name was again changed to Fitzhugh Avenue. Do not look for the address, as the site is included in the Starplex facility at Fair Park. Altogether, the Church was in the same location for forty-seven years. Now located in a beautiful facility at 2724 LaPrada in Mesquite, the Church has descendants of some of the early families still attending.

Mark Mueller is compiling the colorful history of **T.C. Hawpe** (1820-1863), one of the earliest sheriffs of Dallas County. His descendants will apply for a Texas Historical Grave marker to be placed in the Pioneer Cemetery in downtown Dallas. Share your tidbits about Hawpe; maybe your ancestors participated with him in some of his enterprises. He was a busy pioneer.

One of the oldest houses still standing in Richardson is at 813 W. Beltline. This was the home of one of the Stiles descendants who settled in that section of Dallas County. The property is for sale and someone has shown an interest in purchasing it to rehabilitate and live in it. Hooray for the preservationists in Dallas County!

St. Mary of Carmel is a Catholic church and school in West Dallas on Singleton and Vilbig. Singleton Road was previously called Eagle Ford. The principal of the school, **Christine Clem**, is compiling information for a Texas Historical Marker for the school building which was erected in the 1940s. The school itself was established in 1944. This is another story of parents struggling to improve the lives of their children. Some of the buildings used by the school were built by the families of the students! Christine is a daughter-in-law in the Clem family that had a lumber yard on Carroll Avenue near what is now Thornton Freeway in East Dallas for many years.

Nearly everyone has heard of **Ellis Strain**, the farmer in the Lancaster area who farmed the original family farm for so many years. Ellis is gone now, but one of his daughters, **Carol Strain Burke**, promised her dad she would continue to keep the land together as long as she could. She is in the process of assembling the information to apply for National Register listing for the entire farm. By the way, Carol just ran for the city council in Lancaster and was successful!

Several years ago the First United Methodist Church on Ross Avenue was interested in receiving recognition for their building, as well as the congregation. Now, due to many changes in the office and ministers, the quest is on again. Does anyone know anything about whether the church history has already been compiled? If not, we shall be forced to research all over again. Can you imagine losing this kind of file? What happened?

Now that the matter of voting for bonds to make the Trinity River the front yard of Dallas instead of the dumping ground and purveyor of other folks' waste water have passed, the process will begin. (In my opinion, the plans should have been formulated before asking the citizens to vote on a \$246,000,000 "trust me" plan.) We who have been involved for several years in a series of meetings are learning something new every day of studies and surveys that have been underway but not revealed to the general public ahead of time for consideration. If you have the time, you should follow this process the next ten years and see how our money is being spent.

Some more members of the Chenault family are busy gathering information and sharing what they have previously found. *The Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County* is full of information on this family and the various inlaws (and maybe outlaws). They are being invited to attend our June meeting. **Sue Chenault** is another retiree of the Telephone Company.

Speaking of telephones, the Texas Historical Marker entitled "Communications in Dallas" will be dedicated

soon at the corner of Haskell and Main. This is the site of the first toll building in Dallas. Just a little over 120 years ago we depended on a fast horse for rapid communications! One of the earliest pioneers in Dallas involved with this "newfangled" contraption was **John M. Oram**. John was an electrical genius who came to Dallas from Illinois when he was twelve years old. The family lived in Lancaster and John worked at the Confederate Arms Factory. After becoming trained as a watchmaker in Indiana, he established a jewelry store and installed a telephone from the store to his house on Cottage Lane. His orphaned nephew, **Arthur A. Everts**, was reared by him and was also very successful in the jewelry business for many years in Dallas.

Crozier Tech is still standing and the trauma at DISD goes on. Ω

**IF YOU NEED A ROSTER MAILED TO YOU,
LEAVE YOUR NAME ON
THE MESSAGE CENTER**

FROM OUR MAILBAG

From **Ramona Faye Roberts** in Plainview: "I really enjoy reading the newsletter of DCPA each time. Thank you and all the other members for all your hard work. Just for your records, my correct area code is 806, not 606 (see p. 24 of the Roster) [Sorry about that, Ramona.] Thanks." (And thanks for keeping in touch, Ramona. Come meet with us when you can.)

From **Marilyn and Val Hicks**: "Thanks for everything. We do appreciate the organization and all of you who have kept it so special. Sorry our health has not allowed our participation — but we do enjoy the newsletters and hearing about our Pioneer Association." (So let us hear about you, Marilyn and Val. We hope your health will improve so you can join us again.) Ω

LEAVING A LEGACY

This is an account of another of our members who is taking part in building our heritage and traditions. Give us your story—of a past or present member, living or dead.

GTT: AS IN "GONE TO TENNESSEE"

We start them out in the County, but they have a way of straying off to far places to expend their considerable energies and talents in other communities. Luckily for us, they maintain their membership in DCPA and their old family ties.

And we are speaking of old family: **Margaret Caillet Swann** of Nashville, Tennessee, dates her family back to the La Reunion Reverchons and Caillets, with ties to the Riehns, Letots, and Lubys. Great grandfather **Maximilien Reverchon** was a member of the Fourierism Society and a friend of **Victor Considerant**, founder of La Reunion. He brought some of his family to the socialist colony which was three miles west of Dallas in 1856. (Maximilien himself founded a similar colony in Algeria in 1848, which also founded.)

Margaret's finest legacy for Dallas was the very first school for handicapped children, which she started on the property of the family farm on Lovers Lane, the same one established by her grandmother, **Eugenia Reverchon Caillet**. She realized the need for such a facility while teaching in the public schools after graduating from TWU. In her words, "My father had earlier died, and I went to my mother and asked for some of my inheritance so I could build a school for the handicapped. My school attracted the attention of the School Board and in 1942 they incorporated it into the Dallas public schools. In 1943 I went to Houston and helped start classes in special education like those we had in Dallas." When Margaret went to Houston for a year, the school was relocated in the basement of Ben Milam Elementary School, with the library, cots, chairs and tables — wheelchair-accessible — she had made for the children.

Any story about Margaret, a petite four-foot four, must include her husband of fifty-one years, **Hal Swann, Jr.**, a six foot-four southern gentleman from Tennessee because they do all of their prowling through history together. Theirs is one of those **Ann Landers'** how-we-met stories of the '40s and '50s: Hal was sent to Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells during World War II and met Margaret at Highland Park Presbyterian Church while visiting friends in Dallas. After three years of corresponding while he served overseas, they were married in the church where they met. They have all those letters bound in two volumes, but laughingly say that they are not quite ready to let their children read them. (One of those children is fifty.)

That's how we lost Margaret to Nashville, where engineer Hal took his bride for a job with the Davidson County Highway Department and then a job designing cemeteries (he has designed more than 125 cemeteries in eighteen states, Frances). In 1966 Margaret helped found the Metropolitan Historical Commission, which she chaired for four years, and is the only charter member of that organization still serving. She paints and quilts—she designed the squares for a historic picture quilt made by her United Daughters of the Confederacy chapter. She and Hal are collectors; they spend days combing antique shops for her early- to mid-1800 coverlets and furniture and for his compasses and Weeden toy steam engines. She says, "I ride shotgun and decide where we're going for the day." They take pictures of historic structures they see, then come home and make miniatures of them.

He also has collected Tennessee-, then more specifically, Nashville-made guns, and has kept up with his first collection, stamps. His stamp-collecting began when he was made president of the stamp club in high school, but his reason for joining was not to collect: "It was a good way to get out of history class", he admits. This from a kid who became such a history buff! His gun collection is now part of a display in the Tennessee State Museum, as is his Civil War cannon. He had yearned to own a toy steam engine since he first saw a friend's when he was twelve years old but

his oldest daughter was twelve when he bought his first one. He says, "I cleaned it up and showed my children what Daddy had always wanted." They are like snowflakes, he says, all different, and at one time he had between three and four hundred. Then he decided to narrow his collection to just steam engines made by Weedens and has the second largest collection in the country. In 1997 Hal wrote a book on the Weedens; his cover is the same as that on the first catalog for the company in 1891:



Having just about exhausted the field of Weedens, he started collecting compasses, sort of a natural for an engineer.

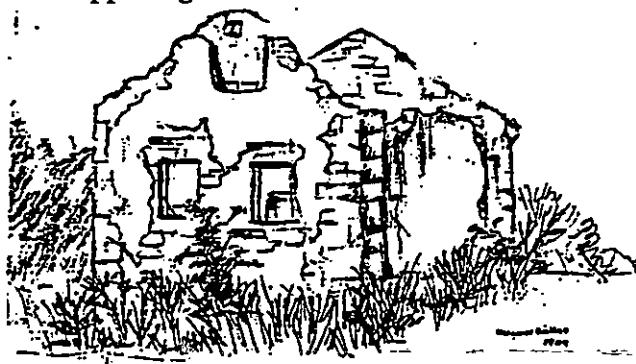
The Swanns have three children (and six grandchildren), all of whom are following in the footsteps of their Reverchon-Caillet-Riehn ancestors, volunteering on many levels. **Susan Sutherland**, homemaker and aide to a school principal, gives her free time to the recreational activities at their church, including a Day Camp each summer. **Mark Swann** is the Park Ranger-Historian at Port Royal State Park at Tennessee's Red River, and he and his wife, **Reba**, teach "high adventure" camping to Boy Scouts and church groups. **Laura Hons** is a homemaker and volunteers at the Wildlife Center in Tomball, Texas, where she cares for injured birds and animals.

And the grandchildren are another whole story on their community service.

Reverchon Park is named for great-uncle **Julien Reverchon**, a prominent citizen and professor of botany at Baylor College of Medicine, and in recent years an office complex called Reverchon Plaza has gone up across the street from the Park. In 1957 an elementary school was named for Margaret's father, **F.P. Caillet**, a builder of many of the homes in Bluff View, Greenway Parks, and University Park.

Margaret's twin sister, **Marie Caillet** (another good story), still living at the site of the family's lakeside home in Little Elm and still writing and editing articles and books, put us onto the story about Margaret and gave us a lot of our details. Besides Swann and Caillet, both charter members, other names in DCPA who will continue this family story are Lusk and Kurrus.

We have had nice telephone visits with Margaret Swann and she says that she and Hal hope to someday schedule a visit back home which will coincide with one of our quarterly meetings. We look forward to that happening. Ω



Margaret's signed sketch of the last building left in La Reunion in 1929. She was fourteen years old.



Margaret and Hal make miniatures of buildings they see on their outings. He builds them and she paints them.

"Their story is the story of a struggle against daunting odds to choose their own way, to stay faithful to a shared cause, to remain human beings in a world where they were treated like animals," said Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a Navy pilot who was shot down over Hanoi in 1967 and spent more than five years in prison in North Vietnam. "Their humanity, so ironic and gallant in its opposition to organized inhumanity, was their glory." (Story about the dedication of a museum for POW's, The Dallas Morning News, April 10, 1998.)



HE HAS BEEN CALLED "MR. THIRTY" because of his years of service in the military and in the F.B.I., and to his church. He is a researcher and a writer and has served us as president. Who is this handsome young man with the eagle on his shoulder?

NEWS RELEASE:
MONUMENT REDEDICATION
 by Lloyd White

The time has arrived to reinstall and rededicate the Memorial Monument that was first dedicated March 2, 1957, at the completion of the Memorial Auditorium and Theater. At that same time a Monument to the Gold Star Mothers of Dallas was also installed and dedicated, and it is still located on the southeast corner of Akard and Canton Streets.

The Memorial Monument was removed in 1972 in order to extend the Convention Center in a northerly direction, and the Monument has been in storage since that time. A group of interested people are committed to the reinstallation of this Memorial Monument and

are now excited to announce the Rededication of the Monument on Saturday, 30 May, 1998, at 10 a.m. at the Flag Pole in the grassy area located between the Theater and the Memorial Auditorium, by the Akard Street main entrance.

The Memorial Monument honors those who were killed and those who served in the Spanish American War and the Philippines Insurrection, World War I, World War II, and the Korean Action. This reinstallation has been made possible, at no cost to the City of Dallas, by generous donations of two of Dallas' leading philanthropists, Mr. Trammell Crow and Mr. Don Carter.

A group of interested citizens and veterans organizations, under the leadership of Jack Beckman, President and CEO of Arena Promotions, Inc. and former assistant manager of the Dallas Convention Center, includes Jim Richardson, Commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars, District 3; Bob Elkins, Commander, American Legion District 5; Tony Bunton, Junior Vice Commander, VFW, District 3; Kenneth Nedderman, Commander, Disabled American Veterans; Larry Weitsler, Commander, Jewish War Veterans; and Lloyd White, concerned citizen.

We look forward to May 30, when we can all join together to pay our deepest respects and appreciation to those who gave of themselves, and especially, as the Monument says, "in Honor of Those Who Died that This Nation Might be Preserved for Posterity". Ω

THEY DON'T WANT US IN
THE OLD COURTHOUSE

Can you believe that the County of Dallas doesn't have a place in their [being] restored nineteenth century courthouse for the Dallas County Pioneer Association, which predates Old Red by almost twenty years? (Let's get our gripes out of the way, then we'll talk about how beautifully it is coming along.)

It is final: no room in Old Red for us. Those in charge can't see that this is our logical home; they don't want any organizations cluttering up the premises. This is just an organization? This is the organization. In years to come, some thinking person is going to ask where was their gumption when they made this decision, and probably will try to remedy it.

September 30, 1997, we presented a request to the Steering Committee of The Friends of the Old Red Courthouse, saying in part: "The DCPA had its inception in 1875 in the 'Court house', and we have waited since that date for a resource such as a Dallas County Museum, surely to be housed in our venerable Old Red Courthouse, built in 1892 on that same two hundred-foot square block as that early 'Court house'. If any group currently active in the County should have a home in Old Red it is this first one, which was founded by *real* Dallas County pioneers, and now is open to anyone interested in preserving the history of Dallas County. We have treasures that should be accessible to the public. We have records that should be accessible to researchers. . . We have members, and friends of members, who will give us their cherished family records, books, papers, and artifacts, if we have a place to store, show, and use them."

Well, look at the bright side: there are other good homes for us and we will move on now. And surely the accessibility and parking will be more favorable elsewhere.

We had a tour of Old Red recently, and it was exhilarating. Architect **James Pratt** showed us through and answered our questions. We are disappointed to learn that only part of the grand staircase will be restored; there isn't money to put it back in its original form (we do have another arena to build and a polluted river to restyle for further pollution). The interior doors and transoms (remember transoms?) are stunning: oak and bevelled glass and brass. The lovely arches and high ceilings throughout give the building a grand feeling. And on the iron steps of the grand staircase: each has a five-pointed star, with rays shooting out in all directions. Really handsome. We are going to be very

proud of it and will love using it.

The first and second floors will be open to the public, with such things as a convention and visitors bureau and gift shop (don't know why we wouldn't fit into one of those many rooms). The top (fourth) floor is being readied for special events to help fund the building (can we think of a way to do that in a room of our own?). Forget the third floor; it doesn't compute in any plans for the public.

The first floor hallways, at least, won't be the best place to hold a meeting: voices bounce off the walls so they sound like a chorus. We don't know if that can be corrected, or if it is also true of the other floors.

Don't miss a chance to tour this beautiful old-new treasure of Dallas County — even this early. It will thrill you. Ω

WHOIZIT?????

The mystery lady in the last issue of our newsletter is immediate past-President **Nancy McRae** (nee **Howell**). A native Dallasite, she graduated from North Dallas High School then attended NTAC (where the photo was taken), UT at Austin, and SMU, where she graduated from the business school. And how does she keep that schoolgirl figure and that glowing complexion? For the past twenty-eight years she has played tennis in the "Wednesday Morning Game" with seven other ladies!

All of Nancy's activities are for non-profit organizations: she serves on the boards of directors for Dickinson Place, Greenwood Cemetery Association, Killough Memorial Association, and the DCPA; and service for her church includes the board of United Methodist Women, the We Care ministry for older adults, and coordinating the summer reading program. She is also active in the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary, Meals-on-Wheels program, and is currently helping organize the Routh (Spring Creek) Cemetery Association. Whew! We've told you before that this is one busy lady!

Nancy's Dallas County ties go back five generations and include the Campbell, Coit, Howell, Killough, and Routh families. Her grandfather lived in the present-day Quadrangle area and named Fairmount, Howell, and Routh Street, among others.

We are so glad she has time for us! Ω

BILL BAIRD UNEARTHES CURRENCY OF RE-CONSTRUCTION ERA

by W.D. Baird, M.D.

In the Reconstruction after the Civil War, my great grandfather, Dr. **John Barnet Baird**, lived in the Little Elm community where he practiced with his brother, **James Monroe Baird**, M.D. He later moved to Brackenridge (now Richardson). When he retired he moved to a house on Ross Avenue six blocks from the river.

In his memorabilia are some curious bits of paper which apparently represent homemade currency of the Reconstruction, although to date, no authority has given an opinion. These things are for various amounts, and a stamp is attached for five cents, with "Intern. Revenue Certificate" written thereon. Just what the necessity for the stamp was is a problem lost in time, but assumed to be a government tax imposed on the workings of commerce in the South by a government seeking revenge for a bloody revolution.

The handwriting on these certificates has a message that varies very slightly: "One day after date I promise to pay J.B. Baird or order Twenty seven 80/100 Dollars for value recd with 10 per cent interest from the first of January last". There follows a date — April 4, 1868, and a signature.

One of the notes is made to "T.B. Harrison or order", which indicates that these things were used as money, since we have no idea who T.B. may have been — he was not in the family. He apparently gave this note in payment for a medical bill rather than give his own note. It is endorsed on the back like a check might be.

The maker was **R.H. Edmonson** who must have left town without honoring his indebtedness.

The fact that these instruments are still around shows that doctors in those days had about as much trouble collecting their fees as they sometimes do today. Ω

Editor's note: We could not get copies of these notes with quality adequate for reproduction. So we will ask Bill to bring some examples to our next meeting.

ROSE-MARY RUMBLEY'S NEW BOOK

Our friend and frequent speaker at DCPA meetings, Rose-Mary Rumbley, has had her fourth book published. It is titled *Dallas Too, Stories I'm Telling Because I Want to Hear Them Myself*.

Rose-Mary is having book-signings as follows:

May 29, 7 p.m., Book Stop at Inwood & Lovers Lane

June 13, 3 p.m., Borders Books in Lewisville

June 29, 7 p.m., Borders Books on Lovers Lane

Rose-Mary will be our December speaker. Ω
Carolyn Selzer

LATE BULLETIN

Our Iris Lady, **Marie Caillet** in Little Elm, just told us about the storm—tornado?—she and sister **Shirley Welch** survived in early May. Her house was badly damaged, but Shirley (across the street) had to move in with Marie while repairs are being made on her house. Marie is overseeing repairs on both homes and continuing her busy life editing her book revision.

Marie had just-toured more than 300 people through her gardens in April and now she faces assessing the damage to her "shredded flowers." Ω

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.

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.

Message Center: 214/969-0926

Our organization meets quarterly for dinner and a program at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each March, June, September, and December.

Visitors are always welcome. The meeting room is open at 5:30 p.m. for dining and fellowship. Program starts promptly at 7:00 p.m.

Dallas County Pioneer Association



Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
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