

Dallas County Pioneer Association

Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979
P.O. Box 12496, Dallas, Texas 75225-0496
214/969-0926

FALL 1999

DINNER MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1999

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

Dinner by Reservation at 6 p.m.
\$8 per person

Program at 7 p.m.

Be sure to make reservations with one of the following by **Monday, August 30:**

Bill McRae, @ 214/521-8654

Bill Clark, @ 214/528-1891

DCPA Call Notes, @ 214/969-0926.

Our program will be presented by Dr. **Michael V. Hazel**, on "The Founding and Development of SMU, Dallas' Premier Institution of Higher Learning". Mike took his B.A. degree (with honors) and currently is a lecturer on Dallas history in the History Department of SMU.

We could run out of paper and ink listing all of Mike's accomplishments and all of his community services and all of the professional organizations to which he has given his professional support. So, we will start off saying that we are extremely proud to have him as a member of DCPA.

Among his many publications, he has been the editor of *Heritage News*, quarterly newsletter of the Dallas County Heritage Society, and *Legacies*, a joint regional history magazine of the Heritage Society and the Dallas Historical Society, since its inception in 1989. His latest book is *Dallas, A Dynamic Century*, which he was commissioned to author by Wyndham Publications, publishers of books about the business and industry of major American cities. A favorite of ours is his *Dallas Reconsidered: Essays in Local History*, essays taken from *Legacies* and *Heritage News*.

Dr. Hazel received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Chicago, and has taught at the University of North Texas at Denton and the University of Texas at Dallas, as well as at SMU. He is also Archivist for A.H. Belo Corporation and maintains an office at Old City Park, where he is frequently called upon to serve as interim executive director.

Mike will give us more about Dallas than the history of SMU. You don't want to miss this. Ω

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 100+ degree days are, hopefully, coming to an end and we are gearing up for a busy fall. The DCPA history revision committee needs your help! Please take a look at the blue booklet entitled "One Hundred Twenty Years, A History of the Dallas County Pioneer Association", and see what you would correct, add or change—especially, the primary ancestor listed in the back of the booklet.

We haven't heard from many of you concerning your personal war experiences. Were you working in a defense industry, on active military duty, a volunteer worker on the home front or simply writing to that special soldier, sailor, airman or marine? We want to record everyone's experiences for posterity. Don't put it off any longer—it may be lost forever if you don't record it today! If you are hesitant to write about your experiences, call me at 214/521-8654 and I will arrange to meet you in the Dallas area and record what you have to say. Let's hear from you!

The Executive Committee has authorized the designing of a Dallas County Pioneer Historic Marker as the first step in beginning our campaign of marking historic sites around the County that don't have or are having trouble getting a Texas Historical Marker. The State Commission is so far behind in processing requests that it sometimes takes years for an application to be approved. The DCPA believes it can eliminate much of the red tape and the time it takes to get a Marker, plus identify many sites for which there are no current sponsors. We'll keep you posted on the progress.

I have appointed a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of DCPA officers for year 2000. The Committee is composed of Chair **Nancy McRae**, **Betsy Halford**, **Barney Jones**, and **Karlee Smith**. This Committee is looking for people who are interested in becoming leaders of our Association. Anyone interested in being an officer please contact one of the Committee members and express your desire. Willingness in leading this organization is the primary

qualification! We also need telephone committee members. It only takes an hour or so every three months.

Each of you should mark your calendar for Saturday, October 2, when the first annual Dallas History Conference will be held at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, Harwood and Young Streets in downtown Dallas. Registration forms will be available at our September 2 meeting.

You win some and you lose some when it comes to preserving historic names and places. The Jefferson Davis school name change was a loss to dubious political correctness (pressure to rewrite or ignore southern history), but the refurbishment of Pegasus atop the old Magnolia Building (now a luxury hotel) will preserve and improve a long-standing symbol of Dallas. This just reminds us that we must be continuously alert to those who have little regard for the past and put our ideas of preservation in front of the powers-that-be.

Life Member **Dorothy Savage** passed away on August 5. Our sincere condolences to her family. Our thoughts and prayers are with them.

Lastly, I want to congratulate **Jackie and Bill Jacoby** and **Carolyn and Simon Selzer** on their milestone 50th wedding anniversaries. It is wonderful to see that commitment and love is alive and well! **Ω**
Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING JUNE 3, 1999

The meeting was held in the Family Hall of the Royal Lane Baptist Church. It was called to order by Vice-President **Clare Weakley** at 7 p. m., with fifty-two members and six guests present. **Mattie Hughes** gave the Invocation and **Clare** lead the Pledge to the American and the Texas flags. **Clare** welcomed new members and guests, and gave thanks that **Nancy and Bill McRae** arrived back safely from their vacation overseas.

In the announcements from the floor we were advised that our December speaker, **Rose-Mary Rumbley**, is recovering in the hospital. Anyone wishing to send her a card can do so at Presbyterian Hospital.

Billy Joe Denton announced that the Mesquite Public Library is having an all-day genealogical program with **Leslie Smith Collier** on June 12 and all are invited.

Frances James reminded us of the Cemetery Bus Tour to take place on June 5; some space is still available.

Vice-President Weakley said that since the last meeting **John Winniford** has lost his wife, **Mary Alice**; **Nora Iechner** has lost her husband, **R.A.**; and the **Rieks** and **Reilly** have lost their cousin, **Walter Bowen**. All were also members of DCPA. Sympathy was expressed to each of them.

Marjori Sharp needs help in revising our DCPA History. All revisions and additions need to be into Marjori by November 1. Everyone is asked to review the History (blue book) to see what needs to be corrected or changed. Please take this seriously, so that our book can be completed for the year 2000.

Six membership certificates were distributed, and others will be mailed out to those not present.

Vice-President Weakley introduced our speaker, **Gene Gaddy**, who is also our treasurer. Clare and Gene went to Highland Park Junior High School together. Gene has an extensive history on the Post Office System in Texas, and he spoke on the Post Offices of Dallas County from the beginning of the System. Some of the early post offices still exist and others are long gone. Gene had a large display of covers for members to see, many from post offices that no longer exist. It was a very interesting program.

Clare thanked Gene for his program, and the meeting closed at 8 p.m. with "God be with you 'til we meet again." Ω Mae Riek, Secretary

FINAL FAREWELL

Life Member **Dorothy Harris Savage**, a descendant of Dallas County pioneers **Martha Alice Cochran** and **William Harris**, passed away on August 5.

Dorothy was the wife of former Dallas Mayor **Wallace Savage**, who survives, as do two daughters and four grandchildren. She was born and raised in Dallas and lived all her life in the Swiss Avenue district.

Dorothy was a driving force in the preservation of Dallas' historic buildings and neighborhoods and helped establish Preservation Dallas and the Swiss Avenue Historic District. She also was instrumental in establishing Dallas Academy, a school for children with learning disabilities and served as the Academy's director for many years.

We extend our sincere sympathies to her family and loved ones. Ω
Nona Williams

WELCOME, NEW MEMBER

Larry Lee Johnson's earliest Dallas County ancestors were **Marian Shiflet** and **Omer Lee Johnson**, who came in 1925 and farmed in Pleasant Grove.

Omer Johnson was born in Scotsville, Kentucky, and is buried there. Marian was born in Dallas and still lives here. Larry says he is a "kinda" retired realtor, and we know what that means.

Larry is also a member of Preservation Dallas and the Park Cities Historical Society. He lives at 5416 Swiss Avenue, 75214, and his telephone number is 214/824-4299. Ω

HAPPY 96th BIRTHDAY
JENNIE COLEMAN

TO: YOU!
FROM: CLARE WEAKLEY
FOR: A FEW GOOD HELPERS

Our DCPA is run by its good friends who volunteer small bits of time and efforts to get our business done on time. So far, we are running smoothly and have the members and money to fulfill our mission. Your Executive Committee sends each of you a special and personal thanks for your support and encouragement.

Presently, we need two or three more volunteers who would like to experience the benefits of calling a small telephone list once each three months.

Our Telephone Committee volunteers are the ears of all our members and are special associates of the Executive Committee. The Telephone volunteers call ten or twelve members each quarter to remind them of our dinner meetings.

A special benefit these volunteers receive is the satisfaction knowing that their calls keep the DCPA operating. An additional benefit is their opportunity to get better acquainted with the members on their list, and sometimes hear some news before anyone else does!

If you would like to enjoy these benefits, call Faye Evans, toll free, at 817/267-5361. Ω

BITS FROM FRANCES JAMES

Just a few tidbits I have found while looking for something else:

- In 1806 the Federal Government authorized a National Road across what was America at that time. This was the first interstate!
- Money to buy the Louisiana Purchase, \$15,000, was borrowed from England at 6% interest, about \$.34 per acre!
- *The New Handbook of Texas* is now on the Internet.
- A list of National Register Properties in Dallas County is now on the Internet. Ω

SUNSHINE BRIEFS

Charter Member **Jack Jackson** is recovering nicely from extensive exploratory tests at a local hospital.

Jennie Coleman, also a Charter Member, was ninety-six years young on August 6. We wish her many more Happy Birthdays.

Nona Williams, Sunshine Chairman

Addendum: **Nona Williams**, our Sunshine Chairman, has been under the weather herself, but she keeps on keeping on as always. Nona was hospitalized, but is recovering nicely at home. Ω



WHOIZIT???

We like his leadership. He was born in Tennessee and lived in Florida before he got to Texas. A graduate of Duke University, he worked for big oil companies and raised a family of four children. Upon the death of his first wife he married a native Dallasite, who, surprisingly, had family ties with this Tennessee traveler: they found that both maternal grandparents came from the same small town of Rutherford, Tennessee, and according to an old newsletter found in his mother's things, attended an event together. Coincidence—or fate? Ω

MEMORIES AND MORE!

Do you remember riding the spooky cage elevators to the top of the Magnolia Building to see Pegasus and to view Dallas? Did you ever ride a street car to the end of the line and then ride back, just for fun? Where were you when you heard that Bonnie and Clyde had been shot? Did you have any family member who was at Dallas' last lynching? Can you tell us about the windmill water system at the State Fair grounds? What effect did the 1929 crash have on your family? Could you spin a top better than anyone else? What was your first doll? Didn't you hate those woolen swim suits? And, what about those shopping trips to downtown with Mom? Ugh. What about life before tank hot water heaters? Do you have memories about the horse-drawn milk, ice, and trash wagons? What do you remember about your neighborhood grocery store?

We want to hear your memories, yarns, family myths, and fish stories. Write it down. Send it in. Don't worry about style and spelling. We will edit for you. We want to publish your special memories before Y2K. Hurry along because our space is limited. First come first served. You know about that rule, don't you? No pushing or shoving in this line. Bee, bee, bumble bee, all out come in free, and do it "rat" now. Don't put this off, ya' hear? Ω
Clare Weakley

FROM OUR MAILBAG

A nice letter from **Ralph Kerr**, who lives in Albuquerque, with lots of names and recollections. *This* is what we are asking for from you:

I always enjoy your newsletter, but the Spring 99 edition was particularly interesting to me because it awakened a lot of my old memories and for the tales my grandfather told me.

You mentioned the wedding of Alexander Cockrell to Sarah Horton in 1848. My grandfather, James Henry Morriss, was born

that year in Barren County, Kentucky. He and his brother, John T. Morriss were taken to Dallas ten years later as orphans to live with an uncle. Grandfather left that situation as soon as possible, about 1863, to go to work for Colonel Cockrell, who owned a store on South Lamar about where the Sears Catalog store was located when I lived in Dallas.

Grandpa's job was to drive an ox team pulling a wagon loaded with cow hides and furs to the nearest railhead which was Shreveport, Louisiana, and return with goods for the store. He said the return load was usually salt. The round trip took two weeks with time to load and unload the wagon.

I was impressed with the dangers from Indians and outlaws along the way so I asked him about that. He said that it was indeed dangerous because "I would go to sleep and I nearly fell off the seat several times and a fellow could get killed that way." I don't know how long he worked as a teamster, but the railroad came to Dallas and put his ox team out of business in 1870. Grandpa drove a wagon and horse team to and from East Texas hauling lumber for the store and later, still working for "the Colonel", he was a "bronc-buster". After breaking a string of horses to the saddle he would peddle them out to nearby ranches.

In 1875 he married Susan Adaline Keene, daughter of John Winford Keene, moved to Farmers Branch and eventually settled down on a farm in Denton County.

Your reference to the Kirby Building also touched me. Jobs for boys and girls just out of school were almost as scarce as hen's teeth in 1936, but with a recommendation from the Boy Scout Executive for Circle 10, I was offered one with E.A. Pierce stock brokerage firm located on the fifth floor of the Kirby Building. My only credential was my rank as an Eagle Scout. I worked for the firm as a clerk until mid 1938 when rumors of a merger with Fenner and Bean sent me job hunting again. I found one in New Mexico working in the engineering field which was what I wanted to do with my life. E.A. Pierce did merge with Fenner and Bean and many other brokerage firms to become the largest brokerage firm in the world now known as Merrill Lynch.

Another touch was the reference to Thanks-Giving Square. My late baby sister, Jimmie Kerr Lowe, worked for that organization for about ten years in the 80s as the office manager and loved the association of the people drawn to it from all over the world.

Keep up the good work. Ω

Ralph's letter is an outstanding example of what Clare is asking for in the previous item! Thanks, Ralph.

OUR GOLDEN ACHIEVERS

Two couples among us have recently reached that coveted milestone in marriage, the Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Bitty Jack Craig and William Foster Jacoby, Jr., and Carolyn Downey and Simon Selzer, Jr., were pictured in *The Dallas Morning News* as celebrating their fifty years together. Jackie (as we know her) and Bill were married on June 17, 1949, and Carolyn and Simon on July 16, 1949.

Jackie and Bill were tricked into a surprise dinner party with the bridge club they were in from the time they were married until they stopped getting around as much in 1990. One of the couples asked them to dinner at El Fenix, and when they arrived the rest of the group were there waiting for them. On the following Sunday their daughter and her husband, Sally and Fred Veazey, hosted a family dinner at Grady's.

Carolyn and Simon were honored with an afternoon reception by their daughter, Paula, who came from Washington, D.C. to commemorate the occasion with her parents. They were also featured in *The White Rocker*.

We are among their many friends who have benefitted from this happy achievement, and we add our love and congratulations to them at this special time. Ω

(We sure would like to share *your* golden moments, even if they aren't pictured in the media.)

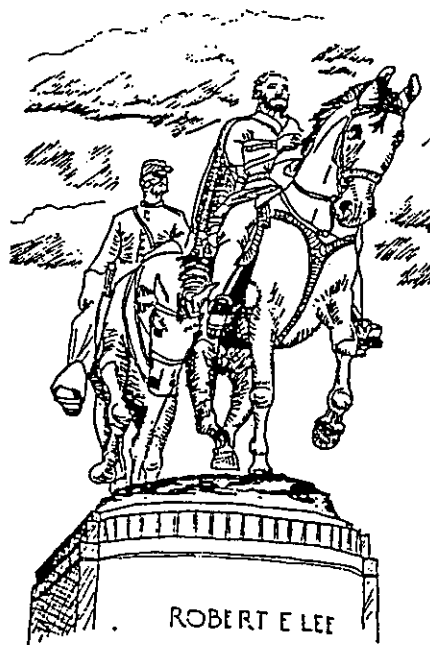
DID YOU SEE the picture of Betsy (aka Mary Elizabeth) Halford smooching up a man in *The Dallas Morning News*, on July 4? Well, no, it was not husband Lee; that wouldn't be newsworthy. Betsy's smoochee was Dallas patriarch John Stemmons and the occasion was dedication ceremonies of Stemmons Park in the Greenway Parks neighborhood of North Dallas. Residents dedicated the Park to Stemmons and his late wife, Ruth, for their contributions to the neighborhood. The caption under the picture said Betsy is the wife of a longtime business partner, and we presume that Lee was standing by, nodding his approval. Ω

LEE PARK GETS READY FOR MILLENNIUM 2

"This pristine piece of old Dallas has never been anything else—prior to current use, it was farmland that belonged to other nations in other centuries."

Lee Park, one of Dallas' oldest and most popular parks, is the piece of old Dallas referred to by Pierce Allman in a letter to President Bill McRae. Pierce and his wife, Allie Beth, are co-chairmen of the Capital Campaign launched by the Lee Park and Arlington Hall Conservancy to restore and expand this premier park facility to meet the new millennium.

Oak Lawn (Lee) Park was established in the early 1890s and is still one of Dallas' most popular parks, used many times a year for a variety of events. In 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the City to open the Texas Centennial, unveiled the monument of Robert E. Lee, and at the behest of the Southern Memorial Association, the name was changed to Lee Park.



Arlington Hall, built as a two-thirds replica of Lee's home in Arlington, Virginia, was completed in 1939.

For the past five years the Lee Park and Arlington Hall Conservancy has worked on plans for a major renova-

tion of the Park and Hall, through a public/private partnership with the City. On June 5 a groundbreaking event started the transformation that will add 5,300 square feet to the present 4,100 square feet and move the main entrance to the rear of the building. Park innovations will include a garden in a circular shape to center the Crescent Parking Court, a Sculpture Garden, a Garden of Cascading Water (transforming an existing stream into a waterfall), a bird sanctuary, and an amphitheater, among many plantings of trees, shrubs, and flowers.

The Conservancy considers this an opportunity to make a lasting gift that all citizens of Dallas can enjoy, and all contributions of \$25,000+ will be recognized on a plaque at the main entrance to Arlington Hall. Ω

CURRENT DOINGS OF PRESERVATION DALLAS

We should *all* belong to Preservation Dallas (PD), but since we don't, we want to keep you up on all the great stuff Director **Catherine Horsey** and her dedicated staff are doing.

New Preservation Ordinance for Dallas. Still stinging over the demolition three years ago of the Dr Pepper Building, a City of Dallas Landmark, PD is striving to close the loopholes in the ordinance that allows the destruction of such Landmarks. Most Dallasites thought that such city designation protects a building. It does not.

The current preservation ordinance states only that the landmark owner must wait a maximum of 240 days after application for a demolition permit before permission to demolish may be granted. PD, the Landmark Commission, the Plan Commission, and our City Council, are working to change that.

PD believes that if a building is important enough to be designated a landmark, it is worth preserving. Over the next few months they will be bringing to our City

Council a proposal they have worked on for three years, for revisions to our preservation ordinance. It will require property owners to show a compelling financial hardship in order to be given a demolition permit. Owners will also be prohibited from the practice of "demolition by neglect", which means the buildings are allowed to become a threat to public safety and then the owner is required to demolish it.

You will be called upon to support this ordinance, which will end Dallas' twenty-seven-year-long practice of designating and then demolishing landmark buildings.

Preservation Tax Incentives Program. Answers to your questions about the City of Dallas preservation tax incentives program, what historic designations are available to Dallas properties, and information on federal, state, and local historic designation processes can be found in the Library at Preservation Dallas. It has all been collected into one helpful binder, the Historic Designation Binder.

Vickery Place Home Tour. For the very first time the Vickery Place Neighborhood Association is planning a tour of their historic neighborhood. They will showcase their early 20th-century architecture, including the Craftsman and the Prairie styles. PD will co-produce the October 2 tour, as it helped launch the Swiss Avenue Home Tour twenty-seven years ago.

Preservation Dallas Awards. PD will launch an important new initiative that will fill a community need and also can be a new source of funds for the organization, the Preservation Dallas Awards. To be co-chaired by **Bob Meckfessel** and **Steve Thompson** in February, the awards will honor persons who have preserved structures that could easily have been torn down and those who have made a difference to this community.

Recognition for Preservation Dallas. The Texas Society of Architects will award a TSA Citation of Merit to PD this fall at their annual conference. This award recognizes organizations that have contributed

to the quality of life in Texas. . . StudyWeb has named the PD web site one of their featured sites. StudyWeb, an internet site devoted to gathering links to other sites with significant educational content, were particularly impressed by the information on the Wilson House. . . PD was featured on the July 4 HGTV show, Restore America, which included Fair Park, the Swiss Avenue Historic District, and the Wilson House.

Rehabitation. The First Church of Christ Scientist, built in 1910, has been purchased by developer Herschel Weisfeld, who plans to adapt the building as a performing arts venue. . . The Modern Sales and Service Building, c. 1905, on Canton, has been purchased by PD member Reggie Graham. This original furniture company will be converted into commercial lofts. . . St. James AME Church, 1917, on Good-Latimer, is the newest addition to the Meadows Foundation campus. Designed by architect William Sidney Pittman, son-in-law of Booker T. Washington, it will now house the Mental Health Association and the Greater Dallas Community of Churches. Ω

MAE RIEK WILL SHARE A FIND

If you are descended from any of the following:

George H. Green
Mike H. Thomas
Sam P. Cochran
Jno. B. Hunter
Jas. Garrity
C.W. Hobson
Wm. M. Holland
Jno. W. Philp

I will share with you a Xerox copy of a dinner program from the Oriental Hotel, July 3, 1912. The dinner was given by the citizens of Dallas honoring Hella Temple's representatives to the Imperial Council of the Shrine.

The first five names are those of the honored guests and the other three took part in the evening's program.
Mae Riek

REPUBLIC'S FIRST CAPITOL SITE GETS A NEW LIFE IN HOUSTON



**A.C.
GREENE**
TEXAS
SKETCHES

A few grand old Texas hotels have remained in use: the St. Anthony and the Menger in San Antonio, the Adolphus in Dallas, the Driskill in Austin. In Galveston, the Galvez has been restored and the Warwick, in Houston, while not as old, has retained its splendor.

Fine hotels in Abilene, El Paso and San Angelo have become apartments or retirement places, with mixed results. The saddest grand hotel now boarded up is the Baker in Mineral Wells, which lost out when that city's spas, baths and mineral waters went out of favor—and its military installation closed.

However, one of the most historic hotels of them all, the Rice Hotel in Houston, built on the site of the first Capitol building of the Republic of Texas and once seemingly doomed because of the decline of Houston's downtown, has gained a new life.

In the spring of 1999 issue of Houston's architectural and design review, *Cite*, Bruce C. Webb describes the newly opened retail and apartment adaptation of the hotel by Houston developer Randall Davis. (If you are interested in renting the largest apartment, it will cost you about \$500,000 per annum.)

In 1837, the site of the Rice Hotel held the first designated Capitol of the Texas Republic, a two-story wooden building erected by Houston's founders, John and A.C. Allen. When the capital was moved to Austin in 1839 (much to Houston's displeasure), the building opened as the Capitol Hotel.

In 1842, Houston was again briefly capital of the Republic, and Congress met in the hotel building. The building was sold in 1847, [having] various ownership and names (Houston House, Barnes House) until razed in 1881 as a five-story brick Capitol Hotel rose.

In 1886, William Marsh Rice bought the hotel and added a three-story annex. When Mr. Rice was murdered by his valet in 1900, the property went to his namesake, Rice Institute (now Rice University) and continued to be run as a hotel, renamed the Rice.

Jesse Jones purchased the building in 1912, demolished the old Rice and erected the 17-story Rice Hotel (with his penthouse on the 17th floor) the next year. The hotel remained the social center of Houston for the next 60 years.

In 1971, the hotel was again given to the University but was closed in 1975, to be reopened briefly the next year. Destruction seemed inevitable, but after numerous plans for varied uses failed, the city bought the hotel and site. And in 1996, Mr. Davis, already known for his loft apartments, began the successful mixed-use adaptation and restoration of some of the lost grandeur. **Ω**

The Dallas Morning News, 6:27-1999

ANOTHER OLD RED REVIVAL

Developers have started an ambitious program for the reuse of the sprawling Sears Buildings just south of downtown Dallas. At almost ninety years of age, close to the vintage of our one hundred-plus Old Red Courthouse, the huge red brick buildings will be converted into 450 loft apartments, shops, restaurants, and artists' work space.

Since this retail giant closed its blocks of stores, offices, and warehouses in 1993, the whole area along south Lamar Street has suffered decline. Matthews Southwest Corporation expects to spend a year on the project, which is expected to revitalize the city's near south side. With construction already under way, the development, to be called South Side on Lamar, will be the biggest loft apartment conversion yet in the Dallas area and one of the largest in the country.

The proposed site for the new Dallas police headquarters, a long-overdue consideration, is a block across the street from the Sears buildings. **Ω**

PEGASUS, BEACON OF BIG D IS BEING RESURRECTED

Dallas' Pegasus, "The Flying Red Horse", will fly again. Well, it will turn again.

A crane has lowered the bent and rusted pieces of Pegasus from the top of the Magnolia Building, which has been its home for more than sixty years, and they are being assembled at the Farmer's Market for restoration.

Pegasus was built in 1934 as a symbol for Magnolia Oil Co., which became Mobil Corp. Mobil gave it to the City in 1976. It hasn't turned in nearly twenty-five years and hasn't lit up since 1997.

Efforts to restore the horse began in January and businesses have contributed \$300,000 for the project. Pennies for Pegasus, a campaign to supplement the gifts, will start in September, with hopes of reaching a goal of \$600,000. The restoration calls for new porcelain-covered aluminum panels and a new motor.

The hope is to have Pegasus back atop the Magnolia Building, in rotating neon splendor, in time for New Year's Eve festivities. A massive celebration is in the works for Pegasus' rebirth on New Year's Eve. **Ω**

I REMEMBER ...

by Earl O. Cullum

My parents married at Dallas, just out of Dallas High School. The telephone company was hiring workers to rebuild lines destroyed by a Gulf storm in the Corpus Christi-San Antonio area. Dad took that job, and I was born in a small rented house in San Antonio. My first "outing" was in a baby buggy to the Alamo; my second was to Fort Sam Houston, before Lt. Dwight Eisenhower arrived there. I still have pictures taken there then. Later, my military "home" was at Fort Sam, as an Army Reservist from 1937 to 1957.

I can recall living at 4119 Gilbert Street in Dallas. When my sister was a baby and I was a little over two,

I stuck an empty Quaker Oats box in the firebox of the kitchen wood stove. It caught fire and fell on the floor. I went to the bedroom to tell Mother, but she was getting the baby to sleep and "shushed" me, so I left. Diapers hanging over the stove to dry soon caught fire, and soon she heard the roar of the flames. She got us out, but the house was destroyed. I still remember the firewagon arriving with the big horses at a gallop. The house was rebuilt soon after.

Later, the Oak Lawn firemen "adopted" me, and I would visit the station and slide down the pole (in a fireman's arms). There is still a snapshot of me sitting on a big fire-horse.

In 1917, when the U.S. entered WW I, I was four years old. When it thundered, I would ask if that was the "big guns" in France.

My father worked at Troth's Grocery at Bowen and Cedar Springs, and I would ride the delivery wagon up the hill and through Oak Lawn. It was pulled by two small mules, one red and one white. The driver would say, "Get up, Red", and *both* mules would "get up". "Oak Lawn" extended from Turtle Creek to the Cotton Belt Railroad to Highland Park. Later, someone changed it so Oak Lawn now includes much of North Dallas.

An open-air "jitney" ran from the Bowen-Cedar Springs corner to downtown Dallas. My mother would put me in the jitney there and pay the driver a nickel. He took me (and others) to the Sanger corner at Elm and Lamar, where my grandmother Owen would meet me and take me to Arlington on the interurban. I spent summers at their little farm, just north of today's Eastern Star Home. One night we watched an interurban, totally in flames, roll west and into town. It finally burned up, and the next day we went by buggy and saw the remains.

On another occasion I was riding the interurban to Arlington and suddenly saw flames under my window. The car had developed a "hotbox", but my warning prevented excessive damage.

Dad moved from Troth Brothers on Cedar Springs to their store on Knox Street. One Sunday night the family was returning to Dallas after a visit to Arlington, when we saw a possum and her babies ahead of us, crossing the then-gravel Dallas-Fort Worth highway. Dad stopped the Model T Ford and we took the possums with us. He created a possum display in the window of Troth Grocery on Knox Street, with cans of "Possum Brand" sweet potatoes, and people came from miles away to see the possum family.

At Oak Lawn Park (now Lee Park) we watched silent movies shown on bedsheet screens. Douglas Fairbanks, Sr., William S. Hart, etc. Dallas University was a big red-brick building in the block from Blackburn to Avondale and Turtle Creek to Preston Road. There I watched football practice—"butting heads"—and decided I would play high school football later (my father had been football captain at Dallas High School).

I attended Oak Lawn Methodist Church at Cedar Springs and Oak Lawn Avenue, which had been founded by my great-grandfather in 1874. I am a lifetime member and have served as Centennial Chairman and as Church Historian for over thirty years. Today there are only three Cullum men left in the Church. Years ago the streetcar line came in Oak Lawn and turned down Cedar Springs; the wheels screeched on the turn and with the church windows open, we had to wait until it completed the turn. Now the Church has a new pipe organ, a community house, and a parking lot on the adjacent property that once belonged to Epps Knight.

Boy Scout Troop 22 has been at Oak Lawn Methodist since 1924. In the early years the entire Troop rode all over town on the scoutmaster's little Ford coupe. I attended Sam Houston School, S.J. Hay when it opened, Vickery Place, and North Dallas High. There I played football, was active in ROTC, and founded and edited *The Compass*, the school newspaper. Through the years the Oak Lawn Theater came to Oak Lawn, then the Melrose Theater, and the Melrose Hotel in 1925.

Since then, Oak Lawn has changed tremendously, but the Church, the Park, and a few old homes are still much the same. To those of us raised there, the Oak Lawn community will always be "Home". Ω

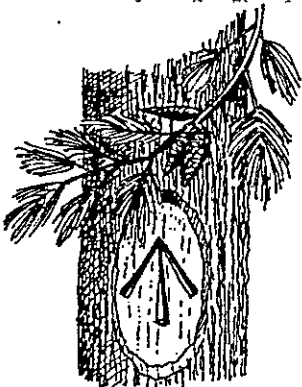
AMERICAN HISTORY 101

The Tree that Greeted America's First Explorers

Imagine standing on deck with the first English explorers as they sailed up the Hudson River. Today, few white pines would be in that vista, but the king's men reported that the stream was lined for miles with pines 150 feet tall. It would take the outstretched arms of three of those men to span the girth of these giants, and they weren't even the biggest white pines in the land. Further west, at Cedar Run, Pennsylvania, lumbermen would later fell one that reached a full 200 feet high and measured 37 feet around. At Dartmouth College, there was one taller yet, perhaps the record, at 240 feet in height.

The native white pines were a bonanza for England. The big trees met a vital military and commercial need—masts for the sailing fleet. Such trees were getting scarce at home, putting the country uncomfortably at the mercy of Baltic nations. Records show that almost every year after 1653 the motherland received white pines from the colonies. But by 1691, the American colonists were using enough of the pines for their own lumber and maritime needs that the crown took action to safeguard "its" supply. A new law set aside for the royal navy all white pines 24 inches or more in diameter and growing on ungranted land near water.

The law was the first in an increasingly restrictive series known as the "broad arrow" acts, so named because of the ax mark placed on the 'off-limits' trees by the king's men. Growing resentment to the crown's appropriation of the choicest white pines helped precipitate the Revolutionary War, and the first flag of the revolutionary forces even had the white pine as its emblem.



After the war for independence, white pines helped fuel the geographic and economic growth of the young United States. Nearly pure stands covered more than 200,000 square miles in the Great Lakes region alone. From this abundance came lumber for homes and commercial buildings, and the tall, strong trunks

of the white pine provided masts for the great sailing ships that carried American commerce to the rest of the world. White pine wood was also used for everything from doors and furniture to matches, from wood paneling to hobby horses and bobsleds, from shingles to the beautiful old covered bridges of America.

The great virgin stands of eastern white pine are long gone, but this species can still be seen and enjoyed throughout the forests of the northeast and midwest states, as well as in parks and urban landscapes across the United States. Ω

*The National Arbor Day Foundation
Library of Trees*

A FEW WORDS

by Laurence McNamee and Kent Biffle
EYES TO SEE

Q: Ike Paesano of Arlington writes: "On July 4, five or 10 years ago, I read an item in your column that really turned me on. (America is my adopted country, and the article gave me goose bumps.)

"It had to do with George Washington's courtesy to two British officers and dinner at the 'officers club'. Would you please reprint it?"

A: The time was January 1778, in the midst of the Revolutionary War. The locale was Valley Forge.

Two British officers arrived in Washington's camp to discuss an exchange of prisoners. The winter was brutal. The conferees huddled around a campfire to negotiate. The deal struck, the Americans invited their foes to stay for dinner. Touched by the gesture and anticipating a feast in a warm tavern, the British officers happily acquiesced. Gen. Washington handed the British junior officer a long pointed stake and motioned to the fire. "That medium-sized baked potato is yours, Captain. Let's save the big one for the major. It's not done yet."

On the way back to Philadelphia, the major broke the silence.

"Captain, are you thinking what I'm thinking?"
"I'm afraid I am. I'm afraid I am, Major. You know, we'll never beat them." Ω.

The Dallas Morning News

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

The 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.

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

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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Dallas County Pioneer Association



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