

Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SUMMER 2000

What: DCPA Quarterly Meeting
Thursday June 1, 2000

Where: Family Hall of Royal Lane Baptist Church
Corner of Royal Lane and Hillcrest Road

When: 6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. program

Dinner catered by Grande Affair caterers. Reservations required for dinner, at \$8 each. Please call Bill McRae at 214/521-8654 or the DCPA Call Notes at 214/969-0926 by Monday, May 29.

Who: Author and DCPA Member Jim Gatewood will talk about events that made history in Dallas during the term of long-time Sheriff Bill Decker, from his recently-published book *Decker*.

Jim Gatewood, a Garland businessman, has filled a void in the saga of twentieth-century Dallas in his book *Decker*. No one played a bigger role in the Dallas story of the first two-thirds of the century than this legendary lawman, from the era of Bonnie and Clyde through the John F. Kennedy assassination. Yet, his story has never before been told.

Intrigued by the stories of his hunting buddies, many of whom were area lawmen, Jim waited impatiently for someone to record the stories of those days and those men. Realizing that these eyewitnesses to history were aging and dying fast, he decided to do the job himself. (See page 11.)

Jim Gatewood was born eleven days before the market crash of 1929 and was brought to Dallas in a laundry basket in the back seat of a 1929 Hudson. He was captain of the 1945 Garland High School football team, and when the three-year undefeated team played Nocona for the State Championship, there were 5,800 paid attendance, in a city that had a population of 5,200. He attended Cornell College in Iowa on a football scholarship, then returned to Garland and eventually began a career in insurance that continues today, forty-eight years later.

And to tie Bill Decker to DCPA, **Shearer Huffhines** tells us that her maternal great grandmother, **Bell West Willoughby**, and Bill Decker's mother were cousins. Bell married **John Henry Willoughby** in Dallas in 1887. May be some more kin among us.

Those of us who already have Jim's book can tell you what a good read it is; very readable and very informative about our past, some of which some of us can recall. Don't miss this opportunity to visit with Jim. Ω

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Gassett has been appointed to the DCPA Executive Committee for the year 2000. This Committee is composed of current elected officers, active past presidents, and three "at-large" members. Karen joins **Clare Weakley** and **John Winniford** as at-large members for this year.

Due to health problems and pending surgery, **Nona Williams** has reluctantly resigned as Sunshine Chair. This post will be filled ably by **Millie Coffey**. Please call Millie at 972/495-3160 after noon with any information concerning the health of members or deaths of members (or close family) so that she can respond accordingly in behalf of the DCPA. Thanks, Millie, for graciously accepting this post.

The **Riek/Reilly** family display at the March meeting was a big hit. Not only were there old photos of family, bands, and early Dallas, but also a violin, wine press and bottle corker that demonstrated the many talents this family possessed and the many activities in which they participated. Because of their display, it was learned that Bryan Street was originally named Brewery Street.

Our book storage problem created when **Gerard Dickinson** sold her home was quickly alleviated by **David Vilbig** who generously offered a spare office at his business for storage of unsold copies of *Proud Heritage, Volume II*. David, his wife, and son **Tommy** loaded all forty-two boxes of books in their cars and moved them! You can't beat that for service. Many thanks, Vilbigs!! Also, another big THANK YOU is due Gerard for storing the books for years in her converted garage/playroom.

There are less than a dozen first edition copies of *Proud Heritage*, Vol. I, left unsold. These volumes are being reserved for member purchases. Should any members desire an additional copy, please call me at 214/521-8654. We are exploring several sources for getting photocopies made in softback form, but have nothing definite to report as yet.

Grande Affair caterer will furnish the dinner for our June meeting. This caterer has come highly recommended. Come to the June 1 meeting and check it out.

Nancy McRae and I attended a Press Access seminar conducted by *The Dallas Morning News* and we found it very interesting. It is our hope that the information furnished enables us to get some DCPA publicity in the paper. It was pointed out that over 900 non-profit organizations in North Texas vie with each other for space in the paper, so an item has to be of wide interest or a unique story to compete favorably.

The excellent job that **Marjori Sharp** does on our newsletter and histories received some very concrete and welcomed recognition from several who made generous contributions for the publica-

tions. Thanks to all who participated and to Marjori for a job well done.

The Executive Committee is considering holding a DCPA picnic in October. We think a "dinner-on-the-grounds" like the pioneers used to do would be fun. We are thinking of a Saturday at noon or early afternoon. Give us your comments by telephone (214/521-8654) or by a note as to your interest in such a function and whether you would prefer a catered lunch or "covered dish" style meal. This would be in addition to our regular quarterly meetings.

We bid farewell to DCPA members **Vic Armstrong** and **Florence Schulz**. Vic passed away on March 26. We will miss his smiling face. Florence died on April 26. She was born at the family homestead "Meadowview Farms", which received the first Texas Historical Marker in Mesquite. ♪

MINUTES OF MEETING MARCH 2

The meeting was held at Family Hall of Royal Lane Baptist Church and was called to order by our president, **Bill McRae**, at 7 p.m. He greeted everyone on this Texas Independence Day and welcomed them to the meeting. After the invocation, he led pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags. Sixty-one members and seventeen guests attended. President McRae introduced new members and guests and passed out new member certificates. He reported we lost two members to death, **Lucile Boykin** and **Louise Buhner**.

Everyone was asked to pick up their new history booklet and roster and to check off their name so we have a record of who received copies.

President McRae asked if anyone had storage space available. **Gerard Dickinson**, who has been storing our *Proud Heritage* books, is selling her home. He added that we have only a few copies left of Volume I and they would be held in reserve for members.

John Winniford audited the Treasurer's books and congratulated **Gene Gaddy** for doing such a nice job.

Frances James announced that progress is being made on the Cox Cemetery Historical Marker. This is something that **Sara McGee** was working on at the time of her death. Money was donated for the Marker in Sara's honor. The Marker now costs more since prices have gone up; however, the Marker should be installed this year. Regarding Old Red Courthouse, Governor **Bush** is helping with a plan to assist counties in preserving historic courthouses. One caveat is that they should be used for courts. A plan to put a Probate Court on the 4th floor will qualify Dallas County to receive grants from both the County and the State to help preserve Old Red.

The Family Display this month was provided by the Riek/Reilly Family, and **Carolyn Selzer** would like a volunteer for our next meeting.



Frances reported that Crozier Tech High School has been saved for another two years because of a new ordinance. The owners are required to maintain it in the meantime. The Mormon Church did a survey of Oakland Cemetery and the information is now in the downtown Library on the seventh floor. Frances said she has been asked to do a history on Radio Station WRR and requests calls from anyone with information.

President McRae introduced our speaker, Dr. **William J. Bryan, III**. Although he is not related to the Bryan Family the street was named for, Dr. Bryan took us on a walking tour of the street as it originally was and how it has changed over the years. He said he learned from the Riek Family display that prior to 1874 the street was called Brewery Way and after was changed to honor **John Neely Bryan** who founded the City of Dallas.

President McRae thanked Dr. Bryan for a most enjoyable talk and said our next meeting will fall on June 1. He asked all to mark their calendars for this early meeting so no one will miss it. **Jim Gatewood** will talk on Sheriff **Bill Decker**. The meeting ended at 7:55 p.m. with "God be with you till we meet again." **Ω** **Mae Riek**, secretary

FINAL FAREWELLS

We lost **Vic Armstrong** on March 26. Vic was a faithful member of DCPA, and of many historical, archeological, and genealogical organizations. He was an enthusiastic member of Texana Living History Association and was buried in his costume with Texana members serving as honorary pallbearers.

Vic is survived by his wife **Wanda**, sons **Bryan** and **Scott**, daughter **Leigh Ann Turpin**, five grandchildren, and brother Dr. **Sid Bellamy**.

Florence Schulz was born and died in Mesquite, Texas. She was

born at the family homestead Meadowview Farms, and passed away on April 26 at her home in Mesquite. Florence attended Mary Hardin Baylor and became a teacher in Mesquite schools. She was very active in civic, church, and sports groups.

Florence is survived by her husband of fifty-four years, **Frank "Buddy" Schulz**, daughter **Julie Morris**, grandchildren and great grandchildren. A memorial service was held at The First Presbyterian Church of Mesquite.

Deborah Barnes lost her father, **C. DeWitt Brown**, April 25.

We extend our sympathies to all of these families. **Ω**

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

We hope all our Beeman descendants are finding each other—they could have reunions at our meetings. We welcome one more!

Janette Barnes Barr's great grandfather was **Scott Beeman**, sister of **Margaret** who married **John Neely Bryan**, and son of **John** and **Emily Beeman** who were persuaded by John Neely to move to his new settlement at the Three Forks. Scott's wife was **Elizabeth Boone Merrifield** and they became the parents of **Sarah Katherine**, who married **Robert Lee Herrin**. Their daughter, **Ethel**, and her husband, **Decker Lee Barnes** were the parents of **Ethel Janette**.

Janette was born in Dallas and married **Lucien Barr, Jr.** (deceased). Their two children are **Kimberly Sue Barr Holt** and **Jeffrey Ross Barr**. Janette's address is P.O. Box 5501, Laguna Park, TX 76644-5501. Her telephone number is 254/622-8695.

We hope Janette can get to some of our meetings and meet some relatives she may not know she has.

Nancy Anthony Dorie traces her County ancestors back to **Wesley Overand**, who was listed in 1867 tax rolls. He married **Agnes Bast** in 1869 and their son, **Edward**, is listed in the 1880 City Directory. Edward's daughter was **Eliza Overand**, who married **Jacob W. Spake** in 1889, and they were the parents of **Minnie A. Spake**, who married **Marc Anthony**.

Nancy is the daughter of **Minnie** and **Marc**. **Marc**, son of **Emma Dean** and **Joseph Boyes Anthony**, was in the cotton business when "cotton was king".

Dallas native Nancy has three children: **Shep Grinnan**, **Genny G. Gilmore**, and **Kay G. Meeks**. She and her husband, **John (Jack) Dorie**, live at 5315 Preston Haven, Dallas 75229, and their phone number is 214/373-4148.

Carolyn Beall McGee joins her husband, longtime member

David McGee, Jr., in membership. Carolyn has been coming to meetings with David since their marriage and we are glad to make her one of us. Their listing is in our Roster under David's name.

We welcome to Life membership two who have been contributing much, much to DCPA for the past seven years, **Jimmie Sue Campbell** and **Lee Davis Smith**.

Both "Sissy" and Lee grew up in Dallas, but since they married Lee has taken her all over the nation through his association with the military and the DuPont Corporation and Conoco. To "retired?" he answers, "sort of"—he is busier than ever as a consultant. While they lived in Houston the last several years they faithfully made quarterly (at least) trips to help Aunt Marjori buy a computer, learn the fundamentals and edit the DCPA newsletter. As soon as they got back "home", we made them members.

Jimmie Sue is descended from **Lucy J. Monroe** and her son **Isham Bell Browder**, (who came to Dallas in 1845) through her mother, Roberta Gibson Campbell, sister of Marjori. Lee started out in Virginia but grew up in Dallas, where some of his early forebears here were familiar to all us oldtimers: remember Braden's Bakery? Lee is of the Bradens family. We love his prestigious name (passed down): Lee for Robert E. Lee and Davis for Jefferson Davis, and he does it honor.

Lee calls her Jimmie; everyone else knows her as Sissy—the name given her by her little sister. Their two sons, **Kevin R.** and **Davis C.**, always thought their roots were in Dallas, too, and they both came to live in Dallas right out of college. Their cousins, **Kathy Sharp John** and **Susi Sharp Thompson** are also Life members.

Sissy and Lee live at 1425 Cherokee Court, Allen, TX 75013; telephone 972/727-5147. (They are in the new Roster) Ω

WHOIZIT???

Show of hands, please: how many of you recognized **Bill Baird** as that good-looking kid with his personal model of Pegasus in our Spring newsletter?

Dr. William David Baird and his wife, **Virginia**, have been with us from the beginning of the "now generation" DCPA: Bill became our second president in 1980. And besides being an outstanding anesthesiologist in Dallas County, you name it—Bill has done it.

As a Woodrow Wilson High School kid during the Great Depression, he made fifty or sixty dollars a month carrying a paper route; he mowed lawns; at night he worked at the Red Heart Watermelon Garden (remember, on the corner of Greenville and Ross?); he collected bagworms and used them for bait

fishing in a sparkling clean little river called Turtle Creek; he worked a Saturday job as student representative at E.M. Kahn or Dreyfuss, where perks included a discount on clothes: he graduated from medical school in a suit he had bought at Dreyfuss many years before.

Bill went to Draughon's Business College and worked some in the oil fields for his brother's company; helped in a printing company; delivered new telephone books—"There was always a way to make a nickel," he says.

Then he went to war. In March 1942 he took the bus to Camp Wolters. Skipping along through various bases, in January 1943 his outfit, the 34th Squadron of the 17th Bomb Group, landed in Africa. Bill's account of his Air Force wartime experiences should be required reading: his memory for detail is unbelievable.

To college at Rice University after the War, not on the G.I. Bill but on his poker earnings, Bill was influenced by a dedicated teacher to a course of study in pre-medical. Working summers in his brother's firm, he met "a petite blonde with remarkable blue eyes" in the office, and between his junior and senior years he and **Virginia Claye Sanders** married. That was the beginning of "a lifetime of repair and redo".

With their landlord's blessing, they redid their garage apartment, and fifty-some years later, they have continued to remake every abode they have had, including their present home. Before-, during-, and after-snapshots verify that the two of them are do-it-yourselfers, including a patio made of 12-foot diameter bottoms of pickle vats, from the displaced Aunt Betty's Pickle Company, cut into hexagons and laid like tiles! This has carried through to their extensive property at Lake Murvaul, where they built a *seawall*, of tongue and groove concrete slabs to keep out the lake!

While in medical school in Galveston they started their family, which eventually numbered five children and six grandchildren.

Bill practiced anesthesiology in Garland and Dallas, and since "retirement" has continued at the Veterans Hospital in Dallas. He also has dabbled in real estate rentals and banking and a few other things, and for twenty years edited a newsletter for his Air Force outfit. He is descended from the first judge in Dallas County, **John H. Thomas**, and **Mary** and **Alexander A. Thomas**, who were at the first meeting of the original Dallas County Pioneer Association.

We look forward to placing Bill's very readable and extremely interesting autobiography in our Archives—if we ever get a home. One thing he said in it has a familiar ring: "When the job was finished Cole Smith [a friend who had helped with a project] allowed that he had said it was impossible, and it was, but we did it, anyway." (See *One DCPA, Two Beginnings, Three Centuries*, top of page 40.) Ω

FRANCES SHARES THE HONOR

This Resolution from the Park and Recreation Department was presented to Frances James on April 20. In thanking them for the honor Frances said that she is a member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association and that one of the objectives of our organization is to foster the preservation of historical sites, street and place names, documents and relics. So Frances accepted the Resolution for all of the DCPA!

FRANCES JAMES

WHEREAS, Frances James, a well-known historian and long-time member of the Dallas Landmark Commission, recognizes a need for the preservation of history; and

WHEREAS, Frances James has generously given her time and expertise over the past twenty years to research and record the history of cemeteries to include Beeman, Freedmen's, Honey Springs, Pioneer, and Pleasant Mound, without compensation; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. James has also researched and recorded the history of Griggs, Lee, Marcus and Urbandale Parks, Dealey Plaza and the Camp House at the Dallas Arboretum, and has most recently completed the Dallas Golf Course History from 1896 to 1999. Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PARK AND RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF DALLAS:

SECTION 1. That appreciation is extended to Frances James for voluntarily providing a needed service with excellence.

SECTION 2. That the Dallas Park and Recreation Board expresses its sincere appreciation to Frances James for her dedication to preserving the history of the City and County of Dallas for the benefit of future generations.



Dianne A. Curry
Dianne A. Curry, President
Park and Recreation Board

Paul D. Dyer
Paul D. Dyer, Director
Park and Recreation Department

Presented by the Dallas Park and
Recreation Board, April 20, 2000

SICK BAY

Our Sunshine Chair **Nona Williams** needs a bit of loving sunshine herself: she is scheduled for hip surgery on May 19.

Nona finally is paying attention to her own needs, after years of devoted care for her husband and her mother, and years of service to DCPA as secretary and newsletter editor, then Sunshine Chair. She has reluctantly resigned from this last office and turned it over to **Millie Coffey**. We are glad she is taking care of herself.

Nancy McRae sprinted backwards once too many times on the tennis court and broke her left arm. She has been in extreme pain, but the most recent word is that she is improving and the prognosis is for eventual full use of her arm.

We send Nona and Nancy our love and wish for them a speedy recovery. Ω

WE ARE TWENTY-ONE YEARS OLD!

by **Earl O. Cullum**

On April 5, 2000, a few of the longtime members of the DCPA (modern version) recalled its 1979 founding by Judge **John Nelms** in Dallas. Then through the years came growth, sometimes slow, and now the entry into our third century.

We recall the forming of the original DCPA in Dallas in 1875, its annual meetings around the County, and its end in 1952, possibly because the original members were gone or were too feeble to attend meetings any longer. Some present members, then children, recall the Pioneer gatherings of their elders in Oak Lawn (now Lee) Park. One remembers being "in awe" of **Epps G. Knight, Charles B. Gillespie**, and other early leaders.

Then the Nelms' effort to renew the DCPA led to the group we know today, still growing steadily. Unfortunately, John doesn't get to our meetings now, but he is with us in spirit and is still a Pioneer at heart.

We are still remembering our history and making our part of it, and we want to encourage all of our modern Pioneers to gather up all the bits and pieces and start on Project 2000, Dallas County Pioneer Association. Jot it down and funnel it in to **Marjori Sharp**, who can put it all together and keep the record for us.

We really even need a capsule history of our non-years, 1952-1979, when there was much going on that we should record. Ω

Do as we do: Men began wearing wrist watches in World War I because tank drivers found it difficult to get to their pocket watches. Women had worn them for twenty years!

HERE'S HOW IT HAPPENED

(We like the story that goes with Bill Baird's picture in March newsletter)

Sometime after Pegasus was erected on top of the Magnolia Building my class at Vickery Place School on Henderson Avenue was studying mythology. Miss Becker, the teacher, gave us the assignment of writing a story about some mythological character we had studied.

At the time I was heavy into model airplanes and had a lot of leftover balsa wood and glue and stuff so instead of writing I made a model of the flying red horse which was the major topic of news in Dallas at the time. The thing was pretty flimsy. The framework was 1/16 inch balsa wood covered with red cellophane. It made quite a hit in the class.

Then someone—memory says it was Miss Buckmaster, the principal—told the people at Magnolia about it. The editors of the Magnolia newsletter got wind of it and, editors always looking for copy, had me come down to their office for a picture.

Somewhere in the litter I call an office there is probably a copy of the newsletter. Hanging on the wall is a copy of the picture taken when Pegasus and I were both much younger than we are today.

Pegasus is getting an overhaul. It would be nice if they could do the same for me. Ω

Bill Baird

HERE AND THERE WITH FRANCES JAMES

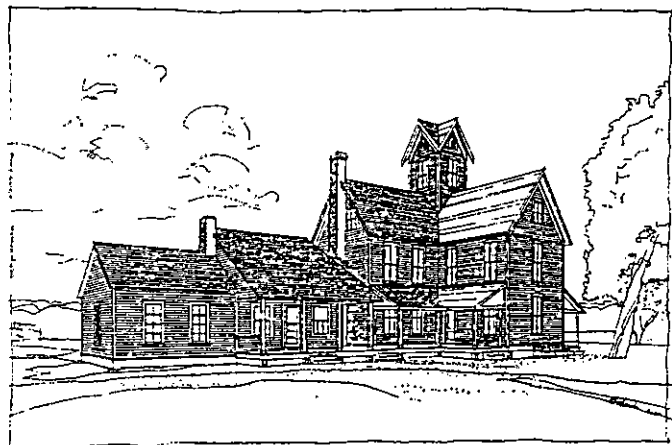
- Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery was officially opened and made available for our Nation's veterans and dependents on May 12. There are already about six hundred names on the waiting list for sites. After many delays because of funding, the weather, contractor problems, etc., this facility, which was to have been ready over two years ago, is nearing completion.

The \$15 million cemetery of 14,220 burial sites, including 2,000 crypts and 2,220 garden niches, is expected to meet the burial needs for the next decade. For additional information you may call 214/467-3374. **Jimmie S. Adamson** is the current director.

- We (Dallas) were passed up by the State for funding for the renovation of Old Red. On the briefing papers for the Dallas County Commissioners Court in May was an item to request \$4 million from the State Funding of \$50 million that had been earmarked for structures still used as county courthouses around the State. The three requisites for receiving the aid were Age, Historic Significance, and Status as an Operating Courthouse. We certainly qualify under the first two, and if and when we ever do it, the fourth floor will be used for Probate Courts, but we can't claim that one, so we were turned down. When are we going to get serious about restoring our Old Red Courthouse?

• Crozier Tech, the first high school in Dallas, is still the center of controversy. The current out-of-town owners had planned on demolishing the buildings on the site and putting in a restaurant. The Landmark Commission for the City spent many hours revising the rules and regulations for preservation of historic structures. The new buyer asked for a demolition permit before the ordinance was passed by the City Council—but—Council included Tech in the new ordinance. There is a criterion to be met before any historic structure can be demolished. The building never should have been sold by DISD as long as students are being housed in portable buildings around the City and there are plenty of those. Crozier was **not** a surplus building then nor is it now. The building and site can still be adaptively reused. Call, e-mail, or write your city council person to save the building!

• The Lawrence House in Mesquite is now on the National Register. Historical Mesquite, Inc., sponsored the announcement party on April 21. They are a third of the way toward their goal of raising the funds to restore the homestead of the Stephen Decatur Lawrence family, which is 120 years old. It sits on land designated as the Opal Lawrence Historical Park on Kearny Street, along with original outbuildings. The city and county officials as well as many descendants of the family were in attendance.



The Lawrence House Sketch courtesy of Gary Skotnicki

• **Hershel Weisfeld** has purchased the First Church of Christ Scientist on the corner of Browder and Cadiz in downtown Dallas. The congregation of this Church had moved long ago and the beautiful structure was left unused. Mr. Weisfeld is carefully restoring the building, with all the stained glass windows, to its original beauty, even the gold leaf on the columns. This site will be available for weddings, programs, plays, etc. During renovation a Broadway play, "Tony and Tina's Wedding", used the facilities. This play with the actors and audience intermingling was a success!

• The Spring 2000 issue of *Legacies* includes some of the papers that were presented at the first Dallas History Conference last October. Great information on our past. This twice-a-year

magazine is available for persons who do not necessarily wish to become members of the Dallas County Heritage Society, the Dallas Historical Society, or the Sixth Floor Museum. Send your name and address to Dr. **Michael V. Hazel** % Dallas County Heritage Society, 1717 Gano Street, Dallas 75215. Be sure to include your check for \$10 a year, or \$5 for any specific issue you would like to receive.

• Texas Historical Markers that will be dedicated in the near future are:

Ross Avenue Baptist Church
First Methodist Church-Downtown
Gilbert House in Irving
Bear Creek/Sheldon Cemetery in Irving
Oak Cliff Methodist Church
Grave Marker for Dallas Sheriff Trezevant C. Hawpe,
at Pioneer Cemetery Ω

"COLONEL" CULLUM, 55 YEARS

Earl Owen Cullum, past National Commander of the China-Burma-India Veterans Association, recently celebrated (with an unexpected phone call) fifty-five years with the title "Colonel".

It began in 1930 when, as a high school Reserve Officers Training Corps cadet, he became a Lieutenant Colonel.

Then in early 1945, after four years of service, he became a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army as Commander of the 159th Military Police Battalion in the CBI theater in World War II. The 159th had 659 officers and men and was spread for 500 miles in the "most distant" theater of the War. It also had an additional 500 troops (U.S. and foreign) attached under Cullum's supervision as Provost Marshal of CBI Advance Section No. 2.

After the War ended in September 1945 Earl returned to Reserve status, then in 1957 was promoted to Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, and retired in 1967. He remains in that status today, still answering to "Colonel" after more than fifty-five years.

In 1962 he was recommended for promotion to Brigadier General (Reserve) but could not accept due to his full-time status as an FBI Special Agent.

Earl has been honored by his high school and his college for achievements in and out of the military and has served as president of the Rotary Club of Dallas, and most important to us, as president of DCPA. We are very proud of our Colonel. Ω

Leave your balloons with the kids in the car

Did you know you can't take balloons into the Hall of State at Fair Park? A sign on the door says

no food	no smoking
no drinks	no balloons

J.D. HERNDON (Grandfather of **Jacquelyne Goodnight**)
Newspaper account of John David Herndon, 1927

(This is Jacquelyne's response to our pleas for family stories.)

"When I arrived in Dallas County in 1871 this whole region must have been not greatly changed from what it had been in 1771, except that a few white people had taken the place of the Indians and the buffaloes had moved farther west," says **J.D. Herndon**. "I came through from Springfield, Mo., on horseback. At Denison there was not but one house and that a small log cabin. We camped near this cabin. But Sherman was a big town, to be so far from anywhere. It must have had six or eight times the population of Dallas. As a business point, however, Dallas far surpassed Sherman. The town itself was insignificant, consisting of a cluster of ill-constructed buildings in the neighborhood of the courthouse square. But the streets and roads were crowded with people and teams, arriving and departing, and wagon yards and camps abounded. It was the livest [sic] place that I had ever seen.

"I stopped with **Jim Ferguson**, four miles east of town, and made four crops with him, meantime boarding with Aunt **Nancy Hunnicutt**, who was a **Beeman**. The prairies were populated with Longhorn cattle and fantail horses, all wild as the deer that grazed with them. I had not been long in the community when Aunt Nancy Hunnicutt informed me that it was her week to kill a beef, and that as the men were away, it would fall to me to play butcher. She pointed out a horse and told me to rope a beef and to be sure to select a fat cow. I told her that I knew nothing of the art of roping. 'Just start the cattle,' she said, 'and as soon as the horse discovers which one you have picked out he will run alongside it and you can lay the rope over her horns.'

Killing a Beef

"I selected the fattest cow I saw, and, as Aunt Nancy had promised, the horse, without guidance, ran right up to her, so that I easily placed the rope over her horns. But I had neglected to secure the other end of the rope to the saddle, and when the horse braced himself he felt nothing pulling. I quickly dismounted and seized the rope. Seeing me on the ground, the cow rushed furiously at me. Luckily, I was in the edge of a grove of trees, and getting the rope around a small postoak, I shortened it as the cow came and finally got her head right up against the trunk of the tree. With the aid of a boy who opportunely came to my assistance, I succeeded in cutting her throat.

"Having skinned and quartered the carcass, the boy and I were directed by Aunt Nancy to leave one quarter with her and to take a quarter each to **George Glover**, **Lewis Long**, and **Billy Kemp**, who lived within a radius of three or four miles from Aunt Nancy. These four families constituted the community. They laid claim to all the cattle on a considerable area of the range, and also to the horses, or to such of the horses as they could catch. The four neighbors co-operated in providing meat, so that it fell

to each of them to kill a beef every four weeks. They had entered into this arrangement because a beef would last a single family longer than it would remain fresh. When any of them went forth for a beef he simply roped the first fat cow he found paying no attention to ownership.

How They Kept the Meat Fresh

"There was, of course, no ice to be had in those days. We kept meat fresh by hoisting it by means of rope and tackle thirty or forty feet above the ground, which placed it above the fly line, where it kept very fresh for at least a week. Sometimes they cooked the meat a little on the surface, after the fashion of barbecuing it, and then hung it up to dry. Thus treated, it was called jerked beef. No attempts had been made to grade the cattle. Great herds of fantail horses, whose manes and tails swept the ground, roamed the prairies. If the gentlest saddle or plow horse escaped and got among them it soon became even wilder than the rest, for the reason, no doubt, that it knew better than the rest what was coming in case he were captured. I lost a good horse in that way. I often saw him, but never could catch him.

"The settles [sic] depended for a market for their cattle on the irregular visits of buyers, who gathered up herds which they drove to Kansas City or to Shreveport. Yearling calves were worth \$2.50 and fat cows \$8 to \$12, when there was any demand for them. Native horses brought \$15 to \$25, according to the merits of the animals. As a rule a saddle was worth two ponies; that is a good saddle with plenty of leather in it, properly ornamented, readily sold for \$30 to \$40. In those days a man was estimated not by the clothes he wore, but by the richness of the saddle he had on his horse, and then as now, and always, a man liked to make a good appearance.

Farm Lands Soar.

"When I came to the county good land in the vicinity of the Orphans' Home and elsewhere sold on easy terms at \$3 to \$5 an acre, and that was all it was worth, for range purposes. Up to the coming of the railroads there was but little farming. Each settler attempted to grow a little wheat and a little corn for his use, and in order to prevent the range stock from their crops they fenced their fields with oak rails, making what was known as the crooked rail fence. But after the great influx of population following the completion of the rails, the county ceased to be a range region and gradually changed to a farming country, and the land became more and more valuable. During the World War farm lands on Orphans' road and good lands elsewhere in the county rose to \$300 an acre and values have not fallen off much since, at least not in my neighborhood.

"In 1874 I went back to Missouri and made a crop on our old home plantation in Stone and Christian Counties. On the trip to Missouri I was accompanied by **John Neely Bryant** [sic], his son, **Ned Bryant**, and **Sam Cumby**. John Neely Bryant was then very old and much broken in health. He left us in Missouri and went on to Illinois to visit his daughter. Illinois was his native State. We had three wagons and were sixteen days on the trip.

"Near Tahlequah, I.T., we met a band of seven mounted Indians, who approached with drawn revolvers. They had been to Ft. Smith and were wildly drunk. They passed us, but halted a short distance off and appeared to hold a consultation. One of the number, revolver still in hand, came back, rode between our rear and second wagons and then between the second and forward wagon. He looked very ugly to me, and not knowing what he meant, I had the drop on him as he came to the forward wagon which I was driving. He lowered his pistol and slowly retired.
Some Bad Indians.

"A mile or two farther on we entered a small town, where the homes were closed and the people in wildest terror. We learned there that the Indians we had met were a desperate band, headed by the McWhirter brothers, who were the terror of all the region.

"In 1874 I returned to Texas, and brought [sic] a farm in the Haught and Swing surveys, near Orphans' home, seven miles east of the courthouse, and have lived on it to this day, forty-nine years. Our family moved from Russellville, Logan County, Ky., to Missouri, in 1855. My wife was **Josephine Hobbs**, daughter of **W.W. and Nancy Hobbs**, pioneer settlers in the county. They were originally from Mississippi. Mr. Hobbs was one of the early-day school teachers of the county. I followed farming and stock raising up to two years ago, when I retired from active pursuits.

"When I settled in the county I was seven miles from town. Now the town has spread out to within two and a half miles of me. Welcoming the friendly approaches of the city, I have opened three additions to the rising city, known as J.D. Herndon Additions Nos. 1, 2 and 3. In other words, land that I bought as wild range I have subdivided and sold off as city lots, and, of course, it will be only a short time before the spreading city will overflow what farm land I have left.

"My wife and I raised and saw married eleven children and two adopted children. My wife died two years ago, and two of our children died during the flu epidemic." Ω

This article was written by **W.S. Adair** and published [in *The Dallas Morning News* in 1927] under the headline "Rode a Horse from Springfield to Dallas", and a sub-headline "Missourian Found Texas of 1871 Much as it Must Have Been in 1771; How Bees Were Killed and Meat Preserved in Early Days; Farm Lands Were Cheap".

TEXAS HISTORY 101

Can It!

Although Edna Westbrook Trigg (1868-1946) loved her job as school principal and teacher in the farming community of Liberty (Milam County), the U.S. Department of Agriculture made her an

offer in 1911 that changed her career and eventually put her name in the history books.

At the time, few people in the rural South canned food for winter use. To improve nutrition, the USDA decided to teach canning to farmers and homemakers by first teaching their children—through youth food-canning clubs.

In 1908, a boys' corn club formed in Jack County and, shortly thereafter, another formed in Milam County. The USDA asked Mrs. Trigg to start a girls' tomato club in Liberty. She learned the basics of canning, then used the summer vacation in 1912 to organize girls ages 10 to 18. Soon, she had a dozen or so clubs countywide.

Each member cultivated one tenth of an acre of tomatoes, selling part of the harvest and saving the rest for canning. Canning supplies were so rare at first that for demonstrations Mrs. Trigg had to buy already-sealed cans, open them, and resolder them while the girls watched.

By August of 1912, a proud Edna Trigg and tomato-club members exhibited their canned goods in nearby Milano before a curious crowd of 3,000 that included Texas Governor Oscar B. Colquitt. It was the first exhibition of girls' agricultural products ever held in the state. The next year, the girls exhibited at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas and at the Waco Cotton Palace, where they won \$100 in prize money.

The youth canning clubs that had sprung up in Texas and other states expanded nationwide after the 1914 Smith-Lever Act created the Cooperative Extension Service of the USDA. During the 1920s, boys' corn and girls' tomato clubs became known as 4-H clubs (which aimed to improve "head, heart, hands, and health").

In 1916 Edna Trigg broke more new ground when she moved to Denton County to become the nation's first home demonstration agent. She traveled 1,000 miles a month to spread the word about canning and nutrition.

Edna Trigg died in 1946. In 1970, the Texas State Historical Survey Committee placed a marker in her honor on the courthouse square in Cameron, seat of Milam County. A later plaque there recognizes her tomato clubs. In 1991, the National Agricultural Center in Kansas City, Kansas, inducted her into its Hall of Fame as America's first home demonstration agent. And in 1998, as part of its 90th anniversary celebration, Texas 4-H recognized Edna Trigg for her pioneering work in rural youth education. Ω

—Randy Mallory, Tyler
Texas Highways, June 2000

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

We have experienced such an outpouring of complimentary notes since the updating of our DCPA history, the one we used to call our "little blue book." Many enclosed checks to contribute to the publication.

It is a history that you have made, so we couldn't have done it without you.

Many, many thanks to all of you from all of us. It really was a pleasure. Ω
The History Committee

AMERICAN HISTORY 101

4 Scrapbooks called major Jefferson find

Scholars think 3rd president compiled them

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Scholars believe that four scrapbooks uncovered by a history professor were put together by Thomas Jefferson and offer further insight into the life of the nation's third president.

The red leather-bound books contain thousands of newspaper articles from all over the East Coast dating to Jefferson's presidency, from 1801 to 1808. They indicate that Jefferson was more sentimental than scholars have thought.

Researchers once believed the scrapbooks were put together by Jefferson's granddaughters but recently discovered that some notations on the clippings match his handwriting. Some clippings are pasted on envelopes with Jefferson's address.

"We are confident these books were compiled by Jefferson himself," said James Horn, director of the International Center for Jefferson Studies in Charlottesville.

Robert M.S. McDonald, a professor at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., found the 6-by-9-inch books this summer at the University of Virginia's Alderman Library while doing research.

"I was stunned," Mr. McDonald said. "I realized that they not only belonged to Jefferson, but also that they were Jefferson's creation. It is not every day that new Jefferson materials come to light. And these are a treasure trove of information."

Mr. McDonald found an oak leaf pressed into one book between an article on friendship and a poem titled *Scenes from My Youth*. Jefferson and his boyhood friend Dabney Carr played together on Monticello and studied under an oak tree.

The two promised each other the survivor would bury the other under that tree.

"That was the genesis of the Monticello family graveyard," Mr. McDonald said. Carr was the first to be buried where the oak tree was believed to have been.

Researchers say one of the scrapbooks was given to the library in 1851. The three others were donated in 1951 by Jefferson family members. Ω

The Dallas Morning News, October 8, 1999

TWENTIETH CENTURY HISTORIC MOMENTS

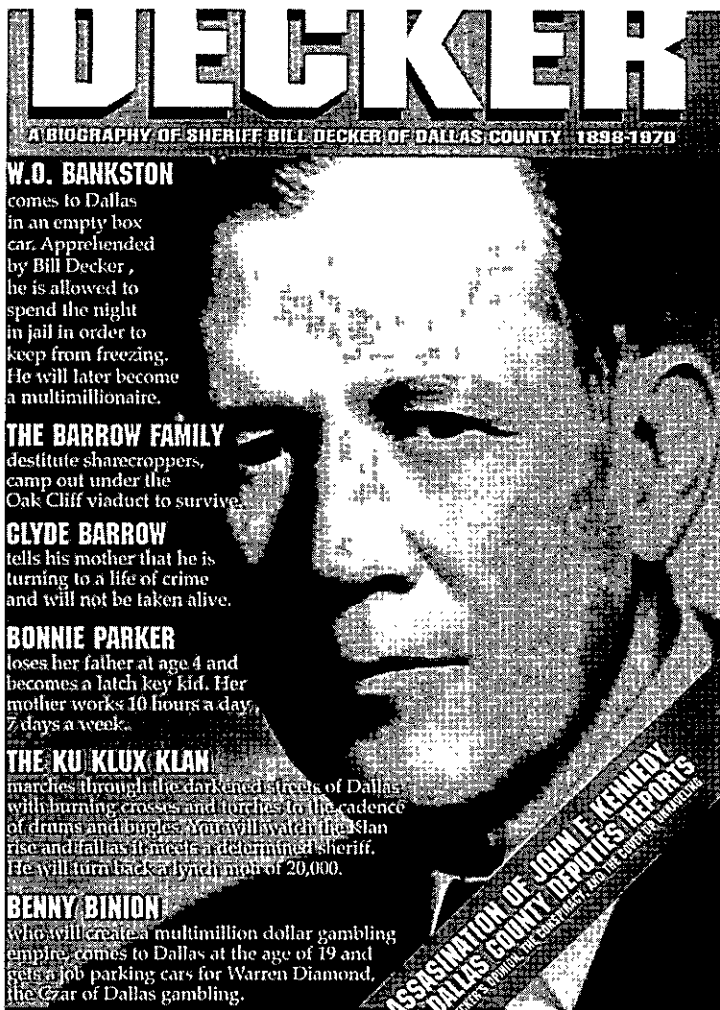
The Umpire's Best Call

I was attending a Brown University baseball game in Providence, Rhode Island on May 21, 1927. College baseball in those days had a large following, and the stands at Brown's Aldrich Field were well filled. As the years have passed, I do not recall who was Brown's opponent that day, but it was very likely one from another Ivy League school or a local rival like Providence College.

Suddenly, in the middle of the game, the home-plate umpire walked out to the pitcher's mound. He turned around after taking off his blue cap and in a loud voice announced to the hushed crowd: "Lindbergh 's plane has just been sighted over Ireland!"

The stands were quiet for a moment, then they erupted into wild yells and cheers, with everyone jumping up and down. Even the players joined in the spontaneous demonstration. It was a moment in history I have never forgotten, and it might well have been one of the first public celebrations of the thousands that followed in recognition of Lucky Lindy's successful flight. Ω

—Stuart C. Halladay, Newfane, Vermont
Yankee, May 1999



DECKER: A Biography of Sheriff Bill Decker

A 419-page book with forty-one pictures, three maps, no profanity, and no sex.

Jim Gatewood has written such a book, *Decker, A Biography of Sheriff Bill Decker of Dallas County 1898-1970*. Retired Texas Attorney General **Will Wilson** says, "Dallas book stores will have a hard time keeping Decker's book on their shelves."

Jim, a history buff, avid hunter and gun enthusiast, moved in a circle of hunters who were law enforcement men with the same interests. Around campfires and on long trips to and from the hunt, Jim heard the stories of those times and those characters inside and outside the law.

Researching the legendary Bill Decker, Jim found that besides having a phenomenal memory and an uncanny ability to solve crimes, Decker kept files. Dallas power broker, judge, politician, con man, or gambler—Decker knew all about your back room deals, your mistress, your weak points. He knew how to accumulate information, store it, and use it.

Decker also had a benevolent approach that made men turn to him when it was time to surrender; he was said to have had many friends inside prison walls and he had his own prison rehabilitation plan for Dallas County.

This book will give you the story of the "Devil's Back Porch", where all the streets had names but there were no street signs. West Dallas had not yet been annexed by the City of Dallas, and was still a no-man's land which spawned the deadliest desperados of the South-west.

Kent Biffle, of *The Dallas Morning News*, says, "Having known Sheriff Bill Decker, I got a kick from the insider tales."

The J.E. "Bill" Decker Deputy Association was formed in 1996. When the deputies learned of the author's goal to write about their sheriff, he was enthusiastically embraced and made an honorary member of their Association. Ω

Jim will have copies of the book for sale at a reduced price for members at our meeting.

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

President: William D. McRae

Vice-President: William E. Clark

Secretary: Mae Riek

Treasurer: Gene Gaddy

Historian: Carolyn Selzer

Membership: William E. Clark.

Program: Nancy McRae

Telephone: Nancy McRae

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

Dallas County Pioneer Association



Founded 1875, Reorganized 1979

P.O. Box 12496

Dallas, Texas 75225-0496

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