

Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

SUMMER 2001

QUARTERLY MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2001

Family Hall
Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane

Dinner: 6 p.m., \$8 per person
Catered by Grande Affair

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED
Make reservations by Tuesday, June 5
Call Bill McRae 214/521-8654 or
DCPA Call Notes 214/969-0926

Program 7 p.m.
Elizabeth York Enstam, "Women, Families, Frontiers: 1843-1920"

A native of North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, Elizabeth York Enstam has lived in Texas for thirty years. She received her Ph. D. degree from Duke University and has taught at Wake Forest University, Brooklyn College of the City University of New York, and Southern Methodist University. Her research and writing interests are urban, community, and women's history. Her publications include essays and articles in scholarly collections and journals: she has written several short biographies about prominent Texans and an article on women and Texas law for the *New Handbook of Texas*.

Elizabeth Enstam is a contributing editor for *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*. Her first book, *Women and the Creation of Urban Life, Dallas, Texas, 1843-1920*, received three awards: the Liz Carpenter Prize for Research in Texas Women's History, and the Coral Horton Tullis Memorial Prize for Texas History, both given by the Texas Historical Association, and the T.R. Fehrenbach Prize for Texas History by the Texas Historical Commission.

Don't miss this outstanding program: get your reservations in!

We would like to have more people participate in our family displays exhibited on tables at our meetings. They create so much interest and interaction among our members; everyone, mostly the participants, enjoys them so much. You don't have to bring a lot—a few pictures or items will add greatly to what someone else may bring.

Our program on "Women, Families, Frontiers" in June would be the perfect time to bring pictures of the great women in your own family or pictures of the homes they lived in. Please share with us.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

• The best laid plans often go astray! Bronchitis, fever, and a bad cough kept me away from the March meeting. VP **Bill Clark** was also ill, so Past President **Nancy McRae** conducted the meeting. She did a great job, and I thank her. We also appreciate **Carolyn Selzer** stepping in at the last minute and providing the family display. It was great, Carolyn. She had clothes from each generation of her family. One thing I forgot, however, was to have the membership certificates signed by the secretary. The following need to bring their certificates to the June meeting and have Secretary **Irma Janicek** sign them:

Allison Baker, Helen Eaton, Sue Kimmel, James Kimmel,
Bobbie Crouse, Lottie McWilliams and M.C. Toyer

Sorry about that, guys!

• The untimely death of Vice President and Book Committee Chair **Bill Clark** shocked us all. Bill expired from complications following gall bladder surgery. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his aunt, **Fay Clark**, and special friend, **Becky Cagle**. Becky made sure that all of the DCPA books and files in Bill's possession were promptly returned to the Association. Her help is greatly appreciated.

• **Kenneth Cullum** has accepted the appointment as vice president to fill Bill's term. Ken is well qualified and adds much experience to our Association. He is a graduate of Purdue and Notre Dame Universities, served in the U.S. Army as a captain in Vietnam, and is the retired president of Bristol Steel Company. Ken is the son of **Earl Cullum**, one of our first presidents. Ken and his wife, **Kathy**, have recently returned to the Dallas area. It is nice to have more Cullums active in the organization!

• **Jim Foster** has kindly agreed to replace Bill Clark as Chair of the Book Committee. Jim will do an excellent job in pushing this project to completion. Bill and his committee have generated a lot of interest in people submitting articles, with approximately sixty having been received to date by Editor **Irma Janicek**. DCPA members will have until June 30 to submit their stories, after which time stories from members of all County historical organizations will be solicited. **Carolyn Selzer** has prepared press releases for all area newspapers and **Karen Gasset** is soliciting stories from area businesses. MEMBERS, THIS YOUR CHANCE TO GET YOUR STORIES IN PRINT!

• Two DCPA members have recently published books capturing the history of our County. **Eva Potter Morgan** has authored *Preston Hollow, a documented history of that area from 1805-1950*. There are interesting maps, pictures of older homes and estates, as well as stories about some of the families and estates. Did you know that Northwest Highway was originally Shalestone Road?

The prolific **Jim Forster (Foster)** has completed another book, his third, this one the history of the Pleasant Valley area of northeast Dallas County. This volume, *Pleasant Valley's Pioneer Cemetery*, is an in-depth compilation of pioneers buried in this Cemetery. Pictures of the people, their grave markers, and information for each one, make for interesting reading. Jim has presented an autographed copy of this book to the DCPA for its

archives. Thank you, Jim!

• **Clare Weakley's** Christian Community ministry has gone worldwide with his GOD 101 internet faith manual. Internet sites target Muslims, Jews, and other religions as well as Christians. His web sites receive 75,000 visits per month from people in eighty five countries including China, Cuba, and several Islamic nations. Clare feels that this is the ministry he has been called to do. His web site address is <http://www.chaplain-101.net/> His e-mail address is [http://www.chaplain-101.org/](mailto:chaplain-101.org/).

• **Kathy John** has agreed to work with DCPA's free web site provided by *The Dallas Morning News*. This site will carry a short history of our organization, its purposes, and a calendar of events (meetings, etc.), as well as announcements such as solicitation of book articles. It can also be an effective advertising medium for our books and our organization. Pictures can also be included. We hope to have this up and running by mid-June.

• New member **Mike Potter** is the current president of the Mesquite Historical and Genealogical Society. He has written a very thorough paper on the Potter Cemetery located in south Mesquite that is filled with detailed and interesting facts about those pioneers buried there. I had the opportunity to visit Mike in his office and saw his research and documentation of his family history. He has done an outstanding job—wish I were that organized!

• **Gene Gaddy** has received an updated letter verifying the DCPA's tax-exempt status. This was necessary to pursue some grants we hope can be acquired for our Association.

• **Nancy McRae** is spearheading a reunion of descendants of those buried in the Jacob Routh Cemeteries. Although the two Cemeteries are located in Collin County south of Renner Road and just east of US 75, the Routh farm extended into Dallas County and is now in the "telecom corridor". This reunion will celebrate the sesquicentennial anniversary of the Routh and Campbell families (among others) arriving and settling in Texas. **Jacob Routh** established the first school, church, and mercantile store in the area, all located on his farm. He also established a stage stop on the Dallas-McKinney road that passed through his farm near his home and offered occasional lodging and food for passengers stranded in the mud. The little church became First Baptist Church of Plano. He established and preached at a Baptist church in downtown Dallas that failed, but established the Pleasant View Baptist Church near White Rock Creek, now located on Fisher Road near Mockingbird Lane. This is the oldest Baptist church in Dallas. He established several colored congregations and preached to both white and colored congregations in a wide area of northern Dallas and southern Collin Counties.

The reunion will feature a luncheon, short history of the Cemeteries, and a cemetery tour on Saturday, June 16, plus a Texas barbecue that evening. On Sunday, the group will attend a church service in the Plano First Baptist Church. For information, call **Nancy McRae** at 214/521-8654. Ω

Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MARCH MEETING

The meeting was held in the Family Hall of Royal Lane Baptist Church. President **Bill McRae** called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. He opened with the Invocation, followed by pledges to the United States and Texas flags.

Carolyn Selzer had an interesting family display.

Frances James gave a report on the Bear Creek Cemetery in Irving.

President McRae acknowledged the new members with certificates. They were **Roberta (Bobbie) Campbell Crouse**, **Sue** and **James C. Kimmel**, **Lottie McWilliams**, **Helen Miller Eaton**, **M.C. Toyer**, and **Allison Elaine Baker**.

Our speaker, **Darwin Payne**, spoke on "When the 'Dallas Spirit' Reigned". He brought with him copies of his recently-revised book, *Big D—Triumphs and Troubles of an American Supercity in the 20th Century*.

With the words, "God be with you 'til we meet again", the meeting was adjourned. Ω

Irma Janicek, secretary

FINAL FAREWELLS

Our longtime member, **Louise Hughes Bocquin**, passed away in April at the age of ninety-three.

A descendant of the pioneer Hughes family in the Oak Lawn area, Louise was beloved for her volunteer work at hospitals and for the hundreds of slippers she knitted for patients at Parkland.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, **Mary Lou** and **W.R. Allen**, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Graveside services were held at Restland Memorial Park on April 18.

The historical preservation community, as well as DCPA, lost a valued friend and member with the death of **William E. Clark** in April.

Bill was our vice-president and chairman of the Book Committee for the publication of *Proud Heritage, Vol. III*. He also was a past president of Preservation Dallas and of Dallas Area Rehabilitation Association, and a member of the Park Cities Historical Society. He was recognized as a Keeper of the Flame, an honor given to generous donors by the Baylor Health Care System Foundation, and for the last twelve years he worked at Mainstream Project LINK, which helps people with disabilities find work.

Bill's career spanned several non profit organizations serving others, such as Goodwill Industries and Boy Scouts of America.

He is survived by his aunt, **Faye Clark**, and dear friend, **Becky Cagle**. Memorial services were held on April 25 at Restland Wildwood Chapel.

We will miss Louise and Bill. Ω

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

One of our two newest Life members is **Ida Lea Wilroy Downs**, who traces her Dallas ancestry clear back to **Isaac B. Webb**, vice-president of the first meeting of the Dallas County Pioneer Association in 1875, and Farmers Branch postmaster in 1850.

Ida Lea's line of descent is through **Mary Hughes** and Isaac Webb's daughter, **Mary Jane**. The Webb Chapel Methodist Church was founded in the log cabin home of Isaac and Mary Webb and they gave the land for the Webb Chapel Cemetery. Ida is presently a member of the Webb Chapel Cemetery Association. The Church is now located on Valley View Lane in Farmers Branch.

Ida's children are **Gene Anne Scott**; **Frazier B.**, **Richard C.**, and **Lincoln J. Monroe**; and **William J.** and **Daniel A. Briones**. She lives at 733 Brighton Lane, Garland 75043-5310, and her telephone number is 972/613-1358.

Our second new Life member is **Charles Michael Potter**, current president of the Mesquite Historical Genealogical Society.

Charles traces his Dallas County ancestry to **John Preston Potter**, who came to Texas in 1848 and to the County in 1860. He settled in what now is Mesquite, and he and his wife, **Martha Ann Odom**, became the parents of **Frank Odom**. Frank married **Margaret Nancy Allen** and they had son **Charles Arthur**, who married **Hester Van Miller**. Hester and Charles Arthur were the parents of **Charles Miller**, who married **Billie Jeannene Paulk**, and they were Charles Michael's parents.

Martha Ann and John Preston Potter were the parents of nine children. He was justice of the peace for seven years and served in the Confederate Army in Columbia Company, Dallas County, from July 1861 to the end of the Civil War. In 1899 he was buried in the Potter Cemetery in Lawson, which now is Mesquite, Texas. In 1998 a Texas Historical Marker was placed on the Potter Cemetery, which dates back to 1861 with the burial of **William L. Potter**, John and Martha's first son. The acreage for the Cemetery was deeded to John the day after the death of his son. The last burial in the Cemetery was in 1947 and the City of Mesquite now maintains the area.

Charles is with the Bluebonnet Savings Bank, and he is a Life

Member of the John Beeman Chapter Mesquite, Sons of the Republic of Texas. His address is 922 Appleblossom Lane, Mesquite 75149, telephone 972/288-6554.

Dorothy Clanton Smith joins her sister, **Lottie McWilliams**, one of our newest members, in the DCPA. Dottie and Lottie were the two *measley* kids who couldn't get the attention of their doctor or their parents because they chose December 7, 1941, to break out. (Read Dottie's version of that day elsewhere in this newsletter—Lottie gave us hers last spring.)

Dorothy has lived in the Washington area for many years and in Administration at the Smithsonian. She hopes to return to Dallas when she retires, even though she has children living in Maryland and Virginia. (She has one in California, too—how's that for spreading them out?)

Dottie's first Dallas County relatives were **Frances A. and Asa W. Morton**, who came from Kentucky. Their daughter, **Fannie**, married **John W. Payne**, and they became the parents of the second **John W. Payne**. This John and his wife, **Charlotte Mae Marks**, were the parents of Dottie's mother, **Annie Lorene**, who married **William Webb Clanton**.

Asa and Frances and their four daughters came in 1859. We won't repeat everything we recently wrote for Lottie's profile, but will say that Asa was one of the few men left in Dallas during the Civil War (he was sent home with typhoid fever) and he apparently tried to be Everyman: he was a shoemaker, cabinet-maker, undertaker and casketmaker. When he made himself a loom for weaving his own cloth, he then became a loommaker to the community.

Dottie's grandfather, **John W. Payne**, was secretary-treasurer of The Praetorians Life Insurance Company, and his secretary was **Marjori Sharp**, who is delighted to welcome her other "little sister" (the Paynes made her a member of their family).

Dottie's children are **Stephen P. Smith**, **Susan S. Kirkman**, **Katharine S. Stephens**, and **Shelley S. Stone**. Her address is 240 So. Reynolds Rd. #306, Alexandria, VA, 22304, telephone 703/461-3600.

Both **Norma Daniel Stults** and her husband, **David G. Stults** are descendants of pioneer Dallas County families: Norma's family was here in time to be counted in the 1850 census and David's great grandfather came in 1870 as a sixteen-year-old boy.

Frances Sims and **John M. Daniel** were the parents of seven children, most of them grown and married when they came to Dallas with their mother. She purchased several tracts of land in what is now North Dallas County: her homesite was near the SMU campus and adjacent to the Daniel Cemetery on Airline Road. Her son **Frank (Francis)** and his wife, **Mary F. Robin-**

son, had a home west of Snyder Plaza on present Rankin Street.

Mary and Frank's son, **Charles Sidney**, married **Mary Ann Bachman**. Their son was **Charles Sidney**, who married **Pearl N. Sherron** and had daughter **Norma**.

David's first Dallas ancestor, **Jacob Stults**, married **Mary Wimer**, and they became the parents of **Elias**, who married **Mary Moore**. Their son, **William Newton** and his wife **Amanda D. Stratton**, had son **James Arthur**. He and his wife, **Bessie P. Huffhines**, were the parents of **Ross Earl**, who married **Ada Pearl Prewitt**, and became the parents of David.

Before 1890, William Newton Stults, the sixteen-year-old who had come in 1870, brought his mother, two brothers, and six sisters to Dallas, where he was both builder and farmer. At the time of his death in 1954 his son Arthur still owned five acres of land at Coit and Belt Line that had never been plowed. This land was sold by his children and became part of the DalRich Shopping Center.

David gave us a note about his Stratton line: **James D. Stratton** came to the Richardson area 1850-52 and was the founder of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church. His daughter, **Amanda**, David's great grandmother, was the first native-born Texan in his ancestry.

David is a retired teacher/ school administrator of the Amarillo Independent School District. He and Norma live at 1204 Meadow Creek, Allen, TX 75002, phone number 972/396-5808.

We welcome another Vilbig into our membership: **William Adam McCommas Vilbig, Jr.** is a distant cousin of our long-time members of the David Vilbig family.

William traces his Dallas County ancestry all the way back to **Amon McCommas**, who was elected Chaplain at the first meeting of the Dallas County Pioneer Association in 1875. Amon and his wife, **Mary Brumphield**, came to Dallas in 1844 with a headright from Peters Colony. Their son, **Elisha**, and his wife, **Rhoda Ann Tucker**, became the parents of **Wallace Elisha**.

Wallace and his wife, **Julia L. McDaniel**, were the parents of **Doris Margaret**, who married **Charles Adam Vilbig** and had son **William Adam**.

Amon McCommas chaired the committee organized to form Dallas County and was elected the first Chief Justice, or County Judge, of the Commissioners Court. His son, **Elisha**, had been a member of the DCPA for seventeen years by 1892 and had almost continually been an officer of the Association.

William is a representative of Incomnet. His address is 4045 Lively Lane, 75220-1871, telephone 214/352-1513. Ω

THUMBNAIL SKETCH OF OUR NEW VP

by Earl Cullum

Kenneth H. Cullum was born at Dallas in November 1940, a momentous time in American history. Germany had over-run Europe and Japan was preparing to over-run the Pacific area. Ken's young father was awaiting orders for Active Duty—to form a new Military Police unit and help train hundreds of new MP officers for World War II.

Louise, Ken's mother, was preparing for the war years alone with her three small children. Ken soon knew he had a father, in a war on the other side of the world, but he would be a stranger to young Ken when he returned years later. Then, through thirty years, his father would be an FBI agent, away from home much of the time.

Ken finished high school at Miami, Oklahoma, and held summer jobs as an FBI clerk. He graduated from Purdue University and became an Army Officer himself, a Captain in another war in far-off Asia. Then, upon his return he earned a Masters Degree at Notre Dame, married, and joined the Bristol Steel Company, where he became President/CEO, and from which he retired.

Last year Ken and his wife, **Kathy**, moved home to Dallas, where they now live at 6907 Desco Drive.* Ken has followed his family in the Dallas County Pioneer Association, and now he has assumed the office of vice-president of our organization. Ω

*Please correct Ken's phone number in your Roster: 214/378-47 20.

BOOK REVIEW: PRESTON HOLLOW

by Pat Randolph

Documenting the history of old Preston Hollow has been the dream of **Eva Jane Potter Morgan** for many years. A fifth-generation Dallasite, Eva Jane has lived in old Preston Hollow since 1933, and she is a longtime member of the Dallas County Pioneer Association. She has spent the last twelve years researching, photographing, editing, and publishing her book, *Preston Hollow 1850-1950*.

Eva Jane introduced this outstanding publication at a book-signing at her home. Among the guests were **Mary Cook**, who grew up on her family's farm on Midway Road near Northwest Highway, **Jimmy DeLoache**, whose father and mother were early owners/developers of Preston Hollow, and many friends and neighbors of the author.

The outstanding book, which is available at Borders Books Store in Preston Royal, is a treasure of photos, documents, news items, and letters dealing with the old neighborhood. Ω

SUGGESTIONS FOR VOL. III STORIES

Dallas Public Library
 Old City Park
 Dallas Public Schools
 Drive-in movies
 Sons of Herman, 1911, 3414 Elm Street
 The Ford Plant
 Streetcars - dating
 Theaters - John Rosenfield
 Confederate Memorial, 1897; moved to
 Pioneer Cemetery, 1961
 WPA Guide to Dallas
 SMU
 Texas Centennial
 Crossword Puzzles
 Ursuline Academy
 Leon Harris' "Night Before Christmas in
 Texas, That Is"
 Dallas Theological Seminary, 1924
 Elite Cafe, Boedeker ice cream
 D Day Museum in New Orleans
Dallas Morning News, 1885
 Gas-powered auto, 1899
 Trinity River stories
 Ben Long, mayor, murdered
 Baylor Hospital, 1903
Holland's magazine, *Farm & Ranch* magazine,
 Frank P. Holland, Sr. & Jr.
 Epps G. Knight
 Praetorian Bldg., 1907, first skyscraper
 Street Photographers
 Ebby Halliday, 1945
 Charles H. Durgin, first postmaster, 1846
 Northwest Highway when it was Shalestone
 Road
 Adolphus Hotel
 U.S.O.
 State Fair stories
 Rosie the Riveter: war-time experiences
 YM-YWCA (150 years old) in Dallas

This is what we have thought of—give us your list, your stories, **and** your one-liners! If you have a remembrance but can't make a story out of it, write it down—we need lots of "fillers", lots of "remember whens?". Time is running out: send all your items to Editor **Irma Janicek**. Ω

"I showed the America I knew and observed to others who might not have noticed." That's how Norman Rockwell characterized his sixty-year career as an illustrator (he preferred that word to "artist" or "painter").

SPREADING SUNSHINE

In February, too late for the Spring newsletter, we sent a Get Well card to **Jimmie Ruth Woodfin**, who has colon cancer, and a Thinking of You card to **Marie McMahan**, who lost both legs to surgery.

Get Well cards have been sent to **Bill Jacoby**, who has had a broken leg and a hip replacement, and to **Bill Clark**, who developed pneumonia and an infection after surgery for a digestive problem.

We sent sympathy cards to **Raymond Story**, upon the death of his son, **Mike**, and to the family of **Bill Clark**, upon his death following surgery.

We send all good wishes to these families. Ω
Millie Coffey, sunshine chair

HISTORY OF THE PLEASANT VALLEY CEMETERY

by **Jim Foster**

The Texas Historical Commission designated the Pleasant Valley Cemetery a Historic Texas Cemetery on December 20, 2000. The dedication will take place at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 2, and we hope that many of you will attend.

The Pleasant Valley Cemetery is located on Merritt Road in northeast Dallas County, one-quarter mile north of Pleasant Valley Road. A concrete driveway divides the two parts: the old portion consists of all property on the lefthand side (north) of the driveway and the new portion is on the righthand side.

Merritt Road, which is now situated in front of the cemetery, was originally located at the back. This road served as the dividing line between Mercers Colony and the District of Nacogdoches during the Republic of Texas era.

This pioneer cemetery is positioned on approximately three acres of land which is part of the original W.D. Penny (sometimes spelled Perry) 320-acre survey.

Soley J. Newman, daughter of **Harmon** and **Emeline McDaniel Newman**, was the first person buried at Pleasant Valley Cemetery. She was born in a log cabin at Pleasant Valley on August 26, 1874. Her grave is located at the back of the cemetery near the concrete drive. **Harmon Newman** traveled to Pleasant Valley from Missouri in 1856, as recorded in *Memorial Sketches & Biographical History of Dallas Co.*, 1892.

There is no known deed for the old section of this cemetery. However, the obituary for **David M. Compton**, which was

printed in the *Garland News* in 1950, reads as follows: "Burial was in the Pleasant Valley Cemetery on the land which was donated for the cemetery by his father-in-law, the late **Harmon Newman**".

The newer portion, containing 1.4 acres, on the south side of the driveway, was purchased by the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association for \$233 from **Dr. George W. Newman** on November 6, 1919.

A total of three groups have organized to provide the cemetery's care and upkeep. The first group, known as the Ladies Cemetery Association of Pleasant Valley, was officially organized September 7, 1916. **Bula Finley** served as secretary, with **Belle Moorman** serving as president.

Members of this group reorganized and received an official charter from the State of Texas on October 10, 1919, as the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Association.

The third group was formed in 1975 with Judge **Dee Brown Walker** advising the organization. This organization was officially chartered as the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Foundation. **Ray Boyd** was elected president with **Hubert Raney** elected vice-president and **Nora Pelton Sperling** secretary-treasurer.

Current officers of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Foundation are **Jim Foster**, president; **Delbert Todd**, vice-president; and **Wanda Pelton Smith** serving as secretary-treasurer.

The cemetery currently contains about 535 marked graves. Many of these graves contain the remains of the first pioneers and early settlers of the Pleasant Valley era. The total of unmarked graves in the cemetery is not known.

Soldiers from the Civil War and every major war since are also buried in this cemetery. First inventory was found in *Old Cemeteries of Dallas County* by **Willie Flowers Carlisle** in 1948. Second inventory was by the Dallas Genealogical Society in 1979, and the third inventory was found in *Inscriptions of Rowlett & Garland, Texas* by **Hazel Grisham Wade**, 1998. Other burials include numerous descendants of members from the 1854 wagon train which traveled from Monroe County, Kentucky, to the Pleasant Valley area.

There were three burials at the Cemetery on the same day in early January 1919. All three victims died as a result of the dreaded 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic.

A bronze memorial marker honoring all Pleasant Valley area pioneers, early settlers, and our loved ones who are laid to rest there, was dedicated in 1997. This marker, donated by **Ken** and **Wanda Pelton Smith**, also honors **Winnie Compton Pelton Mooney** for dedicating her life to the care and upkeep of the Pleasant Valley Cemetery. Ω

FROM OUR MAILBAG

• "Enclosed is my check for dues to DCPA. I still look forward to attending a meeting, if I'm in Dallas during the time one is scheduled. I sincerely enjoy each newsletter. It's good to hear about the things DCPA is planning, and to learn about Dallas history. I reminisce about the Pig Stands, and Sammy's, Old City Park, etc."

Mary Phelps-Manes, Oklahoma City

• "Happy New Year, and all good wishes to each one of you. Dues enclosed."

Margaret Caillet Swann, Nashville

**OPERATION ACT, PHASE III AND BEYOND:
REVITALIZATION OF THE TRINITY RIVER**

"We thought we could do it, we **did it** ... **we did it again**... and **WE DID IT AGAIN** in the rain, mud, and flood!"

Thus begins the jubilant report of "Operation A.C.T. - A Clean Trinity", after a third assault on the pollution of our River by some 655 volunteers, on March 3.

And do they have something to brag about! Look at the figures: Over a twenty-two months period, 2,372 volunteers from all over the Metroplex have removed 425.75 tons of trash and debris and 121.32 tons of tires (that's a total of 11,821 tires), for a total of 547.07 tons of junk cleaned out of the Trinity River!

A twelve-mile area on each side of the River was the target for this third endeavor. Twenty outposts along the twenty-four miles were manned by ten volunteers each, offering cold drinks, food, and water; members of the Dallas Police Department, the Dallas County Sheriffs Posse, and staff from Methodist Hospital for medical emergencies. Upon signing a liability waiver required by the City, each volunteer received an OPERATION ACT t-shirt and yellow gloves, which also served as their admission to the celebration party at Rochester Park Shelter after the clean-up.

A long line of sponsors are listed on the back of the t-shirt, including the Army National Guard's 49th Armored "Lone Star" Division, who were heavily involved. They have found four locations where tires can be dropped off free of charge, and hope this will reduce the number of tires thrown into the Trinity River each year.

It takes some cash, too, (the Trinity River Authority has given \$5000) and donations are gratefully accepted. Tax deductible contributions should be sent to Communities Foundation of

Texas, which has been chosen to manage the funds. Their address is 4605 Live Oak, 75204-7099.

Operation A.C.T.
A Clean Trinity

They even chose a mascot:
the River Raccoon!



The whole idea of A.C.T. is the brainchild of **Betty Svoboda**,* champion volunteer of Dallas County. To list the Boards and Commissions on which Betty has served over at least twenty-five years would take a whole page, but we will give you an idea: thirteen years on the Dallas Parks Board; Community Development Board; City Plan Commission; County Parks and Open Space Board; Charter member of Trinity Trails; eleven Beautification Projects for the City of Dallas; North Dallas Chamber of Commerce (13 years); County Tax Appraisal Review Board; and she was one of the organizers of "A Beautiful Clean Dallas" thirty-seven years ago.

Betty is the Chair of Operation A.C.T. and she is supported by **Barbara Boazman**, East River Bank Chair; **Charles Johnson**, West River Bank Chair; sixteen Outpost Chairs; and four Tire Outpost Chairs. Also, a long list of donors and another of donors of in-kind-services—*and hundred of volunteers!*

We hereby nominate Betty Svoboda for the Linz Award, Woman of the Year Award, Volunteer of the Year, and every other award given in the City and County of Dallas for concerned and dedicated citizens. *Long overdue! Ω*

*Contact **Betty Svoboda** at 214/352-6267 (Phone/Fax).

**D-FW NATIONAL CEMETERY
A JEWEL FOR NORTH TEXAS**
by Marjori Sharp

We don't ordinarily exchange gifts on Memorial Day, but I received a priceless one this sixtieth year since December 7, 1941: my daughter **Kathy**'s husband, Major **Philip W. John, Jr.** USMC Ret, took me—just me—clear across town to the one-year-old Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery on Mountain Creek Parkway.

Phil served in the Vietnam War. His father, Brigadier General **Philip W. John, Sr.** USMC and his mother, both deceased, are at rest in Arlington Cemetery.

I wish I could describe my feelings; there is no way to put them into words, so I will try to tell you about this beautiful new asset for North Texas, which surely will some day match Arlington. This is where we are going to want to place those dear to us to keep them near to us.

Whoever chose the site was inspired—it is so Texas, so beautiful and so appropriate to us. Gently rolling hills, vast stretches of trees—mostly thick lacey mesquite, and grassy open spaces. Room to grow, and it will: when fully developed, this 638-acre site will provide 280,000 burial spaces for North-Central Texas veterans and their families. The initial construction developed is approximately 110 acres.

This development includes a lovely small lake, an assembly area, a heart-wrenching Memorial Walkway, two commital service shelters, a columbarium, a carillon, a flag pole—and a breathtaking Avenue of Flags. Services were being held in the two shelters while we were there and the grounds were full of people. Hundreds have already chosen this spot.

Be prepared to get emotional: "... between the crosses [headstones] row on row ..."

Be prepared to want to move your loved ones to rest here.

Everyone needs a son-in-law like mine: he made my day, my Memorial Day. Ω

MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II

by Dorothy Clanton Smith

The day Pearl Harbor was bombed, we didn't go to church because my sister and I were sick. Our family doctor diagnosed our illness as measles, but he and our parents hardly paid any attention to us because they were listening to the radio. I remember it was the first time I ever had a sense that the grown-ups were afraid. This made me afraid, too.

One night Dallas had a practice air raid and all the lights in the whole city were turned off (or the curtains were drawn tight). It was very cold, but my parents wrapped us in blankets and took us outside to see the stars. Because of the city lights, we had never seen so many.

My Dad and I began to collect the cartoons from the editorial page of *The Dallas Morning News* and put them in a scrap book. The book was accidentally destroyed later, but I remember the one when the island of Truk was re-taken: it was a big army boot about to step on the island, because Truk was the first island re-taken from the Japanese and it was a "first step". My father was too old to enlist; he had served in WW I and had been given a medical discharge after the flu epidemic, but my uncle and cousins all went into the army or navy.

When rationing started we moved to my grandmother's house so that we could pool our ration coupons. I especially remember my mother waiting in line to get bacon and coffee. Sugar, too, was rationed and the artificial icing made from Karo syrup was

especially nasty on birthday cakes. Later, my mother saved up a little bit of sugar and my grandmother would make birthday cakes that tasted good. Shoes were rationed and at least once we made it halfway to town to get our school shoes when my mother remembered she didn't have the coupons. We had to go back home on the streetcar and start over. I really hated not getting lots of shoes, but I did not mind going without a bicycle, because it would have been unpatriotic to use steel and rubber for children's toys. I had one of the first dolls made of a new product, "vinyl". It was a baby doll Santa brought me, and I loved her because she was soft and cuddly.

I had two jobs at home specifically to help the war effort. Margarine was white to identify it as not being butter, but the package contained a small envelope of food coloring. My job was to mix the food coloring into the margarine and because it then needed to be shaped, we had a butter mold in a flower shape. I packed it into the mold and put it in ice water for a few seconds to harden it. The other job was to prepare tin cans to be recycled. This was before frozen foods and many vegetables that could not be raised locally came in cans. Mother saved the top of the can and after dinner I rinsed the top and the can and cut out the bottom. The hard part was to stomp on the can to flatten it, because I was small and not heavy enough to mash the can flat. Once that was accomplished, the two ends were slipped into the flattened can and we kept them in a box until we had a certain weight and then turned them in.

The Girl Scouts had endless scrap paper drives. We also collected old pans, lids, and anything made of metal, to be recycled. We lived near the end of the Seventh Street car line, and when we passed the stops where people would drop their gum and cigarette wrappers, we picked them up and took them home to peel off the foil and save it.

Our father had always had a garden, but during WW II, many businesses divided their empty grounds among employees who planted a "Victory Garden" to help grow food. My mother and grandmother would spend days and days canning the produce. We all helped to wash and peel to get it ready to can. There was always some anxiety that something would blow up if it spoiled, but I don't think any of ours did.

Tuesdays at school were "banking" days, and we bought U.S. savings stamps for twenty-five cents each. When your savings book was full (\$18.75) you could trade it in for a Savings Bond that would be worth \$25 when it matured.

Before the War we loved going to the train station, but once the War started it wasn't so much fun. For one thing, the polio epidemic had started and we had to be careful to not touch anything in public places. The steps going up to the waiting rooms had these beautiful highly polished brass railings that were so tempting, and we couldn't touch them! It was important to

make sure our family members coming home on leave would receive a great welcome, so we had to go, even with the dangers of polio—then we would find that the trains were late. Sometimes it would be many hours later before our loved ones arrived.

On VE Day and VJ Day we were so happy. We had been saved from the Germans and the Japanese. We were safe again—and we had won! We were so proud of every serviceman, no matter if he had served at home or overseas. There were never greater heroes than “our boys”. They gave up their youth for our country, and were willing to give up their lives. They will always be my heroes. Ω

WE MONITOR THE NEWS

Doonesbury cartoons are an insult

It astounds me that *The Dallas Morning News* proudly implies, on its highly visible Viewpoints page, that our president is an “airhead”. You not only tout Garry Trudeau’s insults, you pay him for doing them!

If the difference between “insult” and “satire” has been lost to your editorial department, I attach Webster’s definitions for forwarding to them.

It seems to me Mr. Trudeau’s cartoons are satire only if directed at fictional characters. When directed to fellow humans, and to President George W. Bush, it is not satire but vicious public insult. Astoundingly, *The News* pays him to keep doing the insults!

May I respectfully ask what credentials Mr. Trudeau has that cause you to tout him as an important American critic? Is he wiser or more observant than your publisher Burl Osborne?

Applying the wisdom of President Bush’s favorite “philosopher”, I call your attention to Matthew 7:1-5. What verse 2 really says is the accusations one directs toward another usually are his own faults. Using “The Philosopher’s” measure, I see Mr. Trudeau declaring himself to be an airhead. Can you agree?

Skeptical newspapermen don’t seem to have much respect for Mr. Bush’s philosopher. Yet. But the day will come when the *big editor* will examine our worldly stewardship. Circulation and sales are not included in his measurements. Charity is.

Clare G. Weakley, Jr.

The Dallas Morning News, 2-24-01

FROM PUBLICITY CHAIR

Carolyn Selzer

Information about DCPA meetings and *Proud Heritage, Volume III* is being sent to sixteen local news organizations.

If you see any publicity in any publication, please let me know, and if possible, send it to me. It may not get printed, but we will certainly give it a try! Thank you. Ω

PLUMS AND THEN PLUM JELLY FOR THE TAKING

by Bill Baird

There’s a big apartment complex along Greenville Avenue from Lovers Lane to Northwest Highway. They call it The Village now, but when I was a kid it was a big open field with a dry creek bed running through it. It probably belonged to the Caruths—everything else in that part of the world did.

I was supposed to make a map for part of my Boy Scout work. That vacant ground seemed like a good bet, so I rode out there on my bike and began work. It wasn’t too far from our house on Richard just off McMillan.

While measuring and plotting the land I ran across a wild plum thicket in the creek bed out in the middle of the field. The grove was quite large and the plums were just getting ripe. They were small, yellow, and sour as the dickens. When I went home I brought a handful and asked my mother if she could make jelly out of wild plums and she allowed as how she probably could if I brought her some.

So when I went back the next day to work on my map I took two of my paper bags (that I carried *The Dallas Morning News* with) hung over the back fender of my bike. I filled them full (plum full?) of the fruit and went home with my bike loaded down with probably forty or fifty pounds of wild plums.

My mother and grandma spent the next day cleaning and boiling and running those plums through the strainer, and the whole house smelled like cooking fruit.

The jelly that resulted was almost crystal clear—just a faint touch of pink. The taste was very tart. It was my favorite jelly. I went back the next year and picked some more plums.

The place is now covered with apartments and the plum thicket is long gone, but I never drive through that area without thinking of the plum jelly and how that field looked when it was just a big field with a creek bed and a plum thicket out in the middle. Ω

PROPERTY TAX INCENTIVE PROGRAM APPROVED

from *Preserve Dallas*, May 2001

The Dallas City Council approved an extended and revised incentive program on April 11th. The Neighborhood Revitalization and Historic Preservation Program replaces the successful Historic Preservation Incentives Program created in 1993 and amended in 1998. Since 1994, the staff and Landmark Commission have reviewed 197 properties totalling more than \$216 million of private reinvestment. The City of Dallas’ investment of every \$1 equals approximately \$10 in private money while the city recaptures its revenue in 1.8 years.

The new program continues incentives for historic buildings downtown where a vacancy rate of 27.6 percent persists. Property owners rehabilitating a historic building under this program are eligible for a 100 percent exemption on the land and structure for 10 years. If converted to residential use and 65 percent of the ground floor is used for retail, the owner is eligible for 100 percent abatement for an additional five years.

The Neighborhood Revitalization and Historic Preservation Program expands into historic neighborhoods of south Dallas and Oak Cliff encouraging owner-occupied rehabilitation. An owner-occupied property may receive a 100 percent property tax abatement for 10 years if the work exceeds 25 percent of the assessed value. Non-owner-occupied and owner-occupied maintenance are also eligible in these areas.

Property owners must comply with the Certificate of Appropriateness process and be recommended by the Dallas Landmark Commission to the City Council for their final approval if more than \$50,000 in value. In addition, the city includes in this program opportunities for facade easements and transfer of development rights.

Preservation Dallas and the Central Dallas Association worked with neighborhood representatives to ensure council support. A special thanks to Councilwoman Veletta Lill, City Council members, the Landmark Commission, City Plan Commission and the staff of the Planning and Development Department. Ω

TEXAS HISTORY 101

Remember Zane Grey? We do hope you haven't missed this part of Texana and Americana. This is his dedication to his book The Lone Star Ranger, 1915.

TO CAPTAIN JOHN HUGHES AND HIS TEXAS RANGERS

It may seem strange to you that out of all the stories I heard on the Rio Grande I should choose as first that of Buck Duane—outlaw and gunman.

But, indeed, Ranger Coffee's story of the last of the Duanes has haunted me, and I have given full rein to imagination and have retold it in my own way. It deals with the old law—the old border days—therefore it is better first. Soon, perchance, I shall have the pleasure of writing of the border of to-day [sic], which in Joe Sitter's laconic speech, "Shore is 'most as bad an' wild as ever!"

In the North and East there is a popular idea that the frontier of the West is a thing long past, and remembered now only in stories. As I think of this I remember Ranger Sitter when he made that remark, while he grimly stroked an unhealed bullet wound. And I remember the giant Vaughn, that typical son of stalwart Texas, sitting there quietly with bandaged head, his thoughtful eye boding ill to the outlaw who had ambushed him.

Only a few months have passed since then—when I had my memorable sojourn with you—and yet, in that short time, Russell and Moore have crossed the Divide, like Rangers.

Gentlemen,—I have the honor to dedicate this book to you, and the hope that it shall fall to my lot to tell the world the truth about a strange, unique, and misunderstood body of men—the Texas Rangers—who made the great Lone Star State habitable, who never know peaceful rest and sleep, who are passing, who surely will not be forgotten and will some day come into their own.

Zane Grey.



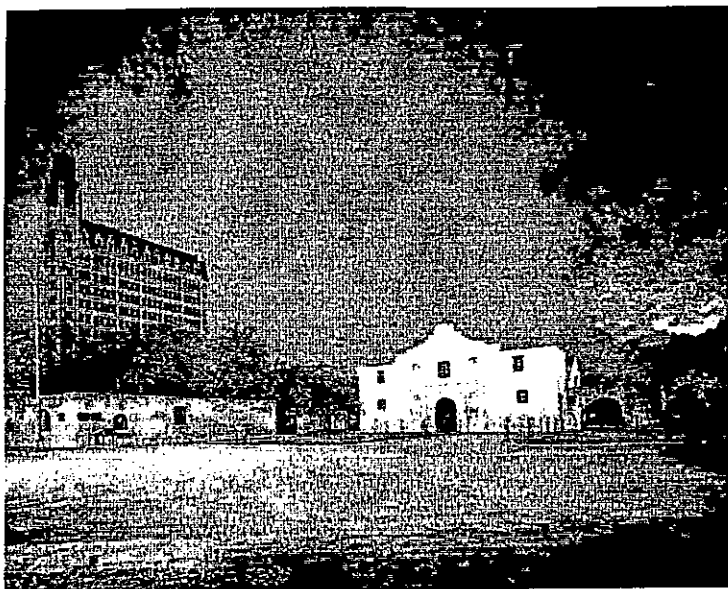
DALLAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Prior to 1876

DAVID BRADSHAW, 1846-48
PLEASANT TAYLOR, 1846-48
JESSE V. MOUNTS, 1846-52
GREEN W. MINTER, 1846-48
* MIDDLETON PERRY, 1848-50
WM. J. WALKER, 1848-52
JAMES R. RYLIE, 1848-50
HENRY K. VALENTINE, 1850
JAS. CHAPMAN, 1850-54
* ADAM C. HAUGHT, 1850-52
WESLEY M. CHENAULT, 1852-53
WM. O'GUINN, 1852-53
JEREMIAH H. HALFORD, 1852-54
* JOHN M. CROCKETT, 1853-54
E. P. NICHOLSON, 1853-54
FRANCIS A. WINN, 1854-60
CREATH RENFRO, 1854-56
WM. M. HORNE, 1854-58
S. A. FISHER, 1854-60
JAMES CHAPMAN, 1856-59
WM. SPROWLS, 1858-61; 1861-62; 1875-76
* A. J. WITT, 1859-60
THOMAS J. NASH, 1860-61; 1861-64
JAS. H. HOLLOWAY, 1860-61; 1861-65; 1865-66
JOSHUA McCANTS, 1860-61; 1861
ISAAC B. WEBB, 1862-65; 1865-66; 1866-67; 1867-69
WILLIAM M. KEMP, 1862-64
GEO. W. BARTON, 1864-65; 1865-66; 1866-67; 1867-68
HENRY K. BROTHERTON, 1861-65; 1865-66
A. BLEDSOE, 1865-66
J. P. STRATTON, 1866-67
J. R. CLEMENTS, 1866-67
S. C. PHELPS, 1867-70
* JOHN M. RAWLINS, 1867-70
LEWIS B. LONG, 1868-70
JOHN M. HATCHER, 1869-70
BENJAMIN F. RICKETTS, 1870-71
MEREDITH MYERS, 1870-74
* W. J. HALSELL, 1870-74
THOMAS I. FRANK, 1870-71; 1874-76
C. C. HUSTEAD, 1871-74
R. S. GUY, 1871-74
W. A. GEORGE, 1874-75
CHARLES BARKER, 1874-75
* THOMAS D. COATS, 1874-76
N. O. McADAMS, 1875-76

Kathy Culver sent us the enclosed plaque. We have placed asterisks beside the names of members of the early DCPA.

AROUND THE STATE

Flashlight-toting volunteers make Alamo shine for photo



SAN ANTONIO—Armed with flashlights and electronic flashes, hundreds of volunteers crowded in front of the Alamo Saturday to help visitors from the Rochester Institute of Technology light up the Cradle of Texas Liberty for Big Shot 2001.

About 40 students and faculty members of the institute's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences traveled from New York for the 16th staging of the school's Big Shot program. An RIT tradition, it involves taking a photograph of an American landmark illuminated solely by flashlights and electronic flashes.

About 7:30 p.m., on cue from the coordinators, Michael Peres, Bill DuBois, and Dawn Tower DuBois, volunteers bathed the Alamo chapel in light during a two-minute exposure.

"We're very excited about being in San Antonio and getting a chance to photograph the Alamo," said Mr. Peres, chairman of the institute's biomedical photography division. "It's a great educational opportunity for everyone involved."

Planning for the Big Shot began a year ago. Last September, the three coordinators came to San Antonio to scout out the old mission as a photographic site.

The idea to use the Alamo came from RIT alumnus Scott Saldinger, an account executive at KMOL-TV in San Antonio.

"I thought it would be the ideal subject for the Big Shot," Mr. Saldinger said. "It's one of the most photographed buildings in the world. People were very excited to welcome this event."

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas, guardians of the Alamo since 1905, granted permission for the photo shoot in commemoration of the 165th anniversary of the battle in which about 200 Texan defenders were killed by a much larger force of Mexican soldiers.

This year's shoot marks another historical landmark: It is the first time the Big Shot has occurred outside New York. Last year, thousands of volunteers helped light up the Liberty Pole in

Rochester; in 1999, it was the aircraft carrier Intrepid, berthed in New York City.

About 900 undergraduate and graduate students are enrolled in the fine arts and scientific photography programs at the institute's School of Photographic Arts and Sciences.

The Alamo Big Shot, as well as other Big Shot images, can be seen at the institute's Web site, www.rit.edu/%7Ebiomed/activities/bigshot_2001.html. Ω

The Dallas Morning News, 3-12-01

DALLAS IN THE "ROARING" TWENTIES

1920: General **John J. Pershing** visited Dallas. (Elsewhere: Women gained the right to vote, and **Warren Harding** was elected president. An unknown named **Adolph Hitler** raged against the Jews. Mexican president **Carranza** was murdered. The Black Sox baseball scandal erupted, and Boston sold **Babe Ruth** to the New York Yankees.)

A NEW ADDRESS FOR MARIE McMAHAN

by June Shipley

Marie McMahan has been moved to a rehabilitation center in Fort Worth. She spent a month in Doctor's Hospital, due to having both her legs amputated just below the knees because of diabetes.

Her son, **David**, lives in the Fort Worth area and decided this was the best move for his mother. She will receive therapy there with the hopes of being able to move to an assisted living facility.

Her address for now is

Stonegate Nursing Center
4201 Stonegate Blvd., Room 130
Fort Worth, TX 76109
Phone 817/926-9288

I spoke with her recently and she is trying very hard to respond to the therapy. Marie is a fighter. She was, however, sad about having to give up her home and friends and clubs. Remember her in your prayers and send her a note now and then. Ω

GRAND OLD FLAGS

Private donors have restored nine flags, steeped in Texas history, to their former glory. Thanks to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, flags ranging from the Hood regiment that fought during the Civil War to the Mexican division that seized the Alamo will be available for display. Congratulations to those who collected \$250,000 for this noble effort. Now, if Mexico would just return the Texan battle flag captured at the Alamo.

The Dallas Morning News, 7-3-1999

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: Kenneth H. Cullum

Secretary: Irma Janicek

Treasurer: Gene Gaddy

Historian: Mae Riek

Membership: Kenneth H. Cullum

Program: Nancy McRae

Telephone: Sue Bucy

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

Dallas County Pioneer Association



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



M/M William D. McRae
3500 Dartmouth
Dallas, TX 75205-3237