



Dallas County Pioneer Association

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

WINTER 2003

QUARTERLY MEETING

- When:** Thursday, December 4, 2003
- Where:** Family Hall of Royal Lane Baptist Church
Hillcrest Road and Royal Lane
- Program:** Presentation on *Paul Crume* by Jerry Haynes (Mr. Peppermint)
Election of 2004 Officers
- Dinner:** 6 p.m. Reservations Required \$8 per person
Call Bill McRae @ 214/521-8654 or Call Notes
@ 214/969-0926, by Tuesday, December 2

Jerry Haynes is a native Dallasite who graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and SMU and attended the American Theater Wing in New York City in the 1950-1952 period.

In 1952, Jerry began a forty-four-year career with WFAA-TV in Dallas. From 1952 to 1961, he was sports director, variety show host, and announcer. On March 6, 1961, he began the children's show, "Mr. Peppermint", which he continued for thirty-five years until his retirement in 1996. He then spent two years in California acting on the TV programs "ER" and "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman". While in California, he also performed in TV commercials for Miller Lite Beer and California Cheese.

Jerry returned to Dallas in 1998 and has been active in movies and theater since then. He has appeared in over fifty movies shot in the area beginning in 1980, and has also had extensive involvement with local theater.

Jerry married Doris Gibson in 1955, and has three children and four grandchildren.

We want to see some of your favorite Christmas ornaments!
Please bring them for our Show 'n Tell Table December 4.

Call (214/327-0473) and let me know if you will share with us — please do!
Carolyn Selzer

FROM THE PRESIDENT

- The Nominating Committee, composed of **Frances James, Irma Janicek, Luther McCommas, Nancy McRae, June Shipley, and John Winniford**, has delivered the following nominations for 2004 officers:

President	Jim Foster
Vice President	Clare Weakley
Secretary	Irma Janicek
Treasurer	Gene Gaddy
Asst. Treasurer	Luther McCommas
Historian	Carolyn Selzer
Newsletter Editor	Marjori Sharp
Programs	Eva Jane Morgan

Each of the above has agreed to serve if elected. Nominations from the floor will be open for all offices at the December 4 meeting. The Executive Committee is considering making an additional office of Second Vice President, to afford more leadership opportunities.

- **Clare Weakley** has completed twenty-six history tapings and has several more scheduled. He is seeking more information on occupations, vocations and hobbies. Anyone interested in participating should contact Clare at 972/497-9590.

- Looking for a unique Christmas present for that hard-to-please family member? Consider a gift of *Proud Heritage, Volume III*, or maybe the three-volume set of Volumes I, II, and III!

- Awards will be presented at the December 4 meeting to **Steve and Opal Perry** and to **Mary Kelso** for their dedicated service in maintaining and preserving historic cemeteries. Mr. and Mrs. Perry personally maintained the Western Heights Cemetery for sixteen years and still make sure it is being properly maintained. Mrs. Kelso and her late husband erected a wrought iron fence around six gravesites in their back yard. Next to their property in the Cochran Heights area, Mrs. Kelso spent \$36,000 of her own money cleaning out the jungle of growth and hauling off the

debris from an old cemetery containing the burial sites of blacks who lived in the Elm Thicket area.

- Nancy and I joined the fall cemetery bus tour led by **Frances James**. We visited the Confederate and Butler Nelson Cemeteries in south Dallas, enjoyed lunch in an historic building in Deep Ellum, and toured Greenwood, Calvary and Freedman's Cemeteries in the uptown area. Much history is contained in these sites. Frances will conduct a tour to northeast Dallas County in the spring. It should be another good one. We recommend these tours sponsored by the Dallas Historical Historical Society.

- The past eight years have flown by. Nancy and I have served as presidents and vice presidents of the Association during this time and have enjoyed working together in these leadership roles. However, it is time for new blood, new ideas, and heightened enthusiasm. Those nominated for 2004 offices are a dedicated group and will propel the Association to new heights of interest, service and accomplishments.

Many, many people have spent long hours and much energy in guiding the DCPA in recent years. For instance, **John Winniford** served as treasurer and manager of book sales for thirteen years. **Gene Gaddy** is beginning his sixth year in that position and has done a wonderful job of managing the liquid assets of the Association. **Marjori Sharp** has been our excellent newsletter editor for eleven years and is still going strong. **Carolyn Selzer, Mae Riek, Irma Janicek, and Eva Jane Morgan** have been secretary and filled many other jobs. Carolyn has been a wonderful historian and has coordinated our quarterly meeting displays. **Jim Foster, Marjori, Irma, James Guinn, June Shipley, Gene, and Mattie Hughes** did yeoman service in preparing Volume III. **Sue Bucy** has chaired the Telephone Committee and has called many people herself. Others have served on the Executive Committee and have helped with quarterly meetings. Frances James has kept us informed on historical happenings and has been a primary agent in attracting new members for the Association. Mattie has been faithful in selling our books and representing

DCPA at many functions. So you see, our DCPA has many active people who have made it what it is today.

To each, I offer my sincere thanks for your efforts in making the DCPA strong and vigorous. Ω

Bill McRae

MINUTES OF MEETING SEPTEMBER 4

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

President McRae passed out new membership certificates to **Leola Ramsey Surles**, Pioneer Member; **James Ramsey**, Deputy Sheriff, Duck Creek area; **William Edwin Beeman**, Pioneer Member; and **Elizabeth Martin Beeman**.

Nominations Committee for 2004 officers are **Nancy**

McRae, Frances James, Irma Janicek, June Shipley, Mary Webb Davis, and Luther McCommas.

Announcements:

- A. 5th Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, Saturday, September 20, 2004, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Main Library, \$20/\$30 after Sept. 15.
- B. Web site: <http://dallaspioneer.org>
- C. Clare Weakley's oral history project
- D. We need people to monitor our Dallas area cemeteries

Frances James received a picture of a black slave named **William Wynne** from **Vivian Castleberry**. He was buried in the black cemetery. William raised the children of the Cochran family in Dallas.

Clare Weakley was the program speaker; his subject was "The Dallas Hunting and Fishing Club".

With the words, "God be with-you 'til we meet again", the meeting was adjourned by President McRae. Ω
Eva Jane Morgan, secretary



The Executive Committee for 2003

Bookends are l. Gene Gaddy and r. Bill McRae; left to right, seated: Mattie Hughes, Sue Bucy, Irma Janicek, Carolyn Selzer; standing: Marjori Sharp, Jim Forster, Frances James, Eva Jane Morgan, Luther McCommas, and John Winniford

SPREADING SUNSHINE

Our Sunshine Lady, **Millie Coffey**, still spreads it around from her wheelchair. Millie is now receiving magnetic energy treatments for her broken leg and says she thinks they are doing some good.

Millie stays busy letting our members know we care. She has sent cards to **James Guinn**, who remains quite ill and has been back in the hospital; **Mae Riek**, who has not been well; **Pat White**, who had an ankle replacement; **Joe Fox**, who had a knee replacement; **Rosemary Rumbley**, who broke her arm; **Simon Selzer**, who had gall bladder surgery; and **Susan Cargile**, who is being treated for a problem with her back after her fall at our September meeting.

We send our best wishes to everyone for speedy and full recovery. Ω

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The organizers of the Sixth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference welcome proposals from both professional and lay historians on topics related to the theme: "Arts and Entertainment in Dallas".

While Dallas is often thought of as a business-oriented city, its residents have always known how to enjoy themselves. Sporting activities have always been popular, from horse-racing to roller skating in the 19th century, and from lawn tennis and golf to professional football, baseball, basketball, hockey, and soccer in the 20th. Art and music came early to Dallas, and the region has produced noted actors, authors, painters, and singers. Papers can focus on an individual or organization, "high" culture or "pop".

All papers must be based on original research and must not have been presented or published elsewhere. The best papers will be published in a subsequent issue of *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*. Those interested in presenting papers should submit a brief summary of their pro-

posal by FEBRUARY 3, 2004, to "Dallas History Conference, 1717 Gano Street, Dallas, TX 75215". Those selected will be notified by March 2, 2004.

The Sixth Annual *Legacies* History Conference will be held at the Central Dallas Public Library on Saturday, September 18, 2004. The Conference is jointly sponsored by twelve organizations including The Dallas County Pioneer Association. Ω

Michael V. Hazel
Conference Coordinator

FINAL FAREWELL

A memorial service was held on November 10 at Park Cities Presbyterian Church on Oak Lawn for **Mary Elizabeth Thomas Halford**, wife of **Lee Halford**, who passed away on November 7.

"Betsy" Halford was a graduate of Texas State College for Women (n/k/a Texas Woman's University) and received a master's degree from SMU. She was a teacher and consultant for Richardson Independent School District until her retirement in 1972.

Betsy is survived by her husband of fifty-nine years; her son and daughter-in-law **Betsy and Lee Halford, Jr.**; her daughter and son-in-law **Mary Margaret and Bert Bivings**; and six grandchildren.

We extend our sincere sympathies and best wishes to Lee and his family. Ω

1919 City Directory

We have a 1919 *Dallas City Directory*, and it is chock-full of Dallas brags—yeah, even at that early date! We think this is a good depository of our history, and plan to share them with you from time to time in the newsletter. It even brags on the "Nation's Greatest State Fair", 33 years old at the time, which obviously has even more to brag about 84 years later. (Ask us to look up something you think might be in this treasure.)

AROUND THE COUNTY **WITH FRANCES JAMES**

- This has been an exceptionally busy summer in the cemetery business in Dallas County. A Boy Scout troop from Coppell (No. 24) has completed the inventory of the L. Butler Nelson Cemetery on the northeast side. This is **Kevin Cangelosi's** Eagle project.

The southwest side of this twelve-acre site was inventoried by DCPA member, **Kevin Vilbig**, assisted by his sister, **Jennifer**, in August 2000. This side was Kevin's Eagle project. This list of over 800 legible headstones is the best information available of the early blacks who lived in Dallas. These people were contemporaries of the ones buried at Freedmans Cemetery on Central Expressway, but there were no headstones there to research. Some of these 800 came as slaves; some as friends of a white family, who lent them money to start a business; some were educated and became teachers, principals, and leaders in the community. Some were buried by their white families who also provided a headstone.

An application for a Texas Historical Marker for this site is wending its way to Austin. The process has changed somewhat, as the Texas Historical Commission now has made it mandatory that a cemetery be entered as a Texas Historic Cemetery first (send \$25 to register it) before the process for a Marker will be granted. This slows the entire process down, as different information is required.

- The Honey Springs Cemetery that was purchased from the Overton family by freed slaves of the Miller family has now been fenced and leveled. It had been used as a trash dump, and despite requests from the descendants that had been ignored for many years, now has been completed. The City had it on a list to maintain since 1976, but had not accepted that responsibility. It took only seven years to get this project completed. **Larry Duncan** was the City Council person when this started, and Larry found the money left over from some other project. At one time the paper work was not passed for approval because the

wrong color of paper had been used. It took some pushing to get the work done. Now the Street Department must grade and fill the potholes that exist in the public street to get to the Cemetery.

- There will soon be two new grave markers at the Pioneer Cemetery downtown by the Convention Center. **Pierre Dusseau** (1800-1867), the great, great grandfather of **Louise Stevens** and DCPA member **Mackie Dealey**, had a headstone at one time but it has disappeared. Dusseau will soon have a Texas Historical Gravemarker. Widower Pierre Dusseau came to Texas from Carcassonne, France in 1855, having been recruited by the LaReunion agents because of his interest in scientific gardening and raising of unusual plants. They needed someone to be a gardener for the colony. Pierre came with his two daughters, **Louise** and **Anna Portevin**. Louise and Mackie are descendants of Louise Dusseau.

The other gravemarker will be for **John W. Lane** (1835-1881), the legislator from Dallas County in 1871 who managed, with help from the Fort Worth representative, to get the location of the right-of-way of the Texas and Pacific Railroad changed as it headed west from Marshall, Texas. If this route had not been changed, the T&P would have gone to Corsicana (32nd parallel) and not Dallas! This change brought the railroad to Browder Springs for water. The Browders were **Marjori Sharp's** ancestors. Dallas became the eighth largest city in the United States, and the fact that the Houston & Texas Central Railroad and the T&P met in Dallas is one of the reasons Dallas grew. Since hanky-panky is not unheard of in Texas politics, this was probably a classic case!

- The Tripp Road Baptist Church, still meeting in their small, white frame building that is nearly 100 years old, has decided to get a Texas Historical Marker for their Church. The site is in Sunnyvale.
- Rutherford's Animal Clinic on Haskell Avenue across from Fair Park has been operating at this site since 1924. When Dr. Rutherford first started the Clinic his patients were usually large farm animals.

Now most of the staff's time is spent in doctoring to the small pets in the City. There is a swimming pool and air conditioning for the pets, who sometimes come to spend the day! The process is under way to make this a Dallas Landmark.

- Irving has been celebrating its founding 100 years ago the entire year of 2003. There will soon be Texas Historical Markers for Sowers, Union Bower, Kit, and Bear Creek. These four separate settlements were all absorbed by the town of Irving when it was platted and lots sold in 1903. There will also be a marker for the site of Dr. **D.W. Gilbert**'s farm that is now the location of Plymouth Park Shopping Center. Dr. Gilbert was the first doctor in Irving and had an office near the bank.

- The Republic Bank at 325 St. Paul Street has been purchased and will be a Dallas Landmark. It was the first post-war modern building and is clad in aluminum—same design as the Alcoa Aluminum headquarters in Pittsburgh. The second building in the United States to use this technology! There are three sections that have been called the Republic National Bank all these years. When the last section was built, the Medical Arts Building on Pacific Avenue was demolished, as it was in the way!

The portion of the Bank that is being rehabilitated for housing by Gables Residential was built in 1954, and will have three million dollars of taxes abated for the next few years. This was an incentive to get the building, which has been sitting vacant in downtown Dallas, restored. **Fred Florence**, (1891-1960) "Mr. Republic", started out at age fifteen as a janitor in Rusk, Texas, and came to Dallas in 1920. He had attended public school through the tenth grade. Through his management as president, Republic became one of the leading banks, as they began the practice of lending money for the development of Texas oil fields.

Florence was a contemporary and competitor of **R.L. Thornton** of the Mercantile Bank and **Nathan Adams** at the First National Bank. These three composed the

Texas Centennial Exposition Corporation that was responsible for bringing the Centennial to Dallas in 1936. Thornton, as president of the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, led the group of men who managed to get Dallas selected as the site for the Centennial. Ω

MARK ELLISTON

by Jim Foster

Mark Elliston was born in Henry County, Kentucky, on March 4, 1844, and came to the Birdville community in Tarrant County with his parents at age two.

Mr. Elliston enlisted at the beginning of the Civil War under Captain Quayle, whose company joined the brigade of General **Sul Ross**. His record as a soldier was both unique and unusual. In every advance or charge he acted the part of a man devoid of all fear. His voice, with a volume far beyond the ordinary, was heard always at the front of battle. The Mark Elliston call soon became known in the Confederate army as the "Rebel Yell". It struck fear in the hearts of enemy soldiers and his comrades said it often caused the enemy forces to retreat.

On New Years Day in 1866, he married Miss **Martha Ann Marsh** at Farmers Branch. She was born February 27, 1848. During the years of reconstruction and unrest, just after the Civil War, Mr. Elliston was often called upon by officers of the law to arrest robbers and highwaymen. He never failed to catch his quarry. He was so efficient in his work that road robbers were soon afraid to operate in Dallas County.

He had two sons, **John** and **Marsh Elliston**. Marsh served several terms as Dallas County Tax Assessor. His daughter married **Oscar Thomas** and moved to Abilene. Mr. Elliston moved to Garland shortly after the town moved to its present location. He was in business there for several years. He later moved to Dallas and resided there until his death. His wife died on November 27, 1918, and he followed on January 22, 1922. Both are buried in Marsh Cemetery at Farmers Branch. Ω

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE ROUTE 80 STUDIOS

by David Spence

The Neighborhood. In 1904 trolley service was first established from downtown Dallas to Oak Cliff (which had been annexed to Dallas the previous year). Where the No. 7 trolley made its first main stop at Bishop Avenue and Davis Street, shops and other businesses sprang up to serve trolley patrons. More than forty buildings dating from the 1920s to the 1950s survive—among them, 428 W. Davis—and form what is now called the “Bishop Arts District”.

In addition to the trolley, automobile traffic fueled development. In 1926 the federal government commissioned a series of interstate highways which, in a then-novel way, were to carry numeric designations rather than the earlier, more colorful names. Davis Street changed from being part of the Dixie Overland Highway and instead was incorporated into U.S. Route 80, which ran from San Diego, California to Tyree Island, Georgia. For Dallasites, however, Route 80 mostly was known as the main road to Fort Worth.

The Building. In 1950 local upholsterer **Robert H. Henderson** built 5,000 square feet of offices, showroom, and warehouse at 428 W. Davis to house his business, L&N Upholstery, which he soon renamed R.H. Henderson & Associates Seats. The billboards he painted on either side of the building are still legible: “Specializing in Installation of Public Seating. . . Since 1929. . . We Serve Oak Cliff”. In the forty



years the business existed, thousands of Dallas' congregationists, movie-goers, and students must have owed their means of repose to Henderson.

When new, the building was ideally situated between Route 80 and the Tyler-Polk trolley line. But in 1955 the trolley stopped running, and in 1959 the newer and faster Fort Worth Turnpike opened (along what is now Interstate 30). Within five years, the Davis Street corridor lost much of its traffic. But R.H. Henderson prospered (he and his wife **Othella** moved onto fashionable Greenbriar Lane in Kessler Park). His wife opened a gift shop on the building's first floor. Henderson doubled the size of his building, leasing out the Seventh Street side for carpentry and mechanical shops. He sold the building and closed his church-and cinema-seating business in the mid-1970s—good timing, given the waning church-going population and the advent of the video tape. The buyer was **Gene McDonald**, a prominent Oak Cliff businessman who has owned much of the real estate up and down Davis Street. McDonald manufactured motorcycle parts in

the front portion and stored his collection of classic automobiles in the rear. In the early 1980s, McDonald sold the building to **Truman "Butch" Rushing**, a transmission mechanic. Over the next twenty years Rushing amassed a mountainous collection of rusting but hard-to-find auto parts. On the second floor, Dallas artist **Greg Metz** operated a studio and a Guatemalan immigrant lived in a cardboard apartment.

As the roof developed gushing leaks, the building threatened collapse, and Rushing sold 428 Davis to its current owner, **David Spence** of *Good Space, Inc.*, in April of 2003. *Good Space* is a redeveloper and operator of historic properties, all of which lie in and around the Bishop Arts District. *Good Space* converted the building to loft-style offices catering to the many design-related businesses that are locating in the Bishop Arts District.

The Architecture & Renovation. The kind way to describe the building's design is "unpretentious". It probably was the work of an amateur engineer rather than a professional contractor. The walls and roof were framed out of discarded oil-field pipe and then clad in concrete brick and transite (i.e., asbestos) corrugated panels. The front facade was faced with Austin creme limestone, which was the rage in post-war Oak Cliff. The main entry was clad in airliner-esque brushed aluminum and gray fieldstone, and was punctuated with a porthole window and decorative street-address ornament. Inside, the second floor was cleverly suspended from roof trusses by "sucker rods", another piece of oilfield machinery, which were crudely bent into shape like giant paperclips. The first-floor offices were tastefully finished out in blonde oak paneling, ribbed glass, and linoleum tile, but the warehouse portion of the building included many scavenged building materials.

While updating the building to be handicapped-accessible, computer-friendly, and energy-efficient, *Good Space* has gone to pains to show off the "bones" of the building in a playful way. The structural steel components have been left exposed and painted bright silver. The new stairwells were constructed of 2-by-12s

salvaged on site and left unpainted. Sconce lights in the restroom were fashioned from 1950s handsoap dispensers. The roof of the rear addition to the building was removed to create a parking court with "arbors" of the old roof trusses wrapped with vines. Crowning the building is an enormous industrial ventilation fan painted bright red and left to spin in the wind like a mobile.

The Trend. In the 1970s, artists began peeling off the plywood from windows in the Bishop Arts District and using the old storefronts for studios. Independent restaurants and boutiques followed, and with the support of then-councilwoman **Laura Miller**, the city invested \$2 million to rebuild and beautify the public portions of the district. Today the core of the Bishop Arts District is fully renovated and carries historic designations on both the local and national levels.

The Route 80 Studios are part of a new expansion of the district along Davis Street. Zoning laws have been changed recently to protect the architecture and make redevelopment easier. Ownership of several significant buildings has passed from elderly owners to ambitious younger investors. Two new restaurants, **Hatties** and **Veracruz**, have succeeded in attracting affluent patrons from well north of downtown. As Dallas grapples with sprawl and pollution and unendurable commutes, the pedestrian-oriented Bishop Arts District offers lessons in how to build a neighborhood. Ω

"BIG D" BRAGS

For bravery and service in World War II, Lt. Mary Roberts, the "Angel of Anzio", was the first female in the history of the United States to be awarded the Silver Star. She was the operating room supervisor for the Army's 56th Evacuation Unit from Baylor Hospital and returned home to Dallas to serve for twenty-five years as the operating room supervisor at the local Veterans Administration Hospital. Mary Roberts Wilson, truly a member of "The Greatest Generation".

FORMER RANGERS BUY LAND

Reprint from *The White Rocker* 6-24-03

With their official state service over because of retirement, a group of former Texas Rangers and their supporters have purchased 15 acres of land in Kerrville for a planned Texas Rangers History and Education Center.

The tract is on Texas 173 near the Cowboy Art Museum in Kerrville. The sale was closed July 1.

Planned for the land is a \$6 million complex the Former Texas Ranger Association Foundation hopes to see opened within three years.

The facility will feature Ranger artifacts and house research material dealing with the legendary law enforcement arm. Ω

THE UMPIRE'S BEST CALL

Stuart C. Halladay, Newfane, Vermont

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
from *YANKEE*, May 1999

((WELL, why do we have to go to a New England publication for an item about this memorable event? *Where* is your version?))

"The oldest known bowling ball in the New World" was found in 1994 in the excavation for a highway project in Boston. It was found in the top layer of a filled privy used before 1715 on property owned by Katherine Nanny. Since bowling was banned in 17th century Puritan Boston, Katherine and her family had to play clandestinely and were probably members of the first night-bowling league in the New World.

ANOTHER YEAR. MORE MILESTONES

In 1928, seventy-five years ago, representatives from the United States and fourteen other countries signed the Pact of Paris, eventually signed by sixty-two nations, making war illegal. Huh?

Three hundred years old? Well, yeah, a city, not a person. That's St. Petersburg in Russia, which commemorated the event with the heads of state from forty-five nations.

The only person mentioned this year who would celebrate a 300th birthday was John Wesley, founder of Methodism—but he never left the Church of England.

Celebration of the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition began in January 2003 and will continue to September 2006. Other 200th birthdays this year are those of the well-documented Louisiana Purchase, and of the largely unknown first atomic theory by English meteorologist, John Dalton (today an atomic mass unit is called a "dalton").

Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* was published one hundred and seventy-five years ago, and American railroading also began in 1828.

A number of things happened one hundred and fifty years ago, including the founding of the King Ranch by Captain Richard King, and the first potato chip, in Sarasota Springs, New York, by Chef **George Crum**. Also in New York in 1853 was the designation of land to become Central Park, the first landscaped public park in the U.S. This was also the year **Levi Strauss** rivetted and sold the first pair of "Nevada Jeans".

The fateful Battle of Gettysburg occurred 140 years ago, and 130 years ago the world's first cable car, created by an Englishman, **Andrew Hallidie**, eased down a San Francisco street. Today, forty cars run on the city's three cable lines.

New Yorkers sang "Happy 120th Birthday" to the Brooklyn Bridge on May 24. Designed by **John Augustus Roebling**, it was the world's longest suspension bridge when it opened on May 24, 1883. The birthday celebration included a cake with 120 candles, a concert by the Brooklyn Philharmonic, and a laser light show on a six-story screen.

A lot happened one hundred years ago, too, including the birth of **Bob Hope**, who left us just this year. In Dallas we celebrated a century of the Dallas Museum of Art; the Baylor University Medical Center; the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services; the annexation of Oak Cliff, and the publication of the *Oak Cliff Tribune*; and the founding of area churches, East Dallas Christian, Pleasant Grove First Baptist, and First Christian of Carrollton. And in San Marcos, Southwest Texas State University celebrated its centennial with another name change: it now is Texas State University-San Marcos.

Also celebrating a 100-year birthday are Ford Motor Co., incorporated in 1903; the first Wright Brothers' flight at Kitty Hawk; the National Wildlife Rescue Center (Pelican Island Reservation created by Theodore Roosevelt); the World Series, with a game between National League's Pittsburgh Pirates and American League's Boston Pilgrims; canned tuna (filling in for a missing lot of sardines); Harley-

Davidson Inc.; the American Film Institute (party hosted by **Arnold Schwarzenegger**); and Crayola by **Edwin Binney** and **C. Harold Smith**, who also created the first dustless chalk, for which they received a gold medal at the St. Louis World Exposition a year earlier. The first edition of Jack London's third book, *The Call of the Wild*, sold out in one day.

Hope Cottage Pregnancy and Adoption Center celebrated eighty-five years, founded upon the concerns of civic leader, **Emma Wylie Ballard**. Marking eighty years are Rosemont Elementary School and the Melrose Hotel.

Seventy-five years ago the first electric respirator, "the iron lung", was tested in Boston's Children's Hospital; the Graf Zeppelin made the first transatlantic crossing by an airship with paying passengers; **Walter Diemer**, an accountant for a chewing gum company, invented Dubble Bubble, the first bubble gum; another Walter, **Disney**, premiered his first sound cartoon, *Steamboat Willie*; Random House publishing firm was established; Columbia Broadcast System (CBS) was formed from sixteen radio stations by **William S. Paley**; penicillin was discovered growing in a moldy dish by Englishman **Alexander Fleming**, when he returned from vacation; and in Dallas, University Park Elementary School opened.

Five years later, in 1933, President Franklin D. **Roosevelt** put young men to work to combat the Great Depression, in the Civilian Conservation Corps (the CCC), building parks, roads and dams, and planting trees. **Wiley Post**, flying solo, completed the first round-the-world flight, also validating a new technology, the autopilot. The first drive-in movie theater opened in Camden, New Jersey, and the first Soap Box Derby was held. It is still going strong, sponsored by NASCAR and The Home Depot. The first episode of "The Lone Ranger" aired.

The 36th Division of the Texas National Guard became the first American unit to invade "Hitler's Europe", at Salerno, Italy, sixty years ago.

Pushing the half-century mark are at least fifty items, most notably the conquest of Mt. Everest led by Sir **John Hunt**. The Korean War was the first in which African-American soldiers were in fully-integrated units. The Small Business Administration, where both Nike and AOL got their start, turned fifty this year, as did **Hugh Hefner's** *Playboy* magazine. The Wiffle ball, the plastic ball with holes, and Oasis, the green foam for making floral arrangements, made their appearances fifty years ago, and the structure of DNA was discovered.

Closer to home, the Texas Historical Commission is fifty years old, as are the Communities Foundation of Texas, the Caldwell Zoo in Tyler and Celebration Park in Allen. In May 1953 one of the ten worst tornadoes in U.S. history hit Waco, killing 114. Closer still, celebrating their fiftieth are Temple Emanu-El, Casa View Christian Church, and the Neiman-Marcus store restaurants.

Sonny Bryan's Smokehouse debuted forty-five years ago and there are fifteen of them today. And the mainstay of the over-55ers, the AARP, is celebrating forty-five.

Possibly the saddest day in Dallas history occurred forty years ago with the assassination of President **John F. Kennedy**, and will be marked most notably this year by the publication of **Nellie Connally's** book, *From Love Field*, which contains excerpts from her diary about that time. Another forty milestone is **Martin Luther King's** most-quoted speech, "I Have a Dream". The first nuclear test-ban treaty was signed by the U.S., Britain, and the Soviet Union in Moscow.

Dialing the telephone went futuristic with AT&T's TouchTone service and push-button telephones. And

the U.S. Post Office Department implemented the five-digit Zoning Improvement Plan (ZIP) Codes to improve mail handling. Mary Kay Cosmetics marked its 40th anniversary with the usual Dallas convention.

Thirty-five years ago **Jerry Haynes** brought "Mr. Peppermint" to life on our TV screens, to the everlasting delight of area small fry, and "Sixty Minutes" made its Sunday night debut. In Dallas, the Pastoral Counseling and Education Center marked its 1968 opening, one of the first pastoral counseling centers in the U.S.

Turning thirty this year: the Sydney Opera House (modeled on sails and segments of an orange!); the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens; and closer to home, Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport; the Swiss Avenue Historic District; and the Cattle Barons Ball.

Dallas got a new City Hall twenty-five years ago, and **Bill Clements** made history as the first Republican governor of Texas since Reconstruction. Other Dallas milestones in 1978 were the opening of the Shock Wave at Six Flags Over Texas, the tallest looping roller coaster in the world; Reunion Tower, with its glittering sphere; the Container Store, which has been listed by *Fortune* magazine the last four years as one of the best companies to work for; and the king of all soap operas, *Dallas*, with good ol' **Larry Hagman**. Also occurring in 1978 was the election of Pope **John Paul II**, and the birth of **Louise Joy Brown**, the first "test tube" baby.

Almost twenty years to the day since she rocketed into history, **Sally Ride** became the first woman to be inducted into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame. And that's a very good note with which to say "Goodbye to 2003!" Ω

Happy Holidays

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, \$15 initiation fee and \$20 per year, or \$200 for a Life Membership; and Couple, \$20 initiation fee and \$30 per year, or \$300 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: Mike Potter

Secretary: Eva Jane Morgan

Treasurer: Eugene Gaddy

Historian: Carolyn Selzer

Membership: Mike Potter

Telephone: Sue Bucy

Sunshine: Mildred Coffey

Publicity: Pat Randolph

Newsletter: Marjori Sharp

Dallas County Pioneer Association



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



Frances James
4322 St. Francis
Dallas, TX 75227-1726

