



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

Volume XXVII, Number 2

Fall 1999

Dallas history explored

Day-long First Annual Dallas History Conference comes to Historic Scottish Rite Temple October 2nd

By Michael V. Hazel

EDITOR,
LEGACIES MAGAZINE

Anticipation is building for the first annual Dallas History Conference, Saturday, October 2. The Conference will be held at the historic Scottish Rite Cathedral at the corner of Harwood and Young streets in downtown Dallas. The Conference planners

are expecting at least 150 area history lovers to attend the day-long event, which will feature eleven papers on various aspects of Dallas history, all related to the theme, "The Forces That Have Shaped Dallas."

Co-sponsoring the event are six Dallas County historical organizations: the Dallas County Heritage Society (Old City Park), the Dallas Historical Society, Preservation Dallas, The Sixth Floor

First Annual Dallas History Conference

October 2nd • Scottish Rite Temple

A special "thank you" to the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas and Foundation Director John Crain for helping to make the First Annual Dallas History Conference possible.

Complete Conference Schedule

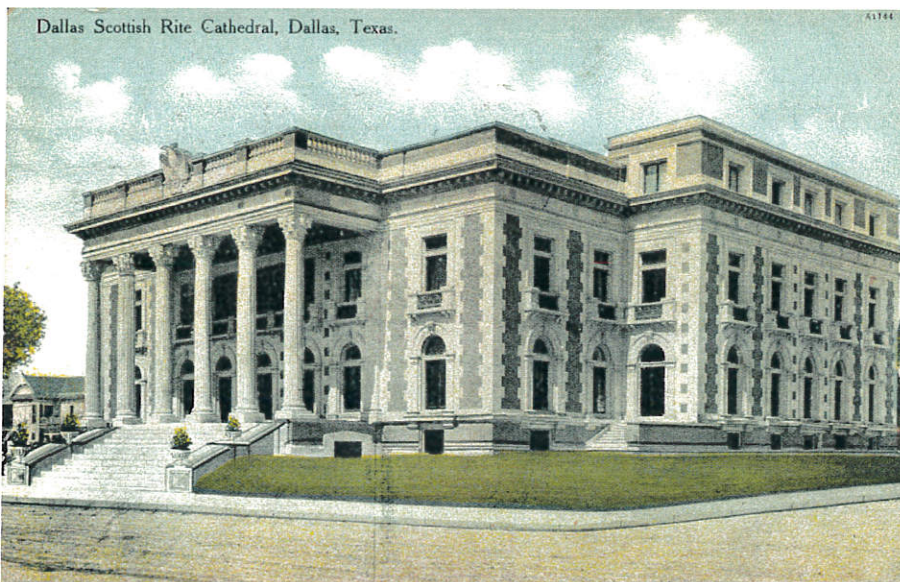
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Museum at Dealey Plaza, the Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library, and the William P. Clements Center for Southwestern Studies at Southern Methodist University.

The Sixth Floor Museum will manage book sales at the Conference, offering more than two dozen titles related to Dallas history. Several authors will be present to sign their books. Members of the Scottish Rite Masons will offer tours of the building, which is seldom open to the general public.

Registration for the Conference is \$25, which includes lunch and morning refreshments. Registration deadline is September 27. A detailed schedule for the conference can be found on page 2. For a registration brochure or more information, please call (214) 421-5141, ext. 101.

The Summerlee Foundation of Dallas has provided underwriting for the Dallas History Conference.



Dallas Scottish Rite Cathedral, Dallas, Texas.

The historic Scottish Rite Cathedral as it appeared in a circa 1918 postcard. The Neo-Classical Revival Cathedral, at the corner of Harwood and Young streets, was completed in 1913 at a cost of \$300,000.

SCHEDULE

First Annual Dallas History Conference

Saturday, October 2, 1999 • Scottish Rite Cathedral

- 8:30 – 9 a.m. Registration and morning refreshments
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
Bobby Shehorn, Brief history of the Masons in Dallas and the Scottish Rite Cathedral
- 9:30 a.m. Marsha Prior and Terry Schulte, "A City within a City: The Rise of Freedman's Town North Dallas in the Face of Segregation"
- 10:15 a.m. Kelly McMichael Stott, "The Lost Cause in Dallas, 1894-1898"
- 11:00 a.m. City Planning in Dallas:
Jackie McElhaney, "After the Deluge: The Impact of the Flood of 1908 on the Development of Dallas"
Robert B. Fairbanks, "Making Better Citizens in Dallas: The Kessler Plan Association and Consensus Building in the 1920s and 1930s"
Jonathan G. Vinson, "Land Use Planning in Early Twentieth-Century Dallas"
- 12 Noon Luncheon
Luncheon Speaker: Elizabeth York Enstam, "Why Belle Starr? or Whatever Happened to Myra Maybelle Shirley Reed?"
- 1:30 p.m. Jeff Dunn, "The First Automobile Highways Serving Dallas"
- 2:15 p.m. Bonnie Lovell, "Stoney Burns: Freak from the Underground"
- 3:00 p.m. Two Influential Rabbis:
Jane Guzman, "Dr. David Lefkowitz of Dallas: A Rabbi for All Seasons"
Hollace Weiner, "Rabbi Levi Olan: An Unorthodox Rabbi"
- 4 – 4:30 p.m. Book signings



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THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

The Dallas County Historical Commission is a county board appointed by the Dallas County Commissioners Court. The Dallas County Chronicle is a quarterly publication of the DCHC for historical groups in Dallas County and the general public. Contributions should be sent to Joel Burns, via email at <joelb@jfk.org>, or by mail to 411 Elm Street, Ste. 120, Dallas, TX 75202.

Texas auto centennial

100th anniversary celebration follows the route of the first automobile trip in Texas on October 3rd

By Jeff Dunn

CHAIRMAN
DALLAS COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

On Sunday, October 3, 1999 the Dallas County Historical Commission, the Kaufman County Historical Commission, and other groups are planning to commemorate the centennial of the first automobile trip on Texas soil with an antique automobile excursion from Terrell to downtown Dallas and Old City Park.

Exactly one century earlier, on October 3, 1899, Edward H. R. Green received an 1899 model St. Louis car shipped to him in Terrell by rail from Missouri. The car was accompanied by George Dorris, the manufacturer's engineer. Two days later, on October 5, Dorris and Green drove the car from Terrell to Dallas via Forney and Mesquite. Five hours after starting the thirty mile trip the car arrived in Dallas and was driven up and down Main Street to the delight of curious spectators. This event ushered in the automobile age in Dallas and Texas, and is recognized as the first automobile trip on Texas soil.

Joining with the Dallas County and Kaufman County historical commissions to commemorate this event are the Dallas Horseless Carriage Club, the City of Terrell, Terrell Chamber of Commerce, Terrell Heritage Society, the City of Forney, Forney Historic Preservation League, the City of Mesquite, Historic Mesquite, Inc., and Old City Park in Dallas. The commemoration will feature approximately fifty pre-1941 automobiles. The great grandson of George Dorris is also expected to participate. He will drive a 1903 St. Louis car.

The automobiles will have a continuous police escort courtesy of the Dallas County Sheriff's Department and the cities of Terrell, Forney, Mesquite and Dallas. The event is being coordinated and planned by volunteers with financial assistance provided thus far by the American Automobile Association and the New Car Dealers Association of Metropolitan Dallas.

For more information please call Jeff Dunn, Chairman of the Dallas County Historical Commission, at 214-954-4220 (daytime) or 214-365-9368 (evenings).

Centennial Automobile Tour Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Tour Terrell
- 10:30-11:15 Drive to Forney; tour Forney
- 12:15 p.m. Dallas County ceremony at the 1876 Lawrence Homestead on Kearney St. in Mesquite. Hamburgers and soft drinks provided by Outback Steakhouse.
- 1:15-2:30 Tour Dallas. Route through Dallas: From Downtown Mesquite, west on Main Street and Scyene Road into Dallas. North on Hatcher and Dolphin. West on Samuel Blvd. North on E. Grand Avenue. West on La Vista Drive. Southwest on Swiss Avenue. Southeast on Hall Street. West on Main Street to Old Red Courthouse and Dealey Plaza. South on Houston Street. East on Commerce Street. South on Harwood. West on Ganno to Old City Park. Visitors at the Park will have the opportunity to inspect the cars from the parade.

New Preservation Ordinance in the works for Dallas

By Catherine Horsey

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
PRESERVATION DALLAS

By the time the Dr Pepper building was demolished three years ago after being designated a City of Dallas landmark, it had become very clear that revisions must be made to Dallas's historic preservation ordinance. Since then, Preservation Dallas, the nonprofit preservation group, has worked with the Dallas Landmark Commission, city staff and elected officials to draft a new ordinance that would provide real protection for Dallas's historic buildings and neighborhoods. The revisions will come to City Council for a vote by the end of October.

Under the 26-year-old ordinance, landmark buildings are not protected from demolition, although the Landmark Commission and City Council can impose a moratorium on demolition of up to 240 days. New provisions will require property owners to demonstrate economic hardship or a threat to public safety before demolition will be allowed. The revised ordinance will also outlaw "demolition by neglect," and streamline the process by which changes to landmark buildings are approved.

A public hearing to demonstrate support for the new preservation ordinance is planned for the East Dallas Christian Church at 7 p.m. on September 30, in advance of the City Plan Commission's vote on October 7th. Council's vote will take place in late October. For more information, contact Catherine Horsey at Preservation Dallas 214/821-3290.

Teaching Texana from a trunk

“Living History Trunk Show” brought to schools across Texas

By Dale Evans

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR
TEXANA LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION

Collaborations can be a positive way to encourage lasting relationships between organizations. That is why I was so pleased to have the Texana Living History Association invited to join Patricia Antonelli of the Dallas County Historical Commission in her efforts to teach Texas history through the use of her living history trunk show.

Texana Living History Association has been teaching Texas history throughout the state of Texas and other parts of the country for a decade. We have established and maintained a wonderful reputation not only for our unique method of teaching, but for the historical accuracy we bring to each performance.

With this in mind, Jeff Dunn asked if we would be interested in working with Patricia and the living history trunk show she developed. After spending time with her and viewing the carefully researched and well structured display, I knew orchestrating a program with our performances and her trunk show would be a hit! Already, we have three schools scheduled to have that famous Texan, Mollie Goodnight, teach about frontier life (long before washing machines and microwaves) through her life experiences and through some hands-on displays, courtesy of the Dallas County Historical Commission.

Mrs. Goodnight and her husband came to Texas in 1854. She was well known for her efforts in saving the Buffalo. In the late 1800's, the Goodnight Buffalo herd was world famous.

We are thrilled the Dallas County Historical Commission can help Texana

Living History Association bring history will keep you posted as to the success of to life for schools and special events. We this exciting collaboration.

“And the Emmy goes to...?”

Sixth Floor Museum's *JFK: The Dallas Tapes* documentary nominated for regional award

JFK: The Dallas Tapes, a historic video documentary co-produced by KDFW Fox 4 News in association with The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, has been nominated for an Emmy Award in the 1999 Heartland Regional Emmys competition.

JFK: The Dallas Tapes combines historic footage from the KDFW Fox 4 News files (which were donated to The Sixth Floor Museum in 1995) with new footage and narration and a special program held at The Sixth Floor Museum last November. That program reunited four of the reporters from KRLD-TV and radio (as the station was known in 1963). They reminisced

and talked about their experiences the weekend of November 22-24, 1963 and events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

JFK: The Dallas Tapes was written and co-produced by Richard Ray, anchor/reporter for KDFW Fox 4 News, and co-produced by Gary Mack, the archivist for The Sixth Floor Museum. Other credits include Tracey Williams, editor, and Jill Davis, executive producer/special projects. The video will be available to the public October 15 and can be ordered from the museum's website: www.JFK.org.

Jeff West, Executive Director for the Sixth Floor Museum, said of the Emmy nomination, “it's a tremendous recognition of both our collections—and the

hard work of Archivist Gary Mack and Fox-4 Reporter Richard Ray.”

Additional finalists in the Documentary/Historic division of the Heartland Regional Emmy competitions include: *A Jewel in the Rockies The Story of Cherokee Ranch*, produced by Douglas County Television; *Stories of the Spirit of Texas*, produced by WFAA-TV/Channel 8; and, *The Oklahoma I Remember*, produced by OETA. Winners in the different regional categories will be announced at the 13th Annual Heartland Regional Emmy Awards to be held in Denver, Colorado, on September 25.

