



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

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Commission Closes Out 2002

By Jeff Dunn, DCHC Chairman

The Dallas County Historical Commission has completed another active year highlighted by the receipt of the Texas Historical Commission's Distinguished Service Award (for 2001 programs) for the third year in a row. The Commission met ten times in 2002, including nine meetings at the Administration Building and one meeting at Mesquite City Hall.

Among the Official Texas Historical Markers dedicated in 2002, the highlight was the dedication of Coca Cola's marker on June 10 in Deep Ellum, marking one hundred years to the day when the first Coca Cola bottle was manufactured in north Texas. Dallas Mayor **Laura Miller**, County Judge **Lee Jackson**, and Texas Historical Commission member **Diane Bumpas** were among the featured speakers at this dedication. Other marker dedications included Mesquite Cemetery and Webb Chapel Cemetery. Marker applications approved and scheduled for dedication in 2003 include Public Education in Garland, St. Mark's School, Baylor University Medical Center, Love Field, WRR Radio, and the Gilbert Homestead in Irving.

The Commission was one of eleven institutional sponsors for the Fourth Annual Dallas *Legacies* History Conference held at the Reunion Hyatt Regency Hotel in September. (See related article on page 2) Commission member **Buddy Frazer** published four issues of the *Chronicle* and made them available to the public on the Commission's website. The last 12 issues of the *Chronicle*, dating back to 1999, can now be accessed from the website at www.dallaschc.org. Mr. Frazer also completed a video tour of old Parkland Hospital and recorded the Coca Cola marker dedication. Member **Jon Eric Simmons** was active in the local marker dedication of the Carrollton Black cemetery and as a representative of the Commission on the county's Historic Display Committee for the Records Building. Member **Lois Cannady** represented the Commission at the organiza-

tional meetings of the Lakes Trail project sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission. Member **Jim Foster** published a book on Pleasant Valley Cemetery. Members **Carr Suter**, **Mike Hayslip**, and **Angela Giessner** devoted much of their time toward the review of historical marker applications and working with applicants. The Garland Landmark Society published Dr. Carr Suter's book this year, entitled *Religious Life in Garland (1840-2001)*. Mr. Hayslip was also active in the investigation of the relocation of the Coyle House in Rowlett and worked with the Garland Landmark Society in the publication of a historic map of that city. Member **Joyce Hicks** organized the Commission's April meeting at Mesquite's City Hall as well as the dedication of the Mesquite Cemetery marker. **Dr. Clare Chaney** was active in working with the Women's Museum at Fair Park in organizing a planned exhibit on women's clothing.

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Fourth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference Recalled Neighborhoods

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Member

"Any city as large as Dallas is really a collection of neighborhoods, each with its distinct identity shaped by its history and such factors as topography and architectural styles. These neighborhoods, both individually and collectively, are what makes a city unique."

- Michael V. Hazel (from the editor's notes in the Fall 2002 issue of *Legacies*.)

The Fourth Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference was held September 28 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas Hotel. This year's theme was "Historic Neighborhoods."

The papers presented during the day focused on various Dallas neighborhoods, some of which no longer exist.

Bennett Miller spoke on "The Cedars," John H. Slate spoke on "Dallas Fringe Communities," Peter Flagg Maxson spoke on "Preston Hollow," and Ron Emrich spoke on "Wynnewood" during

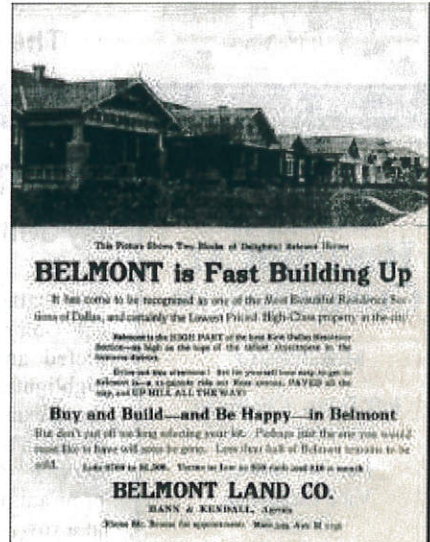
the morning session.

In the afternoon Margaret Culbertson spoke on "Early East Dallas Bungalow Neighborhoods" and Jay Firsching discussed the relationship between parks and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The luncheon speaker was former Dallas Mayor Adlene Harrison. The day concluded with a panel discussion of "Disappearing Neighborhoods" such as Little Mexico and some African-American neighborhoods.

As in the past years, Michael V. Hazel, editor of *Legacies* magazine, coordinated the event.

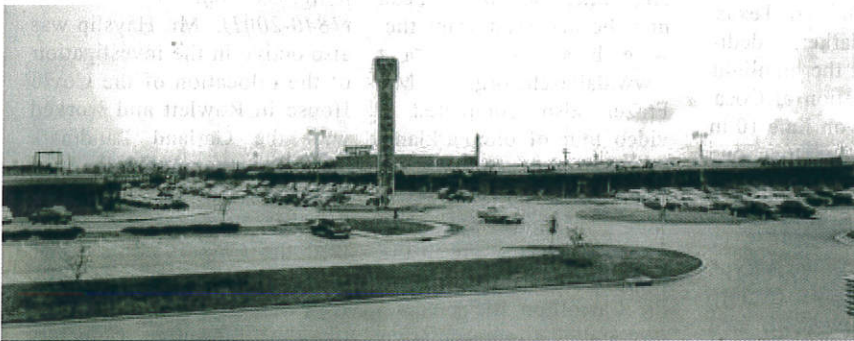
The conference was underwritten by The Belo Foundation and the Summerlee Foundation. Institutional Sponsors were the Dallas County Historical Commission, the Dallas County Pio-



1916 Dallas Morning News ad for a bungalow neighborhood. (Photo courtesy *Legacies*.)

neer Association, the Dallas Historical Society, the DeGolyer Library (SMU), Old City Park: The Historical Village of Dallas, the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture, Preservation Dallas, The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza, the Texas/Dallas History & Archives Division of the Dallas Public Library, the Texas State Historical Association, and the William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies (SMU).

Want to present a paper at next year's conference? See page 4 for details.



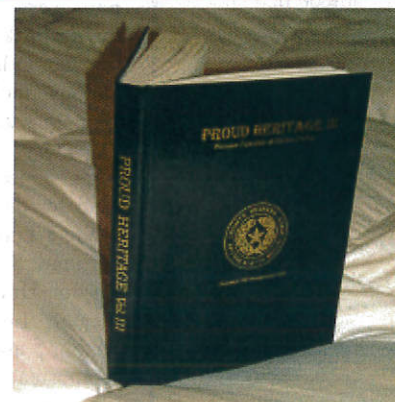
The Wynnewood Shopping Center in Oak Cliff about 1950. (Photo courtesy *Legacies*)

Proud Heritage III Published

By Jim Foster, DCHC Member

The Dallas County Pioneer Association reports that "Proud Heritage III" is now complete and books are in stock. This 352 page, hard bound, book is about descendants of Dallas County pioneer families and has been divided into three sections. The sections are WW II stories, Community section,

which covers stories about early business and the family section. These books are now available by mailing \$35 + \$3 for shipping (per book) to Dallas County Pioneer Association, PO Box 12496, Dallas TX 75225 or by contacting Jim Foster @ 214-943-7529.



General Land Office Maps Arrive

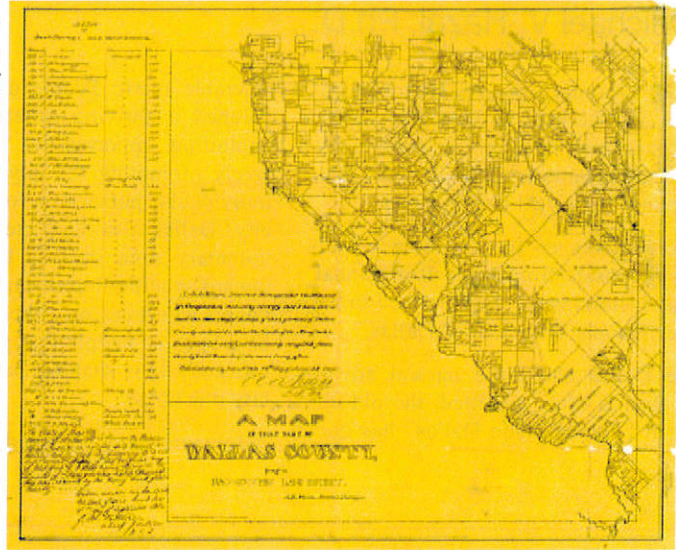
By Jeff Dunn, Dallas County Historical Commission Chairman

The General Land Office recently delivered to the Dallas County Historical Commission full-size color reproductions of two 1854 county maps restored as part of the GLO's "Adopt-A-Map" program. The Commission participated in this project with a donation of \$500. Both maps were conserved with donations from Davis, Clark and Company. The Commission's funds were used to conserve a map drawn in 1942, but we elected to receive copies of these 1854 maps for its collections because they are of greater historic interest. The size of each map is approximately 21 by 17 inches. Both maps will be framed and placed on display in the County Records Building.

These maps show the boundaries of Dallas County as established in 1846

as well as survey lines and ownership of each of the located land grant surveys as of 1854. Although the county was less than seven years old when these maps were drawn, practically all of the available public domain in the county had already been reserved with ownership claims.

Dallas County was created in



GLO map #4525 of Dallas County showing surveys north of the Trinity River.



GLO map #4526 of Dallas County showing surveys south of the Trinity River.

1846 from Robertson County and Nacogdoches County, with the Trinity River being the dividing line between the parent counties. One of the maps we received shows only the surveys in the "Robertson Land District" lying south of the river, whereas the other map shows only the surveys in the "Nacogdoches Land District" lying north of the river, both corresponding to the lands lying in the parent counties. Land districts were surveying districts established for the General Land Office by a law of May 12, 1846, which defined the limits of the counties

existing in 1845 as the boundaries of the various land districts.

Both of the maps are hand-drawn manuscript maps based on a scale of 4000 varas per inch. The vara was a Spanish unit of distance first used in the Spanish and Mexican surveys, and later by the Republic and State in measuring land grants. One vara equaled approximately thirty-three and one-third inches.

The map showing the part of the county lying in the Nacogdoches Land District was certified by District Surveyor A.A. Nelson on June 19, 1854. This map is historically important because it identifies the small town of Dallas located inside the 150-acre survey for John N. Bryan. The townsite was no larger than the area immediately surrounding the present Old Red Courthouse and Dealey Plaza. This map was drawn by J. H. Swindells of Lancaster.

2003 *Legacies* Dallas History Conference Proposal for Papers due February 3

By Michael V. Hazel, Ph.D.

The Fifth Annual *Legacies* History Conference will be held in September 2003. The conference is jointly sponsored by eleven organizations, including the Dallas County Historical Commission.

The organizers of the conference welcome proposals from both professional and lay historians on topics related to the theme: "People Who Shaped Dallas."

While Dallas had more natural advantages than is often admitted, the old cliché that "People made Dallas" has con-

siderable merit. People of vision developed a thriving urban center by exploiting opportunities and aggressively promoting the city. Dedicated individuals pursued reforms in the city. Dallas also supported countless voluntary organizations that worked toward specific improvement projects. Papers can focus on either individuals or groups of people that played a significant role in shaping Dallas into the city it is today.

All papers must be based on original

research and must not have been presented or published elsewhere. All presenters will receive an honorarium of \$300, and 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 proposal by February 3, 2003, to "Dallas History Conference, 1717 Gano St., Dallas, TX 75215." Those selected will be notified by March 3, 2003.

Commission in 2002, con't

(Continued from page 1)

The Commission continued to work toward the completion of suburban historic resource surveys. The Park Cities Preservation Society received approval for a grant of \$1,000 from the Commission to help complete a resource survey of Highland Park and update the prior survey for University Park. The City of Carrollton's Historic Preservation Advisory Committee, led by former Commission chairman Lloyd Henderson, also received a commitment of \$1,000 toward the completion of a resource survey in Carrollton.

The Commission participated in the organization of the Texas Historical Commission's "Visionaries in Preservation" project for Dallas County. This project is an extension of the Commission's efforts to organize greater cooperation and partnering among the county's diverse historical groups.

The Commission remained active in supporting the Sixth Floor Museum. The Chairman of the Commission continues to sit on the Museum's Board as a representative of the Commission and the Commissioners Court.

The museum's anniversary event this year featured CBS anchor Bob Schieffer.

The Commission is currently working with the Commissioners Court on a historic display for the County Records Building which will feature two historic map reproductions of Dallas County from the 1850s. (See related article on page 3) The Commission also remains active in supporting and promoting the Old Red Courthouse restoration and proposed museum of Dallas County.

This year has become a leadership transition year for the Commissioners Court, with Judge Lee Jackson's decision to take the position of Chancellor at the University of North Texas, and with Judge Margaret Keliher's election to succeed Judge Jackson. Judge Keliher was a guest of the Commission at our meeting in September and has expressed support for the Commission and its activities.

I would like to thank each of the members of the Commission, past and present, for their dedication and commitment to our mission this year, as well as Judge Keliher and Commissioners Jackson, Cantrell, Price, and Mayfield for their continued encouragement and support.

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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. This edition was edited by Buddy Frazer and published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Contributions should be sent to Jeff Dunn, via email at jddunn@flash.net, or by mail to Dallas County Historical Commission, 411 Elm Street, 3rd Floor, Dallas, TX 75202-3301. Visit the DCHC on the web at www.dallaschc.org and the Dallas County government website at www.dallascounty.org