



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

The Newsletter of the Dallas County Historical Commission

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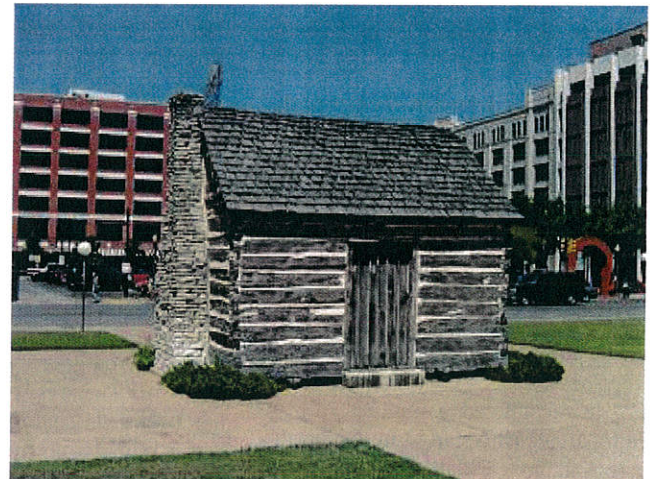
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Bryan Cabin in Spotlight

By Buddy Frazer, DCHC Chairman

The cabin commonly referred to as the Bryan Cabin has taken center stage over the past couple of months. The cabin is located in the Founders Plaza adjacent to the Records Building in downtown Dallas. The plaza soon will be excavated so that a new underground parking garage can be built. A newly designed plaza, intended to be more visitor friendly, will replace it. During the construction, the cabin will have to be removed from the site. This raises the question of where to locate the cabin after the new plaza is finished.

John Neely Bryan settled in what is now Dallas in the 1840s. He is widely recognized as the founder of the city. The cabin is believed to have been constructed for the 1936 Texas Centennial using logs from cabins built by early Dallas settlers. Al-



The Bryan Cabin, now located in Founders Plaza, will have to be relocated so a parking garage can be built under the Plaza.

though it is not clear if any of the logs are from Mr. Bryan's cabin, the cabin represents the type of accommodations used by Mr. Bryan and his contemporaries. Since Mr. Bryan is considered the founder of Dallas, the cabin has traditionally been called the "Bryan Cabin." After the Centennial, the cabin was moved to downtown Dallas and was located on the same block as

the Old Red Courthouse until it was moved to Founders Plaza in 1971.

With the upcoming redesign of the plaza, the public, Dallas historians and members of the Bryan family have become concerned about the ultimate fate of the cabin. Some people have felt that it might be put in storage never again to see the light of day. Some feared it would be moved away from

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Lindalyn Adams addresses the DCHC during the Bryan Cabin public hearing.

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Legacies Dallas History Conference Focuses on Entertainment

The sixth annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference was held September 18 at the downtown Dallas Public Library. This year's topic was "Arts & Entertainment." Topics ranged from movies to sports.

The day began with Ellen Buie Niewyk telling about jewelry and metalworker Velma Davis Dozier who was known as one of the "Lady Blacksmiths."

She was followed by Dr. Tom Smith whose topic was "The First Texans: The NFL in Dallas," the story of the unsuccessful 1950's "Dallas Texans" football team. In real life, Dr. Smith is Project Director for the Old Red Museum of Dallas County History & Culture.

Next up was Larry Taylor speaking on "Crossroads: Roots of Music in Dallas." He recognized a number of recording artists who started in the North Texas/Southern Oklahoma area, including Blind Lemon Jefferson and Ernest Tubbs.

The day continued with Kay Cattarulla and Rob Tranchin speaking on Margo Jones work to bring *Inherit the Wind* to the stage. Her Dallas production led to the play becoming an American classic.

Mike Miller of the Dallas Public Library spoke on "Lamar Hunt: Dallas Sports Czar." His talk expanded Dr. Smith's paper by following the sports venture of Lamar Hunt which included a 1960's version of the Dallas Texans football team as well as World Championship Tennis and the first Dallas professional soccer team.

Troy Sherrod gave, "A Brief History of Oak Cliff Theatres." In the first half of the twentieth century, Old Cliff was home to numerous motion picture theaters. Mr. Sherrod has collected then-and-now photographs of many of them.



The Dallas Public Library hosts the History Conference.

Wrapping up the day was Rick Worland speaking on "Preserving the Heritage of African-American Filmmakers." He showed clips from "Jute Joint," a Hollywood produced African American film shot in Dallas.

Dr. Mike Hazel is the conference coordinator. The papers from the conference will be published in the next edition of Legacies.

Coyle House Relocation Studied

The extension of the President George Bush Turnpike from Garland to Interstate 30 has made it necessary to move the historic Coyle house from its current location at 4822 E. Main in Rowlett. The City of Rowlett has proposed a new site in Pecan Grove Park adjacent to the city's Community Center only a few blocks away. With such a move, the house would retain its main street address, and a local woman's organization has agreed to take it over its operation.

Built in 1919 by J. E. Coyle, a legendary cattleman, farmer and cotton ginner, the frame structure reflects the style typical of the region in that day. The house has been maintained by Coyle descendants. It is a Recorded Texas

Historical Landmark and is listed in National Register of Historic Places. The landmark and National Register status make moving the structure complex.

To deal with the issues associated with the move, a meeting was held in Rowlett June 28. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Texas Historical Commission, Dallas County Historical Commission, North Texas Tollway Authority, Texas Department of Transportation, City of Rowlett, the Coyle family, and the engineering firm handling the turnpike extension. The group reviewed the issues surrounding the move and visited the current and proposed locations. The result of the



The Coyle House in Rowlett.

meeting was a draft memorandum of agreement between those parties laying out the ground rules for the relocation.

Portions of this article are from a 2002 Chronicle article by Mike Hayslip.

Historical Marker Dedicated at First Baptist Church in Hutchins

Historical marked dedication ceremonies were held September 4 at the First Baptist Church of Hutchins in southeast Dallas County. The dedication was part of a two-day celebration of the church's centennial.

The town of Hutchins was founded about 1860, but Baptist families in the area worshiped in other churches until the First Baptist Church was formed in 1904. The members continued to meet in a Methodist Church until a permanent structure was built in 1911. The current church sits on the same site.

Speakers at the dedication included

Hutchins Mayor Artis Johnson, Church Pastor Reverend Scott Chadwick, Dallas County Historical Commission Chairman Buddy Frazer, and Buddy Pilgrim, the CEO of Integrity Leadership, Inc.

Assisting in unveiling the marker was Minnie C Davis. At 90-years-old, Ms. Davis has the second-longest tenure as a member of the church. She is still active in church activities and played a major role in compiling the church's history.



Attending the dedication ceremonies were (left to right) longtime church member Minnie C Davis, guest speaker Buddy Pilgrim, Rev. Scott Chadwick, DCHC Chairman Buddy Frazer, and Hutchins Mayor Artis Johnson.

Bryan Cabin con't

(Continued from page 1)

the Old Red Courthouse area where it has become an important icon of Dallas history. Some members of the Bryan family also felt that the community has not give Mr. Bryan adequate recognition for his efforts.

To address these concerns, the Commissioners Court asked the Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC) to investigate two issues. One was to recommend a future location for the cabin. The other was to evaluate whether the Bryans have been properly recognized, and if not, some recommendations for a proper recognition.

So as to give all interested parties an opportunity to provide input, the DCHC held a public hearing at its August meeting. The Historical Commission also invited input by email and letter prior to the meeting from Mr. Bryan's descendents and local historians.

The public hearing was attended by a number of family members as well as several historians. Mr. Dale Cox, the 75-year old great-great grandson of John Neely Bryan, represented some of

the family members. Mr. Jim Foster, president of the Dallas County Pioneer Association, whose membership includes a number of Bryan descendants, spoke for this group. Also speaking were local historians Ms. Frances James and Ms. Lindalyn Adams. In addition, a number of emails and letters were received from family members and interested citizens.

All of the speakers and all of the emails and letters favored keeping the cabin in the downtown area. Most of them wanted to keep it within view of the Old Red Courthouse. Some of the family members expressed concern that Mr. Bryan's reputation had been tarnished by excessive press attention to his health problems in his later years. They also felt that not enough recognition was given to his donation of property in the downtown area to the County.

After hearing all of the comments and reviewing the correspondence, the DCHC voted to recommend that the cabin remain in the Old Red Courthouse area. The members believed the cabin is a significant historical fixture in downtown Dallas much like Old

Red and the Sixth Floor Museum. The first location choice was to find a place for it in the redesigned Founders Plaza. The second choice was to locate it on the south side of the Old Red Courthouse lot, where it stood for almost forty years, before moving to its current location. The third choice was to move it to the part of Dealey Plaza between the south colonnade and the triple underpass. The DCHC also recommended that great care should be taken during the temporary relocation or storage of the cabin during Founders Plaza construction.

The DCHC's recommendations have been forwarded to the Commissioners Court. It is anticipated that the County will consider selection of the cabin's permanent location.

DCHC deliberations on the issue of proper recognition of the Bryan family began at the August meeting and continued at the September meeting. They will be completed during the fall and forwarded to the Commissioners Court.

The Dallas County Historical Commission meets the second Thursday of each month at noon. Meetings are usually at the County Administration Building, 411 Elma Street. The meetings are open to the public.

A Team, A Dream, A Plan, A Chance, A Deal, and A Town is Born!

By Charles Brown, DCHC Member

Fate brought two young men together in November 1901. Otis Brown visited the Blake family, friends from back home in Ohio. Blake was the Chicago, Rock Island and Gulf Railroad General Counsel, then residing in El Reno, Indian Territory (Oklahoma). Brown was invited to share Thanksgiving dinner with the family and other guests, among them the railroad's construction superintendent, F.H. Peters. Sensing opportunity, Otis sought and obtained a job on the crew laying a rail line to Ft. Smith, Arkansas. He reported at daybreak to the survey crew chief, J. Otto Schulze. The two soon became friends - a team.

Their survey was finished there, and they were assigned to central Texas. That job completed, the crew was then assigned to Missouri. However, on the way, they stopped in Ft. Worth and met with Peters. Schulze reminded him of a promise of a construction job when one was available. Peters was supervising the new line from Dallas to Ft. Worth and assigned Schulze and Brown the ten miles from Dallas to the county line in September 1902. A month later, Schulze asked Brown his opinion of the area as a site for a new town. Brown liked the idea. Thus was born - a dream.

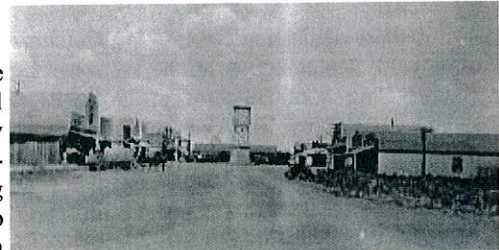
Where should the town be? There was ten miles to pick from. There was money to raise to buy and develop the new town. A railroad to be completed. They put their heads together, and soon they had a

plan.

They made good progress on the survey through the fall in the good weather. Otto made plans to marry his fiancée in the spring. Meanwhile, Otis had met a young schoolteacher, Netta Barcus, who roomed with the Henry Britain family. Their front yard held the construction tent for the railroad crew. He was smitten by this lithe and lovely lady with a sense of humor, all the reason Otis needed to settle here. The Britain land was just what the two men were looking for as a townsite. Britain was approached about selling some of his land. He offered some at \$30 per acre. Now the two young men from Iowa and Ohio would become Texans. This was their chance.

They put their heads together. An 80+ acre plot was agreed upon, and they went about getting their money together. Otis even wrote his father asking for the loan of \$1000 to stretch his own funds. Britain's price of \$30 per acre was high, but they accepted it. They had a deal.

They closed the purchase with Britain in early December, only eight weeks after they first viewed the area. The railroad construction went well through the winter. A map of the townsite was prepared from which to auction off the lots. J.O. named the



Irving Main Street prospered in 1910.

streets and Otis the town. Schulze married Agnes Sueppel, and Brown took Netta Barcus as his bride in June 1903. Otis built the first home at First and Hastings. A town-lot sale was held Dec. 19, 1903. About fifty lots were sold, the first of which was to the Kit Postmaster Ike Story. All were treated to a free barbecue. A new town was born! The new town was a success. The post office was moved from nearby Kit to Irving in 1904. Soon, it elected its first State Representative, Ed Lively, who pushed a bill creating the Irving school district in 1909. An incorporation election was held in 1914, and Otis Brown was elected Irving's first mayor.

Growth was rapid. In many years and some decades, Irving has been the fastest growing city in Texas. From a bedroom city for Dallas, it became one of Texas' top twenty in population. Transportation was always a priority, beginning with the railroad. Then came highways providing access to all the area cities. Belt Line Road was the first major connector road, circling the entire county with a paved road in the mid-1920's. Dallas-Ft. Worth Road's dirt became State Highway 183's paved lanes in the early 1950's. Then came DFW Airport, and Irving truly became an international city. With Las Colinas, the Dallas Cowboys, and major corporate relocations beginning in the 1960's, Irving is fulfilling its destiny. What began as the dream of a city has become a dream city.

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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 issue was edited by Buddy Frazer, Mike Hayslip and Rick Loessberg. It is published with the assistance of The Sixth Floor Museum. Articles should be sent to Buddy Frazer, via email at email@mpfservices.net, or by mail to the 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.

Mr. Brown is the Grandson of Otis Brown. He is the newest member of the Dallas County Historical Commission.