

New Sixth Floor Museum Exec Named

Nicola Longford has been named Executive Director of The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. The announcement was made by Ruben Esquivel, the museum's chairman, who said Ms. Longford would begin her new duties October 17, 2005.

The Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza chronicles the assassination and legacy of President John F. Kennedy; preserves the National Historic Landmark District and the John F. Kennedy Memorial Plaza; and provides audiences with the tools to navigate contemporary culture within the context of presidential history.

Since 2000, Ms. Longford has been Vice President of Community Services for the Missouri Historical Society in St. Louis, which she joined in 1992. From 1984 to 1991, she was with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation in Virginia.

"The Museum is very pleased that Nicola Longford will serve as Executive Director," Esquivel said. "Her broad experience in museum administration, her commitment to preservation and education, and her national success with historical exhibits will be invaluable to the Sixth Floor."

"I am very privileged to become part of this incredible institution and to take part in telling the Museum's story," Longford said. "I look forward to making Dallas my new home and finding my place in this community."

At the Missouri Historical Society, she supervised a staff of 70 and a multi-

million dollar programming budget. Her areas of responsibility included the Divisions of Education, Exhibits and Graphic Design, Library/Archives/Still and Moving Images, Museum Collections and Conservation, Publications, and Special Projects.

Longford was a key participant in the development, planning and production of the \$7.5 million Lewis & Clark exhibit now touring the United States. This exhibit, entitled "Lewis & Clark: The National Bicentennial Exhibition," is a compilation of 500 original artifacts from the Missouri Historical Society, The Smithsonian Institution and other national museums with significant collections of Lewis & Clark items.

Longford received her BA from Randolph-Macon Women's College in Lynchburg, Virginia, and her MA in Anthropology from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. She is a native of Pembury, Kent, England.

She is a member of the American Association for State and Local History, The American Institute for Conservation, and she is active on the Board of the Association of Midwest Museums.

Information for this story was provided by the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza.



Nicola Longford comes to the Sixth Floor from the Missouri Historical Society.

Marker Con't

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where blues great Robert Johnson recorded, and the site where Booker T. Washington High School is located are certainly worthy of consideration for historical markers. It is the DCHC's hope that *more* citizens will approach the DCHC with the names of *more* places and structures of historical significance related to African Americans and that these citizens will seek Texas Historical Commission markers for these sites.

With this goal in mind, the DCHC has formed an African American Historical Marker Committee that will assist both in the identification of such sites and with navigating the Texas Historical Commission's marker application process.

For more information on the African American Historical Marker Committee's work, or to suggest ideas for markers, please contact me at ericlynnjohnson@hotmail.com.

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. This issue was edited by Buddy Frazer, 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.

Dallas History Conference Looks at “Law and Disorder” January 28, 2005

By Dr. Mike Hazel, *Legacies* Editor

Bonnie Parker and Blanche Barrow (the two women in the “Bonnie & Clyde” gang), a sensational murder trial, vice in Dallas, and the role of the Dallas police in the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination are among the topics being featured at the Seventh Annual *Legacies* Dallas History Conference, Saturday, January 28, 2006. Appropriately for the theme, “Law and Disorder,” the conference



Dallas Police Headquarters Building

will be held at the new Jack Evans Police Headquarters on South Lamar, where attendees will view a special historical exhibit on the Dallas police.

Conference patrons (\$100 level) will be offered the rare opportunity to view the jail cell in the old City Hall where Lee Harvey Oswald was held following his arrest in November 1963. This tour will be part of the reception the evening of January 27, at which patrons can also visit with the conference speakers.

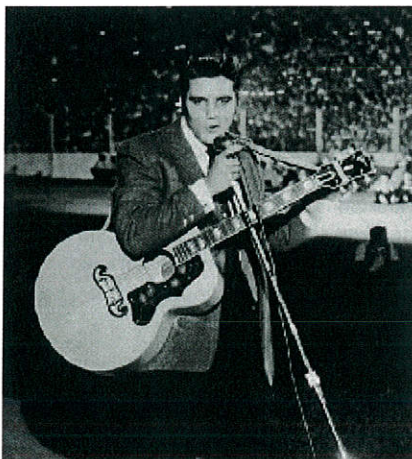
The Dallas County Historical Commission is one of eleven institutional sponsors for the conference. Registration forms will be mailed in December and will also be available at the Dallas Public Library and other locations. For additional information, please contact Mike Hazel, the conference coordinator, at mvhazel@sbcglobal.net.



Outlaws Bonnie Parker & Clyde Barrow.
(Courtesy The Hinton Collection)

“American Music Scene” at the State Fair

The State Fair and the Dallas Historical Society present *The American Music Scene* in the Hall of State at this year’s State Fair of Texas. The



Elvis at the Cotton Bowl in 1958
(Photo courtesy State Fair of Texas)

exhibit honors groundbreaking performers with “*The King’s Ransom*,” a private collection of Elvis’ personal artifacts; “*Artist to Icon*” features photos of Elvis, Bob Dylan and The Beatles, on loan from “*Seattle’s Experience Music Project*” and an introduction to the blues with “*Texas Blues Musicians from Documentary Arts*.”

In the Hall of State’s Basement auditorium, Elvis tribute artist, Craig Parker will offer “*The Legend Lives On*,” Documentary Arts will present the music of Deep Ellum legend “Blind Lemon Jefferson,” and there will also be continual showings of the documentary short “*Elvis in Texas*.”

Offerings in the Hall of State will include the Dallas artist Jeff Scott’s “*Elvis: The personal Archives*”; music and recordings by blues performer

K.M. Williams; the American Museum of Miniature Arts; and continual appearances by Sonny West, Elvis’ personal bodyguard.

Special events include book signings by two Dallas artists -- Pat Kochan will autograph her book: “*Once Upon a Time in Dallas*,” and Photographer Carolyn Brown will autograph her book: “*Dallas, Where Dreams Come True*.” There will also be a barber from Rob’s Chop Shop giving 1950’s-60’s style haircuts!

The exhibit runs everyday of the Fair from September 30 through October 23. It is open from 10 am to 7 pm Sunday through Thursday and 10 am to 10 pm Friday and Saturday. Admission to the Hall of State is \$1.00 during the Fair.

*Information for this story was provided by
The Dallas Historical Society.*

Old Red Museum Moves Forward

By David Schulz, Old Red Museum Executive Director

Old Red's restoration began nearly three decades ago, when in 1978, the roof, trusses, and exterior walls were bolstered and the building stabilized. In 1985, a county bond provided for the start of exterior restoration; the next year, the Friends of Old Red, a volunteer group, raised funds to put back the patterned slate roof. In the 1990s, the ground floor hallway was restored.



Workers roughing in a wall. (photo by Ross Crabtree)

Phase I of the current initiative began in 2001, when exploratory demolition removed all vestiges of previous remodeling, leaving only original walls and hallways. Hazardous materials were also removed. Throughout 2002-3, exterior stone was replaced where necessary. Installation of the new windows concluded Phase I.

Phase II, the interior finishout, started in 2004. The rough-in of new plumbing, wiring and other infrastructure



An example of corner molding. (photo by Ross Crabtree)



DCHC members touring the building. (photo by Ross Crabtree)

components has recently concluded, installing more than 10 miles of conduit and 40 miles of wiring. New air-conditioning equipment came online this summer. Bare walls are now being

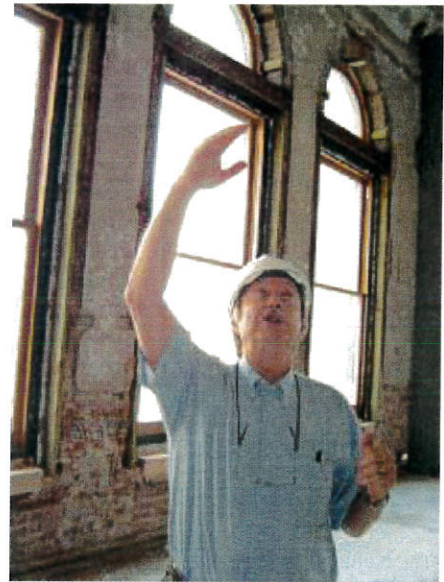


Detail of the staircase. (photo by Ross Crabtree)

covered with plaster; new molding matched to the original remaining pieces is being installed; and the Grand Stairway is being installed – eight tons of steel and nearly 25 tons of cast iron. Enough paint and stain to cover four football fields will have been applied when all interiors are complete, which is expected to occur in late winter or early spring 2006.



Installing the staircase. (photo by Ross Crabtree)



Dr. Tom Smith, project director, describes the restoration effort. (photo by Buddy Frazer)

Phase III, the restoration of the clock tower, has been approved to begin shortly and will take about a year to conclude.

The Old Red Museum of Dallas County History and Culture is expected to open to the public next summer.

NEW HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBER APPOINTED

The County Commissioners Court has appointed Jerome Sistrunk to the Dallas County Historical Commission. He was nominated by District 2 Commissioner Mike Cantrell. Mr. Sistrunk lives in Garland.



THE DALLAS COUNTY CHRONICLE

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DCHC African-American Marker Initiative Launched

By Eric Lynn Johnson, DCHC Member

Shortly after being appointed to the Dallas County Historical Commission (DCHC) by County Commissioner John Wiley Price this past February, I read an editorial in the Dallas Morning News related to the dearth of historical markers recognizing people, places, and events of significance to the African American community, both throughout Texas as a whole and within Dallas County.

The editorial exhorted citizens of Dallas County to contact the members of the DCHC about getting more historical designations for places and structures related to African American history. The editorial even suggested some buildings of historical significance such as the H.L. Green building in downtown Dallas and the University Drugstore near Southern Methodist University because of their role in the racial integration of Dallas.

When I presented the editorial to the DCHC and suggested that we be proactive about both educating the citizens of Dallas County about the process of obtain-

ing a historical marker for a structure and also about identifying places and structures within Dallas County that are of particular significance to African Americans in order to assist citizens in gaining historical markers for such places and structures, the response from my fellow DCHC members was overwhelmingly positive.

The first thing the DCHC decided to do was to invite the history professor who had been cited in the aforementioned editorial, Benjamin Johnson of Southern Methodist University, to address the DCHC concerning Dallas County African American history. Professor Johnson accepted our invitation and addressed the DCHC at its regular meeting in June of this year.

Professor Johnson's presentation was excellent. In

addition to providing us with more information concerning the buildings mentioned in the editorial, Professor Johnson brought to the DCHC's attention that off of Commerce Street, near Stemmons Freeway and the Southern Pacific railroad tracks, there is a patch of freeway easement the city once designated as Dealey Annex. According to Professor Johnson, under pressure from a local citizens' group, the City of Dallas Park Board renamed the land "Martyr's Park" in tribute, not only to President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated nearby, but also to Samuel Smith, Patrick Jennings, and Cato, three slaves who some believe were hanged after being blamed for a fire that destroyed much of Dallas in August 1860.

Sites like the H. L. Green building, "Martyr's Park", the downtown building that once housed the recording studio

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