



# Retrospect

Denton County  
Historical  
Commission

Fall  
September 2014

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## 1880s: The Decade When the County "Grew Up"

With Reconstruction behind them and the pains of the Civil War receding, Denton County in 1880 could finally look forward to brighter days. Gone, too, were Indian raids and the vast open grazing areas were being fenced by farmers using the new-fangled invention called barbed wire. Denton County's move from isolated backwater to a prosperous agricultural center as farmers moved from subsistence to cash crop farming was about to bloom. Historian C. A. Bridges called it the decade when the county "grew up."

The Dallas & Wichita Railroad had met its mandate from the state of Texas by reaching Denton County in 1877. After literally inching into the county, financial issues brought construction to a halt. According to Dr. E. Dale Odom, the company's fiscal state was such that outlaw Sam Bass is reported to have told gang members that if they robbed the Dallas & Wichita, it would have to be on credit.

As the citizens waited for resumption of the track laying, another company, the Texas & Pacific, announced plans to build a line from Fort Worth through Denton on the way to Sherman, Paris and Texarkana. On April 1, 1881, the T & P reached Denton, soon followed by the former Dallas & Wichita now known as the Missouri, Kansas & Texas (Katy) line after both those lines were purchased by T & P president Jay Gould. With the lines arranging to travel over and share one another's rails, Denton County was suddenly feeling its oats—literally.

Five years later, when the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe began building its line from Fort Worth to Oklahoma City, the city of Denton eagerly expected it would bring a third railroad to the city. However, the city fathers were dismayed when, after offering significant financial inducements, the railroad built to the unpopulated areas several miles west of Denton.

With the coming of the railroads came new towns. Between Lewisville and Denton, Corinth sprang forth. The T & P brought Roanoke as a

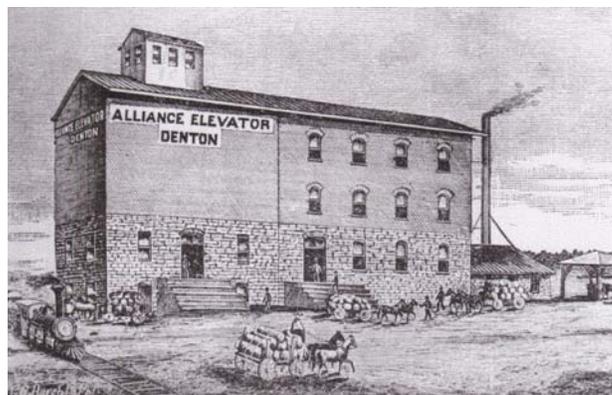


Photo: Denton Record-Chronicle

**The Farmers Alliance opened their Denton milling plant in 1886. Morrison Milling now occupies the location.**

Graham and Waintown gave way to the new town of Argyle. After the T & P continued north from Denton, the new town of Aubrey was born near the old community of Onega.

The Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe cut through the open prairies of western Denton County to create the towns of Sanger, Krum, Ponder (originally called Gerald) and Justin (mistakenly named Justine for a few months by the Post Office Department).

Access to the railroads allowed farmers to sell their crops outside the immediate market and the plowing of the rich, black prairie soil commenced in earnest as cultivated land increased by 27% in the decade of the 1880s. Cotton made a huge jump but small grains, led by oats and wheat, would soon bring the highest profits for Denton County farmers.

The railroads also brought increased availability of goods and with the crops bringing in money, consumer purchases increased considerably. Many merchants, W. E. Smoot and W. A. Ponder among them, purchased farm land and either hired workers or leased it to farmers who shared in the profits.

See 1880s on p.7

**TRIVIA:** *In the late 1870s, building supplies and goods became more available to the citizens of Denton County, but they had to travel to a place referred to as "Stumpopolis" to get them . What was "Stumpopolis" and where was it located? Answer on page 10*

## A Country Tour in Rural Denton County

Ever so often I get an excuse to drive across Denton County – east, west, south or north – on some specific need regarding one of Denton County's historical markers. It is a pleasure to escape the busy highways and travel down some of our county's farm to market roads. I did just that on a trip in September. Living in Argyle gives me a quick escape to western Denton County. Around mid-morning I was heading to Drop to meet with the Denton AgriLife Education Club – the last Extension Club in Denton County. After zigging and zagging on a country road on my way to the meeting, I came by the Drop School House and pulled onto the grounds for a quick stop. The frame school house is starkly white and very old but almost pristine, surrounded by freshly cut grass. It sits off FM 1384, one of those roads that help you to remember when fields were freshly plowed and bare. No row after row of houses – just row after row of rich brown soil. The school was established in 1884, the building built in 1923. It is located near Oliver Creek. It is a building worthy of a historical marker. Texas Historical Commission agreed, too. In 2007, THC said it was eligible for a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker application. I am sorry to say the school does not have a marker. The application was never submitted.

This fall the Drop Club will submit a THC marker application for Edna Trigg, the first Texas Home Demonstration Agent in Texas. Remarkably, she spent all of her years of service in Denton County, from 1916 to 1937, when she retired at the age of 70. She was Denton County's first agent at the same time she became the state's first agent. Toni Osborn, a member of the Drop Club, has been researching the life of Edna Trigg; Kate Lynass will write the narrative. Denton County Texas A & M AgriLife Extension Service is paying for the marker with funds saved through efforts by county agent Maggie Jover. Trigg's office was in the basement of the Denton County Courthouse. A request has been sent to THC to place the marker on the courthouse lawn.

Drop does not have any historical markers but it does have a historic cemetery. I remember from prior trips to Drop that the Sams -Burnett-Mennerly Cemetery, a designated THC Historic Texas Cemetery, is close by FM 1384. It is located on private property off Sherman Road. Captain Jeremiah Burnett (1823-1904) and Nancy Burnett, (1829-1869), parents of Burk Burnett of the 6666 Ranch, are buried in the cemetery.

On my back to Argyle I passed the 100 year old rock wall that was built by a man called 'Old Man Whitfield' to stop soil erosion. It is on the property in Northlake known

as the Old Hardeman Ranch.

Many of you will remember our visit to the Faught farmhouse just before it was to be moved to the Harvest development in Northlake. It is not too far from the rock wall. For years a Prairie Mound Cemetery road sign on FM 407 marked the road to the cemetery, which was also the road to the Faught house. In 1981 the cemetery received a state historical marker. This old road has been permanently rerouted because of development. You can drive by the model homes to find the tall white house that looks strangely out of place in this modern setting. I think the National Register requirements requiring relocated historic bridges to be put in a natural rural setting could also fit when applied to this relocated Victorian house built over 100 years ago. *Take your own country tour and discover the early ranching and farming heritage of Denton County. Look for "The Guide to Denton County Historical Markers" at the courthouse or checkout the Denton County Historical Marker website at [www.dentoncounty.com/chos](http://www.dentoncounty.com/chos)*

### Slate of Officers Nominated for 2015-2016 Term

The 2015-2016 slate of officers that comprise the Denton County Historical Commission's (DCHC) Executive Committee was presented to the membership at the September 4 regular meeting.

The nominating committee, chaired by Lynn Yeargain, submitted the names of Charlotte Mooneyham of Aubrey for Chairman; Andy Eads of Flower Mound for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairman; Deborah Boone of Denton for 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairman; Connie Baker of Denton for Recording Secretary; Jean Carter of Trophy Club as Corresponding Secretary; Lee Capps of Denton for Financial Secretary and the following persons as Members-at-Large: Don Beckel of The Colony; Jane Flynn of Highland Village; and Jesse Davis of Denton. There were no added nominations from the floor.

The vote to elect these candidates will be held at the regular DCHC meeting on October 2.

In addition to Lynn Yeargain, the other members of the nominating committee are: Jean Carter, Connie Baker, Bill Coleman and DJ Taylor.

**Retrospect** is published quarterly by the Denton County Historical Commission Publications Committee:

DJ Taylor, Chairman & Editor; Veronica Maldonado; Don McClure; Rynell Novak; and a host of contributors

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# Delores Vann: Honored for Working to Save Our History

On Wednesday nights in the mid-1960s Delores Vann would shop for groceries at the local Buddies supermarket while her husband cared for their two small children. On the way home she would stop for a lingering moment at the corner of Mounts and Oak Streets to admire the Georgian home at 811 West Oak. It was the home of her dreams; a dream she never believed would be realized.

But on September 17, 1967 Don Vann took his wife for a look at the vacant house with the for sale sign in the yard. He asked her to see if the front door would open. It was locked. Then, he handed a key to his wife and said, "It's yours."

Thus began a long association of the Vanns with Oak Street and its historical homes. Delores Vann soon became very active in historical preservation efforts in a time when there was a lot of official opposition to such "nonsense."

Denton, like many cities in the post-World War II era, did not fully appreciate its older buildings and homes. There was even a proposal in the 1950s to tear down the courthouse to make more parking available on Denton's Courthouse Square. In 1971, a long range plan was promoted by the city to transform Oak Street into line of strip malls from downtown to the University of North Texas. Delores Vann was appalled at such a proposal and began to organize resistance.

Talking to neighbors and inspiring a collective opposition to a city-backed plan was no easy task. But Vann considered it worthwhile. In a "Letter to the Editor" in 1972 she wrote, "Good buildings influence the quality of life. Denton is fortunate to have some beautiful old buildings as fine as any in our country." And she believed they should be preserved. The letter concluded with an announcement that a meeting to "Save Oak Street" would be held later that week and invited the public to attend.

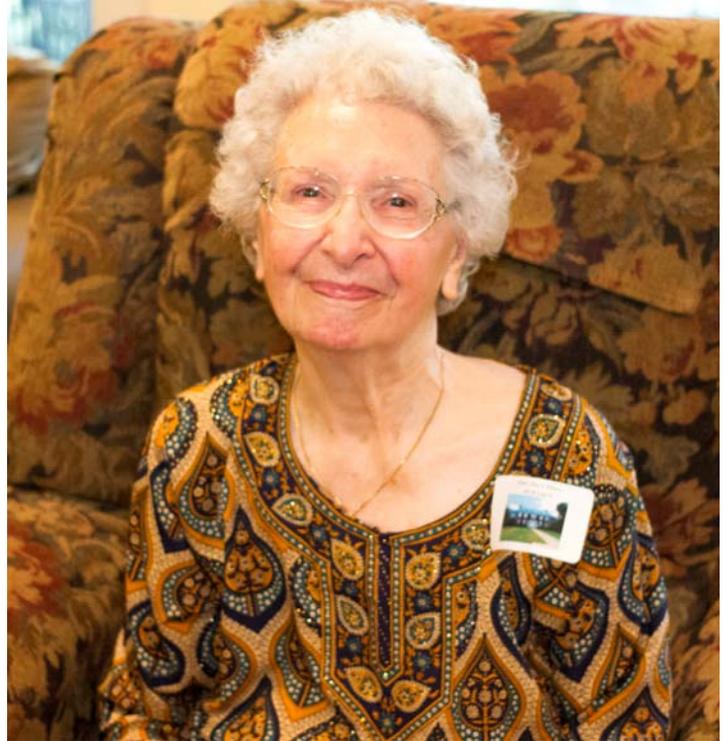
In the bicentennial year of 1976, Vann wrote a series of columns for the *Denton Record-Chronicle* about Denton's state-ly old houses that brought the importance of preservation to a wider audience. Calling the houses "a legacy of a great era in Denton" she detailed the history of many of the homes and featured the drawings of her good friend, Dorothy Bertine. Note cards and portfolios of the drawings were sold to raise funds to support preservation efforts.

As president of the Denton Historical Preservation League she continued to advocate preservation and to combat the eagerness of those who would bulldoze history in the name of progress. In a 1976 "Letter to the Editor" she wrote, "Carried to extremes 'progress' may leave the smaller cities of the state looking as identical as a chain of hamburger franchises."

In a recent interview with *Retrospect* Delores Vann recalled living with her grandparents on West Sycamore when she was a little girl. "I loved Denton. I loved the Square. I thought it was the most wonderful place."

Her appreciation for historical beauty grew as she attended high school in Eastland and college at TCU in Fort Worth. A college "literary tour" took her to Longfellow's home and to Mark Twain's Cave in Hannibal, Missouri. Being close to these historical sites enhanced her appreciation even more.

After their marriage, Don Vann received his doctorate from Texas Tech and asked his wife where she wanted to live. Without hesitation, she replied, "Denton." As luck would have it,



***Delores Vann was recently honored for her efforts to save the history and historical structures in Denton and Denton County.***

*Photo by Joshua Sylve, UNT Libraries*

Don was soon hired as an English professor by North Texas State.

Dr. Don Vann's work as an English professor, noted for his research and knowledge of Charles Dickens, provided many opportunities for the couple to visit England and other parts of Europe. Delores Vann remarked, "There are so many things in England and Europe that have been around for centuries; so wonderful and magnificent." She added that, in the United States, the Deep South has "a respect for historical structures" that she wishes extended to all of Texas.

Throughout the years Delores Vann has served many organizations dedicated to historical preservation, including the Denton County Historical Commission where she chaired the Marker Committee in the 1970s. What might be considered her crowning achievement were the efforts, aided by many, including Yvonne Jenkins and Bullitt Lowery, that culminated with the creation of Denton's first historic district—the Oak-Hickory Historic District. **See "Vann" on page 7**

***"One cannot and must not try to erase the past merely because it does not fit the present." — Golda Meir***

# “Prof” Calhoun and Denton High School on Congress

“Prof” Calhoun, principal of Denton High School (DHS) from 1924 to 1957, had a unique way of paddling. A former student reports that “A downward stroke followed by an upward stroke constituted one lick. So when he sentenced us to 10 licks, we felt the impact 20 times.”

Other former students have recently responded to questions about their memories of “Prof” and their high school days on Congress Street.

## “Prof” Calhoun and Discipline

In the days when it was permissible to paddle students, former students report that “Prof” meted out punishment “when deserved.” Whenever the boys got into a little trouble, “Prof” would talk to them and tell them he was “going to paddle you boys next Thursday” (or some other day in the future), so that we would worry about it for a few days, but then he would usually not take any action.”

One day the football players were sitting at the back of a classroom and “we started taunting the teacher about something she said about ‘breathing under water.’ Finally she left the room in tears, but ‘Prof’ soon arrived and invited us guys to see him in his office. Since he could sympathize with us, ‘Prof’ just gave our hands a token slap and sent us back to class.”

## “Prof” and Students

Comments from other former students:

“Prof” was always “trying to advise me about favorable assignments in the military. Eventually, he recommended me for the U. S. Naval Academy.” (NOTE: *The student received his appointment and served in the military and then in aerospace engineering for many years.*)

“Prof” Calhoun strolled into study hall one day as the students were complaining about the heat. “As usual, he told us to stop squirming around and we would cool off. A few minutes later, he returned with a few paper fans like the ones given out by furniture stores and funeral parlors. ‘Prof’ always offered a solution to our problems.”

“I thought ‘Prof’ Calhoun hung the moon. I sure didn’t want to be called to his office; so, I was a good little girl.”

Another “good little girl” had not been invited to join the girls’ social club until her senior year. “That year they invited me to join (perhaps after urging by the principal), and I declined their invitation because I

didn’t approve of some of their activities. It was a shock when ‘Prof’ called me to his office, but I was relieved that he just wanted to find out why I didn’t want to join.”

“My family moved to Denton in August 1945 and I needed to register early. I met with ‘Prof’ Calhoun so that he could advise me on classes. I was a scared 13 year old, but he made me feel like I had made a new friend.”

## “Prof” Calhoun’s Life

Born Amos O’Neil Calhoun on June 19, 1891, in Gordon, Texas, A.O. (“Prof”) went to high school in Gordon. He received his Bachelor’s from the current University of North Texas and his Masters from Columbia, with a double major in Chemistry and Mathematics.

“Prof” spent a total of 43 years in public education with 38 years as a principal. In Denton, he served as Principal of Lee School in 1919-1920, and then as head of the high school at the Denton College building. (See notes on Buildings.)

When the DHS building on Congress opened in 1924, he moved with the school down the hill to the new building and served there until his retirement in 1957.

For 20 summer sessions, he taught at North Texas; and he was involved in educational organizations at the local, state and national levels. He was active locally with the Denton Chamber of Commerce, Boy Scouts, and the Kiwanis Club, appearing annually in the Kiwanis Minstrel shows.

His personal life included marriage to wife Nell in 1927, and service as a deacon at First Baptist Church, Denton, until his death in 1973. He is buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Denton.



**A. O. “Prof” Calhoun was the principal at Denton High from 1924-1957—the entire time the high school was at the Congress Street location**

## Denton High School Buildings

The three-story building that was on the South end of the 10.7 acre site bounded by Denton/Gregg/Mounts /Congress streets was built as the John B. Denton College. In 1912, the school moved to Abilene and became Abilene Christian College. The board of Denton County Schools was able to acquire most of its property and start Denton’s first high school there.

In 1924, the high school moved north and down the hill to the new DHS, the red-brick building on Congress Street. After that, the Junior High used the building on the top of the hill and other buildings as they were added to the campus. In 1957, the new DHS opened on Fulton Street and the Congress Street campus became

**See “Calhoun” on page 5**

# Marker Dedications Set for October 23

Two of Denton County's historical bridges will receive Denton County Historical Markers from the Denton County Historical Commission in a ceremony on **October 23 at 11:00 a.m. at the Denton County Administration Complex, 535 South Loop 288 at Morse Street.**

The Donald Road Bridge served the Plainview and Stony communities beginning in the early 1900s, crossing South Hickory Creek, providing a way to get to the railroads and mills in Krum.

Gregory Road Bridge crossed Duck Creek in the northernmost area of Denton County, enabling farmers and other residents in the Bolivar and Cannon Creek areas to reach the railroad, mills and merchants in Sanger.

**Mark your calendars and plan to attend this dedication, October 23 at 11: 00 a.m.**



The Donald Road Brige (foreground) & the Gregory Road Bridge will receive Denton County Historical Markers

## Calhoun *Cont'd from p.4*

Denton's only junior high.

The building on Congress has had the following names: Denton Senior High, 1924; Denton Junior High, 1957; Congress Junior High, 1969; Calhoun Junior High, 1982; and Calhoun Middle School, 1992.

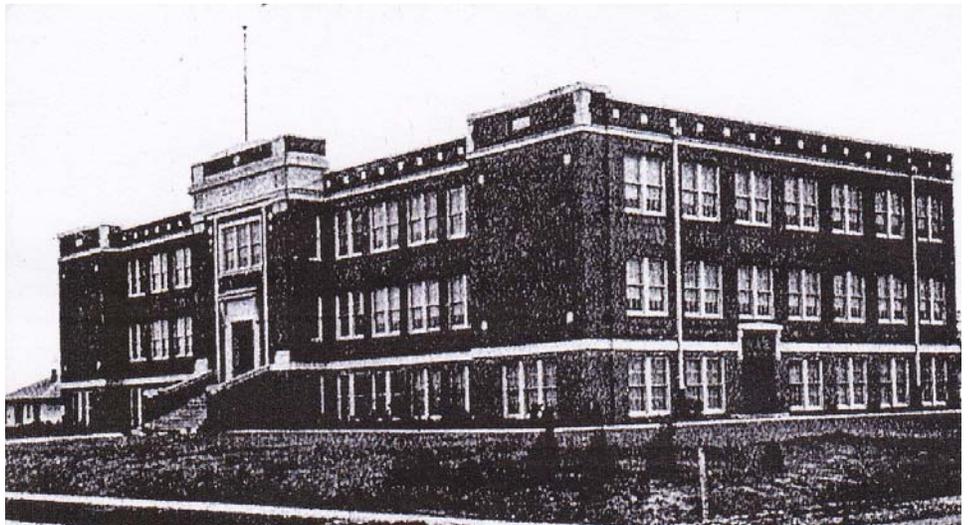
"Prof" Calhoun closed his long career with Denton schools at the same time the building on Congress ended its career as the Senior High School.

### Dedications to "Prof"

At least three of the DHS annuals, *The Bronco*, were dedicated to "Prof" – 1925, 1945, and 1956.

The first DHS annual, in 1925 - "because he understands us, he is interested in us, he loves us, because he is a real gentleman, a good sportsman, and a good friend."

Twenty year later, "*The Bronco* Staff of 1945 wishes to remember one whose kind efforts and understanding have won a permanent place in the hearts of each of us. With sincere respect we dedicate the 1945 *Bronco* to our own 'Prof.'" --Rynell Stiff DHS



**ABOVE:** The new Denton High School building is shown in its inaugural year of 1924. It is now the A. O. Calhoun Middle School

### Class of 1945

Special appreciation to these former DHS students (with their year of graduation): George Hubbard, LaVerne Johnson Rose, and Fred Meredith (1945); June Coleman Cate (1949); Barbara A. Schleinat (1955); and Oleta McNary Trapp (1957).

—Dr. Rynell Stiff Novak

***"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."***

**—Benjamin Franklin**

# Legendary Locals of Denton

## A New Book from Dr. Georgia Caraway

A new book for Denton history collectors will be published by Arcadia Publishing in October 2014. *Legendary Locals of Denton* by Dr. Georgia Caraway looks at 270 individuals known for their generosity, talents, skills, community activism, adventurous spirits, energy, civic pride, business acumen, courage and creativity.

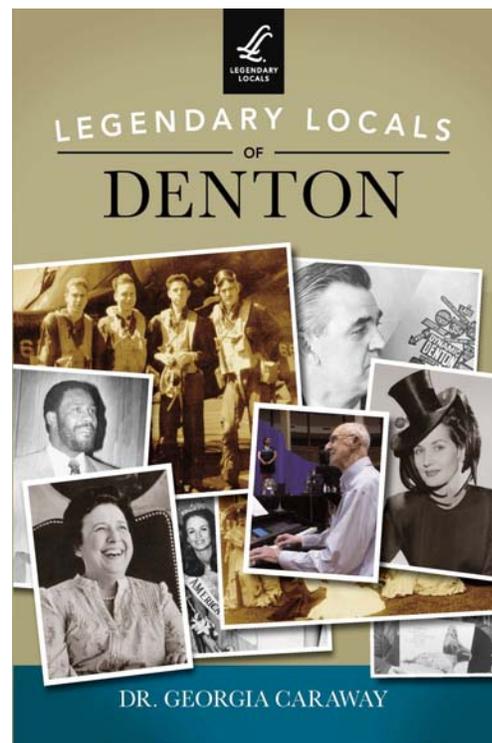
Among those featured in the book are Bob Rogers, Denton's beloved "Piano Man;" Mary Evelyn Blagg Huey, former TWU president and quintessential leader; and Hal Jackson, war hero and legendary lawyer.

Each book in Arcadia Publishing's *Legendary Locals* series takes a look at the history of

unique individuals and groups, past and present, who have made a memorable impact on their community throughout its history. The Denton book is no exception.

Dr. Georgia Caraway was director of the Denton County museums for 14 years and now operates an antique business at the Antiques Gallery at Stonehill Center in Denton. She has co-authored, with Denton County Office of History & Culture curator Kim Cupit, three earlier titles from Arcadia, *Images of America: Denton*; *Images of America through Postcards: Denton County*; and *Then & Now: Denton*.

—DJ Taylor



### ONCE AGAIN—

## DCHC Receives Distinguished Service Award

The Denton County Historical Commission (DCHC) has once again been honored for its achievements. The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Distinguished Service Award was presented to the DCHC during a Commissioners Court meeting on July 1 citing its dedicated service to the state of Texas 2013.

During the 2013 year, DCHC members contributed 5,138 volunteer hours of service.

THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe said, "We commend these hardworking individuals for their efforts to save Texas history and look forward to promoting their accomplishments throughout the year."

DCHC Chair Beth Stribling thanked the commission's executive committee and the ten committee chairs for their leadership. She also noted, "The support of Denton County Commissioners Court, the Denton County

Office of History & Culture, and this wonderful community of preservation-minded county citizens has enabled the commission to continuously reach its long and short term goals."

Among its 2013 accomplishments were: "Life on the Prairie" an archaeology fair; work was begun on updating the county cemetery map working with the county's GIS department; the first Denton County History contest generated essays from students elementary age through college; the Courthouse-on-the-Square museum had three major gallery exhibits and ten small exhibits on and off site and four quarterly issues of *Retrospect* brought information about DCHC and OHC activities along with historical articles to members and the general public.

In 2013, there were dedications for eight THC markers: Quakertown (Undertold Story recipient), Annie Webb Blanton, Texas Agricultural

and Experiment Station No. 6, James Newton and Eva Tabor Rayzor House, Belew Cemetery, Cooper Creek Baptist Church, Cooper Creek Cemetery, and Cooper Creek School. Also in 2013, the Harrington, Casady and Clark Cemeteries were awarded a THC Undertold Story marker.

There are many ongoing projects and efforts to continue the growing list of accomplishments by the Denton County Historical Commission, again one of the state's top performing commissions.

—DJ Taylor

### We Want to Hear From You!

Let us know what you like or dislike about *Retrospect*. What would you like to see more of...or less of? Have a story idea? Want to submit an article?

Contact us: DJ Taylor (940) 368-1816

or Roslyn Shelton (940) 349-2860

## Vann Honored *continued from page 3*

This past summer, her remarkable achievements were recognized by the City of Denton, Denton County and her friends and neighbors. An ice cream social was held on July 27 at the home of Greg and Jane Naugher, organized with the help of Randy Hunt and Annetta Ramsay. A crowd of over 50 were on hand as Delores Vann was presented an official Proclamation by Denton Mayor Chris Watts and a Certificate of Commendation from Denton County Historical Commission Chair Beth Stribling. The Denton County Commissioners Court presented a Proclamation to her at the Commissioners Court meeting on August 5.

Delores Vann never waived in her 40+ years pursuit to save the history of Denton and Denton County. When asked what advice she would give to someone interested in historical preservation, she replied, "Teach, whether you are a teacher or not, to emphasize that what we have should be treated with respect; preserved as a legacy to be passed down to the next generations. Strive to inspire, not preach."

The Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square is what Vann sees as the crowning jewel of a renewed appreciation by the citizens of the county for its history and historical structures.

"I would hope that the citizens of Denton and Denton County recognize that ours is a special place and would honor and protect its history," she said. "It really is a special place."

In May of this year the City of Denton was awarded the prestigious First Lady's Texas Treasures Community designation by the Texas Historical Commission, only the tenth city to be so named. The designation came in recognition of the city's efforts to preserve and promote its history and historical buildings. Delores Vann and her like-minded friends provided the spark and through tireless efforts finally got their message across. They are our heroes—and our true treasures.  
—DJ Taylor



**ABOVE:** At the August 5 meeting of the Denton County Commissioners Court, Delores Vann was issued a Proclamation by the court and presented with a painting of their home by the Office of History & Culture's curator, Joe Duncan. From L-R: Dr. J. Don Vann, Delores Vann and Joe Duncan.  
Photo by Kate Lynass

## 1880s (continued from p.1)

A need for more farmers—who would in turn buy goods from the merchants—led to the formation of an Immigration Society in the mid-1880s that sought to recruit buyers or renters for farmland in the county. Judge Joseph A. Carroll cautioned the society to be sure they brought in only "the right kind of immigrant," lest the jails overflow.

With the passage of the 1876 Texas Constitution, free public schools were authorized and the Denton County Clerk's records are full of "Denton County" as grantee as landowners donated or sold land for schools in the 1880s. Denton in 1882 passed a bond election to start its first public school. Rural schools in the county began to pop up in quick succession, with idyllic names like Fairview, Goodview, Prairie Chapel, Harmony and Good Hope. By the end of the 1880s a rural school could be found within almost any ten mile ride.

Farmers found it advantageous to organize in order to increase the profit margin for their goods. Out of this grew the Farmers Alliance that built a large milling

operation in Denton next to the railroad tracks in 1886. The quality of flour produced at this mill using Denton County wheat reached a level of unparalleled success. The company's flour went on to win so many successive gold ribbons at the Texas State Fair that it was eventually banned from the competition. James Newton Rayzor and C. C. Bell were two of the prominent men from Denton County to have a hand in the mill's success. The late 1880s saw the beginning of other milling operations in Pilot Point, Sanger and Krum.

By the 1880s, Denton had a fire department led by William J. Austin, who would later organize the Texas State Firemen's Association. Under Austin, the company bought a \$6,000 La France steam fire engine that could shoot a stream of water 150 feet, according to the *Denton County News* article from 1904.

The original Denton County Fair had its origins in the 1880s as county livestock growers and farmers were anxious to show of their products. In 1884 the Denton County Fair and Blooded Stock Association bought acreage bordered by Avenue A, West Hickory, Welch and Mill (now Eagle Drive) for fairgrounds.

With the coming of the railroads and the development of agriculture, business, education and other institutions, the 1880s laid the ground work that paved the way for today's county.

It is well noted, too, that many of the pioneers of Denton County realized in the 1880s a need to preserve their tales of the county's early days. An initial effort at this had its spark on July 4, 1886, when a crowd of 6,000 county citizens gathered at Wheeler's Grove (today's TWU campus at the Locust Street-US Highway 380 intersection) for a big barbecue. By 1889 the Old Settlers Association was formed and the efforts to keep the county's history had begun with great zeal.

—DJ Taylor

## 2015 Heritage Festival

**The 2015 Denton County Heritage Festival will be on April 18, celebrating the decade of the 1880s.**

**If you are interested in the plans for this festival or want to help with the many and various details of the event, please contact Deborah Boone at her email address:**

**[deborah.boone@charter.net](mailto:deborah.boone@charter.net)**

# “Made in Denton County” Exhibit Opens at the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum October 21

Have you ever passed an eighteen wheeler, sipped a drink from a paper carton, put on a high school class ring, or walked by a brick home and wondered where those items were made? The answer could very well be right here in Denton County. The way that a community’s identity and character are perceived can be strongly connected to what a place makes or produces. Music, food, clothing, and culture are just a few of the items that can establish a location’s personality in the mind of the outside world. Denton County has built a large and colorful reputation through the things made right here in our community. From semi-trucks to ecofriendly packaging, beer to brats, our county’s legacy is one of craftsmanship and complexity with innovation that is as diverse as its innovators.

A new exhibit highlighting “Locally Made” in Denton County opens October 21, 2014 at 9:00 AM with a ribbon cutting by the Denton County Commissioner’s Court and the Museums’ Committee. A reception with light refreshments will follow the tour of the exhibit.

This exhibit will be provided in English and Spanish. A hands-on corner will provide children with tangible learning through interactive activities and creative play. The west gallery theater room will be screening various “how it’s made” videos that feature the local



**ABOVE:** The Morrison’s Milling Company is shown circa 1950 with a plant expansion underway. The maker of high quality flour, corn and other grain products began as the Alliance Milling Co. in 1886.

companies in the exhibit.

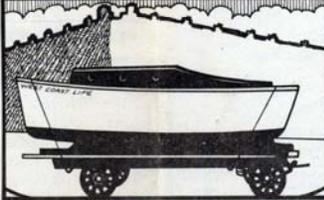
The Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum is located at 110 West Hickory, Denton, Texas. All Courthouse Museum programs are free and open to the public. Handicapped parking and accessibility are through the north entrance.

—Joe Duncan

## HUNDLEY BOATS

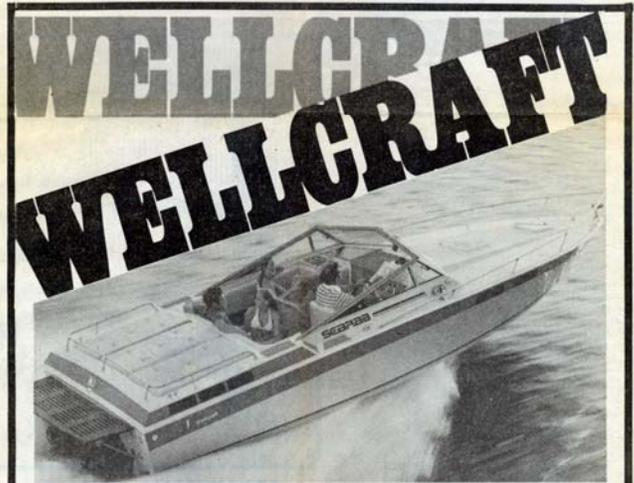
*The Finest For Over 51 Years*

**Pioneers  
In  
Boating**



**1927  
—  
1978**

In March of 1927 a new era of boating began in the Southwest. J. K. Hundley joined men with mechanical ability and a desire to build something different, launched "West Coast Liv" - a 27' boat, powered by a 20 h.p. "Star" inboard motor. He continued to 1978 to modern methods for transporting large yachts, Hundley headed "West Coast Liv" from Denton, Texas to the newly titled Lake Dallas on a rich dream again.



**SCARAB 300** Once in a decade a boat like this comes along. The ultimate combination of speed and elegance. The new 30' Scarab hull is a thought-provoked corner racer. A champion. In fact, the "racer" version of this machine recently set a record of 88 mph. So if you're not yet an experienced driver, we suggest you choose a less spirited performer. As you can see, she's a styling champion, too. Her fiberglass hull beams provide a strong, spacious cockpit and a comfortable helm station with optional hand. Plus she has creature-like air air padded sunbathing area, and electric refrigerator bar. Other regal little touches include a stereo system, hanging locker, swim platform and much more. Standard equipment includes: tachometer, ignition kill switch, Coralhullite compass, fuel meters, and hydraulic trim tabs. Power options available.

Direct Dallas Phone  
214-552-9389 214-541-2884



**Hundley**  
BOAT COMPANY, INC.

Lake Dallas, Texas  
Lake Dallas Phone  
817-497-2286 Sun.: 817-497-2712

**ABOVE:** This Hundley Boats ad from 1978 celebrates the joys of boating on the lakes of Denton County and other locations. When operations first started on old Lake Dallas, the City of Dallas protested Denton County residents using “their” water.

# National Register Plaques on Historic Buildings on Denton Courthouse Square Historic District – a Designated National Register Historic District

Three National Register plaques are on three historic buildings on the courthouse square. These buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The square has 26 buildings listed as contributing buildings as part of the historic district. Denton County Historical Commission and Denton County Office of History and Culture are working now on a QR Code project that will provide information eventually on all of the historical business.

In the mean time we want more National Register plaques. The plaques will immediately identify the buildings as historic to all visitors on the square. Interested in learning more about obtaining this marker – contact DCHC Chair Beth Stribling at [bvstribling@gmail.com](mailto:bvstribling@gmail.com) or call 948-241-2523.

Buildings with plaques:

120-124 West Oak is a two part commercial building known as the Meentzen Building that housed the Meentzen Bakery in 1909. The building's history dates back to c, 1890. The 120 W. Oak building is owned by Bebe Olufsen who obtained the marker for the buildings. The Ghost Note occupies the space today. Don E. Hickey owns 124 W. Oak where the new tattoo parlor recently opened.



**Above:** The Meentzen Bakery plaque on the building now occupied by Ghost Note

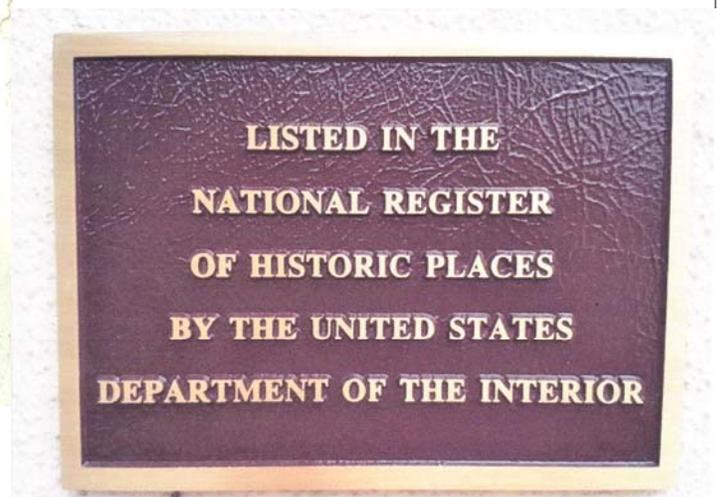
115-117 West Hickory originally housed the J. B. Hann Dry Goods Store. It is a one part commercial

building that was the constructed in 1885. Beth Marie's Ice Cream and Mad World occupy this space today. The marker is on the door of Beth Marie's and was purchased by building and business owner Bob Moses.



**Above:** The Hann Building plaque at Beth Marie's Ice Cream

119 West Hickory was built in 1886 and now houses the Loophole. Thompson's Saloon was located in the building in the 1890s. Charlie Nolet is the business owner, who took the lead to obtain the marker through the building's owner JCN Investments LLC. —Beth Stribling



**Above:** The plaque for the Loophole; formerly Thompson's Saloon in the 1890s

Photos by Jane Hardman Flynn

# 100 Years Ago, County's Joy Tempered by Clouds of War

Looking back, 100 years ago, we find that Denton County was quite excited on October 10 about a visit from the Sells-Floto Circus. It was common in the time for one circus company or another to visit Denton each fall and this particular circus offered something different: Buffalo Bill and his "prairie outfit of Indians, cowgirls, cowboys and rangers."

A crowd of several thousand jammed the streets around the Courthouse Square to watch the circus animals and performers parade through town. Buffalo Bill (William F. Cody) received many cheers as he led his band of westerners through the town, setting regally atop his steed.

But it wasn't all fun and joy in the county. Europe was at war as the beginning of "The Great War" that we know as World War I began. There was much uncertainty over the price of goods as fears ran rampant that food items might be in short supply.

In November, the children of the Denton schools collected toys, candies and clothing that were shipped to Brooklyn to meet European bound ships, each with a note from a child in Denton to a child in Europe, offering hope and prayers that the war would soon end and that all would be safe. The war dragged on until November 11, 1918.

—DJ Taylor



By HikingArtist

## DCHC Christmas Party

Friday, December 12, 2014

915 W Oak Street

Denton

From 5:00 pm until?

This is our annual "thank you" to the community supporters of the Denton County Historical Commission, funded by personal donations.

To donate or assist with this event, please contact:

Lynn Yeargain at (940) 368-2883

or by E-mail at:

[lynnyeargain@gmail.com](mailto:lynnyeargain@gmail.com)

**Trivia Answer:** "Stumpopolis" was the terminus of the Dallas & Wichita Railroad, south of Lewisville, near the current location of the DCTA's Hebron Station. The railroad's parent company was required by the state to extend into Denton County by a certain date and managed to just meet that requirement before running into financial difficulty. The location acquired its nickname because of the large number of stumps that remained after the land was cleared for the railway.

## "Denton Historic Home Tour"

*Co-sponsored by the Oak/Hickory Historic District and the Denton County Historical Commission*

Sunday, December 14, 2014 from 1 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The homes on the tour, decorated in Christmas themes are:

722 W Oak St: Christal home, hosted by Annetta Ramsay & Randy Hunt

801 W Oak St: Raley home, hosted by Jane & Greg Naugher

918 W Oak St: Lipscomb home, hosted by Donna & John Morris

1003 W Oak St: Rayzor home, hosted by JoAnn & Salty Rishel

1035 W Oak St: Evers home, hosted by Lisa Adams

Advanced tickets will be on sale at the Office of History & Culture in the Courthouse-on-the-Square (*Details, later*)

Cost: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door for adults and \$5 for students (ages 12 and under – FREE)

**Docents are urgently needed. If interested, please contact  
Beth Stribling at (940) 241-2523  
or email Beth at [bvstribling@gmail.com](mailto:bvstribling@gmail.com)**

**Denton County Historical Commission**

Courthouse-on-the-Square  
 110 West Hickory Street  
 Denton TX 76201-4168

For a free subscription to *Retrospect*, contact Roslyn Shelton at:

Phone:940.349.2860

or

Email: Roslyn.Shelton@dentoncounty.com

Current & past issues of *Retrospect* are available online at:

dentoncounty.com/departments/history-and-culture

**Our mission: *Protect, preserve and promote the history of Denton County***

**Denton County Historical Commission Executive Committee**

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**Upcoming Events**

**Denton County Historical Commission**

Meets at 3:00pm on the 2nd floor

Courthouse-on-the-Square

First Thursday of the month

**UPCOMING MEETING DATES:**

October 2

November 6

**NO MEETING** in December

**EVENTS:**

October 3: 5-7 pm: *Ghost Stories*, with Shelly Tucker

October 23, 11 a.m., marker dedications for Donald & Gregory bridges, County Administrative Complex, 525 S Loop 288

November 13: 12 noon-1:00 pm: **Bonnie & Clyde**, with Robin Cole Jett

December 12: **DCHC Christmas Party**, 915 W Oak St, Denton 5 pm-?

December 14: **Denton Tour of Historic Homes**, 1-6 pm

**OTHER EVENTS:**

October 11: **Celebrate Roanoke**, 10 am-9 pm, Oak Street, Roanoke

October 11: **Bonnie & Clyde Days**, Pilot Point

October 19: **Industrial Street International Pop Festival**, 1-8 pm, Denton

October 25: **Day of the Dead Festival**, 11 am-9 pm, E Hickory @ Industrial, Denton

December 5: **Denton Lighting Festival**, CHOS, 5:30-9:30 pm

December 6: **Old Fashioned Christmas & Parade**, Roanoke

December 6: **Christmas on the Square**, Pilot Point

December 6: **Holiday in the Park/Parade of Lights**, 6 pm, The Colony