



Newsletter - Feb/Mar 2011

Stories from the
Arlington Archives !

Remembering Arlington

By Jack Vaughan,
Long-time Resident

My family moved to Arlington from Weatherford in 1930, when I was seven years old. I am the ninth of ten children, seven boys and three girls. We moved into a farm house at the corner of what is now Lincoln Drive and Beaty Road. My father and his sons farmed several acres in the area. My uncle, Will Vaughan, had a cabinet shop at the intersection of East Main and Mesquite Streets, and I think he talked my Daddy into moving to Arlington. We moved our possessions from Weatherford to Arlington in a wagon and a Model T Ford pick-up truck.



The Mayor of Arlington at the time was Will G. Hiatt. The population was maybe 3,000. I

remember the mineral well at Main and Center Streets and the stores on the four corners:

(see "Remembering Arlington" on page 3)

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(at the Historic Fielder House)
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Hours: Fielder House: Tues. through
Sat. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or by appointment)
Knapp Heritage Park: Sat. 10-2
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ANNUAL PRESERVATION CELEBRATION

"Faces of Arlington"

Sunday, May 1, 2011
Arlington Museum of Art

Noted photographer Paul Knudsen has donated his extensive photo collection to the Arlington Historical Society. We are proud to feature this commentary of life in our City at this year's Preservation Celebration. **Mark your calendar now for this annual fundraiser!!**

Confederate Grave Marker Dedication

The Mid-Cities Bluebonnet Chapter of The United Daughters of the Confederacy invites you to remember and celebrate the life and Confederate service of Pvt. Silas Baggett, Jr., Co. D, 2nd Arkansas Cavalry. Complimentary lunch follows at the Historic West Fork Presbyterian Church. Dorothy Norred, President, (djohnorred@yahoo.com) can mail, or email, you a flyer with more information and directions.

Reflections and Directions...

A report from the Director, Geraldine Mills

Reflections:

As this New Year dawns, we reflect on our many friends who will not be with us in the years to come.

Charles Marshall was husband of Board member Wanda Marshall. During Wanda's 16 years with the Board, Charles was always in her corner and supporting her ideas and involvement with our programs. We were fortunate to have this local hero as our unofficial PR man, because when Charlie talked everyone listened.

Cooper Neil Tucker, aka James Daniel Cooper, was past President of the Society and a proud participant in Arlington's history. Neil loved his family past and present and he left us with a fine little lady, Becky, to help carry on the work he loved.

Marvin Wilson was creator and narrator of the Preservation Foundation's DVD, "History of Arlington from Trading Post to Wrecking Ball." Marvin's unique talent was always an asset to our organization as well as the Arlington Preservation Foundation and the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

Bruce Pastusek volunteered at our *Front Street Festival* and educated the public about weapons, uniforms and flags of the Civil War period. He could always be counted on for a great performance and a healthy discussion on any topic.

Marvin Willis was a first class entertainer and participant in all Historical Society activities. Marvin was a man of many interests and could always be counted on for some great observations.

We will miss these friends.

Directions:

The Historic Fielder House:

Looking ahead to 2011, in January we opened our Research Room, with new computers and equipment installed. This will make our ongoing efforts to preserve Arlington's history much easier. All of this was made possible by a grant from the City's Tomorrow Foundation. We will be producing new educational videos and improving the outreach programs. The Watson Room has been moved to a larger area and has received a makeover.

The Arlington Historical Society is also compiling a new book, "The Face of Arlington," to be available in 2011 or 2012.

Noted photographer Paul Knudsen recently donated his extensive photo collection to the Historical Society. We are so very proud to have this photo commentary of life in our city. Paul's collection will be the focus of our annual fundraiser, Preservation Celebration. A private Grand Opening of this exhibit will be on Sunday, May 1, 2011, at the Arlington Museum of Art.

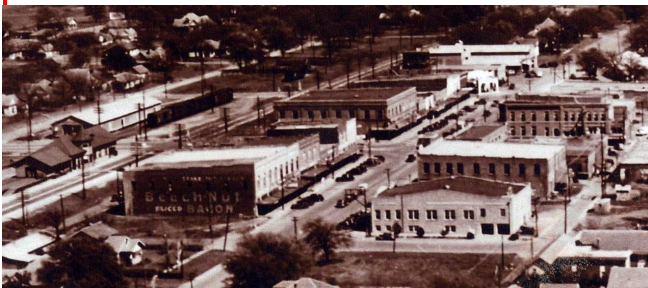
Knapp Heritage Park:

Beginning March 1, the Park will be open Saturday and Sunday 1-4 pm

(See "Reflections/Directions" on page 6)

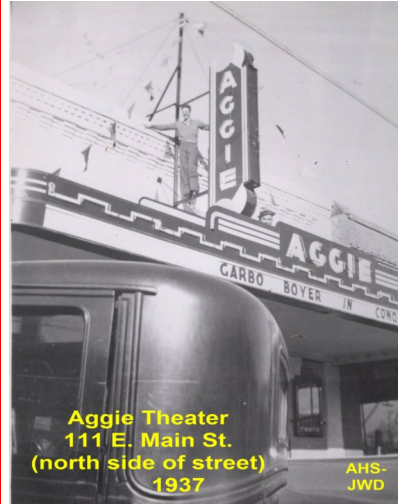
Remembering Arlington (from page 1)

Johnson's Drugstore, Coulter's Drugstore, Terry's Drugstore, First State Bank. Other downtown stores were Caton's Variety Store, Bird's Variety Store, A&P Grocery, Luttrell's Grocery, Ashburn's Ice Cream, Western Auto, Carter Hardware, Albert Austin's Pool Hall, Aggie Theatre, Texan Theatre, the old City Hall, and (on Highway 80) Moore Funeral Home, to name a few. All the roads around Arlington were gravel, rub board, and muddy and slick when it rained. The main east-west road in town was U.S. Highway 80, Division St. (now Texas 180).



Downtown Arlington (late 1930s)

I could not reflect on Arlington without remembering Hugh Moore and his family at Moore Funeral Home, which was located on West Division. I remember seeing Hugh at one of the theater's on weekends. He made the remark one time that he never turned anyone down for a funeral whether they had the money or not. I was more familiar with Howard (Gumpy) than any of the other Moore children since he was about my age. Gumpy had a pleasing personality and could be comical at times. One time in Mrs. Roark's Algebra Class in high school, Mrs. Roark was telling us to bring money for some books. Gumpy told her she would have to wait for his book until someone died. Gumpy and my brother Derrell were big friends. They used to ride around at night with one of the Arlington policemen, which at that time numbered about four or six. Most of them also doubled as firemen since it was a volunteer department. One of the po-



Aggie Theater
111 E. Main St.
(north side of street)
1937

licemen was named Minor Moore, a distant relative of Gumpy's. He and my brother were riding around with Minor one night and were in Parkdale Cemetery where Hugh Moore had bought plots for

his family and had erected a monument with the name "Moore" on it. My brother said as they passed the monument that Gumpy told Minor, "Minor, this is where we will be on Resurrection Morning, waiting for them to get to the Ms." Gumpy Moore was indeed an Arlington legend.

The first school I went to in what is now Arlington was Harrison School, which was located on North Davis near Randol Mill Road. It was a one-room white schoolhouse which was also used as a church on Sunday. It was a long walk from Lincoln and Beaty Rd. to school, probably a mile and a half, especially if it was 20 degrees. The teacher was Margaret Bradford, who had a class in each corner of the room. We later moved to Pantego, where I spent most of my grade school years. We had good teachers, like R. N. Riddel, Ann Heit, Lillian Miller, and Mr. Townsend.

As a teenager, I worked at any job where I could make some money. I milked cows, picked peas and cantaloupes, worked flower beds, helped dig water wells, picked blackberries, etc. If I had a quarter to spend on weekends, I would usually come to Arlington and see a Western at the old Texan or Aggie Theatre. With a quarter, I could go to the movie for a dime, buy a sack of popcorn for a nickel, and

(see "Remembering Arlington" on page 4)

Remembering Arlington (from page 3)

get out and go down to the Rockefeller Hamburger place and get a burger and a drink for the dime I had left. At the time, Rockefeller's had a sign that said, "Buy them by the sack, six for a quarter." Sometimes I had enough money to go down to the Ashburn Ice Cream Store and buy me a big cone of Hawaiian Pineapple. Man-that was better than Blue Bell!

An article appeared recently in the *Star-Telegram* about Arlington Downs Race Track. This was owned by W. T. Waggoner, who owned thousands of acres in Arlington and other places in Texas. This was the place where the affluent people of Dallas and Fort Worth came to gamble and socialize. Mr. Waggoner's influence was felt in Arlington through business transactions, local employment, etc. However, some businessmen in Arlington were not happy about the Track. In later years one man told me people went out there and lost their money and didn't pay their bills. It also was the cause of one bank president committing suicide. It was later revealed that he was taking bank money and betting it on the horses.

Another place closely allied with Arlington Downs was Top O' Hill Terrace, on West Division (now the site of Arlington Baptist College). During the Depression years it was owned by Fred Browning and entertained celebrities from near and far. It was a gambling establishment disguised as a restaurant. The Texas Rangers raided it several times, but they had a guard at the gate (which was a quarter of a mile from the building) and by the time the Rangers got to the building, all gaming equipment had disappeared behind movable walls. I had two brothers who worked there as grounds keepers. Any job in those days was a good job. Finally, the Rangers discovered the underground escape tunnels and, in 1947, a group of Rangers led by "Lone Wolf" Gonzaulles raided and closed the place and prosecuted the owners.

Albert Austin's Pool Hall was a favorite place for teenagers back in the 1930s. It was located at the southwest corner of East Main and Mesquite. Albert was a very nice person. He had a number of pool tables and domino and "Moon" tables. Pool was a nickel a game, and Albert controlled the ball rack so he was assured of getting his nickel. Many an hour was spent here with friends and playing pool.

O. S. Gray, owner of O. S. Gray Nursery, was certainly an asset to the City of Arlington. He owned a lot of acreage on West Park Row, where he planted and sold paper shell pecan trees around the world. They are still visible as you drive down Park Row. My brothers worked for him by digging and packaging pecan trees for shipment. Mr. Gray also grew his nursery stock on property between Norwood St. and the RR tracks. The City recently dedicated a park to him on part of that land (off West Abram St.), which he surely deserved.

In conclusion, I would like to recognize the doctors who practiced medicine in Arlington. I remember Dr. Zack Bobo, Dr. McKissack, Dr. Hollingworth, Dr. Harvey, and Dr. Nesbit. These men made house calls and treated the ills of the citizens of Arlington when times were rough and people had little money. You paid what you could afford and the Doctors accepted IOUs.

These are some of my precious memories of Arlington. I could cite many more; there are too many to enumerate for this article. To me, the saddest time I can remember was when the old Downtown was torn down in the first half of the 1970s. The old buildings were torn down and replaced, first by the Central Library, and then the current City Hall. Old Arlington, as I knew it as a child and growing up, doesn't exist anymore. Seeing as how Arlington has progressed as a tourist attraction, old Downtown might have been renovated to become an attraction for visitors, like other towns have done. But at least, the City and UTA are cooperating and have already made progress in planning and seeing a new Downtown rise in Arlington. It won't be like the one I fondly remember, but perhaps new generations growing up in Arlington will be forming their own fond memories because of our new Downtown.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

**PBS has its “Antiques Roadshow”
Coming: Our own
“Antiques Info Market”**

**Saturday, March 5, 2011
Fielder House Museum
10 am to 3:30 pm**

New!!! An “Antiques Info Market” will be hosted by the Arlington Historical Society on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the Fielder Museum in Arlington.

Please plan to come between 10 AM and 3:30 PM to have several of your favorite small antique items appraised (only those items you can carry in by yourself).



Feel free to ask questions and hear what the appraisers have to say about antiques in general and yours specifically. Listen in on some of the other appraisals!

Because of the expected high turnout and to be fair to everyone, each visitor will be limited

to three items per visit with an appraiser (but you can get back in line with more items!).

The appraisal cost will be \$10 per item. Although the appraisers are not professional appraisers (professionals would cost much more!), they will give you valuable information about your item(s).

(continued in next column)

Come join the fun!! Plan to take a look at some of the exhibits while you are there! We’re looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, the 5th of March, 2011.



Start planning now what you will bring!

**Open house at the
Historic Fielder House
Sunday, February 13 , 2011
2–4 p.m.**

We have a new look, including new exhibits celebrating:

- 75th Anniversary of Dalworthington Gardens in photos and artifacts.
- New “Faces of Arlington” photo displays include Cooper Neil Tucker, Carrie Rogers, and Tom Vandergriff.

Drop by and take a look!!

Arlington Historical Society Membership Dues

Class of Membership	Amount
Individual Lifetime	\$250 once
Family Lifetime	\$500 once
Individual (annual Oct – September)	\$25 per year
Family (annual Oct – September)	\$50 per year
Corporate Sponsorships are Available and Appreciated ! Call 817-460-4001	

Membership dues and Corporate Sponsorships are a vital part of our income for preserving and presenting Arlington’s history.

Historic Highway 80 Sale!

Become a part of history with the Arlington Historical Society when it joins with other communities across the nation in the Historic US Highway 80 Sale (Division Street) on **Saturday, April 16, 2011**. The sale in Arlington will be held in **Knapp Heritage Park** on Front Street at Center Street.

You and your family can rent a 10x10 foot spot to sell all kinds of items: furniture, books, arts and crafts, old farm equipment, household items, tools, records and just about anything else. Businesses are also invited to rent a spot to sell items or to promote their services.

Set up is at 8 a.m. and the sale will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rental fee for a space is \$25.00. To reserve a spot, or for more information, e-mail the Arlington Historical Society at fielderh@swbell.net, or call 817-460-4001.

Don't miss out on this super opportunity along Historic Highway 80!

OLD TIMERS SCHEDULE

Old Timers is now meeting
at the Fielder House on the
3rd Thursday each month at 2 p.m.

Old Timers: where long-term Arlington residents (and other speakers) have opportunity to tell stories (and spin yarns?) about Arlington in days past. Everyone is invited to attend these informative and entertaining sessions. Dates and speakers for the balance of this year are:

February 17—Adell Campbell
March 17— Donna Darovich
April 21—Bill Hughes
May 19—Geraldine Mills (Highway 80)
June 16—Ann Arnold, author
July 21—Bob Mann
August 18—Cassie Holmes
September 15—Jack Vaughan
October 20—Carmen Elliot Gooden
November 17—Mildred Hilbun & Mary Sanderson
December 15—Doris Kittlehut (Old Toys)

Reflections/Directions (from page 2)

James Knapp's office has undergone a facelift with more historical artifacts and personal photos.

We have made room for a small gift shop that will contain the unique artwork of our resident artisan/black smith, James Ryan, and we will feature other local artists, as well as our cookbooks and historic throws, books, and videos.

Each weekend will feature a demonstration or presentation by re-enactors, artists, singers, songwriters, special schoolhouse events, an archaeology dig, or other events. We are excited about the additions to Knapp Heritage Park—you all come visit!

Geraldine Mills. Director

Arlington Historical Society Officers

President –	Bob Sherwood
First V. P. (Membership) –	Tom Dodson
Second V.P. (Events) –	Jeanie Mills
Secretary –	Pat Thompson
Treasurer –	Wanda Marshall

AHS's brand new Website !

Check it out !!

www.historicalarlington.org

Recommend it to a friend !!