



FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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OUR MISSION:
*"To Preserve our Natural
and Cultural Heritage"*

Manager's Report



By Gail Reed

Hello Friends,

This year has been one of relentless upheaval and uncertainty in every aspect of our lives whether it's health, work, school, or travel; however, in the midst of all the turmoil your loyalty to FCHA has been unwavering. As 2021 comes to an end, I would like to take a moment to thank all of you for your continued support. As you know, we rely on funds received through membership dues, City and County grants in order to promote our cultural heritage.

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to replace the elevator in our Fire Station Museum and add new technology in the Fire Station and Cotton Belt Depot that will enhance visitors' experience. We have repaired or replaced thirty-eight of the seventy-eight signs designating historical homes throughout Franklin County. Additionally, our website at fchatx.com is constantly being updated with new information and data.

We greatly appreciate the gift of an anonymous donor who provided funds to insulate the Cotton Belt Depot. This 1894 building has many cracks and crevices and the new insulation will aid in lowering the cost of the monthly electric bill.

FCHA is very active in our outreach to Mount Vernon ISD. This year, we gifted 125 Bluebonnet Visits Mount Vernon by Mary Brooke Casad to third grade students and Marland Mansion books written by Jean Pamplin were distributed to 113 fifth graders. We will gift over seventy Reflective Rays books, written by Ray Loyd Johnson to the Mount Vernon High School in January, 2022.

FCHA hosted Leaders of Tomorrow when they visited the Fire Station Museum, Cotton Belt Museum and Parchman House in November as part of their awareness program for non-profit organizations in our community. We also sponsored the Franklin County Public Library's Summer Reading Program, as well as the Retired Teacher's Organization.

As you can see, even in a slow year, FCHA remained busy. We look forward to a healthier and brighter 2022, and will hold our first membership meeting in a year on Sunday, January 23rd, at the Glove Factory at 2 p.m. We hope you will be able to attend

Happy New Year ~ Gail

Membership Meeting!

Date: Sunday, January 23, 2022

Time: 2 p.m.

Come between 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. and enjoy a sandwich from The Loading Dock Restaurant!

Program: Tour and Celebration of the Renovation of The Glove Factory

Location: 201 Dallas Street, Mt. Vernon



FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY'S SUMMER READING 2021



FCHA was delighted to sponsor Franklin County Library's Summer Reading program this year. The event is always highly attended and we support any opportunity for children to enjoy reading. FCHA provided pizza and gave each student a coloring book/guide to Dupree Park.



Top: Sheriff Ricky Jones and Deputy Chris Mars join in the fun at the closing party for the Summer Reading program.

Left: Librarian Lisa Lawrence, with staff and volunteers, serve pizza from Milano's as a special treat to student participants in the Summer Reading Program closing party at Dupree Park in the Lowry Pavilion.

Barbara Conley Norris – February 2, 1936 – October 22, 2021



The year 2021 has been rough on our association. We've lost a past president (J.D. Baumgardner); a board member and widow of a past president (Libby Milton); long-time supporters, Charles and Peggy Lowry; librarian and leader, Robert Long, and a host of other members and friends. This newsletter reports the passing of former mayor and director, Darwin McGill, and long-time director and volunteer, Barbara Conley Norris.

Barbara Norris died October 22, 2021. She was born in 1936 to Raymond and Ovetta Conley in Saltillo, Texas.

Barbara graduated from Saltillo High School in 1954. She began her college career that summer at East Texas Teachers College in Commerce. She started working first in the cafeteria and later in an office at the college. She completed her course work in 2-1/2 years, and then, started her student teaching. Barbara began dating Rex Norris and married him a couple of months later on September 21, 1956. She was a member of the Retired Teachers Association, Delta Kappa Gamma, Eastern Star, the Old Saltillo Methodist Church, and our association.

Barbara served as a director of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association and actively supported every community endeavor of the historical association.

She began her teaching career in Daingerfield – Lone Star school district, and retired from there 36 years later. She loved her students especially the first graders. Every year in the fall her family heard "this is the cutest group ever."

There was little she could not do: Sewing, knitting, embroidery, porcelain painting, and gardening were her constant pastimes. Barbara could drive a tractor, run a chainsaw, and play the piano. She was often an assistant to Rex in their many endeavors.

After retirement she and Rex moved to her family's farm in Saltillo. We were fortunate to somehow become the focus of her drive; a drive to volunteer and to serve. She served on our nine-member board of directors for a decade and under her direction, Rex then recruited volunteers to help clear and maintain trails at Dupree Park; to paint historic homes and to erect historic markers; and to move the 1868 Coe log cabin to our Parchman House grounds.

She enjoyed time with family; cooked and canned and share her efforts with friends and neighbors, and traveled widely in the United States and Europe.

During her final years she waged a fierce battle with Alzheimer's and held off the worst for several years. She is survived by her husband, Rex, and her two children, Tammy DeWolf and Randy Norris as well as grandchildren and a wide range of family members. Barbara was good with finances and served as a court-appointed guardian for several elderly infirm residents of this community. She never sought recognition but court records in Franklin County show her record of service in advocating for elder care. In her own life, the health and care provided by her own husband and children was a deserved reward as she herself fell victim to the issues that had befallen the elderly people who had benefit from her care and service.

She lies at Old Saltillo Cemetery.

✓ ✓ ✓ Check This Out!

Cynthia Loftis' niece, Zoe Young, wrote and produced a YouTube video featuring her story about Daphne, the mouse, who visits Daphne Prairie in Franklin County. It's only 14 minutes long and is very entertaining for young children. Here's the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsfgN-1Juw8>

Red Devon Cattle in Mount Vernon

Joel and Laurie Dihle have discovered the versatility of the Red Devon cattle breed and have started their own herd. Drive by their farm located at 6233 FM 1896 in Mount Vernon and you'll see the cattle from the road.

Red Devon Cattle are descendants of ancient cattle breeds from the Southwest of England. Known for their ruby red coat (sometimes leading to the name of Devon Ruby or Red Ruby), the breed are remarkably resilient, lead to quality beef, are great at grass-based production, and have one of the purest genetics of any cattle breed.

Historically, the breed has been valued for their top-notch beef and particularly rich milk (used to make Devonshire Cream) and have been used as draft animals as well. For over the last half century Red Devons have primarily been used for beef, though American Milking Devons can still be found.

Red Devons are known as one of the most active (yet docile) cattle breeds in England. Their hardiness and ability to thrive on rough foliage make the breed an excellent choice for grass-centered production. They have well-adapted coats that are long and curly in the winter, and short and sleek during the summer. Red Devons have the thickest hides of all cattle breeds, helping them resist parasites and remain resilient to temperature changes.

Mature Red Devon Bulls can grow to a weight of 1700 to 2,200 pounds. Mature Red Devon Cows can grow to a weight of 950 to 1,300 pounds. The adaptability and toughness of Red Devons make them one of the best breeds for changing climates.

Red Devons mature at a slower rate than many cattle types, but their beef is often considered of higher quality. Some Red Devons are horned while others are polled. Depending on your preference you should be able to find a starter herd with either of these characteristics.

Joel Dihle has been a long-time board member of FCHA and runs the blacksmith shop behind the Cotton Belt Depot. His interest in knife-making has led him to teach classes at the shop. If you're interested in learning more about Red Devon cattle, or knife-making classes, you may contact him at 309-333-1817.



Laurie and Joel with puppy and Red Devon Cow



Left: Red Devon Bull

Bottom: One of the Red Devon cows in the Dihle herd.





FCHA Members deliver Marland Mansion books to fifth grade students. Pictured are Jerald Mowery, Gail Reed, Middle School Principal Crystal Woodard, Mary Lou Mowery and Pat Hudson.



Students participating in the MVHS Leaders of Tomorrow program visited the Fire Station, Cotton Belt Depot and Parchman House Visitor's Center in November. Rev. Dan Hoke explains how early settlers came to the area and built what was later to become the city of Mount Vernon.

Leaders of Franklin County – An Oral History



Rotarians are having a cook-out about the year 1960. We have Ralph Banks' article recalling Jeff Meredith, father of Don and Jack. Here we have an assemblage of great leaders in our community. It has to be July or August – the mimosa trees are in full bloom.

Landon Ramsay is at the far left. Mr. Norman Dupree, dark sunglasses, is behind Landon. Norman Dupree's daughter, Mary Dupree Scovell, will give our community the 57-acre tract of land adjoining the city limits which our organization now operates as Dupree Park. Jeff is the fifth man from the left; a full head of dark hair; he's about 55 years old in the picture. To Jeff's left is L.D. Lowry, Jr. His family will give the seed money to qualify our organization for a matching grant to build the Lowry Pavilion at Dupree Park, now serving as the site for year-round gatherings. Charlie Brown, county agent for some 40 years stands, front and center. Charlie and his wife Abbie will leave a substantial estate and create a \$100,000.00 endowed scholarship at Northeast Texas Community College which pays tuition for students studying agriculture. The new agricultural facilities at the community college are phenomenal and worth a tour with a working farm and classes in farm management and home economics. Neal Solomon is standing behind Charlie; he serves in the State Legislature as a representative from our district. Landon Ramsay's son, Thomas, will follow the legacy as a state representative in a decade. Brother Richard Perry of the First Methodist church is behind Charlie's left shoulder. Charles Teague has not yet taken a plate. His arms are crossed as he looks to the side. Standing behind Charles' right shoulder is Bill Meek, businessman, gin owner/operator and later our county judge. Our organization arranged oral history interviews of many of these community leaders between 1974 and 1998.

The cassette tapes total about 53 hours of recordings. We have recently paid for digital vocal enhancement and transfer of the tapes to digital format. Our webmaster Luiz Sifuentes says that we can now take the digital information and load podcasts on the web. Luiz is ready to pair the recordings with the wealth of photographs we have on our website.

Be patient, we will load the recordings eventually. The foresight of our predecessors in saving the history is paying off for our generation. For now, check out the huge selection of photographs of the rural school buildings, teachers and students taken by Arthur Cleveland Moffett when he was county judge in the 1930's; he marked the photographs with identification; no small task and a great blessing for our county. We meet the goal of the state historical commission: "Real Places Telling Real Stories."

**DR. JOHN ELLIS (Mt. Pleasant Native) AND VITAMIN B6 THERAPY AUTHOR
HOW THE CURSE OF THE WHITE FLOUR FAD RELATES TO B6**

By Jean Pamplin

The October 16, 1913 issue of the Co-Operators' Herald, tagged "the farmers' own newspaper," went out to subscribers from the Fargo North Dakota Post Office carrying a reprint of a story by Rutledge Rutherford from the New York Sun on page three. The account of how America came into ill health through "Possession of the Curse of the White Bread Fad" was deemed important enough for the Herald's editor, A. M. Baker to reprint it for his readership.

The article began, "Nearly a hundred years ago an epicurean faddist of London, Hugh Paddington, decided to have a novel dinner." As happened, the color white being fashionable, Paddington determined to serve only white foods at his "novel dinner."

A Hungarian miller was charged with changing the normal dark whole grain bread product into something more suitable to Paddington's fancy. The miller accomplished his task by "selecting only the white, lifeless, starchy portions of the grain." By stripping away the nutrient and fiber filled bran, or outer hard covering of wheat, there is a tremendous loss of healthy benefits. Rutherford rather scornfully concluded, "When you buy white flour you pay your money for starch."

Decrying the fact that people often sacrifice taste and health for fashion's sake, the author noted that as the fad spread, "the loosening of teeth, the shattering of nerves and the devitalizing of blood" followed "But nowhere," he lamented, "has the white bread habit made greater headway than in America."

The public demanded of the miller—"Grind it fine and make it white." Then, when the flour could be made no whiter, when all the starch in the wheat had been exhausted, and the housewife still not satisfied, the miller was forced to resort to chemical bleaching. Rutherford noted, "This came near destroying what little life was left in the flour, and introduced a chemical substance which made it all the more harmful." Moldy and bad wheat could thus be bleached and made as white as any other.

At the time the article was written, America was leading the world in consumption of white flour, "Americans used to be very robust, hardy people, with wonderful capacity for endurance. They were rosy of cheek and brawny of build and faced all obstacles fearlessly and resolutely." Then, the author laments, "England set them eating that white bread and their cheeks turned pale, their teeth grew soft and their nerves became unsound. In this day (early 1900s) there is almost no sale for the old-fashioned bread that fed our hardy forefathers. Housewives won't have it when it won't match the tablecloth."

A graph from the Wheat Foods Council in Parker, Colorado, showed the average person in 1910 consumed 210 pounds of wheat flour annually. The average in 1998 was 146 pounds. The wheat kernel or "berry" has three distinct parts: bran, the outer hull or covering of the grain; germ, the embryo inside the kernel; and endosperm, the part of the kernel that makes white flour. Today's milling process separates and recombines them to produce various types of flours.

A quarter of a century after Rutherford's warnings fell on deaf ears, specific amounts of iron and B-vitamins (thiamin, niacin and riboflavin) were being artificially reintroduced into the white flour due to an increase in deficiency issues. The 1941 diet enrichment program became known as "the quiet miracle" because of the major role in the elimination of pellagra, beriberi, and in the reduction of anemia. In 1998, folic acid was introduced as part of the enrichment program to help prevent birth defects. Vitamin B6 hadn't even been discovered at the time Rutherford's article ran. Now we know that the darkest part of wheat hides this nutritious paragon of virtue and Americans willingly threw it out with the bleach water. Dr. John Ellis' clinical research provided the value of vitamin B6 and during his lifetime he lobbied to have it reintroduced into bread products to no avail. B6 is not a proven cure for any one deficiency, a fact that sadly hinders its reintroduction. It does have a cause and effect no one completely understands, and along with other B vitamins is known to be involved in the process of protein metabolism. In a land where more protein is eaten than in virtually any other nation on earth, that's important.

Vitamin B assists 118 enzymes to complete their job in different tissues. And, out of some 20 amino acids which compose protein in our bodies, 19 of those amino acids, through action of enzymes, are dependent on vitamin B6 for their precise and complete degradation.

Methionine, a sulfur containing amino acid is changed in the liver to homocysteine, another amino acid and building block of proteins. When proteins break down, elevated levels of amino acids like homocysteine may be found in the bloodstream and may contribute to those dying each year from coronary heart disease. Moderately large doses of vitamin B6 decrease the amount of homocysteine in urine. Nineteen different amino acids in a human are taken apart by more than 100 enzymes—gene directed—each requires vitamin B6 be taken into the body through food or supplement.

Vitamin B6 therapy is a cure in the early stages for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome, a numbing pain of the wrists and hands, usually attributed to repetitive tasks. The synovium, robbery gaskets, pad our bone joints and thrive on adequate B6 which also can reduce arthritic symptoms. Although B6 does not cure diabetes, it slows down the degeneration and is a healthy inducement for kidneys to work well.

Dr. John Ellis recommended 100 milligrams of vitamin B6 daily for healthy adult individuals. Twenty-five milligrams for children, and up to 300 milligrams daily for persons suffering from major health problems.

It appears the recipe for good health may have more to do with re-establishing the use of whole wheat bread products than could have formerly been envisioned. Rutherford said in his article, “the American woman is not an extremist... but there are exceptions to all ruses..., and in this matter of the white flour craze, she certainly went the limit.”

My personal revelation concerning the above article:

A box of early 1900 newspapers at a Minnesota flea market was a rare find, but heavy to carry. Undecided, a man came out of the blue and commented on the good price. He was right. So, I hefted the box in my arms and carried on. The story of how white bread came to be and how easily health can be compromised was in that treasure box. The wheat hull, where vitamin B6 resides, lost its position of importance in the quest for a loaf of white bread “to match the housewife’s white tablecloth.”

Dr. Ellis could watch a person walk down the hospital hallway and determine if they were B6 deficient. He knew the relationship the vitamin had to brain development and he wanted it made mandatory that every female hitting puberty be given a B6 supplement. He treated women who miscarried with high doses of the vitamin and they carried to term. No one ever did a study, but his B6 babies reached a high status in their education.

Today’s health tragedies continue past the fashion of “white” bread. Consider genetically modified seed. Insects that some of the GMO plants are meant to repel have become geniuses at mutating. Pollen from GMO plants corrupt organic plants. Will we be mutated “super” beings or just plain ol’ sick folks?

Compromised physical health can be difficult to repair. The Great Physician, Himself, needs our cooperation. A doctor at a chemical poisoning workshop concluded the three worst things to have in your home are Styrofoam, plastic and cheap ice cream. Turns out that plastic fillers are used in the production of some ice cream.

George Washington once admonished, “it is well within the province of drug dispensers to aid or injure mankind: hence it behooves each individual to choose his apothecary with utmost discretion.”

Author Thad Snow, From Missouri, copyright 1954, spoke of the standardization of treating malaria fifty years prior, noting that it was known to the medical profession, and chill tonic peddlers “that thirty grains of quinine taken during the twelve hours before ‘chill time’ would always stop (third day) chills like magic.” Snow once suggested to a newspaper editor that he print an article about the treatment, to which, the editor flipped to the many chill tonic ads. The weakened tonic reaped large profits. More recently, author Daniel Haley, Politics in Healing, said the same thing about cancer cures, noting chemotherapy is a commodity. A white tablecloth complete with white bread may be the least of our worries.



These fellows are baking white bread and a variety of baked goods in May 1914. This is the Stephenson Bakery on Smokey Row (the Stephenson House still stands facing Holbrook Street).

Emmett Bradford is on the left; James Stephenson is wrapping the loaf. James will marry Doll Sparks from Weaver, and they will have one child. Their child, Margaret Stephenson, will marry Phil Campbell. Miss Margaret is the beloved first grade teacher in the Mt. Vernon Schools for some 40 years.

A Story - Remembering Jeff Meredith

It was in the winter of 1951 when my Dad, Roger Joe Banks, noticed that I needed a new pair of shoes. So, one cold morning he took me by Jeff Meredith's Dry Goods store, located on East Main Street in Mt Vernon, on the way to work.

We found Jeff in the back of the store next to a gas-fired heater reading the morning paper from Dallas. On my Dad telling Jeff what we were there for, Jeff took one look at my feet and immediately went to his front window and retrieved a pair of shoes that fit me perfectly. Then, after trying on the shoes and telling Jeff that they would be fine, Jeff then went to his cash register and rang up the sale.

But, before he closed the drawer, Jeff took out a gold wrist-watch that his older son, Billy Jack, had been awarded for playing in the recent State high school football all-Star game. (I guess, these football all-Star games were played in the winter in those days.)

Billy Jack had starred as a Tailback-quarterback in Mt Vernon's Spread-Tee Offense, only to have his team lose against the Arlington Colts in the State Quarter-Final game that year; after first defeating the Atlanta Rabbits and Athens Hornets in Bi-District and Regional games.

Anyway, after each of us had taken a look at the watch, Jeff then carefully secured it back in the cash-register.

After Mount Vernon High School, Billy Jack went on to play during his college career as a quarterback for the TCU Horned Frogs, afterward serving in the US Air Force.

Jeff then went on to say that his younger son, Don, was coming along too, and that he was expected to play as a quarterback the next season for the Mount Vernon High School Tigers.

Don played the next season for the MV Tigers, lots of time as a Tailback in the TCU -spread offense. Don is remembered to this day in the Spread Offense against the Terrell Tigers in the first half of the Bi-District game during his high school Sophomore year. But Terrell out-manned the MV squad in that game, winning by a score of 46-7, with players like John and Wayne Boles and James Huffman. The Boles brothers later starred in football for the Arkansas Razorbacks.

Don Meredith went on to be a football and basketball star for MV, being named to football all-State twice. Further, he was a football star for SMU, being named all-America there, and later as one of the first quarterbacks for the professional Dallas Cowboys.

Ralph K. Banks, Austin, TX

Memorials & Honorariums

Donated By:

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Reta Stephenson Eubanks
Stephen Byrd

In Honor Of:

B. F. Hicks
B. F. Hicks & Cynthia Loftis
Howard & Lou Cargile
Gail Reed
Gail Reed
Bob McFarland (BD)

Matt White is a naturalist and historian. He teaches American History at Paris Junior College in Greenville and lives in an old farmhouse—built in 1916—that was dragged by horses over giant post oak trunks a few years later so it would be on the newly-constructed Bankhead Highway, the first paved transcontinental route through the South. He is the author of *Birds of Northeast Texas* and *Prairie Time* and is an occasional blogger on moreprairietime.wordpress.com. He can be reached at: vernonia628@gmail.com.



Sedge Wren

Late November and autumn's afternoon light leans in, re-working the landscape and re-lighting the stage I'd grown used to as summer faded and fall moved in. Now a chill crawls down my collar as the sun sinks lower and lower. I know what that means. Winter is coming.

But so are the birds—especially the wrens that arrive at night on “northers” that leave the grass covered with icy crystals that glisten at dawn but soon fade in the morning sun. A quick peep into any bird field guide reveals that there are some species of wrens in the United States. Six of them regularly visit northeastern Texas. My real joy is a tiny dun-colored one that hides in tall grass and behaves like a mouse. It believes that it's invisible and it almost is!

Meet the Sedge Wren.

One old-time ornithologist called it “one of the shiest, most retiring, and elusive of the wrens.” I would agree with that.

They nest mostly to our north in grassy expanses of the Northern Great Plains and overwinter in Northeast Texas in orange and tan prairies and meadows abandoned by grazers. They dine on a smorgasbord of insects, moths, weevils, beetles, caterpillars, crickets and even grasshoppers.

Perhaps a more appropriate name would be the Meadow Wren or (I like this one better) the Prairie Wren. Like many wrens, they're buffy-brown with a slightly curved bill. Reclusive and fidgety—you have to want to see one: they won't show up on your porch like some wrens will. You have to go searching for them.

I found my first one by accident. I bent down to tie my shoe and two mythical Sedge Wrens up popped up a few feet away. I didn't even need binoculars to see them. Like grassland birds the world over the back was streaked with black and white—which helps it, I am sure, avoid detection by the ever-vigilant harrier patrols that course back and forth searching for a tiny feathered meal.

They gave me a quick look... then vanished. Had I really seen them? Later I began finding them more often—especially stalking tall grass prairies untouched by the plow or old abandoned fields with returning swards when I worked on *Prairie Time*.

Now I search for them in the golden light of late afternoon in seas of grass listening for their muffled burrs which give them away. This is when they are easiest to see. As the sun casts long shadows over the tall grass they may emerge—hesitantly—into bushes and small trees to survey their surroundings. They can sometimes be coaxed into cooperating by forcing a shallow stream of air through pursed lips. Called “pishing” this little trick mimics the sounds birds make to warn each other of danger. Caution: it will only work once or twice. Birds get wise to it pretty quick!

My strategy is to walk slowly, with the sinking sun to my back, toward some twiggy shrub where one might be tempted to pose pishing softly with binoculars ready to swing into position. I'll listen for their dry call—a sputtered djert—from somewhere below the amber waves. Many say they'd have mistaken it for an insect. I'll also look for a blade to shake as one climbs up a grass stem, curious, grasping one blade with one foot and another blade with the other foot. Or perhaps a blur of movement will alert me as one fidgets in the netherworld. Sometimes they fly off—energetic, and in a straight line just above the grass—before dropping suddenly like a rock into the grass where they run like a mouse.

The sun will be gone when I return home, bracing against the darkness and the gathering chill. But inside I feel a part of something much larger by witnessing something so tiny.

Lake Cypress Springs – Historical Development

In 1971, Robert W. Caldwell (firm name: Robert W. Caldwell and Associates, Urban and Regional Planning Consultants, Bryan, Texas) submitted a 109 page Land Use and Recreation Plan for Lake Cypress Springs. The reported was addressed to the Directors of the Franklin County Water District. Doris Meek, historical association president at that time, placed her copy in our archives. We have typeset the document.

The District's History:

In 1965, C.H. Duval, County Judge of Franklin County, Texas appointed a committee composed of W.C. Newsome, Landon Ramsay, Horris Morris, A.J. Laws, and D.O. Aldridge to serve as a Committee for the Formation of a Fresh Water Supply District in Franklin County. The Supply District was to include all of the land area within the County.

The first meeting of the Committee was held on March 23, 1965, in the Franklin County Courthouse at Mount Vernon, Texas for the purpose of the election of officers. At that meeting, Mr. W.C. Newsome was elected President and Mr. Horris Morris was elected Secretary. Also, the consulting engineering firm of Wisenbaker, Fix and Associates of Tyler and Denison, Texas were requested to submit a contract for engineering services for approval by the Committee, and a fiscal agent was employed.

On June 19, 1965, the Franklin County Water District was created as a conservation and reclamation district by the State Legislature (H.B. No. 1161). In this creative legislation, W.C. Newsome, Landon Ramsay, Horris Morris, A.J. Laws, and D.O. Aldridge were named as Directors of the Franklin County Water District. On June 25, 1965, the Directors met and elected W.C. Newsome, President, Landon Ramsay, Vice President, and Horris Morris, Secretary, which positions they have held continuously since that date. Mr. K.P. Lester succeeded Mr. Aldridge in April, 1969.

On October 17, 1966, a petition was submitted to the Board of Directors requesting the Directors to call an election to abolish the Franklin County Water District. This petition was denied by the Board. Attorney Woodrow Edwards of Mount Vernon and the firm of Clark, Thomas, Hanis, Denuis, and Winters, Attorneys of Austin, Texas, were retained to represent the District in the lawsuit which followed and in which the District was successful. This case, however, was in court for more than a year and the District was delayed for that time in making progress toward the construction of the reservoir, as well as acquisition of the land.

While the lawsuit was in progress, the District acquired the area which was to include the dam site and necessary adjoining lands, and on May 6, 1968, after the suit was completed, entered into a contract, with the approval of the Texas Water Development Board, with the Vilbig Construction Company of Dallas, Texas, for construction of the dam. The estimated original cost of the dam was \$1,262,000.00. Subsequently, it was decided to enlarge the dam so that a Farm-to-Market Road could later be constructed across the top of it. This, with other increased costs, occasioned an amendment to the original Master Agreement, dated November 14, 1968, so as to allow for a new project cost of \$3,700,000.00.

The normal water level in the new Lake Cypress Springs inundates 3,425 acres, all of which has been cleared of timber and undergrowth, leaving approximately 2,897 acres of District property above that level. Lake Cypress Springs was somewhat unusual in development. The District purchased 6,322.278 acres of land from 54 land owners, yet no houses or barns had to be removed, and only one road, one power line, and one oil pipeline had to be relocated. It is further unique in that because the Lake is primarily spring fed. The water temperature is approximately 72 degrees F even in the very hot summer months, prompting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to stock the Lake with Walleye, a Northern Pike fish. This stocking of walleye is the southernmost point in North America for that species. In addition to the Walleye, the Lake is amply stocked with Bass, Catfish, Perch, and Bream.

Lake Cypress Springs is located south of Mount Vernon and east of State Highway 37 in the rolling hills of North-East Texas. The Lake's shoreline is heavily wooded, with steep slopes and many fine wooded points or peninsulas jutting out into the Lake, permitting excellent views. The Lake is centrally located in respect to North and Northeast Texas, Southwestern Arkansas, and northeast Louisiana, and is less than 100 miles from the Cities of Dallas, Tyler, Texarkana, and Shreveport, Louisiana. The area is easily accessible via interstate and state highways. The area lies th of Interstate 30, which connects Dallas and Texarkana and traverses the south side of the City of Mount Vernon, and 50 miles north of Interstate 20 which connects Dallas to Tyler and Shreveport, Louisiana.

Franklin County, one of the smaller Counties in Texas, had a 1970 population of 5,291, an increase of 3.7% over the 1960 population. The County population is 84% rural and 16% urban. The City of Mount Vernon, the County Seat, has a present population of 1,806, a 35% increase over its 1960 population. The economy of the area has

historically been dominated by the petroleum industry, followed closely by agriculture. The area climate normally ranges from a January low of 35 degrees to a July high of 94 degrees; however, temperatures do exceed 100 degrees for short periods. The growing season is 234 days with an average annual rainfall of 44.78 inches.

10c Per Copy

Mt. Vernon Optic-Herald

VOLUME 95—NO. 39 MOUNT VERNON (FRANKLIN COUNTY), TEXAS THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 1970 ON THE BROADWAY OF AMERICA

185 Days WITHOUT A FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENT IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

Farmers Of County Provide Large Income For Area

240 Applications Are In For South Franklin Water

Seventy applications for water were turned in and processed by the steering committee for the South Franklin Water Supply Company at their meeting at Carl Major's home Tuesday night to bring the total number of applications to 240. Committee members reported that several applications are pending which have not been completed and turned in.

The committee approved an additional assessment of \$30.00 plus other necessary costs for applications turned in after the engineer begins detailed plans and specifications for the system.

Jerry Swartz and Carl Majors were instructed to contact Jack Pope, County Supervisor for the Farmers Home Administration, on Thursday regarding an engineer to make survey to determine if proposed water system is practical and feasible.

The committee discussed the fact that several communities are not participating in the water program which makes it impossible to serve the people in these areas who need water.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The next meeting of the committee will be at the George Lester home with the date to be announced later.

High School Honor Roll Is Announced

Rufus Bolger, principal of the Mt. Vernon High School, announced this week the names of the high school students who are on the honor roll for the last six weeks of school.

They are, twelfth grade, Virginia Ball, Kathy Jones; eleventh grade, Melba Cortez, Johnny Hicks, Mary Jane Seay; tenth grade, Rone; ninth grade, Jan Barman, Jerry Bass, Kenneth Correll.

Vending Machines Broken Into Here

Sheriff Bobby Dickerstaff reported this week that vending machines at two places of business had been broken into within the past 10 days with small amounts of cash being taken in both instances.

The cigarette machine at Gordon Lloyd's Allied Station was broken into on the night of June 1.

The Coca-Cola machine at Bill Long Motors was broken into on the night of June 4.

Food Prices Rise Only Three-Fourths As Much As Other Goods

By Charlie Brava

The consumer's (that's us) best friend is the farmer. He has supplied us with an abundance of high quality food, in great variety and at bargain prices. During the last decade food prices rose less than three-fourths as much as other consumer goods rise primarily to farmer efficiency. The American farmer is producing over 20 percent more on six percent fewer acres than he did 10 years ago. One farm worker now supplies food and fiber for 45 persons or twice the rate of a decade ago.

Consumer income increases exceeded food expenditures rises, leaving families extra money to buy other things. The average family in 1969 spent less than \$1 out of each \$8 to feed the family. No other country approaches this record. Rising incomes enabled consumers to buy more food services even though surpluses increased the food bill.

Rising incomes also let us indulge our tastes for preferred foods, and our good friend, the farmer, has shifted his production patterns to keep up with them. We are greater consumers of quality, beef, vegetable oils, processed vegetables and fruits and sugar than 10 years ago.

Less labor is needed to pay for our food today than

We're proud of these results, but see this amount doubling by 1978. We are so used to seeing our people leave our small towns to move to the big cities, it's hard to believe that we may be on the verge of migration back to the country. We've got the stage set for it. It could turn out to be a great nightmare for the farmers or a great opportunity. What we and other farmers do about it will determine which.

1970 net farm income may be close to \$16 billion—the same as last year. Livestock receipts may be larger with crop sales about the same. Continued rise in farm costs may upset predictions on level of farm income. Also declining business activity and raised up international interest may have unfavorable impact on domestic and foreign sales.

More uncertainty creeps into the outlook for business in months ahead. Unemployment is up and production is slackening. Inflation continues and interest rates show little sign of coming down. Fitters stock market, domestic unrest and the turbulent international scene cast shadows over immediate prospects for orderly readjustment and return to

THESE LARGE FLAT ROCKS have been removed from fill dirt for the dam on Lake Franklin County by workmen removing the dirt from the emergency spillway for the lake. The rocks have caused considerable discussion by area residents visiting the site. The lake basin may be seen in the background between the trees that will lie along the shore of the lake. A large portion of the dam has reached its final height and it is expected that it will be closed in August or September.

Commissioners Approve 33 1/3%



Top: The Optic-Herald of June 18, 1970, reports that the dam is nearing its final height; that the dam is expected to be completed in August or September - some two months off.

Left: June 18, 1970, photograph provided by the newspaper showing dam and roadbed looking west in cleared dry lakebed.

Darwin McGill – August 6, 1931 – October 19, 2021



Ronald Darwin McGill was born August 6, 1931, to Marlin and Reba Crump McGill in Greenwood, Hopkins County, Texas. He graduated from Sunset High School in 1949 and from North Texas State University in 1962. He also attended graduate school taking municipal administration courses. He married Constance Almy French on February 13, 1976.

He worked for Neiman Marcus from 1950-1954 in the Marketing and Receiving Division. He moved to Goodyear Tire and Rubber where he became Night Supervisor of Data Processing from 1955-1964 which allowed him to earn his degree. He began his municipal career with the City of Irving in 1964, initially as Supervisor of Data Processing. He later served as Personnel Director and Assistant City Manager. He was named City Manager for the City of Lewisville, Texas from 1977 to 1985, and he concluded his career as City Manager for the City of Hereford, Texas from 1985 to 1991.

He was involved in many civic and municipal organizations throughout his career, serving on Advisory Boards and held various offices with the Texas City Managers Association and Texas Municipal League. He was President and a Director of the Noon Day Kiwanis Club in Hereford, as well as the Director of Community Concerts.

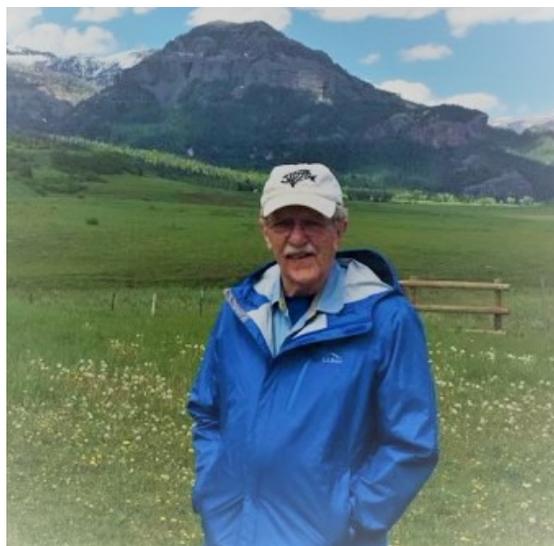
Darwin and Connie retired to their hill country farm in Zephyr, Texas in 1991 where he served as Rural Representative to the Brown County Chamber of Commerce. In 1996, they relocated to Mt. Vernon, where Darwin served two terms as City Commissioner, one term as Mayor, charter President of the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club, Director of the Franklin County Historical Association, member of the Franklin County Arts Alliance and Library Board. He also served as Vice President of the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association.

Darwin was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Mount Vernon, and a recipient of the Rotary Club's Paul Harris Award for community service.

He is survived by wife, Constance (Connie), daughter Rebecca McGill Bennett, son Robert McGill, and nephew Michael McGill. He was preceded in death by a daughter Stephanie McGill Baldock (Mel). After 45 years of marriage, Connie's two children (Doug Franch and Sally Tyler) were included in Darwin's family memorial as full family; a wonderful blend.

Editor's note: it was easy to just repeat the obituary which recounts Darwin's life of service. He served each community he called home. Aren't we lucky that Mt. Vernon received that designation over the past 25 years of his life. The obituary sets forth the facts; the loss for our organization is understandable. Here is one more member of community lost in this painful year. One more great servant for the town who was out joining with the members of his generation (particularly Rex Norris, J.D. Baumgardner, Ron Milton, to name only a few); serving our community.

Remembering... with Dan Hoke



Reception Frustration

Rabbit ears apply to more things than bunnies. At Easter they adorn festive headdresses for kids. Hugh Hefner arranged rabbit ears on the heads of show girls to look daring; but mostly they were demeaning for the rabbit ears and the wearers. And there were rabbit ears on our TV.

I'll bet you remember them. Two 18 inch long stems formed a V-shaped antenna to sit on top of the TV. We moved the rabbit ear antenna across the top or side-to-side to enhance the picture. Our first TV was a 19 inch black and white Zenith unit. It was glorious even with the one channel available. Without a rabbit ears antenna however, the picture was fuzzy at best and zigzagging at worst.

Back in the day, TV reception was frustrating. Maybe rain, snow, sleet and hail didn't stop the postal carrier. But it sure interfered with TV reception. For unexplained reasons, sound would stutter and the pictures fade into a beige white motion or into a picture of electric black and white snow. Sometimes the scene would return to tease us; then abruptly dissolve into a taupe looking mess.

In the average working class home, there were only two remedies for better reception, or "upgrade" in today's parlance. Some folks found relief by squeezing strips of tin foil on the rabbit ears being sure to let some strips drape down. Alas, that remedy seemed to work only for your neighbor's TV. The favored remedy was the pole antenna. A hash-tag looking shape of crisscrossing stem tentacles was the antenna. It was bolted on a steel or aluminum pole. Anchored at the bottom, the pole antenna it was held in place with an attachment to the roof.

The pole was to be rotated until the picture improved. The needed adjustments required two people, one inside and another outside. The outside member was the "Rotator" – either the Dad or oldest son – to get on the roof to turn the antenna framework. The inside member was the "Shouter," either Mom or the oldest daughter. Located near an open window yet in sight of the TV, the Shouter would yell directions to the Rotator: "Turn, turn..., NO! NO!... Stop, Stop!... That's too far..., Go back, Go back,.. Just a little bit more... There! THAT'S IT!... Lock it down!"

The Rotator would tighten the anchor bolt mounted on the roof, which frequently shifted the setting enough for the results minded Shouter to again yell new instructions. And that readjust routine continued until either the Rotator got tired and climbed down or the Shouter decided that was the best they'd get.

"Yes," a windy day or thunder storm would often require readjustments. But that antenna did enable us to get another channel to watch; yet not without the annoyance of frequent picture disruptions. All-in-all, the more available channels was deemed worth it, albeit frustrating.

We've forgotten the promise of relief from reception disruptions when cable TV came into our area. And with internet and streaming TV we are way past that now. Really? With internet streaming or satellite TV, I'm still hearing sound breakup and seeing pictures fade into white motion or a frozen frame with a spinning circle in the center. Not to overlook the flashed notices that I won't be seeing the program I selected. With all the novel receptions, there is still the same frustration. At least I don't have to get on the roof and rotate anything.

Stereoscope Report

In last newsletter we ran an article about recent acquisitions for the museum and then we reported on stereoscopes and included a photo of a stereoscope and some stereoscope cards.

A week after putting that newsletter in the mail, I had a request for some background information on Dr. Byron Louis Bennett, first assistant to Dr. Jonas Salk in the development of the polio vaccine. Dr. Bennett is a graduate of Mt. Vernon High School; he is soon at Harvard University; and has a distinguished career in the study of infectious disease. His grave lies about 15 feet south of my family's plot in the Mt. Vernon City Cemetery.

I am reviewing photographs of the Bennett family and I study a photo of his mother and father made before their marriage. The photo will date from about 1900. Matilda Taylor is holding a stereoscope. Louis Bennett is holding several stereoscope cards. Just as reported in our newsletter, a popular form of entertainment before the advent of television (or even movies). Matilda Taylor Bennett is the sister of Dr. Fred Taylor of Winfield; see related article in this newsletter. We have Dr. Taylor's picture; he has married Melissa Hague. Dr. Taylor's sister is Matilda; she will marry Louis; they have the son, Byron, another son, and the daughter, Winnie Bennett Petty who will teach bookkeeping and typing in Mt. Vernon Schools for decades.

The Texas Historical Commission's theme for several years has been: "Real Places Telling Real Stories." Aren't we good in Franklin County? – *Your president, B.F. Hicks*



As seen in our last newsletter, Louis Bennett holding slides and wife, Matilda, holding the stereoscope.

Forging into the Future!

Join us on Monday night, January 24, 2022 at 6 p.m., as the Cub Scouts tour our Fire Station Museum and technology director Luiz Sifuentes demonstrates our newest technology!

Taylor Gym and other Winfield History
Excerpts from Jean Pamplin's interview with P.D. "Shine" Fleming, March 10, 2006
@ Sue's Beauty Shop, Winfield. (Added information in parenthesis.)

(The Taylor gym in Winfield, TX was an early gathering place for Franklin and Titus County athletes. In those days stories of big wins spread like wildfire from mouth to mouth.. Mt. Vernon's 2021 football fame spreads further through online media but the heart of the win is the same. Listen to what 'Shine' remembered about Taylor Gym and other misc. Winfield and area history.)

..."It was a big old building, huge gym, wouldn't attempt to guess its size. It cost a nickel when I was a kid to get in to see a game. There was always someone with a shovel ready to dig under the wall to get some kids in. It stood where the Winfield Volunteer Fire Station stands (still there but now used by the city), faced the same way. There was a good hardwood floor and then dirt under the bleachers about six foot from the walls. There were six or seven rows of seats on each side. I remember playing basketball in 1938. Mt. Vernon beat Winfield every time we played each other. In 1939, the last year I played, we whipped Mt. Vernon by 11 points. The next year Mt. Vernon went to State and won second place. Anybody could rent the gym for \$5 to play a game. That would cover the cost of electricity and some cleaning. Dr. Taylor built the gym about 1930-31. his two boys could play basketball. (Others remember the wood stove that heated the gym and the pop of the tin during a rain.

...He (Dr. Taylor) was a old country doctor. He traveled from here (Winfield) to Sugar Hill. He treated you whether you had the money to pay him or not. And if you had money you paid for the other fella. Many times he left out in the morning and might be the next day before he got back. People kept stopping him. He seemed to know something about every problem. When he bought a car, he never drove it himself. He always had a driver. Winfield had two doctors, him and Dr. Beck. Both good doctors. Dr. Taylor liked his whiskey, never seen him refuse a drink, but never seen him when you could call him drunk.

...I have an old paper, it didn't copy well, so I can't make out the names of the businesses, but in 1905 there were 24 businesses in Winfield. I have a bill of groceries from the Cargil Grocery Company Wholesale. Three cartons of tobacco were listed on it at \$1.16 a carton and there were twelve cans to a carton. W. C. Barrett gave me that receipt. There were three banks: The Winfield State Bank, Winfield National Bank and First National Bank of Winfield.(The First National Bank building and the building east of it are the only surviving brick buildings in Winfield. My daughter Anissa, just opened the Rooted Home Co. in the east building where Charles Shafer and his family once lived. His mom ran a cafe in the front of the building. Rooted Home Co. is officially open Thurs-Sat from 10-5, but if you see a car parked there when you are in town, stop and ask her to show you the two buildings. The walls seep history. The Depression hit and the bank eventually closed. The bank vault was moved to Lowry's Furniture Store in Mt. Vernon. Several businesses existed after that, including a millinery, but the longest term renter became the Amazing Grace Church of Christ. The positive effect of the Lord's presence still lingers.)

...Howard Cody had a Station by the gym. Across the tracks there were another few stations. The old road traveled along the same route as I-30, then curved and come through town, then back, same as it did in Mt. Vernon. The road always went through the towns. I believe Highway 67 was completed around 1948. There were two gins, 3 barbershops, a candy kitchen, the best café, Loise Sparkman had a café. There were two good grocery stores, Beck's and Brantley's. (Brantley was one-eyed). Bill Beck's girlfriend was staying with Brantley. Bill and him got in a fight with a knife and Bill hit Brantley in the eye with the knife during the scuffle. There was a café by Dr. Taylor's office. Glen Robinson had a café there. In the back of Brantley's store there was a cleaner's. The old jail was down there. It seems like it had seven small stalls made out of a grid of steel bars. Dr. Taylor had an office over by the jail. The jail was a wood building and had several strap metal cells. It was there a long time."

Notice!

Beginning in 2022 our FCHA newsletter will be published quarterly.

If you have a topic you would like to see covered, please let us know and we'll do our best to include it!



Dr. Fred Taylor and wife, Melissa.



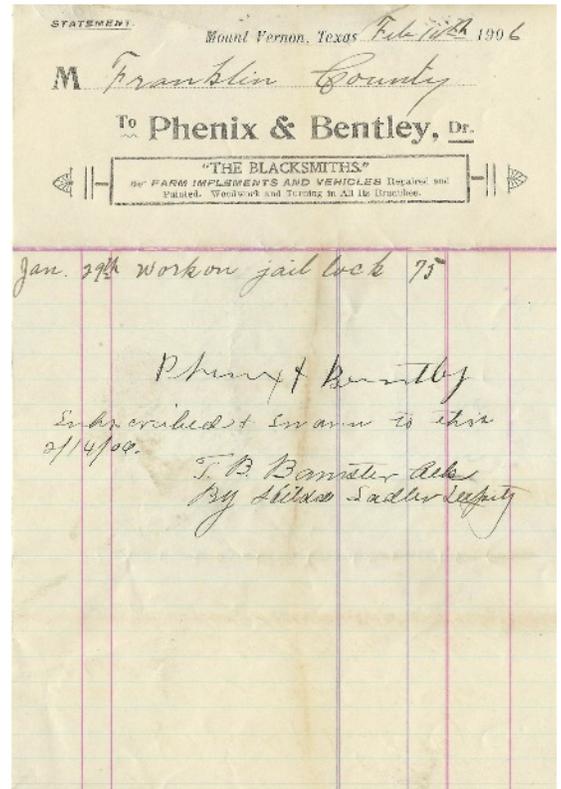
Dr. Fred Taylor in later years.

Commentary for the 1906 Invoice from Phenix and Bentley

Readers take note.

In April 1849 the present plat for the town of Mt. Vernon was drawn up. The square was laid out (in 1913, concrete foundations were poured with metal rails to tie up teams of horses with wagons and buggies). Houston Street extended along the east side of the square and blacksmith shops operated on South Houston, keep up a steady stream of smoke along that row. A 1910 insurance company map actually shows a coal warehouse on the east side of South Houston toward the railroad tracks (rails were laid about 1887 and rail travel continued with passenger service until 1958). Our organization did not have the opportunity for input as to the 1875 date installed on the new entry for Smokey Row. The county was created in 1875; the city predates it a quarter-century. A blacksmith shop actually operated down on Smokey Row through the mid-1950's before the mechanization of agriculture finally ends the need for continued operation. Before the courthouse was moved from the town square over to the present location, Jim Teague operated a blacksmith shop on the location. In 1912, Teague moved his shop over to Smokey Row and operated along with other blacksmiths. A later generation saw Charles Teague selling automobiles on East Main. It is good to showcase our history but I'm quite sure that Smokey Row was producing a good bit of smoke a decade or so before the assigned year 1875.

The invoice we reproduce is dated February 10, 1906. Note the services offered for the community. The invoice will be for work on a lock at the jail (attached to the courthouse in the center of the square). That same lock is probably still in use in the "old jail" located north of the courthouse. When the 1878 courthouse was torn down, the cells were salvaged and installed in the jail north of the present courthouse.



Musings on Travel
From the President's Pen ~ B.F. Hicks

In our last newsletter, I reflected on the wanderings of James Fanning – traveling across Tennessee, Mississippi, back and forth to Texas before settling on South Holbrook Street in Mt. Vernon; all before the Civil War.

And my own great-grandmother's travels from Arkansas back to her grandmother's home in South Carolina after both parents died during the War.

My brother John had reported on the growth of automotive traffic in the first decades of the new century. Even with the advent of automobile travel, my own mother had spoken often of taking the train into Dallas for shopping trips (I think they could make a round-trip in one day).

So, my current continuing fascination with the ability of our ancestors to travel about the country.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, both of my nephews are visiting my home. In the division of family heirlooms I had ended up with a fine golden oak roll top desk purchased at the Guy P. Hill store about 1912. This is the desk of my grandfather John M. Hicks (1877-1952). The man was so loved and revered by his family; at his desk the contents were fairly well sealed. In my childhood I only remember the closed top; and no drawers were ever opened. That was pretty much the case until 1987 when his daughter who guarded the old home passed on. My dad took the desk; and with his death in 1998 I moved the desk to my own home. I had looked inside; that was about it.

There was a cigar box; my dad or someone had written "Knives." I left it at that. The nephews like knives. We went to the desk; pulled out the cigar box and I told them "split these up." My dad had actually put paper around a few of the knives with some identification. Under the knives: I never thought. A good inch of letters mailed to my grandfather from his older brother Walter who lived in Bonham, Texas. I'll scan them and load on ancestry. Under those letters: several tokens.

I passed the knives on to the nephews. I latched onto the letters. And now I have studied the tokens. They would not mean much except here is a souvenir piece stamped "John M. Hicks – Mt. Vernon, Texas"; and the piece is issued at Carlsbad Caverns, N.M. Probably about 1906, he was traveling out west prior to his 1906 marriage and I have some post cards he sent to family here but to have this tangible souvenir after a century and never having realized I had it. Other pieces include an 1895 token from a Cotton Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia and a 1904 piece which seems to have been issued in connection with the St. Louis World's Fair.

Carlsbad Caverns isn't discovered until sometime between 1898 and 1901; early tourists were lowered into the caverns in buckets. In the 1920's the governments takes over some administration. What drove "Granddad" to go out to those caverns?

I admit it: we are packrats; my family on both sides. And there are souvenirs and hundreds of postcards. But I thought I had spotted everything. No, I hadn't. What a pleasant surprise to know that my own wanderlust is rooted in the spirit of my father's people; my dad riding the rails in the 1930's (and he admitted nights in jail when rounded up) but now to have the grandfather's souvenirs which he had held until the end of his own life. The rails made my grandfather's travels possible also and his curiosity in visiting these sites instills a real sense of pride for me as his heir. I'll add them to our archival holdings (and I'll load images on ancestry to share with his descendants).



Left Photos: Front and back of Atlanta, Ga. Token (1895)

Middle Photos: Front and back of Hicks Token

Right Photos: Front and back of One-Cent Token (St. Louis Exposition - 1904)



New & Renewing 2022 Memberships

Dues are payable for the calendar year and include Individual/\$15, Family/\$25, Patron/\$50-\$99, and \$100 & above/Sponsor memberships. The list below is current through December 29, 2021. If you have sent in dues and do not find your name on the list, please call our office at 903-537-4760 and we will update our records! Thanks for all your contributions and support!

Sponsor Level

Burgdorf, T. C.	McGrady, Amy
Burnett, Sally	Moses, Linda
Eggen, Alexandra	Mowery, Jerald & Mary Lou
Frazier, Kay	Myers, Helen
Green, J. D. & Debi	Newsom, Rodney & Debbie
Greer, Ken & Frankie Cooper	Pamplin, Ed & Jean
Griffith, Mike & Lamanda	Rutherford, Charles & Annette
Harvey, Edee	Saragusa, Michael & Annette
Harvey, Scott	Schaefer, Derick & Claudia
Helton, Wayne & Debby	Shelton, Glen & Dianna
Hicks, B. F.	St. Clair, Jimmy
Jordan, Dale	Stanley, John
Jumper, Don & Elva	Stinson, Ramona
Lavender, Jim & Sue	Stringer, Iona
McGill, Connie	Wright, Steve & Patsy

Patron Level

Armstrong, Chuck & Nikki	Hudson, Sid & Pat
Averitt, Ruth	Lange, Larry & Mary
Boatner, John & Julann	Lunsford, George & Reba
Castle, John	Martin, Russell & Janet
Chaddick, Rodney	Neely, Ruby
Clark, Jim	Reed, Gail
Coe, Joe & Janet	Scott, Larry & Yvonne
Coleman, Larry & Nancy	Smith, Karen
Delaney, Dan & Bettye	Trantham, Kayton
Hubbell, Jerry & Elease	

Family & Individual

Andrews, Joe & Jan	Jones, Freddie Ray & Alice
Ballard, Jim & Christine	Lewis, Jason & Lauren
Benoy, Warren & Sue	Lightfoot, Harold & Betty
Brown, Phyllis K.	Long, Jim & Sara
Calvert, Clint & Laura	Miller, Mark & Ute
Clark, Craig & Christina	Monzingo, Vivian
Cowser, Robert	Newsom, June
Craig, Tom	Newsom, Ricky
Divin, Sheryl & Kelly Briley	Odum, Betty
Dunlap, Jr., Perry Ray	Overstreet, Mike & Lynn
Easterling, Don	Reed, Michael & Meredith
Evetts, Anne	Richmond, John
Fountain, Keitron & Tina	Sears, Walter & Margaret
Furman, Jean	Speaks, Gina
Gibbs, Nat Paul & Shirley	Stutts, Cindy
Hammond, Linda	Stutts, Peggy
Harper, Sue Ann	Van de Laar, Walter
Hicks, Johnny	Van Dieden, Arnie
Hoke, Dan & Myrna	Wesson, Hal & Jamie
Holder, Nora	West, Cody
Howell, Kay	Wright, Pat
Jaggers, Kay	Yates, Chock & Marcy



A New Newspaper Comes to Franklin County

Santa brought a present to Mount Vernon this year – a new newspaper that will be called the Mount Vernon News. The Community Chronicle publishes electronic and print newspapers for communities in Northeast Texas, and they are going to add a Mount Vernon newspaper. They expect to publish their first edition of the Mount Vernon News early in 2022.

Jimmy Rogers, a partner in The Community Chronicle, will take the lead in managing the Mount Vernon News. Many of us know Jimmy from his time as pastor of the Mount Olive Baptist Church in Hagansport.

The story of the newspaper dates back to last summer when there was much distress about the closing of the Optic Herald. For many of us the Optic played a critical role in keeping track of the happenings in our local government, the School, and our community. Here is what happened:

Kitty Ramsay decided that something had to be done, and she recruited a small group to develop a plan for an electronic newspaper.

Ken Greer's daughter Amy Greer Henderson offered an electronic newspaper from her hometown in Alabama as a model that would be good fit for Mount Vernon.

Luiz Sifuentes, an information technology teacher in Mount Vernon ISD, began creating the software platform that would be needed to get the paper on line.

Donna McFarland agreed to coordinate the effort until a full time editor could be found.

Amy and Donna worked together to put out an on-line survey to test the demand for a newspaper. The response was an overwhelming "We need a newspaper".

The development group grew larger and was in the process of developing a workable plan for an electronic newspaper when The Community Chronicle approached Susan and John Reeves about buying the Optic. Susan referred them to the fledgling group of locals. There was a series of meetings, and an agreement was reached. The Community Chronicle would take over responsibility for the Mount Vernon News.

The new Mount Vernon News will ask local volunteers to provide content and photos. Sharpen your writing skills and watch for Jimmy Rogers' invitation to participate.

Submitted by Bob McFarland

2022

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
Franklin County Historical Association
P. O. Box 289
Mount Vernon, TX 75457
903-537-4760

Memberships are based on the calendar year.
Members joining mid-year will receive all publications for that year.

Name _____	Class of Membership & Dues:
Address _____	Individual—\$15.00
City, State, Zip _____	Family—\$25.00
Phone: _____	Patron—\$50.00
Email: _____	Sponsor—\$100.00

I would like to receive my newsletter via email. Check here. _____

Indicate your membership class and mail your dues check to:
FCHA, P.O. Box 289, Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

2022 DUES

Please fill in the above contact information. Circle membership class.

Dues for 2022 (Includes subscription to bi-monthly newsletter) \$ _____

Special tax deductible contribution for operations and maintenance: \$ _____

Special contributions may be designated as memorials or honorariums. Please list the name of the person memorialized or honored, and the name and address of the receipt for notice of your donation:

In Memory/In Honor of: _____

Notice to: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

We need volunteers! Could you work an occasional four-hour shift at one of our museums or a few hours in the office? _____ Yes, call me to schedule. Phone # _____