



Retrospect

Denton County
Historical
Commission

Winter
December 2014

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**NEXT
DCHC
MEET-
ING,
Special
Date:**

**Jan. 8
3:00 pm**

Texas Historical Commission Awards Undertold Story Marker for Buelah Harriss

Girl Scout Elise Clements wins award honoring Denton Girl Scouts founder

Winning a Texas Historical Commission (THC) marker—valued at almost \$2,000—as one of only seventeen awarded in the Undertold Story competition is a tremendous accomplishment. When the application was initiated by and the narrative written by a 12-year-old Girl Scout, that is simply awesome.

Elise Clements, a student at Denton's Strickland Middle School, accomplished just that a few weeks ago. Her subject for the Undertold Story application, a THC program that began in 2006 to address historical gaps, promote diversity and proactively document significant untold or untold stories, was Miss Beulah Ann Harriss who came to Denton 100 years ago.

Miss Harriss arrived as the first athletic instructor at North Texas Normal College (now the University of North Texas). Along with coaching a women's basketball team that went undefeated for three years, earning the college its first intercollegiate trophy, Miss Harriss organized the first Girls Scout troop in Denton.

"In Girl Scouts we say, 'A Girl Scout Can Do Anything'. That is the true definition of



Elise Clements, 13, submitted the narrative for Buelah Harriss (photo) selected as one of seventeen "Undertold Story" marker recipients by the Texas Historical Commission.
—Photo by Judy Clements

who Miss Beulah was. Back in the early 1900's she did things most women wouldn't dare to do. To see the pictures of her on the Athletic Council with all these men and only one woman on it, it took courage for her to

See "Harriss" on page

TRIVIA: Which former Denton County Sheriff, having successfully closed down the saloons in the early 1900s, came out of retirement in 1924; elected again at age 73 to take on bootleggers and the Yancey Story gang? Answer on page 5

Chairman's Corner by Beth Stribling



DCHC Members at dedication of Donald Rd & Gregory Rd bridges at the Denton County Administrative complex. L-R:

Veronica Maldonado, Morgan Gieringer, Annell Bradford, Lloyd Webb, Beth Stribling, Connie Baker, Rynell Novak, Rachel Crowe, Andy Eads, DJ Taylor and Don Beckel.

Photo by Robin Davis

Like Mindedness - United by Our Love of History

I love looking at this photo! It was taken at the Donald Road Bridge and Gregory Road Bridge Markers Dedication on Oct. 23 at the Memorial Island in the Denton County Administrative Complex. When I look at it I see a group of people, intergenerational, with strong connections as members of the Denton County Historical Commission - all sharing the love of history – especially Denton County history. Like mindedness - yes! What makes this so special are their happy smiling faces – laughing together at ourselves or maybe just laughing at something funny beyond the camera. What really makes this special to me is that I have had the opportunity to work with all of these members throughout my 2013-2014 term as Chairman of DCHC. And I know how committed they are in their work for the historical commission.

This group in the photo is only a small representation of the 50 or so hard working and dedicated members and associate members who make up the DCHC. I could have repeated this photo many times over with different faces depicting and celebrating multiple projects and events; all actions that have helped us to grow

our own history in our towns and cities throughout our county. I know their leadership and actions will keep us moving forward into 2015-2016. My thanks go out to all for this strong commitment to historical preservation. *It has been my pleasure and an honor to work with these like-minded commission members - united by their love of history!*

—Beth Stribling

Retrospect is published quarterly by the
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Veronica Maldonado

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Rynell Novak

and a host of contributors

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Introducing Our Incoming Chair—

We Are Denton County and Still We Stand

By Mary Charlotte Shepherd Mooneyham,
2015-2016 Chair

History *thunders down the corridors of time** and that thunder is approaching at an accelerated rate and is so loud that the voices of the past and the tokens of time might be silenced and lost. The Denton County Historical Commission and the Denton County Office of History and Culture exist as amplifiers for the voices, past and present. Together, these groups link Denton County across continents speaking for the past and in small and large ways, shaping the future.

My family (maternal and paternal) has been in Denton and Collin Counties since the middle of the 19th Century as settlers. Native American records before the Dawes Roll were oral and the story tellers of the native people are often gone. Their stories are only silent whispers but many of us have ancestors who were in Denton County thousands of years ago.

I am so grateful that the Denton County Courthouse still stands in the 21st Century. From the wood, the metal, and the stone, the building speaks. Recording the stories of cemeteries, homes, WPA public works; including city sidewalks and art remain on-

going projects. I think we want to hear other structures speak their stories in ways like the courthouse. If those structures stand, we can hear the stories.

My goal, as chair, is to represent the Denton County organizations' goals; the goals of the members. Maybe the beloved, restored fire truck could find a home in the 1927 City Hall, where the fire trucks were once parked in the garage at street level on the west side of the building. The committees and members will shape the goals. Please share with any committee and/or with me what you would like to see accomplished.

I was asked to introduce myself but I know the mission, hearing and echoing the voices of others, supersedes me. I have taught (history and education) for 43 years, 37 in Frisco, currently at Texas Woman's University, and concurrently in Frisco while also at the University of North Texas or Collin College. I am vice president of the Aubrey Historical Society and a life member of the Frisco Heritage Association. Wherever I am, my heart beats in Denton County.

*The quote, *thundering down the corridors of time* is attributed to an evolutionist in the late 19th century.

New Officers Take Charge in January

The 2015-2016 slate of officers for the Denton County Historical Commission's Executive Committee will take office effective January 1, 2015.

In addition to Charlotte Mooneyham, from Aubrey, as Chair, other new faces are found on the Executive as well as some returning members in new positions.

Returning are Deborah Boone, Denton, who moves from Corresponding Secretary to the Second Vice-chair position; Andy Eads, Flower Mound, who moves from Recording Secretary to First Vice-Chair and Members-at-Large Lee Capps, Denton; Jean Carter, Trophy Club; and Connie Baker, Denton who move into the Financial Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary positions respectively.

New members coming on board as Members at Large are: Don Beckel, The Colony; Jane Flynn, Highland Village; and Jesse Davis, Denton.

Upcoming Meetings

Denton County Historical Commission

Meetings are normally held on the first Thursday of each month, 3:00 pm in the Commissioners Courtroom at Denton's Courthouse-on-the-Square

January 8 (SPECIAL DATE)

February 5

March 5

Visitors are welcome, so come join us!

Narrative Submitted for Denton's 1927 City Hall



It is hoped that Denton's iconic 1927 City Hall, replaced in the mid-1960s by the O'Neil Ford designed present-day structure, may soon be awarded a Texas Historical marker.

The application was funded by the City of Denton. The narrative, written by incoming DCHC member and City of Denton librarian Chuck Voellinger, was submitted to the THC this past fall. Announcements of successful applications are expected in late January or early February.

Keep your fingers crossed and stay tuned. —DJ Taylor

100 Years Ago...

The federal government began tightening up on the regulation of narcotics in March, 1915. Under the Harrison Act, the 64th Congress required prescriptions to be filled on the day written and prohibited refills without a subsequent prescription. Each prescription required a physician's register number. Inventories of drugs were also now required. One local druggist complained that he understood the need to control the dispensation of drugs but he thought it more of a federal revenue act.

Meanwhile at the state legislature, a measure was introduced to outlaw lobbying. Several legislators complained that lobbyists took up far too much of their time that should be spent on conducting official business. Apparently, this proposal never passed muster. It is noted, however, that in the 1960s, a state legislator introduced a bill that would require lobbyists to all wear yellow rain slickers when meeting with elected state officials in order that the public would know when such meetings took place. That one didn't fly, either. —DJ Taylor

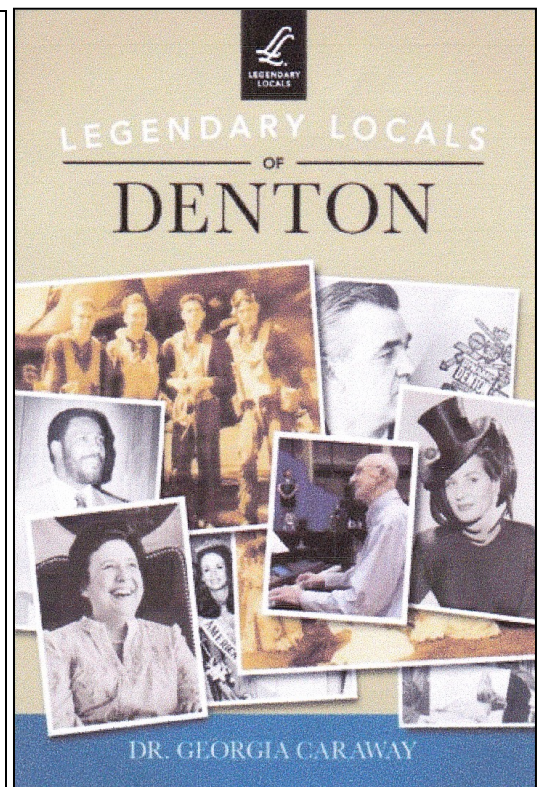
Legendary Locals of Denton

For those who have asked...

The latest book by Dr. Georgia Caraway is available in Denton at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Golden Triangle Mall, and at the Antique Gallery at Stonehill Center, I-35 North at Loop 288.

To order an autographed copy directly from Dr. Caraway, send a check for \$26 to cover book, tax and postage to: Dr. Georgia Caraway

2025 Tremont Cr.
Denton TX 76205



The Chisholm Trail: Schiegg and Webb Lead the Way

DCHC members Lloyd Webb and Alan Schiegg co-chair the special Chisholm Trail Marking Committee, in association with an ongoing National Parks Service project to locate the main portion of the old cattle trail from South Texas through North Texas and on through Oklahoma and into Kansas.

It is said that the old trail saw over 5 million head of cattle travel to the railheads in Kansas and on by rail to markets north and east. It enabled many a Texan to recover from the financial ruin that followed the Civil War.

Webb and Schiegg, along with DCHC Chair Beth Stribling, recently attended the first Multi-county Historical Seminar held in Montague. Clay, Denton, Jack, Montague, Tarrant and Wise counties were represented. Many ideas were exchanged and many tales were swapped.

More information will be forthcoming over the coming months. —DJ Taylor



ABOVE: DCHC member Lloyd Webb is shown during a recent Chisholm Trail survey on the Barnett Ranch west of the Plainview community in western Denton County. The Blue Stem Gramma grass is almost as high as an elephants eye. This and other types of nutritious grasses extended along the cattle trails all the way to Kansas. —Photo by Alan Schiegg

Harriss *continued from page 1*

not let being a woman hold her back from what she wanted in life. Seeing how she started DATCU in 1936 with 12 other professors still amazes me,” said Elise.

Miss Hariss was also instrumental in founding the Green Jackets, a women’s service organization that remains active in the present day. A charter member of the Flow Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, Miss Harriss retired from the college in 1960 and died in 1977.

The THC announcement of Beulah Harriss’ selection for an Untold Story marker came just one day before Elise’s 13th birthday. “This will be one birthday present I will always remember,” she said.

Elise’s effort on behalf of preserving the history of Beulah Harris has reached beyond her achieve-

ment in getting the marker. In September she was one of six honorees in Austin at the Governor’s Volunteer Awards ceremony, receiving the First Lady’s Rising Star Award.

Elise credits her mom, DCHC member Judy Clements, for directing her in researching the narrative. Credit also goes to Mary Ellen Horn and Sandy Wright, her Girl Scout advisors for their assistance as well as DCHC Chair Beth Stribling for her encouragement and believing that Miss Harriss’ story needed to be told, and to Peri Hamilton of the UNT Archives who “helped to bring my project to life by allowing me see and hold Miss Harriss’ bloomer and Green Jacket collection,” according to Elise.

An untold story is now known, thanks to a remarkable young lady. —DJ Taylor

Trivia Answer:

W. S. “Bill” Fry, had been an officer of the law since 1870. After the stress of several gun battles and the lengthy trials of Story and his cop killing partner, W. A. Martin, Fry suffered a disabling stroke and did not seek re-election. He died in 1930; buried at IOOF.

Plainview Cemetery Marker Result of Efforts by Eagle Scout Chris Myers

117-year-old cemetery in western Denton County received a Texas Historical Commission (THC) marker on September 21.

A crowd of approximately 100 people gathered as the marker was unveiled at the Plainview Cemetery that is five miles west of Krum on FM 1173.

The marker was awarded based on the narrative researched and written by my Eagle Scout Matthew Myers who also obtained a Historic Texas Cemetery designation for the cemetery.

Matthew Myers is a member of the Boy Scouts of America Troop 555, chartered by Trinity Presbyterian Church in Southlake. Members of his troop, church youth group and other volunteers, as well as his mom, Patricia, assisted with the project that included the creation of a directory for locating graves at the cemetery located adjacent to the Plainview Baptist Church.

The narrative for the Plainview Cemetery included not only the history of the cemetery, but the history

Below: Eagle Scout Matthew Myers stands next to the fence at the Plainview Cemetery. The Scout's ancestors buried at the cemetery include his great-great-grandfather, William Clifford Briscoe.

—photo by Lesley Coleman



ABOVE: Patricia Myers (Matthew's mom), Matthew Myers and DCHC Chair Beth Stribling with the official Texas Historical Commission marker for the Plainview Cemetery.

—Photo by Lesley Coleman

of the community, its early school, church, and individuals.

The community began around 1878 when Gideon Kimbrough and William Kimbrough arrived from Tennessee with their families. Gideon Kimbrough's son was Dr William Kimbrough who donated the land for the present-day North Texas State Fair Grounds.

The Plainview Baptist Church was founded by S. G. Christal in 1896. The Christal family had settled near Ponder in the 1850s after coming from Missouri.

The cemetery's first burial was in 1898, James B. Walker, the man who donated the land for a cemetery shortly before his death.

—DJ Taylor

Scouts Lead Next Generation

In this issue we have read about Boy Scout Matthew Myers and Girl Scout Elise Clements and their efforts to obtain Texas Historical Commission Markers. Last spring, Boy Scout Chris Green was honored for his work in cleaning the Harrington and Cassady Cemeteries in the Lloyd Community north of Little Elm. We know the future of our heritage is in good hands. —Editor

Donald Road & Gregory Road Bridges Receive DCHC Markers

On October 23, a ceremony at Memorial Island of the Denton County Administrative Complex recognized the Donald Road over South Hickory Creek Bridge and the Gregory Road Bridge over Duck Creek as each was formally named Denton County Historic Landmarks. Official Denton County Historical Commission markers were unveiled for each bridge.

The Denton High School Air Force Junior ROTC color guard, under the direction of Col. Bob West, began the ceremony with the presentation of the colors. Soprano Helen Dewey Reikofski sang the National Anthem.

County Judge Mary Horn spoke of the efforts to save and repurpose Denton County's old iron and steel bridges.

Richard McCaslin, Chairman of the University of North Texas History Department, spoke of the history of our old bridges and how they served the rural populace in getting crops to market. He noted that as times changed, the once dirt roads were paved and the paving extended over the once-wooden bases of the bridges, creating more weight than the bridges were designed to carry. In the early 21st century, the bridges were replaced with safer structures and Denton County was fortunate to have a Commissioners



Hugh Coleman, Denton County Commissioner, Precinct 1, and Rachel Crowe, Denton County GIS Manager and DCHC member, unveil the Gregory Road Bridge marker at the October 23 ceremony at Denton County's Administrative Complex. —photo by Robin Davis



Denton High School's Air Force Junior ROTC color guard prepares to march across the Donald Road Bridge to present the colors at the dedication ceremony. —Photo by Joe Novak

Court that saw the bridges as something worth saving.

The bridges are from the northwest quadrant of Denton County. The Donald Road Bridge was south of the Plainview community that is west of Krum and on the road that stretched on southwest into the Stony community. The Gregory Road Bridge was northwest of Sanger, serving parts of the Bolivar community.

Both bridges are Warren Pony Truss bridges, meaning they have angled supports with modified verticals and do not have cross bars connecting the tops of the bridges.

Judge Horn and Precinct 4 Commissioner Andy Eads unveiled the Donald Road Bridge marker. Precinct 1 Commissioner Hugh Coleman and Denton County GIS Manager Rachel Crowe, who has worked extensively on mapping both the former and current locations of the old bridges, unveiled the marker for the Gregory Road Bridge.

—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?

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**Denton County Historical
Commission**
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**Our mission is to protect,
preserve and promote the
history of Denton County**

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Historical Commission
Executive Committee**

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Chairman

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VACANT

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Season's Greetings to One & All

