Keeping Denton Glamorous: Ann Sheridan and the Glamour Girls of Denton County

By Laura Treat

With a smoldering and somewhat hypnotic gaze, fiery redhead Ann Sheridan lies seductively above the sound booth at famed local music venue, Dan’s Silverleaf. Commissioned by owner Dan Mojica and produced by Dallas artist Robert Hamilton, the painting is a fitting tribute to our most beloved star and the lasting legacy of glamour she brought to Denton County. Born in Dallas and raised in Denton, Clara Lou Sheridan (1915-1967) was a fixture on the theater and music scene while attending North Texas State Teacher’s College from 1932-33. An active member of the dramatic club, she sang in Kiwanis minstrel shows and was famous for her “Harlem torch song” style as performed in Floyd ‘Fessor Graham’s Saturday night stage shows. Already a local celebrity, her ascent to international fame began in 1933 when her sister Kitty entered her in Paramount Studio’s international “Search for Beauty” contest (sponsored locally by the Palace Theater and Dallas Journal). Along with North Texan Alfred Delcambre, Sheridan received a bit role in the 1934 Paramount film, Search for Beauty. Ann remained in Hollywood and continued to act in mostly minor roles until she signed with Warner Bros. in the late 1930s. Although she soon began to gain international notoriety as a Hollywood’s beautiful and talented “Oomph” Girl, Sheridan maintained an ongoing and loyal relationship with her hometown with events like local sneak previews of her films. The most memorable and least known of these events is the 1940 “Denton Glamour Girl Contest,” which brought Hollywood Glamour and the chance of stardom to women of Denton County.

On February 14, 1940, university paper The Campus Chat reported that Sheridan and Warner Bros. Studios were sponsoring a contest to find the most glamorous girl in Denton County. Women aged 16-26 who lived in Denton County or attended one of Denton’s two colleges were eligible to participate. Prizes included gifts from local sponsors including a $200 wardrobe from H.M. Russell and Sons Co., beauty treatments from Woodford’s Beauty Salon, a train ticket to Hollywood paid for by Texas Consolidated Theaters, and a screen test at Warner Bros. Runners up would be awarded a one-month’s pass to Theater Row, a box of nylons, and a permanent. Denton residents earned voting coupons by making purchases with contest sponsors and (of course) were encouraged to vote repeatedly. For hosting the awards ceremony, the Texas Theater (now the unoccupied Fine Arts Theatre) was gifted the Southwestern premiere of Ann’s next film, It All Came True. The contest was monitored by a panel of students from Texas State College for Women (Helen Solberg), NTSTC (Lloyd Williams), and Denton High School (Maurine Stegal)). Throughout February and March 1940, participants campaigned in local and university papers and readers were encouraged to vote for their favorite glamour girl. NTSTC selected future first lady of Denton (1959-1962) and freshman Betty Ann Fladger as their official candidate. TSCW selected sophomore speech major Beryl Ann Longino as their favored candidate.

See “Ann Sheridan & the Glamour Girls” on page 11

TRIVIA: “Wire Road” first appeared in documents dating back to 1867, and later in newspaper community reports. What was the “Wire Road” and also its associated community? See page 8 for answer.
Retrospect is published quarterly by the Denton County Historical Commission
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We Want to Hear From You!
Let us know what you like or dislike about Retrospect. What would you like to see more of...or less of? Have a story idea? Want to submit an article?
Contact us: DJ Taylor (940) 368-1816
or email: djtaylortx@centurylink.net

A Message from our county chair,
Dr. Charlotte Mooneyham—

Mark your calendars. Denton County is having a birthday and so is the Chisholm Trail. Other markers will be dedicated. Watch for events and updates as the Historical Park grows, as Cemetery's are marked and preserved, and as history comes alive from the Denton Square to the Edges of the County. Yee-Haw, time to saddle up and ride the trails.

Save the Date, April 16, 2016!
Denton County’s 170th Birthday Celebration!

Denton County will celebrate its 170th Anniversary with an all-day event on April 16, 2016. Denton County was established on April 11, 1846.

Activities are planned throughout the city of Denton with most of the activities on the grounds of the Court house on the Square and the Historical Park. The morning will start with a cowboy breakfast on the lawn of the Courthouse and will finish with live entertainment in the evening at the Historical Park. The opening ceremony is scheduled for 10:00 A.M. with welcoming from officials and entertainment from students.

There will be activities for children as well as demonstration of activities that went on in the early days of Denton County. We will have vendors selling their wares. This is a County wide celebration with all of the cities participating. We are now in the process of raising money for this event. If you would like to make a donation please mail it to the Office of History & Culture 110 W. Hickory Denton, TX 76201. Please mark you donation for the 170th Anniversary of Denton County. All donations are tax deductible.

The next meeting of the event team will be on January 8, 2016 at 9:30 A.M. everyone is welcome to be on the team.

If you are interested in being a team member please contact Georgiana McCoig, Team Chair at gmccoig@gmail.com

Help Needed in Finding More on Zach Rawlings

We are looking for more information on Mr. Zach Rawlings, the janitor at the County Courthouse, 1886-1911. Of particular interest would be photos that identify Mr. Rawlings in addition to locating his descendants.

His daughter from his first marriage, Mollie, had one son, George Hem brey. She later married John Bledsoe. Mollie died in 1931 at Fort Worth.

After the death of his second wife, Fannie, in 1899, Rawlings married Mrs. Finney Hoford who was 30 years his junior. They had two children, a son named James and a daughter named Callie. We would appreciate any in formation about where these two offspring moved to and if there are any living descendants.

We welcome any information and hope you will join our search.

Please contact DJ Taylor at (940) 368-1816
or by email at: djtaylortx@centurylink.net
Looking for Zach Rawlings:
The Search for a Part of County’s African-American History

By DJ Taylor

Zach Rawlings. You may have heard the name; it has been in the news recently. Dead for over 100 years, the man who bore that name has been brought to the forefront of recent conversations about our history, race relations, ignoring pieces of the past, and giving credit where credit is due. Who was this man, whose name I first encountered in early 2011, researching records for a Historic Texas Cemetery application for the Clark Cemetery? From 1886 until shortly before his death in June, 1911, “Uncle” Zach as he was called, served as the caretaker and janitor for the Denton County courthouse—both the 1876 courthouse and the current 1896 courthouse.

It turned out that the cemetery known as the Clark Cemetery was on land now under Lewisville Lake in present-day Hickory Creek, that was bought jointly by George Clark and “Zack Rollins” in 1876.

Different spellings, but the same man. Like most former slaves, Zach Rawlings could neither read nor write. The census taker, the county clerk, the undertaker and anyone else who had an opportunity to write the man’s name simply wrote it how THEY thought it should be spelled. Thus, we have, Zac, Zack, Zach, Zachariah and Jack in various records for a first name and Rawlings, Rollins, Rawlin, Rollin and Rolling listed as a surname for the same individual. Confusing? Since his obituary stated he came to Lewisville as a slave of Daniel Rawlings, we will use that spelling for now. Zach supposedly took his last name from Daniel Rawlings; his death certificate lists both parents as being named “Williams.”

One of the more significant events attributable to Rawlings was his deeding a half-acre of land to Denton County in 1879 to establish a County Common (rural) School for African-American children. But his efforts to see to the education of these, including his daughter Mollie, had begun even prior to that. The deed includes the words, “…the same upon which the School House now stands.”

According to newspaper reports, Rawlings became the janitor at the Courthouse around 1886. Shortly afterward he purchased lot #23 in Quakertown from Ford and Mollie Crawford and later purchased the adjacent lot. His house was at 55 Oak-land Avenue, near the west end of today’s Denton City Hall.

He continued to farm his 39 ½ acres, either in conjunction with his Courthouse job or by hired hand, until it was sold to D. L. Wilkins in 1905.

Times were not easy for the freed slaves in the years that followed. According to historian Adam Rinkleff, Zach Rawlings’ life was a best-case scenario. “Many slaves that were freed after the Civil War struggled—some were actually worse off than when they were enslaved. But Zach Rawlings found a way to thrive, first by buying and working his own farm and later obtaining a steady pay at the county courthouse.”

A newspaper article from 1898 reported that the county commissioners had employed him as janitor at a salary of $25 per month, an amount equivalent to $714 in today’s dollars. He is also noted in commissioners’ reports as being paid for the “laundering of bed clothes” from the county jail.

The new courthouse opened in May, 1897. In August of that year, Denton hosted the reunion of the Old Settlers Association, an event that drew crowds in the thousands. Most of the activities of that gathering occurred during the day but many wanted a look at the new courthouse. The July 29, 1897, edition of the Denton County News ran the following item: “The janitor of the courthouse, Zack Rawlins, requests the NEWS to say that on the night of August 5, during the reunion, he will have the new courthouse lighted up for inspection by visitors.”

Race relations in the late 19th and early 20th century cannot be characterized as cordial. African-Americans were largely overlooked in the newspapers, but a note of esteem was noted when Fannie Rawlings died in 1899. The paper referred to her as “a fine ante-bellum negro” whose funeral was attended by many “white friends.” But black citizens never achieved equal status. In his poem, “Zach Rawlins” Adam Rinkleff writes:

Zach Rawlins mopped the floor and fixed the door
Cleaned the glass and mowed the grass
Applied the caulk and swept the walk
Polished the brass, and remained second class

Rinkleff and several others consider Zach Rawlings an important part of Denton County’s history, a part largely overlooked. “He is significant. African-American history in Denton never received much notice. Uncle Zach Rawlings was a friendly, upbeat guy that held the respect of all that knew him.”

In light of newspaper reports that a lingering illness had led to his resigning his position at the courthouse shortly before his death, Rinkleff noted, “He was dedicated to his work and worked himself to death.” The remark, from a Rawlings quote in the paper on his reason for his resignation, was made shortly before his death.

The next time you walk through the halls of the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square, pause for a moment and remember man who first helped make it a shining monument for the county—Zach Rawlings.

See the adjacent highlighted panel on page 2 to help us find out more about Zach Rawlings.
Carroll McMath, Denton Broncos’ “Music Man”

By Dr. Rynell Novak

After a meeting where some Texas Tech students discussed the idea of creating a fight song, two of them wrote the words that became the school fight song.


It was 1936 and one of those students, Robert Carroll McMath, known as Carroll, was later named to the Texas Bandmasters Hall of Fame.

Carroll never dreamed that those words would one day be sung at every Texas Tech spirit activity and sporting event. Even though it has changed slightly, a current Tech student has confirmed that a later version of the song is the one still in use today. (“A Simple Song Turned into an Everlasting Tradition”; Texas Tech Today, Nov. 5, 2010; by Ioanna Makris)

Playing the cornet/trumpet in a school band was a big part of Carroll’s high school and college years. When he graduated from Tech, he began working in the music industry and eventually came to Denton, teaching and leading band programs in Denton schools for more than 33 years.

**Early Life**

Although Carroll McMath’s parents lived in Carrollton, TX, his mother chose Baylor Hospital in Dallas for Carroll’s place of birth on June 29, 1919. About 1924, following the death of his mother, Carroll and his father moved to Lubbock County where he attended a small two-teacher school. From there he went to Junior High and then Senior High schools in Lubbock.

His interest and ability in music began at age eight when he began piano lessons, and continued when, at age 13, he began trumpet studies on a $10 King trumpet. Soon after beginning the study of trumpet, he became a member of the Lubbock High School Band.

After graduation from Lubbock High in 1934, Carroll enrolled in Texas Tech. In his sophomore year, he changed his major from journalism to band and participated in the first Tech Summer Band School program. He did his student teaching with the Lubbock High School Band and received his Bachelor of Science in Education degree from Tech in 1938 with a major in Band.

**Career**

After his graduation in 1938, Carroll’s first band directing job was at Texhoma, OK, where he was also the principal, band bus driver, and at times the teacher for Agriculture, Woodwork, Arithmetic, Geography and Reading.

In the summer of 1940, he moved to Denton for a part-time job as Denton High School band director and was able also to do some graduate work. In June 1941 he received his teaching certification and his Master of Music degree through North Texas State Teachers College.

In his words: “In my first year I was a ‘part time’ employee, teaching three classes and doing concerts, parades, football games—etc. —for the big sum of $50 a month. Our school instruments consisted of one sousaphone, 2 Eb ‘rain-catcher’ tubas, 2 mellophones, 1 baritone, maybe 1 tenor sax, and several WELL USED DRUMS.

“For the 1941-42 school year I became a full time teacher, adding one Junior High history class to my band classes. During the summer of 1942 I could see Uncle Sam’s long finger pointing straighter at me all of the time, so I accepted an opening in the U.S. Navy Band program. I taught in Denton one week in September and then left for Navy boot camp. Part of my service was on the business staff of the Navy Music School in Washington, D.C.

“In November 1945 I finished my hitch in the Navy and took the band job in Hereford, TX, where Chester Strickland was the superintendent of schools. In 1946 Mr. Strickland was elected superintendent of Denton Public Schools and he offered me the opportunity of coming back to Denton.” (A Brief Oral History of the Denton High School Bands, presented by Carroll McMath, Band Reunion, July 17, 1988.)

**NOTE:** He served at naval training station at Farragut, ID, and Newport, RI; aboard the U.S.S. Guam; and on the business staff of the Navy Music School in Washington, D.C.

During Carroll’s years at Denton High the band was ranked in University Interscholastic League (UIL) competition, receiving Sweepstakes 15 years. It also received superior and outstanding ratings at festivals and contests throughout Texas and Oklahoma and participated in six of the first Cotton Bowl Parades in Dallas.

Over 70 of his students were selected to membership in All-State Band or All-State Orchestra during his tenure. In addition, a number of his graduates became successful band and orchestra directors, while others played professionally and in U. S. service bands.

See “McMath on page 5”
McMath, Music Man

Continued from page 5

He was selected by Denton public schools as “Teacher of the Year” in 1972-73 and was one of the finalists for “Texas Teacher of the Year” at that same time. He was inducted into the Region 5 Band Directors Hall of Fame in 1991 and into the Phi Beta Mu Texas Band Directors Hall of Fame in 1992.

Beginning in college and continuing throughout his career, Carroll was active and served in leadership positions in several musical and educational state and national organizations. He also authored a band manual and co-authored an analysis of more than 400 band methods and collections.

A scholarship fund in his honor was started in 1962 and scholarships have to Denton High graduating students for several years. (The scholarship has not been active in recent years.) He retired from teaching in July 1977 and in 1984 was named "Director Emeritus" of the Denton High School Bronco Band. een awarded to Denton High graduating students for many years. He retired from teaching in July 1977 and in 1984 was named "Director Emeritus" of the Denton High School Bronco Band.

Carroll McMath’s legacy lives on at Texas Tech but also locally as the Denton ISD named a school in his memory. Established in 1998, the McMath Middle School was the third middle school in the district. The school is known for its commitment to education and for students and staff that are committed to making things better in and out of the classroom.

Personal

Carroll McMath was active in the Denton community, especially in the Denton Kiwanis Club, and was a deacon in the First Baptist Church of Denton.

He married Roberta Ellison (1921-2001) on August 7, 1941, and they enjoyed over 55 years together as they raised their sons, Robert Carroll, Jr. (Bob) now of Fayetteville, AR, and William (Bill) of Corinth, TX.

On Oct. 14, 1996, Carroll passed away. Funeral services were held at First Baptist Church, Denton, and he was buried at Roselawn Memorial Park, Denton.

The following tribute to him in Denton ISD publications expresses how those who knew Carroll McMath would describe him: “Carroll McMath’s service, honors, and accolades only tell part of his story. His life represents not only the quest for excellence in music performance, but also exemplifies the highest level of personal integrity, a quality that made him a role model for hundreds of students, fellow teachers, and everyone who knew.” (Old.DentonISD.org/McMath/cmcmath.htm)

Schiegg & Webb Honored for Work Tracing Chisholm Trail

Alan Schiegg (L) and Lloyd Webb (R), here with their wives; Dawn Schiegg and Joyce Webb, were honored with proclamations by the Commissioners Court on November 17 for their work in tracing the path of the Chisholm Trail through western Denton County. The famed cattle trail began in 1867 and was the path to market in Kansas for over 700,000 cattle for the next 15 years. The pair visited ranches and farms extending from Alliance Airport to Justin, Ponder, Stony, Krum and Bolivar to learn more about the trail. Among the long-time residents who assisted Webb and Schiegg in their research were Jack Waide, Reba Marshall and Joe “Skip” Barnett.

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By Charlotte Mooneyham

“Music is the way that our memories sing to us across time. The loveliest quality of music involves its modulation upon the theme of time. Songs, playing in the mind, become the subtlest shuttles across years.”—Lance Morrow

Mary Louise Tobin sang the songs that modulated across time and her songs have elevated others for almost a century.

Louise was shaped by the character and flavor of the time and place where she was born. Born in the second decade of the 20th Century in Aubrey, Texas, northeast Denton County, she entered the Depression Years of the United States on a world stage. Families in rural Denton County in that time period were poor and became even more impoverished when the price of cotton dropped and the substance farm crops barely sustained a family. Humble homes, hard work, bare feet and dirt roads were the beginning, but only the beginning.

Louise opened the door to her destiny with her tremendous musical talent. Her unique and lovely vocals were recognized when she was young and in school in Denton. Her courage and intelligence took her through the door and down the road toward her destiny. The inspirational story of the giant talent, beautiful soul, and quick wit unfolds across decades and into the company of the famous. Just recently, historians concurred that Mary Louise Tobin was the one who helped to discover Frank Sinatra by calling Harry James attention to that young singer.

Louise won a 1932 CBS Radio Talent Contest. When she started to sing on the radio, she had to stand on a box to reach the microphone. Always small in stature, Louise’s talent was too large to confine to an area. Louise was one of 11 children and the fourth from the youngest. After her father was killed, life for Louise and the family was difficult. She started singing with the Art Hicks band on the Southwest Theater circuit with bands and orchestras. Professor Floyd Graham who was a leader in jazz studies in the institution now known as the University of North Texas, helped with some musical arrangements for Louise and “Fessor was impressed with her talent and unique sound. ‘Fessor Graham’s One O’clock Jazz Band gained international fame and Louise sang with them. That band was also known as the Aces from Collegeland. Louise was allowed to go with the bands at a young age and sing into the wee hours. The money she made was needed by the family. Her courage was admirable.

In New York, Louise performed with Benny Goodman and with other groups and individuals. Once she was the straight person for a stand up music performer who told jokes. She eventually met, married and performed with Harry James. At the height of the Depression in New York, she and Harry struggled. Some luck was needed along with the talent.

Here is where the yellow brick road turns into a red carpet. The Harry James Band and Louise’s voice were widely acclaimed. Performances and recordings followed. Louise’s recording of There Will Be Some Changes Made was on the Hit Parade for 15 weeks.

Harry James convinced Louise to stop performing and have a family. Two children were born in two successive years to the couple. The road turned rocky when Harry James left Louise to marry Betty Grable; almost immediately after the children were born. That divorce was highly publicized.

The way was paved for Louise to continue performing. During her career, she performed with Louie Armstrong, Bennie Goodwin, Laurence Welk, and eventually with Peanuts Hutto and many other famous people. Louise and Peanuts married. The last song they recorded together, quiet poetically for the annals of time, was When Your Smiling. Together they were smiling and enjoyed life. The world smiled with them. Louise and Peanuts owned the club Navarre in Denver, Colorado where they were part of the house band. Many other famous singers and bands performed there.

Louise came to Denton in November of 2015 to see her star unveiled on The Denton Arts Walk of Fame on Hickory Street. From a graduate of Denton High School to a famous jazz singer, her star became the first on the Denton Arts Walk of Fame, a sidewalk that now has star quality. Mary Louise Tobin Hutto is a star who in a way never left Denton. The dusty roads of Aubrey, the Red Carpet of the World, and at home on the sidewalk of Denton, Mrs. Mary Louise Tobin Hutto entertained Denton fans with her wit and charm during her 2015 visit entitled An Afternoon With Louise Tobin Hucko.

Humor and beauty sparkled as they always had, once Denton County’s own daughter was home. Louise Tobin currently lives in Dallas with her son, Harry James, Jr. and occasionally visits her former home in Denton which is now owned by the Bill Coleman family.

From the second decade of the 20th Century to the second decade of the 21st Century, this Denton County Star, Louise Tobin continues to shine brightly. Denton will always hear the music of Louise Tobin and remember her courage, intelligence, and generosity.
Flower Mound Cabin Historic Treasure Worthy of Saving

By Mark Glover

A local developer has discovered a one room log cabin encapsulated and hidden within the walls of a 4,500 square foot Flower Mound farm house. The property was destined to be demolished for development when Curtis Grant of Vaquero Development discovered the log cabin.

After Grant purchased the house, his curiosity got up about a story of logs he heard from the previous owner. He opened a small opening in one of the walls and saw the logs for himself. He sent a text with a photo of the logs to me. I called Andy Eads and Peggy Riddle who I work with at the Denton County Office of History and Culture. Since then, the County, Town, and local history advocates have been working to find a way to preserve this log cabin.

Modern residential additions have been made in every direction around the cabin, including newer gabled roofs over the original cabin. You would never know a log cabin was preserved within the walls of this farm house. It is a time capsule, waiting to be carefully opened.

The logs were cut between 1857 and 1860, with the structure most likely being built in 1860.

The cabin sits on an approximate four acre site in West Flower Mound. The property was part of a Republic of Texas Land Grant that was patented in 1854 by William Gibson. The original survey was for 360 acres and the cabin is a one room structure measuring approximately 16’ x 16’, which is the minimal size structure required to perfect the land grant.

Preserving the Cabin

The vision of The Flower Mound Foundation and Long Prairie Cabin Commission is to restore this cabin to its original statue, under the ancient post oaks where it has sat for 155 years. The ground this cabin sits on is sacred for many of us that have visited the cabin site and contemplated what is was like in the 1800’s, and what it can be upon renovation.

The site is at the edge of where the Long Prairie transitions to the Cross Timbers. Malone’s Grist Mill sat just North, and Lonesome Dove Baptist Church was not far South. The Cast Iron Forest of the Cross Timbers was directly west, protecting the cabin from Comanche war parties that rode the Grand Prairies beyond.

We propose adding a very old barn the Denton County Historical Commission saved to this site. This barn was taken down off Dixon Lane and is also a historic Flower Mound artifact. We would have a genuine historic homestead honoring and replicating the lifestyle of our earliest settlers.

Additionally, we propose to plant a large garden with the food crops early settlers grew. The cabin and barn will house period furnishings and farm implements.

This site will become a genuine historic homestead. It will be a special place for our children, and their children, to understand their heritage and the hardships of our early settlers.

Some say we should tear this cabin down and doze these trees. Then pile up the old logs from the cabin on a concrete slab a few miles to the East and call this our history and heritage. This would be cheaper. To many of us, it would also be tragic.

It will take significant sums of money and considerable work by many to SAVE THE CABIN at this original location. But, we must try. We have lost too much already and will never have the chance to save this treasure again. Won’t you help us?

To help or contribute, please contact The Flower Mound Foundation at www.TheFlowerMound.com or follow us on Facebook at Long Prairie Cabin-Save the Cabin.
DCHC Marker for Belz Road Bridge at Duck Creek Dedicated at The Colony’s Greenway Park

ABOVE: Officials from Denton County, the town of The Colony, Denton County Historical Commission members and third grade students from Camey Elementary pose at the November 13 dedication of a DCHC marker for the Belz Road Bridge over Duck Creek. Photo: Joe Novak

It may have been “Friday the 13th” but the crystal clear skies and 60ish temperatures heralded a fine day all went well for the dedication of a Denton County Historical Commission (DCHC) marker at The Colony’s Greenway Park.

The November 13 occasion was to unveil the marker for the old single lane steel bridge that once crossed Duck Creek on Belz Road northwest of Sanger. The bridge, built in the early 1900s, was closed in 2007 and moved to its new location in The Colony’s Greenway Park, in 2008. The bridge was donated by Denton County and adopted by the town, moved and installed at a cost of $180,000. When Greenway Park is completed, the bridge will provide access across a drainage canal on the walk-run-bike trail.

The bridge originally provided a way for the citizens of the Bolivar community to transport agricultural goods to the railroad in Sanger; Bolivar having been bypassed by the Gulf-COLORADO & SANTA FE Railroad in 1886.

The narrative for the marker was researched and written by DCHC member Don Beckel, a resident of The Colony and a member of The Colony Local History Committee. In his narrative, Beckel noted that “it is worthy to note that the property once designated to help build a transportation system in the new state of Texas will continue its early transportation mission in being part of an alternative transportation project—a hike and bike trail in The Colony.

Remarks at the dedication were made by Denton County Judge Mary Horn; The Colony Parks & Recreation Department Director Pam Nelson, DCHC member DJ Taylor and moderated by DCHC Historical Research & Marker Committee Chair, Beth Stribling. The marker text was read by Alyce Rufi and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Camey Elementary students Leoart Bajrami and Braley Arnold.

The ceremony was attended by 72 third grade students from Camey Elementary.

NOTE: Camey Switch or Camey Spur was a railroad siding with a small gin/mill, general store and school that existed in the early 1900s in the eastern part of what is now The Colony.

BELOW: In 2007, Lemons’ House Moving and Trucking removed the Belz Road Bridge over Duck Creek and moved it to The Colony. Photo: Eve Morgan, Town of The Colony

Trivia Answer: The Wire Road was originally a road that followed the military telegraph line built in 1867 from Sherman via Pilot Point and Bolivar west to Fort Belknap. The name of a community called “Wire Road” appeared in the community reports section of the Pilot Point Signal in the early 1900s. From the names listed and their residences at the time, the general location was along the old road, about five miles west and slightly south of Pilot Point under the waters of the present-day Ray Roberts Lake. It would have included the area around the Kelso School and the area near the general store run by G. W. Vaughan that was later known as “Vaughntown.”
Updates on the Wilson-Taylor Log Cabin

Earlier this year the Denton County Office of History and Culture sought the help of Dr. David Stahle of the Tree-Ring Laboratory at the University of Arkansas to date the Wilson-Taylor log cabin, soon to be moved to the Denton County Historical Park. To date these log structures Dr. Stahle used a process called dendrochronology, or tree ring dating. By taking 10 core samples of wood from the cabin Dr. Stahle was able to determine the “cutting date” of the logs to be between the years 1867 and 1868.

In 1854 William Wilson moved to Texas and bought land in the area known today as Corinth, Texas. He and his family lived on the property until 1858 when they sold the land to Augustus H. Serren. It is believed that Serren built the log cabin structure. After Serren’s death in 1878, his wife Ester and their children owned the property. In 1894, John William Taylor and his wife Ida bought the property and moved into the cabin. Members of the Taylor family occupied the cabin until 1992.

In 2016, the Wilson-Taylor cabin will find a new home at the Denton County Historical Park. The cabin along with several other structures from the property will join the Bayless-Selby House and the Quakertown House at 317 West Mulberry Street.

Approved Master Plan for the Denton County Historical Park

2016
Undertold Story Marker Dedicated for Beulah A. Harriss

The three days of heavy rain gave way to a cool and overcast Sunday on October 25. A large crowd that included many Girl Scouts from several locations in Northeast Texas gathered in the Denton Civic Center at Quakertown Park for the dedication of a Texas Historical Commission (THC) marker celebrating the founder of Denton Girl Scouts, Beulah A. Harriss.

Through the efforts of Denton Girl Scout Elise Clements, who wrote the application and narrative for the marker, the THC awarded an Undertold Story marker for Miss Harriss in 2014. It was the second award won by young Miss Clements in 2014; she also received the First Lady’s Rising Star Award at the 2014 Governor’s Volunteer Award ceremony. At the marker dedication, she received the Girl Scouts’ Silver Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout Cadette can earn, from Jennifer Bartkowski, Chief Executive Officer of the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas.

Beulah Harriss, educated at the University of Nebraska, came to Denton in 1914 as the first women’s physical education teacher at North Texas Normal College. In 1917 she established the Citizen Scout Troop, the first Girl Scouts troop in Denton.

Participating in the ceremony were Denton County Judge Mary horn, herself a former Girl Scout; Emerson Vorel, Director of the Denton Parks and Recreation Department; Denton County Historical Commission Chair, Charlotte Mooneyham; Dr. Jack Watson, professor emeritus at the University of North Texas, a colleague and neighbor of Miss Harriss; and Beth Stribling, Denton County Historical Commission’s Historical Research and Marker Committee chair.

The marker was unveiled at the site formerly occupied by the old Girl Scouts Little House in Quakertown Park.

Satellite Exhibit Opens in Argyle

On Tuesday October 27, 2015 the Town of Argyle dedicated space at Argyle Town Hall to be designated as the Yvonne Jenkins Memorial History Room. This room filled with artifacts donated by Yvonne Jenkins’ daughter Kay Jenkins Teer, contains an exhibit highlighting the rich history of Argyle. Peggy Krueger, Mayor of the Town of Argyle, read the proclamation at a ribbon cutting ceremony before the city council meeting.

Earlier this year Denton County Judge Mary Horn and Commissioner Andy Eads recognized the opportunity to preserve and maintain the Yvonne Jenkins Argyle Collection, and nominated professional staff at the Denton County Office of History and Culture to take on this role.

In partnership with the Denton County Office of History and Culture, Argyle is proud to be recognized as the first town to host a satellite exhibit. The Town of Argyle welcomes the hosting of additional satellite exhibits, and the Office of History and Culture plans to expand this satellite exhibit program to reach other cities and towns across the County in 2016. —OHC
Ann Sheridan and the Glamour Girls

Continued from page 1

By March 1, 1940, Glamour Girl candidates included star struck young women from all over Texas representing NTSTC, TSCW, and Denton High School: Billie Joy Austin, Peggy Bayless (TSCW), Naomi Boutwell, Maxine Burch, Norva G. Cate (TSCW), Jean Keith Chitwood (NTSTC), Katherine Day (TSCW), Gladys DuBose, Betty Ann Fladger (NTSTC), Martha Jo Goodwin (NTSTC), Eloise Headlee (TSCW), Johnnie Belle Holley (NTSTC), Dorothy Langley, Beryl Ann Longino (TSCW), Helen Mattison, Mary D. McReynolds (NTSTC), Juanita Miles (NTSTC), Jayne Ott, Juanita Taliaferro, Helen Barnes, Marjorie Belcher, Jerinne Bunyard (TSCW), Theresa Corcoran, Ruth Chandler, Jayne Davis, Doras Denmin, Neva Mae Evans, Hilda Floyd (TSCW) Betty Joyce Grisson, Billy Herring, Evelyn King (TSCW), Maxine Loader, (Mrs.) Jimmie Matthews, Aline McBride, Janie Merrit, Katherine Louise Minor (TSCW), Jewel Smallwood, Marcella Tharp, Charlese Vaughn and Doris Faye Watson (NTSTC).

During the last week of the contest, Warner Bros Representative Frank Dewar came to Denton to make final preparations. On March 19th the 10 finalists—Floyd, Longino, Fladger, Loader, Austin, Minor, Smallwood, King, and Barnes—took the stage of the Texas Theater. Audiences also filled the Palace and Dreamland Theaters to hear the announcements. After a month-long campaign, TSCW student Beryl Ann Longino was announced the most glamorous girl in Denton County. Theatre audiences then listened to a long-distance amplified telephone conversation between Longino and Sheridan. Following her win, Beryl Ann was in high local demand as a model, working at the Fair Store in Fort Worth and the Marlin’s Texas Blue Bonnet Photo Fiesta. By 1942 she was living in New York and working full-time as a model. Like Sheridan, Beryl Ann (later known as “B.A.”) would become an international sensation when she married United States Senator Lloyd Bentsen. Although later reports about “B.A.” tended to mention both her glamour and her brief modeling career, her reign as the most glamorous girl in Denton County—and the role Ann Sheridan played in her future—are unfortunately frequently overlooked.

Throughout the rest of her career, the relationship between Ann and her hometown remained strong. Back in 1939, the Campus Chat had reminded Denton residents to remain proud of Ann “for few small town girls have gone farther faster than she.” To this, I would add, none of Denton’s small town girls have contributed more to this town’s glamour. Laura Treat is the Moving Image Preservation Librarian, University of North Texas and a member of the Denton County Historical Commission.

Share your own Hollywood Memories!

If you or someone you know has any additional information about Ann Sheridan’s time in Denton or the 1940 Glamour Girls of Denton Contest, please contact Laura Treat at www.Laura.Treat@unt.edu, and be part of Denton’s Hollywood history. For links to the articles referenced here, more stories about Ann Sheridan’s relationship with the Denton Community, and the glamour girl contest contestants, you can check out the PDF version of this article and the UNT Library’s blog post (http://blogs.library.unt.edu/unt125/2015/10/09/ann-sheridan/). Photographs and articles from The Campus Chat courtesy of UNT Special Collections and the Portal to Texas History. Images from The Lasso courtesy of Texas Woman’s University.
Warm Wishes for the Holiday Season

Denton County Historical Commission Executive Committee

Chair, Dr. Charlotte Mooneyham
First Vice-Chair, Andy Eads
Second Vice-Chair, Veronica Maldonado
Recording Secretary, Connie Baker
Corresponding Secretary, Jean Carter
Financial Secretary, Lee Capps
At-Large-Members:
Don Beckel
Jesse Davis
Jane Flynn

Upcoming Events

Denton County Historical Commission
Meets at 3:00pm, 2nd Floor Courthouse-on-the-Square
January 7
February 4
March 3
Office of History & Culture
CHOS Lectures:
February 18
Rose Taylor
March 16
Laura Treat