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Grand Prairie Historical Organization
Volume XXIX
May 2012

Our next meeting will be May 17 at the GPHO Museum
1516 W. Main St., GP, 75050
from 11:30am - 1pm. For lunch there will be a command
performance by the now infamous Karen and Robbie Bond. For only
\$10 you can enjoy one of the best lunches in town

Please RSVP to Angela Giessner (9722625151) no later than May 15th.

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peat of the program he gave in 1992.

Congratulations to our President
THE HONORABLE JANETTE SKRASEK

Janette was given an award by the Soroptomist Club in Grand Prairie for her work with the GP Historical Organization and generally her dedication to helping others. Thank you Janette for giving your time to our organization.




The annual Freedom Luncheon benefiting LifeLine Shelter for Families will be held at 11am on June 21st at the Ruth Jackson Center. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased in advance by calling (972) 268-8339 or emailing jwalker@bonairservice.com. A table for 8 is \$200 and sponsorships are available. Come be part of one of the largest fundraising events in Grand Prairie
www.LifeLineShelter.org

Thank you to Dan Smith who is donating a sign to the GP Historical Organization that commemorates the old Bankhead Highway.

7 \ U f ` Y g ` K] ` `] U a ` í 6 flight instructor Charles

Charles Powers was born in Grand Prairie July 3, 1925, delivered by Dr. Shanks at the family home which at the time was 100 Sycamore. Today that would be 100 S W 5th St. He was graduated from Grand Prairie High School in 1942.

His Father was Thomas Daniel Powers, Jr. and his Mother was Evelyn Marie Combs, both of whom were born in Grand Prairie. After they divorced in 1942, his mother married A. T. Sivley.

Charles and Nancy were married July 18, 1951. They lived in that original homestead until they moved to Dallas in November, 1956.

In January of 1943 while Charles was attending A&M, his Dad bought Chapman's Cafe on west Main (GP). He then bought the City Cafe at the SW corner of Center and Main in Spring 1943. In May 1943 he purchased 109 W. Main which had been W. A. Hancock's main drug store and converted to Powers Café. By the end of 1946 his father reduced all to Powers Cafe that he operated until about 1958. He died on December 4, 1960.

Charles went into the Army Air Corps and received his Wings and Commission as a Navigator Nov 18, 1944. He later completed bombardier training and radar observer training at Victorville California and then was selected as a

flight instructor. Charles resigned this position when his cousin Lonnie Bostick was killed in the invasion of Iwo Jima on Feb. 21, 1944. At the time he was attached to a B-29 Crew and served in Guam (North Field... 314th Bomb Wing). He was released from active duty as a First Lieutenant. During the Korean Conflict, he went back into the service on August 3, 1951, and was released in 1953.

Charles was discharged from the Army Air Corps in October 1946. He enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin where he received his BBA in Accounting in January of 1949. During this time, Charles was President of his Fraternity, Chi Phi.

The Korean Conflict started June 25th 1950. At that time, Charles was in the reserves at Hensley Field. A year later he got two sets of orders to come into the service, so he chose the one that took him back to his B-29 unit. His active service began August 3, 1951.

On May 3rd of 1953 he was elected to the Grand Prairie City Council and selected to be the Mayor Pro-Tem. At that time he was the youngest City Councilman and youngest Mayor Pro Tem ever elected to the position. The Council was: Mayor John Daughtery, Councilmen John Henry, Sam Pettigrew, Bill Ellis and Charles Powers.

At the time, these men were know as the %oY @ ã : Á S ã å • + È Á Á

used the new Home Rule Charter power and annexed over 85 square miles of land from the triple underpass (the three streets going into Dallas at the Red Courthouse) and into the counties south. This was a huge move for Grand Prairie. All of this land was unincorporated land including all the trinity levees and land between Grand Prairie and Irving, Arlington, Cedar Hill, Dallas and as far south as Midlothian.



Nancy worked at Linz Jewelers in 1949. She and her brother Clayton Sanderlin opened a Jewelry Store at 113 W. Main (GP) in September of 1949.

Thank you for everyone that attended our February meeting. A special Thank you to Michael Sandoval and Dennis Jobe for their great presentation. We had over 60 in attendance and a great lunch.

In May of 1992, Charles and Nancy hosted a 50th reunion for his Grand Prairie High School class of 1942 at the Safari Motel. The reception had about 300 people in attendance which included as many people as they could contact from the classes of 1931 to 1946.



Charles and Nancy have three children; Carol Ann, David and Pat. They have seven grandchildren and three great grand grandchildren.

Bad Elected Officials are put in office
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Charles joined the Grand Prairie Historical Organization in 1992. In that same year he was certified as a tour guide specializing on the assassination of President Kennedy and the City of Grand Prairie.

Especially if you live in Grand Prairie,, be sure and vote. The integrity and structure of our Schools and City depend on it. In a City of 175,000+ with less than 3000 people voting

2012 Membership Dues
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membership keeps the organization running and allows us to keep sending newsletters. Without your generous donations we would not be able to continue our growth

EVERY VOTE COUNTS
Thanks
Brian W. Bingham



Volume XXIX

Can you help us identify anyone in this picture? The caption just states

' % DVHED
Email and let us know

bingham@alliance-services.com

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**Recommendations
or comments
about the newslet-
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Contact Brian Bingham
at