

Next Meeting is May 18th

The next meeting of the GP Historical Organization is scheduled for May 18th, 11:30 am at 1516 W. Main Street. Please call Angela Giessner for reservations at 972-262-5151. When you call, if you have

not already done so, please provide Angela with an update on your address, phone number, email address and your birthday. The thought is to put together a GPHO Directory. In this meeting Angela Luckey will discuss the S. Dalworth Historical Society.



Lifeline Freedom Luncheon

The 3rd annual Freedom from Homelessness Luncheon, is Wednesday, 6-28-06 at The Texas Roadhouse from 11:30 to 1pm. There will be celebrity waiters, auction items and raffle tickets. Jorja Jackson Clemson is chairman of this event. Contact Angela Sutton Giessner at 972-262-5151 for your reservations.

Proceeds will be used to provide emergency housing and services to homeless school children and their families in Grand Prairie. Sponsorships are still available; **RED** Level \$1000 including 8 tickets, **WHITE** \$500 including 4 tickets and **BLUE** \$250 including 2 tickets. Individual tickets are also available for \$25. We still need Raffle and Auction items donated. This is an exciting opportunity to raise funds and help more local families. Make your reservations early by calling Angela, seating is limited.

Grand Prairie Historical Commission Awards

The Grand Prairie Historical Commission hosted the annual awards ceremony on Wednesday, March 22. There were many acknowledgements of services, but the main awards were as follows:

Dechman Award:

First United Methodist Church

For the excellent documentation of the Church's 125 year history

Goodman Award:

Angela Luckey—For her work with the South Dalworth Park Historical Society

Betty Nicolle—For organizing the Veterans Day ceremonies at the Veterans Memorial

Gary Nichols and Jimmie Kidd—for restoring the city's first fire truck

Special Appreciation

The South Dalworth Park Historical Society—for ongoing research and awareness regarding the history of South Dalworth Park.

Rev. Preston Dixon—for leading the Juneteenth celebration.

Jennifer Arend—for reporting on Dechman Day and the restoration of the Fire Truck

"Squat" Cannon—for hauling, storing and working on the Fire Truck.

Tammy Chan—for the restoration of the Buffalo Wallows.

Libby Clawson—For reporting items of significance on GP in the Dallas Morning News.

Grand Prairie Times—For covering Dechman Day and the Fire Truck Restoration.

Don Johnson—for beginning the conversion of Mrs. Ruthe's It's Happening in GP from VHS to DVD.

George Wilson—for organizing the ceremony dedicating the GP Armed Forces Reserve Captain Robert "Bobby" Shanks Building.

Debra Shanks—For her thorough and complete nomination of her father, which resulted in the Armed Forces Reserve Building being named in his honor.

Special Certificates

Elaine Allison—for organizing GPISD's Veterans Day student ceremonies.

Bill Barrett—for donating the Fire Truck to the City of Grand Prairie

Elbert K. Pollard

Barbara Owen of Grand Prairie owns Barbara's Cake and Cookies. She is located in the old Weber's Dew Drop Inn building at 421 W. Main Street, which is an historical marker #47. Her home in GP is historical marker #40.

Barbara's father was the late Elbert K. Pollard, Jr..

Mr. Pollard was nominated for the honor of a veteran who lived in Grand Prairie and did something significant in the Army. He was chosen as one of two applicants to have a federal building at the old NAS Dallas named in his honor.

Mr. Pollard served in the armed forces for 20 years

and received 7 battle stars during his tour of duty. In a conversation with Barbara, she says, "Daddy started in the Army because he was too short for the Navy. He said he was 5'4", but at 5'2", I was taller than he". His comrades lovingly referred to him as "Shorty". Later during WWII, the Navy lowered the height requirement so Mr. Pollard signed up and spent the remainder of his tour in that branch.

While serving in the Army, Mr. Pollard was stationed on the Italian Peninsula in the battle of



Pollard—continued

Cassina where he served as a runner. During this tour of duty, Mr. Pollard was given the surrender papers from Germany to hand off to General Patton and personally delivered them.

Mr. Pollard learned to speak 5 different languages. He loved life and was often the life of the party. He was an avid fisherman and bought his grandsons fishing poles and spent many hours teaching them to fish.

Barbara Owen said, "Daddy would have been so proud and humbled by

this honor. He loved and honored our American flag and taught everyone around him to respect it in the same manner".

As reported above, SGT Bob Shanks was chosen for the NAS name sake. However, soldiers like Mr. Pollard and Sgt Shanks both deserve our respect and we hold

the same respect for both of these fine gentlemen.

Mr. Pollard passed away on March 22, 2005. He is missed greatly by his family and friends. He left a legacy of which we can all be proud.



"Do not go where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

May Program Speaker –Angela Luckey

President of the Grand Prairie South Dalworth Historical Society

Angela Luckey will be our speaker at the next meeting. She will be discussing the Antioch Cemetery in Grand Prairie and issues involving the South Dalworth Historical Society.

Ms. Luckey graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Physical Education and Minor in Sociology from Texas College and later received her Masters Degree from Amberton University. Ms. Luckey's family ties in the City of Grand Prai-

rie go back to 1840. Her family first lived in the community called the Line community which was located near Marshall and Hardy Road. Much of that community is now underneath Mountain Creek Lake.

Members of the GP South Dalworth Historical Society are: *Wesley Nute-Vice President, Shirley Perry-Secretary, Barbara Wright-Treasurer, Dr. Vern Alexander-Historian, Lois Brown,*

Sallye Moore, Johnnie Stanton, Tommie Williams, Joyce Harrison-Williams, Soloma Gates, John Trim, Robbie Talley, Ida Mae Manning, Edna McQuinney Bell, Delmas Morton, Doyce Pitmon, Sam and Cordis Brown, Elvis Brown, Randolph Reed, Ruthe Jackson, Brunswick Morton, Vicki Robinson Green, Carol Harrison, Shirley Harrison, Delores Purvis, Denise Gambrell, Earnestine Morris, Laura Edwards, Sondra Banks and Tawana Hall.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Because of costs involved to the GPHO, if you are not a Life Member or have not paid your dues for 2006, this will be your last newsletter. Starting in August you will only be getting the newsletter if you are a paid or life member.

Please help support GPHO by paying your dues today.

Lifetime Members of GPHO

Carol Bell

Grant Bell

L.R. Cannon

Ouida Chapman Lewis

Lisa Chennault Brown

Helen Chennault

Thomas Chennault

Thomas B Chennault

City of Grand Prairie Marketing

H. Victor Copeland

Jerry Corley

Charles and Janice England

Olive Galloway

Norma Hale

Lee D. Herring

Thomas Hight

Jorja Jackson Clemson

Marie Kerr Stufflebeme

Blythe Kizziar

Duane McGuffey

Betty Phillips

Charles Powers

Bob Roberts

Susan Shuffler

Fynlon and Eugenia Simpson

Ouida Smith

Amy Sprinkles

Angela Sutton Giessner

Donald Taylor

Ruthe Thompson Jackson

Laura Thompson Potter

**Grand Prairie
Historical
Organization**

“The Frenchman, The Adventist, The Farmer”

My father, Faucher Franklin Liggett, was born in Grand Prairie, Texas, on January 10, 1912, into a family of French and French Canadian immigrants who settled in the Grand Prairie area. He graduated from Grand Prairie High School and stayed in Grand Prairie to become a wholesale dairyman. While in school, he met Martha Underwood Liggett whom he married in 1935. Martha was the daughter of Sidney T, Underwood and Lillian Mercer, who also lived in Grand Prairie for many years. Martha Liggett taught children in various school and private settings for about 35 years. She was best known for teaching corrective speech, remedial reading, and expression (public speaking) in her home before these skills were taught in the public schools. Faucher followed in his family’s tradition of agrarian occupation and spent most of his life being a dairy farmer. Being forced into retirement when the “Toll Road” (Interstate 30) was developed, he then began a second career as an employee of Millar Drug Company. He retired from this career when he was 79 years old.

Faucher’s parents were George F. Liggett and Dina Scheppler Liggett who built a home on the family farm, now know as 322 Hill Street and, later, the home at 401 College Street, which is now a medical office. The home at 401 College Street was one of the first brick homes built in Grand Prairie. Dina’s parents, Alphonse Scheppler and Mary Agnes Faucher Scheppler

came from the Alsace Loraine Region of France where the farming tradition began. The Schepplers migrated to the United States where they were converted to the Seventh Day Adventist Religion while living in Illinois. Alphonse and Agnes returned to France when Dina was around three years old to serve as missionaries for the Seventh Day Adventist Church. The family helped organize the Grand Prairie Adventist Church. The Adventist Church was dear to the hearts of the Liggetts and the Schepplers. The Grand Prairie Adventist Church building sits on farm land that was donated by the Liggett and Scheppler families.

George and Dina Liggett had four children who maintained their residence in Grand Prairie. The oldest child was Varina Liggett Hight. She was married to Ewing Irving (Stump) Hight, the father of Marjorie Hight Spikes Copeland and Ewing Hight. Varina taught English and music at Grand Prairie High School for many years. She was also in charge of the Devotional Committee. Lottie Liggett Reeves was also the daughter of George and Dina. She, too, was an early educator, teaching fourth grade at Austin Elementary until she retired. Faucher’s brother was George Daniel (Dan) Liggett who helped maintain the family farm and then later became an award winning salesman with Nabors Trailers in Dallas.

Two descendants of the Liggett family still live in Grand Prairie. Carol Ann, your author, Liggett Bell, and her son, Joe Anderson

GPHO

**Grand Prairie Historical
Organization**


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Preserving the History of Grand Prairie



Grand Prairie Historical Friends and Members

Newsletter Published by

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The Grand Prairie Historical Organization's purpose is to search out, record, collate, preserve, and pass on to the next generation, the history of Grand Prairie, Texas, and its Southwest Dallas County environs, including the appropriate marking of authentic historical sites.

The dues year of the Organization shall be from January 1 in each year through Dec. 31 of the same year. The following classes of membership apply:

Regular Membership: The annual dues for single members shall be fifteen dollars (\$15.00) and twenty-five (\$25.00) for couples .

Life Membership: Any person 45 years or older who contributes \$200 shall be a member for life without further payment of dues.

Gold Star Membership: Payment of 10 years in advance, \$150 (no age limit).

Patron Membership: Any person who contributes five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or more to the Organization shall be a Life Member thereof and shall, in addition thereof be appropriately recognized as a Patron of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization.

Corporate Membership: Any small business that contributes \$250.00 shall be classified as a corporate member.

Dues should be mailed to Mrs. Giessner. Her information is listed to the left.



This picture needs no explanation. Most of you can tell me more about it than I know. If your interested, I can get you a copy in color.

Brian