

Membership Newsletter May 2010

Plan to Attend our Next Meeting May 13!

MAY 13 Libby Willis will present a program to NFWHS in May on Oakhurst's history and the historical connections between Oakhurst and the North Side. When revered Fort Worth businessman John P. King developed the Oakhurst neighborhood in 1924, many North Side families involved in various Stockyards and other businesses moved there. The Society supported the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association's project to list the Oakhurst in the National Register as a way to obtain more historical documentation on the connections between the neighborhood and the North Side. Libby Willis is president of the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods. She served for five years as president of the Oakhurst Neighborhood Association where she led the project to list the 710 household Riverside neighborhood as a district in the National Register of Historic Places, the largest neighborhood in Tarrant County to be so listed since 1990.



Willis

JUNE 10 Shirley Apley will present a program entitled, "Soiled Doves: An Historical Look at Prostitution in Fort Worth." Shirley comes from South Dakota and has worked for the Fort Worth Library for over 15 years. She has taught "Advanced Genealogy" classes at Tarrant County College and enjoys research and working with others to find their family heritage.



Apley

Mark Your Calendars to Attend All of These Great Programs !

Tour of Jim Lane's Home on May 14 to Benefit NFWHS

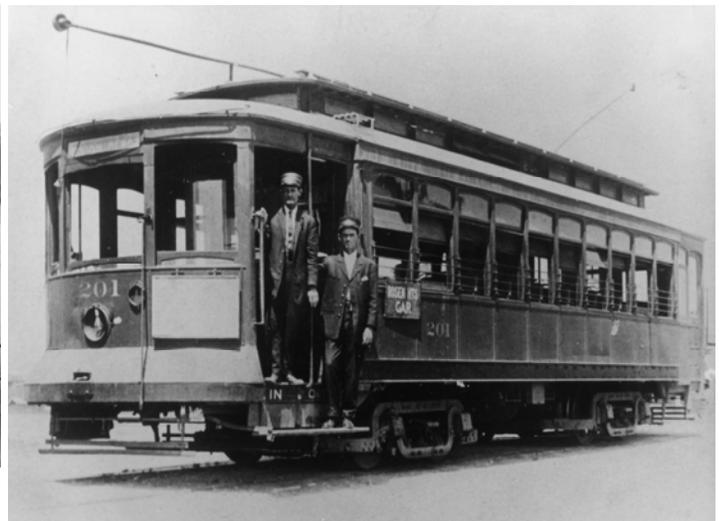
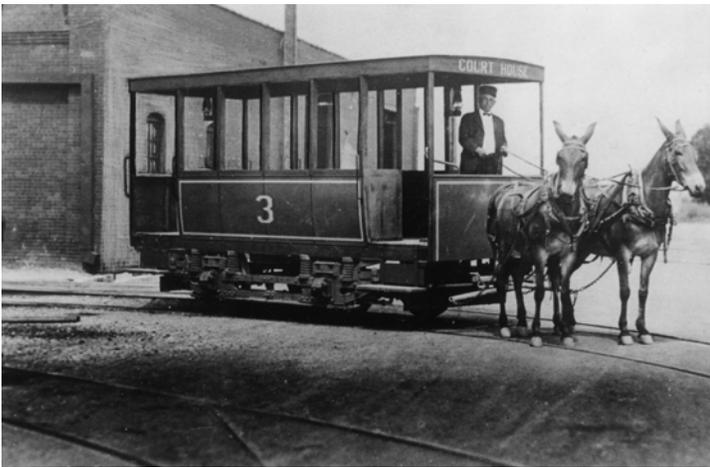
Invitations have been mailed, volunteers contacted and trained, costumes are ready, and we are all looking forward to this fun event. Valet parking is provided by Hire a Frog, Coors has donated beer, water is provided, and great Mexican hors d'oeuvres will be served along with margaritas. Now all we have to do is don our best period outfit and enjoy the home and view. If you haven't made your reservations, please call 817-625-5082 quickly. **Be sure to be nice to Gussie if she appears!**



Trolleys and Street Cars— A Great History May Return

Right after I came to work at the Stockyards Museum last March, I was contacted to find and scan street car and trolley photos in our possession. Luckily I did find them quickly and managed to get some high resolution scans done for Gene Smith and the Fort Worth Science and History Museum. I wasn't until November when we could view the wonderful exhibition he created about our transportation history.

A few of the images are included here to give you an idea of what you can see at the Science and History Museum—just realize that the trolley is full size and you can walk on it and feel as if you are traveling down a Fort Worth boulevard in the early 1900s. We will never have the trolleys or street cars as we did then, but I hope the experience of riding to the stockyards on Molly the Trolley is as fun as it can be!!



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The summer is coming and I'm hoping for a lot of tourists to invade the Stockyards! With more tourists and visitors we should have higher donations at the door and more store sales. Both will help us with our goals of getting material archived and recorded properly. The Stockyards has had many positive news stories in the past few months and this should help bring folks into the museum.

Marty Humphrey and Sarah Biles took part in a marker dedication at Oakwood Cemetery on Sunday April 25, 2010. The dedication was for Susan Spratt Polk Rayner who was the daughter of Col. William Polk and was born May 2, 1822, in North Carolina. Col. Polk was a Revolutionary War Soldier. The marker was placed by the *National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mary Isham Keith Chapter*.

Susan Rayner came to Texas

in 1882 after her husband died and settled near Stephenville. She died in San Antonio in 1909 and was buried on Oakwood. She was featured in the Oakwood walking tour put on by the NFWHS. Susan was related to a Fort Worth Chief of Police. Sarah helped with the dedication and Marty dressed in period clothing to add a nice touch.

In other news the hearing for the building to be constructed next to the Livestock Exchange Building is May 10th. The membership has stated they are opposed to this new construction and that message will be delivered at the hearing.

We are all looking forward to the open house at Jim and Janet Lane's house Friday, May 14, and hope we will have many people take this opportunity to see a beautifully restored Victorian House as well as enjoy some food and beverages. It promises to be a great affair!

Forts Muster will have passed

*Tom
Wiederhold*



by the time you get this, however, at the time I'm writing this, the event has not arrived. Again I'm hoping for great crowds in the Stockyards!

April 30, 2010, marked my last day as a Fort Worth Police Officer. After 28 years with the Fort Worth Police Department and 33 years total time as a city cop, I have retired to pursue other ventures. I have had a great career and lots of memories, some great and some that took their toll on me.

I have met many fantastic people and have had the chance to take part in several historic events. You can't ask for anything more than to be a part of history rather than a spectator to it. Even my time in the Army allowed me to take part in history and to meet an icon. I had the pleasure to meet and provide security for Bob Hope when he visited Fort Bliss. Talk about a historic figure!

I was present when the shoulder missiles were first introduced, little did I know how they would play such an important role in the cold war and the USSR.

I have been promised tentatively a replica of a doctor's 4-seat carriage to be used by NFWHS for parades and other events. I need someone willing to help with a horse and to use with the carriage. Drop note to Joni if you would like to help with parades and the carriage.

As a final note in this newsletter lets remember to always be looking for new members. Donors and ways to raise funds. See you Thursday!

Museum Musings ★ Joni Wells

Thank you to Gene Smith: his talk about Fort Worth street cars and their great history. As curator of history at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Gene developed and researched the great exhibition for their November reopening.

Welcome to new members, Mike Garrett, Nealana Patton and Marie Justice. Be sure to encourage friends and relative to join or rejoin the NFWHS—their support is vital to our mission of rediscovering, perpetuating and preserving our great history in North Fort Worth and the Stockyards.

If you have any children or grandchildren who would like to help out this summer at the museum, please give me a call. We can always use folks to organize books, artifacts and files.

Beth Dalton is now Dr. Dalton, defended her dissertation on May 3, 2010, earning an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Tarleton State University. Congratulations!

During the past month, I traveled to Weatherford for the Texas Trails meeting and to Denton for a Small Museum Strategic Planning workshop. Both were well worth the effort. New programs and events start each year.



Ninth and Main in downtown Fort Worth during the 1920s. At left is the Odeon Theater; the National Business College is on the 2nd floor of the building at Ninth and Main and a cigar store is downstairs. The new Hotel Texas is on the east side along with Shaw's Credit Jewelers, Joe Schwartz Tailor and Crouch Hardware.

Information and photo are from www.fortwortharchitecture.com created and updated by Jack White.

Summer's Here! Stockyards Happenings . . .

Texas Tourism Week starts Tuesday, May 11, on the lawn of the Livestock Exchange building. Sponsored by the Office of the Governor of Texas, the festivities will begin at 10 a.m. with Texas First Lady Anita Perry and music superstar Pat Green. Please respond to Cissy Nixon at 817-689-7844.

Cow Camp starts again for on Saturday, May 8, and continues throughout the summer from 1:30—2:30 p.m.

Cow Camp allows children and adults to have hands on, interactive experiences with the equipment used during the Cattle Drive Era. Activities include; roping, sorting, saddling, cattle drive demonstrations and chuck wagon stories. Cow Camp is held directly behind the Livestock Exchange Building.

Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show resumes each Saturday during the summer on June 5. A historical reenactment of the original Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show, it is a one-hour program packed

with action from trick horse riding, trick roping, old time music and lots more. The time is usually about 3 p.m., but not currently posted on the web site.

Summer Gunfight Shows with The Legends of Texas start May 29, 2010, Memorial Day weekend and run through Labor Day weekend. Come see this FREE, family friendly show every Saturday and Sunday inside Stockyards Station. Show times are 11:45 am and 4:15pm -- right after the herd walks down Exchange Avenue.

And, of course, **The Stockyards Museum** will be open 7 days per week from Memorial Day until Labor Day. If you want to help out on Sundays or any day during the week, please call Joan at 817-625-5082. We are normally busy every day during the summer (not matter how hot), but need more volunteers on Saturday and Sunday. Just once per month will really help us out. Volunteering in the museum isn't difficult, you just get to talk about NFW history.

2009-2010 NFWHS Officers

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3rd VP	Carol Blais
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Jill LeClair	Becky Marshall
Gene Smith	

Trustees

Quentin McGown
Jim Lane
Bill Pokluda

Museum Director

Joni Wells	817-625-5082
nfwhs@sbcglobal.net	

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Museum Hours:

Monday–Saturday 10a.m.–5p.m.