



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Marty Humphrey

Some have wondered why I have remained silent on the various plans for the Stockyards. For one, I was listening and observing at the Task Force meetings, citizen meetings, correspondence from historians, and members of the North Fort Worth Historical Society. Secondly, I was concerned that statements I made would have negative impact on the NFWHS. So with that in mind, I add the disclaimer that any statements made by me may not necessarily reflect the views of the Board or members of the North Fort Worth Historical Society and the Stockyards Museum.

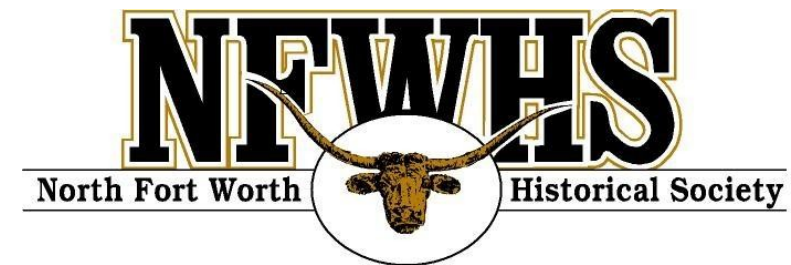
Now that a drawing has been submitted of the possible projects that could perhaps be developed by one of the property owners, I will voice some of the observations from the last few months. There are members on the Task Force and members of the community who faithfully attend each meeting that strongly believe in doing the right thing for our beloved Stockyards. Let's face it, even those who are there for their own agenda want the project to succeed, just for a different reason.

The words "history" and "authentic" are being thrown around in every other sentence, and it appears that the true meaning and the strong emotion that it enlists are being lost. To some only lip service is being given to preservation and perpetuation of the Stockyards history. This couldn't have been more evident when one member, after making the statement they were going to have educational programs, answered a community member's serious question on how they were seeking and researching the various history, with the statement they were researching it themselves and if there wasn't a story then they could always make one up and laughed about that. If you respect the history, the research and the true "story" is sacred, not something for a skit or character that you would see in an amusement park. I'm guessing some people don't understand the difference in history and a tall tale. Just a couple of weeks ago, some visitors from New York came in the museum and told us they had read in their hometown paper that there was to be major development in the Stockyards and they wanted to come to visit it before it was all gone. That breaks my heart.

We cannot diminish the history, both tangible and intangible. The buildings are our tangible history, the visual representation of our history. The intangible is more of a belief, something in your heart and soul that is hard to put into words. It lives in the walls of those buildings and in those cattle pens, it's the feeling you get when you realize that others have stood right where you are standing over the past hundred years and, to not understand that, is sad. History is the unique shape of the doors, the weathered wood, the unusual corner glassed office within an office, a name etched on the wall, the creak of the floor, the cashier cage carefully built with hand tools, these things to those who respect the history are revered, to others who tear them out and throw them in the trash only see them as an inconvenience.

The Task Force is very limited in what they can do, but we have to stand our ground to be sure that what decisions we make set the stage for later decisions down the road. We must send the message that we will not falter, we will not back down. We are facing a crossroad. Will the right decisions be made? I can't answer that and we may not know for a few years. One thing is a definite, if we don't do it right we will lose the magic of the Stockyards and we will not get it back. Those of us who love and respect the essence of the Stockyards could be left cleaning up the mess while others move on to other projects. And right there is the key, to some this is not a project, it is a lifestyle. Words are one thing, but actions make the man or the woman. I am here to answer to the taxpayers, our visitors, and to the North Fort Worth Historical Society and, therefore, I pray each night that I be given the courage to do what is right, what is good, what is ethical.

Respectfully, Marty Humphrey



Membership Newsletter August 2015

Join us on August 13th at 7pm for the NFWHS Meeting.

Our special guest is Jerry Eastman aka Bat Masterson

Since 1993, Jerry Eastman has been involved with historical 1880's reenacting and melodrama, performing in several street skits as various Old West characters and living history settings. He has portrayed Wm. B. "Bat" Masterson in various places across the west including Lubbock, TX, Tombstone, AZ, Dodge City, KS, as well as the Ft. Worth area.

Jerry has presented Bat for the Westlake Historical Society and was sought out by Castle Productions to be a Bat Historian for the American History Channels series "Gunslingers."

Jerry was mentored in Bat's life by Robert K. DeArment, who has written two books about Bat's life as well as several articles.

The meeting will be held in the Livestock Exchange Building.



We Are Looking For You!

The Oakwood Cemetery, Saints and Sinners Tour is quickly approaching and we need volunteers. If you like to have fun, enjoy raising money for a good cause, like to give back to your community or just like cemeteries, then you will enjoy being a volunteer for the NFWHS annual fund raiser.

The Saints and Sinners Tour is October 30—November 1. If you would like to sign up to volunteer at the cemetery tour, call Teresa at 817-625-5082 or email at nfwhs@sbcglobal.net.

**"Volunteers don't necessarily have the time,
they just have the heart."**

- Elizabeth Andrew

Glimpses of the Past...

This poem was found in an issue of the Stockyards Chatter, Summer 1956. It conveys the importance that the Fort Worth Stockyards had in the lives of the people that worked and lived in the area. It was written by Charles B. McCafferty (father of Charlie McCafferty) in 1947.

The Old Stockyards by Charles B. McCafferty

I've beaten many a path to the old Stockyards gate, always trying to be early but most of the time late.

I started there when a young one, and the world was young and gay, but now many years have slipped by me, into the past and far away.

I've served the Stockyards faithfully, I've made them a real good hand, but I don't forget the home I have for the Stockyards financed the plan.

The wife I have is a good one and we have been happy too, I'd had a hard time supporting her had the Stockyards not come through.

The boy I have is a good one too, his schooling almost done. For sixteen years through rain and sun, the Stockyards helped support that son.

I have herded thousands of cattle through the maze of Stockyards pens, 'til knots in the old board fences and my very nature blends.

So, I guess I'll keep going through the old Stockyards Gate, 'til my name is called up yonder, then I hope I won't be late!

National Day of the American Cowboy

On Saturday, July 25th, a celebration of the National Day of the American Cowboy was held in the Stockyards. The NFWHS had a table set up to promote the museum and the cemetery tour. Keith Bridwell and Gerlind Capling helped represent the historical society. Teresa Burleson and her husband, Bobby had their chuckwagon set and served cobbler. The event was attended by many of the NFWHS members. An estimated 3000 people, residents and tourists, attended the celebration.



NFWHS News by Teresa Burleson



Get well wishes go out to Jimmy Carter. He was hospitalized last month but he is home now. He is in good hands with Diane nursing him back to health!

Welcome New Members!

We would like to extend a warm Welcome to new members.

Jeff and Linda Hatley

Mar Lynn Harris

John Boardman

Paul and Mary Easterling

Andy and Reagan Bryant

Good News! The NFWHS is the grateful recipient of a \$10,000.00 grant from the foundation of Ann L. & Carol Green Rhodes Charitable Trust. This all came about due to the hard work of Melissa Hunter who diligently filled out the paper work and applied for the grant. Thank you to the Ann L. & Carol Green Rhodes Charitable Trust for your generous gift and support! Thank you Melissa for your hard work!

It's Finally Here! The Historical Marker that was applied for honoring the Fort Worth Belt Railway has arrived! Thanks to Dan Lamb for all the hard work, in gathering all of the information and putting it together in a 24 page presentation it to the Texas Historical Commission. Soon you will be receiving an invitation to the Dedication Ceremony.

The Saga of the Lost High School Ring

Last month Skip Humphrey found a Senior Ring with the year 2016, from Troy High, in the men's restroom in the Livestock Exchange Bldg. The following Monday Teresa Burleson, Museum Director, called the Troy High School in Troy, TX and described the ring to the secretary. It had the name Danny on it and a band emblem. The secretary said they were a small school and she knew everyone and there was no Danny at the school. Teresa showed the ring to Dan Lamb, who grew up near Troy, TX. Dan tried to track down the band director at Troy High to no avail. Dan said he would actually be in Troy the next weekend and he would see if he could find the owner. Teresa told him to take the ring, just in case. To make a long story short, Dan showed the ring to someone that knew someone that might know who it belonged to. Sure enough, the owner was found.

And the secretary at the school was correct, there isn't a student at Troy High by the name of Danny. The ring's owner, Nathaniel, lost his father a few years earlier and before his father died he asked Nathaniel to promise that he would graduate High School. So, to honor his father, Nathaniel, had his father's name, Danny, put on his ring.

We have received a nice thank you card from Nathaniel. We are so glad the ring is back where it belongs.