Handley Happenings

February, 2010

Volume 9, Issue 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE Historic Handley Neighborhood Association

BIRTHDAYS

George Mitcham; 2/1/1928
Shannon Ross; 2/3/1965
LaVelle Bothe; 2/4
Lynette Smith; 02/13
Sharen Mobley; 2/14
Will Dryden; 02/14
Paula Church; 2/15/1951
Leola Taylor Bright; 02/17
Paul Pruitt; 2/19
Doris Raymond; 2/19/1941
Maria Reyero; 2/19/1941
Marvel Storey; 2/19/1930
William Ludwig; 2/19
Edward Raymond; 2/21/1939
Rick Reyero; 2/21/1939
Betty Coomer; 02/23/1940
Ella Stewart; 2/23/26
Marie Kauth; 2/23
Jerry Tijerina; 2/24
Freddie Holcomb; 2/26

ANNIVERSARIES

Jess & Marie Eubanks; 2/8/1941
Charles & Margaret Gwin; 2-14

Our newsletter comes out with the help of the good people at Kwik Kopy. Please see them at 1850 Handley Dr. for your copy and printing needs.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."
- Margaret Mead

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Next Meeting: February 8 Handley United Methodist Church

Starting at 6:30

Pictures from our last meeting

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

President's Letter

A big thank you to all who stayed after the January meeting and helped clean up.

We had a good January meeting. The food was good as usual and thanks to those who brought food. Our speaker was our Councilman, Frank Moss, who brought us up to date on things that are happening in our area. If you want to keep informed about the good and bad things occurring in our neighborhood all you need to do is attend the meetings.

I'm going to take Will Dryden's idea and make a set-up and clean-up list for the meetings. They will be broken down into months and you can sign up for a time that is best for you. This way the jobs can be shared by everyone and no one has to help every month.

I talked to the Board of the Historic Handley Development Corp. about the garage sale items that have been collected and they are donating them to the neighborhood assoc. Now we have to decide the best time for the sale. You can also donate items but they must be workable and useable. Please don't bring the junk you want to get rid of.

Start making plans now to join in the Cowtown Clean-up coming in April.

More information will be forth coming. Last year we collected a lot of trash.

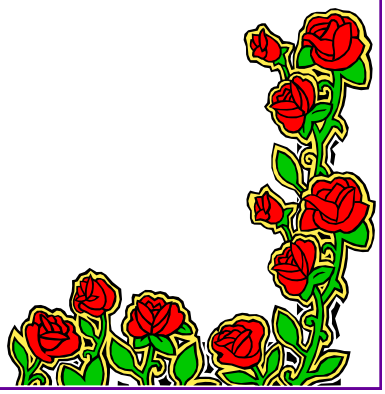
We are starting a new addition to our newsletter called "Letters to the Editor". If you have something you want to say, complain about , compliment or a general topic, please send to Lloyd Jones, Editor, P.O. Box 8037, Ft. Worth, 76124. Or you can e-mail him at lloyd@historichandley.org. You do not have to sign your name. Let your views be heard.

Our speaker at our February meeting will be Captain Gene Jones of the East Division Police Department. Captain Jones has many great ideas to help abate crime in our area. Come and learn how you can help him in accomplishing these goals.

Our next meeting is Monday, February 8th at the Handley United Methodist Church, 2929 Forest. A light meal will be served at 6:30 P.M. with the business meeting starting at 7:00 P.M.

Hope to see you at the meeting.

Joann



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HANDLEY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
MINUTES
January 11, 2010

The Handley Neighborhood Association met on Monday, January 11, 2010 at the Handley United Methodist Church. President Joann Ehlers called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Will Dryden gave the opening prayer.

The minutes were read and approved as read. The Treasurer's report was also read and approved.

The following announcements were made by President Joann Ehlers:

- **There are no funds for the fence around the cemetery. Money raisers are needed. It was suggested sale of t-shirts and/or garage sale to raise money. Estimated cost of the fence and gate is $500. Councilman Frank Moss asked if the Commissioner was contacted. He had not been.**
- **President Joann Ehlers will contact commissioner Roy Brooks to see if there are funds for this project.**
- **Plan to start Letters to the Editor in the newsletter. Lloyd Jones, the editor, will print the letters in the Newsletter.**
- **Need more people to help set up before meetings. It was suggested to have a signup sheet.**
- **East Side Ministries still needs can goods and Meals on Wheels needs volunteers.**

NPO Kim Gardener gave the crime stats for the past two weeks. There were eleven offenses the first week and eight this week. The Census workers must have identification and they may ask your income but do not need to give information. Need to only give the number of people who live in the house. Do not let them in. The Woodhaven area is the high crime area with sixteen robberies from 11/3/09 to 1/6/10. Fifteen were robberies of individuals and one was of a business. Most are in parking lots in apartment complexes. CPA and Code Blue training classes are Saturday, January 16, 2010 from 8-4 at the academy.

The HNA speaker for the evening was Councilman Frank Moss. Mr. Moss spoke on the many developmental projects in the Handley area and the need to pull together all businesses in the large core area. Transportation has allocated $395,000 for Handley Street improvements. Landscaping is needed on both sides of Lancaster. Discussions are going on with Arts Council. Interstate 820 to Handley Dr. is a concern as Dixie House brings in a lot of traffic but needs to flow better. Intersection at Craig Street and Lancaster by Bank of America has a public art project in place but all needs to tie together. Rezoning may need to be done in the area west of I820. Presently, are working on water lines on Church Street and bar ditches are being worked on Canton Drive. Construction on the new school site will begin with the old lodge building. Fund-

(Continued on page 7)

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TREASURER'S ISLAND

Hello-Everyone—I hope every one had a good start on a brand new year 2010. As the years go by, oh so fast, we wonder what happened to our youth, especially those of us who are up there in age. Would any of us change anything—probably not—we'd just muddle around and make newer and more mistakes than we did the first time around.

Captain Jones held his Captains meeting on January 25th at East Sector Base. We learned that robberies are increasing everywhere, with shoplifting up 16%. May 22nd is our Code Blue Seminar with East hosting the affair this year. They are having "Service Walks", where Code Blue people go with Police Officers to certain areas knocking on doors, and making people aware of police and Code Blue presence in the areas. We are again being asked not to give beggars any money. Call the police and let them handle the situation.

Councilman Frank Moss was the guest speaker at our Handley Neighborhood Assoc. meeting in January. We need more people to attend our meetings. We once again encourage you to bring some goodies to snack on to go with the meal our officers prepare for you. This will be the last newsletter or e-mail you will receive of the newsletter if you have not paid your $12.00 yearly dues. Please get your dues paid if you wish to continue receiving your HNA newsletter. Our new officers for the coming year are Joann Ehlers, Doris Harrison, Shirley Collins and Betty Coomer and Nedia Dryden. Doris Thomas is head of the telephone calling committee.

Eastside Ministries is always in the need for canned food and clothing items. The list gets longer and longer of people needing help. More and more people are out of work now and it seems as though the situation is getting worse. The Handley Mall Tea Room will give you some free dessert, if you bring them 4 cans of canned vegetables or meat They donate this to Eastside Ministries. I took a car full of food & plastic bags to ESM for them last week.

Handley Code Blue met on January 18th with 17 in attendance. Our NPO had a day off due to Martin Luther King Day. We are trying to get more patrollers out in the neighborhoods, so it was voted on that for every person, who patrolled at least for an hour, twice a month for 3 consecutive months, would be taken out to eat in April. We need some help keeping crime down in our neighborhoods.

Some of our members have been ill and some have had surgery. I am sure they would appreciate a card or a call or both and even a visit. Freddie Holcomb has had hip replacement surgery and is at the Greenoaks Nursing and Care Center on Greenoaks.

A long time Handley resident and daugh-

(Continued on page 6)

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ter of Red Duncan, Mary Jo Turner passed away recently. Mary Jo was a Handley High School Alumni member. She had lost her husband Don and daughter, Donna, last year, both within a few months of each other. Her Mother, Mrs. T.C. "Red" Duncan, in her 90's, still lives on Halbert St. I am sure some of you knew or remember one of our City National Bank Officers, Ben Mauldin. He also passed away recently. I just got back our last months newsletters from Bob & Frances Dollar- attempted not known?? The last we heard about them, they were both in resthomes.

I have been trying to get things together for a garage sale—it's a nightmare and a half. Here I have a 2 car garage and don't have space in it for a bicycle, for all the junk—I mean treasures. You know what's one persons junk is another persons treasures .I plan to have the sale sometime in March. Maybe then I can finally get my car out of the weather.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I literally froze to death during that last terribly cold spell we had. I froze to death in my own home and still had a $1150.00 electric bill. I got that bill and almost died. I have Insurance—they sent a company out who stayed about 10 minutes--$60.00 thank you up front—to be told they couldn't help me unless I was willing to put out $4 to $5,000.00 for new duct work. I have since had another man come out, who didn't charge me for coming out—he spent a long time and crawled all around up in the attic—found two crimped ducts that were not allowing the flow of air to come into my den. Needless to say he is coming to correct the problem and I am canceling my insurance. I'm a telling you I've got stung every which way I've turned the last several years. If I get another bill like that, I'll be to bury.

My dogs are still leading me a dog's life. They want in and out, in and out and when I want them out Toby, my little dog from hell, will run behind the couch. Heidi, my little tub of lard 12 year old, if I don't let her in when she wants back in, she will always pay me back by pooping on the rug. I wouldn't trade them for the world, they are so much company and oh so sweet, but at times I could wring their royal necks.

Brad, owner of the Handley Station Café, is opening another restaurant in the hospital district in March or April.

We are losing one of our Handley businesses, Massie's Locksmith on Handley Dr. will be closing in March. Roger may be doing business out of his home on Milam and he also has rented a place in Mansfield. They will be missed.

Madeline's Interiors is also closing March 15th. Madeline will be doing her home decorating out of her home. She wants to spend more time with her new grand daughter. Paper Planet will be moving into both of Madeline's buildings.

Some of our businesses wanted us to leave the colored cans on their counters for the Museum Fund. We will one day soon have the museum ready for people to enjoy. We want to thank everyone for their contributions to this worth while project.

Have you driven by the track on Forest

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from page 6)

St. the last few weeks. All the houses are gone, bulldozed down, even the one we wanted for the RR Museum. The fence is all gone and the marker of our Handley High School. We have been promised the marker will be placed in a place of honor at the new school, when it is completed.

May you have a fantastic February. Remember, February is the month all great people were born. It's "Birthington's Washday" month as well as Freddie Holcomb's, Marie Kauth's and my birthday too.

Take care until next time and remember our ill and bereaved members in your thoughts and prayers—call them, send them a card and better yet go see them.

Betty Allene "Drinkard" Coomer

(Continued from page 4)

ing to match what school will pay. Discussions are underway to rehab the building to be complimentary to the new school. If sold that may not be up to standards.
A great concern is the crime rate in District 5. Woodhaven having the largest crime rate but burglaries around Handley Dr. and Brentwood Stair are also great.
Mr. Moss also answered many questions from the floor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Shirley Collins, Secretary

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THE HANDLEY NEWS

BY DAVID DUNNETT

Continued from January 2010 Newsletter:

Prior to the Civil War, Fort Worth was a dirty, dreary, cold and mean little place. In 1865, K.M. Van Zandt arrived and says he saw a dead and gloomy picture. There were few businesses—some of them closed. The courthouse was started, but construction was suspended.

Situations began to change. The Civil War was over and restless people, some in search of new homes and happiness, moved westward. The familiar saying of "Gone to Texas" was frequently heard. Stagecoach routes appeared and one such was from Dallas to Fort Worth. It ran a bit southwardly to include Johnson Station and a spot on Village Creek was a favorite watering place for drivers. On one particular trip, a young clothing salesman was on board. He seemed to take a liking to the area. Perhaps, he too was one who was in search of a place to make a new home. This was the Major James Madison Handley for whom our community is named. He was of a Virginia family, though his father had moved to Georgia, and Handley has served with distinction in the Civil War with the troops from Alabama. This trip to Fort Worth by stagecoach is believed to have been in 1865 or 1866 and we don't know if it was his first trip or not. Salesmen in those days were known as drummers. Handley liked the area so much that he stopped in Fort Worth to buy some 600 acres in Handley and several lots on Houston Street. Returning to New York, he then went to Birmingham, Alabama, to visit cousins, the Haynies, and then persuaded them to come to manage his farm.

As in the plot of any good Western, the building of a railroad can make or break an area. Luckily the T & P saw fit to put its lines through to include the present community, and a stationhouse was built just east of the old Depot that many of us remember. Stories of how or why Handley was honored by naming the town for him vary. Residents of the Village Creek area then moved their homes to Handley. When the Haynies arrived by train some time later, only seven families lived here. Mr. & Mrs. George Beggs, Sr. met their train and escorted them to the house the Major had built for them. Besides the Beggs, the McRaes, Swansons, Washburns, Barnes, Thomases and McBees lived there. Some railroad-workers lived in three section houses. Also at this time, we find only three houses between Handley and Poly.

We really have found out little of the personal life of Major Handley. There are many stories as to where he lived, one being that he lived in a small house surrounded by a picket fence, located where the Jamie's Drive in Grocery on East Lancaster now is. One lady, who as a young girl helped to throw the paper, told us he would be waiting on his porch every afternoon for his paper and she would go up and hand it to him. When we asked if she had ever heard him tell of

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(Continued from page 8)

his war stories she remarked, "Oh no, my mother would have not wanted me to talk to him." Rumor too was that he was mean and grumpy and was known to have been not a teetotaler. Whether any of these are true, we actually don't know. He is not listed in the 1880 Census of Tarrant County. Whether he was busy or enumerated by the census taker is anyone's guess. The 1890 Census was burned and the 1900 has yet to be released. One story does tell us that he was involved in an unhappy love affair. He had met a Miss Rhetta Farnsworth, who was visiting at the home of an uncle of hers. They fell madly in love, but she was stricken with arthritis and thus they could never marry. The Major, however, saw that she was treated at all health resorts around. It is apparent he died a lonely man on March 25, 1906. He was first buried in the old Handley Cemetery, but the body was removed to Rose Hill Cemetery. One legend is that it was a dream of the Major to have had a home atop the hill that is now the cemetery. Another is that he actually lived there.

The late Mrs. Ada Kell, nee Ada Haynie, was a girl of 12, when she came from Alabama. She recalled the Major telling her of his dreams that someday Dallas and Fort Worth would meet. About 1900, a group of Easterners came through to look over the possibilities of building an electric railroad between Dallas and Fort Worth. The Major is said to have brought these men to the Kell home and between Miss Ada's cooking and his persuasion, the plant was built here and became the North Texas Traction Company.

To be continued in the March 2010 Newsletter

Betty "Drinkard" Coomer

Help YOUR newsletter grow

Tell us of your days growing up in Handley, send in your old family photos of the Handley area (they will be returned). Just get your items in by the 15th of the month to be included in the next newsletter.

Send in your favorite stories and pictures to:
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Letters to the Editor

Send in your likes and or dislikes or anything else that you would like to say either to the neighborhood or the editor. This space is yours, please send something to fill it.

You can e-mail it to:

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Lloyd Jones, Editor
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Thank you,
Lloyd Jones
Editor

The date for the Great American Clean-up will be April 10.
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