Handley Happenings

January, 2010

Volume 9, Issue 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE Historic Handley Neighborhood Association

BIRTHDAYS

Marcella Banks; 1/1/1938
Gina Karaboikis; 1/4/61
Charlotte Frazier; 01/07/1919
Jan Daw; 1/7
Wayne Ludwig; 1/20
Dallas Snow; 1/24
Hezzie Bellows; 1/25/1928
Carol Austin; 1/30/1933

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Nancy Johnson; 1/18/1954
Clifford & Billie Polk; 1/26/1952
Gene & Jo Pirtle; 1/29

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: January 11 Handley United Methodist Church

Starting at 6:30

Pictures from our last meeting

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Have a safe and Happy New Year.
Hope you all had a Merry Christmas.
Another year is upon us and the officers are in the process of setting up programs for 2010. If you have a subject you would be interested in hearing about, let us know. Later on in the year we are planning on another night of Bingo as everyone seemed to have enjoyed the previous one.
One of our goals this year is to increase attendance at our meetings. If you have any ideas on how to do this, please pass them on to us. And, if you are not getting notification, either by e-mail or phone, of meetings also let us know so we can correct the problem. If you have a change in your e-mail address or phone number please contact Betty Coomer so she can update the roster. Any questions or problems that you might have regarding the association, Handley or the city, please contact one of the officers and we will try to remedy the situation. The officers are working hard for the association and its members but unless we know of your concerns we are unable to help you. The officers names, phone #, and e-mail addresses are on the front of the newsletter, so feel free to contact any of us. Nedia Dryden has been added as our member-at-large to attend our officers meetings. Would anyone be interested in writing a short article for the newsletter on a subject of interest to them? If so, contact Lloyd Jones, Editor. His information is also on the front of the newsletter. Would like to thank Lloyd for a job well done on complying and having the newsletter printed, and thank Betty Coomer for the distribution of same.
Don't forger we always need Code Blue and Code Ranger members to help keep Handley safe and clean. Meals on Wheels also needs volunteers to distribute meals to shut-ins.
At our January 11th meeting we hope to have Frank Moss, City Council, to speak to us about items that concern Handley. Please come with any questions or concerns to ask Mr. Moss.
Our next meeting is January 11th, 6:30 P.M. at Handley United Methodist Church, 2929 Forest. A light meal will be served before the business meeting. Hope to you see at the meeting.

Joann

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2010 Census to Begin

WARNING: 2010 Census Cautions from the Better Business Bureau
Be Cautious About Giving Info to Census Workers by Susan Johnson

With the U.S. Census process beginning, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) advises people to be cooperative, but cautious, so as not to become a victim of fraud or identity theft. The first phase of the 2010 U.S. Census is under way as workers have begun verifying the addresses of households across the country. Eventually, more than 140,000 U.S. Census workers will count every person in the United States and will gather information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other relevant data.

The big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census worker and a con artist? BBB offers the following advice:

**** If a U.S. Census worker knocks on your door, they will have a badge, a handheld device, a Census Bureau canvas bag, and a confidentiality notice.**

Ask to see their identification and their badge before answering their questions. However, you should never invite anyone you don't know into your home.

**** Census workers are currently only knocking on doors to verify address information. DO NOT give your Social Security number, credit card or banking information to anyone, even if they claim they need it for the U..S. Census.**

REMEMBER, NO MATTER WHAT THEY ASK, YOU REALLY ONLY NEED TO TELL THEM HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVE AT YOUR ADDRESS.

While the Census Bureau might ask for basic financial information, such as a salary range, YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.

The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Any one asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau.

AND REMEMBER, THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS DECIDED NOT TO WORK WITH ACORN ON GATHERING THIS INFORMATION.
No Acorn worker should approach you saying he/she is with the Census Bureau.

Eventually, Census workers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau will not contact you by Email, so be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census. Never click on a link or open any attachments in an Email that are supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For more advice on avoiding identity theft and fraud, visit www.bbb.org

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TREASURER'S ISLAND

Hello Everyone—I do hope you had a fantastic Thanksgiving Day with your family and that you will have a very "Merry Merry" and a "Happy Happy" and an abundance of good health in the "New Year 2010" The rush is upon those of us who are running a day late and a dollar short this year. I don't know when I have been so far behind. I just can't seem to get things accomplished like I used to do—maybe it's because I'll be 70 years young this February. I don't know where all the years have gone by so fast.

We didn't have a CAC Meeting this month. Our Handley Neighborhood Association meeting and party went ok. We had a delicious pot luck spread with HNA furnishing the chicken from Doan's and Lloyd Jones cooking and furnishing a brisket. We entertained ourselves with a Chinese $5.00 gift exchange, which was a lot of fun. It's always more fun when people get with it and start taking gifts away people really want to keep. Anyway we had lots of fun and I would like to thank my niece, Cricket Sutter, who came to the church and helped me drag out 5 tables and set them all up for our festivities. It was greatly appreciated.

I hope you went by and got to see Javier Ruiz's pretty Christmas decorations on Routt St. When he found out he got yard of the month for December, he got out and put up more lights. It's always nice to see people appreciate being awarded yard of the month and how they go that extra mile in an effort to show their appreciation. The Ruiz and Sutter families tried to out do each other and on the way to Routt St., 7200 block, take a look at all the decorations on Craig St., just a little west of Rosehill Cemetery. Those decorations are fabulous—they go on and on. I believe they were awarded the yard of the month at an earlier time.

Our CPAA, Citizens Police Academy Alumni also celebrated their Christmas party with a potluck dinner and a $10.00 Chinese gift exchange. We had a ball at this one. The food was delicious and the game hilarious as more and more people had their gifts taken away from them—some numerous times. I saw what I wanted and luckily I was the 3rd person to get it so I got to keep it. It was fun—the child comes out in all of us at these shin- digs.

Our Handley Code Blue Christmas party was also a potluck and a $5.00 Chinese Gift exchange. We had chicken from Church's across the street. I bought some beautiful Christmas plates and decided to take them to the store front where we had our meeting and we used those instead of paper plates. I love Christmas time and a chance to use our pretty goodies. I made my ever famous brownies, and a Marinated Vegetable Salad and made some candy. The candy is super easy to make. You buy 2 packages of vanilla and chocolate almond bark candy, melt it in your microwave and stir in 2

(Continued on page 6)

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small or regular size cans of Spanish Peanuts and drop by a spoon-full on foil or wax paper—is it ever yummy and easy to make. Variations are Chinese Noodles and round or stick like pretzels. We had a fun time with the gift exchange. Thanks goes to Kim Gardner, our NPO, and Tyrone & Joann Wells for cleaning up afterwards—washing the plates, taking the garbage out and running the sweeper and etc. and Tyrone for following me home and carting all my goodies in the house. It was greatly appreciated.

The Handley Station Café on Handley Drive is now serving breakfast starting at 6:30 a.m. They serve delicious food. If you haven't eaten there, you are really missing a treat.

Also, during this Christmas season and possibly for a little longer, if you bring in at least 4 regular size or super size (No dented Cans) canned goods into Handley Antique Mall, you will receive one (1) free dessert from the Handley Station Café That is really an incentive to not only help East Side Ministries, who needs can goods, but will give you an opportunity to try some of their desserts, which are to die for.

In my last article I wrote you about old "Bo", the battled scared warrior dog over off Vickery at Jane's Secret Place at 401 Bryan Ave., in Ft. Worth. Well, I had an opportunity to see old "Bo" again. With his red blood shot eyes, he still looks like the morning after the night before. He's the cock of the walk over there. Well old "Bo", although he's been fixed, he has a girlfriend. Her name is "Honey" She's a pretty blond dog and is wild as a March hair. She waits on old "Bo" every evening at 4:30, when the antique shop closes up and they stroll down the street side by side. Of course "Bo" tries to make him self invisible so he won't have to go out. The next morning, when he sees the owners coming to work, he gets so excited he runs in front of their car and "Honey" pulls him back by the collar from the wheels so he won't get run over. It's a sight to see.

All the dogs love "Bo" and they will run up to him and lick him & kiss him all over the face. He just stands there and looks disgusted at the sign of affection. they give him. He rules the roost. At eating time the other dogs all stand back till "Bo" finishes eating. "Bo" is a church going dog. He has never missed a Wednesday of going to church. There is a church in the area close by. "Bo" loves Christian music and when he hears it, he about wags his tail off...Between 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. he disappears only to return to his bed fixed for him in the office. "Bo" is an alpha dog, "Top Dog." On Saturdays they feed the homeless people on a hill not far from Jane's Place. He also attends this service every Saturday without fail. They bought him a big fancy expensive bed for the office. He looked at it, looked at them and went out and got on his old bed. Some of the police department officers in that area had "Bo" fixed and chipped and feeds him and pays his vet bills, when Jane and her family are gone. The police patrol the area at night and say that "Bo" is lying on his bed outside on the ramp keeping watch, eagerly waiting for the owners return the next morning. Go by and pay Jane and "Old Bo" a visit. You'll fall in love with the old battle scared warrior too, as everyone who meets him does. You'll be surprised at what you find at Jane's Secret Place. You're missing out if you haven't been there. Just ask Gary at Eastside Antiques or Ray Barnes at the Handley Antique Mall. Gary and his

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Mom, Marie, took me there the first time. That was my undoing. Now I'm their best customer. Oh well, you can't take it with you.

I must tell you something funny on my sister, Bonnie Opitz. As many of you know I have lost 140 pounds this past year, so I do look somewhat smaller as I have gone from a size 24 to a size 12. I went out to where she lived the other day—Villas by the Lake. They were having a clothes sale and she told me to be there by 10:30 the next morning. I go out there a little after 10:00—had my Christmas hat on—I walk up to her and point to my hat. She looked at it & said how cute. That was all that was said. I walked around looking at things and I hear her talking on the phone. I again walked up to her and stood there. She started saying "Betty-Betty", wake up—you're supposed to be out here by 10:30. She turned to the two women at the counter and said she (meaning me) must still be asleep as she doesn't answer her phone. I stood right in front of her and said, "Who were you calling?" She looked at me and said "My sister, Betty, she's supposed to be out here." I looked at her and said, "Well, who am I?" She stood there and looked at me a minute and all at once threw up her hands and said oh my gosh, Betty, I didn't recognize you with that stupid hat on. The women thought it was so funny and asked me how long we had been Sisters. I said almost 70 years. It was funny.

Eastside Antiques had their Christmas Eve open house and had lots of goodies to eat. That's another place you need to check out. Gary is always getting in new goodies.

Thank you again to our businesses who advertise with us. It is greatly appreciated and to those who have sent in donations, we thank you too. Thanks to the businesses also, who allowed us to put the colorful cans on their counters, collecting for the museum fund. We hope to open the Museum Building someday soon. It is located across the RR tracks and Lloyd Jones is remodeling the building for the museum and a hot dog stand.

Take care until next time,
Betty "Drinkard" Coomer, Toby, Heidi & Rotel wish you a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year."

2010 Officers

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THE HANDLEY NEWS

BY DAVID DUNNETT

Handley at one time was covered in dense growth. The land was low, so it was subject to frequent "high waters." Among the earliest names of a land owner in Handley were the McRaes. It seemed that an uncle, Uncle McRae, obtained much land as a bounty or grant for his services to help Texas in its fight for independence. The D. McRae School in Fort Worth is named for this family. If his holdings did not include the present Handley, it did cover areas east and south of Handley. Indians were numerous. There were no special tribes, but a number of tribes were in and out. The hill located about the 6800 block of Willard Street across East Rosedale Street which is about the highest point, was called Turkey Knob. This was used by the Indians as a lookout. Among tribes in our area were the Cherokees that had been driven out of the Nacogdoches' area, Creeks, Seminoles, Wacos, Caddoes, Kickapoos and Anadarcus. There were numerous Indian relics found after some of the rains and by digging. There is a historical marker on Spur 303 opposite the golf course. This marks the spot of an Indian skirmish of May 24, 1841. The actual spot was believed to have been nearer the Old Pike Drive-In on Highway 80, but the original marker was moved when the highway was widened years before. The story is that several villages were along the creek now called Village Creek, and Captain Edward Tarrant with 70 men attacked. The braves or men of the village were away on a hunt making the victory of the attack easier. There were 12 Indians killed and only 1 white man. He was Col. John B, Denton, the man for who Denton was named and also the man who was buried three times. This was not believed to be the first or the last of the Indian Skirmishes, but one that was noted and so marked.

A year before in 1840, Jonathan Bird had staked out his fort site, in the now Irving area, and a year later. John Neeley Bryan founded his little city of Dallas. By 1849 a small outpost was established on the Trinity at the present site of the Tarrant County Courthouse. The census of 1840 shows Tarrant County with about 200 inhabitants. In 1865, Arch Leonard established a mill on the Trinity where Precinct Line Road crosses Randol Mill Road. This was the only mill in the area. It was destroyed by fire in 1862 and rebuilt by John Wheeler. After 1867, Alvis Atkinson, the third owner, hired a young man, R.A. Randol, who was very thrifty and a hard worker. Mr. Randol bought the mill after moving west from Winchester, Virginia. Inhabitants from Parker, Johnson, and even Van Zandt counties would come by wagon 60 miles to see that first "sack." Oper-

(Continued on page 9)

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(Continued from page 8)

ating on a custom basis, which meant a percentage is held or taken out for grinding costs. The mill itself was a large four story, wooden frame building, using a 30 foot water wheel. A cotton gin butted against the west wall of the mill house and to the east was a general store. A school named for Mr. Wheeler was nearby. A road ran north down the river bank. Over this stretched a thick arm of an oak tree, known as the HANGING TREE. Two horse thieves were guests of honor at a necktie party here and legends are numerous of other such parties.

At sunset, when the mill would creek its last rounds of the day, there would be scattered as many as 20 covered wagons waiting—teams unhitched. Campfires would spring up. The smell of wood smoke, frying pork middling and the sizzling corn cakes made of the fresh meal—it was no wonder that "going to the mill" was an event to be looked forward to! The river supplied power until late 1880's. It is hard for us today to think of the Trinity and Village Creek being full and clear of flowing water. A heavy log dam was built across the river with gates to regulate the flow of water through the mill race and over the giant wheel. The top of the dam sloped upward, covered by planks. Gates were used to shunt water onto the wheel and sometimes to catch a mess of fish. A set of these gates would be opened and another set closed at night, thus a quantity of fish would come in and when the water was let out, there was the making of a fish fry.

(Continued on page 10)

Help the 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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R.A. "Bob" Randol was joined by his brother John. The family owned some 500 acres of irrigated land. Unfortunately, John was one of the ten who met death at the mill. Bob Randol married first a Miss Harrison of another of our early families. The small cemetery some three miles east of Meadowbrook is known as the Harrison Cemetery where John Randol is buried.

During these early and yes glamorous days of the early mill and Bird's Fort, little is believed to have been going on in the actual site of Handley. It is hard to imagine "Lush Growth,"that was supposedly growing everywhere. Even as late as the 1900's, a prominent Handley resident was shot in front of a store in the main part of town. The murderer fled to the thickets around the present Village Creek and stayed there over a year hiding and remaining free. Only when perhaps he became lonely in solitude, he decided to go to California, where he was captured.

To be continued in Feb. 2010 newsletter. Betty Coomer

We had a "White Christmas" this year.
This is the first one that I can remember. If you can remember another one here, please send the year and a copy of any pictures that you have. If you have a story or any memories please share them with us.

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January, 2010