

# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of "Old Pearland"

Pearland Historical Society

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Pearland, Texas 77588

## President's Message

Normally, the "Newsletter" comes to you shortly before each of our quarterly **Historical Society** meetings. We came out early last month in order to advise all of you about the special dedication ceremony and setting of the time capsule at **Zychlinski Park**. This is a rather abbreviated issue to remind everyone once again about our annual reunion luncheon October 27<sup>th</sup> and also about our quarterly meeting October 16<sup>th</sup>.

The quarterly meeting will be held in a classroom at the **Church of Christ on Grand Boulevard** right next to **Zychlinski Park**. The **Knapp Senior Center** is undergoing major renovations and is not currently available. We certainly appreciate the **Church of Christ** making a room available for our meeting. If you haven't seen the Historical Marker at the Park nor the time capsule, come early and take a look.

We were very fortunate to have nice weather for the Park ceremonies although it was very hot. With all the rain **Pearland** has had over the past several months and with a disturbance out in the Gulf, the sunshine and heat seemed like a blessing.

Do you have your luncheon ticket yet? There is still plenty of time if you don't; but you don't want to miss seeing old friends again this year. At the time of this writing, we have lost six **Historical Society** members and numerous old time **Pearlanders** since last year's luncheon. As we all have talked about so much through the years as **Pearland's** population has soared, our **Luncheon** is one of the rare opportunities to get out and see a lot of old time Pearland friends. Look forward to seeing you all.

**Mickey Mark**



## Historical Marker Dedication

Pictured above with newly placed **Texas State Historical Marker** for **Zychlinski Park** is **Society Member Margurite Massey Smith** with retired **Air Force Major General William Willoughby**, who is the great grandson of Pearland founder **Witold von Zychlinski**. **Margurite** did all the research, wrote the history and personally donated the marker for the Park. **General Willoughby**, who is also an MD (pathologist) and PHD lives in **Chicago**, came down for the

ceremony. The last anyone ever heard from **Witold von Zychlinski** was when he was riding the prairie streets of **Pearland**, the town he platted in 1894. After that he simply disappeared and the **Zychlinski** heirs have no further information. Speculation was he had an interest in a turquoise mine in **New Mexico** and may have gone there after leaving **Pearland**. **General Willoughby**, prior to coming to **Pearland** for the dedication, spent a couple of days in **Santa Fe, New Mexico** scanning records to see if he could find any mention of **Zychlinski** and was unable to unveil any further information. So the dapper **Polish Count** who is our town's founder still remains a man of mystery.

**Dr. Willoughby** seemed to enjoy seeing the "old town site" which his great grandfather laid out in 1894 and expressed his appreciation to all who gathered at the ceremony and made his stay in **Pearland** an enjoyable one. He also sent a generous contribution to the Pearlland Historical Society. A memorable scene at the dedication was the unveiling of the **Historical Marker by Dr. Willoughby and Brenda Martin Riggs**. **Brenda's** great grandfather was already living here when **Dr. Willoughby's** great grandfather established the town – so we had the great grandson and great grand-daughter of a couple of men who actually stood at that site back in 1894 unveiling the **Historical Marker**.

## Time Capsule Set



**Time Capsule Committee: L.R. Luther Cunningham, Mickey Mark, Vi Price, Corky Segelquist. (Missing: Carl Talbot)**

After a couple of years of talking, we finally got our time capsule interred. As you can see in the picture, the capsule itself is a 20-1/2 gallon solid polyethylene drum with a screw on self sealing lid. This container is normally used for storing toxic waste materials. The vault it is sitting on is built of building blocks filled with concrete with brick siding. On Monday after the ceremony the capsule was placed in the vault and the concrete lid was poured. The scheduled opening date is **Sept. 22, 2057**.

A big note of thanks goes out to **Society Member Frank Doherty**, who donated materials and labor for the vault holding the time capsule. Also thanks to **Carl Talbot** who designed the pad in the shape of a baseball diamond and drew up the specs for the whole thing.



**Brenda Martin Riggs and General Willoughby preparing to unveil historical marker**



**Frank Doherty (Right) with Mayor Tom Reid at Time Capsule ceremony.**

The following is a list of items which were placed in the time capsule:

Items in time capsule – Set 9/22/2007 to be opened 9/22/2057

Mayor Tom Reid’s “State of the City Address” – Feb. 15, 2007; Newspapers: Pearland Journal July 19, 2007 with story and picture of Witold von Zychlinski

Pearland Journal – Sept. 20, 2007  
Pearland Reporter News – Sept. 20, 2007  
Houston Chronicle – Sept. 21, 2007  
Wall Street Journal – Sept. 21, 2007

**Books**

Pearland Texas, A Centennial Celebration by Barte Haile

How Did We Do It? My Life Story by Larry

**Phillips**

Roadside Baseball by Chris Epting (Zychlinski Park page 162) - Tom Hunter

The Zychlinski Family – by Major General

William Franklin Willoughby II

Calendar: The 2007 Annual Report and Calendar for the City of Pearland

**Magazines**

Family Histories or Early Memories of Pearland

Farewell to a Brave Marine – The Buster Lawhon

Story – Mickey Mark

The Story of the Twelve Jamison Children –

Florence Jamison Gum

Phillips/Curry Family History – Phil Curry

Stephen C. Cogbill Family – Charles Logan

Life in the Country – Carrie Ann Keith Mitchell

Kliesing Family - - Sidney Ray Kliesing

P. E. “Ed” Segelquist’s Family’s Pearland History

– Kenneth “Corky” Segelquist

The Hood/Moore Families - - Lester Hood

Massey Family story and pictures - - - Margurite

Massey Smith

Looking Back – Growing Up in Pearland - - Lester

Hood

Bill Bradley Remembers

My Life – Jesse Rodriquez

Larry Phillips Family – Larry William Phillips

Dave & Ina Smith Family – Susan Smith

**Lenamon**

Linda Eastridge Kinkade – Linda Kinkade

The Hill Family in Pearland – LaVerle Hill

**Spurgeon**

A Tribute to a Special Uncle (Dave Ferri) - - - -

**Carol & Gayle Ferri**

The Hunters of Pearland - - - Tommy Hunter

Geyer, Keneaster, Lizer, Oblinger family histories

with DVD’s ---Luana Concho

The O’Day Family Story – Suzanne O’Day Elliott

The Kliesing Family Genealogy and History – Ray

**Kliesing**

The Shannon Family History --- Wanda Shannon

**Jamison**

Vi Price Family w/pictures - - - Vi Price  
Alexander Family History w/CD - - Rondalin

Alexander Key

Cunningham Family History – Luther Cunningham

Memories of early years in Pearland from interviews in Historical Society Newsletters

Jewel Haskins Benes – April, 1996

Lois Hunter Bundy – Oct., 1994

Bill Bradley Remembers When - - - Jan., 1997

Vernon “Banjo” Halik, “He Never Played a Banjo” but Man Could He Dance” – April, 1999

Josie Frankenberger Heflin – June 1994

Mary Lee Smith Miller – April, 1995

Looking Back with Coach & Oleta Hawkins – July 1998

Roy Martin, Jr. – The Man Called “Dude” – June, 1995

Jack Stone – A Quiet Man from Out West - - Sept., 1997

Looking Back – Mickey Mark - - Jan. , 2007

Articles of Interest from Historical Society Newsletter

“Fuzzy’s Mighty Blast – An Historic Moment at

Zychlinski Park

Business Cards from various people

DVD’s

Pearland Old Timers Interviews 1982 – Some

Early Settlers of Pearland and Their Stories

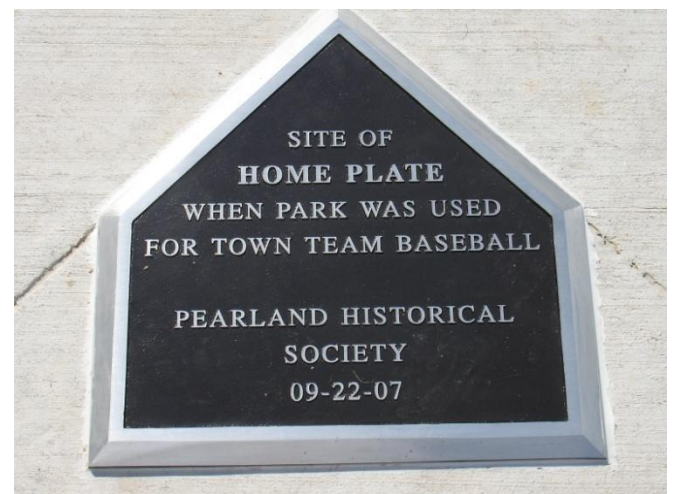
The Heart of Pearland

2 DVD’s of Ceremony for Historical Marker & Time Capsule (Phil Curry; Rondalin Alexander Key)

Pictures: Various pictures of Pearland families, baseball teams, etc.

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*Thanks to all who wrote your family histories. We really got some interesting stories and some great Pearland history. Wish we could print them all in our Newsletters; but at least we have copies to go into the Historical Society files and later into the museum.*



Plaque at site of home plate in Zychlinski Park

*Historical Society Web Site*

Thanks to Society Member Ray Kliesing, our Society now has an internet web site. Just click on [www.pearlandhistoricalsociety.com](http://www.pearlandhistoricalsociety.com) or [www.pearlandhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.pearlandhistoricalsociety.org) to see Ray's handiwork. The site is still under construction, so keep visiting to see all the updates. Thanks, Ray, we have been talking about a web site for a long time and now have a very nice one.

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 We mentioned the great family histories we received for the time capsule. We also got some good pictures. Here are some pictures from two families who made major contributions to the town of Pearland – “**The Jamison Family**” and “**The Alexander Family**”. There were ten **Alexander** children and twelve **Jamison** children. Fittingly both families have Pearland schools named for them.

**Jamison Family 1957**



PICTURE TAKEN IN 1957  
 Ages 33 to 56  
 Jamison's Left to Right  
 Florence, Quinton, Herbert  
 Allen, Will, Emma, Verna  
 Jean, Bert, Jim, Jake  
 Sam and mother  
 Martha Jamison Moore



Jamison's living in 2007  
 Picture taken in Oct. 2006  
 L-R Emma 93, Allen 88,  
 Herbert 86, Quinton 84, Florence 82

**Jamison Children 2007 L.R. Emma (93), Allen (88)  
 Herbert (86), Quinton (84) & Florence (82)**

Alexander Family - 1970



Alexander Sisters and Brothers 1970

Seated left to right: Jud, Tom, Mary, John and Bob  
 Standing left to right: Martha, Pat, Jack, Liz and Sue

Alexander Family 2004



Alexander Sisters and Brothers 2004

Left to Right: Jud, Liz, Bob, Pat, Tom, Sue, John, Mary and Jack

**L-R: Jud, Liz, Bob, Pat, Tom, Sue, Johnnie, Mary & Jack**

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*A special thanks goes out to Jon Branson and the Pearland Parks & Recreation Department for their help in setting up the dedication ceremony at Zychlinski Park on Sept. 22. Our Historical Society sincerely appreciates the assistance and co-operation we have always received from the Parks Department.*

## Among Our Members

Society Member **Nancy Phillips** is going through a rough time right now. **Nancy** was diagnosed with “Adenoid Cystic Carcinoma” recently. This is a very rare type slow growing cancer. She is facing surgery at **M. D. Anderson**, radiation therapy and skin grafts. Our prayers will be with you, **Nancy**.

**Dorothy Maness** is still in **Windsong Nursing Home** recuperating from colon cancer surgery back in mid September. **Raymond** advises that she will be going home around October 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>. Here’s hoping we see **Dorothy** at our **Reunion Luncheon**.

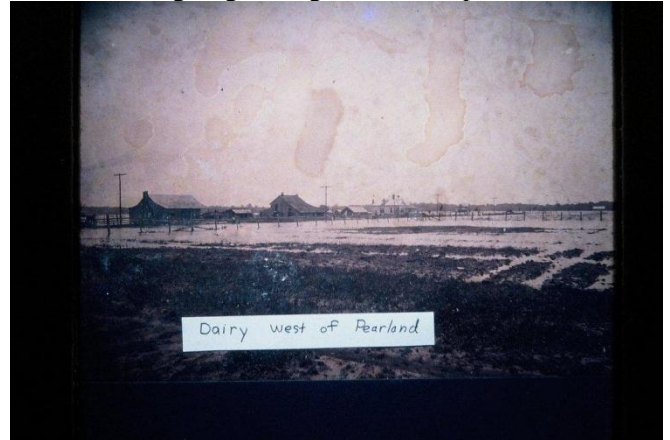
**Dekla Halik** remains in **Park Manor Nursing Home**. As mentioned in the previous **Newsletter**, **Dekla** took a bad fall back in August and had broken bones in her arm and shoulder. Also hope **Dekla** is able to make the luncheon.

Society Member **Kathy Warfield** reported that one of her classmates from the PHS class of 1977. **Theresa Marez**, passed away around Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> after a long battle with cancer. Many of you may remember **Theresa** was a beauty queen candidate. Reporting deaths is always sad, but reporting deaths of persons in the prime of their lives is very, very saddening.

It is good to report **David Scott** seems to be recuperating very nicely from his colon surgery a few weeks ago. He was at the dedication ceremony and will be at the luncheon to assist in lighting the candles in memory of our members who have passed away since the luncheon of 2006. Most of you will remember **David** made the beautiful wooden memorial stand which holds the memory candles. Also something you may or may not remember is **David** scored the first touchdown by a **Pearland Oiler** in **Pearland’s** first football game in the fall of 1937. Now it appears **David** has another distinction. He was 87 years old last January 16<sup>th</sup> and unless someone can claim otherwise he now has the distinction of being the oldest native born **Pearland male citizen**. And he is still going strong.

In a recent phone conversation with **Society Member Virgil Wood Hawk**, who is now living with her son **Curtis Oblinger in Spring**, **Virgil** mentioned that a part of **Pearland** history which we haven’t written much about is stories about the many dairies and life on the dairies back in those earlier days of **Pearland**. One dairy I always remember is the **Jollison** dairy which was

on the corner of **FM518 and Cullen (Formerly Chocolate Bayou Road)**. The picture below is hard to see but it is typical of how that dairy always looked back in those days of the 30’s and 40’s - - covered with water and cows sloughing through the mud up to their bellies.



**Jollison Dairy**

Many of your family history stories in the time capsule tell of getting up at the crack of dawn, milking the cows and then either walking, riding a horse, or school bus to school and then returning home in the afternoon to again milk the cows, clean the barn, etc. It is a bit of **Pearland** history which has not been discussed as much as some other aspects. Thanks for bringing it up, **Virgil**. Hope we will have some dairy stories soon.

## Carl Talbot with new great grandson



Since **Carl** got left out of the picture of the time capsule committee, we are putting in this one of **Carl** with great grandson **Joseph Ingrando**. Picture was taken in May. **Joseph** was born in April.

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**Long Time Pearland Business Closes**

A familiar sight to those of us who have lived in **Pearland** the last 50 years has been the **Garner Cleaners** building on **Grand Boulevard** next to the **Senior Center**. **Society Member Larry Garner** recently closed the doors and retired from the cleaning business. **Larry** and his brother **C. L.** got into the cleaning business when they bought cleaning equipment from **A. W. "Smitty" Smith**, owner of the **Pearland Drug Store**, and started taking in cleaning in a little lean to shed next to the old building that later was the original home of the **Pearland State Bank** and also **David L. Smith Realty**. In past issues we have talked about **O'Day Drilling Company** being the oldest continuous business operating in **Pearland**. **Joan's Beauty Shop**, owned and operated by **Joan Baker**, on **Broadway and Grand** and **O'Day Drilling** remain the two old time **Pearland** names still associated with "old **Pearland**."



This building, which originally sat on the corner of **Main and Broadway**, was the original site of **Garner's Cleaners**. **Larry and C. L.** started in a lean to on the

side of the building. You members with a really good memory will recall that a black couple named **Chester and Mary Roach** originally ran the cleaning shop in the lean to for "**Smitty**" **Smith**. Good luck in your retirement, **Larry!**

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**DON'T FORGET THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY MEETING TUESDAY OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE PEARLAND CHURCH OF CHRIST. HOMEMADE COOKIES, COFFEE AND SOFT DRINKS AND VISITATION FOLLOW THE MEETING.**

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**GOT YOUR TICKET FOR THE LUNCHEON ON OCT. 27<sup>TH</sup> YET? YOU STILL HAVE TIME. SEE THE FORM ATTACHED TO NEWSLETTER.**

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*Egos and Egotists*

*An egoist is a person who tells you lots of stuff about himself that you were going to tell about yourself.*

*Put two egoists together and you've got and I for an I.*

*When you are all wrapped up in yourself, you're in a pretty small package.*

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**Hope to see you at the meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Remember it is at the Church of Christ not the Knapp Senior Center this time.**

**Pictures from Zychlinski Park Dedication and Time Capsule Setting 9/22/07**



**Leah Smith Bateman, Sue(Mrs.Johnnie Bill) Alexander and Mary Alexander Bartlett**



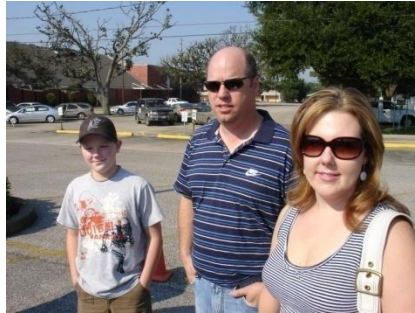
**Park Director Jon Branson opens the ceremonies.**



**Margurite Massey Smith & Mayor Tom Reid**



**Corky Segelquist and Sid Kliesing**



**Rondalin Alexander Key with husband Troy & son, Jacob**



**Jacob Key looks over the Historical Marker**



**Jerry Mitchell & Frank Doherty**



**The crowd for the marker dedication.**



**The crowd on Grand Blvd. The umbrellas were for shade**



**Mary Alexander Bartlett(L), Margurite Massey Smith & Mayor Reid**



**Mayor Reid, General Willoughby, Brenda Martin Riggs & Mickey Mark**



**Johnnie Bill Alexander looks over the time capsule**



**Sid Kliesing & Chink Logan at time capsule**



**Karen Scott Wheelock visits with Councilperson Helen Beckman**



**Parks Director Jon Branson and Major General Willoughby**



**Jon Branson, General Willoughby, Mayor Reid & Mickey Mark**



**Frank Doherty looks over capsule enclosure he built. Mickey Mark & Mayor Reid look on.**



**Plaque on time capsule enclosure**



**Time Capsule Enclosure. Concrete top added 9/24/0**



**Mary Alexander Bartlett with nephew Johnnie Bill Alexander**



**Carl Talbot & Luther Cunningham admire Zychlinski Portrait hanging in City Hall.**



**Wanda & Quinton Jamison (The sun was bright)**



**Chink Logan visits with LuAna Concho in the shade near home plate.**

**RETURN THIS FORM TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE PEARLAND  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY "REUNION LUNCHEON" SATURDAY, OCT. 27<sup>TH</sup>  
2007 AT THE PEARLAND COMMUNITY CENTER. TICKETS ARE \$8.00 PER  
PERSON.**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, count me in for a good time at the annual Historical Society Reunion Luncheon

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for luncheon tickets.

NAME\_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE OR GUEST'S NAME\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Pearland Historical Society, P.O. Box 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588



**Membership Form - - Pearland Historical Society**

Date\_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ covering membership dues of \$15 per person for the following persons. Membership dues paid in the last quarter of each year apply through the following year.

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Pearland Historical Society, P.O. Box 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588