

# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

## President's Message

I hope each of you had a very **Merry Christmas** and **2011** will be one of your best yet. What an historic year **2010** was for **Pearland**. Our **Reunion Luncheon** back in **October** had to be one of the best ever. At least that is what a lot of people have said. The fine looking "**Old Townsite Marker**" went up at **West Walnut** and **Broadway**. Our **Historical Society** started awarding plaques for **Pearland** historic homes with The **Long** home on **North Houston**, the **Cunningham** home on **South Washington** and the **Johnston** home on **North San Antonio** all receiving plaques. **Mary Lee Smith Miller** turned 100 last **August 22** and had a great birthday party. Last spring the **Old Settlers Cemetery** got a new wrought iron fence and a group of **Boy Scouts** cleaned up the cemetery putting in attractive shrubbery and polishing up gravestones; and of course **Society Member Cassie Mitchel** initiated the **Farmers' Market** at **Zychlinski Park**. So **2010** will certainly be a year for **Pearlanders** to remember for many years to come. Well, there were a few other things that some folks will probably remember also - - like the **Pearland Oilers** winning the **5A, Division 1**, football championship beating **Eusless Trinity** in a game played before 43,000 fans at **Cowboy Stadium** and televised all over **Texas**. **Eusless Trinity** was a team not only ranked number one in **Texas** but also number one in the **USA**. That was after the **Pearland** girls' softball team captured the **State** class 5A softball championship and the **Pearland Little Leaguers** going to the **USA** finals of the **Little League World Series** and being on **National TV**; and television personalities even learned to say "**Pear Land**" instead of "**Perl-und**"

Seriously, **2010** was a great year for **Pearland**; and seriously I have had many members comment that they thought our **Reunion Luncheon** was one of the best ever. We had around 215 attendees; and I don't know if it was just my taster that day or what; but the **Central Texas** barbecue seemed to be exceptionally good.

Be sure to mark your calendars and circle **October 22<sup>nd</sup>** and plan to attend the luncheon this year.

One really big event happened in **2010** which only a few know about and which you will read much more about further in this **Newsletter**. **Society Member Dwight Bittick** has been doing a lot of historical research through **Ancestry.com** on his computer; and **Dwight** came up with the answer to a question **Pearland** history buffs have been debating for as long as most of us can remember. What was that question? We all knew that the original name of **Pearland** was **Mark Belt**; but the debate was whether **Mark Belt** was the name of an actual person or was simply a railroad term meaning "a connection from one part of the railroad to another." My thought has always been it was a railroad term since no one named **Mark Belt** had ever turned up in anything written about **Pearland** history. Thanks to **Dwight** for clearing up this mystery. Read **Dwight's** findings further in the **Newsletter** to find the answer.

**Mickey Mark**

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**Just a reminder. Dues for the year 2011 are currently due. Please see form at end of Newsletter. If you paid dues in the last quarter of 2010 you are paid up through the end of 2011**

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## What's Happening

At the **October Historical Society** meeting the drainage project from **Plum Street** to the town ditch through **Hunter Park** was just starting. The very large pipes are now in the ground; but still a lot of work going on in **Hunter Park**.

We still do not have an agreement with the **City** regarding the use of the **Old Depot** as an **Historical Museum**. The building needs to be made handicap accessible before we move in and right now the **Parks and Recreation Department** is working on getting money for that project. We are fortunate to have new member **Karen Corron** as part of our **Museum Committee**. **Karen** has extensive experience in setting up a historical museum which she did when living in **Isle, Minnesota**.

We will again be awarding plaques for historical homes in old **Pearland** this year. **Dwight Bittick** has done a lot of research on history of the homes and the owners of the homes in the old townsite.

Thanks go out to all who helped out at the **Reunion Luncheon**. **Karen Kliesing, Carolyn Garner McCoy, and Carleen Mark** again did a very good job with the decorations; and we had more men and ladies at the **Community Center** at 9:30 A.M. the day of the luncheon to help with the decorations and setting up the tables than I can possibly name. Thanks to everyone for the help. One person does deserve special mention however. When all the women got started covering the tables with the table cloths and decorations, guess who was right in the middle of them rushing around and helping? None other than **Margie Wilson Lawrence**, who is 90 years old. What an inspiration to all of us.

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## Among our Members

**Society Member Dorothy Maness** passed away **January 7<sup>th</sup>**. **Dorothy** and **Raymond** were long time **Pearland** residents before moving to **Groesbeck, Texas** in **October** of **2008** to be near their daughter. **Dorothy** and **Raymond** were faithful attendees at all **Historical Society** meetings and luncheons. **Dorothy** will be missed.

**Society Member Margery Johnston** passed away **December 26<sup>th</sup>** after a long stay in the nursing home. **Margery**, the widow of **Harold D. "Buck"**

**Johnston**, had lived in **Pearland** since **1943**. Our sympathies go out to sons **Jerry, Randy** and **Ricky** and daughter **Kathy**. The **Johnston** family name has been a prominent name in **Pearland** going back to early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Editor's Note: In the October issue of the Newsletter, Society Member Lucille Anthony Cox wrote a beautiful story about Margery Johnston and the impact Margery made in her life and the life of her Pearland neighbors. In previous issues of the Newsletter we have asked for stories from our members about your memories of earlier days in Pearland – perhaps about a teacher who had an impact on your life, a good friend, or about an interesting incident you remember. Most of our stories remembering teachers and people have come from our older members who reminisce about the days when Pearland High School was in its earliest years. Laura Martin Vuittonet did write a very interesting story about her memories of Glenda Dawson for the July issue; and Linda Kinkade Eastridge also wrote a story in the April issue about her memories of life in Pearland in the 70's and 80's. It is nice to read about people or things which influenced the lives of our younger members. Your personal stories and experiences would be appreciated by all.*

Several long time **Pearlanders** passed away since the last **Newsletter**. **Lonny Garner** died **December 20<sup>th</sup>** in **Bellville, Texas** after a long illness. **Lonny** worked for many years for the **Brazoria County Drainage District**. **Lonny** was preceded in death by his parents, **Philip and Gladys Garner**, sister, **Nadine**, brothers, **Gene, C.L., A.C. and Larry**.

Long time **Pearlander, Jimmy Purcell** passed away **October 27<sup>th</sup>**. **Jimmy** was a friend to many here in **Pearland** and a dedicated worker in the **Lions Club** and the **Pearland Volunteer Fire Dept**.

**Rosalie Ferguson** passed away **Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>**. **Rosalie**, wife of former **Pearland School Superintendent** and **Pearland State Bank President, Dr. Lloyd Ferguson**, made a great contribution to the citizens of **Pearland** and to the history of **Pearland** in writing her "**History of Pearland**" in 1993. The book is both biographical and historical and tells the stories of early pioneers of **Pearland** and of families who contributed to the history of **Pearland**. **Rosalie** will remain in the hearts of **Pearlanders** for years to come. Our sympathies go out to **Dr. Ferguson**, sons **Ray** and **Randy** and families.

On **December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, **Aggie Backhaus**, wife of former **PHS Coach and Transportation Director, W. H. “Jug” Backhaus**, passed away after a short illness. **Aggie** was very active in the **Lioness Club of Pearland** and in the **Pearland Neighborhood Center**. **Aggie** is survived by her husband **“Jug”**, and sons **Darren** and **Kurt** and families. **Aggie** had been a **Pearland** resident for 44 years. Our sympathies go out to **“Jug”** and family.

Everyone seemed to enjoy our **Reunion Luncheon**; but someone who was absent and sincerely missed was **George Cates** who always made the trip down from **Dudley, Mo.** and always brought a couple of crates of homegrown apples from his orchard. **George** was hospitalized at the time with fluid in the lungs. It is good to report that **George** says he is now feeling much better. We look forward to seeing you in **October, George**.

Another member who unfortunately missed the luncheon is **Nita Jo Pitts Duty**. On **October 20th**, **Nita Jo** had a bad automobile accident breaking her ribs and puncturing her lung; and she didn't get out of the hospital until the **23<sup>rd</sup>**, the day of our luncheon. Be careful on the way next **October, Nita Jo**.

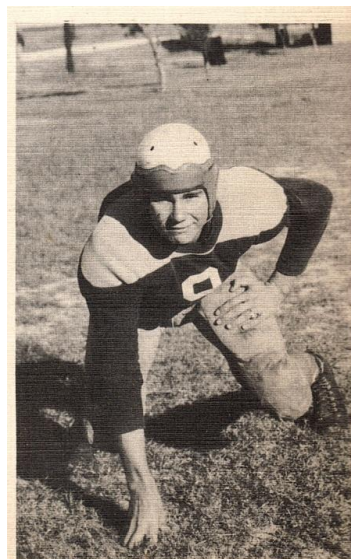
**Brenda Martin Riggs**, Secretary of our **Historical Society**, underwent gall bladder surgery on November 25<sup>th</sup>. **Brenda** has really been on a tough ride healthwise for the past year; but it is good to report her gall bladder surgery went well and **Brenda** is now doing well. She has been in all of our prayers.

It is also good to report that **Society Member Edwin Long** is now back in his historic home on **East Houston** after a rather lengthy stay in the **Hamptons** on **Scarsdale**. Great to see him back home.

Another member who is now back in **Pearland** is **Pat Talbot Burkett**. **Pat** spent some time living with her daughter, **Toni Burkett Detzler**, up in **Ada, Michigan**. Good to have **Pat** back even if it turns out to be only temporarily.

**Society Member Charles “Chink” Logan** had a major heart attack **November 29<sup>th</sup>**. Initially the doctors were concerned about doing any by-pass surgery; but on the **9<sup>th</sup> of December Chink** underwent three valve replacements (**Gertrude** says the valves were “pig valves”;) and it is good to report **Chink** is now home and doing really well.

When the **2010 Pearland Oilers** won the **State** championship, a few of us recalled the great six-man team of **1941** which beat **Kinkaid** for the “unofficial” state six-man championship and recalled how excited the little community of **Pearland** was at that time. **Chink Logan** was an outstanding junior end on that fine team and was a great speedy pass receiver and also scored a lot of touchdowns on end around plays. Good luck, **Chink**.



**Charles Logan – 1941 Not a color picture but the jersey is maroon and white.**

Long time resident **Marvin Wisley** has been going through numerous health problems but recently got some good news. **Marvin** had surgery for colon cancer; but the good news was the cancer was contained and **Marvin** will not require chemo or radiation.

Please keep all of our **Society** members and long time **Pearlanders** and families in your prayers.

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### **Proud Grandparents**

A couple of families in our **Historical Society** have good reason to be proud. They have granddaughters who made the **District 24-5A** all district volleyball team.

**Autumn Taylor, Pearland High School** sophomore, daughter of **Society Member Cheryl Riggs Taylor** and granddaughter of **Historical Society Secretary, Brenda Martin Riggs** made **All-District 24-5A 1<sup>st</sup> Team in Volleyball** playing for the

**Pearland Oilers.** As a side note, **Autumn** is a 6<sup>th</sup> generation **Pearland Martin**.

Also **Haley Satterwhite**, a junior at **Clear Lake High School** and granddaughter of **Society Members Helen and Luther Cunningham** also made 1<sup>st</sup> team all district also in **District 24-5A**

It's o.k. to brag a bit, **Cheryl, Brenda, Luther and Helen.**



**Autumn Taylor**



**Haley Satterwhite**

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**Mark Belt, Texas**

*Several really good books have been written about Pearlland's History and all of them have mentioned that Pearlland was once called Mark Belt. There has been a lot of discussion about whether it was an actual person or was a railroad term. The railroad through this area connected the railroad that went through Alvin and the railroad that went through Houston and therefore was a belt line between the two railroads. Several years ago I thought if Mark Belt were named after a man there would be a paper trail and we could find out about him and his family. There were only two Mark Belts in the entire United States that would fit in the time period we needed but they were ruled out because they were both still in Missouri in 1900. The two men were Mark Belt Sr. and Mark Belt Jr.*

*During a search in October there were two interesting articles found in the "Galveston Daily News" on March 16, 1887 in Galveston Texas at the Tremont Hotel, A man named Mark Belt from Mark Belt, Texas had checked in and also a man named Frank J. Bowman had checked in also.(He will be discussed later) In the May 24<sup>th</sup> 1887 issue, at the Beach Hotel under hotel arrivals we find the name Mark L Belt from Mark Belt, Texas. We now had*

*proof that Mark Belt was actually a person and would try again to find him.*

*The search led back to Missouri to an old book published in 1893, called "Portrait and Biographical Record of Lafayette and Saline Counties, Missouri". The Book listed the two Mark Belts we had found earlier and had a Biographical sketch on each of the men. The biography on Mark Belt Sr. stated that he had gone to Texas for A. Talmage and Co. and engaged in the cattle business and as a member and representative of the Missouri Land and Cattle Co. and fenced in seventy-five thousand acres of land that was forty-eight miles in circumference. It also stated that he wound up his business and was back in Higginsville, Mo. in 1887. We had found our man, we thought.*

*The biography of Mark Belt Jr. in the same book stated that he was also in Texas during the same period. He was a superintendent of a ranch there. Now we had too many Mark Belts.*

*The process of determining which Mark Belt was the right one led us through a huge Brazoria land scandal and two trips were made to the "Albert and Ethel Herzstine Library" at San Jacinto.*

*The first trip turned up three letters that Mark Belt Jr. had written to Mr. Looscan. Mr. Looscan was also the lawyer that represented "The Brazoria Land and Cattle Company of Missouri" that Mark Belt Sr. worked for. All three letters were addressed to Maj. M. Looscan.*

*The first letter was written in Missouri, May 22, 1886, and let Mr. Looscan know he was leaving Monday with men and with the understanding he was to buy cattle. He also requested a bottle of wine, to be picked from a man referred to as "Old Grable"*

*The second letter written from Allen Texas, June 4, 1886 (near down town Houston now.) He mentioned a camp too far down Clear Creek that he moved six miles to Garrett Dagg. He also asked about the man who was supposed to run the line (survey) and asked when the wire and post were supposed to arrive. (The camp would have been just across Clear Creek in the vicinity of the Dagg cemetery. Some of the Dagg ancestors are still in this area.)*

*The third letter was written from "Camp Dagg" June 19, 1886 and mentioned a Mr. Bower that*

*worked on the north line that had beautiful grazing land and took in part of Sims Bayou. (This is a track of land that was patented by John White and would have been about two miles north west of Erwin, Later called, Mykawa, named for a Japanese Farmer)*

*The Mark Belt Jr. Biography that was mentioned earlier stated that he went to Texas for three years and that work was, of such a nature that it required the most arduous exertion on his part, for the ranch was large and stocked with an immense number of cattle. In his wanderings he traveled through the entire state of Texas. Building fences from a campsite would be arduous work. He had mentioned buying cattle in one of his letters, and would have had to go to a lot of Texas places to have bought an immense number of cattle. So far we don't anything linking him to Brazoria County except he had a father living there.*

*The Brazoria Land and Cattle Company of Missouri was owned primarily by two men, Mr. Archibald Alexander Talmage and Mr. James O'Donnell. They had huge tracks of land under their names, their wives name and also a daughter, Kate O'Donnell Ehrman and her husband Dr. Louis P. Ehrman names were also used. Land maps shows the areas were from Liverpool to Clear Creek. Several lawyers were kept busy fighting the State and individuals over their land deals. This led Mickey Mark, Luther Cunningham and me back to the Herzstine library where we turned up a seventeen page letter from Frank J. Bowman to the President of the Brazoria Land and Cattle Co. Mr. J. J. Fisher. The letter was a notice to settle up on his lawyer fee's. He mentioned Capt Belt several times in the letter (Mark Belt Sr. was promoted to the rank of Captain in the civil war) Mr. Bowman took credit for hiring Capt. Belt and installing the switch. If you'll remember when Mark Belt checked in at the Tremont hotel in Galveston Mr. Frank J. Bowman was also there.*

*One quote from the Bowman letter was that he took credit for, the establishment of the switch at the ranch house which I secured from the Gulf Colorado and St. Fee by the aid of Col. Talmage, aided much in the exchange of lands with Mr. Semore. This is the rail road that ran from Alvin to Houston through Mark Belt.*

*We know that Mark Belt Sr. was in Brazoria County and his business relationship with Frank J. Bowman would have put them together at the*

**Tremont and Mark Belt Sr. would have been the Mark Belt from Mark Belt, Texas**

**Dwight Bittick**

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**Cecelia and Dwight Bittick**

Thanks, **Dwight**. So now we know. **Mark Belt** was a real live person and not a section of railroad which later became **Pearland, Texas**. **Dwight** has a lot more information about **Marcus L. Belt, Sr.** and **Marcus L. Belt, Jr.** better known as **Mark Belt, Sr. and Jr.** You will be reading more on our website as well as in future **Newsletters**.

**Pearland Advocate – Feb. 22, 1896**

**Dwight** mentioned our visiting the **Herzstine library** at the **San Jacinto Monument**. When we made that visit, we presented the library with a copy of the 1994 **Pearland** history book and also a copy of the first **Newsletter**, which was June, 1994. **Lisa Struthers** at the library had mentioned to **Dwight** on his first visit that she had some material given to her by **Josie Frankenberger Heflin**; so she was glad to get both the book and the **Newsletter** which featured a story about **Josie's** life in **Pearland**. It turned out that **Josie** had also donated a **Feb. 22, 1896** copy of the **Pearland Advocate** to the library. She also donated a copy to the **Pearland School District** but unfortunately that copy was lost.

**Ms. Struthers** made a copy of the **Advocate** she had and mailed it to our **Historical Society**. The copy is very difficult to read but really offers some interesting history. Reading the **Advocate**, one gets the impression that **Pearland** in 1896 was a really thriving community.

There is a story about **Josie's** grandmother, **Mrs. C. Watt** arriving in **Houston** on **Thursday** morning from **Garnett, Kansas** and dying **Sunday** night from "hemorrhage." That would probably be the reason **Josie** saved the paper.

One story, I am going to summarize here because of space limitations but we will be writing more about items in this **Advocate**.

The title of the story is "**From Longhorns to Orchards**". The story continues to explain why up until that time (1896) the land between **Houston** and **Galveston** had never been "settled up." He explains that up until 10 or 15 years earlier all of the land was held by stockmen or by people who leased the land out at 2 to 3 cents per acre citing the **Tallmage** estate alone owning over 100,000 acres. The grasses were green and nutritious and there were no harsh winters when cattle had to be fed so there was big money for the cattlemen to graze their cattle all winter. Thus according to the story, the "greedy cattle barons" over stocked; and the cattle in order to get enough to eat consumed all the good grass never giving it a chance to seed thus the only grass left was "long wire grass". He went on to say that "it is rare to see a large herd of cattle now."

He then proceeds to say that in 1883, **H. M. Stringfellow**, the pioneer horticulturalist, started his famous pear orchard. In 1893 **Stringfellow** from his 13 acre pear orchard sold 1927 forty five pound boxes of pears realizing \$5,245 net profit" after paying all expenses such as freight, packing, commission, etc."

Another story tells of fifteen men from **Wisconsin** arriving in **Pearland** arriving to look at land. One specific piece mentioned was 412 acres northeast of town owned by cattlemen **Charles Seaman** and **F. B. Walcott**. The 412 acres was known as "**The Hunter Tract**." The **Advocate** goes on to say that the visitors were very pleased with the properties visited and "the balmy spring weather was a revelation to them."

The paper also has a time table for the **Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad**. Northbound trains left **Pearland** at 8:18 A.M., 2:43 P.M. and 6:01 P.M. arriving at **Houston Central Depot** 38 minutes later.

Southbounds left **Pearland** at 9:43 A.M., 2:27 P.M., and 7:36 P.M. arriving at **Galveston** 1 hour and 14 minutes later. The trip to Alvin was 16 minutes.

As **Lois Hunter Bundy** often said and wrote, the train depot was the center of activity in **Pearland** in those days.

One more thing from the Feb. 22, 1896 **Advocate** is a list the editor calls "stolen gem". I wager you never read most of them before. Here are a few.

*"Some people give advice when they should give hot soup."*

*"A diamond has the most sparkle but a window glass does the most good."*

*"The hustling to get grub for the babies takes the romance out of weddings."*

*"A man who will kick a woman when alive and then weep for her when dead is none too good to go to an old fashioned hell."*

*"What is the use to be despondent and downcast because we can't live always. The proudest creature we are acquainted with is a turkey gobbler, and he hardly ever lives over a year."*

**J. P. Fred** and **D. S. Cook** are listed as the "publishers and proprietors of the paper. They don't say where these "stolen" gems came from.

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**Dwight** also has really delved into researching **Pearland** history and **Pearland** family histories. He has compiled a great book of information. Actually, if it gets any bigger, he will have to start using a wheelbarrow to tote it around. Keep up the great work, **Dwight**.

One of the news items **Dwight** found in an **August** , **1941** edition of the **San Antonio Light** newspaper concerns a couple of our **Historical Society** members – **Herbert and Quinton Jamison**. Here is the story:

**Alvin, Texas: Aug. 26** – "Lightning that struck a derrick on a farm one mile west of here killed a former **Houston** high school football player and injured nine others yesterday.

"**Joseph McQuillan, Jr., 20, of Houston, who planned to enter Sam Houston State Teachers College this fall was killed. He and nine injured were employed by companies erecting the derrick.**

"**The injured: Ralph Ruthstrom of Houston, also former Houston high school football players; Pete**

**Dowling, assistant football and baseball coach at Reagan High school, Houston; Herbert and Quinton Jamison, Pearland; J. V. Adamson,44; F. C. Huggins, 34; Fred Smaltery, 35 and J. B. McCauley, 44, all of Anahuac.”**

When asked about the incident, **Herbert** said he remembered it like it was yesterday. **Herbert** was “crew boss” on a group of men laying a board road to the derrick which was being built. The guy wire cable for the derrick was not anchored into the ground at the time and was being held down by one of the big timbers for the board road. When the rain came, which **Herbert** said was just a drizzle, he and **Quinton** and a couple of others got in **Herbert’s** car. Others hunkered down to the side of the pile of timber. When a big flash of lightning hit the derrick, it traveled down the guy wire cable to the timbers and one man was killed. **Herbert** said they rushed him to **Alvin** to **Dr. Merz** where he was pronounced dead. **Herbert** says that even today if he is outside and it starts to drizzle, he has flashbacks about that day.

Another bit on trivia about this article is that probably a few of our members will remember **Ralph Ruthstrom**, who was part of the crew, as later being a star linebacker and running back in the **National Football League** and also a great softball pitcher who pitched against the **Pearland** town softball team a few times. He was a big guy, (6’5” tall and 215 lbs.) with a great fastball. Also I believe **Pete Dowling** was later principal at **Stephen F. Austin High School** in **Houston**.

**Dwight** has turned up a ton of trivia. This one was interesting in that it involved two of our members.  
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### Old Memories

Recently while just fooling around surfing the internet, I came across a video of an old country western star named **Harry Choate** playing and singing the song “**Korea, Korea, Korea, Here We Come**” back in 1951. I e-mailed my very good friend, **Corky Segelquist**, telling him about the video. **Corky** and I had both enjoyed listening to that song back in 1951 when we both figured we would wind up in **Korea**; and sure enough we did. **Corky** then e-mailed me back telling me when he went to the website he also found a video of another old time western star named **Cliff Bruner** who called his band the **Texas Wanderers** and who used to play at **Raymond Kliesing’s Wander Tavern**. **Corky**, who also is a country/western musician, says **Cliff Bruner** was one of the great **Texas** swing fiddlers.

This brought back a lot of old memories of the late 30’s and 40’s when **Pearland** had two big dance halls which were filled on **Saturday** nights with country music lovers. The “**Old Style Inn**” was on the north edge of town just south of **Orange Street** and the **Wander Tavern** was over **Raymond Kliesing’s Chevrolet** agency just south of **Main and Broadway**. The dance hall was called “**The Wander Tavern**”. One really old time **Pearlander**, may have been **Splon Lane**, once told me that the original name of the “**Wander Tavern**” was the “**Wanderers’ Tavern**” because **Cliff Bruner** and the **Texas Wanderers** were the regular band that played there. Many of us older **Pearlanders** recall those days when although not much more than a blip in the road from **Houston** to **Galveston**, **Pearland** had a reputation as a real “honky tonk” town. If you would like to experience the memory of **Cliff Bruner’s** honky tonk country western music as played at the old **Wander Tavern** go to this website and enjoy it.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIHfiND14lc&feature=related>

**Kliesing Chevrolet** and **Wander Tavern** burned in 1948. The “**Old Style Inn**” closed in the early 40’s. The building was torn down about 2 years ago.

Anytime old memories are brought up invariably the old corner drugstore and the great hamburgers prepared there by **Nina Hill** and **Bobbie Martin** are a part of the discussion. Thanks to **Society Member Phil Curry** for sending the photo below which shows the entrance to the old drugstore with owner/pharmacist **Louella Smith** and **Nina Hill** standing out front. If you will notice the front entrance is covered with plywood. This photo no doubt was taken after an incident where a tank truck veered off **Highway 35** and wound up inside the drugstore. Fortunately no one was hurt. Thanks for the memory, **Phil**.



**Nina Hill and Louella Smith at old drugstore**

**Society Member Bill Hall** also brought back memories with the photo below which is of **Bill** when he was about four or five years old. **Bill** is playing in the yard directly across **Jasmine Street** from the old **Methodist Church**. In the background is the old gymnasium on **Grand Blvd.** and the old **Shop Building** on the corner of **Jasmine** and **Park Streets**. What is striking about this picture is how there are no trees and what a wide open area it was when you looked east past **Grand Blvd.**



**Bill Hall – Approx. 1939 or 40**

The picture below was taken from approximately the same place as where **Bill** was sitting playing with his toy truck. What a difference.



**The view today**

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*Now that I'm retired, I never really know what day of the week it is anymore. All I know is, the day the big newspaper comes, I have to dress up and go to church.*

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**DON'T FORGET OUR QUARTERLY MEETING, TUESDAY NIGHT, JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup>, 7:00 P.M. AT THE KNAPP CENTER. THIS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE A COMBINED MEETING OF THE OLD**

**TOWNSITE GROUP AND THE PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY. AS ALWAYS WE WILL ENJOY HOMEMADE COOKIES, COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS AND GOOD VISITATION FOLLOWING THE MEETING.**

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*Results and Roses*

*The man who wants a garden fair,  
Or small or very big,  
With flowers growing here and there,  
Must bend his back and dig.*

*The things are mighty few on earth,  
That wishes can attain.  
Whate'er we want of any worth,  
We've got to work to gain.*

*It matters not what goal you seek,  
Its secret here reposes;  
You've got to dig from week to week,  
To get results or roses.*

*Edgar Guest*

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*A Few Words of Wisdom*

*No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session. - Mark Twain (1866)*

*Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there. - Will Rogers*

*Always forgive your enemies - Nothing annoys them so much. - Anonymous*

*Always borrow money from a pessimist. He won't expect it back. - Anonymous*

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**See you Tuesday night, the 18<sup>th</sup> at the quarterly meeting.**