

# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Pearland Historical Society

P. O. Box 1333

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

## President's Message

Each year as we approach another annual **Pearland Historical Society Reunion Luncheon** I marvel at how the years are slipping away. Brings back memories of **Willie Nelson's** song "*Ain't it funny how time slips away*".

Remember the lyrics went like this:

*Well, hello there*

*My, it's been a long, long time*

*And how am I doin'?*

*Oh I guess that I'm doin' fine*

*Well, it's been so long now*

*But it seems now, that it was only yesterday.*

*Gee, ain't it funny how time just slips away*

I imagine most of the members of the **PHS** class of 1962, our honored class this year at the luncheon, are wondering that same thing. My, my, where did the time go? And on the other hand, I suspect the majority of our **Historical Society** members are regarding the 62 grads as a group of youngsters. Just points out once again how we do need to recruit younger members in our **Society** - - - "*ain't it funny how time slips away.*"

Further in the **Newsletter** we talk a little more about time slipping away, how **Pearland** has changed and how we need to keep the history recorded. I think we all think about that when we attend a funeral service for one of our long

time **Pearland** citizens and think about how much happened during his/her life time in **Pearland**.

Be sure to get your tickets for our luncheon on **October 27<sup>th</sup>**. Remember tickets purchased in advance are \$10 each and tickets at the door are \$15 each.

**Mickey Mark**

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## What's Happening

Work is continuing at our new home to make a time line of **Pearland** history and also to scan photos and documents into our new computer. Several of our members have been meeting weekly to work. Although it is slow, we are making progress. Regular weekly workers have been **Carl Talbot, Karen Corron, Ray Kliesing, Karen Kliesing, Patsy Burkett, and Luther Cunningham**. Others who have pitched in from time to time are **Margie Wells, Corky Segelquist and Willene Tindall**. We have a lot of interesting pictures and old newspapers on file. The weekly meetings give us a chance to do a lot of reminiscing as we go through the pictures and documents which are being scanned into the computer.

Our decorations committee (**Carleen Mark, Carolyn McCoy and Karen Kliesing**) has decided our decoration theme this year should be

a patriotic one to remind everyone of the upcoming election.



**Carl Talbot displaying one section of Pearland Historical Timeline. Each section will represent roughly one decade in the history of Pearland except for the first section which starts with the Moses Austin “old three hundred” settlers.**

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**Among our Members**

We all hate to see those e-mails come through with the heading “Sad News” or “Prayer Requests.” Unfortunately, we have had more of those in the last quarter than usual. We lost five **Historical Society** members.

**Society Member Marilyn Bowers Maglitto**, sister of **Society Member Sandra Gaidosek Jones**, passed away **August 1<sup>st</sup>** after a 2-1/2 year battle with multiple myeloma. She is survived by her companion of 23 years and 3 children and 8 grandchildren. **Marilyn** was a 1965 PHS graduate. She was predeceased by her mother, **Mamie Watson Williamson**.



**Marilyn Bowers Maglitto**

Shortly after in early **August Gloria Jean Cook Klonaris** lost her long running battle with cancer. **Gloria Jean** was the youngest of the children of **Clayton and Allie Mae Cook**. She was predeceased by her older sister **Betty Jane Cook Beauchamp**. Surviving siblings are sisters **Jeri and Pat** and brother **J. C. (Cotton)**. **Gloria Jean** was a **1962 PHS** grad.

On **Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>**, **Edwin Long** passed away after an extended illness and time spent in hospice care. **Edwin** is survived by his wife, **Peggy** (our hardworking **Treasurer**), son **Ken** and daughter **Lisa Dehoyos**. **Edwin and Peggy’s** beautiful home is the historic vintage 1910 two story home on **North Houston Avenue**. Those of us who knew **Edwin** well will all remember him as a quiet, easy going guy with a friendly smile and a very firm handshake. The kind of person you wanted for your friend. The **Long** family has been a **Pearland** name for many, many years.



**Edwin and Peggy at 2009 Reunion**

Another very long time **Pearland** whose family has had quite an impact on the history of **Pearland, Quinton Jamison**, passed away **Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** at the age of 90 after a long struggle with many health problems. **Quinton** was the next to youngest of the twelve **Jamison** children. Still living are **Allen Jamison** and **Society Members Herbert Jamison and Florence Jamison Gum**. **Quinton** was a charter member of the **Pearland Lion’s Club**; and I believe that up until his recent illness had never missed a meeting. A **1941 PHS** graduate, **Quinton** was in the **Pearland High School** basketball **Hall of Fame**.

Our deepest sympathies go out to his wife, **Wanda Shannon Jamison** and to all the family.



**Wanda and Quinton Jamison at Zychlenski Park dedication - Sept. 2007**

Also on **Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** **Historical Society** member **George Cates** passed away up in **Dudley, Missouri** at the age of **92**. **George** was born and raised in **Pearland**. He moved to **Missouri** in **1951**. **George** married **Helen Benes** who passed away in **2006**. **George and Helen** were regular attendees at our **Historical Society Reunion luncheon** and always brought a crate of their wonderful homegrown apples which were grown in their own orchard in **Dudley**. Even after **Helen** passed away **George** was a faithful attendee and continued to bring the apples. Another good guy who will be missed.

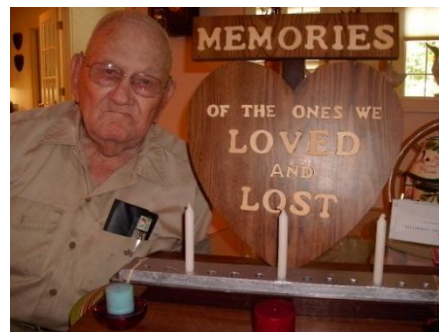


**George Cates**

Individual candles will be lit at our Luncheon in memory of **Marilyn, Gloria Jean, Edwin, Quinton and George** as well as for **Society**

**Members Dorothy Cook; Weldon “Don” Weaver, Earl Hudgins, Doyel Raney, Inez Farmer and Ray Bell** who all passed away since our luncheon of 2011.

It is also a part of our remembrance ceremony to light a single large candle in memory of other long time **Pearlanders** and family members who passed away during the year. **Society Member David Scott** changed the design of our “memories” candle holder to include memory candles for members of the class of 1962 who are no longer with us.



**David Scott with candle holder he designed and built.**

**L. A. “Smitty” Smith** passed away **July 31<sup>st</sup>**. Many will remember **Smitty** as the owner of the service station on the corner of **Broadway and Old Alvin**.

**Walter Tofte, Father of Society Member Diane Tofte Kropp** passed away **August 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the age of 91.

**Don Kliesing** passed away **August 21<sup>st</sup>** over in **Florida** after several years of various health problems. **Don**, a **1951, PHS** graduate was the brother of **Society Member Sidney Kliesing**.

**Joe Alexander**, a **1956 PHS** graduate, passed away **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** after a brief hospital stay. **Joe** was the brother of **Historical Society Member Herbert Alexander**. Many of our members will remember **Joe** as an outstanding football player during his high school days at PHS. They will also remember **Joe** as a “good

guy”. **Joe’s** wife, **Aleta Shannon Alexander**, passed away several years ago.

**Melisa “Missy”Gale Ellis** passed away **September 4<sup>th</sup>**. Missy, who was 48 years old, was the daughter of **Aubrey and Martha Thurman Ellis**. As most are aware Aubrey passed away a year or two ago. Our deepest sympathies go out to **Martha** and all of the **Ellis** family.

Former **Pearland H.S.** principal **Jim Watson** passed away **Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>**.

Long time **Pearlander Kenneth Clark** passed away **Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>**. **Ken’s** surviving wife, **Ria**, was a long time employee of the **Pearland School District**.

Another very long time **Pearlander, Mable Russett**, passed away back in **February** at the age of 101. **Mable** and her husband **Early Russett** came to **Pearland** in **1943**. They were one of the first three **African American** families in **Pearland**. **Mable** lived in her long time home on **Walnut St.** right up until her death. **Mable** worked for several families in **Pearland** including the **Billy Hunter** family, the **Bundy** family and the **Alexander** family. She had no children but is survived by many nephews and nieces.

**Society Member Betty Alexander** suffered a stroke recently. At the time of this writing, **Betty** was in **Southeast Memorial Hospital**. Please keep **Betty** and family in your prayers.

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### **Historical Society Members Celebrate 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthdays**

Two of our **Historical Society** members have recently celebrated their 102<sup>nd</sup> birthdays. **Eunice Martin “Suzy” Jones** turned 102 on **July 25<sup>th</sup>** up in **Wisconsin** where she is living with her daughter, **Eunice**.

**Mary Lee Smith Miller** turned 102 on **August 22**. According to her brother, **David Smith**, who is 86, **Mary Lee** told him she would be around to celebrate his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Way to go **Mary Lee and Eunice**.

A welcome back home goes out to **Society Members Dwight and Celia Bittick** who spent the summer at the **Villages** in **Florida**. Great to have them back. We have missed **Dwight’s** expertise on searching the computer and coming up with interesting tidbits about **Pearland** history.

Another couple who spent a couple of our hot summer months in a much cooler climate is **Society Members Alfred and Mary Long Borm**. **Alfred** reports that in **January of 1959**, he and **Mary** set off to drive to **Seattle, Washington** where **Alfred** had a new job with **Boeing Aircraft Company**. They moved back to the **Austin** area 50 years ago when **Alfred** started work on his **Ph.D**. They have lived in the **Austin** area since then. This summer they made a pilgrimage back driving the same route taken in **1959**. They rented an apartment for two months and had a grand time showing their kids and grandkids the wonderful sights of the area when they came to visit. They left **Seattle Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>** and got home **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>**. **Alfred** says they really enjoyed the scenery, the **Museum of Flight**, the cherry and apricot season, the seafood and most of all the “wonderful escape from the heat.”

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### **Update on Hunter Park**

The application for a **Texas Historical Marker** for the “**Robert L. and Julia Martin Hunter Park**”, i.e. “**Hunter Park**” has been filed. The application which includes a historical narrative has to be filed with the **Brazoria County Historical Commission** where it must be approved and forwarded to the **Texas Historical Commission**. The **Texas Historical Commission** will start reviewing applications sometime after **Jan. 1, 2013**. It will probably be

several months before we will know whether the application has been approved. The “Narrative”, which is several pages long was written by **Society Member Tom Hunter** and traces the **Robert L. Hunter** family all the way back to the original **Austin 300** group of which **Robert L. Hunter’s** grandfather, **Dr. Johnson Calhoun Hunter** was a member. Below is a picture of the park today. Due to budget cuts and putting drainage culverts through the “Park” the **Pearland Parks Dept.** has delayed their planned improvements.



**Hunter Park – September 2012**

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**PHS VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS – ALUMNI GRANDDAUGHTERS**

According to reports we have been hearing about Pearland High School volleyball games the article below pretty well tells the story.

“It is like “*old home week*” attending the Pearland High School Volleyball games. **Waverly Sadler [#1]** is the daughter of Amanda Johns and granddaughter of *Kenneth and Patricia Tillison Johns* of Manvel. Waverly has attended Pearland Schools since first grade. She is in the top 12% of the class and has been on the Varsity for three years



**Waverly Sadler**

**Courtlyn Castle [#3]** is the daughter of Jerilyn Roberts Gaines and *Chad Castle*; granddaughter of *Joan Bennett Bell* of Alvin, Texas. Courtlyn has attended Pearland School since kindergarten. She has been on Varsity for four years.



**Courtlyn Castle**

**Kari Johnston [#4]** is the daughter of Stella De La Cruz and Cary Johnston; granddaughter of Historical Society Members Tunney and Frankie Johnston. She has attended Pearland Schools since kindergarten. Kari is a senior and plays back row and has been on Varsity for two years. Academically Kari is in the top 5% of her class.



**Kari Johnston**

**Autumn Taylor [#18]** is the daughter of Steve Taylor and Society Member, *Sharyl Riggs Taylor*; granddaughter of Society Member, *Brenda Martin Riggs* and the late *Gilbert D. Riggs*; and great-granddaughter of Society Member, *Claudia Meade Martin* and the late *Roy Forrest "Dude" Martin, Jr.* Autumn was named Honorable All-District her Freshman year and All-District the last two years. She has attended Pearland Schools since kindergarten and is a sixth generation Pearlander and fifth generation of the Martin family to attend Pearland Schools. Waverly, Courtlyn and Autumn are seniors and are "outside hitters" on the Varsity Team.



**Autumn Taylor**

**Madison Garner [#7]** is the daughter of *\*Jake* and *Kim Garner* and granddaughter of *\*Leon and \*Sally West Garner*.

She has attended Pearland Schools since kindergarten and is a fifth generation Pearlander and fourth generation of the Garner family to attend Pearland Schools. Madison is a freshman and is an outside hitter on the Junior Varsity Team. The entire Garner clan attends all games to support Madison and cheer the team to victory!



**Madison Garner**

*Photos by Diane Bauers @www.diane-photo.com*

At the time of this writing both the PHS varsity and Junior varsity have 9 wins and 0 losses in district play.

Pearland High School Varsity Coach is John Turner and Varsity Assistant Coach is Sarah Treadwell Paulk –also a PHS grad.”

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*Editor’s Note: From time to time we get stories for the Newsletter from our members such as the one about the volleyball team. We have had stories about unforgettable teachers and Pearland old timers. Some of you may remember when the Readers Digest magazine had a story in each edition entitled “The Most Unforgettable Person I Ever Knew”. Most of us can remember such a person. We would welcome stories about the most “unforgettable person” you knew during your years in Pearland. In my case that person would be Buster Lawhon. I did write a long story about Buster about 20 years ago. One of these days I will try to put a condensed version in the Newsletter. Think about it. Who is your “most unforgettable person”?*

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*A little boy asked his father, "Daddy, how much does it cost to get married?" Father replied, "I don't know son, I'm still paying."*

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**Looking Back – 1962 vs 2012**

As you are all aware the honored class at our **Reunion Luncheon** is the class of **1962**, who were young 17 or 18 year olds about to face the world 50 years ago. The response from **1962** class members has been very good. According to the **Silver Anniversary** edition of the **Pearland Gusher** yearbook the class of **1962** had 48 graduates. Thus far I believe we have had around 17 members purchase tickets for the luncheon. As of now the following members have purchased tickets: **Josephine Corpus Caballero, Rachal Scott Dahse, Terry Gray, Patricia Tillison Johns, Judy Benes Poston,**

**Henry Whitt, Kent Opel, Mike Milstead, Mary Gomez Reyes, Morris Kyser, Brenda Arcemant, Linda Sue Parker Bell, Carolyn Palmer Christensen, David Louden, Clare Lynn Arnold Dusek, and Carolyn Oliver Picha.**

It is fun and interesting to look through the **1962 Silver Anniversary**. Among those who say they plan to attend the following received various honors:



***Outstanding Track Member: Morris Kyser who won the State championship in the 440 yard dash.***



***Valedictorian: Carolyn Oliver Picha***



***Drum Major for the band: Judy Benes Poston***



***Brazoria County Queen Candidate: Linda Sue Parker Bell***

The **Oiler** football team of 61 didn't have a very successful season winning just 2 and losing 8 games.

It is also interesting to compare **Pearland** as it was in **1962** versus the **Pearland** of today. According to the 62 yearbook there were a total of 229 students in high school and a total of 48 teachers in the whole school including **Superintendent Lloyd Ferguson, High School Principal Steven Prensner, Jr. High Principal Al Isaccson and Elementary Principal C. J. Harris**



***Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Recipients: Morris Kyser and Patricia Tillison Johns***  
***PTA Scholarship Winners: Clare Lynn Arnold Dusek and Carolyn Oliver***  
***L/R: Morris Kyser, Clare Arnold Dusek, Carolyn Oliver Picha. Patricia Tillison Johns***

As of the start of the 2012 school year the **Pearland School District** had 19,577 students, 2 high schools plus a vocational training high school, 11 elementary schools, 4 middle schools, 4 Junior High Schools, 1 ninth grade center and 1 alternative school.

In 1962 **Pearland** had only been an incorporated city for three years. The population was approximately 1500. Fifty years prior in 1912 the population was somewhere around 300 persons; so in the 50 years from 1912 to 1962 the population had increased about 5 fold. We are now fast approaching a population of 100,000 persons meaning the population since 1962 is 67 times more. If it has been any length of time since a 62 graduate has been to **Pearland**, he/she is in for a shock when driving around looking for old landmarks. They will need to make sure their GPS is working. As **Society Member Marjorie Lawrence** once remarked, *“Anytime I go out west of Pearland, I have to have a map to find my way back.”*

That is the great thing about our annual luncheon. Seeing old friends and remembering those earlier days in **Pearland** when we were all a lot younger.

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**Pearland Lumber Celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

For those **1962** graduates who haven't been to **Pearland** in many years, there won't be many businesses they can say, "I remember that." One they will remember is the **Pearland Lumber Company** on the corner of **Main and Orange**. The business was started in 1952 by **Howard Suttle** and a few partners. It was called **Suttle Lumber Company** until 1956 when it became **Pearland Lumber Co.** In 1958 the **Loessin** family purchased the company. **Pearland Lumber** joined **Ace Hardware** in 1966 and has been affiliated with **Ace** longer than any other business in the **State of Texas**. The original lumber company was on the south side of **Orange Street**. (See picture below). Many of you will remember the home of **Melvin and Ruth Knapp** sat on the corner of **Main and Orange** where **Pearland Lumber** is now. The company moved across **Orange** in **June, 1979**. The ribbon cutting ceremony at that time was

officiated by **Pearland Mayor (Guess Who?) - - - Mayor Tom Reid of course.**

There are few businesses in **Pearland** which have been operating continuously for 50 years or more. Of course the oldest is **O'Day Drilling Company** established in 1912. The only others which come to mind are **Billy Griffin's Barber Shop** and **JoAnn's Beauty Shop**.

What is really nice about **Pearland Lumber** is you can walk in looking for a 1/2" screw 2" long or something similar and there will be someone right there who will take you back and find it for you. Congratulations to the **Loessin** family.



**Pearland Lumber when it was on the south side of Orange. Picture taken on Main St. looking east on Orange. (Picture provided by John Loessin)**

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**DON'T FORGET OUR QUARTERLY MEETING, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 7:00 P.M. AT OUR NEW HOME ON GALVESTON STREET. AS USUAL HOMEMADE COOKIES, COFFEE SOFT DRINKS AND VISITATION FOLLOW THE MEETING.**  
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# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## Membership Application

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ covering membership dues of \$15 per person for the following persons for the year 2012

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Due date for membership fees is January of each year. Dues paid in the last quarter of the year cover the following year.

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

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**RETURN THIS FORM TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY "REUNION LUNCHEON" SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012 AT THE PEARLAND COMMUNITYCENTER. TICKETS ARE \$10.00 PER PERSON. TICKETS AT THE DOOR ARE \$15.00 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