

# 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

I know it is hard for you to believe; but here we are with another **Reunion Luncheon** coming up in just a few more days. Do you have your ticket yet? Where does the time go? Two of our members are probably asking themselves that question. Society member **Mayor Tom Reid** celebrated his **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday **Sept. 21st** and our **Treasurer, Peggy Farthing Long**, celebrated her **80<sup>th</sup>** on **Sept. 22nd**. Stories are further in the Newsletter.

Please remember our luncheon this year will be at the **Pearland** school administration building (old **Wal-Mart**) at **1928 North Main St.** – across the street from the current **Wal-Mart**. As usual the luncheon will be catered by **Central Texas Barbecue**. Also remember the cost of tickets purchased before the luncheon are \$10 each and those purchased at the door are \$15 each.

I would imagine that most of you watched the **Pearland Little Leaguers** playing in the **Little League World Series**. Not only did they make the **Pearland** folks proud of their performance on the field; but they also made us proud of their conduct on and off the field. The coaches and players deserve a pat on the back from all the **Pearland** citizens. I feel sure there will be a lot of talk at our luncheon about the **Little Leaguers** and a lot of reminiscing among the **class of 65** about their **Little League** days when the first **Pearland Little League** was organized back in

**1957**. Most of the **class of 65** would have been around 10 years old at that time. The first year of **Little League** had 44 boys ages 9 thru 12. We formed 4 teams (**Yankees, Tigers, Pirates and Brave**) with each team having an equal number of 9, 10, 11 and 12 year olds. All games were played late in the afternoon at what is now **Zychlinski Park**. **The Pearland Lions Club** donated \$100 and **Pearland** merchants also donated money to buy tee shirts and equipment. A lot different from today; but it will be talked about at our luncheon, I feel quite sure.

Don't forget our next quarterly meeting will be Thursday, **October 15<sup>th</sup>** at our **Historical** building on **North Galveston**. Hope to see you there.

**Mickey Mark**

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## What's Happening

Most of you are aware of the amazing growth of the west side of **Pearland**. **The Memorial Hermann Healthcare System** continues to expand as our town continues to grow. **Rebecca Lilley, Director of Community and Volunteer Relations**, for **Memorial Hermann** met with us to discuss the possibility of posting some **Pearland** history on the wall of the lobby of the new hospital. A copy of the timeline on the wall of our **Society** room will be used. Thanks to **Memorial Hermann** perhaps the citizens on the

west side of **Pearland** will be exposed to the history of our town.

If you haven't seen the video, the **City of Pearland** has a video entitled "**Pearland Before 518**" on their website. It is a documentary which connects **Pearland's** past to the present. Here is the website. Just copy and paste to go to the website.  
<http://pearlandtx.gov/departments/city-hall/communications/pearland-tv/pearland-before-518>

Also we are working with a **Boy Scout** by the name of **Rahul Polpat** who is doing a **Pearland History** video for his **Eagle Scout** project. It will be a short history of old **Pearland** up until the **1970's**. Our **Society Secretary, Karen Kliesing**, is doing the narration for the video.

Our **Wednesday night work group** has not been that active for the last few weeks; however we will be meeting again to begin a process for separating the many, many historic photographs we have on hand. We need to separate the photos into different categories, i.e. "**old Pearland**", **old families; athletic teams, etc.** This will require quite a lot of time and work. You will be notified when we will start this project.

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**Among our Members and Old Time Pearlanders**

**Society Member Ida Long Munday** passed away **Aug. 6<sup>th</sup>** after a long and courageous fight against cancer. **Ida** was a member of the **PHS** graduating class of **1962**. She was the youngest child of **Ernie and Dora Long**. She was preceded in death by brothers, **E. L., Wayne and Edwin** and by her sister **Donna Long Bristow**. Her grandfather was **Chares Treat Davidson**, the founder of the first telephone system in **Pearland** and whose portrait hangs in **Pearland City Hall**. Surviving sisters are **Society Members Delores Long Stevenson and Mary**

**Long Borm**. Our sympathies go out to all of **Ida's** family.

**Society Member Bobby Thompson** passed away **Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>** after an extended illness. **Bob** was a **1964 PHS** grad and a member of the outstanding **1963 Oiler football team**. Our sympathies go out to **Bob's** wife, **Gwen Watts Thompson** and family.

**Carol Bristow Wills**, daughter of **Society Member Robert Bristow**, passed away **Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>** in **Austin, Texas**. **Carol** had suffered two strokes prior to her passing.

Two other members who are going through a very rough time healthwise are **Jennie Forbes Talbot and Delores Long Stevenson**.

**Jennie**, a **1951 PHS** graduate suffered a major stroke in **mid-July**, after undergoing surgery to replace a heart valve. After an extended period of time of rehabilitation in the hospital, **Jennie** is now home under the care of her husband, **Carl Talbot**. **Jennie** is making progress so please continue to keep **Jennie and Carl** in your prayers.

**Delores**, a **1952 PHS** grad, underwent colon cancer surgery on **Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>**. Her daughter, **Debbie**, advises that **Delores'** condition is very serious. Let's all keep **Delores** in our prayers.

**Marge Isaacson Hindman** former **Pearlander** and **Mother of Society Member Bill Isaacson**, passed away **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** in **New Braunfels, Texas** at the age of **89**. **Marge** and her husband, band director and later principal at **PHS Al Isaacson** lived in **Pearland** from 1952 through **1965**. **Bill** says his **Mother** always maintained a great interest in news from **Pearland** and looked forward to **Bill** reading the **Newsletter** to her as soon as he received it. Many of us remember **Marge and Al** as great neighbors in the old **Pearland** area

The long time **Associate Pastor** of the **First Methodist Church, Bob Joiner**, passed away

**August 8<sup>th</sup>.** If you were a member of the **Methodist Church** and were in the hospital you knew to expect a visit from **Reverend Joiner**. He did great service for his church and for his community. He will certainly be missed.

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**TIME TO CELEBRATE**

The **City of Pearland** hosted a 90th birthday celebration for **Mayor Tom Reid Monday (Sept. 21) at the Recreation Center and Natatorium.** **Mayor Reid** has been active in the **Pearland** community for more than 50 years and has served as its mayor for 30 years. His birthday was actually **Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.**



**Mayor Tom Ried**

**Mayor Reid** continues to amaze us with his energy and participation in activities not only in **Pearland**, but also in **Brazoria County** and the **State of Texas**. Most of you are aware, since we have mentioned it many times, that **Mayor Reid** is the person responsible for there being a **Pearland Historical Society**. Back in **1986**, then **Mayor Reid**, sent a letter to **Victor Coppinger** suggesting that **Pearland** needed to have a **Historical Society**. **Vic Coppinger**, who was later **Mayor** also, took the ball and ran with it and started our **Historical Society**. Although most of our old time members liked **Pearland** as we knew it many years ago rather than a city of over 100,000 citizens, we do realize growth was inevitable and admire the manner in which **Mayor Reid, our councilmen and City Managers** have handled the growth to continue to keep **Pearland** a very desirable place to live.

Thank you, **Mayor Reid**, and “**Happy Birthday.**”

On **Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>** our **Pearland Historical Society Treasurer, Peggy Farthing Long**, had a birthday party celebrating her **80<sup>th</sup>** birthday at her historic home on **Houston Avenue**. It was a come and go party from one P.M. to five P.M. **Peggy** said they had around 130 persons who attended the party - - many, many old time **Pearlanders..**



**Peggy with son Ken and daughter, Lisa**

**Peggy’s** life in **Pearland** is very unique. For most of her life she has lived in the same block of **Houston Avenue**, growing up just across the street and a little north of where she now lives and living in her historic home since **1979**. In total she has lived in the same block for **65 years**. She and **Edwin** did spend some time in **California**; but most of her life has been right in “**Old Pearland**”.



**Historic Long Home –**

Happy birthday, **Peggy**, and thanks for the great job you do as our **Treasurer**.

We have two other homes in old **Pearland** pictured below which have plaques designating them as “**Historic Pearland Homes**”.



**Home of Luther & Helen Cunningham on South Washington Ave.**



**Larry Johnston home on North San Antonio Ave.**

These three homes were all built around **1910** in old **Pearland**.

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**Dedication to David Smith.**

On **Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>**, the **Pearland Fire Department** had a dedication ceremony naming the **Fire and EMS Administration Building** on **2703**

**Veterans Drive the “David L. Smith Fire and Administration Building”**. The dedication honored **David Smith** for his contribution to the **Pearland Fire Dept. and EMS** since the days they first formed in **Pearland**.



**David L. Smith Building**

Many of our members remember the early days of the **Pearland Fire Department** and then a little later the **EMS**. **David** played a major role in those early years being with the fire department since its inception in **1946**. When the **EMS** was formed it seemed as if **David** and his wife, **Frankie**, were on every run the **EMS** made. Congratulations, **David**, on having the administration building named for you. As it should be, you will long be remembered for your service to our community. Thank you.



**David Smith with daughter Susan (Right) and Carol Artz Bucek, Director of Chamber of Commerce at dedication ceremony**

As most of you readers are aware, **David**, fell back in **March** and shattered his tibia and ankle. He was in **Southeast Memorial** for quite awhile and then in **Kindred Care** for rehabilitation for awhile also. He is currently in **Trinity Oaks** assisted senior living facility. Although still in a wheel chair, **David** looked and sounded good.

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**Sidney & Reba Kliesing celebrate 65<sup>th</sup> year anniversary**

On **July 29<sup>th</sup>**, **Society Members Sidney and Reba Kliesing** celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Our congratulations go out to a great couple who both grew up here in **Pearland** and have lived most of their 65 years of their marriage here. (Except for **Sid's** time in the service) They have four children, **Ray, Robbie, Karen and Larry**, who also live here in **Pearland**. **Karen** is secretary for the **Historical Society** and **Ray** has been a faithful and valuable worker for our **Weds.** night work groups. The **Kliesing** family is one of the historic **Pearland** families. **Sidney's** grandfather, **Fred Kliesing**, came to **Pearland** from **Missouri in 1910** with his wife, **Effie** and five children: **Jess, Dan, Elsie, Esther and Raymond (Sid's father)** (\*\*\*) Information taken from **Rosalie Ferguson's** "**History of Pearland, Texas**".

Long time **Pearlanders** will remember **Jess and Mabel Kliesing** ran the "**Red and White**" grocery store on **Main St. (Hwy 35)**; and **Raymond** had a **Chevrolet** agency across the street with a beer joint and dance hall above. **Raymond** also put in the old **Pearland airport** on the south side of **Walnut** and developed **Polly Ranch in Friendswood**. The **Chevrolet** agency burned in the late 40's or early 50's and was replaced by the Quonset hut type building which is now home to a paint and body shop.



As best we can determine **Sidney** who turned **85** last **April 28th** now has the honor of being the oldest "native born" **Pearlander**. Also it is great to report **Sidney** is doing well after having the close call from his motorcycle accident awhile back. Once again congratulations to **Sid and Reba**.

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**More about Reunion Luncheon**

Thus far the following **1965 grads** have purchased their tickets for the **Reunion Luncheon**.

- Kathleen Worrell Riffe; Kathy Wells; Tommy Hunter; Roy Johnson; Woody Lesikar; Sandra Gaidosek Jones; Mike Coppinger; Michalyn Miller Ordeneaux; Gayle Luther Mekalip; Charline Lejsal O'Donnell; Tyna Bittick; Gary Prebilsky; Dixie Grimes; Lois Ann Robinson Rodriquez; Donald Migl; John Waling***

Hopefully we will have more class of 65 members getting tickets prior to the luncheon.

As usual we will have a candle lighting ceremony to remember **Historical Society members, Pearland old timers, and class of 65 members** who have passed away. We will light individual candles for **Historical Society members** and one big candle for **old timers** and one big candle for class of **65 members**.

**Society members** who have passed away since the last luncheon are *Claudia Martin; Guy Bittick; Basil Cogbill; JoAnn Suttle Mark; Herbert Jamison; Marjorie Lawrence; David Scott; Mary Lee Miller; Evelyn Martin Lawhon; Betty Alexander; Joe Dalmolin; Ida Long Munday and Bobby Thompson.*

Pearland old timers who have passed away are *Jewel Harris, Margaret Gonzales, Judy Swensen; Bob Mack Furnace, Doris Hosmer; and Wilma Wilson Koob*

Class of 65 members who have passed away are *Larry Fisher; Dean Haskins; Sharon McBride Honeycutt; Bill Kliesing, William Payne; Hughie Raney; Kenneth Schmidt, Gerald Thompson and Donald McDaniel*

We will certainly miss **David Scott** this year. **David** is pictured with the memory candle holder we use for the candle lighting ceremony. **David** built the candle holder. He also was in charge of the lighting ceremony. His daughter, **Karen Scott Wheelock**, will be bringing the candle holder. We will certainly have **David** in our memories as the candles are lit.



**David Scott with candle holder he built\**

As most are aware **David** scored the first touchdown ever made by a **Pearland Oiler** as **Pearland** defeated **LaMarque 7 – 0** in the only game the **Oilers** played in the initial **1937** football season. At the time of his death **David** was also the oldest native born **Pearlander**. In a fitting tribute to **David**, the **Pearland Oilers** had a pregame tribute to **David** telling the story of the first touchdown and then **David's** daughter, **Rachel Scott Dahse** , flipped the coin for the coin toss prior to the start of the first home game this year.

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### **More Little League Talk**

As mentioned previously, our **Pearland Little Leaguers** certainly put the town of **Pearland** in both local and national news and the play and conduct of the players certainly stimulated a lot of pride and also a lot of interest in our **Little Leaguers**.

As mentioned previously when we started the **Pearland Little League** in **1957** with **44 boys** several of those boys were later in the **class of 65**. We drew players' names out of a hat, with each team having a fairly equal number of 9, 10, 11 and 12 year old boys. The first year we played games at **Zychlinski Park**. I don't remember when we got the lighted field on the corner of **Walnut and Old Alvin** but it was within one or two years after we started in 1957.



**Mayor Dan Keller throwing 1<sup>st</sup> pitch at old park on Walnut and Old Alvin**

I have a lot of memories of the players I had on my team (**Tigers**) during the several years I managed a team. One player really stands out in my memory however; and I can't even remember his last name. I have told this story so many times that I know the guys at our coffee group are saying – "oh no, not again." Here it is.

After we had moved to the new field on **Walnut** we still had to draw players names out of a hat and you played with them. I drew a boy by the name of "**Calvin**". Don't remember his last name. **Calvin** was a little chubby boy, very impish to put it politely. He actually was a very likeable kid; but playing baseball and paying attention to what his coaches were saying was not his thing. Whenever we would be trying to get the team together and discuss how to play baseball, hand signals, etc, **Calvin** would be reaching around another kid's head and pulling his ear or something like that.

The rules were we had to play each player so many innings a week and each one had to have a certain number of times at bat. **Bob Pearce** was my assistant. **Bob** and I really had to work at when to use **Calvin** at times when a strike out or an error wouldn't hurt too much.

The night that stands out in my memory we were playing a game and were behind by two runs going into the bottom of the last inning. We had put **Calvin** in because we had been behind by about 8 runs so we thought **Calvin** wouldn't hurt us too badly.

In our last time at bat, we rallied and pulled within two runs of our opponent. With two outs and a runner on base, **Calvin** came up to bat. **Bob** wanted to put a pinch hitter in; but I didn't like to pinch hit for kids, so I told **Bob**, "we'll let him hit." This was about mid way in the season and **Calvin** had never had a hit.

When **Calvin** came up to bat, the other coach yelled at his pitcher, "don't walk him." The first pitch he threw **Calvin** drilled a fair ball right over third base. It rolled into foul territory and went all the way to the corner of the field. Our first runner scored and **Calvin** went chugging into third base just as the ball got back to the infield. The third base coach was signaling and yelling at **Calvin** to "hold up" at third. Instead **Calvin** kept chugging around third and headed home. Their shortstop threw the ball home and **Calvin** was out by a mile - - game over.

When I asked **Calvin** if he heard the coach telling him to stop, **Calvin** replied, "yes sir." I then said, "why didn't you stop?" **Calvin** replied, "because my **Daddy** said he would give me five dollars if I hit a home run." Good enough. !!!

About a week after that, **Calvin** came to practice and came up to me and said, "**Coach**, I have some bad news for you." When I asked what it was, **Calvin** replied, "we are moving from **Pearland**." I can't remember **Calvin's** last name but will always remember his triple.

I'll bet **Tommy Hunter** and several other class of 65 members will have some interesting stories about their days in Little League.

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**Do You Remember?**

The dedication ceremony for **David Smith**, brought back a lot of old memories and a few “do you remembers”. Do you remember when the **Pearland fire station** was in the esplanade on **Grand Blvd.** just south of **Hwy 518**? Further south on **Grand Blvd.** was the first **Pearland** library, which had originally been a pool hall. **Mayor Reed** is looking for a photo of the original library. If any of you have one, it would appreciated if we could have a copy for the **Mayor**.



Old Fire Station which sat in the esplanade on Grand Blvd. just across Hwy. 518 (Broadway) Picture posted on Pearland Historical Society facebook page by Brenda Martin Riggs.

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**BUMPER STICKERS**

*Change is inevitable except from a vending machine.*

*Where there is a will - - I want to be in it.*

*Few women admit their age. Few men act it.*

*We have enough youth. How about a fountain of smart.*

*When you do a good deed, get a receipt in case heaven is like the IRS.*

**Don't forget our regular quarterly Historical Society meeting Thursday, night, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at our Historical Society home on Galveston Ave. As usual homemade cookies, coffee, cold drinks and visitation follow the Meeting. Kim Sinistore, Director of Pearland Convention and Visitor's Bureau, will give us a short presentation on what is happening in Pearland. See you there.**

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**Historical Society membership dues for the year 2016 become due Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. Dues paid in the last quarter of 2015 cover membership through 2016.**

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**Thought for the day**

*You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.*

*You may be only one person in the world; but you may also be the world to one person.*



**RETURN THIS FORM TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE AT THE PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY "REUNION LUNCHEON" SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 AT THE PEARLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING (OLD WALMART BUILDING) ON HWY 35. TICKETS ARE \$10.00 PER PERSON. PLEASE NOTE: TICKETS PURCHASED AT THE DOOR WILL BE \$15 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

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**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 for the year 2015. Is this a gift membership?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

**Note: Dues paid in the last quarter of the year cover the following year.**

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

**Please note: If you are paying for gift memberships, please give the name and address of the person who is presenting the gift so that we can notify the recipient.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Now is the time for