

# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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

## President's Message

This issue of the **Newsletter** will probably be somewhat abbreviated. I am working on the **Newsletter** and trying to spend as much time as I can with **Carleen in Windsong Rehabilitation Center** (More later). As those of you have had loved ones in the hospital or nursing home for an extended period of time know how exhausting it is to spend a lot of time with your loved one and give her a hand.

So far we have not had any names and addresses of the **PHS** graduating class of **1966**, which will be the honored class at our **Reunion Luncheon** this **October**. If you are a member of the **class of 66**, please get with your classmates and give us mailing addresses. We normally mail out the invitations around the first of **June**. Help is needed.

As you will read further in the **Newsletter**, it is encouraging to see businesses taking more interest in the history of the old community of **Pearland**. Both the **Memorial Hermann Hospital** and **Methodist Hospital** were pleased to post old **Pearland** pictures; and in the case of **Memorial Hermann**, a timeline of **Pearland History** taken from our timeline is in one of the halls of the hospital. You will see more further in the **Newsletter**.

Just a reminder also that our \$15 annual membership dues were due on the first of **January**. Please see the form at the end of the **Newsletter** and renew your memberships.

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## What's Happening

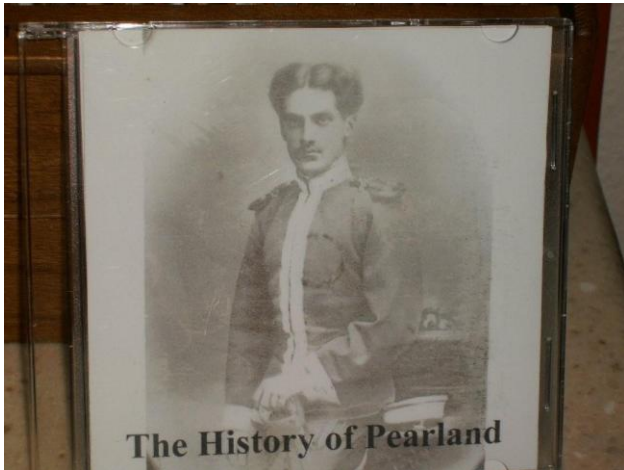
The **Eagle Scout** project which **Rahul Popat** was working on was completed recently; and it turned out really good. **Rahul** did a great job in writing the script from information provided by **Luther Cunningham** and myself; and **Karen Kliesing** did a great job in moderating. The video is probably about 11 minutes long and gives a very good history of old **Pearland**



Pictured is **Rahul Popat**, who is a 16 y.o. high school student at **Kinkaid** high school with **Society Member Phil Amick** who is an

assistant scout master. (Sorry, **Phil**. We clipped the top of your head.

**Ray Kliesing** made thirty copies of the video; and we will be presenting each **Pearland** school with a copy. Hopefully the schools will use them to give their students a good lesson in **Pearland** history.



This is a picture of the cover of the **Pearland** history video. **Ray Kliesing** made the copies and put the **Zychlinski** picture on each one. Very appropriate, **Ray**.

As mentioned earlier, the **Memorial Hermann** hospital on the west side of **Pearland** just off **288** had it's grand opening on **March 22**. **Rebecca Lilley** and **Corrino Abrego** of **Memorial Hermann** had been working with **Luther Cunningham**, **Carl Talbot** and me to use our **Pearland Historical Timeline** as a guide for the timeline which would be on one of the walls in the new hospital.

**Luther** and **Carl** could not make the opening ceremony; but I was certainly impressed with the job they did in making the timeline approx. 8 feet tall. What really impressed me were the number of people attending the opening ceremony who gathered around the timeline to read the **Pearland** history. We are certainly grateful to the hospital for putting up a timeline;

and hopefully the people on the west side of **Pearland** will become more interested and educated on our interesting history.



Time line at Memorial Hermann Hospital with **Mario Garner**, C.E.O. of Memorial Hermann with **Susan Smith Lenamon** and **Mickey Mark**



This picture shows the complete timeline. As you can see it is a very large timeline.

Here is a third image. One of our **Historical Society** members found an obvious mistake in this one.



You can't see it in this picture but **Witold Zychlinski** is spelled "Vitold" von Zychlinski. Of course the member who immediately spotted the mistake was **Tommy Hunter**, who is the **Society** member who found **Zychilinski's** great grandson, retired **Major General William Willoughby**, and who got us all the information and a picture of the mysterious founder of **Pearland** who disappeared and for over 100 years we knew nothing further about. **Tommy**, you are very observant.

Also the **Methodist Hospital** is opening a new multi-purpose facility at **Broadway and Cullen**. **Kim Perkins** with **Methodist** contacted us about their filling the shelves in the waiting area with **Pearland** history information and photos and information from our website and facebook pages. **Kim** was seeking our permission to use the photos, trivia and other info; and of course we were very happy to agree to her using the information. I haven't had a chance to visit their facility; but if any of you are out that way you might want to take a look. It is great that **Memorial Hermann and Methodist** are helping us educate the residents out west about our history.

On **March 5<sup>th</sup>**, the **PISD** hosted a **1940's** theme gala at the **Hobby Airport** museum. **Kim Hocott** and **Natalie Clogston** of the **Pearland ISD** met with us to look at old **Pearland** memorabilia we had in our site on **Galveston Ave**. I am not sure what all they took to use at the exhibit. I know they had the ladies' softball uniform which we have on a mannequin (originally worn by **Ida Nichols**) and the 1947 letter jacket donated by **Corky Segelquist**. By the way **Natalie** has joined our historical society. Welcome, **Natalie**.



**Ladies' Softball** uniform worn by **Ida Nichols** in the **1940's**. The softball field is right where our **Historical Society** site is currently.

Our **Pearland Historical Society Facebook** site has been attracting a lot of interest. Thanks to **David DeHoyas, Don Hayes and Ray Kliesing** for posting the interesting old **Pearland** pictures. We are getting a lot of comments from persons who have visited the **Facebook** site. If you haven't been there, you should take a look.

Speaking of **Facebook**, some of our members have very interesting **Facebook** sites. I will mention two which I always like to open up and read. One is the **Facebook** page of **Ann Farthing Pierson**. Apparently **Ann** is a real animal lover. She posts some of the cutest

videos of either cats or dogs (or both at once) you would ever see. I always look for **Ann's** postings.

The other is the **Facebook** page of **Society Member Florence Jamison Gum** who posts pictures of the many, many places she and her husband, **Don Gum**, visited before **Don** passed away. I haven't kept up with the many, many countries **Florence** has pictured on **Facebook**; but she is certainly a well traveled lady. You can get a world geography lesson from her posts.

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### AMONG OUR MEMBERS

**Historical Society** member **Robert Bristow** passed away **Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>**. **Robert** was a **1953 PHS** graduate; and the **Bristow** family were long time **Pearland** residents. Many will remember **Mrs. Bristow** was a cook in the first **Pearland** school cafeteria back in the early 40's. **Mr. Bristow** was an employee of the local drainage district and a man who could repair most anything. Most of you will remember that **Robert** lost his daughter, **Carol Bristow Wills**, last **September**. Our sympathies go out to all the **Bristow** family

**Florence Ann Parker Sabrsula** passed away, **Sunday, Mark 27<sup>th</sup>**. **Florence Ann** was a **1955** graduate of **PHS**. She was preceded in death by her husband, **George Safbula**, parents **Bill and Maxine Parker** and by her sister **Sara Jane Parker Osbon**. She is survived by her daughter **Hollis Spooner**, son **Rob Sabrsula** and sister **Linda Sue Parker Bell** and by grandchildren. Many of our members will remember the **Parker** 2-story home on **Plum St.** just across the street from **Prensner Stadium**. When the **Parkers** lived there, the house really stood out because there were so few homes in that area. Our sympathies go out **Florence Ann's** family.

Long time **Pearland** resident **Raymond "Jr" Maness** passed away **April 6<sup>th</sup>**. **Raymond** was living in **Grosbeck, Texas** with his daughter when he passed away. The **Maness** family is another long time pioneer **Pearland** family.

Also please keep **Carleen Mark** in your prayers. On **Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**, **Carleen** went into **ICU** at **Clear Lake Hospital** with atrial fibrillation (rapid heart beat and high blood pressure). She also was very short of breath. The doctors found that one of her heart enzymes was very low and she was given medication for the problem. After 10 days in **Clear Lake** hospital she spent about 20 days in rehab at **Windsong Nursing Home**. She is now at home but still using a walker.

Also as you were aware from the last **Newsletter**, **Society member Jennie Talbot** had been in **Windsong** since early **January** when she fell and broke her hip. (This was after having a heart valve replacement and stroke). **Jennie** is now home but still requires a lot of care to go about a daily routine.

**David Smith** underwent heart stent surgery on **March 17<sup>th</sup>**. Daughter, **Susan Smith Lenamon** reports that her Dad's heart stent surgery went very well and he was released from the hospital a day or so after the surgery. **Susan** says that in about 7 weeks **David** will have colon surgery. The good news is the doctors say the colon polyp is well contained and follow up treatment will probably not be necessary. **David** is still at **Trinity Oaks**.

Also in the last issue of the **Newsletter**, we reported that **Society member Bill Hall** was in **Tuscanny Village** in rehab after surgery for a brain infection. It is great to report that **Bill** is now home and doing exceptionally well. He is back walking on his own, driving the car and going about a normal daily routine. Way to go, **Bill !!**

Please keep all of our members and old time **Pearlanders** who are going through health problems in your prayers.

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**Society Member Brenda Martin Riggs** recently e-mailed a picture of her great grandson, **Connor Hartwell** who attended kindergarten registration at **Lawhon Elementary** in **March**. **Connor**, is the son of **Blake and Alexis Taylor Hartwell**, grandson of **Sharyl Riggs Taylor** and the late **Steve Taylor**.

He is a 7<sup>th</sup> generation **Pearlander** and 6<sup>th</sup> generation in the **Martin** lineage to attend **Pearland Schools**. Don't you imagine that very few of **Connor's** classmates are even 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> generation **Pearlanders**.



**Connor Hartwell**

**Connor** is the g.g.g.g. grandson of pioneer **Pearland** family **Samuel Pleasant Martin** and **Elmira Munsell Martin**. Also the school **Connor** will be attending was named in honor of his g.g.g. uncle, **Edgar Allan "Buster" Lawhon**, 1942 PHS grad and local **WWII** hero.

**Connor** is probably a little young to grasp how much **Pearland** history there is in the **Martin** family history.

Probably the thing most of us remember is that **Samuel Pleasant Martin** won a **Pearland** city lot on the corner of **Park and Jasmine Street** when he was declared the winner of a contest to find "the most handsome man in **Pearland**."



**Samuel Pleasant Martin Family**

Twenty one years ago we spotlighted **Roy F. "Dude" Martin** in an interview for our **Newsletter**. It was such an interesting and informative story that we had to use two issues of the **Newsletter** to finish the story. **Dude** told us that **Samuel Pleasant Martin** came to "Mark Belt, Texas" in the late 1880's from **Red Cloud, Nebraska** looking for land. When asked why in the world **Samuel** would want to move his family from **Red Cloud, Nebraska** considering what this country must have looked like in the 1880's, **Dude** laughed and replied "believe it or not his **Grandmother** only had one lung and the **Dr. in Red Cloud** told him the climate down here would be better for her health. Around 1893 he moved his family to a two story home on the corner of **Plum and Houston Ave**.

**Dude** married **Claudia Meade** in 1935 and although he and **Claudia** had 5 children at the time, **Dude** was drafted into the **Navy** during **WWII**. After **President Harry Truman** ordered the dropping of the atomic bomb, the **Navy** started releasing anyone with three

children. Those of us who have lived in **Pearland** for a number of years will remember **Dude and Claudia** as very involved parents with the activities of their five children. Whether it was a football game, basketball game, band concert, a school play or whatever, you could be sure **Dude and Claudia** would be there supporting their children or community.

**Charldine Martin Porter** was feature twirler for the **PHS** band. **Sandra Gail Martin Scott** was drum major at **PHS**. She also was **Brazoria County queen** candidate and coronation queen.

**Brenda Martin Riggs** was drum major at **PHS** and president of her class for 3 years.

**Iva Darlaine Martin Edwards** (better known as “**Cookie**”) was drum major for **PHS**.

**Roy F. “Buddy” Martin. III** was quarterback of the football team, track star and president of his class for four years at **PHS**. **Buddy** died of cancer in **1987**; and **Pearland** lost one of the most outstanding young men to grow up in our community.

**Dude** also served 5 two year terms as **Drainage Commissioner**.



**Roy “Dude” and Claudia Martin** at one of our annual reunion luncheons.

So, although **Connor** is just starting out in kindergarten, he will soon be old enough to understand just how much his ancestors contributed to our history and how much they continue to contribute. Do we have any other families who have had so many generations grow up and go to school here?

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*Things to Keep in Mind*

*Be nice to your kids. They will choose your nursing home.*

*Every morning is the dawn of a new error.*

*Ever stop to think and forget to start again?*

*If at first you do succeed, try not to look astonished.*

*It is not hard to meet expenses. They are everywhere.*

**Note:** The above were a list of “Things to Keep in Mind” contributed by **Alta McCormack Carbone** for the **January 1997** Newsletter.

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**Don’t forget our regular quarterly Historical Society meeting Thursday night, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at our Historical Society home on Galveston Ave. Cookies, coffee, cold drinks and visitation will follow the meeting. See you there.**

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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 2016. Is this a gift membership?

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

Cash Payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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. Box 1333, Pearland, Texas 77588**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

