

JCHC JOURNAL

JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION VOLUME 2014, ISSUE 1

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members,

We have lost another longtime friend and supporter of historic preservation. Paul Tanner, avocational archeologist and Member Emeritus, passed away this week.

Paul's work on the archeology of McFaddin Beach will be a lasting testament to his dedication and precision. His maps and artifacts will be studied and appreciated for many years to come at the University of Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory.

Thank you to all of our members for your time and service.

Theresa Goodness, JCHC Chair



Examples of lanceolate and other Paleoindian dart points from the Tanner Collection at TARL.

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JANUARY, 2014

Special points of interest:

- * Next Meeting.
- * Volunteer Hours.
- * Mini-museum
- * CLG News

THC NEWS

<p>The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is now accepting applications for Round VIII of its award-winning Texas Historic</p>	<p>Courthouse Preservation Program. With a \$4.2 million appropriation from the 83rd Texas Legislature, the Round VIII grants will</p>	<p>be limited to funding smaller courthouse projects with urgent needs, rather than the full restorations of the past.</p>
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to JCHC Coordinator, Linda McMahan, for sorting and cataloging all the books in the JCHC library. Her persistence in completing this laborious task is much appreciated!

Stop by the JCHC library and borrow a book or two on local history. We hope to have the complete list posted to our webpage soon.

NEXT JCHC MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS IN 2014

January 23, 2014	Noon	JCHC Conference Room Third Floor
March 27, 2014	Noon	JCHC Conference Room Third Floor
May 15, 2014	Noon	JCHC Conference Room Third Floor
July 24, 2014	Noon	JCHC Conference Room Third Floor
September 25, 2014	Noon	JCHC Conference Room Third Floor
December 11, 2014	Noon	JCHC Conference Room Third Floor

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Any work in the preservation or promotion of Jefferson County History may be counted toward your volunteer hours. JCHC meetings and travel time to and from meetings also count as volunteer hours. Members are reminded that at least 50 hours of volunteer work per year is required of each member. (Emeritus members do not have to meet this requirement.)

Also with the number of hours, JCHC needs a general description of work performed, for example: 3 Hours – Marker Survey.

If you have any questions, please call the office at 409-835-8701 or contact Linda via email at histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us

PRESERVATION PARTNERS

Beaumont Heritage Society
Landmark Commission
Texas Historical Foundation
Friends of Sabine Pass Park
Beaumont Main Street
Museum of the Gulf Coast

IN MEMORIAM

Leslie “Paul” Tanner, JCHC Member Emeritus and former Archeology Chair, passed away Saturday, January 18, 2014. A visitation for family and friends will be held Thursday evening from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM and funeral services at 2:00 PM Friday at Levingston Funeral Home in Groves.

Paul received the 2009 Society for American Archaeology Crabtree Award for being the single most important person in systematically documenting the collections and information on artifacts recovered from McFaddin Beach, Texas over the past 20 years. McFaddin Beach, has one of the highest concentrations of Clovis material found anywhere in North America, and the stone tools recovered from the Beach span all prehistoric and historic cultural periods. Sourcing of the stone tool raw material pointed to sources as far away as Wyoming and North Dakota. A large amount and variety of late Pleistocene faunal material has also been recovered from the beach. In 2007, Paul donated his personal collection of artifacts from McFaddin Beach to the University of Texas Archaeological Research Laboratory (TARL) and he continued to urge other private collectors to do the same.

Paul will be greatly missed.



Paul Tanner shown with some of his collections from McFaddin Beach

DRILLER'S REUNION

BY PAUL PROSPERIE

The Drillers Reunion was held at the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum on January 11 this year to commemorate the 113th anniversary of the Lucas Gusher. The weather was perfect for the high turnout of people at this event. There were many activities from the early 20th century, including blacksmithing, soapmaking, and wood-carving demonstrations, and even dancing lessons. Other entertainment involved a few gun-powdered scenarios from the Big Thicket Outlaws, as well as a delicious Drillers lunch, with musical guests the Traveling Murphy's, and a pie-eating contest.

Of course, throughout the festivities, the Temperance Ladies made sure all the merriment was kept on the straight and narrow. These ladies even converted the Log Cabin Saloon into a tearoom for the day. Guests were taught tea etiquette while enjoying their choice of tea or hot cocoa, along with cookies. As always, the Drillers Reunion began and ended with a regular crowd favorite: the Lucas Gusher reenactment and the blowing of the gusher.

I would like to thank everyone who participated in this event. Without exception, you all did great job! Your hard work is much appreciated.



Photos of Driller's Reunion

Photo Credit: Paul Prosperie



LIFE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY DURING WWII

BY PAUL PROSPERIE

It was a dark time as war spread throughout the world. Sons and even daughters from all walks of life answered the call and left SETX to unselfishly put their lives in danger for a united cause. Some would return a few years later while others made the ultimate sacrifice. On the home front, many did their part in conserving, rationing, and doing whatever else it took to aid the war effort.

During the war there was always a more legitimate threat here compared to inland areas. In the 1940s, Southeast Texas was known for its refineries and shipbuilding. Two major concerns plagued the minds of residents often: U-boats and sabotage. German submarines were a reality along the Gulf coast and sank many ships, costing numerous lives. Fortunately sabotage was only a concern and not a reality in the daily lives of the workers at the area's refineries.

Doing my research of this time, I noticed mention of victory gardens sprouting up around the country, and the same could be said here although most people in our area already had gardens and fruit trees, which they had tended to since the days of the Depression.



For most residents, life was as normal as it could be under the circumstances. Unfortunately, air raid drills and an absence of lights at night were the norm. In addition, if you lived near the railroad tracks, especially where the tank cars were stored, you were guaranteed that on moonless nights, tank cars would be maneuvered, loaded with fuel and moved north. Obviously, the movement could not be detected from the air in the pitch blackness. Luckily our area, as with the entire mainland, never experienced an aerial attack.

Residents' news sources were limited during the war. Of course, the daily paper was the main source of information for most, but many people also had radios, which they gathered around each evening to hear the news of the day. News reels at the theater were another popular news resource, but to some of the common folk, a trip to the movies was rare.

After sitting down with a few people and listening to their accounts of this time, I can't help but feel a sense of admiration. Yes, these were troubled times, but they forged ahead and rose to each and every challenge. To have lived

through the Depression and a world war is a immense feat. The people of this time were, and are, our greatest generation.

AREA MUSEUM UPCOMING EVENTS

Museum of the Gulf Coast

The Museum of the Gulf Coast hosts three Popular Culture galleries featuring notable personalities of the Gulf Coast: 1) The Gulf Coast **Music Hall of Fame** highlights more than 60 music legends representing a wide variety of genres; 2) The **Sports Legends Gallery** highlights more than 60 athletes representing several disciplines; 3) The **Notable People Gallery** highlights 35 individuals who have achieved national and/or international recognition in various professional endeavors such as entertainment, politics, science and education.



Museum of the Gulf Coast

Photo Credit: museumofthegulfcoast.org



Chambers House

Photo Credit: chambershouse.org

Chambers House

Mark your calendar now to attend this exclusive Prohibition-era masquerade ball on the grounds of the Chambers House Museum. It promises to be a magical evening. Enjoy signature Prohibition-era cocktails, fine gourmet dining and dancing under the stars to the legendary sound of the Night & Day Orchestra. Proceeds benefit the Beaumont Heritage Society and the John Jay French Museum.

Ticket sales begin February 1, 2014.

McFaddin Ward House

Fakes and Forgeries in the Art Market

January 30, 2014

6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. at the Visitor's Center

1906 Calder Avenue

Beaumont, Texas 77701



McFaddin Ward House

Photo Credit: mcfaddin-ward.org

**JEFFERSON
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*To preserve and
promote history within
the County.*

We're on the web!
<http://co.jefferson.tx.us/>



1893 Jail located behind
Jefferson County Courthouse
Photo Credit: JCHC Archives

Jefferson County Historical Commission

Executive Board 2013 - 2014

Chairman, Theresa Goodness

Vice-Chairman, Les McMahan

Secretary/Treasurer, Paul Prosperie

Immediate Past Chairman, Ron Ellington

**“WHISPERS OF THE PAST”
JCHC MINI-MUSEUM
JANUARY 2014**

The Jefferson County Historical Commission is sponsoring an exhibit by Bruce Hamilton housed in the Mini Museum. The exhibit, entitled “Whispers of the Past,” contains various pieces of Jefferson County History such as the wooden box which held the launching bottle for “M. V. Cape Faro” used by Mrs. John H. McGregor for the Pennsylvania Shipyards, Beaumont, January 17, 1944; souvenir cup and saucer from the Jefferson County Courthouse; and a small light tan zipper case with “Rita

Ainsworth” stamped in gold.

Thank you, Bruce, for sharing these special pieces of Jefferson County history. If you have a collection you would like to place in the JCHC Mini Museum, please contact Linda (409 835 8701 or histcomm@co.jefferson.tx.us) for more information.