

Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Newsletter

Eighth Edition – June 18, 2014

Words From Our President

Mark your calendars! Old Saltillo Cemetery Association's 2014 Memorial Day Program/Annual Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, July 20th from 10:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Old Saltillo United Methodist Church, located on CR 3357, directly across the road from the cemetery.

The 2014 program will include congregational singing led by Mike Briley, a brief business meeting of the Association, and a special memorial tribute to those interred in the Old Saltillo Cemetery in the preceding twelve months.



Following the business meeting and memorial tribute, Enola Gay Matthews, well-known KSST hostess who appears regularly on the Reilly Springs Jamboree will sing and entertain program attendees.

The Annual Business Meeting will consist of a report on the activities taken and work performed for the care of the cemetery during the past year, as well as a financial report and the election of three members for three-year terms to the Board of Directors.

After the benediction, lunch will be served in the air-conditioned Kirby Memorial Center. For those who still prefer Memorial Day lunch outdoors, tables will be available under the shade of the church's large oak trees.

Everyone is asked to bring the usual full meal with ample portions to be shared with others. The food will be arranged in buffet style with cups, plates, napkins, eating utensils, and water and iced tea being furnished.



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Spotlight: Jewel McAfee

Jewel Deshazo McAfee, longtime friend, advocate, servant and benefactor of the Old Saltillo Cemetery achieved a milestone this past March, when she celebrated her 100th birthday in a manner befitting a queen. Jewel's family and friends gathered on March 15th at the Saltillo Community Center to honor this centenarian and commemorate her remarkable accomplishment!



As published in the March 13, 2014 edition of the Mount Vernon Optic-Herald,

"Mrs. McAfee was born in 1914 and attended school at Saltillo. She is the only surviving member of the 1929 Hopkins County Championship basketball team that won the first trophy for Saltillo ISD.

She served five years as the school librarian in Saltillo, 40 years as a Sunday school teacher and church secretary and treasurer, 30 years as the organizer of the Saltillo Homecoming, and has been active in Christian youth development for 15 years. She was instrumental in getting the Saltillo Community Center built and has been its caretaker for 20 years. She has been an active member of the Eastern Star for 65 years, serving in six different Chapters.

She was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow by the Mount Vernon Rotary Club in October 2009.

Mrs. McAfee has been a faithful visitor to local nursing homes, bringing gifts to brighten resident's day and driving them to the doctor, church, or assisting them anyway she can."

Of course, Jewel McAfee is no stranger to the Old Saltillo Cemetery. She has led by example through countless hours of physical work, preserving the beauty of the cemetery; and perhaps most notably in delivering the annual memorial program with a poise and grace to which most of us can only aspire. Yet I suspect she would qualify these contributions as labors of love. Her love of God, her love of tradition and community, and an immeasurable love for R.B. McAfee, her husband of 58 years (and her soul mate yet) with whom she shared a duty of care for Old Saltillo Cemetery. They faced life's challenges and successes together, and she keeps him alive and present by

speaking his name lovingly and often.

As for me and Jewel, I love to hear her tell of an evening over 30 years ago at the Mount Vernon rodeo, where she and I (a boy of 4 or 5) became "fast friends" over a bag of popcorn that R.B. bought for her. She shared readily, and that seemingly small gesture sparked a friendship that has left an indelible mark on my life.

Happy 100th Birthday, Jewel!

Ryan Agee, Newsletter Editor

What Memorial Day Means to Me

Old Saltillo Memorial Day has always been a special part of my life for as long as I can remember. I am sure there were some Sundays that we missed, but I would guess it wasn't many. Over the years, I remember watching my grandparents, aunt and uncles, and my parents enjoying those (hot) Sundays in July. I remember squirming in those old wooden pews. I loved how there was always a wasp or a dirt dauber flying around the room and that the floor creaked when you walked on it. I remember asking my Mom, "how much longer til we get to eat?" As a kid, I don't think I realized how important that Sunday was and how important it would be to me as I got older. Now that I am an adult and a parent, I see a completely different side. I see how the faces have disappeared over the years and how important it is to come and remember them. I love how my girls ask questions about the little old church and how they think its "cool" because it doesn't look like anything we have in Frisco. I like how they ask who all the people are buried over in the cemetery and I am able to share their stories with them.



I only wish other people could have experienced what I did as a kid and see the importance of it now as an adult. Something that seemed so insignificant as a child has become a staple in my life and I hope to carry that over to my children. I think we all get so busy in our everyday lives that we forget to stop and just remember. My memories only go back 30+ years, but wow what memories! Here's to the next 30 years of memories.

Kelli McAfee Tarver, contributing columnist

Words From Our President, Cont...

There will be plenty of time for visiting following the annual meeting, during lunch and afterward – renewing old acquaintances and making new friends. Feel free to bring lawn chairs so that you can enjoy the lunch and fellowship after the service.



Our sincere wish is that all work performed in and for the Old Saltillo Cemetery enhances its beauty, pleases Association members, and pays tribute to the memory of those buried in the Cemetery.

Vivian Dennis-Monzingo, President

Treasurer's Comments

With basic cemetery expenses (i.e. lawn, grave and general grounds care) approximating \$6,000 per year, and interest income averaging less than \$1,000 per year, we are desperately dependent upon your generous donations to maintain our beautiful cemetery.



All OSCA funds are invested in FDIC insured instruments, namely checking and savings accounts and certificates of deposit, with sound local financial institutions. The OSCA is a certified 501 (c) (13) organization, which means your donations are tax deductible. A full accounting of the OSCA's annual revenues and expenditures is provided (both orally and in written form) during the OSCA's Annual Meeting.

In memory / honor of your friends, family and loved ones, consider a donation to the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association, at P.O. Box 123, Saltillo, TX 75478.

Ryan Agee, Treasurer & Newsletter Editor

Louis Agee Retires from OSCA Board of Directors

In November 2013, Louis Agee announced his retirement from the Old Saltillo Cemetery Association Board of Directors, following (as near as anyone can tell) 33 years of service on the Board and 80+ years of love, sweat and tears associated with the cemetery. In Louis' letter to Board President and fellow members, he says of his three decades of service, "I have fulfilled my responsibilities as a descendant of this community's founding families and as an heir to this place and its legacy... as many others have fulfilled before me."

Louis recalls working in the cemetery from a young age... hoeing, clearing, digging graves and assisting with general upkeep, alongside others in the community. Upon joining the Board in the early 1980's, he and wife Jo Ann began attending the quarterly Board meetings and regularly scheduled work days, which included considerable labor (as non-profit work goes). Louis and fellow members and spouses implemented the first gridded alphanumeric coordinates map, a system for identifying grave spaces which remains in use today. Well into the 1990's, Board members and other volunteers were largely responsible for leveling monuments, trimming fence lines, hauling fill-dirt, etc. The work was hard, but fulfilling.

After several months of weather delays and juggling schedules, Board of Directors members (past and present) and Louis' family assembled on June 6, 2014 at Our Place in Mt. Vernon for a retirement celebration dinner, followed by a cake and punch reception at the Century Room of First National Bank of Mount Vernon. There, Louis and Jo Ann Agee were recognized for their years of work and contributions to the cemetery. Jo Ann was presented with a floral bouquet and Louis with a plaque of appreciation as well as a ceremonial "key to the cemetery".



Those in attendance shared fond memories of Louis, and not to be outdone, Louis shared a few stories of his own. He and Jo Ann, who also has ancestral ties to the cemetery, were touched by the evening's events.

The couple expressed gratitude for the opportunity to have served over thirty years in the good company of fellow Board members such as Boyd Wardrup, Waldo Corley, Dolly Pearl Armstrong, R. B. McAfee, Bob Goswick, H.H. "Cotton" Miller, Aubrey Hamilton, Chris Dennis Skelly, Barbara Conley Norris, Lou Briley Daniel, Billy Joe Parnell, Darwin McGill, Kenneth Patrick and Vivian Dennis-Monzingo... and in more recent years, Johnny McAfee and Nat Paul Gibbs... not to mention their spouses and other friends of the Old Saltillo Cemetery who showed up, rain or shine, to do their part!



As prescribed by the Association bylaws, at their March 2014 regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Directors was tasked with replacing Louis for the remainder of his current term. After brief discussion, Randy Agee was nominated and unanimously elected to fulfill his father's unexpired term.

Louis said it best in closing his letter to the Board, "I will not be a stranger to this Board, its members or this Cemetery. I thank each of you for your stewardship and commitment to our common cause, but most of all for your friendship which I will continue to hold dear."

Trapper Pace, contributing columnist

Interments

Since last publication, the following individuals have been laid to rest in the Old Saltillo Cemetery:

Ida Adair Orren: July 7, 2013

Jean Appleton: August 2, 2013

H.H. "Cotton" Miller: August 22, 2013

Betty Sprague: September 4, 2013

Ina Barnett: October 1, 2013

Terry French: October 9, 2013

Evelyn Bawdon: October 19, 2013

Luther Leon Dennis: December 16, 2013

R.C. Pollan: April 15, 2014

Albert Lee Fuller: May 3, 2014

Say not 'Good-night' but in some brighter clime,
bid me 'Good-morning.'

Anna Laetitia Barbauld