

# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Pearland Historical Society

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

## President's Message

Every July when writing the July issue of the **Newsletter**, I start reminiscing about the **4<sup>th</sup> of July** and about how we celebrated in earlier years and how things have changed. I think about our time capsule and how the **4<sup>th</sup> of July** may look in 2057. Hopefully, it will still be celebrated as our **Independence Day** and the citizens of **Pearland** will still be giving thanks for living in this wonderful country and the freedoms we enjoy. All of us who were youngsters back in the 30's, 40's, and 50's here in **Pearland** remember buying "**Blackcat**" firecrackers at the old corner drug store and driving around town tossing the "**Blackcats**" out of the car windows. No ordinances existed to prohibit tossing fireworks out of car windows. In fact no ordinances existed at all since **Pearland** was not even incorporated back in those days. If we had thought ahead to those far off days of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we might have thought "wow, one of these days it is going to be against the law to toss firecrackers around like this"; but I doubt any of us would have thought, "wow, gasoline is almost \$4 a gallon, so I better not be driving all over **Pearland** and wasting my gas." When we were talking about putting down a time capsule to be opened in 2057, we sent out a list of questions for predictions to put in the time capsule. One of the questions was "what do you predict the cost of a gallon of gas will be in 2057". Sure wish we had kept copies of those predictions. As I remember most of us predicted something like \$5 per gallon. If a time capsule had been put down in 1957 and the same question was asked, what do you suppose we guys who were driving around **Pearland** tossing "**Blackcats**" out of car windows would have predicted. A website on the internet listed some 1957 prices. Gasoline was

listed as 24 cents per gallon. Actually around **Houston** I think there were always gas wars going where you could fill up at probably around 19 cents per gallon. What do you think someone in 1957 would have said if he/she heard someone predict gasoline would cost \$4 per gallon in 2058? Flares were burning gas in **Hastings and Manvel** at that time and even into the late 40's every afternoon the skies would be black with the smoke from oil being burned in both **Hastings and Manvel**. Folks sure weren't worrying about global warming back in those days. They worried more about finding shade to escape the Texas warming of the **July** sun.

The **4<sup>th</sup> of July** does bring back those memories and also starts one thinking about all the memories and fellowship we will experience at our annual **Reunion Luncheon on October 25<sup>th</sup>**. A reservation form is attached to this **Newsletter**. Don't miss the chance to relive some of those old memories. Get your ticket. I hope you all had a great **4<sup>th</sup> of July**.

**Mickey Mark**

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*Don't forget our quarterly meeting Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at the Knapp Senior Center. Cookies, soft drinks and coffee and visitation follow the meeting.*

## What's Happening

At our April meeting **Kyler Cole, Pearland Townsite Co-ordinator** was our guest speaker. **Kyler** is employed by the **Pearland Economic Development Corporation**. He is a native of **Pensacola, Florida** and a **West Point** graduate. He

discussed the prior work done by the “**Old Townsite Committee**” and future projected developments in the “**Old Townsite**”, including sewer and drainage improvements, the park on **Orange Street** and beautification of **Grand Blvd.** on the south side of **Broadway**. **Kyler’s** talk was very informative and interesting to the members present.

Also thanks were expressed to **Society Member Ray Kliesing** for the outstanding efforts in the developing the **Historical Society** web page. For those of you with computers, you can go to [www.pearlandhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.pearlandhistoricalsociety.org) to get information about the **Historical Society** and also to read the **Newsletter** where the pictures are much better than the copies in the **Newsletter**.

Our **Historical Society** has submitted a letter to the **Pearland Parks & Recreation Department** requesting the **Veterans Memorial Monument** be moved from **Zychlinski Park** to another location. Our members feel the monument looks more like an advertisement for the sponsors rather than a true memorial and is not appropriate for the old townsite park.

**Mayor Tom Reid** gave a very interesting rundown of various projects coming up in the **City of Pearland**. Thanks, **Mayor**, for keeping us up to date. Again thinking back to if a time capsule had been put down in **Pearland** 50 years ago, do you think anyone would have predicted **Pearland** would be pushing 100,000 residents by the year 2010. **Mayor Reid** advises we are already over 90,000 and expect to hit 100,000 by the end of this decade.

## Among our Members

Society Member **Verrall Hill** passed away April 10<sup>th</sup>. **Verrall**, 94 years old, had gone into the hospital in **Longview** for surgery for a broken hip he sustained in a fall at his home in **Carthage, Texas**. **Verrall** came through the surgery good; but suffered heart failure a few days after the surgery. **Verrall and Nina** were charter members of the **First Baptist Church in Pearland**, were highly respected **Pearland** citizens for many, many years before moving to **Carthage** to be near their daughter, **LaVerle** and husband **Earl Spurgeon**. **Verrall** was one of those people about whom you never heard a bad word. He will certainly be missed.

**Society Member James Hefner** passed away April 30<sup>th</sup> at his home in **Kerrville, Texas**. **James, a 1948 PHS grad**, was a very unique person. Those of us who were classmates knew **James** as a quiet, laid back, really likeable guy. Although he only went to school about 4 years in **Pearland** and **Pearland** was never his home after he finished college, **James** evidently thought of **Pearland** as his true home. He was a long time member of our **Historical Society** and a regular attendee at our annual luncheons. After graduation from **PHS** in 1948, **James** attended the **University of Houston** graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1952. After serving 3 years in the **Army**, he entered **Texas A&M** and received his masters degree in agronomy in 1958. He received his PHD in agronomy in 1966. For 17 years he worked for the **Texas A&M** agriculture station as a pathologist working on cotton diseases in **El Paso and Pecos, Texas**. He was co-founder of a **Christian school in Pecos** and helped pioneer several **Christian schools in West Texas**. In 1980 **James** became an ordained minister. He spent 36 years in nursing home ministries. He was a writer and a song writer. He is survived by his wife, **Rilene**, sons **Steve** and **Scott** and daughter **Suzanne**, nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren. What a great life **James** led and our sympathies go out to **Rilene** and family on the loss of a wonderful husband and father. On a personal basis, I remember **James** as probably the most likeable boy in high school; but also something else really stands out in my mind. In the spring of 1947, our junior year in high school, **Pearland** fielded its first ever high school baseball team. **Carl Talbot, Ed Olin, Bob Burkett** and I had some experience playing for the **Pearland** town team. We really didn’t know where the other 5 guys would come from. **Ed** was a catcher, I was a pitcher, **Carl** a 3<sup>rd</sup> baseman, and **Bob** was a shortstop. We only had ten guys show up for baseball practice. We really needed a 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman and outfielders. **John Saffle, Jack Tharp and W. J. Dimmitt** made up the outfield. **James Hefner** said he would like to try 2<sup>nd</sup> base. As far as any of us knew, **James** had never played baseball; but he turned out to be one heck of a 2<sup>nd</sup> baseman. He was an excellent fielder and if my memory is correct he had the highest batting average on a team which won the district championship and also the bi-district championship in **Pearland’s** first year of competition. **James Hefner** played a really big part in putting that first baseball trophy in the trophy case at **PHS**.



**Mrs. Oleta Hawkins & Mrs. Hazel Skinner Muetz at Reunion Luncheon**

Back in early **April**, **Mrs. Oleta Hawkins** fell in her home and injured her back. She spent some time in the hospital and then some time in a nursing home; but it is good to report she is now back in her long time **Grand Blvd.** home.

**Mrs. Hawkins** is so fondly remembered by all of those students of **PHS** back in the late 30's and early 40's not only as a wonderful teacher but also for the weekly dance lessons in the old gym where she tried to teach a group of clumsy high school boys the intricacies of the waltz and other dance steps of that era.

Long time **Manvel/Pearland** area **Charles Marasckin** passed away May 27. Although he was raised in **Manvel** and attended high school in **Alvin**, **Charles** had strong **Pearland** ties. He married **Pearland** grad **Peggy Palmer** and played baseball for the **Pearland** town team for several years. He was a great hitter. **Charles** had been in ill health and on dialysis quite awhile. Our sympathies go out to **Peggy** and family.

**Howard Munday** husband of **Society Member Ida Long Munday** passed away June 14. **Howard and Ida** made their home in **Buffalo, Texas**.

Long time **Pearland** resident **Ruby Miles** passed away July 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 94. **Mrs. Miles** was the mother of **Glenda Dawson**, former **Pearland** teacher and **State Representative** who also passed away a couple of years ago. **Mrs. Miles** was another one of those persons about whom you never heard a negative word.

**Society Member Nancy Green** was hospitalized June 23 with a fractured spine suffered while opening a window. She is waiting for a procedure to inject some kind of gel into her spine to repair the fracture. Good luck, **Nancy**, hang in there.

**Society Member Vi Price** fell and fractured her pelvis back in early May and spent a few days in the hospital. After returning home, **Vi** returned to the hospital with possible heart problems. She is now back home after being diagnosed with ventricular fibrillation.



**Vi Price and David Smith at 07 Reunion.**

On June 11<sup>th</sup> **Society Member Ben Lenamon** underwent a back surgery procedure called a laminectomy requiring a 4 inch incision down the spine and the chipping away of bone to open up the spinal canal and allow the nerves more space. The surgery was to relieve **Ben's** back, leg and foot pain he has been having since his motorcycle accident a few years ago.

**Ben's wife, Susan**, reports **Ben** is doing o.k. but still having some pain.

Please keep all of our members who are going through health problems in your prayers. Also keep in your prayers little **Cooper Gartrell**, 3 year old great grandson of **David Smith**, grandson of **Leah Smith Bateman**. **Cooper** has been undergoing chemotherapy for leukemia and reportedly is tolerating the chemo very well. He is scheduled to finish this round of chemo July 18<sup>th</sup> and then the doctors will determine the next step. We all expect health problems as we age; but it is really painful to see a little 3 year old going through what **Cooper** is enduring.

## Some Good News

**Society Member Ken Eddings** and wife, **Jean**, celebrated their 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in a big

way with a 20 day trip through **Europe**. They spent 6 days seeing the sights of **London** riding open top sightseeing buses, lots of walking and taxis before taking a train to **Southampton** to set sail on the a **Norwegian Cruise Liner** with stops in **Almeria and Barcelona, Spain, Nice, France, Florence, Italy, Gibraltar, UK, Lisbon, Portugal and Vigo, Spain**. **Ken** says they gambled at the famous **Monte Carlo** casino and visited the church where **Prince Ranier and Grace Kelly** married. What a fantastic trip, **Ken**. Now, what have you got planned for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to top the trip on the 49<sup>th</sup>?

Another great trip enjoyed by **Society Members** was member **Corky Segelquist's Alco Tours** trip to **Mackinac Island, Michigan**. Members **Edwin and Peggy Long and Wayne and Joyce Long** reported that the 10 day trip up through **Illinois and Michigan** was a beautiful trip; however the weather was not very accommodating while they were on **Mackinac Island** where the temperature was 50 degrees and raining, which made riding in open horse drawn carriages (motor vehicles are not allowed on the island) not very comfortable. **Corky's Alco Tours** has some great trips. He has one to **New England** coming up this fall and always goes to **Branson, Mo.** for Thanksgiving.

**Members Roy and JoAnn Mark** made their annual trek from their **Victoria** to **Grand Marais, Minnesota** on the cool shore of **Lake Superior** the first week in **June**. **Roy & JoAnn** spend the summers in **Grand Marais** returning to **Victoria** in mid **October** just in time for our **Reunion Luncheon**.

It is no secret that the majority of our members fall into what is politically correct called "senior citizens." I hope those of you in that category can appreciate the following which I can't recall who e-mailed to me.

### *Growing Old*

*I've sure gotten old!  
I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement,  
new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes  
I'm half blind,  
can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine,  
take 40 different medications that  
make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts.  
Have bouts with dementia.*

*Have poor circulation;  
hardly feel my hands and feet any more.  
Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92.  
Have lost all my friends. But, thank God,  
I still have my driver's license!!!!!!*

*Always Remember This:*

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

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## Memories of Women's Softball

We often mention **Pearland's** town team baseball being played at the site of **Zychlinski Park** and how baseball is so engrained in the history and heritage of **Pearland**. The fact is women's softball also has a place in the history of **Pearland**. Through the years **Pearland** had some very fine and competitive women's teams. Those of us who remember watching the women play also can remember what a fiery spirited group of ladies they were! This picture was in the **Historical Society** files. Not sure what year this softball reunion picture was taken but many of us can remember seeing these ladies going all out to win games for **Pearland**.



**L-R: Ida Nichols (shortstop), Bessie Collins (pitcher), Bea Theriot (center field), Hatti Wood (catcher), Virgil Hawk (right field) Jessie Palmer (1<sup>st</sup> base), Wanda Nichols (2<sup>nd</sup> base), Delores Long Stevenson (left field) and Betty Cook Beauchamp (3<sup>rd</sup> base). Ida Nichols and Jessie Palmer are in the uniforms the ladies wore. Manager was Ernie Long.**

While on the subject of women's softball, I hope some of you watched the women's softball college World Series and saw **Rhiannon Kliesing**, granddaughter of **Sid and Reba Kliesing**, perform

for the **Texas Aggies. Rhiannon**, a freshman at **Aggieland**, started every game at 1<sup>st</sup> base and pitched a couple of innings. Her stats for the year were 107 innings pitched with a 1.30 earned run average and a batting average of .275. She has a great future for the **Aggies**; and I understand she is an excellent student.

## NATURE CENTER NAMED IN HONOR OF DELORES FENWICK



Delores Fenwick

It is good to report that the **Pearland Parks Recreation and Beautification Board** is naming the future **Nature Center** at the **Environmental Center on Harkey Road** in honor of **Society Member Delores Fenwick**. **Delores** helped organize **Keep Pearland Beautiful** back in the early 80's and was president of **KPB** for quite a number of years. **Keep Pearland Beautiful** has received numerous awards and grants over the past several years and **Delores** has been very instrumental in acquiring the awards and grants. When you look at the beautiful pear trees lining many of our streets and the landscaping which has improved **Pearland's** appearance, a great deal of the credit has to go to **Delores** for her dedication, hard work and perseverance to beautify our city. **Delores** has contributed many, many hours to many community projects to make **Pearland** a better place to live. Congratulations for a well deserved honor, **Delores**.

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Thanks to **Brenda Martin Riggs** for sending this picture of the 1913–14 class of **Pearland High School**. As most are aware the terrible 1915 hurricane destroyed the high school building Aug. 17, 1915. For the next 20 years **Pearland** high school students were bused to **Webster** to attend high school. Many old time **Pearlanders** stated that the 1915 hurricane was worse in **Pearland** than the notorious 1900 storm which left 8000 dead and is still considered the worst natural disaster to ever hit the **U.S.** Many stories have appeared in the **Newsletter** regarding the hurricane of 1915 and the

new high school opening in 1937; but as far as I can recall this is the first picture of the last group of **Pearland High School** students in 1914-15. Thanks **Brenda**.



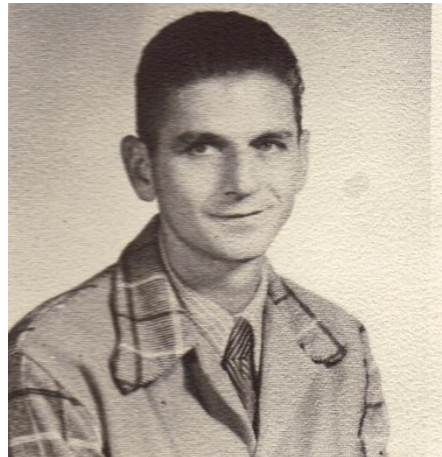
Reverse side of picture reflects:

**Freshmen:** Dale Barrick .Clythe Lowsley [?].Roy Andrus, Dorothy Manor, Hettie Powell

**Sophomores:**John Barnett, Myron Martin, Irma Yost. Leola Hobbs

**Juniors:** John Jones, Edith Andrus, Josie Frankenberger

**Brenda identifies her great aunt Dorothy Manor as the first girl on the left in the front row. Josie Frankenberger Heflin is the next to last girl on the right in the top row.**



**Pearland High School's First Band Director Mr. Charles Hornburg**

Sometime back one of our members asked the question "who wrote the **Pearland** school song?" Many thought the author was **Al Isaacson** who followed **Mr. Hornburg** as the **Pearland** band director for many years. The **Pearland** school song "**Hail to Pearland High**" was written by **Mr. Charles Hornburg**, who came to **Pearland** in 1947 as the first band director in the history of **Pearland**

**High School. Brenda Martin Riggs** reports that **Al Isaacson** wrote the words to the **Pearland Fight Song**.

## Old Townsite Information

At a recent meeting of the **Old Townsite Committee** **Kyler Cole** reported on plans the **City of Pearland** has for the old townsite in the next few years. First on the list is a \$1 million dollar sewer project. Next on the list at \$8.3 million dollars is a project for **Town Ditch**. **Kyler** reports that out of a total of \$162 million dollars budget, \$28 million dollars are earmarked for the old townsite. Other projects down the road are \$500 thousand for the park on **Orange St. (Hunter Park)**, \$8 million for widening **Old Alvin**; \$2 million for **Veterans/Walnut** drainage. Also **Kyler** has plans for the beautification of **Grand Blvd.** on the south side of **Broadway**.

**Kyler** also conducted a meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> at the **Knapp Center** to discuss the possibility of forming an “**Old Townsite Neighborhood Association**.” The meeting was with old town residents on the east side of the railroad tracks. The turnout was very good so obviously there is a lot of interest in the idea of a neighborhood association. There also was a lot of discussion of problems within the old townsite and questions about the purposes of a neighborhood association. The consensus seemed to be that no decisions would be made until residents on the west side of the tracks had their meeting and after that decisions will be made about forming a neighborhood association and whether to combine both sides of the tracks into one association or have two. It seemed that most there agreed a neighborhood association would be a good idea for informational purposes.

## Berry Miller Jr. High Dedication

The Pearland School District is having a dedication ceremony for the new **Berry Miller Jr. High School** on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> on Highway 1128. The public is invited to the ceremony. The Miller Family is hosting a program a program remembering **Berry Miller** on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. at the school at a time to be announced. The school principal, **Lonnie Leal**, would like stories about **Berry Miller** which he can use to tell the students who **Berry Miller** was. Part of the program

on August 23<sup>rd</sup> will be an open mike for you to tell your story.

Anyone who lived in **Pearland** from 1912 to present knew who **Berry Miller** was. To the kids in school in the 30's and 40's he was the generous man who took the elementary school kids to the **Shrine Circus** every year and the high school kids to the **Shiners' Ball**; and the man who put **Christmas** lights up the flagpole at his **Washington Street** home that you could see all over the little town of **Pearland**. To the adults in the community, he was known as one of the “movers and shakers” of the community who was a farmer, businessman, entrepreneur and a man many turned to for a helping hand.

There is no way we could ever write the whole **Berry Miller** story. What follows is a portion of **Berry Miller's** recount of his early years and coming to **Pearland** as told to **Lou Cote McKendree**. The story in our files is 8 typewritten pages. In the first 5 pages, he tells of his growing up in **Arkansas** and the hard life as the son of a widow. The portion we are reprinting here is his recollections of his life from the time he was 13 and working in the coal mines in **Kansas** and then coming to **Pearland** from **Oklahoma** after his finishing college there and teaching 2 years there. This is **Berry's** story as told to **Lou**.



**Berry Miller, circa 1912**

*“When we arrived in Kansas, we moved into a double log house. We had a split log floor which my Mother cleaned by hand with sand. This kept the floor clean and smooth so we so we wouldn't*

*get splinters The mine we worked in was a shaft 32 ft. deep. We dug through 4 inches of clay and slate. The vein of coal being mined was 3 feet 8 inches thick. Uncle Lum and I worked together in 10 hour shifts. Even though it was very hard work, I kept up and matched the work he did. We drilled 2 inch holes into the coal. A stick with a squibb on the side made a cartridge to shove the black power into the hole. This is how the shot was made into the coal. It was Uncle Lum's and my job to load the bail which was 18 inches in diameter. The bail was emptied into the wagon car. My brother Homer's job was driving the mule team which pulled the load of coal out of the shaft. They used a tripod and rope with the wagon. My brother earned \$5 a day at the age of 15; there were no child labor laws then. I was 13 years old. One day Homer and Uncle Lum had an argument over the driving of the team. While asleep that night, Homer was dreaming about what happened. Uncle Lum came into the room to discuss the earlier argument. He began talking to Homer, thinking he was awake. Homer, being asleep, cursed Uncle Lum. My Mother overheard this and decided we would leave. She said, "This is no place to raise my sons". Uncle Lum told her we had to give 2 weeks notice. So we stayed 2 more weeks.*

*"We left Columbus, Kansas in 1903 and went back to Fort Gibson, Indian Territory. We lived there a short time before moving to Meeker, Oklahoma. It was here in Meeker that my mother met and married Tom Ware. It was here I returned to school at the age of 16, beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. The name of the school was Mammouth. Being older than most of the students, the teacher reprimanded me quite often. She told me I had to quit disrupting class. Once she almost expelled me because of smoking, cursing and chewing tobacco. She talked to me after class one day and told me that she would not expel me because she felt it would be a waste and she wanted me to make something of my life. She also did not want people to say she couldn't handle her students; she wasn't a quitter. She wanted me to go back to class on the next Monday but if I went it would be only to learn. I returned to class.*

*"After finishing there, I went on to high school and college. High school was in Chandler, Oklahoma in Lincoln County. College was in Tecumseh, Oklahoma in Pottawatomie County.*

*The college has since burned down but a high school now stands on the same spot. I received my first teaching certificate there on July 1, 1909. I taught 2 years in Oklahoma.*

*"While in Meeker, our family, including the Hurds, met the Haskins family. One of my Mother's sisters, Lasapheine, married John Haskins. Before his death, they had a son, Hamilton. Phein then married Tony Haskins, they had 3 children, Jewel (Benes), Opal (Cote) and Howard. When Tom Ware became ill with arthritis, they decided to move to a wetter climate. He came to Pearland in 1920 for a short time to see if it helped his condition. While he was here, he bought a farm west of Pearland. He went back to move his family. I was still teaching. On January 1, 1911 they left, traveling by train. They rode in an immigrant car with the livestock and furniture on the opposite end. My mother wrote me after they settled and asked me to move down there also. I told her no, that I had nothing there and that I had some goals to achieve. I wanted very much to teach several years and then apply for State Superintendent of Oklahoma. She said she wasn't satisfied, after all she went through to keep her family together, she could not accept me wanting to stay. I taught through the 1911 school term and in the summer I moved to Pearland. Several years later I sent word to Aunt Pheine and Tony Haskins that I would see to it that they had work if they would come so my Mother and Aunt Pheine could be close. Two of my Mother's brothers also moved to Pearland.*

*"Upon my arrival to Texas, I found that Pearland was without a teacher. I went to Mr. Taylor, the County Superintendent of Brazoria County. I told him I knew Pearland needed a teacher and I wanted to apply for the job. He told me that Texas wouldn't accept Oklahoma credentials. He also said they didn't need any "\_\_\_\_" Yankees teaching down here. He was bent on not having any Yankees around because he had served as a Confederate soldier. I was not satisfied. I called the State Superintendent. He told me I would have to take the Texas exam to get a Texas Teacher's certificate. He said to call Mr. Jessup and he would give his authority to give me the test. Mr. Jessup had been the County Superintendent but was now setting up his law practice. The material covered 19 subjects. Mr. Jessup told me to especially study arithmetic and Texas history.*

*The test was to begin the next morning at dawn. I got a hotel room at the Angleton Hotel. There was no electricity, so I studied all night by coal oil lamp. The test was held upstairs in the old Jamison Bank Building located on Highway 35 facing Highway 288. The building is still there. The test lasted all day with a small break for lunch. I had to finish it by coal oil lamp. I finished it in time to catch the 10:00 P.M. train back to Pearland. I passed every subject, even Texas History, even though I hadn't lived here long.*

*"The Pearland School Board thought I was too young to handle Pearland boys. The boys had run off 4 teachers the year before. I made them the offer to work 2 months on probation; and if I was still there teaching at the end of two months they would reimburse me for the 2 months and place me on the regular payroll.*

*"After I began teaching they closed the county school. It was located in the Brookside area and was called Suburban Gardens. The teacher from out there came in to town and we split up the subjects. I had been teaching all subjects. One of us taught in the Livesay Store building and the other taught in the school building which is now the old jail. It was located where Judge Henry Whitt's office is now. The students from the country came to school in a covered wagon furnished by the school system. This was the first public transportation (bussing) for school students in Texas.*

*"This was the beginning of my life here in Pearland"*

*As told to Lou McKendree by Berry Miller, Sr.*  
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It is appropriate that the name **Berry Miller** will continue to be known through the next generations as the **Berry Miller Jr. High School** will open this fall. **Berry Miller** remained active in the **Pearland** community right up until his death in 1983 at the age of 95. He was in his office at the **Pearland State Bank** every day. One of the treasures of our **Historical Society** is the tape made by **Ida Nichols, J. C. Nichols and Jessie Palmer** of long time **Pearlanders** in 1980. **Berry Miller** is one of the persons on the tape. In the story told to **Lou**, he tells of his early days in **Arkansas and Oklahoma** and then in **Pearland**. The rest of his life in **Pearland** would be a great story also.

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It also seems quite appropriate that down the street from the **Berry Miller Jr. High School** is the **Massey Ranch Elementary School**. The **Miller** family and **Massey** family were long time neighbors on **Washington St.** and now the schools bearing their names are again neighbors..  
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Earlier in the **Newsletter** it was mentioned that \$500 thousand dollars would be allocated for the park on **Orange St.** **Pearland Parks & Recreation Director Jon Branson** advises that the **City Council** will vote on approving the name "**Hunter Park**" at the meeting of July 14<sup>th</sup>. As soon as the name is approved the **Historical Society** will proceed with applying to the **Texas State Historical Commission** for a **Texas State Historical Marker** for the park. There should certainly be no problem in obtaining a marker since the **Hunter** family's roots in **Texas** go all the way back to the **Moses Austin** original 300 colony in 1822.  
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*This year's Historical Society Reunion Luncheon on October 25<sup>th</sup> will be a fun time once again. The PHS classes of 1955 through 1959 will be honored. Invitations to those class members will be in the mail soon. Make your plans to be there. See the reservation form attached.*

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#### *Friends*

*"Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow; Don't walk behind me, I may not lead; Walk beside me, and just be my friend."*

*~Albert Camus*

*The antidote for fifty enemies is one friend."*

*~Aristotle*

*"Shared joy is a double joy; shared sorrow is half a sorrow"*

*~Unknown*

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*Don't forget our meeting July 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M. at the Knapp Center. See you there.*



