

The HHA Courier

The Newsletter of the Houston History Association

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Message from the President

Dear Friends of Houston History,

The Houston History Association is excited to initiate, with this issue, a new, free, electronic version of its newsletter *The Houston Courier*. This issue and future issues will be emailed to everyone who signs up to receive the publication. To sign up, please visit our newly designed website at www.houstonhistoryassociation.org and go to the Newsletter Sign Up page. If you have received this newsletter by email, you do not need to take any action.

The Houston Courier will include information about organizations in our community as well as important current issues and events. Brief articles about Houston's history will help each of us expand our knowledge of and appreciation for this great city that we all call home. Archived issues are available on our website.

In order to better fulfill our mission of promoting Houston area history and serving as a resource for existing historical, preservation, archival and educational organizations and institutions, we have updated our organizational structure and our website. We no longer offer individual memberships, but we do want to maintain a communication network for both individuals and organizations that are interested in Houston's history. Our goal is to serve as a resource for information and events related to Houston area history, and to foster collaboration and cooperation among the many history related organizations in our community.

We are grateful for your past support of The Houston History Association and hope that our current efforts to better fulfill our mission will

encourage your continued support. Please visit our newly designed and updated website at the above web address and email any suggestions to improve the site or the newsletter to HHA at info@houstonhistoryassociation.org.

Please help us to educate all Houstonians about the history of this dynamic and diverse city in which we live.

—Pam Young, President, Houston History Association

Sad News from Channel 55

By Bill Kellar

The Houston area history community was surprised to learn on May 11, 2010, that KTBU-TV (Channel 55) cancelled the production of *Postcards from Texas*, the regional television series. Executive Producer/Writer/Host Mike Vance and Associate Producer, Alyssa Honnette are moving on to other projects in the field of history education media. *Postcards* had just won two prestigious statewide awards in media achievement from the Texas Historical Commission and from the Texas Society Daughters of the American Revolution, so the timing of the cancellation was unexpected.

Mike Vance is now working full time on the projects of Houston Arts and Media (HAM). Those projects include several documentaries for which HAM is seeking funding. Vance says that the documentaries will be made with even better production quality since he won't be rushing to meet weekly deadlines. The four most immediate of these projects are: Texas in the Civil War, The Fate of Galveston's Historic Trees, Houston's Famed Comedy Workshop, and Houston as Capitol of the Republic of Texas. Vance also is working diligently to prepare a multi-volume book on

Historic Schools of Harris County for publication. HAM has been working for the past several months with the City of Houston's Archaeological and Historical Commission in preparing video tours of some of the city's historic districts and a short documentary on the basics of preservation in Houston. These are now available at a new website: www.houstonpreservation.org .

Vance said that he is proud of what his team accomplished with forty episodes of *Postcards from Texas*, and HAM is interested in acquiring the right to produce DVDs of the stories for use in schools. "I was definitely fortunate to develop many new relationships with some of the great historians and archivists in this part of our state," said Vance. "We are really blessed with so many knowledgeable and dedicated folks in our history community, and I look forward to continue to work with all of them to develop some terrific, high-quality products to make our history more accessible and to make history education fun." For more information on HAM, visit: <http://www.houstonartsandmedia.org/>

Workshop on Researching Neighborhood Histories

By Courtney Spillane

The Neighborhood Histories Committee of the Houston History Association will present its second workshop on how to research the history of a neighborhood in the early fall. The first workshop was well attended and received excellent reviews. Typically, these very informative workshops are held on a Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The committee has prepared an extensive manual, *A Guide to Researching Your Neighborhood History*, which will be given to each participant. The goal of these workshops is for residents to learn more about their neighborhood's heritage and to convey this to the larger community in some manner. Civic clubs, homeowner associations and individuals are invited to participate. Please check the HHA website for additional information and updates. www.houstonhistoryassociation.org

City of Houston Historic Preservation Ordinance

Mayor Parker Appoints Task Force to Consider Overhaul

As the first step in a process that will lead to enhancements to Houston's 15-year-old Historic Preservation Ordinance, City Council has voted to temporarily discontinue the 90-day waiver for demolitions, relocations and incompatible new construction in City of Houston Historic Districts that are denied Certificates of Appropriateness (C of A) by the Houston Archaeological and Historical Commission (HAHC). In other words, if the HAHC says no, the project cannot proceed. **However, if the HAHC approves a C of A for demolition, relocation or new construction, the applicant is free to move forward with his plans after seeking the appropriate permits.**

The temporary discontinuance also applies to new applications for historic districts. However, there is an exemption for applicants who expended money or took other preliminary steps toward a new construction project prior to council's passage of the ordinance. The measure will remain in effect until the end of the year or until amendments to the historic preservation ordinance are adopted, whichever is earlier.

Community meetings are planned this summer to receive comments on the proposed amendments. In addition, any recommended changes to the Historic Preservation Ordinance will be considered by the HAHC, Planning Commission and City Council, providing numerous opportunities for dialogue and public input. See http://www.houstontx.gov/planning/historic_pres/hi_st_pres.htm for the existing ordinance, the draft ordinance, and the dates of the community meetings.

In other historic preservation efforts, HAHC has launched a new educational website, www.houstonpreservation.org, with video tours of historic districts and stories to help citizens gain an understanding of historic preservation and a feature that lets visitors ask questions of historic preservation experts. *City of Houston—E-Newsletter June 23, 2010*

Houston History Magazine— Summer Issue Preview

By Debbie Harwell

The upcoming issue of Houston History Magazine features a series of fascinating interviews conducted with Houstonians who stepped forward to help Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Ernesto Valdés, the late Director of Oral History at the Houston History Project, began to collect the interviews shortly after the storm with the goal of commemorating the fifth-anniversary of one of our city's finest hours.

An interview with KHOU's Frank McBride sets the stage with the first reports from New Orleans of the evacuation. Michael Moore, Mayor White's chief of staff, and Judge Eckels take us behind the scenes of the planning for the massive relief effort. Other interviews explain how volunteers were coordinated, including training 43,000 people in food handling to serve over a million meals, and the united efforts of members from twenty-three different faiths. The enormous undertaking to provide medical care as people poured off the buses is detailed in reports from doctors and medical personnel. We learn how Baylor College of Medicine took in the entire Tulane Medical School and hear one woman's story of reaching out to the Hispanic community, demonstrating that an ordinary citizen, not affiliated with any group, can make a difference. Throughout all the interviews are poignant and funny moments reported in "Stories from the Dome Floor."

The issue is a fitting tribute to the city that stepped up in a big way to help those in need and did so in a fashion that set an example for others to follow. To subscribe, email HoustonHistory@uh.edu or call 713-743-3123.

Watch for future announcements concerning the debut of the new Houston History website, which will offer expanded material including, pictures, interviews, video, back issues, and more.

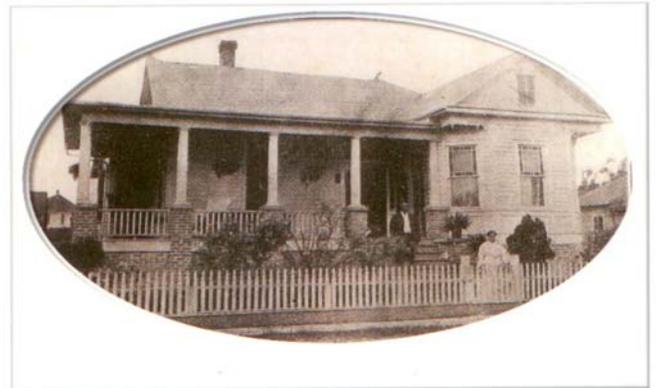
HHA Houston Courier Editor: Bill Kellar
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History Spotlight

By Bill Kellar

The Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum needs help to preserve and restore the hurricane damaged, historic Rev. Ned P. Pullum and Emma Eddings-Pullum home. The Pullum home is a National Register Listed Historic home, a Texas State Historic Landmark, and a City Protected Landmark. Plans call for the home, located at 1319 Andrews, to serve as a *Health & Business Museum*.

Rev. Msgr. Patrick R. Wells, Ph.D., Ronald Johnson, DDS, Douglas Simmons, DDS, and Millicent Goldschmidt, Ph.D. invite you to become a "Guardian of History" by volunteering or by making a donation.



1319 Andrews

The Rutherford B. H. Yates Museum, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c) (3) organization, incorporated in the State of Texas. The museum is located in the National Register Historic District of Freedmen's Town-4th Ward

For more information on how you can help, visit: www.yatesmuseum.org

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