

# PEARLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**Volume 27 Edition 2  
April, 2020**

**Pearland Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1333**

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**Dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of "old Pearland"**

## **NOTICE THE APRIL MEETING IS CANCELLED**

### **President's Message**

I hope everyone is safe and well due to the current situation. Under the circumstances, we have decided to cancel the April meeting. Many of the grocery stores now have a before hours time for seniors on their toilet paper quest. I tried it and let me tell you, seniors are vicious. After being run over by a couple of power scooters, I decided to leave. My son in law and I go to various stores each morning just for something to do. More fun than the movies. Please see the article by Donald Hayes concerning the depot restoration project. Thanks to Donald for all his hard work trying to save the depot. Thanks to Brenda Riggs for her "about town" stories. Take care of yourselves and I hope we can meet again in the not too distant future. Jerry

### **DEPOT PROJECT BY DONALD HAYES**

The Pearland Depot project is at a crossroads. The City of Pearland has added Phase I to their Capital Projects pipeline, with the intention of moving ahead with that phase of the restoration only. However, it has been reported by the Visitors Bureau that a revised and updated bid was requested from the architects and City council would need to approve that to move forward. Due to the uncertainty of the project timeline, as well as the long-term viability of the project given the current economic circumstances, the Citizens Committee for the Restoration of the Pearland Depot has recommended the return of all funds donated to date for bricks and benches. The Historical Society will be processing those refunds shortly. The brick/bench program will be suspended until further notice.



## Peggy Farthing Long

Once again we have lost old time Pearlanders who are members of our Historical Society: Long time Pearland Historical Society member and Treasurer, Peggy Long passed away March 3<sup>rd</sup> after an extended stay in nursing homes in Pearland and Friendswood, Peggy was valedictorian of her PHS graduating class of 1954 also Drum major and Brazoria County Queen Candidate. Peggy did a great job as our Treasurer and will certainly be missed.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers, donations are requested to The Redeeming Church, 1828, Manvel, Texas 77578.

It was good to hear that Peggy's daughter and son-in-law, Lisa and David DeHoyas, are in the process of repairing and moving into Peggy's house, It is one of the oldest historical homes in Pearland.

Robert Edward (Bob) Peirsol Sr. passed away.

Dwight Bittick is in Tuscany.

Janet Johnston, wife of our President, has been ill since December. She is doing better as of this writing.

Pray for all our members and their families during this time.



Carl Vernon Halik, 1958 PHS graduate, passed away March 13, 2020. A lifelong resident of Pearland; graduate of Sam Houston State University; CPA and business owner.

The son of Vernon W. "Banjo" Halik and Deckla Martin Halik; grandson of Pearland pioneer family Anton A. and Maude Jeffers Halik; and brother of Douglas Halik.

Carl is survived by his wife, Paula; daughters, Jobie Flowers [Charles] and Tiffany Halik; sister, Alice Gehring [Larry]; brother C. J. Halik [Deborah]; grandson John Clark and granddaughter Taylor Flowers and numerous cousins.

He will be missed by all that knew and loved him.



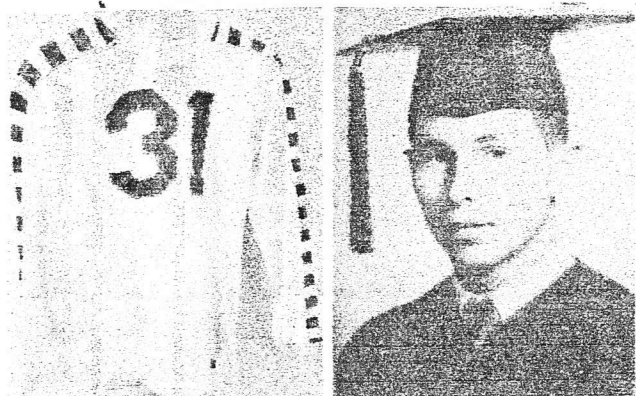
Louise May May 1925-Jan.16,2020

Wife of Roger May

# PHS FOOTBALL PRACTICE JERSEY

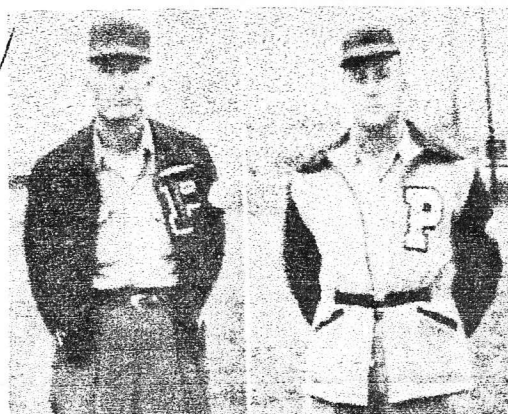
by Brenda Martin Riggs

Lloyd Thornton, PHS 1969, donated this practice jersey to the Society - worn by Kenneth Tinkle, a 1952 PHS grad. [Pictures from the 1952 Gusher]. Many thanks to Lloyd!

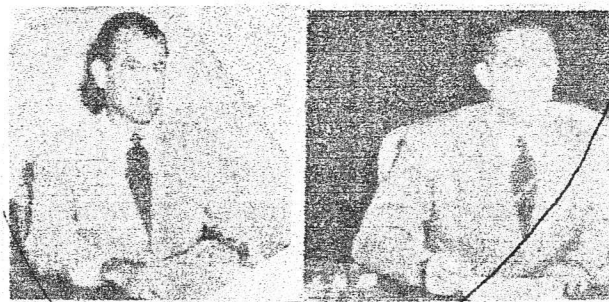


Milton Garner, Edgar Griffin, Antonio Hinojosa, Kenneth Knapp, Eddie McCormack, Charles Nichols, Leo Parker, Doyle Raney, Buddy Rozell, Orville Rozell, Glen Stone, John Yost, Milton Warner, Jack Watson, Nolan West.

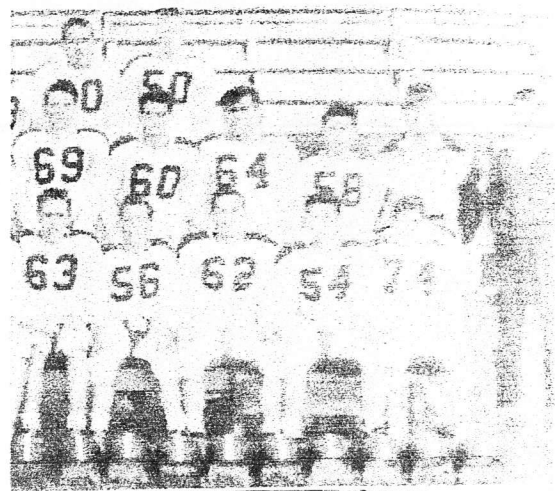
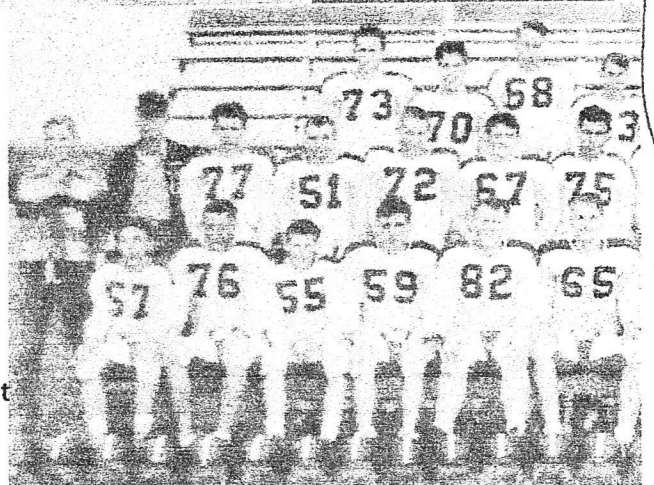
**Managers:** Kenneth Eddings, Clyde Duvall



**Coaches:** Buck Brooks, W.H. Backhaus



C. B. Hudson, Pearland HS Principal  
J. D. Gray, Superintendent of Schools



**1952 Team mates :** Marcus Beckham, Robert Bristow, Jack Burton, Robert Carter, Frederick Ellis, Weldon Flanakin, Lupe Flores, Larry Gaidosek, Larry Garner, Leon Garner,



## A FAVORITE TEACHER

by Brenda Martin Riggs



### PHYRNE REBA COUSINS O'DAY

was born September 7, 1929 in Columbus, Texas, to George L. B. Cousins and Nola Reba Walker Cousins. She had one sister, Shirley Ann Cousins - a teacher for 40 years!

In 1937 the family lived in West Point, Texas. Phyrne attended a two-teacher school and was the only female in her class. Prior to WWII they moved to Smithville, Texas. She graduated from LaGrange High School in 1946.

Phyrne received her Bachelor's Degree from Sam Houston State Teachers College and her Master's from the University of Houston.

She taught at Manvel Elementary School for three years. While attending SHSTC she met C. J. Harris. The 1952.53 school year he offered her a position as a sixth grade teacher at Pearland Elementary School, 2319 North Grand Boulevard [Currently Horizon Montessori Public School]. She transferred to Pearland High School and taught English and History for several years.



After teaching at PHS, Phyrne resigned and stayed at home for a year; taught at Houston ISD for five years, then returned to Pearland ISD!

There were few rent houses in Pearland at that time. Phyrne found room and board at Ms. Florence Long's - a retired school teacher, whose home was on Washington Avenue in the Pearland Townsite. Many will remember Ms. Long - she was a "Story-teller." It was memorizing to listen to her stories when she came to the class.

In 1957 she married Orlen "Pat" O'Day, a 1943 PHS graduate.

Pat.....  
[picture from  
1943 Gusher] is  
remembered  
as always  
having a  
big smile on  
his face and  
a memorable laugh.

*A great way to be remembered!*



O'Day Drilling Company has been in business for many years! O'Day Rental and Hardware is located at 6614 West Broadway.

The O'Day children are Sandy Albers, Mike O'Day and Suzanne Elliott; 5 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren.



*Suzanne, Mike and Sandy*



*Phyme with 7 of her 8 Great-grandchildren [Bella had not arrived].*

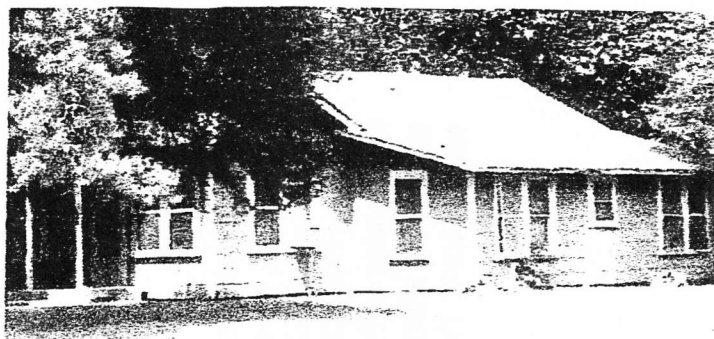
Phyme's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration was a huge success with many attendees – some who had traveled great distances! She is a faithful member of the First United Methodist Church in Pearland. Phyme has been a member of the Pearland Historical Society for many years and always attends the annual luncheon. We look forward to seeing her at many more!

*P.S.- She is also a good bridge player!*

In the recent issue of the Newsletter I wrote a short story about Mayor Reid starting the first Pearland Library on Grand Blvd. where there had been a pool hall. In 1970 a group called Friends of the Library, Betty Alexander, Truby Keller, Wilma Clark and Jo Ann Reid held meetings and investigated establishing a library in Pearland. The pool hall building on Grand Avenue was available and then Mayor Dan Keller was authorized to negotiate a sale or lease of the building. Tom Reid was not Mayor at that time (Dan Keller was) and Tom was not involved at all. This information came from Don Keller. I actually don't remember where it was on the internet but I read somewhere on the internet that Tom was Mayor at the time. Sorry for the error.

# 2301 NORTH PARK AVENUE

by Brenda Martin Riggs



Brazoria County Appraisal District reflects the home of **William "Bill" McCormack** and **Joyce Ann Maness McCormack** was built in 1948 – on the SE corner of North Park and Jasmine Street.

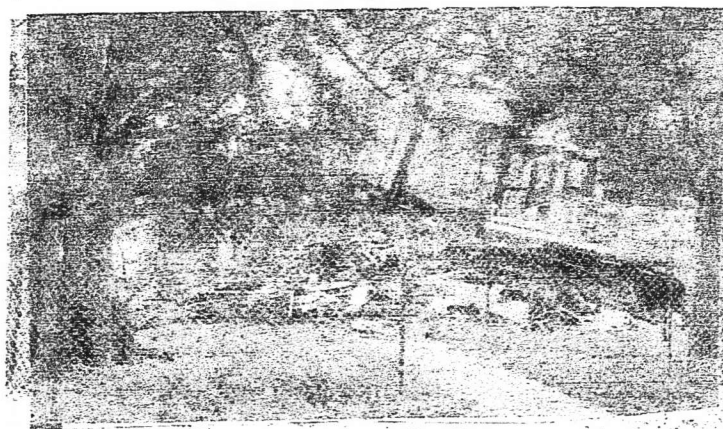
The 1900 census reflects Bill's parents James and Frances residing in Indiana; 1910 they are in Texas with children: Cleveland, Mazel, Sadie, Purnell, Dewey and William.

Bill was born in Indiana in 1900 and Joyce was born in Texas in 1905. Their children were: Alta Lorene [1924-2006]; Norma Rae [1925-2013]; William Wesley [1926-1927]; and Marjorie Ellen [1930-2005].

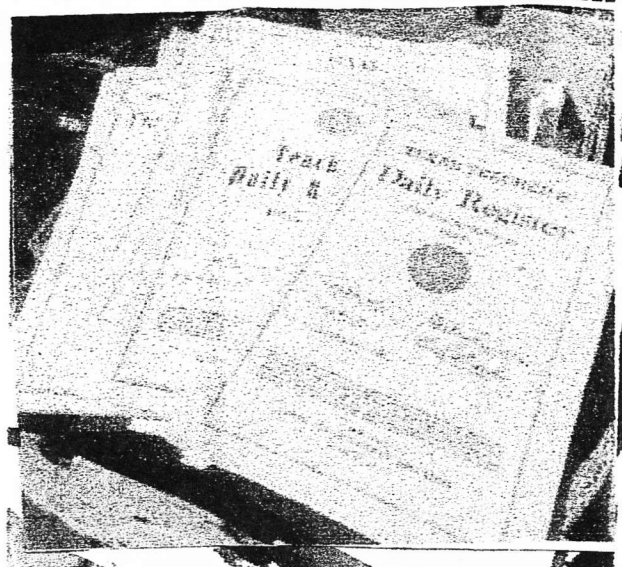
Bill was a local hay farmer. Affectionately called "Uncle Bill", Pearland High School boys talked about working during summer months for him. They told stories about who could 'cut the mustard' and lift the most bales of hay; and who passed out in the Texas heat!

There are very few, if any, hayfields in Pearland today!

Sadly, driving past last week, I snapped a picture of the house being demolished.



# PEARLAND MEMORABILIA



Many thanks to Donald Hayes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the Society!

A friend asked him to go to an Estate Sale in Pearland. He purchased a treasure trove of information from the 1940's including Pearland Elementary Teacher's Daily Registers.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to Donald for donating this historical memorabilia to the Society!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO HAS PAID THEIR DUES OF \$15 FOR 2020. WE RECENTLY SENT REMINDERS TO FOLKS WHO MAY HAVE FORGOTTEN. WE ARE WORKING HARD TO GET OUR MEMBERSHIP LIST UP TO DATE SO NO ONE MISSES THEIR NEWSLETTER. OUR ADDRESS IS BOX 1333 PEARLAND, TX 77588

IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE GETTING THE NEWSLETTER AND HAS NOT RECEIVED IT, EMAIL TO [jerryjo15@aol.com](mailto:jerryjo15@aol.com), and I will try to correct.



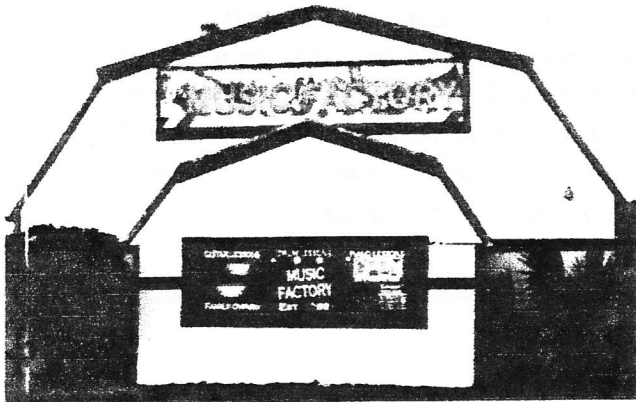
Due to computer issues this article was omitted from the October Newsletter.

**PEARLAND "MUSIC FACTORY"**  
**Celebrating 50 years in business!**  
*by Brenda Martin Riggs*

The advertisement says it all!!!



In 1969 Steve Townsend opened a music shop in Sherwood Shopping Center. In 1980 he moved the Factory to the current location: 1411 East Broadway.



Steve, Diana, Steve II [left] and Chase.

A family owned business – most musical instruments are offered as well as music and voice lessons.



Saturday, November 16, 2019, a Fall Concert celebration transpired. Students and instructors performed for this occasion.



Cake was served commemorating 50 years in business in Pearland! Congratulations to the Townsend family!

This corona virus which is going around is really causing a lot of problems. You can't go inside to eat at most restaurants at this time, Here's hoping none of our members pick up the virus.

One person it has certainly affected is Society Member Carl Talbot, The nursing home Jenny is in is in Alvin; and Carl has been driving down most days to spend time with Jenny. Since the virus has hit us the nursing home no longer allows visitors.

Carl turned 90 on Feb. 25; I will be 90 on March 25, Society Member "Corky Segelquist turned 90 last May. We all started to the 5<sup>th</sup> grade in 1940 and have been close friends for about 80 years. What a lot of memories we have. We had 14 in our graduating class of 1948. I believe we still have 4 boys and 3 girls still living,

Pearland was a wild "honky tonk" town and what a difference school was. When I started to school here in 1940 Pearland the school song went like this:

***"Bring out 3 kegs for old Pearland High,***

***We'll lift her banners up to the sky***

***Send some freshmen out for gin.***

***Don't let a sober person in.***

***We never stagger, we never fall***

***We sober up on wood alcohol***

***Oh you sons of PHS, you're out***

***On a drunk again. Beer, beer.***

Also at the ball games (6 man football] the pep squad liked to hurl insults at the other team. Some I remember:

***"Chew, chew tobacco chew tobacco, spit it on the wall., Friendswood can't play ball."***

Another was when it was obvious Pearland was going to win, the pep squad would then sing:

***Pearland will shine tonight, Pearland will shine.***

***We've won a game tonight, that's one good sign.***

***Friendswood will pine tonight, Friendswood will pine. They've lost a game tonight and that's one good sign tonight. The sun goes down and the moon comes up. Friendswood will pine,***

There were several others I can't remember. When J. D. Gray became the Pearland Superintendent in 1947, he put a stop to all the insulting cheers Pearland was using at the time; although some Pearlanders attending basketball games still loved to yell insults at the visiting teams, particularly my brother Roy.

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When we 90 year old guys get together at the "old codgers" coffee shop, we often talk about what life is like today to kids versus when we were youngsters back in the 30's and 40's. At recess and after school, we headed outside to wrestle and play other physical games. Now when in school, they are on their I Pads. The playgrounds in the park and around the churches seldom have kids playing on the equipment. They are sitting on the benches reading their - Pads. They are the "I-Pad Generation". We were the "We Played Generation." When we 90 year olds get together we do a lot of reminiscing about things that happened in the 80 years since

we were in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, We went through a depression, then World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and many other small skirmishes, I believe we are in agreement that the coronavirus has put our country in the worst condition in our lifetime.

I also believe our country was never so together as during WWII. Everyone was behind our troops regardless of whether he/she was democrat or republican. People would gather at the small post office on 518 to see if they had a message about our losing another local soldier, We were totally united and have never been that way again. Maybe a short time after 9/11 or some other tragedy but not like WWII.