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Photo

Friends for the Preservation of
Historic Landa Park
Rosemarie L. Gregory
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A Tribute to
William L.Schumann and William J. Kolodzie

Caption: William J. (Bill) Kolodzie

Saturday, October 20, 2018, Arbor Day was once again celebrated in Landa Park. Due to rainy weather the dedication portion of the celebration was postponed. Tim Barker, PhD, the former president of Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park, was to make the presentation. This he will do in the near future at a date soon to be announced. With Tim, we once again note the following:

On Arbor Day 2017 two women were memorialized who not only were great coworkers in Landa Park, but were also good friends-Dolores Schumann and Joyce Kolodzie. Their individual park benches are placed side-by-side and are sentinels to watch over the Founders Oak.

On Arbor Day 2018, the plan was to honor and memorialize two men, William L.(Bill) Schumann and William J. (Bill) Kolodzie, who were not only great coworkers in Landa Park, but also good friends, and the corresponding spouses of last year's honorees.

What a foursome these two couples were as advocates and hands-on workers for Landa Park. Although Arbor Day has been recognized in New Braunfels for 84 years, the designation as a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation was earned 30 years ago when the Guada Coma Garden Club recognized the extraordinary number of species of trees in Landa Park and established an arboretum there. This inspired the city of New Braunfels to adopt a tree ordinance on public property.

At a future date in recognition of Arbor Day, 2018, another set of side-by-side park benches will be dedicated alongside the Comal Springs in Gazebo Circle with one in honor of Bill Schumann and one in memory of Bill Kolodzie. The benches will serve as sentinels of the crystal-clear babbling waters of Spring Run #3.

Both men have an impressively long history of community involvement. The October 21 column was dedicated to Bill Schumann. Today's column recognizes Bill Kolodzie's many contributions.

Bill Kolodzie was drafted into the U.S. Army when he was 18 and attending Southwest Texas State Teachers College, SWTSTC(Texas State University) in San Marcos. He crossed the Atlantic Ocean and fought in World War II at the Battle of the Bulge in northern France. Bill was awarded the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal with three Bronze Stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Bronze Star of Valor.

Honorably discharged, Bill returned to SWTSTC where he met and married Joyce Schulle. He earned his BS in Math and Physics and received his Masters in Math and Administrative Education.

Following his graduation in 1949, the Kolodzies came to New Braunfels. Bill taught math at New Braunfels High School. He then became a principle at Seele Elementary and later Lamar Elementary. In 1966 he became a land surveyor and remained in that profession the remainder of his working career.

Raising Longhorn cattle on his ranch brought him great satisfaction. Too, he became a member of the New Braunfels Lions Club in 1950 and Lionism became an important part of everyday life.

Bill served the Wurstfest Association as president in 1979 and eventually became an Opa Emeritus. Another active part of his life was the First United Methodist Church where he and Joyce were members of the choir for many years.

In 2007 at age 81, Bill became the organizing president of Friends for the Preservation of Historic Landa Park (Friends) with membership made-up of the garden clubs, master gardeners and all who revere nature and the beauty of Landa Park with its springs acclaimed the largest in the southwest, its world-class arboretum and its incredible history that assures us it is the crown jewel of our community.

Bill saw to the Friends organization being recognized as a 501C3, He was always a great source of enthusiasm and encouragement as well as knowledge of parliamentary procedure. Bill remained at the helm of Friends for 3 years and continued to be a lifelong inspiration.

With his guidance Friends applied for and received a \$10,000 grant from the McKenna Foundation to purchase and plant, under the supervision of the Parks Department, 137 new trees along the Arboretum Trail in Landa Park. Of the 40 different species of trees planted, 14 were new species to be added. Over 200 enthusiastic volunteers participated in this planting. It was an exciting and productive time. In recognition of his dedication, the Parks and Recreation Department presented Bill with the Sylvan Award. Among his other recognitions through the years was being named a Living Legend by the New Braunfels Foundation Trust.

The Kolodzies and Schumanns along with their many other friends and associates were delighted the Arboretum in Landa Park was named the William and Dolores Schumann Arboretum. No group or individual encouraged the naming of the arboretum after the deserving couple more than their faithful friend, Bill Kolodzie.

This column is based on the book New Braunfels' Historic Landa Park, It's Springs and Its People by Rosemarie Leissner Gregory and Arlene Krueger Seales. For more information visit www.friendsforlandapark.org and Facebook.