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**4th Quarter Newsletter**

**December, 2022**

**OUR PURPOSE:** The Salado Historical Society is dedicated to researching and preserving the history of the area and of the families that helped build this community. Our mission is “To locate, educate, and preserve the history and the historical integrity of the Village of Salado.”

### **A Word From Our President - Bill Kinnison**

As we bring 2022 to a close and look forward to the New Year of 2023, I would like to give our membership a report of what SHS has accomplished and what the New Year's projects are.

For those of you who attended our November pot luck chili dinner, this is a repeat of information:

#### 2022 Accomplishments

- SHS replenished our supply of “History of Salado, Texas” booklet with 3,000 additions thanks to the generous donation of printing services & materials by Kathy Michaels. The books are a year round fundraiser for us, sold in local stores. They bring in about \$2,000+ a year.
- The Log Cabin's Walk Path was constructed with edging and crushed granite. The new path brings an improvement in both aesthetics and safety. Bell County Historical Commission assisted us with a grant of \$1,000 to finish the project. The remainder of the \$6,100 cost came from our savings, leaving us a little short on funds for other projects going into 2023.
- The Native Plant Society of Central Texas has adopted the log cabins to landscape. They have begun by creating planting beds and plants that will survive the winter months. Spring will bring more planting.
- We undertook the vision of our 2011 Bylaws which was no small task. The revisions were made and adopted in October 2022 and copies sent to all members via email. The committee added some needed sections related to our presses for conducting business. Thanks to all who worked on that project.

- The Awards Committee, chaired by Cathy Sands, installed 6 narrative plaques on Salado Landmark sites. That phase of the project is complete with a total of 14 sites marked. The Committee is now looking at identifying and marking more qualifying Landmark sites.
- SHS was involved in participating in the Village's Historic District Overlay Ordinance. That project was led by Beverly Turnbo, SHS V-P. She did a wonderful job of keeping the Board informed of the issues being considered and making recommending. It was no small task. The product of that work is now being reviewed by the Village P & Z committee.
- The Tour of Homes on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> resulted in the sale of 333 tickets. SHS was also able to reduce expenses relative to other years. Many thanks to the five couples who offered their homes for the Tour: Pat & Marsha Suggs, Scott and Kellieann Hyderkhan, Greg & Jane Westerfield, Bill & Lynn Wilton, and E J & Robin Van Sickle. Also, thanks to Becky Norwood and Cathy Sands for decorating the log cabins and opening them for the tour. Thanks to the many who made it a success. A special thanks is due Shirley Lett, the chairperson for the Tour, who organized and managed the process.

- **2023 Projects**

- The Awards Committee will work with the Village to create a "Landmark Ordinance" that will elevate the status and significance of our Landmarks Awards.
- The Church of Christ Historic Building at 312 Main St., built in 1908, is being offered to SHS to relocate, repurpose and maintain. The Church of Christ has no use for the structure and wants to move it. This is our opportunity to preserve an historic building and refurbish it for the community's use. This will be a major undertaking similar to that of the Boles-Aiken log cabin. SHS member support for a project of this magnitude will be paramount to its success. Stay tuned.



To our SHS membership, thanks for your longstanding support that allow us to take on these kinds of projects. We look forward to your continued support in 2023. Best wishes for a Happy New Year.



If you were unable to make the chili potluck dinner in November, you missed a good program. Dr. Monte Monroe, our State Historian, spoke about the importance of preserving documents. As a faculty member at Texas Tech and the archivist for the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Tech, Monroe is highly qualified to talk about the value that historical documents have to writers, researchers, genealogists, etc. We extend our gratitude to the attendees who gave Dr. Monroe a warm welcome and we thank Hulda Horton for the delicious chili.

## A Salute to Fielder's Place

Salado residents old enough to remember Elmer and Emma "Emmy" Fielder (both deceased) only have kind words to say about the couple and the small store they ran on Main Street several decades ago. Memories are somewhat scattered on the subject but all versions seem to intersect with the memory of delectable hamburgers and the sweet lady who prepared them. While Elmer was running the store, Emmy was cooking up homestyle hamburgers that soon became the couple's bestseller. The burgers became so popular that they, along with chili dogs, drinks and snow cones, inspired a single-story addition to the store building on its north side. The rare photo below shows two of the Fielder granddaughters, Linda and Wanda, in front of Fielder's, one of Salado's first fast food establishment. It was a new concept in the 1950s and early 1960s.

The Fielder store was located at the corner of Main Street and Van Bibber, just south of the red brick school house. It was torn down in 1982 and replaced with the building that today houses McCain's Bakery and Cafe but it looked very different. The McCain building faces north while the Fielder store faced west, fronting on Main Street.

This photo also may hold a tell-tale clue about the name of the store. To the right of the Fielder name on the sign is the faint remains of the word "place" that has been painted over. Was an old sign for the store repurposed when the food stand was added? By all accounts, the hamburger stand needed no advertising. Locals flocked to it. It was convenient for the school children who loved the food and frequented both businesses. The Fielder family lived, at least for a time, on the second floor of the building.



In the photo of Emmy below, notice the exterior stairs that led to the second floor on the south side of the building.



This photo (above right) of Elmer and Emmy is equally historic to Salado. It shows the couple in earlier years holding those precious granddaughters, Linda and Wanda, children of their daughter Billie Fielder Berry. The store and filling station in the background belonged to Elmer's parents, George and Martha. It was located on the west side of the current Interstate 35, near 2484.

We owe a debt of thanks to Kathy Ellis Wilhite, a great granddaughter to Elmer and Emmy, for the use of these photos. (with the exception of the obvious news clipping image) Kathy's memories of her great grandmother "MaEmmy" reflect the personal side of the lady behind those great burgers and dogs. Kathy wrote, "She was born in 1901 and raised in Andice and Georgetown. She married Elmer Fielder [1920] and move to Salado. She raised 5 children there. She farmed, worked at the Stagecoach Inn, had a burger joint across from the red school and belonged to the Salado Church of Christ. She always seemed old to me but she definitely had a spark for life. She was a strong woman and a great influence in our lives."



This narrative about the Fielder store grew out of a study of the old Fielder building's unique history. The photo below, as originally published in the Salado Village Voice in



1982, shows a structure hardly recognizable as the old store and food stand. As it was torn down, its inner walls of logs were exposed. Although the log structure was only 50 years old, it was too deteriorated to save. A more comprehensive article about this property is in the works.



### A Hometown Christmas Story

Christmas 1922 was a slim one for the Vickrey family of Salado but the family was keenly aware that hard times were not unique to their household. Sophia Vickrey (the namesake of her mother) still remembered and recounted the story in 1985, when she was 75 years old and a resident of Oklahoma. The *Oklahoma Daily News* found it compelling enough to publish.

Sophia was the family's youngest child, age 12 in 1922 and her brother Granville was 15. The Vickreys lived in the now-historic Vickrey House at 402 N. Main in Salado. Time had reduced the number of family members in the Salado home from 7 to 3 with the

passing of Granville Sr. and the marriages of the 3 older children, Louen, Athena and Ruby. Sophia recalled: “A family lived near us who had six children, the oldest my age. The father was a part-time truck driver and their was a prospect of no Christmas at their house.” The Vickrey’s were heart broken at that prospect. “We worked for days finding foil to wrap around bits of cardboard and tie like packages with dyed twine, making tiny paper chains we had colored at school,” Sophia recalled.

An old curtain was cut and sewn into eight bags, each filled with fruit and homemade taffy. Toy cars were crafted and Sophia surrendered one of her favorite books for the cause. “Mama made sock dolls for the two youngest.”

Cutting a  
was an easy  
cotton —  
carols they  
has  
been more  
me.”



three foot cedar, then securing it with sand in a syrup bucket, task but dressing Mama Sophia as Santa — with a beard of was not. Little Sophia later remembered the Bible verse and the sang when they delivered those humble gifts, saying, “Never Christmas thrilling to

Four of the Vickrey siblings in later years, (1978) at a Salado reunion. Oldest brother Louen was deceased. Left to right, Sophia Ard, Athena Berry, Granville, and Ruby Hutchens.



Note: Our special thanks to Carol 66 Cicalese for sending the old newspaper clipping that was the source for this story. Her grandmother, Ruby Vickrey Hutchens, was an older sister to young Sophia. Even though Carol lives in New Jersey, her interest in her family history, and thus in Salado, remains strong. Vickrey descendants have contributed much to our archives over the years.

Mrs. Johnson began her day at (Place) *The White House*

Date *Thursday, 25 August 1967*

*Dictated 30 Aug 67*

Entry No.	Time	Activity
①	7:15	<i>Breakfast with the President.</i>
	8:46	<i>Bathed &amp; dressed; went into the President's room to tell him good-bye. Left the White House.</i>
②	9:17	<i>Arrived at Dulles; waited for three hours before take-off -- flight was unable to leave because of fog.</i>
	12:15	<i>Left Dulles.</i>
③	3:47	<i>Arrived at Luci's, after changing planes in Dallas.</i>
④	5:11	<i>Left Luci's and drove to the Robertson Home, Salado. Attended ceremonies for the dedication of Liz's birthplace; made a few brief remarks. Then went to the Texas crafts show -- especially enjoyed Jessie Hunter's wildflower seeds. Signed many autographs, etc. (5,000 people present)</i>
⑤	8:15	<i>Left the Robertson home to visit the gravesite of George Washington Baines, the President's grandfather.</i>
	8:28	<i>Arrived at the Kinnison Residence, Salado -- visited with the Kinnisons.</i>
⑥	8:47	<i>Returned to the Robertson home for refreshments -- talked with Jessica Catto, Nancy Negley -- went to see M/M Bristol to buy pictures for the President's birthday.</i>
⑦	9:21	<i>Left the Robertsons -- brief stop at Bertram, Texas to get a hamburger.</i>

Look what a casual search of the Library of Congress's archives unearthed. This page, taken from the daily diary of First Lady Ladybird Johnson, mentions a visit she made to Salado and a stop at the Robertson and Kinnison homes on August 25, 1967.

