



Hallettsville Brick Hotel The Cornerstone 1947

By Brenda Lincke Fisseler

Albert Pavlu, a local blacksmith, purchased the property which had once been in home of the City Hotel, in January 1931. Pavlu began work on erecting a building for his blacksmith shop. In the plans, he used the brick wall that was left standing after the hotel burned as part of his new building.

In June of 1947, the old brick building formerly occupied by the Albert Pavlu Blacksmith shop was torn down. The owner of the property, Mr. Paul Renger, announced that a Texaco filling station would be built on that corner.

During the demolition, Lloyd Moore, who had been hired to demolish the Pavlu Blacksmith shop, removed the cornerstone from the old City Hotel building.

According to the New Era-Herald, when the cornerstone was opened a variety of items were found.

Inside the cornerstone were 24 coins; two silver dollars and a number of halves, quarters, and dimes, the oldest coins dating back to 1834.

Also found were a quantity of magazines and papers all in bad condition due in part to having been soaked and damaged during the fire which partially destroyed the building.

Among the paper relics were the following: a Bible belonging to French Simpson Sr., dated February 15, 1885 and inscribed "Presented to himself on his 37th birthday" and deposited November 15, 1891; a magazine, Frank Lester's Popular Monthly, dated 1890; a copy of the Hallettsville Herald, published by Lehmann and Donohue dated November 1891; an issue of the Houston Daily Post for November 24, 1891, the day before the

*"Great minds are related to
the brief span of time
during which they live
as great buildings are to a
little square in which they
stand..."*

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Hallettsville Brick Hotel

The Last Chapter

items were deposited in the cornerstone and a November 28, 1891 copy of the Colorado County Citizen published by Ben. M. Baker.

The present owner, Mr. Paulie Renger, returned the cornerstone and its interesting relics, to the Masonic Lodge.



Resources For Hallettsville Brick Hotel June-October 2023

Hallettsville Herald:
1891 Sept. 24
1895 Jan. 9
1896 Jan. 9; Jan. 16, Jan. 23, Jan. 27, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, March 19, March 26, April 2
1898 July 7, July 21, Nov. 24
1899 Jan. 19, March 9
1900 April 5; April 19; April 26
1902 July 24, Oct. 2, Nov. 25 Dec. 18
1903 Jan. 15
1905 Aug. 24
1907 Oct. 17
1909 April 23; June 11; Aug. 27
1911 May 5, May 12; June 2, Aug. 11
1912 Feb. 9, Feb. 21, April 12, June 28
1914 Sept 18, Oct 2
1924 May 16
1925 Jan. 13, Jan. 16, April 7, April 10, June 2, June 26, July 3
1927 Sept. 6, Oct. 28, Nov. 1
1928 Feb. 14, Feb. 24, April 3, June 12, Oct. 30
1929 April 9
1931, March 6

Hallettsville New-Era
1905 Aug. 25
1906 July 27
1911 July 28, Aug. 18, Oct. 6
1912 Feb. 9, April 16, Dec. 31

Hallettsville New Era-Herald
1931 Jan. 6
1947 July 1, June 18, June 24, July 1

Lavaca County Tribune
1932 March 31

Houston Post
1911 May 1

San Antonio Express
1911 Aug. 1; Aug. 19

Lavaca County Deed Records
Vol. 39 p. 321-2, 540-3; Vol. 53 p.553-4; Vol. 62 p.592-4; Vol. 74 p.592-4
Vol. 82 p.179-181; Vol. 97 p.68-9; Vol. 101 p.245-6; Vol. 110 p.216-7

Lavaca County Warranty Deeds
Vol 20 p. 775-6; Vol 22 p.564-6, 598-9

Lavaca County Deed of Trust
Vol. F p. 558-64; Vol. H. p.161-5

Sanborn Fire Maps
1896 July; 1900 Sept.; 1912 Sept.

Photographs: Collection of Brenda Lincke Fisseler

