

CLUB & ORGANIZATION NEWS

Daughters of the Republic of Texas

In keeping with the tradition of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) in honoring Texas heroes and patriots, the Monument Hill Chapter (MHC) DRT honored one of its own on Saturday, March 7, at the Masonic Cemetery in Weimar.

A memorial marker ceremony was held at the grave of Grace Amy Matthews Kocurek, a McMillan family descendent.

Grace Amy Kocurek extended the bounds of friendship and grandmotherhood for the Monument Hill Chapter DRT and Children of the Republic of Texas (CRT). She sewed historic costumes for their activities, made endless dozens of cookies, attended chapter meetings, chapter projects, provided picnic lunches and entertained with delightful stories of her childhood. She was affectionately known as "Aunt Grace" by the entire membership of the MHC DRT and CRT chapters.

Beginning the ceremony, DRT Chapter President Marilyn Miller read the CALL to Remembrance, followed by Lillian Stuesser asking the invocation. McMillan family members, most DRT and CRT members, participated in the ceremony. The pledge of the United States flag was led by CRT member Suzanne Kocurek and the Texas flag pledge was led by Mary Ann Kocurek. This was followed by Rox Ann Johnson's reading of a history of the DRT and the MHC.

History: In the summer of 1891 two young ladies in Galveston, Halli Bryan and Betty Ballinger, became concerned over the lack of interest by most Texans in the historic places and events created in the formation of the Republic of Texas. These two cousins had just attended a meeting of the Texas Veterans Association (TVA) and realized the necessity of a patriotic group to assist in, and in time to carry on, the work of the aging heroes - for in 1891 it had been 55 years since the Battle of San Jacinto.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas had their early meetings in conjunction with the veterans. In 1907 the 34th and last reunion of the TVA took place in Austin. Six veterans answered roll call and each expressed the opinion that owing to the infirmities of age he would be unable to attend another meeting, and cast his vote for the dissolution of the association.

However, before adjourning it was determined "that the holy memories clinging around it should be merged into that patriotic association, the DRT of Texas. Be it resolved that we are unalterably opposed to any division or diminution of our beloved state of Texas, and desire that it shall ever be one and indissoluble. For its preservation as such we rely upon the DRT, who will survive us, and we hope will live as an organization until the end of time."

This organization has grown to a membership of over 6,000 women. It has been charged with the care of two state-owned historic buildings - the Alamo and the French Legation in Austin. It has been a leader in the acquisition of the San Jacinto Battlefield and it has established its Texas History Research Library and Republic of Texas Museum. Much has been accomplished and early projects have reached unbelievable proportions with far-reaching results.

The MHC of the DRT was chartered on Nov. 6, 1985 at the State Capitol. The chapter was named in honor of

the fallen heroes of the Dawson and Mier expeditions who sprang to arms in defense of the Republic of Texas and who now lie at rest upon the beautiful hilltop of La Grange. A formal chartering ceremony for the new chapter was held on Jan. 19, 1986 at the La Grange City Hall. Among the charter members was Grace Kocurek.

On Aug. 22, 1987 the MHC of the CRT was chartered. Mrs. Kocurek's grandchildren, Barbara, Neal, Chad and Rachel Kocurek and Mark Grohmann were charter members of that chapter. Barbara has served the organization in several statewide offices. Neal is currently Custodian General of the CRT.

These chapters have both been very active in promoting the objectives of the DRT: to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved Texas independence, to encourage historical research into the earliest record of Texas, to foster the preservation of documents and relics, to promote the celebration of Texas Honors Days, to secure and memorialize all historic spots, and to cherish and preserve the unity of Texas as achieved and established by the fathers and mothers of the Texas Revolution. The ideals that promoted those two young ladies to found the DRT laid a firm foundation that has been proudly built upon.

Dorothy Albrecht of La Grange read a family history of the McMillan family's coming to Texas, starting with the arrival of John McMillan to the Reel's Bend area of Colorado County, from Monroe County, Alabama.

Family History: In the early 1840's John McMillan came to the Reel's Bend area of Colorado County from Monroe County, Alabama. With him were his wife, Margaret, his sons, James and John and at least one of his daughters Ellender McMillan Earp. We know that John was here in May 1843, for that was when he and daughter, Ellender, signed a mortgage to Ward and Ingram of Matagorda for their cotton crop. Ellender's first husband, William Earp, had died on a trip to Alabama the year before. It is my supposition, that John came to Texas to help Ellender manage the Earp plantation in Colorado County. By the time John died in July of 1857, all of his six children, with the exception of Williamson, had become Texans.

Grace Amy Matthews Kocurek, great, great, grand daughter of John McMillan, was the third daughter and next to last child of John and Lella May Matthews.

Grace Amy was born on a tenant farm southwest of Weimar on March 8, 1914. And there she lived until she married. She graduated from Weimar

PJs

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grams: Sherry Thomas and Mary Kay Cook; front of house: Suzanne Sykowski; ticket sales: Jonna Bowen; concessions: Mary Kay and Robby Cook; costumes: Kathy Stern and Robin Thomas; make-up: Jennifer Biaselli; and sound: Heather Shanks.

Special thanks to Deborah and Tom Reed, Shannon Walker, the Eagle Lake Headlight, Prairie Edge Museum Board of Directors, Parents in the Community, Franc Ann Johnson, Laker Printing and Vic Scott.



Susan Hill (holding the U.S. Flag) and Jim Thornton (holding the Texas Flag) listen as David Hill, past CRT president general (in dark suit to the left of the Texas Flag), eulogizes "Aunt Grace". All are descendants and all are from East Bernard.

Photo Courtesy of DRT

High School shortly after her father's death in April of 1932. She was a good student and ranked high in her class. She remained on the farm with her mother and unmarried brothers until she married Anton Joseph Kocurek on June 6, 1935.

(As an aside, in visiting with her younger brother recently he told me an interesting story. It seems that 1935 was a wet year, especially near the time of Grace's wedding day. Since it was impossible to drive the dirt road up to the farm house either in car or buggy, Brother Roy put her and her suit case in front of him on his horse and transported her to William's house which was just off the highway. There Anton picked her up to "tie the knot.")

Grace was a hard working energetic person. Her life was not an easy one but one that she made the most of. She and Anton were parents of 10 children. She was ever the help-mate doing farm chores, helping with milk hauling, delivering the Sunday edition of the Houston Post. Even teaching school for awhile during World War II.

On Feb. 5, 1981, after over 45 years of marriage, Anton died. Two of her children, Anton Jr. and Betty Jean had died in infancy. Later her first born, Virginia Grace (Tutie) Seay died on Nov. 2, 1995. Sixteen days later, her son Roy William died.

Today, to celebrate her life and love,

survive, her children, Franklin Howard and his wife, Jeanette; Margaret Elaine (Marge) on her husband, Ralph; Robert Louis (Bobby) and his wife, Fannie; Patsy Ann and her husband, Michael; John Wayne and his wife, Mary Ann; Donald Ray and his wife, Suzanne; as well as son-in-law Raymond Seay; and daughter-in-law Virginia Kocurek and brother, Roy.

Grace was a grandmother to 15. Not a passive grandma but a very active one. All loved to come stay with her and several stayed for extended periods of time. She always had time for them and for the great-grandchildren that followed.

Besides her immediate family, she made time to enjoy and help her extended family—brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews and long time friends.

There was no chore too big for her to attempt, whether it was repairing milk hauling trucks and lawn mowers, taking care of the innumerable household problems, or cooking for those of us who enjoyed gathering around her table. She loved to sew, crochet and quilt and many of us reaped the reward of her efforts.

(See DRT, Page 5)

Library

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in memory of Alberta Josephine Cleveland: Bill & Lillian Gohlke; in memory of Dorothy Wilson: Mr. & Mrs. Ray Varley, Helen V. Dennis; and, in memory of Connie Mansfield: Bill & Lillian Gohlke.

Police

Continued from Page 1

one juvenile had assaulted a victim, who required medical attention. On April 6, the suspect gave a statement, was detained and turned over to the juvenile probation department.

At 8:22 p.m., Sgt. Lattimore was dispatched to E. Prairie Street in reference to an assault.

Jose Melendez was arrested for family violence assault, processed at the police department, then transported to CDC for confinement.

On April 6 at 12:26 a.m., Officer Risk received a call of loud music on Guadalupe St. Upon his arrival, Officer Risk was unable to locate any loud music in the area.

At 4:15 p.m., Chief Webb met a complainant at the police department who reported a theft that had occurred on E. Davitt. A report was filed and the case is being investigated.

Sgt. Knox assisted the fire department with traffic control at a house fire on Seaholm St. at 4:48 p.m.

Sgt. Lattimore met with two complainants in regard to a civil matter and advised them of the proper action to be taken.

On April 7 at 4:38 a.m., Officer Risk received a report of a suspicious subject on N. McCarty, but was un-

able to locate anyone. He did locate some broken pieces of concrete in the street, which he removed.

Later, at 10:20 a.m., Officer Ochoa received a report of broken flower pots in the same vicinity. A report was filed and is being investigated.

At 9:03 a.m., Officer Ochoa was dispatched to Stevenson Street in reference to a broken window. A report was filed.

At 3:09 a.m., Sgt. Knox was dispatched to Fairview Street in reference to a suspicious subject, but was unable to locate the subject.

MONTHLY SUMMARY March 1998

The March summary for the Eagle Lake Police Department lists 216 calls answered; 135 miscellaneous, 36 disturbances, 12 criminal mischief, 10 assaults, 10 thefts, nine accidents and four burglaries.

Officers investigated 36 criminal cases, cleared 54, made 17 arrests (13 misdemeanor, four felony) and handled six juveniles.

The Department issued 51 citations and 94 warnings.

Newsbriefs

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RHS Student Council blood drive is April 15

The Student Council of Rice High School is sponsoring a blood drive Wednesday, April 15, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the high school gym. For more information, contact Coach Lee Politsch at 234-3535. Please give the gift of life.

Iglesia Bautista Gethsemani presenta Molengraf

Iglesia Bautista Gethsemani, 903 East "B" Street, Eagle Lake, presenta Gordon Molengraf, evangelista dibujante (predica dibujano y dibuja predicando). Fecha y tiempo, abril 24 y 25 7 p.m.; abril 26, 11 a.m. Todos bienvenidos.

Iglesia Bautista Gethsemani to hold revival

Iglesia Bautista Gethsemani, 903 East B Street, will hold a concert revival April 24 and 25 at 7 p.m. and on April 26 at 11 a.m. Pamela Valle will entertain. The public is invited to attend.

Class of 1946

planning reunion

The Eagle Lake High School Class of 1946 is planning a reunion for June 12 at the Eagle Lake Community Center. They will also honor the football squad of 1945 (bi-district champions). For more information, contact Melvin Selph, 740 Willowick, Port Lavaca, Texas 77979; call 512-552-2704.

Nada KCs continue

Friday fish fries

The Nada Knights of Columbus are holding a fish fry every Friday through April 10 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Nada Community Center. The all-you-can-eat meal of catfish, French fries, slaw and trimmings, is \$7 for adults, \$3.75 for children (6-11) and children under six eat free. Plates to go are \$5.75.

Drinks and desserts will be sold by the Catholic Daughters and PTC.

Also, come and enjoy St. Mary's Penny "Raffle" going on during the K.C.s fish fry. For more information on the drawing, call 409-234-5202.

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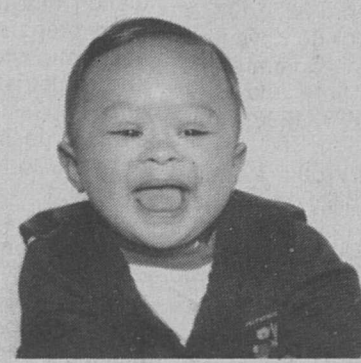
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Po Po, Granny & Pa Pa



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Fridays: By Appointment
Saturdays: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

409-732-3745

Ms. Linda Giles,
Owner

The Public Is Invited To Attend The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Colorado County Juvenile Detention Center

600 FM 3013 West, Eagle Lake

Friday, April 17, 1998

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Guest Speakers:

- Senator Ken Armbrister
- Representative Robby Cook
- Vickie Wright, TJPC
- County Judge Vince Slominski
- Jim Flattery, President, Correctional Services Corp.
- Jim Irving, Vice President, CSC

Tours Will Be Given & Lunch Served

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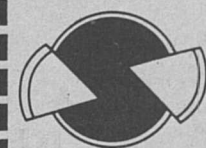


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