

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society
July 2023 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street
Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street
Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

Contact Us

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Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum
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A note from the editor

July in Arlington brings two things to mind. First, it was July 19, 1876, when the railroad arrived in the area. A tiny settlement sprung up around the railroad tracks—it would soon be known as Arlington, and much later, it would become a bustling city of 400,000 people.

Second, the Arlington Independence Day Parade is one of the longest-running annual events in our city. Do you remember in 2014 when the parade was dedicated to the Arlington Historical Society and our very own Geraldine Mills was the Grand Marshal? What great memories!

In this month's newsletter, catch up on our news and read about the inspirational life of innovative educator, author, and long-time AHS supporter Myrtice Larson.



*Grand Marshal Geraldine Mills at the 2014
Arlington Independence Day Parade*

Jason S. Sullivan, 07-28-23

Newsletter Editor

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Upcoming Events

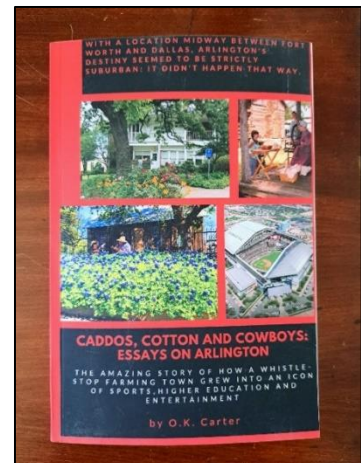
- **July 30**—"Caddos, Cotton and Cowboys" with O.K. Carter, Fielder Museum, 2:30 PM
- **August 27**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:30 PM
- **September 21**—North Texas Giving Day
- **September 21**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **October 19**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **November 16**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **December 10**—Christmas Tour of Homes, 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Arlington Historical Society news

O.K. Carter releases fourth edition of his book

Last month, O.K. Carter released the fourth edition of his book "Caddos, Cotton and Cowboys: Essays on Arlington." The fourth edition contains new chapters, titled "Great Women of Arlington" and "Arlington's Black History," as well as updated information throughout. It is available for sale on [Amazon](#) as a paperback and e-book for Kindle. We also now have paperback copies for sale at Fielder Museum. Proceeds from the book's sale benefit the Arlington Historical Society, who published the fourth edition.

In next month's newsletter, we'll have a recap of the special event held July 30th at Fielder Museum where O.K. discussed the book. We hope to have additional book talks in the future if you weren't able to attend.



Caddos, Cotton and Cowboys: Essays on Arlington by O.K. Carter

Arlington Historical Society board elects new treasurer

Wanda Marshall has decided to retire from her long-time role as AHS Treasurer. She plans to continue serving as a Board Member and be active as our World War II expert. Thank you, Wanda, for your hard work as treasurer over the years!

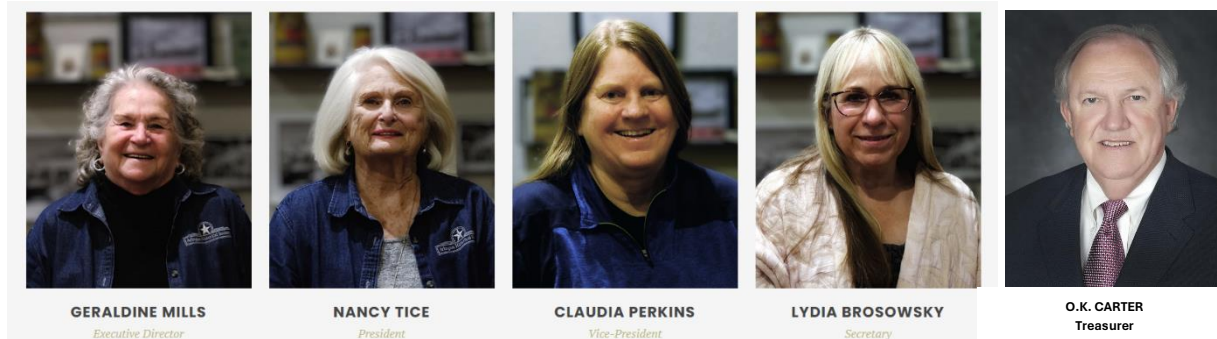
In the July AHS Board Meeting, board members elected O.K. Carter as the new treasurer. Congratulations, O.K.!



Wanda Marshall

The AHS Leadership Board currently consists of the following members:

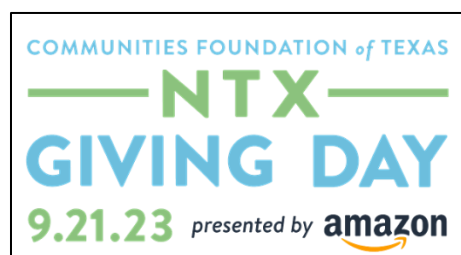
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|--|---------------------------------------|
| -- Geraldine Mills – Executive Director | -- Lydia Brosowsky – Secretary |
| -- Nancy Tice – President | -- O.K. Carter – Treasurer |
| -- Claudia Perkins – Vice-President | |



AHS Leadership Board

North Texas Giving Day is September 21

North Texas Giving Day is coming soon—mark your calendars for September 21. Nonprofit organizations across North Texas, including the Arlington Historical Society, greatly appreciate donations from our generous supporters on this day of giving. More info coming soon.



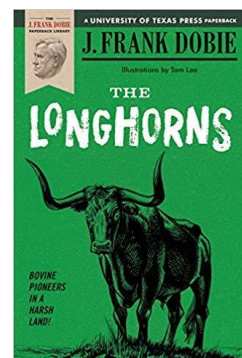
Texas Authors Book Club returns

We're excited to announce that the **Texas Authors Book Club** returns this fall. Sessions will be held monthly on the third Thursdays at Fielder Museum, from September to June, with a break in December for the holidays. Each month features a different book by a notable Texas author, including J. Frank Dobie, Larry McMurtry, Cormac McCarthy, and others. With an exciting mix of books, and each month alternating between nonfiction and fiction, there's something for everyone. The Texas Authors Book Club is a collaboration between the Arlington Historical Society and the Arlington Public Library.

Books are not provided to participants, but are available at the Arlington Public Library, used bookstores, or online. Feel free to attend one or all the sessions!

Below are the scheduled dates and books. Sessions start at 6:30 PM.

- **September 21:** "The Longhorns" by J. Frank Dobie (nonfiction)
- **October 19:** "Horseman, Pass By" by Larry McMurtry (fiction)
- **November 16:** "Goodbye to a River" by John Graves (nonfiction)
- **December:** No session
- **January 18:** "Empire of the Southern Moon" by S.C. Gwynne (nonfiction)
- **February 15:** "No Country for Old Men" by Cormac McCarthy (fiction)
- **March 21:** "The Great Plains" by Walter Prescott Webb (nonfiction)
- **April 18:** "The Which Way Tree" by Elizabeth Crook (fiction)
- **May 16:** "In a Narrow Grave" by Larry McMurtry (nonfiction)
- **June 20:** "The Gay Place" by Billy Lee Brammer (fiction)



*"The Longhorns"
by J. Frank Dobie*

Festivities planned for the Christmas Season

We've mentioned in the last few newsletters about some of our festive plans for the holiday season, including a Christmas Tour of Homes as a fundraiser, holiday programs at Knapp Heritage Park, and even a float in the Arlington Holiday Lights Parade.



Arlington Junior League and Arlington Historical Society are excited and proud to bring a fabulous new event to Arlington's Christmas Season. The inaugural **Christmas Tour of Homes** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 10**, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM.

We'll announce further details for this event and more info about the others as soon as it becomes available!

Miss Texas 1958 donates artifacts and mementos to Arlington Historical Society

Mary Nell Hendricks, a 22-year-old schoolteacher from Arlington, was crowned Miss Texas in 1958 and competed in the Miss America Pageant that year. While she wasn't crowned Miss America, she finished in the Top 10. She recently donated some of her personal artifacts and mementos to the Arlington Historical Society. Fielder Museum plans to have an upcoming exhibit displaying her donations.



*Mary Nell Hendricks –
Miss Arlington, Miss Texas, and
Miss America contestant; 1958*

*Photo Credit: Fort Worth Star-Telegram
Collection & UTA Digital Libraries*

Documentary about General Motors in Arlington coming soon

General Motors opened their Arlington Assembly Plant in 1954. Since then, more than 12 million vehicles have rolled off the assembly line, and today, General Motors remains one of the largest employers in Arlington.

Geraldine Mills and Dolan Manor were recently interviewed for an upcoming documentary about General Motors and the company's nearly 70-year impact on Arlington. It should be an interesting documentary. More details coming soon!

In Memory of Myrtice Larson (1921-2022) by O.K. Carter

Innovative educator, author and long-time Arlington Historical Society supporter Myrtice Larson was only a few days from her 101st birthday when she died April 27, 2022.

Her teaching career spanned four decades, in the process touching thousands of students and influencing the career paths of hundreds of new teachers. She also did not forget the Historical Society, leaving the Society and Fielder Museum a \$20,000 bequest. Generosity was another of her many commendable traits.



Born in a Norwegian settlement in Bosque County in 1921, Myrtice—born Myrtice Irene Nygaard—was all of six years old when she told her parents she planned to be a teacher.

And what a teacher she was. Before her career was done, she taught every grade from first through college seniors. Keenly aware of the needs of young learners, Myrtice also possessed a persistent interest in societal changes: women entering the workforce, farm jobs abandoned in favor of work in the cities, and the fading of spiritual growth as a component of family life.

She was, for example, the first woman president of an American Lutheran Church and its congregation.

During her career she earned eight teaching specialty certifications and consulted with various area school districts while teaching at no less than three universities. In 1997 the Arlington School District dedicated the Curtis and Myrtice Larson Academy, an elementary school, in honor of Myrtice and her husband, Principal Curtis. In retirement, Myrtice was president of the Texas Retired Teachers Association.

Something of a Renaissance woman, her interests included a variety of special collections (she was a certified milliner) and global travel, including 11 cruises. Her “Teachers and Planning Guide” is still in use today. Myrtice also wrote many other small books, all focused on education, generally for younger students.

She was voted Arlington’s Senior Citizen of the Year in 1990 for her many volunteer efforts, which included work for the Fielder House Museum.