

# THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH

A Publication of the Friends of the Texas Room  
(Incorporated November 27, 2002)  
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## Monday, July 27th, 2015 Meeting

The Julia Ideson Building, Houston Public Library, first floor auditorium,  
500 McKinney Avenue

6:00 – 7:00 Reception  
7:00 Program

### **PROGRAM:**

Steve Smith,

*Prominent Houston TV News Anchor,*

will speak on

“An Accidental Texan . . . My Thirty Years in Houston Bedrooms”

Free parking, with validation at the meeting, is available in the garage under the Jones Building accessed from Lamar Avenue. Parking is also available in the Smith Garage located at 1100 Smith Street next to Pappas restaurant. The garage entrance is on Smith Street. A flat parking fee of \$5.00 is charged after 5:00 p.m.

Free parking is also available on the nearby streets after 6:00 p.m.

All attendees need to enter the Julia Ideson Building from the main entrance across the plaza from the Central Library.

**VISIT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM WEBSITE!**

[www.friendsofthetexasroom.org](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org)

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## **THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Dear Friends,

Each day the relevance and importance of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center's archival collections to the preservation of Houston's historical thread becomes more apparent. Landmarks in the built environment succumb to the wrecking ball daily, and major intersections, which have looked the same for decades, suddenly are unrecognizable. Native Houstonians like me, who were accustomed to using buildings rather than street signs to navigate around the city, suddenly don't know where they are.

At the HMRC one learns that it has been ever thus! Houston always has been about the future, about progress, and about embracing the newest styles. The fates of two of the city's great nineteenth century houses are cases in point. The John Henry Kirby house at 2006 Smith Street (built 1893 / '94) has been described as "probably Houston's most complete domestic response to the Gilded Age." Nevertheless, in 1925, in anticipation of entertaining dignitaries who would be in Houston for the 1928 Democratic National Convention, Mr. Kirby tore down most of the house and incorporated the foundation into the state-of-the-art 1920s house which fortunately still stands. He wanted to show the nation that Houstonians were up to date.

Eugene T. Heiner, one of Houston's most prominent 19th century architects, designed the Charles Shearn House at 1806 Main Street at Jefferson Avenue. Built in 1882, it has been described as probably "Houston's best example of American Victorian interpretation of the French Second Empire style." About 1914 the house became the first home of the Houston Art League, forerunner of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. In 1916, the President of the Art League described the house as an "architectural monstrosity." It was demolished c. 1919 to make way for one of the Humble Company's first gas stations.

Today our nation seems to be in the grip of an historical identity crisis. Controversy overshadows even our most venerated historical persons, institutions, and monuments. Today the Shearn House would be hailed as an architectural masterpiece by many, but others would denounce it as a symbol of privilege and excess. In the current atmosphere of divisiveness and confusion, I am grateful for the HMRC where one can find the primary sources from which one can make up one's own mind about the facts. This is an indispensable tool in maintaining our democracy. Thank you for being a part of it.

Dorothy Knox Houghton, President

## **MINUTES OF THE MAY 4th, 2015, GENERAL MEETING**

President Dorothy Knox Houghton called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She introduced the evening's speaker: Dr. William Kellar, author of *Enduring Legacy: the M.D. Anderson Foundation and the Texas Medical Center*, who gave a fascinating presentation on "Monroe Dunaway Anderson's Enduring Legacy." He spoke of two sets of brothers, Frank and Monroe Anderson and William Clayton and Benjamin Clayton, who together founded Anderson, Clayton and Company in 1904, a cotton brokerage firm, which eventually was based in Houston.

The M.D. Anderson Foundation was organized June 9th, 1936, with initial capitalization of \$10,000 contributed by Monroe Anderson who continued to make contributions totaling approximately \$300,000 until his death in 1939. Throughout his life he met frequently with the other Trustees, and upon his death some \$19 million of his estate went to the Foundation.

Upon passage of state legislation to create a cancer hospital somewhere in the state of Texas in 1941, the Foundation offered to match the state's fund of \$500,000 and provide twenty acres of land for a hospital. Based on this offer, legislators selected Houston, and in 1954, the M.D. Anderson Hospital for Cancer Research at the University of Texas opened.

Its first director, Dr. Ernst William Bertner, had treated a family member in New York and was persuaded by Mr. Anderson to come to Houston to head the hospital. He later became the first Director of the Texas Medical Center and is considered the father of TMC. Among other things, Dr. Kellar alluded to the fact that the last baby delivered by Dr. Bertner was Denton A. Cooley. Illustrating how dreams can surpass the greatest expectations, Dr. Kellar noted that the TMC has grown from the original 134 acres to encompass some 1,300 acres, and that "in the first 75 years, the M.D. Anderson Foundation gave away \$276 million in grants."

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Maynard, Recording Secretary

## **NEWS FROM THE TEXAS ROOM**

By Laney McAdow, HMRC Manager

The HMRC is currently working on a cooperative grant project with the Houston Area Library Automated Network, the Harris County Archives and its library partner the Harris County Public Library, the University of Houston Libraries' Special Collections, and the Woodson Research Center at Rice University's Fondren Library. The goal of this year's grant is to create a model for community collaboration that increases the community's

awareness of the Astrodome Memories Project and its archival partners. Grant activities include developing a process to allow the community to submit their scanned memorabilia and memories to the Astrodome Memories website (<http://www.astrodomememories.org>); having four community events that promote the project; developing one or two curriculum modules to teach school children about the Astrodome; and increasing the visibility of the project online with social media marketing.

The next public program will be an oral history and scanning event held on **Saturday, August 8th, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Julia Ideson Building Auditorium.** Oral histories and items scanned at the event will be shared online on the project website. Please see the Astrodome Memories website and the Houston Public Library events calendar for more information about this and upcoming events.

Another grant funded project involves a partnership between the HMRC and the City of Houston Planning Department's GIS division, to create ten interactive maps representing most decades in Houston's history with 1,000 geocoded points representing significant landmarks in Houston's growth and history. The grant will enable the scanning of additional objects representing events, architectural monuments and historical and cultural landmarks in the city's history associated with the geocoded landmarks. The online interactive maps will be made live when the website is officially launched in the fall of 2015.

In addition, the HMRC is proud to announce we were awarded the National Endowment for Humanities (NEH) Latino Americans Grant. The HMRC will use this funding for the upcoming Hispanic Heritage Month fall series "Hispanic Heritage Heroes: From War and Peace to Prejudice and Pride." The month's activities will begin with the opening of "Remembering World War II: Houston's Latino Veterans," an exhibition of documents and photographs from the Hispanic Archival Collections housed at the HMRC. Other activities include a World War II lecture series, supplementary exhibit of paintings inspired by the history of the Bracero Program, and a children's series dedicated to teaching Houston youth about local veteran and hero Staff Sgt. Macario Garcia.

## **Programs and Events**

### **Julia Ideson Building**

Monday, June 15th – Saturday, August 8th: Aboriginal Art (in collaboration with Booker-Lowe)

Saturday, August 8th (10:00 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m.): Astrodome Memories Community Scanning Event

Monday, August 17th (5:30 p.m. -- 7:45 p.m.): An Evening with Clifton Daniel Truman

Tuesday, September 22nd (6:00 p.m.): Civic Engagement

September 15th - October 15th: "Remembering World War II: Houston's Latino Veterans" exhibit

Saturday, October 3rd (10:00 a.m. -- 4:00 p.m.): HMRC/ WWII Lecture Series

September 15th -- October 15th: Hispanic Heritage Month (events system-wide)

### **Offsite (HMRC-Related Events)**

Saturday, April 4th – Saturday, October 17th: "Independence Heights: A Window to the Past," exhibit at African-American Library at the Gregory School (features materials from HMRC collections)

Friday, August 21st (6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.): American Historic Genealogical Society (AAHGS), Debra Abbott, African-American Library at the Gregory School (in partnership with the Clayton Center for Genealogical Research)

### **2015 Membership Benefits**

#### **Photograph Reproductions**

Each 2015 member of the Friends of the Texas Room is allowed up to five photographic reproductions at half-price this year. Image sizes available at half-price are:

- 5x7 print (\$12.50 normally costs \$6.25)
- 8x10 print (\$18.00 normally costs \$9.00)

Please note: Requests for the five half-price photograph reproductions need to be directed to me at [Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov](mailto:Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov) for tracking purposes and to ensure the Photo Lab processes the payment correctly.

### **Volunteers**

HMRC can use volunteers who want to help going through archival collections box by box to determine what is in them. HMRC can also use volunteers who want to help create lesson plans incorporating primary sources from HMRC's collections. HMRC is also still seeking talented individuals to serve as tour guides and volunteer educators to ensure that all visitors to the HMRC and Julia Ideson Building have an enriched experience.

We are looking for docents who are:

- Passionate and Curious about Texas and Houston history.
- Committed to engaging the visitors to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center and the Julia Ideson Building in a rewarding and educational experience.

- Well-prepared for diverse questions and expressions of interest regarding the history of the Julia Ideson Building and HMRC's various collections.

Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Walking tours of the Julia Ideson Building and grounds
- Orientations to the Texas Room, Reading Room, and/or Exhibit Hall
- Instruction on history topics
- Guided informational visits to exhibits and installations

If any of these opportunities interest you, please contact Laney McAdow ([Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov](mailto:Laney.McAdow@houstontx.gov)) to discuss further.

### **Texas Room Hours**

The Texas Room hours are:

Monday: 10:00 – 6:00

Tuesday: 10:00 – 6:00

Wednesday: 10:00 – 8:00

Thursday: 10:00 – 6:00

Saturday: 10:00 – 5:00

Friday and Sunday: Closed

### **FTxR MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

Quarterly issues of the *Texas Room Dispatch*.

Quarterly meetings featuring outstanding speakers on local history.

Preservation consultation sessions with HMRC staff members on preserving family documents and memorabilia. Sessions are conducted twice a year on Fridays when the Texas Room is normally closed.

Research Lock-Ins twice a year on a Friday. HMRC staff members will provide one-on-one research consultation to FTxR members.

Five copies per year of digital scans from the HMRC photograph collection for half price.

### **WHAT OUR FRIENDS ARE DOING**

Please contact Jeff Lindemann, editor of *The Texas Room Dispatch* ([lindemann@SBCglobal.net](mailto:lindemann@SBCglobal.net)), with information about your volunteer service at the HMRC and about projects you are working on that utilize HMRC resources.

## **FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM POLICIES**

Relating to The Houston Metropolitan Research Center which includes the Collections of the Archives and Manuscripts Department, the Texas and Local History Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Public Library

### **A. Contributions**

From time to time, the Friends of the Texas Room will purchase and contribute to the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library items that will enrich and enhance the above-named collections and ensure their preservation.

All such contributions will be purchased by the Friends directly and then given to the Library with specific stipulations as to how such contributions are to be used by the Library to enhance and ensure the preservation of the HMRC collections.

The Friends will give no money directly to the Library.

The Friends will not buy expendable supplies for the Library.

The Friends will not fund Library personnel.

### **B. Relationship to Administration and Staff**

The Friends of the Texas Room is not to be involved in the administrative or employee actions of the Center, except that the Friends can question policies which, in its opinion, negatively impact the ability of the Center to provide service to the public.

## **CULTURAL MATCHING GIFTS**

Are you or your spouse working for or retired from a corporation which makes cultural matching grants or volunteer involvement awards if you give to or do volunteer work for a cultural institution?

Will your employer match your gifts to cultural institutions that qualify under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code?

The Friends of the Texas Room has such a qualification. Send your corporation's cultural matching funds form with your check for membership in FTR. If you volunteer your time as an officer of FTR or in the Texas Room or HMRC, keep track of your hours and turn them in to your corporation so that the FTR may obtain a grant from your corporation's program. This is "found money" for FTR and can be used towards making a difference to the Texas Room and HMRC.

## **FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM: WHO WE ARE**

*Mission:* The Friends of the Texas Room seeks to support the collections of the Texas and Local History Department, the Archives and Manuscripts Department, and the Special Collections Department of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library.

***Board of Directors:***

President: Dorothy Knox Houghton

Vice-President: Susan Teich

Secretary: Charles Maynard

Treasurer: Frank Jones

Directors: Nancy Burch, Kathleen Colt, Linda Fosseen, Catherine McCulley, and Jeff Lindemann

**HOW TO CONTACT THE FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM**

Membership applications, dues, donations, and mail for Board Members should be sent to the following address:

Friends of the Texas Room  
P. O. Box 27827  
Houston, Texas 77227-7827

**HOW TO CONTACT THE TEXAS ROOM DISPATCH**

Submissions and comments for *The Texas Room Dispatch* should be emailed to the editor Jeff Lindemann at [lindemann@SBCglobal.net](mailto:lindemann@SBCglobal.net) or sent to his home address:

Jeff Lindemann, Editor  
*The Texas Room Dispatch*  
3405 Roseland, Houston, Texas 77006

**FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS ROOM**  
**2015 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**  
Membership Year: 1/1/2015 – 12/31/2015

Mail with dues to:

P.O. BOX 27827 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77227-7827

Or apply and pay with PAYPAL online at: [www.friendsofthetexasroom.org](http://www.friendsofthetexasroom.org)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Check applicable: \_\_\_\_\_ RENEWING APPLICATION \_\_\_\_\_ NEW APPLICATION

FIRST PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND PERSON AT SAME ADDRESS (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*first name, middle, last name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*first name, middle, last name*

MAILING ADDRESS (include street or P.O.): \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP +4: \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE, FAX, EMAIL**

**FIRST PERSON:**

**SECOND PERSON (if different)**

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (please check category)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Benefactor \$500

\_\_\_\_\_ Patron \$250

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor \$100

\_\_\_\_\_ Donor \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ Family \$30

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ Senior \$10

\_\_\_\_\_ Student \$10

**NOTE:** Friends of the Texas Room is a tax-exempt, nonprofit organization operating under IRS Code 501(c) (3). Membership and additional contributions over and above membership are tax deductible to the extent of the law. Is your gift eligible as a “matching gift” from an employer or other entity? If so, please give the name and include the appropriate form.

**Additional contribution:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: (Membership plus contribution):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**VOLUNTEER INTERESTS:** Please check below to volunteer for FTR activities or library services:

\_\_\_ **COLLECTIONS VOLUNTEER:** Be trained and increase your own knowledge about research techniques.

\_\_\_ **NEWSLETTER:** Writing articles about materials in the collections or reporting on related activities.

\_\_\_ **MEMBERSHIP:** Maintain up-to-date membership list and send out renewal notices.

\_\_\_ **HOSPITALITY:** Meeting room preparations, greeting people, refreshments when needed, etc.

\_\_\_ **PROGRAMS:** Help develop programs or special seminars or workshops.

\_\_\_ **PUBLIC RELATIONS:** Developing posters, displays, news releases, handouts, etc.

\_\_\_ **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

\_\_\_ **OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_