

# NUECES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*presents*

## “REMEMBERING THE FALLEN”

**Speaker: Maxine Snapka**

Tuesday October 6, 2015 7PM at First Presbyterian Church



The plaque removed when Memorial Coliseum was demolished, and now displayed at Sherrill Park, contains the names of 393 Nueces County and Corpus Christi men and 2 woman who died in military service during World War II. Maxine Snapka will present a slide show highlighting the lives and service of some of the fallen servicemen and women. Maxine grew up in the same school classes with many of the service members and knew them personally.

According to a feature story in the *Corpus Christi Caller Times* last year: “Nueces County and Corpus Christi chapters of Gold Star Mothers began raising funds in October 1946 for a memorial plaque for the 393 men and two women from the area who died in service. When the Chamber of Commerce suggested dedicating the future municipal auditorium to wartime heroes, the mothers pushed for a promise from City Council that it would honor the fallen. The mothers and families of the dead held benefits, candy sales and other fundraisers, made public appeals for donations and dug repeatedly into their own purses to reach \$1,765 for the plaque.

When the Coliseum was torn down in 2010, the plaque was saved and temporarily displayed at Corpus Christi City Hall. Since then, a brick base was built at Sherrill Park where the plaque can be displayed upright, as it was when attached to the wall of the Coliseum. Sherrill Park is named for Warren Joseph Sherrill, a Corpus Christi sailor killed aboard the Battleship *Arizona* in the attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941. His name is among those on the plaque.

The Nueces County Historical Society meets the first Tuesday of the months of September through April each year with a wide-range of programs and presentations focused on the rich local history of Nueces County and the surrounding area. Monthly presentations are held at 7:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, located at 430 S. Carancahua St. in Corpus Christi, adjacent to the YMCA. . An Annual Local History Awards Banquet is held in May. For more information, please call the Society President, Dan Garza at 779-7571.

Visit our website: [www.nuecescountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.nuecescountyhistoricalsociety.org)



NUECES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# BULLETIN

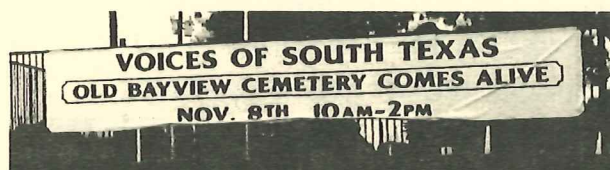
## FREE NCHS MEMBERSHIP FOR THOSE WHO SERVED TO HELP KEEP U.S. FREE

The NCHS Board voted at its August 27 meeting to invite all U. S. military veterans to become members of the Society at no charge, upon presentation of identification showing vet status, such as the Nueces County veteran ID card or "DD214." The Board also added the category of "Veteran" to its membership application. Several expressed the sentiment that we would not have a country to have a history, if not for the service of veterans.

### ***Coming Soon to NCHS:***

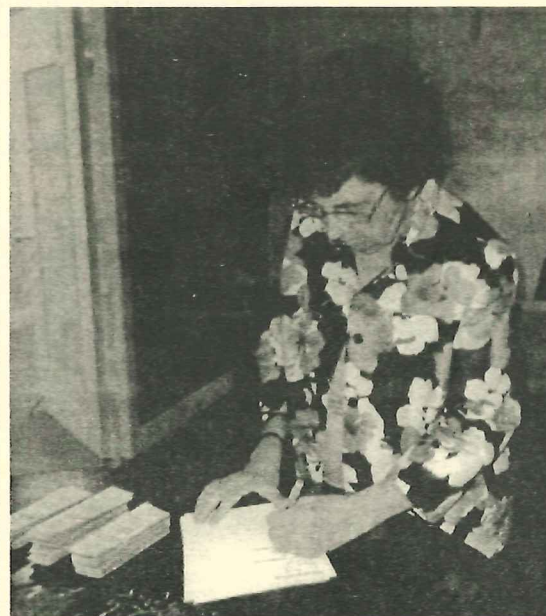
Programs on tap for later this year will include Dr. Norman Delaney's research on 19<sup>th</sup> century Corpus Christi photographer Louis de Planque in November, and another new book of local history from Nueces Press in December. Jim Klein's presentation will open the door to "Speakeasies" in January.

Christine and Mark Robbins' presentation in February will take us to Artesian Park



Voices of South Texas is coming up at Old Bayview Cemetery November 7<sup>th</sup>. (This is last year's promotional banner which will be updated.)

Contact Karen Howden if you would be willing to be a storyteller at the Voices of South Texas event.



For a society that depends on written records for its subject matter, NCHS hasn't kept many records in recent years on attendance at meetings and presentations. To remedy that, we have begun asking members to sign in when they arrive. Members who arrive between 6:45 and 7 will have an opportunity for fellowship and refreshments, so our historical presentation can begin promptly at 7PM.

Speaking of refreshments, our hospitality chair Betsy Garvel put on an impressive and tasty spread of treats, eats, meats, cheeses, drinks. She is planning refreshments themed to the topics of our monthly programs.

(C rations might be historically accurate to WWII but that wouldn't be Betsy's style...)

A DATE has been set already for the annual Kilgore Awards Banquet and reservations made at Emerald Beach: May 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## Boy Scouts to participate in September meeting

Two Boy Scouts from Troop 2, a ministry of First Presbyterian Church where the Society meets, will appear in full uniform to lead the pledges of allegiance to the U.S. flag and Texas flag to open our September meeting. NCHS member Rudy Tejano Peña arranged the Scout's participation with Scoutmaster Gary Uhlenhaker and First Presbyterian pastor, Rev. Chip Blackshear.

## Nueces County Historical Society Membership

### DUES ARE DUE in September for the 2015-2016 year.

Please send your dues to the Treasurer as shown with the dues structure and address on the back page of the *Bulletin*. Society funds supported by dues are used for activities and projects through the year. Treasurer Sue Ryland processed 15 membership applications and dues payments by mid-September and had received over a dozen more which had not been processed as the *Bulletin* went to the printer. We had an even 100 paid memberships through the 2014-2015 year (including couples and families counted as one membership), so we still need to hear from many of you. A complete roster of paid members is scheduled to be published in the *Bulletin* which will be printed and mailed in October in advance of the November presentation, and again one more time in a spring issue. Please get your dues in so your name can be included.

Meanwhile, we recognize members who paid dues in late April or May after the *Bulletin* went to the printer:

**Individual:**

Jacqueline Flynn (2 years)  
Ricki Walraven  
Louise Wagner

**Sustaining Patron:**  
Oscar Ortiz

**Patron:**

John & Sylvia Tillotson

**Family:**

Dan McDonough  
Judge Nanette Hasette

The Key Study Club also made a Memorial Gift in honor of Margaret Walberg.

### NCHS OFFICERS & CONTACTS 2015-16

President Dan Garza 779-7571 Email <a href="mailto:degarza66@gmail.com">degarza66@gmail.com</a> Vice-president Karen Howden 986-1268 Email <a href="mailto:jhowdence@aol.com">jhowdence@aol.com</a> Secretary Kathy Wemer 853-7034 Treasurer Sue Ryland 882-3510 cell 903-2420	Immed. past pres. Allan Hayes 992-4218 Membership/hospitality chair Betsy Garvel 290-3192 <a href="mailto:happyday9271@yahoo.com">happyday9271@yahoo.com</a> Bulletin editor Kenneth Anthony 857-5452 email <a href="mailto:leighant@hotmail.com">leighant@hotmail.com</a> Bulletin administrator Rudy Tejano Peña 850-0006 <a href="mailto:tejano_pride@hotmail.com">tejano_pride@hotmail.com</a>
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NCHS Board & leadership meeting Thursday October 29, 10AM La Retama Library  
 Bulletin deadline for November 3 program: Monday, October 19 (to printer on Tuesday)

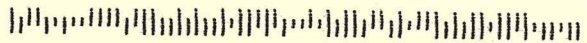
**NUECES COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. Box 60003  
Corpus Christi, TX 78466-0003



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Corpus Christi, TX 78411

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**THE NUECES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Your support as a registered member is vitally important and sincerely appreciated.  
**NCHS Membership Year: September 2015 to August 2016**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please Select Membership Category:

_____ Military veteran	No charge*
_____ Individual ----- \$	15.00
_____ Family ----- \$	20.00
_____ Student ----- \$	4.00
_____ Sustaining Patron \$	50.00
_____ Patron ----- \$	100.00
_____ Supporting ----- \$	150.00
_____ Benefactor ----- \$	250.00
_____ Corporate ----- \$	250.00
_____ Angel ----- \$	1,000.00

*Please Remit Dues Check  
With this Enrollment Form to:*

Nueces County Historical Society  
Attn: Sue Ryland  
P.O. Box 60003  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78466-0003

(\*Veterans should present ID card)