

NUECES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

presents

"The Drying of the Wild Horse Desert: Prohibition in South Texas, 1900-1930".

Speaker: Dr. James Klein

Tuesday January 5, 2016 7PM at First Presbyterian Church

The regulation of liquor became a flash point issue in Nueces County and throughout south Texas in the early twentieth century, bringing to light issues of ethnicity, gender, and class. Nueces County voted itself dry in March 1916, but the sale of liquor persisted nonetheless as sometimes violent bootleggers adopted creative methods to meet the demand of thirsty customers.

James (Jim) Klein is Associate Professor of History at Del Mar College and author of *Grappling with Demon Rum: The Cultural Struggle over Liquor in Early Oklahoma*. His current research concerns political and cultural issues in early twentieth century south Texas--the Wild Horse Desert."

Venture Crew 6 will present the colors, and lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. and Texas flag for the January 5 NCHS presentation. We remember the fine participation in the Voices of South Texas/ Cemetery Walk by Venture Crew Six, including their signal cannon demonstration. The NCHS thanks Girl Scout leader Pat Jones, her assistants, parents and Troop 9626, who presented the colors, and led the Pledges at the December presentation. The Troop 9626 group included Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Cadets.

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

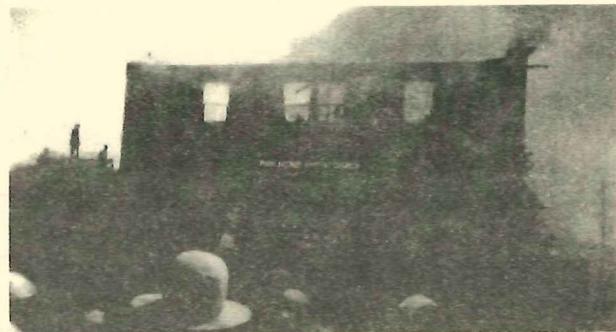
BULLETIN

SOCIETY GETS ROLOFF CHURCH FIRE PHOTOS FROM 1944



The Society recently received an envelope from Robin Nancy Clack of Silver Spring, Maryland who was disposing of old photographs taken by her mother and father. "Rather than throwing them away," she sent them to the Society "in case there is an archive of mid-20th century Corpus photographs."

Three photos show a fire at Park Avenue Baptist Church. A helpful librarian at the Local History Room, La Retama Public Library, quickly found a news clipping from the *Caller*



of October 16, 1944. The fire occurred at the church served by the Rev. Lester Roloff, located on Park Avenue and King Street, one block off Staples. During Sunday services, Roloff announced to the congregation that the building's debts had been paid off, and that plans were underway for a new and larger church building. Less than 90 minutes later, fire destroyed the building.

We now know in retrospect that the premises of the new church built on the site came to house the studio of Roloff's radio ministry with a nationwide audience, and that Roloff staged a years-long legal conflict with state welfare authorities over state regulation of church-operated youth homes. The minister went to jail over the principle of upholding church operations from government jurisdiction. These photos represent not just a large fire or an event in the life of a local church, but an episode in the career of a Corpus Christi minister who became a figure in the "culture wars" of the late 20th century.

The NCHS Board will consider alternatives for preserving these photos at a future meeting.

NCHS OFFICERS & CONTACTS 2015-16

President Dan Garza 779-7571
Email degarza66@gmail.com
Vice-president Karen Howden 986-1268
Email jhowdenc@aol.com
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 happyday9271@yahoo.com
Bulletin editor Kenneth Anthony 857-5452
email leighant@hotmail.com
Bulletin administrator Rudy Tejano Peña
850-0006 tejano_pride@hotmail.com

Bulletin deadline for February 2 program: Tuesday January 19, 2016

Nueces County Historical Society Membership
(Dues paid for the 2015-2016 NCHS year)

Individual:

Patricia Dix Aleman
Kenneth Anthony
Mrs. Diana Bell
Mary Bettman
Pat Booth
Christine Bounds
Mary Margaret Campbell
Herb Canales
Donald Carr
Kim Cox
Mark A. Di Carlo
Dottie Ewing
Jacqueline Flynn
Aaron Goldstein
Mary Goldston
Jack Green (veteran)
Allan Hayes
Msgr. Michael A. Howell
Mary Lou Huffman
Richard Kronke
Pat McDonough
John Morris
Rudy Tejano Peña (veteran)
Alfreda Rankin
Robin Reames
Harriett Tillman
Jan Weaver
Mrs. Erich Wendl
C. Herndon Williams
Janis G. Wood

Veteran:

Richard Salinas Quijas, Sr.
Domingo Quintero
Frank W. Wearden

Family:

Karl & Joanne Arnold
Peggy & Gordon Bickham
Mr. & Mrs. C. R. Burnett
Bill & Peggy Clark
Stephen & Gina Cox
Norman & Linda Delaney
Steven & Deb Emerson
Betsy Garvel
Daniel E. Garza & Family
Franz A. Hitt Family
Bob & Sue Madry
Cheri & Tony McCormick
Pat J. McDonough Jr.
Charles & Elizabeth Menard
Jim and Candace Moloney
Dan McDonough
Patrick & Wilma Norrell
Mary Jo O'Rear
Sue & Jim Ryland
Mark & Kathy Werner
Ralph & Kay West
Mike Westergren
Cheryl & William B. Whitworth
(veteran)
Debbie Zuniga

Sustaining Patron:

Michael William Bergsma
George & Lorraine Dawson
John & Karen Howden
Oscar Ortiz
Mrs. Elaine Miller Richardson
Judge Henry Santana
Dr. Gloria Scott
Jim & Sylvia Whitworth
Helen Wilk

Patron:

Charles C. Butt
Mark & Sandra Crider
Anita Eisenhauer
Jane Monday
Penny Pillack
Steven & Candace Robbins
Bill & Hallie Roberts
Jim & Barbara Stever
John & Sylvia Tillotson

Supporting

Senator Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa

Benefactor:

Liz Elizondo
Joe R. Fulton
Carol Kilgore
Mary Ann & John McGregor

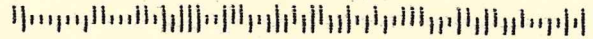
**NUECES COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**
P.O. Box 60003
Corpus Christi, TX 78466-0003



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
PERMIT NO.397

Dan Garza
3918 Stirman St.
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

78411\$3249 C03B



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)