

LUBBOCK HERITAGE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Volume 34, Issue 2

Fall, 2015

Save the date! At 1:00 pm, Saturday, October 31st, a 4-H Club donation ceremony will take place at the Bayer Museum of Agriculture, located at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive. The Frenship 4-H Club will be making a \$100 donation to the Underwood Pullman Car Project and is challenging the other county 4-H Clubs to follow. All members of the LHS are invited to attend the event.

REBIRTH OF THE LANDWER-MANICAPELLI HOUSE



Crites (3rd from the left), along with representatives from Fiestas del Llano Inc. and former Lubbock Mayor Allan Henry, cut the ribbon before inviting the public to view the newly restored interior of the Landwer-Manicapelli House.

The ribbon cutting ceremony for the Landwer-Manicapelli House was held on the morning of July 18, 2015. LHS board member, Mary K. Crites, who owns her own architectural firm and is also an adjunct professor of architecture at Texas Tech, served as architect for the building's most recent renovation. Following a preview of the house's new interior, Crites gave an in-depth presentation on the house's long and illustrious history and shared how teamwork played a part in salvaging the historic structure.



Photo of the house taken most likely in the 1940s.

The house was built at a cost of \$2,800 in 1936 to serve as a residence for Milton Frederick and Virginia Landwer. Milton was a professor of zoology at Texas Tech and Virginia taught at Lubbock High

School. Their home was built in the California Spanish Mission style, which was popular during the 1920s and 1930s, and it is believed that Texas Tech architecture students helped with the original plans. Boles Dairy pastureland surrounded the lovely little house. The couple raised cows, ducks, chickens, and goats and even added a dam to create a small lake by their home.

After World War II the house was sold to photographer Joe Manicapelli and his wife, Margaret. During their tenure a north wing was added, possibly a south wing, and the porch enclosed. Twice the house was part of a lawsuit, once in 1945 over the "unpleasantness" resulting from the nearby dairy's manure issues, and once in 1972 when it was part of a group lawsuit over a landowner disagreement with the City's valuation of the land in condemnation proceedings.

The house was sold to the City in 1972 and underwent \$100,000 worth of renovations in 1980 to facilitate it being converted into a rentable party house



New, sustainable xeriscaping was added around the structure for better curb appeal.

The building was designated as a local landmark in 1982 and the land surrounding the house became part of the

Lubbock Canyon Lakes Project. Structural issues and water damage caused the building to be closed in 2008. Thanks to an appeal from the LHS and a sympathetic response from Councilman Victor Hernandez, the house was saved from demolition and selected in 2014 by the City of Lubbock for restoration and repurposing.

Starting in 2015, the City leased the facility to Fiestas del Llano Inc. for use as their headquarters and as a community space that can be rented out for special events.

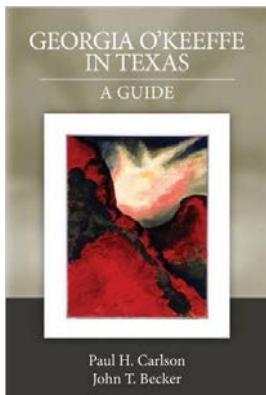


Members of Fiestas del Llano Inc. introduced themselves and expressed their enthusiasm at having the building for use as their new headquarters.



Much thought was put into the exterior of the house. The former porch was re-opened, the old roof and windows replaced, the stucco resurfaced, and bright, cheerful colors were employed inside and out. The interior fireplaces are decorated with tile that matches that of the bricked landmark signs and pavilion in the nearby Buddy Holly Recreation area.

FALL PUBLIC EVENT



Are you a fan of artist Georgia O'Keeffe? Did you know she taught in West Texas? Come to the Fall LHS Public Program to learn more about this most celebrated American artist. On **November 1, from 2:00-3:30 pm**, author Jack Becker will give a presentation titled "Canyon Suite: Mistake, Fiasco, or Downright Fraud" **in the Formby Room of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library** on the campus of Texas Tech University.

In 1987, just one year after Georgia O'Keeffe's death, 28 previously unknown works of art attributed to O'Keeffe were "found" in a garage in Amarillo, Texas. The watercolors, which became known as the Canyon Suite eventually sold for over \$5 million. The story of their discovery, sale, resale and eventual return to the Santa Fe art dealer, who named them the Canyon Suite, is convoluted, but offers a window into how the art world works. Dr. Becker's presentation delves into how the 28 watercolors became the talk of the art world in the late 1980s to early 1990s.

O'Keeffe lived in Texas for almost four years, most of which was spent in the Panhandle. From 1912-1914 she taught in Amarillo public schools and from 1916-1918 she was head of the art department at West Texas Normal College, which is now known as West Texas A&M. The book by Drs. Carlson and Becker tackles a time period in

O'Keeffe's life that was previously little addressed.



Undated photograph of Georgia O'Keeffe and Texas Tech President Grover E. Murray, courtesy of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library.

PULLMAN CAR PROJECT GAINS STEAM

The LHS continues to make progress with plans to move the Underwood Pullman Car from 23rd and Avenue C to the Bayer Museum of Agriculture at 1121 Canyon Lake Drive in the spring of 2016. Once in place, we will proceed with restoring the Pullman to its mid-century condition when Arch Underwood purchased the Pullman and quickly made it a significant part of his advocacy efforts for the West Texas cotton industry.

We are very grateful to the Underwood family for donating the car and for the generous contributions of many individual family members to the project. We are also grateful to the Bayer Museum of Agriculture for donating the new site for the Pullman and for hosting a very successful fundraiser in support of the project.

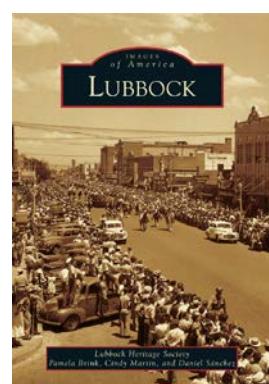
With these strong champions to cause plus foundation support from the Community Foundation of West Texas, the Diekemper Foundation, and the J.T. and Margaret Talkington Foundation, the Lubbock Heritage Society is well on its way to providing Lubbock with a new public exhibit that will help illuminate the

ingenious engineering of the Pullman sleeper, the development of the cotton industry in West Texas, and the role of cotton in the phenomenal mid-century growth of Lubbock.

The Lubbock Heritage Society will guide the restoration and develop the multimedia components to make the Underwood Pullman Car a dynamic educational museum experience. Throughout the restoration process, the exterior of the Underwood Pullman Car will be available for viewing by the general public. When the project is completed, the interior will be open to the public for tours, showcasing the place of cotton in the history of Lubbock, as well as highlighting Pullman Car engineering and classic passenger train travel.

Donations can be made to this worthwhile project by going to our website at <http://www.lubbockheritagesociety.org/> or by mailing a check to the address listed at the bottom of this page. We have only begun to generate the funding to realize our goals and would appreciate your help in spreading the word about the project, as well as providing your financial support.

Need a gift idea for Christmas? Our book on the history of Lubbock is available for \$21.99 plus shipping



To become a member of the LHS visit our website at <http://www.lubbockheritagesociety.org>