

FAIRMOUNT



HOME TOUR EDITION 2021
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

First, I hope you and yours are safe and healthy. The biggest news of course, is that Home Tour is coming on June 19th and 20th from 12pm to 5pm. This will be our first (and hopefully last) Outdoor Walk & Roll Historic Home Tour and our 39th Annual Fairmount Home Tour – it may also end up as one of the more memorable tours. While we are sad that we aren't yet offering our typical in-home, home tours, I am extremely proud of the work that has happened behind the scenes to make sure we were able to offer something fun, safe, and of value as we are still living through a pandemic. The Home Tour committee has done everything with safety as our top priority, and has done the difficult work of organizing this tour by once again starting planning while only able to meet virtually, and by initially not having any idea where we may be in terms of the pandemic (planning began in January!) at this point in 2021, and they deserve a large round-of-applause, because without their work, this wouldn't have been possible.

Our Historic Home Tour is the Fairmount Neighborhood's largest fundraiser. It's how we're able to afford to keep low membership costs (have you renewed for 2021?) while also hosting social events (when it's safe again to do so), neighborhood infrastructure improvements, provide communications like these, and much more. Just this past year, we've used FNA funds raised from past Home Tours and our wonderful award-winning Festivus event to help pay for protective equipment for our teachers in our neighborhood schools, donate to our local, neighborhood center for essential services, One Safe Place, give money for new coats for our neighborhood school children in need, and maintain our public spaces to the best of our ability. This year's Tour will combine porch stories and garden tours in four walkable pods, plus an indoor-optional tour of Southside Preservation Hall. This year's tour is not only a lens into the history of our neighborhood and homes, but also the history of Fort Worth and some of it's major characters. Southside Preservation Hall will also present a look at some future developments of both our city and neighborhood. So, we hope you'll join in the fun by volunteering, buying tickets, or both! Learn more at historicfairmount.com/hometour - and don't forget, if you've received a flyer about the tour being on your block, or the parade coming down your street, to move your vehicles if you're able. The fun starts with the Home Tour Parade at 10am - see the route in this newsletter.

Also of note - you hopefully also will have received notice about a neighborhood pop-up COVID-19 vaccination clinic. It will take place at the parking lot on the North side of Magnolia at the East corner of Magnolia and Washington on June 19th from 2-5pm. The vaccines are free and there will be a follow-up pop-up for the second dosage on July 10 from 2-5pm. This is a great opportunity to walk over and get yourself and our community protected! It's an imperative to returning to more fun in-person events like the tour and more.

Speaking of fun events, we hope you've seen that Fairmount's Festivus event won the Neighborhoods USA Award for Social Revitalization/Neighborliness in 2021 and was the runner-up for the grand prize Neighborhood of the Year award! Congratulations especially are in order for the Festivus Committee for all their wonderful work to make a great, and safe, event during a very difficult time during the pandemic. They helped to provide a model for how we might do this year's Home Tour.

I hope to see you during the tour, or at our next neighborhood meeting, which will be in person at the Southside Preservation Hall at 7pm on 28th (masks are required in the Hall).

Thank you, and enjoy the Home Tour, Father's Day, and Juneteenth!

David Weuste, Fairmount Neighborhood Association Board President

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MEET THE BOARD



Welcome to our newest board members. Pictures on this page, from top to bottom: Michael McDermott, Lori Gallagher, and Elizabeth Brammer. Pictures on opposite page, from top to bottom: Regina Jackman, Rachel Jenkins, Barbara Crotty.

Michael McDermott, Director of Historic Preservation

The neighborhood known to all Fort Worth as the Near Southside was mostly an enigma to me when my mom told me about a tour of historic homes happening here in 1983. My first experience in what is now Fairmount was walking thru a scary looking neighborhood full of abandoned houses, cars parked on lawns and broken and out of repair pothole covered streets. It was also the neighborhood where my ancestors had raised their families from the late 1890s through the 1960s. The next year I bought what would be my first home in a neighborhood in which I've now lived for the last 36 years. Since then between my husband Stan and I we've restored more than almost a dozen houses as near to their original appearance as possible, three of which were in near tear down condition, and three that had been badly butchered into multiplexes cheaply as possible. It only made my love of historic homes greater as I was forced to learn all about early twentieth century domestic architecture. I was asked to write a book about the history of what was now the Fairmount Southside Historic District in 2007 and after researching the area's history and structures for three years it was published in 2010.



I've spent the last ten years learning everything I can about the architecture and history of Fairmount's unique homes and businesses. I've been involved in historic preservation and revitalization of the neighborhood for three and a half decades and have been either on the committee or director of historic preservation off and on for twenty years. I'm honored to have helped many of you either with your house histories or with projects related to your homes and happy to continue doing so.

Lori Gallagher, Director of Promotions

I first visited Fairmount in May of 1993 and immediately knew I wanted to live here. We made an offer on a house and moved in August 1993. I have said many times to many people this is where I chose to raise my family. My love of my neighborhood and community involvement ultimately led me to my career in real estate. For years it was like pushing a bolder up a mountain to get people to even consider looking at a house in Fairmount. I have considered promoting Fairmount my full-time job for the last 20+ years. I can't count how many parades and home tours I have either participated in or sponsored. The last 2 years Kelly Bowden and I have headed the committee for Fairmount Festivus light tour and loved it! I bought my 6th home in Fairmount in August 2018 and have been renovating it ever since. Some day I might get close to being "done" with it. So now as an empty-nester, I have agreed to step in as Director of Promotions. I would love input from anyone about how we can bring the neighborhood together more and support each other.

Elizabeth Brammer-Mayben, Director of Public Safety

Howdy, neighbors! As an Air Force brat, I have spent most of my adult life looking for the perfect place to put down roots for my twin boys and pilot husband. We knew we hit the jackpot when we found our 1905 home on Lipscomb in 2015, and love living here more than we ever could have imagined! In addition to the "front porch" lifestyle, I have an addiction to Spice, Melt, Tribe Alive, and walking our monstrous Great Danes down to Daggett Montessori when the kiddos get out of school. I'm a newly licensed attorney that works hard to serve my clients, and love the opportunity to serve my amazing neighborhood, too, as Public Safety Director.

Regina Jackman, Director of Finance

I moved to Fort Worth 3 1/2 years ago from the Pittsburgh, PA area and rented in West 7th for 6 months before buying a home in Fairmount. I was drawn to the historic homes in the neighborhood and proximity to Magnolia. Once moving in, I found it was even better than I expected with a close knit community. I've worked in various areas of accounting for XTO Energy for 8 years. I ran for the Finance position because I wanted to get more involved and assist the community.

Rachel Jenkins, Director of Communications

My partner and I bought our house in Fairmount in January 2020. We've always admired the neighborhood from afar, so we're excited to finally be a part of this community. I originally moved to Fort Worth to attend TCU for my bachelor's degree back in 2010. I recently completed a master's degree at UTA and now work as an urban planner, specifically a transit planner, for the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Personally, I'm

committed to doing whatever I can to make the city and my neighborhood a great place to live. In my free time, I love just walking through the neighborhood and checking out all the cool houses. I see something new and interesting almost every day. When it's too hot to do that, I really enjoy lounging on our beautiful front porch (one of the main reasons we love our house) with a good book, or ordering food from any of the many amazing restaurants around here. Fairmount is such a special place and I'm so grateful to be living here.

Barbara Crotty, Director of Membership

I first visited Fairmount when my son and his new bride bought a house in Ryan Place in 2016. I was living and working in Houston, with plans to retire in a few years. As we took walks around the neighborhood I liked the interesting houses, the porches (I have always wanted a porch and never had one) and the many displays of yard signs with positive philosophies that resonated with me. I thought, "I could see myself living here someday... especially if there were a grandchild around!" In May of 2018, six months before I could retire, my daughter-in-law sent me a photo of a house that had just come on the market and was showing that day. It looked great, so I dashed up from Houston and fell in love with the Craftsman style house that had been beautifully refurbished by Mike and Carey Rose. I bought it! From then until I finally got to move in in January 2019, I learned all I could about Fairmount and joined the neighborhood association. I want to help the community be the best it can be, so I help out by making welcome packets for new residents and pitching in wherever I can. I have agreed to finish out the term of the Membership Director until September. And there are two grandsons now!





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This photo was taken very early 1920s. The car picture may have belonged to Millie Healy, right. It's a 1920-21 Buick Touring Car. Millie was a wry proud good driver and used to volunteer regularly to drive a group of nuns from Our Lady of Victory on Hemphill over to Dallas.

The Buick pictured above was taken in the last year or two and is similar and recently sold for \$39,400.00.

W. VIRGINIA MAN MOVES FAMILY TO TEXAS IN SEARCH OF OIL (But First Things First, The Cadillac)

By Michael McDermott

There are no lack of great stories among the residents of Fairmount's past. Today, many folks young and old move here to re-start their lives, start their own stories. Here's one of a not so young man with dreams of making it big in a state his family knew little about, coming from a state up north that had been settled some 150 years earlier, reaching statehood in later, and eventually split into two states by war.

Virginia became a state in 1788, but during the civil war, the western half remained loyal to the Union and split giving birth to the new state of W. Virginia. Oil was known to be there by the settlers from Europe since the late 1700's while drilling and mining for salt,

even earlier by its indigenous peoples, who prized its ability to burn and create heat and light. The first commercial wells began in 1860 when the value of oil rose dramatically during the Civil War, then plummeted again almost immediately.

Meantime in Texas, Native Americans here knew of oil and its ability to burn for light generations earlier. But it was an oil explorer named Lyne Taliaferro Barret, coming here from Virginia, who drilled the first commercial oil well in Texas in 1866. This began an early connection between the two states in the same volatile industry.

It was this industry that drew Michael Thomas Healy, born in the last year of the Civil War, to Texas at the start of the Roaring 1920s. Though the price could rise and fall faster than the

price of Game Stop stock, petroleum took off a few years earlier with the mass production of the first automobiles.

Although the price would fall again, big fortunes were still being made in the business. And early oil money would drive many Americans to move to Texas, including Healy, an oil drilling contractor from Clarksburg, W. Virginia.

His parents had also moved from where they were born to seek a better life, although a bit further journey as they had immigrated 3200 miles from Ireland to the U.S. Healy left for Texas in 1921 with his wife Margaret and five children headed to their new home in the near Southside of Fort Worth, now known as Fairmount.

But before leaving, Mike Healy, 56,

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The Communications Committee is looking for volunteers to help with content creation, photography, social media, publication design, and more! Amateur or professional, we have a place for you.

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known as Pop to his family, would need a car not only big enough to transport the large family well over 1200 miles, but comfortable and sturdy enough to traverse many hundreds of miles of unpaved gravel roads as well. But almost as important was the fact that nothing said Texas oil man like a brand new Cadillac, in this case a 1921 7-Passenger Cadillac Suburban Touring Sedan. At the princely sum of about \$4000.00 it cost more than most comfortably large bungalows in Fairmount at the time.

The family landed at 2217 6th Avenue, a sturdy brick and stucco "airplane bungalow" home completed in late 1919 for another oil man, James D. Hawk, part owner and secretary-treasurer of the Mohawk Oil Corporation. In 1922, Healy and his family are listed as "rooming" at 2217 6th with owners J.D. and Melba Hawk, but the Healys would soon be listed as owners in the '23 directory, as well as owner of Healy Drilling Co., and the Mike Healy Texas Pool.

The Healy family owned 2217 until 1957. Michael (Mike) Thomas Healy, born in 1865, passed away on June 15, 1956 at the age of 91. Thank you to Healy's granddaughter, Mary Ann (Berry) Conley for the great conversation and sharing these photos with us and her niece, Fort Worth realtor Karly Johnston, who as agent recently sold 2217 6th Avenue, her ancestors former home, and sent these

to me for this story.

(Editors note: If you go looking for the home pictured on the opposite page, it looks a little different. Shortly after this story was finished, new owners painted the previously painted tan brick a bright kelly green.)

Top left, On the front steps of the Healy house is Mary Ann Berry (Conley), left, the granddaughter of Mike Healy and owner of this photograph collection, with cousin Barbara Hart (Riley), about 1942. Unfortunate Barbara Riley died of Covid on March 2, just as this story was being put together.

Top right, The 1921 Cadillac 7-Passenger Suburban parked in front of 2217 6th Ave. having recently made its 1200 mile plus journey to Texas from W. Virginia.

Middle, Four of the Healy ladies, c. 1921. At left is youngest daughter, little Maggie Healy, then next to her, Mildred "Millie" Healy— mother of Mary Ann (Healy loaned this photo collection)

Right, Mildred (Millie) Healy, left, at 2217 6th Ave., around 1925. The bay window and cast stone block foundation of 2221 6th can be seen at right.



Above, Michael Thomas Healy, just before he passed away in 1956, pictured in front of the beautiful and detailed brick fireplace at 2217 6th Ave. The fireplace with its detailed brickwork remains today.

Above, 2217 6th Ave in 2021, built c.1919, is a classic example of a style of house called an airplane bungalow, so called as the low wide eaves resemble the outstretched wings of a plane, while the small one-two rooms perched on top, the pilot's cockpit. The original cast concrete planters from the 1920s-50s photos still remain on their 'planter pedestals' either side of the front steps in this recent photo.

Middle top, Mildred "Millie" Healy Berry sitting on the wing wall of 2217 6th, the Healy home, late 1920s. The planter on the pedestal just behind her is one of two that survive intact with the house today.

Middle bottom, Michael Thomas (Mike a.k.a. 'Pop) Healy, c. 1930s.

Below, It was thought this mystery photo was taken around 1923 in front of the Maley house just down the street at 2245 6th Ave. The houses in the background do not match what is there today. At left is Nellie Healy, wife of M. T. and Margaret's son, then Mamie Healy, center, then Millie.

Bottom right, A 1921 Cadillac 7-Passenger Suburban Sedan. This particular restored example recently sold at auction for \$45,000. It is one of only two known to still be in existence and it won the 2012 Cadillac Grand National 1st Place Award winner.



Yard of the Month

1213 Carlock Street

by Bonnie Blackwell

August 2020 Winners of Yard of the Month are Rachel and Joe Robinson of 1213 Carlock. The Robinsons are just the third family to own the home since it was built c. 1915. Asked to name the features that initially attracted them to the house, Rachel pinpointed its historic charm, and secure, homey feel. She enjoys sharing the home with her husband and one of her brothers. Many Fairmounters will recall that 1213 Carlock was on home tour twice in the mid-2000's, and will remember the distinctive open shelving in the kitchen, gracious room-to-room flow of the floor plan, and original woodwork and floors, as well as prior owner Ashley Rihel's collections of vintage glass, china and Art Deco pottery.

The first recorded owner of 1213 Carlock was Walter Charles Crain, who was born in 1888 in Greenville, Texas to parents from Tennessee. By 1910, Walter's parents had passed away, and at just 22, he was responsible for raising his teenaged brothers Henry and Sammy, then 19 and 17. He moved his brothers to Fort Worth, where they all lived in one room they rented from the Crume family at 2610 Refugio Ave., near the Stockyards (1910 US census). Walter got a

job working as a fireman for the Frisco Railroad Company, which he kept for 42 years; he also joined the Brotherhood of Firemen and Locomotive Engineers. His younger brother Henry worked at the city Water Works plant and Sammy got a job in the Swift meat packing plant, which had opened in 1902 to much fanfare, and with the help of a giant tax break, a few steps from their boarding house (Hometown by Handlebar).

Along with Armour meat packing and McNeil Libby, the meat packing industry drew 73,000 new residents to Fort Worth between 1902 and 1910 (Fort Worth History). Also around 1910, Walter married Irma Clifford Dodd of Bright Star, Arkansas (1891-1990), and they moved into a rented apartment at 1921 Washington Ave, (which was torn down after a major fire in the 1990's) where they had two sons, Homer Lee (1910-1988), Clyde Virgel (1912-1982). Around 1915, they purchased the home at 1213 Carlock, just in time to bring home a new baby girl they called Lillian Geraldine (1915-2010), followed in five years by their youngest daughter, Virginia Dare (b. 1921).

Rachel poses in their garden. Photo by Joe Robinson.



The Crain's oldest and youngest children, Homer (l) and Virginia (r.) who grew up at 1213 Carlock. Sources: Central High School yearbook, 1929, and Pascal High School Yearbook, 1940.



Rachel and Joe pose with their sign. Neighbor Fred Harper helps the Robinsons rebuild their fence which was damaged by a vandal. Not pictured but also helping: Joe Hyun, Donna Stewart Morgan. Photos by the author.

Crime and personal safety are hot topics for Fairmount and Ryan Place residents today, and consume a lot of space on the Fairmount and Ryan Place Facebook pages. They also dominated local news in the 1930's. The Fort Worth Star Telegram details how, on March 10, 1936, Mrs. Irma Crain of 1213 Carlock suffered a brutal attack at E. M. Daggett Elementary and Middle School at 2315 College Ave, where she had walked 0.4 miles -- about an 8 minute journey-- to collect her youngest daughter, Virginia, from an evening rehearsal. (Daggett Middle School on Carlock, now located directly across the street from the Crain's home, had not yet been built). When Virginia came home alone without Mrs. Crain an hour later than expected, second son Clyde Crain set out in the car with his wife, Marguerite, and brother Homer's mother-in-law, Mrs. Luda Turnage, to look for her.

While en route to Daggett, Clyde spotted a woman, barefoot and bloodied, stumbling up Elizabeth Ave. He stopped to render aid and was astonished to find that the distressed woman was his own mother. Mrs. Crain had been attacked

with an ice pick, dragged behind the school and assaulted, and was bleeding from serious wounds in her mouth and neck. The Crains called the hospital, the police, and the family doctor. Police were able to recover the ice pick from the Daggett school grounds, while Mrs. Turnage accompanied Mrs. Crain to the old JPS hospital on St. Louis Ave. and helped her with her paperwork and police interview.

Irma Crain not only recovered from her serious injuries, but also survived a highly public and contentious trial in the spring of 1936, in which mistaken identity was a contested point in the trial, with several witnesses, including Mrs. Turnage, testifying that Texas sent the wrong man to the electric chair (Fort Worth Star Telegram). After her trauma and recovery, Mrs. Crain continued to live at 1213 with most of their adult children, and some of their spouses. Daughter Lillian lived in the front bedroom with her two young sons while husband Wilbur Barney served in the army in WWII. Clyde and his wife Marguerite lived in a rear garage apartment, while Homer and wife Carolyn Turnage Crain moved to San Antonio. Walter

lived in the house on Carlock until his death in 1954, and Irma continued there for another 20 years, until she sold the house to the Walls family in 1975.

The next owner, Saint Elmo Walls (1910-1995), the 5th of 9 children, was originally from Blum, Hill County, TX. Elmo, as he was known, lived with his wife Betty and daughter Linda at 1208 W. Jessamine. They purchased the Carlock house as a rental property, adding it to their portfolio of several rental properties on Jessamine and Carlock.

Betty passed the home to her daughter Linda Walls Rihel, who married John Rihel, formerly of 6th Avenue. When their son Ira Rihel was old enough to marry and take over the property, he and wife Ashley made restoration of the bungalow their passion project for nearly a decade. Ira removed the walls to reveal the generous front porch with two front doors, replaced an attic vent with beautiful leaded glass windows, and added a decorative iron fence.

The home is currently painted dark green, but the Robinsons are planning to paint it some historic shades of amethyst and lilac when they've completed current repairs to the soffits, fascia and shingles. In the front yard, next to the driveway, prior owner Ashley Rihel planted a pink climbing "Peggy Martin" Rose, which famously was the only one of the few rose varieties to survive flooding in southern Louisiana wake of Hurricane Katrina in August 2005, according to the Historic Rose Society of New Orleans.

She also planted liriopie along the iron fence line for the quintessential English cottage garden style. The Robinsons replaced the Rihel's metal barrier with a wooden picket fence, painted a very pale pink, and transitioned to a garden of Texas natives which tolerate heat and drought well. Recently, half their fencing was damaged by a vandal who drove a truck through it, but they quickly found neighborhood aid to make repairs. Fairmount work group members Joe Hyun, Fred Harper, and Deanna Stuart gathered to help them rebuild and then paint the new pickets. Luckily, their sturdy native plant collection recovered well from the trauma.

Rachel, who describes herself as a "maximalist," has removed much of the sod grass from the front yard and planted the space with a dozen daisy-like flowers from red to orange to yellow and pink, including Four-Nerve Daisy, Copper Canyon Daisy, Englemann's daisy, multiple types of echinacea, and coreopsis. Just inside the fence, tall sunflowers currently bloom, where a profusion of red poppies dominated in May. Next year, Rachel plans to swap poppy seeds with near

neighbor and past YOTM winner Susan Taylor Harper, who grows pink poppies each spring. The right-hand side of the yard also features a red Turks' Cap, purple spires of Obedient plant, blue mist flower (*Conoclinium coelestinum*) a delicate-looking bloom which is quite hardy in hot Texas summers. They also plant native ornamental grasses, a large herb garden, pomegranate, and persimmon trees in the ground and lemon and pumello trees in pots. Rachel writes, "my favorite aspect of the garden is the food scaping, there are peppers, okra, tomatoes and greens stuffed in every little nook between the perennials. I also have a passion for fresh cut flowers and grow to sustain that habit."

On the left-hand bed, we find the Peggy Martin rose and several types of ornamental tree: a lime tree in a turquoise pot, a Texas redbud flanking the driveway, and a ginkgo biloba (or maidenhair tree), with its distinctive fan-shaped leaves covered by a red-and-white beach umbrella to avoid damage from hot afternoon sun. The ginkgo, a favorite for Craftsman bungalow gardens in the Midwest, was a mutual anniversary gift for the couple. In fall, the leaves turn a beautiful saffron color, and in spring, it bears a translucent fruit (called a nut) resembling a small apricot. They also have two large okra plants with beautiful hibiscus-like flowers. Nearer to the porch, there are several low shade plants, such as shade-tolerant favorite oxblood purple oxalis triangularis, and several food crops like sorrel and mustard greens.

In the back yard, Joe and Rachel put in four raised vegetable beds for growing still more herbs and produce, including basil, tomatoes, pepper and chives. One of their best crops, though, came from throwing down a feed mix for their pet tortoise, which produced enough radishes and greens to get them through the spring's pandemic shutdown.

For their beautiful yard and their community spirit, our thanks, and a \$25 gift card to Magnolia Ave's Stir Crazy Baked Goods, go to the Robinsons.



Left, 1213 Carlock as a rental property in the 1990's. Right, 1213 Carlock in 2016. Source: Fairmount National Historic District Photo Gallery

2245 5th Avenue

The winner of Yard of the Month for September 2020 is Kathryn Fowler McCarthy of 2245 5th Ave. Her late husband Francis purchased the home in 2012 from Patti Randle, and they shared the home after they married in 2015, until his lamentably early death in July 2019. The red brick Craftsman-style home, with cement wrap-around porch, was built c. 1926 for \$3700 by Texas pioneer and trail blazer James Ridgely Lilly, a retired rancher and widower, for his newly married daughter. Sitting on the corner of Carlock and 5th, the home's lot has several old-growth trees, including pecan, oak, and soap trees.

The large front window allows a glimpse of the McCarthy's collection of artworks hanging in the front room, and at Christmas, of a large well-lit pine tree. The two brick columns flanking the entrance have a decorative "V" pattern near the top, reminiscent of the herringbone brick pattern used as infill in Tudor timber-framed buildings in England. Sconces on either side of the door feature delicate tear-drop opalescent shades in a feathered pattern. The lights illuminate Craftsman rocking chairs, an iron patio set, a raised fire pit, wrought-iron French bakers shelves filled with pottery, and signs reassuring visitors: "there will be no working during drinking hours," and "what happens on the porch stays on the porch."

James Ridgely Lilly (1856-1933), son of Confederate Army Officer, Edwin Lilly, was originally from Baltimore, Maryland. Lilly's obituary depicts a rugged, adventurous man who explored the Wild West before settling down to raise a family in Lost Valley, Texas (Fort Worth Star Telegram, 1933). He claimed to be the first man to put up a barbed wire fence in Jack County, and to have been 1 of only two men inhabiting King County in 1881. James' mother, Anna Josephine Lilly, had died during the Civil War at age 42; his brothers, who were 12 and 15 years older, moved to Kentucky immediately following the dissolution of the Confederacy. Edwin Lilly and son James, who was 10 at the time, moved to Indianola,



Left, Baltimore native and Indianola manufacturer Edwin Frost Lilly, CPT, 1829-1882, father of James Lilly. Photo Archived at Ancestry.com. Right, James Ridgely Lilly, Lost Valley cattleman, who built 2245 5th Ave as a residence for his daughter Alice and her family c. 1926. Photo credit: Fort Worth Star Telegram, 1933.

in Calhoun County, Texas around 1867. Edwin married Clara Raymond Burbank, a teen from Louisiana, in 1868 and in July 1869 they had another son, called Wharton (1870 US census). A daughter, Estella Josephine Lilly, was born in 1874; when Edwin died in 1882, Clara and Stella moved to New York City (1890 US census). Stepson James roamed from South Dakota to Nebraska, Oklahoma to Arkansas, driving cattle and putting up fencing, before settling in Jack County, TX in 1882. James Lilly married Alice Casey (1860-1904) in Jacksboro on Nov. 20th, 1883.

The couple had 6 children, but the rigors of ranching life proved inhospitable to Alice, who died at 44, and 4 of their six children, as only 2 lived to adulthood: Ridgely Casey (1884-1930), Harry (1885-1887), Willie (1886-1901), Katie (1887-1904), Maggie (1892-93) and Alice Margaret (1894-1967). Ridgely Lilly married Eva Knecht of Metairie and moved to Louisiana. By the mid-1920's, James was looking to retire in the big city of Fort Worth, with his only surviving daughter, who had recently married Richard Morgan (1884-1956), a



Left, Josephine Alice Morgan, who grew up at 2245 5th Ave., which was built for her mom by her grandfather, James Ridgely Lilly. The photo depicts the Society of Women Architects and Engineers at UT-Austin. Josephine, a founding member in 1945, is in the front row, second from right. Photo credit, the Cactus Yearbook, 1946.

Right, Josephine Alice Morgan's bridal portrait, 1954. The bride is wearing fabrics she bought in Belgium while studying architecture. Photo published in Fort Worth Star Telegram, June 1954.



Photos by Stacy Luecker

railroad auditor from Jacksboro (1930 Census).

Initially, Alice Lilly Morgan lived in the 18' x 20' garage apartment behind 2245 5th with her husband, while the 1575 square foot house was being completed. Soon after moving into the house, they had two daughters, Josephine Alice (1927-2011) and Katherine Bain (1929-2015), and Alice's dad, James, moved in with them, where he remained until his death in 1933. Both Morgan daughters attended UT-Austin, where Katherine joined the Alpha Phi sorority, got a degree in nursing, and married Mechanical Engineer Joseph Griffith of Waco in 1958. Josephine was a member of the Honor Roll, the Pierian Literary Society, the Fort Worth Club, and a founding member of UT's Society of Women Architects and Engineers in 1945 (Cactus Yearbook, 1946): perhaps growing up in this beautiful brick Craftsman home influenced her love of architecture and caused her to pursue this career.

From 1950-53, Josephine pursued graduate work in architecture and restoration in Paris and Brussels, before returning home when her father became ill in 1954. In June 1954, Josephine married Thomas Hunt Armistead (1923-2011)

at the Hemphill Presbyterian Church, wearing the Belgian laces and silks she had bought as a graduate student living in Brussels. Armistead, originally from Memphis, TN was an Army Sargent, pilot and combat medic who earned a bronze star at the Battle of the Bulge. After the war, he used the GI bill to get additional pilot training, and become a flight instructor, crop duster, and plane mechanic. He moved to Fort Worth in 1951 and was employed as a private pilot on the vast Burnett family ranch known as the Four Sixes (Star Telegram). As a ranch worker and adventurer, Armistead no doubt shared some life experiences with Josephine's late grandfather, the intrepid and unforgettable James Lilly, with whom she had lived until age 7. The Armisteads had one son, Henry Hunt, in 1956.

Katherine Griffith and Josephine Armistead inherited 2245 5th St. from their mom 1967 but chose to sell it, as they already had family homes in Fort Worth. It was later a rental property owned by various non-residents from Cleburne and Crowley TX for a few years, until painter and CPA Patti Randle restored it in 2010.

Given its gracious architecture, and long-standing

connection with architects, pilots and Armed service officers in the Lilly, Morgan and Armistead families, it is fitting that the home was eventually purchased by Francis McCarthy (1954-2019), a Massachusetts native and the son of a Navy pilot, whose company Westmark Construction was known for historic renewal projects including the Max Mehl building on Magnolia and the Fort Worth National Bank building on Hemphill (Fort Worth Star Telegram, July 24, 2019). When Fran first bought the home, the main yard feature was a prickly pear cactus currently covered in pink fruits (opuntia littoralis) in the front bed. Taking their cue from this drought-loving plant, the McCarthys built a bed around it using additional desert natives like yucca.

One prized addition is a century plant (agave americana), which, despite the name, actually lives just 10-30 years. The agave has outgrown the space, Kathryn reports, but has left behind "babies, grandbabies, and great grandbabies" to fill multiple pots dotted around the graciously extensive porch. Potted alongside the younger agave are portulaca and oxalis. On the Carlock side of the house, beds skirting the home showcase yellow lantana, Nandina shrubs, angel trumpets,

potted herbs, and monkey grass, as well as various decorative planters, including one of a nearly life-size male bust.

Though she mainly sticks to perennials, Kathryn does like to fill some pots on the porch with pansies every fall for a spot of cheerful color. Kathryn's favorite plant in the yard is a Japanese maple tucked in a shady spot that Fran gave her for her birthday several years ago. The only 'disaster' plant was a tree they had cut down 3-4 years ago whose stump was not thoroughly ground before a new bed was installed over it. Kathryn says, "I've tried to dig down and find the stump after years of chasing the shoots around the yard... Moral of the story: never let someone cut down a tree who doesn't know what they're doing!" The lawn is cared for by a local company, and Kathryn says that installing the sprinkler system was "the best investment they ever made."

Our thanks for her beautiful yard, and a \$25 gift certificate to Ephemera, go to Kathryn Fowler McCarthy.

Yard of the Month articles are written by Bonnie Blackwell. Stayed tuned to our website, www.historicfairmount.com, and Facebook for more Yard of the Month articles.



Photos by Stacy Luecker

WALK AND ROLL HISTORIC HOME TOUR

by Michael McDermott

Once upon a time in a neighborhood far far away... It seems far far away some thirty-eight years later. I remember seeing what we thought was the last of the Star Wars movies that year, the third in the trilogy. It was 1983 and in fact was the first year I ever stepped foot in a neighborhood once only known as the old near Southside. I had grown up loving Victorian houses, having taken a 'Sunday drive'—does anyone under 40 even know what that was(?)—every other weekend with my Mom and my cousin to explore the grand old homes of Weatherford, Granbury, Waxahatchie and the like. When most my friends were still happy living in minimalist apartments and not worrying that much about having an actual home, at age 25 I was old enough to start thinking about buying a house.

“BEST THING FOR THAT NEIGHBORHOOD IS A LIT MATCH”

That year I went on the very first tour of historic homes in that old Southside neighborhood. It was called the Fort Worth Urban Pioneer Home Tour. That's right, urban pioneers—code for people considered dumb enough to try to repopulate and revive a crime ridden rundown neighborhood run by slumlords, long abandoned by the decedents of the families who started out here. I was intrigued seeing these hardy risk-taking folks so enthusiastically renovating the wonderful old homes of this time worn neighborhood that was not aging gracefully. Besides 35% of the homes being abandoned, graffiti on the walls of boarded up homes, bullets whizzing around day and night, 75% rental and only 25% still owner occupied, and the city of Fort Worth eyeing the area to expand its ever growing medical district, I was hooked and bought my first home here at 1710 Fairmount Ave.

Although only a tiny handful of the homes in what would soon become known as Fairmount were Victorian in age or style which I was wanting, my first home was close, built 1906 and a late stripped down transitional urban neighborhood version of the tricked out gingerbread covered Queen Anne Victorians found in the towns mentioned above. The main reason for choosing that house was not just its style, but this neighborhood, one that most found to be frightening, declining, and about which one family friend had then said, "Best thing for that neighborhood is a lit match." Ouch.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

It was also the people already here doing what I wanted to do—restore an old house—who made me feel I was doing the right thing. But above all, it was my attending that first home tour. Wow. I couldn't believe how much work and effort these people were putting of their own time and hard work—doing most everything themselves—and above all love, back into the run down houses they were reviving to be their dream homes. These were no flippers. They were here to stay.

Now, on June 19th & 20th, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association and the most overworked home tour committee in Fairmount's history are putting on the first in-person FNA

Photo by Stacy Luecker



event in a year and a half, and the most complicated and interesting home tour we've ever done. Eight historic homes and one amazing non-profit will be showcasing history and architecture of the early twentieth century, some with historical characters on porches talking about their times here in the early years of Fairmount. Ten other homes will be showcasing the owners' hard work in their beautiful gardens. More than one home will feature antique or classic vehicles while one will showcase an old renovated camper trailer. You'll learn about secrets of faster composting at one house while others will show off the differences between annuals and perennials, those that attract butterflies or other wildlife.

On the porches of several homes, speakers or actors will offer great stories from Fairmount's past. At one location you'll tour several historic buildings inside and out including a restored mid-century modern chapel and a grand 1910 French Gothic style sanctuary which very little of the public has seen the interior of in more than twenty-five years, and the life of which is about to be changed forever for the better with an amazing new adaptive reuse.

At the 39th Annual Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes you will learn about a Fairmount woman who was instrumental in securing the right to vote for women in 1920, and a man who built an empire on soap. One house underwent a recent restoration after being owned by the same family for over 103 years, while two others were the home to two of Fairmount's many railroad engineers and conductors who made their homes here riding the rails for a living back when trains were the main and often only form of transportation from town to town, state to state, for many decades.

This year's tour, also subtitled The Walk & Roll Magical History Tour, differs from most in the past as it will be a mostly outdoor tour with four walkable groupings of three to five houses. You'll



Photo by Stacy Luecker

learn more about style and architecture and many details and stories that will help you better understand your own home. The tour will feature other surprises along the way. The interior of the amazing non profit above will be open, as will the downstairs of a large and wonderful wonderful historically intact bed and breakfast, so have your face masks handy for these inside peeks.

Tickets for this very special two day event are \$25 and available at historicfairmount.com. After purchasing your ticket you'll pick up your home tour magazine at Sin-A-Ca on Magnolia the day you attend and it will have a map and addresses of all the locations on tour as well as stories and details of all the homes and gardens you'll be visiting. **GET YOUR TICKETS NOW** for this very special event.

The money goes to your hard working Fairmount Neighborhood Association without whom there would be no Fairmount—literally no

neighborhood—as their continual hard-working volunteers quite literally saved this neighborhood from complete annihilation and have worked toward its



This crumbling house was burned and rotting away, used also as a meth lab. It was scheduled for demolition just hours before it was rescued. Find out what happened to it since on this year's tour!

betterment and preservation for over 40 years! Learn more about that too when you purchase your ticket and read the stories in the magazine.

Support your wonderful and colorful neighborhood by attending this event that funds all the wonderful projects and festivals Fairmount pays for throughout the year. And please considering VOLUNTEERING for one or more of the shifts for this event if you haven't done so already. You'll receive a free ticket to the tour!

Details and sign up info are on the Fairmount website as well. Hope to see everyone reading this attending the tour. Have a great time!



You'd probably like to grow a garden full of beautiful perennials like these. You'll discover how as this year's tour on Father's Day weekend includes ten beautiful Fairmount gardens filled with these lovelies and many more.



This may look like fun to you. If it does, find out what they're doing and where on the 2021 Fairmount Tour of Historic Homes, and you can be a part of that fun and a lot more at one very special place right here in Fairmount!



Was this 1901 photo taken in San Francisco? Probably not. The fellow on the left was the conductor and he lived here in your neighborhood and road this train thru Texas every day for 38 years. Follow the journey thru this year's historic home tour and learn all about this wonderful man and his once common profession in Fairmount as told by his 99 year old youngest son!



What is this decorative style of woodwork called? It has a name, Helen! You'll find out what and which old Fairmount house this historic image represents, plus a lot more about your unique neighborhood when you join us for this year's tour on June 19 & 20.

The Joy of Medicare

by Frances Look "MissMedicare101"

Medicare- why talk about that in a neighborhood newsletter? Well, one day, you or someone you love will be able to take advantage of its benefits. You have paid for it in every single paycheck, now let's find how to make it work for you. Each issue will have a tiny bite out of the huge "Medicare" monster.

Just a tiny bit of history for context. The Medicare program was signed into effect in 1965 by Lyndon Baines Johnson. That was the time of the Vietnam War, Martin Luther King, the Voting Rights Act, the Beatles, "Sound of Music" & miniskirts! HMMM- could that be why it is so complex?

Now the dry, boring stuff. "Medicare" is the federal government program that provides health care coverage if you are 65+, under 65 and disabled for over 24 months, or under 65 and with End-Stage Renal Disease. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is the federal agency that runs Medicare. The program is funded in part by Social Security and Medicare taxes you pay in each paycheck, in part through premiums that those currently on Medicare pay, and in part by the federal budget.

Now the good stuff. Once you have become Medicare-eligible, you can enroll in Parts A and Part B. Part A is inpatient/hospital coverage (the part that came out of EVERY paycheck). Part B covers physicians and other health care providers' services and outpatient care, durable medical equipment, home health

care, and some preventive services. You will pay for Part B on an income related scale. What? It's not free? Nope, not Part B.

Once signed up for both Part A and Part B, you can choose to get your Medicare benefits from several sources. I refer to them as "Door #1, Door #2 & Door #3 (thanks "Price is Right"). Door #1, Original Medicare, the program directly through the federal government, Door #2, Medicare Supplement ("MediGap") program, a type of policy offered by private companies, or Door#3, a Medicare Advantage Plan, a type of private insurance offered by companies that contract with Medicare (the federal government).

To be continued with the next issue- which Door will you Open?

Who am I?

- Your Neighbor! I'm a local Fort Worth Medicare Education Facilitator, Author, Speaker & Sales Agent licensed in TX, NM, and LA.

- I am passionate about helping people navigate their Medicare Plan needs.

- Consultation is FREE & Convenient, phone or ZOOM

Frances Look "MissMedicare101" missmedicare101@gmail.com 972-510-7660

GET YOUR HISTORIC PLAQUES HERE!

Live in Fairmount? Want to celebrate your historic house with an official Fairmount National Historic District plaque? You can order them on the Fairmount website:

historicfairmount.com/shop

Plaques are available for properties that contribute to the national historic district. If you want to know if your house is contributing you can find out here:

historicfairmount.com/index.php/contributing-structures/



Neighborhoods USA

Fairmount Honored with Neighborhood of the Year Award

By Susan Harper

If you believe, as I do, that neighborhoods are the lifeblood of healthy vital cities, attending a NUSA conference is both an education and a celebration of the actions necessary to achieving and maintaining that status.

NUSA Board of Directors are drawn from across the United States from Florida to Washington State and all the states between and attendees represent the same breadth of attendance and involvement.

The 3-day conference offers multiple opportunities to meet, get to know and learn from attendees from throughout the United States. From early morning themed networking sessions to workshops, lunch and dinner gatherings and neighborhood tours, the occasions are plentiful.

Workshops at this years' Conference ran the gamut from employing the homeless thru affordable housing to creating urban villages and from grant writing to creating public-private partnerships and making yourself heard at meetings, boards and council. Along with those are a number of workshops on Race and Culture, Diversity, Policing

and Public Safety. One of my favorite parts of NUSA was the Neighborhood Tours which were, unfortunately, virtual this year. However, the city's Community Engagement Office ensured its video tours inspired NUSA attendees from Fort Worth and out-of-town alike, by highlighting successful projects and tools that can be replicated to improve life in any neighborhood.

Last, but certainly not least, are the awards, usually presented at the end of the conference: Physical Revitalization/Beautification, Social Revitalization/Neighborhood Partnerships and the biggie, Neighborhood of the Year. In addition, a Newsletter competition awards the best in creating involvement and volunteerism in both print and electronic formats.

This year, the Fairmount Neighborhood Association was awarded 2021 Neighborhood of the Year in the Social Revitalization/Neighborhood category. The neighborhood was honored for creative changes that allowed its annual holiday Festivus tradition to continue in 2020, despite the coronavirus pandemic.



Photo by Stacy Luecker

FREE Pop-Up Walk-Up COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic

Location: Magnolia and Washington

Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021

Time: 2 - 5 PM



The vaccination clinic is open to all!

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HOME TOUR PARADE

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10:00 AM

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