

# CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY

P. O. BOX 1021  
CEDAR HILL, TX 75106

Website: [www.cedarhillmuseum.com](http://www.cedarhillmuseum.com)

409 Texas Street

972-293-3806

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VOL. 3

## NEWSLETTER

NOV. 2020



## HAPPY THANKSGIVING

### **GOOD NEWS!**

**THE CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY RECEIVED  
OVER \$6,000 IN DONATIONS ON NORTH TEXAS  
GIVING DAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020.**

### **THANK YOU, DONORS!**

**Please continue to select the Museum as your charity  
when shopping the following programs:**

**Amazon Smiles: [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smiles)  
Kroger Community Rewards Program**

***The Museum is a 501(c)3 non-profit Organization.***

### **CITIZENS DESIGN COMMITTEE LIBRARY AND SIGNATURE PARK**

The Citizens Design Committee began working on the design process for the new Public Library and Signature Park in July. The City of Cedar Hill has allocated space for the Museum within the new Library. Museum President Karen Aruda and Trustee Linda Patton represent the Museum on the Committee. The Library will be located adjacent to the Signature Park near Uptown Blvd. and Pioneer Trail. The City's goal is to finish the concept of the Library and Park this year. Construction is expected to begin in late 2021 or early 2022. The City is seeking public input on the Library and Park. For additional information or to provide input, visit [www.Letstalkcedarhill.com](http://www.Letstalkcedarhill.com)

# FAMOUS LANDMARK

When you drive home at night from a trip, the red lights on the broadcast towers looming over Cedar Hill are a welcome sight. Below is a reprint of a nostalgic article by Greg Patton that appeared in the *Cedar Hill Chronicle*, Thursday, July 5, 1990, Page 5A.

## “GUEST column: Goodbye, old friend!

By GREG PATTON

Cedar Hill will miss you!

As a young boy living just east of Dallas, I was always interested in electronics. After school and on Saturdays, I worked for a small TV repair shop.

At that time there were only three TV stations to watch. As we installed the TV antennas on rooftops, we had to point them to a place called Cedar Hill.

I knew it was about four degrees south of west, but I had never been to that small town. Sometime in the late 1950s I had the opportunity to visit KRLD’s Channel 4 transmitter on West Belt Line Road. To me, this was the biggest transmitter and tower I had ever seen. That was a trip to Cedar Hill I will never forget.

On a cool February day in 1987, a Navy jet flying in broken clouds accidentally hit the southeast corner of this structure. There were no fatalities, but major structural damage was inflicted on the “big tower”.

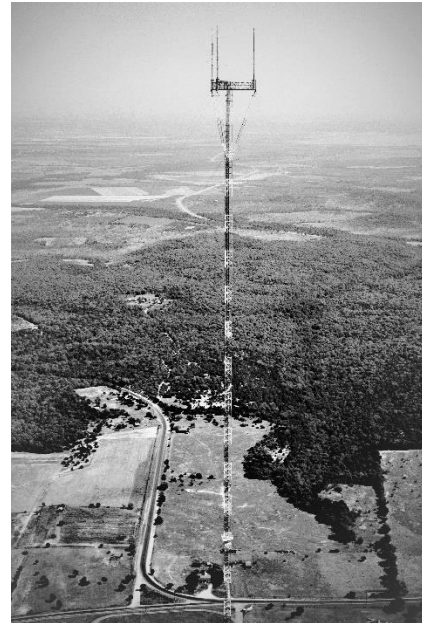
It was concluded that the repairs to the tower would be expensive. Since the accident, two new towers have been erected to replace it. One is behind the fire station on West Belt Line Road, while the other is the candelabra-style tower just south of the damaged tower, which houses two stations’ transmitters.”

“As I drove to work last week, I saw that the tower crew had arrived to dismantle our old landmark. The skyline of Cedar Hill will be forever changed.

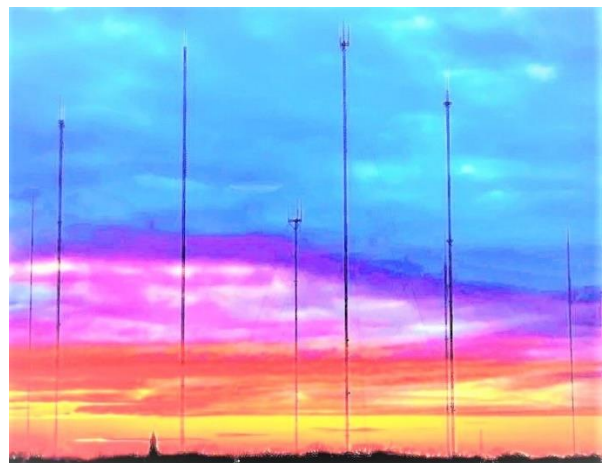
My thoughts went back to that day in the 1950s when I first saw that awesome tower. From that facility, our TVs have provided us and millions of other North Texan citizens with news, sports and information.

Over the next several months the tower will be shortened from 1,527 feet to approximately 1,000 feet. The modified tower will be used as a backup transmitter.

If you get a chance, take a last look at Cedar Hill’s most famous landmark. We are the tower city.”



**CEDAR HILL’S FIRST BROADCAST TOWER  
ERECTED IN 1954**



**TOWER FARM AT  
W. BELT LINE & MANSFIELD RDS.**

## HISTORY MOMENT

**Did you know Cedar Hill was once the County Seat of Dallas County?**

**Dallas County** was established on March 30, 1846. Elections were later held to determine the Seat of County Government. Cedar Hill was appointed as the Temporary County Seat. An election in 1850, between the towns of Hords Ridge (Oak Cliff) and Dallas settled the issue, and Dallas became the permanent County Seat. County records do not exist in Cedar Hill, because the election was held before any court proceedings took place in Cedar Hill.

## MUSEUMS CONSIDERED HIGHLY CREDIBLE SOURCES OF INFORMATION EVEN DURING THE PANDEMIC

According to a **NATIONAL AWARENESS, ATTITUDES, AND USAGE STUDY**, both visitors and non-visitors believe Museums to be highly credible sources of information. Surveys indicate this National belief increased notably during the second quarter of 2020, and remained through the third quarter.

## IDENTIFY THE PHOTO



### CLUES:

**He came to Cedar Hill in 1859.**

**He graduated from Medical College that same year.**

**He was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Cedar Hill.**

*(Answer on Page 5)*



### ANNA MINERVA (KIMMEL) TREES

No one identified the photo on page 2 of the July 2020 Newsletter. Anna Minerva (Kimmel) Trees was the lady in the photo.

### THE FIRST MARRIAGE LICENSE ISSUED BY DALLAS COUNTY

Early pioneers, **ANNA KIMMEL** and **CRAWFORD TREES**, settled in the Cedar Hill area in **1845**. Anna, only 14 years old at the time, had traveled with her family. Anna and Crawford's marriage license in **1846**, was the first marriage license issued by the newly formed **Dallas County**. Their marriage license is in the cornerstone of the old Dallas County Courthouse (Old Red Museum). Learn more about their stories in the [History of Cedar Hill, Texas](#).

## FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

**LINDA (CLARK) PATTON**, a **Trustee on the Museum Board**, loves history and studying her families' history. Linda serves on the **Citizens Design Committee** for the Public Library and Signature Park and looks forward to the Museum having a home to tell Cedar Hill's story in the new Library. She is also a member of the **Texas Historical Society**.



Her family moved to Cedar Hill from Midlothian the year she started 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Linda's father, Martin Clark, grew up in Cedar Hill, and her mother, Marietta, grew up in Midlothian. Three generations of the Clark family, including her Grandfather, John Clark, his son, Hubert Clark, and her cousin, John Charles Clark, farmed the property that is now **Valley Ridge Park**. Linda said her father picked cotton there as a child and said "he would do anything but that for the rest of his life." Read more about the Clark family in the following article, ***CEDAR HILL'S OLDEST FAMILY BUSINESS***.

Linda has a degree in Education from East Texas State University at Commerce (now Texas A & M Commerce). She taught school before entering the insurance business with her husband, Greg Patton. Linda and Greg met at ETSU, and they have been married 54 years. Her family teased that they thought Greg, an electronic and communications enthusiast, dated her because of the Tower Farm in Cedar Hill.

She and Greg have two children, Jennifer Frantz of Houston and Jay Patton of Cedar Hill. Jay and his wife, Amy, have two children, Audrey and Josh, who attend Village Tech. Linda proudly announced that Jennifer's sons, John and Michael Sinor, graduated from Texas A & M, Class of 2020.

Linda served on the **Cedar Hill ISD Board of Trustees**, holds a **National and State Life Membership from the PTA** and was the **First Director of the Cedar Hill Education Foundation**. An avid gardener, Linda is a member of the **Super Seeders Garden Club** and serves as a **District Officer of Texas Garden Clubs Inc**. She and Greg are members of the Cedar Hill Church of Christ.

## CEDAR HILL'S OLDEST FAMILY BUSINESS

In 1954, Martin and Marietta Clark opened **CLARK INSURANCE AGENCY**. The office was located on Highway 67 near Belt Line Road next to the iconic Shorty Hood's Bar-B-Que. The Agency is the longest-serving family business in Cedar Hill. Greg and Linda Patton took over the business from her parents, and it became **CLARK-PATTON INSURANCE AGENCY**. Their son, Jay Patton, operates the business now, 66 years later. Clark-Patton Insurance is currently located on Straus Road near FM 1382.



## THE ORIGINAL CLARK-PATTON INSURANCE AGENCY

## INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS

DO YOU LOVE HISTORY?  
DO YOU LOVE CEDAR HILL?  
**WE WANT YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER**  
OF THE CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF  
HISTORY!

*(Membership Application Form on Page 7)*

## MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF THE CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY IS "TO COLLECT, PRESERVE AND SHARE THE NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF CEDAR HILL BY PROVIDING MEMORABLE AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES CONSISTENT WITH OUR HOMETOWN SPIRIT."

## ANSWER TO IDENTIFY THE PHOTO ON PAGE 3

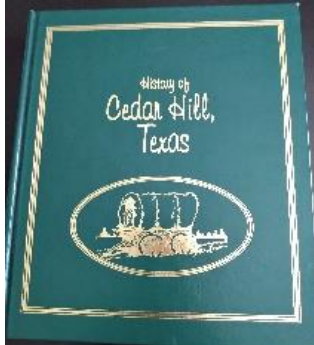


**DR. RUFUS ALSTON ROBERTS** was instrumental in bringing the railroad to Cedar Hill. He donated right-of-way for the railroad, including land for the switch room and depot. Roberts' house, built in 1884, is still standing at 210 South Broad Street. The house is known today as the **GINGERBREAD HOUSE**.



**THE GINGERBREAD HOUSE**  
**210 SOUTH BROAD STREET**

## BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM THE MUSEUM



### HISTORY OF CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

COST: \$65.00 plus \$5.00 shipping



### GONE WITH THE WIND - THE 1856 CEDAR HILL TORNADO

COST: \$35.00 plus \$5.00 shipping

## **MUSEUM OFFICE**

The Museum office remains temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If you need information or assistance from the Museum, please email:

[Karen@cedarhillmuseum.com](mailto:Karen@cedarhillmuseum.com)

or

[Geri@cedarhillmuseum.com](mailto:Geri@cedarhillmuseum.com)

Please see the Museum's website for future updates on re-opening and hours of operation:

[www.cedarhillmuseum.com](http://www.cedarhillmuseum.com)

## **MUSEUM BOARD**

### **EXECUTIVE**

President Karen Aruda, Vice-President Norman Patten, Secretary Susan Patten, Treasurer Geri Klauck

### **TRUSTEES**

Patty Bushart, Georgia Calloway, Alicia Clark, E. Glenn Clark, Carol Hanson, J. R. Hickman, Traphene Hickman, Frankie Lee, Linda Patton, Alan Peters, Joe Pitt, Russell Read, Diane West, Jerry West

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*Where a community embraces heritage and nature*

**Be a part of history ... Join today!**

There has never been a more exciting time to become a member of the Cedar Hill Museum of History. We have interesting artifacts and exhibits, oral histories and a wide variety of membership benefits to enthrall history lovers of all ages. Rediscover Cedar Hill's history and join our membership family today.

The Cedar Hill Museum of History wants you to discover yourself through the collective past. Choose from a variety of Annual membership levels:

**Annual membership levels:**

- Student/Teacher      \$10
- Individual             \$35
- Family                 \$50
- Supporting Member   \$100
- Sustaining Member   \$250
- Patron Member        \$500
- Leadership Circle     \$1,000

We have moved our offices to 409 Texas Street. We are planning on locating our displays in the new library in 2022. View our traveling display in the Cedar Hill Government Center on Uptown Boulevard in Midtown.

The Cedar Hill Museum of History is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Cedar Hill Museum of History  
P. O. Box 1021  
Cedar Hill, TX 75106-1021

Please return this application form with your payment. THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM.