

THE PALO DURO CLUB
A CENTENNIAL HISTORY
1905-2005

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As we arrive at the Centennial of the Palo Duro Club, we who have enjoyed the Club owe a debt of recognition for the foresight, energy, and wisdom of those dedicated members who built and nurtured it. Remembering their contributions has been complicated by the Club's peculiar character and past. History is primarily based on the written record, and most of the Club's official records prior to 1978 disappeared in the flood of that year. Furthermore, the Club is very private. Most people in Canyon and Amarillo are unaware of its existence. Personal records are scarce because few people in this area keep diaries, write memoirs, or preserve files. Individual transfers of shares and cabins are not a matter of public record. Human memory is often unreliable. Fortunately for the research for this history, several members generously loaned me copies in their possession of past Board and Club meetings. I am especially grateful to Pattilou Dawkins, Roy Vineyard, and Robert Rathbun, the current President. Mary Berry, Club Secretary, cheerfully helped me with the Club's post-1960 official files and provided numerous important suggestions. She compiled the list of members and oversaw the arrangements with the printer. Several hundred

interviews with past and present members and their families provided much information. Outstanding were those with Paula Reeder Dickey, Lela Wolflin Puckett, Tom Seay, and Charles A. Wolflin, all now deceased, who spent much of their childhoods at the Club in its first years. Numerous communications with Joe T. Bagot, geologist, archeologist, and descendant of early Club members, supplied invaluable technical information and insight unavailable elsewhere. Helpful specialists at the Canyon, Amarillo, Cornette, and Panhandle Plains Historical Society archives and libraries made my task easier, as did the Randall County Clerk's staff. Thanks are due to long-time members Roy and Marian Vineyard, William and Mary Klingensmith, Judy SoRelle, and my brother Phil, who made suggestions on portions of the penultimate drafts. Professor Bridget Gellert Lyons and Nancy Dawkins of New York graciously contributed to the editing of the final draft. The logo was designed by Mary Ann McKay.

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INTRODUCTION

The Palo Duro Club is the oldest and most prestigious outdoor recreational organization in Northwest Texas. Founded in 1905 by visionary business, professional and ranching leaders for purposes of hunting, fishing, and camping, it has evolved over time into a summer colony of private, mostly secondary, residences, whose members, their families, and guests hike, picnic, swim, boat and canoe, fish, horseback ride, play tennis, practice rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting, hunt prehistoric artifacts, bird watch, and explore the pasture-wildlife range for fauna and flora. They enjoy holiday celebrations, Sunday community potlucks, and other relaxed and congenial social activities. Participants find respite from city life in the healthful summer climate of often hot, but rarely humid days and invariably cool nights in the heavily wooded canyon lying along the main branch of the Red River. Dropping a hundred feet from the largely table-flat Llano Estacado above, the Club grounds lie near the beginning of the Palo Duro Canyon. For a century, families largely from Amarillo have raised their children, often for several generations, in the community. Enduring friendships have been formed, and

a loyal attachment to the Club has been long-lasting for almost all who have ever been involved.

PREHISTORY

The site of the Club was known by the earliest white settlers to be the finest fishing and hunting area within a hundred mile radius. The Llano Estacado, formed by erosion of the Rocky Mountains at an elevation of nearly 3,500 feet above sea level, brings cool nights. The canyon walls and flowing springs and streams provide protection and support for vegetation and wild animals. As the canyon erosion deepened, underground water sources near the canyon floor pushed up numerous springs. Thus, the Palo Duro and Tierra Blanca creeks, whose upstream sources were mostly rain water, became spring-fed as the upper valley began to form to the west. A United States Geological Survey determined that joining of the two creeks a few thousand yards southwest of the Club's gate, marked the beginning of the main fork of the Red River, known as the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River. It continues through and past the Club grounds carving the canyon for more than 120 miles. Club members have always called this main fork of the river, "the creek."

The deeper parts of the canyon trace back hundreds of thousands of years, but the Club's wall formations are much younger, perhaps only about ten

thousand. A variety of pre-historic animals lived in the general area, including three-toed horses, rhinoceroses, mastodons, camels, javelins, saber-toothed tigers and alligator-type amphibians. Joe T. Bagot, professional geologist and archeologist, found a fossilized jaw bone of a 250 to 300 pound beaver of an estimated age of seven to ten thousand years in the Club's creek bank. The Flood of 1978 unearthed at the Club seven foot long horns of two prehistoric bison. Bones of slaughtered animals and other archeological traces of early inhabitants indicate that humans have been in the canyon area from sometime between 10,000 and 5,000 BCE. They hunted mammoths, bison and smaller mammals during the Ice Age.

Thousands of years later, various more recent Indian tribes found the canyon hospitable because of its water, wildlife, and protection from wind by the canyon walls. Several Indian campsites within the Club grounds have produced thousands of artifacts, including Alabates-worked flint for knives, buffalo arrows and spears, scrapers, dart points, bird arrows, needles, and grind stones. The most important was the site of one of the major Indian trading centers of the Panhandle, an extensive village located near the major spring from the

Oglala across from the second creek bend before the current dam. Searchers have found and identified pottery and necklace beads from the pueblos of New Mexico, arrowheads from east Texas, stone tools from the Canadian River, and even a catlinite clay pipe from the Great Lakes region. Locals traded largely with buffalo products. The Spanish horse had brought mounted nomadic Apaches, Comanches, Kiowas and Arapahos, whose sustenance was the bountiful buffalo, which provided them with housing, food, clothing, campfire fuel, and materials for tools. They dominated the High Plains until the latter half of the 19th Century, when conflicts with encroaching whites doomed them.

HOW THE CLUB LAND BECAME AVAILABLE

Northwest Texas was unsurveyed until the 1870s. The Annexation agreement with the United States in 1836 allowed Texas, unlike other states, to retain all its public lands. Over time these lands contributed substantially to the state's economy, but forty years passed before serious distribution began in Northwest Texas. After the Civil War and Reconstruction, Texas' treasury was empty, but the state's public lands seemed limitless. Hoping to draw tax producing, private owners, the State Land Office began to offer land at virtual give away prices. But before this could occur, the government had to deal with the Indians, who had long occupied the land, believed it to be theirs, and fought bravely and fiercely to retain it for themselves.

Nomadic and hostile Comanches and their allies, the Kiowas, dominated the southern high plains. Since there were no federal lands in Texas, there were no Indian reservations, but once freed from Civil War requirements, the United States Cavalry turned to removing the Indians to reservations in neighboring territories by engaging them in frequent and widespread battles. One example was a skirmish that occurred in August of 1872, when about 250 cavalry with some 400 horses camped near the

current main gate of the Club, intending to subdue Indians in the area. In a surprise raid, a band of about forty Kiowas hit the cavalry camp, stealing a number of horses and cattle. The soldiers pursued them down the canyon through today's Club grounds. The Indians returned and stole again, and ultimately a number of horses were lost, a soldier was wounded and unknown casualties were inflicted on the Indians. Two years later, Captain Ranald Mackinsey defeated the Indians in a surprise raid on their canyon camp. He destroyed one hundred or more lodges and virtually all provisions, and killed 1,400 of their horses. The Indians, powerless without food, supplies, and horses, returned permanently to the reservation at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma Territory, bringing to an end several thousand years of Native-American occupation.

After the Indian removal, investors poured in. A dozen huge ranches, many English or Scottish owned, were in place in the Panhandle in less than two years. Speculators grabbed up millions of acres of land. For example, The International and Great Northern Railroad and its subsidiaries got the Texas Land Office to convey to them over six million acres for little more than the cost of surveying. These lands included the future Palo Duro Club site. The legislature's intentions appeared to be the

encouragement of railroad building but, the I&GNRR was simply a dummy front for land speculators. In a complicated shuffling of ownership, the I&GNRR transferred its holdings to several other speculators, who conveyed them to the New York and Texas Land Co., Ltd. in 1887. In turn, New York and Texas Land Co. leased 179,200 acres to the T-Anchor Ranch.

The T-Anchor ranch headquarters was on a site some two miles north of today's town of Canyon, slightly more than a mile from the Club's gate, and near the juncture of Tierra Blanca and Palo Duro Creeks. Begun as an enormous cattle raising operation, it also brought various innovations to the area. The first cultivation in the Panhandle occurred when the T-Anchor grew a field of oats near its headquarters. Unfortunately, as soon as it was ripe, a herd of buffalo wandered in and consumed it overnight. By 1887, the Cedar Valley Land and Cattle Company of London, Ltd. owned the T-Anchor Ranch.

It was during this period that major changes in land use were occurring. A combination of droughts, devastatingly harsh winters, rising land values, nesters, and legislative acts coupled with two new inventions caused most of the enormous ranches to terminate operations and landowners to sell their holdings to smaller

ranchers and farmers. Barbed wire, invented in 1874, brought control of livestock, and the invention in 1883 of the sturdy, inexpensive self-regulating steel windmill brought the water essential for cattle raising and farming. With the great holdings breaking up, the Palo Duro Club lands were ripe for acquisition.

THE FOUNDERS

By early 1905, the nearby town of Amarillo's population had nearly doubled to about 5,000 since the Great Land Boom of 1902. A raw place with no paved streets or roads, where men could be seen wearing pistols on their hips, with downtown buildings mostly of wood and automobiles that could be counted on one hand, its more than five thousand citizens could still justifiably boast of being the railroad, cattle shipping, and commercial hub of the Panhandle. With the nearest competitor of equal prominence being a nearly one hundred miles away, ranchers and farmers flocked to the town for supplies, to transact business, or to seek professional help. Wholesale merchants supplied surrounding small town stores. Cattle barons constructed mansions, and while windmills and outhouses were still the norm, the fledgling water and sewer systems were expanding. There was an air of excitement about the town, and newcomers flocked to the community seeking promising opportunities.

It was a rich little town, and the affluent were beginning to be interested in leisure in their lives. When thoughts turned to outdoor pleasures, many remembered a spot of exceptional natural beauty and abundance. Some

had hunted, fished, and camped there, primarily near the spring of the former Indian trading village. Entire families came in wagons, traveling across the prairie to descend through a low opening in the northeast canyon wall. P. H. Seewald, pioneer jeweler, left his wife, daughters, and sons to camp for two weeks during the hot summers, and returned at the end of this time to take them back to Amarillo.

The site was within the T-Anchor Ranch lease, but it was known to be available for acquisition because the New York and Texas Land Co., Ltd. was selling its lands in the area. Leading citizens met to plan ways of acquiring this retreat, and several of them had experiences in land and financing ideal for forming a plan of action.

Chief among them was Judge William Boyce. He and his law partner, the eminent Judge James Hamlin, were the legal representatives of the Capitol Land Syndicate, owners of the three million acre XIT ranch. Boyce's father, A.G. Boyce, General Manager of the XIT, was charged with the breaking up and selling of that ranch to smaller holders. John Hutson, who had been sent from England by the owners of the T-Anchor to liquidate its holdings, was in frequent communication with the New York and Texas Land Co., owners of the prospective Club

lands. Thomas Currie, a prominent Amarillo businessman who invested in canyon lands, and the merchant Wolflin brothers, Charles and Frank, were among those who contributed to the founding. Boyce, Currie, Hutson and the Wolflin Brothers are believed to be the first four cabin owners at the Club. T. L. Lester, another major ranch owner and President of the First National Bank of Canyon provided additional support and advice and brought in eight members from Canyon. For many years, the by-laws of the Club required that at least one member be from Canyon City.

Negotiations moved quickly. The founders obtained a Charter of Incorporation from the State as a non-profit Texas corporation on March 25, 1905. A week later, the Palo Duro Club Corporation purchased 2,553.4 acres from the New York and Texas Land Company for \$12,867 [\$260,000]. (Throughout this text, the numbers in brackets represent an approximate inflation adjustment to 2005 dollars.) The Club needed less than 1,000 acres, but the Land Company would only sell in sections of about 640 acres and four sections were needed to cover the canyon land the Club wanted. But even that soon proved an advantage. A year later, on March 27, 1906, the Club sold 1,683 tillable acres above the canyon to Judge Boyce

and other members of his family at a large profit, leaving the desired 870 acres of canyon land to the Club. The final cost of the Club land was \$2,769 [\$60,000]. With the profits from the Boyces and one hundred membership shares selling for \$200 [\$4,000] each, the Club found itself affluent. Construction of fencing, two community cottages, and other improvements began immediately. It is certain that the meshing transactions were all carefully planned ahead of time. The Palo Duro Club was launched.

THE EARLY YEARS, 1905-1910

The Club was instantly popular. Within nine months more than half of the shares had been subscribed, and applicants approved by the Board. In addition to Boyce, Lester and Currie, members chose A. W. Bivins, A. L. Conrad, W. H. Fuqua, A. A. Lumpkin, D. W. Owen and L. T. Thompson for the first Board of Directors. That first board composed of major bankers, lawyers, prominent ranchers, and businessmen moved aggressively and effectively to organize the Club and make it functional.

The preferred route into the Club was the Canyon City wagon trail, which forded the creek slightly southwest of the current swimming pool. The ruins of a crossing built later may be seen at low water today. The Board decided that the north side of the crossing would be the center of Club activities. To provide fresh water, they turned to the nearby ravine, where water ran in the subsurface sands. Workers dug a shallow well of no more than five feet, supported the well walls with concrete, placed an iron railing around it, and built a springhouse over it. The floor and low walls of the springhouse were made of concrete, and an attractive frame roof covered it. Overflow moved through a roofed, open-sided screened

room creating a cooling basin for members' perishable milk, cream, butter and eggs. They scratched their initials on the skins of their watermelons to identify them, although mischievous boys often tried to alter these "brands" to form their own initials. Members gathered watercress from the banks of the overflow. Passers-by refreshed themselves with a tin cup attached to a chain at the railing. For over twenty years this was the primary water supply for the cottages, whose occupants made frequent trips to the springhouse to obtain water for household use. Tol Ware remembers the work involved when he was a boy in carrying buckets of water up the hill to his family cottage. The springhouse still stands, but the water no longer flows.

In the beginning, families pitched their tents and camped near the springhouse, but some members insisted on better shelter. The first Clubhouse, completed in 1906, consisted of a common space or living room with a fireplace and four bedrooms opening onto the main room. A screened porch surrounded the house, with an extended breezeway ending in a kitchen with a wood-burning range. There was no plumbing or electricity, but the Keeper kept a supply of firewood for cooking and heat and emptied the outhouse. Members could reserve one

bedroom for a night or a weekend, and children bunked on the screened porches. Personal bedding filled large wooden trunks which lined the porches. An almost identical second Clubhouse went up within a year. The houses located on sites between the current caretaker's house and the swimming pool were later distinguished by color, one being painted maroon, the other battleship grey. Campers still pitched their tents in the broad spaces around the Clubhouses and throughout the camping area.

From the outset, some members wanted their own houses, which were called cottages for several decades, and of course everyone wanted sites near the springhouse. A photo made in 1906 shows the springhouse, the two Clubhouses, and the Hutson, Boyce, and Currie cottages. The Wolflin brothers, Charles and Frank, followed shortly and by 1910 there were as many as a dozen structures, including the Keeper's house and livestock buildings. Members built or moved in houses on a space assigned to them, but not owned by them. As a result, houses are considered as personal, not real property. Other improvements included the creation of a swimming hole in the water dammed by the crossing. The springs created a steady flow of water which at the juncture of the two creeks measured sixteen feet per second in the late 19th

century. Charles Wolfin remembered the water being so pure that one could see the bottom clearly at depths of four to six feet. Paula Reeder Dickey recalled leeches in the shore reeds, which swimmers simply pulled off without a thought when they exited the natural pool.

The most unusual and visionary decision affecting the future of the Club was to set aside the majority of the land. Instead of scattering members' cottages throughout the Club property, the cabin area was restricted to approximately one-fifth of the total, with the rest being reserved for fishing, limited hunting, and wildlife protection. From the beginning, Club rules forbade members from maliciously destroying or injuring any living plant. Over time, the Club became increasingly attentive to keeping the area protected, except for one later period when saddle horses were allowed into the area and overgrazed it. The Club was founded during the administration of President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909), the most environmentally minded of U.S. presidents. Though the Palo Duro State Park was not established for another quarter century, Roosevelt was promoting wildlife protection and establishing national parks as the Club leaders were planning the Club, and some were undoubtedly affected by the national mood.

Early access to the Club was by horseback, buggy, or train. Passenger trains began operating between Amarillo and Canyon in 1898, and after the Club was organized, it made stops on demand at the Palo Duro Club Station, which boasted a shed and pen for horses and wagons. Polly Dickey recounted how the men of her family would leave town early on horseback, or take the buggy and hunt plover on the way, and pitch their tents on arrival. The women and children would come later on the train, which stopped for them at the station, where the men would meet them. The men would have cleaned and cooked the delicious plovers, which they had for dinner. Increasingly, it was the automobile which made the Club much more accessible. Though there were only a handful of cars in Amarillo by 1905, the numbers grew to one hundred and fifty by 1910, thereby substantially reducing travel time.

THE TEENS, 1910-1920

As the Club completed its first five years with a growing membership and increased Club use, numerous problems of a different character began to occupy the Board. Frontier individualism strongly influenced pioneer male behavior and the membership of the Club resembled a "Who's Who" of prominent Amarilloans, who were often deferred to and many of whom acted as they pleased. Some Club members violated rules repeatedly and otherwise misbehaved. They refused to register when entering and sign out when leaving, did not secure and pay for the proper permits for guests, ignored the limits for fish and game, shot off firearms in the cottage area, wantonly killed wildlife, had rowdy parties, invited questionable guests, and even knocked down fences when they forgot their gate keys. The records show regular and often indignant and mostly unsuccessful appeals from fined members. More serious misbehavior caused the regulations to be amended in 1911 to read:

No drunkenness, disorderly or ungentlemanly conduct shall be tolerated [sic]. No guest of questionable character shall be allowed on the grounds. Any person found guilty of violating the provisions of this section...may in the discretion of the Board of Directors be

suspended from the privileges of the Club for a period not exceeding ninety days, and at a regular meeting of the stockholders, may be expelled by a majority vote of the stockholders present.

It can be assumed that this by law was sometimes loosely enforced.

Negligent and mischievous sons of members were frequently the subject of Board outrage and action. The boys left the Clubhouses "in dirty and filthy condition," brought friends to the Club without permits, swam naked in the lake, put frogs, turtles and fish in the springhouse and cooling room and much more seriously, had drunken parties and broke into cabins of other members. By 1917, the problems had become so severe that this draconian measure was passed:

...boys under twenty-one years of age may not be admitted to the Club grounds nor enjoy the privileges thereof, except in company with one of their parents or other adult member of the Club who will be responsible for their conduct while on the grounds.

It remained in force for over twenty years.

Neighboring farmers and ranchers often created special challenges, mostly because of unclear boundaries and access rights. There were almost no section roads;

only right of way easements on other private properties allowed proprietors access to their holdings. Neighbor Fulton began moving his fence into the middle of the road and had to be dealt with. Fishermen on Dolcater's adjacent property downstream often poached in the Club waters. "Friend Dolcater," the Board wrote, "Fishermen on your place might trespass on Club ground, particularly if the gates we have permitted you to have for your convenience, are not kept shut." Dolcater had reason to be cooperative. Earlier, the Board had agreed that he could cross the Club property in order to get to Canyon.

Members had access to the Club grounds through a right of way easement on neighbor Pritchard's property. When Pritchard claimed that his crops had been damaged by Club members, the Board was not responsive to his claim, maintaining that it was an individual who caused the damage, not the Club. Pritchard responded by threatening to close the easement; the Board sought an injunction to prevent this and he relented. Next, a Club member hit and injured one of Pritchard's cows with his car. As before, Pritchard complained to the Board, which again responded that an individual, not the Club was responsible. Soon afterward, members began having flat tires on their automobiles along the approach to the Club.

A special committee appointed by the board to inspect the road bed found numerous tacks scattered about. Suspecting Pritchard, the Board sent a delegation to the hardware store in Canyon City to inquire who had bought such tacks within the preceding two months. After that, the record remains silent until several weeks later, when the Board gave in and instructed one of its members to negotiate with Pritchard "...to make settlement of claim to damage to cow of J. H. Prichard which he claims was hit by auto in going through his pasture by some Club member." It also instructed the secretary to send to each Club member a letter asking him to "use every precaution to prevent injury to livestock of Prichard in going through his pasture." In 1916, the Board appointed a committee to look into the matter of a permanent road into the Club grounds. All these problems were solved in time, as the road system developed, additional land was purchased, and new surveys more clearly determined boundaries of the Club's current 930 acres.

The Caretaker, known as Keeper or Manager until after World War II, has always been central to the Club's well being. In 1910, he was expected to keep the road and fences and other improvements in repair, clean the Clubhouses and springhouse, supply wood for the

Clubhouses, remove litter left by members and their guests, farm the top acres still owned by the Club, clean moss from the swimming hole, and check on the condition of the horses. He was to cultivate a truck farm and maintain a herd of cows, pigs, and chickens in order to provide members with vegetables, milk, cream, butter and eggs, which he was to sell to members at prevailing prices. The Keeper and his wife were to maintain a dining table and provide members with three meals a day on demand at prices determined by the Board. All this, and in addition, "to do whatever the Directors may direct." The last phrase must have been a major cause for turnover in the job. Five different men filled the job in six years. Various directors instructed them, frequently giving contradictory instructions. Finally, the Board recognized that they were a significant part of the problem and decided that only the President could assign duties to the Keeper.

The Board Minutes read that the keeper was "to furnish his work, that of his wife, and a team [of horses or mules.]" The Keeper's wife's most important duty was to prepare and serve meals three times daily to members who wanted them. Preparation of food was difficult for members who had no cottages, so meals at the Keeper's

were generally popular. The old Keeper's house, directly across the road from the current Caretaker's house, had a Club Room where members signed in and out and obtained guest permits. The Keeper and his wife sold groceries and the vegetables, milk, cream, butter, and eggs they had produced. The Club Room also served as dining room where the Keeper's wife served meals to members. The Keeper raised his own livestock and the Board constructed a small meat house nearby to hold preserved beef and pork.

In 1917, the Board decided that limiting the hours of meal service might ease some of the burdens of the couple. Now members had to order meals at least an hour before serving and found that the last breakfast was served at eight o'clock. The Club's lone telephone was in the Club Room. Until 1914, the line went only to Canyon City, and in that year it had to be rebuilt. The Keeper collected charges in advance for the long distance calls to Amarillo and he was also responsible for notifying members of incoming emergency calls.

With increasing use of the Club, the Board sought additional means of obtaining water. In May of 1914, the Board ordered a well dug for a windmill and tank by the Keeper's house. The well was unsuccessful, but three

years later a new effort brought the first windmill water to the Club, supplying not only the Keeper's house and the Clubhouses, but also to half a dozen private cottages where the owners had laid pipe at their own expense.

The dam was the major physical improvement of the Club and it required constant attention. Located a half mile beyond the current dam, it had been built shortly after the Club's founding to enhance fishing by creating a lake. It required constant attention because it was poorly designed and constantly eroding. As early as 1911, The Board called a special meeting of stockholders to consider a proposal for rebuilding the dam. Apparently, the Board was rebuffed, for at their next meeting it passed, without comment, two resolutions. First, the President was to appoint a committee to determine better ways of handling affairs at the Club and second, the reconstruction of the dam was postponed indefinitely and the President was authorized to hire a man to oversee the repairing of the existing dam. The agenda of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting the following year focused on methods of reinforcing the dam. The Board then asked Charles Fisk, an Amarillo banker who was a member of the Board, to find someone to loan the Club money to repair the dam. Fisk chose Ruth Louise Andrews, a member of his wife's

family, who made the loan with a guaranteeing lien against Club property. Although women were not admitted to membership at that time, Andrews was the first of four women who were to come to the financial rescue of the Club.

Fishing dominated the activities of the early Club. The site was primarily chosen because of its bountiful supply of fish. Records indicate that in the nineteenth century, cowboys caught bass of up to eight pounds from pools along the creek. In addition to bass, the Club's waters held redear sunfish, crappie, bream, and various species of catfish. From the beginning, the Club made major efforts to increase the number and size of fish. Besides building the dam to enlarge the lake, members planted trees on banks and constructed a fish ladder on the spillway so that fish could find their way back into the lake. Mildred Kirk Caufield recalled that a favorite pastime of children was watching activity on the fish ladder.

Stocking was frequent. A notice to members in 1915 announced that additional white perch and black bass had been stocked, and later, it was noted that a train from Dallas had brought crappie and big mouth bream to be deposited in the lake. The Board sent knowledgeable

D. W. Owen to Hillsboro to see about bringing back "a lot of white perch and such other fish as are available there... to deposit in the waters of the Club grounds."

Frog gigging was popular, especially among boys, who delighted in their mothers' screams when the frog legs jumped from heated frying pans. By 1911 the Board ordered that the stream and lake be restocked with bull frogs. Turtles, on the other hand, were detested and bounties paid for their scalps. The Board ordered special traps and encouraged members to shoot all turtles sighted. Twenty years later, the Club hired a game warden to trap and destroy over six hundred of them. For several years a Turtle Shooting Day encouraged members to kill as many as they could find. In response to a recent inquiry, a State Fish and Game officer stated that there is no evidence that the presence of turtles is harmful to fish populations. But fishermen were angered when turtles ate their caught fish restrained on stringers or trot lines.

Moss, especially creek moss, whose rope stems grew three feet or longer, was a nuisance to fishermen and swimmers. It could also be dangerous for swimmers whose legs became entangled in its floating ropes. The Keeper regularly cleared moss from the swimming hole, and the Board sought outside expertise to remedy the

problem, to no avail. Accidents occurred. In 1911, Dr. J. P. Wood, a charter member of the Club, was by some unexplained accident drowned and concern about the moss heightened.

The Club provided fishing boats usually sufficient for members' needs. The Club boats were mostly of one safe design: wooden, snub nosed, wide, and flat bottomed. Members were expected to furnish their own oars and oarlocks. The boats were frequently repaired and replaced, and always numbered around a dozen or more. On weekends, all would usually be on the lake or the creek, often with two or three occupants. Fishermen were fined if they did not leave a boat at a designated station when finished with it.

Fishing rules were strict. Small fish were to be returned to the water. There were also limits as to the number or weight of fish that could be kept. Rules restricted fishing to cane poles with live bait and trot lines. The Keeper kept minnows and worms for sale, but members often got their own or used grasshoppers or other bait. Some enthusiasts had their own minnow tanks and were allowed to seine for minnows, but no other fish could be retained in that manner. Rules limited the use of trot lines. Despite the various restrictions, fishermen

could usually depend on bringing home sufficient numbers for the family's fish dinner.

The Club supported America's involvement in World War I in 1917 and 1918 by postponing plans for major improvements, instead putting the money into Liberty Bonds. Otherwise, the war seemed to have little impact on the Club's activities.

THE TWENTIES

The Twenties boomed financially for most Americans, and the discovery of vast oil and gas reserves in the Panhandle made it doubly true for Amarilloans. The city's population trebled between 1920 and 1930, and the market for shares in the Club increased. All this stimulated the demand for additional physical improvements in the Club. In 1917, the Board had tabled until after World War I a popular proposal to build a swimming pool. In 1919, the membership resurrected the proposal and added the raising of the lower dam and a "dance pavilion" to the construction list. By 1921, swimmers had abandoned the old swimming hole with its leeches and moss and moved on to the fine new swimming pool. Located on the flood plain between the creek and the Clubhouses, the pool and pavilion replaced the springhouse as the center of Club activities. Icy well water flowed steadily into the pool, and large elm and cottonwood trees shaded it, so that water remained frigid even in the hottest summer months. Not only was the pool not heated, it was not filtered. Each Monday, the Keeper pumped it dry, scrubbed its walls and refilled it with more icy water. Nevertheless by weekends divers found the lower waters murky and the bottom slimy.

Some members believed that children exposed to the somewhat unsanitary pool developed immunities which would contribute to their good health and longevity.

The large covered dance pavilion stretched the length of the pool and rested on the bank, a level above the pool. The main area enclosed on three sides and open above the pool, served for gatherings of members, as a center for games and dances, and as a sitting area for matrons overseeing children. Most members did not own cottages where they could change clothes, so the center of the pavilion was flanked by the six women's dressing rooms on the west and six men's dressing rooms on the east. Teenage boys spent much time discussing, and trying to envision, the activities in the girls' changing rooms. A diving ramp extended in front of the men's dressing room, and below at the deep end of the pool was a board for diving, which portly members and overly enthusiastic teenagers broke several times each summer. Cocky older boys often jumped or dove into the pool from the roof of the pavilion, thrilling girls and distressing adults. An unwritten, but inviolate, rule required swimmers to go to the pool with their suits rolled in towels and to leave the pool with their towels over their shoulders, holding their suits loosely in their hand after

partially drying them with the roller wringer installed at the side of the pavilion. A portion of the sidewalks to the pool and the foundations for the pavilion are still in place at this writing.

The President's report of March 1922 indicates that workmen and the Keeper had closed breaks in the lower dam and stopped an under leak. They had reconstructed the fish ladder, and replaced a water tower and tank at the Keeper's house, the old one having been blown over in a wind storm. They had also rebuilt fences, erected a new tool and pump house, repaired and painted both Clubhouses, and installed iron pipe auto gates. They worked out the hill road, establishing the north gate as the main one from Amarillo. Throughout the decade the Club was negotiating for purchase of a road right of way to the Canyon highway. As always, the fish committee continued to restock the lake with bass, largemouth bream, and crappie.

Obviously, the post war prosperity had made the Club management incautious spenders, and in 1922, members faced a large debt. At a special meeting, the general membership tried to ignore the problem. One member proposed an assessment, which was debated and voted down. Another member proposed a large

temporary dues increase; this, too, was rejected. Finally, members passed an absurdly worded motion to elect a special committee charged with devising means of "taking care of this indebtedness without disturbing the membership." Two weeks later the committee returned, radically proposing an increase in membership by twenty members. Shares were to sell for \$750 [\$7,700]. Before, a member was allowed to own only one share. Now, he might own two shares, but no more than two. Members approved an amendment to the charter in February 1922; the stock was subscribed, and the major portion of the debt retired. It was the only time in Club history that members allowed an increase in shares, even though the Amarillo area's population increased nearly fifty-fold in the years since the founding of the Club.

Interest in golf surged everywhere in the Twenties, and the Club was no exception. In 1922, a group of members consulted the expert who was working on the course at the newly formed Amarillo Country Club about creating a course for the Palo Duro Club. Discussion continued, but in 1927, the Board decided that too few members were interested and installation too expensive. They did allow for the organization of "an internal golf club which could be organized by those members who

wanted it...and would pay for it." No further mention of a golf course was made.

While golf failed, other "Twenties" games were popular. Members kept the grass tennis court between the pool and Clubhouses active. Rainy days found much demand for shuffleboard and ping pong in the pavilion. Horseshoes attracted men and boys, and bridge and other card games occupied adult afternoons. Dancers carried portable crank driven record players to the pavilion for evenings of Charlestons. Lela Wolflin Puckett remembered organizing dances, lighted by kerosene lamps, which lasted until late in the night. Members found recreational horseback a pleasure, now that horses had been largely replaced by the automobile.

A new booklet of rules and regulations appeared in 1923. The Club's purpose remained "supporting and maintaining a Hunting and Fishing and Outing Club for the benefit of its members," with the addition that "All members of the Club in good standing, and their families, shall be entitled to hunt, fish, camp and engage in other innocent sports on the Club property, subject to the regulations herein contained." Members were admitted to the Club by showing to the Keeper, on registering, a membership identification card issued by the Secretary.

Although hunting was still a stated purpose of the Club, it was becoming increasingly restricted because of the depletion or disappearance of game. Bears, mountain lions, bison, deer, foxes and wolves had roamed the canyon only a decade or so before the founding of the Club. Prairie chicken, turkey, grouse and plover had also disappeared, not to be reintroduced until later. Hunters wiped out cottontail rabbits for food; only inedible jack rabbits (hares) were numerous. One boy killed all the woodpeckers he could find, claiming he liked to eat them. A few feeble efforts were made to reintroduce new game at the time. For example, Allen Early presented the Club with several pheasants for breeding purposes.

As game declined and family use of the Club increased, a strict new rule prohibited absolutely the "Shooting or discharging guns, pistols, rifles or any other fire arms in the Club ground between April 1st and October 1st, each year, except that doves may be shot after September first." Hunters were now required to register with the Keeper the number of ducks they had killed. The Keeper kept the only duck decoys, and members desiring them were required to make application to him. The increasing development of nearby lakes caused a substantial decrease in the numbers of ducks and

geese. Rules forbade the shooting or capturing of quail and raccoons, deer, badgers, beavers, bobcats, coyotes, opossums, porcupines, skunks, red foxes, squirrels, prairie dogs, and reptiles, except for rattlesnakes.

The Permissive Twenties allowed for more relaxed clothing; men discarded their ties when arriving. But other rules continued to be rigidly enforced. Numerous and costly fines were imposed on members. Some found themselves not only suspended automatically when in arrears with dues and fines but also discovered their names added to the list of delinquents posted in the Club Room of the Keeper's house. The Board seemed almost obsessed with taming the last of the frontier non-conformists. One innovation seems to have occurred quietly. No woman's name appeared on the membership roles until 1915. Shares of deceased male members were sold only to other men, although many states had approved women's suffrage and the national amendment was around the corner. At the same time, several powerful widows, notably Mrs. M. D. Oliver-Eakle, the formidable merchant and real estate developer, were quietly added to the membership list as heirs of their husbands' shares. By 1930 there were over half a dozen others, including businesswoman Mrs. Charles Wolflin

and Mrs. Lee Bivins, the widow of Amarillo's most prominent citizen.

The prosperity brought numerous new cottages to the Club in the Twenties. Most were built, but others were moved into the Club grounds from consolidated farms or the expanding city. None were winterized and many were simple fishing shacks. A few had interesting histories, such as a dismantled carousel from the nearby Electric Circus at the Palisades which formed the basis of one cottage. Another boasted a history as a cowboy bunkhouse on a ranch. Rules required structures to be at least a hundred feet apart at this time. Houses were placed, by permission of the board, on sites collectively owned by the Club and treated as personal rather than real property. Members had the right of removal at any time and the Board could require the removal of a cottage not in good condition. By the end of the decade, there were upwards of two dozen houses. All had outhouses and none had utilities, except for a few private cottages which ran pipes to the Keeper's water tank. Kerosene lamps or candles provided the only lighting.

THE THIRTIES

The United States suffered the worst economic depression in its history during the Thirties and, at the same time, Amarillo found itself near the center of the equally devastating Dust Bowl. Thousands in the area lost their livelihoods and homes, banks failed, and businesses closed. The drought was so severe that millions of tons of topsoil blew away and crops were virtually non-existent for years.

The Club was no more prepared for the Crash than most of America. Club loans had to be carried over from the Twenties, and most members had difficulty in paying their dues. Many were forced into business and personal bankruptcies and either sold or forfeited their shares. As a final blow, the old dam, whose deficiencies required so many resources and efforts, broke up near the end of the decade. Amazingly, with disaster all around, the Club maintained a positive and optimistic aura, and continued to make improvements and plans for its future. It was almost as if the membership wanted to leave the outside world and its problems as they entered the sanctuary of the Club.

As elsewhere in America, the Club had to face financial issues constantly. As the Depression deepened,

pressure to lower the dues increased. In 1932, the Board resisted and was "determined not to lower the dues until the indebtedness of the Club is liquidated." In February of the same year, 58 of the 120, many of whom were among Amarillo's most prominent citizens, were delinquent in their debts to the Club. The Club suspended those with back debts after one year and sold the delinquent member's stock. Proceeds from the sale went to pay the member's debt and the remainder, if any, was returned to the former member. Prices of shares declined as they became more available on the market. Despite these problems, The Board did not compromise its standards for admission to membership, and the Club was reminded that only two negative votes by members of the Board would result in rejection of a candidate.

Despite financial problems, the Club moved ahead with improvements. The most important of these was the long-awaited provision of utilities. In 1935, the membership unanimously approved a motion providing for "the installation of a modern water system and that the directors be given consent and instructed to borrow the [money] to construct the system." Miss Gladys Seewald, daughter of a pioneer member, agreed to loan the necessary money for five years, secured by a lien on the

real property of the Club. Again, a woman had come to the Club's financial assistance. With the water main installed, bathing in the cottages was possible; cooking and washing were greatly simplified. Owners had thirty days to close outhouse toilets and install either chemical toilets or individual septic systems. Gone forever were the onerous tasks of hauling water from the springhouse to the cottages and cleaning outhouses.

In 1936, the Club persuaded the Southwestern Public Service Company to bring electricity to the Club. Electric lighting for the cottages was now available, as were electric refrigerators and other household appliances. Members could now prepare their own meals rather than depend on the Keeper's wife. Electricians immediately wired the Clubhouses, the Keeper's house, the swimming pool and pavilion, and the spring house. Electric pumps replaced the old Model T Ford engine which had pumped water from the well at the top of the canyon wall. Electric ranges and ovens replaced wood-burning stoves in the Clubhouses. Members also explored the possibility of installing natural gas mains, but the cost proved prohibitive. Bringing water and electricity as amenities were major events in making life easier and more pleasant for the members and their

families and making Club membership more attractive to prospective members.

Some rules were made more flexible. Responding to requests from women, who protested that the Clubhouses' use was dominated by men, the Board reserved the west Clubhouse for women, their husbands and sons and this rule remained in effect for half a dozen years. Another rule change involved the number of guests. Beginning in 1934, members could bring four male guests to the Club, providing they did not hunt, fish, or use the Club boats. Later, as an afterthought, the Board passed a similar rule allowing up to four women guests.

The big dam continued to be a source of anxiety. Its inadequate foundations had been poorly placed in the direct line of the stream's current. Even so, members insisted on increasing its height several feet to provide for more water in the lake for improved fishing. Obviously, this caused additional pressure on the weak dam. In 1936, after damage by high waters, there was debate on whether to repair the existing dam again or to construct a new one. At this time, people throughout the region had become obsessed with erosion, and extended this concern to the Palo Duro Canyon, seemingly forgetting that the 150-mile long canyon itself was created by erosion. The Club's

special concern was a backwash behind the dam. In a desperate but futile effort to slow this soil displacement, a member arranged for carcasses of old cars to be dumped behind the dam. A dozen of these relics, vintage 1920 automobiles, can still be seen on the banks of the stream at the eastern end of the Club.

The United States Soil Conservation Service, generally concerned about soil erosion in the Dust Bowl, sent a representative to a special meeting of the Club on September 18, 1936. He indicated that it was the government's view that an effective dam at the Club was essential to the entire canyon in its soil conservation program. As a result of the specialist's comments, Mr. Thomas Currie proposed that inasmuch as the Works Projects Administration offered to provide the labor if the Club would pay for the necessary materials, the dam should be repaired. He added that he would loan the Club the necessary money for the materials. The membership approved the plan and Mr. Currie loaned the Club the money. The WPA came to the Club, workers occupied both Clubhouses for the duration of their stay, and once again after considerable effort and expense, the dam was reinforced.

Despite these efforts and expenses, the dam collapsed seven months after the WPA completed its work. On May 30, 1937, a two and a half inch sudden rain over the canyon and more upstream rushed water through the breach in such volume that thousands of fish were left stranded in the mud of the lakebed. Members and their families rushed to the lake with baskets, burlap bags, buckets, or any other carrier they could find to pick fish out of the mud for their and their friends' dinners. Despite this calamity, the Club leadership moved forward undaunted.

Four days after the dam's washout, the new Keeper, Mack Stewart, announced to the *Canyon News* that "plans are being made to replace the dam." The Club hoped that the federal government would help with the new dam as it had with the old one. The venerable and persuasive Dr. R. Thomsen, pastor of the Central Presbyterian Church, agreed to travel to Washington to lobby with Congressman Marvin Jones. Jones was sympathetic but times had changed, and he now saw the use of federal funds for a private organization unlikely. Gene Howe, the popular and powerful publisher of the *Amarillo Globe* and *Amarillo News*, also went to

Washington to support Dr. Thomsen's endeavors, but he, too, was unsuccessful.

The national economy improved slightly in 1939, but it was the tenth year of the Depression and the Club's condition remained shaky. There were still over a third of the members in arrears with their dues, and it was now apparent that many who could pay would not because of uncertainty about the future of the Club. The dam created much of the uncertainty. It is difficult to overstate the importance of fishing to the well-being of the Club at that time. Other activities had begun to increase in popularity, but fishing remained the primary interest of a majority of the membership and without a lake, many believed that the Club could not survive. Fortunately, the Board persevered.

Thomas Currie had died, but his widow and daughter, Daisy Currie and Clara Smith, gave a second loan. For a third time, women rescued the Club. An anonymous lender agreed to loan money "for the purpose of re-building the Second Crossing with a view of holding fish yet remaining in the creek." The President signed a contract to reconstruct and increase the height of the second crossing four days later. The following March the chairman of the Fish Committee announced that 20,000

perch, 13,000 bass, 1,000 channel catfish, and, 4,000 crappie had been placed in Club waters. Much of the burden of the Club's operation and planning rested on a few members. Strong Boards continued to explore ways to build a new dam and it is due to their efforts that the Forties began with a much strengthened Club.

THE EARLY FORTIES

Refinancing the debt and replacing the dam were the Club's priorities during the first two years of the Forties. In a letter to the stockholders, the President announced that there were now only 108 members because twelve had been expelled during the preceding year for non-payment of dues. Six months later, five additional members were warned that they must pay their indebtedness within five days or forfeit their stock. Strong collection measures kept the Club operating and paying off the loans. Delinquent members were now down from a high of nearly fifty per cent to only ten per cent. The Board reduced the note to Mrs. Currie and monitored general expenses closely. Recovery from the Depression had begun, and the Club's prospects seemed considerably brighter.

At the Annual Meeting of 1940, after nearly three years of careful planning, a motion carried unanimously resolving "that a dam should be built and the money borrowed to build it and refinance the Club ...and that the Board of Directors be given complete authority to handle the same, finance all details and borrow from whomsoever possible." In view of the impending dam debt, members approved an increase in monthly dues.

Various engineers worked on the design of the dam, including the Chief Engineer of the Santa Fe Railroad, who volunteered his advice. As time approached to enter into a contract for construction, the President fortunately discovered that The State Board of Water Engineers required its approval of the design and specifications before construction could begin. The state engineers responded with a detailed commentary giving important information, especially on the danger of building on alluvial soil and sand layers, which could dangerously undermine the dam. The Club's consulting engineer agreed that the "suggested changes would [make] a safer structure." W. S. Thompson and Holland Page, contractors of Austin, submitted the lowest bid of \$19,215.12 [\$251,000], which the Board accepted.

Although the membership accepted a dues increase, it resoundingly rejected a motion for a special assessment and another to increase the membership in order to help pay for the dam. The Board then imaginatively decided to establish a subscription loan whereby various individuals would subscribe amounts of their own choosing to loan the Club. An outside trustee would be appointed to protect their interests. A lien against the Club's real estate secured the loan, which was

to be paid off in installments over ten years or less. Interest the first year was six percent per annum, graduating annually to thirteen percent the ninth year and nineteen percent of the unpaid balance the tenth year.

The strong new dam was superbly designed. Located on a U-turn in the stream, which slowed the flow naturally, the pressed earthen dam was placed in a deep trench dug to bedrock on the east side. The spillway was exposed bedrock with a concrete facing on the spillway side of the dam. Begun in the fall of 1940, workmen finished the dam in the early spring of 1941. The second crossing had been heightened to hold more fish, of which thousands had been added to Club waters and the holding pools. The Board banned fishing for six months before the completion of the dam to enhance the quality of the sport. A happy membership celebrated the opening of the new dam with great festivities.

Major attitude and rule changes also occurred at this time. Erwin C. Ochsner, a prominent Amarillo lawyer, had served as a strong and knowledgeable President during the challenging period after the dam collapsed and during the critical planning of financing and building the new dam. In his last report to the

stockholders, he made a final important recommendation.

Now permit me to make some suggestions that might be of some assistance. My personal experiences in the last two years have taught me a lot. I hope that the next president will get the benefit of some revamping of the Club rules.... Every member has a different idea as to [which] particular rules should be enforced. Some members object to the children and the dogs. They want the rules with reference to these to be strictly enforced. Others object to having horses on the Club properties and insist on strict rules governing this. Some have pet aversions that cover the question of taking guests to the Club properties.... I do not believe that there is anyone in the Club [who] has not violated some one of the rules. (This president and Board of Directors not excepted.) It seems to me that the rules and regulations should be made so that members... can and will enjoy themselves. The Club should be made a place for every member to enjoy himself. Some members enjoy fishing, some like swimming, some enjoy horses, some enjoy picnicking and others like to have guests. Why can it not be worked out so that every member will enjoy himself?

The membership enthusiastically supported the outgoing President's advice by liberalizing the bylaws. For over twenty years sons of members between the ages

of fifteen and twenty-one had been barred from the Club unless an accompanying member was present at all times. The new rule read, "Children of members over 15 and under 21 may enter the Club and take as guests children of non-members." Requirements for registration at the Keeper's house were relaxed. Members could keep their own boats at the Club. Fisher members could now keep up to forty-five fish a day. Reservation times for meals were made more flexible. In only one instance were the rules tightened: firearms were absolutely prohibited on the Club property, except for shotguns during dove, duck, and goose seasons. Of course members could take shotguns on the property to shoot turtles. As a token of gratitude for Ochsner's outstanding leadership, the members held a ceremony honoring him by naming the new dam the Erwin C. Ochsner Dam.

These were World War II days, but the Club seemed little affected except for the young men and women drawn into service. Gas rationing limited trips to town, but the Board replaced the team and wagon by a used truck and installed a gasoline tank which members could also use on the honor system. Seventy-five thousand fish from state hatcheries were put in the creek and lake. Frog gigging was resumed. Members and the

Board continued to plant trees and scatter rice and celery seed along lake shores, so that the plants would attract ducks and geese. Several members dug duck blinds along the edge of the lake.

In 1943, the county opened the new road from the Canyon highway to the Club. The west Clubhouse had burned to the ground and the use of the east Clubhouse had declined. Stockholders that same year agreed that married daughters of members whose husbands were in the armed services should be given the privileges of the Club. In 1944, Dr. R. D. Gist bought the east Clubhouse at auction to house his three married daughters and their children until their husbands returned from the war. The house, located north of the swimming pool has been restored and remains in private hands.

Tragedy struck the Club on the afternoon of August 13, 1944, when Dewitt Leachman, a guest at the Club, became entangled in lake rope moss when he dove in the water from a fishing boat which he believed was capsizing. Leachman, 41, a prominent Amarillo businessman and civic leader, was submerged for less than three minutes, but all efforts to resuscitate him failed. The Club immediately renewed efforts to eliminate the dangerous weed from Club waters and ultimately

succeeded. Some time later, the Club decided to ban all swimming in the creek and lake.

Other than the construction of the dam and the reduction of rules, the other major change for the Club was the appointment in 1940 of E. E. "Rusty" O'Donald as Keeper. The tenure of earlier keepers had been generally brief and often unsatisfactory, but the young Rusty was stable, hard-working, knowledgeable, and skilled. In addition to the many Club chores, he also continued to maintain a truck garden, grow chickens and cows, and his wife prepared meals early in their tenure and sold vegetables and dairy products to members. He assisted in the building of the dam by dynamiting rock beds and hauling the rocks with a team and wagon to build facing for the dam. His varied skills served the Club well. Friendly, witty and cooperative, he soon won the respect and affection of members. Rusty's tenure as Caretaker lasted until his death thirty seven-years later.

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF
TEXAS



The Palo Duro Club

AMARILLO, TEXAS

Capital Stock, \$20,000.00

This is to Certify That Wm. Boyce is the owner of
One Share of the Capital Stock of the

THE PALO DURO CLUB

transferable only in the Books of the Company in person
or by Attorney upon surrender of this Certificate.

In Witness Whereof, the duly authorized officers of this Company have
hereunto subscribed their names and caused the corporate seal to be hereunto affixed
at Amarillo, Texas, this 15th day of April 1905



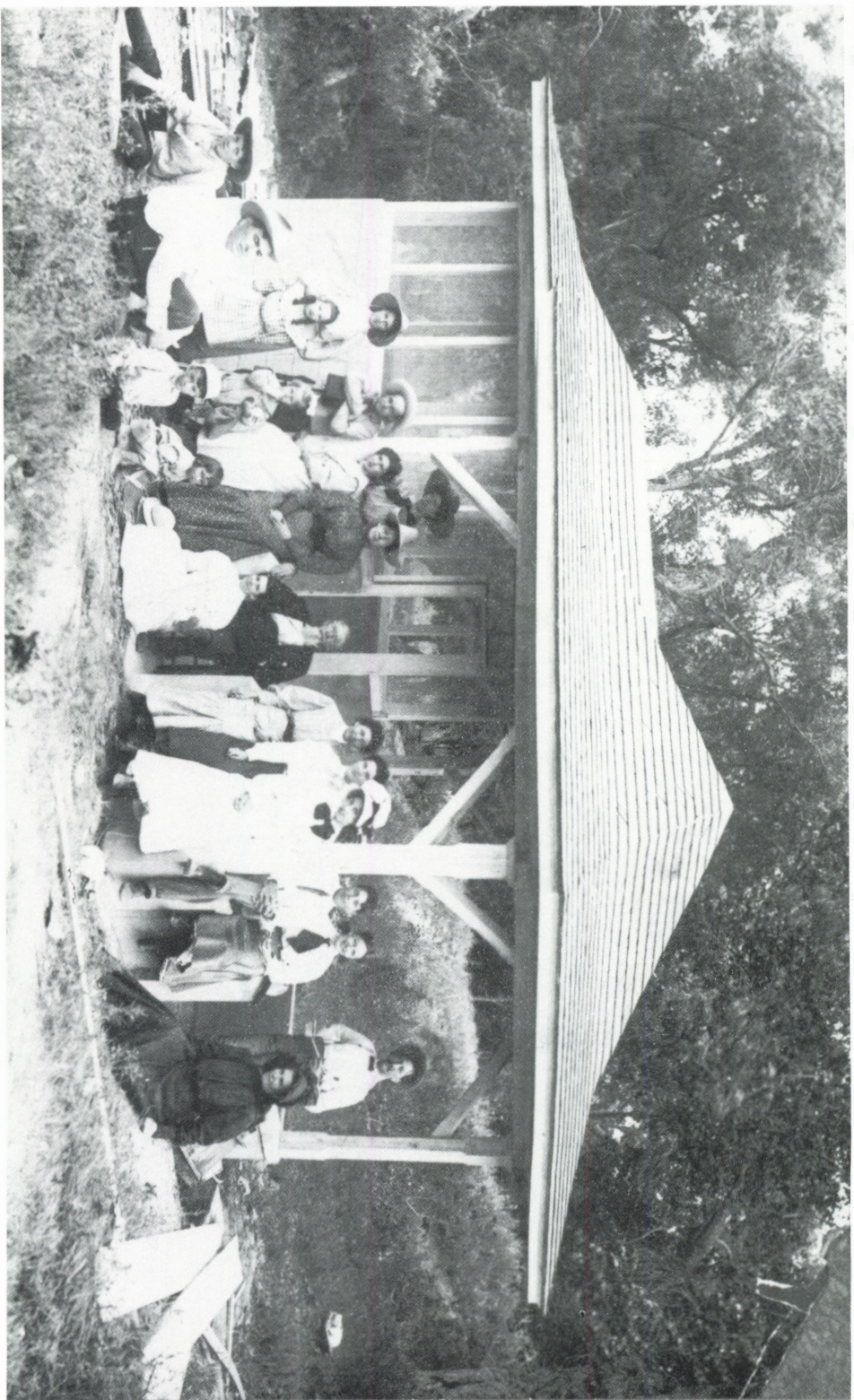
Wm. Boyce

W. Boyce

Secretary

President

\$200



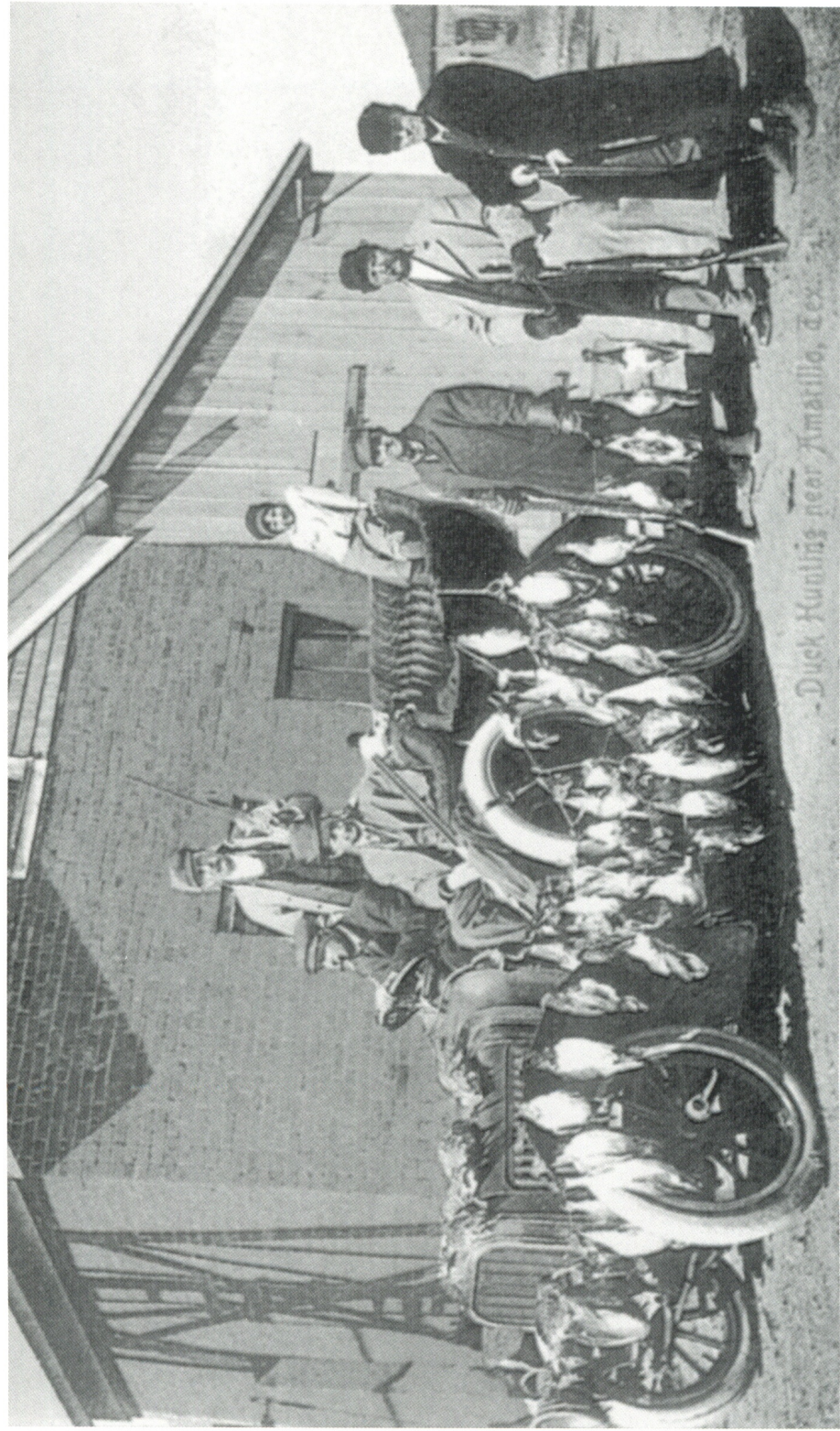
c. 1905 - The completed Springhouse with a group of unidentified individuals in the foreground.



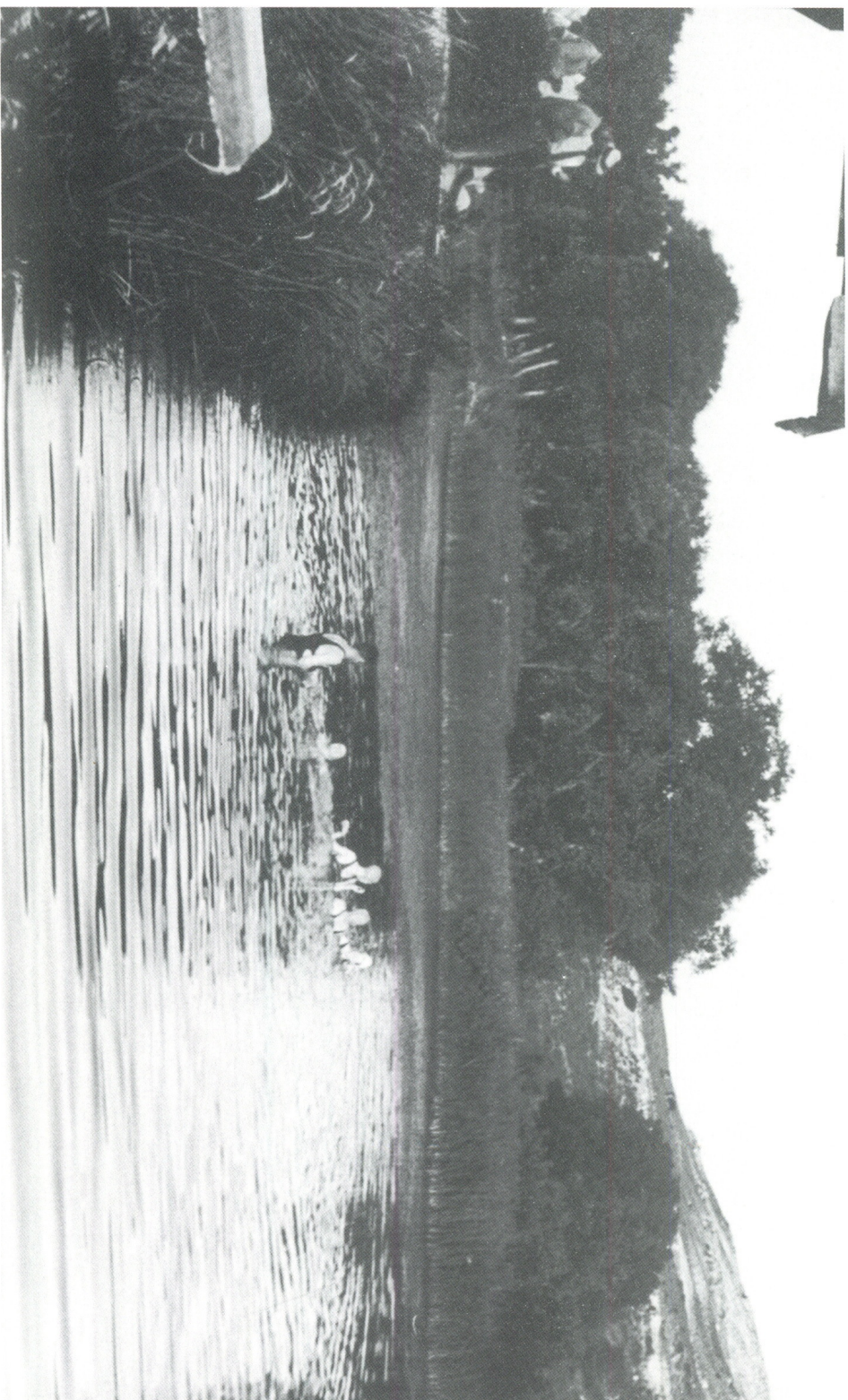
c. 1906 - The east clubhouse with four buggies, horses and unidentified individuals.

c. 1907 - The Huston, Currie and Boyce cottages, with an outhouse and the Springhouse. The clubhouses appear in the distance.





1908 - Tom Currie, C. O. Wolflin, Charles A. Wolflin, L. O. Thompson, E. O. Thompson, D. W. Owen and J. P. Wood
after a successful duck hunt at the Palo Duro Club.



c. 1910 - The original swimming hole with unidentified swimmers and observers.



c. 1920 - The W. S. Rule cottage (#12). Today, the background is occupied by many cabins and hundreds of trees.



c. 1942 - The old swimming pool, pavilion, men's dressing room, the author and his brother, Phil.

THE POST WORLD WAR II PERIOD, 1945-1975

The peace at the end of World War II brought with it a period of prosperity for the nation and for the Club. The thirty years following the war were the most active in the Club's history, and its role as a residential summer colony was at its height. Families sought ways to spend their wartime savings, and two-car families and vacation homes became common. Wartime restrictions and sacrifices ended, including gasoline rationing and limitations on construction materials. The building of Interstate 27, paving the road from the highway to the Club, and surfacing the major Club roads in the sixties provided easier all-weather access to the Club from town. In 1967, the Board approved the installation of an electrically controlled remote gate opener. Communication was eased. In 1945, the only phone at the Club was at the Keeper's house; by the seventies, most cabins had telephones, and the telephone company had eliminated long distance tolls to Amarillo. All this resulted in a near tripling of cabins at the Club from slightly over thirty at the end of the War to eighty-nine in 1969.

Remaining sites in the older section filled, and cabins appeared on top of the bluff. The Board opened the

pasture and farm area around the milking barn along the creek for a dozen cabins, several of which were later designated as "permanent." The old milking barn still stands among them. Twenty more members built on the south side of the creek. Some moved small houses from town or from consolidated farms; others brought sheds from the discontinued sections of the Amarillo Air Force Base east of Amarillo. A few of these structures reflected earlier times, such as the alleged former passenger station hauled in from Umbarger, and the Club's only log cabin, built by the author's father. On the whole, the quality of construction improved. New rules prohibited motor homes. Many members winterized their cabins, installed central air conditioning, planted ornamental shrubbery and trees, and set up automatically sprinkled lawns. The enormous growth of private cabins during this period met the Club's housing needs indefinitely; only four or five cottages were constructed after that time.

The Keeper's house was old, shabbily built, drafty, insufficiently winterized, and badly deteriorating. In 1964, the Board recommended and the membership approved the construction of a three bedroom, brick-veneered Caretaker's residence across the road south of the old Keeper's house. Work progressed rapidly, and

when the new house was complete, the old one was dismantled for scrap lumber by West Texas State College agricultural students.

Although the quality of fishing continued to decline, fishing enthusiasts persevered in trying to find ways to enhance the quality of water life. Tens of thousands of bass, perch, bream, crappie, and channel catfish had been added to the waters over the decades, but by the late forties, the stock of larger fish had diminished, though there was no lack of very small fish. The Board asked a State Fish and Game expert for advice. He netted several small specimens, removed scales from each, examined the scales under a microscope, and announced that the fish were severely stunted because the waters had been overstocked. The Board immediately abolished limits and encouraged fishermen to keep or destroy all the fish that they caught. Trash fish, particularly shad and carp, were part of the problem and the Board undertook periodic fish poisoning to eliminate these undesirables. The process required that larger bass, perch, crappie and blue catfish be removed temporarily from the lake and placed in the hatchery ponds and the swimming pool, then returned to the lake when the poison had dissipated. Large poisoning programs took place regularly into the

late sixties and early seventies. The overall quality of creek and lake water declined as the town of Canyon continued to dump its poorly processed sewerage in Palo Duro Creek and insecticide and herbicide laden run-off from farms and lawns increased.

In addition, throughout the area, massive irrigation of farms begun after the War, along with increasingly heavy water use in the cities steadily lowered water levels in the aquifers. This slowed the flow of springs or eliminated them entirely. A few springs continued to flow along the creek throughout this period and in 1961, erosion uncovered a spring near the main gate, which required a culvert to divert it to the creek. But the water was so low by 1964 that the Board considered adding water by digging a well by the creek. It was the dam, though, which caused the major water concern.

Beneficial as dams are, they also often block the movement of eroded silt, which would otherwise wash down the river. By the late sixties, the silt on the creek and lake bottom had displaced almost half the volume of water that had existed when the lake filled after the dam was built. Essentially four solutions were possible: (1) ignore the problem, (2) destroy the dam and allow nature to retrench the channel, (3) raise the spillway to broaden

the lake, and (4) dredge major portions of the creek and lake. The Board chose the latter and signed a contract in 1968 to bring in a huge barge dredge from Galveston. It removed three hundred thousand cubic yards of silt from the creek and lake beds and deposited it on ugly mounds parallel to the creek.

Some fishing continued throughout the sixties and in season boats could often be seen on the water. Several members have urged the inclusion of an account of a dramatic and frightening boating incident. Late one afternoon during this period, alarmed and distressed word spread throughout the cabin area that member Harold Brady had drowned. The Bradys were a colorful and gregarious couple, who had a wide group of friends at the Club. Harold and his wife Kitty had been fishing in their boat when she decided to go back to their cabin. Returning to the lake later, she found Harold missing, their boat unmoored and his hat floating on the surface of the lake. Convinced that he had drowned, she spread the alarm, and a large, concerned crowd, including county Sheriff's officers, firemen, ambulance drivers, first aid men, and television cameramen quickly gathered around the boat dock. One courageous member stripped to his jockey shorts, and dove in to search for the body.

Another rushed off to find grappling hooks, while others poked about in the water with the ends of their cane fishing poles. In the midst of these activities, a new arrival announced to the crowd that she had found Harold walking along the road and had dropped him off at his house, where he was preparing to receive guests for the cocktail hour. Of the many variations of this favorite piece of Club folklore, this eyewitness account is undoubtedly the most accurate.

The actual safety record of the Club has generally been excellent. For one hundred years, other than the drownings of two men, one in 1911, the other in 1944 (and these deaths may have been caused by heart attacks), there have been no accidental deaths or permanently disabling injuries on the Club grounds, even though many thousands of men, women and children participating in potentially dangerous outdoor activities involving horses, guns, campfires, fireworks, boats, the lake, the swimming pool, cliff climbing, and bicycle and automobile riding.

The uses of the Club continued to change. During the sixties and early seventies, the Club was much in use as a summer colony for families. Many members closed their houses in town and moved their families to the Club for the summer, the men commuting to work

during the week. Some families kept as many as four horses in the pastures. Children's activities dominated this period. Teenagers would emerge early in the morning from their cabins to join others on horseback and spend the rest of the day in various activities. Twenty to thirty kids, most of those not camping, ended the day after supper playing "kick the can" at the pavilion until it was demolished in 1969, after which they played on open ground. The Board built new tennis courts and a shuffleboard court and, for a brief period, permitted water skiing as well as motorcycle and dune buggy riding.

The international youth rebellions of the Sixties touched the Club only lightly, but the adults, well aware of the movements and eager to avoid the spread to their own households, sought means of easing the tensions of restless teenagers. When a group approached the Board requesting permission to hold dances with hired bands, it readily agreed. The teenagers chose "The Coachmen," decided that badges would be required for admission, and announced that adults, other than the security guard and a small number of chaperones, were not welcome in the area of the dances or even in sight of them. A Committee for Youth Activities began meeting a short time later.

With hunting restricted to short seasons for three kinds of migratory birds, considerable wildlife began to reappear, at times to excess. Raccoons thrived on the contents of member's trash cans and multiplied wildly, not infrequently taking up residence in cabins. Beavers did such damage to trees and water flow that the State Fish and Game officers trapped a dozen or more and moved them out of the Club. They also hired Roland O'Donald, Rusty's younger son, to shoot twenty-five more. Some weighed as much as seventy pounds. But other wildlife was welcomed. Keepers began feeding turkeys, quail, pheasants and deer in the winters, and more people were seen in open areas observing the wildlife.

THE MODERN ERA, 1976-2005

By 1975 the Club had matured, and its physical structures were in place. The roads, crossings, dam and spillway, tennis courts, swimming pool and accessory structures, Caretaker's house, picnic grounds, grove church grounds, corrals, shotgun practice range, and the number of private cabins have remained virtually unchanged. Some members undertook renovations or rebuilding of their cabins, the pool area was fenced and a new rifle range was added in 2003. Otherwise, a visitor returning after thirty years would recognize the Club's appearance essentially as he or she had left it.

On the other hand, the uses of the Club changed substantially over the same thirty year period. A local recession caused by falling oil and cattle prices, drought, and over-speculation in real estate began in the early eighties and continued through much of the decade, but the economy recovered afterward and the values in sales of cabins and shares began to rise again. The use of the Club by families with children as a summer-long residence declined precipitately for a variety of reasons, including increased family travel, the growth of sports and other recreational activities in town, and the assertiveness of a new generation of teenagers who

preferred to be with their peers in town. General interest in horseback riding and fishing declined as well. Tennis flourished, and social activities replaced earlier forms of recreation. A new generation of toddlers with their mothers appeared at the pool in the early twenty-first century. Other significant enhancements occurred during this thirty year period, but there were also problems.

The most cataclysmic moment in Club history came without warning when a flash flood struck on May 26, 1978, after a long drought. The skies dropped eight inches of rain in an hour and a half over the lower portions of Tierra Blanca and Palo Duro creeks in the vicinity of the town of Canyon, sending disastrous flood waters downstream. Recently constructed concrete medians on the highway compounded the difficulties by holding back rising waters. The *Canyon News* reported that when the concrete medians broke, the flood surged down the canyon at a rate of up to 60,000 cubic feet per second in some places. Bridges washed out, and uprooted trees, boats, sheds, houses, cars, and other debris disappeared in the torrent. The flood drowned four people, left hundreds homeless, and destroyed millions of dollars worth of property and crops.

The *Canyon News* noted that twenty drowned cows from a ranch south of Canyon washed down to the Club. Flood waters rose four feet over the swimming pool, obliterating the Club archives in the pool house. The Roy Northrup family cabin by the first crossing vanished leaving only a driveway, which is still visible. Dr. Pat Oles and his son walked from their cabin to higher ground when the flood waters rose, and returned after the waters subsided only to find that their cabin had disappeared. Two weeks later the Oles found their player piano standing on a knoll opposite the dam. Water damaged twenty-three cabins, a dozen severely, and one so extensively that it had to be pulled down and rebuilt. Several boathouses disappeared, and the springhouse floated away from its foundation. The Board hired security guards on a twenty-four hour basis until workers could replace the main gate and fences on the west and east sides of the Club. High water swept away portions of the dam and spillway and damaged the crossings. At a special meeting, the membership authorized the Board to hire firms to clean up the debris and make repairs. Cabin owners roamed the Club grounds for weeks searching for personal possessions they hoped to salvage and dumped their wrecked belongings in a special pit the caretaker dug

for that purpose behind the dam. Debris stranded in the tops of trees took years to disintegrate or blow away. Experts claimed that such storms would only occur once in centuries. It was certainly the only one of such magnitude in the recorded history of the area.

But the droughts began again and the deteriorating condition of the creek and lake continued to challenge the Club. Fish require a certain depth of water to survive extremes in temperature, and much of the water was only three feet deep or less, with a few deeper pools reaching six feet. Also, the oxygen content was poor because the town of Canyon, ignoring protests from the State government, continued to dump poorly processed sewerage in the waterways, which left a coat of pollution on the creek and lake bottoms. As a result, for several years massive numbers of fish died during hot summer weeks, despite the use of an aerating machine which pumped air into several locations along the creek.

A Texas Range and Wildlife Department study showed that most of the water was shallow and that there was "a large flux in the water level and quality." It did find some bluegill sunfish, green sunfish, redear sunfish, black bullheads, largemouth bass, crappie, and most prevalently, carp. It also reported that the town of

Canyon had provided most of the water. Canyon shifted its waste water deposits to rural land south of the town, cutting off the main source of water for the creek. The Club persuaded the Hunsley Hills golf course to use well water for grass watering, rather than pump from the creek, but the benefit was small. Silt steadily built up until the Board considered dredging again in 1998. When trees were dormant in winter, the water rose slightly, indicating some remaining contributions by springs, but by 2002, the situation became disastrous after a long drought. Die-offs eliminated most of the fish population, the lake virtually disappeared, and the creek was the lowest it had been since the dam was built sixty years earlier.

Members became concerned about water for their horses and wildlife. Wildlife diminished. Upstream, authorities of the Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge were considering a name change because that lake had disappeared. The Board, acknowledging that inconsistent rainfall was now the major source of water, appointed a committee of knowledgeable members to explore the possibility of obtaining highly purified, recycled water from the Amarillo water treatment plant on Hollywood Road. Several months later, after hearing a progress report, the membership voted strongly in support of the

committee's continuing efforts. For several years the Tanglewood community has enjoyed great success with such an arrangement with the treatment plant, and the committee is pursuing ways in which the Club might benefit as well. Most Club members realize that the character of the Club is at stake, that some solution must be found to preserve wildlife and the gains from the century-long effort to plant and nurture trees and other vegetation that distinguish the Club from other areas in the canyon.

The overgrazing of the saddle horses caused another environmental problem. In the mid-1940s there were thirty-five or forty horses; the number soared to between sixty and eighty by the late seventies. The herd grazed at random outside the cabin area through all seasons with no supplemental feeding and older horses became emaciated by spring. The overgrazing severely damaged grasses in many areas, allowed a proliferation of yucca and sagebrush, and increased the erosion of topsoil into the creek and lake. In 1973, a soil conservation study required that the horses be removed from one pasture. The next year the Club sprayed herbicide in an effort to control yucca and mesquite and began rotating the herd among various sections of the Club in order to allow the

grass to recover. People now acknowledged that the size of the herd was the problem, and in 1976 an event occurred which added to it. Stallions were strictly forbidden in the Club, but a veterinarian incorrectly informed Warren and Celine Freeman that their colt was too young to breed. As mares' bellies enlarged, their owners were perturbed, and several months later the mares gave birth to over a dozen foals. Finally, the Board undertook a census of horse ownership and instituted quarterly fees for feeding and veterinary care. Many horse owners responded by moving their unused horses from the Club and the herd declined to thirty almost immediately. Interest in horseback riding obviously waned over time as only a dozen or so horses remain at this writing.

A number of improvements in operations benefited the community during this era. Security needs grew with the increase of population in the area. Signing in at the Caretaker's house had ended, and with the turnover of membership, it was difficult to recognize those who belonged. Keys and gate openers were easy to duplicate and it required steady surveillance to keep out trespassers. For a number of years the Club hired security services with uneven success. In September of 1977 and

again in 1990 the Club established systems by which keys could only be duplicated by the manufacturer. Keys issued to members were numbered, and replacements were obtainable only through the secretary. A similar system was adopted for the gate openers. In 1980, windshield stickers were required on all members' vehicles entering the Club. These substantially eased security.

Installation of a dumpster service solved another group of problems. Traditionally, the caretaker emptied cabin owners' garbage cans once a week, depositing the contents in a landfill trench past the dam. In 1983, as a result of new state legislation forbidding landfills, the Club contracted with a weekly dumpster service. Thereafter, members deposited their own garbage in the dumpsters near the Club entrance. The new practice was not only more sanitary but also allowed the caretaker to pursue other activities. Finally, to the joy of cabin owners, it dramatically reduced the raccoon population. Raccoons had historically been among the worst pests at the Club. These exceptionally clever nocturnal animals quickly found ways to break into garbage cans and strew the garbage about. They fought among themselves and their screams and knocking the garbage cans about

frequently woke cabin occupants. Moreover, they were not easily intimidated, standing their ground, and often frightening and angering their victims. In the late thirties, the Board granted its own members exception to the gun rule, so that they might shoot raccoons on sight. That effort was less than successful, as were other methods which were tried later. Regular trapping and shooting reduced the groups only temporarily. As late as 1980, a trapper killed more than forty, the charges for his services being their skins. The dumpsters were too heavy for the raccoons to penetrate, and most of the survivors moved outside the Club to better foraging grounds, to the delight of human cabin owners.

Some of the Club's infrastructure required attention. In 1987, after having spent substantial sums to repair the water system, major leaks in the main line continued to average a loss of 25,000 gallons daily and substantially lowered the water pressure to the cabins. Under the leadership of Jim H. Perkins, Chair of the Board's Committee on Water and Roads, workmen rebuilt the old main and constructed two new branches creating a much improved system which brought water much nearer to individual cabins. Soon another issue arose relating to the water supply. The State Water Commission mandated

that if there were more than fifteen permanent residences, the law required that it become a "regulated community" as far as water use was concerned.

Thus, the question of who might use the Club as his or her sole residence reopened. Earlier concerns in the 1970s about too many members making the Club their year-round home resulted in a rule that required Board approval for anyone wanting to become a "permanent." A few permanents were welcomed, but sentiments always strongly favored keeping the Club a retreat of secondary vacation homes, rather than allowing it to become a residential community. When the State Water Commission issued its guidelines, the membership clearly wished to avoid state involvement. The issue was how to keep the numbers lower than fifteen. A special committee reported to the membership, and extensive discussions, sometimes heated, followed. The resolution was a standing rule, approved March 21, 1994, which designated nine specific cabins as permanent. Individual permanent lifetime status may be awarded to a small additional number at the discretion of the Board.

The Club resolved another matter involving the State of Texas in 1999. The state had granted the original charter of incorporation for fifty years. When it expired,

the state renewed it for another fifty-year period. Later, the State of Texas mistakenly changed the charter from a non-profit corporation to a for profit corporation, but the Club protested and the State ultimately granted a non-profit perpetual charter solving the Club's long-term legal status.

The best thing that happened to the Club during this period was the Board's appointment of Joe Stephenson as Caretaker in 1989. After the death of Rusty O'Donald in 1977, most of the Caretakers had been short term. The selection of Joe and his wife Jennie was a boon to the Club. Joe is a dedicated, honest, loyal, courteous, skilled and stable Caretaker. An excellent horseman who participates in roundups, canyon treks and archeological hunts, he clearly loves the geology, fauna and flora of the Club. Although Jennie is not a paid employee of the Club and has her own career, she is always ready to give cheerful assistance to any member in need. They have been an important key to the Club's well-being.

Throughout its history, the Club has evolved to meet the interests of its members. The hunting, fishing, and camping that absorbed the early members have virtually disappeared. Horses dominated one period, to be

reduced to a dozen or so at present. Women became more numerous as Club members, and one became vice president and another Club secretary. The popular annual barbecue traces back to the Thirties, as do Fourth of July celebrations. But, in earlier days, the majority of adults did not socialize very much, enjoying the outdoor opportunities as families instead. Today, an active social life interests many. Sunday church in the woods and pot-luck dinners are popular, as are the water volleyball games that follow. Tennis tournaments have dedicated participants, and Fourth of July parades, barbecues and dances draw hundreds. There are sequence parties from one cabin to the next, Tie Dye Sundays and Carp Contests, and bicycle riding for children is the current rage. Cinema al Aire attracts movie buffs; private dinner parties, brunches, backyard barbecues and cocktail hours keep many busy throughout the summer. The early Club had no electricity, telephones, radios, or television. Today, computers, electronic games, television, and radio keep many occupied during the day and evenings.

The change-makers have always been met with resisters to change. The first private boat was greeted with disapproving comments. When the first fly rods and artificial lures were brought to the lake by individuals

insensitive to the Club's unwritten traditions, the members passed a rule forbidding any fishing device other than cane poles and live bait. When the first cabin appeared with central air conditioning, many said that the owners might as well have stayed in town. The same comments greeted the arrival of the first bathtub. Throughout most of the Club's history, most members could have afforded any kind of accommodation they wished at the Club, but the traditional consensus determined that cabins should remain simple and rustic. In recent years, however, cabin owners have employed architects and interior decorators to assist them in arranging their luxurious and fashionable renovations and rebuilding.

The Club is constantly evolving, as has the canyon itself over the eons. Members respect tradition, but efforts to hold back legitimate change have usually failed. Of course, no two people have ever conceived the Club in precisely the same way. As Pattilou Dawkins, a third generation Club member, says, "The Palo Duro Club is a state of mind." Each person enjoying the Club has found his or her own interests in the rich array of choices the Club has to offer, and each has valued the Club from a unique perspective. Today, the Club is popular and thriving and enjoys the loyalties, affections, and rich

memories of generations that have participated in its history. To be certain, there are challenges for the future, but if we meet them with the wisdom and dedication of our predecessors, the next century for the Palo Duro Club should be as rich and rewarding as the past.

THE MEMBERS OF THE PALO DURO CLUB

This list of members was compiled by Mary Berry, Secretary to the Board, from the Club's official records, primarily, the stock issue books. The dates are derived from the first appearance of a member's name in the records. Unfortunately, there are missing records from the early years. The post-1925 listings are generally accurate.

MEMBERSHIP ... Chronologic / Alpha
(from stock certificate registrations and available records)

1905	Bivins	A. W.	1913	Jackson	C. D.
	Boyce	William		Jackson	M. J. R.
	Conrad	A. L.		Jones	J. B.
	Currie	Thomas		Kieser	C. O.
	Duncan	J. N.		Killough	R. S.
	Freeman	J. N.		Lay	William
	Fuqua	W. H.		Lockett	W. A.
	Lester	L. T.		Lumpkin	J. J.
	Lowndes	C. J. E.		Madden	S. H.
	Lumpkin	A. A.		Masterson	R. B.
	Newcome	R. B.		Mayer	Charles F.
	Owen	D. W.		McDonald	H. F.
	Reeder	C. B.		McKnight	John
	Seewald	P. H.		McMeans	R. L.
	Thompson	L. O.		Neely	J. M.
	Wolflin	Frank		Neely	Roscoe
1906	Boyce	Albert G.		Nobles	H. A.
	Bynum	B. C. D.		Nobles	M. C.
	Hunt	Oscar		Nugent	J. S.
	Hutson	Jno.		Ong	F. M.
	Nunn	G. J.		Park	D. A.
	Ware	B. T.		Powell	D. A.
1909	Allen	W. B.		Reeves	Newt.
	Burgess	E. S.		Roberts	W. S.
	Elliott	C. P.		Rowan	Thomas
	Fisk	C. A.		Russell	J. M.
	Marrs	L. D.		Scales	Rollie
1911	Early	Allen		Seay	Dick
	Gooch	Horace		Sellers	O. I. (Lon)
	Kendrick	Ike		Stanley	A. G.
	Luke	F. P.		Stewart	D. M.
	McLaufhlín	M.		Stone	Ben H.
	Turner	Thomas F.		Storm	J. C.
	Powell	D. A.		Thompson	L. T.
	Wolflin	C. O.		Thompson	Terry
1912	Butler	F. M.		Thompson	W. N.
	Dickson	A. S.		Underwood	Robert
	Herring	C. T.		Veal	John
	Hoover	C. D.		Vinyard	G. T. (Dr.)
	Pearson	Perry		Wayland	John
	Puckett	J. W.		Wells	L. A.
	Riggs	J. N.		Wharton	George
1913	Bivins	Lee		Willard	W. M.
	Brandenburg	Ford		Wills	J. H.
	Bryant	J. E.		Wilson	Howard
	Canode	H. P.		Wood	J. P. (Dr.)
	Cooper	H. H.		Word	C. Y.
	Cousins	R. B.	1914	Kirk	R. D.
	Crossett	W. W.		Rogers	R. L. (Dr.)
	Crume	J. J. (Dr.)	1915	Askew	W. A.
	Cunningham	M. W.		Blackburn	H. Walter
	Currie	J. J.		Harrington	J. K.
	Dooley	J. B.		Lumpkin	A. F. (Dr.)
	Eakle	O. M.		Seay	Sam L.
	Fagan	S. T.		Spann	J. E.
	Fox	F. C.	1917	Blasdel	Eugues S.
	Garner	C. R.		Eakle	M. D. Oliver (Mrs.)
	Harding	H. C.		Finkle	E. E.
	Howell	Harry		Kearns	Harry L.
	Hume	H. E.		Shuford	J. D. (Mrs.)
	Humphrys	C. M.	1918	Ames	R. H.

1918	Blackburn	Gertrude H. (Mrs.)	1922	Kinder	L. S.
	Granberry	E. F.		Kindred	J. M.
	Green	C. L.		King	S.
	Hopkins	W. P.		Kirk	W. E.
	Newby	L. B.		McKinnon	E. A.
	Thomsen	R. (Dr.)		McKnight	A. L.
	White	L. C.		McKnight	Jon S.
	Whittle	J. W.		McMeans	R. L. (Mrs.)
1919	Chism	Tony		Merrill	Sam R.
	Hill	J. E.		Miller, Jr.	Will A.
	Mays	D. W.		O'Brien	W. O.
	Vaughn	Sam B.		Oliver	G. T.
1920	Bivins	M. G.		Ordway	G. G.
	Rule	W. S.		Patton	W. D.
1921	Burgess	E. B.		Paul	J. C.
	Davis	G. C.		Pierson	J. W.
	Hardin	E. W.		Powell	F. P.
	Kritser	D. S.		Pritchard	J. H.
	Likens	T. S.		Putty	F. M.
	Roberts	E. L.		Ray	J.
	Saunders	J. J.		Reagan	Charles A.
1922	Anthony	Louis		Reedy	E. H.
	Barlow	W. A.		Sanborn	H. B.
	Barnes	W. Latney (Mrs.)		Seeds	R. R.
	Beverly	J. R.		Seewald	F. P.
	Blair	J. F.		Sellars	Lon
	Bowman	J. R.		Shaw	T. F.
	Bristow	R.		Slade	S. J.
	Britain	E. C.		Smith	Clark
	Campbell	J. I.		Smith	Heb
	Chase	A. L.		Smith	J. L.
	Chastain	Allen (Dr.)		Sneed, Jr.	J. T.
	Cross	S. D.		Stevenson	W. B. (Mrs.)
	Crossett	W. A.		Stone	Ben H.
	Davidson	A.		Stringfellow	F. L.
	Dewitt	Frank		Thomas	George T.
	Dodson	F. W.		Trigg	S. L.
	Dohoney, Jr.	E. L.		Turner	Avery
	Ellison	W. W.		Veale	Jno. W.
	Franklin	F. S.		Waddill, Jr.	George M. (Dr.)
	Freeman	H. N.		Wallace	H. H.
	Fullar	S. C.		Wallace	J. R.
	Fuqua	J. L.		Ware	R. C.
	Furgeson	Jno. E.		Webster	Ira
	Galbraith	H.		Williams	George S.
	Garretson	J. N.		Witt	E. J.
	Garwood	W. D.		Works	G. A.
	Gentry	Harvey G.		Zimmerman	F. W.
	Gist	R. D. (Dr.)	1923	Gustavas	C. R.
	Gouldy	J. H.		Randall	Albert L.
	Hamlin	J. D.		Ware	A. H.
	Harp	E. A.	1924	Wells	L. H.
	Hubbell	C. H.	1925	Asbury	H. A.
	Humphrey	E. R.		Caldwell	M. L.
	Isaacs	J. Joe		Davidson	Emily (Mrs.)
	Jack	H. R.		Dickson	J. B.
	Johnson	C. F.		Gordon	J. J.
	Jones	H. B.		Guleke	J. O.
	Kendrick	J. I.		Howe	Gene
	Kenyon	W. C.		Jackson	Rockwell
	Kerr	Herman		Oliver	Calloway

1925	Seay	D. P.	1931	Patton	L. K. (Dr.)
	White	D. W.		Thompson	Willie H.
	Wooldridge	P. J.	1933	Adkinson	Charles
	Yates	G. L.		Jackson	R. C.
1926	Askew	W. L. (Dr.)	1934	Adkins	H. L.
	Burran	Robert E.		Broyles	Sam. K. (Dr.)
	Guest	J. L. (Dr.)		Dickinson	J. G.
	Hancock	M. C.		Duncan	R. A. (Dr.)
	Herring	Will E.		Hancock	Minnie R.
	Lewis	E. K.		Huff	Vance (Mrs.)
	Oliver	W. E.		Martin	A. B.
	Pennach	Daisy (Mrs.)		Monning	Ben P.
	Rittenberry	E. F.		Neely	Jeff M.
	Wagner	T. J.		Ochsner	Erwin C.
	Ware	Bryan		Rasco	I. (Dr.)
1927	Beasley	J. N.		Rogers	Jesse A.
	Browne	W. R.	1935	Adams	Chester C.
	Denson	Paul F.		Ashcroft	Dewey B.
	Durham	I. S.		Brady	H. E.
	Miller	W. A.		Carnes	George
	Nichols	T. G.		Childers	J. N.
	Storm	F. J.		Jackson	Darrell L.
	Van Shaw	W. H.		Oakes	John E.
	Williams	Lee R.		Seewald	Edgar S.
	Williams	Otis L.	1936	Black	R. P. (Dr.)
1928	Anderson	John D.		Boyce	William C.
	Barfield	B. I.		Childers	O. M.
	Bivins	Mary E. (Mrs.)		Fisk	W. A.
	Gunn	W. B.		Florey	J. H.
	Mayer	Ed R.		Golding	Helene (Mrs.)
	Parsells	R. P. (Dr.)		Hall	J. H.
	Rogers	Ross D.		Irvin	Walter
	Sanders	J. J.		McGill	J. R.
	Vineyard	R. L. (Dr.)		Morris	Joe S.
1930	Bagot	E. O.		Neill	D. J.
	Bennett	Robert M.		Oliver	O. M.
	Blackburn	W. E.		Pomerenk	W. C.
	Boyce	William Q.		Puckett	L. H.
	Frost	William		Sellars	Jas. L.
	Greer	J. H.		Thompson, Jr.	J. D.
	Hancock	W. W.	1937	Clifford	William I.
	Hyden	J. M.		Cockrell	S. G.
	Ingram	George G.		Griggs	J. E.
	Kelly	E. I.		Harris	Odell
	Kimbrough	H. M.		Harris	Willard
	Lindsey	George F.		Holland	Harry
	Madden	Wales		Holland	J. O.
	Neely	H. L.		Neblett	R. A.
	Newcome	R. B.		Oakes	James W.
	Ratliff	J. B.		Wheeler	Homer N.
	Reeder	Alton M.	1938	Black	Mayme C. (Mrs.)
	Smith	O. Dale		Woolsey	W. W.
	Stanfield	H. K.	1939	Culp	Jack R.
	Younger	Bob (Dr.)		Saunders	G. C.
1931	Boyce	Albert G.	1940	Bagot	Edward H.
	David	Walter		Browning	Stuart (Dr.)
	Gallaher	T. B.		Delk	C. E.
	Kelleam	F. O.		Dickinson, Jr.	J. G.
	Killough	J. A. (Dr.)		Gallop	Charles
	Killough	V. W.		Haze	Harry F.
	Oakes	J. M.		Holtzclaw	Clyde H.

1940	Jones	A. B.	1945	Wilson	Charles R.
	McCartt, Jr.	Eugene		Winsett	A. E. (Dr.)
	Robberson	Jason H. (Dr.)	1946	Bagot	Donald
	Roberts	Richard		Campbell, Sr.	L. H.
	Sharp	S. W.		Fegel	Fred S.
	Thomsen	Dan		Freeman	W. J.
	Washburn	A. N.		Green	Charles A.
1941	Barr	J. W.		Keys	Richard (Dr.)
	Curtis	S. T.		Perry	W. Don
	Hines	J. B.		Tolk	C. J.
	Jackson	L. B.		White	Lahroy C.
	Kerr	L. A.	1947	Askew, Jr.	W. A.
	Simpson	E. A.		Cline	Richard (Mrs.)
	Smith	Horace		Gober	J. L.
	Taylor	O. L.		Harrell	Newton
	Thomton	Clay H.		Neely	Jeff M.
1942	Barker	L. R.		Phillips	Felix R.
	Braden	Wallace W.		Singleton	E. C.
	Hirsch	George W.		Wertz	Royal (Dr.)
	Keffer	Charles H.	1948	Blackburn	Stanley
1943	Baker	Jack		Craig	T. C.
	Baker	John C.		Dickson	Ligon A.
	Bell	Jim		Hancock	Joe W.
	Blackburn	C. H.		Hough	Luther W.
	Burke	Roy		Liston	Jack D. (Mrs.)
	Dalby	D. G.		Loving	Dan H. (Dr.)
	Elkins	S. J.		McDonald	T. H.
	Furr	C. W.		McKirahan	J. W.
	Hildebrand	C. C.		Rittenberry	James. R.
	Holman	Maime B. (Mrs.)		Sawyer	Roy C.
	Hughes	W. M.		Vincent	Jack R.
	Ingerton, Jr.	W. H.	1949	Beck	David W.
	Kerr	J. D.		Burgess	W. D.
	Killough	Joe S.		Jones	Troy S.
	Little	W. Frank	1950	Bivins	Myda T.
	Marsh	Claude H.		Broadfladt	Louis C.
	Pipkin	Edward W.		Patton	David M. (Dr.)
	Pool	Roy		Puckett	Howard E. (Dr.)
	Roberts	G. R.		Reville, Jr.	T. A.
	Spoons	W. M.		Strickland	Riley
	Streit	A. J. (Dr.)		Sutton	W. M.
	Swindell	R. R. (Dr.)		Winsett	E. Merrill (Dr.)
	Venable	H. A.		Zweig	Max
1944	James	C. A.	1951	Bell	Guy
	Knupp	Paul R.		Goad	C. L.
	Lokey	Ted H.		Lewis	E. R.
	Marsh, Jr.	Stanley		Stone	Stella
	McCormick	Josh L.		Wilson	R. A.
	Sanders	J. W.		Wood	R. A.
	Studer	Floyd	1952	Cline	R. C.
1945	Bennett	Earl V.		Culp	Marjorie Fisk
	Bralley	F. M. (Mrs.)		Klingensmith	William R. (Dr.)
	Burgess, Jr.	E. B.		Lard	Albert
	Edwards	J. S.		Nobles	Edward B.
	Elkins	Louise (Mrs.)		Reed	Jas. M.
	Furr	Key		Tuckness	W. O.
	Marsh	Stanley		Warren, Jr.	David M.
	Nobles	Francis (Mrs.)	1953	Carder	Macon O.
	Richey	Harold L.		Hyde	Robert F. (Dr.)
	Seay	Tom		Ingerton	Robert Richard
	Sharp	J. Leonard		Klingensmith	William (Dr.)

1953	Neely, Jr. O'Brien O'Brien	R. C. W. B. Will (Mrs.)	1962	Wolflin	Charles A.
1954	Brown Fisk Hough Marsh, Jr. Smith Ware	Homer Charles A. Nellie (Mrs.) Stanley (Mrs.) Howard M. Tol	1963	Archer Braxton Elkins Marsh O'Brien Terrill, Jr.	John R. F. (Dr.) James A. Frank Tom John George Joe Crisler
1955	Graves Kelly Smith Sterquell, Jr. Wagner Wagner, Jr. Wolflin	R. M. F. J. (Dr.) H. Herman U. C. Anne (Mrs.) T. J. Frank A.	1964	Brooks Fotheringham Gaut Jenkins O'Keefe Singleton Stubblefield Walker Williamson	Dick Tom Darrell William Ray E. J. Lewis James Charles Harry
1956	Allen Fariss McKay Stallard, III Thompson	Frank P. C. B. Edward D. (Dr.) O. D. Thomas H.	1965	Cobb Foran Gabert Kincaid Martinez Stubblefield	Robert Joseph John S. Hubert F. Henry E. (Dr.) William J.
1957	Freeman, Sr. Reville Stein Whitaker	Warren J. Bill C. A. H. L.	1966	Elkins Empie Morgan Morgan Palmer Stahl Walker	Richard N. A. W. (Gus) B. L. William I. Richard D. G. E. Kenneth
1958	Bivins Crain Ekelund, Jr. Fisk Gillock Hipes Johnson Jones Knorpp Vineyard Wright	Lee T. Sam L. John E. Allene E. C. Joye S. H. F. (Dr.) E. K. (Dr.) Arthur S. Marian & Roy Thomas R.	1967	Aderton, Jr. Cairns Dyer Leachman Quintanilla Roberts Schmidt Shappell Woods	Ellis Robert F. (Dr.) Maurice E. (Dr.) William D. Jaime (Dr.) Arthur M. Charles Harvey James S. E. W.
1959	Clower Gerard, Jr. Glaze, Jr. Glover Jenkins Miner Stallings	Ervin Gafford Fred W. Ross M. Joe T. Joe A. Bruce R. Chester	1968	Curtis Friauf Glover, Jr. Goldston Grant Griggs Logan McGuire Northrup Oles Shelton Stanley	Don T. (Dr.) George F. Joe T. Alton Burns (Dr.) William D. William N. Ernest Fraser Roy F. C. P. (Dr.) James David Dudley
1960	McSpadden O'Keefe Scott Whittenburg	Richard Lee R. Earl Horace S. B.	1969	Allen Hadaway Hagemeir Robberson Smith Beckham Gerard King Lovan Perkins	James S. E. W. Don T. (Dr.) George F. Joe T. Alton Burns (Dr.) William D. William N. Ernest Fraser Roy F. C. P. (Dr.) James David Dudley Jay D. Jim Harold Joe Frank (Dr.) Alice Hill L. Caldwell Fred Benton Inez Jim
1961	Casey Knight Reville Saunders Scott Smith Sowers, Jr.	Glen L. G. L. Mildred L. Guyon H. Richard D. Allen Currie J. Claire	1970	Freeman, Jr.	Warren J.
1962	Freeman Fulton, Jr. Howell La Grone Marsh, III Misenheimer Stewart	Gilbert Norvell H. R. James Frank (Dr.) Jerry Neal Stanley Earl Walter J.	1971	Freeman, Jr.	Warren J.

1971	Jones Jones McCue McKay Perkeypile Reville Stone, Jr.	Billy Rual (Dr.) Mitchell (Dr.) William W. (Dr.) Joe D. Lester Londa Jewell Ben H.	1982 1983	Dawkins Cairns Cone Early Endo Graham Harlow Puckett Terrell	Pattilou P. W. Boyce Jeffrey D. (Dr.) Allen (Dr.) Mary Gayle Gaut William L. Lynn O'Brien Lela W. Jeane Harter
1972	Dawkins Fletcher Knorpp Novak Ross Walker	Thomas E. James R. Kerry Robert L. Gordon Jimmy L. James	1984 1985	Hyde Dickson Miner Paulus, Jr. Regal Rush, Jr. Smith, Jr.	Douglass Y. (Dr.) Ligon A. (Mrs.) Hal Wayne S. (Dr.) John E. J. Avery Earl C. (Dr.)
1973	Besselman Cambridge Federer Swift Yoakam	James Arthur Thomas R. Howard C. Leon Taylor	1986	Early Johnson Knorpp Moore Tucker White, Jr. Callan	John H. David S. Raymond Bob G. L. Dean L. A. (Dr.) Robert C. Carolyn Greg Paul A. Kenneth (Dr.)
1974	Allspaugh Bivins Fancher, Jr. Godfrey Holder King Lanier, Jr.	J. Roger Betty Teel Edward A. Gaines Wayne Pauline Robert R.	1987	Fotheringham Mitchell Rathbun Wheeler Atkins Harris Mozola Berry Davis Morrison Sterling	Carolyn Greg Paul A. Kenneth (Dr.) Byno R. Dale John Mary Knupp James E. Gene Vaughn Susan Crain
1975	Bunkley, Jr. McKay Wells Wheeler Wright	Thomas A. Richard F. (Dr.) Joe B. Philip Don Mildred M.	1988	Atkins Harris Mozola Berry Davis Morrison Sterling	Robert F. Charles Betty Jane O'Brien J. Michael (Dr.) John William Charles Clinton (Dr.) Samuel B. Helen Teel Philip J. (Dr.) Dan Clara O. Robert W. (Dr.) Mary Alice Tom Tammy Fotheringham Carl Michael Jack Greg Robert Travis R. Steven Anthony (Dr.) Bart Karyn Bybee Walter S. (Dr.)
1976	Hedgecoke, Jr. Moody, Jr. SoRelle, III Stickel, Jr. Wright	James A. Walter R. (Dr.) Arthur William Hugh A. (Dr.) Harry D.	1989	Cairns Rittenberry Satterstrom Archer Blackburn Bybee Esler Lovelady Vahue Bivins Corbin Lynch Webb	John Mary Knupp James E. Gene Vaughn Susan Crain Robert F. Charles Betty Jane O'Brien J. Michael (Dr.) John William Charles Clinton (Dr.) Samuel B. Helen Teel Philip J. (Dr.) Dan Clara O. Robert W. (Dr.) Mary Alice Tom Tammy Fotheringham Carl Michael Jack Greg Robert Travis R. Steven Anthony (Dr.) Bart Karyn Bybee Walter S. (Dr.)
1977	Boxwell Bradley Ratiff, Jr. Sutphen	Michael R. Edward W. Harvey L. Scott T.	1990	Atkins Audia Boxwell Fuqua Glenn Rathbun White	John William Charles Clinton (Dr.) Samuel B. Helen Teel Philip J. (Dr.) Dan Clara O. Robert W. (Dr.) Mary Alice Tom Tammy Fotheringham Carl Michael Jack Greg Robert Travis R. Steven Anthony (Dr.) Bart Karyn Bybee Walter S. (Dr.)
1978	Baay Bass Brady McCartt McKay O'Brien	John E. W. (Dr.) Anthony V. (Dr. Sam) Harold E. (Mrs.) Joe Bob Charlotte S.	1991	Atkins Audia Boxwell Fuqua Glenn Rathbun White	John William Charles Clinton (Dr.) Samuel B. Helen Teel Philip J. (Dr.) Dan Clara O. Robert W. (Dr.) Mary Alice Tom Tammy Fotheringham Carl Michael Jack Greg Robert Travis R. Steven Anthony (Dr.) Bart Karyn Bybee Walter S. (Dr.)
1979	Cazzell Knorpp, Jr.	Richard L. Arthur S.	1992	Atkins Audia Boxwell Fuqua Glenn Rathbun White	John William Charles Clinton (Dr.) Samuel B. Helen Teel Philip J. (Dr.) Dan Clara O. Robert W. (Dr.) Mary Alice Tom Tammy Fotheringham Carl Michael Jack Greg Robert Travis R. Steven Anthony (Dr.) Bart Karyn Bybee Walter S. (Dr.)
1980	Ware, III Wilson	Richard C. Margaret L.	1993	Atkins Audia Boxwell Fuqua Glenn Rathbun White	John William Charles Clinton (Dr.) Samuel B. Helen Teel Philip J. (Dr.) Dan Clara O. Robert W. (Dr.) Mary Alice Tom Tammy Fotheringham Carl Michael Jack Greg Robert Travis R. Steven Anthony (Dr.) Bart Karyn Bybee Walter S. (Dr.)
1981	Adams Cameron Jolley Kritser, III Latham, III Mann Pate, III Puckett Reeves Rush, III Wood	Richard E. John K. Robert F. David S. Jess Ben James D. Virgil A. (Dr.) M. Hunter Louise Coe J. A. (Dr.) R. A. (Mrs.) James R.	1994 1995	Atkins Audia Boxwell Fuqua Glenn Rathbun White Astuto Boxwell Friskie Piskun	John William Charles Clinton (Dr.) Samuel B. Helen Teel Philip J. (Dr.) Dan Clara O. Robert W. (Dr.) Mary Alice Tom Tammy Fotheringham Carl Michael Jack Greg Robert Travis R. Steven Anthony (Dr.) Bart Karyn Bybee Walter S. (Dr.)
1982	Barnhill	James R.			

1995	Thompson	Evaline (Dr.)
1996	Cowan	Soeurette Seay
	Jones	David Mitchell
	Patton	Billie Reed
	Walker	Whit (Dr.)
1997	Attebury	William A.
	Collins, Jr.	Bryan H. (Dr.)
	Fuller	Edwin Keith
	McTague	Kenneth E. (Dr.)
	Sell	George Clay
	Williams	Alvin Dale
1998	Cato	Eric K. (Dr.)
	Eades	Brian J. (Dr.)
	Griggs	Melissa
	Gustafson	Beth Lynch
	Hales	David L.
	Jenkins	John Meeks
	McDonald	Terry G.
	McKay	David D.
	Bivins	Nancy Terrill
	Bunkley	Myra Anne Stanley
1999	Miller	Tom W.
	Ratliff	Frank X.
	Singleton	Lynn
	Smith, III	Aubrey L. (Dr.)
	Stickse	Priscilla Purdy
	Pfeffer	Gary M.
	Pinkston	Robert (Dr.)
	Sanders	Robert R.
	Ware	Tisha
	Rigsby	Jan Reeves
2001	SoRelle	Judith Jolley
	Mitchell	Jeff
2002	Rohane	Jerry
	Sterquell	Steve
	Barrett	Brad
2003	Barrick	Gary M.
	Boxwell	Brad
	Bruckner, Jr.	Ben
	Gearn	Geary
	Hazlewood	Elaine
	Wieck	Bernard
	Williams	Amanda
	Archer	Dorothy
	Gualtiere	Craig E.
	Kraft	Trudy Klingensmith
2004	Satterstrom	John
	Stickse	Scott (Dr.)