

July 15, 2010

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Citizen to observe 100th anniversary with time capsule, Friday open house

What will you put in the time capsule?



Bring something of interest (but not of value) to put in the time capsule on Friday.

We want to tell the Frankston area residents of the 22nd Century what life was like in the year 2010.

Therefore, we have created a sort of rural East Texas time capsule to be opened at the newspaper's 200th birthday in July of 2110 thanks to the PVC pipe expertise of Burk's Hardware and the plaque inscription of Texas Star Engraving.

Bring an item of interest to the open house on Friday, July 16, at The Frankston Citizen, 142 West Main (a block west of the downtown square), Frankston.

We will add it to the time capsule that will hang conspicuously on the newspaper's wall, hopefully for 100 years.

Your item of interest should be something that will tell future residents how we lived in 2010, such as a family picture with names and date on the back, a business price list, a church bulletin, a recorded message or song, or just about anything small that illustrates current life in the Frankston area.

The Citizen will display these items beginning at 9 a.m. and throughout the day. Then they will be packed and sealed inside the time capsule when the open house ends at 3 p.m.

And during the open house, join us for punch and cookies inside the newspaper's office and perhaps even a rendition or two of "Happy Birthday" to the Frankston Citizen.

As the Frankston Citizen produces its first newspaper of its second 100 years on Thursday, July 15, the century-old newspaper is planning an open house.

The come-and-go event will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, July 16, at the newspaper office located at 142 W. Main Street in Frankston. This location is a half block west of the downtown city park.

Persons dropping by the open house are invited to bring a small item of interest to be placed in a time capsule that will hang on the wall of The Frankston Citizen.

"We want to create a capsule that will be filled with the things of today," said Editor Jay Graham, "so when the community opens it up in July of 2110, the future citizens can learn about who we were and how we lived."

The rural East Texas-style time capsule was created with PVC pipe from Burks Hardware by Johnny Burks and a plaque engraved by Texas Star Engraving's Mickey Harper.

The Citizen plans to hang the time capsule in the newspaper office where it will be visible rather than bury it in the ground where it might be forgotten, Graham said.

The newspaper will be serving punch and cookies during the drop-in open house during the day on Friday.

"Please drop by during the open house, bring a business card or something else that represents life these days, and have some refreshments with us," said the editor.

The Frankston Citizen adjoins Atwood Hat Company on Main Street and is next door to the attorney's office of Sheila Smith. For information, call the newspaper at (903) 876-2218.



The time capsule will be mounted on the wall of The Frankston Citizen so it won't be forgotten or ignored until it is reopened in the year 2110.

Newspaper history mirrors Frankston's colorful past

On July 8, The Frankston Citizen was 100 years old, having served the residents of the Frankston area since 1910.

The anniversary is another milestone in the history of the community as well as the newspaper.

Journalism in Frankston began one year after the town was built, when the first newspaper, The Frankston Ledger, was published on June 6, 1902. Its editor was John E. Davis who also published a newspaper in Mesquite at the time and for some years afterward.

A few years later, F.A. Bivens published The Meteor.

The Citizen was started in 1910 by Donella Small who kept it for awhile and then sold it to the grandfather of the late Clifford Emerson of Frankston, J. M. Emerson, who published the newspaper about three years.

The Citizen's third longest period with one ownership started in 1912 when the McKee sisters took over. For more than 16 years, they reported the news, hand-setting the type and printing on an old hand press in a small building on Miller Street between the former Belle White and present Lookabaugh homes.

At the beginning of 1929, the McKee era ended at The Citizen, and J. E. Laney, formerly of Coolidge, bought the newspaper. In a little over a year, Laney sold it to J. H. Willard of Woodville who sent J. E. Bourland to Frankston as editor.

Early in 1931, O. T. Foster and T. W. Terry took over the newspaper and later that year, the longest and perhaps the most significant era in The Citizen's history began.

That was when Quannah Price bought Terry's half interest in The Citizen and in 1932 bought the other half interest from Foster.

The Citizen's office had been moved from its Miller Street location by J. E. Laney to a brick building on Commerce Street just west of City Park. After that, it occupied a sheet-iron building north of the former Southwestern Electric Service Co. building. It was moved to the present building at 112 (now 142) West Main Street in September 1949.

In 1985 a remodeling program changed the building front and provided a more modern front office area for the newspaper office.

The Quannah Price era spanned 42 years and included dramatic changes in the newspaper industry as well as reporting of significant events



The Frankston Citizen has its current office at 142 W. Main Street in downtown Frankston.

in the town's history.

Faithfully reported were the Great Depression, World War II, the booming tomato business, the Fairway oil field discovery and development, building and expansion of Lake Palestine and all the effects these developments had on people's lives.

Some of the more unpleasant events were reported too and when change or reforms were needed, Price led the way in seeking such change and reform.

Price's weekly column was anticipated by many readers each week.

Price spent many a long hour, not only writing and editing the newspaper, but also setting type on the linotype machine and by hand, composing the pages and printing the finished "hot type" product on the old Babcock press. He also took time to print commercial jobs, both during his time as publisher and later as a part-time job during his retirement.

For a time during the Price era, The Citizen served the Neches area after combining with the old Neches Tribune.

With Price at the helm as editor, his wife, Vaye, and two sons, Grady and Rayford, shared the events and the duties where they could.

Mrs. Price sold much of the advertising that paid for The Citizen's continued success and existence in those days. It was not uncommon that she board a bus in Frankston in early morning, make the trip to Jacksonville and later to Palestine and back to Frankston to sell the ads that kept the newspaper going.

Other members of the Price

family, including five brothers and sisters, had a hand, at one time or another, in putting out the paper. The late Vera Price Browning was the first member of the Price family to work for The Citizen or any newspaper. Another sister, Marie Price Fox, sold special advertising pages for The Citizen until 1997.

Some of the changes in the newspaper industry caused the old hand-set type and hand press to give way to a more modern Mergenthaler linotype machine and Babcock sheet-fed press. Then in 1972, The Citizen abandoned the traditional hot metal type and raised-surface letterpress printing to embrace the present photographic method known as offset. Commercial printing continued to be produced for some time using the old letterpress method.

On June 1, 1973, the longest period under one owner ended for The Citizen. Quannah Price and Vaye Price retired and sold the newspaper to Joe W. and Ruth Tindel of Jacksonville, beginning the second longest period under one owner, over 32 years. Price, in retirement, authored a book, "42 Years as Country Editor of The Frankston Citizen," a copy of which is in the Frankston Depot Library, among other places. The Prices passed away in the early 1980's.

The Citizen continued to grow on the strong base left by the Prices. Population growth in the Frankston-Poynor area as well as at Berryville and Coffee City contributed to the subscriber list. Two valued Price

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Above is the Burks Hardware PVC pipe time capsule with engraved plaque by Texas Star Engraving.

HISTORY

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employees, Opaline McDonald and Nelle McLane, stayed on to provide valuable transition for the new owners.

In addition to selling much of the advertising, Joe Tindel wrote major news stories and edited the newspaper. For a time Ruth successfully sold advertising and gave valuable assistance helping with accounting.

During the Tindel years, new equipment was added, both to improve the newspaper's appearance and increase productivity and keep up-to-date with rapidly changing printing methods. First, state of the art phototypesetters were used to set type. Then the computer age changed the newspaper with all typesetting and advertising layout done using digital graphics, word processing and digital type for use in the newspaper.

The Tindels began composing the newspaper on Apple Macintosh computers, printing the newspaper at the Jacksonville Daily Progress and later the Athens Daily Review. As technology advanced they sent a digital version of the newspaper by electronic file transfer for printing at the Palestine Herald-Press. Digital photography was adopted and color photographs were used regularly. An internet web site was begun. Computer accounting and mailing list systems were also used.

Local news coverages concentrated on timely coverage of local governments and traditional community activities. In the earlier years, correspondents reported items of interest in surrounding areas. Also there were local news briefs and a familiar "Hello World" column announcing births. Almost every week, obituaries were published recording deaths of local people and their relatives. As the largest institutions in the area, schools' activities dominated the newspaper content, often on the front page.



A boll from the last bale of cotton produced in Anderson County was the first item brought to The Frankston Citizen to be included in the Burks Hardware PVC pipe time capsule at the open house on Friday, July 16. Frances Beard brought the cotton to the newspaper. It was produced by her late husband, B. J. "Blue" Beard, in 1976 and was taken to Kerens for ginning. Beard grew the last cotton crop at his farm four miles east of Frankston.

Coverage of school sports was as extensive as time and available reporters would allow. Pictures, first black and white and later front page full color,

dominated the news pages. News was formatted in professional newspaper style and the staff went to great lengths to publish the best newspaper

possible. Editorial opinions were grounded in a progressive approach to community, state and national issues. The news-



The plaque for the time capsule was engraved by Mickey Harper of Texas Star Engraving on Brushy Creek Road south of Frankston.

paper took editorial stands supporting individual and group efforts at community improvement, establishing of a community library and museum and a community medical clinic as well as promoting new businesses and preserving and improving established ones. Local public schools were supported, including facilities improvements and local district efforts to stimulate academic and extra-curricular excellence.

Through those years, The Citizen was served by a number of valued employees. Still a valuable employee when the Tindels sold The Citizen on Sept. 1, 2005 was Nelle McLane, a veteran of about 41 years with the newspaper, serving during part of the Price years. She is retired and still lives in Frankston.

The list of former employees of the Prices and Tindels is long and to list some without listing all would do those omitted an injustice.

The Tindels still live in Frankston, working part-time at jobs for the school, church and newspaper and enjoying vacation trips and spending time with their children and grandchildren and upkeep and improvements at their home.

When the more than 32 years of the Tindel ownership ended, Blake and Kim Foster took over, continuing some of

the policies and procedures of the Tindel years and adding a few new ones of their own.

The Fosters sold The Citizen to J. Tom and Kathryn Graham on Nov. 1, 2006. Graham is a veteran journalist and newspaper publisher who retired to East Texas in 2005 after serving as chief operating officer for Westward Communications, a 63-newspaper chain based in Houston. Wife Kathryn writes the popular Kathryn and Other Calamities column weekly for the newspaper.

His son, Jay Graham, serves as editor after reporting for the Jacksonville Daily Progress and being editor of The Lindale News & Times.

For Jay, working at The Citizen was like going home. His wife, Toska, is Tyler police officer, is the daughter of Charlie and Sue Schultz, and she grew up between Frankston and Jacksonville. Sue works for Frankston attorney Sheila Smith, whose office is next door to the Citizen.

The Graham family remains at the helm as The Citizen observes the 100th anniversary of its beginning in 1910.

(Content for this article was obtained from historical material gathered by former publishers Quannah Price and Joe Tindel as well as updates from present publisher J. Tom Graham).

In gratitude for 100 years, a salute from The Frankston Citizen to its community:



The Frankston Citizen salutes its subscribers and advertisers for the community's outstanding support of the weekly newspaper for the last century.

The newspaper pledges to keep working hard in the coming century to deserve the faith that the greater Frankston area has placed in it.

We invite you to come by the Citizen office at 142 W. Main (a half block west of the downtown city park) between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Friday, July 16, to put something in the time capsule and have refreshments with us.