

"Leagueville" . . . Bowman's East Texas

Leagueville, an isolated community in eastern Henderson county, owes its beginning to a land certificate that originated in 1850 by Aaron York, surveyor of a league of land west of the Neches River.

The area was referred to as "The League" and the "ville" was later added, probably when the community secured a post office in 1889.

By 1855, the Sublett family had gained control of the land around Leagueville and sold it to Matthew Cartwright in 1857. In 1871, B.T. and Annie (Cartwright) Roberts had acquired the property. But when the couple died, the York heirs sued to regain control of the property, but lost on appeal in 1875.

The litigation slowed the development of the area and it really didn't become a community until the late 1800s. The community had a school, and a cemetery was established on the school property. The school, however, was consolidated with Brownsboro in 1934.

At its peak, Leagueville had two general stores, its church, two cotton gins, a blacksmith, and a grist mill.

A broken discarded mill stone from the grist mill was placed around a Texas

historical marker by the cemetery when it was erected in 2004.

The coming of the railroad through Brownsboro in the late 1800s left Leagueville off the beaten path and, with the building of Highway 31 from Tyler to Athens beside the railroad, Leagueville suffered another blow. In the old days, a road running through Leagueville was known as the Athens-to-Tyler road.

Leagueville's cemetery was once maintained in the way of many old East Texas cemeteries. The grounds were hoed, grass was removed, and the graves were mounded. But because of erosion and the time required to maintain the graveyard, mowing was begun in the 1950s.

Many graves in the cemetery are unmarked and the names of those buried have been lost in the passage of time.

One year, when the cemetery was being expanded, an old dipping vat used to control ticks on cattle was discovered in the ground.

Leagueville's church, which began as the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church in 1880, remains in its original location and was preceded by churches at Rock Hill and New York.

One of the town's earliest settlers was Malachiah Reeves, a Civil War veteran, who served as a postmaster in 1906 and 1907. He was licensed to preach at Leagueville and is buried in the local cemetery.

Each second Sunday of June, Leagueville's former residents and their families come back to the old town for a memorial day.

(Bob Bowman of Lufkin is the author of more than 40 books about East Texas. He can be reached at bob-bowman.com)



ETMC FAIRFIELD ADMINISTRATOR and Rotarian Raz Cook, left, was the guest speaker at the February 9 Fairfield Rotary club meeting. Mrs. Cook, MSN, FACHE, informed the club of the proposed upgrades to East Texas Medical Center's Fairfield location. Mrs. Cook is celebrating her 11th anniversary with ETMC on February 14. Also pictured is Landis Bayless, Fairfield Rotary club president.

Antique Tractor Club honors sweethearts

Members of the Bi-Stone Antique Tractor Club met Feb. 9 to honor their wives for Valentine's Day.

The banquet was held at The Grille in Teague, and a single red rose was pre-

sented to each of the women.

Some 27 members and their wives attended the event.

Freestone county sheriff, and tractor club member, Ralph Billings spoke to the wives, expressing club members' appreciation for all the time and money spent (invested, Billings said) on old tractor projects and attending tractor shows.

The club meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Sheriff's Department Training Center on highway 84 between Fairfield and Teague.

Anyone interested in old tractors, old equipment or old motors, can contact Marles Pace at 254-765-3537.

Fairfield School Menu Feb. 22-26

Lunch
Monday - (K-12) Chicken spaghetti, sliced carrots, garden salad.

Tuesday - (K-12) Chicken nuggets, cheesy ranch potatoes, gravy, whole wheat roll.

Wednesday - (K-12) Pepperoni pizza, fresh veggies and ranch, golden corn.

Thursday - (K-12) Taco soup, shredded cheese, whole wheat roll.

Friday - (K-12) Hamburger/cheeseburger, lettuce, tomato, pickle, baked fries and ice cream.

Daily choices: Chef salads, PB&J Uncrustables, milk variety (1 percent of fat free) and fruit.

Breakfast
Monday - (K-12) Breakfast pizza.

School Menus

Tuesday - (K-12) Scrambled eggs and pancake.

Wednesday - (K-12) Buttermilk biscuit, sausage patty.

Thursday - (K-12) French toast sticks, yogurt.

Friday - (K-12) Cinnamon roll.

Daily choices: Cereal variety, whole wheat honey bun, graham crackers, milk variety (1 percent or fat free) and 100 percent fruit juice.

Area Republicans to attend Barton dinner

The Freestone County Republican Club meeting will be the "Joe Barton Grassroots Dinner" in Buffalo this Thursday night.

Dinner is at 6:00 at the Buffalo Civic Center on I 45.

Congressman Barton will discuss happenings in Washington and cam-

paigns in Texas.

A breakout meeting to discuss the first ever "joint primary" in Freestone county will be held for club members.

RVSP to Kristin Barton at 972-875-8688.

For more information contact Doug Sanford, DVM, Fairfield Vet Clinic, 903-389-4606.

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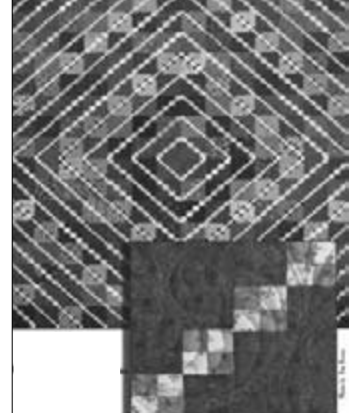
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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE QUILT
Quilt by Becky Stephenson

This year the local American Cancer Society Relay for Life committee will be giving away a quilt at the "Main Event" on May 14, 2010. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased from committee members. In addition to the ticket sales, you may have a name placed on the quilt "In Honor" of a cancer survivor or "In Memory" of someone that was lost to cancer. The committee is asking for a \$10 donation for each name on the quilt.

If you would like to have a name on the quilt please complete the form below and mail it to the address on the form. Your support is greatly appreciated and together we will help eradicate this disease. For more information about Quilt Tickets you may contact: Becky Stephenson at (903) 389-2384 or (903) 879-5559

Please print
Name to be on the quilt: _____

Circle one: **IN MEMORY** or **IN HONOR**

Contact Person: _____

(please include name, mailing address & ph. number)

We are asking for a \$10 donation for each name on the quilt. Please make checks payable to: American Cancer Society and mail the form and donation to: Becky Stephenson, P.O. Box 42, Fairfield, Texas 75840.