

ABILENE Preservation NEWS

The Abilene Preservation League Newsletter ❧ Winter 2009-10 edition

Recognizing the Beautiful Houses of Abilene:

Craiks most recent homeowners recognized for their consistent preservation efforts, keeping neighborhoods desirable

The charming 1927 residence at 933 Grand has been a work in progress for 24 wonderful years, has recently undergone updates, and will soon "enjoy" a kitchen remodel.

Jan is a traveling art teacher with Abilene Independent School District, and Philip is a theater professor at McMurry University. These creative minds have joined to enhance an already beautiful neighborhood. We commend them on their efforts.

The Beautiful House Award Program was initiated in May, and the first recipients were Cindy and Bobby Deegan for their restoration of 302 Riverside Blvd. This home's careful landscaping, integration of art, and attention to color does a



beautiful service to this neighborhood.

At our next Heritage Stewardship Awards Luncheon on May 4, 2010 a \$1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the Beautiful House Award nominee with the most votes. This Awards luncheon will be held at noon at the Hunter Welcome Center on the Abilene Christian University campus. Antiques Roadshow celebrity and native Abilenian Bruce Shackelford will be our guest speaker.

For information on June through November's award recipients, please see our website, www.abilenepreservation.org and/or our Facebook page: Abilene Preservation League.

100 Years Ago



2010

...is the Swenson House Centennial Year!

Dates to remember:

- March 6, 2010:
Roaring 20s Kickoff
- June 7-8, 2010:
Teacher Workshops
- September 11, 2010:
Grand Centennial Celebration
- October 22 & 23
Haunted Abilene!

Renewal: Preservation in Progress - J.D. Magee Home

When a devastating fire burned the roof off the 1903 J.D. Magee house in early 2008, Abilene nearly lost a early 20th-century icon, thought to be the first house in Abilene to have electricity and running water.

The home, also known as Rosetyme, will be the first project in the Preservation League's Heritage Stewardship Program of real estate acquisition and stabilization.

After purchasing the property, APL set

about getting plans and engineering reports necessary to reconstruct the roof.



1903 VICTORIAN—Early picture of the J.D. Magee, Thompson, home shows the structure when the house was built in 1903. It shows the structure and why the two chimneys, towers and a lot of "gingerbread" remained.

Phase One will be to stabilize the exterior and make the property a presentable part of the neighborhood. The new roof will need to be stronger than the original one, due to today's building codes. The foundation is in surprisingly good shape, the experts say. Some of the most fire-damaged portion of the

building will need to be removed. Otherwise, engineers have pronounced the

building sturdy.

Estimates from contractors are being reviewed currently, and construction will proceed during the first quarter of the year.

The property will be for sale throughout its stabilization and reconstruction period. Preservation safeguards will be recorded with the deed when the property is sold, ensuring that this great example of early 20th century Abilene will be preserved for future generations.



Courtesy Preservation Texas

Several fellow Texans congratulated former First Lady Laura Bush at the recent National Trust annual conference in Nashville. From left, Marcel Quimby, FAIA, Dallas; Bill Minter, director of the APL; Charlene Orr, Mesquite; Mrs. Bush; Krista Gebbia, director of Preservation Texas. Mrs. Bush and John L. Nau III received the Trust's John H. Chafee Award for Outstanding Achievement in Public Policy in recognition of their leadership of the Preserve America program.

Your gift will make a big difference in preservation.

Working on the local level produces great results. Your tax-deductible year-end gift can make a big difference to the Abilene Preservation League and projects that help preserve the history and culture of Abilene.

Did you know that the APL can also accept donations of real property? If the owners wish a property to be conserved or protected from future demolition, donating a home, building or other real property to the APL can be an excellent avenue. Call us, or ask your tax advisor or attorney to visit with us about the range of options available.

It's Membership Renewal Time for Most APL Members

The great news about last year's membership drive is that it more than doubled the membership of the APL. Now, around the first of the year it is time to consider your renewal for the 2010 year. Some members who joined closer to the mid-year will not come up for renewal until the summer. If you're not yet a member, join online or over the phone!

We appreciate greatly your support through membership, and those plus the generous annual giving program form the basis of our organization.

Scenes from the Swenson Year



↑ Tony Leet and sons at the July picnic and Fun Day for Swenson neighborhood residents.



↑ A water slide provided cooling off for the neighborhood kids on the hot July Fun Day.



↑ Shawn Butler's prize steer was a surprise visitor to the Swenson House while Shawn completed his Eagle Scout arbor project.



↑ The Preservation League Board of Trustees met in August at the Swenson House for a planning retreat. ↓ Volunteer Janine Estrella looks perfect for a 1910 party at the Swenson Christmas Open House.



↑ Scout Matt McLeod enlisted a bunch of friends to create an allée lined with white crape myrtles.



↑ A Victorian Christmas Open House included educational information about the home's history and treasures provided by hosts and hostesses in period dress.



↑ A second year of Haunted Abilene provided trolley tours of Abilene's most famous ghost locations and a spookily decorated Swenson House. Janet Payne and Roy Helen Ackers enjoy the evening.



Abilene's favorite gifts

Since 2004 the Preservation League fundraising projects have included the Abilene Historic Village Lighted Replica Series. Beginning with the Grace Hotel, we have the Paramount Theatre, T&P Depot and Old Weather Bureau. We're proud to



announce that as part of next year's Swenson Centennial, we'll be presenting a miniature Swenson House, the first residential building in the series. For more information including how to order, see our Web site or call us at 325-676-3775.

Contacting us
Bill Minter, Executive Director
Burgess Thomas, Rentals & Events
Max Lambert, Operations

Web
www.abilenepreservation.org
 E-Mail
info@abilenepreservation.org

Offices
 1174 North First Street
 325-676-3775
 325-676-4800 fax
 10 a.m. to 5 p.m Mon-Fri.

APL's planning an active year: be a part of it!

From a glamorous celebration of the Swenson House's centennial to the awarding of the first Annual Beautiful House Award, the Preservation League has a full year. Here are some dates for your calendar:

March 6: Kicking off the Swenson Centennial Year, this Saturday will include a morning *tea and style show* and an evening *Roaring Twenties Cocktail Experience*, "Meet me at W.G.'s."

May 4, Tuesday: The 3rd annual Heritage Stewardship Awards will recognize



the best in Abilene preservation and the first Beautiful House Award annual winner. Abilene native Bruce Shackelford of *Antiques Roadshow* will be our speaker. **June 7 & 8** will see a special Teacher Workshop at the Swenson House. **Saturday, September 11** we'll pull out

all the stops for the Swenson House's Gala Centennial Celebration. **October 22 & 23** will see the third annual Haunted Abilene at the Swenson House. Renew your membership today so you can be part of the fun!

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The Abilene Preservation League is a Local Partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Renew your membership online and receive a free One-Year Membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation, plus 6 issues of Preservation Magazine!
www.abilenepreservation.org/membership.html

Return Service Requested

www.abilenepreservation.org
 325-676-3775 ext. 1
 Abilene Texas 79604-3451
 Post Office Box 3451



NON-PROFIT
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 ABILENE, TX
 PERMIT NO. 819