



CARL LEWIS ESTES

"It would be impossible to count the persons who have benefited through his life and efforts. He regarded every person as a human being, regardless of race, creed, or nationality. His friendships ranged from persons in the lowest positions to the President of the United States of America. You would have to say he looked down upon no man nor up to any, but always he gave the respect and honor that was deserved."—From the eulogy delivered by the Rev. Charles W. Williams at the memorial service in the First Methodist Church of Longview, June 1, 1967.



**NOTED TEXAS LEADER, DEVELOPER,
CONSERVATIONIST*****

CARL L. ESTES*
(1896 - 1967)***

ONE OF AMERICA'S GIANTS OF JOURNALISM. NEWSBOY, REPORTER, ADVERTISING MANAGER, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT, EDITOR-PUBLISHER. BORN IN NEW MARKET, TENN., CAME TO TEXAS IN YOUTH. FOUNDED COMMERCE "EAST TEXAN", 1919. WORKED FOR DENISON "HERALD" AND TYLER "COURIER-TIMES" BEFORE HIS 1934 FOUNDING OF "TEXAS OIL JOURNAL" AND PURCHASE, LONGVIEW "DAILY NEWS" AND "MORNING JOURNAL". ERECTED THIS BUILDING, 1935. PUBLISHED ANNUAL SPECIAL EDITIONS OF 314 TO 624 PAGES. ESTES SOON BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL VOICE FOR EAST TEXAS.

DYNAMIC, FORCEFUL, PHILANTHROPIC—FIRM BUT FAIR —HE DEVOTED HIS KEEN ABILITIES AND SHOWMAN'S TALENTS TO CONSERVING FOR HUMAN BETTERMENT THE VAST WEALTH OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD (LARGEST IN THE WORLD WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED IN THE 1930'S). HE FOUGHT "HOT OIL" RUNNERS WHO RISKED FUTURE OF ENTIRE GREAT FIELD FOR SAKE OF IMMEDIATE PROFITS. HE PROMOTED HIGHWAY AND AIR TRAVEL FACILITIES, EXPANDED EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL RESOURCES, AND LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION.

HIS WORK ATTRACTED INTO EAST TEXAS MANUFACTURERS WHOSE PAYROLLS AND INVESTMENTS POURED INTO ECONOMY OF THE AREA HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

HE WAS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN AND RESPECTED. FOUGHT IN WORLD WARS I AND II. MARRIED MARGARET McLEOD.**

*Outstanding Texas Newspaper Publishers Series, 1967*** No. 1****

Longview, Texas

December 8, 1967

Master of Ceremonies—Fred Erisman

INVOCATION.....Dr. Derwood Blackwell
Pastor, First Methodist Church
Longview

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.....Fred Erisman
Attorney, Longview

ADDRESS.....L. D. Webster
Vice-President, Lone Star Steel Co.
Dallas

ADDRESS.....Aubrey McAlister
Past President, Texas Press Ass'n.
Bonham

DEDICATION OF THE MARKER.....John Ben Shepperd
Past President, Texas State
Historical Survey Committee, Odessa

UNVEILING THE MARKER.....Mrs. Carl L. Estes and F. Lee Lawrence
President, Texas Historical Foundation
Tyler

RESPONSE.....Joe E. Estes
U. S. District Judge, Dallas

BENEDICTION.....Dr. Blackwell

He was a big man in body, heart and mind, yet no task was too large or too small for him—if its honest purpose was the betterment of his community and the area he served.

He was recognized everywhere as a man of vision, courage, fortitude and strength, yet people in all walks of life found him to be considerate, generous and kind in his personal dealings with others.

Blessed with a God-given talent, Carl Estes never misused the rare qualities of ability, insight and leadership which he recognized as given to him for worthwhile purposes.

He visioned and had stamped on his mind a blueprint of progress. From this master plan he directed his efforts in dramatic and effective ways to carve an industrial empire in the pine-clad hills and along the vital waterways of East Texas.

Longview and East Texas are well known throughout the nation because of the dedicated and forceful leadership of Carl Estes. He became a legend in his own time, living to see much of his great dream come true and his city and area well established as a great inland industrial empire.

No man has ever done as much for East Texas as did Carl Estes, nor can any man ever hope to do so—all that follows is but addition to the foundation and the structure which he built, an economic foundation and an industrial structure so vast that its invigorating strength is felt over many thousands of square miles.

The life of Carl Estes was dedicated in service to others. He stood firmly, first and always, for his country. He was a friend of the people, and they found in him a champion of their just causes.

One of the most colorful and dynamic personalities ever to emerge on the Texas scene, Publisher Estes was known throughout the United States because of his work in the newspaper, industrial and political fields.

Often referred to as "Mr. Longview" and "Mr. East Texas," he was a powerful force in the upbuilding of his community, state and nation.

A veteran of World Wars I and II, he was a member of the VFW

Texas Daily Newspaper Association, Texas Press Association, Texas Daily Press League, The Associated Press, and numerous other associations.

During the nearly 33 years he owned The Longview Daily News and Longview Morning Journal, the newspapers won scores of awards in regional, state and national competition.

In his years on the national scene, he served as confidential advisor to Gov. Arthur James of Pennsylvania four years and helped set up that state's industrial commission, which became a model for the nation. He was a delegate to several national Democratic conventions, and also was active in several gubernatorial campaigns in Texas.

A native of New Market, Tenn., he was born Nov. 10, 1896, the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Estes.

His newspaper career began in Denison. He later went to Commerce, where he attended East Texas State University and also worked for the Commerce Journal. Prior to acquiring the newspaper properties in Longview he was general manager of the Tyler newspapers.

In addition to The Longview Daily News and Longview Morning Journal, he owned and published the Texas Oil Journal, a monthly publication, and two weeklies, The Longview Lens and The Greggtonian, and had owned interests in several other publishing enterprises.

His leadership in public and industrial circles, here on the home-front and through his influence in the legislative chambers at Austin, helped to bring about the rapid and full development of the production potential of the great East Texas oil field. When the field's limits had been established and its benefits spread as widely as possible across a five-county region, he became the leader of the forces which successfully brought orderly production to the field and instituted the conservation measures which have maintained reservoir pressure and assured the field a hundred years of profitable production with benefits of employment and income extending to the second and third generation. This campaign, a tough one at times and extending across a period of several years, was only one example of how his efforts have benefited many thousands of persons and will continue to do so over long periods of time.

he initiated or had a primary role in pushing to reality included removal of unsightly awnings in the downtown business district, doubling the size of the city's largest hotel, securing a \$300,000 post office building, four-lane highways from Longview west to Gladewater and east to Hallsville, a new highway between Lone Star and Hughes Springs, widening of SH 149 from Longview to Tatum and Beckville and later to Carthage. He also headed campaigns that secured major improvements in SH 259 from Longview to Daingerfield, and rerouting and rebuilding this highway northward to the Oklahoma border; expansion of SH 149 to four lanes between Longview and the Sabine River and widening the Sabine River bridge to four lanes; construction of a modern four-lane divided highway between Longview and Kilgore; and many other major highway improvements in Northeast Texas.

It was Publisher Estes who went to Washington and persuaded governmental agencies after the end of World War II to sell the Lone Star Steel Company properties to private ownership instead of dismantling the plant for salvage and scrap. He then returned home and led a spirited campaign to raise private capital in Longview and East Texas to purchase and operate the steel plant.

He was largely responsible for the building of the \$5 million Harmon General Hospital in Longview during World War II. When the war was over and the hospital was no longer needed, Carl Estes went to Washington and secured the hospital properties for the establishment by Mr. and Mrs. R. G. LeTourneau of a greatly needed "earn-learn" school for young men. They organized and operated the LeTourneau Technical Institute for several years, later expanding the institution to a four-year co-educational school combining fine arts and technology under its present name of LeTourneau College.

The publisher's work in securing the college site and buildings resulted in the decision of Mr. LeTourneau to build his huge manufacturing plant and establish his headquarters in Longview.

He also was in the leadership role in campaigns which brought to Longview the Texas Eastman Company, Trailmobile Inc., Resistol Rough Hat Corporation, Marlow Pump Division of ITT, Screw and Bolt Corporation of America, and a number of other large industrial plants.

Through his efforts here and in Austin, he had the key role in securing approval and allocations of funds for expansion of the Good

phases of building and expanding an adequate airport for Longview and Gregg County; in securing the building of the Knox Lee Power Plant and Lake Cherokee; development of the master plan and securing legislative approval for full utilization of the resources of the Sabine River; and the building of Lake O' The Pines and the organization of major recreational and industrial development plans in that region.

The News and Journal, under his direction, supported editorially and through news columns many worthwhile projects and programs for the betterment of Longview and the entire East Texas region. These have included water development in many areas, highways, airports, hospitals, bond issues for schools, city water and sewer extensions, street paving and better lighting. His newspapers have supported and continue to support the churches and schools, cultural programs, civic organizations, United Fund and other campaigns, youth development programs, and local community improvement and charity efforts.

Death came to Publisher Estes on May 29 while he was still "in the harness" of service to Longview and East Texas. He was stricken by a heart attack while with Mrs. Estes on a combined summer vacation and industrial prospecting trip at La Jolla, Calif.

Messages of tribute and sympathy poured into Longview from throughout the free world. President and Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson and Governor and Mrs. John B. Connally, longtime friends of Mr. and Mrs. Estes, were among the first to send telegrams.

Special tributes were placed in the Congressional Record by U. S. Senator John G. Tower, U. S. Rep. Wright Patman and U. S. Rep. Ray Roberts. Many hundreds of individual tributes came in the form of personal letters to Mrs. Estes.

Editorial tributes were published near and far. Typical of the recognition and praise given the publisher were these excerpts from several of the editorials:

Gilmer Mirror—A bright and shining light went out of East Texas the night of Monday, May 29th, when a heart attack took the life of Carl Estes . . . he had carried the torch for Longview and East Texas more than three decades, and the bright flame of his vision, foresight and enthusiastic leadership was a beacon for all of us to follow."

The Dallas Times Herald—The man whose name is synonymous

—expressed in person and in the columns of his newspapers—brought tremendous progress to our area. He had unique qualities of greatness which are not likely to be duplicated. In our annual Oil and Progress Edition of 1965, which was dedicated to the Longview publisher and several other distinguished Gregg County citizens, we honored Carl for “doing more than any one single person to develop the industrial potential of East Texas, and for his aggressive leadership in a variety of civic improvement activities.”

The Dallas Morning News—Longview’s loss in the death of the dynamic publisher Carl Estes is widely and deeply shared throughout Texas and the nation. His strong personality, aggressiveness in behalf of his beliefs and the region he loved, and his ability to influence individuals and industry made him a national figure in journalism, community progress and politics.

The Waco Times-Herald—Mr. Estes left no resource unused to persuade individual firms to locate their plants in and around Longview, let no Longview project lag for lack of encouragement and push . . . The passing of Carl Estes from the East Texas scene was untimely and regrettable. He died just as all of East Texas is about to come into its own as a land of rich resources and enterprising citizens. But he showed the way of their destiny.

Shreveport Journal—East Texas in general and the City of Longview in particular have lost their greatest booster in the death of Carl Lewis Estes, publisher of The Longview Daily News and Longview Morning Journal and one of the nation’s foremost newspapermen and industrial developers. Mr. Estes, a human dynamo, was directly responsible for bringing vast amounts of new industry to Longview and the entire East Texas area . . .

In his memorial service sermon, the Rev. Charles W. Williams quoted this inscription from the California State House:

“Give me men to match my mountains,
Give me men to match my plains.
Men with empires in their purpose,
And new eras in their brains.”

The pastor described the publisher as that kind of man.

The Bivins House

Longview, Texas

The Bivins House is located at 208 East College Street on a 0.39 acre tract of land in the M. D. Greer Survey. The site is described as Tract 1, New City Block 192, Lot 10, according to the New City Map of Longview, Texas.

The property's chain of ownership, as recorded in the Deed Records of Gregg County, include the following transactions:

Volume D, Pages 9 -11

April 10, 1877

W. W. Duke et ux to Isaac H. Crutcher

Volume I, Page 518-519

June 22, 1887

Isaac H. Crutcher to B. F. Lewis: one and one-half acres of land, including the current site of the Bivins house, for \$500 cash

Volume U, Page 640

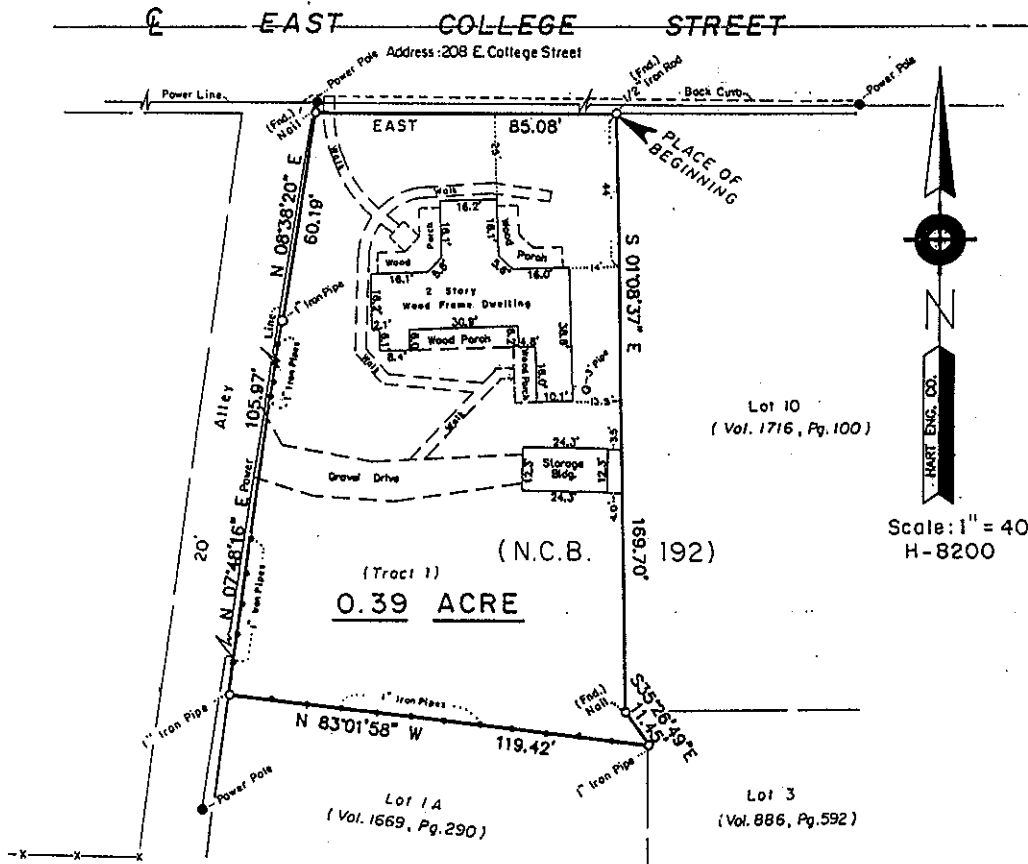
May 24, 1905

B. F. Lewis and his wife E. A. Lewis to Viola Bivins: one and one-half acres of land, including the current site of the Bivins house, for \$3,250 "for her separate use and benefit, the same to be her separate property" and "in her separate estate"

Volume 2233, Pages 324-325

March 14, 1991

0.39 acres, including the Bivins house, conveyed to Peggy Bivins Reed



SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF TEXAS §
 COUNTY OF GREGG §

I, Lee W. Newman, Registered Professional Land Surveyor No. 3444, do hereby certify that this plat correctly represents the results of a survey made on the ground June 13, 1994, reflecting the location of the building and improvements on the following described tract;

Being 0.39 acre of land situated in the M. D. Greer Survey, A-83, City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas, said 0.39 acre being that same tract of land conveyed to Peggy Bivins Reed in QUITCLAIM DEED dated the 14th day of March, 1991, and recorded in Volume 2233, Pages 324-25, Public Official Records, Gregg County, Texas, said 0.39 acre being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a 1/2" iron rod found in the South ROW line of East College Street for corner, said corner being the Northwest corner of Lot 10, N.B.C. 192, and recorded in Volume 1716, Page 100, Public Official Records, Gregg County, Texas, said corner also being the Northeast corner of said Reed tract and of the herein described 0.39 acre tract of land;

THENCE S 01° 08' 37" E, 169.70 feet along the common boundary line between Lot 10 and said Reed tract to a Nail found in same for corner, said corner being the Southwest corner of said Lot 10, N.C.B. 192, same being an angle point of the herein described tract of land, said corner also being the Northwest of Lot 3, N.C.B. 192, and recorded in Volume 886, Page 592, Deed Records, Gregg County, Texas;

THENCE S 35° 26' 49" E, 11.45 feet along the West boundary line of said Lot 3, N.C.B. 192 to a 1" iron pipe found in same for the Southeast corner of said Reed tract and of the herein described 0.39 acre tract of land, said corner also being the Northeast corner of Lot 1A, N.C.B. 192 and recorded in Volume 1669, Page 290, Public Official Records, Gregg County, Texas;

THENCE N 83° 01' 58" W, 119.42 feet along a ROW of 1" iron pipes on the common boundary line between said Lot 1A, N.C.B. 192 and of said Reed tract and of this tract to a 1" iron pipe found in the East ROW line of a 20 feet wide Alley for the Southwest corner of said Reed tract and of the herein described 0.39 acre tract of land, said corner also being the Northwest corner of said Lot 1A, N.C.B. 192;

THENCE N 07° 48' 16" E, 105.97 feet along the East ROW line of said 20 feet wide Alley to a 1" iron pipe found in same for angle point;

THENCE N 08° 38' 20" E, 60.19 feet along the East ROW line of said 20 feet wide Alley to a Nail found in the South ROW line of said College Street for the Northwest corner of said Reed tract and of the herein described 0.39 acre tract of land;

THENCE East, 85.08 feet along the South ROW line of East College Street to the PLACE OF BEGINNING and containing 0.39 acre of land and being known as Tract 1, N.C.B. 192 according to the New City Map of Longview, Texas.

The building(s) as shown by this plat, is(are) wholly located on the said tract of land according to the occupied lines. Corners are staked as shown on plat. There are no encroachments on said tract of land by buildings on the adjoining tracts. There are no visible highlines, pipelines, or other utility lines on said tract other than those serving same, and those shown on plat.

Improvements shown hereon are in Zone X and are above the 100-year flood plain as depicted by F.E.M.A.(F.I.R.M.) Community Panel No. 480264-0015D, City of Longview map revised January 17, 1990.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL this the 14th day of June, 1994.

first day of June A. D. 1887

J. M. Cornes
A. S. Taylor

The State of Texas } Before me R. B. Leavy,
County of Gregg } County Clerk in and
for Gregg County, Texas on this day personally
appeared J. M. Cornes and A. S. Taylor known
to me to be the persons whose names are
subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and
severally acknowledged to me that they
executed the same for the purposes and
consideration therein expressed - Given under
my hand and seal of office this 3rd day of
June A. D. 1887

R. B. Leavy

R. B. Leavy
County Clerk of Gregg County Texas,
The State of Texas } Do hereby certify
County of Gregg } that the above and
foregoing is a true and correct copy of the
original deed and certificate of acknowledg-
ment as filed for record in my office on
the 23rd day of June A. D. 1887 at 2 o'clock
P. M. and duly recorded on the 28th day of June
1887 at 4 o'clock P. M. This 28th day of June 1887
R. B. Leavy
County Clerk of
Gregg County, Texas

J. H. Lindaker
to } deed
R. B. Leavy

The State of Texas } Know all men by these
County of Gregg } presents that J. H. Lindaker
of the said State and County for and in

VOL I

East of the N. E. Corner of J. H. Critcher's lot on which he now resides. Thence East with the line of the Street to the N. W. Corner of Mrs Sarah J. Talley's lot. Thence South with her West boundary line at 245 feet a stake - on the North boundary line of Thos. Moore's lot - Thence West to a stake on an alley said stake being 15 ^{feet} East from the said J. H. Critcher's East boundary line - Thence North with the East line of said alley to the beginning - Containing in all about one and a half acres of land more or less - Together with all and singular the rights numbers hereditaments and appurtenances to the same belonging as in any wise incident or appertaining To have and to hold the said property unto the said B. F. Lewis his heirs and assigns forever in fee simple And I the said J. H. Critcher do hereby bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, to warrant and forever defend the title to said premises, unto the said B. F. Lewis his heirs and assigns, executors and administrators against the claim or claims of all persons whatsoever claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof. Witness my hand on the 22nd Day of June 1887

J. H. Critcher

The State of Texas)
 County of Tarrant) Before me T. A. F. H. H. H.
 Notary Public County of

The State of Texas } do hereby certify that
 County of Gregg } the above and foregoing
 is a true and correct copy of the original
 deed and certificate of acknowledgment as
 filed for record in my office on the 24th
 day of June 1887 at 9 o'clock - A.M. and duly
 recorded on the 28th day of June 1887 at 5
 o'clock. P.M. This 28th day of June 1887 -

W. H. [Signature] County Clerk of
 Gregg County, Texas

Carrie L. Glenn former
 by her husband
 F. A. Glenn
 to & Deed
 P. S.
 Mary P.
 Mitchell &
 Wm Gardner
 Mitchell

The State of Texas }
 County of Gregg } Now all men by these presents, that I
 Carrie L. Glenn of the County of Gregg and State of said
 State, for and in consideration of the sum of Eight
 hundred dollars, to us in hand paid by Mary P. Mitchell
 and William Gardner Mitchell of said County and State
 the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, have granted,
 bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do grant
 bargain, sell and convey and deliver unto the said Mary
 P. Mitchell and William Gardner Mitchell all of the

No 3812

following described lands and premises, to wit, a one
 third undivided interest in and to all of the following described
 tracts or parcels of land, to wit, the first tract of land described as
 follows; Being that certain half or parcel of land lying and
 being situated in the County of Gregg and State of Texas
 and described as follows, to wit, In Gregg County, State of
 Texas, Beginning at the N. W. Corner of a tract of four
 hundred and several last numbered School Section...

History and Description
By: Peggy Reed (BIVINS)

Lewis-Bivins House

Phone # 653

208 E. College St
Longview, Texas

I understand that the house was built in 1895; however, there was an article in the Longview paper about ten years ago, quoting an local historian from one of the pioneer Longview families, claiming that the Bivins house was built in 1885. I don't have anything in my possession to substantiate either date.

The original lot was from Bivins Street [there was no Bivins Street] so including Bivins St area to Green Street. There were two lots behind the house. At present, there is only one lot behind 208.

James K. Bivins, Sr. purchased the house in 1905 for \$10,000⁰⁰ Cash. He presented the deed to my Grand Mother. The home was in her name alone. The purchase agreement included all furniture, window coverings - "lark, stork and bawell". The sellers and builders were Mr and Mrs. B. F. Hewitt. Mr. Lewis owned a variety store, and they had no children.

To quote from my Grand-Mother's book, Memoirs, "It was built 'out of carefully selected lumber.' That was the kind that J. K. Bivins manufactured

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and he was delighted to get just what he wanted in a home without having to take time from his business to build it.

The house was painted white; the porches gray. To my knowledge there has never been any colored decorations on the house. [The original front screen door is on the back porch upstairs.] There was always a white picket fence across the front of the house next to the sidewalk. Originally the back porch was all across the back and open - maybe screened upstairs. The kitchen was across the porch - away from the house. I don't know when the plumbing was installed. There is a bath over the kitchen - taking in some of the porch ^{upstairs}. There was a little screened porch around the well. The well has been sealed for many years. The downstairs bath was added after 1920.

The floors in the house are pine. I don't know how wide, but I presume the width of the upstairs porches. At the time of purchase, there was matting all over the floors. My impression is something like straw matting. Before 1922 [JK died in 1922] the present floors were installed over the pine. They were cut

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at Tally where Brian's Lumber had a mill at that time. All floors were hand selected. I don't think there is a knot in any one. Best pine was laid upstairs, hardwood (oak) downstairs and in the master bedroom upstairs.

There were lace curtains at all of the windows - hanging on poles which stuck out over the inside shutters. The woodwork was always stained dark except in the dining room which was supposed to look like "garden oak."

The front room which juts out ~~out~~ toward College ^[Street] was "the parlor." In the book case there is some wall paper which I believe to be original. The light fixture in the parlor was half gas and half electric. It should be hung lower into the room; I don't know if it originally did. The original mantle burned and has been replaced.

The long windows in the center hall downstairs were originally French type doors.

There were coal burning fireplaces in four rooms - the ones that still have mantles, in the [#]dining room, the front hall and the master bedroom upstairs, there were

pot-bellied wood stoves.

Some of the original furniture is still in the house. It was supposed to have been purchased in New Orleans and shipped to Longview. Most of the furniture was Walnut with marble tops typical turn of the century. There was one Golden oak bedroom Suite and one Lind's Eye maple Suite. The master bedroom furniture had a half tester bed. There were at least two large wardrobes. The dining room was Golden oak - a large rectangular table with five leaves, a large sideboard and china cabinet.

The Buino had four children. When the home was purchased, the older boys were at Q + M, and my Aunt was at Kidd Key College. My Father was only ten years old. The guests were mostly Confederate Veterans, Daughters of the Confederacy and Ladies from the Missionary Society of Kelly Memorial Methodist Church.

The iris in the yard were planted by "Mamaw" and have been there at least forty years. The back porch used to be covered in wisteria; the japonica in the back yard was huge. "Mamaw" picked

← One of the Walnut bedrooms suites was shuddered up and delivered to a workman at the mill who had been shamed out.

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herself on having something blaming
all year round. There were beautiful
white althea on the other side of the
sidewalk; however, when the street
was widened, the space was lost on
the other side of the sidewalk.

The family fortune (as it were) was depleted pretty
much in the depression. Anyway, Momaw,
like most everyone in town, took in roomers.

One of my high school friends said that he lived
with his family at Momaw's when he first
came to Longview and that he fell off the
upstairs porch on his head. He seemed to
have survived the fall pretty well, but I'm
not surprised that he remembered it.

A Gentleman, who still lives in Longview
related to me that he and another who
is now a Judge in San Antonio shared a
shed on the back screened porch. He said
Momaw never let him, leave the house
in the AM without some coffee and a piece
of toast.

During this time frame, Momaw commented
to my Mother and Aunt over sewing one

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afternoon that she couldn't understand why these lovely girls that she had invited who had rented the front room had so much company. She said people were coming and going all night. I don't think my Grand-Mother ever knew why my Father asked the "lovely girls" to move.

Later some of our long time friends rented there also. There weren't many apartments before WW II. One dear friend relates that Mamma would entertain her dates - always remarking that he was not the same one as last week. I can verify that as I lived with her as a teenager. She used to play the piano for nine. I could never afford to be late getting dressed to go out.

Mrs. Baucum and Mrs. Reese taught piano lessons at Mamma's during the 30's and early 40's.

My Father died in 1943. Mamma had deeded the house to my Mother and Father [J.K. Bivins, Jr.] My Mother has lived in the house since 1943 - alone since 1953. Mamma died in the early 1950's. My Wedding Reception was in the house in 1953.

General Information

roof
Mother had the house completely redicated in the early 50's. It has been painted on the roof for 3 times since then. The original wood shingles are still there. There are 3 layers of roofing over them. When the benches (front) were redone last year, (or perhaps) they had to take the shingles off because you can't put 3 layers over (I'm not sure about all of this, but this is what I understand from the man who did the work.)

We had a tiny gas leak last year in some of these old pipes going to the upstairs bathrooms. Everything was inspected by the city. We took the gas heater out of the upstairs bathroom and disconnected that. All was approved after that; the city turned the gas back on.

The house was treated for termites about 2 years ago. There aren't supposed to be any now. It was the first time there had been any to my knowledge.

There is no historical marker. I don't think we would have any problems getting one, and I would be happy to assist.

I do hope that someone wants to restore the house. It is so simple and has been changed so little, it would not be complicated.

Bivins House Built 1885 .

One of Longview's oldest homes is that of Mrs. Tom Hazle Bivins at 208 East College Street.

The Bivins home was built in 1885 by B.F. Lewis, a former Confederate soldier. According to Miss Dolly Northcutt who knew the Lewis descendants, B.F. Lewis came to Longview in the early 1880s and opened a variety store. The Lewis family lived in the house until 1905 when J.K. Bivins Sr. bought it. The Bivins family has lived in it since that time.

The Bivins house is an impressive white frame structure shaded by several large trees. The front of the house has two identical entrances, one on each corner of the facade. Two balconies open off the front part of the house with one large balcony extending over the back porch. Originally the house had four fireplaces but these were closed up several years ago when the inside of the house was restored.

NOTES ON THE J.K. BIVINS HOME. Architecture. From conversation with Gerald Bratz, Feb. 27, 1999 (telephone).

The house is Victorian in style with a slight suggestion of Italianate style. This is a two-story white frame house with the first floor front room fully extended from the bi-lateral side rooms. This arrangement gives rise to two identical angled entrances. The second story is of the same alignment. Each front side has a porch; the floor of each is wood. The second floor porches are supported by square wood columns which are continued to the top of the second story. Most interesting are the details of the column capitals consisting of Victorian scrollwork. The second floor balustrades consist of wood rails supported by hand-tooled wood balusters. The roof has a 12 X 12 pitch with wood shingles. An unusual feature of the roof is the presence of diverters in the middle of the valleys on the front of the house.

A PLEASANT EVENING

Friday eve, January 4th, 1907, a party of young people were entertained in a very unique manner at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Bivins in honor of Maurice and Jessie, who spent the holidays at home.

After the guests had all arrived and were provided with paper and pencil the following names were registered in rhyme, thus:

First to come was E. F. Clanton,
In somewhat of a tantrum,
Soon giving us the dodge,
On the pretense of "Lodge."

Then Dee-Witt White,
Who surely is alright,
And Miss Ollie May Harlin,
Who is somebody's darling.

They say that Branch Lewis
Is in love with a Jewess,
But Jessie Bivins
Has no misgivings.

Bruner Smith,
Who did he come with?—
Junius Flewellen
But don't go and tell him.

Next is pretty Brownie Prothro
But she knows it tho',
And cousin Howell Forman
The son of a store-man.

Mr. Robert Beeman
Is an old time seaman,
And the "inimitable Dot"
Was "Johnnie on the spot."

Miss Effie Rule Dur-ham,
Who in reality is no sham,
And Maurice Bivins
Who believes in high living.

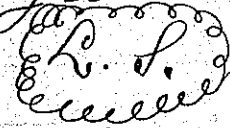
Miss Fannie Belle Echols
Has spent her last sheckles,
Also Burdette White
Who is "clean out of sight."

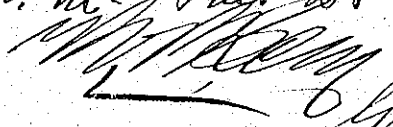
Mr. Garrone Northcutt
Can't keep his mouth shut,
And Miss Vivyan Yantis
Don't know what the word can't is.

East of the N. E. Corner of J. H. Critcher's lot
on which he now resides - Thence East with the
line of the Street to the N. W. Corner of Mrs Sarrala
J. Talley's lot, Thence South with her West
boundary line at 245 feet a stake - on the North
boundary line of Thos. Moores lot - Thence West
to a stake on an alley said stake being 15 ^{feet} East
from the said J. H. Critcher's East boundary line -
Thence North with the East line of said alley
to the beginning - Containing in all about
one and a half acres of land more or less
- Together with all and singular the rights
members hereditaments and appurtenances
to the same belonging or in any wise incident
or appertaining I do have and to hold the
said property unto the said B. F. Lewis his
heirs and assigns forever in fee simple
and I the said J. H. Critcher do hereby
bind myself, my heirs, executors and
administrators, to warrant and forever
defend the title to said premises, unto the
said B. F. Lewis his heirs and assigns,
executors and administrators against the
claim or claims of all persons whosoever
claiming or to claim the same or any part
thereof. I Witness my hand on the 22nd Day of June 1880
J. H. Critcher

The State of Texas } Before me T. A. Hewitt
County of Gregg } Notary Public county of
Gregg personally appeared J. H. Critcher known
to me to be the person whose name is
in the foregoing or instrument in

subscribed to the foregoing instrument, severally acknowledged to me that they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed. Given under my hand and seal of office this 3rd day of June A. D. 1887

 R. B. Seay
County Clerk of Gregg County Texas,
The State of Texas I do hereby certify
County of Gregg that the above and
foregoing is a true and correct copy of the
original deed and certificate of acknowledgment
as filed for record in my office on
the 23rd day of June A. D. 1887 at 2 o'clock
P. M. and duly recorded on the 28th day of June
1887 at 4 o'clock P. M. This 28th day of June 1887 -


County Clerk of
Gregg County, Texas

The State of Texas I know all men by their
County of Gregg presents that I, D. W. Crutcher
of the said State and County for and in
consideration of the sum of Five Hundred
Dollars, cash to me paid by B. F. Lewis, of
Gregg Co. Texas - The receipt of which is
herby acknowledged have granted, bargained,
sold, conveyed and delivered and by these
presents do grant, bargain, sell and convey and
deliver unto the said B. F. Lewis his heirs and
assigns forever, all of the following described
tract of land, situated in Loupview, Gregg
County, Texas and a part of the M. D. Crutcher
straight survey - And beginning 15 1/2 feet

to a stake on an alley said stake being 15 feet east
from the said D. W. Crutcher's East boundary line -
Thence North with the East line of said alley
to the beginning - Containing in all about
one and a half acres of land more or less
- Together with all and singular the rights
members hereditaments and appurtenances
to the same belonging or in any wise incident
or appertaining To have and to hold the
said property unto the said B. F. Lewis his
heirs and assigns forever in fee simple
And I the said D. W. Crutcher do hereby
bind myself, my heirs, executors and
administrators, to warrant and forever
defend the title to said premises, unto the
said B. F. Lewis his heirs and assigns,
executors and administrators against the
claim or claims of all persons whatsoever
claiming or to claim the same or any part
thereof. I Witness my hand on the 22nd day of June 1887.

D. W. Crutcher

The State of Texas } Before me J. A. Fleweller
County of Gregg } Notary Public County of
Gregg personally appeared D. W. Crutcher known
to me to be the person whose name is
subscribed to the foregoing or instrument in
writing, bearing date from the 22nd day of
June A. D. 1887 and acknowledged to me
that he had subscribed and executed the
same for the purposes and consideration
therein stated - Given under my hand and
seal of office, this the 22nd day of June A. D. 1887

J. A. Fleweller
Notary Public

E. S. [Signature]

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: Dr. Norman W. Black
Street address: 417 Mobberly Ave. City Longview State Texas Zip 75602
Phone: 903-757-2261

TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED (Please check one only.)

Subject Markers

This type of marker is solely educational in nature and conveys no legal restrictions to the property. Subject markers are appropriate for topics such as cemeteries, church congregations, businesses, persons, events, and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings. If the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$250
- 27" x 42" marker with post ~~\$850~~ 950.00
- 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) \$800 900.00
- 18" x 28" marker with post ~~\$550~~ 650.00 ✓
- 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) \$500 600.00

If not on post, to what (block of granite, gatepost, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Markers

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation does carry a measure of legal protection for the structure (see Marker Policies 13 through 18) and for that reason we must have a legal description (lot and block numbers) for the property to be designated. The most commonly used marker for conveying this designation is the medallion and plate (also referred to as a building marker); however, the 18" x 28" or 27" x 42" size marker may be ordered for those who wish a greater amount of historical information to appear in the marker text. Careful attention should be paid so as not to damage historic building material if the marker is to be mounted directly onto the structure. The THC staff can provide alternate ideas for mounting upon request.

- Medallion and 16" x 12" plate with post \$400
- Medallion and 16" x 12" plate without post (see below) \$350
- 27" x 42" marker with post \$850
- 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) \$800
- 18" x 28" marker with post \$550
- 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) \$500

If not on post, to what (building, gate, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____
Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

Legal description of property (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

Before forwarding your material to the Texas Historical Commission, please check to make sure you've included the following items. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and may be returned to the applicant.

- ✓ completed application form signed by the county historical commission chair or marker committee chair
- ✓ narrative history with reference notes and bibliography
- ✓ photograph of the proposed marker location (do not use instant/Polaroid photos)
- ✓ map indicating marker location and other sites related to the marker topic
- ✓ historic photo of property and current photographs of all elevations (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ legal description of property (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ floor plans (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ site plan (RTHL markers only)

Mail completed applications to:
Local History Programs, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276 512/463-5853

Additional items, including directional signs and replacement parts for 1936 markers, are available. Please contact the Local History Programs office for a separate order form.

LEWIS - BIVINS HOUSE. H.M. APPLICATION

Longview, Gregg County, Texas was platted into blocks and lots by the Southern Pacific Rail Road in 1870, three years before becoming the seat of the newly formed Gregg County. This portion of Gregg County came from Upshur County in April 1873 and a year later a portion of Rusk County south of the Sabine River was added to form the complete outline of the new county. Within a year the old Southern Pacific Rail Road was purchased by the Texas and Pacific Railroad.

Block 9 of the City of Longview was given to Gregg County by the Texas and Pacific railroad for a courthouse and the remainder of the lots were sold for businesses and residences with a few lots given by the railroad to churches. Building began immediately after the formation of the new town of Longview. As with all railroad towns the construction began at the center of town and spread in most all directions. In the case of Longview the more fashionable homes outside the center of town were on the immediate south side.

One of these fine houses is the J. K. Bivins House. It is believed to have been built in 1885 and located at 208 East College Street.

Janes Knox Bivins was born Georgia, April 13, 1845, and moved to Upshur County, Texas when he was eight years old. At the age of sixteen he joined the Confederate Army in

Marshall, Texas and served four years. After the War Between the States he apprenticed himself to the G. A. Kelly Foundry at Kellyville as a machinist. He later started a saw mill business. In 1882 he married Viola Cobb and they reared four children. Mr. Bivins moved the family to Longview in 1905 to be close to his saw mill at Tally, twelve miles southeast of Longview near the Sabine River. Mr. Bivins was an active civic leader, active in the Methodist Church, a Mason, a Knight Templar and active in Civil War veterans's affairs.¹

All the land in the townsite of Longview, as stated earlier, was owned by the T & P Railroad. The Bivins house is on a .39 acre tract of land in the M. D. Greer Survey. The site is described as Tract 1, New City Block 192, Lot 10.

The chain of ownership of the property must begin with the purchase of the site from the T & P Railroad after 1870. However, it has not been possible to locate a deed transaction in courthouse records. Tax rolls were examined for some information but they do not exist for this period in the Gregg County Courthouse. The microfilm of the tax rolls are illegible for this period. Exhaustive research has been conducted in recent years for this information to no avail. The earliest record in the chain of ownership for this tract in the Deed Records of Gregg County is the sale of the property to Isaac Crutcher by W. W. Duke and wife, April 10, 1877.² Next, Crutcher sold one and one-half acres

of land, including the current site of the Bivins House, to B. F. Lewis³ for \$10,000.00.

B. F. Lewis and his wife E. A. Lewis sold the one and one-half acres of land with the house to Viola Bivins (wife of J. K. Bivins) on May 24, 1905.⁴

On March 14, 1991, .39 acres, including the Bivins house, was conveyed to Peggy Bivins Reed.⁵

It is interesting to note that the sale of the property by B. F. Lewis was to Viola Bivins, not J. K. Bivins, her husband. The following is a portion of a paragraph in a book written by Viola Bivins:

In May, 1905, we moved to Longview, where we bought the colonial house on College Street which had been built by Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Lewis of carefully selected lumber. That was the kind of lumber that J. K. Bivins manufactured and he was delighted to get just what he wanted in a home without having to take time from his business to build it. He bought the property "lock, stock and barrel" already furnished. The furniture had come from New Orleans. He paid cash for the deal and handed me the deed --- all mine. Since receiving an inheritance from my pioneer father's estate, I have restored this colonial mansion to its original beauty and strength. It was built originally of virgin heart pine. The contractor who did the work of restoration, said: "Mrs. Bivins, the boys all like you, and are trying themselves to see

what good work can be done." There's not an inch either inside or out of it that has not been thoroughly restored by the best of skilled workmen.⁶

The most reliable source for the date of the house is from an article in the July 4, 1976 edition of the Longview Morning Journal which quotes Miss Dolly Northcutt, Longview's most reliable oral historian until her death in 1982, who stated the house was built in 1885.⁷ [Peggy Bivins Reed, the present owner, was once told the house was built in 1895.]

At the date of this paper, there are only two two and three-story Victorian houses of this vintage remaining in Longview: the other house is the nearby Northcutt House, OTHM 1982 and NR 1978. The two remaining single story frame houses built in this era are the F. L. Whaley House, OTHM 1964 and the Brown-Birdsong House, OTHM 1965.

The house is Victorian in style with a slight suggestion of Italianate style. This is a two-story white frame house with the first floor front room fully extended from the bi-lateral side rooms giving rise to two identical angled entrances. The second story is of the same alignment. Each front side has a porch; the floor of each is wood. The second floor porches are supported by square wood columns which are continued to the top of the second story. Most interesting are the details of the column capitols consisting of Victorian scrollwork. The

second floor balustrades consist of wood rails supported by hand-tooled wood balusters. The roof has a 12 X 12 pitch with wood shingles. An unusual feature of the roof is the presence of diverters in the middle of the valleys on the front of the house. A feature of the interior of the house is a spiral wood staircase.

The present owner of the house and property is Peggy Bivins Reed of New Orleans who frequently comes home to Longview and maintains the house in good repair. At the present time the house is occupied. The grounds are routinely maintained by a lawn maintenance service and the house is protected by a security service.

References

1 Longview, Texas Centennial Corporation, Longview, Texas Centennial 1870 - 1970, 1970.

2 "Warranty Deed", Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, (April 10, 1877), Vol. D, pp. 9-11.

3 "Warranty Deed", Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, (June 22, 1887), Vol. I, pp. 518-519.

4 "Warranty Deed". Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, (May 24, 1905), Vol. U, p.

5 "Warranty Deed", Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, (March 14, 1991), Vol. 2233, pp. 324-325.

6 Mrs. J. K. Bivins, Memoirs, (Longview, Texas, privately published, c. 1942), p. 51.

7 Dolly Northcutt, "Bivins House Built 1885", Longview Morning Journal, July 4, 1976.

Bibliography

Bivins, Mrs. J. K., Memoirs, (Longview, Texas, privately pub., c. 1942), p. 51.

Deed Records, Gregg County, Texas.

Longview, Texas Centennial Corporation, Longview, Texas Centennial 1870 - 1970, 1970.

Northcutt, Dolly, "Bivins House Built 1885", Longview Morning Journal, [Longview, Texas], July 4, 1976.







H.M. site

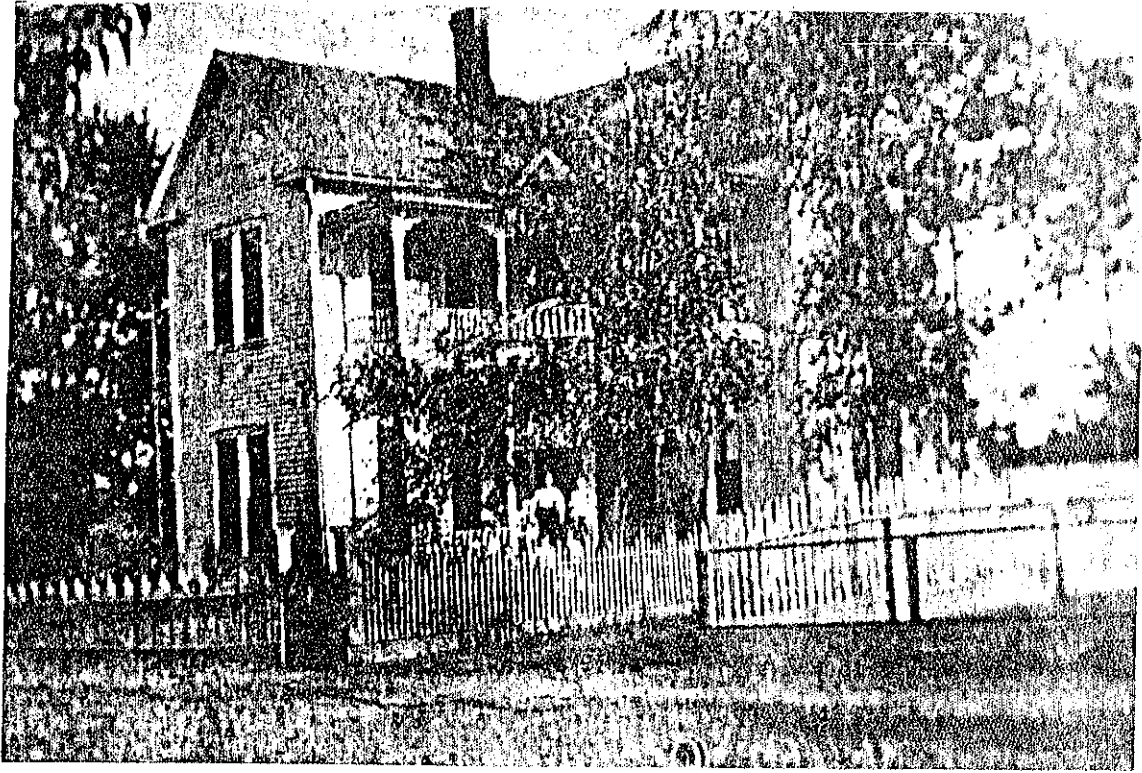
Lewis-Bivins House
208 E. College St.
Longview, Texas

North-west-front

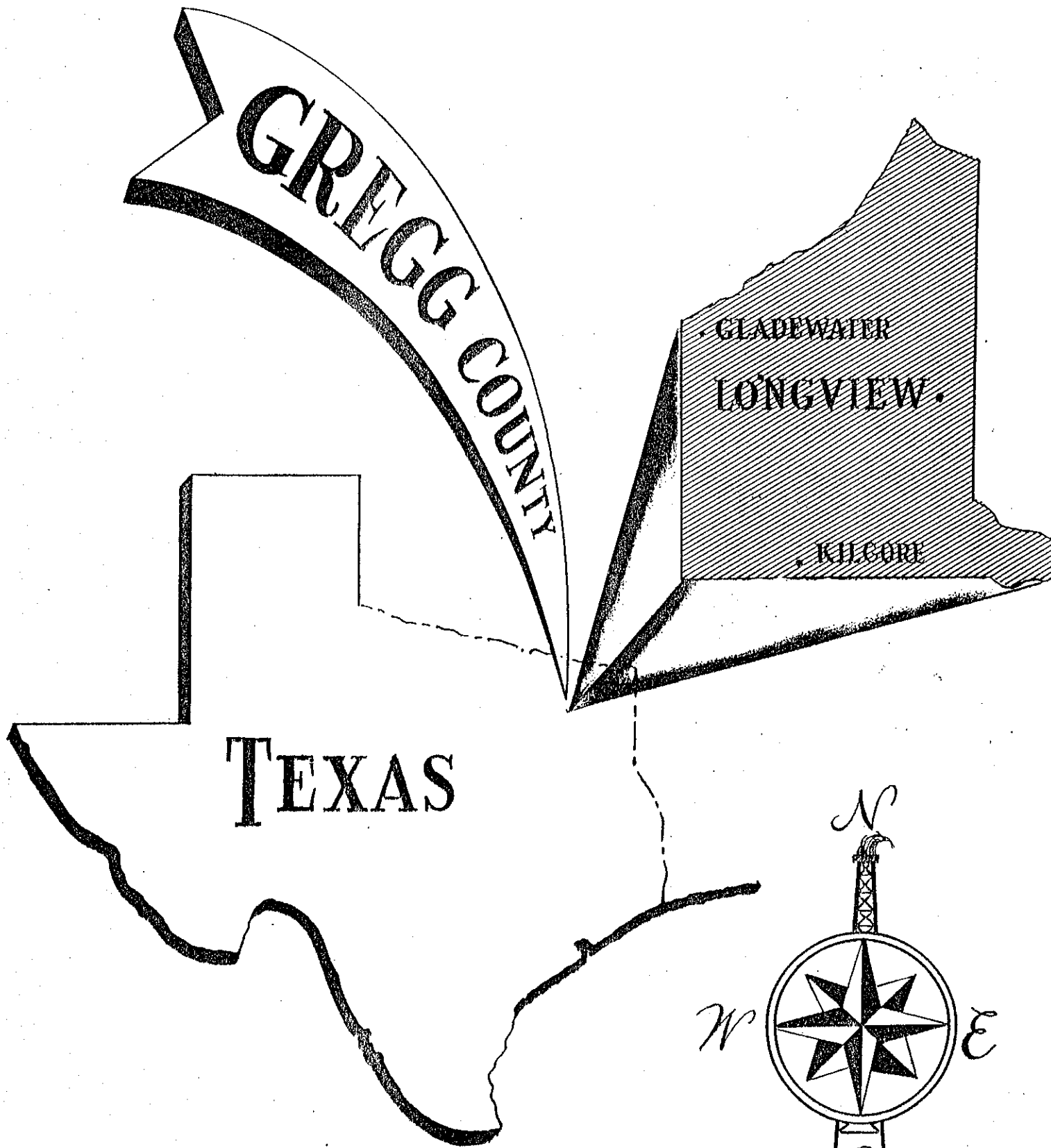
⊗ proposed site of
O.T.H.M. - after
hedge removal

GREGG CO.

6-20-99



HOME OF J. K. BIVINS



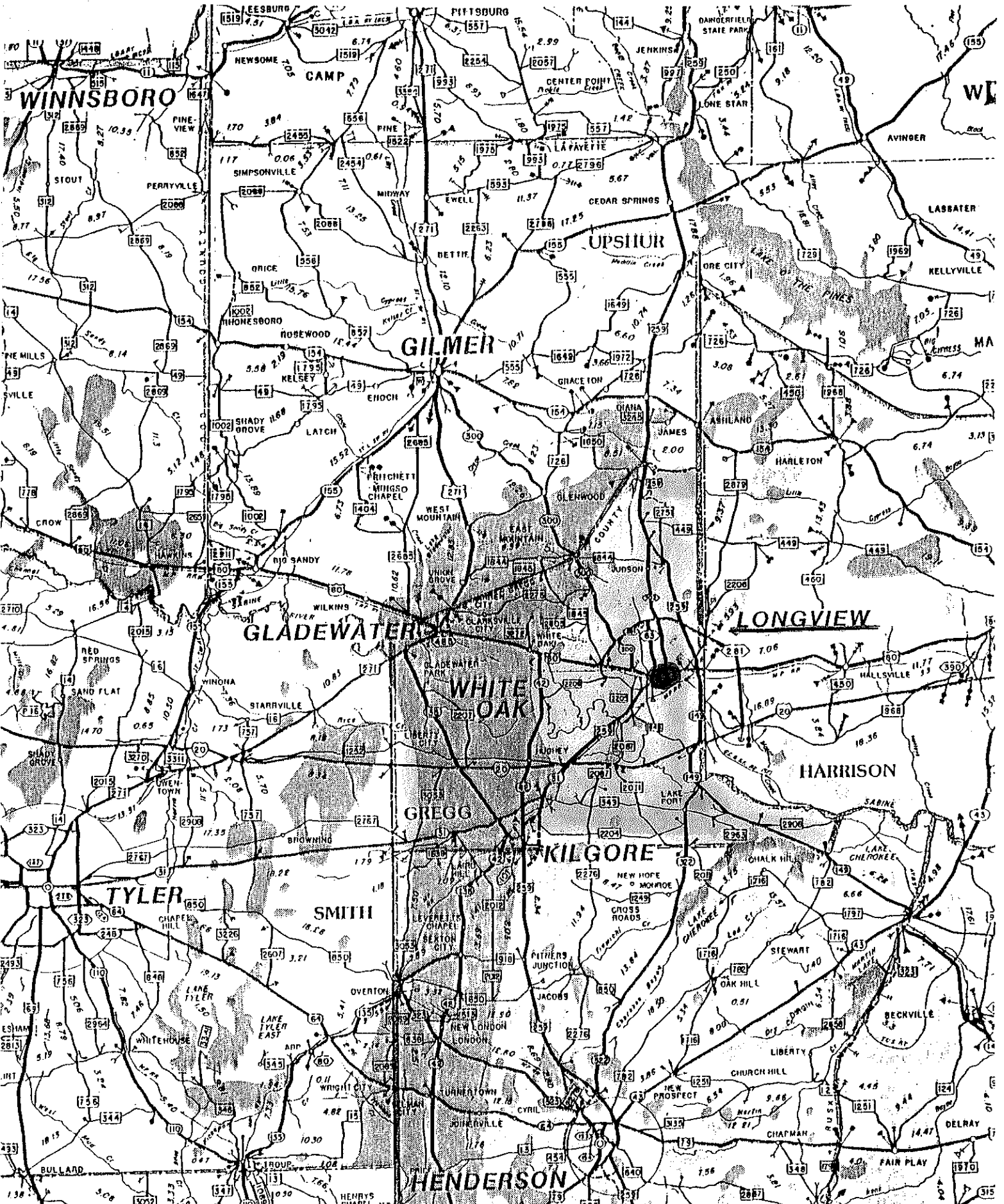
TEXAS

GREGG COUNTY

GLADEWATER
LONGVIEW
KILGORE



GREGG COUNTY



LONGVIEW CITY MAP



James Knox Bivins. Born in Henry County, Georgia, April 13, 1845, he came to Texas in 1853 with his parents settling in Upshur County, the part which later became Camp County. He early developed a life-long occupation in lumber and, in this interest, founded the community named Bivins about 1884. There he married, then moved to Longview in 1905. With his brothers' association he enlarged his timber holdings and lumber mills. He served gallantly for the Confederacy in the Civil War. He died in Longview 3-23-1921. (See list of Civil War Veterans buried in Greenwood Cemetery.)

NWB - 12-1-99



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

July 14, 1999

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Marker Program
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Historical Marker Application - Lewis-Bivins House

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed in the application for the above historical marker in Longview. This house is one of the very few remaining structures built in the nineteenth century in Gregg County. It is in a remarkable state of preservation and I believe it needs to be recognized. The owner was born and reared in Longview, now lives in New Orleans and plans to return to Longview in the very near future when her physician husband retires. I doubt they will reside in the old house but she certainly intends to preserve it and keep it occupied.

As marked on one of the photographs I would recommend the proposed marker be placed behind the front sidewalk where a hedge now exists. If the marker is approved the hedge will be removed in this area.

Personally, the most impressive feature of the interior is the fine wood spiral staircase in the entrance foyer.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc.



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

October 19, 1999

Peggy Jane Bivins Reed
12 Versailles Blvd.
New Orleans LA 70125

RE: LEWIS-BIVINS HOUSE
18" x 28" marker w/ post

208 E. College Street, Longview
Job # 26999, Gregg County

Dear Ms. Reed:

I am pleased to notify you that the State Marker Review Board has reviewed and approved the above-referenced structure for the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation. This special status, awarded to properties deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations, conveys a measure of legal protection to the building. Notification of any modifications to the exterior of this structure should be made to the Texas Historical Commission at least 60 days prior to the commencement of work. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for further information on the RTHL designation.

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$650.00, is now due. Please complete and return the enclosed payment form at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on the preservation of this fine structure and appreciates your effort to record Texas history in this manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia J. Beeman".

Cynthia J. Beeman
Historical Marker Program Coordinator
History Programs Division
cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us

pc: Dr. Norman Black

P.S. For help in eventually writing the marker text, we would appreciate some additional information on the Lewises and Bivinses. Please provide some biographical information such as vital dates, professions, civic activities, etc. Thank you.



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

November 4, 1999

Cynthia J. Beeman, Coordinator
Texas Historical Markers Program
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Lewis - Bivins House Historical Marker Application

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed is the additional biographical information you requested on the Lewis - Bivins House. Unfortunately, very little information is available on the Lewis family. I found no other entries in Lewis' name in the Deed Records of Gregg County. Peggy Bivins Reed told me her "Mam-Ma", Mrs. J. K. (Viola) Bivins, said Mr. Lewis owned a variety store in Longview. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis had no children. Mrs. Reed thinks the Lewises moved to Dallas after the house was sold to the Bivinses.

There is a wealth of Bivins material in Mrs. J. K. Bivins' book, *Memoirs*, referred to in the narrative. This book was written in 1930. I thought it best just to copy a few pages about Mr. Bivins. It is very interesting reading. Mrs. Bivins, of course, devotes most of her book to her family history, herself and a section on the outlaw, Cullen Baker, who was from this area.

Mrs. Bivins was an active church (Methodist) and civic leader and a very important personage in the state and local United Daughters of the Confederacy. The local chapter still reveres her. She was one of the persons responsible for the planting of the pecan trees on the Gregg County courthouse lawn in 1919. These trees are dedicated to the Veterans of World War I. Also, among these trees is a "Gen. Sam Houston Tree Dedicated to the Longview Garden Club and Mrs. J. K. Bivins." She was born in Cass County, Texas, December 15, 1863 to William Franklin Cobb and Susan Virginia Darden Cobb.

If you need more details I will get them for you.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc.

James Knox, "Knottie," born February 18, 1923, at Longview, Texas, a graduate of Longview High School, expert on the Lobo football team, a student in the University of Texas and A. & M.;

Peggy Jane, born September 7, 1930 at Hallsville, Texas, a music student since she was five and talented, a student in junior high school, Longview, Texas.

The children and grandchildren of brother Amos Franklin Bivins, who was born March 1, 1849 in Henry County, Georgia; married Martha Stroud of Springtown, Texas, who died March 1, 1921 in Atlanta, Texas, and is buried at Bivins, Texas; was a cowboy in West Texas during young manhood, afterwards engaged in sawmill business with his brother, moved to Atlanta, Texas, where he engaged in farming and stock raising:

Earl, born August 1, 1889 at Bivins, Texas, lived two years, buried at Bivins, Texas;

Ola B., born July 4, 1892, at Bivins, Texas, a student at Kidd-Key College, married T. P. Trice, March 20, 1917, was left a widow September 29, 1930; her children are:

T. P. Jr. (Trice), born June 26, 1918 at Atlanta, Texas, a graduate of Atlanta High School, student and instructor in athletics;

Frank Bivins (Trice), born December 15, 1924 at Atlanta, Texas, a student in high school;

Mara (Trice), born April 9, 1930, died July 28, 1932, buried in Atlanta, Texas.

Biography of Captain J. K. Bivins

JAMES KNOX BIVINS was the son of Daniel and Peggy Stevens Bivins, whose maternal grandmother was Hannah Houston, a close relative of General Sam Houston of Texas Independence fame. His father and mother were both natives of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina (within whose territory the first declaration of independence was signed), and it was there that they were married in 1822. Daniel Bivins was of Scotch blood as was the Houston family. At the age of twenty-three Daniel Bivins left North Carolina for Marshall County, Tennessee, where he purchased a farm and resided for twenty years. From Tennessee he moved to Henry County, Georgia, McDonnah being the nearest town, and lived there for ten years. While a resident of Georgia he was elected to the office of county treasurer while away from home and refused to accept the office. Though he ever eschewed public office, he always took an interest in current affairs as a good citizen.

In 1853, the couple with their family of six sons and five daughters moved to Texas and settled near Pittsburg in what was at that time Upshur County, now Camp County. The mother died November 12, 1858 at the age of fifty-six. The father died June 22, 1861, aged sixty years. They are buried at Pittsburg, where Captain J. K. Bivins marked their graves several years before his death.

James Knox Bivins, who was next to the youngest son of Daniel and Peggy Stevens Bivins, was born April 13, 1845 in Henry County, Georgia. He was named for James K. Polk of Tennessee. When his parents brought him to Texas he was eight years old, and he lived and worked on his father's farm near Pittsburg until hostilities began in 1861. He volunteered in July, 1861 and was mustered into service at Marshall, Texas.

J. K. Bivins was a member of Company B, Seventh Texas Infantry, in which there were many of his acquaintances, e. g., M. K. Vandzant of Marshall, Texas, and Aleck and Jim Polk Ford of Upshur County. Company B, Seventh Texas Infantry was a notable organization and saw much service. It was swept right into the seat of war in September, 1861, near Bowling Green, Kentucky. J. K.'s first battle was at Fort Donaldson, Tennessee, which was engaged heavily February 15, 1862 and surrendered with the entire force. Our little soldier boy of sixteen was among



J. K. BIVINS

the captured and was held prisoner of war at Camp Douglas, Chicago, for seven long, weary months.

A good man cannot be suppressed, and it was there in prison, sitting in his bunk to keep from freezing, that he proved himself an artist as well as a good financier. As Shakespeare would say, "thereby hangs a tale." No doubt his youthful looks and pitiful situation appealed to the human nature of the prison guard, who was attracted to this orphan boy and to his art of carving, with his penknife, rings out of guttapercha buttons which were used at that time on men's clothing for decoration as well as utility.

This good Yankee guard would take his rings out of the prison and sell them for souvenirs, would bring him more and better material, and, most importantly, would bring him food as the money would justify. In prison no one was allowed to have money—the prison fare was supposed to suffice for all cravings, wants, or needs. The little soldier artist became more and more proficient in carving with his knife. He could inlay the rings with Masonic emblems in silver and gold as the earnings would permit, his good friend secretly supplying his needs. However, some device had to be invented to take care of his earnings. Cleverly, he found that by lifting the tops off the brass buttons of his uniform he could place a tightly folded bill in each. In the course of seven months in prison he managed to conceal a bill in every button on his jacket to attest to his ability as a financier and artisan. After this time he was released from the only prison in which he was ever incarcerated and exchanged at Vicksburg.

J. K. Bivins participated in the battles of Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Ringgold, Resaca, New Hope Church, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Fort Donaldson, and was with General Joseph E. Johnston at Greensboro, North Carolina, when peace was declared, April 26, 1865. During his four years' service to his beloved Southland he was exposed to every kind of pestilence and disease. He had smallpox in the light or varioloid form and a serious case of pneumonia, during which the doctor, thinking that he was too ill to understand, said, "Give the boy anything he wants for he will not be here much longer." But his indomitable will-power and wonderful constitution gave him strength to rally and "live to fight another day."

Three of Daniel Bivins' sons served in the Confederate Army: the oldest, Marshall, was with the Cavalry of General Forrest; William, who had been promoted to captain when last heard from, was one of the casualties; and "Marsh" was a wonderful man. He followed saw milling after the war and was a victim of black jaundice. On hearing of his illness, J. K. went to see him. He talked of the future life and quoted "I would not live always,

I ask not to stay." With a raging fever and in a delirium he imagined that he was running the mill and gave the signal to "stop the engine, the band has slipped," with which he was ushered into the great beyond without further warning. He was never married.

After the surrender and the soldiers were returning home, as our soldier approached the home of his favorite sister, her little boy, who was a baby when he had gone away, looked out and exclaimed, "Yonder comes Uncle Jim!" The child knew him as a result of hearing much talk in expectancy of his return.

J. K. Bivins left a short sketch of his life which includes his war record, business career, and matters pertaining to his family. I had assisted him in preparing some reminiscences of actual occurrences in the many engagements in which he was a participant, and I attribute the abandonment of his historical efforts to his reticent and unassuming nature. Some unexplainable intuition has led me to believe that he left it up to me to elaborate as I see fit upon the data he left; so I have given many of his reminiscences after the manner in which he was wont to relate them to members of the family and visiting comrades. Many questions like the following were put to him: "Did you know for sure whether you had really killed anybody in battle?" To this he replied, "I would load my gun and fire, maybe see a man fall, but I could never be sure as to who fired the fatal bullet." We are sure that it would have been a regrettable occurrence to know that he had taken life, though all is fair in war. War is terrible and the effect of it on people and nations is something appalling. Many a bright prospect for good citizenship has been forced to desperation and outlawry by war as were the James boys and Cullen Baker of our own vicinity. J. K. Bivins had much of the philosophy of the Greek statesman and philosopher, Pericles, who believed that visitations from Heaven, over which we have no control, should be borne with patience and fortitude. War certainly marked very distinctly our beloved soldier's philosophy of life, always showing a resigned spirit in regard to the great laws of nature and to God's plan of the universe. He never liked to hear complaints about the weather or fuss about something beyond our power to remedy. He believed in leaving such things to an all-wise Providence. As the poet, Milton, said, "They also serve who only stand and wait."

As a result of the fact that for many years after the surrender our Southern soldiers were broken and humiliated, there arose the greatest organization on earth for good, the Daughters of the Confederacy. During these years there seemed nothing else for the women to do besides visiting the sick in hospitals and strewing flowers upon the graves of the dead. These years also resulted in the observance of Decoration Day even though the idea originated in Georgia with its carpet-bag rule legislation. When the United

Confederate Veterans were organized the Ku Klux Klan had already saved our Southland. It was a great source of pleasure for our veterans to meet in annual reunion with old comrades who fought and bled together. "Our" veteran would return telling of seeing comrades for the first time since they parted on the battle field, and he often spoke of and wished that it might be possible to see his good Yankee friend, the prison guard of Camp Douglas.

The following letter was received by Captain T. B. Camp of Waverly Hall, Georgia, from an old Confederate Army comrade, Colonel James A. George, who now resides in Deadwood, South Dakota, where he is engaged in the practice of law. Both of these men had been members of the Seventh Texas Infantry.

"My dear Captain and Comrade:

Your welcome letter of Christmas Day came to hand and was read with much pleasure. I suppose as you sat writing, flowers of some kind were in bloom, and if a pleasant day some bird may have been heard. How different with me as I sit and write 4,500 feet above level and around me, towering from 500 to 2,500 feet above me, the mountain side and top is covered with God's pure snow which hides the rugged places. As I sit here alone and far from my dear old native state of Georgia, my mind runs back to the war days we shared together.

Do you remember the land we were in at Raymond, Mississippi, on that dreadful 12th of May, 1863? I *do*, and not long ago it was brought to my mind vividly by a man who lives out here. He was on the other side. I have never forgotten that huge blue line away to the southwest across the cotton field. You will recollect, Captain, there were but thirty-six men under you. I never will forget my feelings, after our boys got into the death trap, when General Gregg rode up to the fence and told you to *hold that line* until he got the brigade out, if you *lost every man!*

Well, with over 4,000 men in front of us and God knows how many back of us, you strung your thirty-six men along the lane and held the blue hordes in front of us back 'till the line of blue behind us was almost upon us, and then it was a race for life for the bridge across the creek. I well remember I was the last man to the bridge and as I had loaded my gun while running, I turned on the bridge and shot into the blue mass not fifty yards away, and then ran for life and liberty!

As I was talking to my new friend and neighbor he spoke of being shot by the last shot from the bridge. I told

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #26999)
Location: 208 E. College Street, Longview

LEWIS-BIVINS HOUSE

THIS HOUSE WAS CONSTRUCTED IN
1885 OR 1895 FOR LOCAL MERCHANT B. F.
LEWIS AND HIS WIFE, E. A. LEWIS. IN 1905
THE LEWISES SOLD THEIR HOME TO JAMES
KNOX BIVINS, A CONFEDERATE VETERAN
AND LUMBERMAN, WHO PRESENTED THE DEED
TO HIS WIFE VIOLA (COBB) AS A GIFT. THE BIVINS
FAMILY MOVED TO LONGVIEW TO BE CLOSE
TO HIS SAWMILL IN THE NEARBY TALLEY
COMMUNITY. VIOLA BIVINS RESTORED THE
STRUCTURE IN 1941 WITH AN INHERITANCE
FROM HER FATHER. THE LEWIS-BIVINS HOUSE IS
AMONG THE LAST VICTORIAN DEWLLINGS IN
LONGVIEW. THE STRUCTURE EXHIBITS MIXED
FOLK VICTORIAN ELEMENTS WITH CORNICE
RETURNS, SPINDLEWORK PORCH BALUSTERS
AND DECORATIVE PORCH POST BRACKETS.
A SIMPLE FOLK FORM WITH QUEEN ANNE
ACCENTS, THE DESIGN REMAINS LARGELY
INTACT.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK-1999

PLEASE CHECK ONE AND SIGN:

- I approve this text as written.
- Please consider the revisions as
noted on this copy.

Reggie Jane Bivins Rea

Early LHS squad had a 'first class' player



VAN CRADDOCK

into that early "foot ball" team, which had only one player who weighed 200 pounds or more. Most of the players were tiny by today's standards. Team captain G.R. "Cush" Moore weighed 130 pounds, T.M. Campbell 125, "Shorty" Pope 138, J.K. Bivins Jr. 150. Longview wouldn't be known as the Lobos for another decade (it generally was spelled "Loboës" back then). And in 1912, the team

mascot was — I'm not making this up — a black velvet ribbon, worn by Captain Moore on his left arm.

"He did not wear it in the games we lost, but he wore it in every game we won," noted the LHS yearbook. "We, therefore, became superstitious and always reminded the captain of our mascot, for we always felt more confident when we saw him tying it in its usual place, where it waved and bowed, as if defying anyone to tear or remove it from its place."

Moore wore no ribbon in the opening game, which LHS lost to the local "Business College" 6 to 4, nor in the first Marshall game (another loss, 19 to 0). But the ribbon was in place when Longview defeated a much bigger Tyler team, 13 to 7.

'Traveled all day'

Then came the rematch against Marshall, with Longview prevailing to the tune of 26 to 3. The loss was not taken lightly by

Marshall

The Marshall newspaper "said some of our players left the field to obtain liquor," dutifully reported the yearbook. "The originator of this fairy tale was suffering from an optical delieriom (sic) or else he was trying to square himself with the rest of the Marshall players for his rotten playing. The write-up which was published in the Marshall Messenger ... is the most absurd piece of fiction that a paper could print."

A rematch against Tyler was a loss (43 to 7). "The home boys were handicapped by the fact that they had traveled all day and that two of their best men, Allison and Bivins, were out of the game," said the yearbook. "They were defeated by forward passes, and a Mfneola man who refereed the first half."

By the way, one of the LHS stars was the aforementioned Bivins who, despite an arm injury, was the team's "best kicker, a sure ground gainer and a bear on defense." Bivins went on to graduate from Coach Mac's old school, Texas A&M, then joined the Army in 1917 just in time for World War I. He was a captain when the war ended. Bivins later became postmaster in his hometown.

In 1940, when the fancy new downtown post office (still in use) was dedicated, U.S. Postmaster General James Farley handed the building's keys over to "Humpty" Bivins.

Van "Cleats" Craddock's e-mail address is vancraddock@aol.com.

The heat index is in triple digits. It must be time for high school football.

Nowhere else is the game as important as it is in Texas, where many of the thousand or so public high schools who field teams begin their seasons next week.

One of those teams is Longview High, which has been playing football since at least 1909.

My, how the game has changed in nine decades.

Nowadays, highly conditioned squads of 60, 70, 80 players take the field before huge crowds, playing on manicured grass (or even artificial turf) in state-of-the-art stadiums. But it wasn't always thus.

When high school football was new, players stuffed cotton into uniforms for padding. The young men played in borrowed shoes — or even barefooted — and many had no leather helmets (which provided scant protection anyway).

Typical was the 1912 Longview High squad, which donned some mismatched black-and-gold jerseys (green and white didn't become school colors until 1934) and carved out three wins and three losses, including a first-ever victory over arch-rival Marshall. Serving as coach was J.E. "Mac" McAshan, who had played at Texas A&M until an injury ended his playing days in 1909.

The 1913 LHS yearbook gives us insight