

PALLBEARERS

John Burgess  
Chester Hall  
Elmer Isgren  
Dan Jones

Carl McCullin  
Jim Molpus  
Ray Stringer  
Clyde Wilson

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Marshall Aggen  
H. V. Anderson  
Earl Arnold  
Royce Barnwell  
Walter Beal  
Louis Bell  
Cleve Bennett  
Johnny Bobb  
Jim Chandler  
Jack Davis  
Homer Douglas  
Evan Fleming  
Charlie Franck  
Aaron Friend  
Rollan Friesner  
Norman Galyon

Sammy Glaze  
Charles N. Hammett  
B. D. Harper  
Harry Henke  
C. V. Hogan  
T. A. Jamison  
Walter Knowles  
Jack LaBaume  
G. Max Lange  
E. C. Loflin  
Dan Malone  
Samuel Matthews  
Charles Middleton  
Billy Earl Moore  
Sherman Pharr  
Wade Powell

Billy Quinn  
Don Renner  
Dale Richardson  
Henry Rutschman  
Maurice Seay  
Robert Selby  
Ed Thaxton  
William Thomas  
George Thompson  
Allen C. Tyler  
Charles R. Walker  
Thurston Walker  
Gerald Whitehurst  
John Williamson  
Johnny Woods  
Dave Yarian

*"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness,  
and all these things shall be added unto you." — Matthew 6:33*

MEMORIAL SERVICE

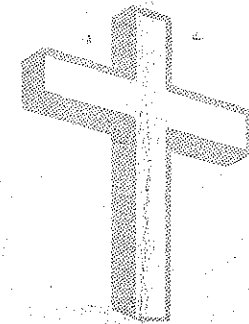
*Robert Gilmour LeTourneau*

Founder and Chairman of the Board

R. G. LeTourneau, Inc.

and

LeTourneau College



Wednesday, June 4, 1969 — 2:00 p.m.

College Gymnasium

LeTourneau College — Longview, Texas

# Robert G. LeTourneau

1888 — 1969

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."*  
Ps. 116:15.

Robert G. LeTourneau was born on November 30, 1888, to Godly parents. From infancy he heard the Gospel. Being an inquisitive and restless lad he found difficulty in adjusting to the leisurely pace of other people. Home discipline seemed restrictive, school with its discipline became a prison to him, and even the Christian teaching of his home was, for a time, rejected. But through the faithful prayers of his parents he was, at the age of sixteen, won to Christ. At 30 he dedicated his life to be God's businessman. He recognized the danger of that dedication being dimmed by his love for his machines, but by the grace of God that commitment extended over a period of fifty years.

He designed and built machines beyond the imagination of ordinary men. He introduced into the earthmoving and material handling industry the rubber tire, which today is almost universally accepted. He invented and developed the Electric Wheel. He pioneered the welding of various metals. His huge mobile offshore drilling platforms are supporting the machines that drill for the rich petroleum reserves under the seas around the world.

He has demonstrated his concern for the Gospel witness by establishing regular chapel services and by employing three full-time Chaplains in his manufacturing plants. The monthly publication NOW begun by him more than thirty years ago, reaches 600,000 persons and circles the world with its message. He has traveled the world as a witnessing Christian businessman.

Three books about his life have been published, the latest entitled MOVER OF MEN AND MOUNTAINS. This book has been translated from English into several foreign languages.

Who can tell how many have come to faith in Christ through his missionary ministry in Liberia, West Africa and Peru, South America. The outreach for God through aid to individuals and organizations by the LeTourneau Foundation has been worldwide.

LeTourneau College which he, together with his wife, founded may well prove to be one of his greatest accomplishments as his influence is multiplied and spread throughout the world by dedicated Christian young people who have studied at the college.

His life's Verse has been Matthew 6:33. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you." This has truly been practiced by him.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

Paul Travis, Pastor, Pinewood Alliance Church, Presiding

ORGAN PRELUDE ..... Mrs. Vic Werner  
INVOCATION ..... Chaplain Paul Rager  
VOCAL SOLO ..... George Beverly Shea  
SCRIPTURE AND PRAYER ..... Reverend Paul Travis

### TRIBUTES:

Mayor D. A. Benton ..... Mayor, Longview, Texas  
Dr. Harry T. Hardwick ..... President, LeTourneau College  
Dr. Julian Bandy ..... Vice President, Christian and Missionary Alliance  
Eddie Florell ..... 41 Years of Service — R. G. LeTourneau, Inc.  
G. T. Willey ..... Director, R. G. LeTourneau, Inc.  
Waldo Yeager ..... Past Chairman, Christian Business Men International  
Harold Jordan ..... Chaplain, R. G. LeTourneau, Inc.  
Nels Stjernstrom ..... Director, LeTourneau Foundation

### WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE:

Billy Graham Evangelistic Team

Grady Wilson ..... Cliff Barrows  
George Beverly Shea ..... Ted Smith

### THE IMPACT OF A LIFE:

Dr. Richard H. Harvey ..... District Superintendent,  
Christian and Missionary Alliance  
Reverend Barney Walker ..... Pastor, Garden Oaks Baptist Church,  
Houston, Texas

VOCAL SOLO ..... George Beverly Shea  
CLOSING PRAYER ..... Chaplain Jim Willey  
POSTLUDE ..... Mrs. Vic Werner

# APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

Texas Historical Commission  
 Research and Markers Department  
 P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff)      ▶ <i>Robert Gilmour LeTourneau</i>	County ▶ <i>Gregg</i>
Marker Location (from nearest town on state map)      ▶ <i>LeTourneau College Mall                  Longview, Texas</i>	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site      ▶ <i>At gravesite</i>	If not on post, surface to which marker will be attached      ▶ <i>post</i>
Owner of Marker Site      ▶ <i>LeTourneau College</i>	Address      City, Zip <i>2100 S. Mobberly Ave.                  Longview, TX 75602</i>
Sponsor of Marker      ▶ <i>LeTourneau Foundation</i>	Address      City, Zip <i>Roy LeTourneau                  Box 695                  Rockwall, Texas 75087</i>
Signature of County Chairman      ▶	Address      City, Zip
Person to whom marker is to be shipped *      ▶ <i>Paul Gray, Director                  of Library Services</i>	Address      City, Zip <i>MARGARET ESTES LIBRARY                  2100 S. Mobberly Ave.                  Longview, Texas 75602</i>

*\*NOTE: Freight companies cannot ship to route or box numbers. If street address is unavailable, please provide a phone number. If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.*

Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative history *must* be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please *do not* send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee.

5 1/8% state sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization.

## SUBJECT MARKERS

- |  |          |          |
|--|----------|----------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) . . . . . | With tax |          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post . . . . .                          | \$190    | \$197.84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post . . . . .                       | \$650    | \$676.84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post . . . . .                          | \$600    | \$624.78 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post . . . . .                       | \$375    | \$390.49 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post . . . . .                       | \$300    | \$312.39 |
- I(We) request RTHL designation be considered for this marker.

## BUILDING MARKERS

- |   |       |          |
|---|-------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post . . . . .    | \$350 | \$364.45 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post . . . . . | \$300 | \$312.39 |

Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 13 through 18, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

Signature of owner \_\_\_\_\_

## PAPERWEIGHTS

Please indicate quantity desired.

- |   |      |         |
|---|------|---------|
| — 3" x 4" plastic paperweight<br>mounted with replica of marker . . . . . | \$90 | \$93.71 |
| Allow 2 months from completion of marker<br>for receipt of paperweight.   |      |         |
| — Medallion paperweight . . . . .   | \$40 | \$41.65 |
| Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.          |      |         |

## DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:
- |   |      |         |
|---|------|---------|
| 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign . . . . .   | \$80 | \$83.30 |
| These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city<br>limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.           |      |         |
| — Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)   |      |         |
| — Green and White (for interstate highways)   |      |         |
| 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign . . . . .  | \$80 | \$83.30 |
| In black and white only. For city and county roads.<br>Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement. |      |         |
| — With arrow pointing straight ahead  |      |         |
| — With arrow pointing left  |      |         |
| — With arrow pointing right   |      |         |

## OTHER

- |  |       |          |
|--|-------|----------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Register plaque . . . . .                                    | \$ 50 | \$ 52.06 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12" x 6" supplemental plate . . . . .                                 | \$110 | \$114.54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker plate only<br>(see policy #15) . . . . .    | \$190 | \$197.84 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Replacement medallion (see policy #15) . . . . .                      | \$110 | \$114.54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936<br>granite markers) . . . . .   | \$ 25 | \$ 26.04 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze wreaths (for replacement on<br>1936 granite markers) . . . . . | \$ 25 | \$ 26.04 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze seals (for replacement on<br>1936 granite markers) . . . . .   | \$ 65 | \$ 67.69 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze plates (for replacement on<br>1936 granite markers) . . . . .  | \$185 | \$192.64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Certificates of commendation . . . . .                                |       | 50¢ each |

INDEX OF MATERIAL FOR R. G. LE TOURNEAU MEMORIAL

Earthmovers in W W II: R. G. LeTourneau and His Machines by  
Robert H. Selby

APPENDIX I

United States Patents Issued To R. G. LeTourneau

APPENDIX II

Major Awards Given To R. G. LeTourneau

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Current Biography 1958

The Southwestern Electric Power Co., April 1970

CUSTOMER OF THE MONTH

Technical Education News, May 1948

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PROFILES

LeTourneau Technical Institute of Texas

Barron's. December 1957

RETURN OF LE TOURNEAU

Longview Daily News, June 1969

INDUSTRIALIST R. G. LE TOURNEAU DIES

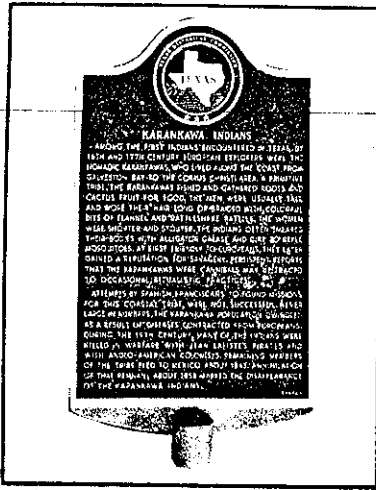
STORY OF 'FABULOUS MAN WITH ARMS AROUND WORLD'

Longview Morning Journal, June 1969

THE LE TOURNEAU LEGACY

HISTORY OF R. G. LE TOURNEAU, INC.

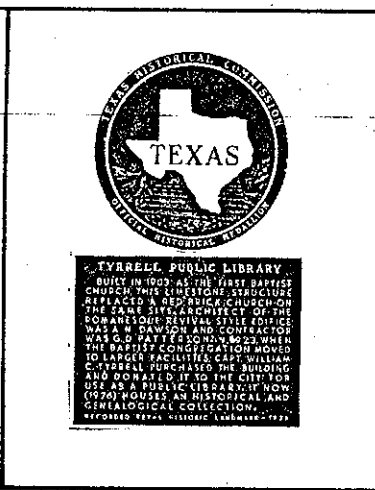
PERSONAL DATA, EDUCATION, BIBLIOGRAPHY - PERIODICALS - BOOKS



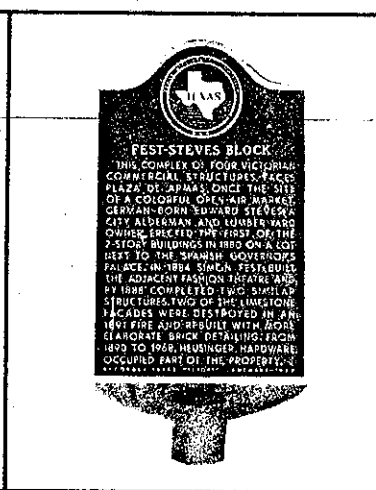
**SUBJECT MARKER**  
(27" x 42")

**SUBJECT MARKER (27" x 42")** allows up to 24 lines of text using 1/2" lettering. Marker with post, \$575; marker without post, \$525.

**BUILDING MARKER (medallion and 16" x 12" plate)** allows up to 14 lines of text using 3/8" lettering. Marker with post, \$225; without post, \$175.



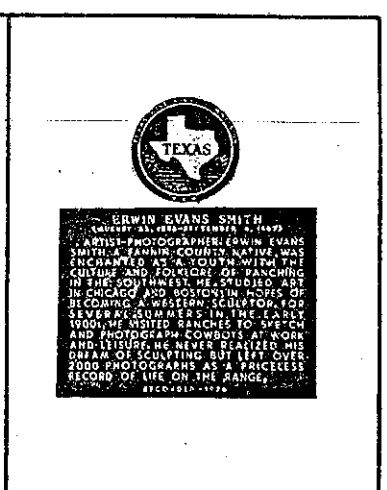
**BUILDING MARKER**



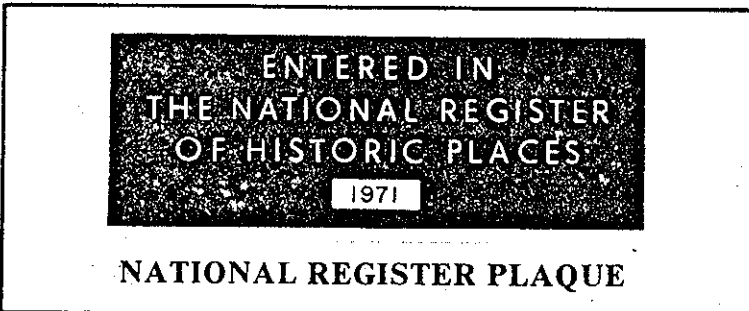
**SUBJECT MARKER**  
(18" x 28")

**SUBJECT MARKER (18" x 28")** allows up to 18 lines of text using 1/2" lettering. Marker with post, \$325; without post, \$250.

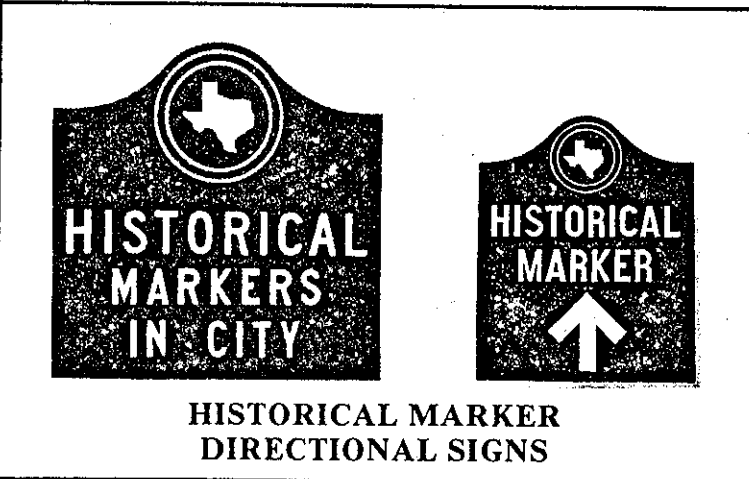
**GRAVE MARKER (small medallion and 16" x 12" plate)** allows up to 14 lines of text using 3/8" lettering. Marker includes mounting bar, \$175.



**GRAVE MARKER**



**NATIONAL REGISTER PLAQUE**

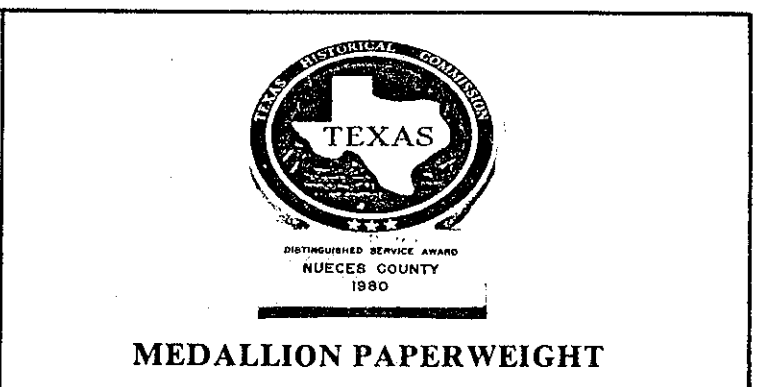


**HISTORICAL MARKER DIRECTIONAL SIGNS**

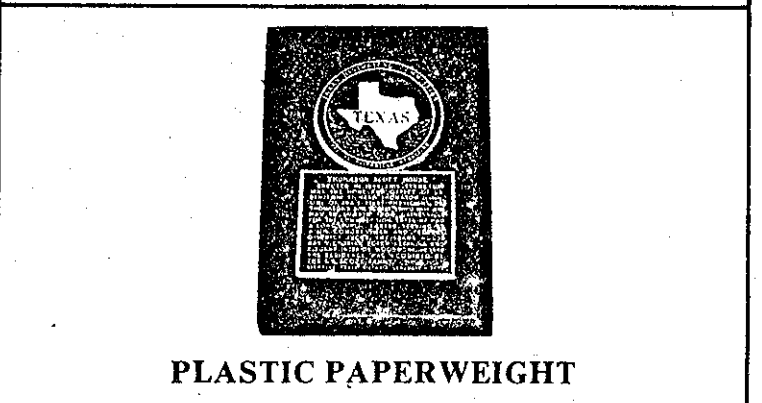
**NATIONAL REGISTER PLAQUE** is available for structures that are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places or that are contributing members of a National Register Historic District, \$35.

**HISTORICAL MARKERS IN CITY (24" x 24")** to be placed on city limit signs by the State Dept. of Highways and Public Transportation.

**HISTORICAL MARKER (18" x 22")** with directional arrow to be placed on city streets and county roads.



**MEDALLION PAPERWEIGHT**



**PLASTIC PAPERWEIGHT**

**MEDALLION PAPERWEIGHT** cast in aluminum, the medallion measures 4" in diameter with a 3/4" x 1/4" plate, allowing four lines of engraving, \$25.

**PLASTIC PAPERWEIGHT**, a miniature replica of your marker mounted on a 3" x 4 3/8" x 1/2" black acrylic base, can be ordered when the marker application is made. Allow two months for delivery, \$75.

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



## OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION FORM

1985 EDITION

### MARKER APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Read the marker policies.
2. Evaluate the eligibility of your subject based on the policies.
3. If the subject appears eligible, gather specific information using the topic guidelines in this form as a research checklist.
4. Write a complete, concise, footnoted and well-documented narrative history (with a bibliography) of the subject. This written history must be submitted with the application form and must include the author's name and address. An acceptable history will be at least three typewritten pages in length, and can be longer if the subject requires. The history must be submitted on 8½" x 11" plain, white bond paper, and must be typewritten with a good black ribbon because the history will be duplicated for the members of the State Marker Committee.
5. If the subject is a structure, you must submit clear, black-and-white photos of all sides of the building, plus a historic photo.
6. Complete the application form (insert) and send the history and form to your county historical commission.
7. *Do not* send money with applications for subject or building markers.

**PLEASE DO NOT SUBMIT A SUGGESTED INSCRIPTION.** The wording, spacing, and style of inscriptions are technical matters and are controlled by the State Marker Committee. Your preference of subject matter, as shown by the history submitted, will be considered in writing the marker inscription.

Submission of an application does not guarantee that a marker will be awarded. The applicant will be notified of the receipt of the application by the THC. If the submitted history is inadequate, although the topic is worthy of consideration, additional information may be requested. After the State Marker Committee reviews the marker topic, you will be notified of the topic's status. The decision of the State Marker Committee is final.

In general, six to nine months are required to process and manufacture a marker. Because of the variables involved, a marker dedication should not be scheduled until the actual marker has arrived.

Information that is not considered strictly historical, such as names of sponsors, may be incised in small letters in the base or on the back of a marker at a cost of 20¢ per character (letters, numbers, and punctuation), plus tax if applicable.

Please note that the state marker program is separate from the federal inventory of historic properties (the National Register of Historic Places). A marker application does not constitute a nomination to the National Register. For more information

about the federal program, contact the National Register Department of the Texas Historical Commission.

### The Marker Process

#### APPLICANT

researches the topic, writes the history, fills out the application, and submits it to the . . .

#### COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

which may ask for additional information. If approved by the county commission, the application is signed by the chairman and forwarded to the . . .

#### THC DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

who may request additional information. When all the material is in order and the staff review is completed, the application will be sent to the . . .

#### STATE MARKER COMMITTEE

which will either approve or reject the topic. If approved, the application is sent to the . . .

#### THC MARKER WRITER

who prepares a suggested inscription.  
The text is then sent to the . . .

#### COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

for everyone's approval. If changes are suggested, the marker writer will prepare a new inscription. Once approved, the text is sent to the . . .

#### FOUNDRY

where the marker is set up. A "proof" is sent to the THC Research Department, where a final check for errors is made. After approval, the marker is cast, painted, finished, and shipped, and planning can begin on the . . .

#### MARKER DEDICATION

### TEXAS MARKER POLICIES

1. **State Marker Committee.** All policies and procedures related to the marker process are determined by the State Marker Committee, comprised of members of the Texas Historical Commission appointed by the chairman. The decisions of the committee about the eligibility of marker topics are final. When additional information warrants, the marker committee may reevaluate a topic that has been previously rejected.

2. **Definition of Official Texas Historical Markers.** Official Texas Historical Markers are those markers and plaques awarded, approved, or administered by the Texas Historical Commission. They include

centennial markers awarded by the state in the 1930s, Civil War centennial markers (1960s), medallions, markers awarded by the Texas Historical Commission or its predecessor, the Texas Historical Survey Committee, and private, state-approved markers.

3. **Documentation.** The basic document governing decisions of the State Marker Committee to grant a marker shall be a comprehensive history of the topic, with footnotes and bibliography as prescribed in the application form. Collections of miscellaneous documents or notes are not acceptable in lieu of a narrative history.

4. **Permanent Archives.** All materials submitted by applicants for Official Texas Historical Markers become part of the permanent archival files of the Texas Historical Commission. They may be used or cited in the commission's publications unless otherwise noted by the applicant or county historical commission.

5. **County Approval of Applications.** The approval of the appropriate county historical commission, where one exists, shall be signified upon every application submitted to the Texas Historical Commission. In the case of counties with no active county historical commission, the approval of the county judge shall be signified upon the application. If the county historical commission rejects or fails to act on an application or proposed marker inscription within 120 days, appeal may be made by the applicant to the State Marker Committee.

6. **Use of Emblems or Logos.** No Official Texas Historical Marker may be fabricated with any emblem, design, or logo signifying another organization. No other emblem, design, or marker size may be used in addition to, or instead of, those offered by the Texas Historical Commission. Medallion logos are the property of the commission and may not be used for commercial advertising or be copied for the use of any other agency, association, corporation, or individual.

7. **Response Required of Applicant.** When an Official Texas Historical Marker is proposed, whether for a structure, event, person, institution, site, or any other topic, the applicants shall comply with the regulations of the Texas Historical Commission as set forth in these policies. Failure to respond after two consecutive written requests from the commission regarding any part of the marker process can result in termination of the application. Upon termination the commission shall return the application and accompanying history to the applicant. The applicant may reactivate a terminated application and supply the commission with requested information in compliance with marker policies.

8. **Burden of Proof.** The burden of proof for all historic claims rests upon the applicant for a historical marker, and supportive documentation is to be submitted according to specifications in the application form. If the topic or subject purports to be unique (one of a kind, the largest, smallest, oldest, first, etc.), the submission is to include documentation from an unbiased and authoritative source which validates the claim. If oral histories are used in the documentation for a marker topic, the application will indicate the form of the recorded data, whether tape or transcript, and whether or not the data are available to the public; will give the name of the interviewer and interviewee; and will include the date, place, and subject of the interview.

9. **Relative Weight of Data.** Primary source data (writing, publications, or other evidence from the time of the event) take precedence over all documentation in the evaluation of any historical topic. Legal documents take precedence over private papers. Testimony from disinterested and authoritative sources takes precedence over testimony of interested individuals.

10. **Subject Marker Approval.** Subject markers may be approved for institutions (including, but not limited to, churches, schools, cemeteries, businesses, organizations, and ethnic groups) that are at least 100 years old or two-thirds the age of the community with which they are associated, whichever is the smaller figure.

11. **Marking Individuals.** No individual may be mentioned in a marker text until 20 years after his or her death, except in the case of a deceased person of state or national significance, in which case the State Marker Committee of the commission will be the final authority on eligibility. Individuals must be eligible for marking on their own merits, rather than from their association with, or relation to, a historical person. Eligibility for an Official Texas Historical Grave Marker will also be determined by this rule.

12. **Marking Events.** If an event changed the course of state or local history, that event will be eligible for historical marking 30 years after its occurrence.

13. **Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks.** Designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark is given structures that are significant in history and preservation. Such structures are eligible for the landmark status because of architecture, history, or age (50 years old or older). In no case may the landmark status be awarded unless the structure is in good repair. The landmark designation becomes effective when the application is approved by the State Marker Committee.

14. **Relocated Structures.** Buildings that have been moved cannot be considered for designation as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. Relocated structures may qualify for subject markers if their history and architectural integrity warrant, and if there is proof that the relocation was required. Proof consists of evidence that the relocated building was formally condemned by the state or a political subdivision of the state, or that it was under threat of imminent destruction. The State Marker Committee will be the final authority on the validity of such claims.

15. **Building Markers.** Applications for Official Texas Historical Building Markers are automatically evaluated for designation as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. At the request of the applicant, subject markers may also be reviewed for the special landmark status. Building markers consist of a medallion and an interpretive plate; one may not be issued without the other.

16. **Permanence of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation.** The status of Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks is a permanent designation, and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. The landmark marker awarded to any structure shall remain with that structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere.

17. **Restraints to Changes in Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks.** The exterior appearance of structures designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks may not be changed appreciably after receiving such designation. If structural changes, including the relocation of the structure, are desired, the applicant will conform to the provisions of Article 6145, Section 12(d), *Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes*, which state that:

No person may damage the historical or architectural integrity of any structure which has been designated by the Commission as a Recorded Historic Landmark, without first giving 60 days' notice to the Texas Historical Commission. After receipt of the notice, the Commission may waive the waiting period or, if the Commission determines that a longer period will enhance chances for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not more than 30 days.

If appreciable or unwarranted changes are observed to have been made on a structure designated as a landmark, the designation and the marker may be withdrawn by the State Marker Committee.

18. **Disposition of a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker.** A Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker for a structure that has been destroyed may:

(a) be placed in an appropriate local museum for display with accompanying photos and history; or failing that,

(b) be presented to the county historical commission for use in the promotion of historic preservation or education.

19. **Placement of Historical Markers.** Official Texas Historical Markers are to be displayed in conspicuous places accessible to the public, and in dignified surroundings. Desirable sites are public highways, parks, and city streets where the reading of the marker text will be of educational value. If the site of a commemorated event, structure, or institution is on private property or is otherwise inaccessible to the public the marker is to be placed in an accessible location as near as possible to the historic site.

20. **Relocation of Historical Markers.**

(a) Causes for relocation. Official Texas Historical Markers may be relocated

(1) when they are the object of persistent vandalism in their original location,

(2) when a more accurate site for the marked event or structure has been determined,

(3) when an extant hazard to viewers of a marker can be reduced or eliminated by its relocation, or

(4) when better public access results.

(b) Written permission. Relocation shall be with the written consent of the Texas Historical Commission, given through the office of the executive director.

(c) Supplemental plate. In cases where a marker's text will be revised by reason of the relocation, a supplemental plate may be required by the commission.

21. **Private, State-approved Markers.** Privately installed markers that meet state marker requirements may be recognized by the State Marker Committee as Private, State-approved Markers, and may be listed in commission publications.

22. **Significance of Marker Topics.** No topic is to be considered for historical commemoration for its amusement value alone. There must be inherent significance over and above the matter of popular appeal.

23. **Marker Inscriptions.** The State Marker Committee is the final authority on the wording, spacing, and style of marker inscriptions.

24. **Restraint on Including Owners or Restorers in Marker Text.** Neither restorers nor owners of historic structures may be named in the text of an Official Texas Historical Marker awarded to the structure.

25. **Replacement of Markers.** When the replacement of an historical marker is necessary because it has been damaged or stolen, or because it contains factual errors, the topic or structure shall meet marker criteria and policies in effect at the time of replacement.

*Official Texas Marker Policies were adopted by the Texas Historical Commission on May 3, 1984.*

## RESEARCH GUIDELINES

While there are many different approaches to writing history, good research is essential to a comprehensive narrative. Research provides the answers to questions, such as who, what, when, where, and how. The following items are listed as *general guidelines for research*; you can adapt them to fit your particular topic. If you would like more specific guidelines, contact your county historical commission or the Research Department of the THC.

### WHO?

- \* Who were the individuals involved with the topic?
- \* What were their names?
- \* What were their dates of birth and death?
- \* Give details of their lives (place of birth, education, etc.) and their military, civic, or business service.
- \* What was the significance of their contributions?
- \* If your topic deals with prehistory, describe the lifestyle of the people involved.

### WHAT?

- \* Give the names of associated events or institutions.
- \* Give earlier names, or describe earlier events that led to the present topic.
- \* Describe affiliations, such as Masons, Southern Baptist, or Rosenwald School.
- \* What were the underlying causes or patterns of development?

### WHEN?

- \* What period of time did the topic cover? When did it begin and when did it end?
- \* What were the earlier institutions, events, or individuals that were influential?
- \* Place the topic in a context; what other events were taking place at the same time in the state or the region?

### WHERE?

- \* Give specific information about the location of events or sites associated with the topic.
- \* Give information about former locations of an institution.

### HOW?

- \* Describe the development of the topic.
- \* Describe how the topic influenced the community or the region.
- \* Give the significance of the topic to your county or to the state.

In addition to the above, if you are researching a building, be sure to include information about the builder, the occupants, and the architecture.

## Documentation

Histories submitted with marker applications are required to include footnotes and bibliographies. This allows the Research Department to authenticate information, but it also helps researchers who use the THC files. For an example of footnotes, consult sources such as the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, the *West Texas Historical Association Year Book*, or the *East Texas Historical Journal*.

Bibliographies should be an alphabetical listing of the sources used to compile your history. Examples can be found in writing manuals, or you can contact the THC Research Department and request a reference guide entitled "Documenting Local History."

## CRITERIA FOR RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARKS

The State Marker Committee has adopted the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation" for evaluating building markers and other markers where the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation is requested. Following is a summation of the standards. If you would like more information, contact the THC.

The following items have been determined to be detrimental to a good restoration project, and are therefore NOT RECOMMENDED by the State Marker Committee:

1. Moving a historic structure.
2. Inappropriate signage.
3. Altering grounds in such a way as to destroy archeological resources.
4. Unsympathetic replacement of mortar on brick or stone buildings.
5. Sandblasting.
6. Removal of architectural features.
7. Artificial siding (aluminum, asbestos, etc.).
8. Major additions to the building that detract from the primary facade or that are made to appear as part of the original plan.
9. Inappropriate roofing material or window shutters.
10. Inappropriate windows (replacing original windows with different styles or with material such as tinted or mirrored glass).
11. Aluminum windows, doors, screens.
12. Alteration of steps, skirting, or porch foundations.
13. Unsympathetic removal of paint; inappropriate colors; painting of brick.
14. Imitating an earlier style that was not part of the building's architectural history.

## MARKER QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- Q. Where can I get examples of narratives used in marker applications?
- A. Check with your county historical commission, or contact



the Research Department of the THC for a sample history. If you are in Austin, you can review microfilmed marker files in the Hoblitzelle Data Center of the THC.

- Q.** Can I have my name included in the marker text?
- A.** The State Marker Committee feels marker texts should be reserved for historical information only. Policy number 11 says that no individual may be included in the text until 20 years after their death. In addition, policy number 24 says neither owners nor restorers of a building are to be included in the text. Information of that nature can be incised on the base or back of the marker, or can be included in a supplemental plaque (see order form).
- Q.** What are the tax benefits for properties with a marker?
- A.** There are no tax benefits for marker properties, unless your city has adopted ad valorem benefits for certified historic structures. Check with your city manager's office.
- Q.** Does the THC have money for restoring old buildings?
- A.** The THC does administer some grant programs. For details, contact the National Register Department.
- Q.** Who pays for the markers?
- A.** Texas' marker program is unique because the state markers are paid for by private sources. No state money is appropriated for the purchase of markers. An individual may pay, or a group of people, such as a cemetery association, may provide the funds. In some cases, the county historical commission may pay for the marker.
- Q.** What is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL)?
- A.** The RTHL designation is a special status that is automatically invoked when a building marker is approved by the State Marker Committee (see policy numbers 13-18). Larger subject markers may also include the RTHL designation, if requested by the owner.
- Q.** Can a building that has been moved be designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark?
- A.** No; however, a relocated structure might be eligible for a subject marker if its history and architectural integrity warrant, and provided there is proof the move was required (see policy number 14).
- Q.** If my building has a marker, do I have to open it for tours?
- A.** No.
- Q.** What if a marker has been vandalized?
- A.** First, contact your police or sheriff's office. Second, if you want the marker replaced, you should follow the normal procedures for ordering. This means that funds will need to be submitted for the replacement marker.
- Q.** What if there is an error on a marker?
- A.** Contact your county historical commission and provide them with documentation. If the county feels the marker should be changed, you should follow the regular ordering procedures. Again, funds will need to be submitted. There is no state money for the replacement of damaged or incorrect markers.
- Q.** Does a marker protect a cemetery?
- A.** No. Cemeteries in Texas are protected under separate laws. Contact your county attorney for information about the laws, or write the THC for a reference guide on preserving old cemeteries.

- Q.** How do we mark archeological sites?
- A.** Every precaution should be taken to assure that no archeological sites are disturbed as a result of the information on a marker. Such markers should not be near the site, if possible. For example, a marker could be placed on a highway, hundreds of yards from the site. The marker text could be worded so as not to give directions, such as "Near this site . . .", or "In this vicinity . . .".
- Q.** Does the State Marker Committee meet to review applications?
- A.** The committee meets several times a year, usually to discuss policies and programs. Reviews are handled by mail to save time and travel expenses.
- Q.** What are the age requirements for the following subjects: Structures, institutions, events, graves, people in subject markers?
- A.** Structures— 50 years, if being considered for the RTHL designation; Institutions— 2/3 of the age of the community, or 100 years; Events— 30 years; Graves— 20 years after death; People in subject markers— 20 years after death.
- Q.** Why is private money used for markers?
- A.** The state appropriates money only for the administration of the marker program. The cost of the marker represents *only* the cost of the foundry work. Because private funds are used for part of the process does not mean that markers are owned by individuals; they are still *state* markers.
- Q.** Are there any restrictions on where a marker is to be placed?
- A.** Yes. Markers should be placed on conspicuous places that can be easily reached by the public. Markers should not be placed inside buildings or on private land, if possible.
- Q.** How can I recognize those individuals that assisted on a marker project?
- A.** First, you may want to purchase a replica or medallion paperweight (see order form). Or, you might want to give certificates (also on order form).
- Q.** How long does it take to get a marker?
- A.** The marker process takes *at least* six months, but usually averages about nine months.
- Q.** Can we order our marker for a specific date?
- A.** Yes, provided it is at least six months after the time the marker application is received in Austin and provided the Research Department staff is notified within the same amount of time.
- Q.** Do I send photos with the application?
- A.** While photographs add much to an application, they are not necessary unless you are applying for a building marker. In that case, you must submit a historic photo and clear, black-and-white photos of each side of the structure.
- Q.** Who is the sponsor of the marker?
- A.** The sponsor is considered the individual or group that is paying for the foundry costs.

There may be other questions concerning markers. Please feel free to contact the Research Department of the Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711.



**Gregg County Historical Commission**

NORMAN W. BLACK  
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone  
214-757-2261

May 16, 1989

Frances Rickard, Director  
State Marker Program  
Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: R. G. LeTourneau H. M. Application,  
file no. 8927, April 1986

Dear Frances:

Enclosed is an application for a subject marker (no. 8927 was for a grave marker). I believe the requirements lacking in the 1986 application have now been met.

LeTourneau University desires the marker dedication coincide with their Founders Day Program, November 30, 1989, at which time a life-size statue of R. G. LeTourneau will be unveiled. This just barely fits into the six-month time frame. I recieved the biography from Dr. Paul Gray just yesterday.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc.

P.S. Photographs of site to be sent later.

# APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

Texas Historical Commission

State Marker Program

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff) <b>Robert Gilmour LeTourneau</b>	County  <b>Gregg</b>
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map) <b>By the R.G. LeTourneau Statue                  on the LeTourneau University Campus                  Longview, Texas</b>	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site <b>Within 10 yards of the                  Robert Gilmour LeTourneau                  Statue</b>	If not on post, type of surface to which marker will be attached (wood, stone, etc.) <b>Post</b>
Owner of Marker Site <b>LeTourneau University</b>	Address     City, Zip <b>2100 S. Moberly Av. Longview, Texas                  75602</b>
Sponsor of Marker <b>LeTourneau University</b>	Address     City, Zip <b>2100 S. Moberly, Longview, Texas                  75602</b>
Signature of County Chairman <b>Herman H. Beck, D.D.S.</b>	Address     City, Zip     Date <b>417 Moberly Ave     Longview, TX     5-16-89                  75602</b>
Person to whom marker is to be shipped* <b>Mr. Earl Martin                  Vice President of                  General Services</b>	Address     City, Zip     Telephone (required) <b>LeTourneau University Longview, Texas                  2100 Moberly Ave.     75602     (214)753-0231</b>

\* If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.

Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative must be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please *do not* send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. Sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization. Applicants may order a marker with a socket to attach to their own post; however, the cost is the same as a marker furnished with a foundry post.

### SUBJECT MARKERS

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) ..... \$225
- 27" x 42" subject marker with post ..... \$650
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post ..... \$600
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post ..... \$375
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post ..... \$300

I(We) request that RTHL designation be considered for this structure.  
 (Please see signature line below.)

### BUILDING MARKERS

- 16" x 12" building marker with post ..... \$350
- 16" x 12" building marker without post ..... \$300

Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 13 through 18, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

Signature of owner

### PAPERWEIGHTS

Please indicate quantity desired.

- \_\_\_ 3" x 4" plastic paperweight  
 mounted with replica of marker ..... \$90  
*Allow two months from completion of marker  
 for receipt of paperweight.*

- \_\_\_ Medallion paperweight ..... \$40  
*Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.*

### DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:

- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign ..... \$80

*These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city  
 limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*

- \_\_\_ Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
- \_\_\_ Green and White (for interstate highways)

- 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign ..... \$80

*In black and white only. For city and county roads.*

*Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*

- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing straight ahead
- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing left
- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing right

### OTHER

- 12" x 6" supplemental plate ..... \$110
- 16" x 12" building marker plate only  
 (see policy #15) ..... \$190
- Replacement medallion (see policy #15) ..... \$110
- Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936  
 granite markers) ..... \$ 25
- Bronze wreaths (for replacement on  
 1936 granite markers) ..... \$ 25
- Bronze seals (for replacement on  
 1936 granite markers) ..... \$ 65
- Bronze plates (for replacement on  
 1936 granite markers) ..... \$185
- Certificates of appreciation ..... \$60 each

**APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER**

Texas Historical Commission

State Marker Program

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff)     ▶ <i>Robert Gilmour LeTourneau</i>	County  ▶ <i>Gregg</i>
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map)     ▶ <i>By the R.G. LeTourneau Statue on the LeTourneau University Campus Longview, Texas</i>	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site     ▶ <i>Within 10 yards of the Robert Gilmour LeTourneau Statue</i>	If not on post, type of surface to which marker will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)     ▶ <i>Post</i>
Owner of Marker Site     ▶ <i>LeTourneau University</i>	Address     City, Zip <i>2100 S. Moberly Av. Longview, Texas 75602</i>
Sponsor of Marker     ▶ <i>LeTourneau University</i>	Address     City, Zip <i>2100 S. Moberly, Longview, Texas 75602</i>
Signature of County Chairman     ▶	Address     City, Zip     Date
Person to whom marker is to be shipped*     ▶ <i>Mr. Earl Martin Vice President of General Services</i>	Address     City, Zip     Telephone <i>LeTourneau University Longview, Texas 2100 Moberly Ave. 75602 (214)753-0231</i>

\*If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.

Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative must be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please do not send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. Sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization. Applicants may order a marker with a socket to attach to their own post; however, the cost is the same as a marker furnished with a foundry post.

**SUBJECT MARKERS**

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) ..... \$225
- 27" x 42" subject marker with post ..... \$650
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post ..... \$600
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post ..... \$375
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post ..... \$300

I(We) request that RTHL designation be considered for this structure.  
(Please see signature line below.)

**BUILDING MARKERS**

- 16" x 12" building marker with post ..... \$350
- 16" x 12" building marker without post ..... \$300

Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 13 through 18, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

Signature of owner \_\_\_\_\_

**PAPERWEIGHTS**

Please indicate quantity desired.

- \_\_\_ 3" x 4" plastic paperweight  
mounted with replica of marker ..... \$90  
*Allow two months from completion of marker  
for receipt of paperweight.*
- \_\_\_ Medallion paperweight ..... \$40  
*Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.*

**DIRECTIONAL SIGNS**

Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:

- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign ..... \$80  
*These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city  
limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*

- \_\_\_ Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
- \_\_\_ Green and White (for interstate highways)

- 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign ..... \$80  
*In black and white only. For city and county roads.  
Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*

- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing straight ahead
- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing left
- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing right

**OTHER**

- 12" x 6" supplemental plate ..... \$110
- 16" x 12" building marker plate only  
(see policy #15) ..... \$190
- Replacement medallion (see policy #15) ..... \$110
- Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936  
granite markers) ..... \$ 25
- Bronze wreaths (for replacement on  
1936 granite markers) ..... \$ 25
- Bronze seals (for replacement on  
1936 granite markers) ..... \$ 65
- Bronze plates (for replacement on  
1936 granite markers) ..... \$185
- Certificates of appreciation ..... 50¢ each

ROBERT G. LETOURNEAU, 1888-1969

Mr. LeTourneau, whose stout heart, brilliant mind and complete faith in God brought him world wide recognition both as an industrialist and church layman, was chairman of R.G. LeTourneau, Inc., Longview-based manufacturer of heavy earth-moving equipment, offshore drilling platforms and a variety of products for the U.S. Defense Department, at the time of his death. He was a man beloved by all who knew him, and whose lives were brightened by the depth of this faith. Mr. LeTourneau was born November 30, 1888, in Richford, Vt., the son of the late Caleb T. and Elizabeth Lorimer LeTourneau. He died June 1, 1969.

He established an international reputation as an inventor, designer and manufacturer of heavy construction, mining, material handling, logging, and land clearing equipment. He also was widely known for designing and manufacturing the mobile off-shore drilling platforms.<sup>1</sup>

Mr. LeTourneau was the first to introduce rubber tires in the heavy equipment industry.<sup>2</sup> He invented the electric wheel drive system<sup>3</sup> and pioneered the arc weld structures.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See U.S. Patents- 2,924,077 issued 02/09/60; 3,011,467 issued 12/05/61; 3,044,269 issued 07/17/62; and 3,183,676 issued 05/18/65.

<sup>2</sup> Cited in many sources including: a) Albert W. Lorimer, God runs my business, NY: Fleming H. Revell, c1941, pp. 50-52, 102; b) Donald F. Ackland, Moving heaven and earth, NY: Iversen Ford Associates, c1949, 88; and c) Robert H. Selby, "Earthmovers in World War II: R.G. LeTourneau and His Machines," Case Western Reserve University (Ph.D. Dissertation 1970), pp. 84-86.

<sup>3</sup> Congressional Record, vol. 111, no. 68 (April 15, 1965), A1876. (The patent for the electric wheel was 2,762,726 issued 12/13/55.)

<sup>4</sup> Selby, pp. 123-127.

He was credited with almost three hundred patents which have contributed to the advances in the construction industry.<sup>1</sup> No other man has surpassed him in the number of patents in this industry. As a youth in public schools, he often wondered why he was taught only 'academic' subjects and so little, or nothing at all, 'of practical' value. When he left public school at age 14, he became an apprentice in the ironmonger's trade in a plant in Portland, Oregon.

During his training in that trade, he felt the need of more formal education and a few years later while working in San Francisco, he enrolled for courses in mechanical engineering in a night school. That phase of his education was brought to an abrupt end as the San Francisco earthquake leveled the school and his foundary.<sup>2</sup>

Later, as a young man living in the backwoods of the San Joaquin Valley, he would get up early in the morning and work fast to complete the day's work by early noon. Then, he would hurry back to the cabin where he lived to spend the rest of his day with his studies. He worked hard and alone at his books to master the mysteries of trigonometry, geometry, and all the subjects offered in a correspondence school mechanical engineering course. Although he never sent in his papers, he completed and passed each test, grading his own work. Fifty-seven years after the young man completed the course, he was granted a diploma by the International Correspondence School.

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1 (Selby lists 299 patents by number and date issued in Appendix I of his Dissertation).

2 Ackland, p. 201.

He was married to Evelyn Peterson on August 9, 1917. To this union seven children were born- six sons and a daughter. Their first son died at the age of four months, and the next son, at age 19, was killed in an airplane crash just four months after his marriage. The other four sons- Richard, Roy, Ben and Ted were executives of the Company until it was sold to Marathon Manufacturing Company in 1970.

Mr. R.G., as he was affectionately known, built his first plant in 1921 in Stockton, California. In 1935, he built a plant in Peoria, Illinois, and established headquarters there. Later, he established operations at Toccoa, Georgia, Vicksburg, Mississippi, and Longview, Texas.

In 1935, he established the LeTourneau Foundation and Charitable Ministries with 98% of his means at that time. Through the foundation, work has been carried on not only in the U.S., but also in foreign countries. Most notable are those in Peru, South America, and Liberia, West Africa. Mr. LeTourneau gave through the Foundation over 90% of his material wealth in living up to his personal motto- "Not how much of my money do I give to God- but how much of God's money do I keep for myself."<sup>1</sup>

Mr. LeTourneau launched a free monthly publication, Now, in 1937. Printed in Longview, it has a worldwide circulation of 600,000. As an example of his Christian life, he established a chaplaincy program in his factories employing three chaplains. He built two employee chapels, probably the first for any industry. It was his policy to have the chapels open at regular periods for services for those who wanted to attend.

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<sup>1</sup> Tom Mahr, "Goliath's workshop," Humble Oilways, Vol. 31, no. 1 (January 1965), p. 15.

This hour-long spiritual service, for which employees were paid as if on the job, has been estimated to cost in excess of \$7,000 for each service.<sup>1</sup>

Many of R.G.'s firsts, including the bulldozer<sup>2</sup> and the two-wheeled tractor unit,<sup>3</sup> are still the standard in the earth-moving field. By the time World War II began, the firm of R.G. LeTourneau Inc. had become the major builder of earth-moving equipment in the world. During the War, the firm supplied 70% of all basic earthmoving equipment used by the Armed Forces throughout the World.<sup>4</sup> LeTourneau is credited with the largest vehicle on rubber tires, the Alaskan Snow Train.<sup>5</sup> The train was 174 feet long, 16 feet and 4 inches wide and 17 1/2 feet tall at the cab on the control car. Despite its size, it only takes one operator to control the monster. There are sleeping accommodations for four men. The train was built to withstand the subzero weather in the Arctic.

A record for earth-moving with LeTourneau equipment was established in the construction of the Great Falls (Montana) Army Airbase.

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1 S.A. Parker, "Industrialist R.G. LeTourneau Dies," Longview Daily News, June 2, 1969, Section A, p.1.

2 See U.S. Patent 1,964,359 issued 06/26/34

3 See U.S. Patent 2,454,070 issued 11/16/48

4 "National Transportation Award," National Defense Transportation Journal, (September-October 1959), p. 57.

5 "Texas machine firm makes them big, trackless train for Arctic is latest monster," The Daily Oklahoman, Friday, April 1, 1955, p. 8.



"The project," reads the official report, "was started June 8, 1942. Grading of the airport was completed December 11, 1942, with more than 5,000,000 cubic yards of earth moved in a period of 188 days. In one twenty-four hour period, 104,905 cubic yards of earth were moved on this project." <sup>1</sup>

Soon after World War II, the LeTourneau Longview plant was founded. Then with much help by Longview's aggressive publisher, Carl Estes, Mr. and Mrs. LeTourneau saw a dream come true when LeTourneau Technical Institute came into being as a earn-learn school where young people were taught technically and academically in a school with an overriding Christian atmosphere. The institution grew and flourished until 1961 when it became a four-year liberal arts and engineering college. In May, 1989, the Board of Trustees approved the change of the institution from a college to a university. LeTourneau University has 800 students and offers degrees in liberal arts and sciences, engineering, business, computer science, and aviation.

Working closely with his long-time friend, Publisher Carl L. Estes, Mr. LeTourneau played an important role in helping to put together the requirement patterns which resulted in many larger industries coming to Longview.<sup>2</sup> He often made some of his buildings available on a temporary basis, and at all times was pleased to recite Longview's advantages to other industrialists who were seeking Texas locations.

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<sup>1</sup> Ackland, pp. 92-93.

<sup>2</sup> Parker, pp. 1-2.

Many significant honors came to him. He received the highest honor bestowed by Civitan International for good citizenship. Other honors included five honorary doctorates, the National Defense Transportation's award given by the Joint Chiefs of Staff,<sup>1</sup> the Golden Plate Award, Layman of the Year, American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Award, Progress Award, Elmer A. Sperry Award, Machine Design Award by ASMF,<sup>2</sup> and numerous others.<sup>3</sup>

On his 80th birthday, he received honor from the City of Longview, and the Longview Chamber of Commerce proclaimed a special "R.G. LeTourneau Appreciation Day." More than 100 civic leaders gathered at a banquet and heard high tribute paid to him by Mayor D.A. Benton, Mrs. Carl Estes and W. Delbert Bright, then president of the Chamber of Commerce. Telegrams were received from all parts of the nation and included special messages from then President Lyndon B. Johnson, Governor John Connally, and numerous other national and state dignitaries, as well as from many friends in the industrial community.<sup>4</sup>

Through his inventive genius and his dedication to God, he became known throughout the Free World as "God's Businessman." For more than 30 years, he spent nearly every weekend and many week-nights addressing groups throughout the U.S., Canada, and other countries. His mission was to tell what Christ meant to him as a 20th Century businessman. Numerous books and

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1 National Defense Transportation Journal, p. 56.

2 IPAA Monthly, Vol. 32, no. 3 (July 1961), p. 62.

3 A listing of major awards can be found in Appendix II of Selby's dissertation.

4 Parker, pp. 1.

journal articles with national circulation have been written about Mr. LeTourneau, his work, his achievements, and his machines and equipment. His autobiography, Mover of Men and Mountains, which has been published in both hardback and paperback has been translated from English into several foreign languages.

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"Texas Machine Firm Makes Them Big, Trackless Train for Arctic is Latest Monster" The Daily Oklahoman, Friday, April 1, 1955, P. 8



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

April 18, 1986

Mr. Paul Gray  
Director of Library Services  
LeTourneau College  
2100 S. Mobberly  
Longview, TX 75602

Dear Mr. Gray:

Our staff has finally whittled away part of the stack of marker applications and has had a chance to review the material submitted for the Robert Gilmour LeTourneau grave marker. A couple of items need to be addressed before we can proceed with this application.

As you will note in Marker Policy No. 11 on page 2 of the enclosed booklet, individuals are not eligible for marking until 20 years after their death. As Mr. LeTourneau died only in 1969, he does not yet meet that eligibility requirement. That same policy goes on to say that a deceased person of state or national significance may be an exception to the rule, but that the State Marker Committee will be the final authority. If you wished to apply for the grave marker under this circumstance, then we should have a letter or some statement indicating that appeal to the committee is requested.

Should you wish to pursue the application at this point, we must in addition request that the six-page narrative history be footnoted as requested in policy #3. We need to know which statements came from which sources, as not all the supplemental material submitted would be copied and mailed to the Marker Committee. We must also be very careful with claims of "first", "oldest", etc.; these must be documented by an unbiased and authoritative source. An example in the narrative history that would need such documentation appears on page 1: "Mr. LeTourneau was the first to introduce rubber tires in the heavy equipment industry."

Mr. Paul Gray  
April 18, 1986  
Page 2

I hope that you will understand our need for careful documentation and high standards. While the state marker program is here to help local groups preserve their history, we also want to help them record it in a way that will be most useful to future generations and to researchers who use these records. For the time being, I am returning only the six-page history for footnoting. Should the supplemental material be needed for your use as well, please let me know and I will gladly send it on.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you on this marker.

Sincerely,



Frances Rickard  
Director  
Research and Markers

FR/crl

cc: Mrs. Paul Belding

Robert G. LeTourneau

89271

1888 - 1969

Mr. LeTourneau, whose stout heart, brilliant mind and complete faith in God brought him world wide recognition both as an industrialist and church layman, was chairman of R. G. LeTourneau, Inc., Longview-based manufacturers of heavy earth-moving equipment, offshore drilling platforms and a variety of products for the United States Defense Department, at the time of his death. He was a man beloved by all who knew him, and whose lives were brightened by the depth of his faith. Mr. LeTourneau was born Nov. 30, 1888, in Richford, Vt., the son of the late Caleb T. and Elizabeth Lorimer LeTourneau. He died June 1, 1969.

He established an international reputation as an inventor, designer and manufacturer of heavy construction, mining, material handling, logging and land clearing equipment. He also was widely known for designing and manufacturing the mobile off-shore drilling platform.

Mr. LeTourneau was the first to introduce rubber tires in the heavy equipment industry. He invented the electric wheel drive system and pioneered the arc weld structures. He was credited with more than two-hundred patents which have contributed to the advances in the construction industry.

No other man has surpassed him in the number of contributions in industry.

LeTourneau College in Longview, established by him and his wife, has an enrollment above 700 students. It is a coeducational college of engineering, technology, arts and sciences, and flight training.

Mr. LeTourneau launched a free monthly publication, "Now," 32 years ago. Printed in Longview, it has a worldwide circulation of 600,000.

As an example of his Christian life, he established a chaplaincy

program in his factories employing three chaplains. He built two employee chapels, probably the first for any industry. It was his policy to have the chapels open at regular periods for services for those who wanted to attend. This hour-long spiritual service, for which employees were paid as if on the job, has been estimated to cost in excess of \$7,000 for each service.

As a youth in public schools, he often wondered why he was taught only "academic" subjects and so little, or nothing at all, "of practical value." When he left public school at age 14, he became an apprentice in the iron-monger's trade in a plant in Portland, Oregon.

During his training in that trade, he felt the need of more formal education and a few years later while working in San Francisco, he enrolled for courses in mechanical engineering in a night school. That phase of his education was brought to an abrupt end as the San Francisco earthquake leveled the school.

Later as a young man living in the backwoods of the San Joaquin Valley, he would get up early in the morning and work fast to complete the day's work by early noon. Then he would hurry back to the cabin where he lived to spend the rest of his day with his studies.

He worked hard and alone at his books to master the mysteries of trigonometry, geometry and all the subjects offered in a correspondence school mechanical engineering course. Although he never sent in his papers he completed and passed each test, grading his own work. Fifty-seven years after the young man completed the course he was granted a diploma by the International Correspondence School.

He was married to Evelyn Peterson on Aug. 19, 1917. To this union seven children were born - six sons and a daughter. Their first son died at the age of four months, and the next son, at age 19, was killed in an



airplane crash just four months after his marriage.

The other four sons - Richard, Roy, Ben and Ted, were executives of the Company until it was sold to Marathon Mfg. Co. in 1970.

Mr. R. G., as he was affectionately known, built his first plant in 1921 in Stockton, California. In 1935 he built a plant in Peoria, Illinois, and established headquarters there. Later, he established operations at Toccoa, Georgia, and Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Soon after World War II, the LeTourneau Longview plant was founded. Then with much help by Longview's aggressive publisher, Carl Estes, Mr. and Mrs. LeTourneau saw a dream come true when LeTourneau Technical Institute came into being as the first earn-learn school where young people are taught technically and academically in a school with an overriding Christian atmosphere. The institute grew and flourished until 1961 when it became a four-year liberal arts and engineering college known today as LeTourneau College.

At a cost of millions of dollars, he launched development - missionary programs in Liberia, West Africa, and Peru, South America. His daughter, Mrs. Dick, and her husband Gus Dick pioneered the West African venture the first six years.

Mr. LeTourneau believed his success was tied to his faith in God. Although he gave much of his life to making things out of steel and iron and pushing back the frontiers in constructing industries, he also devoted his time and fortune to developing a rich spiritual life.

Working closely with his long-time friend, Publisher Carl L. Estes, Mr. LeTourneau played an important role in helping to put together the requirement patterns which resulted in many other larger industries coming to Longview. He often made some of his buildings available on a temporary basis, and at all times was pleased to recite Longview's advantages to

other industrialists who were seeking Texas locations.

On many occasions Mr. LeTourneau revolutionized the heavy earthmoving equipment business - by being the first to use rubber tires on his two machines, and by his development of the electric wheel, the bulldozer, and the two-wheeled tractor unit. Many of his "firsts" are now standard in the earth-moving field.

Many significant honors came to him. He received the highest honor bestowed by Civitan International for good citizenship. Other honors included five honorary doctorates, the National Defense Transportation's award given by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Golden Plate Award, Layman of the Year, American Society of Tool and Manufacturing Award, Progress Award, Elmer A Sperry Award, Machine Design Award by ASMF, and numerous others.

On his 80th birthday he received honor from the City of Longview, and the Longview Chamber of commerce proclaimed a special "R. G. LeTourneau Appreciation Day." More than 100 civic leaders gathered at a banquet and heard high tribute paid to him by Mayor D. A. Benton, Mrs. Carl Estes and W. Delbert Bright, then president of the Chamber of Commerce.

Telegrams were received from all parts of the nation and included special messages from then President Lyndon B. Johnson, Gov. John Connally, and numerous other national and state dignitaries, as well as from many friends in the industrial community.

Through his inventive genius and his dedication to God, he became known throughout the Free World as "God's Businessman." For more than 30 years he spent nearly every weekend and many week-nights addressing groups throughout the United States, Canada and other countries. His mission was to tell what Christ meant to him as a 20th-Century businessman.

Numerous books have been written about Mr. LeTourneau, and many magazines and other publications with nation - wide circulation, have

printed articles about him, his work, his achievements, his machines and equipment.

His autobiography, "Mover of Men and Mountains," which has been published in both hardback and paperback has been translated from English into several foreign languages.

In 1935 he established the LeTourneau Foundation and Charitable Ministries. Through the foundation, work has been carried on not only in the United States but also in foreign countries. Most notable are those in Peru, South America, and Liberia, West Africa. Mr. LeTourneau gave through the foundation over 90 percent of his material wealth in living up to his personal motto - "Not how much of my money do I give to God - but how much of God's money do I keep for myself."

The above has been taken from an article by S. A. Parker for the Longview Daily News on June 2, 1969, and is a summary of all that is in the articles hertofore submitted.

Louise LeTourneau Dick

INDEX OF MATERIAL FOR R. G. LE TOURNEAU MEMORIAL

Earthmovers in W W II: R. G. LeTourneau and His Machines by  
Robert H. Selby

APPENDIX I

United States Patents Issued To R. G. LeTourneau

APPENDIX II

Major Awards Given To R. G. LeTourneau

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Current Biography 1958

The Southwestern Electric Power Co., April 1970

CUSTOMER OF THE MONTH

Technical Education News, May 1948

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE PROFILES

LeTourneau Technical Institute of Texas

Barron's. December 1957

RETURN OF LE TOURNEAU

Longview Daily News, June 1969

INDUSTRIALIST R. G. LE TOURNEAU DIES

STORY OF 'FABULOUS MAN WITH ARMS AROUND WORLD'

Longview Morning Journal, June 1969

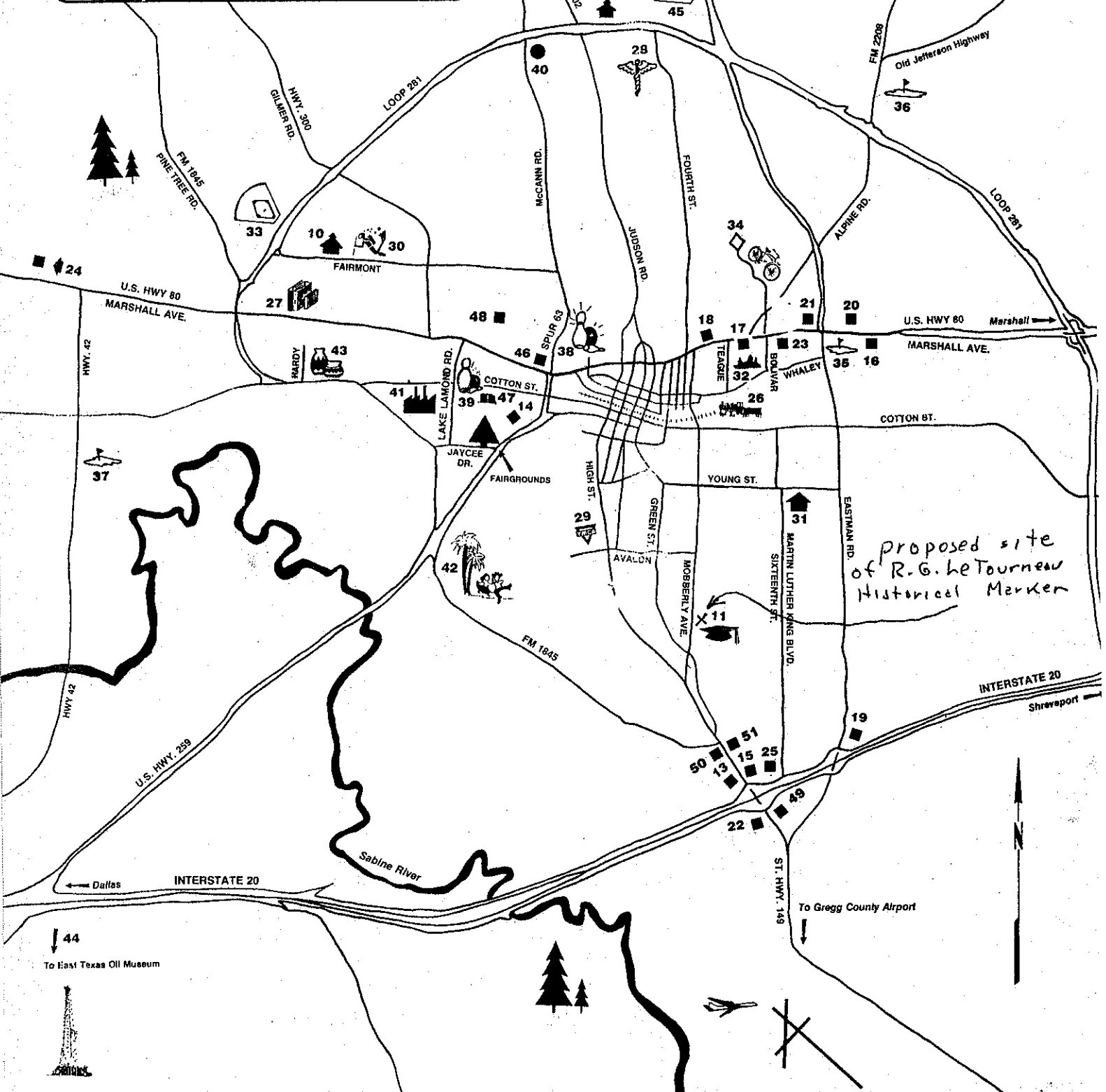
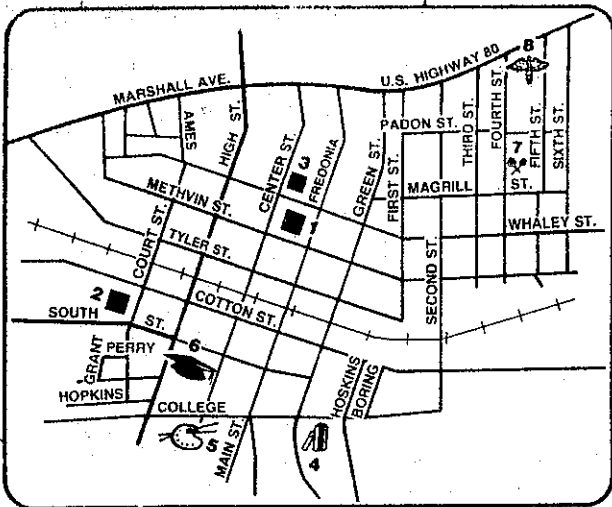
THE LE TOURNEAU LEGACY

HISTORY OF R. G. LE TOURNEAU, INC.

PERSONAL DATA, EDUCATION, BIBLIOGRAPHY - PERIODICALS - BOOKS

FOR LETOURNEAU No JOBS TOO BIG WITH GOD'S HELP  
THE HOUSTON POST, JANUARY 26, 1958 BY JIM MOUSNER

God RUN'S MY BUSINESS



44  
To East Texas Oil Museum

proposed site  
of R.G. LeTourneau  
Historical Marker



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

June 30, 1989

Dr. Norman Black  
417 Mobberly Ave.  
Longview, Texas 75602

Re: ROBERT GILMOUR LeTOURNEAU  
27" x 42" subject marker with post (Job #8927)

Dear Dr. Black:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Committee has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

At this time, payment for the marker is due. A check, in the amount of \$702.00 (\$650.00 if paid for by a tax-exempt organization), should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission and sent to the letterhead address at your earliest convenience.

Once payment 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 wishes to congratulate all involved in this project for their efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

*Frances Rickard*

Frances Rickard, Director  
State Marker Program

cc: Paul Gray, LeTourneau University  
LeTourneau Foundation



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

September 19, 1989

Dr. Norman Black  
417 Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, TX 75602

RE: ROBERT GILMOUR LeTOURNEAU  
27"X42" Subject marker w/post

Dear Dr. Black:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above referenced marker. Please review and verify the information contained in the inscription. In particular, be sure to check all names and dates, and make certain we have used the correct marker location. Please contact other sponsors of this application to discuss the wording of the marker. If you approve the inscription, sign and return your own enclosed card.

If you have corrections or changes to suggest, please make a copy of the inscription and return it to us with the marked corrections. Please do not type a new version of the inscription. We will make changes to meet our style and spacing requirements. Documentation of any changes in this inscription, particularly of names and dates, is required for our permanent file.

Note that this is a working copy, including filing and foundry instructions. The right-hand margin is uneven on this copy, but will be justified on the finished marker.

The marker will not be ordered for casting until the county historical commission and other persons or groups listed below have approved the inscription. You may retain this inscription copy for your files.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia J. Beeman*

Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian  
State Marker Program

CJB/bjb

Enclosure

cc: LeTourneau University  
LeTourneau Foundation

P.S. In order to have the marker completed in time for a November 30th dedication, we must have approval of a final inscription from all parties no later than October 2nd. Thank you.

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 9/18/89

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post  
Gregg County (Job #8927)

Location: LeTourneau University campus, 2100 S. Mobberly Ave.,  
Longview

ROBERT GILMOUR LeTOURNEAU\*  
(NOVEMBER 30, 1888-JUNE 1, 1969)\*\*\*

A NATIVE OF RICHFORD, VERMONT, ROBERT G. LeTOURNEAU  
BUILT HIS FIRST INDUSTRIAL PLANT IN STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA,  
IN 1921. A SELF-EDUCATED MAN, HE INVENTED AND PIONEERED  
THE USE OF COMPONENTS NOW STANDARD IN MANY TYPES  
OF CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT. THE LeTOURNEAU COMPANY,  
MANUFACTURERS OF EQUIPMENT FOR HEAVY CONSTRUCTION,  
MINING, LOGGING, LAND CLEARING, AND OFFSHORE OIL DRILLING,  
EVENTUALLY OPERATED PLANTS IN CALIFORNIA, ILLINOIS,  
GEORGIA, MISSISSIPPI, AND TEXAS.

MUCH OF LeTOURNEAU'S PERSONAL TIME, ENERGY, AND  
FORTUNE WERE SPENT IN PROMOTING THE LeTOURNEAU  
FOUNDATION AND CHARITABLE MINISTRIES. A WORLDWIDE  
CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY EFFORT HE FOUNDED IN 1935.

DURING WORLD WAR II, SEVENTY PERCENT OF THE EARTH-  
MOVING EQUIPMENT USED BY U.S. ARMED FORCES WAS BUILT  
BY THE LeTOURNEAU COMPANY. FOLLOWING THE WAR, R.G.

LeTOURNEAU MOVED TO LONGVIEW, WHERE HE OPENED AN  
INDUSTRIAL PLANT AND FOUNDED LeTOURNEAU TECHNICAL  
INSTITUTE, THE FORERUNNER OF LeTOURNEAU UNIVERSITY.

LeTOURNEAU BECAME AN INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS AND CIVIC  
LEADER IN LONGVIEW, AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN MUCH OF  
THE CITY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE WAS THE RECIPIENT  
OF MANY HIGH HONORS, AND IS REMEMBERED AS A HIGHLY-  
REGARDED CITIZEN OF LONGVIEW.\*\*

*omit  
these commas.*

(1989)\*\*\*

\*3/4 inch lettering  
\*\*1/2 inch lettering  
\*\*\*1/4 inch lettering



September 25, 1989



**LeTourneau  
University**

Ms. Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian  
State Marker Program  
Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Ms. Beeman:

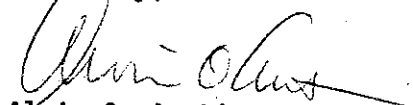
**Faith brings  
us together.  
Ingenuity sets  
us apart.**

I am returning the signed approval card giving authorization to move forward with the development of the historical marker for Robert Gilmour LeTourneau. I am also enclosing a copy of the proposed inscription where I have made several suggested grammatical changes, omitting what I believe are unnecessary commas.

As you know, we are hoping to dedicate a statue of R. G. LeTourneau on November 30, his 101st birthday anniversary, and would like to dedicate this marker at the same time. Needing to appropriately locate the site for the marker and to install the base will require some lead time. When might I know the date for casting and then delivery of the marker?

Thank you for your support of this project as we seek to honor and remember this pioneer industrialist, churchman and philanthropist.

Sincerely,



Alvin O. Austin  
President

xc: Dr. Norman Black  
Mrs. Louise Dick  
Mr. Earl Martin



**Gregg County Historical Commission**

NORMAN W. BLACK  
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone  
214-757-2261

October 31, 1989

Dr. James E. Stjernstrom  
LeTourneau University  
P. O. Box 7001  
Longview, Texas 75607

RE: Robert Gilmour LeTourneau H. M. Dedication, November 30, 1989.

Dear Jim:

I appreciate visiting with you on the telephone today and this letter is to confirm our conversation.

Since the new historical marker is an Official Texas Historical Marker the Gregg County Historical Commission will represent the State of Texas in the Historical Marker Dedication. Although the program for the dedication ceremony can be quite flexible, the Chairman of the county historical commission needs to assist in its preparation.

I am enclosing three programs of historical marker dedications which may be of some help. Please keep me informed and let me know when the marker arrives. Also, please feel free to call me at any time.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc. - 3.  
NWB/lm

Office of the President

P.O. Box 7001  
Longview, Texas 75607-7001  
214-753-0231  
FAX 214-237-2730

November 10, 1989

Dr. Norman Black  
417 Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, TX 75601

Dear Dr. Black:

You are invited to attend the second annual Founder's Day at LeTourneau University beginning at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 30, 1989. You are also invited to attend the Founder's Day luncheon which will be served on the third floor of the R. G. LeTourneau Memorial and Student Center at noon.

This year Founder's Day will feature a convocation followed by the dedication and unveiling of the statue of Mr. R. G. LeTourneau which will be erected in a memorial area at the front of the campus. Also to be dedicated on this occasion will be an official Texas Historical Marker which recognizes the many contributions of R. G. LeTourneau.

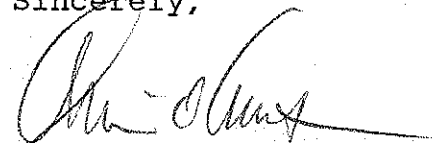
Weather permitting, the convocation and dedication will be held at the front entrance to the campus just south of the flag pole in the area around the memorial site. Otherwise the convocation will be held in the assembly building.

The dedication of the statue and official Texas Historical Marker will make this Founder's Day another historic event for the University.

We would be pleased if you could join us and other friends to celebrate this important event. Please R.S.V.P. if you plan to attend the luncheon by returning the enclosed card or contacting Rita Courson, (214) 753-0231, ext. 337.

We look forward to seeing you on Founder's Day.

Sincerely,



Alvin O. Austin  
President

**LeTourneau  
University**

**Faith brings  
us together.  
Ingenuity sets  
us apart.**

P.O. Box 7001  
Longview, Texas 75607-7001  
214-753-0231  
FAX 214-237-2730

November 21, 1989

**LeTourneau  
University**

Dr. Norman Black  
417 Mobberly  
Longview, Texas 75602

Dear Dr. Black:

Enclosed you will find our format for Founder's Day 1989 which will be held next Thursday, November 30, at 10:30 a.m. Right now we are planning on having the entire program at the front of campus adjacent to the gravesite and new park area. In case of cold or inclement weather we will move indoors to the Assembly Building.

Let me take this opportunity to express to you my deepest appreciation for your part in this very exciting time. Your presence and words will enrich our lives and make this special day one to be remembered for years to come. I would like to request that you remember to keep your part brief, yet meaningful, to enhance the smooth operation of the whole program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the University. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing you next Thursday morning.

Grace & Peace,

*David Luckert*

David Luckert  
Director of Chapel

**Faith brings  
us together.  
Ingenuity sets  
us apart.**

# LeTourneau Founder's Day slated

From Staff Reports.

Annual Founder's Day activities at LeTourneau University will be 10:30-11:20 a.m. Thursday.

Included will be the dedication of an R. G. LeTourneau Memorial Park, the publication of a new book chronicling the life of LeTourneau, and the unveiling of a Texas Historical marker and a 12-foot-high bronze statue of LeTourneau by sculptor Keith Knoblock of Heyworth, Ill.

Activities will be held at the front of the campus near the new entrance sign, weather permitting. In case of bad weather, the program will be held indoors in the Assembly building.

LeTourneau was a world-renowned pioneer inventor, industrialist, and Christian philanthropist who has the third highest number of patents recorded in the U.S. Patent Office behind Thomas Edison and Dr. Edwin Land.

Among inventions credited to LeTourneau were the electric wheel, offshore oil platform, log stacker, jungle crusher, Tournapull, StradlPort, and other types of heavy equipment. President George Bush bought LeTourneau's first offshore oil platform, the Scorpion, in 1954, and referred to LeTourneau's as "a kind of George Patton of engineering" in his autobiography, *Looking Forward*. During his lifetime LeTourneau made thousands of talks to groups around the world. His usual introduction was, "I'm just a mechanic that God has blessed."

He was born Nov. 30, 1888 in Richford, Vt., and died June 1, 1969. In 1946, he and his wife, Evelyn, founded LeTourneau Technical Institute of Texas, precursor to LeTourneau University.

The Park is just south of the LeTourneau gravesite near the front entrance to the campus. Included are the statue, benches, landscaping, lighting and brick work, plus three of LeTourneau's earliest machines. General contractor for the project was Transet Co of Longview, with David Scarborough of Tyler as a landscape architect.

The statue is an exact copy of an earlier one unveiled in May 1988 at

Land.

Among inventions credited to LeTourneau were the electric wheel, offshore oil platform, log stacker, jungle crusher, Tournapull, StradlPort, and other types of heavy equipment. President George Bush bought LeTourneau's first offshore oil platform, the Scorpion, in 1954, and referred to LeTourneau's as "a kind of George Patton of engineering" in his autobiography, Looking Forward. During his lifetime LeTourneau made thousands of talks to groups around the world. His usual introduction was, "I'm just a mechanic that God has blessed."

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The statue is an exact copy of an earlier one unveiled in May 1988 at Glen Oak Park in Peoria, Ill. near the site of a former LeTourneau manufacturing plant.

"My father's desire was to serve the Lord in everything he did," said Dr. Richard LeTourneau, Columbia, S.C. "Preserving that heritage means his example will continue to shape the lives of thousands of students."

Louise Dick, a Longview resident and member of the LeTourneau Board of Trustees, said, "May this statue be a reminder of the spiritual legacy of my father which will influence future generations of students."

Construction of the Park began Oct. 1 and took approximately two months to complete. The book took considerably longer -- 15 years, to be exact.

Titled "The Joy of Accomplishment: It's Always Too Soon to Quit," author Nels Stjernstrom includes 11 chapters and 131 pages of insights and recollections about LeTourneau.

Stjernstrom, 82, is a former executive assistant to the president of R. G. LeTourneau, assistant to the president of LeTourneau College, editor of Now and traveled extensively with LeTourneau during the last five years of his life. Currently, he is a member of the Trustee Board.

# LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY

## FOUNDER'S DAY

### DEDICATION OF HISTORICAL MARKER AND STATUE



WELCOME & RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Richard Berry  
Vice-President Emeritus

SPECIAL MUSIC

LeTourneau Singers

INVOCATION

Dr. Kenneth McKinley  
Professor Emeritus

R. G. LETOURNEAU,  
THE MAN

Mr. Nels Stjernstrom  
Vice-President Emeritus

LETOURNEAU COLLEGE,  
THE EARLY DAYS

Dr. Elton Archer  
Professor Emeritus

FOUNDATION FOR THE  
FUTURE

Dr. Alvin O. Austin  
President

SIGNIFICANCE OF AN  
HISTORICAL MARKER

Dr. Norman Black  
Chairman, Gregg County  
Historical Commission

UNVEILING & READING  
OF MARKER

Dr. Ken Durham  
Professor, History and  
Political Science

SIGNIFICANCE OF STATUE

Dr. Jim Stjernstrom  
Vice-President  
University Advancement

FAMILY RESPONSE

Dr. Richard LeTourneau  
President Emeritus  
Son of R. G. LeTourneau

DEDICATORY PRAYER

Dr. Paul Bauman  
Vice-President Emeritus

UNVEILING OF STATUE

Dr. Alvin Austin

Dr. Hobert Farrell  
Chair  
Teaching Faculty Organization

Mr. Tom Hunt  
President  
Alumni Executive Committee

Paul Bradley  
Student Senate President

Mrs. Louise Dick  
Trustee  
Daughter of R. G. LeTourneau

BENEDICTION

Mr. Richard Berry

## ROBERT GILMOUR LETOURNEAU

### HISTORICAL MARKER

A native of Richford, Vermont, Robert G. LeTourneau built his first industrial plant in Stockton, California, in 1921. A self-educated man, he invented and pioneered the use of components now standard in many types of construction equipment. The LeTourneau Company, manufacturers of equipment for heavy construction, mining, logging, land clearing, and offshore oil drilling, eventually operated plants in California, Illinois, Georgia, Mississippi, and Texas.

Much of LeTourneau's personal time, energy, and fortune were spent in promoting the LeTourneau Foundation and Charitable Ministries, a worldwide Christian missionary effort he founded in 1935.

During World War II, seventy percent of the earthmoving equipment used by U. S. Armed Forces was built by the LeTourneau company. Following the war, R. G. LeTourneau moved to Longview where he opened an industrial plant and founded LeTourneau Technical Institute, the forerunner of LeTourneau University.

LeTourneau became an influential business and civic leader in Longview and was instrumental in much of the city's economic development. He was the recipient of many high honors and is remembered as a highly-regarded citizen of Longview.

---

### GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mrs. Mildred Wood Barker  
Mrs. Sally Gossett Barron  
Mrs. Amelia Belding  
Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman  
Mr. Jack Buchanan  
Mrs. Pauline Cox  
Mrs. B. W. Crain, Jr.  
Sondra Daniel  
Mrs. Bill W. Dodson  
Dr. Ken R. Durham  
Mrs. Helen McHancy Griffin  
Mrs. Nelda Lewis

Mrs. H. L. Long  
Mrs. Douglas Mackenzie  
Mrs. Gordon J. Mayer  
Mr. Eugene R. McWhorter  
Dr. W. D. Northcutt, III  
Mrs. John W. Osteen  
Mrs. Amanda Pratt  
Mrs. Nancy Ruff  
Mr. John Ben Shepperd  
Mrs. Charlotte Teske  
Mr. Joe L. White



# Founder's Day

## November 30, 1989



R. G. LeTOURNEAU HISTORICAL MARKER  
DEDICATION  
Thursday, November 30, 1989 10:30 A. M.

SIGNIFICANCE OF AN HISTORICAL MARKER

The County Historical Commission is an arm of the county government appointed by the County Judge and the Commissioners Court. It is the responsibility of Historical Commission to protect the county's historical heritage and to cooperate with and encourage others in any activity concerning the preservation of local history.

Probably the most visible of the efforts of the historical commission are the historical markers such as this one we are dedicating today. These markers serve as reminders of our history and heritage. It has been said, that "Without history, we have no sense of where we are going, because we have no idea where we have been".

It is our hope that after reading these brief lines on this monument, the visitor will be encouraged to learn more of this great man, his precepts and his accomplishments.

(Punctuation and capitalization for reading purposes.)

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

# LeTourneau

Some of R.G. LeTourneau's best ideas came to him in the bathtub.

"He had this special stopper made, see, to cover the overflow. That way he could fill the tub

clear to the top, and then he would relax and think," says Nels Stjernstrom, the long-time LeTourneau employee

who has written a new book about his former boss.

LeTourneau University is celebrating Founder's Day today, including the unveiling of a 12-foot bronze statue of the late Longview industrialist and inventor.

In his book, titled "The Joy of Accomplishment: It's Always Too Soon to Quit," Stjernstrom recalls how productive some of R.G. LeTourneau's baths could be:

"Sometimes he'd call to Mrs. LeTourneau, 'Bring me some paper and a pencil.' She knew to bring him a towel too ... He wanted to jot down that idea before it got away from him. Then it wasn't unusual, even though it might be eight or nine o'clock at night, for him to dress and hurry to the plant to sketch out the idea so he could give it to his engineers in the morning."

That was typical of "Mr. R.G.,"



**Van Craddock**

See Employee, 4-C

# Employee writes book honoring LeTourneau

From 1-C

according to Stjernstrom, 82, a Minnesota native who came to Longview in 1964 as vice president for public affairs at the college bearing LeTourneau's name.

After all, LeTourneau, who died in 1969 at the age of 80, used to say, "You can't get any place in this world unless your head is just bouncing with ideas."

LeTourneau referred to himself as "a mechanic that God has blessed," always sure to thank the man upstairs for his successes in the business world.

But LeTourneau's life wasn't all peaks. There were plenty of valleys, too.

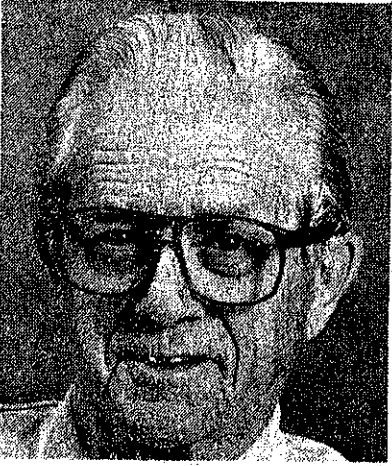
He quit school in the eighth grade, running away from home at the age of 14. He broke his neck in a race car accident and narrowly escaped death in the 1918 flu epidemic.

He survived a 1937 auto accident (five people died in it) that caused him to walk with a limp for the rest of his life. The LeTourneaus' first son died at the age of four months. Another son, 19, died in an airplane accident.

And then there were the business setbacks. At age 30, his garage failed. At 44, his manufacturing firm lost so heavily on contracts that "his employees, with more faith in him than he had in himself, took up a collection to get him back on his feet," Stjernstrom writes.

Often, when asked if he'd started his business from scratch, he'd answer, "Yes, several times. But there really isn't such a thing as failure if you learn something from it."

Whether developing the electric-drive wheel for his huge earthmoving machines, designing huge offshore oil-drilling platforms or establishing Christian missions around the world, Le-



**Stjernstrom**

Tourneau was always thinking, always dreaming. That's why, nearing the age of 80, he was still at his drafting board every day.

"He lived life to the full," Stjernstrom writes. "When asked what he considered the best years of his life, he'd shout, 'The next ten years!'"

Stjernstrom retired in 1975 following a LeTourneau career that saw him wear many hats. He was executive assistant to the president, edited the LeTourneau publication Now for 13 years and traveled all over the world with Mr. R.G.

He says his book, which is being printed by the university in a limited edition, "is about enriched living." The story of R.G. LeTourneau "is one of thanksgiving, the joy of living."

A Texas Historical Marker and the R.G. LeTourneau Memorial Park will be dedicated at Founder's Day activities beginning 10:30 a.m. today on the university campus.

The bronze statue is a copy of one done by Illinois sculptor Keith Knoblock and unveiled last year in Peoria, Ill., near the site of a former LeTourneau plant.

# Longview 'say no' Week-long act

By Les Cole  
Staff Writer

Students in Longview Independent School District schools will take part in coloring corner student assemblies and a range of other activities - designed to teach students to say no" to drugs.

The activities will mark the of "Just Say No" week, which began Monday under the sponsorship of the Longview City Council Parent-Teacher Association.

Phyllis Bridges, council president, said she thinks the youngsters have gotten the message stay away from drugs during week-long activities.

"I think it's done a lot of good because the children are learning how to say no if they're offered drugs or alcohol," she said.

She said the activities send a strong drug-fighting message to the parents because "a lot of information" about drugs has been sent to the children's homes this week.

The week-long program probably would not have been effective without the help of a lot of people in the community, such as school officials, she said. "All the schools have done something."

## Appraisal hires attorney

By Jerry Graham  
Staff Writer

The board of the Gregg Appraisal District Thursday voted to hire a law firm to represent it in a lawsuit filed by a current employee and a fired employee of the district.

Chief Appraiser Bill Carroll, the district had been sued by appraiser John Taylor and former appraiser Kenneth Bryan. Allegations Carroll had retained against them in violation of Texas whistleblowers statute.

The claim they suffered retaliation because they reported C.



Louise Dick, daughter of R. G. LeTourneau and a trustee of LeTourneau University, looks at the

statue of her father that was unveiled as part of the university's Founders Day activities.

# LeTourneau University marks founding, remembers founder

By Julie Cannon  
Staff Writer

A memorial to the past and a symbol for the future was unveiled Thursday during Founder's Day ceremonies at LeTourneau University.

A statue of R.G. LeTourneau and a historical marker were erected for the man who founded LeTourneau Technical Institute in 1946 and was known across the country as a Christian philanthropist.

"If we are to see his greatest contribution we must look to the future," said Dr. Bud Austin, the university president.

"The lives that he touched and those in the future who come through LeTourneau University will continue to fulfill his dream." The statue, near the front entrance of the campus, was designed by sculptor Keith

Knoblock of Heyworth, Ill.

"The historical commission's job is to preserve history," said Dr. Norman Black, the chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission.

"The marker will serve as a reminder to us and hopefully visitors will want to know more about the man."

Historical markers can not be installed until a person has been dead for 20 years.

A self-educated man, LeTourneau invented and pioneered the use of components now standard in many types of construction equipment. The LeTourneau Co., manufacturers of equipment for heavy construction, mining, logging, land clearing and offshore oil drilling, eventually operated plants in California, Illinois, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas, according to the historical mark-

er.

During World War II, 70 percent of the earth-moving equipment used by the U.S. Armed Forces was built by the LeTourneau Co. In 1946 after the war, LeTourneau opened an industrial plant and founded the forerunner of LeTourneau University here in Longview. Veterans could get two years of technical training and work in the plant.

In 1961, the school was renamed LeTourneau College to reflect the growing curriculum, and in August of this year the school became a university.

"Pop took none of the credit for what he accomplished, he gave it all to God. Serving God was what he was all about, as it is the sole goal of the university to serve God," said his son Dr. Richard LeTourneau.

# CONGRATULATIONS

## LeTourneau nominated for hall of fame

**R**.G. LeTourneau, founder of LeTourneau University, industrialist and inventor, has been nominated to the 1994 National Inventors Hall of Fame. LeTourneau's nomination will be considered by the 1994 Selection Committee, with the results announced next spring.

The National Inventors Hall of Fame is located at the United States Patent and Trademark Office in Arlington, Va.

R.G. LeTourneau, who died in

1969, was awarded more than 300 patents during his lifetime.

He was second only to Thomas Edison in the number of patents granted him.

LeTourneau invented or improved upon dozens of type of heavy earth-moving equipment, including scrapers, haulers and the bulldozer. He is also credited with the design of the first offshore drilling platform.

The 1993 living inductees to the National Inventors Hall of Fame include: Baruch S. Blumberg and

Irving R. Millman — Test and Vaccine for Hepatitis B; John T. Parsons — Numerical Control Machine Tools; Robert D. Maurer, Donald B. Keck, Peter C. Schultz — Design of Low-Loss Optical Fiber.

Deceased inductees include: John Ericcson — Screw Propeller; William P. Lear — Oscillator for Car Radio, Radio Direction Finder, Light Aircraft Autopilot, Eight Track Stereo.

1993 induction ceremonies will be held April 24.

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY  
ALMA MATER

Verse 1:

LeTourneau's sons and daughters true, Are faithful round this world to you.  
Our prayers ascend to God on high, That in His will your path may lie.

Chorus:

Oh Alma Mater praise to thee, we pledge anew our loyalty  
The happy days we here have spent, a new zeal to our lives has lent.  
In joyful song it must be told; All hail LeTourneau Blue and Gold  
All hail LeTourneau Blue and Gold!

Verse 2:

Caressed by sunny southern skies, Our honored Alma Mater lies.  
Among the mumuring green pines near, We lift our praise to thee so dear.

Repeat Chorus

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

Verse 1:

To God be the glory great things He has done!  
So loved He the world that He gave us His son,  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,  
And opened the Lifegate that all may go in.

Chorus:

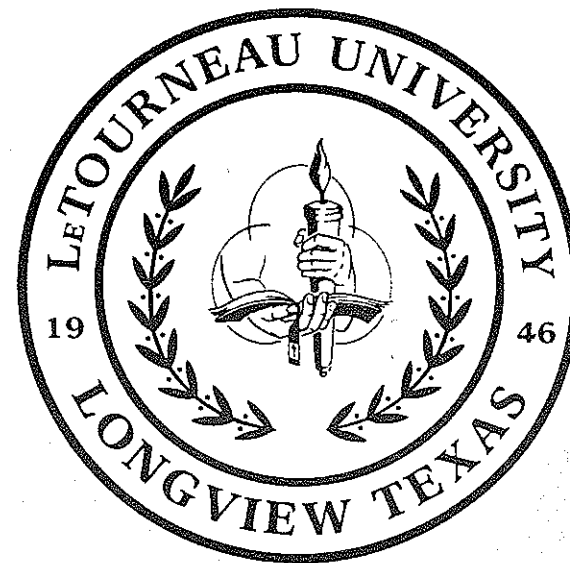
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice!  
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
And give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

Verse 2:

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
But purer and higher and greater will be,  
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Repeat Chorus

LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY  
DEDICATORY CONVOCATION



# LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY

## DEDICATORY CONVOCATION

September 1, 1989  
10:30 a.m.

Prelude Mrs. Georgie Willcox  
Director, Special Programs

\* Processional Dr. Hobert Farrell, Marshall  
President, Teaching Faculty Organization

Greetings Dr. Alvin O. Austin  
President

\* Hymn "To God Be The Glory" Audience

Scripture Reading Dr. Russell A. Primrose  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Invocation Mr. Paul Glaske  
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Special Music: LeTourneau Choir Mrs. Scarlett Morris  
Director, Music Programs

Words of Congratulations Dr. James Stjernstrom  
Vice President for University Advancement

Dedicatory Address President Austin

\* LeTourneau University Alma Mater Choir and Audience

Processional to Campus Entrance Dr. Farrell, Marshall

Processional Music:

Longview High School Band ..... Mr. Bobby Richardson, Director  
Pine Tree High School Band ..... Dr. James Snowden, Director  
Spring Hill High School Band ..... Mr. Johnnie Cotton, Director

Band Concert

National Anthem Longview High School Band

Prayer of Dedication Dr. Farrell

Dedicatory Statements

For the Students ..... Paul Bradley  
President, Student Senate

For the Alumni ..... Mr. Thomas Hunt  
President, Alumni Association

For the Community ..... Mr. Lou Galosy  
Mayor, City of Longview

For Business and Industry ..... Mr. Earl Roberts, Jr.  
President, Longview Chamber of Commerce

For the State of Texas ..... Mr. Jerry Yost  
Representative, Texas Legislature

Dedication of the New Campus Entrance Mr. Elliott Belcher  
University Trustee  
Brent, AL

Unveiling of University Sign

Mr. Paul Glaske, Chairman, Board of Trustees  
Mr. Thomas Hunt, President, Alumni Association  
Dr. Hobert Farrell, President, Teaching Faculty Organization  
Mr. Paul Bradley, President, Student Senate

Benediction Dr. Stjernstrom

\* Audience Please Stand