

to Foster Bean

WE STAND ON GROUND THAT HAS UNDERGONE MANY TRANSFORMATIONS. BEFORE THE DISCOVERY OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD, IT WAS A PLACE WHERE THE DOWN AND OUT MIGHT ERECT A SHACK WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE LANDOWNER. ON ACCOUNT OF ITS TERRAIN, WITH ITS UNEVEN SURFACE AND DITCHES, IT WAS NOT CONSIDERED A SUITABLE PLACE FOR THE ERECTION OF ANY IMPROVEMENTS AND THE PROPERTY WAS CONSIDERED OF LITTLE VALUE. SOME OF OUR BLACK FRIENDS WHO WERE NOT POSSESSED OF VERY MUCH WORLDLY GOODS POPULATED IT, AND IT WAS GIVEN THE NAME OF HAPPY HOLLOW.

THEN CAME THE ADVENT OF THE EAST TEXAS OIL FIELD IN THE MIDST OF THE WORSE DEPRESSION THAT HAS EVER BEFALLEN OUR COUNTRY. HORDES OF PEOPLE CAME TO OUR TOWN SEEKING A LIVELIHOOD. THEY CAME WITH PRACTICALLY NOTHING EXCEPT THE CLOTHES ON THEIR BACKS. THEY CROWDED INTO HAPPY HOLLOW, LIVING IN TENTS, HASTILY BUILT SHACKS, AND EVEN GOODS BOXES. THEY LIVED THERE FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS, BUT THE LAND BECAME VALUABLE. THE CITY OF KILGORE NEEDED A RECREATIONAL PARK. IN ORDER TO MAKE THE LAND AVAILABLE FOR SALE TO THE CITY FOR PARK PURPOSES, IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE IT VACATED. THE PRINCIPAL OWNER OF THE LAND NOW CONSTITUTING THE PARK INSTITUTED EVICTION PROCEEDINGS AGAINST THE INHABITANTS AND PAID TO HAVE THEM MOVED TO OTHER VACANT PREMISES.

IN 1934 THE ROOSEVELT NEW DEAL WAS IN FULL BLAST. KILGORE NEEDED A PARK. THE FORMER HAPPY HOLLOW LAND WAS AVAILABLE. THE CITY ACQUIRED THE LAND AND BEGAN PLANNING THE FACILITIES THAT WOULD TRANSFORM THE LAND INTO A MODEL CITY PARK. THE EARLIEST

IMPROVEMENTS WERE A SERIES OF ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES THAT INCLUDED WALKS, PICNIC FACILITIES, BRIDGES AND ROCK EMBANKMENT WALLS. IN MAKING THESE IMPROVEMENTS, A LARGE AMOUNT OF LOCAL ROCK, COMMONLY KNOWN AS IRON ORE, WAS USED AND THEREBY PROVIDED AN ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION FOR THE PARK'S RUSTIC THEME, ENHANCING THE "NATURAL" FEATURES OF THEIR SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT.

IN 1936 A SECOND PHASE OF CONSTRUCTION IN THE CITY PARK WAS INITIATED. THE CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF \$30,000.00 IN BONDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SWIMMING POOL.

THE NEW KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY, NOW LOCATED ON A PART OF THE LAND, WAS COMPLETED IN 1939 WITH FUNDS CONTRIBUTED BY THE CITY AND THE NEW DEAL PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION.

IN 1950 IT WAS REALIZED THAT KILGORE DID NOT HAVE A COUNTY COMMUNITY HOUSE WHILE THE OTHER PRECINCTS IN THE COUNTY HAD ALREADY BUILT ONE. THEN WHILE I WAS SERVING AS INTERIM MAYOR FROM DECEMBER 27, 1950, UNTIL APRIL 15, 1951, MY BROTHER, JACK BEAN, WHO WAS THEN SERVING AS COUNTY COMMISSIONER, USED HIS INFLUENCE WITH THE CITY AND THE CITY GAVE THE COUNTY A LOT OUT OF THE ORIGINAL PROPERTY PURCHASED FOR PARK PURCHASES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNITY HOUSE, AND THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WAS COMPLETED IN 1952.

THE CITY PARK IS A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT IN KILGORE FOR SEVERAL REASONS; MOST IMPORTANT, IT SERVED AS A REMINDER OF THE STRONG MUNICIPAL PROGRAMS AND THE IN-DEPTH AND PROGRESSIVE PLANNING THAT MARKED THE CHANGE FROM A BOOM TOWN TO MEASURED GROWTH. IN A LARGER CONTEXT, THE PARK IS A SYMBOL OF GOVERNMENTAL CHANGES THAT TOOK PLACE THROUGHOUT TEXAS DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

It is indeed a privilege for me to have a part in the dedication of the official Texas Historical Marker for the City Park.

MACATEE

INCORPORATED

GEORGE P. MACATEE, JR., PRESIDENT

BUILDING MATERIALS

2807 SAN JACINTO STREET
DALLAS

May 14, 1935

O. L. Crigler Co.,
Kilgore, Texas.

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of your order calling for 40 lbs.
of Toch Bros. Red Cement Coloring to be shipped to you at Kilgore
and marked for City Park.

We are pleased to advise that this shipment is going
forward to you today.

Thanking you for this as well as all past favors, we are,

City Park

Very truly yours,

MACATEE, Inc.

M. James
M. JAMES.

MJ:

*This red cement coloring
was used in the mortar
for the iron ore red rock.*



Highway 259

480

Nov. 1934
260

BARTON STREET 25

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

NORTH STREET

STREET

KNOWLES STREET

STREET

BENTON STREET

CHOICE STREET

WOOD STREET

Purchased from M.B. McGehee, Jan 175

Resolutions July 17, 1934 Oct 15, 1934 174

Purchased from J. d. Elder, 1934
Elder
In red

Purchased 300 Wood Ect 98/100 ac 12

PETERSON
MCGEE ADDN2

2-C
2-B

10 11-B 11-C 11-A 7-F
7-C 7-B 7-A 13
6 14-A 14-C
5-B 22
5

15 16 17
18 19 20
19-B 19-A
20

180 177 176 24
15 14 13 12 11 10

139 138 137 136 135 134 133 132 131 130
129 128 127 126 125 124 123 122 121 120
119 118 117 116 115 114 113 112 111 110
109 108 107 106 105 104 103 102 101 100
99 98 97 96 95 94 93 92 91 90
89 88 87 86 85 84 83 82 81 80
79 78 77 76 75 74 73 72 71 70
69 68 67 66 65 64 63 62 61 60
59 58 57 56 55 54 53 52 51 50
49 48 47 46 45 44 43 42 41 40
39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30
29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20
19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10
9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

SCHEDULE - A

EXPENDITURES BY J.N.PETERSON ON CITY PARK
JOHN N. PETERSON - KILGORE, TEXAS

July 24, 1935

			<u>PAID O.L.</u>	<u>PAID</u>
			<u>CRIGLER</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
1935				
Apr. 30	Jesse Morgan	Labor	\$	\$ 4.50
30	Lewis Wright	Labor		4.50
30	Texas Rig & Lbr Co.	Dynamite		23.50
May 18	O. L. Crigler	Per Schedule	1,000.00 [^]	
24	do	do	375.00 [^]	
1	C. C. Crews	Rock		32.00
2	Irah Baldwin	Labor		4.50
	Buddie Tillman	do		3.25
	E. J. Harpe	Moving Shacks		71.00
	Tom Roberson	Labor		4.50
4	Henry Norris	do		5.25
	O. J. Dails	do		2.50
	W. P. Pounds	do		4.00
	J. L. Morgan	do		3.75
	Willie Brazier	do		5.25
	J. H. Wilson	do		5.25
	Isaac Tolbert	do		2.50
	Dave Thompson	do		4.00
	Liggett Dean	do		2.50
	T. H. Hendrix	do		5.25
	Lucias Wright	do		3.75
11	J. O. Phillips	Hauling Rock		19.25
	Haywood Erwin	Blasting Rock		23.00
	Jack Sherron	Rock Mason		32.00
	Willie Brazier	Labor		7.50
	A. L. Paris	do		6.00
	Liggett Dean	do		6.00
	A. L. Morgan	do		3.00
	O. H. Holt	do		3.75
	John Wilson	do		6.00
	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	A. C. Carter	do		6.00
	Buddie Tillman	do		6.00
	Louie Wright	do		3.00
18	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		39.00
	Henry Norris	Labor		7.35
	Willie Brazier	do		7.35
	Buddie Tillman	do		6.18
	W. C. Paris	do		7.35
	J. O. Phillips	Hauling Rock		12.10
	Haywood Erwin	Blasting Rock		12.00
	Jack Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
25	Henry Norris	Labor		7.50
	W. C. Pons	do		7.50
	Buddie Tillman	do		7.50
	J. H. Wilson	do		4.50
	Willie Brazier	do		7.50
31	O. L. Crigler	See Schedule	306.60 [^]	
Jun 4	Marshall Supply Co.			104.85
	Smith Lumber Co.		574.35 [^]	
7	O. L. Crigler	Per Schedule	96.42 [^]	
29	O. L. Crigler	do	500.00	
1	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
	W. C. Ponds	Labor		6.75
	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	J. H. Wilson	do		6.75
	Buddie Tillman	do		6.75
	Willie Brazier	do		6.75
8	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	Jack Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
	Buddie Tillman	Labor		6.00

EXPENDITURES BY J.N.PETERSON ON CITY PARK - #2

1935			PAID O.L. CRIGLER	PAID OTHERS
Jun 15	W. C. Pons	Labor	\$	\$ 4.50
	Buddie Tillman	do		7.50
	John Wilson	do		7.50
	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	J. O. Phillips	Sand		18.00
	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
	B. D. Blackburn	Rock Mason		16.00
	A. T. Evans	Labor		7.50
19	Henry Norris	do		6.00
	D. B. Blackburn	Rock Work		16.00
	O. G. Daniels	Labor		6.00
	John Wilson	do		6.00
21	W. C. Ponds	do		6.00
	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		33.50
	A. T. Evans	Labor		6.00
	Buddie Tillman	do		3.00
22	Noble Bector	do		1.50
	Roy Ector	do		1.50
29	O. J. Daniels	do		7.50
	Ray Ector	do		4.50
	Noble Bector	do		1.50
Jul 5	Marshall Supply Co.			115.30
13	O. J. Daniels	Labor		1.50
20	O. J. Daniels	do		5.20
24	O. L. Crigler	Final Settlement		631.58
			<u>\$2,852.37</u>	<u>\$1,680.51</u>
			=====	2,852.37
AMOUNT DUE JOHN N. PETERSON				<u>\$4,532.88</u>
				=====

SCHEDULE - B

O.L.CRIGLER ACCOUNT - CITY PARK
J. N. PETERSON - KILGORE, TEXAS
 July 24, 1935

O.L.CRIGLER ACCOUNT

		<u>LABOR</u>	<u>MATERIALS</u>
		\$	\$
1935			
Jul 2	Sale Electric & Suppl y Co.(See Payroll for Balance)		1.50
Jun 28	Blessing & Fuller		72.87
29	Payroll	9.80	
Jul 5	do	1.87	
Jun 27	do	3.75	
	do	4.00	
24	Kilgore Sheet Metal Works		1.25
27	Payroll	35.44	
	G. F. Wacker		.65
	Beall Bros.		.20
May 15	Cherokee Hardware Co.		.68
Jun 24	Meyers Plbg & Elec. Co(\$562.45 included in Payrolls)		253.30
May 29	Marshall Shpply Co.		7.20
30	do		3.00
22	do		3.00
Jun 5	do		3.00
7	do		6.75
May 2	Payroll	105.25	
9	do	2.75	
	do	389.10	
16	do	344.80	
24	do	3.50	
	do	37.70	
	do	72.94	
30	do	4.50	
	do	126.36	
	do	66.10	
Jun 6	do	5.25	
	do	11.00	
	do	57.07	
13	do	135.86	
	do	103.84	
	do	12.00	
20	do	77.50	
	do	15.50	
May 14	Macatee, Inc.		13.20
	Freight on Metal Lath		.53
15	New Process Roofing & Supply Co.		52.80
	do		3.50
14	do		8.80
	do		.64
Jul 1	Central Texas Iron Works		10.24
	do		2.44
Jun 7	Higginbotham-Pearstone Hdwe Co.		29.05
12	Brown Hardwood Co.		24.95
17	do		5.00
May 16	The Philip Carey Co.		165.66
Jun 5	Cherokee Hardware Co.		.87
	McWilliams Hardware Co.		2.97
	Safeway Stores		.20
1	Smith Lumber Co.(\$67.96 unpaid)		574.35
May 21	Freight on Shingles		86.88
	Carried Forward	\$1,625.88	\$1,335.48

SCHEDULE - B

O.L.CRIGLER ACCOUNT - CITY ARK - #2

	<u>LABOR</u>	<u>MATERIALS</u>
Amount Brought Forward	\$1,625.88	\$1,335.48
Materials from Warehouse - Per Schedule		137.86 ¹
Workmens Compensation & Public Liability Insurance		68.01 ¹
Labor	<u>\$1,625.88</u> =====	<u>1,625.88</u>
Plus 10% Supervision & Accounting		<u>\$3,167.23</u> 316.72
Less: Payments Received from John N. Peterson		<u>\$3,483.95</u> 2,852.37
FINAL PAYMENT TO O.L.CRIGLER		<u>\$ 631.58</u> =====

SCHEDULE - B

MATERIALS FURNISHED BY D.L. CRIGLER

Telegrams		\$ 3.06
Brick, Cement & Sand		2.35
Oil		.35
1 Mop		.50
40' Reinforcing Steel		1.35
10# Lath Tie Wire	\$.60	
15# Lath Nails	1.20	
2 Sash Lifts	.08	1.88
3 Sq. Shingles		63.69
2 Doz. Galvanized Wall Ties		.10
2 3"x4 - 1/2"x2" Angle Irons	\$ 1.20	
380' Lineal ft. Metallation @.025	9.50	10.70
5# Tie Wire @.06	\$.30	
10# Nails	.80	
1 Sack Acme	1.00	
1 1/3 bbl Lime	3.33	5.43
100 Brick	\$1.50	
Drayage	1.00	2.50
1/8# Filler	\$.08	
1/4# Wax	.12	
1 qt. Shellac	.58	.78
15 Batches Concrete	\$12.00	
1 bbl. Lime	2.50	14.50
3 Sash Lifts	\$.12	
16' Brick Mould	.60	.72
2 Gallons Outside Primer	\$ 7.42	
7 " Wall Primer	14.70	
1 " Flat Paint	1.25	23.37
Freight on Paint		.53
160' Reynolds Metallation @.025		4.00
2 Sacks Acme		2.00
		<u>\$137.86</u>
		=====

SCHEDULE - A

EXPENDITURES BY J.N.PETERSON ON CITY PARK
JOHN H. PETERSON - MILGORE, TEXAS
 July 24, 1935

			<u>PAID C.L.</u>	<u>PAID</u>
			<u>CRIGLER</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>
1935				
Apr. 30	Jesse Morgan	Labor	\$	\$ 4.50
30	Lewis Wright	Labor		4.50
30	Texas Rig & Lbr Co.	Dynamite		23.50
May 18	O. L. Crigler	Per Schedule	1,000.00	
24	do	do	375.00	
1	C. C. Crews	Rock		32.00
2	Irah Baldwin	Labor		4.50
	Buddie Tillman	do		3.25
	E. J. Harpe	Moving Shacks		71.00
	Tom Roberson	Labor		4.50
4	Henry Norris	do		5.25
	O. J. Dails	do		2.50
	W. F. Pounds	do		4.00
	J. L. Morgan	do		3.75
	Willie Brazier	do		5.25
	J. H. Wilson	do		5.25
	Isaac Tolbert	do		2.50
	Dave Thompson	do		4.00
	Liggett Dean	do		2.50
	T. H. Hendrix	do		5.25
	Lucias Wright	do		3.75
11	J. O. Phillips	Hauling Rock		19.25
	Haywood Erwin	Elasting Rock		23.00
	Jack Sherron	Rock Mason		32.00
	Willie Brazier	Labor		7.50
	A. L. Paris	do		6.00
	Liggett Dean	do		6.00
	A. L. Morgan	do		3.00
	O. H. Holt	do		3.75
	John Wilson	do		6.00
	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	A. C. Carter	do		6.00
	Buddie Tillman	do		6.00
	Louis Wright	do		3.00
18	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		39.00
	Henry Norris	Labor		7.35
	Willie Brazier	do		7.35
	Buddie Tillman	do		6.18
	W. C. Paris	do		7.35
	J. O. Phillips	Hauling Rock		12.10
	Haywood Erwin	Elasting Rock		12.00
	Jack Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
25	Henry Norris	Labor		7.50
	W. C. Pons	do		7.50
	Buddie Tillman	do		7.50
	J. H. Wilson	do		4.50
	Willie Brazier	do		7.50
Jun 31	G. J. Crigler		300.60	
31	Smith Supply Co.	See Schedule		104.85
	Smith Lumber Co.		574.35	
7	O. L. Crigler	Per Schedule	96.42	
29	O. L. Crigler	do	500.00	
1	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
	W. C. Ponds	Labor		6.75
	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	J. H. Wilson	do		6.75
	Buddie Tillman	do		6.75
	Willie Brazier	do		6.75
8	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	Jack Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
	Buddie Tillman	Labor		6.00

EXPENDITURES BY J.N.PETERSON ON CITY PARK - 2

1935			PAID O.L. CRIGLER	PAID OTHERS
Jun 15	W. C. Pons	Labor		4.50
	Buddie Tillman	do		7.50
	John Wilson	do		7.50
	Henry Norris	do		7.50
	J. O. Phillips	Sand		18.00
	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		40.00
	B. D. Blackburn	Rock Mason		16.00
	A. T. Evans	Labor		7.50
19	Henry Norris	do		6.00
	D. B. Blackburn	Rock Work		16.00
	O. G. Daniels	Labor		6.00
	John Wilson	do		6.00
21	W. C. Ponds	do		6.00
	A. J. Sherron	Rock Mason		33.50
	A. T. Evans	Labor		6.00
	Buddie Tillman	do		3.00
22	Noble Bector	do		1.50
	Roy Ector	do		1.50
29	O. J. Daniels	do		7.50
	Ray Ector	do		4.50
	Noble Bector	do		1.50
Jul 5	Marshall Supply Co.			115.30
13	O. J. Daniels	Labor		1.50
20	O. J. Daniels	do		5.20
24	O. L. Crigler	Final Settlement		631.58
			<u>\$2,852.37</u>	<u>1,680.51</u>
			=====	2,852.37
AMOUNT DUE JOHN N. PETERSON				<u>\$4,532.88</u>
				=====

SCHEDULE - B

O.L. CRIGLER ACCOUNT - CITY PARK
J. H. PETERSON - KILGORE, TEXAS
 July 24, 1935

O.L. CRIGLER ACCOUNT

1935		<u>LABOR</u>	<u>MATERIALS</u>
Jul 2	Sale Electric & Supply Co. (See Payroll for Balance)		1.50
Jun 28	Blessing & Fuller		72.07
29	Payroll	9.80	
Jul 5	do	1.87	
Jun 27	do	3.75	
	do	4.00	
24	Kilgore Sheet Metal Works		1.25
27	Payroll	55.44	
	G. F. Wacker		.65
25	Beall Bros.		.20
May 15	Cherokee Hardware Co.		.68
Jun 24	Meyers Bldg & Elec. Co. (\$562.45 included in Payrolls)		255.30
May 29	Marshall Supply Co.		7.20
30	do		3.00
22	do		3.00
Jun 5	do		3.00
7	do		6.75
May 2	Payroll	105.25	
9	do	2.75	
	do	309.10	
16	do	344.80	
24	do	3.50	
	do	37.70	
	do	72.94	
30	do	4.50	
	do	126.36	
	do	66.10	
Jun 6	do	5.25	
	do	11.00	
	do	57.07	
13	do	155.86	
	do	103.84	
	do	12.00	
20	do	77.50	
	do	15.50	
May 14	Macatee, Inc.		13.20
	Freight on Metal Lath		.53
15	New Process Roofing & Supply Co.		52.80
	do		3.50
14	do		0.80
	do		.64
Jul 1	Central Texas Iron Works		10.24
	do		2.44
Jun 7	Higginbotham-Pearstone Hdwe Co.		29.05
12	Brown Hardwood Co.		24.95
17	do		5.00
May 16	The Philip Carey Co.		165.66
Jun 5	Cherokee Hardware Co.		.87
	McWilliams Hardware Co.		2.97
	Safeway Stores		.20
1	Smith Lumber Co. (\$67.96 unpaid)		574.35
May 21	Freight on Shingles		86.88
	Carried Forward	\$1,625.88	\$1,335.48

SCHEDULE - D

O.L.CRIGLER ACCOUNT - CITY ARE - #2

	<u>LABOR</u>	<u>MATERIALS</u>
Amount Brought Forward	\$1,625.88	\$1,335.48
Materials from Warehouse - Per Schedule		137.86
Workmens Compensation & Public Liability Insurance		68.01
Labor	<u>1,625.88</u> =====	<u>1,625.88</u>
Plus 10% Supervision & Accounting		<u>\$3,167.23</u> 316.72
Less: Payments Received from John H. Peterson		<u>\$3,483.95</u> 2,852.57
FINAL PAYMENT TO O.L.CRIGLER		<u>\$ 631.58</u> =====

SCHEDULE - B

MATERIALS FURNISHED BY D.L. CRIGLER

Telegrams		\$ 3.06
Brick, Cement & Sand		2.35
Oil		.35
1 Mop		.50
40' Reinforcing Steel		1.35
10# Lath Tie Wire	\$.60	
15# Lath Nails	1.20	
2 Sash Lifts	.00	1.88
3 Sq. Shingles		63.69
2 Doz. Galvanized Wall Ties		.10
2 3"x4 - 1/2"x2" Angle Irons	\$ 1.20	
380' Lineal ft. Metallation .025	9.50	10.70
5# Tie Wire .06	\$.30	
10# Nails	.80	
1 Sack Acme	1.00	
1 1/3 bbl Lime	3.33	5.43
100 Brick	\$1.50	
Drayage	1.00	2.50
1# Filler	\$.08	
1# Wax	.12	
1 qt. Shellac	.58	.78
15 Patches Concrete	.12.00	
1 bbl. Lime	2.50	14.50
3 Sash Lifts	.12	
16' Brick Mould	.60	.72
2 Gallons Outside Primer	7.42	
7 " Wall Primer	14.70	
1 " Flat Paint	1.25	23.37
Freight on Paint		.53
160' Reynolds Metallation .025		4.00
2 Sacks Acme		2.00
		<u>\$137.86</u>
		=====

2

copy
attached

Mr. Crown Dickson, Secretary
City of Calgary, Alberta

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing statements covering
expenditures by me while City Clerk for the period
April 30 to July 24, 1935.

Schedule A shows in detail the cash
disbursements made by me. Schedule B shows in
detail the expenditures made by Mr. C. H. English
who supervised the construction work.

I am also enclosing an attached list
in support of all disbursements made by me
for the period from April 30 to July 24, 1935.
I would appreciate your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly

J. N. Dickson

3 copies
 people copy
 O'Byrne

EXPENDITURES BY J.N. PETERSON ON CITY PARK
 JOHN N. PETERSON - KILGORE, TEXAS
 July 24, 1935

						PAID	PAID
						D.L. CRIGLER	OTHERS
					\$	\$	
4-30-35	Jesse Morgan	Labor					
4-30-35	Lewis Wright	Labor					
4-30-35	Swan Arg & Lumber Co	Dynamite					
5-18-35	O. L. Cugler	Chs Schindler			10000		
5-24-35	do	do			37500		
5-15-35	C.C. Crews	Rock					
5-2-35	Isak Baldwin	Labor				3200	
✓	Buddie Tillman	do				1150	
✓	E.J. Harper	moving Shacks				7000	
✓	John Peterson	Labor				4800	
5-4-35	Henry Morris	do				500	
✓	O.J. Dails	do				200	
✓	W.P. Pounds	do				400	
✓	J.L. Morgan	do				200	
✓	Willie Brazier	do				100	
✓	J.H. Wilson	do				300	
✓	Isaac Jallert	do				250	
✓	Dave Thompson	do				400	
✓	Leggett Dean	do				200	
✓	J.H. Hendrix	do				100	
✓	Lucian Wright	do				200	
5-11-35	J.O. Phillips	Hauling Rock				1900	
✓	Haywood Ewin	Blasting Rock				2000	
✓	Jack Sherrin	Rock Mason				3200	
✓	Willie Brazier	Labor				700	
✓	A.L. Paris	do				600	
✓	Leggett Dean	do				400	
✓	A.L. Morgan	do				200	
✓	O.H. Holt	do				200	
✓	John Wilson	do				200	
✓	Henry Morris	do				200	
✓	A.C. Carter	do				200	
✓	Buddie Tillman	do				200	
✓	Lewis Wright	do				200	
5-18-35	A.J. Sherrin	Rock Mason				2000	
✓	Henry Morris	Labor				700	
✓	Willie Brazier	do				200	
✓	Buddie Tillman	do				200	
✓	W.C. Paris	do				700	
✓	J.O. Phillips	Hauling Rock				1000	
✓	Haywood Ewin	Blasting Rock				1000	
✓	Jack Sherrin	Rock Mason				4000	
5-25-35	Henry Morris	Labor				2000	
✓	W.C. Paris	do				700	
✓	Buddie Tillman	do				700	
✓	J.H. Wilson	do				400	

EXPENDITURES BY J. N. PETERSON ON CITY PARK - 1935

				PAID	PAID
				O.L. CRIBLE	OTHER
				\$	\$
5-25-35	Best Feed				
	Willie Brazier				
5-31-35	O.L. Crysler (See Schedule)			306.60	
6-4-35	Marshall Supply Co				10.00
6-4-35	Smith Lumber Co			574.35	
6-7-35	O.L. Crysler	Rev. Schedule		96.42	
6-29-35	do	do		60.00	
6-1-35	A.J. Sherron	Rock mason			
✓	W.C. Ponds	Labor			
✓	Henry Norris	do			
✓	J.H. Wilson	do			
✓	Buddy Tillman	do			
✓	Willie Brazier	do			
6-8-35	Henry Norris	do			
✓	Jack Sherron	Rock mason			
✓	Buddie Tillman	Labor			
6-15-35	W.C. Ponds	do			
✓	Buddie Tillman	do			
✓	John Wilson	do			
✓	Henry Norris	do			
✓	J.O. Phillips	Sand			1.30
✓	W.J. Sherron	Rock mason			4.00
✓	B.D. Blackburn	Rock mason			1.50
✓	A.J. Evans	Labor			.75
6-19-35	Henry Norris	do			.50
✓	B.D. Blackburn	Rock Work			1.00
✓	O.G. Daniels	Labor			.50
✓	John Wilson	do			.50
6-21-35	W.C. Ponds	do			.50
✓	A.J. Sherron	Rock mason			.75
✓	A.J. Evans	Labor			.50
✓	Buddy Tillman	do			.50
6-22-35	Willie Brazier	do			.50
✓	Ray Ester	do			.50
6-29-35	O.G. Daniels	do			.75
✓	Ray Ester	do			.50
✓	Willie Brazier	do			.50
7-5-35	Marshall Supply Co				11.50
7-15-35	Southern Iron Works				10.87
7-10-35	East Texas Water Trough	Englehard			.67
7-13-35	O.G. Daniels	Labor			.75
7-20-35	do	do			.50
7-24-35	O.L. Crysler	Final settlement			631.15
				\$ 2852.37	\$ 1680.5
					2852.37
					\$ 4532.8

AMOUNT DUE JOHN N. PETERSON

O. L. CRIGLER ACCOUNT CITY PARK

J. N. PETERSON - KILGORE, TEXAS 31

July 29, 1935 - 13

O. L. CRIGLER ACCOUNT

LABOR

Date	Description	Amount	Balance
7-2-35	Sale Electric & Supply Co. (See Payroll for Balance)		150
6-28-35	Blossing & Fuller		72.87
6-29-35	Payroll	980	
7-5-35	do	187	
6-27-35	do	375	
✓	do	400	
7-3-35	Marshall Supply Co		
6-24-35	Kilgore Sheet Metal Works		
6-23-35	Smith Lumber Co.		
6-27-35	Payroll	3544	
	W F Wacker		
6-25-35	Beall Bros		
5-15-35	Charles Hardware Co.		
6-22-35	East Texas Motor Freight		
5-23-35	Red Ball Motor Freight		
6-24-35	Meyer, Otto Elec. Co. (\$562.15 included in Payroll)		
6-22-35	East Texas Motor Freight		
5-29-35	Marshall Supply Co		
5-30-35	do		
5-22-35	do		
6-5-35	do		
6-7-35	do		
5-2-35	Payroll	10525	
5-9-35	✓	275	
✓	✓	38910	
5-16-35	✓	34480	
5-24-35	✓	350	
✓	✓	5770	
✓	✓	7294	
5-30-35	✓	450	
✓	✓	12686	
✓	✓	6610	
6-6-35	✓	525	
✓	✓	1100	
✓	✓	5907	
6-13-35	✓	12586	
✓	✓	15384	
✓	✓	1200	
6-20-35	✓	7750	
✓	✓	1550	
5-14-35	Macate, Inc.		1200
✓	Freight on metal bath		
5-15-35	New Process Roofing Supply Co		1200
5-14-35	do		300
✓	do		800
✓	do		64
7-1-35	Central Texas Iron Works		1024
✓	do		

O. L. CRIGLER ACCOUNT - CITY OF PARIS - #2

				LUMBER		MATERIALS	
6-7-35	Heggenbotham - Co.		Header Co	#		#	2900
6-12-35	Chem. Hardware Co						5000
6-17-35	do						1000
5-16-35	The Philip Carey Co.						1000
6-5-35	Charles Hardware Co						2000
	McWilliams Hardware Co						2000
	Sparway Bros						2000
6-1-35	Smith Lumber Co		(467.96 repaid)				5742
5-21-35	Freight on Shingles						800
				#	162588	#	17754
	Materials from ... - per schedule						1300
	Workmen's Compensation + Public Utility Insurance						680
	Labels						16200
	Plus 10% Insurance Account					#	30000
							3000
	Less: Payments Received of Mr. John W. Crigler					#	30000
	(FINAL Payment to O. L. CRIGLER)					#	2000

Memo Pledge Elec Ac

Jabal Account

Payments
5-2-35
6-13-35
5-9-35

25.50
6.120
25.000

[Handwritten signature]

5

27.75
27
20
275

City Park Rest Room
Statement to Mr. John Peterson
Kilgore, Texas

IN ACCOUNT WITH O. L. CRIGLER, CONTRACTOR
Kilgore, Texas

Payrolls

May 2, 1935.....	105.25 ^	
May 9, 1935.....	391.85 ^	
May 16, 1935.....	117.10 ^	
May 24, 1935.....	114.14 ^	
May 30, 1935.....	196.96 ^	
June 6, 1935.....	73.32 ^	
June 13, 1935.....	251.70 ^	
June 20, 1935.....	93.00 ^	
June 27, 1935.....	43.19 ^	
June 29, 1935.....	7.64 ^	
		\$1,394.15

Materials

McWilliams Hardware Company.	2.97 ^	
Cherokee Hardware Co.....	1.55 ^	
Marshall Supply Co.....	22.95 ^	
The Philip Carey Co.....	165.66 ^	
Freight on shingles.....	86.88 ^	
Brown Hardwood Co.....	29.95 ^	
Higginbotham-Pearlstone.....	29.05 ^	
Beall Brothers Store.....	.20 ^	
G. F. Wacker.....	.65 ^	
Smith Lbr. Co.....	642.31 ^	
Central Texas Iron Wks.....	12.68 ^	
New Process Roofing & Supply	65.74 ^	
Macatee, Inc.....	13.73 ^	
Safeway Stores.....	.20 ^	
Blessing & Fuller.....	72.87 ^	
J. V. Kernoodle.....	1.25 ^	
Doug Meyers Plumbing.....	253.30 ^	
Material from Warehouse.....	134.73	\$1,536.69

Workmen's Compensation.....	49.40	\$2,930.84
Public Liability.....	18.54	
Total Cost.....		\$2,998.85
10% Profit.....	299.88	
Total.....		\$3,298.73

Advanced

May 18, 1935.....	\$1,000.00 ^	
May 24, 1935.....	375.00 ^	
May 31, 1935.....	306.60 ^	
June 7, 1935.....	96.96 ^	
Smith Lbr. Co.....	574.35 ^	
Balance advanced.....		\$2,352.91
Balance due.....		945.82

Received Payment on _____ 1935

Signed _____

MATERIAL FROM WAREHOUSE

Furnished by O. L. Crigler

2 gallons Outside Primo.....	@3.71.....	\$ 7.42 ^
7 gallons Wall Prime.....	@2.10.....	14.70 ^
1/3 gallon Flat Paint.....	@2.50.....	1.25 ^
5 sabb lifts 362.....	@ .45 doz.....	.20 ^
16 feet brick mould.....		.60 ^
10 # lath tie nails.....	@ .06.....	.60 ^
15 # lath nails.....	@ .08.....	1.20 ^
15 batches concrete.....		12.00 ^
2 1/3 barrel lime.....	@2.50.....	5.83 ^
1/2 pound filler.....	@ .15.....	.08 ^
1/4 pound wax.....	@ .47 per #.....	.12 ^
1 quart shellac.....		.58 ^
100 brick.....	@.015.....	1.50 ^
Drayage.....		1.00 ^
5 # tie wire.....	@ .06.....	.30 ^
10 # nails.....	@ .08.....	.80 ^
3 sacks Acme.....	@1.00.....	3.00
2 dozen galvanized wall ties.....	@.0035.....	.10 ^
540 Square feet Reynolds Metallation.....	.02 1/2 S. F.....	13.50
2 3"x4"x2' angle irons 4'.....	@ .30.....	1.20 ^
3 squares shingles.....	@21.23 per sq.....	63.69 ^
40' reinforcing steel 27#.....	@ .05.....	1.35 ^
15 brick.....		.30 ^
1 sk cement.....		.80 ^
1/2 yard gravel.....		1.25 ^
Oil.....		.35 ^
1 mop.....		.50 ^
Freight on Paint used.....		.53 ^
Total Material from warehouse.....		<u>\$134.75</u>

July 27, 1935

Mr. Crown Dickson, Secretary
City of Kilgore, Texas

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing statements covering expenditures by me on the City Park for the period April 30 to July 24, 1935.

Schedule A shows in detail the cash disbursements made by me. Schedule B shows in detail the expenditures made by Mr. C. L. Crigler who supervised the construction work.

Invoices and payrolls are attached hereto in support of all expenditures. When this has been approved by the City Commission, I will appreciate a warrant to cover.

Yours very truly

J. H. Peterson

SUNDAY
KILGORE NEWS HERALD

America's No. 1 small city—capital of the East Texas Oil Field

USPS 294-700

KILGORE, TEXAS, SUNDAY MORNING NOVEMBER 6, 1988

58 PAGES, 3 SECTIONS—25c

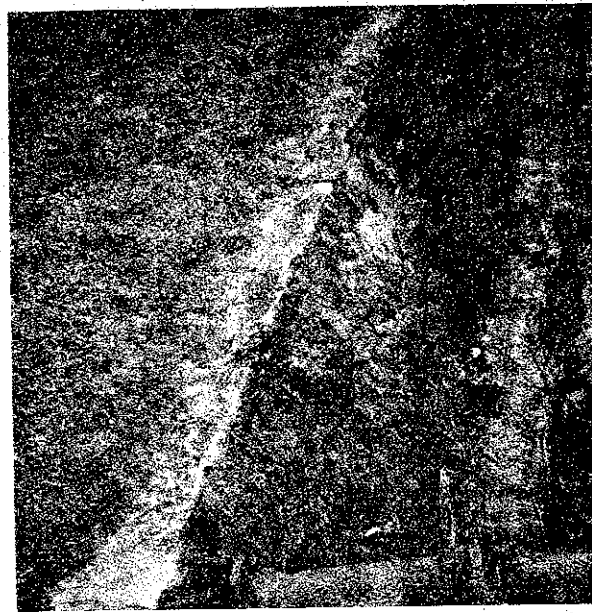




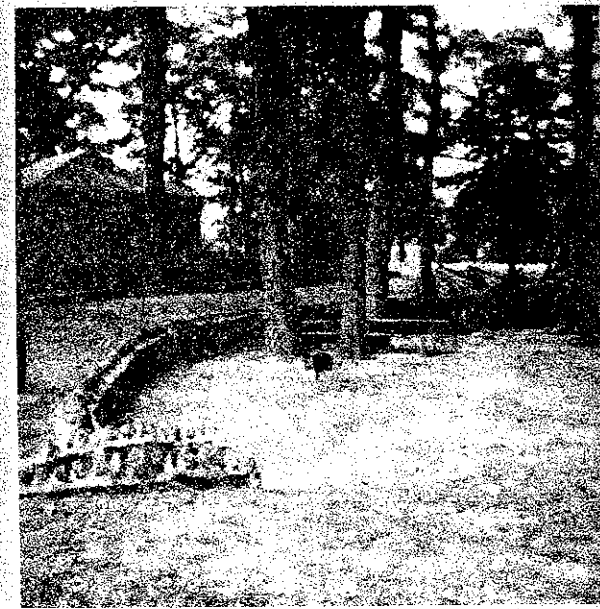
ROCK WORK — An employee from Saylor's Masonry in Longview puts the finishing touches on some rock work in the City Park as the owner of the company, Nelda Lewis and Virginia Long look on. The firm, at the expense of KIBA, replaced and repaired the rock in the creek running through the park. KIBA adopted this project several years ago and has now seen it completed. Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Long are active in KIBA, with Mrs. Long serving this year as president. The group also has the park as its Adopt-A-Spot. (Photo by Greg A. Collins)

The original pictures (sent
with application) were made
with a Polaroid camera (color).

MS



City Park Creek Bed
8/11/89



city Park Picnic
8/11/89
Restroom



City Park Rock
Creek Bed
8/11/89



Rock Work
City Park 1989
8/11/89



Bridge in City
Park
8/11/89

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) ▶ The Development of City Park		County ▶ Gregg	
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map) ▶ 600 East North Street Kilgore, Texas 75662			
Distance and direction of subject from marker site ▶		If not on post, type of surface to which marker ▶ will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)	
Owner of Marker Site ▶ City of Kilgore		Address 909 N. Kilgore City, Zip Kilgore 75662	
Sponsor of Marker ▶ Kilgore Improvement & Beautification Association		Address P. O. Box 1524 City, Zip Kilgore, Texas 75662	
Signature of County Chairman ▶ <i>Norman H. Black, D. A. S.</i>		Address 417 Mobberly Ave. City, Zip Longview, Texas 75602 Date 2-5-90	
Person to whom marker is to be shipped* ▶ <i>Ron Cox</i> Ron Cox, City Manager City of Kilgore		Address 909 N. Kilgore City, Zip Kilgore 75662 Telephone (required) 984-5081	

**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\$750
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post\$700
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post\$450
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post\$400
- 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.

Ron Cox, City Manager
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
- Certificate of nomination

The Development of CITY PARK

Oil "boom towns" are not just celebrated phenomena of the past. In recent months, in fact, talk of untapped oil deposits in the Austin Chalk formation south of San Antonio has influenced a dramatic increase in drilling activity, along with the concomitant speculation in land values and commercial development. Once again, a small, rural Texas community is feeling the strain of a rapid economic transformation. Many other communities have experienced the frenzy and chaos of a boom era, but many have also failed to survive the "bust" or decline that normally follows.

While there will always be boom towns, few, if any, will rival the drama of Kilgore's growth in the 1930s. When discovery wells were drilled in the East Texas Oil Field, the nation and the world were in the beginning economic decline of the Great Depression. In the midst of the far-reaching poverty and despair that followed, Kilgore became one of the few bright spots that offered hope, prosperity, and a solution to the hard times. As a result, the town quickly attracted thousands of people--many more than such a rural community could adequately accommodate. Like the gold rush towns of California in the nineteenth

century, Kilgore changed virtually overnight. And, all of the changes were not for the best.

Al Eason, in his history of Kilgore, provided a dramatic portrait of the changes in the new oil towns:

The boomtowns were excitement brought to a fever pitch. . . . They were lighted by gas flares; the light flickering and dancing, giving the effect of Hades. They were mud, and jerry-built, single wall shacks, tents, 'rag-houses.' They were the few, fine old white houses of the 'old-settlers' of the town before the boom. They were 'Happy Hollows' where people lived in cardboard or corrugated-iron hovels in the manner of animals.¹

One of the so-called "Happy Hollows" is the subject of this application. The story of its transformation into City Park is, in microcosm, a reflection of Kilgore's transition from unbridled boom days to model city status.

As the initial shock of the oil field's magnitude and its projected impact on Kilgore subsided, city leaders reacted immediately to promote controlled growth for the town. With lawlessness under control, primarily through the aid of Texas Rangers, they were free to implement a series of progressive reforms, programs, and services that would assure the future planned development of Kilgore. As a result, within a decade of the oil discovery the city boasted a junior college, a municipal hospital, a first-class library, exemplary city services, new roads, and parks.

With regard to the latter, officials began securing property for City Park, considered to be a focal point of the planned municipal development, in 1934. Six tracts of land made up the new park, which was established on one of the "Happy Hollows" described by Eason. Four tracts were purchased from M. B. and Annie Hughey and another was acquired from J. S. and Cammie Elder. The final tract was a triangular section of land out of the Wood estate, at the intersection of E. North Street and Highway 259.²

With the land acquired by the end of 1934, the city council, under the direction of Mayor Roy H. Laird (d. 1950), began planning the facilities that would transform the land into a model city park. O. L. Crigler of Mount Pleasant, Texas, was hired to oversee the improvements. Crigler was already familiar with the new developments in Kilgore, having supervised the construction of many of the town's first paved streets.³

The earliest improvements in City Park were a series of architectural features that included walks, picnic facilities, bridges, and creek embankment walls. Built primarily of local rock (a red or rust-colored ferruginous stone known commonly as iron ore), they were constructed by stonemason Jack Sherron. The improvements provided an architectural foundation for the park's "rustic" theme,

enhancing the "natural" features of their surrounding environment. The rustic design, a popular style in camps and resorts of the 1930s and 1940s, was reminiscent of similar projects completed by such New Deal agencies as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. It is believed, in fact, that many of the park's improvements were coordinated with local activities of the Public Works Administration, also a New Deal agency. It is known that the PWA's regional inspector participated in projects that included the city library and a new sewage treatment plant.⁴

In 1936, a second phase of construction in City Park was initiated. Acting under authority of a 1925 revision to state statutes regarding municipal functions, the city council adopted an ordinance:

. . . AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CITY OF KILGORE SWIMMING POOL (MORTGAGE AND REVENUE) BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE MORTGAGING AND ENCUMBERING OF SAID SWIMMING POOL AND THE FRANCHISE AND INCOME THERETO. . . .⁵

Given the context of the times, the municipal swimming pool represented a substantial fiscal responsibility for the city. The council's action, however, was similar in some respects to the "recovery" and "redevelopment" actions then being initiated at the state level. The Texas centennial year proved a worthy basis for action on many fronts.

Another landmark in City Park is the Kilgore Public Library, the subject of a recent marker application. The building's unique architecture, which reflects influences of French design, provides an interesting contrast to the environmental look of the nearby walks, bridges, and walls. Its presence in the park, however, is a complement to the grounds and to the site's role in the planned municipal development of Kilgore.

City Park is a significant element in Kilgore for several reasons. Most important, it serves as a reminder of the strong municipal programs and the in-depth and progressive planning that marked the change from boom town to model city. In a larger context, the park is a symbol of governmental changes that took place throughout Texas during the Great Depression. Adding to the significance are the very thorough park records that have been preserved by the city (see copies attached). In great detail, they record the names of workers, the materials used, the construction time frames, and the costs involved. They provide one of the most complete accounts of an early municipal project anywhere in the state.

The applicants are seeking appropriate recognition of City Park through approval of an Official Texas Historical

Marker for the site. It is believed that the story of the park's development, as an important event in the history of the city, would be a worthy topic for commemoration.

Written by:
Dan K. Utley
Austin, Texas

Researched by:
Nelda Lewis
Virginia Long
Betty Robertson

ENDNOTES

¹Al Eason, Boom Town: Kilgore, Texas (Kilgore: Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, n.d.), pp. vii-viii.

²City Council Minutes (various pages). City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

³Eason, pp. 56-57.

⁴City Council Minutes (December 15, 1934), City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

⁵City Council Minutes (February 20, 1936), City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

City Council Minutes, City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

Eason, Al. Boom Town: Kilgore, Texas. Kilgore: Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, n.d.



Gregg County Historical Commission

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

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

July 9, 1991

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

Re: Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for Kilgore
City Park - New Deal Era.

Dear Frances:

Enclosed is the new application for the above historical marker. The documents referred to in Mr. Utley's paper may be found in the previous application of Feb. 5, 1990 under the title, "Development of Kilgore City Park".

In talking with Virginia Long yesterday I learned their Kilgore group is not certain as to the precise spot for the proposed H. M. There is another H. M., the Allis-Chalmers Pumps H. M., 1986, on the park campus and the feeling of the group at the present time is that the new H. M. should be in another area of the park. That information should be forthcoming later this week and I will see that you receive it.

Sincerely,

Norman

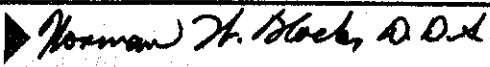
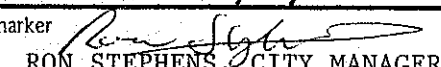
Enc.

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)	County
THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE	GREGG
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map)	
600 EAST NORTH STREET KILGORE, TEXAS 75662	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site	If not on post, type of surface to which marker will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)
Owner of Marker Site	Address City, Zip
CITY OF KILGORE	909 N. KILGORE KILGORE, TX. 75662
Sponsor of Marker	Address City, Zip
KILGORE IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION	P. O. BOX 1524 KILGOE, TX. 75662
Signature of County Chairman	Address City, Zip Date
 7-9-91	417 MOBBERLY AVE. LONGVIEW, TX. 75602
Person to whom marker is to be shipped*	Address City, Zip Telephone (required)
 RON STEPHENS, CITY MANAGER CITY OF KILGORE	909 N. KILGORE ST. KILGORE 903-984-5981

**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.

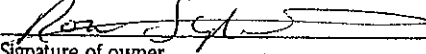
SUBJECT MARKERS

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar)\$225
 - 27" x 42" subject marker with post\$750
 - 27" x 42" subject marker without post\$700
 - 18" x 28" subject marker with post\$450
 - 18" x 28" subject marker without post\$400
- 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

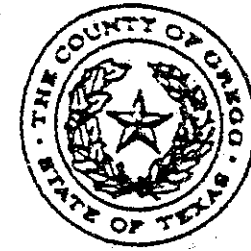
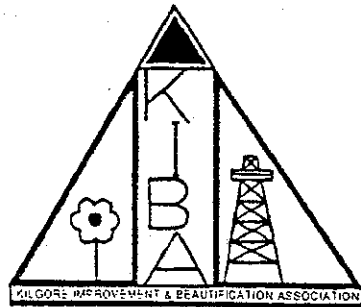
OTHER

- National Register plaque\$ 50
- 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

Kilgore Improvement and Beautification
Association, Inc.

Officers 1993-1994

Mrs. Nelda Lewis	President
Mrs. Justine Stanley	Vice President
Mrs. Charla Hopkins	Secretary
Mrs. Carmel McElyea	Treasurer
Mrs. Louise Florey	Historian



DEDICATION
of an
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE
City Park on North Street
Kilgore, Texas

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1993
11:30 a.m.

Sponsored by

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

and

THE KILGORE IMPROVEMENT AND BEAUTIFICATION ASSOCIATION
(KIBA)

GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mrs. Mildred Wood Barker	Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin
Mrs. Sally Gossett Barron	Mrs. Nelda Lewis
Mrs. Charlotte Allgood Black	Mrs. H. L. Long
Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman	Mrs. Gordon J. Mayer
Mr. Jack Buchanan	Dr. W. D. Northcutt, III
Mrs. Ann Price Cammack	Mrs. John W. Osteen
Mrs. Pauline Cox	Mrs. Amanda Pratt
Mrs. B. W. Crain, Jr.	Mr. Ben Reynolds
Sondra Daniel	Mrs. Nancy Ruff
Mrs. Bill W. Dodson	Mr. Joe L. White
Dr. Ken R. Durham	

PROGRAM

Presiding	Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman Gregg County Historical Commission
Invocation	Rev. William Ingersoll, Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Kilgore
Introduction of Guests	Nelda Lewis, President of KIBA
Welcome	Hon. Bob Barbee, Mayor of Kilgore
Greetings from Gregg County	Hon. Kenneth J. Walker, County Judge, Gregg County
Address	Mr. Foster T. Bean, Life Member of KIBA
Unveiling of Marker	Justine Stanley, Vice President of KIBA Virginia Long, member Texas Historical Commission
Reading of Marker	Melvin Marshall, Past President of KIBA
Benediction	Rev. Ingersoll

THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE

The term "New Deal" was used to symbolize the political philosophy of President Franklin D. Roosevelt during the early years of his long administration. Roosevelt first used the term in his 1932 acceptance speech following his nomination as the candidate for the Democratic party. Speaking at the party's Chicago convention, he said: "I pledge you, I pledge myself, to a new deal for the American people. Let us all here assembled constitute ourselves prophets of a new order of competence and courage."¹ The fundamental tenets of the New Deal philosophy, addressing the pressing economic concerns of the Great Depression, were reform, recovery, and relief. To those ends, Roosevelt oversaw the creation of numerous federal agencies designed to bring immediate change throughout the nation. Many of the programs resulted in tangible additions to the built environment: the Public Works Administration constructed such features as roads, bridges, and public buildings; the Works Progress Administration built, among other things, many fine courthouses and schools; and the Civilian Conservation Corps created parks that later became the nucleus of state park programs. More subtly, perhaps, the federal government's actions during the New Deal spurred similar programs under the direction of state and local governments.

The city of Kilgore has preserved three important reminders of the New Deal era in their community--reminders that continue to serve their original purpose over a half century after they were planned and constructed. They are City Park, the Kilgore Public Library, and the Kilgore College Administration Building. The latter two have already been approved for the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation, so the focus of this application will be the park. For clarification, however, a brief description of the library and college building is in order.

KILGORE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1937, city officials under the leadership of Mayor Roy H. Laird began planning for a new building to house the fledgling public library, begun in 1933. The city contributed funds for the construction, as did the Public Works Administration (PWA). One of President Roosevelt's first New Deal agencies, the PWA was designed to prime the nation's economic pump through such public works projects as highways, bridges, hydroelectric plants, dams, and schools. According to New Deal historian James Olson, "Half of all school buildings and most municipal water and sewage systems built during the 1930s were PWA projects financed at a rate of 30 percent federal funds and 70 percent local funds."²

The new Kilgore Public Library was completed in 1939. Located within City Park, the French-influenced structure contrasted dramatically with the rustic nature of the park's buildings, tables, and walkways. Secretary of the Interior Harold C. Ickes, whose department administered the PWA, personally toured the library on March 27, 1940, while on a visit to East Texas.

KILGORE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Also constructed with financial aid from the Public Works Administration, the main building for the newly-created Kilgore Junior College was completed in 1936. The San Antonio firm of Phelps and Dewees designed the structure using Art Moderne styling that symbolized the city's progressive character. As the campus grew, the school became an integral part of Kilgore's recovery from adversities of the Great Depression.³

CITY PARK

When discovery wells were drilled in the East Texas Oil Field, the nation and the world were in the beginning economic decline of the Great Depression. In the midst of the far-reaching poverty and despair that followed, Kilgore became one of the few bright spots that offered hope, prosperity, and a solution to the hard times. As a result, the town quickly attracted thousands of people--many more than such a rural community could adequately accommodate. Like the gold rush towns of nineteenth-century California, Kilgore changed overnight. And, all of the changes were not for the best.

Al Eason, in his history of Kilgore, provided a dramatic portrait of the changes in East Texas oil towns:

The boomtowns were excitement brought to a fever pitch. . . . They were lighted by gas flares; the light flickering and dancing, giving the effect of Hades. They were mud, and jerry-built, single wall shacks, tents, 'rag-houses.' They were the few, fine old white houses of the 'old settlers' of the town before the boom. They were 'Happy Hollows' where people lived in cardboard or corrugated-iron hovels in the manner of animals.⁴

One of the so-called "Happy Hollows" became the site of City Park. The story of the property's transformation is, in microcosm, a reflection of Kilgore's transition from unbridled boom days to model city status.

As the initial shock of the oil field's magnitude and its projected impact on Kilgore leveled off, city leaders reacted quickly to promote controlled growth for the town. With lawlessness under control, primarily through the aid of Texas Rangers, they were free to implement a series of progressive reforms, programs, and services that would assure the future planned development of Kilgore. As a result, within a decade of the oil discovery the city boasted a junior college, a municipal hospital, a first-class library, exemplary city services, new roads, and parks.

With regard to the latter, officials began securing property for City Park, considered to

be a focal point of the planned municipal development, in 1934. Six tracts of land made up the new park. Four tracts were purchased from M. B. and Annie Hughey and another was acquired from J. S. and Cammie Elder. The final tract was a triangular section of land out of the Wood estate, at the intersection of E. North Street and Highway 259.⁵

With the land acquired by the end of 1934, the city council, under the direction of Mayor Roy H. Laird (d. 1950), began planning the facilities that would transform the land into a model city park. O. L. Crigler of Mount Pleasant, Texas, was hired to oversee the improvements. Crigler was already familiar with the new developments in Kilgore, having supervised the construction of many of the town's first paved streets.⁶

The earliest improvements in City Park were a series of architectural features that included walks, picnic facilities, bridges, and creek embankment walls. Built primarily of local rock (a red or rust-colored ferruginous stone known commonly as iron ore), they were constructed by stonemason Jack Sherron. The improvements provided an architectural foundation for the park's "rustic" theme, enhancing the "natural" features of their surrounding environment. The rustic design, a popular style in camps and resorts of the 1930s and 1940s, was reminiscent of similar projects completed by such New Deal agencies as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration. It is believed, in fact, that many of the park's improvements were coordinated with local activities of the Public Works Administration, also a New Deal agency. It is known that the PWA's regional inspector participated in projects that included the city library and a new sewage treatment plant.⁷

In 1936, a second phase of construction in City Park was initiated. Acting under authority of a 1925 revision to state statutes regarding municipal functions, the city council adopted an ordinance:

... AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF CITY OF KILGORE SWIMMING POOL (MORTGAGE AND REVENUE) BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,000.00 AND AUTHORIZING THE MORTGAGING AND ENCUMBERING OF SAID SWIMMING POOL AND THE FRANCHISE AND INCOME THERETO⁸

Given the context of the times, the municipal swimming pool represented a substantial fiscal responsibility for the city. The council's action, however, was similar in some respects to the "recovery" and "redevelopment" actions then being initiated at the state level. The Texas centennial year proved a worthy basis for action on many fronts.

City Park is a significant element in Kilgore for several reasons. Most important, it serves as a reminder of the strong municipal programs and the in-depth and progressive planning that marked the change from boom town to measured growth. In a larger context, the park is a symbol of governmental changes that took place throughout Texas during the Great Depression. Adding to the significance are the very thorough park records that have been preserved by the city (see copies attached). In great detail, they record the names of workers, the materials used, the construction time frames, and the costs involved. They provide one of the most complete accounts of an early municipal project anywhere in the state.

Written by:

*Dan K. Utley, Historian
Austin, Texas*

Researched by:

*Nelda Lewis
Virginia Long
Betty Robertson*

ENDNOTES

¹James S. Olson, ed., Historical Dictionary of the New Deal (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985), p. 369.

²Olson, p. 398.

³Marker file for Kilgore College Administration Building, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

⁴Al Eason, Boom Town: Kilgore, Texas (Kilgore: Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, n.d.), pp. vii-viii.

⁵City Council Minutes (various pages), City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

⁶Eason, pp. 56-57.

⁷City Council Minutes (December 15, 1934), City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

⁸City Council Minutes (February 20, 1936), City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

City Council Minutes, City Hall, Kilgore, Texas.

Eason, Al. Boom Town: Kilgore, Texas. Kilgore: Kilgore Chamber of Commerce, n.d.

Marker files, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas.

Olson, James S., ed. Historical Dictionary of the New Deal. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1985.



052 NW H

480

Nov 13 1934

TB

BARTON STREET 25

STREET

STREET

STREET

STREET

NORTH STREET

STREET

KNOWLES STREET

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BENTON STREET

CHOICE STREET

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STREET

PETERSON

McGEE ADDN2

300
Purchased
Wood Est
98/100
acre

Underlined script is in red ink.

* Purchased
from M.B.
Hughes family

* Resubmit (ONS
July 7, 1934
Oct 15, 1934

Purchased from J.A. Elder
at cost, 10/22/1934

Elder

From the
Desk of . . .
Virginia Long

Norman,
These pictures
go with the application
on City Park.

Virginia

Kilgore City Park
June 1991

9 copies of color prints
with labels as written on
backs of photos.

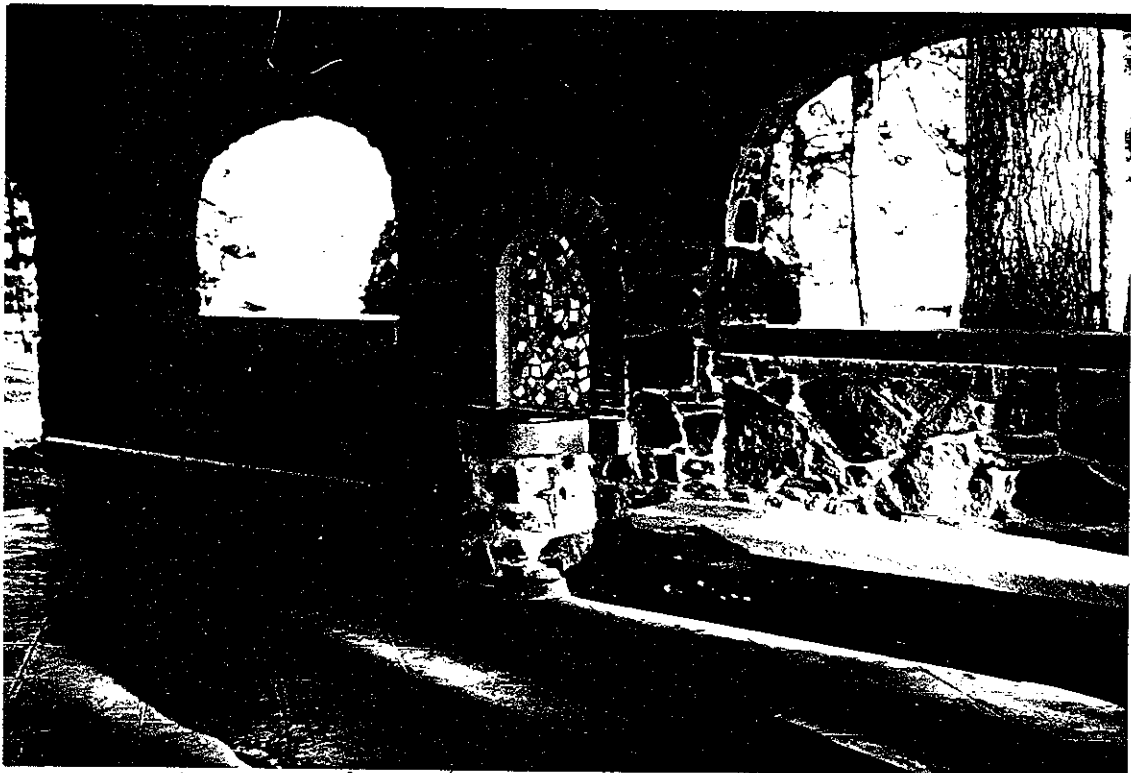


Picnic area

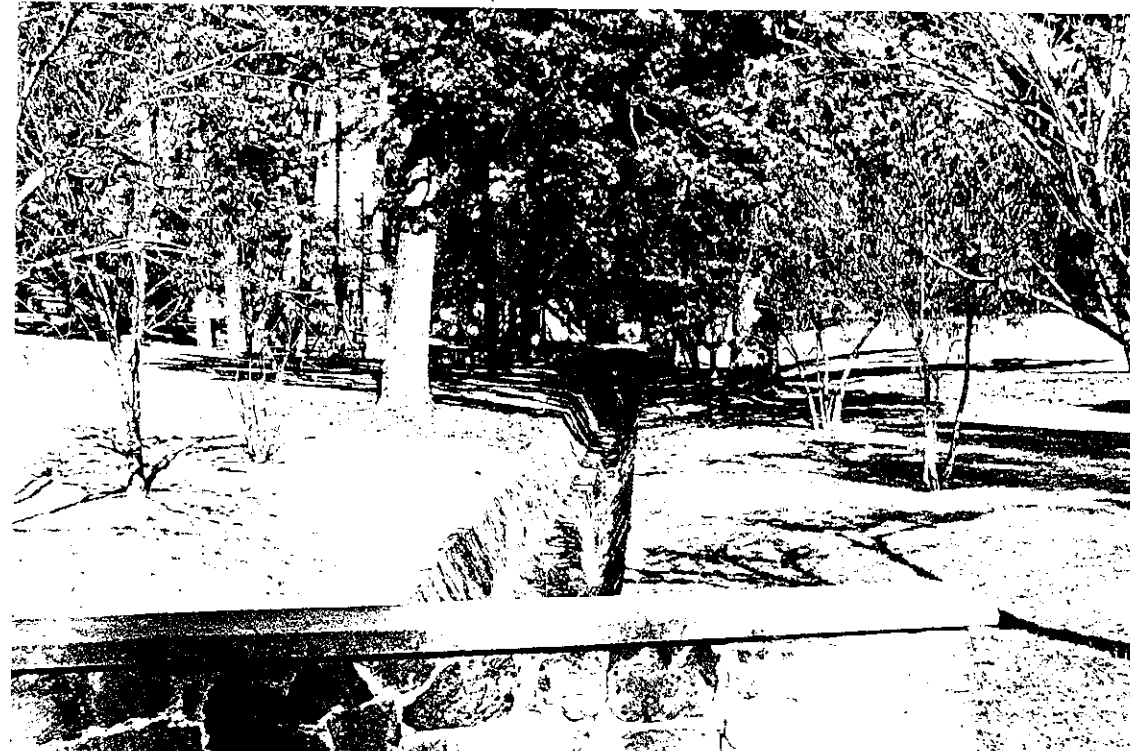
Rock work
around picnic
area



Rock work in Picnic Area

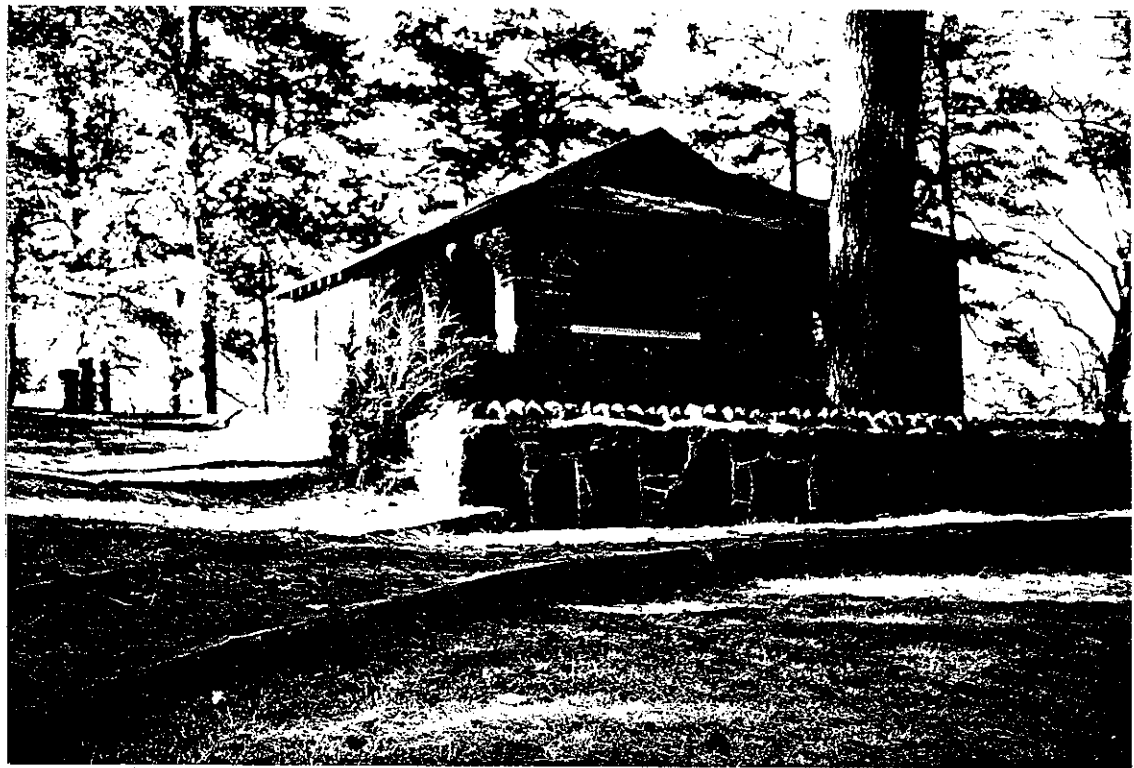


Cover arch way of rest rooms with water fountain



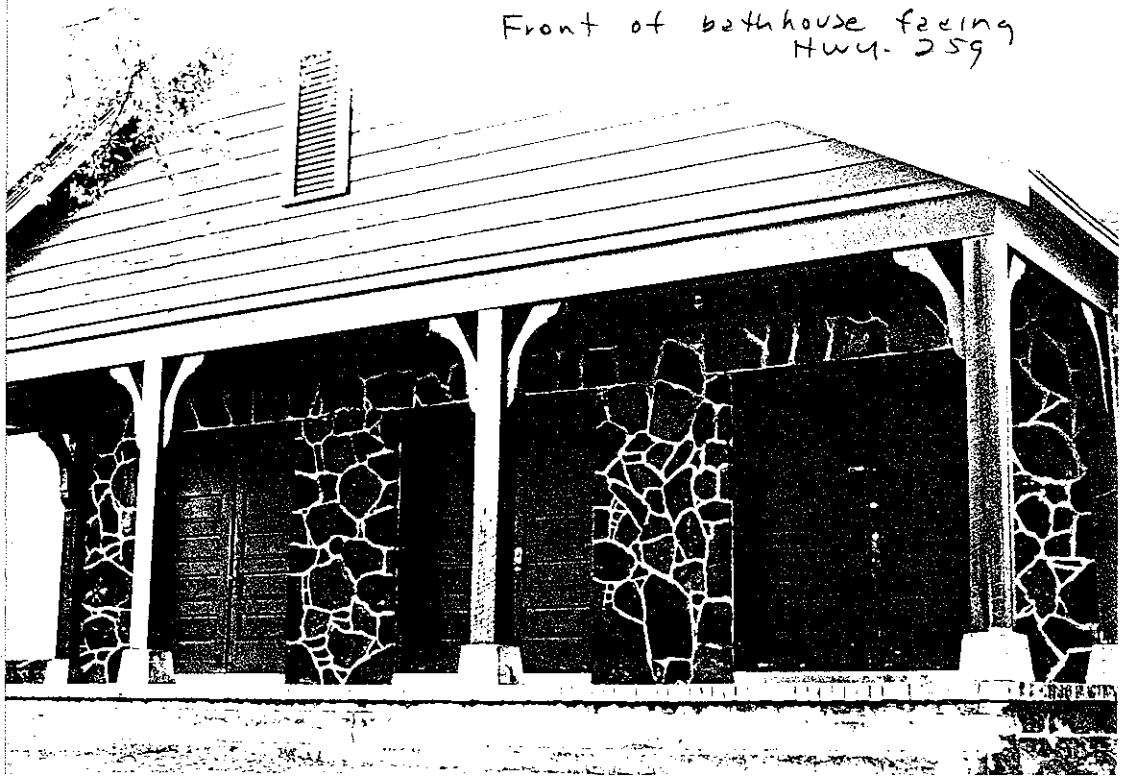
creek through park

Picnic area with restroom in background

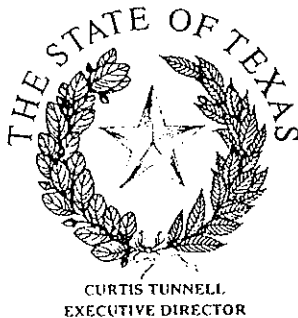


Front view restrooms

Front of bathhouse facing Hwy. 259



side view rest rooms



001 102 1992

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

October 27, 1992

Dr. Norman Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Moberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE
18" x 28" Subject Marker w/ post (Job #37591, Gregg County)

Dear Dr. Black:

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

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$450.00, is now due. Please complete and return the payment form at the bottom of this letter at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard
Frances Rickard, Director
Local History Programs

pc: Ron Stephens, City Manager
Kilgore Improvement & Beautification Association

MARKER TITLE THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE

COUNTY GREGG JOB NUMBER 37591 AMT. ENCLOSED \$450.00

Please specify method of payment: Check enclosed Visa Mastercard *by K.I.B.A.*

Credit Card number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Checks should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Texas Historical Commission Staff (REO), 1/14/93, Revised 2/25/93,
3/25/93

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #37591)
Location: 600 E. North Street, Kilgore

THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE*

AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF OIL HERE
IN THE 1930s, THIS SITE WAS TRANS-
FORMED INTO A MAKESHIFT TENT
CITY BY THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE DIS-
PLACED BY A DEEPENING NATIONAL
DEPRESSION. IN AN EFFORT TO CON-
TROL GROWTH, CITY OFFICIALS CHOSE
THIS SITE AS THE FOCUS OF AN
AMBITIOUS PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM
IN 1934. THE PARK PROJECT, WHICH
INCLUDED EXTENSIVE ROCK WORK,
WAS INFLUENCED BY THE PLANNING
AND FORESIGHT OF OTHER FEDERAL
"NEW DEAL" PROJECTS UNDERWAY IN
KILGORE AT THE TIME (KILGORE PUB-
LIC LIBRARY AND KILGORE COLLEGE
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING). THE PARK
PROJECT WAS FINISHED ABOUT 1936.**

(1993)***

*1/2 inch lettering to contrast with text
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

Historical marker to be unveiled Friday in City Park

By ANNELLE JONES

An official Texas historical marker on the New Deal Era in Kilgore will be dedicated at 11:30 a.m. Friday in the City Park.

The marker will be near the North Street parking area.

The dedication will be sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, the Gregg County Historical Commission and the Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association.

The Kilgore Sesquicentennial Commission set a goal of obtaining several historical markers for the city, including one at the City Park, which the sesquicentennial commission felt was unique because of the rock work in the park. When the sesquicentennial year ended with the marker not obtained, KIBA took up the project, said Nelda Lewis, who is both a KIBA board member and member of the sesquicentennial commission.

Through the persistence of Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Virginia Long, a sesquicentennial commission member and a member of the Texas Historical Commission, the marker was obtained in the seventh year of effort.

Former mayor Foster T. Bean will give a brief history of the park, and Justine Stanley, vice president of KIBA, and Mrs. Long will unveil the marker.

Melvin Marshall, past president of KIBA, will read the marker.

Dr. Norman Black of Longview, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, will be master of ceremonies.

Dr. William Ingersoll, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, will give the invocation and benediction.

Mrs. Lewis, president of KIBA, will introduce guests.

Mayor Bob Barbee will extend a welcome, and County Judge Ken Walker will bring greetings from Gregg County.

THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE
HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION
11:30 A.M., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1993

CHAIRMAN'S PROGRAM

- M.G. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker: The New Deal Era in Kilgore. This historical marker is authorized by the State of Texas and sponsored by the Texas and Gregg County Historical Commissions and the Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association.
- INVOC. The invocation will be given by Rev. William Ingersoll, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church....Rev. Ingersoll....Thank you, Rev. Ingersoll.
- GUESTS Mrs. Nelda Lewis, President of KIBA, will now introduce our guests....Mrs. Lewis..
...Thank you, Nelda.
- WELCOME We are honored to have with us this morning, the Honorable Bob Barbee, Mayor of Kilgore, who has always been supportive of historical preservation as well as the growth of Kilgore. Mayor Barbee has a few words for us....Mr. Mayor...
...Thank you, Bob.
- GREET. I was speaking of support of historical preservation. Our County Judge, Mr. Kenneth Walker, needs no real introduction nor comments about his interest in historical preservation as he has demonstrated this time and again. He loves Gregg County and knows its history well. Judge Walker, would you come and speak to us?....Thank you, Judge Walker.
- ADDRESS Probably no one has a better knowledge of this park and the event we are here to commemorate better than does our speaker. He is a Charter Board Member of KIBA and a Life Member of the Board of Directors, as well. He has exercised his leadership and participated in almost all of the many fine
acc

accomplishments of KIBA and Kilgore itself. It is a privilege to have Mr. Foster T. Bean as our speaker....Mr. Bean....Thank you, Mr. Bean.

UNVEIL. The marker will now be unveiled by Justine Stanley, Vice-President of KIBA and Virginia Long, Member of the Texas Historical Commission.

TEXT Mr. Melvin Marshall, Past President of KIBA, will read the text of the marker....Mr. Marshall....Thank you, Melvin.

BENEDICT. Rev. Ingersoll will return for our benediction.

CLOSE Thank you all for coming.

THE NEW DEAL ERA IN KILGORE

After the discovery of oil here in the 1930s, this site was transformed into a makeshift tent city by thousands of people displaced by a deepening national depression. In an effort to control growth, city officials chose this site as the focus of an ambitious Public Works Program in 1934. The Park Project, which included extensive rock work, was influenced by the planning and foresight of other Federal "New Deal" Projects underway in Kilgore at the time (Kilgore Public Library and Kilgore College Administration Building). The Park Project was finished about 1936.

KILGORE NEWS

America's No. 1 small city — capital of the E

62ND YEAR — No. 238 USPS 294-700

KILGORE, TEXAS, SUNDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 10,



DEDICATION PRINCIPALS — Key figures in the dedication of an official Texas Historical Marker at Kilgore City Park Friday were, from left, Melvin Marshall, who read the marker; Dr. Norman W. Black, master of

ceremonies; former Kilgore mayor Foster T. Bean, speaker; and Nelda Lewis and Justine Stanley, who unveiled the marker. (Photo by Annelle Jones)

• Kilgoround

By ANNELLE JONES

THERE'S TOO MUCH news or there's too few pages to put it in. Anyway, there's a world of news that didn't make today's paper because we didn't have enough space for it. If your item is left out, we apologize. We'll get it in as soon as possible.

+++

GENE AND NORA ELDER

were at the City Park Marker dedication Friday and were recalling that Gene's father, John Elder, supervised the construction of all the rock work in City Park. Nora said she took Mr. Elder to all the local nurseries to buy shrubs and other plants for the City Park, even when his health was so fragile that he really should not have gone. ... See KILGOROUND, Page 12A

★KILGO

(Continued from Page 1A)

Incidentally, Gene is sort of a jack of all trades for Kilgore. He has been school superintendent, mayor, city commissioner, city manager, and justice of the peace.

+++

EWS

140006 USPS 294700
061394 D&S
BLACK, DR. NORMAN
417 ROBBERTLY AVE
LONGVIEW, TX

75602

Journal of the East Texas Oil Field

MORNING, OCTOBER 10, 1993

50 PAGES, 4 SECTIONS — 50¢

Marker in City Park dedicated in ceremonies

By ANNELLE JONES

An official Texas Historical Marker was dedicated Friday at the City Park.

Former Mayor Foster T. Bean traced the history of the park before Nelda Lewis, president of Kilgore Improvement and Beautification Association, and Justine Stanley, vice president, unveiled a marker to "the New Deal area in Kilgore."

The marker dedication was sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, the Gregg County Historical Commission and KIBA.

The marker reads:

"The New Deal Era in Kilgore. After the discovery of oil here in the 1930s, this site was displaced by a makeshift tent city by thousands of people displaced by a deepening national depression. In an effort to control growth, city officials chose this site as the focus of an ambitious public works program in 1934. The park project, which included extensive rock work, was influenced by the planning and foresight of other Federal 'New Deal' projects under way in Kilgore at the time (Kilgore Public Library and Kilgore College Administration Building). The park project was finished about 1936."

Bean noted that the park area was called "Happy Hollow" originally.

"On account of its terrain with its uneven surface and ditches, it was not considered a suitable place for the erection of any improvements and the property was considered of little value. Some of our black friends who were not possessed of very much worldly goods populated it," Bean said.

When the East Texas Oil Field was discovered, hordes of people came to Kilgore, seeking a livelihood.

"They came with practically nothing except the clothes on their backs. They crowded into Happy Hollow, living in tents, hastily built shacks, and even good boxes," Bean said.

The City of Kilgore need a recreational park, and in order to make the land available for sale to the city for park purposes, it was necessary to have the land vacated. The principal owner of the land instituted eviction proceedings against the inhabitants and paid to have them moved to other vacant premises.

"The city acquired the land, and began planning

the facilities that would transform the land into a model city park," Bean said. "The earliest improvements were a series of architectural features that included walks, picnic facilities, bridges and rock embankment walls. In making these improvements, a large amount of local rock, commonly known as iron ore, was used and thereby provided an architectural foundation for the park's rustic theme, enhancing the 'natural' features of their surrounding environment," the former mayor said.

He recognized Mr. and Mrs. Gene Elder in the audience, and said that Elder's father, John L. Elder, supervised the rock work construction.

In 1936, a second phase of construction in the City Park was initiated when the city council authorized the issuance of \$30,000 in bonds for the construction of a swimming pool.

The new Kilgore Public Library, now located on a part of the land, was completed in 1939 with funds contributed by the city and the New Deal Public Works Administration.

"In 1950, it was realized that Kilgore did not have a county community house while the other precincts had already built one. Then while I was serving as interim mayor from Dec. 27, 1950, until April 15, 1951, my brother, Jack Bean, who was then serving as county commissioner, used his influence with the city and the city gave the county a lot out of the original property purchased for the construction of a community house, and the Community House was completed in 1952."

Bean noted that park is significant element is Kilgore for several reasons. It served as a reminder of the strong municipals program and the in-depth and progressive planning the marked the change from a boom town to measured growth.

"In a larger context, the park is a symbol of governmental changes that took place throughout Texas during the great depression," Bean said.

Dr. Norman W. Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, was master of ceremonies, and Melvin Marshall, a past president of KIBA, read the marker.

Mayor Bob Barbee and Gregg County Judge Ken Walker brought greetings. The Rev. William Ingersoll, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, gave the invocation and benediction.