

**Houston Hemerocallis Society
History
(Since 1953)**

**Part I Highlights
“In the Beginning”**

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September 22, 2011**

Happy 58th Birthday to Houston Hemerocallis Society (HHS) on September 24, 2011.

The HHS was the first club in Texas to be affiliated with the American Hemerocallis Society (AHS).

According to newspaper articles Jake Russell did a program on daylilies for a garden club and he encouraged the ladies to organize a daylily club.

On exhibit are copied pages from a very old HHS Scrapbook. You will take note that the original handwritten minutes are of the first meeting. Also a copy of the Society's Bylaws are presented. A Houston newspaper published a picture of some charter members and listed them as; Lucille Burleson, Dolly Wheeler (Mrs. Ben), Mrs. L. E. Bean, Mrs. J. A. Stell, Daisy Williamson (Mrs. F. H.) and Nancy Wood (Mrs. W. E.), and Norene Greenstein.

The first organized HHS meeting was held at Mrs. Nancy Wood's home with 18 present and 5 more sending in dues, making a total of 23 according to the minutes. Temporary officers were elected. The first president was Mrs. E. W. Wood 1953-1954 and Mrs. CC Huff 1954-55. Consult your HHS year

book for a listing of presidents after this period of history.

The newspaper clippings in the pages of the scrapbook are not dated but some dates can be gleaned from the content of the articles. There are many accounts of the actions of the club in Houston newspapers.

In the following months we will display additional pages of our history. We should let the towns, cities, state and the nation know of our splendid history by displaying (Since 1953) all published material. This shows that HHS has stability.

I was not a member of the original group in 1953. That year I was finishing up at San Jacinto High School on Holman Street, Houston, TX (Now the Houston Community College Campus).

However, I began growing a daylily when I was in the Klein ISD in the 1940's as a yard beautification program on Strack Road.

My Grandparents William A. and Katie (Strack) Wunderlich gave me my first "Kwanso Daylily."

In the late 1950's, J .C. & I purchased our first daylilies from the Russell Farm on I-45 in Spring, Texas. We lived down the street on the corner of Goslin and Spring Stuebner in Spring, Texas.

In 1958, the first AHS National Convention was held in Houston, Texas. That was just five years after HHS was organized. The Russell Farm was on tour.

On display is a newspaper account of the Russell Farm and the awards won by Mr. H. E. Russell. He was the first person to win all top AHS awards offered in

1958. Thus, he is recorded in the pages of the AHS history.

As per the Press Newspaper in Houston, Texas, Mr. Russell gave many daylilies for the beautification of Houston. Some of the locations that were planted with his daylilies were; Sunken Gardens at Main and Montrose, City Hall facing Smith Street, and \$5,000 worth of daylilies to "Operation Blossom." According to another newspaper article, when Mr. Russell died at age 52, he left over 3.5 million daylilies for his children to divide. One child Jenny (Russell) Kleb of Stuebner Airline, Spring, Texas sold some of her inheritance to the public. It is there that I purchase more daylilies in the 1960's. At that location I met Mildred Schlumpf for the first time. Jack Carpenter also bought daylilies there and later replaced his stock with those from MacMillian and Spalding from Louisiana. Bertha Cone gave him seeds from her hybrids and he crossed them. Jack Carpenter moved to Strack Road during the 1960's. Next month we will pick up at this point in our history.

It is my intent to mail Highlights of HHS History to the Region 6 Newsletter and the AHS *Daylily Journal*.

We are remembering our past, embracing the present, and looking forward to the advancement of HHS in the future.

Comments about this article may be directed to:

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(amended 9/23/2011)**