

The Fielder Flash

Arlington Historical Society

July 2024 Newsletter



Our Venues

Fielder Museum | 1616 W. Abram Street

Knapp Heritage Park | 201 W. Front Street

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds | 600 W. Arkansas Lane

Contact Us

Email: fielderh@swbell.net

Website: www.arlingtontxhistory.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum

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A note from the editor



If my calculations are correct, this is my 25th newsletter as editor. What do you think so far? Feel free to email me any comments, complaints, suggestions, or questions. This month's newsletter includes some thoughts about social media, info about the Texas Authors Book Club, photos from our fossil exhibit at Fielder, a special tribute to Officer Gary D. Harl, and some newspaper clippings regarding the cabins at Knapp Heritage Park. Enjoy!

Jason S. Sullivan, 07-31-24

Newsletter Editor

JasonSSullivan@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

- **August 15**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **August 25**—AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 2:00 PM
- **September 19**—North Texas Giving Day
- **September 19**—Texas Authors Book Club, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **September 28**—Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary Celebration | **Save the date!**
- **September 29**—Last day for "The Seashores of Ancient Arlington: A Rich Fossil Record" exhibit at Fielder Museum

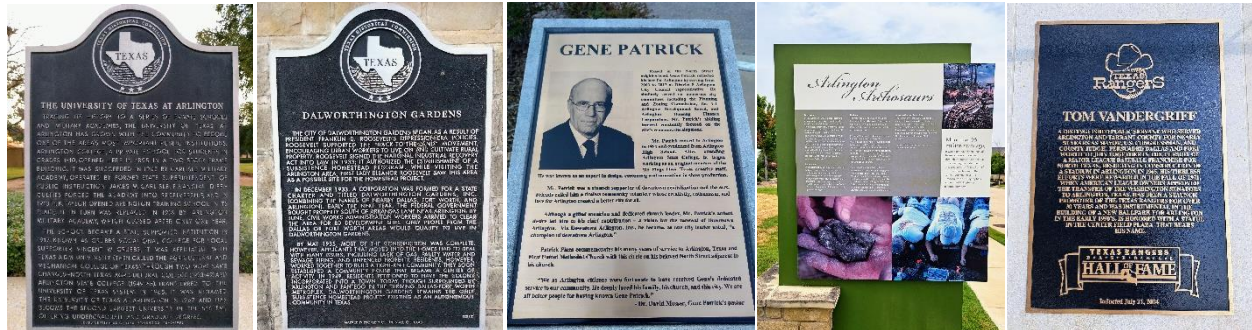
Arlington Historical Society news

Social media continues to be a significant part of AHS promotional efforts

Love it or loathe it, social media is vital these days for nonprofit organizations and historical societies. It remains one of the best tools for reaching our audience. Our Facebook page recently grew to over 4,000 followers. We also had some popular posts this month and some solid engagement. These are positive signs that reinforce our efforts. If you're on Facebook, be sure to like, comment, and share our posts. Comments are a great way to extend the conversation, and sharing helps us reach a wider audience. It all adds up, and you never know what will spark someone's interest in local history. Instagram may be our next social media venture—stay tuned.

Our Marker Monday series continues on [Facebook](#). We highlighted the following in July:

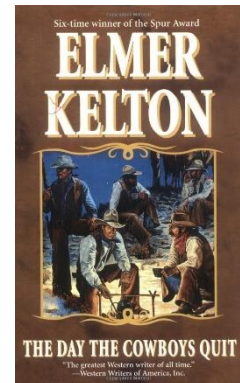
- (#24) UTA - Texas Historical Marker
- (#25) Dalworthington Gardens - Texas Historical Marker
- (#26) Gene Patrick - remembrance plaque
- (#27) Arlington Archosaurs - informative sign
- (#28) Tom Vandergriff - Texas Rangers Hall of Fame plaque



Texas Author Book Club meets August 15th at Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM

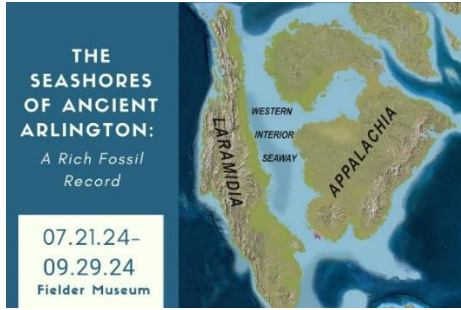
In August, we're discussing "The Day the Cowboys Quit," a novel by Elmer Kelton.

"The time is 1883, the place is the Texas Panhandle. Cowboys refuse to be stigmatized as drinkers and exploited by the wealthy cattle owners who don't pay liveable wages. Those very same ranchers want to take away the cowboys' right to own cattle because this ownership, the ranchers believe, would lead to thieving. So, in 1883, the dictum is If you're a cowboy, you can't own a cow. When rumors of such legislation travel from wagon to wagon, the cowboys decided to rally and fight for their rights—they gather together and strike." — [Goodreads](#)



For copies, check the Arlington Public Library, [Amazon](#), or bookstores. For more information about the book club, contact Fielder Museum or email texasauthorbookclub@gmail.com.

"The Seashores of Ancient Arlington: A Rich Fossil Record" opens at Fielder Museum



Our new exhibit at Fielder Museum is now open and runs through September 29th. "The Seashores of Ancient Arlington: A Rich Fossil Record" features fossil displays and a series of special presentations illustrating rich paleontological discoveries.

The exhibit kicked off on July 21st with a special presentation by a group of paleontologists, including Art Sahlstein, Tommy Diamond, Kenny Schulbach, and Phillip Scoggins. They presented info about the discoveries, brought fossils to show, and answered questions from the audience. What a great day for fossil lovers! We had a full house at Fielder Museum, and for many, it was their first time visiting. Thank you to everyone who attended the event, especially the presenters. Mr. Sahlstein also wanted to thank Brad Carter for loaning fossils to the event. Thanks also to AHS Board Member Brian Burns for helping organize the event.

Be sure to stop by Fielder Museum to see the exhibit! It has already been quite popular, and people have found the fossils to be a fascinating part of Arlington's history. We hope to invite children to visit on school field trips, and we may make it a permanent exhibit at Fielder.

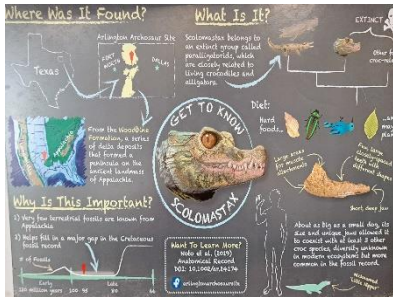


Exhibit Details

--**What:** The Seashores of Ancient Arlington: A Rich Fossil Record

--**When:** July 21 through September 29

--**Where:** Fielder Museum, 1616 W. Abram Street - Arlington, Texas 76013

Also, check out this article from the Arlington Report!

[Arlington fossil exhibit showcases Tarrant County dinosaurs, community that unearthed them](#)

Officer Gary D. Harl—End of Watch: July 17, 1975



Arlington Police Officer Gary Harl died in the line of duty on July 17, 1975, after a routine traffic stop resulted in a shooting. Officer Harl, age 31, served with the Arlington Police Department for two years.

Gary Dwaine Harl was born on December 13, 1943, in South Gate, California, to parents William and Helen. He served as a Sergeant and electronics technician in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and received the National Defense Medal.

Harl lived in Missouri and Oklahoma before moving to Texas; he lived in Arlington for about seven years. He attended UTA and studied Electrical Engineering before changing his major to Criminal Justice. Gary and his wife, Sue, were members of the St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church in Arlington.

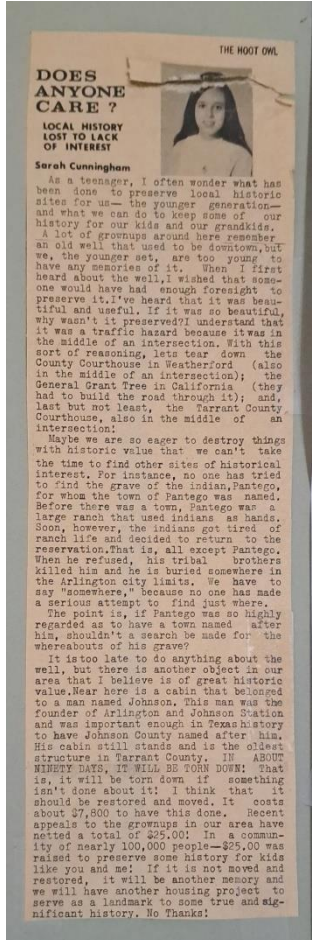
Around 11:00 PM on July 16, 1975, Officer Harl pulled over a man on a motorcycle for a minor traffic violation near Cooper Street and California Lane in Arlington. While conversing, the man pulled out a .38 caliber pistol and fired a single shot. Officer Harl was taken to nearby Arlington Memorial Hospital and succumbed to the gunshot wound in the early hours of July 17th. He was survived by his wife, mother, sister, and brother.

Unbeknownst to Officer Harl, the suspect stole the motorcycle shortly before getting pulled over. After fleeing the scene, he was found the next day by law enforcement officers, where he died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Fellow officers remarked that Harl was well-liked and a good police officer. Harl's wife, Sue, later said, "*There are some people who are meant to wear a uniform—and Gary was one of those people.*"

Arlington remembers Gary Harl with a street name and a plaque at Heroes Park. There is also a memorial sign near the site. The Arlington Police Department holds an annual ceremony in May to honor and recognize officers lost in the line of duty. They also post remembrances on Facebook for the anniversaries. Further, the Gary D. Harl Memorial Scholarship is available for UTA students majoring in Criminology or Criminal Justice and pursuing a career in law enforcement.

Gary Harl is buried at Memorial Park Cemetery in Oklahoma City. We remember his service to Arlington with gratitude.



Preparations begin for Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary

We're celebrating Knapp Heritage Park's 20th Anniversary with a special event on September 28th. We've started going through the archives and old newspaper clippings to reflect on the journey—and what a journey it's been! Shown here are three newspaper clippings that help tell the story.

The Jopling-Melear Cabin, dating back to 1863, was nearly demolished in the early 1970s. Yet, through the efforts of a group of children led by teenager Sarah Cunningham, the cabin was miraculously saved. Her editorial "Does Anyone Care?" was instrumental in helping raise awareness of the cabin and its historical significance. Indeed, her efforts saved the cabin from being demolished and helped preserve it for future generations.

H. D. Snow, House Movers of Fort Worth, agreed to move the cabins free of charge to the Middleton Tate Johnson Cemetery, known today as the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds. Girl Scout Troops,

Campfire Girls, YMCA volunteers, and others helped prepare the cabin for moving. The cabin stayed there until 2004, when it was moved to Knapp Heritage Park. With the efforts of preservationists long ago, we are celebrating Knapp's 20th Anniversary this year.

