

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

Heritage Association of Frisco

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Researching, Preserving, and Sharing Frisco's Rich History

www.friscoheritage.org

FRISCO'S 5TH DECADE

1940-1949

When you think of the 1940's, you cannot help but recall World War II, as it defined the decade and how Americans rose to the challenge of war at home and abroad. Frisco sent 269 young men to war from the town and outlying farms. This was a tremendous number of men considering that the community only registered 670 residents on the 1940 census. Of those 269 servicemen, six were killed in action.

In this month's newsletter, we share a very special 10-week period during the war for one man from Frisco—Harry T. Gaby. The Heritage Association of Frisco is honored to be the custodian of Harry's photographs and memorabilia from his WWII service. Tucked into the pages of his photo album are four folded sheets of plain white paper, now weathered with age. These pages are a handwritten log Harry kept from November 11, 1944 until the end of January 1945. In the following article, excerpts from Gaby's log entries are highlighted in **bold** print.

Firepower for Eisenhower



Harry Gaby poses in uniform on a horse in Frisco.

Harry Tillman Gaby was born in late summer, 1917, the youngest of John and Lucinda Gaby's three sons, in the small town of Frisco, Texas. The United States declared war on Germany in April 1917—entering “The Great War to end all wars.” On November 11, 1918, when Harry was a toddler, the armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany ending the war on the western front.

By 1942, when Harry was drafted into the army at the age of 24, the Great War was being referred to as World War I. Harry and his brother Floyd soon found themselves in Europe on the front lines of World War II.

Ironically, it is on Armistice Day, November 11, 1944, exactly 26 years after the end of WW1, that Harry's log begins. He started that day in a foxhole somewhere in Germany...

Nov 11, 1944 – Rec'd news of going home.

That is the first entry by Pfc. Harry T. Gaby. The entries that followed seem simple and ordinary—except that they are quite remarkable given the time and place in history when they were written.

Nov 13 – Interviewed by news reporters.

Harry does not tell us why he was interviewed. In fact, none of his log entries are very wordy, but it is clear he wants to remember this day and the ones that follow. The story starts to unfold in bits and pieces.

Nov 14 – Had pictures taken by tank.

This US Army PR photo appeared in the San Bernardino County Sun on January 12, 1945 as well as other publications. Harry is under the arrow on the left.

Nov 17 – Arrived in Paris, France. 1 p.m.

Nov 18 – Went to SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force).

Interview by General Eisenhower.

Went to Olympic Theater.

What a casual entry for such a moment! Of course, Harry has no idea at the time that General Eisenhower would go on to become President Eisenhower, but he allotted exactly four words about his meeting with Eisenhower in his log. He used the same exact number of words in the next sentence; “Went to Olympic Theater”. The record shows these men – top gunners – were selected to go on a cross-country tour for the 6th War Loan bond drive to sell war bonds and inspire increased production of weapons to support the war effort in a war-weary America. A total of 27 men were chosen and divided into 5 groups as special emissaries of General Eisenhower to go home and tell the people what their buddies were up against on the front lines. They talk of guns formerly allotted 500 rounds being rationed to just 50 rounds a day and the toll that is taking in lives. They talk about the friends they watched die. Their mission is to increase awareness of the dire need for firearms. They can not afford to fail.



Nov 28 – Attended press conference with Under Secretary of War Patterson and Gen. Hardy. Had pictures taken for press and by newsreels.

Nov 29 – Practically whole day wasted in Pentagon. Left Washington by Jeffersonian. (Jeffersonian was a passenger train.)

Dec 1 – First stop Springfield, Ohio. Met by Police in edge of city. Escorted to Hotel Shawnee. Dinner engagement, all gave talks. Toured Bauer Bros 105 shell plant.

Harry served on the crew of a 105-mm howitzer, which could explain why this is the only time he noted what kind of ammunition was produced in a factory he visited. He was awarded a Bronze Star for meritorious achievement along with three battle stars. His military record was one of the reasons he was



selected to participate in this tour. Each day is a dizzying array of munition plant tours, rallies, interviews – all around the theme of “*Firepower for Eisenhower*”. Plants were encouraged to hire more people to increase production. ‘Don’t let my buddies die because of a lack of ammunition’ is the message they repeat over and

Harry T. Gaby of Frisco, Tex.
Gaby, referring to shell rationing on the western front, said: “It’s like hunting ducks and running into a flock with only one or two shells in your pocket.”

over to anyone who will listen. They were often quoted in newspapers. *Gaby, referring to shell rationing on the western front, said: “It’s like hunting ducks and running into a flock with only one or two shells in your pocket.” December 1, 1944 – The Cincinnati Enquirer*

Dec 25 – Invited out to Jennings home for Christmas dinner. Nice time and nice turkey. Made phone call home.

The “Jennings” he refers to is most likely a munitions plant president or manager. This is the first time Harry talks of home. In 1944 a long-distance phone call is expensive and, although the men will be rewarded with a two-week furlough after the tour is over, this chance to speak with his family in Texas must have been a special Christmas moment.

Dec 30 – Slept ‘till noon. Three rallies in steel plant Weirton. Given a model of 8 in. shell, also knife by City Police. Dinner at Club. Dance at V. F. W. Special table with girls. Joined V. F. W.

As a single 27-year-old man who has been on the battlefield for more than two years, Harry certainly enjoyed the attention he got at the VFW—so much so that he joined the VFW that night.

Dec 31 – Slept till noon. Luncheon at club. 6:00 cocktails at Millsop home, Pres. Of Weirton Steel Co. Dinner at Club. New Year’s Eve dance and party at Club. Started at Midnight. Good time had by all.

After ringing in 1945 in style, the tour continues through January. Each stop brings another round of rallies, speeches, radio interviews, keys to cities, dances, and dinners. In Denver, Harry notes that they are, “***Big Shots in town.***” This is before they arrive in Los Angeles, where they make the rounds in Hollywood.

Jan 14 – Guests of Edgar Bergan (famous ventriloquist) on McCarthy show. Dinner on Bergan in Trapis room. Guests of Ken Murray at “Blackouts” of 1945 (A variety show).

Jan 15 – Met Mayor of L. A. Radio broadcast and 2 rallies.

Jan 16 – Group split up and went to different plants for rallies and broadcasts. Stayed in Biltmore Hotel.

Jan 17 – Visit at North American Aviation and also Paramount Studio. Very interesting.

Jan 18 – Left L. A. by “Morning Daylight” for San Francisco. Arrived at Frisco 6:00 p.m. Bunked in Sir Francis Drake Hotel one night.

Harry refers to San Francisco as “Frisco”—just like his hometown.

Jan 19 – Met Mayor Lapham of S.F. Presented with key. Press conference 11:00 a.m. After lunch taken on trip to Muir Woods and Mountains across Golden Gate Bridge. Dinner and Party in Copa Cabana Club. Guests of Club.

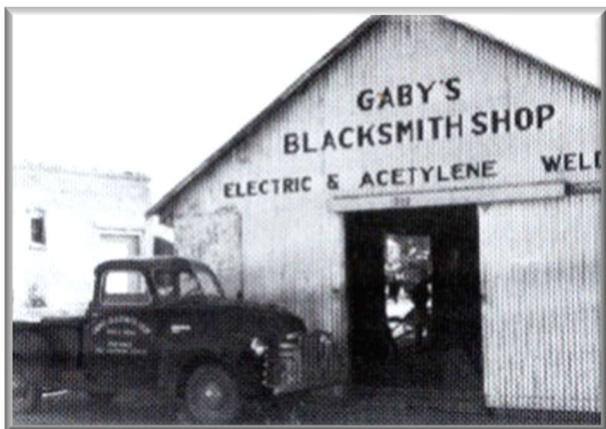
Jan 31 – Went to Wash(ington). Spent 2 days in Pentagon bldg. then back to Meade and started furlough.

There, as simply as it began, Harry's log ends. It is more of a bullet point outline, but his journey can be traced through historical newspapers and records from these short entries. Finally, after weeks of non-stop rallies, appearances and speeches, Harry and the other men are granted a two-week furlough before returning to the frontlines.

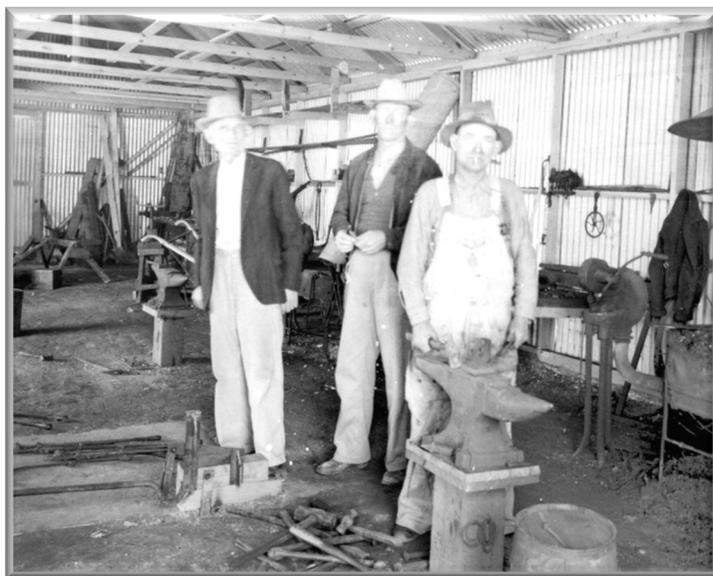


Harry Gaby took this photo from his tank as the troops rolled through Paris. We do not know the exact date, but we can guess it was late August 1944, after the liberation of Paris.

After the war, Harry returned to Frisco where he and his brother Mack operated the family blacksmith shop on Main Street. As the need for blacksmith work lessened, they did welding and small engine repairs in the shop. Gaby's closed in 1985 and Harry passed away in 1988, but his legacy continues. Gaby's Blacksmith Shop has been replicated in the Frisco Heritage Center where the Gaby's are remembered as good, hardworking people. Harry led a quiet, simple life but events beyond his control took him away from his country home to the bloody battlefields of Europe. In an extraordinary turn of events, for nearly three months in late 1944 to early 1945, he traveled across America as a military celebrity.



Above: Gaby's located at 3rd and Main Street.



Right: Inside Gaby's Blacksmith Shop.

We believe this is L-R: John, Mack and Harry Gaby. Shortly after the war ended, Floyd Gaby moved to Temple, Texas and worked there as a game warden.



Memorial Day

*Never Forget
Ever Honor*

From the Heritage Association of Frisco Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met via Zoom in April to discuss the continued cancellation of meetings and events while the COVID-19 shut down continues. Here are a few things you should know:

- We are going ahead with planning for Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day in September, but will continue to monitor the situation and make a “go/no go” decision in late summer, in accordance with state and local regulations regarding gatherings at that time.
- The Board has approved the Heritage Sites Committee application to the Collin County Historical Commission for a historic marker to denote the location of the town of Foncine at the intersection of Eldorado Parkway and Coit Road. The Committee will submit the application.

If you have not paid your annual dues, or you would like to become a member, please visit our website at www.friscoheritage.org. There are two ways to complete and submit your membership application.

1. Fill out and submit an [online application](#) and pay through PayPal.
2. [Download](#), print it, fill it out and mail it along with your check to:
Heritage Association of Frisco
PO Box 263
Frisco, TX 75034

World War I

James F. Sparkman
Sinking of the USS Tuscania
February 5, 1918

World War II

Richard Lloyd Bolton
Solomon Islands
August 9, 1942

Cecil Waldrum
Anzio, Italy
February 16, 1944

Mabron P. Johnson
Evreux, France
June 10, 1944

Oren Ralph Hill
Guam
July 21, 1944

Lee Harold Derryberry
Leyte Island, Philippines
November 29, 1944

Sidney Gordon Duncan
Okinawa
April 28, 1945

Korean War
Kenneth Jack Hill
(near) Seoul, South Korea
December 23, 1950

Vietnam War
Robert Ray Brown
Kien Hoa, South Vietnam
October 1, 1967

Operation Iraqi Freedom

Michael Luke Boatright
Baghdad, Iraq
December 4, 2004

Operation Enduring Freedom

Peter John Courcy
Khost, Afghanistan
February 10, 2009



WE NEED YOUR HISTORIC PHOTOS

“Either Share or Donate”

Donate your old photos of Frisco’s past. If you cannot part with them, then share them. Let us scan the photographs to preserve history for posterity!

*Bring your photos to the
Heritage Association Membership Meeting
August 11th @ 7 p.m.*

**Tentative
meeting date.**

Technology NEWS: Heritage Association Joins the Virtual World of Sharing Historic Artifacts AND Photographs

Soon, individuals visiting the Heritage Association’s website will be able to tour a Virtual Exhibit consisting of artifacts and historical photographs from the collections owned by the association. The Virtual Exhibits will feature families, historical times and themes of Frisco beginning in the early 1900s and continuing to the present. In some cases, our Virtual Exhibits may be an extension of a current exhibit on display in the Heritage Center Museum or an Exhibit created as a school or community project. When will this begin? Presently the collections are being digitized, scanned, and cataloged with descriptive information. It is estimated that the first Virtual Exhibit will be available online sometime in December this year. The association is recruiting volunteers to help with this project now. If you are techno interested, please contact Diana Kyle @ djkylehome@gmail.com for more information and training.

A Heritage Recipe

Mrs. Jeter’s Sunshine Dill Pickles *contributed by Thelma Sterling Griffin*



Use cucumber links three inches or longer. Mix and heat together in 10 cups of water and 2 cups of salt. (This water will be used later.) Allow to cool after coming to a boil. Wash and pack cucumbers in jars with 1 or 2 grape leaves in bottom of the jar. Add 1 to 3 pods of hot peppers and 2 or 3 cloves of garlic to each jar. Add 1 teaspoon dry dill and 1 medium cluster of fresh dill. Cover with mixture of 1 cup vinegar and 1 cup of the water/salt mixture. Seal and set in the sun for 8 days. Mrs. Jeter usually cans her pickles in late June when her husband harvests cucumbers from his garden.

Note: Minnie Sterling has used this recipe for years. The author is unknown, but the recipe appears to be from an old-time farm magazine.

Frisco Heritage Association, *Recipes and Remembrances, Frisco Heritage Cookbook, Volume 2, 2009*, page 169. Morris Press Cookbooks.

HINTS FOR HOME BAKERS

Hot and Snowy—Here's a Grand Dessert!
But make these biscuits with Fleischmann's yellow label Yeast for EXTRA vitamins.

SNOW BISCUITS

2 cups sifted flour	1 cake Fleischmann's Yeast
1½ teaspoons sugar	¾ cup lukewarm water
½ teaspoon salt	1 tablespoon melted shortening

Sift together flour, sugar and salt. Dissolve yeast in lukewarm water. Add to dry ingredients. Add melted shortening. Dough will be soft. Turn out on floured board and knead dough quickly and lightly until smooth and elastic. Roll out ¼ inch thick. Cut with floured biscuit cutter. Place on greased pan. Let rise until doubled in bulk, about ½ hour. Prick top with fork. Bake in hot oven at 425° F. about 20 minutes. Makes 16 two-inch biscuits. Serve hot with home-made jam, jelly or preserves for a supper dessert treat!

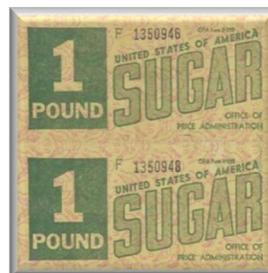
FREE! FLEISCHMANN'S RECIPE BOOK
 NEWLY REVISED FOR WARTIME!

Clip and paste on a penny post card for your free copy of Fleischmann's newly revised "The Bread Basket." Dozens of easy recipes for breads, rolls, desserts. Address: Standard Brands, Grand Central Annex, Box 477, New York 17, N. Y.

Name _____
 Address _____
 Town or City _____ County _____
 State _____

The 1940's: On the Homefront

During the 1930's and The Great Depression, items such as sugar, coffee, meat, butter, eggs and cheese were rationed to prevent hoarding and to stabilize the economy. When the country was plunged into war after the December 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the first item to go back on the ration list in May of 1942 was sugar. Americans were called on to make many sacrifices to support the war effort. New recipes were created to help a homemaker stretch her rations. Companies advertised offering recipe pamphlets. Here is one example from Fleischmann's Yeast that was printed in the Frisco Journal, on June 9, 1944. The recipe book was "newly revised for wartime."



Honey Layer Cake

2 cups cake flour	¼ cup shortening
¼ teaspoon salt	1 cup honey
1 teaspoon Arm & Hammer Brand or Cow Brand Baking Soda	1 egg, separated
½ teaspoon ginger	2 tablespoons lemon juice or vinegar plus enough milk to make ½ cup liquid
½ teaspoon cinnamon	

- Sift, then measure flour. Sift three times with salt, baking soda and spices.
- Cream shortening. Add honey gradually, beating until light and fluffy. Add egg yolk, beating thoroughly.
- Add sifted dry ingredients alternately with milk mixture. Blend thoroughly. Fold in stiffly beaten egg white. Turn into two greased 8 inch layer pans. Bake.

Amount: 2-8 inch layers
 Temperature: 350° F
 Time: 30-35 minutes

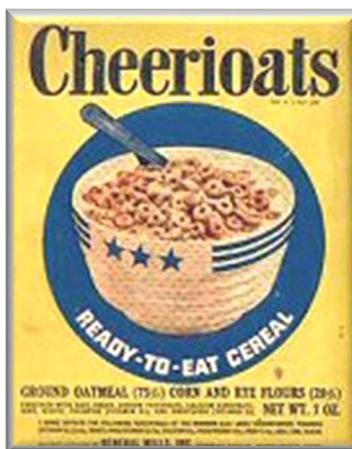
SAVES ONE CUP SUGAR

Quick Strawberry Frosting

1 egg white	1 cup strawberry preserves, or any tart jam or jelly
½ teaspoon salt	

- Combine egg white, salt and preserves. Beat with a rotary egg beater until frosting will stand in peaks.

8
 COPYRIGHT 1942 BY CHURCH & DWIGHT CO., INC., 14 CEDAR ST., NEW YORK, N. Y.



Did you know? In 1940, Cheerios, the breakfast cereal, was invented by Lester Borchardt, a physicist working for General Mills. Borchardt and his team developed a puffing gun machine that puffed oats into a small "o" shape. Thus, the original name for the cereal was Cheerioats but Quaker Oats claimed that the "oats" in this name was a trademark infringement. So, General Mills agreed to change the name to Cheerios in 1945.

There is no known relationship to Frisco's Borchardt family!

This recipe from a 1942 Arm & Hammer cookbook shows how honey was substituted for sugar to save on rations.

From the President's Desk

Greetings to our quarantined Heritage Association of Frisco members and friends. This is quite a moment in Frisco—and world—history.

It has been a while since we have been able to get together. Unfortunately, we have had to cancel Third Sunday again in May as well as the Genealogy class scheduled for May 2nd. We will update you on when these activities will resume as soon as we have that information.

Even though we have been apart, the HAF Board of Directors has been working on plans for when things open again and for social media opportunities to connect in the interim. Preparations for Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day are ongoing. We hope to know more by June or July whether we can proceed with this annual event on September 26. There will be suggestions and ideas coming from Vickie Burns for continuing your genealogy work online—including one in this newsletter.

At our February Third Sunday, we unveiled our new coloring book, “Frisco Through the Ages”. This was a project done by Zoie Lancaster, a Junior in FISD. Please check out our website and social media for illustrations from the coloring book and more information about HAF activities.

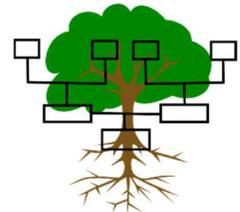
I would like to encourage you all to renew your membership and help us to continue to research, preserve and share Frisco's rich heritage. Let us explore the past and imagine the future together.

Historically yours,

Donna Schmittler, President, Heritage Association of Frisco



Researching Your Roots



While doing research for an upcoming newspaper genealogy class I was teaching, I ran across a wonderful blog site. Normally, I do not trust blog sites unless I can verify the information, but they can provide some interesting reading.

I was attempting to make a list of all the sites that I knew about that had historical newspapers online. It was a huge task that can never be completed as things change all the time. Then I found this site: theancestorhunt.com

This is not a genealogy site as there are no records stored on this site. However, this site will provide links to lots of wonderful sources so of which I did not know existed. At last count, there were links to 30,200 free newspaper sites. It is updated regularly.

In addition to newspapers, there are links to Birth, Marriage and Death records as well as obits, yearbooks and photos just to name a few.

So, enjoy the link and Happy Hunting!!

Vickie Burns
Chairman, Genealogy Committee