

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

Heritage Association of Frisco

9/1/2020

Edition 2, Volume 9

Researching, Preserving, and Sharing Frisco's Rich History

www.friscoheritage.org

FRISCO'S 9TH DECADE

1980-1989

The 80s in Frisco

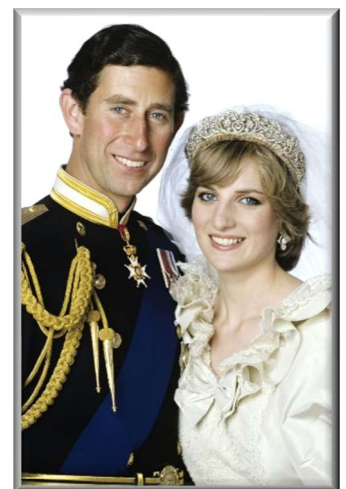


As America entered the 1980s, it was with 52 of its citizens still being held hostage in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. Students stormed the embassy in November of 1979 to protest President Jimmy Carter's decision to allow the deposed Shah to have medical treatment for lymphoma in America. It was a humanitarian decision that fanned the flames of political unrest and may have cost him a second term as President. To add insult to injury, the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini released the

hostages just hours after President Ronald Regan was sworn into office on January 20, 1981.

Indeed, the 1980's had its share of tragedies. Mount St. Helens erupted in Washington State killing 87 people in the path of destruction. Former Beatle John Lennon was murdered in New York. The Space Shuttle Columbia launched for the first time in 1981 and shuttle launches quickly became common occurrences. That is until the 1986 launch of the shuttle Challenger, which tragically exploded 73 seconds after liftoff killing all seven astronauts on board, including schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe.

The world watched breathlessly as Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer on July 29, 1981. Chrysler introduced the first minivans and soccer moms everywhere rejoiced. America wanted—and got—MTV, the first 24-hour cable TV show and music videos became the new standard for recording artists. Michael Jackson's *Thriller* set a high bar for music video productions and had everyone dancing *The Thriller*. The new VHS technology allowed us to record TV shows and replay them at our convenience. In 1985 Marty McFly traveled through time *Back to the Future* and made Michael J. Fox a movie star. President Reagan challenged Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev in 1987 to "Tear down this wall!" and in 1989 the world witnessed the Berlin Wall coming down, which marked the beginning of the end of the Cold War. The decade would end with George H. W. Bush winning his first term in the White House.



The 80s in Frisco continued, page 2



Cabbage Patch Kids were the “must have” toys—until Teddy Ruxpin was introduced as the first animatronic toy. Super Mario Bros. was the most popular video game of the 1980’s. We were introduced to The Simpsons in 1989 and Homer is still shouting “D’oh!” after 31 years!

ET phoned home and Reese’s Pieces sales rose by more than 300% making it one of the most successful product placements in movie history. Steven Spielberg initially approached Mars because M&Ms were more popular, but they turned him down because they thought ET looked “scary.” Hershey was happy to have their candy featured.

1980’s fashion sense was anything but sensible. Big hair, big shoulder pads, Spandex, frills, leg warmers, belly-baring sweatshirts, mullets...the horror of all!



In Frisco, the population continued to grow and crossed the 5,000 mark in the mid-1980’s, which allowed Frisconians the opportunity to choose to become a Home Rule Charter city rather than be governed as a General Law city. Frisco passed the HRC in 1987. The 1980’s brought two icons to Frisco—George Purefoy as the first and only Frisco City Manager and The SnowCone Lady. We’ll explore their stories and a few more 80’s happenings. We’ll also take a moment to remember HAF Founder, Sharon

Weinberg, who moved to Frisco in 1987 with her husband, John and their daughters, and made a lasting impact on the town.

So, pull up your hair in a ponytail on the side of your head, grab a bottle of “New Coke”, and try to solve your Rubik’s cube while you read this month’s newsletter.



The SnowCone Lady



Mary Sanchez is known to many Frisconians as simply “The SnowCone Lady.” What started as a small side business with her children in 1983 has grown right along with the town over the last 37 summers. Mary still runs the business with the help of her children, Shane and Brandi. Now, her grandchildren have joined her in scooping up icy sweet treats for her customers, who are also her adoring fans. Those fans come back year after year, now numbering generations of families, to bring their children and grandchildren to experience the simple joy of a snow cone.

During the season, Mary blends her syrups fresh each day and never uses preservatives. She says that coming up with her flavor combos requires a bit of experimenting—like a “mad scientist.”

Mary Sanchez serves up sweet treats!

SnowConeLady continues, Page 3

SnowConeLady, continued

Through the years Mary has employed hundreds of teenagers—many for their first part-time job. This year, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 restrictions, she had 17 employees on her payroll and offered Frisco's families a chance to get outside, enjoy an inexpensive treat, and "provide some small sense of normalcy during this horrible time."

One of the most amazing things about The Snow Cone Lady is that Mary keeps her prices affordable. "I always think about how hard it was for me, and I don't want to gouge anyone with my prices, so I keep it reasonable."

Years after starting her business, Mary found out from a visiting aunt that her father had owned a snow cone stand as a teenager. She had never known that, but it's clear that snow cones run in the family DNA! Mary, along with her children and grandchildren, have worked hard creating and sustaining a wonderful family business. The following, in her own words, is Mary's story.

My Journey as The SnowCone Lady

By Mary Sanchez



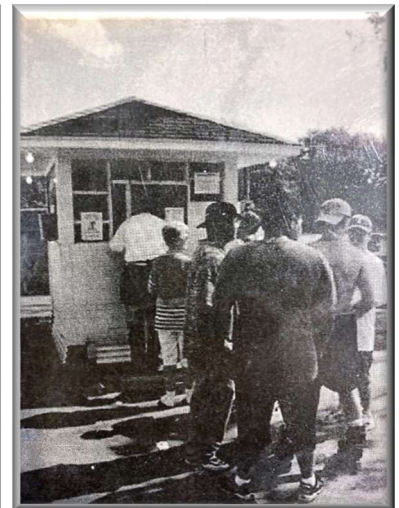
My journey as The SnowCone Lady began early in 1983. My son wanted me to buy a snow cone stand and being a single mom, it was very appealing to me. It would help fill the gap between child support and my regular job. I secured a loan with help from my mother and began to set up shop. I put all my earnings into paying off that loan the first year!

In the beginning we had limited flavors like strawberry, cherry, grape, and coconut but started introducing more as my customers began requesting personal flavors. My daughter really

wanted strawberry shortcake, so the blending started with her wish.

The stand was located on the southwest corner of Main Street and South County Road where Douglas Grocery rented me a space to put my tiny business. I had no air-conditioning and the inside of the building was approximately 5 feet by 6 feet. No frills or much room, but it was a beginning! My children ran the stand during the afternoon, and I took over when I got off work. The business began to grow each year as Frisco grew and I was thrilled.

I absolutely love my business, my customers, and my staff. My established customers keep me grounded while new customers bring new stories and friendships. Each customer and each new staff member add a chapter to my life story. My staff of young people is exceptional. They keep me updated on what its like to be a young adult in today's world. They work extremely hard and have worked this year while wearing masks and gloves! Great customers and staff...how truly blessed and grateful I am to be The SnowCone Lady!



Left: Mary inside her original tiny stand on Main and South County.

Right: Customers line up for The SnowCone Lady

All photos courtesy of the Sanchez Family

The North Dallas Jetport (aka the Frisco Jetport)



Yellow Xs on the jetport runway indicate to pilots that this is an abandoned airfield. This is the last known aerial image of the runway from 2001.

included private hangers, commercial and industrial developments.

A lone 737 jet landed and took off from the runway to demonstrate the viability of the project. What Frisconians saw was a huge jet landing close to two roads and power lines. Again, plans stalled as concerns over an airport grew among Frisco residents.

One last attempt to privately purchase and revive the airport was made in the late 1990's but the Frisco Economic Development Corporation was in negotiations to purchase the airport in order to shut it down.



Demolition of the Jetport runway begins in 2002.

Photo by Tim Siemens

The North Dallas Jetport was built in 1986 on the southwest corner of Main Street and Legacy. It was expected to be a great addition to the expanding suburbs and major business interests in North Plano. However, through a series of missteps and unfortunate economic downturns, it never really 'took off'.

The runway was 5,500 feet long with a main taxiway running parallel and smaller offshoot taxiways leading to the planned locations of private hangars. Only one small metal building was constructed on the site. It was expected that at full build-out, the airport would handle 250,000 aircrafts each year with 1,000 based at the jetport.

In the 1990's an effort to revitalize the project included plans to expand the runway to 7,000 feet and the construction of a terminal and control tower. Plans also



Left: Then—a runway and taxiways surrounded by open fields.

Right: Now—houses, apartments and businesses have landed here.

The Jetport was never fully operational but was used by local small plane pilots to practice take-offs, landings, and "touch and go" maneuvers. There was one crash on the Jetport runway in 1998 resulting in injuries to the pilot and the death of the flight instructor from Roanoke, Texas.

In 2002 the runway was demolished to make way for future development. Today there are houses, apartments and businesses located on the land that once held a small airport. The only building on the site was redesigned and became Frisco Fire Station #4. For several years a CareFlite helicopter was stationed there—lifting off and landing more times than any planes ever did.

Planning for Growth



George Purefoy speaks at the groundbreaking for the Frisco Heritage Museum. 2004

In the 1960's, Frisco annexed territory to serve as the corporate limits. This is known as Extra Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The planned boundaries took in nearly 100 square miles, but some land would be de-annexed over the next few decades. Today, Frisco is 69 square miles. At this time Frisco was still a general law city, which only has power expressly authorized by the state. To have more autonomy Frisco had to become a Home Rule Charter city, but that could only happen once the population of a town reached 5,000 residents and once those residents approve the written charter.

The process to become a Home Rule Charter began in August 1986 with the residents electing 15 men to draft the charter. Nine months later on April 4, 1987, the residents approved the charter and Frisco set the stage for charting its future growth. Frisco could now build the many aspects of government not available to a general law city.

Included in the charter was the limit of power for elected officials, and to have a strong city manager/city council in charge. The mayor only votes to break ties. Frisco included term limits in its charter so that there would be no opportunity to become a career politician. The search began for a strong city manager with the charter calling for someone "appointed solely upon his executive, administrative and educational qualifications and shall have previous city manager or assistant city manager experience."

George Purefoy was hired from Columbus, Texas, where he was city manager for 7 years. By the time he arrived in late 1987, Frisco's population had risen to over 6,000. Mr. Purefoy still serves as Frisco's first—and only—city manager guiding Frisco's growth every step of the way to now over 200,000 residents who enjoy retail shopping, sports, parks, arts, restaurants and securing the water needed to support this growth and development.

The George A. Purefoy Municipal Center is named for him, and he and his wife are the namesakes for the George and Debra Purefoy Elementary School.



George Purefoy (left) joins in the groundbreaking ceremonies for Dr. Pepper Park. 2002

REMEMBERING A FOUNDER



Sharon England Weinberg, one of the three founders of the Heritage Association of Frisco, passed away August 16, 2020. Remembering Sharon and her importance to our organization, means recounting the story of three friends, Sharon, Bob Warren and Linda Sutton, having lunch at La Hacienda Restaurant in Frisco one Fall day in 1997. As they looked out across Preston Road, they could see the Gribble Grocery Store, one of two remaining structures in the old town of Lebanon. It was an empty, rickety-looking two story building with a covered front porch. It was also scheduled to be demolished soon. Lamenting that Frisco's rocketing growth meant tearing down, paving over, and generally erasing its history, the three friends decided to see if others might be interested in saving Frisco's history. By the next year, 1998, the Heritage Association of Frisco was a legally incorporated, non-profit organization actively engaged in "researching, preserving, and sharing" Frisco's history.

Sharon was passionate about collecting and saving old photographs. She knew that many of Frisco's older population had passed, and she wondered how many historic photos were being tossed by adult children who were cleaning out attics and trunks, desk drawers and albums. How many of us have a shoebox full of photos that we can no longer identify? Word went out that the Association was collecting old photos, and Sharon, who was an officer at the time, was the one to call. Hundreds of photos were saved either through reprinting or the donation of originals. Sharon drove to a neighboring town once to collect a rare photo of the Salmon Hotel, a business located near the town's newly laid railroad tracks, because she did not want it to get bent or lost in the mail.

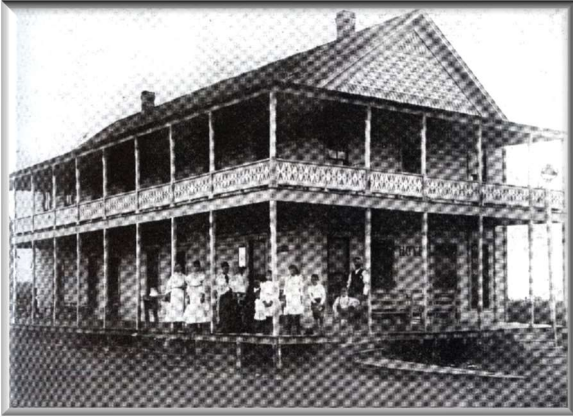


The inevitable demolition of Gribble's Grocery Store in the former town of Lebanon sparked an idea to save Frisco's history.

Because the Heritage Association didn't have storage space, Sharon kept the files of photographs in her home. Once when she and husband John were going on vacation, she contacted then Fire Chief Mack Borchardt to tell him, "If our house catches on fire while we're gone, go into the bedroom and get the files of historic photos first!" Eventually, Bob Warren secured a grant used to purchase a fireproof file cabinet.

Sharon's knowledge of Frisco's history through photographs made her the perfect contributor to the Association's early fundraising projects that included several wall calendars. She also worked tirelessly to sort, catalog and provide 400-plus photographs for "Frisco: The First 100 Years" centennial book. Former Mayor Bob Warren remembered, "She did a fine job with that ... in fact, she did a super job at whatever assignment she volunteered for."

Tribute to Sharon Weinberg continues, page 7



Many of us researching Frisco's history had never heard of the Salmon Hotel much less seen a photo of it. Thanks to Sharon it is memorialized in the Heritage Association's centennial publication "Frisco: The First One Hundred Years."

Tribute to Sharon Weinberg, continued

Sharon was an energetic, devoted volunteer who contributed her voice, her passion, and her leadership to keep Frisco's history alive and to share it with all, including the 4,000 school children who tour the Heritage Museum each year. A former elementary school teacher, this was particularly important to her.

Sharon lived one of her favorite mottos, "If you see something that needs doing, do it!" Linda Sutton, longtime friend and community volunteer said, "I've always called her Frisco's Cheerleader. She was 100% behind this community and supported every effort to make it better. We all benefited in so many ways from Sharon's involvement. She will be missed, but not forgotten."

Today, the Heritage Association continues to collect old photographs of Frisco, its businesses, homes, events, and early citizens. Photos are scanned and information logged in a special computer program run by an Association volunteer. If you find yourself in possession of your Frisco family's photos with no where to keep them, please contact the Heritage Association at secretary@friscoheritage.org and allow us to view them before you toss them.

More about the life of this amazing volunteer can be found at sharonengland-weinberg.com.

From the Heritage Association of Frisco Board of Directors

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

- Third Sunday Open Houses are cancelled until further notice.
- Stay tuned for details about our Virtual Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day event.
- "Pandemic 1918" will air on our social media sites on September 14, 2020.

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](#) at www.friscoheritage.org 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

Thanks for your support!

FRISCO The First 100 Years, Frisco's second comprehensive history book, is available for purchase at the deep discount price of \$20. You can pick one up in the welcome center of the Frisco Heritage Museum, but staff can only accept cash, or a check made payable to *Heritage Association of Frisco*.

Collin County Community College

**COLLIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
Attend the fastest growing community college in the nation!

**Just Say...
Yes!**

**And we'll
do the rest...**

REGISTRATION SCHEDULE

Session	Start Date	End Date	Registration Period
Session 1	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 10 - Aug 17
Session 2	Aug 18	Aug 25	Aug 18 - Aug 25
Session 3	Aug 26	Aug 31	Aug 26 - Aug 31
Session 4	Sept 1	Sept 8	Sept 1 - Sept 8
Session 5	Sept 9	Sept 16	Sept 9 - Sept 16
Session 6	Sept 17	Sept 24	Sept 17 - Sept 24
Session 7	Sept 25	Oct 2	Sept 25 - Oct 2
Session 8	Oct 3	Oct 10	Oct 3 - Oct 10
Session 9	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 11 - Oct 18
Session 10	Oct 19	Oct 26	Oct 19 - Oct 26
Session 11	Oct 27	Nov 3	Oct 27 - Nov 3
Session 12	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 4 - Nov 11
Session 13	Nov 12	Nov 19	Nov 12 - Nov 19
Session 14	Nov 20	Nov 27	Nov 20 - Nov 27
Session 15	Nov 28	Dec 5	Nov 28 - Dec 5
Session 16	Dec 6	Dec 13	Dec 6 - Dec 13
Session 17	Dec 14	Dec 21	Dec 14 - Dec 21
Session 18	Dec 22	Dec 29	Dec 22 - Dec 29
Session 19	Dec 30	Jan 6	Dec 30 - Jan 6
Session 20	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 7 - Jan 14
Session 21	Jan 15	Jan 22	Jan 15 - Jan 22
Session 22	Jan 23	Jan 30	Jan 23 - Jan 30
Session 23	Jan 31	Feb 7	Jan 31 - Feb 7
Session 24	Feb 8	Feb 15	Feb 8 - Feb 15
Session 25	Feb 16	Feb 23	Feb 16 - Feb 23
Session 26	Feb 24	Mar 2	Feb 24 - Mar 2
Session 27	Mar 3	Mar 10	Mar 3 - Mar 10
Session 28	Mar 11	Mar 18	Mar 11 - Mar 18
Session 29	Mar 19	Mar 26	Mar 19 - Mar 26
Session 30	Mar 27	Apr 3	Mar 27 - Apr 3
Session 31	Apr 4	Apr 11	Apr 4 - Apr 11
Session 32	Apr 12	Apr 19	Apr 12 - Apr 19
Session 33	Apr 20	Apr 27	Apr 20 - Apr 27
Session 34	Apr 28	May 5	Apr 28 - May 5
Session 35	May 6	May 13	May 6 - May 13
Session 36	May 14	May 21	May 14 - May 21
Session 37	May 22	May 29	May 22 - May 29
Session 38	May 30	Jun 6	May 30 - Jun 6
Session 39	Jun 7	Jun 14	Jun 7 - Jun 14
Session 40	Jun 15	Jun 22	Jun 15 - Jun 22
Session 41	Jun 23	Jun 30	Jun 23 - Jun 30
Session 42	Jul 1	Jul 8	Jul 1 - Jul 8
Session 43	Jul 9	Jul 16	Jul 9 - Jul 16
Session 44	Jul 17	Jul 24	Jul 17 - Jul 24
Session 45	Jul 25	Aug 1	Jul 25 - Aug 1
Session 46	Aug 2	Aug 9	Aug 2 - Aug 9
Session 47	Aug 10	Aug 17	Aug 10 - Aug 17

FOR MORE INFORMATION
Call (214) 548-9971 or metro 380-1266

Collin County Community College was launched on April 6, 1985. This ad from the August 10, 1986 Plano Star Courier is not boasting when it says CCCC is the fastest growing community college in the nation. In it's first year—with classes held in high schools throughout the county—CCCC had more than 5,000 students register. That was equal to the entire population of Frisco at that time.

The college is comprised of 9 campuses including the Preston Ridge campus in Frisco. There are at least 4 more campus sites planned for future construction. Today it is known simply as Collin College. Nearly 60,000 residents attend classes (both credit and non-credit).

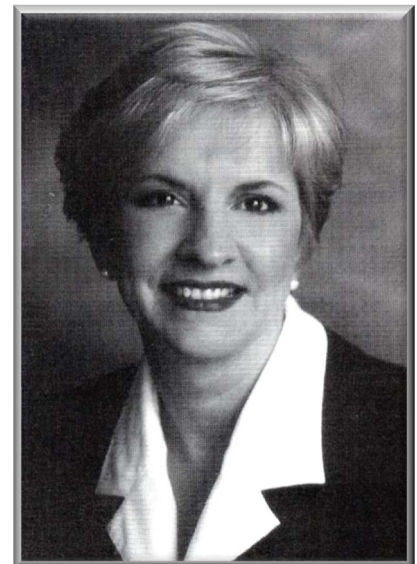
The Abbey
Restaurant and Club

Country Style Steaks
Chicken & Seafood
Fresh Vegetables
Homemade Desserts.

Live Entertainment
Weekends

Main St. At 7th "Under the Watertower"
Reservations Accepted 1-377-3812 FRISCO

This ad is from the August 6, 1986 Plano Star Courier for The Abbey, which was a Frisco dining destination for more than 25 years. It was located in the building that housed the First Baptist Church for seventy years before the congregation moved to a larger home on Hummingbird Lane, just south of Main Street. Many longtime church members dined at The Abbey and laughed at the memory of being baptized in the area that held the salad bar. Today the building is once again a place of worship. It is home to the Christ's Living Kingdom Church.



Frisco elected its first female councilwoman in 1989. Kathy Seei later served two terms as mayor.

Photo: Fran Reisner

OUT FRISCO WAY
CAN'T HELP LOVING — this truly delightful home. Beautifully decorated, FP, minis and clean as a pin and ready for young couple or retired folks who know quality. PERFECT for EDS or Frito Lay employees. \$62,900. Joann Voiers 542-2313.

*Housing was a great value "out Frisco way"!
Plano Star Courier, July 6, 1986*

From the President's Desk

Greetings to our still quarantined Heritage Association of Frisco members and friends. It has been quite a while since we have been able to get together. I think it will be a bit longer before we can be together for a meeting or host Third Sunday activities.

The HAF Board has been meeting regularly on Zoom. We have planned a virtual presentation to share with you all on September 14th. This presentation is an interview that our Secretary, Lisa Bethea, did with Catharine Arnold. Catharine is an author from England. She wrote the book "Pandemic 1918". It contains eyewitness accounts from the greatest medical holocaust in modern history. This book was written before the Coronavirus made its way to our country and the world. Covid-19 has made it necessary to rethink our plans for Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day 2020. We are in the process of putting together a virtual Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day. This year we are capturing the day's events on video. We plan on sharing it on our website and Facebook pages. Watch for more details for these two events.

On Wednesday, August 26th, I had the pleasure of sharing the story of Nannie Crozier and the Crozier-Covington-Sickles House with Ani Simmons on Facebook. We were celebrating Women's Equality Day, the Centennial of the enactment of the 19th amendment. We had been planning on a livestream, but due to technical difficulties, we have a video instead. Please check it out on the Frisco Heritage Museum's Facebook page.

Visit our website and Facebook pages for any upcoming announcements. Let us know if there is anything that you would be interested in seeing or hearing about. Any suggestions for sharing our history would be greatly appreciated.

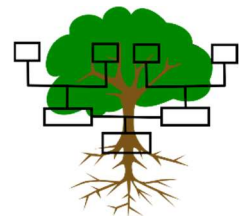
As always, I would like to encourage you all to renew your membership and help us to continue to research, preserve and share Frisco's rich heritage. Let us explore the past and imagine the future together. Please take care and be safe.

Historically yours,

Donna Schmittler, President, Heritage Association of Frisco



Researching Your Roots



Most people researching their family history will have some relatives that may have passed through the State of Virginia. So, let me introduce you to the Library of Virginia.

<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/>

On the main page, there will be a Section called Search the LVA catalog. This will bring up results from books, court records, newspaper articles and many other items. Some of the items are 300 years old. I have found on-line digital items for members of my family.

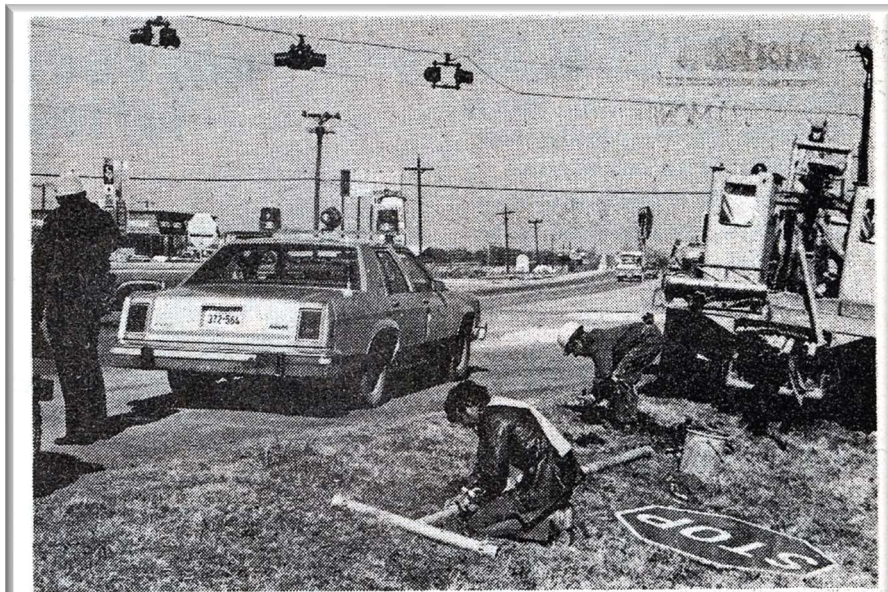
Happy Hunting.

Vickie Burns
Chairman, Genealogy Committee



BONUS: From the HAF Archives

This article from the November 20, 1980 Frisco Enterprise highlights how Frisco's continued growth required flashing red lights and stop signs at the intersection of Highways 720 and 289. Newcomers will know that intersection as Main and Preston.



If you haven't travelled through the intersection of Highway 720 and 289 recently, you'll find a dramatic change - the interchange now requires a full stop in all directions of travel. Police Chief C.R. Burton guided traffic at noon Tuesday of this week while state highway department personnel put the lights and warning signs in place.

Volunteers!



The Heritage Association of Frisco invites YOU to become a volunteer. Even in this time of social distancing, we still need people to help with the collection, write the newsletter, and other "hands-on" activities. We also need our older families to share photographs from Frisco and other early towns. We can come to you to scan them. If any of this feels like something you could do, please drop us an email at secretary@friscoheritage.org.