

Box 702  
Rockport, TX 78381  
Phone: (361) 729-2133  
achs1985.org



# ACHS NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Issue 4

October 2016

## Don't Miss this Special Program! Grammy-winning Producer to talk about the late Guy Clark, who grew up in Rockport!

**This program is free and open to the public, so bring your friends  
to the Paws and Taws Convention Center  
on Thursday, October 27, at 6:30 pm.**

Inside this issue:

Remembering Guy Clark	2
WWII Memories	3
Historic Survey Continues	3
Calendar Premiere Report	4

### ACHS Officers & Trustees (year term expires)

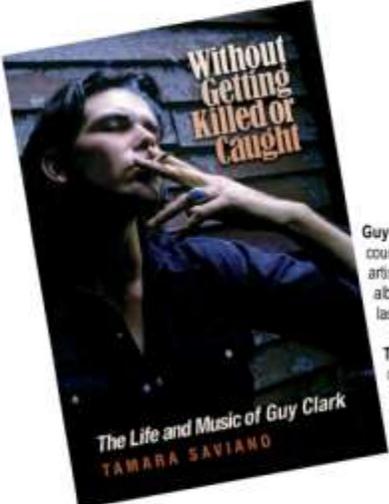
- David J. Murrah, President (2019)
- Marsha Hendrix, Vice Pres. (2017)
- Cheryl Livingston, Secretary (2019)
- Janie White, Treasurer (2019)
- Ernest Camehl (2018)
- Sandy Garrison (2017)
- Ray McLester (2018)
- Jo Ann Morgan (2019)
- Timothy Mullin (2019)
- Pam Stranahan (2018)
- Jeanie Schindler (2018)
- Janet Taylor (2017)
- Joan Truelove (2017)

**ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY FALL PROGRAM**

## Boats to Build

*A Celebration of Guy Clark and his Life in Rockport*  
a free public program featuring Grammy Award-winning producer **Tamara Saviano** author of the new biography of the late songwriter and musician Guy Clark.

**THURSDAY, OCT. 27TH - 6:30 PM**  
Paws & Taws Convention Center  
402 N. Fulton Beach Road, Fulton, TX



**Guy Charles Clark** (1941-2016) was a noted Texas country and folk singer, musician, songwriter, recording artist, and performer. He released more than twenty albums and won the 2014 Grammy Award for one of his last albums, entitled, "My Favorite Picture of You."



**Tamara Saviano** of Nashville, Tennessee is a nationally-recognized Grammy-winning independent producer, publicist, talent booker and journalist, with a specialty focus in American folk music.

This program is made possible in part by a grant from Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**SPONSORED BY THE ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

## FROM THE LAB: A message from the President . . . . .

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our two newest trustees, both elected to fill unexpired terms. **Joan Truelove** has been a long-time worker in the Society and we are glad to have her on the Board.



Ernest Camehl

**Ernest Camehl** was more or less volunteered by his wife **Veronika**, who takes all of our wonderful pictures. Ernie also brings a wealth of experience to the Board.



Joan Truelove

I hope you will make every effort to attend the program on Guy Clark on October 27. One of my good friends, **Joe Specht**, former director of libraries at McMurry University, and renowned expert on Texas music and musicians, is coming from Abilene to assist Tamara in the program, and will bring song clips from Guy Clark's work. It will be a great evening, so bring your friends!

Our program co-chair, **Cheryl Livingston**, who is Board Secretary, and great fan of Guy Clark, volunteered to write the following piece to help us get ready for the upcoming program. I know you will enjoy it.

—David Murrah

### Remembering Guy Clark by Cheryl Livingston

Guy Clark died in May, 2016. Leading up to his death and many days since then I've thought about his music and life. His songs were the soundtrack for many road trips I've taken over at least twenty years. That's a lot of storytelling. My husband and I have been fortunate to hear him perform live in Denver and right here in Fulton. Here is a selection of quotes and song lyrics I hope speak to you.

#### Quotes about South Texas

*"In South Texas, the first guitar you get is a Mexican guitar. And the first one I got, the first thing I did was take it apart."*

*"Quality takes precedence over quantity. Same whether building a wooden shrimp boat or writing a song."*

This is a line in Guy's song entitled *"Boats to Build:"*

*"I'm gonna build me a boat with these two hands; It'll be a fair curve from a noble plan."*

*"When you live in South Texas there are so many musical styles that you're exposed to and influenced by – blues, country, Cajun and Mexican, as well as the music of the European people who settled there from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Poland."*

#### Guy Clark song lyrics - Just some samples

##### Homegrown Tomatoes from Craftsman -

Only two things money can't buy –  
That's true love and homegrown tomatoes.

##### Desperados Waiting for a Train from Old No. 1 album -

I'd play the Red River Valley,  
And he'd sit out in the kitchen and cry.  
And run his fingers between seventy years of livin'  
And wonder, "Lord has ever' well I've ever drilled run dry?"



Guy Clark and Tamara Saviano at the Americana Honors and Awards, 2012, winning Album of the Year. Photo courtesy Tamara Saviano.

We were friends, me and this old man,  
Like desperados waitin' for a train.

##### The Cape from Dublin Blues album -

All these years the people said,  
'He's acting like a kid'.  
He did not know he could not fly,  
So he did.  
Well he's one of those  
That knows that life  
Is just a leap of faith.  
So spread your arms,  
Hold your breath and  
Always trust your cape.

##### The Randall Knife from Better Days -

My father had a Randall knife,  
My mother gave it to him.  
When he went off to WWII  
To save us all from ruin.

If you've ever held a Randall Knife,  
Then you know my father well,  
If a better blade was ever made,  
It was probably forged in Hell.

##### South Coast of Texas -

The south coast of Texas is a thin slice of life.  
It's salty and hard, it is stern as a knife.  
Where the wind is a blowin' up hurricanes for showin',  
The snakes how to swim and the trees how to lean.  
In the cars of my youth how I tore thru those sand dunes.

(continued on p. 3)

**Welcome to these new ACHS members!**

Judith Durkin  
Gail McClanahan

## Growing up in Aransas County

# MEMORIES OF WORLD WAR II

by  
John Paul Reese

*[Editor's note: Jo Ann Morgan collected this account from John Paul Reese of Brownsville who grew up in Rockport during World War II. Our thanks to Jo Ann and to Timothy Mullin for editorial work.]*

World War II caused many changes in people's lives in Rockport-Fulton area. A lot of men in the area joined the armed forces and were sent where they were needed all over much of the world.

Changes occurred here at home as well; The Rice Shipyard began building ships of wood that were used to patrol the coastlines of the U.S. Local citizens used blackout curtains to keep any boats from seeing where we were, and people volunteered to keep watch from the cupola on the old courthouse as spotters for enemy planes. Children were asked to collect any metal trash that could be recycled for the war effort.

The Navy maintained an installation in Corpus Christi that trained airmen in using PPI (Plan Position Indicator radar scope) and PBY Catalina seaplanes to patrol and locate enemy shipping. They would report on their location and courses so our military could be informed and prepared. Part of this training was to prepare them to locate enemy submarines. As a part of the training, a detachment of sailors was stationed in Rockport.

Weather permitting, the sailors spent much of their days towing a target which resembled a submarine periscope coming out of the water. The airplanes would locate the target and drop small smoke bombs to guide other planes or ships to the destination. Then other aircraft would drop larger bombs to explode in the water to destroy the "sub."

### Remembering Guy Clark *(continued from p. 2)*

Cut up my tires on them oyster shell roads.  
But nothin' is forever  
Say the old men in the shipyards.  
Turnin' trees into shrimp boats.  
Hell I guess they ought to know

There's snowbirds in search of that sunshine and nightlife.  
And fond of greasin' palms down the beach as they're goin',  
This livin' on the edge of the waters of the world.  
Demands the dignity of whooping cranes  
And the likes of Gilbert Roland.

#### *Chorus*

The shrimpers and their ladies are out in the beer joints,  
Drinkin' em down for they sail with the dawn.  
They're bound for the Mexican Bay of Campeche  
And the deck hands are singin', "Adios, Jole Blon."

You will not want to miss the program on Guy Clark on Thursday, October 27, at Paws and Taws!



Johnny McBride (left) holds a smoke bomb and John Paul Reese stands beside a 100 -pound bomb case. The girl is unknown. The picture may have been taken on the side of the Reese home in Rockport about 1943. Photo courtesy John Paul Reese.

This training occurred on a regular basis for several years and provided much interest for the people in Rockport and Fulton. Many of the smoke bombs, which would float, drifted ashore and were collected. The larger bombs, being made of metal, sank. Sometimes, fishermen snagged the bombs in their nets and brought them ashore. The Navy detachment encouraged the people to bring them in as a safety measure but not all were returned.

We still have two of the "bombs" that were found on the shore, one of wood and the other metal. As the picture shows, both kinds were found.

### HISTORIC SURVEY PROJECT CONTINUES

In a cooperative project among the Aransas County Historical Commission (ACHC), the Friends of the History Center (FHC), and ACHS, work on a historic survey for the Live Oaks Heights neighborhood and the downtown heritage district continues.

In 2009 & 2010 The Visionaries in Preservation sub-committee trained participants to complete data sheets and photographs for central Rockport. Data was recorded and stored in notebooks. Now the data is being entered into a digital data base provided by the Texas Historical Commission. Funding for this project came from ACHS from a previous Historic Homes Tour and the ACHC has budgeted additional funding for 2016. Following THC guidelines, a paid intern, Angalee Marano, and volunteers will complete the data sheets and correlate the photographs. Oversight for project by Pam Stranahan, ACHC and FHC and Tim Mullins, ACHS.

—Pam Stranahan

## CALENDAR PREMIERE ATTRACTS LARGE CROWD

Thanks to all who came and enjoyed our Calendar Premiere on September 22nd. The Fulton Mansion Education and History Center was a perfect setting, and we are grateful to Site director Marsha Hendrix and her staff for their gracious hospitality.

Thanks also to the hard-working 2017 Calendar Committee, to our members who donated the delicious refreshments, and those who helped with set up and clean up. And, a special thanks to all who bought calendars and helped kick off our 2016 fundraiser! It was a great party! Veronika Camehl took great photographs that will remind us of the fun for a long time.

The calendar would not have been possible without our sponsors: Albin Exterminating, Friends of the Fulton Mansion, Fulton Mansion State Historic Site, JCW Photo Restoration, Morgan Stanley, Rockport Center for the Arts, Sandy Swanson & Jackie Shaw, and the memorial donors.

I also want to thank those of you who entered the 2016 contest and made the calendar possible. If you were at the Premiere, you saw the slide show of wonderful photos. Thanks very much to the contest judges, James Fox and Veronika Camehl, who took on the almost impossible job of choosing winners from so many excellent photographs.

There will be a change in the 2017 ACHS Calendar Contest (for the 2018 Calendar). For the last several years, we began accepting photos on April 30 and stopped June 30. In 2017 we will begin accepting photographs at our Annual Meeting in February (date to be announced). The contest will end at 4 PM on Wednesday, May 31, 2017. This will allow the judges to do their hard job without 4<sup>th</sup> of July conflicts, and make it easier to have the calendars back from the printer before the Premiere in mid-September. It's not too early to start looking for the photographs to enter!

I must apologize for the following two omissions, which were inadvertent: January photograph—Ozzie Williams was omitted from the list of names shown in the “1950 Basketball Champs” photograph.

May photograph—there was no credit to Mary Harrist on the photograph of “Sam Prophet and His Confectionary.”



These guys could tell some tales about Aransas County. They were all on hand for the Calendar Premiere at the Fulton Mansion Visitor Center, and include (L to R) David Herring, Steve Russell, Brian Barnard, Grady Kane, Ernest Camehl, and James Fox. Photo by Veronika Camehl.

Also, I would like to thank Joe Herring for pointing out an error in the text on the inside front cover. When the building that was Hamblin’s Rockport Electric Co.—as shown to the left of the Surf in the cover photograph—was demolished in 1995, the sawfish mural was exposed, not when the theater was demolished. Thanks Joe!

“Aransas County History in Photographs: A Calendar for 2017” makes a wonderful gift. Calendars can be purchased any Wednesday between 2 and 4 PM at the ACHS Lab (619 N. Live Oak, Room 15), or at several local outlets, including The Chamber of Commerce, the Rockport Center for the Arts, New Beginnings, Estelle Stair Gallery, and the Center for Aransas County History. They will also be on sale at the ACHS Guy Clark program at Paws and Taws on October 27 for only \$10 each (includes Texas sales tax).

### HISTORICAL COMMISSION TO DEDICATE MARKER

Dedication of the Historical Marker at the **Casterline Fish Company**, located at 110 N. Casterline Drive, at the Fulton Harbor in Fulton, will be on Saturday, October 22, at 10 AM. Light refreshments will follow the brief program.

### HISTORY CENTER PLANS CHRISTMAS HOMES TOUR

The R-F Tour of Historic Homes is set for December 3-4 from 1 to 5 each day and will include seven houses, including the 1868 R. H. Wood Home recently restored by Jeff and Anne Hunt. Tickets are \$15 each or \$25 for two persons and may be purchased online at [www.AransasHistoryCenter.org](http://www.AransasHistoryCenter.org), the Chamber, or at the History Center.

### FULTON MANSION FEATURES FUNERAL EXHIBIT

Just in time for Halloween, the Fulton Mansion is following the days surrounding George Fulton’s death on October 30, 1893, in an after-dark, guided tour of the Mansion’s poignant funeral exhibit that recreates the death and mourning customs common in the nineteenth-century home. Tickets must be purchased in advance at the Education and History Center for tours on October 14 and 15 and October 28 and 30.

On Thursday October, 20, the Mansion’s Brown Bag Lunch is a program entitled, *Into the Silent Land: Death in the Victorian Age*.



New ACHS Trustee Joan Trulelove (left) joins Vickie and Gary Merchant in admiring the historical photos in the 2017 Caendar.

Photo by Veronika Camehl.