

The Blue Rock Banner

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Issue 7

Jaeger-Witte Heritage Cemetery Association

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. President's Report
2. Announcements
3. Projects and Announcements
4. Family Stories

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President's report

Greetings Everyone,

Another year has passed and below is a brief update regarding achievements and ongoing projects as well as a few announcements.

I mentioned in last year's letter that Sanford and Mannie Schmid Charitable Trust funded the construction of an interior fence. I am happy to announce that the fence has been completed and all that is left to do is paint a small portion in one corner. The interior fence matches the exterior fence and gives a very uniform look to the property. Also, the cattleguard was given a much needed fresh coat of paint. Another item mentioned last year was our application for a state historical marker. The Texas Historical Commission had halted accepting new applications last year but we are pleased to announce that they have begun taking applications again and ours will be submitted in 2022. On a more somber note, I am saddened to announce that Henry & Elsie's daughter, Joyce, passed away on May 18th at the age of 94. For those of you who don't know, Joyce was grandpa's (Henry Jaeger's) niece.

In honor Grandparents Day, George is setting up a special ZOOM meeting planned for August 29, 2021, two weeks prior to the special day that often is forgotten. The purpose of this meeting is to reminisce about Granny & Grandpa. George is composing their biographies and would like for them to be meaningful with input from the grandchildren. A link will be sent out privately for the meeting and the biographies will be posted on the JWHCA website.

It's baaaaack...THE JAEGER REUNION!! Save the date for July 24, 2021, at Fireman's Hall in Brenham, Texas.

As always thank you all for your continued support of the Jaeger Witte Heritage Cemetery Association. Have a great COVID FREE Summer!!!

Sincerely,
Jeff

In memory of Joyce “Jinx” Schkade

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith.
2 Timothy 4:7*

Joyce “Jinx” Schkade, daughter of Henry and Elsie Teufel, passed away on May 18, 2021. She was 94. Jinx always considered her Christian parents and brother one of God’s special blessings. Jinx attended Lutheran School, 1-7, at Trinity Lutheran in Port Arthur, was baptized in 1926, confirmed in 1939 and married there in 1948 to Otto Schkade. Trinity’s original hymn board hangs in her home, with the hand carved hymn numbers used to commemorate those dates. Jinx had two sons, Michael and Stephen, one daughter, Christine, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and a wealth of friends who loved her very much.



In 1963, Jinx and Scotty moved to Houston and from 1973-1988 she was employed at the University of Houston, Central Campus, retiring as Office Manager of the Foundations of Education/Educational Psychology Department, retiring one year preceding the death of her husband. She was a member of Hope Lutheran Church in Friendswood, Texas for over 45 years and served the congregation as a member of the Board of Church Functions, Vacation Bible School Chairman, and two Capital Growth Committees. She was a member of Ladies Guild, Women’s Small Group, Thursday Morning Bible Class, Morning Braille Printers, Knotty Ladies, Then & Now Resale Shop, and as a Stephen Minister for 25 years. She served the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League on the Texas District Convention Committee (1988), the District’s Mission Projects Committee (1996-1998), and as a District ESP Workshop Leader (1992-1993). She served the Gulf Coast Zone as Vice President, Secretary and, with a two day Zone Retreat (1995). Jinx was honored as Lutheran Woman of the Year by the Concordia College, Austin (now University) in 1994. At Hope Lutheran LWML, Jinx held office as President, Vice President, Secretary, Christian Growth Chairman and Publicity Chairman (1985-2017). A short article honoring her mother-in-law, Henrietta Schkade, was published in the Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly in 1994 and a feature article honoring her mother, Elsie Teufel, in 1995. In 2006, Jinx wrote a collection of devotions, “And all the Ripples.” Her love of writing was, in her words, “just taking the Lord’s dictation,” and this long love of writing and sense of humor she considered gifts from God. In 2009, LWML published selections of this collection titled “A Devotional Journey.” (Jinx’s nickname was playfully given on Leap Day, February 29, 1948 by Otto Schkade on their first date. They married four months later, on June 30, 1948.)

Celebrations and Announcements

Congratulations to Megan Ray (daughter of Denise and John Ray) and Danny Wallace, who will be getting married this fall. David and Chris Zemanek’s daughter Victoria, who graduated from Katy High School in 2020, is doing well in college and is enjoying her first job at Watercrest Senior Living in Katy. Her younger sister Nina will be starting middle school. Dawn and Mike Jaeger’s daughter Olivia is also entering middle school where she will be playing the saxophone in the marching band. Jennifer Tesone’s daughter Julia, who made the school’s cheer team, will also be starting middle school. Her sister Bethany is going into the 4th grade and got 2nd place on her swim team. Jason and Becky Jaeger and their daughters hope to move to San Antonio this year and we wish them a safe move. Jeff and Licia’s daughter Scarlett got to sing in a community theater production of *Fidler on the Roof* and their daughter Savanna is a flier on her cheer team. Their son Cody is doing well at his internship at Wire Road Studio. Steven and Jenne Jaeger’s daughter Abby is excelling with her swim and cheer teams and Steven’s son Tommy has a new job as an EMT at Seton Medical Center. Finally, Aunt Katza will be turning 116 this August and thanks her friends, family, and coffee for keeping her going.

Historical Marker

In 2019 the Jaeger Witte Cemetery was recorded as a Historic Texas Cemetery. This is the first step towards applying for a historical marker. The Texas Historical Commission temporarily paused the historical marker program, so we will be submitting our application in 2022. The review and approval process takes approximately one year. We are presently raising the anticipated \$1,875 to cover the cost of the marker.

Jaeger Directory and Video

A family directory will be available to members of the Jaeger family at the 2021 reunion. If you are unable to attend and would like a copy, please contact any of our board members.

A wonderful slideshow was put together in 2020 due to the family reunion having been cancelled. If you have not seen it yet, please text or call George Zemanek at (281) 827-5350 to request the link.

Interior Fence Painting

The interior chain link fence was replaced last year with a fence that is similar in style to the exterior fence. The fence has been sanded and painted with the exception of a small section, which will be completed this summer. The next step is to reattach the archway. A big THANK YOU goes out to the Sanford and Mannie Schmid Charitable Trust for underwriting the cost of the project

How You Can Help!

The family meets throughout the year for routine maintenance. We generally begin at 8:00am and finish by noon. Please contact Kay Kulow at kaylynnkulow.ka@gmail.com or (979) 277-8807 if you would like to participate. We also rely on financial assistance from family and friends. Your tax deductible donations are used to cover the cost of maintenance and to fund special projects such as restoration and repair efforts. Donations can be given to any board member or mailed directly to:

JWHCA
3802 Costa Rica Rd
Houston, TX 77092

Please make checks payable to JWHCA.

Thank you for your ongoing support!



Family Stories: Valentine's Day

By George Zemanek

(This article first appeared on our website on 2/14/2021)

On this Valentine's Day, I'd like to talk about the love my grandparents shared for each other. Popo and Granny loved one another very much. They worked through difficult times early on, including frequent moves and financial insecurity, and eventually became one of those sweet older couples that so many younger couples hope to be. I remember when Granny passed away in 1995, Popo was so heartbroken that for years he would sit next to her grave and cry. That's how deep their love was.

The following is a letter written from Popo to Granny while he was a Merchant Marine. As you read this, imagine how hard it must have been for him to be so far away from his wife and children. Imagine how hard it must have been for a farm boy to be at sea for weeks at a time.

January 30, 1945

Dearest Lillie and the Kiddies,

Well, we arrived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania today. Only 50 some-odd miles away from New York city. We docked at 5:00pm.

It is very cold up here, everything is covered with ice and snow. We came into sleet and ice when we were on the Atlantic Ocean, then entered into the Delaware River and came up the river into the city here. Delores and Bernhardt can show you in their Geography book where that river is and then you can see how far I am from home, practically 2,300 miles apart.

We ran into some rough water, winds were strong, and the waves were very huge—at times, the water waves were over the top of the ship. Then you can imagine how we were sailing up and down, up and down like a bird sitting on a weak limb of a tree on a windy day. There were a number who became seasick and we have had one man who has been sick since we got into the Atlantic below the state of Florida. They plan to take him to the doctor tomorrow.

How are you Sweetheart and all my little kiddies? I hope you all are getting along fine yet I am thinking of you all hours of the day and wondering how you all are.

Sugar, I don't know when we are leaving from here but there is only one thing that I do wish and that is we were on our way back to Port Arthur, where I could be with the ones I love most and be in your arms every night. Well, I hope that the war will be over soon so that we don't have to live in a strain all the time.

It certainly does feel funny to go out on the ocean and see no signs of land for 10 days. There is water every place you look. Never will I forget the last look of the Southern shores when we went out into the deep water and see the land go further and further away then at last it's disappeared, and water is the only view. Then on this side, when they told me we are in the Delaware River and I had a chance to go on deck, the first thing that I saw was a church in a small town.

Tonight, many of the crew men are going ashore to have a good time or drink. I don't think that I am going to get off the boat at all. It is too cold.

I am planning on sending you a telegram tomorrow although I don't know what kind of connection I can get to go to the Western Union station. I only wish I could hear from you but there is no possible chance.

I am going to close for tonight. May write a few lines tomorrow before sending this letter off so until tomorrow, "night night."

Jan 31st

Well Sweetheart, you can be glad to be in good old Port Arthur and not here. It is 20 degrees below zero up on deck of the ship and ice everywhere.

Delores, I congratulate you for your birthday and wish I could give you a kiss for every year of your age.

*I have to close for this morning but will try to write again. Oh yes Sugar, call Embie about Monday or Tuesday and she will know from B where we will go from here. He said for you to keep in touch with Embie and she will tell you exactly where or about when we will arrive.
Your loving Daddy.*

PS: Many sweet kisses to you all and a great big one extra for each of you.

Your own Daddy

A few notes:

Emma Rose (identified here as Embie) was Alvine Jaeger's sister. She was married to J.B. Rose (identified here as B), who was the ship's captain. Merchant Marines serve on vessels that transport cargo and passengers during peacetime. During World War II, they became an auxiliary to the United States Navy and delivered military personnel and materials for the military. Although they were a civilian group, many mariners were killed during the war when their ships were torpedoed by German U-Boats. Mariners died at a rate of 1 in 26, which was the highest rate of casualties of any service. Popo was a Merchant Marine from 1943-1945. My mother said that when he was away, Granny would pray every night for him to return safely.

