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Old School Museum: The Old School Museum is located next to Parker Hall at 111 West Houston St. in Dayton and is open Saturdays from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

Dayton Historical Society: The Society meets in Parker Hall at 6 P.M. the last Monday of each month for a historical program presented by guest speakers. The program is preceded by a Society business meeting and followed by refreshments.

Dayton History News

Lewis, Daniel Sr. & The Daytonite

A 1910 edition of the Houston Post dated October 15th included a column on page 6 entitled “*Tampering With Trifles*” written by Judd Mortimer Lewis (1867-1945) aka “Uncle Judd” that makes mention of Dayton’s first newspaper called the Daytonite, its current owner (Marion Price Daniel Sr.) and Daniel’s family in a humorous context.

Lewis published the *Trifles* column in the Houston Post for 45 years. He was selected by the Texas legislature in February 1932 to be the first poet laureate of Texas.

The “Marjorie” mentioned in the quoted article on the right refers to Lewis’ eldest daughter Marjorie.

THE MAIL BOX

Some time ago I was writing a letter to M. P. Daniel of the firm of Le Sueur & Daniel, editors and proprietors of the Daytonite and I said “Marjorie, what shall I tell him for you?”

Marjorie said: ‘Tell him we’ve got a little calf, and ask him what he’s got.’

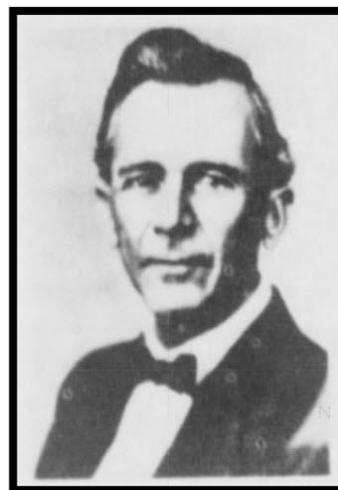
Now the mail brings the Daytonite carrying the following reply (from M. P. Daniel Sr.):

‘Since Marjorie was the first to make inquiry, Judd, you may tell her that it’s an eleven-pound boy, was three days old this morning at 5 o’clock and his mother calls him M. P., Jr.’

‘Having learned the type positions in the cases yesterday, he will henceforth control the management of the Daytonite.’

Ever since reading it, we have been trying to figure out the meaning of M. P.; we don’t know whether we have succeeded or not. It might mean: Merciful Providence, Mother’s Pet, Medical Practitioner, Muddy Pants, Mere Printer, More People, Mighty Particular, Modest Person, Morning Paper, More Perambulators, Metrically Perfect, Mother’s Punishment.

Anyhow I am glad of it, and I don’t say that to be mean, either.



Marion Price Daniel Sr.

Memoirs of Pomella Eaton (1904-2004)

In the last issue of the Dayton History News, a speech given by Pomella Moran-Eaton at a First Baptist Church seniors Joy Group gathering was quoted. This is the rest of her speech: Banks: Dayton State Bank was located on the corner of Church and Cook St. – which became Dr. McDonald's office.

The Dayton Mercantile Bank was located on the corner of Main and Bryan streets which later became Richardson's Grocery. Some of you may remember it as Leo Moreau's barber shop.

Businesses: The feed store on Main St. was where the present Voygts Variety Store is located.

The Hatchery shipped baby chicks to points in Texas. The Dewese Grocery Store on corner of N. Main at Clayton sold out to Sonnier.

The Masonic Hall was a two-story building on present site; Lawrence's Hardware was on the bottom floor.

➔ Current location of Dayton City Manager's office and Dayton City Council Chambers.

Doctors: Dr. Spears, M.D. and Dr. Barton's dentist office was upstairs above the Dayton Mercantile Company. Dr. Richter's office was there when he first came to Dayton. The stairs were outside on the north side.

Dr. Payne's office was either at his home or near the commissary but was later moved to Main St.

Dr. Tadlock – I don't know where his first office was located, but when

Dayton State Bank built its new building on the corner of Cook and Main St., his office was part of the building on the eastside.

City Services: The Dayton Post Office was a small wooden building on Depot St. between L. Friedman's and Hunnicuts.

The Dayton Jail was a very small 2 cell cement structure about midway between Dr. Tadlocks office and the Masonic Hall – about halfway between Highway 90 and Cook St.

Drug Stores: Bozeman's Pharmacy was on Depot St. near the Post Office.

Homes: Dr. Spear's home was where the Burger King is now. Bill Griffith's family home was where Goodman's Jewelry Store is now.

Wilford Moreau's mother's home was the DeWesses home and across from it was the Alford home which was demolished some time ago.

The blue two-story house on Beauty Street was once where Trinity Church is – and was Mrs. Dobbs home (i.e., Mrs. Fouts mother).

The old house Mr. Savage is refinishing was painted yellow and was the Griffith home.

There were two other houses like the blue one (insurance agency) on 1960.

One burned and the other was demolished as Esther Friedman bought the property. L. Friedman's home was across the railroad on corner of Clayton & Winfree – it burned.

The End

Memoirs of John Hlavaty (1893-1980)

A committee composed of 6 former administrators and students published the History of Dayton ISD in 1995. All but one of them (Jack Unkel) has since passed away. A story included was insights of former Dayton student John Hlavaty who shared the following:

"The Martin and Rosenia Dancak Hlavaty family moved to Liberty County from Burleson County about 1897. They had come to America from Moravia and settled in Burleson County in 1885 or 1890. They traveled by boat from New York to Galveston. Martin Hlavaty spoke English, Moravian and some Polish languages. Their four daughters Rosenia (Mrs. Joe Vrana), Annie (Mrs. John Danek), Frances (Mrs. Joe Grossman), and Mary Hlavaty were born in Moravia. Their son, John Martin, was born March 28, 1893 in Merle, Texas in Burleson County.

They moved to Liberty County by train and also made several trips by wagon. The family settled on Grossman land at Sheeks, eight miles southwest of Dayton near the Southern Pacific Railroad. Sheeks was a train stop with a rice warehouse and a depot. There were about ten families living in the Esperson Dome area. Employment was available at two sawmills, the railroad and some local farmers. There were no cars and no roads, just wagon trails through the woods and some of the open land. There was no drainage.

The August 6, 1900 hurricane destroyed homes and crops. Many families moved immediately, leaving behind some of their belongings such as furniture, harnesses and plows.

Martin Hlavaty was the first person to bale hay in the Sheeks community. He bought a hay baler from the Haymans for \$2 soon after he arrived in Liberty County.

Highway 90 was the first dirt road that was built by the county. That was about 1910. There was no bridge across Cedar Bayou until then. By traveling on the north side of the Southern Pacific Railroad to the Trinity River, crossing the railroad to the south, boarding the ferry and crossing the Trinity, one could reach Liberty.

Barbers Hill, next Eastgate, then Wolf Island Roads were built in that order. Mr. Hlavaty gave no date. The Cox Road was built about 1915. The Commissioner asked each man to contribute three days of work on the roads or one day for a man with his team of mules or horses.

The Goose Creek Railroad was built between 1912 and 1915. There was a rice warehouse on this railroad, but its primary purpose was for a refinery in Goose Creek.

The Dayton Canal was built by the Moore's Bluff Rice Company about 1940. The Company bought about 1700 acres of land and furnished land and water. The canals brought in rice farmers.

To Be Continued