



Send letters by first-class mail to Managing Editor, *Texas Bar Journal*, P.O. Box 12487, Austin, TX 78711-2487; by overnight mail to Managing Editor, *Texas Bar Journal*, 1414 Colorado, Suite 312, Austin, TX 78701-1627; by fax to (512) 427-4107; or by email to [tbj@texasbar.com](mailto:tbj@texasbar.com).

## More on Preservation

The March 2012 *Texas Bar Journal* is by far the best I've ever read. The cause of this high praise is the article "A History of Texas in 21 State Court Records" (p. 190) and the article on the Task Force (p. 188). I especially liked the one on the rise and fall of the Balinese Room (p. 218). I was around 8 years old or so and remember my parents going over there a couple of times to see the entertainers and enjoy the other things that were available there.

Reading this also caused me to figure how many *Bar Journals* I've read over the years. I graduated from the University of Houston Law School in 1967 and joined the Bar in December of that year. Given 11 issues a year, I've read maybe 487 of them to date. And yes, I did read them, the good and the bad.

How about an occasional history article from the old cases around the state? It's great stuff. Thanks for your work.

**Thomas E. Reynolds**  
*Plano*

Thank you for your informative and interesting March issue devoted to the preservation of Texas' legal history. Members of the Texas Supreme Court-appointed Texas Court Records Preservation Task Force are to be commended for their efforts to preserve and protect the state's collection of historic court documents. To learn that many of our court records, some dating to the earliest days of independence, sit neglected in boxes and drawers, some fragments too fragile to repair, is truly a travesty. These records hold the real stories of real places and people from our collective past that helped shape the Texas we know and love today.

Stories of famed cattlemen like Charles Goodnight fighting to fence his land, the trial record of gunfighter John Wesley Hardin, a hand-written legal filing by Sam Houston — these and other stories are all preserved in our legal records, but for how long if we do not take proper care of them?

As we restore our magnificent collection of historic courthouses through the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, we must also be mindful of the documents and court records housed within. The THC supports this effort both on principle and financially. Courthouses that provide proper archival storage score higher than those that do not on grant applications for a courthouse restoration.

Don't let our history literally fade away. Kudos to the Texas Court Records Preservation Task Force and the Texas Bar for recognizing and taking steps to address this pressing problem before it is too late. I look forward to reading the Task Force's recommendations in a future enlightening issue of the *Texas Bar Journal*.

**Sheri Shelby Krause**  
*Chair, Texas Historical Commission*  
*Austin*

We enjoyed the article regarding *Burrus Mill v. Jim Rob Wills* (March, p. 215). We feel that we can bring some additional interesting information to supplement the article.

Our grandfather, Charles H. Newman, was an executive with Burrus Mill during the time of this litigation. He either was or later became chair of the board. He hired Pappy O'Daniel as a salesman. In the family lore, our grandfather did not think much of Pappy O'Daniel and did not think much of his idea to bring Bob Wills in to market the "Light Crust" brand that Burrus Mill used. However, Newman allowed the marketing to proceed and the result was Bob Wills and the Light Crust Doughboys. It was no doubt our grandfather who directed Cantey, Hanger & McMayhew to file suit as the firm was Burrus Mill's counsel as to most, if not all, mat-

ters, we believe. It is clear that O'Daniel had no authority to institute litigation.

We do not know how long O'Daniel worked for Burrus Mill, but we do know that our grandfather terminated his employment and let him pursue the rest of his notable career on his own. Thank you for the opportunity to provide some additional information regarding this enjoyable article.

**Charles H. Newman**  
**Frank M. Newman, Jr.**  
*Fort Worth*

Kudos to the *Texas Bar Journal* for the many fine articles on preserving Texas' legal history and to the Supreme Court Task Force that has worked so hard to locate, maintain, and educate the public about these hidden historical gems. There is a wealth of information awaiting those who wish to read more about some of these overlooked episodes in Texas and U.S. legal history. For example, the chapter on the Lyndon B. Johnson/Coke Stevenson election litigation (March, p. 216) is the subject of a fascinating, exhaustively researched article by Dallas attorney Josiah Daniel. It's titled "LBJ v. Coke Stevenson: Lawyering for Control of the Disputed Texas Democratic Party Senatorial Primary Election of 1948," and appears in *The Review of Litigation* (Vol. 31, No. 1).

**John G. Browning**  
*Rockwall*

## Mystery Solved?

A reader inquired about the "conic helix (tornado) symbol" (Letters, May, p. 360) on some of the old legal documents shown in the March issue. You asked if anyone knew what it was called. I think it is just a stylized signature underline for emphasis. One handwriting analysis website calls it a pedestal: "Any underline that looks like a pedestal upon which the name is placed is just that. They believe that is where they belong." John Hancock did it better.

**Ralph H. Brock**  
*Lubbock*