Betty Nosler Murray

Nomination information by Norman Rozeff for the 2010 Rotary Club of Harlingen Walk of Fame

1. Simply put, Harlingen's history in large measure would not have been preserved were it not for the efforts of this woman. For reasons known only to her she has devoted her time and efforts over many, many years to protecting and documenting the city's and the region's history.

In brief her biography reads as follows:

1919 In this year, two year old Betty Nosler came to San Benito from Indiana with her parents James Bertram and Marie Williams Nosler. He would build and operate the San Benito Electric Gin, the first of its kind in the Valley and which operated until the mid-30s. In 1937 Betty would be graduated from UT-Austin with a degree in education.

On 12/27/38 she marries Menton Murray, a young lawyer who has an office in Mercedes but lives in Harlingen. They had two children, Menton Murray, Jr., a District judge for many years, and Betty Marie Murray Smith, now in Tennessee. The senior Murray served in WWII, as a city judge, and in the state legislature from 1947 to 1975.

The private F Street Hospital is made obsolete once the new Valley Baptist Hospital up the street comes into full use in 1925.

In 1973 land owner Louis Levine donates the "little hospital" structure and, through the efforts of Betty Murray, the RGV Museum board agrees to accept it at the museum site. She would later be instrumental in saving the historic Ross/Bobo House that served as the home of an early Harlingen mayor and then for many years as a popular nursery day care center.

She renewed interest in the preservation of the City Cemetery by obtaining a Texas Historical Commission marker for it. As a spokesperson she educated Winter Texans about the area's history and its significance. She was frequently the featured speaker at numerous club meetings.

As an inveterate compiler of current events, Mrs. Murray established numerous subject collections that would later comprise the foundation for files at the museum and the vertical files of the Archive Room of the Harlingen Public Library.

2.&3. Mrs. Murray was the lead local dignitary in promoting the Texas Sesquicentennial in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. She was one of the founders of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Historical Association and help to organize the Rio Grande Valley Museum, now known as the Harlingen Arts & Heritage Museum. For her many efforts she was asked to serve on the state's Texas Historical Commission. She also served on the Cameron County Historical Commission. Being a modest individual, Mrs. Murray has eschewed the pursuit of honors and awards. She was however honored with a testimonial at age 92 for her many contributions to the Rio Grande State Center. Harlingenites, as one, rose to applaud her many years of service to the community. She has also been a strong supporter of St. Anthony Church since its organization.

4. Were it not for the written and physical efforts of this woman much of the city's history would have been lost due to neglect and sheer ignorance. Even at her advanced age she
has participated in and offered input to many history-related projects and endeavors. She is one remarkable lady.