

In the Shadow of Sweatt v. Painter: The Desegregation of Muny

Historical Context: Muny, Jim Crow, and Sweatt v. Painter

In 1924 Lions Club members established an organization known as the Austin Municipal Golf and Amusement Association with the intent to establish the first municipal¹ golf course and clubhouse in Austin. A lease for a portion of the Brackenridge Tract in West Austin owned by the University of Texas was executed on May 31, 1924 between the Board of Regents and the Association. By the fall of 1924 the heavily wooded tract had been converted into an attractive nine-hole golf course. An additional nine holes was subsequently added before the clubhouse for the course was opened on January 16, 1930.² Though there have been many renovations to the course over the years, this marked the completion of the Lions Municipal Golf Course (“Muny”) in the basic form in which it exists today.

On December 17, 1936, the Association’s lease with UT was transferred to the City of Austin. The Association also deeded to the City a brick veneer clubhouse along with the furniture and fixtures including a piano, soda water equipment, beer dispenser (and merchandise), two room dwelling for the groundkeeper, lawn and fairway mowers, a mule shed, and two mules.³ The Association was dissolved on April 21, 1938 and since that time the golf course has been known by several names but often summarized with the nickname “Lions’ Muny”⁴ or, more succinctly: “Muny.”

Pursuant to the “almost uniform practice” throughout the South with public recreational facilities during the Jim Crow era,⁵ Muny was segregated from its inception. However, a photograph in a private collection clearly shows African American laborers working on clearing a fairway when the golf course was being built.⁶ It is not surprising that African American laborers helped build Muny since the golf course was located less than a mile from Clarksville, a historically black community that was built on plantation land given by Governor Elisha M. Pease to his emancipated slaves with the hope that they would remain near his mansion for further service.⁷ In the mid to late 1940s and early 1950s before it was integrated, General Marshall, now a retired African American educator but then a teenager, and Dr. William Bacon, a retired African American orthopedist living in Nashville who grew up with General Marshall, used to walk from their homes in Clarksville to caddie at Muny.⁸

Despite African Americans fighting and dying in Europe and the Pacific in World War II, the start of post-war period in America was still governed by Jim Crow and the doctrine of separate but equal blessed by the Supreme Court in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, 163 U.S. 537 (1896).⁹ In Austin, African Americans were relegated to playing golf in places like Rosewood Playground where there were complaints of golf balls hitting children as well as breaking windows and windshields.¹⁰

However, legal theories developed by Thurgood Marshall working with the NAACP in cases such as *Sweatt v. Painter*, 339 U.S. 629 (1950) helped to substantially erode the doctrine of separate but equal in the context of post graduate schools and higher education.¹¹ The *Sweatt* decision, which arose out of the University of Texas Law

School in Austin, ruled that separate law school facilities provided to Heman Sweatt at the University did not provide him an educational opportunity equal to that of white students at the Law School. Although not overruling *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the decision held Sweatt must be admitted to the University of Texas Law School.¹² Because the Sweatt case arose out of Austin it received extensive publicity in the local press when it was decided.¹³ Moreover, developments at the University in the aftermath of the Sweatt and McLaurin cases were also extensively reported.¹⁴

Narrative Overview: Dr. Givens, Emma Long and Mayor Glass, Two Black Youths and a “Little Clubhouse for the Blacks”

It is in the shadow of the Sweatt case that the early events leading up to the desegregation of Muni must be viewed. Initially, under pressure from African American leaders such as Dr. Everett Givens and Henry Pryor, Mayor Taylor Glass (1949-1951) anticipated building a separate nine-hole golf course for African Americans in East Austin.¹⁵ However, Councilmember Emma Long thought it was not cost effective to build a separate course for African American golfers when the city had other pressing demands on its budget. Instead she suggested in council session on April 5, 1951, that African American golfers play on the courses the city already had.¹⁶ Although her public reasoning was in economic terms, the implicit subtext was clear: If Heman Sweatt can go to law school with white students, why can't blacks play on the same golf course as whites?

It appears that about the same time that Emma Long was making her suggestions in council session and shortly before the end of Mayor Glass's term in late April of 1951,¹⁷

an incident occurred that resulted in Muny's desegregation. This incident involved two black youths reportedly playing golf at Muny. The Mayor, after rushing to City Hall, consulted with two other council members, Mayor Pro Tem Bill Drake and Will Johnson. These council members then determined to let the two black youths continue their play at Muny.¹⁸ The course was integrated at that time and, according to interviews with former African American caddies, blacks could play freely thereafter at Muny.¹⁹ In fact, shortly after it was integrated, Joe Louis, the former heavyweight champion (1937-49), came through Austin and played the course.²⁰

A reasonable conclusion to be drawn from this history is that, particularly in the context of *Sweatt v. Painter*, the white male council establishment followed Emma Long's reasoning and determined that it just wasn't economically pragmatic to construct a new golf course for the few African American golfers in the city. In short, the path of least resistance was to let blacks play at Muny.²¹

Despite the integration of the course, a separate lounge or club house meant to provide separate showers was constructed for black golfers at Muny around June of 1951. That structure no longer stands but council records, bids, and newspaper articles allow us to pin down the approximate date of its construction and thereby provide further evidence for the date of the desegregation of the course itself.²² The existence of “this little clubhouse 20 x 18, cement blocks, for the blacks” is also established by interviews with Emma Long and by City Council minutes.²³ A photograph of the little clubhouse is attached to this application.²⁴

The relatively quiet manner in which Muny was desegregated without publicized council action is not unusual according to an official at the Texas Historical Commission²⁵ and reflected the desire of Austin's public officials to avoid a backlash in the white community.²⁶ In addition, it is apparent that since the Mayor was close to the end of his term he would pay little political price for what was obviously a controversial decision.²⁷ However, it should be noted that the desegregation of public libraries (1951) and the fire department (1952) in Austin were also early and well before the Supreme Court decided *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954). This persistent pattern of desegregation of public facilities in the early 1950s illustrates a city in the South of the old confederacy with an unusually progressive attitude on issues of race. And the legal framework for this progressive attitude was *Sweatt v. Painter*.

Historical Significance: Muny was the First Public Golf Course in the Southern States of the Old Confederacy to Desegregate

The determination to desegregate Muny was made while other jurisdictions in the South were resisting integration and the dates of decisions in court cases in Miami, Houston, Beaumont, Atlanta and Nashville all show that Austin was earlier than these jurisdictions in desegregating its golf course and unusual in not fighting integration in court. No case illustrates this better than litigation which arose in Miami in the early 1950s in the aftermath of *Sweatt* and *McLaurin*.

In the *Rice v. Arnold* case finally decided in 1952, the Florida Supreme Court affirmed a lower court decision where a separate but equal rationale was applied to allot blacks to a golf course in Miami only one day a week.²⁸ The U.S. Supreme Court vacated and

remanded to the Florida Supreme Court for reconsideration in light of the Sweatt and McLaurin cases. On remand, the Florida Supreme Court affirmed its previous judgment by distinguishing golf courses from institutions of higher education and refusing to apply the Sweatt and McLaurin cases in the context of a public golf course. The Supreme Court did not disturb this result. Hence, both Florida's highest court and the United States Supreme Court were unwilling as a matter of law to integrate a public golf course in Florida at almost the same time that the Austin City Council integrated Muni voluntarily as a matter of policy shortly after the Sweatt case was decided.

A result similar to the Rice case (though not discussing the Sweatt case) was reached in a lower court decision arising out of Nashville at about the same time in 1952.²⁹

Change was to set in only after Brown was decided in 1954 as exemplified by cases arising from Houston, Beaumont, and Atlanta.

In *Beal v. Holcombe*, the Mayor of the City of Houston appealed to the Supreme Court in a case that allowed African American access to municipal golf facilities, although "preserving segregation."³⁰ The case was pending before the Supreme Court for almost two years from June 5, 1952, until certiorari was denied on May 24, 1954, little more than a week after the decision in *Brown*.³¹ Shortly after the denial of certiorari, the City of Houston integrated its three municipal golf courses because its city attorney believed that as "a practical matter" Houston's segregated facilities would not survive further judicial scrutiny.³²

More than a year later, the Tyrell Park municipal golf course in Beaumont was desegregated in September of 1955 pursuant to litigation brought in federal court earlier in the summer.³³

Atlanta continued the fight even longer until November 7, 1955, when the issue of integrating golf courses was finally put squarely to rest by the Supreme Court in *Holmes v. City of Atlanta*.³⁴

It is important to note that even after Supreme Court decisions in the *Brown* and *Holmes* cases, court decisions indicate active resistance to integration across the South by transferring or leasing public facilities to private golf clubs or by allowing play on public courses only if a member of a private association that excluded African Americans.³⁵ In addition, research obtained through an interview with Travis County Commissioners' Court Judge Sam Biscoe, who was a caddie in Tyler, Texas in the late 1950s and early 1960s, indicates that blacks were not allowed to play even at that late date in that region of the state.³⁶

Given this historical background of white resistance to desegregation of municipal recreational facilities throughout the 1950s and 1960s, two conclusions seem inescapable.

First, the desegregation of Munny is without question the first instance in the Southern states of the old confederacy when a municipal golf course was integrated.³⁷ This conclusion has been confirmed by Professor Marvin Dawkins, the leading academic authority on African American golf during the Jim Crow era who noted that "the evidence which has now been assembled substantiates the contention that Munny was the

first municipal golf course in the South to formally desegregate” thereby displacing other courses formerly thought to have held that distinction.³⁸

Second, the actions of the Austin City Council in early 1951 seem all the more remarkable given both the reluctance of the United States Supreme Court to apply the Sweatt and McLaurin cases to golf courses in the Rice case and the stiff resistance to the integration of municipal golf courses in other jurisdictions. In the shadow of Sweatt v. Painter Austin's public officials got it right: Given all the options, it was easier to just let black and white golfers play the game at Muny. And, though couched in economic terms, the City's decision represented a long stride toward racial equality in Austin and the South by providing from an early date a public recreational setting allowing friendly interaction of the races that to this day continues to endure and is woven into the fabric of the community.³⁹

DOCUMENTATION

¹ A private golf club, the Austin Country Club, had been founded in 1899.

² Austin American, January 16, 1930, “Clubhouse and Golf Course Result of Prolonged Effort,” (Document 1); Austin American, January 4, 1930, “Lion Golfers to Hold Meet Sunday,” (Document 2).

³ Ford, Alan W., Austin Lions Municipal Golf Course Historical Notes (Austin Downtown Lions Club June 2008).

⁴ Id. at 2.

⁵ McKay, Robert, “Segregation and Public Recreation,” 40 Virginia Law Review 697, 700 (1954); Kirsch, George B., “Municipal Golf and Civil Rights in the United States, 1910-1965,” 92 Journal of African American History 371 at 373-74, 379 (2007).

⁶ The photograph (Document 3) is in the private collection of Tinsley Penick, the son of the legendary golf instructor Harvey Penick. Tom Penick, Harvey's older brother, was the head pro at Muny from 1928-61 and may have either designed or had a role in designing the course. [Golf Texas: Lions Municipal Golf Course - Texas Golf Courses Dallas Fort Worth San Antonio Austin Golf Travel Golf Vacation Packages Golf Resorts](#)

⁷ [Handbook of Texas Online - CLARKSVILLE, TX](#)

⁸ General Marshall, Interview (Taped) with Robert Ozer and Ken Tiemann, November 22, 2008 (to be filed and transcribed at the Austin History Center); Dr. William Bacon, Telephone Interview with Robert Ozer, November 22, 2008. General Marshall noted he was paid 85 cents for eighteen holes or 50 cents for nine holes. He also had to pay 5 cents at the clubhouse to cover any medical costs if he was injured while caddying. He could carry two bags and get double the fee and frequently received tips.

⁹ *Law v. Mayor and City Council of Baltimore*, 78 F. Supp. 346 (District Ct. Maryland, 1948) was the leading post war case applying this well established doctrine to a golf course.

¹⁰ Austin City Council Minutes, September 7, 1950 (Document 4). Austin City Council Minutes are on file at the Austin History Center.

¹¹ See: Kluger, Richard, *Simple Justice* (Knopf, 1975) at 256-284; Patterson, James, *Brown v. Board of Education* (Oxford, 2001) at 16-19.

¹² See also: *McLaurin v. Oklahoma State Regents*, 339 U.S. 637 (1950) (admitting black student to graduate school on a "segregated basis" deprived him of equal protection).

¹³ Austin American, June 6, 1950, "Sweatt UT Plea Upheld," at 1 (Document 5).

¹⁴ Austin Statesman, June 7, 1950, "Two Negroes Enter UT," at 1 (Document 6); Austin American, June 7, 1950, "UT Approves 3 Negroes for Immediate Entrance," at 1 (Document 7); See also: Duren, Almetris Marsh (in association with Louise Iscoe), *Overcoming: A History of Black Integration at the University of Texas at Austin* (UT Press 1979).

¹⁵ Austin City Council Minutes, September 7, 1950 (Document 4) and January 25, 1951 (Document 8).

¹⁶ Austin City Council Minutes, April 5, 1951 (Document No. 9); see also: Emma Long, Interview with Joe O'Neal, June 10, 1974, at 11 (Document No. 10). Long Interview with Anthony Orum, June 3, 1981, at 7-8 (Document No. 11) and Long Interview with Anthony Orum, dated April 13, 1982 at page 72 (Document 12). Long transcribed interviews are on file at the Austin History Center. See also: Long Interview (Taped) with Ken Tiemann, Peter Barbour, General Marshall and Robert Ozer, July 17, 2008 (to be filed and transcribed at the Austin History Center).

¹⁷ Austin City Council Minutes, April 26, 1951 (Document No. 13; last City Council meeting of Mayor Glass); Austin City Council Minutes, May 3, 1951 (Document No. 14; first City Council Meeting of Mayor Drake).

¹⁸ Mayor Taylor Glass, Interview with Joe O'Neal, May 23, 1974, at pages 9-10 (Document No. 15; on file at Austin History Center). It is important to note that Emma Long's recollection in the interviews noted in fn. 15 supra was that the desegregation took place during the term of Mayor Tom Miller (1933-49 and 1955-61). This is so even though she dated the desegregation squarely in Mayor Glass's term in 1950 or 1951 in the June 3, 1981 interview with Anthony Orum. Orum, relying on his interview with Long, did not catch the mistake, referring in his book to the desegregation events taking place during Mayor Miller's term when in fact they occurred during Mayor Glass's term. Orum, Anthony, *Power, Money, and the People: The Making of Modern Austin* (Texas Monthly Press 1987) at 213.

¹⁹ Marshall Interview with Ozer and Tiemann, November 22, 2008. There is confusion about whether there were restrictions on tee times for blacks after the desegregation. According to an article appearing in the Austin American Statesman, Doc Curry, a local African American golfer (now deceased), was quoted as saying black golfers teed off between 6:30 and 7 in the morning. Austin American Statesman, February 24, 2000, "Remembering An Era When City Golf Facilities Weren't Open To All." However, General Marshall has no personal recollection of any restrictions on time and indicated in his interview that if there were any they didn't last long and that they possibly were restrictions on tee times only, not access to the course. His recollection was that African Americans had access to the course every day without restriction. Marshall e-mail to Tiemann, August 24, 2008 (Document No. 16); See also: Austin American Statesman, October 26, 2008, "Muny's Past Might Yield New Future, Backers Say," at A1. This is corroborated by Dr. William Bacon who also grew up caddying at Muny. He recalls that there were no restrictions on play after the course was integrated and African American golfers from Dallas and Houston often played on Sunday afternoon, not early in the morning. He also notes that Doc Curry, who was a professor, didn't come to Austin until 1952 or 1953 and wasn't in Austin when the course was integrated. Bacon Telephone Interview with Ozer, November 22, 2008. Given that the February 2000 article appears to be wrong, it should be noted that another newspaper article mistakenly dated the desegregation of Muny in 1959 rather than the correct date of spring 1951 as demonstrated herein. Austin American Statesman, February 26, 1995, "Playing Through," at E9.

²⁰ Bacon Telephone Interview with Ozer, November 22, 2008. Joe Louis became something of a "black golf ambassador" attracting black celebrities to the game, increasing its visibility among blacks, and fighting racially exclusionary practices by the white golf establishment. Dawkins, Marvin and Kinloch, Graham, *African American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era*, (Praeger 2000), Chapter 5 at 65-84; See also: Kennedy, John H., *A Course of their Own: A History of African American Golfers* (Bison 2005) at 65-81.

²¹ See: Orum, *Power, Money, and the People* at 213; Humphrey, David, *Austin: An Illustrated History*, (Windsor Publications 1985), at 215; Glass Interview with Joe O’Neal, May 23, 1974, at 9-10.

²² Austin City Council Resolution signed by Mayor Drake and dated June 8, 1951 (Document No. 17; supporting bid for construction of a lounge at the Municipal Golf Course by Frank Rundell); *American-Statesman*, June 10, 1951, at A-13 (Document 18); *American-Statesman*, June 10, 1951, “Rundell Low Bidder for 3 Shelters,” at A-13 (Document 19; referencing a “Negro lounge at the Municipal golf course”); *American-Statesman*, June 10, 1951, “Contracts Due on Three Jobs,” at A-13 (Document 20; referencing for a second time on the same page the Rundell contract for a “Negro lounge at the Municipal golf course”); Austin City Council Minutes, June 14, 1951 (Document 21; City Council accepts Rundell’s bid and authorizes city manager to execute contract with Rundell for a “lounge at the Municipal Golf Course”).

²³ Long Interview with Joe O’Neal, June 10, 1974, at 11 (Document No. 10: “They built this little clubhouse 20 X 18, cement blocks, for the blacks to use for changing clothes; for the black people who played at the Municipal golf course. I don’t know how long they used that, but they were going to have a lounge and dressing rooms. And I guess it was built. I think we took contracts for it, and I guess I went along with it because I certainly thought that after all they needed a place to dress and I guess they’d be too timid to dress in the clubhouse.”); Long Interview with Anthony Orum, June 3, 1981, at 7-8 (Document No. 11: “And they built them—about several feet from the clubhouse, they built a little house where they could dress.”); Austin City Council Minutes, July 3, 1952 (Document No. 22; noting that cold drinks and refreshments for the “colored golfers” were available at the window provided and “the players could take them to the lounge that had been provided.”)

²⁴ The photograph is in the private collection of General Marshall (Document No. 23).

²⁵ Telephone Conversation between Robert Ozer and Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator, Texas Historical Commission, July 17, 2008.

²⁶ One such backlash occurred in Beaumont. In the summer of 1954 after the decision in *Brown* and the desegregation of municipal courses in nearby Houston, the Mayor of Beaumont sought to open the Tyrell Park municipal golf course to blacks but was forced to revoke his decision after community reaction. Robertson, Robert J., *Fair Ways: How Six Black Golfers Won Civil Rights in Beaumont, Texas*, (Texas A&M University Press 2005) at 84-89; Kirsch, “Municipal Golf and Civil Rights in the United States,” at 384.

²⁷ Glass Interview with Joe O’Neal, May 23, 1974, at 9-10.

²⁸ *Rice v. Arnold*, 45 So.2d 195 (Fla. 1950), judg. vacated, 340 U.S. 848 (1950), judg. of Fla. cir. ct. aff’d 54 So.2d 114 (Fla. 1951), cert. denied 342 U.S. 946 (1952).

²⁹ *Hayes v. Crutcher*, 108 F. Supp. 582, 586 (M.D. Tenn. 1952) (in golf course case defendants required “while maintaining segregation, to afford equal facilities, apportioned to the need, to the segregated groups”).

³⁰ *Beal v. Holcombe*, 193 F. 2d 384 (5th Cir. 1951), cert. denied, 347 U.S. 974 (1954).

³¹ McKay, “Segregation and Public Recreation,” at 715.

³² *Id.*, at 716, fn. 97; Robertson, *Fair Ways: How Six Black Golfers Won Civil Rights* at 83-84.

³³ *Fayson v. Beard*, 134 F. Supp. 379 (E.D. Tex. 1955); See also: Robertson, *Fair Ways: How Six Black Golfers Won Civil Rights* at 155-63.

³⁴ *Holmes v. City of Atlanta*, 223 F.2d 93 (5th Cir. 1955), cert. granted and decision vacated 350 U.S. 879 (1955) (post-*Brown* Supreme Court order eliminating segregation of municipal golf facilities); *NYTimes*, November 5, 1995, “40 Years Ago: A Drive Down the Fairway for Integration” (discussing Atlanta case); see also: *NYTimes*, November 18, 1956, “Desegregation Slowly But Surely Gaining New Ground” (“Sixteen Southern cities have opened public golf courses to Negroes... in the past two years.”).

³⁵ *Simkins v. City of Greensboro*, 149 F. Supp. 562 (Dist. Ct., M. D. North Carolina, Greensboro Div. 1957) aff’d 246 F. 2d 425 (4th Cir. 1957) (municipality cannot avoid giving equal treatment to Blacks by leasing to private non-profit club); *Griffis v. City of Fort Lauderdale*, 104 So. 2d 33 (Supreme Court of Florida, 1958) (sale of public golf course to private golf association for adequate consideration did not violate 14th amendment rights even though course was under federal court decree to integrate); *Wesley v. City of Savannah*, 294 F. Supp. 698 (Dist. Ct. S.D. Georgia, Savannah Div. 1969) (city golf championship played on public course but sponsored by private association that excluded blacks from play violated Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 14th Amendment); See also: Dawkins and Kinloch, *African American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era*, (authoritative discussion of desegregation of public courses at Chapter 8, 137-152).

³⁶ Travis County Commissioners' Court Judge Sam Biscoe, Telephone Interview with Robert Ozer, July 11, 2008; See also: Kirsch, "Municipal Golf and Civil Rights in the United States," at 388-389 (noting "mixed results" in desegregating municipal golf courses in southern cities in 1950s and early 1960s with changes in some cities not manifest until after passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964). It should be noted that in public remarks preceding an interfaith golf tournament held at Muny on October 26, 2008 to celebrate its history, Judge Biscoe recalled that during his time as a caddie, caddies typically earned \$1.00 per nine per bag. This is somewhat better than what caddies received at Muny in the late 1940s and early 1950s. See fn. 7 *supra*.

³⁷ There is a suggestion in a book on boxing that Corpus Christi may hold the runner up spot in desegregating its municipal golf course (but not the locker room or clubhouse) in 1953. Sammons, Jeffrey, "Beyond the Ring: The Role of Boxing in American Society," (University of Illinois Press 1990) at 186 n.16. The footnote references a letter from H. J. Williams, M.D., president of the Corpus Christi branch of the NAACP to Bill Will, Corpus Christi Park and Recreation Department dated June 5, 1954. However, the letter was not individually archived at the Barker Library of Texas History at the University of Texas and could not be located.

³⁸ Professor Marvin Dawkins, Remarks made at Muny Interfaith Golf Tournament, October 26, 2008 (Document 24; also noting that a course, such as Muny, in a jurisdiction that did not actively resist desegregation is less likely to be the subject of scholarly attention); Dawkins e-mail correspondence to Robert Ozer, November 26, 2008 (Document 25); See also: Austin American Statesman, October 26, 2008, "Muny's Past Might Yield New Future, Backers Say," at A10-11; e-mail correspondence to Robert Ozer, September 15, 2008. Although the book Professor Dawkins co-authored, *African American Golfers during the Jim Crow Era*, is the leading academic authority in this area, there are several journalistic accounts dealing with African American golf and American culture that are very useful. See: McDaniel, Pete, *Uneven Lies: The Heroic Story of African Americans in Golf* (The American Golfer 2000); Sinette, Calvin, *Forbidden Fairways: African Americans and the Game of Golf* (Gale Cengage 1998); Kennedy, A Course of their Own: A History of African American Golfers; See also: Dawkins, Marvin P. and Tellison, A. C., "[African Americans and] Golf" in Todd Boyd (Editor), *African Americans and Popular Culture*, Vol. II, Sports (Praeger, 2008), at 53-66; Dawkins, Marvin P., Race Relations and the Sport of Golf: The African American Legacy, *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 4, (2003) at 231; Dawkins, Marvin P., African American Golfers in the Age of Jim Crow, *The Western Journal of Black Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 1, (1996) at 39.

³⁹ Roger Paynter, the pastor at First Baptist Church of Austin notes that Volma Overton, Sr., for many years the head of the NAACP in Austin and the first African American congregant at First Baptist (as well as a member for over forty years), played golf every Friday at Muny. Dr. Paynter was often able to join him as the only white in the foursome. Dr. Roger Paynter e-mail to Robert Ozer, October 4, 2008. Dr. Paynter played in the interfaith golf tournament on October 26, 2008, celebrating Muny's history as did Volma Overton, Jr., the son of Volma, Sr. who is now deceased.

Clubhouse and Golf Course Result of Prolonged Effort

Here Is New Clubhouse You May Visit Tonight

Many Playground Started Here in 1924 by Lions

\$10,000 Bond Issue Paves Way For Construction Of New Club

Back in the spring of 1924 a group of Austin Lions club members conceived the plan of establishing a municipal golf course and club house in the western section of the city.

The Lions club at that time was in quest of some community project to sponsor, so the club members endorsed the municipal golf course idea as the major objective for 1924.

A committee was instructed to secure a charter for the organization to be known as the Austin Municipal Golf and Amusement association, an organization with no financial stock and operated, as an non-profit league, such a charter was secured on May 21, 1924 with John H. Tobin, E. P. Craven, Horace C. Barnhart, B. F. Brown, Dr. J. W. Griffin and F. W. Stern-aldent as incorporators. These men were also selected as the original directors of the association. Later John D. Cofer and Lee E. Thrift were added to the board.

25 Year Lease Taken
With this charter as a beginning, the directors of the association went before the board of regents of the University of Texas relative to leasing a portion of the Brackenridge tract, west of Austin, for the proposed golf course. Accordingly



Here is a view of the beautiful new clubhouse at the municipal golf course which was recently completed at a cost of \$10,000 by the Austin Lions club. The new building will be opened Thursday night in a reception to the citizens of Austin between 7 and 11 o'clock. The

on May 21, 1924, a lease was given by the regents to the association for a period of 25 years on condition that the lease could be terminated on one year's notice by the board of

regents. In return for the revocation of the lease, the regents agreed to pay for the improvements thereon or permit the Lions club to reimburse these improvements. Another condition was that the Lions club should own, and operate the course as a municipal project.

New 18-Hole Course
The lease was signed on May 21, 1924 by H. J. Litcher Stark, representing the regents and John H. Tobin, president and Horace C. Barnhart, secretary of the Austin Municipal Golf and Amusement association.

new club house has been added to the attractive golf course which was constructed in 1924 by the Austin Lions club to provide a place where the golfers of Austin and other places might compete. During the six years that the course has been in operation, golfers from every state in the union have played there.

During August, 1924, 50 Lions club committees began a campaign to sell memberships at \$25 each and dues at \$1 per month which entitled two members of the family to use the grounds and club house. During this campaign 250 memberships were secured aggregating \$7500 which enabled the Lions to build the first nine holes of the course.

In the fall of 1924, the tract which had been converted from a heavily wooded section into an attractive nine-hole course was opened. Subsequently the directors de-

vised to add the other nine holes to make a standard course. With this in mind, the Lions club sponsored a bond issue of \$10,000 which was subscribed and made possible the completion of the course.

Within four or five years, every known bond outstanding was retired, although the bonds had a 10-year maturity period. The bonds were retired through the earnings of the course and were backed by the moral obligation of the Lions club that the investor would not lose a dollar.

With this confidence built up in

the community, the Lions club committee voted to approve another \$10,000 bond issue for the erection of a new modern club house which would make the municipal course one of the finest in the country in its equipment and grounds. These new bonds also carry a 10-year maturity period and are to be retired from the earnings of the course.

Tom French, member of the Lions club, is in charge of the municipal course at the present time. Names of the nation's leading golfers appear on the register and players from every state in the union have been on the ground in a round of play.



Commercial Photography

- Interiors
- Exteriors
- Groups
- Flashlights
- Banquets, etc.

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Lions, We Are Proud of You

Lion Golfers To Hold Meet Sunday

Celebration to Be Planned For New Clubhouse

Members of the golf club committee of the Austin Lions club have been called by Chmn. John Tobin to meet at the new clubhouse on municipal links at 8:30 Sunday morning. The committee will plan an open-house party to celebrate completion of the \$15,000 clubhouse, to be held about Jan. 16.

The building has been completed and now is having furniture and equipment installed. The club sold \$10,000 bonds with which to finance its construction, and spent an additional \$5000 in preparing the building for use and furnishing it.

Document 3



CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Regular Meeting

September 7, 1950
10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

DR. EVERETT GIVENS, representing the Negro Citizens Council, appeared before the Council stating he had a petition representing ninety-two homes that had no water, and asked that these people be taken into the City limits, which would include EASTFIELD, MASON FIELD, CHERNOSKY No. 7 and No. 8. He stated another petition was signed by 67 persons, whose closest water plug was between three and five blocks, and the fire insurance was so high, they could not afford to pay it.

HENRY PRYOR came before the Council stating people were playing golf on the Rosewood Playground, and the balls were hitting the children, were breaking windows and windshields. He complained of the young boys' profanity. The matter of the profanity was referred to the Recreation Department to straighten out through GEORGE MABSON, Rosewood Park. The Mayor suggested that plans be made to provide a nine-hole golf course for the colored people in that part of town.

Austin American

Austin, Texas, Tuesday, June 6, 1950

22 PAGES

Five Cents

LONE HOME

Sweatt UT Plea Upheld; States Lose on Tidelands

Court Holds Houston Negro Law School Not Equal Unit

(See Related Stories, Page 18)

McArthur Tells Japs To 'Gag' Reds' Leaders

From Wire Services
TOKYO, Tuesday, June 6 (Gen. Douglas MacArthur ordered the Japanese government Monday to ban the 24-man central committee of the Japanese Communist Party from public life.

The Communist leaders, MacArthur said, have flouted law, order and constituted authority in the hope of preventing the way for the overthrow of constitutional government by force.

MACARTHUR TOOK his action two days after a parliamentary election in which the pro-American and Communist governments of Premier Shigeru Yoshida had made substantial gains.

Yoshida himself had started the crackdown on the Reds by decreeing a ban on all demonstrations in the Tokyo area.

It was believed that MacArthur's move was the first step toward the banning of the entire Japanese Communist Party by act of Parliament.

In a statement May 2, on the third anniversary of the new Japanese constitution, MacArthur invited the government to outlaw the entire Communist Party.

Even while the experts in Honolulu's planning office were engaged in drawing up a blueprint for a new United States military base in the Philippines, the Communist Party was busy preparing for a third world war.

All Communist propaganda agencies in the United States are to be closed by the end of the year, the State Department announced Monday.

SHARP TALKING BY THE State Department Monday, the State Department said, was aimed at the Communist Party in the United States.

Truman Reportedly Favors Panel For Red Cases Probe



WINS JAP ELECTION. The Liberal Party of Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida won 48 seats in the Japanese election for the National House of Representatives. The Socialist and Communist parties lost 31 seats.

Texas was rapped with sharp blows on two fronts Monday as the United States Supreme Court ruled adversely on the questions of racial segregation and ownership of the state's tidelands.

The Supreme Court struck down segregation of Negro students at the University of Oklahoma and ordered Texas to admit a Negro student to its all-white law school.

Chief Justice Vinson delivered both unanimous decisions.

They followed an 8-0 ruling which outlawed separation of Negroes in railroad dining cars. In all three cases, the court expressly refrained from ruling on broad constitutional questions.

It did not grant a government request that it reverse a 54-year-old decision that segregation is constitutional as long as "separate but equal" facilities are provided for Negroes.

The combined effect of the three decisions, however, was to make it plain that such separate facilities must be equal. The Justice Department had argued that they never can be—that separation in itself is a form of inequality.

In the Texas case, Herman Marion Sweatt of Houston, demanded admission to the white law school in Austin. He has refused to attend a

new law school for Negroes set up by the state in Houston.

The high court based its decision in the Texas case on a finding that the Negro school at Houston would not be equivalent to the school provided for whites.

The Supreme Court upheld the federal government's claim to "paramount rights" in oil-rich submerged lands off the Gulf Coasts of Texas and Louisiana.

The long-awaited decision backed up its famous 1947 California ruling that national interests dominate in coastal areas.

The decrees are certain to spur new moves in Congress to turn the so-called "tidelands" over to the states. Advance notice of the case from Representative Ed Gossett (D-Texas), who called the ruling "another long step down the road to national socialism."

"The property rights of states are about to be destroyed," he said. "Only Congress can now save this nation from the disgraceful spectacle of colonization without compensation."

But Chairman Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) of the Senate interior committee said the ruling "remove all obstacles" to consideration of legislation for federal administration and development of the tidelands. He indicated an enabling bill will soon be taken up by his committee.

The House interior committee also has reported a bill to provide for the tidelands, but neither House has acted on it.

President Truman vetoed such legislation previously.

The veto was a blow to the Texas state, which has been fighting to keep the tidelands in state hands. It is a blow to the federal government, which has been fighting to keep the tidelands in federal hands.

It is a blow to the federal government, which has been fighting to keep the tidelands in federal hands.

SWEATT CAN GO UT Will Admit Him if Daniel Okehs it, Says Dr. Painter

By Associated Press
Herman Marion Sweatt, Houston Negro, will be admitted to the University of Texas at Austin by the Supreme Court as indicated by Attorney General Tom C. Clark Monday.

Dr. Price Daniel said he would support the admission of Sweatt to the University of Texas at Austin by the Supreme Court as indicated by Attorney General Tom C. Clark Monday.

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Dr. Daniel said he would support the admission of Sweatt to the University of Texas at Austin by the Supreme Court as indicated by Attorney General Tom C. Clark Monday.



HERMAN SWEATT

Sweatt Insists He Will Enter Without Malice

WARMER

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The Austin State

The Capital City Newspaper Since 1871

79th YEAR—315

AUSTIN, TEXAS, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1950



FIRST NEGRO STUDENT—John Saunders Chase, 25, Austin architect, waits in line in the office of the registrar of the University of

Texas for registration forms. Saunders and another Negro, Horace Heath of Waco, Wednesday became the first of their race to enter University's graduate school.

Oil Companies Tideland Le

Marshall Claims Inaction Dangerous Path for US

WASHINGTON, June 7.—(AP)—General George C. Marshall Wednesday said "the most dangerous thing" the United States can do is to sit impotent in the face of Communist aggression.

The wartime Army Chief of Staff conceded that the mutual defense aid program might encourage rather than deter Russia to act before Western Europe is able to defend itself.

"THERE IS a hazard," he said, "but I am convinced that to sit impotent is the most dangerous thing we can do."

The general, who as secretary of State authored the Marshall Plan for European recovery, appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

He urged Congress to continue the program of arms aid to Western Europe, calling it vital to morale as well as military defense.

Specifically, Marshall backed President Truman's request for \$1,222,500,000 in new arms aid for the 1951 fiscal year beginning July 1.

Speaking without notes, the general observed that the Soviet Union, unlike the democracies, can make "cold blooded decisions" and set the date and hour for action.

"It seems to me to sit idle and

impotent is a fatal procedure," he reiterated.

"I do not think in the long run the program adds to the perils of the situation. I think it materially reduces them."

Elaborating on his statement that inaction would be "fatal," Marshall said to do nothing would adversely affect the morale of Western Europe and would "play into Soviet hands for future pressure politics."

MARSHALL AGREED wholeheartedly with General Omar N. Bradley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who said the arms pact is designed to afford Western Europe "reasonable security."

Bradley testified before the committee Tuesday.

"I think that is the correct approach to the problem," Marshall told the lawmakers. He added:

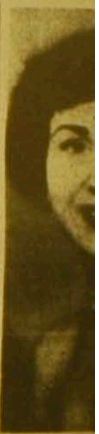
"We can't give them complete security. No one can do that. But we can build up their morale and confidence, and the greatest factor in security is morale."

Marshall was due to appear before a closed door session of the Senate foreign relations committee in the afternoon.

Two Republican senators proposed earlier that Congress set up a commission to study the problem of finding an aid program to carry on after the European recovery program ends. The suggestion came from Senators Saltonstall (Mass.) and H. Alexander Smith (N.J.).

Meanwhile, Senator McMahon (D-Conn.) called for early hearings on a resolution urging a special session of the United Nations Assembly to discuss world-wide disarmament.

Without too much heed to either of these proposals, administration leaders continued their speed-up hearings on a bill to authorize a \$1,222,500,000 second year foreign arms program to bulwark non-Communist nations.



PERSUASIVE Margaret S. Calli, taboret friend, Donald give him up after he stole \$1,200 Van No robbery.

Two Negroes Enter UT

BY LYMAN JONES

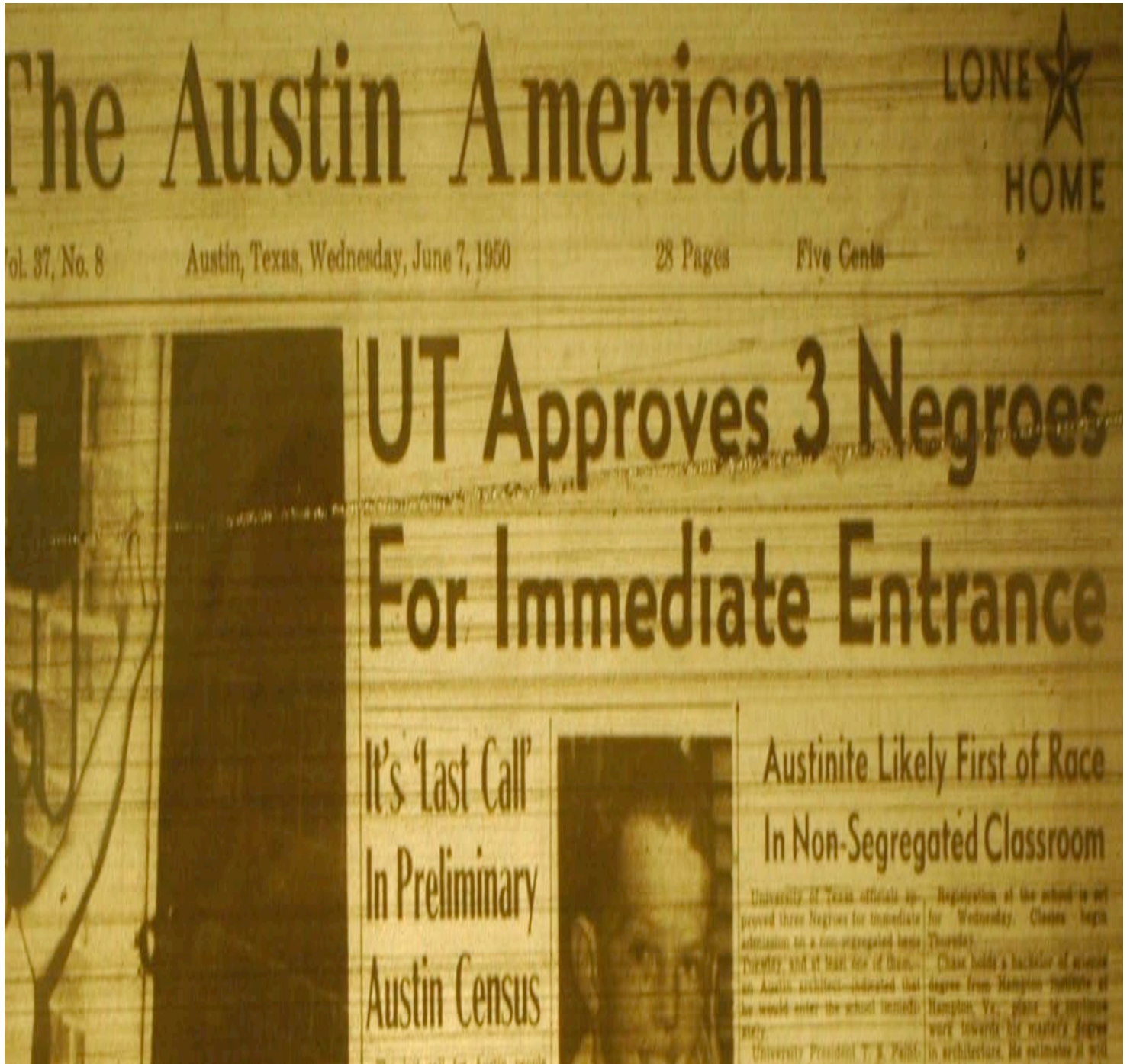
The University of Texas Wednesday opened the door of its Graduate School to its first Negro students. At 10:56 a. m. John Saunders Chase, 25-year-old Austin architect, and Horace Heath,

McCown and began filling out preliminary registration forms. McCown said registration of the two graduate students was "to proceed in completely routine fashion."

Chase is seeking a master's degree in architecture. Heath is a candidate for a doctor's degree in government.

The acceptance of both Negroes follows the US Supreme Court's

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MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Regular Meeting

January 25, 1951.
10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

DR. E. H. GIVENS appeared before the Council asking that a fire station be located in East Austin; that another park be developed; a nurses' home for the colored nurses be considered at 14th and Sabine; a golf course located in East Austin; use of the facilities at Brackenridge Hospital by colored doctors; that the veranda from the operating room to the annex be enclosed so that patients being taken from the operating room to their rooms would not be exposed; traffic lights at 12th and Chicon and at Rosewood and Chicon; and playground equipment placed on public school grounds. It was stated the Fire Station site is under study by the Fire Department; the playground was included in a study by the Recreation Department; a golf course was being planned; and the playground equipment was already covered in a plan with the School Board. The use of the facilities at Brackenridge Hospital would come under the Medical Staff at Brackenridge Hospital, and the Medical Society. The enclosure of the veranda is included in the improvement plan of the Hospital. The City Manager stated a meeting would be held with the Staff and the new Administrator soon after February 1, 1951, and various matters would be presented then.

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Regular Meeting

April 5, 1951.

10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

Dr. EVERETT GIVENS made several inquiries: (1) about the location of a fire station in East Austin; (2) about a golf course in east Austin, and suggested a site on East 12th Street across from the cemetery and another on 19th and Webberville; (3) about playgrounds and equipment on the two schools in west and south Austin; (4) about street lights at 12th and Rosewood and at 18th and Ulit. In answer to his requests, it was stated that the fire station location was set at 12th and Airport Boulevard. Regarding the golf course, Mayor Glass asked that work be started on this project as soon as possible; but Councilman Long felt that with other needs in east Austin, a golf course would be too expensive now, and that there were two golf courses already in existence now. She stated with reference to the playground equipment, she would talk with the President of the School Board and with the Director of Recreation and would make a recommendation to the City Manager if something could be worked out with the School Board. The City Manager thought lights were already installed at the two requested locations or if not at those locations, in the vicinity. He thought every church had been furnished street lights, and that these churches, WALNUT STREET BAPTIST CHURCH, 18th and Ulit, and ZION HILL BAPTIST CHURCH were included in the list.

Document 10

June 10, 1974 - Emma Long Interview by Joe O'Neal (p. 11)
(transcript re-typed)

And the same thing about the golf, the golfing. They had a big bond election & Mayor Miller had promised the blacks that if they would help carry the bond election, they would give them a golf course. So Dr. Givens came in after the bond issue past and said, "Now we want our golf course." And I said, "That's ridiculous, to have a golf course with half a dozen blacks playing on it." I said, "We need that money for children and parks. There's no reason in the world why you shouldn't use our golf course." And I moved that everybody be allowed to use the golf course. Well, this surprised everybody and it passed.

Later I was reading the paper and it amused me – remembering what happened – I said, "You've got blacks caddying out there now and nobody would know the difference."

They built this little clubhouse 20 X 18, cement blocks, for the blacks to use for changing clothes; for the black people who played at the Municipal golf course. I don't know how long they used that, but they were going to have a lounge and dressing rooms. And I guess it was built. I think we took contracts for it, and I guess I went along with it because I certainly thought that after all they needed a place to dress and I guess they'd be too timid to dress in the clubhouse.

Document 11

June 3, 1981 - Emma Long Interview by Anthony Orum
(pp. 7-8) (transcript re-typed)

One of the bond issues in—about 1950, '51—right in that era— Mayor Miller promised Dr. Givens if they'd help carry the bond issue that they could have a golf course. So when it came—Dr. Givens came before city council to ask for his golf course, I just said that was ridiculous, that we had a golf course, that we had a very nice one at that time, and we didn't need to build a separate one for the blacks. I made a motion that blacks be allowed to use the municipal golf course. And it kind of shocked everybody, but they did let them go ahead and use the golf course then. And it just kind of died away and they never did build a golf course for the blacks.

ORUM: That was a fairly radical thing to say in 1951.

LONG: It was either '50 or '51.

ORUM: Yes.

LONG: But it was quite unusual. And but they did. And they built them—about several feet from the clubhouse, they built a little house where they could dress.

ORUM: Oh, really?

LONG: Uh—Huh.

ORUM: But they had to be separate quarters?

LONG: Uh—huh. Where they could dress for their golf.

ORUM: Yes.

LONG: --put on their shoes and put their bags. But I said, they're not up together anyway. They're out strung all over the course. I don't see why it hurts anything just to let them use the golf course. But of course I was considered—I was called, very often, a red and a radical, and even a communist.

Document 12

April 13, 1982 - Emma Long Interview by Anthony Orum (p. 72)
(transcript re-typed)

Dr. E.H. Givens was the, quote, leader of the blacks. And he worked hand and glove with Mayor Miller, and when they'd have a bond issue, well he was supposed to carry the bond issue for—over on the black area. And they'd—one time they promised Dr. Givens if he carried the bond issue that they would build a golf course for the blacks. And the whole bond issue passed and Dr. Givens came in one day and said, "Well, Mayor Miller, we want the golf course that you promised us?"

And I said, "Oh, that is ridiculous." I said, "I don't see any why y'all can't play on the golf course—municipal golf course over here." I said, "After all, people trail around behind each other and they are not together." And I moved that we make the golf course so everyone can play on it, and it passed. [Both laugh.] And that was the last of the black doctor.

Document 13

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Regular Meeting

April 26, 1951.
10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Glass presiding.

Roll Call:

Present: Councilmen Drake, Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, Mayor Glass
Absent: None

Present also: Walter E. Seaholm, City Manager; Trueman E. O'Quinn, City Attorney; C. G. Levander, Director of Public Works; R. D. Thorp, Chief of Police; W. H. Klapproth, Traffic Engineer.

The Council greeted MRS. TAYLOR GLASS and LAURA ELLEN GLASS who were visitors.

MR. M. D. MOSTELLER presented Mayor Glass with a gun, the case for which was given by Councilman Drake. MR. JESS ALLMAN presented the Mayor with a fishing tackle box. MRS. GLASS and LAURA ELLEN were given bouquets by MR. WALTER GUTTMAN. The Mayor thanked the citizens of Austin for their support and wonderful understanding shown the Council, and expressed his pleasure in serving on the Council. He felt that the Council had all worked together, and the employees had worked and cooperated all the way through.

Document 14

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Regular Meeting

May 3, 1951
10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

The meeting was called to order with Mayor Drake presiding.

Roll call:

Present: Councilmen Johnson, Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake
Absent: None

Document 15

May 23, 1974 - Taylor Glass Interview by Joe O'Neal (pp. 9-10)
(transcript re-typed)

I remember one day I got a call from City Hall wanting to know-there were two colored boys playing golf on the golf course. This was before there was any mixing of races in restaurants, schools, or anywhere was going on. So I said, "Well, I'll be right up there."

I called Bill Drake before I left my office, didn't tell him what it was 'till I got up there. He said, "Well, what is it?" I said, "Well, we've got two colored boys playing golf on the golf course; went up there on their noon lunch hour and they got their equipment and they're half way around the course and they want to know what to do about it." He said, "Well, what do you want to do about it?" I said, "Well, I personally was raised on a farm with them, we played ball together, worked in the cotton patch together, we were doing just about anything you can think of together, rode horseback together, anything you can think of. They never did bother me and that old golf course is pretty big open space out there and I don't see why it ought to bother anybody out there and I'm for leaving them alone and not even calling the newspaper and see what happens." And he said, "I'm with you."

I had to call one other member of the council to see that we had a majority and I called Mr. Johnson. I knew Mr. Johnson was just like us and we told him how we felt. He said, "It's the wisest thing you have ever done. Don't call that press either." So we went on and them play and never heard a word.

Finally, six to eight weeks later I was walking down the street out here and a friend of mine stopped me and said, "Hey did you know there's niggers playing on the golf course?" I said, "Sure, I know there's niggers playing on the golf course...I know they're playing on the golf course." I said, "Did they bother you?" He said, "No, they didn't bother me." I said, "Well, they don't have a golf course. I knew they were playing out there; in fact they got my Ok. They are going to play out there as far as I am concerned. Now if they're truly bothering you, I want to know it. I said, "It will cost half-a-million dollars to build them a golf course and it'll come out of your pocket. You're part of the taxes. And you'll pay the upkeep. Now up to this time they haven't played a lot of golf. Maybe because they didn't have a place to play, but they're going to play golf out there if I have anything to do with it." He said, "You know, I believe you're right." They don't like to get hit in the pocket.

Document 16

From: General Marshall <ggmar@sbcglobal.net>
Date: Sun, 24 Aug 2008 21:14:00 -0700 (PDT)
To: Ken Tiemann <ktiemann@sbcglobal.net>
Subject: Re: The Integration of Muny

Ken:

The following answers are given for your questions:

1. I caddied from 1946 to 1952.
2. I did not own a set of clubs so I probably did not play until 1954 or later. I was there to see my Geometry teacher, R.B. Timmons, Lawrence Britton, Sr. play before the Special Clubhouse was built.
3. There were several groups of African-American golfers from other cities who came to play Muny. I remember specifically that some had big bags and took caddies. I felt especially proud. They came from San Antonio, Dallas, and Houston.
4. Muny was never opened to caddies to play on any given day or days, however, the Kizer brothers were not African American and were allowed to play. Jack and Robert Dorsett, who lived on Enfield Road across the street from the Practice Field (Shagging Field) also played and Robert played at Austin High School with two of the Kizer brothers.
5. Once the course was integrated there were no restrictions for any golfers. You showed up early and waited for tee times. I don't remember when they started reserving tee times.

Cliff's last name is Sneed.

I hope this information is helpful.

General

510614-5

Mac
Dwy

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, on June 8, 1951, bids were received by the City of Austin for the construction of a lounge at the Municipal Golf Course, such bids being as follows:

Frank Rundell	\$ 2,999.00
W & W Construction Co.	3,339.00
Ricks Construction Co.	3,794.47
Paul Keller	3,940.00
Earl Rogers	4,012.00

and

WHEREAS, the bid of Frank Rundell in the sum of \$2,999.00 was the lowest and best bid, and the acceptance of such bid has been recommended by the Director of Public Works of the City of Austin and by the City Manager; Now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

THAT the bid of Frank Rundell be and the same is hereby accepted, and W. E. Seaholm, City Manager, is authorized and directed to execute a contract with Frank Rundell for the construction of a lounge at the Municipal Golf Course on the basis of his bid of \$2,999.00.

ADOPTED: June 14, 1951

APPROVED: June 14, 1951

ATTEST:

W. S. Draper
M a y o r

Chas. Massey
C i t y C l e r k

City Studying Site Cost Of Water Plant

City officials have taken under consideration a \$10,200 price tag based on property they want as part of a site for a two million dollar water plant planned for construction this year on Lake Austin near Mount Bonnell.

The price was set this week by a special commission of appraisers appointed by County Judge Tom Johnson in a condemnation suit filed by the city against John Weller, owner of slightly more than five acres of the proposed plant site.

Both Weller and the city had 10 days from the date of the commission's award—Thursday—to appeal to the County Court.

The city had offered \$1,600 for the property.

A City Hall spokesman said Saturday no decision on acceptance of the commission's findings had been made.

Filing of three other suits against owners of property in the plant site area is pending.

Commissioners Consign Roads For State Use

The County Commissioners Court voted Saturday to turn over 28.7 miles of county roads to the State Highway Department for development as farm-to-market highways.

The state agreed to take over the roads and develop them into hard-surfaced, two-lane highways on condition the county will furnish all the necessary right-of-way. Future maintenance of the roads will be up to the state.

The roads, designated to be turned over to the state under the federal aid secondary program, include:

1. From the end of farm-to-market highway 1326 at New Sweden to the Williamson County line a distance of approximately 3.6 miles.
2. From US Highway 81 to Manchaca, 2.7 miles.
3. From the end of farm-to-market highway 1327 at Greedmoor to State Highway 29, 3.2 miles.
4. From the end of farm-to-market highway 1328 at Williamson County line to Travis County Peak Road, 17.2 miles.

The commissioners deferred other matters until its next meeting Monday because of the absence of Commissioners N. L. Gault, recuperating from a recent operation, and Arthur Swenson.

Jaycees Name Three Leaders

Junior Chamber of Commerce President Boyce Campbell announced three appointments Saturday.

He announced the appointment of Jack Swenson to head a Jaycee sports activities committee. Walter Carrington to fill an unexpired term on the Jaycee board of directors. And Stanley Stout as chairman of an armed forces committee.

Swenson replaces Homer Mayhall, who as sports chairman during the past year won a national award. The Austin club was named first in the nation for sports work among cities of more than 100,000 population at the National Jaycee convention in Miami, Fla. last week. Mayhall recently accepted a job with the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in Dallas.

2 Georgetown Boys Win Scholarships

GEORGETOWN, June 9—(ANS)—Two Georgetown boys, Ellsworth Peterson and Bill Engvall, were first and second place winners in Southwestern University's annual competitive examinations.

Peterson will receive a four-year scholarship to Southwestern and Engvall will receive a three-year scholarship.

Masons Celebrate Diamond Jubilee

Hill City Lodge No. 484 F. & A. M. observed its diamond jubilee Friday night with a barbecue and entertainment at the City Coliseum.

More than 1,100 Master Masons from Austin and Central Texas heard Right Worshipful Kenneth R. Hemphill, McAllen, Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of Texas, recount the steady growth of Hill City Lodge. Hemphill was introduced by Judge James W. McClelland, former Worshipful Master of Hill City Lodge and a past master of the Grand Lodge.

Entertainment was provided by the Ben Hur Charters quartet and string trio.

Hill City Lodge was chartered on June 16, 1876. Its membership now totals 664.

Rundell Low Bidder For 3 Shelters

The city took bids Friday on three construction projects—shelter houses at three playgrounds, a Negro lounge at the Memorial Golf course, and a new floor for an east-side bridge.

The low bid, \$12,896, submitted by Frank B. Rundell, an Austin contractor, for shelter houses at Gillis, Ranney and Gervale playgrounds.

Rundell \$2,996 for the golf lounge.

And \$1,361 submitted by Earl Rogers for a concrete slab to replace wooden flooring on a bridge over Waller Creek at East Fourth Street.

Scholarship Set Up For Pageant Winner

NEW BRUNSWICK, June 9—(AP)—The committee in charge of the 1951 Miss Texas Pageant announced the winner of the Miss Texas Pageant will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.


M. L. Tengler, president of the Central Hibernia Mills, announced the scholarship award will be presented to the winner of the pageant in August.

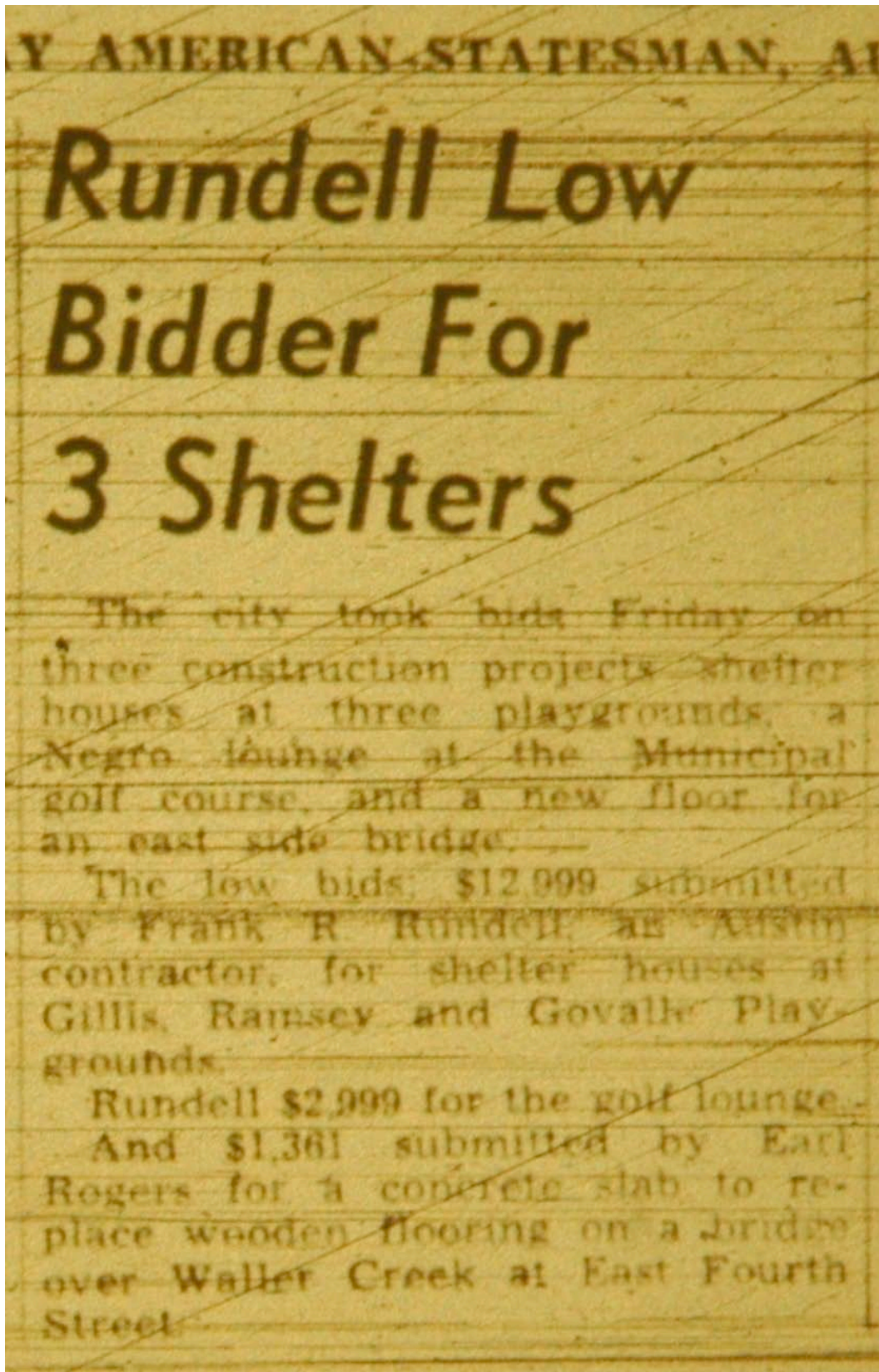
Shanks-Meyers

SAVES YOU \$30.

Special Purchase — Available for One Week Only!

- Makes Twin or Full-Size Beds
- Has Attached Back to Support Bolsters
- Attractive Fabrics in an Assortment of Colors





Contracts Due On Three Jobs

The City Council is expected to award contracts this week for three construction jobs — shelter houses at three playgrounds, a Negro lounge at the Municipal golf course, and a new floor for an east side bridge.

Bids were taken Friday by the city public works department.

The low bids:

\$12,999 submitted by Frank R. Rundell, an Austin contractor, for shelter houses at Gillis, Ramsey and Govalle Playgrounds.

\$2,999, also by Rundell, for the golf lounge.

And \$1,361 submitted by Earl Rogers for a concrete slab to replace wooden flooring on a bridge over Waller Creek at East Fourth Street.

Bidding on all the jobs was fairly heavy, and the low bids were regarded by city engineers as low enough to virtually assure council approval.

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

Regular Meeting

June 14, 1951

10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

THAT the bid of Frank Rundell be and the same is hereby accepted, and W. E. Seaholm, City Manager, is authorized and directed to execute a contract with Frank Rundell for the construction of a lounge at the Municipal Golf Course on the basis of his bid of \$2,999.00.

(The City's estimate was \$3,500.00)

The motion, seconded by Councilman Long, carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmen Long, MacCorkle, White, Mayor Drake

Noes: None

Absent: Councilman Johnson

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

635

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL

CITY OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

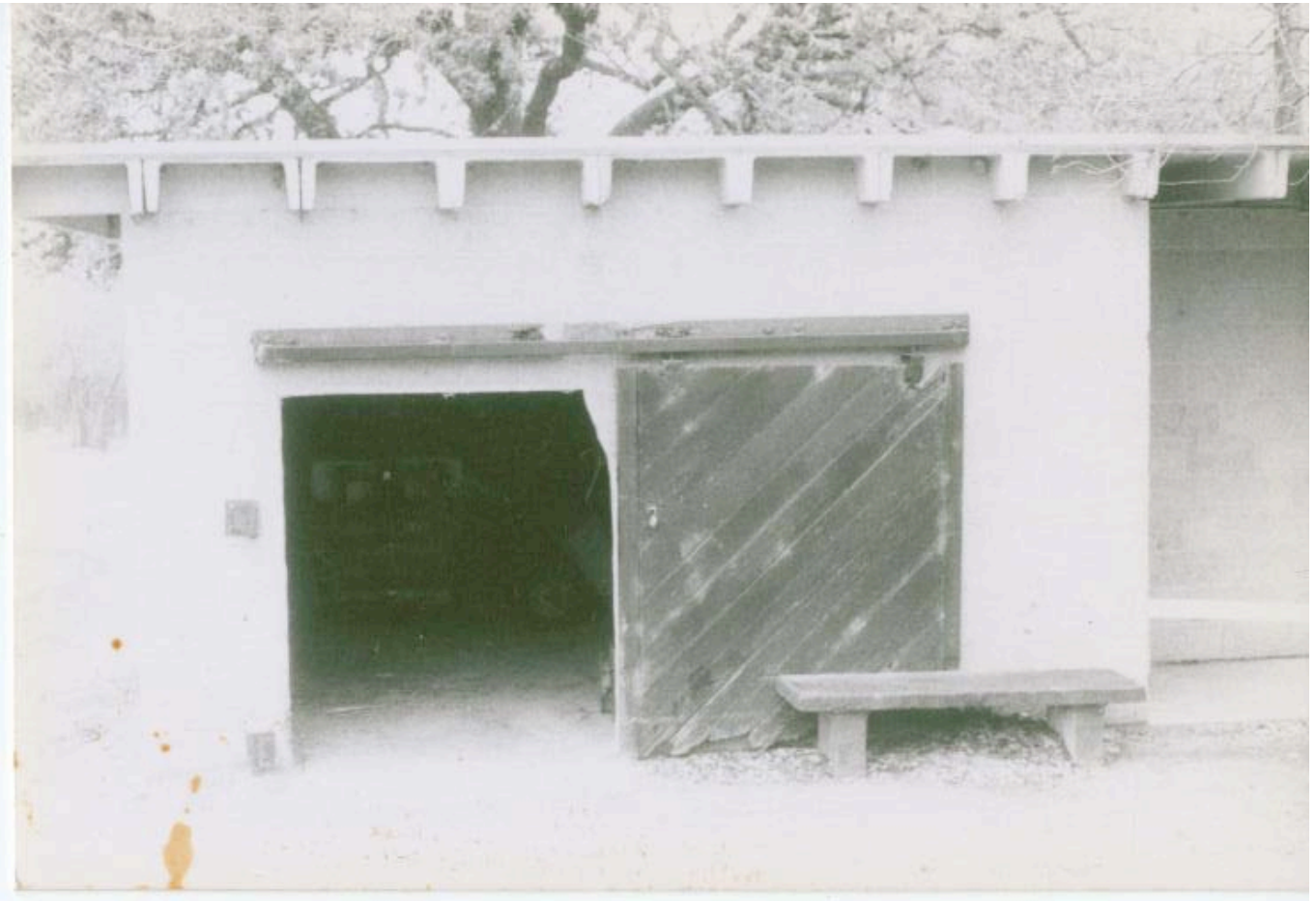
Regular Meeting

July 3, 1952
10:00 A.M.

Council Chamber, City Hall

DR. GIVENS asked about the promotion of negro policemen to detectives. The City Manager stated this was worked under Civil Service regulations, and no differences were made with regard to the color line. DR. GIVENS introduced a school teacher, Miss Smith, who asked for a light at Airport Boulevard and 12th Street and for water, and bus service in Cedar Valley. DR. GIVENS stated the colored golfers at the Municipal Golf Course were unable to buy cold drinks; that the facilities for refereshments were not available to them. The City Manager stated cold drinks and refreshments were available, and had been all the time; that drinks could be purchased at the window provided, and the players could take them to the lounge that had been provided. DR. GIVENS asked that something be done about moving the incinerator; that street lights be placed on the corner of 17th and Chestnut.

Document 23



Document 24

Brief Remarks by Marvin P. Dawkins at the Opening Ceremony of the Muny Interfaith Golf Tournament in Austin, Texas, October 26, 2008.

The place that the Lions Municipal Golf Course (Muny) of Austin, Texas occupied during the first phase of the Civil Rights Movement in the early 1950s has not been documented as a part of the historical literature of that period. Scholars who have examined efforts to desegregate public facilities during that period tend to focus on situations where open resistance was encountered when African Americans attempted to gain access to segregated public facilities, including recreational parks, beaches and golf courses. Therefore, the scholarly research literature on efforts, both successful and unsuccessful, to desegregate public golf courses in cities throughout the South during the 1950s and 1960s has tended to concentrate on cities where massive, open, and ongoing resistance took place. As a result, when desegregation occurred without this type of resistance, which was the situation involving Muny, less attention has been focused on these cases. Thus, the desegregation of the Lions Municipal Golf Course in 1951 has not part of the historical record involving the push to desegregate municipal golf courses, which has tended to focus on cases where law suits were filed to end segregation.

I believe that the evidence which has now been assembled substantiates the contention that Muny was the first municipal golf course in the South to formally desegregate, thus, replacing the public courses in Atlanta which currently hold this distinction. The tournament today can be viewed as a celebration of Muny's unique place in history and a testament to the role it has played and continues to play as a venue for creating positive interaction among people of various racial and ethnic backgrounds and in nurturing a sense of community cohesion. Thank you and enjoy the tournament.

Document 25

From: "Dawkins, Marvin" <mdawkins@miami.edu>
To: <bozer@grandecom.net>
Cc: <mpdawkins@bellsouth.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2008 2:01 PM
Subject: Statement to support Application for Muny landmark designation

Bob,

You have my permission to use the statement below for formal applications submitted for landmark designation, historical landmark status or other similar purposes:

This statement is written to support the contention that The Lions Municipal Golf Course (Muny) in Austin, Texas was the first municipal golf course in the South to permit Blacks to play golf on an equal basis with whites. Despite the prevailing custom of segregating of public facilities by race, which was supported by laws and the doctrine of "separate but equal" under the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of 1896 in Plessy v. Ferguson, the early 1950s saw the eroding of barriers to maintaining segregation in the face of both legal and direct challenges by or on behalf of African Americans. In the case of public golf courses, resistance to such challenges was the norm. While most of the legal challenges to segregated municipal golf courses filed before the landmark Brown Decision of 1954 (beginning as early as 1949) were unsuccessful, the legal foundation for maintaining segregation began to weaken as early as 1950 after the Supreme Court ruling in Sweatt v. Painter made it less feasible, economically, to continue to segregate. Yet, in most cities where direct challenges to the segregation of public golf courses and other facilities were mounted, resistance continued. However, in an exception to this pattern, the public officials in Austin, Texas decided not to respond to the direct challenge in 1951 by two Black patrons, who gained entry to the Muny golf course and were allowed to complete a round of golf play without incident. This decision by Austin city officials in the case of the municipal golf course coincided with actions to desegregate other public facilities (e.g., the fire department and library), thus, establishing Austin's

uniquely progressive response in the shadow of the Sweatt Decision, a case that originated in Austin (at the University of Texas Law School). These unique circumstances leading to the desegregation of the Lions Municipal Golf Course sets it apart from other cities where resistance to both direct and legal challenges have been well documented (see for example: Rice v. Arnold, Holmes v. Atlanta, and other cases). Muny has enjoyed the longest record of a desegregated golf course on an uninterrupted basis. The consequence as been the establishment of mutually beneficial, long-term, cross-racial contacts and friendships that have been sustained by participating in the sport of golf in the informal setting of the Lions Municipal Golf Course (a subject which, itself, deserves further study as an example of the long-term benefits of sport and race relations)

I have thoroughly examined the sources that were used to establish the detailed historical record on which the brief decription above was based and feel that the evidence meets scholarly standards to justify the conclusions reached as being sound and appropriate. Sources included public documents and other records, newspaper clippings, personal communications (written and oral), recorded interviews, oral history interviews, among other sources.

Although I am not a historian by profession, I have received training in both qualitative and quantitative approaches to research and been engaged in interdisciplinary work for more than 25 years. Although the focus of my formal training leading to the Ph.D. in sociology (Florida State University, 1971-75) and postdoctoral research in school desegregation effects (Johns Hopkins University, 1979-80) was quantitatively oriented, I received further training in historical research methods as a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute Fellow (1990) at Duke University (Center for Documentary Studies and Department of History).

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'I'm out of options. Another year of pain like this, I'd be suicidal.'

JAY TRONSON, who traveled 9,500 miles for surgery on his injured hip

A PATIENT'S JOURNEY

PLAGUED BY PAIN, UNINSURED TEXAN PINS HIS HOPES ON SURGERY IN INDIA

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AUSTIN ■ RECREATION

Muny's past might yield new future, backers say

Research suggests golf course was a leader in desegregation

By Kevin Robbins
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF



General Marshall says research shows Lions integrated in the early '50s.

A couple of months ago, a few friends with a fondness for Lions Municipal Golf Course casually began to explore whether Lions was the first municipal course in Texas to integrate the races. Layer after layer, the evidence revealed a far more stunning conclusion.

Lions could be the first verifiable desegregated municipal course south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

That research from the past could affect the future of the West Austin golf course, which is on land owned by the University of Texas System. UT regents are exploring new ways to use the property, which has spurred community efforts to try to preserve the 80-year-old

See **ROLE**, A10

NOVEMBER ELECTION

Military preps for wartime transition at the White House

By Ann Scott Tyson
THE WASHINGTON POST

INSIDE

■ Renewed calls for campaign finance overhaul, **A5**

■ Experts say the odds of a comeback are against McCain, **G1**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military, bracing for the first wartime presidential transition in 40 years, is preparing for potential crises during the handover period, including possible terrorism attacks and destabilizing developments in Iraq or Afghanistan, senior military officials said.

"I think the enemy could well take advantage" of the transfer of power in Washington, said Adm. Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mullen started preparations for the transition months ago and will brief the president-elect, the nominee for defense secretary and other incoming officials

See **SHIFT**, A3

AUSTIN



Jay Janner AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Vincent Price would be proud

In a quest for a world record, more than 800 people danced to Michael Jackson's 'Thriller,' at the Long Center on Saturday. **Story**, **B1**.



SOME AMERICANS LOOKING OVERSEAS TO SAVE MONEY ON TREATMENTS

By Corrie MacLaggan
AMERICAN-STATESMAN STAFF

CHENNAI, India — Moments before the plane touches down, Jay Tronson swallows a Vicodin to ease the pain that feels like an ice pick in his left hip.

It's nearly 4 a.m., his brain feels like mush and all he can think of is the bed in his hotel room. He can hardly believe he's in India. The 54-year-old Texan has never left North America before. Never had a passport.

He has come 9,500 miles from his Pearland home and his wife, Delia Williams-Tronson, for surgery he hopes will fix a worn-out hip that makes it difficult to put on a sock, much less walk.

"I'm out of options," Tronson says. "Another year of pain like



Thierry Vincent FOR AMERICAN-STATESMAN

At the hospital: Jay Tronson's blood pressure is checked by two nurses at Apollo Speciality Hospital in India. 'I hear they treat you like you're in a five-star hotel,' he said before he arrived at the facility.

this, I'd be suicidal."

How Tronson got to this point might sound familiar to some of the 46 million Americans — including 6 million Texans — without health insurance.

Hundreds of thousands of people — the estimates vary widely — leave the United States each year for medical procedures, according to a

recent report by the Deloitte Center for Health Solutions, a research arm of the accounting firm Deloitte LLP.

Tronson, who worked as a truck driver until his pain became too intense earlier this year, didn't intend to live without health insurance. In

See **TRAVEL**, A6

Readying to leave: Jay Tronson thinks his hip was damaged by years of jumping from a delivery truck for his job. The Pearland resident, packing his bags in August, decided to go to India to save money on surgery. He does not have insurance.

Larry Kolvoord
AMERICAN-STATESMAN

INSIDE Medical travel firms link doctors, patients

Austinite opened company after seeing people with cancer forgo treatment, **A7**

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See more photos and video of Jay Tronson on his journey at statesman.com/medical_tourism. Also online:

- Interactive map of medical tourism sites
- Medical tourists tell their personal stories
- A look at the variety of health care options in India
- Video of Poonam Dhawan, owner of an Austin-based medical travel company
- Live chat with staff writer Corrie MacLaggan at 11 a.m. Tuesday

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IN PARADE

DANIEL CRAIG: WHAT IT'S LIKE BEING BOND

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86/57 ■ B8

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ROLE: Save Muny group plans to seek historical designation

Continued from A1

golf course.

Advocates for the course will appear at Lions today to add the land's historical significance to their list of reasons to save the course.

City records suggest that Lions allowed African Americans to play without limits as early as 1951, when two black youths were left undisturbed as they walked the public golf course — long before Oliver Brown petitioned the Topeka Board of Education and Rosa Parks refused to surrender her seat on a bus in Alabama.

Until the new information about Lions was found, the earliest documented full desegregation of a Southern municipal course occurred in winter 1955 after a lawsuit brought by black golfers in Atlanta reached the U.S. Supreme Court and forever integrated golf courses in that city.

Other Southern courses permitted African Americans to play for abbreviated periods or on certain days; black caddies, for instance, were allowed to play on days that some country



Ralph Barrera AMERICAN-STATESMAN

General Marshall, a retired Huston-Tillotson University professor, is among those pushing to preserve Lions Municipal Golf Course. Though the course was thought to have been integrated in 1959, he said he remembers African Americans from other cities coming to play the course earlier than that.

clubs were closed.

But Bob Ozer, Ken Tiemann and General Marshall of Austin say oral histories and City Council minutes that they have

assembled show Lions to be the first documented case of African Americans having unfettered access to city golf in a sport long seen as a stubborn

bastion of exclusion.

"The city was forward. It was far ahead of other cities," said Marshall, a lifelong resident of Austin.

A University of Miami scholar who researches the integration of golf courses has validated the evidence.

"It's not one piece of evidence that one can single out," said Marvin Dawkins, the Miami sociologist. "It's the corroboration of the pieces of evidence."

Dawkins was unaware of Lions until the sleuthing by the amateur researchers in Austin. They found an oral history on file at the Austin History Center recounted by Taylor Glass, the mayor of Austin in 1951. In the transcript of the interview, Glass said he remembered getting a telephone call about two black youths playing golf at Lions in 1951.

"This was before there was any mixing of the races in restaurants, schools or anywhere," Glass recalled in the interview, dated May 23, 1974.

"I don't see why it ought to bother anybody out there, and I'm for leaving them alone and not even calling the newspaper and see what happens," the oral history continues. "We went on and (let) them play and never heard a word."

Until now, Austin's city courses were thought to have been integrated in 1959. But longtime black players at Lions such as Marshall remembered seeing African Americans from other cities coming to Lions earlier than that year to play.

Marshall, a retired professor at Huston-Tillotson University, played his first round at Lions in the late 1950s, when he was a student at Morehouse College in Atlanta. But he caddied at Lions as a 10-year-old who walked in the late 1940s from his home in the Clarksville neighborhood to tote bags for 85 cents a round.

"There were a number of white caddies, too. But they could play," Marshall recalled.

The Lions research could create a new dynamic in the dispute about the Brackenridge tract, 346 university-owned acres along Lake Austin Boulevard that include the golf course.

Save Muny, a group of residents pushing to preserve the municipal golf course, plans to pursue a historical designation for Lions, including the possibility that it is eligible to become a National Historic Landmark. Such a distinction might further the group's effort to save Lions from development. A planning firm hired by UT System regents to recommend the best uses for the land will divulge its early ideas Nov. 3. Those ideas could include redevelopment of the entire tract.

"At this point, they're going to reserve comment," Matt

Flores, a spokesman for the regents, said of Lions' historical claims. "These are things that Cooper, Robertson (the planning firm) certainly will be taking into account."

The research into the desegregation of Lions started with Save Muny. Its members wanted to certify Lions as the first desegregated course in Texas as a way of furthering their campaign. Their work produced far more than they expected or hoped.

In addition to Glass' oral history, the research produced minutes from City Council meetings in summer 1951 that show that the council approved the construction of a \$2,999 "lounge" at Lions. Newspaper accounts of the meeting called the structure a "Negro lounge," but the minutes do not include that description.

The research also included minutes of council meetings in January 1951, when the mayor suggested that the city build a nine-hole golf course in East Austin specifically for African Americans, a Jim Crow-influenced idea that was never realized. According to the minutes, Council Member Emma Long replied "that with other needs in east Austin, a golf course would be too expensive now, and that there were two golf courses already in existence."

"I thought it was unnecessary and said so," Long, now 96, said Wednesday.

Long said she remembers no controversy, deliberation or even awareness among council members that the city was formally desegregating a golf course. Lions was already desegregated, Long said. The city saw no need for a law or proclamation, she said.

After Ozer and the others involved in the research found the evidence that Lions had been integrated long before they had thought, they contacted Dawkins, the Miami sociologist. Dawkins, who co-wrote a book published in 2000 called "African American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era," reviewed the evidence.

He said last week that it "clearly established" that Lions was the first recorded municipal course in the South to allow black players to play without limitation.

Dawkins said he planned to attend a public unveiling of the research at 2 p.m. today at Lions. A golf outing sponsored by the Austin branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the Texas Civil Rights Project, Huston-Tillotson University and some churches will follow.

"This discovery represents a See **ROLE**, next page

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RELEASE
 The Class Representatives and the Class Members will grant Settling Defendants a release against future claims for the matters as issue in this litigation. For a complete description of the Release please visit www.vitsettlement.com.

FAIRNESS HEARING
 A hearing will be held on the fairness of the proposed settlement. At the hearing, the Court will be available to hear any objections and arguments concerning the fairness of the proposed settlement, including the amount of the award to plaintiffs, counsel's fees and attorneys' fees. The hearing will take place on **December 18, 2008 at 9:00am** at the 115th District Court in Marion County, Texas, 102 W. Austin St., Jefferson, Texas 75657. **YOU ARE NOT OBLIGATED TO ATTEND THIS HEARING UNLESS YOU PLAN TO OBJECT TO THE SETTLEMENT.**

YOUR OPTIONS

- If you wish to participate in the settlement, you must claim the Discount from a Settling Defendant within one year after the Final Approval date of the settlement.
- If you don't want the settlement benefits or don't want to be legally bound by the settlement, you must exclude yourself by **December 8, 2008** or you won't be able to sue, or continue to sue, the Defendants about the legal claims in this case. If you exclude yourself, you can't get any benefits from this settlement.
- If you stay in the settlement, you may object to it by **December 8, 2008**. The notice explains how to exclude yourself or object.

THERE ARE SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR BOTH REQUESTING EXCLUSION FROM AND OBJECTING TO THE SETTLEMENT. THESE PROCEDURES ARE INCLUDED IN THE DETAILED SETTLEMENT NOTICE - AVAILABLE USING THE CONTACT INFORMATION LISTED BELOW.

INQUIRIES
 Please visit the settlement website at www.vitsettlement.com for detailed information on the settlement, the complete Class Notice, a list of frequently asked questions and relevant case documents. Any further questions you or your attorney may have concerning this notice should be directed to attorneys for the Class Plaintiffs or attorneys for the Defendants at the addresses listed below. Please include the case name and number, your name and your return address on any letters, not just the envelopes.

Robert Templeton, Attorney for Class Plaintiffs
 Templeton Smith Hayes Heinrich & Russell, L.L.P.
 320 South Polk, Suite 1000
 Amarillo, TX 79101
 (806) 324-0324

Robert T. Mowrey, Attorney for certain Settling Defendants
 Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP
 2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2200
 Dallas, Texas 75201-6776
 (214) 740-8505

You or your attorney may examine the Stipulation, the accompanying exhibits and the pleadings and other papers filed in this action at the office of the Clerk of the Court, 115th District Court in Marion County, Texas, 102 W. Austin St., Jefferson, Texas 75657.

ATTORNEYS' FEES CLASS REPRESENTATIVE COMPENSATION
 Plaintiffs' counsel will petition the court for class representative compensation, attorneys' fees and costs to be paid by Settling Defendants. Settling Defendants shall pay to the class representatives, compensation not to exceed \$20,000. Plaintiffs' counsel attorneys' fees and costs not to exceed \$1,090,700.

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TAIWAN ■ PROTEST



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Rallying in support of sovereignty

Tens of thousands of independence supporters gathered in Taipei on Saturday ahead of a visit from a senior Chinese envoy. Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou drew criticism at the rally, organized by the opposition Democratic Progressive Party, over concessions made to Beijing.

China touts plans for food safety law

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING — China's premier said Saturday that tainted milk products thought to have killed four babies and sickened thousands of children were a failure of regulation and that the country will take steps to improve food safety.

At a 43-nation Asia-Europe Meeting summit, Wen Jiabao said that the milk scandal will spur the introduction of China's first major food safety law and that the nation's food exports will meet international standards.

"Food involves a full process from the farm-land to the table; it involves many links and many processes," he said. "In every link and every process, we need to put in place effective and powerful regulatory measures."

In another display of government resolve, state television showed authorities burning tainted dairy products. About 32,200 tons were destroyed this month in one province, the Xinhua News Agency said. It said about a third of what was burned was infant formula made by Shijiazhuang Sanlu Group, whose products were the most heavily contaminated.

More than 3,600 children in China remain sick from milk tainted by the industrial chemical melamine, and three are in serious condition, the Ministry of Health said last week.

Authorities say middlemen apparently added melamine to milk they had collected from farmers and then watered down to sell to large dairy companies. The nitrogen-rich chemical makes the milk seem higher in protein when tested.

ROLE: Some involved in research have longtime connections to course

Continued from A10

need for a corrective" addition to the official history of the desegregation of American golf, Dawkins said.

Nelson Linder, the president of the local branch of the NAACP, agreed that the research casts a new light on a page in American history. "It's very significant," he said.

But he added that Austin was still a segregated city with segregated schools at the time. "Let's give it credit," Linder said. "But let's not ignore that the city of Austin had a lot more battles going on at the time."

Many American cities did, especially those in the South. Northern cities such as Chicago, New York, Philadelphia and Washington built separate golf courses for African Americans long before 1951. They integrated other courses earlier, too.

In the South, some courses allowed black golfers to play on special occasions or on designated days. Dawkins draws a distinction between those courses and the desegregation of Lions.

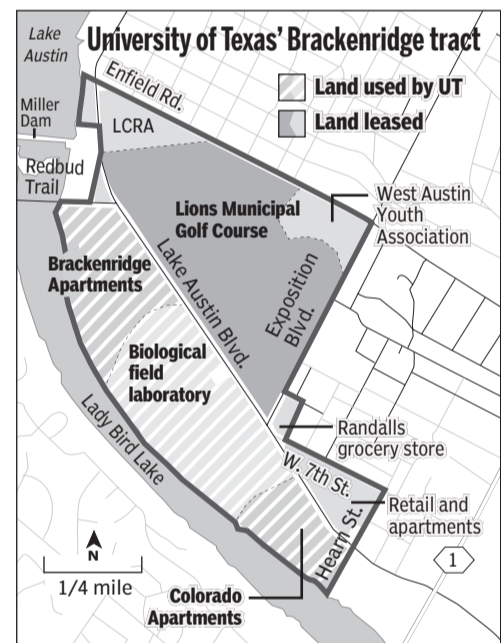
Dawkins said the integration of Lions probably happened in the spirit of the landmark Supreme Court case involving Houston postal worker Heman Sweatt and his effort to be admitted to UT's law school. The court ruled in favor of Sweatt in 1950.

Dawkins said he believes "it was in the context of Sweatt that led the policymakers (in Austin) to say, 'Let's let them play.'"

Save Muny members see opportunity in the research.

"I would hope UT sees a great opportunity to get on board and preserve" Lions, said Tiemann, an advertising salesman who lives in the Tarrytown neighborhood that surrounds Lions.

Tiemann said that as a boy, he walked the



Robert Calzada AMERICAN-STATESMAN

forested golf course with his grandfather, hunting for arrowheads. "It holds a special place in my heart because of that."

He got involved in the desegregation research after a summer event at Lions to raise money and awareness for Save Muny. That's where he heard that Lions might be the first municipal course in Texas to integrate. At the Austin History Center, he found newspaper clippings, oral histories and council minutes that, stitched together, told a story that he had never heard.

"It all ties in," Tiemann said. Lions was more than he imagined: "The birthplace of equal-access golf in the South."

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EDITORIALS

Save Muny; save a piece of history

Given recently uncovered history surrounding the Lions Municipal Golf Course in West Austin, the question no longer is whether to save Lions, but how?

It is now all but certain that the 80-year-old public golf course was the first municipal golf course below the Mason-Dixon line to be desegregated.

That history became widely known Sunday courtesy of the American-Statesman's Kevin Robbins, who reported on the amazing sequence of events that unraveled Lions' past.

The evidence is impressive. City records, newspaper accounts and eyewitness testimony now are being validated by historians, including a leading authority on the integration of golf courses.

"This discovery represents a need for a corrective" addition to the official history of the desegregation of American golf, said University of Miami professor Marvin Dawkins. Dawkins co-authored the book "African American Golfers During the Jim Crow Era."

The discovery comes as the Lions golf course faces an uncertain future.

The golf course sits on the Brackenridge tract owned by the University of Texas System. Its board of regents has hired Cooper, Roberson & Partners, a planning firm, to explore future uses for the land, including the golf course. Austin leases the course from the UT System, and that lease expires in 2019.

According to city records and other accounts, Lions allowed African Americans to play without limits as early as 1951, years before other southern U.S. cities did so.

Austin city officials did it quietly without making headlines when they permitted two black youths to continue playing on Lions in 1951. That action — or lack of action — opened the course to blacks from across Texas who came to play

at Lions on weekends, said General Marshall, a retired Huston-Tillotson University professor. As a 10-year-old, Marshall caddied at Lions and watched black golfers from Houston and San Antonio play the course.

Add to that the common sense of former Austin City Council Member Emma Long, who balked at the expense of building a separate golf course in East Austin and pushed the council not to waste money on a redundancy.

Though the city did not build a separate golf course for blacks, it constructed a separate club house at Lions so white golfers did not have to shower with blacks. Minutes of a 1951 council meeting show that it approved \$2,999 for a "lounge" at Lions that newspaper accounts described as a "Negro lounge." It has since been torn down.

But it still lives in memories of Marshall, who said African American golfers never used the clubhouse that sat in the shadow of the grander clubhouse for whites. "It was a matter of pride," said Marshall, who began playing at Lions in the late 1950s.

Much of the credit for uncovering Lions' past goes to folks associated with Save Muny, a group mobilized to preserve the public golf course as the UT System develops the Brackenridge tract. They are seeking a historical designation for Lions and looking into whether it can be named a National Historic Landmark.

Meanwhile, the Austin City Council is committed to finding a way to acquire Lions, but the decision ultimately rests with the UT System Board of Regents. Matt Flores, a spokesman for the regents, told Robbins that the planning firm would consider the newly uncovered history of Lions as it weighs options.

That's good. It would be a shame to bulldoze an amazing Central Texas historical find.

ENDORSEMENTS ■ ROUND ROCK AND TAYLOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

New schools needed

Voters in the Round Rock and Taylor school districts should approve bond packages on the ballot to build and improve schools in their growing communities.

Round Rock

Voters would be wise to approve two proposals totaling \$294 million. District facilities have not kept pace with Round Rock's rapid growth, and the problem only will worsen in the next few years if the district does not build schools. Proposition 1 would provide \$156.6 million to build three elementary schools, upgrade technology and buy school buses and land for five future schools.

Proposition 2 would provide \$137.4 million to construct classrooms and upgrade Westwood and Round Rock high schools. The measure would include money for new science rooms at Chisholm Trail Middle School and for repair and replacement projects.

If both pass, the school property tax rate would rise from \$1.33 per \$100 of assessed valuation to almost \$1.36 in 2010. So the owner of a home valued at \$200,039 would pay \$54 more a year.

Taylor

Taylor really needs a new high school. School officials have managed enrollment growth largely by adding portable classroom buildings that cost about \$50,000 each. The district's high school, with an enrollment of 900 students, has a

cafeteria that seats 150 students, and the school has outgrown its small library and gym.

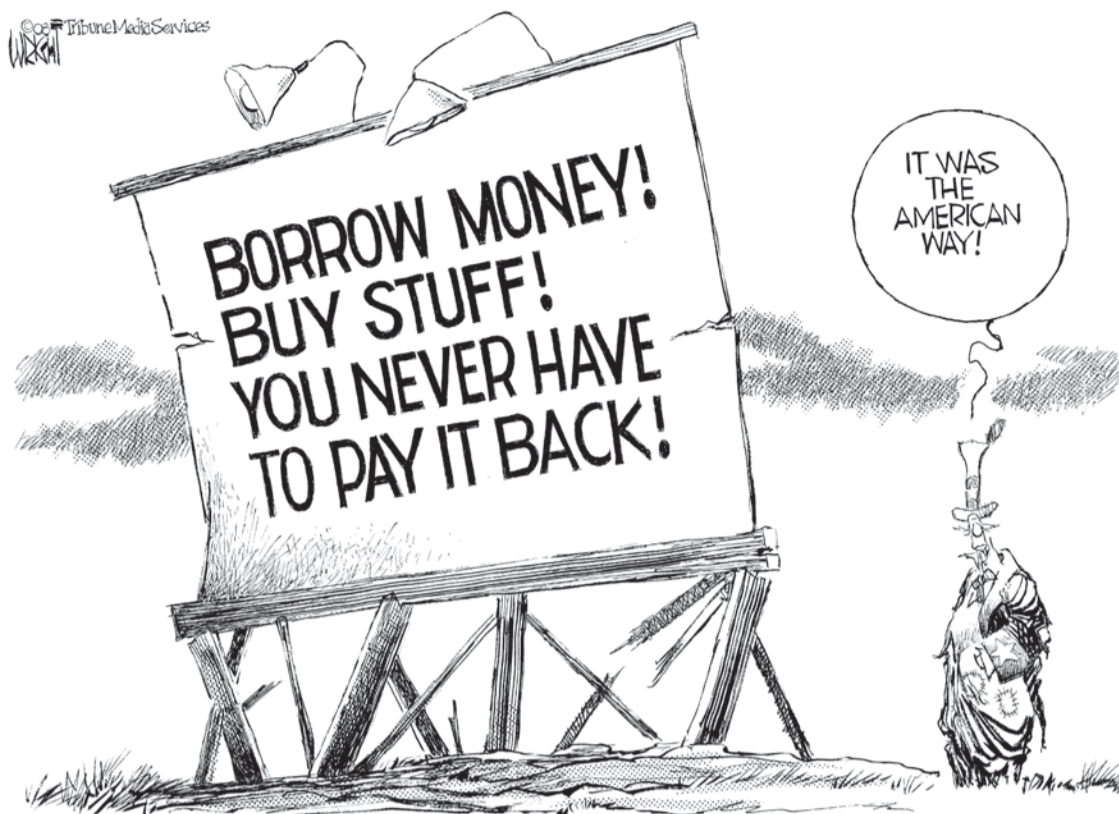
If the \$43 million bond package passes, the district would build a high school with updated science classrooms and other facilities. That is necessary to meet new state standards for science and math, requiring that high school students take four years of each to earn diplomas.

The existing high school would be remodeled for seventh- and eighth-graders, and that would relieve crowding at many Taylor schools. In all, the school property tax rate would rise from \$1.20 per \$100 of assessed valuation to \$1.53. So the owner of a home valued at \$125,000 would pay \$409 more in 2010.

Certainly, the timing is tough for bond packages that will raise tax rates, coming during an economic downturn. But voters must question whether they can afford to put off spending for new schools as enrollments continue to grow. Construction costs are bound to be more expensive in the future. Also, the quality of existing schools could be damaged by overcrowding. Voters can make an important investment in their schools by passing these bonds.

Early voting continues this week for the Nov. 4 general election.

DON WRIGHT | THE PALM BEACH POST



LETTERS



Brendan Smialowski MEET THE PRESS

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a Republican, endorsed Democratic presidential nominee Barack Obama on NBC's "Meet the Press" last week, criticizing the tone of Republican John McCain's campaign.

Look to Powell for guidance

Texas, please, before you vote, if you did not see Colin Powell's interview on "Meet the Press," watch it online. Then make an educated, thoughtful decision before you enter the voting booth.

Our state has been painted red, but maybe this

time there needs to be a change. Powell moved beyond party affiliation to do what he felt best for the United States, and I think we can do the same.

MARY HANSON
Georgetown

Trust in the Lord, not government

Re: Oct. 19 article "Evangelicals explain why they've put faith in Obama."

My heart grieves that a follower of Jesus Christ would support a candidate known for his liberal support of abortion rights, gay marriage and socialism and for 20 years followed a pastor who spews hate for me and my beloved country through cursing from the pulpit. My Bible tells me that the Lord is my creator, provider and protector — not the government.

VICKI MCGEE
Cedar Park

No influence for Cornyn

Re: Oct. 20 editorial "Cornyn: Stay in D.C., move toward center."

Given the possible presidential outcomes, John Cornyn is the worst possible choice for the Senate. Cornyn originally ran as a Bush clone. Cornyn even answered questions with the same phrases as President Bush — right down to the "youthful indiscretions" line. Cornyn has been a reliable vote for the party that wreaked nothing but havoc over the past eight years. No matter how many times we send him back to Washington, he will never be anything more than a reliable vote for the Republicans. So, as a reliable Republican vote, both Republicans and Democrats will ignore him.

How could the American-Statesman possibly endorse a political zero to represent the great state of Texas?

GEORGE LOEGEL
Austin

Testing drunken drivers

Re: Oct. 18 article "Refusal of breath test will trigger blood exam."

It sounds like a good idea. However, if a breath test "right of refusal" is canceled by the judge's warrant, why not just give the breath test by judge's order instead? It would be a lot cheaper than a phlebotomist and lab work. You also would have the results quickly.

Also — although I do not support marijuana use — the police chief's support of fining offenders with small amounts sounds like a win-win suggestion. It would give money to the city coffers and cut down on the clogged court dockets.

GAIL PITCHFORD
Austin

Send 'em all home — except Ron Paul

Everyone has heard the old saying, "He who has the gold rules."

In our government, the rulers of our "gold" are in the House of Representatives, as all spending originates there and none of our "gold" can be spent without its approval.

It seems to me that if we were to un-elect all incumbents in the House, except for Ron Paul, on Nov. 4, and insist that Paul be made the Speaker of the House, then we could have some say in how our money was being spent. Paul would give our federal government a "Total Money Makeover."

DAVID DURBIN
Allen

There must be better

With respect to the American-Statesman's reluctant endorsement of Republican John Carter in the 31st District, I ask my fellow voters to look at his record before collectively holding our noses and voting (Oct. 21 editorial "Candidates look out for area's interests").

Carter is one of the most divisive, openly partisan, narrow-minded conservative congressman now serving. A quick review of his actual work in Congress, public statements and press releases on his official Web site will show you what I mean. Is it any wonder that a major national magazine called recently called him a "hack"?

Is this really the best we can do? Perhaps a political neophyte is a better choice.

ROBERT MACKENZIE
Cedar Park

Our economic reality

When our politicians claim they are going to cut taxes and institute new programs requiring added income, why is that reported in the news section of the paper instead of the comic pages? Doesn't anyone on the paper's staff realize that this country is about one congressional session from bankruptcy?

It's about time the truth was told to the public. Believe me, it doesn't matter who gets elected in November — if they don't tighten the belt, curtail the entitlement programs and work toward a balanced budget, we'd all better learn Chinese to be able to understand our new "owners."

FRED ORT
gfort403@austin.rr.com
Round Rock

Keep Austin friendly

I recently moved to Austin from Pennsylvania to help my step-daughter through an illness.

I have only been in and out of Texas a few days over the years.

I must say that the kindness, helpfulness and smiles of the people of Austin came as a shock to my system. I never thought that Austin residents were unfriendly — I just didn't expect them to be the friendliest I've ever met.

It was scary at first — people helping me unload my Home Depot cart raised irrational suspicions of ... well, I don't know what.

I want to thank the people of Austin for being the kindest and nicest people I've ever met!

VICKEY MORREAN
morrean1@aol.com
Austin

CORRECTION

An editorial on Page A12 Friday had incomplete information about the employment status of Lisa Marie Coppoletta, a candidate for San Marcos City Council Place 4. She is a full-time academic adviser at Texas State University-San Marcos in addition to being a speech instructor at Austin Community College and a part-time actor.

Travis County Commissioners Court



Resolution

WHEREAS, the Texas Historical Commission, through its Official Texas Historical Marker program, works with county historical commissions and other interested parties, to place markers on sites that reveal aspects of local history that are important to a community or region;

WHEREAS, the Lions Municipal Golf Course ("Muny") was, in the wake of Sweatt v. Painter, desegregated by the City of Austin in the spring of 1951 and was the first municipal course in the South to desegregate;

WHEREAS, African Americans prohibited from playing at Muny before it was desegregated have continued to use and enjoy Muny for almost 60 years since the course was integrated;

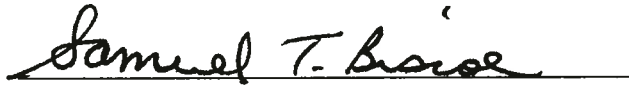
WHEREAS, the City's decision to desegregate provided a public recreational setting allowing friendly interaction of the races that continues to endure to this day and is woven into the fabric of the community;

WHEREAS, the Travis County Historical Commission, at its December 3rd, 2008 meeting, voted to send the Texas Historical Marker Sponsorship Application for the Lions Municipal Golf Course to the Texas Historical Commission with a favorable recommendation; and

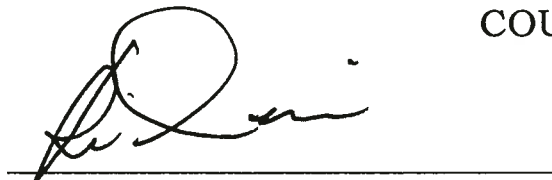
WHEREAS, the historic marker application enjoys broad support from sponsors in both East and West Austin including: Save Muny, Ebenezer Baptist Church, First Evangelical Free Church, First Baptist Church of Austin, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Temple Beth Israel, Congregation Kol Halev, The Texas Civil Rights Project, Huston-Tillotson University, the Austin Black Lawyers Association, the First Unitarian Church of Austin and the Austin Chapter of the NAACP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT, on the basis of the early desegregation of the Lions Municipal Golf Course and the bonds of affection Muny enjoys in this community, support and recommend the application to the Texas Historic Commission for a historical marker at Muny.

SIGNED AND ENTERED THIS 16TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2008.



SAMUEL T. BISCOE
COUNTY JUDGE



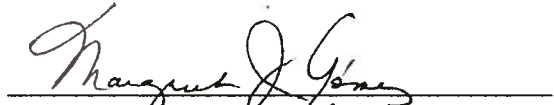
RON DAVIS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1



SARAH ECKHARDT
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2



GERALD DAUGHERTY
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3



MARGARET J. GÓMEZ
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

RESOLUTION NO. 20090115-060

WHEREAS, Lions Club members established an organization in 1924 known as the *Austin Municipal Golf and Amusement Association* (the “Association”) with the intent to establish the first municipal golf course and clubhouse in Austin; and

WHEREAS, a lease for a portion of the *Brackenridge Tract* in West Austin owned by the University of Texas was executed on May 31, 1924, between the Board of Regents and the Association; and

WHEREAS, the Lions Municipal Golf Course was opened on January 16, 1930; and

WHEREAS, the lease with the Association was transferred to the City of Austin on December 17, 1936; and

WHEREAS, the *Austin Municipal Golf and Amusement Association* was dissolved on April 21, 1938, and since that time the golf course has been known as “Muny” to the Austin community; and

WHEREAS, personal accounts from the 1940’s and 1950’s by Austin residents including General Marshall and Dr. William Bacon describe the practice of allowing African American residents to caddie on the course, but not play at the facility; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court ruled in *Sweatt v. Painter* in 1950 that the University of Texas must admit African Americans into the University of Texas Law School; and

WHEREAS, the national publicity around the case brought attention to civil rights in Austin; and

WHEREAS, on April 5, 1951, Council Member Emma Long suggested at a City Council Meeting that the City integrate Lions Municipal Golf Course rather than build a separate nine hole facility for African American golfers; and

WHEREAS, a separate facility on the Lions Municipal Golf Course grounds was constructed by June 1951 to provide showers for African American golfers; and

WHEREAS, the integration of many public facilities in Austin occurred quietly starting in 1950 after the Sweatt v. Painter decision; and

WHEREAS, the voluntary integration of Lions Municipal Golf Course occurred in Austin before other United States Supreme Court rulings on Brown v. Board of Education and decisions requiring integration of public golf courses; and

WHEREAS, *this distinction makes the Lions Municipal Golf Course the first integrated public golf course in the South; and*

WHEREAS, this distinction marks the integration of the Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

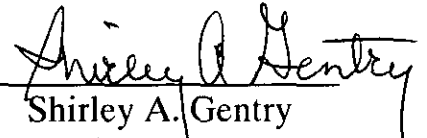
BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Council of the City of Austin supports the Travis County Historical Commission's application to the Texas Historical Commission for

a historical marker at the Lions Municipal Golf Course in recognition of the historic significance of the integration of Lions Municipal Golf Course and the advancement of civil rights by the desegregation of the golf course in 1951.

ADOPTED: January 15, 2009

ATTEST:


Shirley A. Gentry
City Clerk



The State of Texas House of Representatives

H.R. No. 1397

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin has been awarded an official Texas Historical Marker by the Texas Historical Commission; and

WHEREAS, Known by its nickname, "Muny," the Lions Municipal Golf Course was created by the Austin Lions Club in 1924 on land on Enfield Road owned by The University of Texas; in 1936, the course's lease was transferred to the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, Throughout its first 27 years, Muny was a segregated golf course despite its proximity to Clarksville, which was then a predominantly African American neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, After the *Sweatt v. Painter* United States Supreme Court decision desegregated portions of The University of Texas in 1950, the Austin City Council, prodded by Councilmember Emma Long, desegregated the course in the spring of 1951, and Muny became the first desegregated municipal golf course in the South; and

WHEREAS, To commemorate this historic event, the Travis County Historical Commission applied for an official marker in 2008, and the effort drew broad support from such sponsors as Save Muny, Ebenezer Baptist Church, First Evangelical Free Church, First Baptist Church of Austin, Mt. Olive Baptist Church, St. James Episcopal Church, Congregation Beth Israel, Congregation Kol Halev, the Texas Civil Rights Project, Huston-Tillotson University, the Austin Black Lawyers Association, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, and the Austin chapter of the NAACP; and

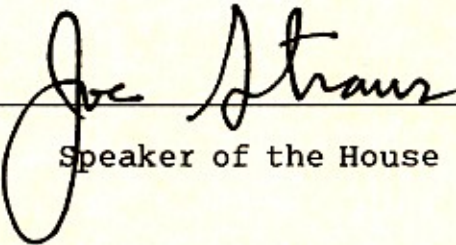
WHEREAS, The approval of a historical marker for the Lions Municipal Golf Course provides a fitting opportunity to recall and celebrate the important role Muny played in the civil rights movement in the Capitol City; and

WHEREAS, Both the Austin City Council and the Travis County Commissioners Court unanimously passed resolutions supporting the application for a historical marker for Muny; now, therefore, be it

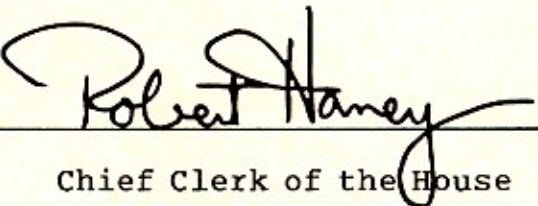
RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 81st Texas Legislature hereby commemorate the approval of a Texas Historical Marker at Lions Municipal Golf Course in Austin and extend to all those involved in this worthy endeavor sincere congratulations for their hard work and success.

Naishtat

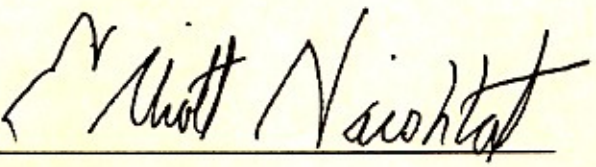
H.R. No. 1397


Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1397 was adopted by the House on April 30, 2009, by a non-record vote.


Chief Clerk of the House




Elliott Naishtat
State Representative
District 49