



ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

APRIL 9TH

CITY PARK

2010—2011 City of Converse Officials City Council

Al Suarez, Mayor

John Shadron, Mayor Pro Tem
Renee A. Paschall, Councilwoman
Grant Lopez, Councilman

Randy Pannell, Councilman
Robin Benbrook, Councilwoman
Steve Brown, Councilman

City Staff

Shawna Dowell
City Manager, 658-5356

John J. Quintanilla
Assistant City Manager 658-5356

Richard Wendt
Fire/EMS Chief 658-8900

Adriana I. (Penny) Hieronymus
City Secretary 658-5356

Rick Jamison
Police Chief 658-2322

Jackie Gaines
Human Resources/Project Mgr 658-5357

Lupe Perez
Utilities Director 658-3453

Kate Silvas
Economic Development Director 659-9163

Karl Hoppes
Facilities Director 659-9513

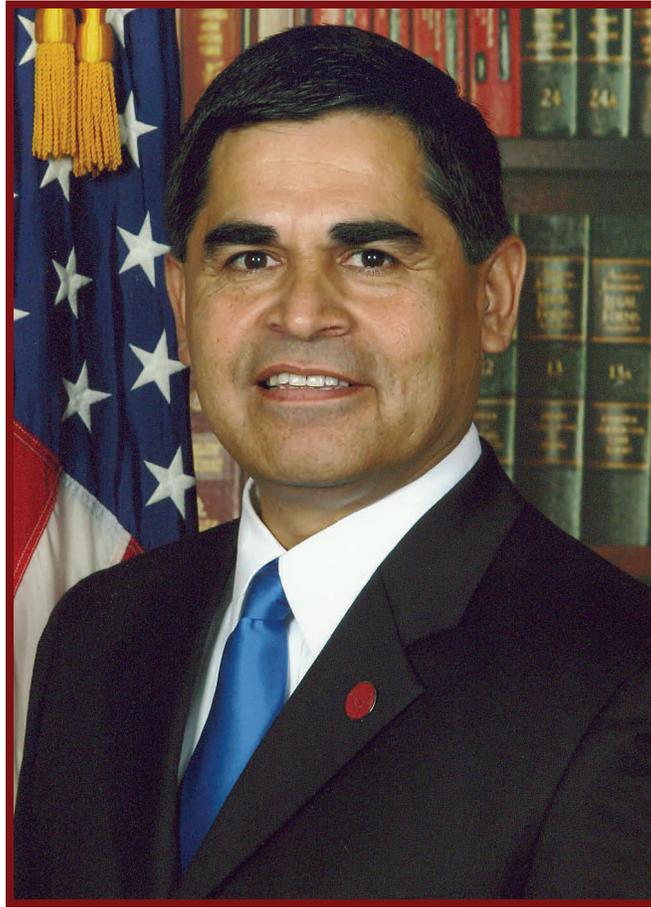
Gerald Wilson
Finance Director 658-5357

Joe Williams
Chief Building Inspector 658-8285

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A Word from the Mayor



CONGRATULATIONS to the City of Converse on Celebrating 50 Years of prosperity, growth, and vitality!

Converse is a city full of energy, with a strong spirit for Economic Development and growth. The dedication and passion of the Converse residents for the past 50 years has propelled Converse into one of the best “family oriented” communities within the Northeast Metrocom. The 2010 Census has confirmed that Converse now has over 18,000 residents. A 58% increase in population from the 2000 census. The City Services have increased tremendously and we now have 162 city employees. Our City Parks have undergone significant changes and improvements for families to enjoy. With our remarkable residential growth, increased enrollment and to facilitate the educational demands, a new Judson High School was recently built and opened in 2010. The Vision & Goals for Converse continues today, as it was in 1961 when Converse’s first Mayor Ed J. Knuepper was first elected to office. During the past 50 years, we have made it a priority to encourage partnerships for all businesses, residents and neighboring municipalities. We will continue to build on our “family oriented” community. Again, we Congratulate and salute all citizens of Converse for 50 wonderful years of responsible growth. Let’s continue to make Converse a better place to live.

HAPPY 50TH ANNIVERSARY!

Converse Mayor Al Suarez

City of Converse Municipal Departments: How May We Serve You?



The Converse City Hall building on South Seguin Rd houses the Administrative offices (City Managers, City Secretary, Human Resources and Finance), Economic Development and both the Building Department and Utility Billing Department. This central location in the heart of Converse allows us to meet a multitude of our community's needs.

Converse: Expanding Horizons

At present, the City of Converse is addressing the current and future water needs of our growing community. With the majority of growth anticipated in the southern portion of the city, an additional water storage facility will be constructed there and current facilities upgraded to accommodate the increased demand. A central monitoring system, SCADA (Supervisory Control and Acquisition Data), will be installed to monitor water utility functions throughout the entire city. Also, new radio-read meters are currently being installed to more accurately determine water usage for billing purposes.

The Utility Billing Department

Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm Monday-Friday
Phone Number: (210) 658-1965

Water/Garbage Service

To start new service you will need to come to the Utility Billing Department to fill out the new service form and make a \$60.00 deposit, refundable after 5 years. If you are unable to visit in person, you may use the online form to start the process. Fill out the Residential Deposit or Commercial Deposit form, scan your drivers license and email it back to utdeposit@conversetx.net. You will need to call the office to pay for the deposit by credit card if you choose to use the email option.

Garbage and Recycling services are set up with your new water account and charges for these services are included on your monthly water bill.

There is a drop box in front of the building to receive payments after hours and on weekends. We also offer online bill pay for utility customers at our website. Please visit billpay.conversetx.net.

Vehicle Registration

As long as you present the 3 part form from TxDOT in Bexar County, you **DO NOT** need new plates and have current auto insurance, you may renew your tags at our office. Cost of processing is only \$0.75.

Pet Registration

As per city ordinance 717, all dogs and cats residing in the city of Converse, whether indoor or outdoor, must be registered with the city. You must bring your pet's current vaccination records to complete the form. Cost is \$5.00 for non-neutered or non-spayed animals per year or \$25.00 lifetime. Neutered or spayed animals are only \$3.00 per year or \$20.00 lifetime. Please note that the ordinance also states how many pets are allowed per household.

Recreation and Rentals

The City of Converse has two beautiful recreational parks: Converse City Park & Converse North Park. Both park facilities are open everyday from 8:00 A.M. until Midnight. Converse Parks are home to several youth sports programs: Pony League Baseball Organization, Judson Youth Sports Foundation, & the Converse Youth Sports League. Located at 305 School Street, Converse City Park houses a swimming pool, baseball & softball fields, a football field and a recreational pavilion. It is also the festival home of NIGHT IN OLE CONVERSE which is held annually during the first week in October. Converse North Park on Spring Town Street houses a fishing lake, baseball & football fields, basketball court, and a children's playground.

Reservations for Pavilion, Pool or Ball Field rentals can be made by visiting the Utility Billing Department. For more information, please call during normal business hours.

The Building Department

Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm Monday-Friday
Phone Number: (210) 658-8285

Building Permits

The Converse Building Department (CBD) would like to remind all residents that construction/renovation permits are required for most home improvements including but not limited to swimming pools (above ground included), re-roofs, enclosing garages, installation of siding and fences, plumbing and electrical repairs such as replacing water

heaters, water softeners or heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) units.

CBD will conduct inspections to ensure compliance with our building codes which are a measure of protection to ensure that safe and sound construction practices are the standard for Converse. We recommend that you secure quotes from at least three (3) contractors before signing an agreement, secure at least a one (1) year written warranty and **never provide funds prior to the completion and final acceptance of the work.** You may contact the CBD to ensure your Contractor is licensed and eligible to obtain permits within the City of Converse. Permits must be posted on the job site and visible from the street. Please contact the CBD at 658-8285 for questions or to obtain a current list of contractors that are licensed to work in Converse. If you are concerned about construction activities in your neighborhood and do not see a permit posted, please call the CBD. Please visit the CBD page at www.conversetx.net for forms, fees or information.

Before You Dig!

Before starting any construction project, find the plot plan or survey drawing in the papers that you received when you bought your home. Be sure that you do not build over any utility easements or setback lines. You must call 811 or 1-800-Dig-Tess before digging anywhere on your property. This service is free and will relieve you of responsibility for any damages that may occur.

The Economic Development Corporation

Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm Monday-Friday
Phone Number: (210) 659-9163

CITY OF CONVERSE



Economic Development Corporation

WERE GROWING PLACES

The EDC is empowered to issue bonds, notes, and other forms of debt instruments on behalf of the City of Converse. The EDC was also sanctioned to acquire, maintain, lease, and sell property and interests on behalf of the City of Converse. To date, the EDC has worked diligently to fulfill its commitment in promoting economic development within the City to eliminate unemployment and under employment by promoting and encouraging service in the public sector.

Over the past seven years, the Board has served as an integral part of the City by successfully supporting the construction and erecting of several new city buildings. It has also supported new business growth, which has provided

new jobs to the residents of Converse.

A major EDC project is the widening of Toepperwein Road. This is an ambitious and lengthy project, but one with great long-term benefits for our city. With better access into the city, we should be able to attract more business. More business will help shift the tax burden from the residents to the business sector. We have begun acquisition of right of way and expect to complete this portion of the project in about six years.



The Converse Public Library is located at 601 S. Seguin Rd.

Hours of Operation:

Monday & Tuesday 9am-6pm, Wednesday 10am-7pm

Thursday 9am-6pm, Friday 9am-5pm

Saturday 10am-2pm, Sunday Closed

Phone Number: (210) 659-4160

In 1988, the Converse Lions Club came up with the idea for a community library and presented a resolution to the City Council. Upon the passage of this resolution, the Lions' Club, the Converse Grange, and a host of volunteers combined their efforts to make the library a reality. On September 1, 1991, the Converse Area Public Library officially opened its doors and in 1993 was accredited by the Texas State Library System. The Converse Library currently has over 20,000 fiction & nonfiction books; a reference area; a variety of audio books, biographies, and videos are also available to the public. Some of the services currently offered to the public are computers with internet access, wi-fi and copy/fax services. The library staff can also provide research assistance.

The Converse Public Library holds a Story-Time for children, from lap-babies to pre-K, every Wednesday from 10:30am to 11:30am. It features stories and fun crafts. During the summer, the library hosts a Free, six-week, Texas Summer Reading Program for children in Kindergarten to 5th grade. Prizes are awarded to top-readers and all participants receive an award certificate from the Governor of Texas.

The Converse Public Library is happy to accept donations of new or gently used books and DVDs to add to its collection.



Converse Fire & EMS has two stations to serve our community. Station #1 at 102 Station St. also houses the Fire Department's administrative offices. Station #2 is located at 8425 Thornton Lane.

Phone Number: 24 hour Non Emergency (210) 658-8900



In January of 1952, after a couple's home burned to the ground, a group of 23 men organized the Converse Volunteer Fire Department. Their first fire truck was a 1946 Dodge truck converted into a fire truck. Alvin J. Brucks was appointed as the first Fire Chief and Eddie Kneupper was appointed the first Fire Marshal and later was the first mayor of Converse.

As Converse has grown, so has the fire department. The Converse Fire Department has developed from an all volunteer staff to a staff of paid firefighters, dual medical and fire certified, working along side a core of volunteers that dedicate hundreds of hours per month, helping the paid staff maintain equipment, complete fire and health inspections, public relations/fire prevention as well as making fire and EMS calls.

Converse is one of the busiest departments in Bexar County, running over 2000 calls for fire and EMS service a year. Converse runs 3 MICU ambulances, 3 class A pumpers, 1 Aerial Truck, 1 rescue truck with a cascade unit and the "jaws of life", 2 brush trucks, a command vehicle, a hazardous materials trailer and a communications trailer.

In early 2004, the Converse Fire Department took delivery of a 2003 Pierce Aerial Truck. Truck 7 has a 100' platform that can carry 6 people in a fully enclosed cab. As CFD's newest fleet addition, it enables Converse to provide better capabilities to its citizens and those of surrounding areas at multi-story structure fires and rescues.

The Converse Fire & EMS Department has a notable rapid response time and has achieved an ISO rating of "2" thus making it possible to lower home owners insurance rate for our citizens.

The Converse Fire Department has a program in which they will do Home Fire Safety Inspections and if needed will install smoke detectors and fire extinguishers at no cost to the residence of it's service area. For added security, the Converse Fire Department can provide information on Emergency Key Boxes for your home to allow for fire department access in the event of an emergency.

In 2010, the Converse Fire Department instituted the Converse Citizens Fire Academy Alumni. The Fire Academy meets one evening per week for 8 weeks to learn fire safety and department procedures to assist the CFD. Upon completion, citizens are then able to join the Alumni. The CCFAA provides special assistance to the fire department and are responsible for hosting the annual Breakfast with Santa event.



The Converse Police Department is located at 402 South Seguin Rd. in the Justice Center.

Phone Number: 24 hour Non-Emergency (210) 658-2322

The men and women of the Converse Police Department are dedicated to providing a safe environment to citizens and visitors alike.

The employees of the Police Department are very active within the community and officers are involved with Judson High School's Project Graduation, a drug and alcohol free graduation party. The Police Department hosts several events (basketball game with local officers vs senior boys, girls and coaches as well as a golf tournament which is open to the public) to help raise money for Project Graduation. Officers also help Special Olympics with fund raisers and attending State events.

An important part of the CPD program is the **Converse Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association (CCPAAA)**. From the very beginning, the association's primary objective was to assist the Police Department and to develop a better understanding between the police and the citizens. Some Association special events include an annual picnic, with a special CPD vs Alumni softball game and occasional fund-raising activities. The community has always been very generous in their support.

The Converse Police Department offers an eleven-week training and familiarization course every year. This course is a prerequisite to joining the alumni. If you are interested in being a part of this very worthwhile organization, please contact the Converse Police Department at 658-2322.

BLUE SANTA PROGRAM

The Blue Santa program began in 1976 when officers from the Community Relations Unit adopted families in need at Christmas time. The officers provided local families with groceries for Christmas dinner and presents for their children. These police officers, wearing their blue uniforms, became known as "Blue Santas". The Converse Police Department has had great success due to the generous contributions of local businesses, civic organizations and countless residents.

DONATIONS:

Toys: Donations of Unwrapped New Toys are accepted at the Converse Police Department.

Money: Donations of money (to purchase gifts) are also accepted.

For any questions, please contact the CPD at 658-2322.



*****Please keep our kids and streets safe! *****

Obey the no cell phones in school zones ordinance.

Converse also upholds the no texting while driving ordinance.

The Ed J. Kneupper Justice Center is located at 402 South Seguin Rd. The building is dedicated to the late Ed J. Kneupper who served as the first Mayor of Converse from 1961-1971. The Justice Center houses our Municipal Court, City Council Chambers, Police and Emergency Dispatch services.

Converse Municipal Court,

The Honorable Judge Robert Ramirez, Presiding
Trisha Neely, Court Clerk
Joyce Sheldon, Deputy Court Clerk

Administrative Hours of Operation: 8am to Noon- 1pm to 5pm,
Monday-Friday

Court Hours of Operation: Sign in at 2:30 pm, Court begins at 3pm
Phone number: (210) 658-8021



The Converse Municipal court handles all class C misdemeanor Traffic and City Ordinance violations written by Converse Police, Animal Control and Enforcement departments.

Court is held the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Wednesday of each month, in order to see the Judge and/or the City Prosecutor you must appear on your scheduled court date listed on your citation.



The Stormwater Operations Department is located in the Public Works Building at 9239 Converse Business Lane.

Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm Monday-Friday
Phone Number: (210) 658-3453

Stormwater Operations is responsible for drainage control and maintenance for flood prevention in Converse. Stormwater Operations works with the Street Department to provide comprehensive, efficient and effective storm water management. Drainage maintenance and debris removal are important for

flood control. Regrading work is also being done in some creeks to ensure proper water flow. The City of Converse has a new storm water program that was mandated by The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The Stormwater Manager is Larry Moxley and he can be reached at the Public Works building by calling 658-3453 or e-mail him at stormwater@conversetx.net. The city will also begin programs in the future for citizens and organizations to learn and help with the beautification of our city. The main goal in the Stormwater Department is to have a safe and healthy city for its citizens and the environment.

Major sections of Stormwater Operations

1. Inspections of construction projects and record keeping.
2. Vegetation maintenance which consists of mowing drainage channels and easements along the channels.
3. Natural waterways and designed channels are inspected on a regular basis for debris removal and regrading by city crews.
4. The street cleaning crew sweeps city streets on a planned schedule in order to help prevent debris from building up on curbs and causing potential drainage problems.
5. Mapping the city's drainage system out and recording the system on maps for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. (TCEQ)
6. Removing trash from the roadways and city owned parks.
7. Brush chipping service is also provided to the citizens to reduce the amount of organic material going into the landfills, and is a free service for the residents of converse.
8. Curbside Recycling is also provided for the Citizens of Converse.
9. Taking water samples for pollutants and doing repairs on the cities outfall and inlet storm water system.

Residents and Business can learn more about how to save money and help keep Texas beautiful by visiting www.takecareoftexas.gov



The Department of Public Works—Utilities (Water/Wastewater) department is located at 9239 Converse Business Lane in the Harry Baumann Public Works Building.

Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm Monday-Friday
Phone Number: (210) 658-3453

The Water/Wastewater Department is responsible for maintaining and repairing the city well sites, water and sewer mains, and sewer lift stations. It is our goal to provide uninterrupted, clean safe drinking water and collection of wastewater.

Converse public drinking water is pumped from the Edwards Aquifer by several deep wells. Our department has consistently met or exceeded the highest standards set by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and we are very proud of our State designated "Superior" water system. The city adds fluoride to the water, this and chlorine disinfectant are the only two additives to the fresh water the Edwards Aquifer provides. The city contracts with the San Antonio River Authority to treat wastewater.

The department has repair crews that provide around the clock response to problems with water or wastewater lines maintained by the city. We strive to provide our Converse customers with responsive, courteous and professional service. For questions or concerns or to report a possible main break, please call: 658-3453 during regular business hours or you can contact the Director of Utilities, Lupe Perez, at water-manager@satx.rr.com or Water/Wastewater Foreman, Jonathan Smith, at water-foreman@satcomx.rr.. After hours and holiday emergencies can be reported to Converse Dispatch at 658-2322.



The Department of Public Works—Street Maintenance department is located at 8711 Business Court

Hours of Operation: 8am-5pm Monday-Friday
Phone Number: (210) 659-9513

The Department of Public Works building houses the Streets, Parks, and Grounds Departments and Fleet Maintenance personnel which are responsible for maintaining the city streets, parks, right of ways, brush chipping and city vehicles respectively.

The Street Department maintains over 160 lane miles of Converse streets. The Street Sweeper usually comes out on a monthly basis, and during peak times, up to twice monthly. In addition to street maintenance, crews work hard to repair sidewalks, clear and maintain storm water drainage ditches, maintain all traffic control signs, street stripping, repair and replace asphalt and concrete and conduct parking lot maintenance at all city owned buildings.

The Parks Department is responsible for caring for our two city parks and The municipal pool. The Parks Department also maintains the athletic fields and prepares the parks for community events.

The Grounds Department is responsible for maintaining and beautifying the public spaces of in the city. They also provide brush collection services. The brush is collected and chipped and the mulch made available free of charge to citizens. Brush collection times are determined by zone, please call the Utility Billing Department at 658-1965 to find out what zone you live in and schedule your brush pickup.

The Fleet Maintenance personnel are responsible for maintaining and repairing all city vehicles and equipment.

To report any complaints, concerns, or just to check on upcoming projects for the Street, Grounds or Parks Departments, please call: 659-9513 during regular business hours or you can contact the Director of Facilities, Karl Hoppes, at street-director@satx.rr.com, or the Street Foreman, Scott Staton, at street-foreman@conversetx.net.

Community Organizations



AMERICAN LEGION WILLIAM M. RANDOLPH POST 593 CONVERSE, TEXAS

The American Legion Post 593 Converse, Texas was granted its National Charter in 1969. The post was originally located in Universal City, Texas. It then moved to a small community known as Airport City, which sat on a hill overlooking Converse, Texas. The membership consisted of personnel in the Greater Randolph Air Field area consisting of Randolph AFB, Universal City, Schertz, Converse and Live Oak. The majority however, were from Universal City and Converse.

Two years after the post received its new charter it moved to its present location in Converse. The new Post Home had been a Church started in a new section of Converse. The congregation had moved to a new location and the property was up for sale. One of the members of the young Post 593 heard of the up coming sale. A deal was struck and several Legion members put up money to make the purchase. The Post Home has been added to several times and has been through many lean times, yet it is still located at the same location now for the past 39 years.

A few years after the American Legion Post 593 moved to its present location the members of Post 593 sponsored break away members from Universal City, Texas and a sister post, Post 667 the Missing Man Post was formed. There is a relationship with that post which has continued for many years.

One of the most lasting and important accomplishments of the William M. Randolph Post 593 was the leadership in organizing and forming the Greater Randolph Area Veterans Council which consisted of the American Legion Posts in Converse and Universal City as well as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Posts in Schertz, Universal City and Kirby, Texas. This organization was formed to coordinate between all of the local posts for scheduled events and programs which were being duplicated by all posts.

Post 593 has continued an era of increased Community and National involvement even at times that the post is in a financial up or down position. The post gets involved in sponsorship of Little League teams, Boys State, Audie Murphy Veterans Hospital ward, Oratorical and Scholarship funds (The Friesenhaun Scholarship). Donations include but are by no means limited to the Greater Randolph Area Seniors Program, local area Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets programs as well as supporting programs such as the American Legion Legacy Fund. The Post continues to get involved in community spirit programs such as the City Library, attending City Council meetings and aiding the EMS, Fire and Police Departments. In 2010 the Post held its 3rd Annual Spring Jubilee in the Converse City Park with the 1st Parade in downtown Converse Texas.



Who is William M. Randolph?

A native of Austin, Texas, Captain William Millican Randolph attended Texas A&M before entering the Army in 1916. Following pilot training at Kelly Field, he received his wings in 1919. He earned a remarkable record and contributed immeasurably to the progress of aviation during his

9-year flying career. In 1928 he was selected to a committee to recommend a suitable name for the new flying training field the Air Corps planned to build just east of San Antonio. On 17 February 1928, Captain Randolph was killed when his AT-4 crashed on takeoff from Gorman Field, Texas. Seven months later the War Department agreed to name the field after Randolph.

Randolph Field was dedicated June 20, 1930, with an estimated 15,000 people in attendance and a fly-by of 233 planes, possibly the largest assembly of military aircraft in the world.

Captain Randolph is buried at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Early History

The idea for Post 593 began in 1968 and culminated in a temporary charter being granted on January 22nd, 1969. The first acting Commander was Earl Grover. The first meeting was held at the Universal City Aero Realty office.

In March, 1969, Mrs. Randolph, the widow of the late William M. Randolph, was asked if the post could be named in his memory. Mrs. Randolph agreed.

The early Seventies were trying times for the fledgling Post. Personnel turnover affected every elected position and led to a lack of unit cohesiveness. Financial difficulties were apparent too. Interestingly, membership overall remained good. We were listed as a "Hall of Fame" post in 1971 through 1975 for membership.

Current History

Our current address was obtained in the early 1980s. Several renovations have occurred through the years. Our lounge/dining area was completed in October, 1999. We are now at over 800 members strong. We still do the barbecues and participate in parades as in years past. Now, we are engaged in many activities including visits to the Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital, and Bicycles for Kids (our own initiative for needy children and helmets are included).

Future

We are hopeful that with our recent renovation and the civic activities we support that we will see an increase in membership and do greater things.

-Graciously contributed by the Commander & Historian of American Legion William M. Randolph Post 593 Converse, TX

Community Organizations



CONVERSE LIONS CLUB SERVING THE CONVERSE AREA SINCE 1949

Membership in a Lions Club is by invitation and we are always looking for civic-minded citizens willing to donate some time toward making our community a better place in which to live. If you are interested in coming a member or just want to know more about what we do, we invite you to attend one of our meetings or contact a club officer for more information.

Guests are always welcome.

The motto of every Lions Club is WE SERVE.

Whether helping the blind or hearing impaired ... conducting drug or diabetes awareness campaigns ... providing recreational opportunities for the handicapped ... sponsoring basic research into the causes and treatment of blindness ... providing children with sports equipment or just a place to play ... or raising the funds to make it all possible, service always comes first for a Lion.

Founded in 1917, Lions Clubs International is the largest and most active service club organization in the world with almost 1.3 million men and women members in 44,000 clubs located in 202 countries and geographical areas.

WHO ARE THE LIONS? We are people just like you!

The Converse Lions Club, through our 501(C-3) Non-Profit Charitable Organization, Converse Lions Charities, Inc., provides the following ...

Monetary contributions to the following programs:

Texas Lions Camp located in Kerrville, TX (camp for physically disabled, hearing/vision impaired, and insulin dependent diabetic children from Texas)

Texas Lions Foundation provides funding for disasters within Texas

Boys State

Stride for Sight Program

Bexar County Junior Livestock Show

Lions Human Needs Board

Lions Sight Research Foundation

Lions Low Vision Center of Texas

Lions Hearing Board

Lions Clubs International Foundation provides funding on an international level for vision care and research, hearing research and aids, building of hospitals, clinics, homes, schools, and other projects too numerous to list here.

The following community services:

Provide financial assistance to the Converse Blue Santa Project for Christmas baskets and toys for the underprivileged within our community

Eye exams and glasses for economically disadvantaged children and adults

Youth Programs: Diabetic Essay, Outstanding Youth, and Peace Poster Contest

Queens Scholarship Pageant (Judson HS)

Dictionary Project (Converse Elementary School - 3rd graders)

Sponsors bloodmobile visits

Sponsors mobile eye screenings

Recycles eyeglasses

Recycles hearing aids

Our fund-raisers include:

Night In Ole Converse (NIOC)

Annual charity golf tournament

Other fund raising activities as needed

Our largest and most visible contributions to the community have been the Converse City Park projects and the Public Library as listed below.

Converse Lions Memorial Pavilion at the park (\$35,000, Oct 1980)

Twenty-nine acre park extension (\$78,000, March 1987)

Other improvements to the park include Little League fields, nature trails, and a covered beverage booth.

In 1988, the Converse Lions Club came up with the idea for a community library and presented a resolution to the City Council. Upon passage of this resolution, we donated \$15,000 and involved the Converse Grange and a host of volunteers to make the library a reality. On September 1, 1991, the Converse Area Public Library officially opened its doors and in 1994 was accredited by the Texas State Library System.

Restrooms for the park pavilion area (\$31,000, April 1989)

In 1995, we donated \$5,000 to the City of Converse towards the purchase and construction of playground equipment at Converse North Park.

Community Organizations

Converse Animal Shelter

Converse Animal Shelter Incorporated (CASI) is a non-profit organization begun in 1979 on land donated by George Ammermann. Former Mayor John Van-Voorhies appointed Sue Schones to be the chairman of the Animal Shelter Committee. Using donations, Sue, along with a team of volunteers worked hard



and completed the shelter in 1982.

Since September, 1985, approximately 15,000 helpless, abandoned, sick and lost animals have been cared for at this facility. The goal of the shelter is to provide the City of Converse with a humane facility to deal with animal problems. To do this, the animals are fed, sheltered, rehabilitated, spayed, neutered, given their shots, worming and heart-worm treatments. The shelter also has an adoption program which finds good homes for the animals.

The Converse Animal Shelter is always in need of volunteers. If you would like more information about the Shelter, or would like to help, please call (210) 658-4821 or go by to see them at 9634 Schaefer Rd.

Converse Sons of Hermann Lodge #157

In 1896, twelve men organized the Sons of Hermann Lodge. It met in a room on the second floor of the Real store, located at the corner of Station St and Gibbs-Sprawl Rd. The main purpose of the lodge was to help families who had lost a family members by accumulating funds for life insurance. Many social events were held by the lodge to raise the money needed. The wives of lodge members formed a ladies auxiliary in 1909, which later merged with the men's lodge, forming the Converse Sons Mixed Lodge #157. In the early 1900's the lodge purchased two acres of land located at FM 1516 and Lower Seguin Road for a

much needed cemetery. The lodge members maintain it and members and non members alike are able to use it for a burial plot. Each year, the lodge observes a Flag Day ceremony in a public place, such as City Hall. In November, 1996, the lodge observed its centennial. For more information, please call (210) 658-3959.

Senior Services and Organizations

Esplanade Gardens Assisted Living & Memory Care

Esplanade Gardens provides 24-hour personal care and offers individual suites that foster independence and privacy. For more information or to schedule a tour of this beautiful assisted living campus, please call 566-7600 .

Rosewood Rehabilitation and Care Center

Rosewood offers "...Individualized care programs (that) are designed to ensure necessary and supportive services while allowing each resident to maintain independence and self-confidence," for persons recommended by a physician. For information call 650-0551

Senior Citizens Center (G.R.A.S.P.)

This is a very comprehensive recreational program, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., provided by the Greater Randolph Area Services Program (G.R.A.S.P.), a United Way Agency. If needed, transportation can be provided. Activities include: games, field trips, crafts, low-impact exercises, Bingo and lunch (for which a nominal amount is charged). For "homebound" seniors, GRASP will provide "Meals-on-Wheels". Anyone over 55 may participate. Please call 658-6351.

Youth Services and Organizations

Boy Scouts of America (BSA)

BSA provides opportunities for physical, mental and emotional growth of boys. It gives them adventures in which to realize their abilities, develop skills and values, introducing them to leadership and service in their communities. Available are troops for: Cubs (1st -3rd grade), Webelos (4th & 5th grade), Boy Scouts (6th grade - 18 years) and Explorer Scouts for both boys and girls-career oriented (14 years - 18 years). For more information contact: Alamo Area Council,

Community Organizations

2226 NW Military Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78213.
Phone (210) 341-8611

Boysville

Boysville serves as a home for children between the ages of 5 & 17 who come from families who do not provide the love and care needed for them to become responsible and upright citizens.

The first Boysville home was opened in San Antonio. Due to growth and expanding services a search was begun for a larger and better facility. A suitable site was found in Converse at Schaefer Road and Loop 1604. The property was originally owned by Henry Kriewald as a cotton and corn farm in the early 1900's. The property was then sold to the Siebold family who in turn sold it to Boysville. The campus currently contains an administration building, gym, library, chapel, 2 greenhouses, a large barn, a swimming pool, and the many cottages. A very special aspect of Boysville are the cottages that provide a stable home environment. They are staffed by house parents who each give the care and love needed for a small number of children. Revenue for this large operation is maintained from donations and contributions made possible through the support of the public. There is an annual auction held on the grounds of Boysville which usually earns a minimum of \$100,000, helping with the operational costs. The Judson High School Senior Prom (drug and alcohol free) is held at Boysville each year. Call (210) 659-1901 for more info.

Converse Youth Sports League

The Converse Youth Sports League offers Flag Football for ages 5-6 years, Tackle Football for ages 7-11 years old and Cheerleading for ages 4-11 years old. The Converse Cardinals help foster good sportsmanship, honesty, loyalty, self-discipline and respect for others. For more information, please call (210)559-2089.

4-H

Around 1927 the Converse 4-H club was organized, the oldest 4-H in the State of Texas. It provides equal opportunity to all Texas youth in offering an

"...informal educational program that focuses on the needs, interests and concerns of young people." 4-H is for youth, ages 8 (third grade) through 19. They currently meet at the Boysville Agricultural Center. For further information, contact the Texas Agricultural Extension Service at (210) 930-3091 .

Girl Scouts of America

This program for girls ages 5 - 17 provides opportunities to learn new skills, make new friends, go on camping and field trips, make things and the list goes on. From Brownies to Jr. Scouts, to Cadettes and Senior Scouts, the girls will find the extra support and assistance they need to help prepare them for their futures. Converse has a number of Troops at various levels. For more information, contact (210) 349-2404.

G.R.A.Y.S.A.

The Greater Randolph Area Youth Soccer Association is open to youth, ages 4 through 17. The practices are held on Randolph Air Force Base and the games are at Retama. Between 800 and 1200 are enrolled each season. Call (210) 497-1100 for info.

Judson Youth Sports Foundation (JYSF)

The Judson Youth Sports Foundation is dedicated to fostering and improving the quality of youth sports through competition and participation. They are committed to providing an environment where life values such as teamwork, cooperation, respect and self-esteem will be learned through a positive sports experience. Football and Cheerleading is offered for boys and girls ages 5-12. Membership and registration begin May 31st. For more information, regarding registration times and places contact them at (210) 554-9035 or www.jrrockets.org .

To learn how you can assist their non-profit organization in raising funds or if you can make a donation of goods and services please write to JYSF, P.O. Box 1084, Converse, TX 78109.

Saint Monica's Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)

The CYO offers Soccer to boys and girls ages 4-12 (PK-6th grade) and Volleyball for girls ages 7-12 (2nd-6th grade). Please call (210) 658-3816.

Area Schools

K-12 & Adult/Community Education

Judson ISD (210) 945-5100

St. Monica's Catholic School (210) 658-6701

Shekinah Radiance Academy (210) 658-6848

Community Colleges

Northeast Lakeview College (210) 486-5402

Northwest Vista College (210) 486-4000

Palo Alto College (210) 486-3000

San Antonio College (210) 486-0000

St. Phillip's College (210) 486-7000

Public Universities

University of Texas at San Antonio (210) 458-4011

Private Colleges & Universities

Our Lady of the Lake University (210) 434-6711

St. Mary's University (210) 436-3011

Texas A&M University at San Antonio (210) 932-6299

Texas Lutheran University (830) 372-8000

Trinity University (210) 999-7011

University of the Incarnate Word (210) 829-6000

University of Texas Health Science Center
(210) 567-7000

Wayland Baptist College (210) 826-7595

Courses are also offered at Randolph Air Force Base through several colleges and universities.

Community Events



Night in Ole Converse first started back in 1974 and we've been going strong every year since. The NIOC Festival is held at

Converse City Park (South) on School Street during the first week of October. The Festival kicks off with a parade through downtown and culminates into a fun-filled night with Live Music, Food and Beverage Vendors, a Carnival and so much more! Bring the whole family! For more info, please contact City Hall at 658-5356.



The Second Saturday Art Festival is an Arts & Crafts Block Party right in the heart of Converse. Vendors and Businesses set up from 101 to 339 South Seguin

Rd. Come out and enjoy beautiful arts and crafts, live music, good food and great company!



Texas Reads Summer Reading Program

The Converse Public Library hosts a Summer Reading Program for grades K-5. There are stories, activities and prizes! Please call the Library for more info at 659-4160.

Summer Swim Lessons

Swimming Lessons are offered at the Converse Pool located at the Converse City Park (South) on School Street. The swim seasons runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Tuesday-Sunday Inquiries can be must be made at the pool, please speak to Nemo or Nicole. Further information can be obtained by calling 659-9513.

American Legion Spring Jubilee



The American Legion Post #593 host a Spring Jubilee at the Converse City Park (South) every Memorial Day weekend. It features, parades and auctions and great family fun to be had by all! Please call (210)658-1111 for more info.

Christmas In Converse

Christmas is a wonderful time of year and Converse has many celebrations throughout the season.

Christmas In the Park,
Blue Santa (Converse PD)

Breakfast with Santa (Converse Fire)

Please call City Hall at 658-5356 for more info.



Converse Area Services Directory

EMERGENCY CONTACTS

- Police/Fire/EMS - **Dial 911**
- Police 24 hour Non-Emergency (210) 658-2322
- Fire/EMS 24 hour Non-Emergency (210) 658-8900
- Poison Control (800) 222-1222
- Main Breaks 8am-5pm, Mon-Fri (210) 658-1965
After Hours/Holidays (210) 658-2322

Garbage & Recycling
(210) 658-1965

Hazardous Waste Pickup
(800) 449-7587

Health Inspections (Scheduled through the Converse Fire Department)
(210) 658-8900

Rentals (City Park, Pool, Pavilion, Athletic Field)
(210) 658-1965

Street Repair
(210) 659-9513

Animal Control Officer (Stray/Dead Animal Pickup)
(210) 658-2322

Voting Information
(210) 658-5356

Brush & Bulk Pickup
(210) 658-1965

Building Department (Permits & Inspections)
(210) 658-8285

Code Compliance Officer (Code Enforcement)
(210) 658-2322

Community Events Information
(210) 658-5356

Converse Municipal Court Clerk (Fines/Warrants)
(210) 658-8021

Economic Development Corporation (Bid Opportunities, Prospective Business/Development)
(210) 658-9163

Employment Opportunities (City Positions)
www.conversetx.net

Fire Inspections (Extinguishers and Smoke Detectors)
(210) 658-8900

Utilities

Electric

CPS Energy (210) 353-2222
(CPS Energy may also provide gas in your area. Please call CPS to confirm.)

Gas

CenterPoint Energy (800) 427-7142

Telephone & Cable

AT&T (800) 288-2020

DirectTV (888) 777-2454

Dish Network (800) 823-4929

Grande Communications (210) 320-4600

Time Warner Cable (210) 244-0500

Water & Sewer

Converse Water (210) 658-1965



In the coming months, Converse will be rolling out a new and improved City website. Find out what events are happening around town, stay connected with your City Council, make an online payment or keep tabs on water restrictions, all with the click of a mouse.

Please visit www.conversetx.net .

Have questions or suggestions? Email the webmaster at webmaster@conversetx.net.

Business Directory

Automotive Sales & Service

A-1 Fixit Shop
662-8084

American Car Craft Center
666-4524

Auto My Hobby
658-6261

Auto Station, LLC
320-3062

AutoZone
310-2173

Bear Auto Group
310-2000

Bob Hall Motors
659-4500

Car Craft Auto Service
661-6997

Cars 4 U
658-7227

Cars America, Inc.
666-8191

CD Tire Shop
666-1052

Coyote Canyon Truck
Accessories
823-9949

D & L Auto Service
666-1800

Express Care
566-3800

Express Lube
659-5359

FM 78 Auto Care Center
661-2413

G & S Auto Services
945-9800

Goodyear Tire
945-2354

Jack's Paint Place
658-2288

JMS Automotive
310-1729

Lone Star Motorsport
215-0825

Maldonado Firestone
658-4797

Motor Techtonics
658-3515

O'Reilly Auto Parts
659-4064

Polo's Auto Shop
383-0961

Premier Auto Group
566-6993

R & R Custom Cycle
220-6461

Redrock Motor Co.
559-7878

Scorpion Auto Designs
945-4447

Simmang's Auto Service
659-8866

Transmission King SA
338-8229

Volksmith
661-9561

Yantis Automotive
659-6721

Beauty and Health Services

78 Nail & Spa
661-7801

Chop It Up Barber Shop
287-2049

Jean's Hair Center
661-5540

Judson Hair & Nail Care
646-6027

Maven Hair Studio
257-8317

New Dawning Salon & Day
Spa
945-2525

Phynal Touch
659-1581

Sassy Styles
559-8904

The Right Cut
485-3898

Tracy's Hair Trends
566-4099

Childcare Services

Children World
945-0364

Converse Christian School
659-0203

Kiddie Round-Up
945-8391

Kindercare
659-0364

La Petite Academy
658-2639

Little Rascals Daycare
831-4087

Peek A Boo Hideout Daycare
310-5437

Room 2 Grow CDC, LLC
601-8055

Shady Oaks Learning Center
658-7001

Shekinah Learning Institute
658-6848

St. Monica's School
658-6701

Church Services

Converse First Baptist
Church
658-2891

Deliverance Temple A.O.K.
Church
566-6233

Godspeed Ministries
599-1385

Maranatha Bible Church
658-0208

NE Hispanic Baptist Church
658-8093

New Hope Methodist
658-1220

New Life Baptist
658-1972

Redeeming Grace Baptist
Church
661-5024

St. Monica's Church
658-3816

Turning Point Church of
Faith
366-2672

Communication Services

Ambiance Communications
372-2423

Commercial Services

Alamo Plating & Metal Fin-
ishing, Ltd.
658-4024

Arcom Signage Solution
412-0763

Carmargo's Custom Machine
& Welding
385-3754

J & R Government Sales, Inc.
566-9966

Power Engineering Service,
Inc.
590-4936

Tenn Tex
599-8000

Delivery Services

Delivery Made Simple
289-6060

Entertainment

Sportsman's Bar
658-9478

Financial / Banking / Lending

Ace Cash Express
326-2837

American Lender
967-9881

E-Z Money
658-0408

Jackson Hewitt
840-1141

Texstar National Bank
945-2092

Fitness

River City Gymnastics &
Cheerleading
946-8256

US Martial Arts Training
Center
666-2467

Florists

Karen's House of Flowers
310-0007

La Petite Flowers & Gifts
566-4155

Sharp & Co. Florist
658-4014

Gas Stations / Convenience Stores

Big's Convenience Store
566-7131

Circle 786 Food & Gas
566-1786

Fancy Food Mart
663-0826

J's Convenience Store
659-3367

Rocket Mart
566-0527

Texaco Food Mart
658-6704

Valero Corner Store
9145 FM 78
659-2902

Valero Corner Store
7330 Kitty Hawk
590-4531

Government Offices

Converse Post Office
658-5129

Housing / Real Estate

Hamilton & Associates
658-4688

Kingdom Living Realty
566-0101

Mayfair Apartments
512-708-5274

Placid Mobile Park
658-0022

Shadow Creek Apartments
566-5000

TJ Elite Properties
658-4848

Towne East Apartments
659-1234

Town Square Apartments
566-0000

Insurance

Allstate Insurance
566-2906

Farmers Insurance
659-6179

State Farm Insurance
9160 FM 78, #5
659-5538

State Farm Insurance
8316 FM 78, #104
661-8383

Laundry / Alterations

KC's Alterations
566-7700

Nell's Alterations
658-1441

Pilgrim Cleaners
659-4589

Manufacturing / Industrial

Bob Oliver Enterprises
658-3640

Deanan Gourmet Popcorn
658-8146

Featherlite, Inc.
658-4631

Ingram Ready Mix
659-4468

Link New Tech, Inc.
945-3900

Meadow Burke
659-7141

Meadow Burke Products
658-4671

Midpoint Bearing
945-0400

Mueller Glass Co.
658-1075

Medical Services

Awesome Healthcare
Services, LLC
945-0000

Converse Chiropractic
658-6000

Crossroads Vision Care
659-1223

Dr. Carmina Fusco, DPM
659-3500

Family First Care Clinic, PLLC
566-5028

Judson Family Dental
658-9688

MHMR Offices
659-5857

Northeast Baptist Hospital
297-9730

Pet Services

Blue Bonnet Pet Crematory
566-4501

Four Paws Inn
566-7297

Photography

Front Page Photography
945-9445

Professional Services

AAA House Leveling
945-4547

A & B Pool Plastering, LLC
658-2517

A-OK Foundation Repair
945-7910

All Audio Video Solutions
420-5629

All Star Printing
666-3030

Big Tex Fire
658-5324

Cal-Texas Heats LLP
566-7479

Class Custom Upholstery
658-0208

Converse Paint
658-0759

Courtesy A/C
658-0608

Davani's Construction
345-4142

Du-West
658-0911

Gilbane Building Company
451-0475

Judson Driving School
658-0408

KL&E Bookkeeping and Tax
658-9194

Liberty Builders
852-3118

Most Valuable Plumber LLC
379-9933

Northeast A/C & Plumbing
658-0111

OIC Limited
658-1208

Peter Ackerman, Remodeling
535-3504

Ragtime Southwest
241-5352

S&S Plumbing Contractors LLC
658-7100

Service Master Clean
496-3866

Southwest Elec. Contracting
568-1633

Stewart Plumbing
658-0041

Superior Foundation Repair
262-3696

True Blue Contracting
393-5620

US Sprinkler Systems
557-6033

Restaurants

Baysea's Restaurant
659-9445

Big Daddy's BBQ
393-2241

Bill Miller BBQ
659-1202

Blanca's Café
658-2748

Bush's Chicken
932-8953

Bush's Chicken
566-8533

Chili's
666-0480

China Garden
658-6688

Church's Chicken
658-6008

El Patio Restaurant Taqueria
566-1739

El Sabrosito
566-0222

First Stop
659-2823

Grady's BBQ
343-8060

Jando's Mexican Restaurant
658-2748

Long John Silver's
310-2766

M & M Donuts
566-7785

McDonald's
9151 FM 78
566-9922

McDonald's
8315 FM 78
666-9596

McDonald's
7975 Kitty Hawk
659-7513

Papa Dante's
658-5261

Papa John's Pizza
655-7272

Pizza Hut
566-5316

Rocket's Feed
310-1463

Snowie Shaved Ice & Ice Cream Parlor
566-1400

Sonic Drive-In (North)
566-0773

Sonic Drive-In (South)
658-5501

Subway
658-0585

Taqueria Azteca
637-1100

Texaco Food Mart
658-6704

The Sweet Spot -
A Cupcakery
662-8370

Wendy's
661-3558

Retail Stores / General Merchandise

5th Ave. Liquor
281-8882

A Timeless Design
264-2252

Gerald's Casino Parties
590-7805

Social / Community Organizations

A to Z Rental
659-6601

Home Grown Design
650-3105

American Legion Post #583
658-1111

A.I.R. Saya
659-3932

K D Logo / Auto Detailing
659-8379

Boysville
659-1901

Ashton's Angel Collection
655-7400

Knotts Enterprises, LLC
324-7542

Cimmaron Homeowners
Association
658-9961

AT&T
658-4775

Liquor Barrel
661-9364

Converse Animal Shelter
658-4821

Aura Ladies Boutique
658-4555

Liquor World
658-8454

Council Oaks Community
Options Ltd.
646-0717

Backyard Storage Solutions
909-1362

Phoenix Merchandise Dist.
512-846-2610

Esplanade Gardens
566-7600

Burditt Tile & Stone, Inc.
659-0996

Pocket Wireless
379-3315

GRASP
658-3578

Charmaine's
659-2620

Rocco's
310-2828

Rosewood Rehab
650-0551

Converse Computer Co.
240-5631

Shell's Resale Boutique
659-2626

Storage

Custom Pools
658-7054

Shop & Save
659-2823

American Mini Storage
659-5508

Dollar General
659-2168

Spur Attic Tattoo
310-0066

Rocket Storage
310-0000

Dollar Tree
661-2123

Walgreens
662-7764

Family Dollar
566-3693

Walgreens
659-8177

Family Dollar
659-5920

Walmart Supercenter
666-6066

GameStop
310-0415

Wash Your Ride
566-1602

General Store and Quilt
Studio
659-7278

Wireless Stop
945-7867

The following pages were taken from our Centennial Celebration for the City of Converse in 1977, the Converse Sons of Hermann Lodge No. 157-2 100th Anniversary Celebration and from www.ourlittlecorner.org. It contains the rich history involved with the humble beginnings of Converse. Please enjoy the fascinating history of what makes us who we are.



The Town of Converse is Founded.

Our records of the German families that settled in the Converse area are limited. Even so, Converse evidently owes much of its present status to the rich cultural and religious heritage brought over by our German ancestors. The settlers cleared much of the raw land for fanning with the ax and grubbing hoe. The work was hard and required large families and a close sense of community for people to survive and prosper. They constructed homes and barns with the help of neighbors. Field work was often a community effort. Many farming families also relied upon the help of willing Mexican laborers.

Before the Civil War, the surrounding area began to grow with the arrival of families like the Stappers, Reals, Biesenbachs, Classens, Schertz and others. They built a one room school house on the Stapper property in 1864.

The town of Converse was founded in 1877 as a result of railroad construction. Workers laid railroad tracks by sections, and at the end of each section a new town came into being. Our neighboring communities of Marion, Cibolo, Schertz, and Kirby were also founded during this era. The town of Converse is named for Major James Converse who was a learned railroad engineer working in Louisiana. The federal government summoned him to build a railroad line from Houston to San Antonio in the early 1860's. He started the job, but when the Civil War started he took arms to fight in the Confederate Army. After the war, he was discharged as a Major and he resumed civilian life to continue building the Galveston-Harrisburg railroad, now the Southern Pacific Railroad, passing through Converse. It was here that Maj. Converse laid out the first four town lots in 1872 starting at the corner of Station Street, going westward along Gibbs-Sprawl Road. The first train passed through in 1877. As rail traffic became available, it provided an economical means to ship cotton, which was the "king" crop of the area, to eastern markets and the town began to grow. The Converse area, a radius of 20 or 30 miles was almost exclusively a community of hard-working and prosperous farmers. Predominant crops were cotton and corn. Dairy farms were also present.

The four lots Maj. Converse laid out were sold to William Lippe who in turn sold to Mr. Preusser. Ferdinand Simon and Son soon bought the property. They built a brick store and saloon and remodeled the family home to make room for the first Post Office in 1892. They also had a cotton gin business. Louie Borgfeld worked the Post Office from 1908 to 1912. In 1908 Ferdinand Simon sold to Walter Simon and Louie Borgfeld and the firm name changed to Simon & Borgfeld. The new firm did a booming business. Farmers not only bought their merchandise there, but did some banking business as well.

The first village blacksmith was George Rsser, who was succeeded by Ferdinand Fischer. In 1908, Carl A Boeck built a second blacksmith shop, which still stands today. During the harvest season, farmers lined up wagon trains of cotton on streets waiting to get their cotton baled. To pass the time, farmers would gather and visit at the Bmil Real and Son firm that was directly across the street from the gin property and now owned by Boeck Equipment Company.

This was a two-story building comprising a saloon, living quarters and a second floor dance hall. Saturday night dances were very popular. Due to poor health, Emil Real had to sell the business. Walter Simon and Louie Borgfeld bought the property and converted part of the building into sleeping quarters for the many cotton gin workers while the second floor became a meeting room.

THE WAY IT WAS . . .

Much has been written about German immigration to Texas, but very little is on record about the German families settling in the Converse area. We can only surmise, then, that Converse owes its present status to the same rich, cultural, and religious heritage brought over by its ancestry.

Primary reasons for the migration to America included both economic and social depression which prevailed in Europe at the time and the mandatory military regulations which affected the youth of the mainland. Friends who migrated to America earlier wrote encouraging letters to those they had left behind, persuading them to come to the land of 'milk and honey'. They were little aware of the hardships and disappointments which invariably were to follow.

It is a known fact that the greatest percent of German people have always settled in black soil areas. With its black, saturated, flint rock soil, the Converse area is hardly an exception.

Much of the land had been issued under Spanish grants, and yet, when the earlier settlers came by oxcarts from Galveston and Indianola, many Blacks and Anglo-Americans had already established ownership. Germans had no serious problem buying land, but they found it difficult to work because of the inadequate farm equipment. Due to the semi-arid weather conditions of the area, irrigation and the need for water were definite problems.

Wildlife and other big game were not in abundant supply. The country as a whole was so overgrown with mesquite, hackberry, elm, and oak that most wildlife consisted of small animals, deer, jack rabbits, coyotes, wolves, reptiles, skunks, raccoons and possum. They fed on what little undergrowth and bushes the area had to offer.

Most of the land was still in the raw stage. To clear the land, settlers had to use the ax and grubbing hoe. Mexican labor, generally, was hired for this backbreaking job. Once a tree was felled, it was then cut into cordwood size. Farmers used the wood for cooking and heating, and any surplus wood was sold for as little as a dollar up to three dollars a cord.

After the land was cleared, homes and barns were constructed. Neighbor helped neighbor until the work was finished. Germans who were carpenters, shoe cobblers, house movers, and blacksmiths displayed a special expertise in their trade and took exceptional pride in their workmanship. All Germans were considered very thrifty and industrious. Their characters could be seen in the possessions and land that they owned, for their grounds were well-kept and well-fenced. The supply of food was never-ending. Every farm had its orchard and vineyard, and it was by trial-and-error that farmers learned what varieties of grapes would produce the best wine-making. Regular wine tasting get-togethers were the social order of the time.

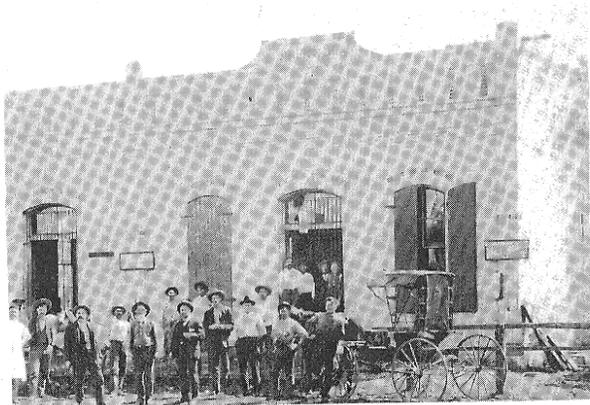
The farming practices that were used in the old country did not always work as well here. But the settlers soon adapted themselves to the adverse conditions. They learned not to put all 'their eggs in one basket'. Diversified farming became the mainstay of existence. Every farm had its own cattle, hogs, and poultry, and the land was farmed by strip cropping.

Cotton was "king" of this area, with corn as the secondary crop. Some grain was raised solely for the purpose of feeding cattle.

It was not likely that the German settlers in the community used slaves to help work the fields, nor did the moral issue of owning slaves pose a serious threat either, because most of the farmers relied heavy on Mexican labor. Many of the Mexican families had already settled in the community. In some instances, these families were given rent-free homes and were furnished teams of horses or mules, including implements to share crop the farmer's land. The farmer's return would be a certain percent of the harvest—in some cases a third and others a fourth—depending on the arrangement between the two parties. It was not unusual to see Mexican families break bread with the white people. There was no language barrier, even with children, for they would play and learn from each other.

When the railroad became a reality, it provided a means to ship the cotton to eastern markets. Cotton, being the main source of income for the farmer, thus could be transported now, the railroad became a Godsend for town growth. Responsible for the town's name was Major James Converse. The

Preusser, who in turn sold the property to Ferdinand Simon and Son. They soon built a brick store and saloon and remodeled the family home to make room for the first post office in 1892—realizing also that the small gin in the 300 hundred block of Gibbs-Sprawl was too small to handle the strong oncoming cotton industry, they built a new gin where Hamilton and Associates and other small businesses are today.



SIMON AND SONS STORE

created activity. Farmers not only bought their goods there, but did some banking business as well. It was not unusual for people to put their money on deposit with the firm, for this was added security for them to be able to buy groceries the year round.

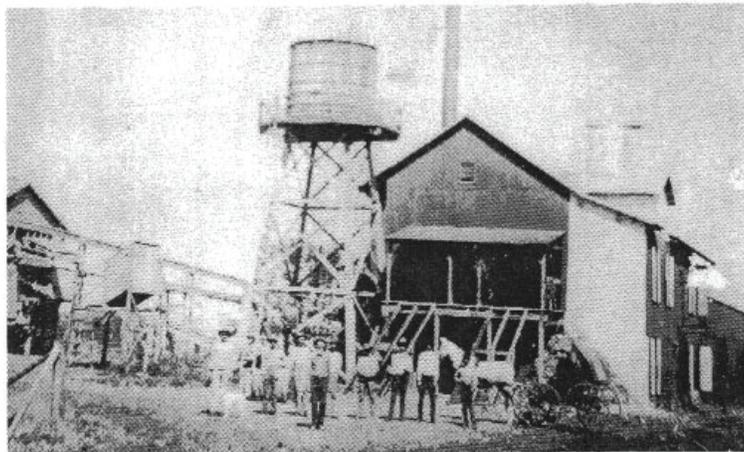
The railroad and the firm had a dual relationship as this also served as a distribution point during cotton picking seasons. The railroad transported people from San Antonio and would drop them off here in town with farmers waiting to take them to the farms. On Friday the train would pass through Converse again to give them a ride back to their homes in San Antonio. Many would stay over and enjoy the weekend right here in town. There was a regular plaza huddled under the trees where fruit vendors had set up fruit stands and where chili queens gaily dressed in bright colors decorated chili stands. One old gent had a "raspa" stand and it did a tremendous amount of business because it was something new. Everybody had to try it.

Down the street the cotton gin was running at full capacity during the week, and in normal crop years, the two gins would turn out 2000 to 5000 bales a season.

To keep these gins going was a grueling task. Much of the firing to run the steam boilers was done by wood burning. Cords and cords of wood were stacked in the gin yard and men had to keep the furnaces going day and night. During extreme summer heat it tried men's souls. Heinrich Cord, Grandfather of Alma Prochnow was a foreman at the Simon and Borgfeld gin and would never take the time to go home to eat. He felt it was necessary to stay on the job. Grandmother Cord would bring the food to him "by walking the distance through thick pastureland. They lived in the same house that Major Converse had lived in before he sold the place. This was a long rambling, western-

style home with beautiful floors and a big hall running through the middle of it. Rooms were very large and there were seven of them. It was not unusual in later years to have two families living in the same house. When it was no longer a family dwelling, it was used as a hay barn.

From early in the morning until late at night wagon trains of cotton were lined on the streets patiently waiting to get the cotton baled. To pass the time, farmers would gather and visit at the Emil Real and Son firm which was directly across the street from the gin property and now



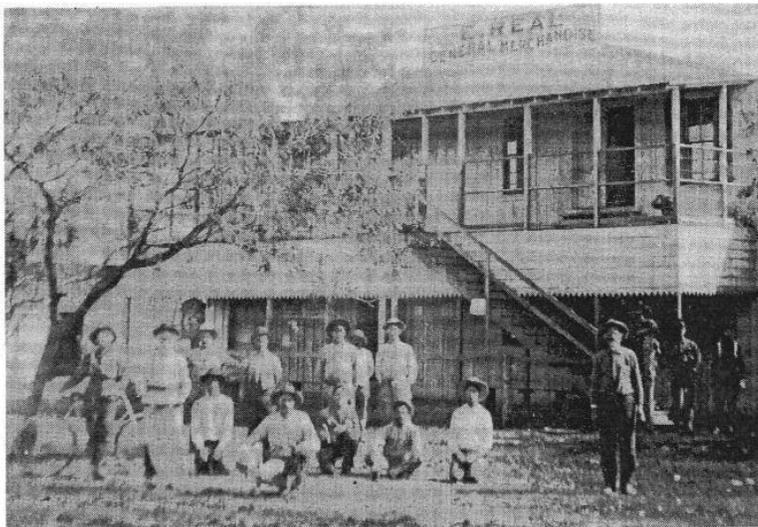
COTTON GIN

owned by Boeck Equipment company. This was a two story building comprising a saloon, living quarters and a second floor dance hall. Saturday night dances were very popular.

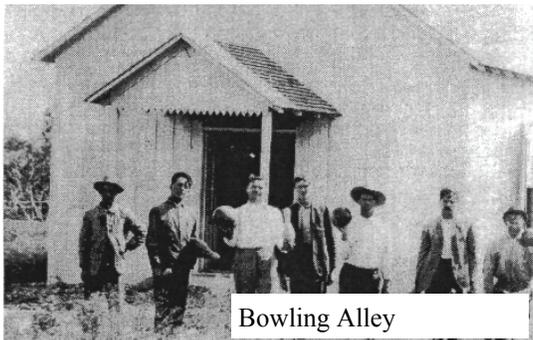
Due to ill health, it became necessary for Real to sell the business. Walter Simon and Louie Borgfeld bought the property and converted part of the building in

to sleeping quarters for the many gin hands they had to hire. The second floor became a meeting room for the Woodmen of the World and Sons of Herman Lodge. The Lodge was organized in the year 1896 with twelve charter members, who were George Baumann, Chris Bolton, Christ Brehm, A. Donne-bauer, Franz J. Mangham,

Joe Nitsche, Andreas Rudlopp, Carl Schertz, Franz Siebold, Ferdnand Simon and Theodore Stapper. The Sister Lodge organized later in 1910 and merged with the Brother Lodge January 1, 1959- The only living charter member at this time is Sister Hulda Weichold, who resides in Kirby, Texas.



REAL BUILDING



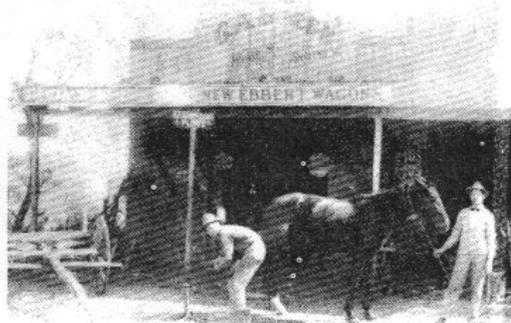
Bowling Alley

The Converse Bowling Club was organized in 1908 through the combined efforts of Louie Borgfeld and Walter Simon who leased the land to the club to build the valley. It was quite popular for the interested bowlers in the community, until Randolph Air Force Base opened their alleys which were much more attractive. This action pulled a lot of the better bowlers to the base. The club found itself being abandoned, and they decided to sell the alley and move it to San Marcos, Texas.

The first village blacksmith supposedly was George Esser, who apparently wasn't in town too long when he moved to a farm off FM1605. It was then that Ferdnand Fischer opened a blacksmith shop on a larger scale to accommodate farmers in repairing farm implements, sharpening plow and cultivator shares, cotton hoes and shod horses. Next to the shop, Fischer build his home which is now owned by the F.F.Diets family.

The first village blacksmith supposedly was George Esser, who apparently wasn't in town too long when he

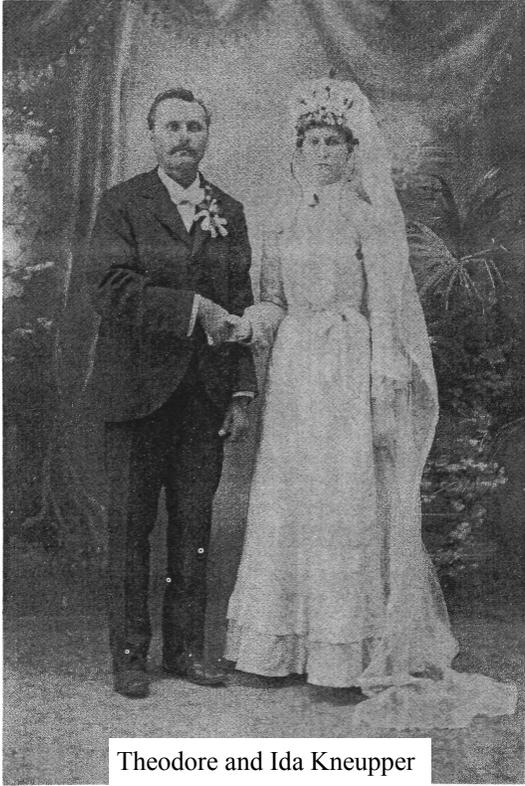
Later Major Converse sold his property to R.R. Claridge. In 1900 Claridge sold 400-acres to Adam Kneupper which extended east to Airport City, bordering up to the west side of Randolph Air Force Base. Adam himself did not move to Converse immediately, but son Theodore Kneupper did in 1902 with his bride Ida Albrecht. They also lived in the same house where the Major and the Heinrich Cord's had lived. The Cord's had left to live on the 'Buchholtz (Prochnow) farm with their daughter Mrs. Buchholtz who was ailing and finally did at the age of 36.



C. A. BOECK BLACKSMITH BUILDING

Theodore Kneupper was the kind of man who cherished and loved his brotherman. He looked upon his community as an opportunity to "bring to it better living and working conditions. Such was the case. The first electrical power was generated from coal burning that was used in the cotton gin that he and John Mayer had built. Both men were equally skilled in carpentry, and through the years, many of the homes and business places they built are still occupied

Kneupper encouraged the Southern Gas Utilities, Inc. to pipe gas in to Converse, but in order to do so, a certain number of connections were required. He paid for a great number of the connec-



Theodore and Ida Kneupper

tions himself but was never reimbursed by the people who tied into the company's mains. Through conscientious effort and time he helped build and maintain a telephone line directly into San Antonio. H.H. Gold, cotton broker who came to Converse in 1910, helped on the expenses of the line, for he required daily communication with market quotations.

Kneupper had many talents for in his daily work, he surveyed land, built homes, and laid all the water lines pumped from his own well for the community. In 1954 the system was finally turned over to Brucks and Boeck water Company, Kneupper's widowed wife and family having had to relinquish all rights and claims to it.

As time went on new business enterprises in the town began to prosper. A Farmers Creamery company was organized by a handful of stock holders in May 1915 The company's landsite was purchased from Theodore Kneupper for \$100 and it was built in the 200 block on North Seguin road, now FM1976. Dairy farmers responded favorably to the creamery's effort, but not enough to merit its continuation, as it dissolved after three years of operation. Kneupper, one of the incorporators, bought the land back from the corporation for \$800. Other members of the corporation were Gustav and Robert Lieck, August Wiedner, Harry Weichold, and H.H. Gold.

A still thriving business today was established by Carl A. Boeck, who was born in San Antonio. After childhood his family had moved to a farm near Cibolo, Texas, where he attended a little school alongside the edge of the Cibolo Creek. At an early age he left his family to learn the blacksmith trade.

In 1907 he felt fully prepared to open his own blacksmith shop and he chose Converse as the proposed site. He built the shop and equipped it with the latest tools available at the time.

Boeck was always ready to learn new trades to meet the farmers plight, since this area was predominantly agriculture. Farmers did not always have enough water resources on their own land, so they were in need of cisterns and water tanks to haul the water for their livestock and household use. Boeck turned his attention to learn the sheet metal trade. He also learned the art of being a wheelwright—tightening wooden wagon wheels and replacing tire rims on buggies. On occasion he would construct a coffin to accommodate a friend who had lost a loved one.

To add versatility to his business, he handled various dealerships, such as the Pekin and Elbert wagon and buggies and the B.F. Avery plows, cultivators and planters. To add variety he had a sub-dealership to sell the Ford automobile.

In 1909 he married his wife Minna (nee) Baumann and they moved to the newly built home on Ave B West where Mrs. Boeck lives today. To this union, were born two children, daughter Erna and son Calvin. Mrs. Boeck's brother George worked in the blacksmith shop for awhile until the time he opened his own shop in Martinez, Texas.

In 1937 Boeck retired and son-in-law Alvin J. Brucks took over the family business, and the firm's name was changed to Brucks Farm Supply. During WWII Alvin was deferred from the service because of the farming industry. The business was so well known that farmers came from all over South Texas to get farm supplies and repair work on their farm equipment. In fact, it can be safely stated that Alvin served as a soldier on the home front, keeping farmers in business so they could keep supplying food and fiber for the armed



Alvin J. Brucks

forces. More importantly, he had acquired the dealership for Case tractors and other name brand farm equipment to sell to the farmers.

Calvin, his wife Erna's brother, served during the war in the Navy and afterwards returned to join the business. A partnership was formed and the business became known as the Brucks and Boeck Equipment company.

The firm branched out to take possession of the water system in the city and put in a One-A system. Once this water system was established and state approved, developers and builders started building homes in the city. The new high school complex was supplied with an extended 8-inch water main. This extension led a developer to build south of the city, and consequently, several subdivisions have been annexed to the heart of Converse.

Because of failing health, Brucks retired in 1968 and his partner Calvin continued the business. Now known as Boeck Equipment company, and it still does a sprawling business today.

A truly dedicated man who had more influence in providing community with services was Philip Antes. He became agent of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1919 at Converse. He was a brisk, businesslike man and believed that service carries the work "active" before it. He was always available and willing to provide it.

Antes came to America from Germany when he was 18. He was born in the city of Worms where today he still has a brother living there. Another brother from Cleveland arranged for his arrival in America, and it was during his voyage to this country that the United States entered WWI. He arrived in Philadelphia, and from there, was taken to New York where he made his first contact with Southern Pacific.

A steamship affiliated with the SP brought him to New Orleans, and from there he went to Houston, Texas. One day shortly after his arrival he overheard a conversation in German.

"It was like music to my ears," he said, remembering that he was in a strange land of unfamiliar customs and language. He talked to the man and was told there was work at Marion, which is a few miles east of Converse. He got a job on a farm, and soon afterwards was invited to social events where he met his future bride, Lillie Bolton. They were married and later moved to Converse to take over the railroad emergency.

Antes soon became respected as the areals representative of the "friendly railroad", al-



Converse Depot

ways ready to supply dependable service. He "became a naturalized citizen in 1928, but long before that time he had already become a "true Texan".

He had the reputation of making special efforts to bring new business into town and revenue for the railroad. The Featherlite Block company might never have built their plant in Converse, if Antes had not influenced them in a large measure. Later, Ewing-Records Steel Plant was built and it has proven to be an asset to the town.

It was here, in Texas, tutored by his wife, that he learned to master the English language and speak Spanish. It was not unusual for him to do lettering and writing legal papers and documents for those less fortunate in not being able to speak the English language. Antes has since retired, but he is left with one tragic moment that disabled him for life. He had fallen from a box car which he was inspecting and fractured his ankle. It was set and put in a cast by the

doctors, but gangrene set in and the leg had to be amputated. He was inactive for eight months, but determination and perseverance enabled him to go back to work. He walks with an artificial leg and cane now, but still retains that same pleasant spirit of willingness to be of service wherever he can.

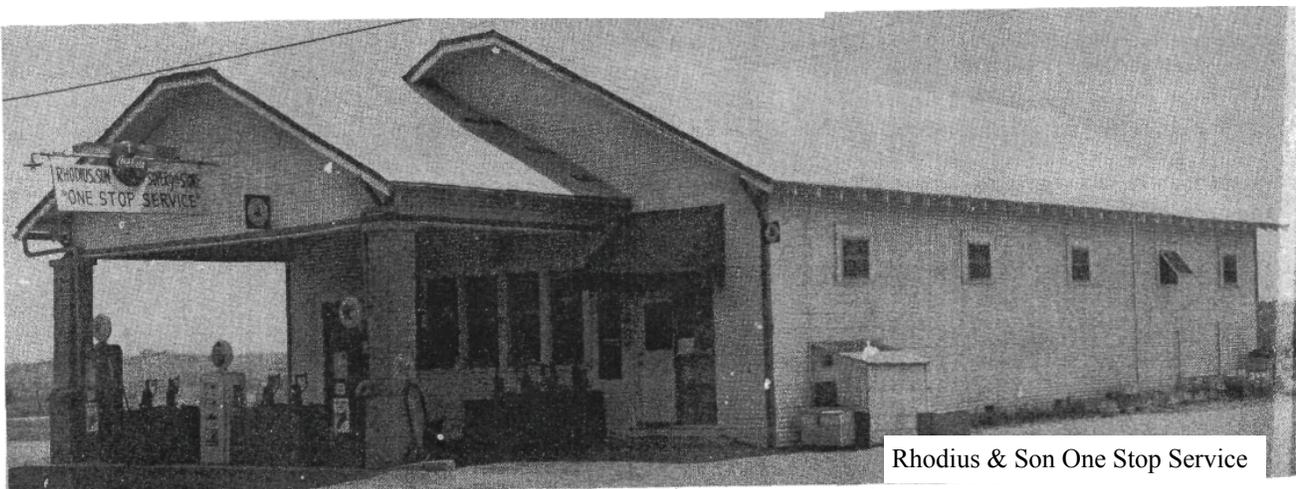
Converse's growing population encouraged businessmen to build and trade. Rudolph and Marie Schertz opened up a cafe and bar with their living quarters ad joined. They served good German and Mexican food, and business was always brisk.

Getting on in years the Schertz 's sold the cafe business to Johnny and Viola Schraub in 1944. Instead of continuing the cafe business, the Schraubs converted the place into a grocery store and named it Converse Grocery and Market. Johnny had worked in the selling business for Simon & Borgfeld and in the grocery business in San Antonio earlier.

Johnny's grandfather, Johann Hoeneke, was born in 1854 in Bremerhaven, Germany. When Johann was thirteen years of age his father put him on a merchant ship and sent him to America. The ship docked in Indianola, a small town off the coast of Texas, and the young lad worked himself as far as Zuehl, Texas about thirteen miles southeast of Converse. The Zuehl family provided Johann with room and board and paid him 50¢ a month. When he reached the age of eighteen his allowance was increased to \$1.00 a month, and he was allowed to rent ten acres of land on a share crop basis. Fortunately, his first share was five bales of cotton. He was exuberant and felt that life was good and he would fend for himself.

After his marriage in New Braunfels, Johann and his bride Marie moved to a farm east of Converse. The land was purchased from Paul Seiler and Ama Schimmelfenning in 1883. The couple roughed it for awhile until their own home was completed. Today, the 94 year-old house is still occupied. Three sons and two daughters were born to this union, and one of the daughters married Herman Schraub, who was Johnny's parent.

Johnny and Viola managed the grocery store until 1953, when Hilmar and Amy Voges purchased the business and continued operation as a "mom and pop" store until December 1971 when the building was partially converted into Converse City Hall.



Otto Rhodius, a successful businessman, from Guadalupe County and his brother-in-law H.H. Gold formed a partnership and opened up a general store in 1910. This business enterprise became known as the Gold and Rhodius and com peted successfully with their competitor, Simon and Borgfeld.

When Randolph Field became active, Rhodius severed his connection with Gold and formed a partnership with his son Marion, and moved his store further south on Seguin street. Business was very good, as all the Randolph Field traffic would pass through Converse and stop at Rhodius's store to purchase good country eggs and farmers butter.

Rhodius died in 1964 and son Marion operated the business until 1973 when he retired. The building is now owned by Les and Rosy Bourland, and it is still called a General Store, but comprises a novelty and antique shop.



H.H. Gold

H.H. Gold in his time served as postmaster for many years along with the store business and related one night at a Lions Club meeting these words:

"I want to tell you how lucky I have been to have lived through a long period of America's greatest development during which our public facilities grew from the horse and buggy age to the nuclear power era in which we now live."

"When I came to Converse in 1910 there was nothing here for the convenience and comfort of the people, except what we were able to create each for himself and his family! There was of course, no radio, television, electric light and power, not even a public water supply, sewer system or telephone. I received a lot of remarks and funny jesters when I installed the first septic tank and indoor toilet shortly after WWI".

"After being in business for a year or so, we found it necessary to establish better communications with the outside world and markets. The telephone company would not establish two twenty-eight years until the telephone company decided to install a switchboard in our little town".

Gold continued on with his life's history, paying tribute to many of his friends, and concluding his story, said, "I want to say how happy I am to be here to be a Lion and to have lived during such a wonderful and exciting period of time". Gold died in April, 1972. Daughter Evelyn and her husband preceded him in death due to an untimely tragedy, and daughter Lillian still resides in the family home on Seguin Street.

Unforgettable Joe Biesenbach was a man of high integrity, and there is a story about him that appeared in a Houston newspaper. It reads like this:

"Joe Biesenbach, a wagoner who plied the old Seguin Road between Converse and San Antonio, cracked his long whip over the ears of the leaders of his four-horse team and urged them to a steady gallop.

Lightening exploded in the dark clouds over the hills ahead and Biesenbach knew he faced a tussle with the storm which was rushing to meet him. Already he had placed the canvas top on his prairie schooner-type wagon to protect the merchandise he was transporting, but he knew it would be impossible to keep out entirely the heavy, driving rain.

In the bed of his wagon were barrels of beer, hundred-pound blocks of ice, smoked meats, cases of canned goods and other kinds of merchandise for Converse stores-in all, slightly more than a ton.

"Giddy-up, Molly! Banjo!" Biesenbach shouted above the storm as it struck, holding a tight rein to keep his frightened horses headed straight on the muddy, slippery road for he knew that once the wagon started to slide, he would wind up in the ditch, with some of the merchandise damaged. Biesenbach had no alternative but to keep going, for if he paused to rest his winded steeds, his big load of ice would continue to melt, with the probability that residents of Converse would be forced into a warm beer diet, a terrible outlook indeed.

Shortly after noon Biesenbach saw through the misty rain the general store of Gold and Rhodius, where he unloaded several barrels of beer and blocks of ice. Then he made his round of the other stores for which he had deliveries, following this, he drove to his barn where he bedded the tired horses down in comfort".

With the coming of the automobile, however, Biesenbach's day came to an end. His big, slow wagon and four-horse team were no competition for the speed of the auto.

The Julius Rennert family moved to Converse in 1913 and lived on Avenue B. West. Rennert had worked for a time at the Simon and Borgfeld firm and later became the first rural mail carrier for Converse.

In those days he had to resort to the horse and buggy in delivering the mail. Rennert had four

horses that would alternate from day to day so that they wouldn't tire out so much. The route he traveled was about twelve miles at the time. Later, when he retired, the mileage had increased to 54 miles.

When the automobile became popular, Rennert bought his own vehicle to make the run. He then sold three of his horses, but kept one in case of a rainy spell, for it was then that roads became impassable and he had to use the buggy instead.

Rennert and his wife Sophia had four children. Two of his sons, Ralph and Julius, followed in their father's footsteps. Ralph is rural carrier for Converse and Julius works at the Universal City post office. Marvin and Lucille have San Antonio addresses.

One of the most interesting persons in the community was Otto Lillie, who owned and operated a barber shop in Converse for over twenty-seven years until he retired in 1964. He had a shop in Natalia, Texas for six years prior to coming to Converse in 1937.

Lillie was a friendly man. He knew no stranger and was a great lover of children, despite the fact that he had none of his own. Many a stray cat or dog would get fed on the back steps of the Lillie's apartment, which was in back of the shop. Any animal that did not behave to Otto's liking was sure to get the boot.

Lillie was very enthusiastically involved in coins. Seldom a day would pass that some other numismatist would stop to exchange stories and try to out-trade Lillie. He was also known as "The Old Philosopher", for he was an avid student of the great thinkers of all times. He had his own philosophy and was especially proud of his ability to recite from memory the 101 verses of the Rubaiyat or Omar Khayyam.

Mrs. Lillie retired in 1964 from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company where she had worked for sixteen years.

Lillie also composed poetic verses, one of his finest cited as follows:

Baptist, Methodist, Catholic, Jew These, my friend, are but
a few Who try to tell you of a better Clime When you
leave this old world behind.

Ah, but my friend there is an inner voice

That tells me I alone have my choice

To believe or not to believe in a Better Clime

Oh, but at times the road seems long,

And I try to sing a cheerful song.

But I guess I will struggle to the end

And see what the gods of fortunes will send.

The clergy, they tell you of a land of gold Where Mythology says you never grow old.

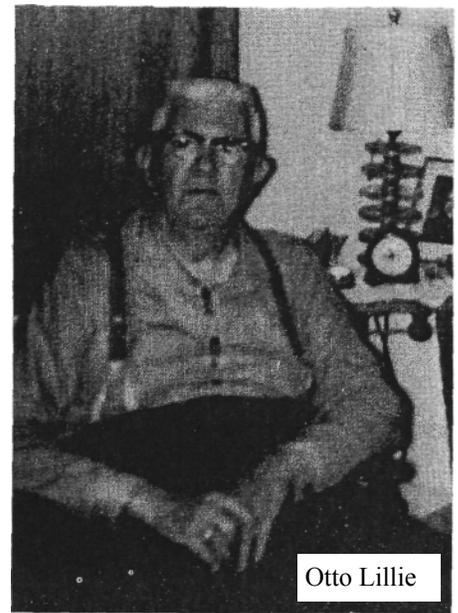
Who are they, my friend, I pray To tell me this in a dogmatic way?

They know no more than you or I But bless their hearts they surely try To make you
believe the Good Book is true When it was written by men like me and you.

Now that I approach the twilight of my life. I look back at the times bitter with strife. I
also look back at the times worth living And the beautiful thought of love and giving.

Now for the last verse I hope and pray These lines will lead no one astray. These are my
thoughts-not thine As I hope for a Better Clime.

-O.L. Lillie



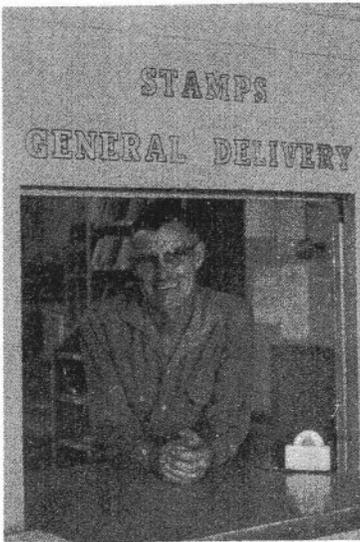
Herbert Beck was the first barber to have a shop in Converse which was built by Theodore Kneupper. Beck established his barber business in conjunction with a dry cleaning business in 1922. Otto Lillie was his successor when he bought the business.

H.H. Gold was postmaster during this time. Mail came by train, and Philip Antes, railway agent, would bring the mail to the post-office on a little cart that he pushed down the street, rain or shine. Later when Gold retired, his sister-in-law, Meta Kargile, became postmistress and Elsie Janssen assisted.

Then when Rennert retired, Frido Dietz became rural mail carrier, and he served in this capacity for forty years.

Dietz and his family moved to Converse in 1929 and moved into the Fischer home. Dietz was active in community affairs, and the one sport he enjoyed immensely was wrestling. He would go to the matches every Wednesday evening and did so for years.

Dietz and his wife Lillian had two children, Evangeline and Walton. Daughter Evangeline married Octavious ("Peanuts") Sirianni in 1940. They operate the Converse Washateria, and Octavious is also in partnership with his brothers in the Randolph Laundry and Dry Cleaners in Universal City. They have three sons, Donald, Daniel and Douglas. Son, Walton Dietz married Alice Gerhardt and he worked as a civil service employee at Randolph Air Force Base until he retired. They have one daughter, Darlene.



POSTMASTER HAROLD REAL
IN OLD POST OFFICE

There wasn't a happier man than Harold Real on the day when he was told to move his postoffice from Seguin Road to the new building on FM 78.

For years Harold had to work under cramped conditions and had less clerk hours as time went on to handle all the letters and parcels that passed through his office. There was reluctance by postoffice officials to alleviate the conditions until pressure was extended to the degree that something had to be done.

Harold was born and raised in the Converse community and had attended Converse school. Both his grandfather and great-grandfather had contributed to the cause of education and stockbreeding in the community. Harold was a member of the Converse 4-H club and his outstanding work in this organization credited him as a Gold Star winner. During WWII he served in the U.S. Army in Germany. Since he was knowledgeable of the German language, he was able to communicate well with the German people and was always a welcome guest in their homes. While in training for overseas assignment, he married his wife Enomie in August, 1943. They have two sons, Thomas and Charles Real.

When he returned from the army he settled on a farm off FM 78 between Converse and Kirby and started a poultry and turkey business. He was very successful in this endeavor, as he marketed his Grade-A products to some chain stores in San Antonio. His two sons took up 4H work and leaned more to the idea of raising swine. It was then that Harold decided to pull out of the poultry business and work exclusively with swine production.

The business became more of a father and sons' enterprise, winning all kinds of honors at stock shows and selling breeding stock. The business is not quite as extensive now, as both sons have left home, but Harold continues in a small way after working hours at the postoffice. He is due to retire in a few more years and is looking forward to the day when he can go back to the farm full time.

It is always noteworthy to recognize the significance of some people who contribute to the makeup of a community. One such man is Arthur Koenig, who has been the town's only plumber for years on end.

Koenig and his wife Delma came to Converse from San Antonio in the early 1930's, Arthur having worked at Randolph Air Force Base as a plumber. When the job at the base was completed he started his life's work here in Converse.

He built his own home, having purchased a parcel of land from Henry Hoeneke, on South Seguin Street.

Koenig was never too busy to do a plumbing job, day or night, week ends or weekdays. One of his biggest contributions was to help with the plumbing when the Converse Volunteer firehouse was built. The Koenig's have one daughter, Joyce, who is married to Herbert Achterberg and they have four children. They reside in the Lavernia area. Joyce is also a former student of the Converse school. Koenig has now retired since 1964 and operates a fish bait business. It is no small wonder, then, that he likes to fish.



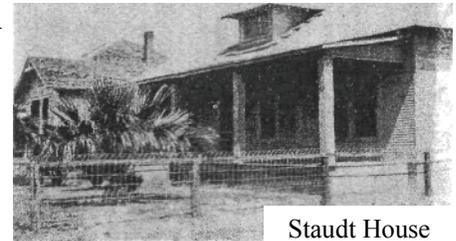
Koenig Bait House

Fishermen in the Converse area have access to many lakes and streams, such as all the dam sites, Lake McQueeney, the Medina and Canyon lakes. Many farmers have their own stock tanks. These are stocked with fish from state hatcheries. Many people fish on the banks of the Cibolo and Guadalupe Rivers. Those who prefer deep sea fishing go to the Texas coast.

Another type of business venture in town was the good old butcher shop. It was when the butcher would slaughter his own cattle and cut it up to sell to the customers. Health laws were not as stringent as they are today, and people didn't question sanitation as much as either. They were merely glad to get good fresh meat. One of the very first butchers was Albert Siebold. He would take his little car with a tin box on the back, filled with steaks, hamburger, and roasts and drive into the country to farmers to sell his products. His wife Amanda stayed in the shop to sell to the town people.

During the mid-20's the Siebold family sold their shop to Jacob Staudt. The market was located on the corner of Station street and Ave B, the same site where the old firehouse is now.

Staudt came to Converse shortly after WWI where he served in the U.S. Army in France. His home was Fredericksburg, and he had met his wife Mary Kunz while she was employed at the Kendall Inn in Boerne (now a landmark); they were married in Honey Creek in 1926. Three sons were born to this union Joseph (present mayor), John residing in San Antonio, and Marvin residing in California. Staudt lived with his family right next to the butcher shop and in 1929 sold the shop back to Albert Siebold who then moved it to the present location on Seguin Road. Staudt was then employed by Simon and Borgfeld merchants until the early '70's when he became a civil service employee at Randolph Air Force Base until his retirement.

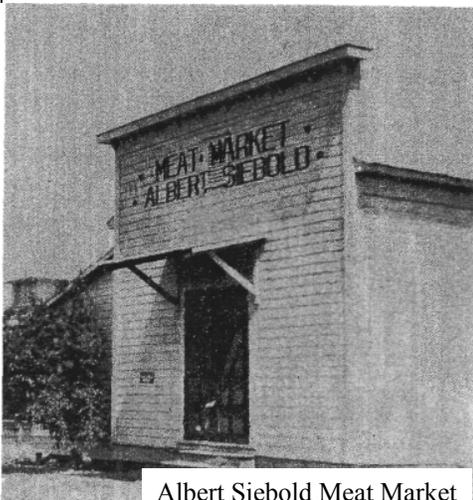


Staudt House

Edwin Siebold, son of Albert, operated the butcher shop until he became ill and his wife Linda with her family kept the business going for awhile longer, but it no longer exists.

Converse has had the distinction of having several Justices of the Peace. H.H. Gold was the first to serve the community, and he later resigned because of his assignment as postmaster. Arthur Brehm followed Gold and served for many many years until his passing, when his son-in-law Arthur Boenig started to carry on the work. For Boenig it seemed best to work out of his home on his farm about two miles out of Converse. The feasibility of having an office in downtown Converse was out of the question, because law and traffic violations weren't that numerous. Regular court days, however, were held at the old schoolhouse.

After a lingering illness Boenig passed away, and his wife Laura continued as Justice of the Peace. After her husband's passing she moved the family home to Converse and rented the building next door to city



Albert Siebold Meat Market

hall for her office. Her duties in this capacity included marriage ceremonies, jury trials, and every day settlements of traffic violations. She enjoyed her work tremendously, for she learned to know people from all walks of life.

In 1968 the position was eliminated by Commissioners Court. Laura now works as Assistant Supervisor in the County Clerk's office at Bexar County courthouse.



SALATRILLO LIEDERKRANZ CHORUS

The oldest organized group in the Converse community is the Salatrillo Liederkrantz, or "Gesangverein". In June 1891, the group met for the first time in the old schoolhouse on the Stapper land for the purpose of selecting officers. Oscar Real was elected president! Edmund Meurin, Vice-president, Julius Lieck, secretary and Theodore Stapper, treasurer. Hugo Lieck was chosen as the musical director.

The club was named after the Salitrillo creek which streamed through the area, and actually, the name was coined from a Spanish name Salado. The letter i_ was changed to the letter a. Thus, Salatrillo Liederkrantz. The name Liederkrantz in German means a "singing club".

By 1893 the group was determined to have a hall for their activities. Joe Biesenbach, one of the members, donated and conveyed an acre of land for a building site for the 'saengerhalle', Exclusively used for singing and musical entertainment for the membership and their guests. The 'saengerhalle' was built, but then tragedy struck a little time later and it was completely destroyed by fire. The second hall was constructed, and in 1923, the club decided to have the building moved to Converse at its present site on south Seguin street. The task to move this building was not an easy one, for it had to be horse drawn for about two miles.

As a result of this move the club grew in membership. Carlos Lieck became the musical director and he was well-liked by the singers. Under his able direction the singers put on some superb performances. He also considered himself quite an actor -and often times played the lead role. On one occasion opening night he slipped up on his lines, when the butler in the play ad-libbed, "you have asked me that same line three times already". Well, Lieck was momentarily stunned, but he resumed his poise and continued on.

Over the years the hall has been modified several times, one major improvement being the kitchen.

Converse Grange Helped finance -the project by contributing \$500 and time and labor.

Today the building is better known as Converse hall, hosting wedding receptions, *4~H shows, fairs, theater and concert affairs, song festivals, dances and community fundraising projects. Converse Grange as well as the Sons of Herman Mixed Lodge, have regularly used it as a monthly meeting place.



Liederkrantz Hall

The present membership does not exercise anymore singing sessions, but they have their regular busi-

ness meetings and their main source of revenue comes from rentals. The club itself will be celebrating its 86th anniversary during the centennial year.

The present board is Verner Goerke, president, Matthew Friesenhahn vice-president and Fritz Goerke, secretary, who still takes the minutes in German, H.R. Voges is treasurer. Directors are Arthur Hillert, Gilbert Schwab, Lennert Boenig, Ed. J. Kneupper, Clifford and Martin Friesenhahn, Walter Rudloff and Malford Boeck. Les Bourland is hall manager.

Without a doubt, the hall has already become a legend and the Liederkranz will long be remembered for its devotion to German culture.

William (Bill) Goetz came to Converse as a newcomer in 1929. He was a nephew of John Mayer who had built the original Gus Barlmann garage located on the corner of Kneupper Avenue and S. Seguin street. Goetz had served his country during WWI, and he started his mechanical career here after he returned. He did an excellent job as a mechanic. After a few years he got married and lived with his wife Florence on Kneupper Avenue where she still resides today.

Goetz was a well-liked man in this community. He was always ready and willing to contribute in some small way. He even served as a councilman at one time.

After a time he decided to retire from the garage business, and it was then that Walter Kneupper and son, Eddie took over the business. They operated it until 1946 when they transferred to Universal City to open the Kneupper Motor Company.

In 1930 Goetz built the filling station across from Hamilton's Corner and leased it to the Magnolia company. Weary of retirement, Goetz decided to go into business again and he built another building next to the station where he continued garage mechanics. Under his tutelage he had Eddie Zimmermann to continue the business after Goetz retired. Since then Zimmermann has quit the station and gone to work in Universal City for Art Bryson, who has the Datsun agency. Gilmer Poss took care of Goetz's garage after that, but he is now no longer there and having opened up another repair garage business on FM 1976.

DEUTSCHES LIED

Als Gott den Deutschen gab Gemuet, Mit reichen Geistesgaben Da hat er auch das deutsche Lied Tief in das Herz gegraben.

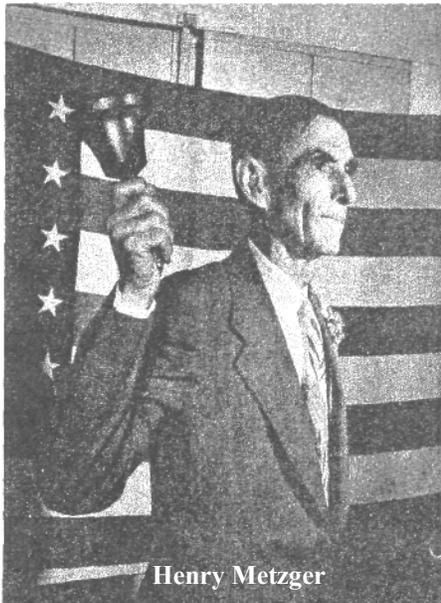
The Schools

The first school in the community was built in 1864 on the Stapper farm. State aid might have been available to finance construction costs, but families concerned preferred to build the school with their own resources. Land had already been set aside to build the one-room structure with a front porch. The very first teacher was Alexander Kuhn. It is doubtful if children at that time did attend a nine-month school year, as many farm families kept children at home for cotton picking and hoeing of the crops during the fall and spring.



The time came when the little log cabin school exhausted its student capacity, and the decision was made to build another structure, one, more accessible and equipped with the latest conveniences. This schoolhouse moved to a site donated by the Adolph Real family, located at the crossroads of FM 1516 and Lower Seguin Road. Later, the school was enlarged into a three-room structure and was torn down just a few years ago.

Louis Berg served as the first principal of the new one-room building, followed by Louis Metzger, brother of Henry Metzger, Henry served nearly 30 years as principal in the three-room Converse school. He was a strong disciplinarian and firmly believed teaching the three R's. Unless he was completely satisfied with a student's knowledge of the subject, he would devote extra time either during the noon hour or before class time in the morning to review the work with the student.



Metzger was intrigued with Interscholastic League competition and encouraged his students to participate in extra-curricular events. He would have other teachers in the school drill and/or tutor contestants who participated in literary events. Students practiced during recess time will ingly and awaited in high anticipation of winning and visiting other schools on contest days. Of course, there were also athletic events as well. Those blue, red and white, ribbons for winning meant much to those who excelled.

Metzger would encourage his pupils to finish high school career at nearby accredited schools and stressed the importance of further advancement. Catholic students attended St. Gerard and others would go to Brackenridge, Main Ave (Fox Tech) or Schertz-Cibolo (Samuel Clemens). After graduating from high school many attended business college.

The Converse school was so constructed that there was ample light and the high ceilings and many windows provided a clean, fresh air conditioning system. The heating problem was a little more complicated. Each room in the building had a big, black, pot-bellied stove that had to be fired up each day, Boys would carry in the wood the night before so as not to delay the morning start. Girls had an equal amount of chores to do, such as washing black boards and windows and sweeping. Picking up rocks on the school ground was often used as punishment when a pupil got out of hand. If someone talked, or whispered behind the teacher's back, or threw spit-balls, or failed to do his home work, this he merited writing 500 to 1000 lines, "I must not fail to do my home work", or "I must not talk in school", whippings were rare, but if someone did get one, he sure was due another one at home by his parents.

Although facilities and teachers were good, much was needed in the way of playground equipment, lunch shelves, and drinking fountains. Mrs. Hugo Borgfeld saw the need to resolve some of the deplorable conditions. She interested other parents in organizing a Parent Teachers Association. Through fund-raising projects, such as box suppers, plays, bunco parties, and do nations, work began immediately on the school. First major improvement was to screen off the lunch shelves. Pupils carried brown paper sacks and would set them on the open shelves, a first hand invitation to flies. There were two wooden barrels, with one cup in each for the drinking water. To accommodate all students, water fountains were installed, and each student was required to bring his own cup. Very little gravel had been hauled in and laid around the building. During rainy spells the pupils had to stay inside, and even after the rains had subsided, they still couldn't go outside to play. Consequently, the PTA made it a point to spread gravel all around the swings, seesaws and some volley courts.

CONVERSE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

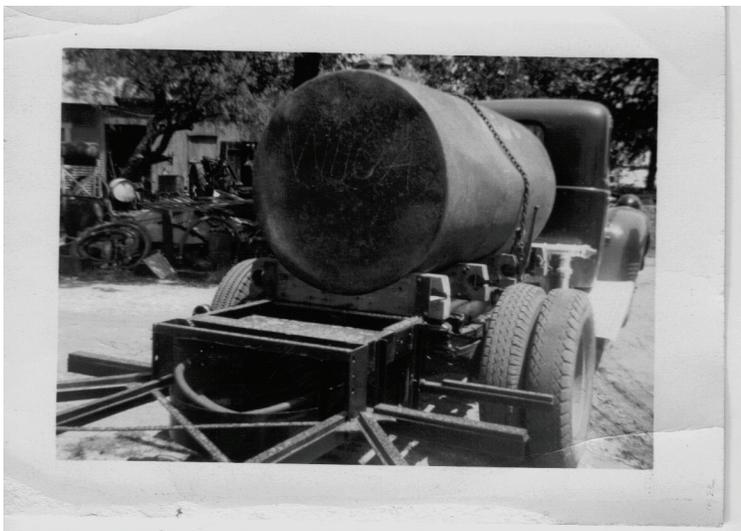
The Converse Volunteer Fire Department had its beginning one cold night in Januarys 1952. That night, a Converse residence was reduced to ashes, while horrified citizens stood by helplessly. The anguish they experienced caused 23 of those citizens to meet shortly thereafter, on January 15th, to organize a volunteer fire department. Within a week, the Constitution and By-Laws were writ ten and adopted, and a slate of officers elected. Local business men backed up the enthusi- asm of those 23 by pledging \$2500 toward the cause. It was soon discovered, however, that the needed fire fighting equipment would cost much more than had been collected. The only alternative, they decided, was to build their own fire truck.

A used 1946 Dodge truck was purchased at a cost of \$575. It was equipped immediately with a surplus water tank and hose, so no time would be lost in the event of fire. The old chassis was then remodeled to fit fire department needs, a 350 gallon water tank added, and a running board and steps fabricated. The entire job of assembling the truck was done at night. When it was completed, a proud citizenry stood back and admired their handiwork. That old Dodge had been transformed in to a beautiful red fire truck, complete with decals, hoses and sirens.

The next project was the build ing of a fire house, which through the efforts of volunteers, was built for \$1600 instead of \$6800 as first estimated. Approximately 5200 man hours went into construction of the two-truck building which again, took place mostly at night. This fire station has now been sold because of the new fire station lo- cated across the street.



CONVERSE FIRE DEPARTMENT LEADERS — Pictured above are some of the men who have made the volunteer fire department at Converse a big success. In upper photo are Calvin Boeck, president of the group, and his four-year-old son, Glenn. In the lower photo are, front row, left to right, W. O. Fey, secretary-treasurer, E. M. Schertz, E. W. Ullrich, and R. W. Kneupper. Standing, left to right are N. Hofferichter, Adolph Rohde, and L. L. Böenig. — Photos by Louie Sowders.



Training the crew came next. In order to acquire the knowledge and techniques needed to train volunteer firemen, A.J.Brucks and Ed. J. Kneupper volunteered to attend special training for fire fighters at A&M University, Col lege Station, Texas.

The ever-present need for money and ways to earn it gave birth to our first Annual Sausage Supper, Carnival and dance that same year, September 7. The record-breaking crowds who came from miles around brought in sufficient funds to pay debts incurred. Enough money was left over for purchasing other needed equipment, such as a 5 HP siren. December 1952, steps had also been taken to incorporate the organization to relieve the depart

ment of suit-liabilities.

Early in 1961, the site on which the new fire station now stands was purchased, along with a new fire truck at a cost of \$12,654. In 1965, the decision was made to purchase a new booster truck for \$9066 and to dispose of the home made one, although reluctantly. It was sold to the Abercrombe Ranch for \$145.0, and at present, still serves its purpose.

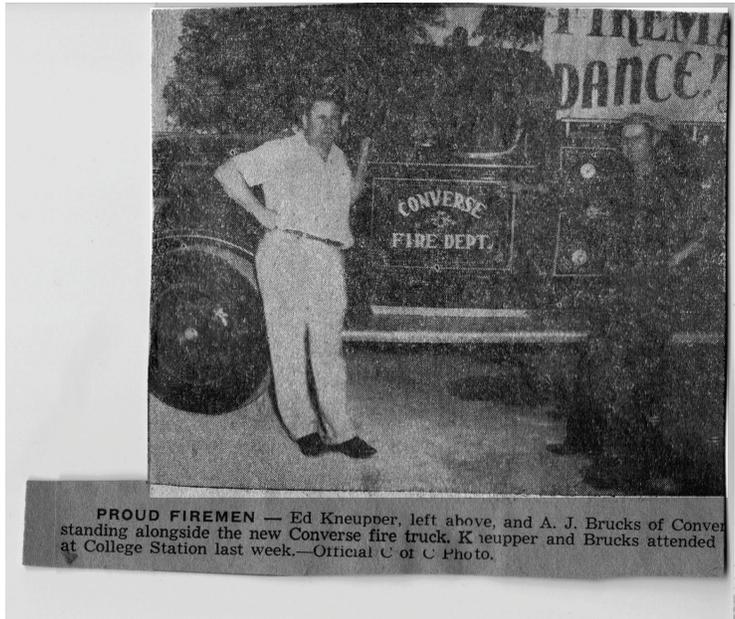


One of the biggest projects to date took place in 1969 building the new three-truck fire station. Twenty-five years have passed since that night in January 1952, yet some of the original 23 are still among those men who continue to answer the siren's shrill, urgent call. Gratefully, however, they are gradually being joined by newcomers to the community, who, hopefully, will contribute as selflessly to the department and city for the next 25 years as those who manned the trucks during the first quarter century.

The success of an organization is many times enhanced by the help of an auxiliary. Such is the case in point here, The Ladies Auxiliary of the fire department have contributed time and effort to help raise funds to give the department necessary equipment. Each year they help conduct the annual sausage supper and run a country store along with it. They meet on a monthly basis, ever hopeful of finding better means of serving the firemen. They have sponsored educational programs for the community, aided community projects such as the Los Amigos program, helped serve refreshments at the dedication of the new Converse postoffice and sponsored a sweet shoppe at 'Night In Old Converse' the last three years.

One of the most successful projects the ladies sponsored was a cookbook sale. Part of the town's history and many of the old picturesque scenes of the town were re-drawn by local artists into the cookbook. Sale of the book went beyond expectations. They have had to re-order the books for the third time.

Some of the vital equipment donated through the years to the fire department has been jackets, boots, a fifteen minute breathing apparatus to help firemen in a smoke-filled house when they are in the process of rescuing people inside, and two air masks, which allows a fireman 30 minutes of oxygen in a burning building. The past two years considerable cash donations have been made to the firemen's treasury.



The auxiliary ladies have always had a burning desire to do their best in helping the fire department, and perhaps are responsible morally and spiritually for the safety of the fire fighter's lives.

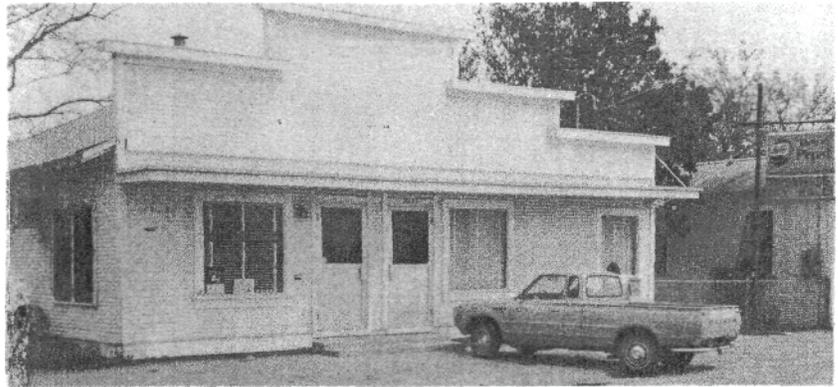
THE CITY OF CONVERSE

The City of Converse was incorporated March 25, 1961. Sixty three persons had signed a petition to present to the County Judge, Charles Anderson, requesting an election to incorporate the town. Petitioners were attempting to act ahead of a proposed state legislation which would make it necessary for communities to obtain special permission from large neighboring cities before incorporation.

Voting took place March 25, and the vote count of incorporation was 60 for and 29 against. By this favorable action the City of Converse became the 15th incorporated suburban city in Bexar County. A special election was then called for June 3 to choose a mayor, five aldermen and a town marshal. Those running for the office of mayor were Philip Antes and Ed. J. Kneupper. Candidates for aldermen were Arthur Bryson, Rene De-Baker, Curtis Fey, E.M. Kirkpatrick, E.M. Schertz, Milton Schumann, Lynwood Siebold, Joseph J. Staudt, H.R. Voges and Edward Zimmermann. Candidates for city marshal were Willard Janssen and Joseph Strickland.

With the final votes cast Ed. J. Kneupper was elected mayor and Willard Janssen town marshal. Aldermen elected were H.R. Voges with the most votes, followed by E.M. Schertz, Joseph J. Staudt, Edward Zimmerman and Milton Schumann.

At the first official meeting of the council eighteen ordinances were adopted and recorded for the newly incorporated city. In the same session the council elected H.R. Voges as mayor pro-tem, and Clarence Fey was appointed City clerk. H.H. Gold was appointed corporation judge.



City officials were sworn in by the county judge and the SHIP OF STATE was launched. Converse Grange played host to this public ceremony. Officials from neighboring cities of Universal City, Kirby and Schertz attended the event.

The first real order of business was to find ways and means for sources of revenue to conduct city affairs. It was concluded not to use exclusively the ad valorem tax as a prime source, but to ask for franchises on utilities, license fees and corporation court fees. Temporarily, these means solved the financial end, but as the town grew, more and more problems faced the council. Streets needed to be repaired and other minor improvements had to be investigated.

Then one day, the council was faced with some unexpected opposition by some of the citizens, and they wanted the city to be unincorporated. An election was called, and by one vote, the city stayed incorporated.

A major test came before the council when the San Antonio River Authority proposed to purchase the sanitary system which was still a corporation at the time. Continuous meetings were held until all parties concerned came to a mutual agreement. SARA paid \$22,500 for the system, shareholders were paid off, and the city retained the 10-acre tract (city park) plus all the sewer mains laid up to that time. The corporation became extinct, and the city was relieved of having to operate a sewage treatment plant.

Another step toward progress was initiated when the owners of the two water systems asked the city to give them franchises. A deep study was made, and in the best interest of the city, it was decided to try to negotiate to purchase the two systems. City council called for a bond election in September, 1971, for \$615,000 including some certificates of obligations. The vote was favorable.

When final negotiations were nearly completed, Mayor Ed. J. Kneupper resigned for reasons of personal conflict. On December 1, 1971, the city owned the Kneupper Water Works.

Converse Water Company, owned by Brucks and Boeck families, relinquished all rights and claims

to their system April 1, 1972, with a purchase price of \$415,000.

City owned water works induced more development with those making the biggest investments being the Friesenhahn Brothers, Converse Development company, and Hamilton and Associates. Out of town developers were Roland Reinhardt who developed LakeAire subdivision. Morton Southwest is presently developing several subdivisions within the city.

One unique experience for the city was when the movie called, " Sugarland Express" was filmed in part, on the Hamilton and Fina Station corner. Stars Goldie Hawn and Big John Hamilton were featured in the story. The scene being filmed involved a terrible car crash, with Goldie in one of the cars. Filming was done at night to avoid the day traffic. Spectators were suffering with the cold weather, but remained all night to witness the scene. Downtown Converse was so lit up that it seemed like daytime.

A first-class major improvement for the city was the city park. A survey was conducted through the news media, requesting citizens of Converse to convey their preferences in re gard to choices of recreation. The number one priority was a swimming pool, with baseball diamonds a close second. Included were choices of tennis courts, scout hut and Kiddie play ground equipment.

A park committee was appointed by the council to proceed with fund-raising projects. A series of events began immediately, with a major event in October called 'Night in Old Converse'. This function has now become an annual.

The seriousness of this new interest for a swimming pool be hooved the city council to issue some certificate of obligations. Plans had been prepared by the city engineer and approved by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Con tract was awarded to Gary Pools of San Antonio to begin construc tion on the swimming pool and bathhouse. First swimming season opened May 1, 1976. Dedication services for the newly developed park and the completion of the pool were in October 1975.



Since that time, Phase II, which consists of the baseball fields is now under construction. Funds for this Phase were obtained through a grant from the Local Public Works of the Economic Development Administration.

City hall proper at 204 S. Seguin street opened February 1, 1972. Prior to this time, city offices were located at Hamilton's Corner and Hamilton himself was city secretary.

City personnel has increased considerably, a seven man police department has been established headed by Chief Harold O. Saville, Lieutenant Mark D'Spain, Norman Owen, criminal investigator and Henrique Aguilar, crime prevention officer. There are three patrol officers and some reserves.

Director of Public Works Arlie E. Cowan heads all street, water and sewage maintenance, including the city park.

City taxes are one of the lowest in the area as well as the water rates. Revenue Sharing has been one of the greatest blessings in the form of revenue — this, too is outright money received from the United States treasury department. The city has expended this money primarily for physical assets for its benefit.

Today the estimated population for the city is close to 5,000, with a projection of 15,920 by year 2000.

The unspoken word never does harm. Speech is great, but silence is greater.

Converse Rocket....Where it all started.

Converse has a little-known but surprisingly rich history that has astounding national and global significance. Converse residents considered some of the greatest scientific minds of the last century, played a key role in the earliest US space medicine and space biology programs. In 1947 following WWII and prior to the establishment of NASA, Converse became home to several of the scientist's brought to this country as part of "Operation Paperclip", to help the US efforts to develop an Aviation Medicine program. Other scientists and specialists from the program settled in nearby Universal City, Schertz, Selma, Bracken and the surrounding area. Wernheron Braun, the First Director of the Marshall Space Center and the Chief Architect of the V2 Rocket for Germany and later the Saturn V launch vehicle for the US, and Hubertus Strughold, who resided in nearby Schertz for many years and coined the term "Space Medicine", regularly visited this little German farm town where they discussed the possibility of manned space flight with colleagues, visited local establishments and enjoyed the German food, singing, music and dialect.

While historians have certainly done their part to recognize the men of "Mercury Seven," the only astronaut group with members that flew on all

classes of NASA manned spacecraft of the 20th century, not so much well deserved recognition has been bestowed upon the German scientists born of Operation Paperclip. Cultural history demands that revered scientists like HG Clamann, Hubertus Strughold and their German and American counterparts be recognized in the same fashion. After all, it was through the un-paralled research and experimentation like Clamann's that so quickly was answered the question initially posed by NASA: what was the likelihood of a human functioning at optimum levels while performing as a pilot, engineer, and experimenter in weightless flight? By the time the first American astronauts were being introduced to America in 1959, the "Mercury Seven," HG Clamann and those assigned to the School of Aviation Medicine (SAM) had been diligently working at Randolph Field for over a decade in the departments of physiology, research, rapid decompression, and later oxygen supply and its danger to pilots. By 1960, SAM had been moved to Brooks AFB where it became the School of Aerospace Medicine. There, testing equipment on astronauts was developed, and large chambers to simulate space were designed and built. During the five-year life of the program six manned flights were completed, proving that spaceflight was in fact possible, paving the way for the Gemini and Apollo programs, as well as for all future spaceflight.



that spaceflight was in fact possible, paving the way for the Gemini and Apollo programs, as well as for all future spaceflight.

Converse resident, HG Clamann designed the "Mouse House," which was carved from a solid piece of titanium by another of the Paperclip technicians living in nearby Bracken. The Mouse House, sustained the lives of the three mice Sally, Amy and Mo (SAM), thus proving that life, while in space, and in a capsule forced to return to earth, could be sustained and the occupants would return in good physical health.



The Mouse House designed by Converse resident Hans Georg Clamann, and carved from solid titanium by a Bracken resident, this is the house that went to space and sustained the first life in space of mice Sally, Amy and Mo (SAM), also School of Aviation Medicine, making future manned space flight possible. Pictured are Hans York Clamann and Howie Marbach, former students at the 1910 school

From his arrival in the US, like other OP Scientists, HG Clamann believed that life could be sustained while in space. He was the first experiment with weightlessness. It was HG Clamann who began work on the development of the first space foods. In the end, it was HG Clamann, and other German and American scientists associated with (OP) that heavily influenced the success of the manned space program in the U.S.

From their arrival in this country, these quiet brilliant men and everyone involved with the SAM program dedicated themselves to proving to the world that manned space flight was indeed possible. They faced criticism, disbelief and distrust but united in one of the most painful times in world history and indeed showed the world the power of the human spirit.

If not for their dedication and sacrifices, the Apollo 11 mission in 1969, would most likely not have been possible. The obstacles faced and overcome by these scientists and their American counterparts in San Antonio, prior to the establishment of NASA and the US Space Program should not be minimized. The road for technological and medical advancements paved by these pioneers have had a permanent global impact.

A Tradition of Education

In 1864 Theo L Stapper and his neighbors, Adolph Real, Sr., Joseph Biesenbach and John Classen met to discuss building a school for area children.

The Stapper family donated a piece of land from the edge of their farm and the local families came together to build a one room wood school house with a porch.



These sons of founding families and former students of the 1864 school at the 50th reunion in 1914. Family names are Biesenbach, Classen, Real and Stapper.

From these humble beginnings the legendary "Judson Rockets" were born.

Alexander Kuhn was the first teacher. Though none of the children that attended the 1864 School are available to tell us, a nine month school year was unlikely since families kept the children at home to pick cotton, hoe and tend the crops and care for the live stock.

A New School

When the first school was in ill repair and could no longer support the growing community a new school was built. The 1910 school opened across FM 1516 on the corner of Upper Seguin Road. The school was built on land donated by the Real family at the edge of their farm. The Real family is one of the oldest documented in Converse. Later expanded to three rooms this school continued educating grades 1-8 until the Judson

Rural School District #8 was established in 1958. In 1929 a photo taken at the three-room school is said to have pictured 26 students. The primary focus for this school was teaching the children to run farms and to think for themselves. Cars remained a rare possession for local families of this era and roads were scarce and poorly maintained.

Among the first teachers at the second school or the 1910 school were; Miss Moghan, Miss Staffeland George Konarski. The two schools educated thousands of area children in their time and they were the first common responsibility of area families. Prior to state and federally funded programs, everything from building and maintaining to supporting the schools was a community obligation. The schools helped to form common ground and spark development. Often the reason families settled in an area was because there was a school. Louis Berg served as the first principal of the 1910 school, followed by Louis Metzger, then by his brother Henry Metzger. Henry served nearly 30 years as principal in the three room school. He was known as a strong disciplinarian and firmly believed in teaching the three R's. When Metzger retired in 1950, over 400 people attended a huge retirement party at Salitrillo Liederkrantz Hall.

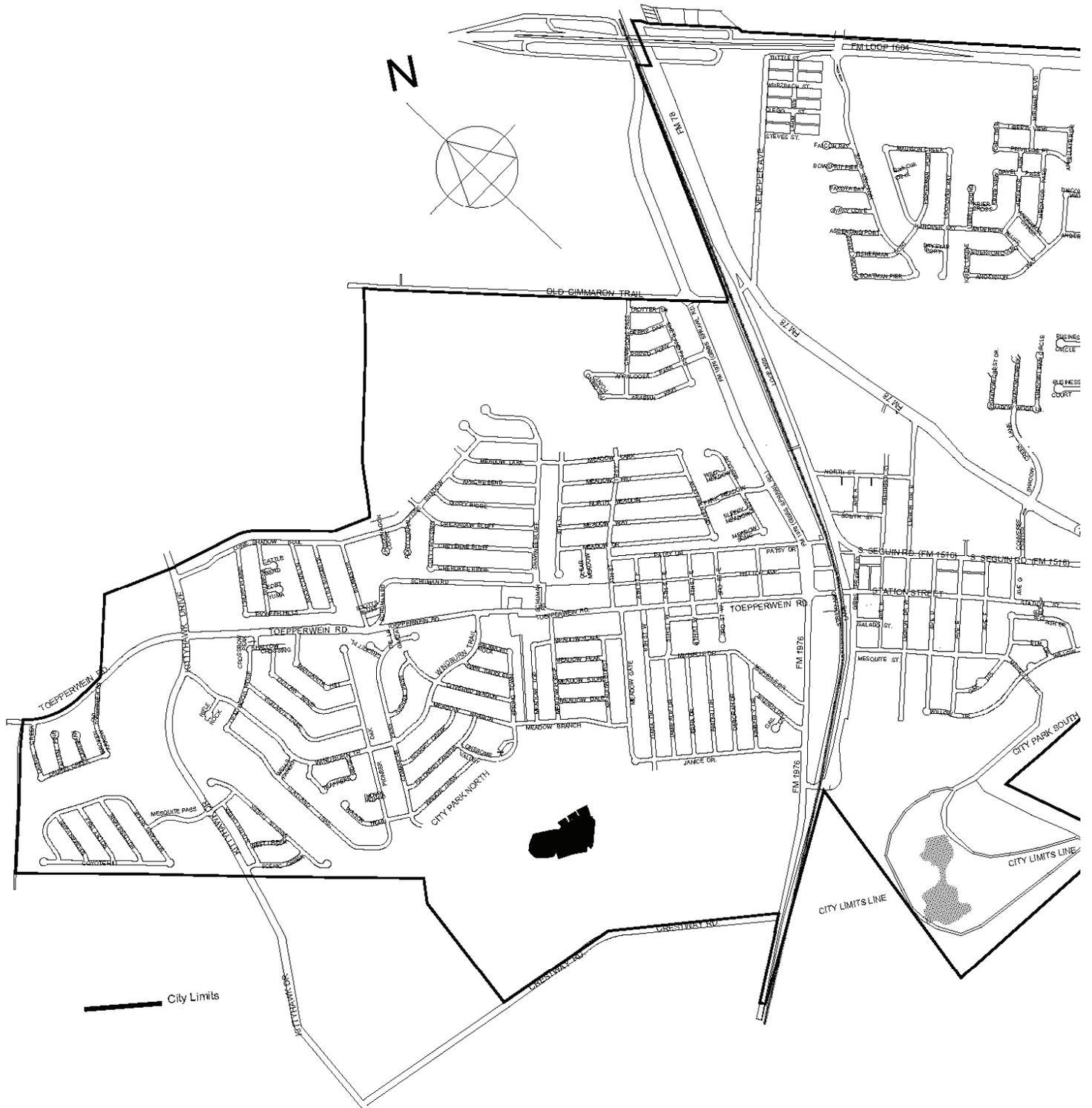
Then & Now

The 1910 school would remain at the same location and deteriorate until it was torn down as the 1864 school had been. The palm trees lining Upper Seguin Road which were planted by the students at the 1910 school quietly remind us that the site was once the hub of activity. Few of us remember the old building any longer but it was similar to the old school house relocated to the Northeast Lakeview campus.

It is unknown whether the palms were planted as part of the Old Spanish Trail, (OST) highway program. The OST followed the Seguin Road in front of the school and these palms were the known markers of the trail. Recently the palms helped members of the OST Society locate the original highway which concurs with early maps. If they were planted for the OST, which was completed in 1930 they are eighty years old.

In 1958 the Judson Rural School District #8 was formed and Converse Elementary, Kirby Elementary, Kirby Junior High and Judson High School would soon assume the ninety plus year tradition of educating area youth. The year 2010 will mark the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of Judson High School and the 100th anniversary of the building and dedication of the 1910 school. It will also mark the 156th anniversary of the 1864 school the foundation of what is today the Judson Independent School District.

CITY OF CONVERSE

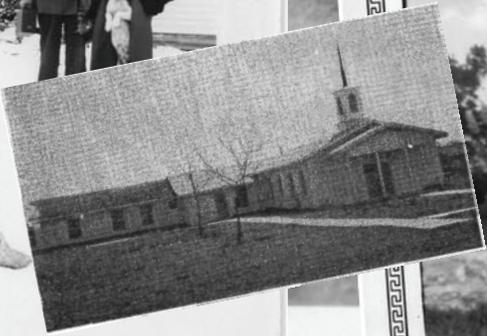


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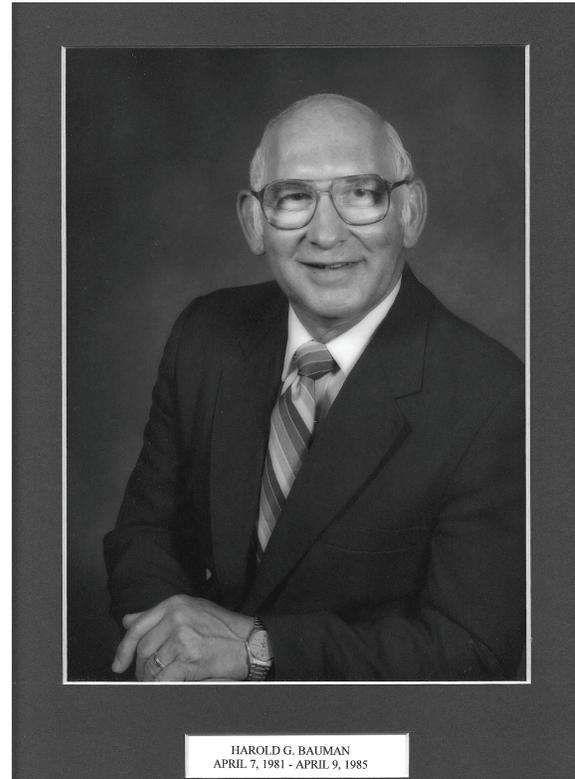
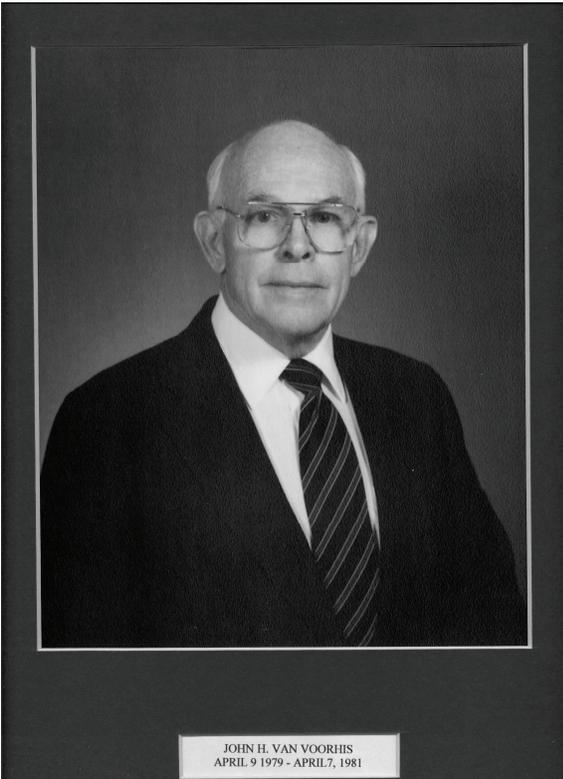
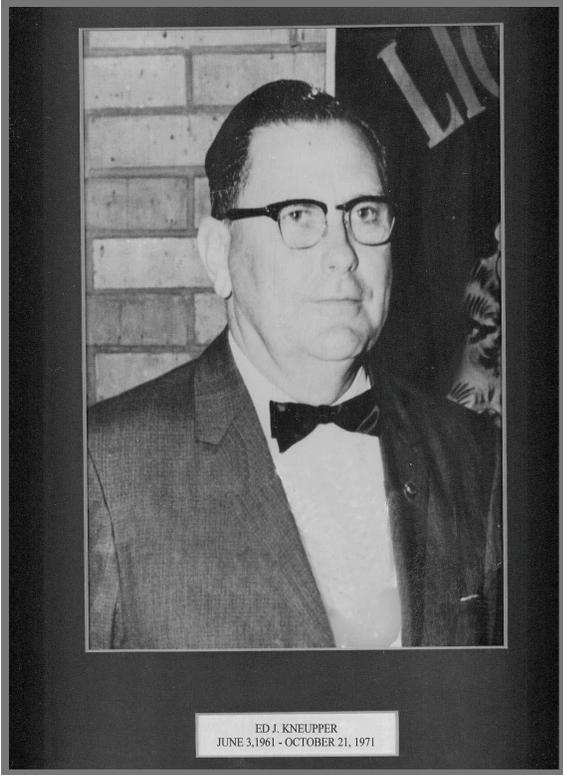


Revised 11/17/10

Pictures from the Past



CONVERSE MAYORS



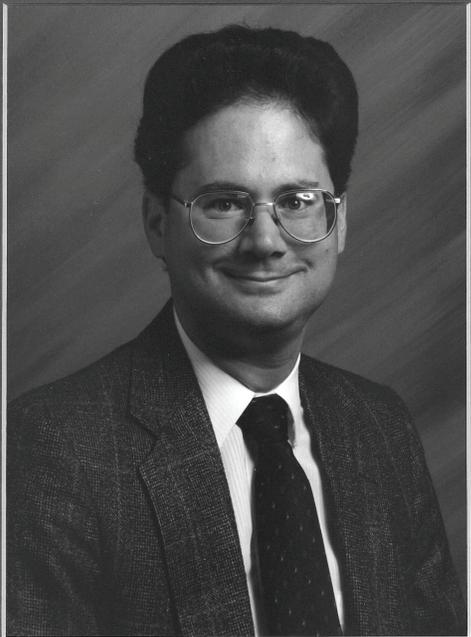
CONVERSE MAYORS



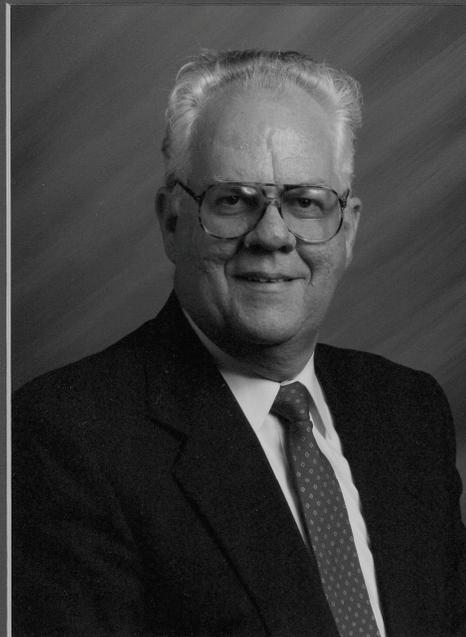
BRUCE FRIESENHAHN
APRIL 9, 1985 - MAY 4, 1993



RICHARD MAAS
MAY 4, 1993 - MAY 9, 1995

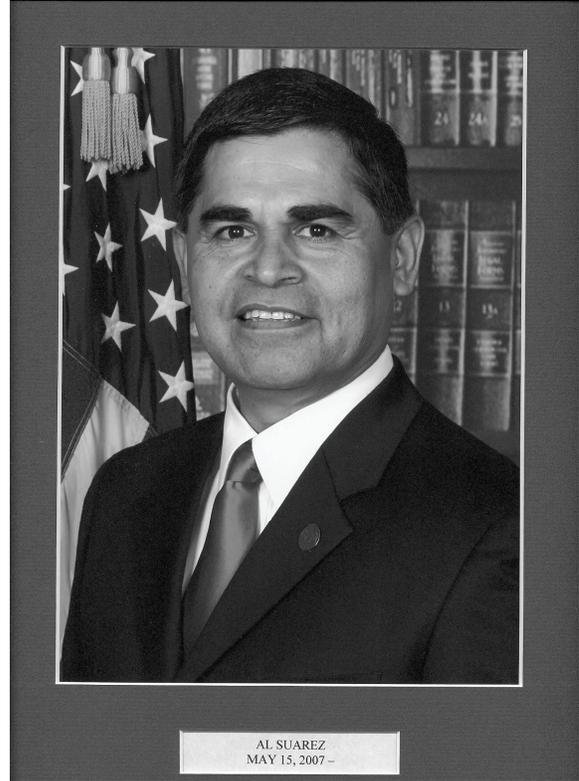
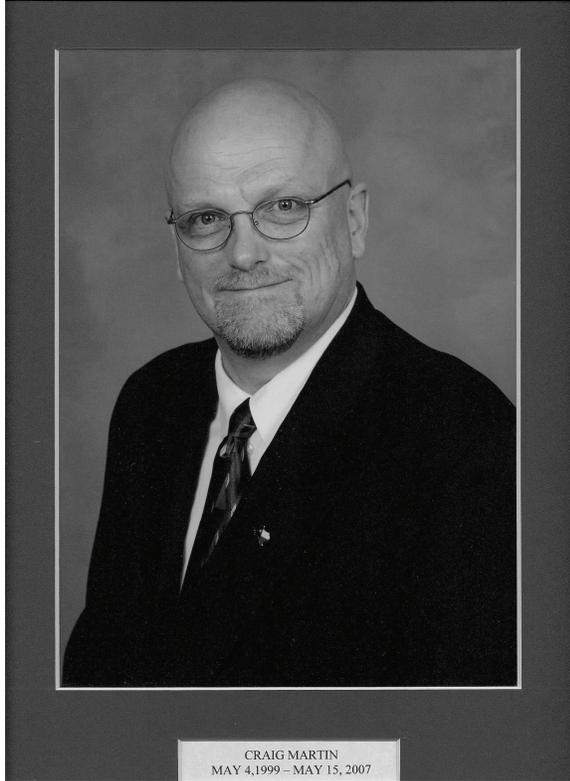


EARL LYNN GARRISON
MAY 9 1995 - MAY 6, 1997



JOHN W. STEINBERG
MAY 6, 1997 - MAY 4, 1999

CONVERSE MAYORS



Converse Royal Court



2011 Converse Royal Court

King: Xavier Houston **Queen:** Ki'Anna Weddington

Prince: Ethan Newsome-Jackson **Princess:** Sheila Ramos

Ladies of the Court: Breanna Wilkerson, Chante' Miller, Micaela Johnson,
Adrienne Metcalf



CONGRATULATIONS CONVERSE ON YOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

From the Free Pregnancy Testing & Healthy Women's Center – Helping to pave the way for a healthy next generation in Converse

Healthy moms, means healthy babies. At the Free Pregnancy Testing & Healthy Women's Center in Converse, our knowledgeable and experienced staff assist you with the services you need for a healthy pregnancy including:

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- Onsite Medicaid Qualification Assistance
- Full service OB/GYN services onsite
- Free sonograms with keepsake DVD
- Onsite monthly WIC and Food Stamp assistance provided by SA Food Bank



Free Pregnancy Testing & Healthy Women's Center
8455 Crestway, Suite 119
Judson Market Shopping Center
(Across from Wal-Mart)
phone (210) 662-6107

Free Pregnancy Testing &
Healthy Women's Center



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Howie Marbach, Member
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Stephanie Brown, Member
Beth Shadron, Member
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Research from the Late Amy Voges

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Councilman Grant Lopez
Odie Martinez
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Parade Grand Marshals

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Richard Weers
Howie Marbach
Joyce Maples
Aina Blake
Rosie Bourland
Everett Reidel
Josephine Reidel
Pat Bryson
Gracie Beane
Ann Voges
Pete Voges

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Chief Rick Jamison, Converse PD

Hospitality

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Gloria Weers
Howie Marbach

Commemorative Book

Dawn Brennan
Kazimierz Sagan, II
Richard Weers, Back Cover Design

Entertainment

Sam Perez

Kids Games

Janie Olds
Beth Shadron

Royal Court

Councilwoman Robin Benbrook
Rosa Gary
Chief Theresa Gonzales, Judson ISD PD
Judson Education Foundation
Kristy Vidaurri, Judson High School Principal
Karen Robb
Shannon Mills
Stephanie Brown
Judson High School Students

Sponsorship

Michelle Burns

Fire Works

Chief Richard Wendt, Converse FD

Ceremony

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Julie Rowin
Penny Hieronymus
Jackie Gaines
Mae Kirk

Food Vendors

Rosa Gary
Hope Olds
Ester Ortiz
Lori Wallace

Logistics

John Quintanilla, Interim City Manager
Jackie Gaines
Karl Hoppes
Jorge Longoria

2nd Saturday Street fair Vendors

Sandy Dungan

Show and Shine

Rudy Martinez, Mystic Knights Car Club
Carlos Martinez, Mystic Knights Car Club

Time Capsule and Ceremony

Judson High School FFA
Eric Davis, Agricultural Science Teacher
Jarrett Whalen, FFA Student
Jaime Ramirez, FFA Student
Austin Law, FFA Student
Brett Grelle, FFA Student

The 50th Anniversary Committee would like to thank the Members of the City Council, City Staff, Citizens, Non-Profit Groups, Judson ISD and the Businesses in Converse for allowing us to be a part of such a historic occasion. We hope each one of you will cherish these memories for years to come.

