

FEATURE

Las Colinas Lore: PERRY PLACE

By Amanda Star Cline



In 1963, the *Daily News Texan* produced a feature titled “Shorts fought ‘Battle Of Haunted House’ – and Won” on one of the oldest homes in Las Colinas, 300 East Rochelle (formerly 2730 Wingren Road). “Town and Time”, a column (date unknown) written by Tex Adams detailed new refurbishments that the Short family had made to a house.

The house was previously written about because of large renovations but the articles also mentioned ghosts and gangsters.

The more interesting part of 300 East Rochelle’s history includes Irving Gangsters, nightclub owners and gambling. There are two sides to every story though; while the house is associated with some unsavoriness, the house also is remembered with warmth and fondness by those who lived there.



DR. PERRY

An earlier newspaper article suggests that a physician named Dr. Perry built the house in 1931, and more than likely used it as a retreat for him and his wife, Dolores.

The house was originally a depression structure and was built by a Czech refugee fleeing Europe’s Nazi occupation. At the time the home was built, it was outside the city limits, in the country. This means that the home probably would not have had electricity-this is important to know because it will come up again later. While it is difficult to find official records confirming the identity of the house’s first owner, an Irving resident named Dr. Elza Marion Perry did surface in an obituary. According to the obituary, Dr. Perry was born in 1901 in San Angelo, Texas, and died in a car accident at the age of 39 in 1941. He was a University of Texas graduate and was considered one of the leading medical experts in psychiatry and

neurology in the southwest. It is believed at this point in time, that “Perry Place” (as neighbors called it) changed hands and this is where the mystery begins. Again, records confirming owners of the home are hard to find but it is suspected that a local nightclub owner associated with the infamous Jack Ruby, possibly “Pappy” Dolsen owned the home after Perry. Pappy owned several nightclubs at various locations but his most popular club was a local burlesque hall called Pappy’s Showland; it closed in the mid 50s’.



At some point, during 1941-1962 several modifications were made to the home including electricity. The master bedroom had 18 outlets, which would have been very unusual for the times. Kevin Kendro, Archivist for Irving Public Library, agrees that the outlets were more than likely used for slot machines and gambling and that the house could have been the location of a nightclub. Not to mention, the location was a quarter of a mile from railroad tracks nearby. Gambling and nightclub owners create a sensational blend of

mystery but there is some suggestion that prostitution was also involved. Thick solid wood doors don't appear to be unusual however, doors with triple locks are definitely suspicious. Additionally, the house also had a crawlspace in the floor of the front coat closet that could



accommodate a body or two. The closet door had several dead bolts on the inside and the crawlspace led to a panel in the lower level that was underneath a bookcase. This would make for a quick and convenient escape for the property owner and his comrades if needed.

While nightclubs weren't permitted to sell alcohol, they would provide a setup of mixers and bar tending staff for patrons. However, patrons would bring their own liquor. Nightclubs could be found just about anywhere in the DFW area at that time and the Wingren property would be a fitting location for a private nightclub. The place on Wingren would be far away from police intervention or rival gang conflict that might threaten its patrons or activities. At the back of the property were two sets of structure



remnants. It is unknown what type of buildings sat on these foundations. One could imagine them to be cozy mother-in-law suites where guests of the family stayed over holidays. Perhaps they were sheds that housed genius inventions or painting projects but local rumors allude to the structures being used to entertain male customers. Norma Stanton, author of "Irving, Texas: From Rails to Trails" suggests that in the early 50's, Irving was a prime place for known criminals (referred to as the Southwest Mafia) because they would carry out their business in Dallas but keep Irving safe because that is where they raised their families. All in all, it is possible that the house saw illegal activity of some sort, whether prostitution or gambling.

The Perry Place was eventually sold to the Carpenter family and records show that Airman Richard A. Short and his talented musician wife



Lois and Richard Short

Lois, purchased the house in 1962 for around \$20,000. Melissa Short Reeves, the second child of the Short family says that the house was derelict but that her mother had "fallen in love with it." The split level house had two bedrooms upstairs with a bathroom, the downstairs had a game room and an exterior door plus a garage; it would prove to be a great place to raise a family. Melissa's family was in the house for 55 years and there had been a lot of improvements made including fireplaces that were two sided where visitors could see through them into other rooms, a three car garage and additional bedrooms in the lower level. As the house changed, the name of the street and the surroundings would change with it.

Residents had referred to the home as the Perry Place on Wingren, now the house was 300 E. Rochelle and surrounded by many other houses.

300 E. Rochelle is associated with happy Norman Rockwell-like memories for Melissa. All of the neighborhood mothers knew each other and it was the "best security system because these mothers were all friends." If kids were out and

about getting into mischief, a neighbor would tell the kid's mother. They all looked out for one another but they were more like family. Neighborhood BBQ's were frequently held and no one's back yard was fenced. "Kids were always out running around barefoot with their dogs." Times were very different back then.

"On any given evening, somebody would show up at cocktail hour and then they would stand around the piano and everybody would sing."

Her mother played on a Baldwin grand piano in front of the main window of the house. Richard was also a talented musician but Melissa says, "Mom was a great pianist and actually should have gone to Juilliard." Lois Short had a scholarship to go to the prestigious university but decided to get married and start a family instead. Richard and Lois were both Oklahoma natives and met during college at Tulsa University. "My whole life was filled with music..." Melissa says. Mr. and Mrs. Short were heavily involved in the community theatre during the 60s and 70s. Lois Short played piano for many groups including chorales " and churches.

When it came to holidays, they were very special at the Short household. "Thanksgiving was my mother's favorite holiday...you made a meal, so what? But everybody was together." Lois also "loved Christmas and would decorate like crazy" including meticulously outlining the porch in white lights.

Aside from the happy and loving childhood memories, Melissa also recalls some very unusual experiences at the house. Books would fly off tables, doors opened and closed on their own and every one of Melissa's friends that visited the house swore that they had seen something paranormal. Melissa's father, previously a skeptic, had confided in her that he had witnessed a man walking past an open doorway. Richard Short described seeing a working class man dressed in 1920s-1930s period clothes with a soft cap and jacket. Several months after this incident, he claims to have seen a heavy set woman, walking

towards the kitchen with a large platter of food. Melissa's experiences involved hearing whistling when no one else was home, doors rattling and footsteps up and down the stairs.

The old house at 300 East Rochelle has seen many things since its 1931 inception. Through the decades, the house was a retreat for a prestigious doctor and his family, a secluded space for gambling patrons to eat, drink and be entertained, an addition to Carpenter's community and lastly, a long-time home for the loving Short family. The old Perry Place had a good run of it. However, like all things, change is inevitable. Earlier this year, the house was sold to a new owner and demolished. Hopefully, the lot will don a spacious sparkling new home that will serve as a clean slate, ready for new memories to be made. The community can look forward to what is to come but be aware that the new owner very much values his privacy and ghosts and gangsters are no longer living at 300 East Rochelle.



BUSINESS

FEATURED BUSINESS: THE RICHEY COMPANY

"I really don't think of it as a job. It's a fun business, shopping for people every day," says David Piendak of The Richey Company. His wife, Ginny Piendak is the president/owner of the company and says, "We work with people's budgets, on time and on budget."

The business to business (B2B) wholesale distributor of promotional items moved to Las Colinas just last month. Their list of clients include Irving Schools Foundation, Aviation Institute & Maintenance, Greater Irving-Las Colinas Chamber, DFW Airport Authority, City of Flower mound and City of Coppell, just to name a few.

In addition to design and promotional materials, The Richey Company also offers fulfillment services where products/packaging can be assembled and delivered to customers.

The Richey Company can place a logo on anything from a tiny ear bud to a large 10x20 tent and everything in between. One of the largest orders received by The Richey Company was a request for 100,000 picture frames for Reunion Tower. With a consultant approach, they are able to come up with creative solutions for the client to assist with long term and short-term marketing goals. Some of their most requested promotional items

are pens, mugs and tumblers but they also get requests for puzzles and three dimensional mailers.

In order to stay up to date with the latest techniques, trends, styles and colors, David and Ginny attend large trade shows. They want to make sure they are offering the newest and most novel promotional concepts to their clients. When it comes to customers, Ginny promises they "treat them all the same, whether they are from fortune 500 companies or small businesses".



The Richey Company
3910 Teleport Blvd., Irving, Texas 75039
(972) 470-0800
richeycompany.com

The Taste: Blu Ginger Thai

6550 N MacArthur Blvd #150, Irving, TX 75039 (972) 373-9799

By Amanda Star Cline



I went to Blu Ginger Thai on a Wednesday for lunch. The place was packed but the wait wasn't more than 5 minutes. The inside area seats about 100 people and the outdoor patio can seat around 25 people. You will see an assortment of clientele: the corporate lunch crowd, travelers lodging nearby and locals. The atmosphere is relaxed and contemporary with a "come as you are" vibe.

I was in a vegetarian/coconuty mood so I ordered the Golden Yellow Tofu Curry with a heat level of 2. You can go up to 3 with heat. Before my main dish came out, I was given swing slaw (cabbage and carrots with peanuts) and a vegetarian crispy roll. The slaw was both sweet, crunchy and had just the right amount of refreshing acidity. Yum! My yellow curry was rich with delicate lemongrass flavor and the perfect layer of "coconuty" that

I was craving. The curry sauce was thick, but not too thick and potatoes, carrots, onions and tofu were just the right size, chunky and perfect for a bite. I ended up with leftovers for a second meal and by the way, this curry was even better on day 2!

The highly awarded restaurant has been featured in Star Telegram and Community Impact since its opening in 2006. However, there are two things that make this place very unique and special: the owners and their commitment to consistency. What do you get when you combine a PhD in physical chemistry and an MBA? You get a savvy business team who understands the importance of standard deviation and the significance of consistency. Their cooked-to order, hand-cut food is process-controlled by using the same volume and weight for each dish, every time. This valid (and highly

reliable) method is what separates Blu Ginger Thai from the competition.

If you are stumped on what to get, try some (or all) of these popular items: Drunken Master, Brownie Spy and you can't go wrong with the traditional Pad Thai. People with special diets are in luck because they offer options for vegetarian, vegan, gluten free and for the lactose intolerant. Meat-eaters, fear not because you're covered with chicken, pork, shrimp, scallops and beef. In addition to the diverse menu, Blu Ginger has a full bar. I didn't try anything from the bar because I had to go back to work but rumor has it, they make excellent mojitos.

All in all, I can state with 99.8% certainty that you will love this place!

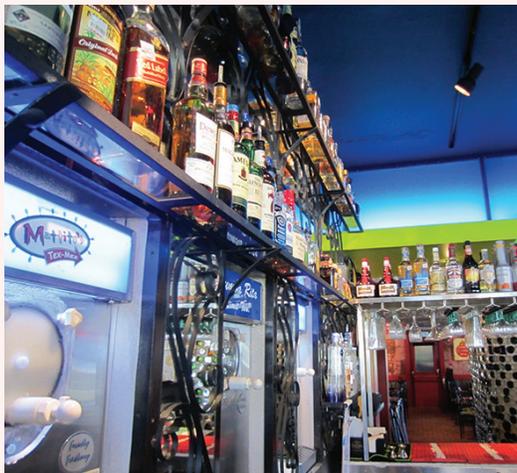


The Taste is a monthly section where I evaluate local restaurants so you don't have to. Who has time to check out all the cool places? I'll tell you exactly where to go for quality food and a great experience.



After 5 in LC

By Amanda Star Cline



What you should order:

The top selling beverage is the Rumba Rita and manager Alex Mora recommends the Top Shelf.

Happy Hour Info:

Mondays-Fridays, 3pm-6pm.

Mattito's is located at 1001 Mac Arthur Parkway Avenue I-635 in Irving, Texas 75039.

MATTITO'S offers a bright, happening atmosphere with an inside bar area that can seat up to 30 people. They also have a nice open patio with a fireplace.

Besides an array of Mexican beers and tequilas, they offer specialty drinks like The Rumba Rita (limit two per customer); which is a bold concoction of Sauza Gold tequila, Blue Curacao, lemon juice and lime juice.

What is unique about this happy hour spot is the complimentary appetizer buffet. The complimentary appetizer menu items are changed daily so it will be different every time you stop in. Here you can also buy pitchers of margaritas and beer when you want to treat your table of friends or coworkers.

While the 7 year-old restaurant/bar hosts the typical business professionals after 5pm, their space is large enough to accommodate dining families without interfering with the happy hour crowd. In fact, Mattito's has an all-can-eat/all-you-can drink brunch on Sundays, so this is kid friendly and wallet friendly. Manager, Alex Mora, says that for the staff at Mattito's "Customer service is number one." They work hard to make everyone feel happy and safe while providing excellent Tex- Mex food and drinks.



After 5 in LC seeks to inform local business professionals on happy hour hotspots in Las Colinas. Where do you and your colleagues go to unwind after work? Please email Amanda S. Cline at acline@lascolinas.org.

COMMUNITY

NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Get to know BETH JOSEPH



Why did you choose to live in Las Colinas (over other areas)?
Las Colinas has both a suburb and city feel. It is conveniently located between DFW and Love Field airports which makes it ideal for people like me who travel often. The streets are clean, the landscaping beautifully manicured. It is a diamond tucked between Fort Worth and Dallas.

What are your hobbies? What groups are you involved with?
My hobbies include working out, weekend getaways and dining out.

Where did you move from? If moving from within Texas, How long have you been in Texas?
I have been in Texas since 2000 and lived in Plano for the last 16 years.

Favorite food?
This is a hard call. I love Indian, Thai and Mediterranean cuisine.

Your favorite thing(s) about Las Colinas?
It is peaceful, safe with great parks and nice restaurants. Hopefully we will have a nice small night spot down the road.

Properties of the Month

RESIDENTIAL

David & Dyanna Schoemaker
1424 Cottonwood Valley Court,
Irving, Texas 75038



COMMERCIAL

Verizon
700 Hidden Ridge,
Irving, Texas 75038



HOW ARE PROPERTIES SELECTED?

There are so many beautiful properties in Las Colinas that The Las Colinas Association decided to choose a residential and commercial property to feature in each newsletter.

Properties are submitted by our Code Enforcement Staff based on the following: Well-kept structures and landscaping reflecting the quality and charm of Las Colinas, in addition to, having no deficiencies and being current on all assessments.

One-of-a-kind Las Colinian: Susana Lataban

By Amanda Sanders

Have you ever wondered who is behind the bunny taking pictures all over Las Colinas? Well we have the inside scoop. Who is this mysterious woman/ underground Twitter star? Why does she take pictures with a bunny? We had the chance to chat with Susana Lataban and find out. As a child, Susana was athletic and particularly excelled in track and field. She was as "quick as a bunny". Susana said that she has always loved bunnies so the nickname "bunny" was fitting and it has stayed with her ever since. Upon being newly married, her husband brought home a stuffed bunny as a gift for her. From then on, the bunny has been her signature trademark in her Twitter photos. Susana has been in Las Colinas for almost a year and she is a resident of IMT Lakeshore Lofts. She especially loves taking pictures along Lake Carolyn. Susana said when she moved here "it was love at first sight." She enjoys taking photos and capturing the beauty of Las Colinas in her pictures and urges everyone to preserve our beautiful surroundings.



First picture with bunny.
March 30, 2015

Name: Susana Lataban F.

Age: 27 years old.

Where do you live in Las Colinas?
IMT Lakeshore Lofts

Do you work in Las Colinas?
No, I don't. I own businesses in Mexico.

What brought you to Las Colinas?

It's been almost a year living in Las Colinas, when I first came here it was love at first sight, I knew this was the place I wanted to live in. The location is very convenient; it is a blooming and peaceful city with exceptional landscaping! (NOTE: Las Colinas is not a city but a master-planned community within the city of Irving, Texas.)

Favorite photo spot in Las Colinas?

Definitely, Lake Carolyn! It is an absolute beauty.

Favorite restaurant in Las Colinas?

Via Real and Trevi's restaurant.

Favorite thing to do in Las Colinas?

Walk around the lake, it is just so pleasant and relaxing.

How would you describe yourself?

As an outgoing and adventurous person. I like to discover new things, and see what is happening around me, I enjoy taking pictures of moments or places and I love staying active.

Any Pets? No, just my stuffed bunny.

What are you looking most forward to? (water street, music factory etc.?)

All current projects that are underway are really exciting for me; Probably Water Street is the one I am looking most forward to as it is nearing completion. I just can't wait to see the thrilling views.

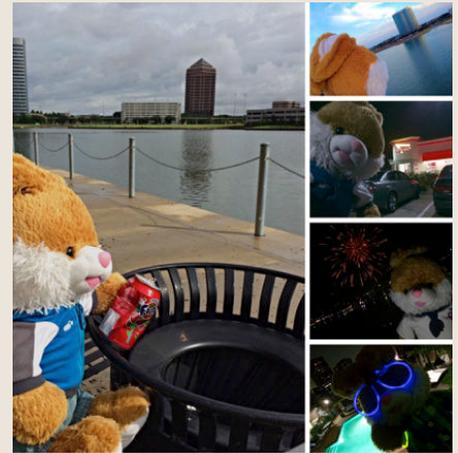
If you could have one thing brought to Las Colinas what would it be? (restaurant, retail, entertainment etc.)

Maybe a mall, like Galleria Dallas.

The story behind the bunny:

When I was a child I was enrolled in the track and field sport, people said that even I was small I was very fast so they started calling me "hare". Hares are considered as one of the fastest animals, they are little but incredibly fast. I grew up with that emblem so later on I was called "bunny" as it sounded cuter than "hare". I just started loving bunnies.

When I was newly married, my husband came home with an Easter gift, a stuffed bunny (the one in the pictures) and from that day I started taking pictures of it and became my symbol.



One-of-a-kind Las Colinian is a column that highlights the unique people who live or work in Las Colinas. If you know someone who is unique and/or notable, contact acline@lascolinas.org.



CONSTRUCTION

Road construction: State Highway 114 and Loop 12 are ongoing and completion is estimated to be in late 2018. For more information on road construction in Las Colinas, go to: <http://drivemidtown.azurewebsites.net/>.

Whole Foods is set to open in 2017. Check out <http://www.wfaa.com/mb/money/whole-foods-las-colinas-opening-pushed-back-to-2017/296398681> for more information.

Water Street, the mixed-use development on Lake Carolyn is still on track for a mid 2017 opening. Visit <http://retailstreetadvisors.com> for updates.



Campion Trail is now open however, park patrons should be aware that some damaged sections and amenities are not yet safe for use. For trail maps and details, visit CityofIrving.org/Parks.



International Music Factory is slated to open in 2017. For more information, check out: <http://musicfactory.com>.

LCA MASTER DECLARATION

a. (2) No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any lot, nor shall anything be done thereon which may become an annoyance, dangerous or a nuisance to the neighborhood (p.43, Las Colinas Association Master Declaration).

CITY ORDINANCES

Please keep your dog leashed at all times. Having a dog off-leash is banned and could result in a violation of up to \$2000. <http://www.cityofirving.org/146/Codes-and-Forms>. If a neighbor's dog can be heard continually barking at least 50 feet away, you can report the incident to Animal Control or the Irving Police Department. If the noise violation takes place during business hours, Monday thru Friday call Animal Control at 972-721-2256. If the noise violation takes place after 5 pm or during the weekend, you may call the Irving Police Department at 972-273-1010.

For questions regarding trash pick up, recycling, bulk waste disposal and brush collection, contact City of Irving Trash & Recycling, 972-721-8059.

Building owners and managers need to make sure that electrical equipment such as wiring and appliances are properly installed and maintained. The size and usage of appliances and equipment serves as a basis for determining the need for additional

facilities in accordance with the National Electrical Code. Additionally, make sure that light fixtures with protective shields are capable of preventing broken glass from falling in areas where food may be exposed.

To report an offense please contact City of Irving Code Enforcement, 972-721-4929.

OCTOBER EVENTS

OCTOBER 4TH IS "NATIONAL NIGHT OUT" is a community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live.

OCTOBER IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH:

Join the City of Irving Family Advocacy Center for this free event, 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 18 on the Mandalay Canal. <http://www.cityofirving.org/2967/Illuminate-Irving>

DALLAS COMIC CON, weekend of October 14-16th at the Irving Convention Center. For more info, go to: <http://dallascomiccon.com/>.

CAMPION TRAIL

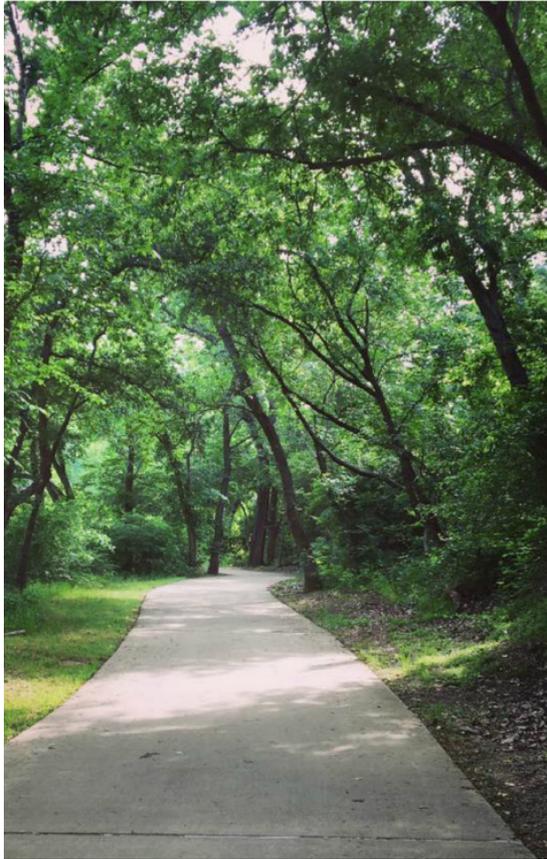
After a rain filled Spring and Summer, Campion Trail has dried out and has reopened. Many have already taken advantage of the trails, and some are waiting on the cooler temps which are now in our near future.

Campion Trail offers a mixture of natural and urban views as it travels through the Dallas suburb of Irving. Currently, the trail is comprised of separate north and south sections that together total more than 13 miles of wide, flat and paved pathway.

As more and more Las Colonians flock to the trails for fitness and fun, the need has grown to remind trail users to share the trails by following simple etiquette rules so everyone has a great and safe time on the trails:

- Stay right and pass on left
- Announce "Passing on the left"
- Bikes yield to pedestrians
- Travel at a safe speed
- Keep an eye on children
- Keep dogs on a short leash
- Single file in groups
- Slow down on curves
- Keep to the edge when stopping

**New additions to the trail were not included.*



For more general information on trail etiquette, go to <http://www.rivcoparks.org/trails/trail-safety>. For a map and more details about Campion Trails please visit: <http://www.trailink.com/trail/campion-trail.aspx>



For a listing of What's Happening in the Hills visit lascolinas.org/events.html

We're changing up our newsletter and we want you to be a part of it.

Please feel free to submit your story, photo, or nomination via our Facebook page or by emailing acline@lascolinas.org before the 10th of the following month in order to be considered for publication. Thank you for helping us make the Spirit of Las Colinas representative of our community.



3838 Teleport Boulevard
Irving, Texas 75039

www.lascolinas.org

