

## **New Texas Historical Marker for the 711 Ranch**

A Texas Historical Marker for the 711 Ranch has been installed outside the gated entry of The Peninsula! Over fifty local families contributed to fund the cost of the marker; about 60% of the contributions came from Peninsula owners.

This marker recognizes the rich heritage of the 711 Ranch owned by L. A. and Pearl Nordan of San Antonio between 1949 and 1999. The Nordans purchased land originally claimed under thirty-five Texas surveys dating back to 1837.

The land of the 711 Ranch is the land of Mystic Shores. Just as the 711 Ranch was the largest ranch in Comal County, at inception, this subdivision was the largest in the county. The marker is a source of education and pride for our community.

*The text of the 711 Ranch Texas Historical Marker follows:*

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

### **711 RANCH**

WWI VETERAN L.A. NORDAN (1896-1969) WAS A SUCCESSFUL OIL AND GAS PRODUCER IN SOUTH TEXAS. IN 1949, HE AND HIS WIFE, PEARL (NEUGENT) NORDAN (1896-1994), ESTABLISHED THE 711 RANCH IN COMAL COUNTY ALONG THE GUADALUPE RIVER, 18 MILES NORTHWEST OF NEW BRAUNFELS. THE RANCH WAS NAMED AFTER NORDAN'S DOWNTOWN SAN ANTONIO BUSINESS ADDRESS. HE WAS APPOINTED TO THE TEXAS STATE PARKS BOARD IN 1951. THE NORDANS CONTRIBUTED GENEROUSLY TO EDUCATION, THE ARTS, THEIR CHURCH, AND MEDICAL RESEARCH.

STARTING IN THE 1850s, THIS AREA WAS PART OF THE FISCHER STORE, REBECCA CREEK AND CRANES MILL SETTLEMENTS. IN EIGHT TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN 1949 AND 1966, THE NORDANS PURCHASED 51 PARCELS OF PROPERTY ROOTED IN 35 INDIVIDUAL LAND GRANTS AWARDED BETWEEN 1837 AND 1888 TO REPUBLIC OF TEXAS PATRIOTS, RAILROADS, MEXICAN TEXANS AND GERMAN AND SWISS IMMIGRANTS. THE RANCH EXTENDED FROM NORTH CRANES MILL ROAD WEST TO DEVILS HOLLOW AND FROM ONE MILE SOUTH OF THE RIVER OVER 7.5 MILES NORTHWARD.

THE NORDANS CREATED A WORLD-CLASS RANCHING OPERATION, PRODUCING PRIZE-WINNING SANTA GERTRUDIS CATTLE AND COLUMBIA SHEEP. THEY FOCUSED ON CONSERVATION, WILDLIFE PRESERVATION AND EDUCATION. THEY VALUED THEIR MANY TALENTED, LONG-TERM EMPLOYEES. THE RANCH OWNERS TOOK

CARE TO PRESERVE NINETEENTH-CENTURY STRUCTURES AND CEMETERIES LOCATED ON THE SPRAWLING PROPERTY. FROM 1961 TO 1963, ALMOST 2,000 ACRES WERE ACQUIRED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR THE CANYON LAKE RESERVOIR. IN 1999, SOME 7,180 ACRES OF RANCH LAND WAS SOLD AND SOON BECAME THE MYSTIC SHORES SUBDIVISION. THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF L. A. AND PEARL NORDAN SIGNIFICANTLY ADDED TO THE RICH HERITAGE OF THE AREA.

MARKER IS THE PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Over the past decade, resident Paula Rieker has researched the history of these heritage lands. She is writing the stories of the patriots of the Texas Revolution, early Texas railroads, German and Swiss settlers, area ranchers and others that owned the original land grants and the land itself. In addition to the 711 Ranch historical marker, this work has translated into three other historical designations by the State of Texas within Mystic Shores:

The Karl Haas Cemetery was designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery in 2018. The Haas family settled here in 1865. This cemetery dates to 1887. It is located on private property off Astral Point and Triton Drive. Haas descendants intend to install a Historic Texas Cemetery plaque at the cemetery.

The Julius Bremer Cemetery was designated as a Texas Historic Cemetery in 2019. Bremer arrived on these lands in 1867. Gravesites here date from 1880 to 1908. This cemetery is located on private property off Mystic Shores Boulevard and Gull Lane.

A Texas Historical Marker for the Julius Bremer Family and Rebecca Creek School was approved earlier this year. The one-room Rebecca Creek School was established in 1882. The marker is currently in production and will be placed on private property near the Bremer home ruins, also at Mystic Shores Boulevard and Gull Lane.

See below photos.

Please email questions to Paula at [711ranchhistory@gmail.com](mailto:711ranchhistory@gmail.com).

SEE NEXT PAGES FOR PICTURES.



On Saturday, October, 10, 2020, (left to right), Sally and Jim Blacksmith and Paula and Jim Rieker, all residents of Mystic Shores, and Cheryl and Bob Warnecke of New Braunfels installed the 711 Ranch Texas Historical Marker. Sally and Bob serve on the Comal County Historical Commission.



The new 711 Ranch Texas Historical Marker and the entrance to The Peninsula.