

# ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

**CASE NUMBER:** C14H-205-0004

**HLC DATE:**

September 28, 2015

**PC DATE:**

**APPLICANTS:** Rebekah and Andy Thomas, owners

**HISTORIC NAME:** Swearingen-Gray House

**WATERSHED:** Shoal Creek

**ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE:** 1606 Watchhill Road

**ZONING FROM:** SF-3 to SF-3-H

**SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** No recommendation. While staff believes that the house has historical significance due to its associations with Jack Gray, the front of the house has been changed. It will be up to the Commission to decide whether the historical significance of the house outweighs the loss of the integrity of design in the modifications to the façade of the house. Staff is also very concerned about setting a precedent for nominating houses that have had recent modifications; the criteria for designation of historic landmark specifically state that a house must retain its historic appearance to qualify as a historic landmark.

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR LANDMARK DESIGNATION:**

Architecture and historical associations.

Architecture – The house is now a classic example of Colonial Revival architecture with a full-width, full-height portico and porch on monumental fluted columns, but originally had more of a Monterrey-style with a second story cantilevered balcony.

Historic associations: Associations with W.A. Swearingen, the founder of the Ford dealership that later became Leif Johnson Ford, and with Jack Gray, long-standing All-American basketball coach at the University of Texas.

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION:** Staff has postponed the public hearing on this case to determine issues relating to the loss of historical integrity. The Commission has not yet taken action on this application.

**PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION:**

**DEPARTMENT COMMENTS:** The house is beyond the bounds of the Comprehensive Cultural Resources Survey (1984).

**CITY COUNCIL DATE:**

**ACTION:**

**ORDINANCE READINGS:** 1<sup>ST</sup> 2<sup>ND</sup> 3<sup>RD</sup>

**ORDINANCE NUMBER:**

**CASE MANAGER:** Steve Sadowsky

**PHONE:** 974-6454

**NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION:**

Pemberton Heights Neighborhood Association

**BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:**

**Architecture:**

The house is a two-story, rectangular plan, side-gabled frame house with Colonial Revival styling. The symmetrical façade defines the Colonial Revival style; the house has a central, front-gabled portico on monumental columns; the full-width full-height front porch extends to either side of the central portico, all supported on monumental fluted columns. A broken pediment frames the central doorway, which has a pair of sidelights. According to the plans for this house by prominent Austin architects Page and Southerland, the house originally had a different treatment of the façade, which was decidedly less Colonial Revival and more in keeping with the ideals of the Monterrey style of architecture with a second-story balcony.

**Historical Associations:**

The house was built in 1939 for William A. and Lillian “Dink” Swearingen, who had moved to Austin a few years prior to take over a local Ford dealership. William A. Swearingen was a native of Lockhart, Texas, where his father ran the local bank. W.A. Swearingen graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in business administration, then went to work for banks in Houston and Lockhart. He took over his father’s Ford dealership in Austin, then made the move to Austin and purchased the local Ford dealership here. He asked local businessman and City Council member Bob Armstrong to join him in the partnership, and together, they established Swearingen-Armstrong Ford, which had its offices at 1<sup>st</sup> (now Cesar Chavez) and Colorado Streets, a site that had been home to several auto dealerships over the years. Armstrong was a minor partner in the venture, and W.A. “Bill” Swearingen ran the company for almost 20 years. In the late 1950s, he sold his interest in Swearingen-Armstrong and established Swearingen Brothers with his twin brother, James, the local Edsel dealership. Unfortunately, the Edsel line of cars did not fare well, and W.A. Swearingen got out of the car business thereafter. Bob Armstrong continued the local Ford dealership, and established Armstrong-Johnson Ford, with Leif Johnson. That dealership remains a fixture in the Austin automobile market today as Leif Johnson Ford.

The Swearingens sold the house in 1955 and moved to a house on Balcones Drive. The Edward and Kathleen Maloney bought the house in 1955 from a third party and lived here until 1959. Edward Maloney was the vice-president and general manager of E.M. Scarbrough and Sons, Austin’s most prestigious department store.

In 1959, Jack and Margaret Gray purchased the house, and lived here for the rest of their lives. Jack Gray was a native of Wills Point, Texas, and came to the University of Texas as a basketball player. He married Margaret Bellmont, the daughter of legendary UT Athletics Director Theo Bellmont, and initially lived near the Bellmonts on W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street. Jack Gray played basketball for UT, setting scoring records, and receiving honors. In the late 1930s, he became the head coach for the UT basketball team, a position he held until his retirement in 1951. As head coach, Jack Gray brought UT basketball to the forefront of the university athletic program with consistent winning seasons. After he retired from coaching, he established Grayco Constructors, a pipeline company that was responsible for bringing Canadian and Alaskan crude oil to refineries in the United States.

**PARCEL NO.:** 01130102090000

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lot 6, Sunset Hill, Enfield

**ESTIMATED ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT:** \$8,500 (owner-occupied); city portion: \$2,500 (capped).

**APPRAISED VALUE:** \$1,794,426

**PRESENT USE:** Residence

**CONDITION:** Excellent

**PRESENT OWNERS:**

Patrick and Charlotte Thomas  
1606 Watchhill Road  
Austin, Texas 78703

**DATE BUILT:** ca. 1939

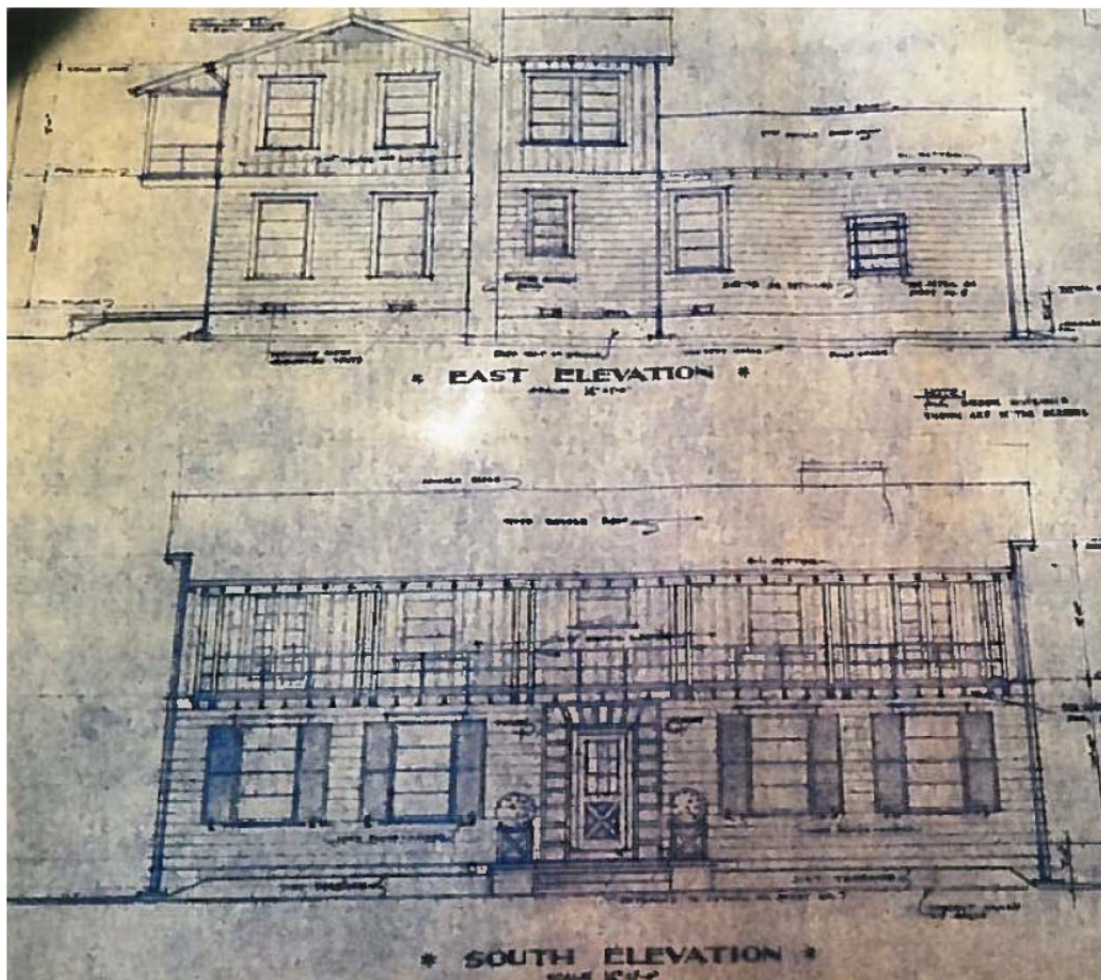
**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** Additions to the rear, not visible from the street.

**ORIGINAL OWNER(S):**

W.A. and Lillian Flynn Swearingen

**OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS:** None.





Original drawings of the house by Page and Southerland show the Monterrey style second floor balcony rather than the front façade of the house as it currently exists.

W. A. Swearingen                      1606 Watchhill Rd.  
 147                      -                      6                      -  
 Sunset Hills  
 frame 2-story res. with garage attached  
 292n - 10-19-39  
 12

3330\*  
 -72-128005-frn acc bldg. 400 sq.ft. Jack Gray

Building permit to W.A. Swearingen for the construction of the house (1939)



ZONING BOUNDARY

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2015-0004

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



**CHRONOLOGY OF OWNERS/OCCUPANTS****1606 Watchhill Road****Austin, Texas 78703**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 1937    | No listing   |
| 1938    | No listing<br>Note: William A. Swearingen (Dink)-President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.<br>Ford, Mercury, Lincoln at 1st & Colorado<br>Res: 1505 Westover Road<br>Note: Jack Gray-Head Coach UT<br>Res: 500 E. 24th St.               |
| 1940    | No listing<br>Note: William A. Swearingen (Dink)-President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.<br>Ford, Mercury, Lincoln at 1st & Colorado<br>Res: 608 Watchhill Road<br>Note: Jack Gray-Assistant Football Coach UT<br>Res: 500 E. 24th St. |
| 1941    | William A. Swearingen (Dink)-1606 Watchhill Road<br>President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.<br>Note: Jack Gray-Assistant coach UT<br>Res: Hill Hall  |
| 1942    | William A. Swearingen (Dink)-1606 Watchhill Road<br>President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.<br>Note: Jack Gray (Margaret) -Head Coach UT<br>Res: 635 W. 31st St.   |
| 1944-45 | William A. Swearingen (Dink)-1606 Watchhill Road<br>Vice-President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.<br>Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-Coach UT<br>Res: 635 W. 31st St.  |
| 1947    | William A. Swearingen (Dink)-1606 Watchhill Road<br>President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.<br>Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-Coach UT<br>Res: 807 W. 26th St.   |

---

- 1949 William A. Swearingen (Dink)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.  
 Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-Head Basketball Coach UT  
 Res: 807 W. 26th St.  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Engineer  
 Res: 2425 Vista Lane
- 1952 William A. Swearingen (Lillie)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.  
 William S. Swearingen-Student UT  
 Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-Jack Gray's Humble Service  
 Res: 807 W. 26th St.  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Carp  
 Res: 2000 Raleigh Ave.
- 1953 William A. Swearingen (Lillie)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.  
 William S. Swearingen-Student UT  
 Note: No listing for Jack Gray's residence, but Jack Gray's Humble  
 Service Station at 1004 W. 24th (Bob King Manager)  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Building Contractor  
 Res: 2000 Raleigh Ave.
- 1954 William A. Swearingen (Lillie)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 President Swearingen-Armstrong Inc. @ 202 W. 1st St.  
 William S. Swearingen-USAF  
 Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-President Morrison Constructors, Inc.  
 Res: 807 W. 26th St.  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Building Contractor  
 Res: 2000 Raleigh Ave.
- 1955 Edward J. Maloney (Betty)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 VP-General Manager of E. M. Scarborough and Sons  
 Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-President Morrison Constructors, Inc.  
 Res: 2707 Wooldridge  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Building Contractor  
 Res: 2000 Raleigh Ave.  
 Note: William A. Swearingen (Dink)-President of Swearingen-Armstrong  
 and VP of Texas Electronic Co.
-

- 1957 Edward J. Maloney (Kathleen)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 VP-General Manager of E. M. Scarborough and Sons  
 Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-President Grayco Construction, Inc.  
 Res: 2707 Wooldridge  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Contractor  
 Res: 4205 Edgemont  
 Note: William A. Swearingen (Dink)-President of Swearingen-Armstrong  
 and VP of Texas Electronic Co.  
 Res: 3920 Balcones
- 1958 Edward J. Maloney (Kathleen)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 VP-General Manager of E. M. Scarborough and Sons  
 Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-President Grayco Construction, Inc.  
 Res: 2707 Wooldridge  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Contractor  
 Res: 4205 Edgemont  
 Note: William A. Swearingen (Dink)-President of Swearingen Bros.  
 and VP of Texas Electronic Co.  
 Res: 3920 Balcones
- 1959 Edward J. Maloney (Kathleen)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 VP-General Manager of E. M. Scarborough and Sons  
 Note: Jack Gray (Margaret)-President Grayco Construction, Inc.  
 Res: 2707 Wooldridge  
 Note: William B. Acker (Catherine)-Contractor  
 Res: 3404 Monte Vista  
 Note: William A. Swearingen (Dink)-President of Swearingen Motors  
 Res: Buckeye Trail
- 1960 Jack Gray (Margaret)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 President Grayco Construction  
 Note: William A. Swearingen (Dink)-President of Carr's Motor Sales  
 Res: 7 Buckeye Trail
- 1964 Jack Gray (Margaret)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 President Grayco Construction  
 Note: Mrs. Dink Swearingen-Sales for Lane Realtors  
 Res: 402 Buckeye Trail
- 1971 Jack Gray (Margaret)-1606 Watchhill Road  
 President Grayco Marine Corp.
-

**DEED CHRONOLOGY**  
**1606 Watchhill Road**  
**Austin, Texas 78703**

|            |  |                             |
|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| 10/16/1939 | Brush, Brush, & Brush<br>sold to<br>William A. Swearingen  | Vol. 642<br>Pages 547-549   |
| 05/05/1955 | William A. & Lily Flynn<br>Swearingen<br>sold to<br>William B. and Catherine A. Acker                      | Vol. 1570<br>Pages 170-172  |
| 08/22/1955 | William B. and Catherine A. Acker<br>sold to<br>Edward James Maloney &<br>Kathleen Lamont Maloney          | Vol. 1608<br>Pages 79-81    |
| 01/24/1959 | Edward James Maloney &<br>Kathleen Lamont Maloney<br>sold to<br>Jack S. & Margaret B. Gray                 | Vol. 1999<br>Pages 233-234  |
| 12/15/1993 | Estate of Jack S. Gray<br>sold to<br>Robert Scott Rickard &<br>Polly R. Rickard                            | Vol. 12085<br>Pages 1909-17 |
| 07/29/2005 | Robert Scott Rickard &<br>Polly R. Rickard<br>sold to<br>Kenneth A. & Jan Barfield                         | 2005138920                  |
| 10/28/2014 | The Barfield Litigation Settlement Trust<br>sold to<br>Patrick Andrew Thomas &<br>Charlotte Rebekah Thomas | 2014163675                  |

---

## **Biography of William A. Swearingen**

William A. Swearingen (Bill) was born July 23, 1906 in Lockhart, Texas where his father was the president of the First National Bank. After attending public schools in Lockhart, Bill graduated from the University of Texas with highest honors in 1927. He was awarded the gold key of Beta Gamma Sigma in recognition of his scholastic achievements in the university's School of Business Administration. Both he and his twin brother were on the UT track team with Clyde Littlefield as their coach. It was at UT that Bill met Lily Flynn, and they married shortly thereafter. Upon graduation, Bill worked in banks in Houston and Lockhart before becoming employed by the Ford dealership in Lockhart that his father owned.

In 1938, Bill moved from Lockhart back to Austin and, together with his twin brother, James, purchased the local Ford dealership. The Swearingen name was very well-known and respected in Lockhart, but not yet in Austin. So to help the business get a good start, the Swearingens asked Bob Armstrong (a well respected businessman and City Council member) to become a minor partner and share in the name of the business, which became Swearingen-Armstrong Inc. That same year, Bill and Dink also purchased the lot at 1606 Watchhill Road, and hired Page and Southerland Architects to design a Country French style home for their family. Just eleven years after moving into their new home, the Swearingens again hired Page, Southerland and Page to design the additions of a game room plus other rooms. The front of the house, with the long balcony on the second floor, remained the same. A year earlier, Page Southland had designed a remodel for the Swearingen-Armstrong Motor Company building.

At the start of WWII, Bill served as a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force, commanding an Army Airwaves Communication System (AACS) unit that installed and operated radio stations and navigational aids on air transport routes in the continental United States and the CBI Theater. Back in civilian life, Bill continued the operation of his amateur radio station W5UJ, and he and James broadcast the first UT football game, heard by those who also owned a transmitter.

In 1955, while he continued as president of Swearingen-Armstrong, he also became VP of Texas Electronic Co., a company he and his brother formed to sell the latest invention, the television, to Austin homes. In 1957, after 19 years as Ford Dealers, Bill and James sold their interest in order to become owners and

---

operators of the new Austin dealership for Edsel, Ford's newest line of cars. Bill was president of the new Swearingen Brothers, but the Edsel never gained popularity with contemporary American car buyers and sold poorly.

After the close of the Edsel dealership, Bill went to work for First Federal Savings and Loan. He later became Account Executive for the American Industrial Leasing Company, and for a number of years, was active in the operations of the Commercial Rental Company, an Austin firm that specialized in the leasing of fleet cars and trucks. Bill was president of Austin Country Club and died at the age of 82.

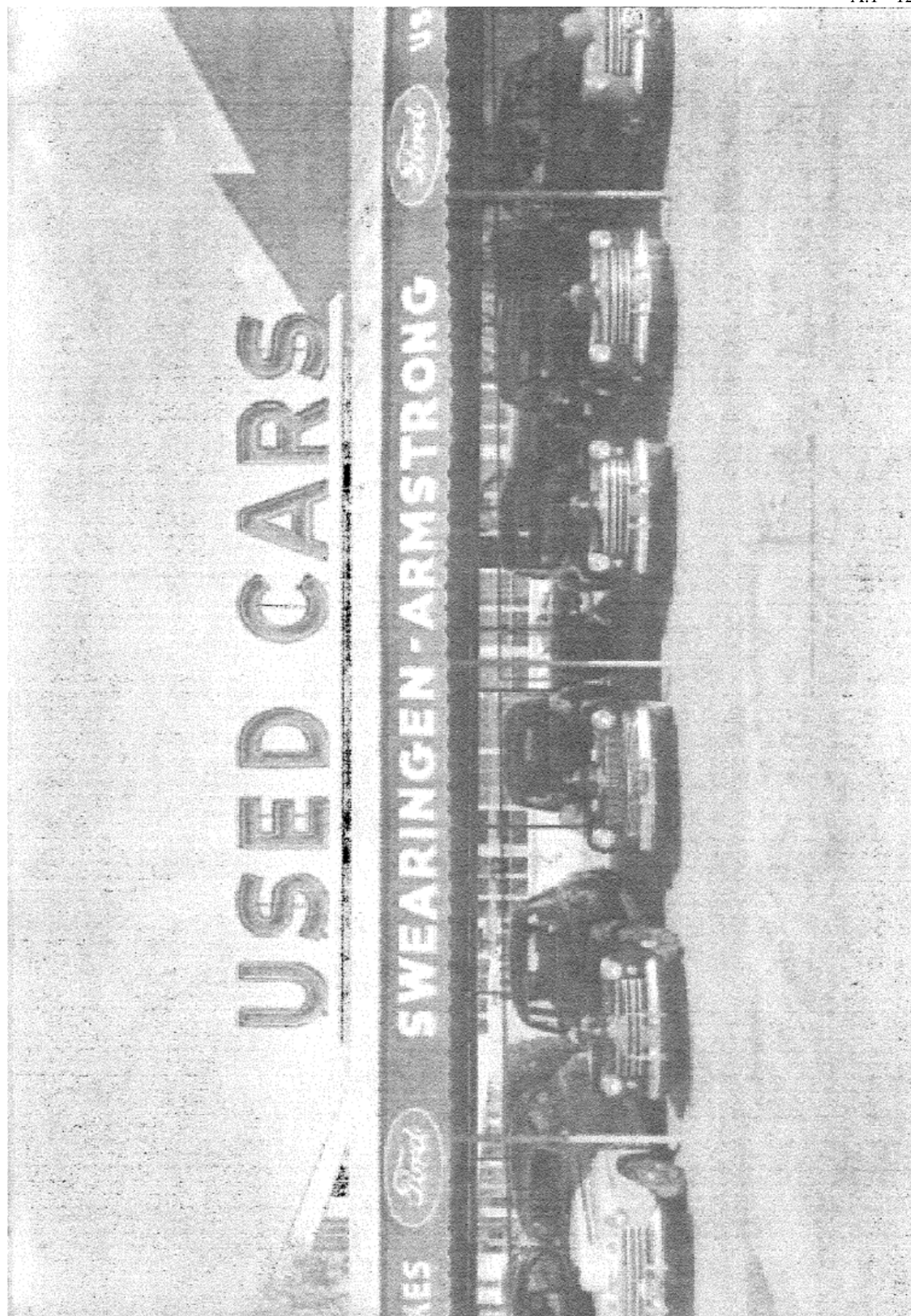
Note: Some information received in an interview with son, Dr. Robert Swearingen.

### **Biography of Lillian Flynn (Dink) Swearingen**

Lily Swearingen was born in Arkansas but grew up in Ozona, Texas. While attending school in San Antonio, a classmate began calling her Dink and the nickname stuck for the remainder of her life.

She came to school at the University of Texas, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority. She married Bill and they had two sons. She raised her sons while also volunteering as a member of the Junior League and the Settlement Club. After the close of the Edsel Dealership, Bill and Dink divorced and she became active in Austin real estate. She eventually owned her own business, Dink Swearingen Realty Company, and served as president of the Austin Real Estate Association.

---



JUL 18 1957

## Armstrong-Johnson Inc. Begin Ford Dealership

Armstrong-Johnson Inc., Austin's new authorized Ford dealership, announced the completion of organization Wednesday. A formal opening will be held later.

Partners in the new exclusive Ford dealership for Austin are Bob Armstrong and Leif Johnson.

Armstrong has been associated with the auto business in Austin for 30 years. He was a part owner in the Swearingen - Armstrong Ford dealership for the past 19 years.

Johnson was previously general manager of the Ben Griffin Auto Company in Dallas, one of the largest Ford dealerships in Texas. He also served in Dallas for eight years as district representative and assistant district manager for the Ford Motor Company.

W. A. and James S. Swearingen, former partners in the Ford firm here, will operate the Austin dealership for Edsel, new Ford Motor Company line of cars to be placed on the market later this year.

The Ford agency will have its showroom and offices at the present Ford dealership location at and Colorado.

Armstrong said the new Ford agency would offer a complete service and parts department, and a body and fender repair service. Used car stock of the firm will be displayed next to the main building.

Johnson, who assumed partnership duties early this week, is a native of Massachusetts. He has lived in Texas the past 12 years. He is a graduate of Concordia College in Minnesota and spent nine years as a Naval pilot, serv-

ing in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Prior to joining Ford in Dallas, he was executive officer of the Dallas Naval Air Station.

He has a wife, Dolores, two sons, Robert and Curt Douglas, and a daughter, Brook-Anne.

Armstrong, in announcing formation of the new dealership, said "we know that the Austin public will certainly benefit from the vast Ford experience and knowledge that Leif Johnson has."

He also wished the Swearingens "my very best wishes for their success in the Edsel line of cars."

Armstrong said that a majority of former Swearingen-Armstrong employees would remain with the Ford agency.

A primary policy will be to give every customer the most value possible for every dollar spent in the purchase of cars, trucks, parts or service, he said.

Armstrong-Johnson department heads include Bill Rogers, general sales manager; Tom House, assistant sales manager; Roy Locke, service manager; Clay Hardin, parts manager; G. S. Bradley, truck manager; and Herbert Becker, office manager.



# Car Papers

Austin History Center

Property of William R. Clark

Address 3106 Glenview, Austin, Texas

Compliments of

## SWEARINGEN-ARMSTRONG



First at Colorado Street

Phone 8-3457

AUSTIN, TEXAS

SALESMAN Brown

NORICK BROS., OKLA. CITY, CHICAGO, OAKLAND, PITTSBURGH, LOS ANGELES

FORM 98

*W*ith warm Holiday Greetings  
we are entering your name for  
a year's subscription to FORD TIMES.  
May this colorful travel magazine  
add to your motoring pleasure along  
the highways and by-ways  
of our great land.

**SWEARINGEN-ARMSTRONG  
FIRST & COLORADO STS.  
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

---

# New Firm Preparing To Market Edsel Line

JUL 5 1957

A new automotive firm with a new building and a new line of automobiles will make its debut July 15.

The firm is Swearingen Bros. for whom a new \$60,000 automobile sales and service building is being constructed at 841 West Sixth Street. The new line of cars is the Edsel, in the middle-cost bracket to be introduced over the nation next September.

The Edsel is the newest line to be manufactured by the Ford Motor Company, with two convertibles and five station wagons among the 18 models to be placed on the market this fall. The new Austin firm announces it will handle four models which will cover a wide price range, starting just above the lowest price cars and extending almost to the highest price group.

With the formation of the new firm comes the announcement that the owners of Swearingen-Armstrong Inc. have effected a complete realignment of ownership and operations. At present the owners of Swearingen-Armstrong Inc. are W. A. Swearingen, J. S. Swearingen, Warwick F. Field and Bob Armstrong.

Under the arrangement the new firm of Swearingen Bros. Inc. will be owned by W. A. Swearingen, J. S. Swearingen and Warwick F. Field. Bob Armstrong and an associate will have the Ford franchise and will continue to operate a complete Ford agency at the present address (First and Colorado Streets) maintaining a stock of new cars and trucks as well as the parts and service department.

The new Swearingen Bros. Inc. firm will occupy the new building being constructed on West Sixth Street and also the existing used car lot on West Fifth Street and the adjoining body shop.

The parties involved have been pleasantly associated in the automobile business in Austin for almost 19 years and they expressed

thanks for the business which the people of Austin have favored the firm of Swearingen-Armstrong Inc.

The new masonry commercial building now under erection at Bowie Street and West Sixth was designed by Page, Southerland and Page, Austin architects, and is being built by the J. M. Odom Construction Company of Austin.

Plans call for a ground floor and a mezzanine containing 12,640 square feet of floor space. The first story will be 134 feet long and 72 feet wide and the second story will be 26 feet by 72 feet.

The new firm announced Clarence Larson will continue to be in charge of the body shop to be owned and operated by Swearingen Bros. Inc.

The Austin-American  
Austin, Texas—Page 11  
Friday, May 11, 1962



W. A. SWEARINGEN

## Savings

### New Aide Is Named For Firm

A. B. Shierlow, president of First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Austin, has announced that W. A. Swearingen has joined the staff of the association.

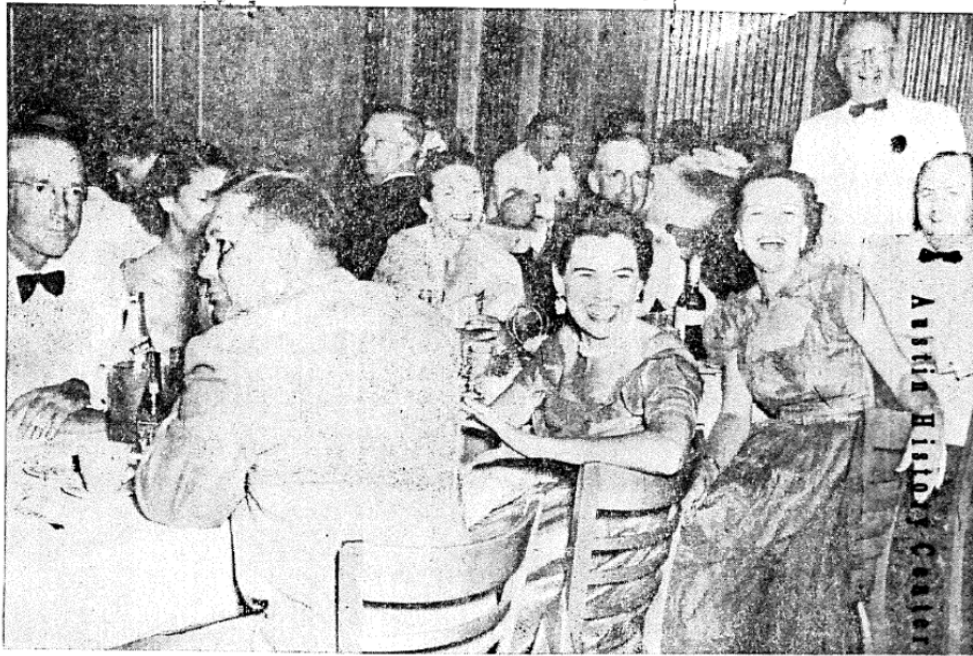
Swearingen will be at a desk in the New Accounts Department and will spend some time on public relations work.

Swearingen is a native of Lockhart. After graduation from The University of Texas he worked in banks in Houston and in Lockhart.

In 1938 he moved to Austin, purchased the Ford dealership and remained in the automobile business for more than 20 years.

During World War II he was in a communications branch of the Army Air Corps, serving as commanding officer of an AACCS Group responsible for building and operating Air Corps radio stations throughout India. During that period he was promoted to lieutenant colonel.

Swearingen and his wife Dink, have two sons. One is an electronics engineer with Texas Instruments in Dallas and the other a surgeon with the Army on duty at Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio.

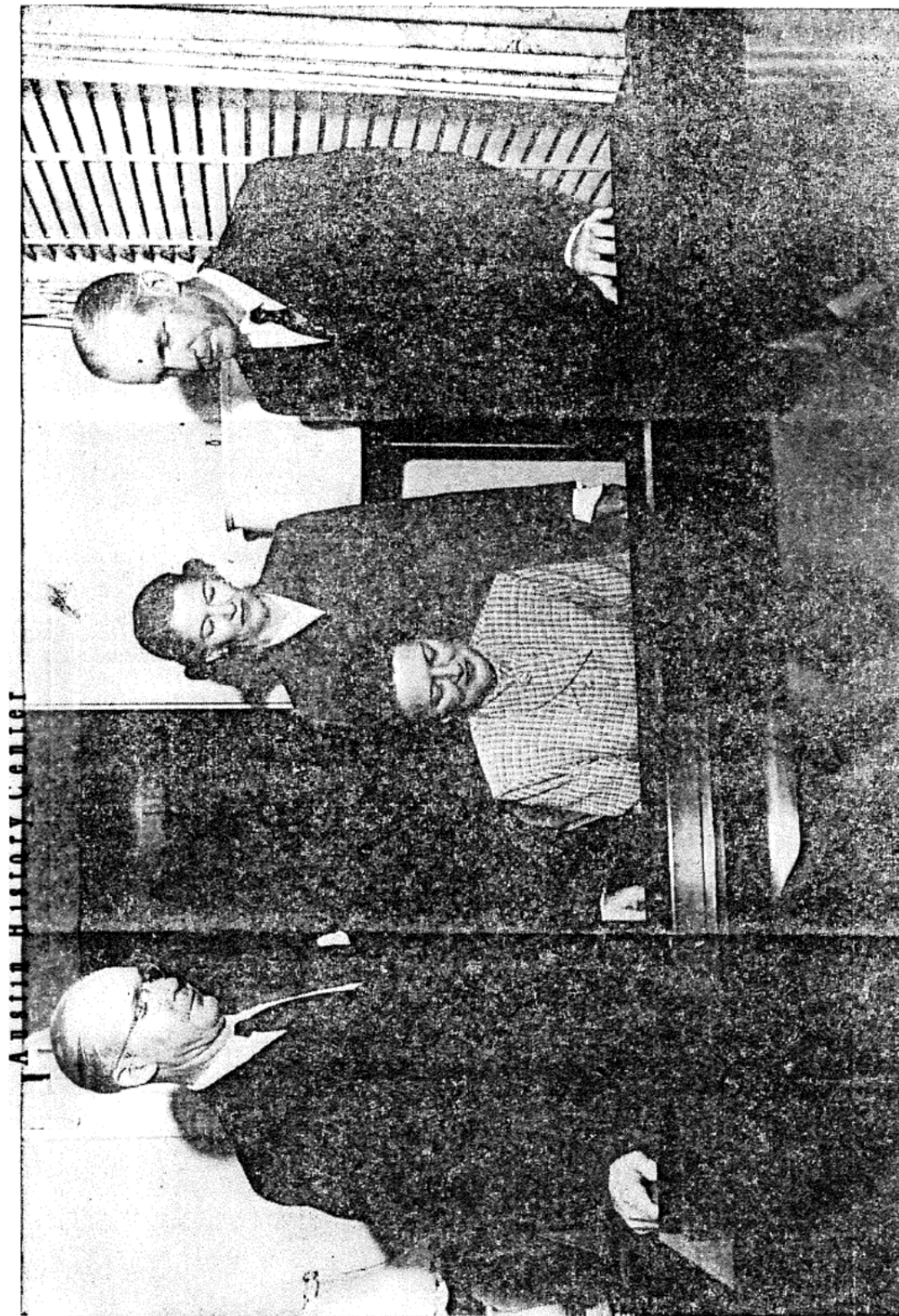


Parties in the air-conditioned club offered a welcome retreat from the heat during the summer. In the party above are (back row, from left) Mr. and Mrs. Jim Swearingen, Mrs. Bill Swearingen, Mr. Bill Swearingen and A. L. Koelzer (standing). In the front row are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Stearns, Mrs. Howard Cox and Mr. Howard Cox.—(Mears Photo.)



**FORMAL OPENING**—Among those present at the formal opening of the Terrace Room at the Austin Country Club Saturday night, were (left to right) Club President Bill Swearingen and Mrs. Swearingen, Mr. and

Mrs. Jim Swearingen, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Montgomery, standing, and Mrs. Jay Smith. Members of the Country Club and their guests danced to the music of Woody Herman's orchestra, who played for this special occasion. (Bill Malone Photo)



Among new members of the Coronet Club are the Jim Swearingens, 2101 Meadowbrook, and the Bill Swearingens, 1606 Watchhill Road. Listening to Mrs. Bill Swearingen play Christmas carols at the Jim Swearingen home are (left to right) Jim

Sunday American-Statesman



**William A. Swearingen**

William A. Swearingen, age 82, of Austin, died Monday.

Born July 23, 1906, in Lockhart, Texas, he was the son of W.B. Swearingen and wife, Mary V. (Field) Swearingen.

In 1927, he graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with highest honors, where he was awarded the gold key of Beta Gamma Sigma in recognition of his scholastic achievements in the university's school of business administration. He was also a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He later became a member of the Central Christian Church in Austin.

In 1938, Mr. Swearingen moved from Lockhart to Austin, and purchased the Ford local automobile dealership, which he and his brother co-owned and operated until its sale in 1957.

At the start of World War II, he volunteered for military service; and as a Lt. Colonel in the Air Force he was in command of an AACS unit that installed and operated radio facilities at Air Force bases throughout India. Back in civilian life, he continued the operation of his amateur radio station W5UJ, having first received his license in 1922. He was a longtime member and past president of the Austin Country Club.

Survivors include his wife, Marlon Swearingen; his twin brother, James S. Swearingen; sons, William S. Swearingen of Mountain View, California, and Dr. Robert L. Swearingen of New York; five grandsons, who will serve as pallbearers; a great-grandson; and a great-granddaughter; a nephew, James S. Swearingen, Jr.; and aunt, Mrs. Marietta Swearingen; and stepson, Terry R. Jenkins.

Services, 10:00 AM, Thursday, Weed-Corley Funeral Home, with Dr. Fabius Landry officiating. Graveside services following at 12 Noon at Lockhart City Cemetery.

Pallbearers: William A. Swearingen, II, William S. Swearingen, Jr., Robert W. Swearingen, Christopher D. Swearingen, Michael L. Swearingen, and James S. Swearingen, Jr. Honorary pallbearers, General Ivan L. Farman, San Antonio, Harvey Penick, Will P. Clark, Scott Dickson, Walter Chapman and Tom Miller, Jr.

Memorials may be made to Hospice Austin, 5555 N. Lamar, Austin, Texas 78751 or a favorite charity.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar, 452-8811.

# **Lily (Dink) Flynn Swearingen**

Lily (Dink) Flynn Swearingen, age 79, of Austin, died Monday.

She attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She was a member of the Junior League of Austin and the Settlement Club, also the Austin Board of Realtors and the First United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Swearingen had been active in Austin real estate for 20 years, as

AAS, Wed. 10/07/1987

---

owner of Dink Swearingen Realty Company.

Survivors include two sons, William Scott Swearingen, Sr. of San Jose, California, and Dr. Robert Lee Swearingen of New York City; grandchildren, William A. Swearingen, William Scott Swearingen, Jr., Robert Webb Swearingen, Christopher David Swearingen, Michael Leon Swearingen and Jessamin Swearingen; two great-grandchildren, Tracy Swearingen and Robert Justin Swearingen.

Services, 11:00 AM, Thursday, Weed-Corley Funeral Home, with Reverend Carol McPherson officiating. Burial, Austin Memorial Park.

Grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Fu-

---



## SWEARINGEN-ARMSTRONG

SWEARINGEN-ARMSTRONG, authorized Ford dealer for Austin, was organized in 1938. Partners are J. S. Swearingen, W. A. Swearingen, R. C. Armstrong, and W. F. Field. Operations of the firm include the sale of Ford cars and trucks, genuine Ford parts and used cars and trucks, and the maintenance of a complete repair shop including a body repair and paint department.

The new car and truck, service and parts department are located at First and Colorado streets. Used car lots are at 201 Barton Springs Road and 836 West 5th Street.

**W. A. SWEARINGEN**, partner, Swearingen-Armstrong. Before entering the Ford business in Austin in 1938, Mr. Swearingen had been in the auto business since 1931 in Lockhart, Texas, where he was employed by the Ford Dealer. He was born in Lockhart in 1906, the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Swearingen. His father was president of the First National Bank.

After attending the public schools of Lockhart, Mr. Swearingen received his B.B.A. degree from the University of Texas in 1927.

During the last war, he was a lieutenant colonel in the Army Airways Communication System of the AAF. He supervised installation and operation of radio stations and navigational aids on air transport routes in the continental United States and the CBI Theater.

His hobbies are golf and operation of his ham radio station, WSUJ.

**JAMES S. SWEARINGEN**, partner, Swearingen-Armstrong. On February 15, 1940, Mr. Swearingen moved to Austin and entered the Swearingen-Armstrong firm, the Austin Ford dealership. Before joining this firm, he had operated the Swearingen Furniture and Hardware Company, of Lockhart, Texas, and had been with the Lockhart Motor Company.

Mr. Swearingen's first employment was with the credit department of the Second National Bank in Houston. He remained there two years before returning to Lockhart to operate the furniture and hardware business.

Born in Lockhart on July 23, 1906, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Swearingen; his father was president of the First

National Bank of that city. He attended the Lockhart Public schools and was graduated from the University of Texas in 1927, with a B.B.A. degree. A director of the First-Lockhart National Bank, Mr. Swearingen is past president of the Austin Country Club and a director of the Austin Club. Golf and private flying are his hobbies.

**R. C. "Bob" ARMSTRONG**, partner, Swearingen-Armstrong. Mr. Armstrong entered the auto business in 1927 when he was employed by Covert Auto Company, the Austin Buick agency. From 1932-36, he was a sales representative for the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, covering ten Texas Counties. He became associated with the Austin Goodyear Company in 1936, remaining with them until 1938.

The son of a lumber man, he was born in Wharton, Texas. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Armstrong, Jr. He attended the Wharton schools and The University of Texas. Mr. Armstrong was first employed as a bookkeeper in the office of an Austin lumber company; he was later a bookkeeper for the Security Bank and Trust Company. Later he was connected with the county tax collector's office in the auto registration division.

A Director of the Texas State Bank since 1949, Mr. Armstrong is also a director of the Rotary Club, and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. His hobbies are soil building and raising good grade cattle.

**WARWICK F. FIELD**, partner, Swearingen-Armstrong. In January, 1940, Mr. Field became a partner in this Austin Ford sales and service company. He had originally been in the investment securities business and had been vice-president of the J. E. Jarratt Company of San Antonio. In 1925, he opened an office for this firm in Dallas, remaining there until 1929. At that time he went to New York City, where he opened and managed an office for the Jarratt Company. In 1937, he went to California with the Bateman-Eichler Investment Company. He returned to Texas in 1939. During the first World War, he served 22 months as an officer with the field artillery.

Mr. Field was born in Lockhart, Texas, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Field.

W. A. SWEARINGEN



J. S. SWEARINGEN



R. C. ARMSTRONG



W. F. FIELD



## **Biography of Jack Stuart Gray**

Jack Gray was a legend at the University of Texas, both as an All-American athlete and a very successful basketball coach. He was born May 12, 1911 and was a native of Wills Point, Texas. He attended Arlington State College before coming to UT, where he received his BBA and lettered in both basketball and football. As a UT basketball player from 1933-35, Jack set a Southwest Conference record with 32 points in 1933, a record that stood for 16 years. In 1935, Gray was the first UT basketball player to be honored as an All-American, and was "All-SWC" all 3 years of his varsity career. Gray was known for his one-handed "push" shot, a precursor of the jump shot. He was also an "All-SWC" end on the Longhorns football team.

Gray played a major role in the emergence of UT and the Southwest Conference as national athletic powers and his influence in UT athletics spanned five decades. In 1937, with one year of coaching experience, Gray took over the head coaching job for the basketball team at the age of 25. In his first six years as coach, he led the Longhorns to five winning seasons, as well as to their first Elite Eight in the first NCAA Tournament in 1939. Jack entered WWII with the navy, where he ranked as Lieutenant Commander and received four battle stars and a presidential unit citation. Upon his return, Gray led the Longhorns to their first Final Four in the 1947 NCAA Tournament, and got his team in the National Invitation Tournament in 1948 (their first AP Poll ranking was #20 in 1949). Jack ranks third all-time in Longhorns basketball history in wins with 194 victories to 97 losses. He was head UT basketball coach for 12 years, which as of 2011, ranked as the second longest basketball coaching term at UT. Gray's teams reached the Final Four twice. During his years with the Longhorns, Gray served as a member of the Basketball Rules Committee and as first VP of the National Basketball Association. Jack retired from coaching in 1951 but remained active in UT athletics, serving as a member of the UT Athletics Council and as a founding member and director of the Texas Longhorn Education Foundation. Jack was the first SWC basketball player to be installed in the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, and was also inducted into the Longhorn Hall of Honor and the Texas Schoolboy Hall of Fame. In 1980, he was selected as a "UT Distinguished Alumni."

After coaching, Jack began another successful career as founder and president of Grayco Constructors, a pipeline company he started in the 1950s. In 1957, Grayco laid 140 miles of pipe in 76 days in Canada, a performance which was considered a new record in the business. Jack eventually served as president of

---

the National Pipeline Contractors Association of the US and Canada. He was also elected to the Austin School Board for more than four years, and served on the board of the YMCA, the Tennessee Bank and Trust Company of Houston, and the Oilfield Truck and Equipment Company of Houston.

Jack Gray was married to Margaret Belmont Gray and they had three children. He died in 1992 at the age of 81.

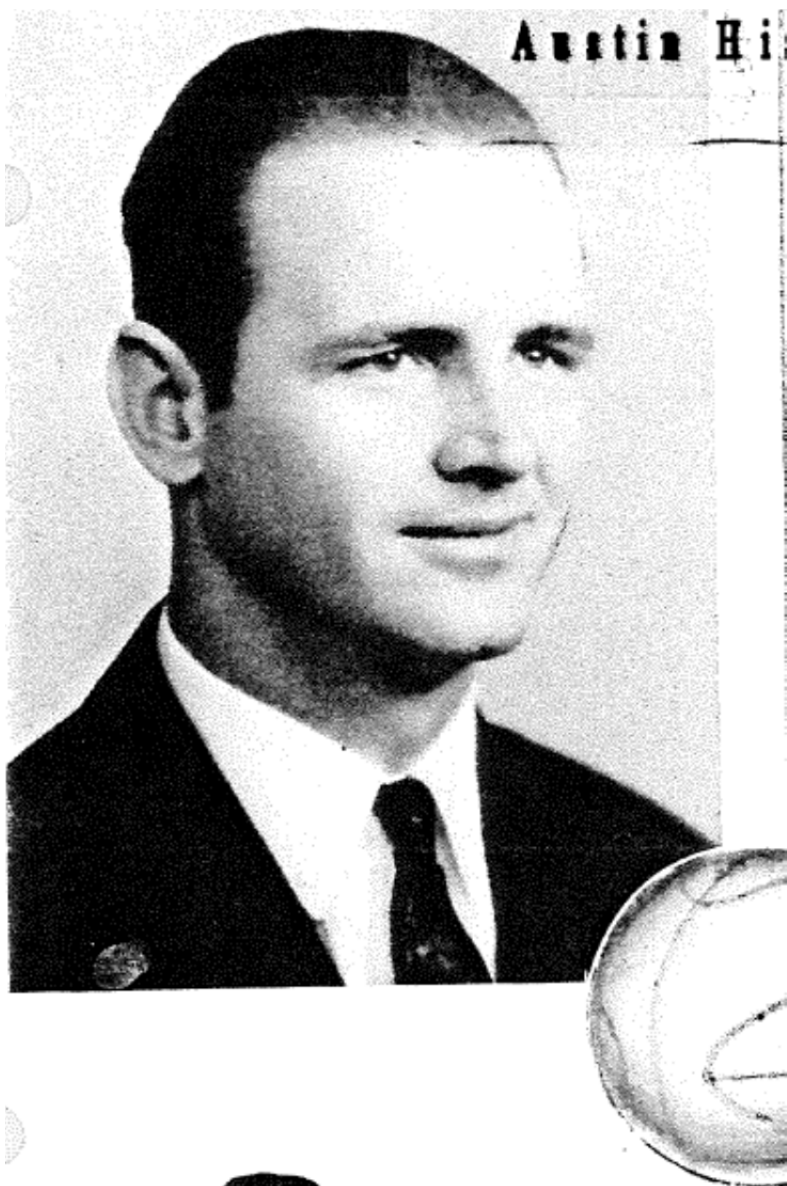
### **Biography of Margaret Belmont Gray**

Margaret Belmont Gray was a native Austinite. She attended Pease Elementary School, Austin High School, and the University of Texas at Austin in 1938 where she earned a B.A. in Journalism. At UT, Margaret was a Bluebonnet Belle and a member of Pi Beta Phi. She met Jack during her UT days and they were married on a Thanksgiving morning at All Saints Episcopal Church when he was the UT basketball coach.

Margaret and Jack had three children. While raising them, she also served as a member of the Austin Junior League, the Junior Helping Hand, Pi Beta Phi Alumni Association, and the Open Forum.

Margaret was a charter member of the Planned Parenthood of Austin Board of Directors. She died on February 2, 2007.

---



JACK GRAY

SAFETY OF Cabbages and Kings

# B.Y.O.S. Party for Jack Gray

BY MORRIS FRANK

**A** B.Y.O.S. party for Jack Gray? In this instance, not Bring Your Own Scotch.

Maybe that would be all right, too.

For the esteemed Jack Gray is not in the coaching profession any more.

He's a pipeline construction baron. And I wouldn't imagine those moguls would object to a wee bit of Scotch or perhaps Bourbon. Champagne on banner years.



However, the B.Y.O.S. in this case is Bring Your Own Scrapbook.

Because as far as I am concerned the most startling incident of the holiday season was when I encountered a fellow who had never heard of Jack Gray's feats as either an athlete or a coach.

He knew of Jack Gray as a business mighty, bank director, et al.

It was at the delightful cocktail party hosted by the Jack Duchesneaus.

The affable Jack and his lovely Martha, the former Martha Giezendanner, were greeting old friends at the Shamrock Hilton. They live in Lake Forest, Ill.

At the gathering were some business associates of Jack Gray as well as some Longhorns who played for him when he was an outstanding basketball coach.

Someone was commenting on Jack's recent induction into the Texas Hall of Fame.

## Puzzled Bank Director

A fellow director of the Houston National Bank wandered up and overheard the name of Jack Gray.

This director is a very successful businessman, rancher, and on.

He follows Dow-Jones averages closer though than batting averages.

He is far more expert on the stock market pages than on the sports pages.

For he asked in all seriousness: "That Jack Gray couldn't be the one who is the big pipeline construction man, could it?"

When told Gray was a terrific football end, a truly basketball immortal and a compiler of an amazing record as a basketball coach, this fellow director was stunned.

"He seems an impressive fellow at our bank directors meetings," he said, "but I never dreamed all that about him."

## Blow to Wills Point

That would be a blow to anybody in Wills Point, Texas.

Now, I don't know if the Houston National has any big depositors from Wills Point.

But if so, my good friend, the bank director, had better brief himself on the athletic skills of the pride of Wills Point, Jack Gray, the pipeline construction tycoon of Austin.

In fact, maybe ole Gray should not only bring his scrapbook to the next bank directors meeting but read it.

That would take extensive time.

However, outside of seeing to it guys like me don't get loans except with 300 percent collateral, I have never figured just what bank directors do at their meetings anyway.

And the handsome Gray has a very interesting scrapbook.

I have read chapters of it myself in serial form from time to time.

What with Jack a bank director, I suppose I should laud him more than ever.

## Sturdy Defense

But he could always set a sturdy defense as a coach.

And I am sure he is even more rigid in his defense against unsecured loans.

Anyway, Jack, chum, don't forget at the next board of directors meeting of the Houston National, suggest a B.Y.O.S. party—Bring Your Own Scrapbook.

## Gray Named Director By Pipeline Men

Jack S. Gray, president of Grayco Constructors Inc. of Austin, was named a director of the Pipeline Contractors Association at its eighth annual convention held recently in Boca Raton, Fla. Gray was a star athlete and basketball coach for the University of Texas prior to entering the pipeline business.

Currently operating in Southern Louisiana, the Grayco Constructors recently completed 94 miles of 30-inch pipeline construction between Port Lavaca and Agua Dulce.

The 53 contractors belonging to the national organization laid 70 per cent of all lines in the United States in 1955. The pipeline construction mileage for the year was 15,700, almost 60 per cent of which was natural gas line construction.

Gray has been in the pipeline construction business for almost five years, starting soon after he resigned as basketball coach at Texas in 1951. He was head coach for 13 seasons, producing two champions and a co-champion. His 1947 team took third place in the national collegiate playoff and lost only two of 28 games, both by one-point margins.

Headquarters for the Grayco Company is in Austin, where Gray resides with his wife and two young daughters.

AFB - Gray, Jack

*The Austin American*

## Jewel Party for Admirals

*Am. 8-16-67*

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gray entertained the Admirals and their wives and the royalty of Austin last Friday evening at

a champagne party in the Maximilian Room of the Driskill.

The party, the day

preceding the sixth annual Admirals Ball, was an occasion for displaying a million dollars worth of jewels, including many antique pieces. Bill Koen of Joe Koen & Son arranged the exhibit.

The jewel party is becoming a tradition with the Admirals on the final weekend of the Aqua Festival each August. This year it was held just before the water parade.

Guests at the party visited with the royalty, enjoyed a lavish buffet and tried on many of the jewels. One of the most admired pieces was a fantastically expensive jeweled elephant. "I'll buy it," said one Admiral, "provided I can get a pair."



**MR. AND MRS. JACK GRAY, PARTY HOSTS**  
They admire the jeweled elephant



**Jack S. Gray**

Jack S. Gray, a legend at The University of Texas as an All-American athlete and successful coach, died Saturday at the age of 81.

Known as an innovator both on and off the playing field or basketball court, Gray played a major role in the emergence of UT and the Southwest Conference as national athletic powers. He was influential in UT athletics for five decades, and was also a successful entrepreneur before battling Alzheimer's disease in final years.

In 1935, Gray became the first UT basketball player to be honored as an All-American. Two years later, at the age of 25, he was selected as the head basketball coach at UT.

During his 12 years as head coach, from 1937-42 and again from 1942-51, he developed the next three UT basketball All-Americans, won the Southwest Conference title three times, and reached the NCAA's Final Four twice. Gray's teams never had a losing season.

In addition to his outstanding basketball career, Gray was an All-Southwest Conference end on the Longhorn football team.

After retiring from coaching in 1951, Gray became a successful pipeline contractor. Even after retirement, he remained active in athletics at UT, serving as a member of the UT Athletics Council and as a founding member and director of the Texas Longhorn Education Foundation.

Gray has been honored as a UT Distinguished Alumnus by the Ex-Students Association, and is a member of the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Longhorn Hall of Honor, and the Texas Schoolboy Hall of Fame.

He was also a past president of the National Association of Pipeline Contractors.

Gray is survived by his wife, Margaret Belmont Gray; and his three children, Candy Gray Becker, Chica Gray Younger and Jack S. Gray, Jr.; and six grandchildren, Galeana Elizabeth Younger, John Stuart Younger, Isabella Gray Younger, Margaret Millet Lowrey, Mary Pauline Lowrey and Andre Jackson Stuart Gray III. Other survivors include his sisters, Kathleen Heard and Leemie Odom. His brother, Robert Earl Gray, preceded him in death.

Funeral services will be at 11:00

AM, Monday at All Saints Episcopal Church in Austin with the Reverend Armistead Powell presiding.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that contributions be sent to the Jack S. Gray Scholarship Fund, in care of the Union National Bank Trust Department, Austin, Texas.

Arrangements by Weed-Corley Funeral Home, 3125 N. Lamar. 452-8811.

---