HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION
Applications for Permits in National Register Historic Districts
December 2, 2026
PR 2026-131926; HR-2026-148568
Old West Austin Historic District
2220 East Windsor Road

Proposal

Construct a large rear addition at a ca. 1950 house.

Project Specifications

1) Rehabilitation and repair for portions of the original, ca. 1950 house, with some demolition of original exterior walls.
2) Construction of a large, approximately 5,700 square foot addition at the rear of the original house. This addition will be two floors but will not significantly add to the overall height due to the site's sloping elevation.
3) Construct a vehicular entrance at East Windsor Road and construct parking in that location.

Architecture

2220 East Windsor Road is a two-story Mid-century Modern house with a flat roof, rustic stone and board-and-batten cladding, expansive fixed windows, a substantial stone chimney, and an inset carport at the one-story portion of the house. The building is set back between Windsor and East Windsor Roads, accessible only by a steeply sloped drive behind two street-frontage houses and invisible from both Windsor and East Windsor. Its stepped-down form nestles into the hillside with a two-story bank of windows facing downtown.

Research

The house at 2220 East Windsor Road was constructed in 1950 for Judge Trueman O'Quinn and his family. O'Quinn, an attorney, graduated from the University of Texas after reporting and editing for the Beaumont Enterprise, the Austin American, and the Daily Texan.[1] While still a student, he was elected to the 42nd Texas Legislature representing Jefferson County from 1931 to 1932. After a few years in private practice, O'Quinn worked as an Austin assistant city attorney and was appointed chief City Attorney in 1939, a position he held until 1950. During World War II, he worked as Staff Judge Advocate after the Allied invasion of Normandy and occupation of Germany.[2]

The Windsor Road house was constructed in 1950, the same year O'Quinn left city government for private practice. Throughout the 1960s and '70s, he held numerous public and political posts, including 14 years as Travis County's Democratic Party Chairman and as the official legal counsel for the University of Texas. He was appointed to the Third Court of Civil Appeals in 1967 and served for thirteen years.[3]

O'Quinn was best known for his role as a prolific collector and prominent amateur historian of William Sydney Porter, the American author known as O. Henry. "For almost half a century he gathered first editions, photos, manuscripts, and other memorabilia. He donated the staggering collection to The O. Henry Resources at the Austin History Center in 1982, a contribution without parallel," notes Britney Jeffrey in the Texas State Historical Association's Handbook of Texas. "Throughout his adult life, O'Quinn wrote articles and delivered speeches."[4] He was instrumental in saving two O. Henry residences from demolition, though one burned in 1956.[5] The other remains as the O. Henry Museum in Brush Square.

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[1] Mackey, Wayne. The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 14 Mar 1948: 4.
[2] Britney Jeffrey, "O'Quinn, Trueman Edgar, Sr.," Handbook of Texas Online, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/oquinn-trueman-edgar-sr. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Barnes, Michael. "Unhappy Twist: O. Henry's Austin Honeymoon Cottage Went up in Flames." Austin American-Statesman, June 29, 2018. https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2018/06/29/unhappy-twist-o-henrys-austin-honeymoon-cottage-went-up-in-flames/10022639007/.

O'Quinn's legacy in the historical record is marred by his response to two 1962 Statesman articles soliciting feedback on the City Council's suggestion to rename Town Lake to Lake Tonkawa. In the articles, which are wrought with racist comments and dismissal of Native American cultural significance typical of the period, O'Quinn's remarks stand out as particularly concerning. The potential impact of O'Quinn's racist remarks was bolstered by the author's introduction of O'Quinn as "Austin attorney and one of the area's most enthusiastic amateur historians."[6] O'Quinn publicly and emphatically demonized the Tonkawa tribe while presenting himself as an expert on Texas history, along with participating in the systemic erasure of Native American tribes from Texans' collective memories.[7] Thus, it is imperative to carefully view his contributions to the city and state with eyes open to the negative impacts of this overt racism.

Despite the fraught legacy of the home's original occupant, it found a new purpose when occupied by the next generation of the family. Filmmaker Kerry O'Quinn used the property not only as a creative oasis when away from his Los Angeles home, but also as a safe space to host gatherings for Austin's gay community in the 1980s and 1990s. The house's secretive location, tucked away on the hillside and accessible only by a turquoise gate at the rear of the property, may have provided a relatively secure place for those who, in an era of violence and marginalization, had few public spaces in which to safely gather..

Design Standards

The City of Austin's Historic Design Standards (March 2021) are based on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and are used to evaluate in National Register districts. The following standards apply to the proposed project:

Repair and alterations

1. General standards

While this proposal calls for several exterior walls and original material to be demolished, it has been found that the condition and the integrity of these materials have been compromised by decades of neglect and deferred maintenance. Where possible, it is highly recommended to retain intact material.

3. Roofs

General repair is proposed at portions of the original roof, where second story addition is not proposed. At a portion of the original main house, a copper standing seam material is proposed.

4. Exterior walls and trim

Some exterior walls at the main entry will be altered to open new windows. From previous applications, this is an area with deterioration and it is recommended that the applicant provide close-up photos or an engineer's report to determine what may be salvaged or rehabilitated.

5. Windows, doors, and screens

Windows are all proposed to be replaced with insulated aluminum frame units. The existing windows should be inventoried for potential salvage use, but previous demolition applications indicate that they are generally in poor condition.

8. Attached garages and carports

An attached garage, which is accessed from a driveway by 2307 Windsor Road, will be retained in its location. However, door openings may be changed due to existing damage.

Residential additions

1. Location

Though the address for this property is now listed as East Windsor Road, the vehicular access and main entry face an alley leading from around 2307 Windsor Road. If this is still to be considered the front of the property, the addition would then be located at the rear of the property.

[6] The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 23 Apr 1962: 1.

[7] The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 Apr 1962: 1.

2. Scale, massing, and height
The size of the addition will over double the footprint of the existing house. However, given the sloping site, the mid-century design in the arrangement of rooms, and the horizontal nature of the existing building, the proposed design fits in with the overall feel of the property.

3. Design and style
Much of the design elements, such as metal corner windows and flat roofs with ample parapets, create a sense of Art Deco architecture rather than the midcentury design of the original house. It is highly recommended that elements that may invoke Art Deco be downplayed, and that more information be provided about exterior wall cladding. Generally, using original material as a guide (rather than an exact match) is recommended in order to provide compatibility without making the addition appear too close to the historic.

4. Roofs
Like the historic house, the addition uses flat roofs to keep the overall height of the design low. The design is generally in keeping with the design standards.

5. Exterior walls
Stucco is proposed at all exterior walls, which is a departure from the vertical wood board-and-batten and stone of the original house. This design choice contributes to the potential Art Deco appearance, which is not recommended.

6. Windows, screens, and doors
Windows are to be aluminum framed, multi-lite units. Simulated divided lites should be avoided and concerns about overall design mentioned in the Exterior walls section above remain.

9. Attached garages and carports
A new curb cut with parking at the East Windsor Road side of the property is proposed. Though it is not specifically called out in the drawings, it is highly recommended that the turquoise gate at that side of the property be retained and repaired, as it is associated with the history of the property and remains intact in repairable condition. Any cuts to the rear stone wall should also be minimized.

Summary
The project meets some of the applicable standards.

Department Comments

A previous total demolition application for this property (PR-2025-009478) was approved by the Historic Landmark Commission at the May 7, 2026 meeting. However, no required City of Austin documentation package was submitted, and that demolition permit was never pulled. While that application's listed address is 2307 Windsor Road #2, it has been verified that it is the same parcel as this application.

This application will time out on February 15, 2027.

Property Evaluation

The property contributes to the Old West Austin National Register district.

Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark
1) The building is more than 50 years old.
2) The building appears to retain integrity.
3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (LDC §25-2-352). Staff have evaluated the property and determined that it may meet two criteria for landmark designation:
    a. Architecture. The building is constructed with mid-century Modern influences as a Fehr and Granger design.
    b. Historical association. The property is associated with Judge Trueman O' Quinn, politician, attorney, justice of the Texas Court of Appeals, and dedicated O. Henry scholar. However, O'Quinn's documented racism toward the Tonkawa people should be carefully considered when evaluating his overall impact on Austin's history. The extant O. Henry Museum and University of Texas collections, to which O'Quinn's research and patronage contributed, currently utilize his work to provide a public good. The property is

also associated with noted filmmaker and author Kerry O'Quinn; however, this important occupant is still living, his association with the property is primarily outside the period of significance, and he wrote in favor of demolition of the house in 2024.

c. Archaeology. The property was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.

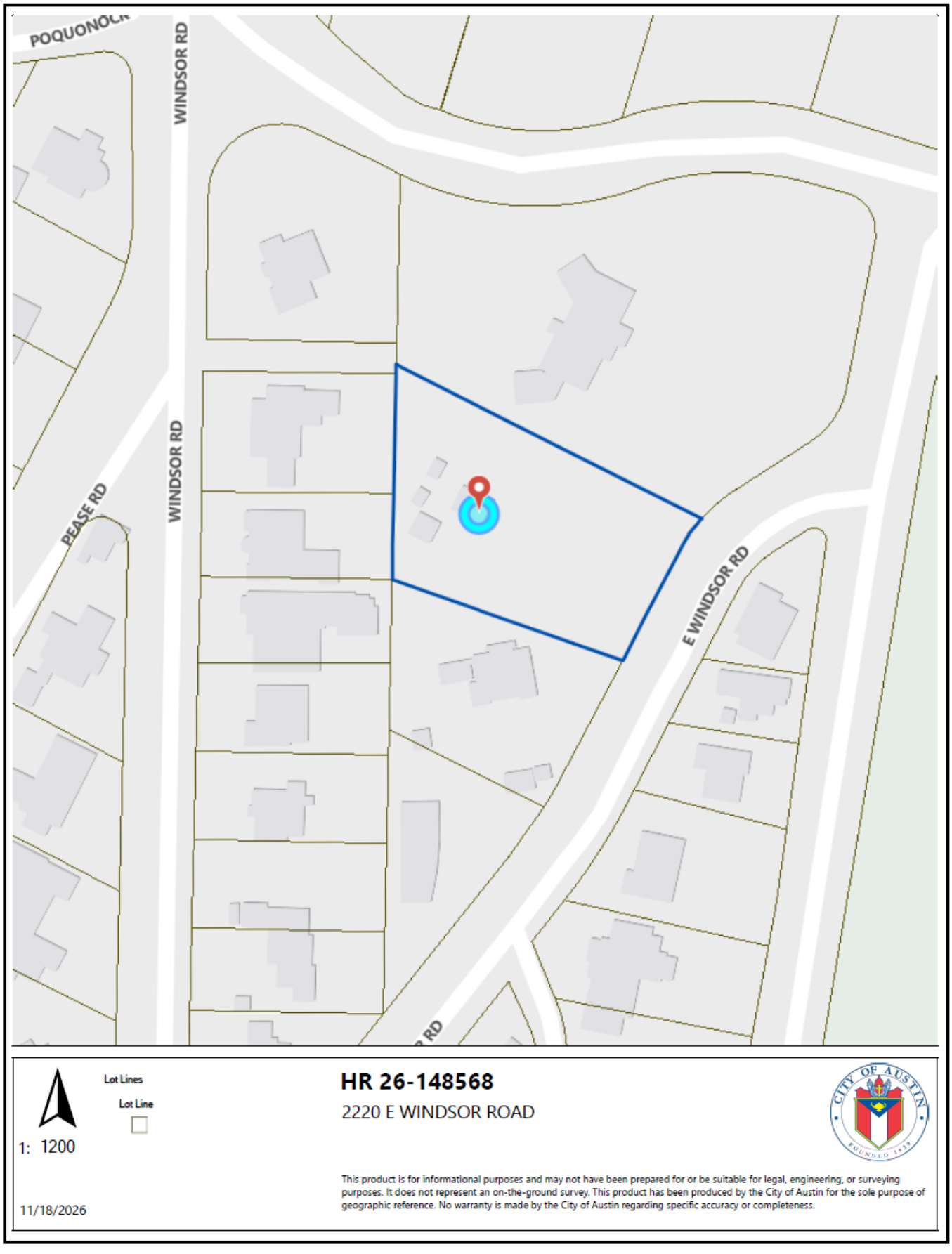
d. Community value. Though it may have been used as a gathering place during the 1980s and 1990s, the property does not appear to possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group within the 50-year historic period. Associations with the LGBTQIA+ community appear to begin outside the 50-year period of significance.

e. Landscape feature. The property does not appear to include a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city; however, the Commission may wish to discuss the significance of the Enfield Road gate.

Staff Recommendation

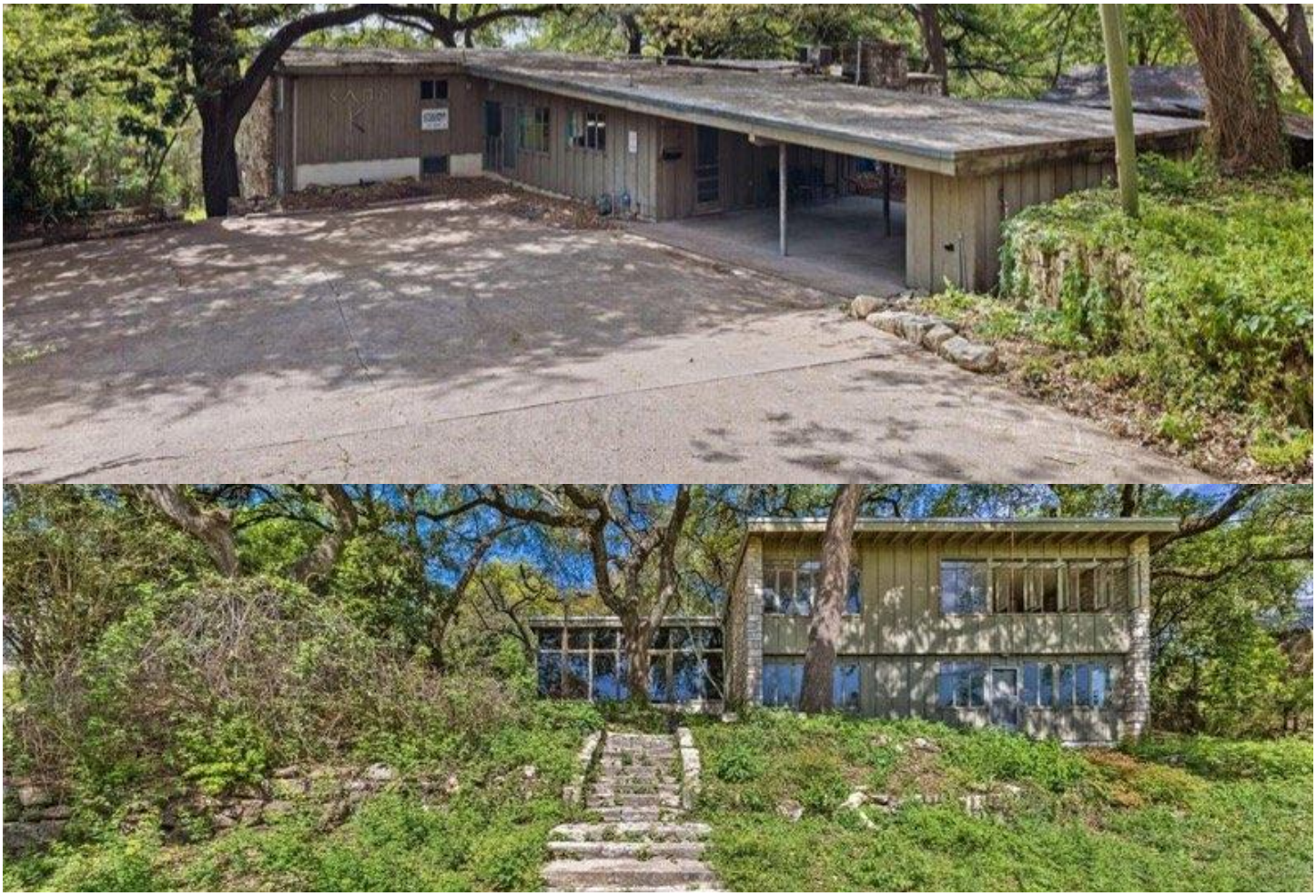
Comment on plans for alterations and additions and release the application.

Location Map



Property Information

Photos



Creede Fitch via Jimmy Gilmore & Co., 2023. https://creedefitch.com/austin-modern-homes/2307-windsor-rd-2





Demolition permit application, 2024



Original entrance from 2220 E. Windsor Road. Google Streetview, 2023.

Occupancy History
City Directory Research, March 2024

1959 Address listed as 2300 E. Windsor Rd.
Trueman E. and Hazel H. O'Quinn, owners – O'Quinn, McDaniel, & Randle, attorneys at law
Trueman O'Quinn, Jr. – US Marine Corps
Terry O'Quinn – student

1955 Trueman E. and Hazel H. O'Quinn, owners – Hollers, O'Quinn, and Crenshaw, attorneys at law
Kerry S. O'Quinn – student

1952 Trueman E. and Hazel H. O'Quinn, owners –Hollers and O'Quinn, attorneys at law

Historical Information

O'QUINN-HEDICK ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Announcement of the engagement and approaching marriage of Miss Hazel Hedick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hedick, to Trueman O'Quinn of Beaumont was announced at a meeting of the alumnae chapter of Theta Sigma Phi Wednesday evening at the home of Mrs. Joe Gilbert.

The announcement was cleverly made by Mrs. Molly Connor Cook, associate member of the fraternity, who read a "short" short story centering about a pun on the word "Trueman." The bride-elect was portrayed as a modern feminine Diogenes searching for an honest man, and at the close of the story the secret was disclosed.

Date of the wedding has not been definitely set, but the tentative date is Thanksgiving.

Miss Hedick is assistant advertising manager of E. M. Scarbrough and Son and a graduate of the University of Texas, having received her bachelor of journalism degree in 1926. She is president of the alumnal chapter of Theta Sigma Phi.

Mr. O'Quinn, a student in the university, was editor of the Daily Texas, campus newspaper, in 1927. He is a member of Sigma Delta Chi and Omega Delta fraternities, and at present is a student in the law school and an instructor in fencing in the university.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 31 Oct 1929: 7.

Overhauling of Legal Code to Start Soon

O'Quinn Just About Ready to Tackle That Difficult Task

City Atty. Trueman O'Quinn, sitting behind a desk piled high with ordinances, amendments to ordinances, and proposed ordinances, said Friday that he hopes to begin overhauling the city's legal code within a few days.

If he does, it will be the first time since 1908.

O'Quinn said the last time a code was written the work was done by Leon Green, who was assistant city attorney in 1908. Green is now dean of the law school at Northwestern university, and a recognized national or international authority on torts, O'Quinn said.

The city attorney said he was drawing up a memorandum on the work that needs to be done which he will submit to City Mgr. Guiton Morgan.

The city is operating under many laws from 30 to 40 years old, he stated, that need revamping or repealing entirely. In an effort to simplify the city code, all ordinances which duplicate state laws will be done away with. He recalled, for instance, that there is a state law and a city ordinance prohibiting the throwing of glass on any street or highway. There is no use in the city duplicating something that is already state law, he believes. He said that in some instances where a state law has been held invalid by the courts because of vague wording, the city legal department has attempted to cover the law in a city ordinance worded to overcome the objections of the courts.

An example of the age of some of the city ordinances was brought to light when the legal department wrote the new bicycle ordinance, which picked up some of the existing traffic regulations governing bicycles in the ordnance which was passed in 1908. One section of the old law prohibited the riding of tricycles or velocipedes on city sidewalks.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 04 Apr 1941: 6.

O'Quinn Gets New Station

Capt. Trueman O'Quinn, Austin city attorney now on active military duty, has been made division judge advocate, 101st airborne division, stationed at Fort Bragg, N. C. He formerly held various assignments out of the replacement pool under the judge advocate general's office in Washington.

Lt. Col. W. E. Williams, well known Austin physician, is division surgeon, and Maj. Dick Pettway of the army finance department is assigned to post headquarters at Fort Bragg for special duty.

There are many other Texans in the division, both officers and enlisted personnel. Capt. O'Quinn had an enlisted man assigned to him recently on a "jeep" problem. they got to talking about fishing, and the soldier mentioned that he was from pretty good fishing grounds himself—Shelby county, East Texas.

Though practicing law for Uncle Sam's army is sometimes a "rugged assignment," Capt. O'Quinn has topflight help in his "law office." Both warrant officer and corporal in his office are lawyers, the warrant officer having been law clerk for William Douglas, U. S. supreme court justice, before going into the army.

The 101st is representative of the army's airborne divisions, with weapons designed and the men especially trained for air transport.

Col. O'Quinn Coming Back

Lt. Col. Trueman E. O'Quinn, city attorney on leave of absence with the 101st division in Germany, will return to the states in September for a leg operation, he has written his wife, Mrs. Hazel O'Quinn, 602 Harris avenue.

Serving as judge advocate of the division, Col. O'Quinn received a blow on the leg during the airborne invasion of Belgium last fall. The leg was injured again in Germany, making an operation necessary, Mrs. O'Quinn said.

The city attorney has served two years overseas and is now stationed in Berchtesgaden, Hitler's old headquarters.

O'Quinn Tells Of O. Henry's Colorful Life

Some interesting memoirs of William Sidney Porter, or O Henry, during his residence in Austin and Texas were related by Trueman O'Quinn, city attorney, to members of the local professional chapter of Sigma Delta Chi Tuesday night at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel.

O Henry's friendship with the Harrell family, his work in the general land office and in Morley's Drug Store, as well as his service as a teller at the old First National Bank here were recalled.

O'Quinn touched on O Henry's work here as a newspaperman in his weekly, "The Rolling Stone," and of his subsequent work as a columnist on the Houston Post.

The speaker asserted that Porter wrote under eight or ten different names in national magazines of that day in order to get a compensating start as a writer. The author, he added, confined himself to the pen name of O Henry after his writings had become recognized.

O Henry wrote about 275 different stories between 1896 and the time of his death in 1910, with several stories published for the first time after his death included in present-day O Henry collections, O'Quinn said.

"If you would make a mosaic out of his stories, you would get a picture of O Henry's life and the places that he visited," the speaker declared.

Stories written by O Henry reveal that he visited New Orleans and other cities of the South as well as in Honduras, he pointed out. A number of his stories have an Austin setting and every reference to a bank contained the name of First National Bank, O'Quinn declared.

Before O'Quinn spoke, President Dawson Duncan named a committee composed of Joe Hornaday, Ray Osborne and William Gardner to locate a meeting place for the organization beginning with the next meeting on Nov. 12.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 19 May 1943: 2.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 09 Aug 1945: 5.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 09 Oct 1946: 7.

O'Quinn Made Laws, Now Practices Law

ONE OF THESE DAYS, 43-year-old City Attorney Trueman O'Quinn is gonna be branded a "long-hair." He's already showing the symptoms, and the strange part of it is, it started with a lawsuit long before his time.

Along about 1898, a fellow named Will Porter, and commonly referred to as O. Henry, was convicted in an Austin court on a charge of embezzelment, and sentenced to five years in a federal prison.

Then years later, while O'Quinn was a law student at the University of Texas in the middle 20's, he heard that Porter had been convicted on a faulty indictment. O'Quinn couldn't quite figure it out. Porter had two of the best attorneys of the day defending him, R. H. Ward and Ashby James, both of Austin. Never-the-less, if there's anything a law student lover to do, it's to show that his superiors were wrong. O'Quinn started tracking down information of the trial and subsequent appeal in a New Orleans court.

He dug deep, as his present records of the case will show. When he reached the bottom of the heap, O'Quinn found that Ward and James also had seen the indictment's fault. The case was postponed while a new indictment was made up.

Porter's sentence didn't stop his literary efforts. O'Quinn, in a similar manner, failed to stop his study of Porter, who was by then strictly referred to as O. Henry. O'Quinn's office and home now bulge with works of the short story artist; the collection including first editions of everything from pulp paper magazines of the 19th and 20th Centuries to slick paper jobs and bound books.

O'Quinn, who was once editor of the Daily Texan, a University student publication, and who has held down berths on two other papers, including the Austin American when it put the daily editions to bed at offices in the 800 block of Congress Avenue, has written numerous papers on the life and works of O. Henry. This summer, he plans to publish a nicely-bound volume, within everyone's price range, on O. Henry's days in Texas. Give him enough typewriter ribbon, and he'll hang his law career in it, some of his friends maintain.

Actually though, it's doubtful that anyone will bolster courage to call O'Quinn a "long-hair" to his face. He was once the fencing champion of the University, and his physique stems from boyhood days in Louisiana, when his father owned an iron foundry.

Superstition in those days held that anyone, who inhaled fumes from certain phases of the casting process and singed the hair of his arms and chest in the casting flames, would grow up to be a robust fellow.

Although O'Quinn was small and confined his efforts to the lighter work, he was habitually around when the metal was cast. Whether he will admit it or not, the system apparently worked. His well-cut business suit covered a deep chest and powerful arms. His face, however, is regular without the bruises of a wrestler, for which he could easily pass.

O'Quinn's newspaper experience started at Beaumont after his father moved to Texas while O'Quinn was still a youngster. During the city attorney's sophomore year in high school, he did odd jobs around the Beaumont YMCA, and pecked out news of his Boy Scout troop on an old Oliver typewriter for the Beaumont Enterprise.

Because O'Quinn's work held a professional touch, the editor of The Enterprise offered him a job at $12 a week. That was big money for the future lawyer and he accepted quickly.

Newspaper business, however, got O'Quinn into his first lawsuit, and one in which he defended himself. It too, started at the University where he was considered a pretty "sharp" character.

Although he claims he was an innocent bystander to a feud that broke out at the school, the opposition seemed to fasten its attack on him. He was at the time, although a law student, editor of the Daily Texan.

Soon after he was elected to office, charges were hurled against him, in which it was declared that he dominated the Daily Texan as would a tyrant. Articles of impeachment were filed with the Honor Court, and O'Quinn went to trial.

Some of his friends asked if he wanted the trial held behind closed doors to avoid bad publicity, but O'Quinn grabbed the legal bull by the horns, and admitted the charges against him, declaring he was editor of the paper and could control the publicity. And that he did. It was spread all over the campus.

The incident attracted so much attention that the trial site was transferred to the University YMCA where more space was available for the student body, and where O'Quinn won his case.

One charge against him was dropped at the start of the trial, and the Honor Court acquitted him on numerous other counts. All he had to do in winning was the show, by University rules, that the editor was responsible for the production of the paper and for its policy. The rules did not state what the policy had to be. The trial consumed so much of his time, however, that it added to his stay in law school. He was one of the last of his class to graduate.



O'Quinn: From newsman to Austin City Attorney

O'Quinn started to the University in the fall of 1926 and didn't graduate until 1932, the depth of the depression. During his school years, he held down more jobs than a three-armed end man in a minstral show.

He taught fencing, corresponded for the Beaumont Enterprise, worked as a clerk in the State Archives, kept books for the State Highway Department, got married, supervised the press box at Memorial Stadium and taught physical education at camps during his summer vacation. He held five of the jobs at one time.

He got his job with the highway department through Governor Dan Moody. When O'Quinn first came to Austin, he started to work for The Austin American, covering the courthouse run. Moody was district attorney and the two struck up a warm friendship.

Then one vacation, while O'Quinn was teaching physical education, the camp folded up and he was without a job. He called on Governor Moody, who, O'Quinn says, in turn called on Gib Gilchrist, state highway engineer and now president of Texas A&M College, who found the future city attorney a bookkeeping job.

While going to school in Austin, O'Quinn retained his residence at Beaumont, and oddly enough (perhaps Football player-Legislator Peppy Blount took pointers from the city attorney) he was elected to open term in the Legislature by the people of Beaumont in 1930 while he was still a student.

The previous year he married Hazel Hedick, a graduate of the University school of journalism and for a time advertising writer for E. M. Scarbrough & Son, local department store. They have two children, Kerry, 10, and Trueman Jr., 7.

The year after O'Quinn graduated, 1932, he travelled about the entire state looking for a place to light. Since he knew most of the state's legislators, and expected them to throw him part of their business while he was getting started, he finally returned to Austin and opened offices in the Norwood Building. Dudley Miller, manager of the Brown Building (but at the time manager of the Norwood Building) loaned O'Quinn furniture enough for his office, and Attorneys Coleman Gay loaned him law books with which to break the ice.

He kept his private practice going until 1937 when he entered the City Hall as assistant city attorney. In 1939, City Attorney A. L. Love resigned, and O'Quinn moved up to fill the vacancy. He has been there every since except for about four years in the Army, starting in 1942. About six months of the time was spent in a hospital after a wall caved in on him in Holland.

O'Quinn still loves law as a profession, as his easy victory in the recent city tax re-appraisal suit will testify (he won the suit within 10 minutes after the hearing started), but he holds with the old newspaper adage that once you see your works in print, you never get out. That O. Henry book this summer might set him off again.

WAYNE MACKEY.

Mackey, Wayne. The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 14 Mar 1948: 4.

Old-Fashioned Frontier Theater Projected Here

A "frontier theater" will join the rapidly developing amusement and recreation area south of the Colorado River, according to plans made by the Austin Little Theater with the acquisition of property in that area.

Trueman O'Quinn, president, announced the Little Theater has bought a building site immediately south of the Butler tract and west of Lamar Boulevard. The property has a front footage of 75 feet on Toomey Street, which is entered from Lamar Boulevard. The lot has a depth of 600 feet.

The organization plans to build an old-time theater that will house its productions and serve as a recreation center. Although there are no plans for immediate construction, the Little Theater will put a temporary outdoor stage on the lot and use it this fall.

Members will pitch in and clear the site at "clean up parties" Sept. 4 and 11. At a public celebration Sept. 17, the Little Theater will formally take possession of its property in the old Spanish manner, a ceremony of various symbolisms. The land, a part of the historic Isaac Decker league, was once a Spanish grant.

The Little Theater, incorporated in 1932, has been working toward a permanent home for many years. The land, purchased for $4,500 from Jesse Boutwell and L. A. (Doc) Burditt, was bought out of proceeds from "Gold in the Hills," a hit production this year.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 02 Sep 1948: 24.



Douglass, Neal. Trueman O' Quinn Buying The O. Henry Honeymoon Cottage, photograph, April 28, 1949; (https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth62877/m1/1/: accessed March 18, 2024), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, https://texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

NEW O. HENRY SHRINE IS A BUDDING REALITY

With the sale Thursday of property at 505 East 11th Street, a two-year dream of further memorializing O. Henry in Austin became a budding reality.

The property was purchased by Trueman O'Quinn, Austin city attorney, and Edmunds Travis, former co-owner of The Austin Statesman, both of whom are authorities on the life and works of O. Henry.

O'Quinn said Thursday that he had been investigating the property for the past two years with a view to establishing an O. Henry memorial on it. For it was in the frame house there that O. Henry and his bride, the former Miss Athol Estes of Austin, spent their honeymoon. They occupied the house from 1887 to 1889.

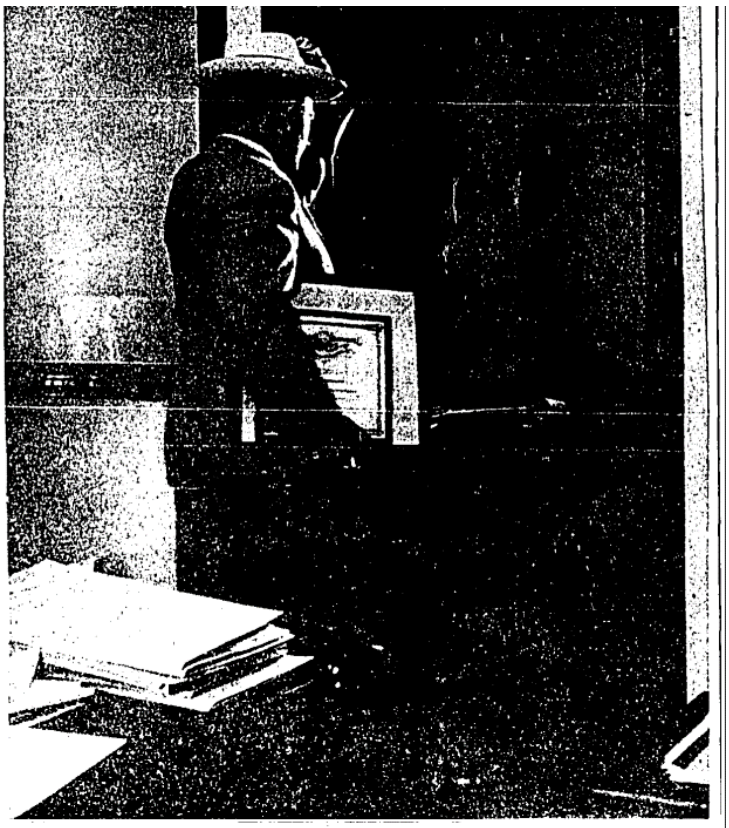
City directories for those years, O'Quinn said, show the house as being the residence of Will Porter, which was the legal name of the famed American writer.

The purchasers plan to restore the cottage, which is unpainted and in a state of disrepair, to its former appearance and to landscape the yard as it probably appeared in the years in which O. Henry perhaps tended it.

O'Quinn said that a suitable business—preferably a restaurant—would be opened in part of the house when restored, and a curio and antique shop in the other part, both on the O. Henry theme.

The house will be known as the "O. Henry Honeymoon Cottage."

Purchase price was $12,500. William Trenchmann, attorney, and Paul O. Simms, real estate agent, acted for the owners, the Jeanette Smith Estate, in the transaction.



EXIT O'QUINN—After 15 years in public office, Trueman O'Quinn donned his hat Friday afternoon and swapped his city attorney's job for private practice. Briefcase in hand and "sheepskin" under his arm, O'Quinn, a member of the city legal staff since 1936 and city attorney since 1939, left to form a partnership with Austin Attorney Hardy Hollers. His successor is W. T. Williams Jr., an 11-year legal department veteran.—(Staff photo by Charles Taylor.)

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 29 Apr 1949: 15.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 22 July 1951: B1.

Writer Explains Intricate Design of O' Quinn's Compost-Mangle

By CLARE OGDEN DAVIS

Competition may be the life of trade. It doesn't matter so much what is said just so the names are spelled correctly.

Also, as an old cavalry officer said: get there fustest with the mostest.

These and other evident truths have all been impressed on me lately by a story which I meant to set down in my garden facts. Truly I had a very fine yarn all ready to tell about a lawyer who turned engineer and invented a lazy man's machine to make his posies grow apace.

It is so good and so efficient that he brags about it. His talk about it reached other ears while I was off Christmas-ing, and I came back to find that Trueman O'Quinn's compost mangle is not news because Lorraine Barnes had already written about it.

But it IS good. The plant provender he gets out of it would nudge any laggard rose into the best of form and color and health. And what he puts into it mostly would otherwise go into the garbage pail.

It operates on the principles of organic gardening, returning to the earth what has come out of it, enriched by fermentation. His own enthusiasm is so honest that not so long ago he got hold of some sandy river loam to put in it, and declared the mixture "looked good enough to eat." (If he was a smart Yankee he would patent it!)

This compost mangle of Trueman O'Quinn's is an octagonal box, six feet long and 21 inches high—known in the O'Quinn home as the "coffin." It is constructed in two parts: a base which is five-eighths of the structure, holds the mixture; there is a lid making up the other three-eighths. It is turned by a handle which rotates the whole box. Inside there are baffles set diagonally in the sides. As the "coffin" is whirled the mixture is thrown helter-skelter, thoroughly blended, and the heat of the sun sets up a fine chemical decomposition. In two to six weeks the alloy is potent and most nourishing to tiny rootlets of any plant.

There are dozens of growers who become addicts to organic gardening. They swear they grow better and bigger vegetables and flowers by using these fertilizers which are rich in soil bacterias. They point to the vigor and stability of trees which feed on the rotted leaves that have fallen at their feet: the soil organisms add vitamins to the growing plants.

Mr. O'Quinn has found that if he used ordinary garden soil as the necessary stabilizer of the orange peelings and lettuce leaves and dried bread crusts and meat trimmings and coffee grounds which go into the garbage pails from which he starts this organic compost, the mix was apt to clod up. But with the sandy loam he gets from river washings the mix is friable enough to rot down into a crumbly litter easily adaptable to any earth into which he puts it.

One of the interesting discoveries which the inventor found with his "coffin" was that there had to be a balanced drainage system in the contraption. A garden hose will keep it damp enough for the fermenting to start, but too much water will start mold, too. He solved that by boring holes, well spaced, in the bottom half of the box. The mass thrown against the baffles rearranged itself so that air may enter as the excess water drains off.

Mr. O'Quinn is the sort of Texan who apologizes that his parents allowed him to be born half a dozen miles inside the Louisiana border. He corrected that oversight when he was a dozen years old, and his hillside home reeks with Texas lore and Texas relics. He is an acclaimed authority on O'Henry history; collects authentic O'Henry relics and cherishes the use he gets from them.

The house he has built on the top of a hill looks across to the University from which he graduated; it is constructed from Texas lumber and stone and graced here and there with parts of historic Texas homes. The slope down from the house to the street has been allowed to grow up with native cedars and cacti and bluebonnets and Spanish bayonets and native asters and wild verbenas.

O'Quinn's Name Linked in State Senate Election

By The Capitol Staff

Former City Attorney Trueman O'Quinn's name has been mentioned in lang-range political discussion as the sixth possible contender for the Texas Senate in the new Austin district, but without confirmation from O'Quinn himself.

Next year's primaries and election will be in a district made up of Travis, Williamson and Bastrop. Four Hill Country counties, including Llano, home of Senator Carlos Ashley, were put in other districts, so that Sen. Ashley, if he seeks re-election would not compete in this district.

Both Travis County House members, Pearce Johnson and Jonnie B. Rogers, have said they intend to run for senator. Also, Representative Frank Svadlenak of Williamson County said he is "definitely interested" in the Senate contest. Representative Bill Woods of Elgin, whose county has been brought into the new district, was thinking it over, without commitment. Former Representative Obie Jones of Austin also has told friends he is considering a race for this office.

Atty. O'Quinn has parried questions, without any commitment for or against the race. Some of the other "prospectives" said they have heard rumors he would be a rival in this Democratic Primary race next summer.

Travis County will elect three

O. Henry Treated Women In Writing as He Did in Life

O Henry, the author, treated women in much the same manner as William Sydney Porter, the man, treated them, Trueman O'Quinn, former city attorney, told members of the University Ladies Intermediate Group Wednesday afternoon. "O Henry's treatment of women was fair and intelligent, and he understood them enough at least to fool other men into thinking he was well-versed in reasons behind their actions," Mr. O'Quinn stated.

He continued by saying O Henry was liked by women, and in turn, he liked them. The author was described by Mr. O'Quinn as being quiet, reserved, given to silent laughter and generally well-dressed.

"O Henry had great respect for haughty women, and his feminine characters were usually of fiery timber," the speaker commented.

"The women in O Henry's stories wore grey most often, although they did wear other colors, such as the one in "The Purple Dress," the first story written by Mr. Porter as O Henry," the speaker said.

Some of the actions of women in O Henry's stories were no doubt reflections of the women in Mr. Porter's own life, according to Mr. O'Quinn.

His first wife was Athol Estes, whom he met and married in Austin, when the author was 25, and Athol, 18.

Athol had a high temper, but she also had understanding, and it is believed that the Della, so well-known from "The Gift of the Magi," was much like Athol, Mr. O'Quinn reported.

The speaker based his talk, "O Henry's Treatment of Women," on facts gathered for a book he plans to write about the author.

He was introduced by Mrs. Robert Apple, chairman of the Book Circle, which was in charge of the program.

Preceding Mr. O'Quinn's talk, a brief business session was conducted by Mrs. H. M. Burlage, president.

Members were reminded of the April style show and election of officers.

The Capitol Staff. The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 29 July 1951: A9.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 Mar 1952: A6.

Trueman O'Quinn Urges Election of CPA Group

Trueman O'Quinn, lawyer and former city attorney, Thursday night made a television appeal to Austin voters to support the five businessmen candidates for the City Council in Saturday's election who have been endorsed by the Charter Protective Association. They are Evans Swann, Place 1; Gary Morrison, Place 2; Ted Thompson, Place 3; C. A. McAden, Place 4, and Wesley Pearson, Place 5.

THESE MEN, AS a new City Council, O'Quinn declared, "will provide the city government with the leadership to open the doors for greater growth and development" of Austin.

"The majority of our people," he said in his telecast, "are convinced that if we elect five business men to the council, none of whom has any political ambitions beyond the desire and willingness to serve, we will see a tremendous change for the better in Austin, beginning almost at once."

O'Quinn urged voters who may have considered voting for "the leader of the anti-charter group," to consider the disturbing factor this candidate has been on the council. He referred to Councilwoman Emma Long, who led the recent fight against charter amendments, without naming her.

"These voters," he said, "I believe, want independent thinkers . . . but they have been led to believe that a person who constantly keeps trouble stirred up, who persistently takes a contrary view merely because it may seem politically expedient, who publicly abuses and bemeans others who are unable or unwilling to fight back—that such a person is an independent thinker.

"But," he added, "I want to be sure that the outward evidence of independence is not false and misleading. I want to know that the person . . . is honest in his convictions."

HE PAID TRIBUTE to the late C. B. Bartholomew and former Councilman Simon Gillis as councilmen who had been truly independent thinkers on the council. There were others, too, he said, "but never did one of them . . . publicly announce that he wanted to get control of the City Council so he could dictate to the rest of the city.

"Never did I know one of them to oppose critically needed amendments to our Charter merely because he felt that adoption of the amendments would defeat his own selfish ambition, and thwart his struggle for power and prestige. Never did I know one of them to stir up controversy just to be a trouble-maker, or publicly abuse and mistreat city employes or other persons who were unwilling or unable to fight back."

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 03 Apr 1953: A6

Demo Control Battle Raging

A struggle for control of Democratic Party machinery is being quietly waged these blistering days in 24 of the county's 69 voting precincts.

There are that many contested precinct chairmanship campaigns to be decided in the July 24 primary.

Most are clearly drawn contests between the party's conservative wing which generally follows the leadership of Governor Allan Shivers, and the liberal anti-Shivers faction.

At stake is majority control of the County Democratic Executive Committee, which is made up of precinct chairmen.

The committee now is firmly in the grasp of the conservative wing under the county chairmanship of J. M. Patterson Jr.

Also to be decided a week from Saturday by the county's voters is a successor to Patterson. The county chairman is not seeking reelection, preferring to give full time to his law practice.

Out after his job are former city attorney Trueman O'Quinn, the conservative faction candidate, and G. L. Huckaby. Huckaby is tagged the liberal standard bearer.

West Avenue, and Aaron Schaffer, 414 West 32nd.

Precinct 230: Fagan Dickson, 3200 Bowman Avenue, and J. Sam Winters, 2406 Greenlee.

Precinct 231: Otto F. Salcher, 3908 Avenue C, and J. E. Peck, Box 4044.

Precinct 232: Chester C. Buratti, 503 East 43rd, and Stuart Long, 813 Park Boulevard.

Precinct 235: Arch Braswell, 1306 Houston, and Ed Felder, 1206 Payne Avenue.

Precinct 236: Henry Ramsey, 4617 Shoalwood, and Earl Gough, 4805 Shoalwood.

Precinct 238: James C. Jones, 8838 Georgian Acres, and Floyd Merrit, 512 Croslin.

Precinct 239: Chester V. Smith, 1005 Taulbee Lane, and Betty J. Nunley, 1704 Richcreek Road.

Precinct 301: Jim Fritts, Route 2, and Mrs. Hugh Leiper, 1700 Rabb Road.

Precinct 322: Truman E. Ferguson, 2500 Radel, and S. M. Thompson, 2024 South Lamar.

Precinct 323: S. E. Dahlstrom, Route 2, and Dr. Charles D. Peavy, Littlefield Building.

TRUEMAN
O'QUINN



Qualified To Serve As

COUNTY CHAIRMAN

Democratic Executive Committee

1. Supervised Elections . . .
   11 years for City of Austin; Army Judge Advocate 3½ years, overseas division voting officer, European Theater.
2. Practicing Lawyer . . .
   22 years in Travis County with knowledge of election laws; active in Democratic conventions and other Party interests.
3. Presiding Officer . . .
   of many professional and civic organizations (Travis Bar; Texas City Attorneys; Junior State Bar; Reserve Officers; Civic Theater, etc.)

ELECT
TRUEMAN
O'QUINN
YOUR
County Chairman

(Pol. Adv. paid for by Friends of Trueman O'Quinn)

O'Quinn Asks Dem Job Again

Chairman Only Aspirant in Race

Trueman O'Quinn, Travis County Democratic chairman, said Monday he will file during the day, before the midnight deadline, for a new term as chairman.

No other aspirant to the post had applied for a place on the ballot.

Candidates for county chairman and precinct chairmen are required to file for a place on the July ballot, the same as aspirants for public office.

However, in these cases, if no candidate has filed by the deadline for official places, additional days are allowed for someone to put his name on the ballot.

O'Quinn said he was celebrating his birthday "in my lower middle thirties," by filing for a full term as county chairman. His filing is simplified by the fact that he files it with himself.

He succeeded Mike Butler as chairman, when Butler was made a member of the Democratic State Executive Committee succeeding resigned J. M. Patterson Jr.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 14 July 1954: 17.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 22 July 1954: B13.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 07 May 1956: 1.

Seipt Promoted In Army Reserve, O'Quinn Reports

Henry M. Seipt Jr. of 1810 Treadwell Street, director of the engineer branch department of the 4101 US Army Reserve School in Austin, has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Colonel Trueman E. O'Quinn, commandant of the school, announced Seipt's promotion at the same time he disclosed plans for further expansion of the school.

Col. O'Quinn said new courses in civil affairs and military government will be offered to Army Reserve officers will be started soon at the USAR Armory, 4601 Fairview Drive.

The school also will continue instruction in command and general staff, judge advocate general, ordnance, engineering, military police, armor and medical branch courses, the colonel added.

Two O. Henry Houses Headed for Shoal Creek

By LORRAINE BARNES

The way was cleared Tuesday for the relocation of two O. Henry houses to form a permanent memorial to the beloved short story writer who lived in Austin from 1884 to 1898.

The memorial will be created on a city-owned tract of wooded land on the old Shoal Creek cutoff west of Lamar Boulevard and a few blocks north of 24th Street.

While the City Parks and Recreation Board had objected to placing a building on this site, Mayor Tom Miller said the Council-approved plan has been worked out amicably. The new literary shrine will combine O. Henry's "Honeymoon House," where Will Porter (the author's real name) lived after his marriage to beautiful Athol Estes in 1887, and the present O. Henry museum at 409 East Fifth Street.

Miller announced a letter is being sent to the parks board saying the combined memorial and its location on the Shoal Creek site will best serve the public. The present O. Henry museum is a nationally known literary shrine attracting 3,500 visitors a year.

Mrs. Goodall Wooten, who with her husband, the late Dr. Wooten, gave the city a tract of land adjacent to Lamar Boulevard, has approved the plan for the new memorial, the mayor said. She recalled that her husband had gone to school with Athol Estes, and the Wooten family had long been interested in the life and works of the short story writer.

Miller also announced that Herman Becker Jr., donor of the present O. Henry museum building, approves combining the two houses on the new site. The museum property, which the city maintains with a custodian in charge, was acquired by Becker and moved from East Fourth Street to the East Fifth block in 1934. This house — the last in which O. Henry lived in Austin — was moved, painted and improved at Becker's expense.

The City Council approved relocation of the museum after clearing the plan with its donor.

"Honeymoon House" will be moved from the 500 block on East 11th Street within a few days. The house, purchased some years ago by Trueman O'Quinn to prevent its destruction, was acquired by the Austin Heritage Society as a gift from Dr. Z. T. Scott.

The society will move the house, paint and improve it without expense to the city, Miller said. Plans are under way to refurnish the interior in the style of O. Henry's day. The museum also includes period furniture, pictures, copies of O. Henry's newspaper, "The Rolling Stone," and an original O. Henry letter.

O'Quinn Is Again Chairman

By WRAY WEDDELL JR.

Herman Jones apparently captured the 53rd District Court bench by a cliff hanging margin in Saturday's Democratic primary while Sheriff T. O. Lang raced impressively to reelection without a runoff.

Travis Blakeslee held a narrow lead in a hotly-contested three-way race for County Court-at-Law judge with a runoff assured.

County Democratic Chairman Trueman O'Quinn won reelection handily, turning back a liberal-wing challenge from Stuart Long, Capitol Hill newsman and husband of former city councilwoman Emma Long.

Voting was heavy in perfect political weather.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 23 Aug 1956: B1

Barnes, Lorraine. The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 13 Nov 1956: 13.

Weddell, Wray, Jr. The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 08 May 1960: A1.

Citizens Protest

TonkaWhat Lake?

Smoke signals were rising up in the hills above the friendly Colorado Friday.

The messages they gave were: "Let the Tonkawa rest in peace in the Happy Hunting Grounds. White Man, leave our teepee and go home."

The Tonkawas, almost forgotten in the rush of history, Friday were getting more comment from individual Austinites than they had since they used to extend the palm of peace to early Central Texas white settlers. Or go skulking through the cedar brakes to lay a tomahawk up against the scalp of an unsuspecting hunter.

The reason for all this fuss about an Indian tribe whose few descendants live in Oklahoma?

The Lake Study Committee appointed by the City Council to suggest a name for the lake in downtown Austin (Town Lake) Thursday came up with a recommendation of Lake Tonkawa. The reverberation on the choice has been like the beat of the tom-tom at a tribal dance.

There's even a difference of opinion over the spelling. Gregg Monroe, 2201 South Lamar, commented: "No one will ever get the spelling right. Even its boosters say it can be spelled Tonkawah, Tonkawa or even Tonkewa. So how can our school children, or our visitors, expect to know?"

Here's a sampling of other thoughts, from the mayor on down the line:

MAYOR LESTER PALMER: "My personal reaction is that I still prefer the name of Town Lake given us by Reporter Bill Woods."

J. FRANK DOBIE, historian: "I think Town Lake is all right. I see no reason to call it Tonkawa. You may as well call it Comanche, Caddo or some other Indian name."

TRUEMAN O'QUINN, attorney: "I think it's horrible. There's nothing romantic about a band of nomadic, naked savages who survived on wild game and berries and practiced cannibalism on the bodies of their fallen enemies. As far as historical significance, they had none. They were a small, insignificant tribe."

W. W. NEWCOMB JR., director of Texas Memorial Museum: "It's a very appropriate name to me. I think it is a good selection because the Tonkawas were in this vicinity to start with."

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 20 Apr 1962: 1.

Ever since the name "Lake Tonkawa" hit the City Council with something less than the appeal of an Indian love call, Austinites have been tapping their typewriters like tomtoms.

Most of the reaction has been against the name, with citizens preferring something more "indigenous" to the region: Lamar, Longhorn, Marie, et al.

So the hassle over what to name that dammed body of water downtown flows on. Here are a couple of the newest ripples of Monday:

Dan Hemingson, lodge chief of the Boy Scout Tonkawa Lodge, Order of the Arrow, says the Tonkawa Indians were a tribe which lived near Bastrop.

"The Tonkawa Indians were scouts for the Texas Rangers and fought side by side with the white man against the comanches. Without the help of the Tonkawa Indians, the Rangers would probably not have killed the Comanche chief, Pohibitquasho, commonly known as Iron Shirt."

Trueman O'Quinn, Austin attorney and one of the area's most enthusiastic amateur historians, takes quite a different view.

"The Tonkawas (Tonkawega, Tancaoye, Tancaguas, Tanchua, Tanquaay, Titskan) who called themselves 'tickanwatic,' were a small, nomadic tribe just passing through insofar as the extended history of the Colorado is concerned, and had only an incidental geographical tie to this area, but without true historical significance either in Spanish, Mexican, or Anglo settlement in the area.

"'Romantic appeal?' What is romantic or appealing about an uncivilized band of naked savages living on wild game and berries, who had not even advanced far enough to practice agriculture, and who engaged in ritualistic cannibalism on the bodies of their slain enemies?" asks O'Quinn.

So there you have it, View One and View Two.

"Town Lake," anyone?



American-Statesman/UPI

Lieutenant Colonel Parker C. Fielder, left, University of Texas law professor, and Colonel Trueman O'Quinn, Austin attorney, draw plans for the annual Judge Advocate General School to be held July 4-19 at Fort Bliss in El Paso. The two will be administrators for the two-week active duty training in appellate procedure to military courts of appeal. Some 110 students, all lawyers in the Army Reserve, are expected to attend.

JAG School Plans Complete

Final plans for conduct of the Judge Advocate General Annual Summer School at Fort Bliss July 5-19 were completed this week by the staff of the 4161st Austin Army Reserve School under direction of Colonel Trueman O'Quinn, commandant of the Austin Reserve unit. Col. O'Quinn, Austin attorney, is Democratic county chairman.

The Austin Army Reserve School is the responsible unit for conduct of training for all Judge Advocate reservists in the Fourth Army area, comprising Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and New Mexico. Training for the Army Reserve lawyers begins at Fort Bliss July 5, but Col. O'Quinn will take an advance group to the training site June 28.

Training in military appellate procedure for the Military Court of Appeals and Appeals Boards will be given 110 students, all lawyers in the Army Reserve, who have been trained in the winter months at their local units. The summer course consists of 84 hours of lectures, practical exercises, research and demonstration.

Lieutenant Colonel Parker C. Fielder, training officer for the Austin School and professor of law at The University of Texas, will have charge of the training program at Fort Bliss. Among the 20 qualified legal instructors will be Major Frank Elliott, University law professor, and Major Harry Vine, Austin attorney, both of whom are reserve officers with the 1st JAG Detachment in Austin.

The staff of the 416st USAR Unit at Fort Bliss will consist of 10 officers and 16 enlisted reservists, all of them from the Austin area.

Accompanying Col. O'Quinn to El Paso in the advance party will be Lieu. Col. Fielder, Master Sergeant Leslie G. Kunze and Sergeant First Class Wesley J. Marling, both of Austin, and Sergeant First Class Edgar D. McMurry who is assigned to a branch of the Austin Reserve School at Bryan.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 23 Apr 1962: 1.

The Austin American (1914-1973); Austin, Tex.. 14 June 1964: A19.

O. Henry Era Idea For Site

What was once the site of the home of novelist O. Henry is giving way to a 26-unit apartment building —but not without retaining the atmosphere of the O. Henry era.

The development is being ramrodded by real estate man Frank Montgomery and attorney Trueman O'Quinn — the latter an expert in the life and works of O. Henry.

"We are going to try to create an atmosphere reminiscent of the era in which O. Henry lived," O'Quinn and Montgomery said of the site at 503 East 11th Street.

O'Quinn Passes Up Appeals Court Bid

Trueman O'Quinn, Democratic County Chairman for Travis County, announced Friday he will seek reelection to that post instead of running for chief justice of the Court of Civil Appeals for the Third Supreme Judicial District.

In a statement announcing his decision not to run for the court position, O'Quinn said, "I am grateful for the interest throughout the district in my possible candidacy and I want to thank everyone who has offered support and encouragement.

"In deciding not to run I had to consider carefully my own personal and professional commitments and obligations and to recognize the appalling demands of money and time required to make a campaign which would be beyond my means or resources."

O'Quinn has been an attorney for 33 years and Democratic County Chairman for 12 years.

O'Quinn's office accepted Friday applications from 17 persons seeking election as precinct chairmen. Nine incumbents filed for reelection.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 18 Nov 1965: A22.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 05 Feb 1966: 15.

O'Quinn Pulls Out Of Judge's Race

The Democratic nomination for judge of 126th Dist. Court apparently narrowed more closely to two men Friday following an announcement by county chairman Trueman O'Quinn that he was withdrawing from consideration.

Figuring most prominently for the nomination, one week before the Oct. 8 Democratic executive committee meeting, were attorney Jim Meyers and Dist. Atty. Tom Blackwell.

It would appear, however, that neither man has the nomination race sewed up, as names of other possibles—attorneys Gibson Randle and Alvis Vandygriff and County-at-law Judge David McAngus—continued to circulate.

O'Quinn announced just before noon Friday that he was withdrawing as a candidate for the district court bench to be vacated by Judge Jack Roberts on Oct. 3.

In a letter to the 76 precinct chairmen who compose the executive committee, O'Quinn said:

"I do not wish to be nominated for district judge; so please do not consider me for nomination at our Oct. 8 meeting."

O'Quinn was believed to have had enough votes for a nomination on the first ballot.

O'Quinn gave no additional reason for his surprise withdrawal other than to say, "I just changed my mind and I'm not certain that I ever had it made up."

Blackwell announced earlier in the week that he would actively seek the nomination and has written a letter presenting himself as a candidate to the Democratic precinct chairman.

Meyers, who is being boomed by attorneys and some members of the executive committee, says he would "accept" a nomination, but is not actively working for the nomination himself.

A letter from some precinct chairmen endorsing Meyers is being readied for a mailing early next week to all members of the executive committee.

Republicans, who have no immediate plans to nominate a candidate, said earlier in the week that they would be strongly in favor of Meyers' receiving the Democratic nomination.

There has been no word from Gov. John Connally whether an interim appointee will be made. Roberts' move to the federal bench Oct. 3 would leave the 126th Court bench open until as late as Dec. 1 if Connally does not name an interim appointee.

As Roberts is vacating the bench more than 20 days before the general election, candidates can be nominated by certified parties for the Nov. 8 general election ballot.

Roberts has two years remaining on his term as a district court judge.

After announcing his withdrawal, O'Quinn said he was not endorsing another candidate, nor would he campaign for any other candidate.

"As chairman, I don't believe I should be campaigning for anybody," O-Quinn said.

O'Quinn has stressed the importance of all Democratic precinct chairmen being present at the Oct. 8 nomination session.

Proxies will not be allowed and balloting will be secret, O'Quinn said.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 30 Sep 1966: 1.

Trueman O'Quinn Gets Appeals Post

By GLEN CASTLEBURY
Staff Writer

Travis County Democratic Chairman Trueman O'Quinn was appointed Monday to the Third Court of Civil Appeals.

Gov. John Connally named O'Quinn to the associate justice position vacated by John Phillips who became chief justice after the retirement of Roy C. Archer.

O'Quinn immediately announced his resignation as party chairman and called a county executive committee meeting to choose his successor.

O'Quinn said the committee would meet Wednesday at 4 p.m. in the 147th Dist. Courtroom.

The 61-year-old O'Quinn is an attorney, a former legislator, former Austin city attorney and an ex-newspaperman. He is an authority on the life and works of author O. Henry.

O'Quinn, a close friend of the governor, has held the Democratic party chairmanship here for seven terms.

The contest for that job was already underway. There were reports over the weekend that leaders of the conservative elements of the Travis party were rounding up support for attorney Bob Sneed.

Sneed is allied with the O'Quinn majority on the 78-member county executive committee. Sneed was appointed by Gov. Connally to the state Public School Land Board.

There was also a draft reported underway among the liberal members of the commitee for newsman Stuart Long. Long said he was "available if the commitee wants me" but was too busy with the opening of the Legislature to campaign for the job.

O'Quinn had been rumored to be a prospect for the Third Court bench. He was mentioned often last spring as a possible candidate in the race against Phillips.

O'Quinn's name also was prominent last fall before the governor appointed Judge Jim Meyers to the 126th Dist. Court bench vacated by Federal Dist. Judge Jack Roberts.

O'Quinn had a distinguished newspaper career before he became an attorney. He began his newspapering in the early 1920s on the Beaumont Enterprise with a $12 a week job.

He stuck with the Enterprise until coming to The Austin American and the University of Texas in 1926.

Among his first jobs with The American was covering the Travis County Courthouse. Here he struck up a warm friendship with Dist. Atty. Dan Moody.

He was elected editor of the Daily Texan at UT in 1928.

O'Quinn stayed in school despite the Great Depression by holding down his newspaper job and jobs with the State Archives, the Highway Department and the university (where he supervised the press box at the football stadium and taught physical education).

O'Quinn maintained his residence-of-records in Beaumont during his University days. This apparently set well with

(See POST, Page 6)



American-Statesman/UPI
TRUEMAN O'QUINN
Going to appellate court.



● POST

(Continued from Page 1)

the voters of Beaumont who elected him to the Legislature in 1930.

O'Quinn spent only one term in the statehouse. After finishing the University in 1932, he travelled about the entire state looking for a place to light.

But the Depression was in its worst day and opportunities were limited. O'Quinn returned to Austin and set up private law practice in the old Norwood Building. He borrowed office furniture from the manager of the building and an armload of law books from Coleman Gay.

O'Quinn joined the city hall legal staff in 1936. In 1939 he succeeded A. L. Love as city attorney.

In 1942 O'Quinn left city hall for the Army. He served as division judge advocate of the 101st Airborne in Europe. He participated in four campaigns and served with occupation troops in Germany. His decorations include the Bronze Star.

He returned to the city attorney's job after the war. He resigned in 1951 to go into practice with Hardy Hollers. He later practiced by himself.

O'Quinn's interest in the life of O. Henry began during his law school days. Since then, O'Quinn has written many articles on the author and has compiled an impressive array of memorabilia.

His latest effort at preserving the history of O. Henry was the development of an apartment complex just east of the Capitol Building. O. Henry House is decorated in the mode of the author's days in Austin and includes many artifacts O'Quinn salvaged from O. Henry's homes and jobs here.

O'Quinn is married to the former Hazel Hedick whom he met during his University days. They have two sons.

The Austin Statesman (1921-1973); Austin, Tex.. 09 Jan 1967: 1.

O. Henry Friends, Relatives Gather Here for Ceremony

By HARRIET HUBBARD
Staff Writer

Many descendants of friends, neighbors, and relatives of writer William Sidney Porter were present at the O. Henry Museum Sunday afternoon for the dedication of an historical marker at the house where the man who used the pen name O. Henry lived while in Austin in the 1890s.

The background and history of the one-story wooden frame house at 509 E. 5th St. were recounted by Judge Trueman O'Quinn, an expert on O. Henry's (William Sidney Porter) life.

Porter was a pharmacist, musician, draftsman and bank teller while in Austin in the 1880s and 1890s, the associate justice of the 3rd Texas Court of Civil Appeals explained. Porter's job as a bank teller ended with accusations of embezzlement. He was eventually convicted and served a term in an Ohio federal prison, where he published his first short story under the "O. Henry" name, the judge added.

The house stood at 308 E. 4th St. while Porter lived in it with his wife and daughter, Judge O'Quinn said. It was moved to its present site on 5th Street in 1934 when it was opened as a museum.

The land on which it is now located was one of the original public squares or parks indicated in the 1839 plan of the City of Austin. The area was called Brush Square, after S.B. Brush, a prominent Austinite of the mid 1800s, Dr. Emma Lou Linn of the Travis County Historical Survey Committee told the group. Harris Brush, grandson of S.B. Brush, helped Dr. Linn unveil the historical marker, and his daughter, Mrs. Betty Brush Ross, a member of the O. Henry Museum Advisory Board, read the inscription describing the writer's life.

Also dedicated was the "Athol Stone," a windowsill from the Smith house on West 13th Street on which Porter had carved the name of his future wife as he was waiting for her to meet him for a buggy ride, Mrs. Ralph A. Bickler explained to the gathering of about 75 persons. Mrs. Bickler's late husband had lived near Athol Estes as a child. Athol was a friend of several Smith daughters and visited the house often, Mrs. Bickler added.

The windowsill is made of stone rescued from charred remnants of the first stone state Capitol, a sign above its display table in the museum says. The Smith house was purchased several years ago by Dr. James R. Alexander Jr. who worked with Austin Parks and Recreation Department to have the sill removed and placed in the O. Henry Museum.

Advisory board chairman Dr. Jenny Lind Porter, a poetess and chairman of the English department of Huston-Tillotson College, read portions of several familiar O. Henry stories at the dedication ceremonies.

Others attending, many dressed in long gowns reminiscent of the 1890s, included Jane Smoot, granddaughter of the minister who married William Sidney Porter and Athol Estes in the 1880s; Mr. and Mrs. Harris Brush; Mr. and Mrs. George Bickler; Gretchen Raatz, board member and descendant of neighbors of the Porters; and Dorothy Nan McLean of Pard.

The Austin American - Statesman (1973-1980), Evening ed.; Austin, Tex.. 07 Oct 1974: 9.

O'Quinn, Trueman Edgar, Sr.

tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/oquinn-trueman-edgar-sr

O'QUINN, TRUEMAN EDGAR, SR. (1905–1990). Trueman O'Quinn, attorney, judge, and historian, was born in Leesville, Louisiana, on May 7, 1905, to Dallas Patrick and Florence Isabelle (O'Connor) O'Quinn. He was one of three children. In 1917 the family left Vernon Parish and moved to East Texas. As a child, O'Quinn was active in Boy Scouts and eventually became an Eagle Scout. He graduated from Beaumont High School in 1922 and enrolled at the University of Texas that same year. O'Quinn supported himself through college by teaching fencing and writing syndicated news stories. He also served as editor of the *Daily Texan*, 1927–1928. After completing his bachelor's degree, O'Quinn studied law and passed the bar in 1932. He remained in Austin, where he opened a private practice.

O'Quinn's interest in law led him to politics. He was elected to the Forty-Second Texas Legislature and served the 1931–1932 term as a representative for Jefferson County. In 1936, O'Quinn was appointed assistant city attorney of Austin, and by 1939 was city attorney. With the exception of the years he served during World War II, he held the position until 1950. During the war, O'Quinn served in various capacities. He was a lt. colonel in the 101st Airborne Division and fought in four major battles. As Staff Judge Advocate, he supervised court-martial trials in Normandy after the Allied invasion. He also served with the army of occupation in Germany and supervised the out-processing of German prisoners in Austria.

O'Quinn stepped down as city attorney in 1950 and returned to private practice for another twenty-six years. O'Quinn also served as Travis County Democratic Chairman for fourteen years and legal counsel for the University of Texas for two years. In 1967 Governor John Connally appointed him to the Third Court of Civil Appeals to serve the unexpired term of Judge Phillips. Justice O'Quinn remained on the court for thirteen years before his retirement in 1980. He is remembered for his work on health care regulations, the acquisition of land that later became Bergstrom Air Force Base, and the expansion of Austin's park system.

Aside from legal affairs, O'Quinn was also active in civic life. He was a historian of American short story writer, William Sydney Porter, better known as O. Henry. For almost half a century he gathered first editions, photos, manuscripts, and other memorabilia. He donated the staggering collection to The O. Henry Resources at the Austin History Center in 1982, a contribution without parallel. Throughout his adult life, O'Quinn wrote articles and delivered speeches on the subject of O. Henry. In 1986 he co-authored *Time to Write: How William Sidney Porter Became O. Henry* with Dr. Jenny Lind Porter. O'Quinn's interests also included studying local history. His essay entitled "Colloquialisms along the Sabine" was included in J. Frank Dobie's 1937 publication Straight Texas, a collection of articles dealing with Texas history and folklore. O'Quinn held memberships in numerous professional and civic organizations including the American Bar Association, Sigma Delta Chi, American Legion, Heritage Society, Reserve Officers Association, O.Henry Advisory Board, and Philosophical Society of Texas.

O'Quinn married Hazel Allene Hedick on November 26, 1929. Together they had two sons, Kerry Hedick and Trueman, Jr. On January 4, 1990, Trueman O'Quinn died in Austin of heart failure following open heart surgery. He is buried at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

Austin *American-Statesman*, January 5, 12, 1990. J. Frank Dobie and Mody C. Boatright (eds.), *Straight Texas* (Austin: Texas Folklore Society., 1937). Deborah D. Powers, *The Court of Appeals at Austin, 1892–1992* (Austin: State House Press, 1992). Vertical Files, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

Texas State Historical Association: https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/oquinn-trueman-edgar-sr

Unhappy twist: O. Henry's Austin honeymoon cottage went up in flames

statesman.com/story/news/2018/06/29/unhappy-twist-o-henrys-austin-honeymoon-cottage-went-up-in-flames/10022639007

Michael Barnes

Reader Susan Wukasch writes: "I found an old paper from October 2016 and I read your Austin Found column about houses being moved, so I decided I'd ask you about the O. Henry House."

As a child, Wukasch remembered being told that the famous author's house had been moved from its original site to a place on Shoal Creek Boulevard, down the hill from Pemberton Heights and facing Lamar Boulevard where Gaston Avenue dead-ends.

"And I remember vividly driving with my family down Lamar one night — probably in the mid-to-late-1950s — when we came upon this house in flames, with firetrucks around fighting the fire," she writes. "We stopped and watched for a while."

Subsequently Wukasch, whose father was an architect with a fondness for preservation, heard that the remains of the house had been moved downtown and the home rebuilt.

"Your Austin Found column reported the house (in Brush Square) originally was downtown, not far from where it now stands, so I'm confused about why I thought it was placed for several years a significant distance north and west of that area before moving it back," she writes. "You say the original move was carefully documented, leading me to wonder what I saw burning on the side of Lamar Boulevard all those years ago. Might my small-child self gotten the name of the house wrong?"

There's no question that the O. Henry House, now a small museum, was moved to its present location in 1934, and that when O. Henry's family lived in it, the house stood at 308 E. Fourth St., about a block away.

However, Wukasch's memory serves her well.

There was a second preserved O. Henry House, his Honeymoon Cottage, that stood in what was Wooten Park (Pease Park now) on Gaston Avenue. It was moved there from the 500 block of E. 11th Street.

The new neighbors didn't like the idea of it being there, or the Heritage Society's plans to move the other O. Henry House there as well.

On Dec. 23, 1956, it went up in flames. It was actually the third fire reported at the house, each likely deliberately set. Two recently reinforced chimneys remained.

Historian Bonnie Tipton Wilson wrote a fine article on the conflagration cleverly entitled: "Somebody Around Here Wants to Start a Fire."

https://www.statesman.com/story/news/2018/06/29/unhappy-twist-o-henrys-austin-honeymoon-cottage-went-up-in-flames/10022639007/