

Bradfield Recreation Center

LOCATION: 1146 Castle Drive, Garland, Texas 75040

BUILT: 1975

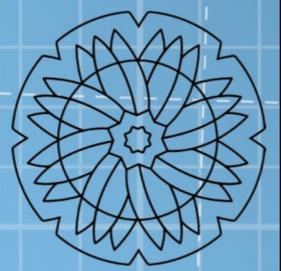
RENO 1: 2011

RENO 2: N/A

DEDICATION: 1975

DEDICATED IN HONOR OF:

William Henry Bradfield



1898-1962

The Garland News Publisher, Banker & Former Mayor



William Henry Bradfield Sr. was born May 13, 1898, in Dallas. He graduated from Hardin School for Boys and attended Dallas University before entering the Army Air Corps during World War I.

His family owned the Bradfield Brothers Printing Company in Dallas, whose only customer was the *Dallas Times Herald*. In 1931, the Bradfields bought *The Garland News* from W. A. Holford, and the family moved to Garland on April 1. While in Garland, Bradfield joined the Garland Rotary Club and served as president, and later as Governor of Rotary International, District 128. As a 32nd degree Mason, he served in several posts over the years. He was director and president of the Chamber of Commerce, Noble Grand of the Odd Fellow Lodge, Commander of the John D. Cabaniss Post of the American Legion, and Commander of the Fifth District American Legion. Bradfield was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, the professional journalistic fraternity, and served as president of the Northeast. In 1947, he received the Joe Taylor "State Press" Award for best editorial, and in 1951, he was honored as the Dallas Press Club Headliner, the only newspaperman so honored.

Bradfield organized the Garland State Bank in 1947, serving as president four years, then as chairman of the board of directors. As mayor of Garland, he successfully campaigned for increasing the City Council and City Planning Commission from five to nine members each. He served 15 years as a member of the Garland Volunteer Fire Department. After selling the *Garland Daily News* in 1958, he operated Longhorn Printing Service. For several years prior to this and until his death in 1962, he and his son William H. Bradfield Jr. owned and published *The Texas Mesquiter*, the oldest newspaper in Dallas County.

In December 1964, the City Council of Garland resolved that the park on Castle Drive and Country Club Road should be named William H. Bradfield Park. *The Dallas Morning News* reported, "Today's schoolchildren and future generations need reminders of those who labored for the gains they enjoy." When the formal dedication and open house ceremonies were held on Aug. 2, 1975 for the recreation and aquatic center, it was no surprise the name followed suit. The ceremonies were a bicentennial celebration complete with period costumes, square dancing, ole' time fiddlers, and a swim exhibition by the Dolphinettes and Garland Eastgate Swimmers.

"Bill Bradfield was a quiet man, but when he spoke, it was with authority and certainty; as publisher of The Garland News for more than 25 years, he was a strong advocate for the city's progress and a fierce critic of those he felt made decisions that hindered advancement."

-Robert D. Compton, The Dallas Morning News

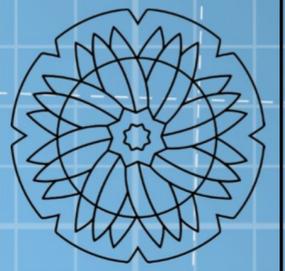
William H. Bradfield Recreation Center is located in northeast Garland. It sits inside its own park, which includes plenty of open space, baseball fields, tennis courts, and a swimming pool. The center is comprised of a game room, a classroom, and a gymnasium.



Lou Huff Recreation Center

DEDICATED IN HONOR OF:

Lula Huff



LOCATION: 515 E. Avenue B, Garland, Texas 75040

BUILT: 1958

RENO 1: 1968

DECOMMISSIONED: 2001

DEDICATION: 1959

LIFE: 1889-1956

PREVIOUS NAME: East Side Recreation Center

Church Steward, Counselor & Community Leader



Born in Lockhart, Lula Huff moved to Garland at the age of 25 and promptly joined St. Luke A.M.E. Methodist Church. Huff married AJ, 5 years her junior and a farm laborer, and raised three orphaned children as her own. Always willing to participate in any and all church programs, she served on the Stewards and Stewardess Board, keeping an open-door policy to all. Huff was a devoted worker in community affairs. She administered help to the poor and needy, and on holidays was known to prepare and distribute food to the elderly and less fortunate.

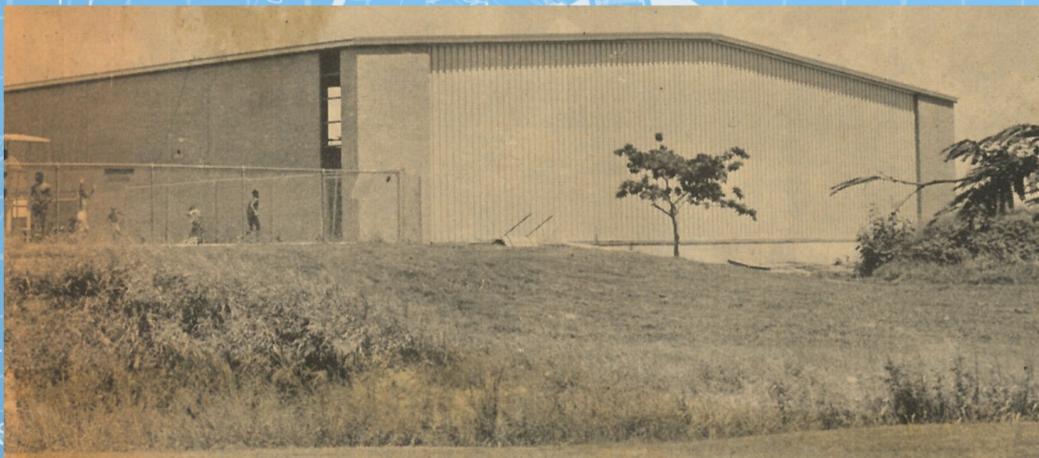
Huff was considered by those who knew her to be a patient and wise counselor to individuals regardless of her own financial and health status. She was among the organizers of the Civic-etts Club of Garland, serving as parliamentarian, chaplain, and advisor. She served two terms as president of the George Washington Carver High School PTA. She was also an Order of the Eastern Star Lodge.

Huff died at home at the age of 63 of a sudden heart attack and is buried at Lincoln Memorial Park in Dallas. Huff was a great asset to the Garland community. Lou Huff Recreation Center was named on behalf of a loyal and devoted community and city leader.

“She helped out a lot of people in East Garland and was well thought of due to her charitable spirit.”

- Bob Hall, former managing director, Recreation & Cultural Services

The original recreation center, built from Parks and Recreation Department bond funds voted in 1955, included an assembly room, meeting rooms, restrooms, a serving kitchen, and a supervisor's office. Garland's East Side Park recreation center was formally dedicated in May 1959. The 1968 addition included a new gymnasium. Both the original structure and the gymnasium were decommissioned in 2001 and are now used as storage facilities for the Garland Parks, Recreation, & Cultural Arts Department.



ANOTHER NEW FACILITY designed to serve Garland residents' recreational needs is this \$82,160 addition to the Lou Huff Gymnasium, which is used for club meetings and private parties in addition to

varied athletic events. The addition opened informally in November of 1968, and was formally dedicated early this month.

Photo by Dick Nalley



Nicholson Memorial Library

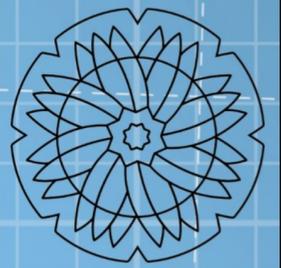
LOCATION: 625 Austin Street, Garland, Texas 75040

BUILT: 1970 RENO 1: 2008 RENO 2: N/A DEDICATION: 1933

PREVIOUS LOCATIONS: 100 Sixth Street & 504 State Street

DEDICATED IN HONOR OF:

*S. E. Nicholson &
Missouri Nicholson*



Library service was established in the City of Garland as a result of a tornado that tore a path of destruction through the northwest corner of Garland on May 9, 1927. The tornado claimed 14 lives in Garland, including Mrs. Missouri Nicholson and her son, the former mayor, S.E. Nicholson.

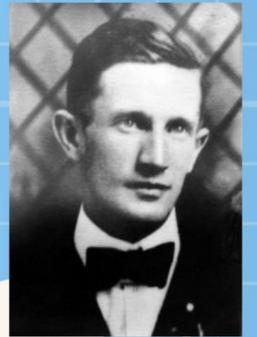


Seeking to provide a lasting memorial to his mother and brother, W.R. Nicholson of Longview purchased a former bank building on the northeast corner of the Garland Square. In December 1933, the remodeled building reopened and housed both a community center and a 1,200-square-foot library.

Missouri A. Harriss Nicholson was the daughter of Stephen Franklin Harriss and Margaret Linnie Blake. Born in Alabama in 1845, she came to Texas when quite young and married John Nicholson. They were pioneer settlers near Sulphur Springs. Together, they organized Shooks Chapel, known as one of the best churches in that part of the country. John and Missouri had three children: W.R. Nicholson, Mrs. Woodside and S.E. Nicholson. Grandma Nicholson, as she was well known, made many friends during her residence in Garland and was cheerful throughout all her suffering. At the time of her death, she had been confined to bed for some time and was very feeble. In the case of Mrs. Nicholson, death was a relief from suffering that had no cure.



S. Edwin Nicholson was raised in the Methodist Church, and he always had responsible positions in the church. In 1917 he married Elma McCracken and came to Garland in 1921. He engaged in the variety store business and made a wide circle of friends. From the first he joined in all moves for civic and religious improvements. In 1924, S.E. Nicholson became mayor of Garland. His even temper, even when things were blue for him, drew those who were associated with him closer.



The Garland Library began with a "Pioneer Book Fund," in which school children, businesses and interested citizens donated their time to collect books, and one volunteer who kept the 1,200-square-foot building open 10-12 hours each week. The library opened for public use on December 23, 1933, with 2,344 books. 52 books were checked out that day.

*Dear Garland People,
We wish to thank each and every one of you who so kindly came to our rescue after that terrible storm. What we have suffered no one knows. We appreciate your efforts in trying to make our burden lighter, by your kind acts and words of love.
We thank you for the beautiful flowers, also the ones who so kindly opened their homes to us.
May the all wise God guide and keep each one of you and may no such calamity ever befall you.
Mrs. S. E. Nicholson and Children.
W. R. Nicholson and Family.*

In 1965, the Library moved to a 5,000-square-foot remodeled space at 504 State Street, as an interim location, until a new building could be constructed. In September 1970, the building known today as the Central Library opened at 625 Austin Street. City voters approved bond issues in 1971 and 1984 to add a total of approximately 41,000 square feet to the Central Library and to open four new branch libraries.

Today, it has become an entire library system with three branch locations offering a total of 120,910 square feet of space for library users, as well as extensive online databases. The Nicholson Memorial Library System serves the residents of the City of Garland and the surrounding area. The library system provides access to a wide range of informational, educational, cultural and recreational material, programs and services.



1933-1965



1965-1970



1970-Present