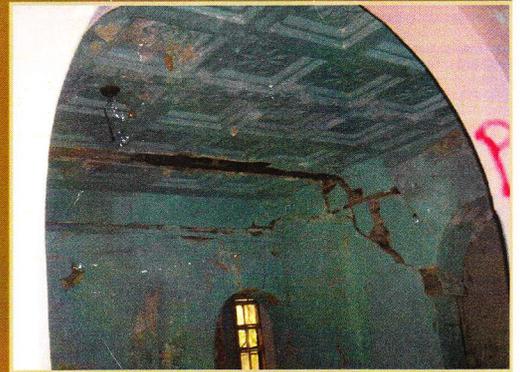
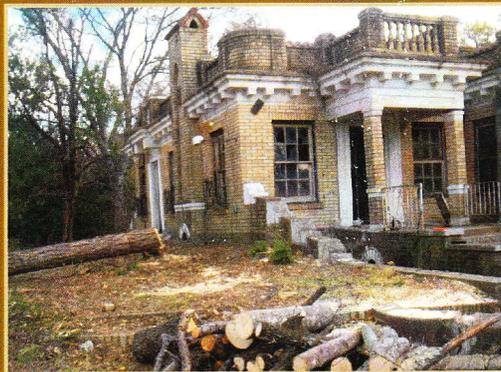
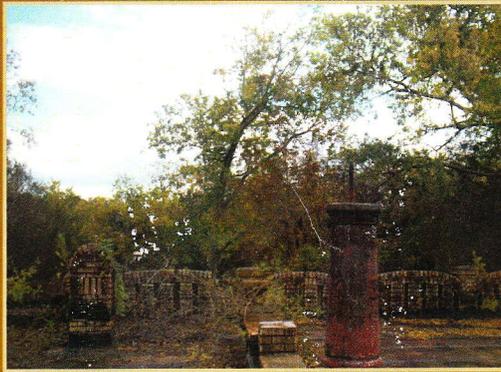
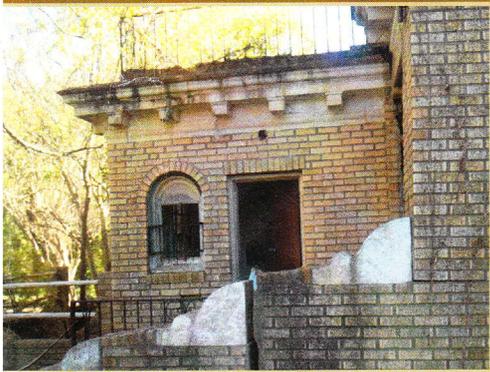


Bartlett House & Heritage Gardens

BEFORE PARTY • DEC. 13-14, 2008



CIRCA 1930



In the Very Beginning: The Malakoff Man

Taken from the book *Malakoff, Texas*

(In publication for 2009)

On November 2, 1929 – just nine days after “Black Tuesday,” the most devastating stock market crash until that time in the history of the United States – Thomas Bartlett of the Malakoff Pressed Brick Company sent two men who had been working on the design and construction of his home down to the “Trinity River bottoms” to obtain pea-sized gravel, which assumedly would be mixed to create concrete for his home construction project.

Thomas Bartlett was a man of distinction in Malakoff, having created the local brick company, using one of its products, a yellow one-of-a-kind brick in the construction of his home. He had also won a blue ribbon at the World’s Fair in St. Louis years earlier for his unique white brick. Now in 1927, however, he knew the economy was in trouble. In fact, he told people he undertook the building of his home that year – just down the street from the entrance into his brick company – because he wanted to reassure the people of Malakoff that he was confident that times would not turn so bad that he couldn’t complete the project or that his brick company would have to be closed down.

By November 2, 1929, the stock market was on its month-long spiral downward, falling at an unprecedented rate, but Bartlett continued to build his house.

Years later, Roy and Therma Parnell described what Bartlett accomplished . . . “as a monument to his faith in better things to come during the depths of the depression.”

It and its magnificent gardens kept Mrs. Bartlett and two fulltime employees busy constantly. The house was subsequently heralded in Texas publications as one of the finest in the state.

Even though Mr. Bartlett was wrong about the economy, he far exceeded the goal he set for his house. He also managed to keep his brick plant producing -- except for a relatively short six-month period during the Depression -- an accomplishment understandably viewed by his Malakoff neighbors as a major contribution to the community and its economy.

But those things wouldn’t be Mr. Bartlett’s only contribution historically. History should remember T.A. Bartlett, first, for his choice of his two architect/builders, the Cuban brothers Indelicio and Teo Morgado, who he directed in early November 1929 to go down to the Trinity bottoms to collect gravel to be used to construct his residence. It was that decision and his next two, after they returned, that put Malakoff, Texas, on the North American map archeologically, because that is how the “Malakoff Man” was found.

If Indelicio and Teo Morgado had been dunderheads, the history of Malakoff would possibly be different, but they were no ordinary laborers. They were smart enough and talented enough not only to influence the design of the Bartlett’s landmark house (as well as other Malakoff structures, such the “Cuban House” and the original Kilman Hospital, just south of the railroad tracks), but they also had enough sense to recognize something unique in the mammoth stone “head” they uncovered while digging in the ancient gravel pits along the Trinity.

The head they discovered was an egg-shaped stone weighing ninety-eight and three-eighths pounds, with eyes, nose, mouth and, even, teeth, and ears “plainly carved” into it. The stone was sandstone, judged to be formed during the Eocene Age, an estimated fifty million years ago. The head was about sixteen inches long and fourteen inches at its greatest width. In the bottom of the head was a hole, which, later, scientists considered evidence that the figure was once placed upon the top of a projection of some kind.

The brothers had contrived a hoist for moving the gravel from the bottoms into their dump truck . . . (and) Teo placed the (head-shaped and carved) stone in the seat beside himself so they could carry it back in one piece to Mr. Bartlett in Malakoff.

After delivering the gravel to the construction site, Teo thought they'd make a joke out of the stone head, so they laid it up against the steps of the Bartlett's house under-construction and created a mound of stones underneath and in front of it, as if the gravel was covering a dead body, so it looked like a headstone on a fresh grave.

Numerous people saw it, including Mr. Bartlett, who made his second choice in this matter. He didn't think it was such a joke as it was perplexing, because he'd not seen anything quite like it, particularly found in the gravel pits, where he knew all the stones were small. He decided to take it to his store in town for display – perhaps someone could offer some insight. V.C. Doctorman of Malakoff, a mining engineer with the Malakoff Fuel Company, stopped by the store, saw the head, and, believing it also was unique, contacted the Texas Memorial Museum of the University of Texas in Austin about the discovery.

Three weeks later, On Nov. 26, Dr. E. H. Sellards, then an Associate Director of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at that time and, later, its director as well as Director of the Texas Memorial Museum, arrived in Malakoff “to study firsthand the physical sites, local geology, and the specific, factual details concerning the discovery of this ancient stone carving.”

“The significance of the discovery generated a prevailing mood of excitement throughout this area,” recalled Cleora Flemming, who reported the history of what the locals initially called “Old Man Malakoff” during the historic state marker dedication ceremony much later, in 1970. “It was the predominant conversation piece of local citizens.” The initial name of the head (Old Man Malakoff) was subsequently shortened by the scientists in Austin to the “Malakoff Man.”

Dr. Sellards found the site of the discovery to be about five miles west of Malakoff and three miles from Trinidad. At that time, the gravel pit was located on private land. The large stone head carving was found buried in small stone gravel (in other words, it was the only large stone in a bed of small stones). The head was found in a location that, at one time, was the bottom of the highest and oldest of the three terraces of the Trinity River, this terrace being some 60 to 70 feet above the present flood plain of the river.

Scientists subsequently found “fossils in the same area as the stone head, which included a number of animal fossils that lived before the close of the Pleistocene” [the Ice Age epoch defined as 1.8 million years to 11,500 BP (Before Present)]. Dr. Sellards stated that the head was found among animal fossils that have “long been extinct: important among these were the elephant mammoth (*Elephas Columbi*), the mastadon (*Mastadon Americus*), extinct horse (*Equus Conpicus*), camel (*Camelaps*), and ground sloth (*Megalonyx*.” (Sellards, “Stone Images from Henderson County,” *American Antiquity*, Vol 7, No. 1, July, 1941).

Dr. Sellards pointed out that the Trinity flood plain was the best indicator of the time that had passed since the head either fell or was laid in the location where it was found. "The long period of time it must have required to lower the flood plain 60 to 70 feet suggests a considerable age for the carvings."

Dr. Sellards' initial assessment was that the stone head could be as old as 50,000 years before the present (BP). . . . To put that into perspective, at the time of the discovery of the Malakoff Man, the top ten ancient American civilizations dated from 3000 B.C. to about 500 A.D. (or, in the timeframe of archeologists, 5000 BP to 1500 BP). **Dr. Sellards considered the Malakoff Man head to be carved by people in the 50,000BP to 10,000 BP, at least 5000 years more than any other civilization previously discovered in the North or South Americas.**

That date was mind-boggling then and, perhaps, now, but the significance and of the Malakoff Man is not just the date of its creation. It also is that the head is an art form.

Archeologists recognize that, when mankind elevates a step above animalistic behavior, artistic expression develops and can be found. As long as man is concerned only about survival on a base, animal level, he doesn't have the time, interest, or intelligence, perhaps, to produce art. But when art and edifices (such as forms of architecture) surface – such as mounds (oriented toward the seasons or the stars), unimaginably large stone structures (e.g. Stonehenge), pyramids, and/or artistic renditions such as scenes drawn on cave walls or decorated pottery, these are manifestations of men and societies oriented toward their place in civilization or their hope for more in life than the present. They are thinking civilization, continuation, progeny, and afterlife. Always – always -- one of the fundamentals of "culture" in civilization is its architecture and its art, the latter of which the Malakoff Man head was deemed to be.

When the headline in the local paper declared the "Malakoff Man Described As One of Oldest Art Works in Americas," that alone is significant. . . .

Dr. Sellards was clear that the face had been carved. He pointed out the effort to create teeth and ears. . . . He and other scientists pointed out (also) that the head had not been moved prior to discovery. . . . They also informed that there were other civilizations in other parts of the world that constructed similar style heads in approximately these same time periods, but, to many, identifying the Malakoff Man as the oldest art form in the Americas – denoting a civilization here before not known – was difficult to grasp.

Dr. Sellards contended it was not at all unreasonable to believe that people existed in this geographic area that had these capabilities in this timeframe and held out for the scientists to scrutinize his conclusions, which is how these things work.

Shortly after the discovery and Dr. Sellards' analysis, T. C. Bartlett made a third decision and "gifted the museum with 'Old Man Malakoff,'" which saved it for posterity and scientific research. . . .

(In the next decade, two other heads were discovered in approximately the same area just northwest of Malakoff.) The second "Malakoff Man" head was somewhat smaller than the first. Its weight was sixty-three and one-fourth pounds, but is also was egg shaped and was about fifteen inches long and twelve inches wide. It, too, had carved distinct features: eyes, nose, mouth (smiling, in this case), and defined ears.

The discovery of the second head – and its retention in private hands by Judge and Mrs. Bishop

(who owned the land where the gravel pits existed) – further inspired Dr. Glen Evans of the University of Texas, working in conjunction with the Work Projects Administration, now headed by Dr. Sellards -- to undertake excavations with the hope of finding more such artifacts and fossils in place. . .

The scientists found a third carved stone head in November 1939, in Pit. No 1 and at the same level as Image No. 1. The depth was greater – twenty-two feet, and the stone was of irregular shape – about twenty inches long – and weighing in at 135 pounds. The stone of this last head was sandstone also, which had “more or less disintegrated at the surface.”

The last head is the most controversial because it appears parts of it had been broken away, and it is the most primitive with gashes representing the eyes and other human characteristics. Also, as with the other heads, the instruments with which the cuts were made were not found.

Dr. Sellards concluded that, “Whatever may have led early man to make these carvings, the conditions of occurrence prove that they were made previous to the time when the stones were imbedded in the accumulating deposits of the ancient Trinity River. The disparity in size between the carved stones and the gravel of the deposit indicates that the stones were not carried by stream action.”

Dr. Evans pointed out that the pieces of mammoths, giant sloths, mastodons, camels, horses, and giant buffalos of the late-Pleistocene era found in the site had disappeared from existence about 11,000 years ago, so the heads had to pre-date that time.

Dr. Evans concluded, “There is no reason whatsoever to believe the heads were ever disturbed. There is no question of this. The significance of this is that the heads may have been carved by and probably were carved by man **as much as 30,000 years ago. *It is the oldest evidence of man in the part of the world.*** (Italics and bold added). It’s entirely possible that the people who carved them were not as widely distributed in population as man was 11,000 years ago, but man existed in other areas on the earth long before the time of ‘Malakoff Man,’ (so) it’s reasonable to believe they may have been there (in Henderson County) as much as 30,000 years ago.”

Dr. Sellards concurred: “The geologic age of the images is Pleistocene. The age in years is that represented by the lowering of the flood plain of the river sixty or seventy feet through three successive stages.” . . .

The significance of the Malakoff Man – which the three heads are now jointly named – is that man in North America was thought to be only 12,000 years old, but they challenge that assumption. The carved rocks found in a geologic zone are estimated to be about 30,000 years old.

Approximately twenty years after these discoveries, by the 1960s, the *American Heritage Book of Indians* cited seven locations in North, Central and South America that were the “most important sites” from an archeological standpoint. Malakoff, Texas was one of the seven. In the book, they displayed the 1929 Malakoff Man head discovered by the Morgado brothers.

Years later, (another site in) Lewisville, Texas, just some seventy miles from the location of the stone heads of Malakoff, became the site of another remarkable, and controversial, archaeological find. It is relevant to the scientific conclusions of Drs. Sellards and Evans.

“Near Lewisville, Texas, twenty miles northwest of Dallas,” Goodman writes in *American Genesis*, “nineteen hearths were uncovered as a result of earth-moving operations. A

chopper tool, a stone hammer, stone flakes, a Clovis point, and burned bones of big and small game animals were found within the hearths. Snail and mussel shells and hackberry seeds showed that red meat was not the only thing on the menu. A burned bone which came from the same hearth as the Clovis point was submitted to the Humble Oil Company Laboratory for radiocarbon dating. An age of at least 37,000 years was indicated. This dating was confirmed by a UCLA radiocarbon date on hearth charcoal of at least 38,000 years.”

It seems that Dr. Sellards may well have been right, when he claimed that ancient men did exist in North America, specifically in the East Texas area approximately 30,000 years ago. As the Clovis, carbon-dated point is validated as coming from a site just to the north of the discovery of the Malakoff Man heads, it is plausible Dr. Sellards’ descriptions of tribes in that era would stand. The Malakoff Man heads at this time still seem to be the sole testament to an art form of the civilization at that time. . .

The tragedy about this fascinating history is that the sites along the Trinity in the Malakoff area were closed down for archeological research with the outbreak of World War II and, not too soon thereafter – a decade later -- Dallas and Ft. Worth made major decisions about their water supply systems, both tied to the Trinity River, which affected these sites and the possibilities of new discoveries.

The largest impact was when Cedar Creek Lake was created as a water resource lake for the city of Ft. Worth, because this entire area where the heads were found -- the hills overlooking the Trinity 30,000 years ago -- is now under water, behind the dam that created Cedar Creek Lake. . .

(In a dedication of the Malakoff Man historic marker in the 1970s), then-Historic Commission Chairman Theo Daniel III poetically said:

Educated guesses see these carved stones as idols or religious symbols resting on the east bluff of the Trinity River in its ancient valley just north and east of Trinidad, which lay 60 or 70 feet above the river’s present flood plain. From the bluff, ancient (people) watched immense herds of animals graze in the valley.

We of the present view ourselves and our great grandfathers as pioneers of this region.

Be quiet, be humble, be observant, and look around us.

We are the newest of the newcomers in this old, old land.

As we preserve and recount our history, let us widely view it from the proper perspective – against the backdrop of man living in our county at least ten to thirty thousand years ago.

Written by Lyn Dunsavage Young

T. A. BARLETT HOME

From *This Old House Magazine*
Taken from the book *Malakoff, Texas*
(In publication for 2009)

Man has been building homes out of the same old drab, earth-toned bricks for thousands of years until a turn-of-the-century Texan named T. A. Bartlett figured out how to custom-color them. The stunning white brick manufactured by Bartlett's firm, the Malakoff Pressed Brick Company, even won a blue ribbon at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.

In 1927 Bartlett used a one-time run of "buff" brick to build himself this quirky castle, complete with 18-inch thick walls, wraparound parapets, and a steel-reinforced concrete roof built for dance parties. In the process of gathering material for the house, local quarrymen uncovered a hand-carved sandstone head (the first of three such artifacts later dubbed the "Malakoff Man"), which scientists at the time believed to be about 50,000 years old, making it perhaps the earliest evidence of man yet found in the New World. The head now resides at the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory.

The nearly 4,000 square-foot residence has 11 rooms, including three bedrooms, one bath, and a great room with a fireplace surrounded by a brick and concrete mantel. There is also a large veranda across the back. Two sets of stairs lead to a full basement, which is kept dry by a sump pump and could hold another four or five bedrooms.

The Fletes family purchased the property in the 1960s. Soon afterwards, a crack in the house's poured cement foundation developed that ran up to a corner of the roof. The family stabilized the building and continued living there until 1996, but the vacant structure has since deteriorated. . . The nearly two-acre property includes a detached brick, three-car garage and a garden urgently in need of pruning.

Architectural and Other Details of Note

By the Greater Malakoff Area Garden Club

- 1 T.A. Bartlett began constructing the house in 1927, with two Cubans, T. and I. Morgado, who distinctly influenced the architectural style, along with a Spanish influence brought by the Spanish brick mason named Manuel.
- 2 The home was considered so outstanding, it was pictured and featured in the *Dallas Morning News* and state newspapers.
- 3 All walls were solid brick set with concrete mortar and asset 18 inches thick.
- 4 The roof, which is flat so they could utilize it for parties and dancing, was laid with brick on top of concrete with railroad steel reinforcing.
- 5 Parapets -- the low protective walls along the flat roof -- feature concrete sculptures and are fundamental to the design of the house, both to protect children and visitors who came from as far away as Dallas and Ft. Worth for the parties.
- 6 Ceilings in the house were cast in molds out of white concrete and set in steel. What may appear to be a tin ceiling -- typical of houses at the turn of the 19th century -- is, in fact, concrete.
- 7 Floors also were of poured concrete with tile patterns in them. The mantel is concrete as well.
- 8 A large veranda, designed with a built-in seat under arches, makes the back of the house as inviting as the front. A fountain -- one of the few structures in the rear and side of the house that has not been damaged -- was once embedded in outstanding landscaping in the 1930s and 40s. People could drive around the house to the back in order to enter, leaving the property by the second front entrance, which recently has been uncovered with the clearing of the acreage.

- 9 To the east of the house is what-was-called at one time the “sunken gardens,” because of the walled structure around it. In its center are a fireplace and numerous concrete benches, tables and seats, which were created by the Cuban workers in the gardens when the house was built. They have been recently destroyed, which makes the area dangerous at this time, but the Garden Club believes we will be able to resurrect them. These gardens were known for their hundreds of jonquils in the spring and their beautiful crepe myrtles throughout the summer.
- 10 The house was basically built as a fortress because of its close proximity to the clay pits, which, at that time, the clay was abstracted by the use of dynamite. The concrete was purposely created to be strong and durable enough to withstand years of explosions, which is the reason the house still stands today and, according to the Garden Club’s program manager, the house can be saved and restored because of the quality of concrete the Cubans created.
- 11 Until relatively recently, the house featured two stained glass windows, one in the room used as a library, to the front left of the front door, and the other in the bathroom, on the west front of the house. Both were captured in pictures and will be replicated by stained and pressed glass artist Laura Strother-Dunsavage.
- 12 The program manager working with the Garden Club on the project is Terrance R. Wegner, Dyad International. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan in civil engineering, a board member of both the University of Texas in Austin and the University of Texas in Arlington’s schools of architecture, and has worked in construction or development management of over 10 million square feet of interior luxury projects in the U.S., England, and France for several decades. Personally, he rescued a house in the Swiss Avenue Historic District in Dallas that had been condemned as “unfit for human occupation” and made it a showplace and has contributed substantially over the years to historic preservation projects.

Our Vision We Wish To Share With You on The Bartlett House and Gardens By the Greater Malakoff Area Garden Club

- 1 Initially, we at least wanted to rescue the site of the Bartlett House, even though we thought we couldn't or wouldn't be able to save the house because of the cost and magnitude of the repair needed, so our initial plan was to leave the Bartlett House as a ruin in the magnificent gardens we believe we could resurrect and construct. Initially, we believed we could save the skeleton of the house that represents three significant elements of Malakoff's history:
 - It was built by the founder of the longest, continuously run industry in Malakoff, which has survived because of T.A. Bartlett's discovery of white brick, which subsequently allowed the industry to produce unique colors of brick -- a significant niche in the brick industry -- which afforded the town's survival during the depression and, subsequently, in the 40s when the town's only other major industry, the coal mines, were closed down, to today, which now represents one of Acme Brick's plants (still producing unique colors of brick);
 - The search for gravel to make cement for the house's construction resulted in the discovery of one of the seven most significant archeological finds in the Americas, the Malakoff Man, and furthered archeological research in the area to confirm the validity of the scientists' conclusions that the Malakoff area along the Trinity was the site of a tribe approximately 30,000 -- 50,000 years ago that produced the only evidence of an art form during that period in the Americas;
 - The gardens -- now considered "heritage gardens" -- were renown during the Bartlett's occupancy of the home, and the Greater Malakoff Area Garden Club believe there is sufficient flora remaining and donors of heritage plants available to recapture that period and the gardens' reputation.
- 2 Then, because of the analysis of our esteemed project manager, Terrance Wegner, we discovered that the incredibly beautiful and unique architecture that made the Bartlett House desirable to visit in the past can be resurrected and restored, which we know would be of great interest for many types of people:
 - Architects, contractors, castle aficionados;
 - Gardeners, state-wide garden club members , even the national association of garden clubs, which plans to meet in Texas, Oct. 2009;
 - Geologists and archeologists;
 - Historians, genealogists; brick collectors or those interested in the industry of brick-making,
 - Local residents, lake visitors, people interested in purchasing property in the area; antique collectors/shoppers;
 - Tourists interested in a unique Texas experience;

- People interested in purchasing or learning about heritage plants and gardens.
- 3 Our plan includes the following steps:
- Clear the property so people can see what a gem we have found buried in the overgrowth, weeds, and debris, adjacent to the brickyard;
 - Secure the property;
 - Develop a scope budget on costs and time parameters to save the house;
 - Obtain historic designation for this historic site;
 - Immediately begin resurrecting the heritage gardens that exist and begin expansion of the landscaping and gardening to create an attraction for the spring/summer, 2009;
 - Beg for donations, trade, and/or purchase of heritage plants to “fill out” the basic landscaping plan;
 - Fix the outdoor patios, furniture, and parking facilities in order to accommodate visitors in the spring/summer/fall of 2009;
 - Clean up the outside of the Bartlett House itself, initially treating it as a “ruin” and construction site (not for entrance) in the midst of the heritage gardens until appropriate funds can be raised to save the house and garage – both important architecturally;
 - Create the marketing, flyers, and press about the Bartlett House and Heritage Gardens, so tourists, lake visitors, or local people can learn about heritage gardens and/or purchase heritage plants and enjoy the unique experience the Bartlett House and Heritage Gardens will offer;
 - Apply for grants and solicit funds to save the house in order to provide a place for luncheons, dinners, weddings, meetings, social activities;
 - Provide on-going funding of management through fees/sales of books, memorabilia, other relevant things (e.g. special bricks, photographs of the site, local art) and heritage plants.
- 4 If the small volunteer garden club could rescue the second oldest hotel in the state of Texas -- the Excelsior Hotel -- in Jefferson, Texas, generally considered moribund but approximately the same size as Malakoff in the 1960s, to become one of the most popular tourist destinations in Texas, we believe Malakoff can accomplish a similar feat through the resurrection of the Bartlett Home and Gardens in 2009-2010 – particularly given its close proximity to the lake -- once its people have the full knowledge of the importance of the Bartlett House and Heritage Gardens to their community’s history and survival.
- 5 We know Malakoff, Texas, will become a destination location in East Texas, which will benefit all its businesses, its downtown, the lake, and its people.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU COULD DO?

- 1 Make sure you sign the picture in the Bartlett House (this weekend only)!!**
We plan to frame it, and it will be something you can bring your children and grandchildren to see in years to come. You were here at the beginning! You're part of the history of this project, and it will be displayed in the Bartlett House when it is open after restoration.
- 2 If you have heritage plants or bulbs from the 1930s-40s you would like to donate,** please contact lyn@fhautism.com or drop us a line at P.O. Box 897, Malakoff 75148. We will recognize your generosity and, again, your plants will become part of the resurrection of the Bartlett House and Heritage Gardens.
- 3 If you are interested in joining us,** the Greater Malakoff Area Garden Club takes anyone interested in our projects, whether or not they have a "green thumb." We have monthly meetings, but we keep everyone informed as to what we'r doing on our projects who gives us their name. If you want a membership, they are as follows:

Individual membership	\$25
Life membership	\$250
Business Life membership	\$500
- 1 If you want to learn more about the history of Malakoff, we are publishing a book titled, *Malakoff, Texas*,** (over 400+ pages of pictures and stories), which will be out in 2009. It costs \$49.95 and you can reserve your copy today.
- 2 If you would like to volunteer to work in the gardens or you have some skill or object you'd like to donate,** please contact our president, Lyn Dunsavage Young, at edunsavage@aol.com or write Box 897, Malakoff 75148,

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US OR BUY SOMETHING, please write a check to GMAGC and specify what it is for and give it with this form to the person at the registration desk today or you can send it to Box 897, Malakoff 75148.

OR IF YOU'D LIKE TO DONATE PLANTS OR SOMETHING to take part in our project, please specify what you'd like to do below and leave this at the registration desk:

We thank you for coming to our "Before" party and hope you enjoy yourself!

CIRCA 1930

