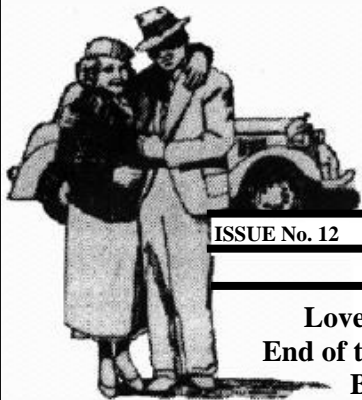


# On The Road To Gibsland

**BARROW-PARKER NEWSLETTER**P.O. BOX 225803, DALLAS, TEXAS 75222  
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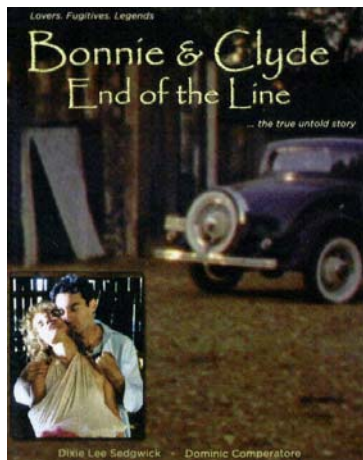
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See past "On The Road to Gibsland BARROW-PARKER NEWSLETTER" at <http://www.swhistorical.com/>

## Lovers, Fugitives, Legends . . . End of the Line ...the true untold story By Dixie Lee Sedgwick



If I start at the beginning there may be no room to finish! Hopefully I can squeeze in everything here, if not, you must come to the festival this year so I can meet you and finish what I started in this article.

I am a transplant from Seattle to Dallas.

If I hadn't moved I would have never came across Joe Black, at that time the assistant Dallas Fort Worth Film Commissioner. Seattle and LA is where I worked as an actress and later commissioned writer and casting assistant.

When my family moved to Dallas I was introduced to the wise and out spoken Mr. Joe Black. He mentioned a story he felt I'd be right for and encouraged me to write a one woman play about "Bonnie Parker". In fact he said, "we get calls almost weekly on the subject at the Commission." I was resistant initially. Familiar with the 1967 classic film I had no interest in the people being portrayed. That resistance

chipped away after spending months at the downtown library, research and interviews with family and historians opened my eyes to a very interesting, thought provoking, compelling story that I believe needs to be told. I wrote the play "Little Blue-eyed Girl" and invited Marie Barrow to our first preview. She brought a whole entourage of folks. It was through her I met Jonathon Davis, Ken Holmes, Boots Hinton and Buddy Barrow. These gentlemen later participated in Q&As after matinee performances. Marie seemed pleased and as we took pictures together, she said, "I made a great Bonnie Parker and liked the play fine." But reminded me that Clydes eyes were brown not blue and Bonnie was not a whiner. "Oh, was I whiney?" Probably, since I was absolutely nothing but nerves. Never having performed in a one person play I was terrified, all that pressure and no fancy lighting or gimmicks to rely on. Looking back it was an actors dream. Joe wanted me to learn the old fashioned way of vaudeville performance, intense focus and action leads the way in a one person play. We premiered the play in Fort Worths Circle theatre in Sundance Square. I changed the title to, "Inside Bonnie Parker" for marketing purposes. Ken Holms and Boots Hinton brought the 67 Movie Car and parked it outside the theatre. We received rave reviews and later awards for acting, directing and writing. Later, John Neal Phillips and I were the guests on Glenn Mitchells National Public Live Radio Show. It was here I was schooled about the general knowledge the public had about these fugitives and felt that I somehow had a responsibility to tell the whole story.

We worked our way up the Arts ladder in NYC and changed the title again to, "Bonnie Parker" ending up at the John Houseman Theatre Center off 42<sup>nd</sup> St. Jonathon Davis and Jim Knight came to NYC on separate occasions to talk with audience members and Knight brought his exact replica 1934 Ford V-8 death car, for our Off Broadway run. I remember one night in NYC after a performance a teenager walked up to me and asked, "Is this a true story?" "Yes, it is" I said. "Wow, that's even cooler!" was her response. We get that same reaction with the film.

The play closed in May and I came home a bit depressed. After a high always comes a low. Having performed this piece over 100 times I wasn't sure whether it was time to get off the horse or keep riding. I decided to take a break and let her rest. I registered for a film workshop that spun me around and shot me off in the direction I've always wanted to go. Elaine Zicree taught the class and advised me to write a short script, shoot it, and use that as a calling card to shoot the feature. She invited me to LA to pitch my story to their Roundtable, she said they may be interested and would work for free. Because the play had a track record, and the fact that I've done extensive research with a unique perspective and we were shooting on film, were a few reasons we had a group of industry professionals committed to this project. Off to the races again, I was writing, editing, writing and cutting. Elaine said yes to directing and a fellow actor from LA, Dominic Comperatore would play Clyde. I formed an LLC, got an entertainment attorney, talked with a few of my investors and raised the money to shoot the short which would cover; little things like: a period match box and a lantern, costumes, big things

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### NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

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This will help reduce the cost of postage and printing. All the newsletters are on the website. These are downloadable and printable.  
<http://www.swhistorical.com>

## THE AUTHENTIC BONNIE AND CLYDE FESTIVAL 2007 GIBSLAND, LOUISIANA

It's time for fun and good times at the "Bonnie and Clyde Festival". Plan to spend the day with us during the afternoon May 25 & all day on May 26 for the festival. We plan to take you back to 1934 where you will witness bank robberies and shoot-outs in the streets. You will see a factual reenactment of events surrounding the demise of the infamous outlaws, Bonnie and Clyde. If you've never been to this festival you have missed a one-of-a-kind experience. If you have been before we know you will want to return!!

The Town of Gibsland, created in 1883 with the coming of the railroad, recaptures the 1930's with events for the Bonnie and Clyde Festival that reminds one of a long-ago day when it was a thriving village of several thousand inhabitants who were there and saw the passing of Bonnie and Clyde, who killed and robbed during the early 1930's.

On May 23, 1934 Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow purchased their last meal at Ma Canfield's Café in Gibsland and headed to their hide-out. At 9:15 a.m. nine miles southwest of Gibsland on highway 154 Bonnie and Clyde were blasted into history as Bonnie still held her half-eaten sandwich. Bullets pounded into Clyde's stolen V-8 Ford and Bonnie screamed like a panther as the two met their death! Hidden in the brush on top of a hill, six officers-four of them from Texas and two from Louisiana-pumped over a hundred bullets into their car before Bonnie or Clyde could raise a hand, or a gun, in self-defense. They blasted Clyde's Ford because they were afraid he was about to shoot his way out of the trap set for them. The ambush made headlines around the globe and gave birth to a legend that has long out-lived the officers who ambushed them. The festival shows that crime does not pay but honors the four Texas officers and the Bienville Parish Sheriff and Chief Deputy who put their life on the line to end the career of the notorious outlaws. The festival also aims to honor the law officers today who put their lives on the line for us everyday.

The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Festival will begin on Friday with vendors setting up after 1:00 p.m. These vendors will be selling many delicious foods, arts and crafts on Friday afternoon and all day Saturday!

On Friday night a gathering of historians will meet for the "Lorraine Joyner Memorial Historians Meeting" held in the Gibsland Grill at 6:00 p.m. Admission to the meeting is \$7.00 and this includes a delicious meal of jambalaya, salad and dessert. Ken Holmes of Southwestern Historical, Inc. and co-owner of the "Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum", will preside over the meeting and has lined up several speakers for the much-anticipated event. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting so please come and join us for an interesting and informative night. This will be one of the highlights of the festival that you will not want to miss!

Please be sure and come early Saturday morning and enjoy the pancake breakfast at the Lions Club building from 8:00-10:00 a.m. for \$5.00 per plate. Live entertainment will begin at 9:00 a.m. Our stage will feature continuous entertainment with Don Miley and others with various types of music. A schedule of events will be posted at the Gibsland Grill, The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Museum and the "Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum". At 12:00 there will be a parade with many antique cars, floats, motorcycles, etc. to thrill the viewers. Please bring your children to the parade for a spectacular time!



We are excited to have for this year's festival a 320" wheel base Peterbilt Bonnie and Clyde Truck Tractor on display. The truck is named Bonnie & Clyde and it is decorated to look like a 1934 Ford. There will also be a Bonnie and Clyde display trailer. You will want to join the crowd and see this display!

The streets will come to life Saturday with the sound of guns firing blanks. The gangster group "Public Enemy" puts the "authentic" in "The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Festival" by reenacting the shoot-outs with actors, dressed in clothing of that time period, portraying Bonnie and Clyde and their gang. They will be driving antique automobiles and armed with blank-firing submachine guns bringing this period of history alive. We will be having more shoot-outs this year with four held downtown and late in the afternoon gun smoke will billow from the trees as the Bonnie

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big things like; shooting on film, acquiring a 1932 Ford V-8, period location, editing and other film essentials. With the blessing of my husband and family, my truck packed, I made the drive from Dallas to LA and back again seven weeks later.

The aspiration is; create a work that is challenging, motivating, thought provoking, inspiring and historically true. Not interested in glamorizing nor victimizing them. I've found that most people love a good story, but above that, they love a true story. It's that peeling away the layers and complexities that invigorate and inspire me to dig deeper. That's where I find satisfaction, in the profound dichotomies of human nature. My interest is in the people, why they made the choices they did and in order to do that you have to be willing to look closely into their lives, family dynamics, the culture of the times, the media and prison life. Bonnie and Clyde lived during one of the most difficult eras in American History.

They say it's a gutsy piece, that it forces you to look deeper into yourself, into Bonnie and Clyde and into society as a whole. I hope that's true, as that's the goal.

Come to Gibsland this year where we will screen the film I'll share what I've learned and we'll have a Q & A discussion. Should be exciting and revelatory.

The short film is the precursor to the feature film currently in development.

[www.bonnieandclydeendoftheline.com](http://www.bonnieandclydeendoftheline.com)

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and Clyde ambush is re-created at the spot where the famous outlaws died. The automobile will come to rest in a ditch, just as the real death car did 73 years ago!

"The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Museum" will be open Friday and Saturday all day with free admission. The official festival t-shirts will be sold in the museum along with various other souvenirs. Gibsland Bank and Trust's booth will also be selling the official festival shirts. Proceeds from these official festival shirts and souvenirs are what provide this wonderful festival for everyone to attend. Read about Bonnie and Clyde in historical newspaper articles and see a large exhibit of photographs and memorabilia of the couple at "The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Museum". The museum also has historical pictures of the town and local artifacts. Plan to take a part of history home with you by purchasing souvenirs, ranging from newsprint history, books, or postcards. "The Authentic Bonnie and Clyde Museum" will be something you will not want to miss!

Make sure you visit the "Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum" that occupies the exact historical location in Gibsland, La. of Ma Canfield's Café where Bonnie and Clyde dined for the last time. Here you will experience a trip back to 1934 when the most notorious outlaw couple of all time met their bloody fate in a deadly ambush. Meet L. J. "Boots" Hinton who is the museum spokesman. He is the son of Deputy Sheriff Ted Hinton who was a participant in the actual ambush. The "Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Museum" is something you will really want to see!

For information please call Gibsland Bank and Trust at (318) 843-6228.

#### LORRAINE JOYNER MEMORIAL HISTORIANS MEETING

Time - 6:00P.M. - Jambalaya Dinner - Cost: - \$ 7.00

Location: Meeting room of Gibsland Grill

Program: - Speakers and Discussions, Ends 10:30 P.M.

For more information call Ken Holmes (214) 747-2362

## DONOR PROVIDES EMMA PARKER WITH HEADSTONE

Anonymous donor gives Emma Parker (Bonnie's Mother.) a headstone and it was placed at Crown Hill Cemetery in Dallas at her grave site next to Bonnie.



Some of the attendances for the headstone unveiling. Deborah Moss, Buddy Barrow Williams, Rhea Leen Linder (Bonnie Ray Parker), Ken M. Holmes, Jr., David Otis and photo by Annette Brown.

### Shirt to be Auctioned

The families and friends have signed this one of a kind shirt to raise funds for headstones for the other family members. This is to be auctioned on Ebay.



Buddy Barrow Williams, Deborah Moss, Rhea Leen Linder (Bonnie Ray Parker), L.J. "Boots" Hinton

## FRIENDS WE WILL MISS

### FRANK HAMER, JR. RETIRES TO THE SKIES

Frank Hamer, Jr. had some big footsteps to follow in. After all, his father—Frank Sr.—was one of the top Texas Rangers in history: he was involved in dozens of gunfights and was responsible for killing Bonnie and Clyde. The old man blazed a wide trail across Texas.

So Frank Jr., born in 1918, took a different way—in the skies. He became one of the first law enforcement officers in the country to carry out his duties from the pilot seat of a plane. And he spent nearly 30 years, from around 1950-80, flying as a game warden for what became the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. It was a job he was meant for.

Frank Jr. was proud of his law enforcement record, telling stories about his work up until his death on September 18, 2006, in San Marcos, Texas. Frank Hamer, Jr. was 88. He'd done what he set out to do—make a name for himself, apart from that of his father.



Frank Hamer, Jr. Son of Texas Ranger Frank Hamer, Sr. who was the most well know of the Bonnie and Clyde Ambush Lawmen.



Martha J. Palmer

Martha Parker was the niece of Joe Palmer one of the Barrow/Parker Gang Member.

### McConal, Patrick

Author of "Over The Wall—The men behind the 1934 Death House Escape" Patrick McConal, 43, a published author and historian, died unexpectedly at home Thursday, July 21, 2005. Cause of death was undetermined Saturday pending results of an autopsy. Inurnment: Bryan Cemetery. Mr. McConal was a native of Bryan, but spent his early childhood in Fort Worth, where he lived for a period two years ago. McConal was publications coordinator for the Texas Transportation Institute, a division of Texas A&M. He received his bachelor of science degree from Texas A&M in 2002 and was working on his master's thesis for a degree in history at Sam Houston State University. He was the eldest son of retired Star-Telegram reporter and columnist Jon McConal. Patrick McConal was author of "Over the Wall," the story of the escape of eight Texas Death Row inmates from Huntsville State Prison, a feat engineered by the notorious Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker. McConal was considered to be a budding expert of Texas crime history in the 1930s. He graduated from Bryan High School.

### Martha J. Palmer

Memorial services for Martha J. Palmer, 68, of Lubbock will be at 2 p.m., Friday, July 28, 2006 at Redbud Baptist Church in Lubbock with the Rev. Syl Moore officiating.

Martha passed away Monday, July 24, 2006 in Lubbock.

She was born Nov. 14, 1937 in Eunice, New Mexico to the late Leo Ellis and Alma Lucille (Waldrop) Palmer.

Martha was a 1956 graduate of Seminole High School, a member of the Redbud Baptist Church in Lubbock and the Order of Eastern Star. She moved to Lubbock in 1998 from Dallas.

Martha is preceded in death by a brother, George Palmer.

Survivors include a son and his wife, Jay E. and Sue Williams of Carrollton; a daughter and her husband, Ollie "Tinker" and Gary Ellison of Lubbock; a brother and his wife, Melvin and Pam Palmer of Arkansas; seven grandchildren, Latasha Ellison Pharris, Chris Ellison, Amanda, Kevin, Patrick, Jaime and Mary Lou Williams; and five great grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials to Redbud Baptist Church or the American Diabetes Association.