



**NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: R. W. Fair

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: THE FAMILY OF R. W. FAIR (Attention: Bob Garrett)

Address: P. O. Box 1084

City: Tyler State: TX Zip: 75710

Daytime telephone: 903- 510- 6517 Email: bob.garrett@fairoil.com

Relationship to nominated individual:

Nominated Individual's year of death: 1965

Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710

Few have created a greater impact on their Community, their State, Nation and the World, than R.W. Fair achieved during his lifetime. Born of humble beginnings near Arp in 1886, RW Fair was a highly successful Farmer, Oilman, Philanthropist, and Religious and Civic Leader.

Both of RW Fair's Parents were school teachers and he was grateful for the education he received at Summer Hill Select School near Omen. His first job was a rural (horseback delivery) mail carrier during which time he became interested in growing Peaches and Pecan trees. In 1923, he moved his family to Tyler and by the 1930's, he had established large peach and pecan plantations in Texas and Arkansas and developed several varieties that are still popular today. One of his earliest ventures was the Texas Pecan Nursery located in Tyler, which was the largest Paper Shell Pecan Operation west of the Mississippi. RW would later quip that business's whose name begin with the letter "P" were always very good for him!

In 1931, Mr. Fair leased one of his Peach Orchards to a Dallas Oilman named H.L. Hunt, who had recently drilled a successful oil producer on a farm just down the road. That well, the Daisy Bradford #3 proved to be the discovery well for the vast East Texas Field. One of the early subsequent wells Hunt drilled was the RW Fair Peach Orchard Well that was completed in March 1931 producing 2300 barrels per day. Although RW Fair had no experience in the Oil Business, his Entrepreneurial instincts took over and shortly thereafter, he became the first individual to finance 100% working interest in a well drilled on his own property with 100% Royalty interest. The rest is history and Fair was in the "P"etroleum business, successfully developing fields in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Louisiana and Mississippi. When asked about his fortunate circumstances, Mr. Fair replied, "The Lord placed me on this site, I expect to put the income where it will help somebody besides me. Our family lited before we had oil". Just 3 years later, in 1934, Mr. Fair and his wife Mattie, established the RW Fair Foundation, which continues their legacy of generosity and service to the Community still today.

During his lifetime, some of Mr. Fair's many accomplishments included funding over 1000 College Educations for theological students worldwide; He served on the Board of Trustees of both SMU and Lon Morris College for 39 years; With the establishment of the Fair Religious Film Service in 1947, he paid for the production of several full length faith based motion pictures translated into languages from around the globe; He printed and distributed over 12 Million copies of "A better world begins with Me" pamphlets worldwide. He was a long time member of Marvin United Methodist Church, serving as Chairman of the Board of Stewards and taught Men's bible study.

Until his death in 1965, Mr. Fair remained very active in the Tyler community. Some of his activities included Chamber of Commerce Officer, Bank Director, President of the Tyler Rotary Club, Chairman of the Salvation Army, Director of the East Texas Fair Association; President of the East Texas Boy Scout Council, TISD Board of Trustees and Treasurer of the Texas College Advisory Committee. He was a Founder and first President of the East Texas Hospital Association (now ETMC) and a Trustee of Houston Methodist Hospital. In 1941, he received the T.B. Butler award for Tyler's Outstanding Citizen.

R.W. and Mattie Fair had 3 children; Wilton Fair, James Fair and Martha Fair Dubell, all of which inherited R.W. Fair's spirit of service and generosity. Our world, and particularly our Community is a much better place due to the efforts of this family for over 7 decades.

RECEIVED

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HALF MILE OF HISTORY

Honoring R.W. Fair

THURSDAY, Feb. 24, 2011

11 A.M.

GALLERY MAIN STREET

I. MAYOR OPENS THE CEREMONY with welcome.

II. MAYOR CONTINUES with review of the Half Mile of History program.

- **Background Information:** The City of Tyler's historic preservation program, the Half Mile of History, resulted from a recommendation that came out of the Tyler 21 planning process. The fifth goal of the Historic Preservation Chapter is:
- *"Promote and display diverse aspects of Tyler's history to enhance resident and visitor awareness of its importance."*
- The goal of the Half Mile of History is to pay tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the rich history of Tyler and Smith County.
- The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor, half-mile loop that surrounds the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. Stone plaques are placed in the sidewalk along the Half Mile of History to commemorate significant people, places or events.
- **Previous Half Mile of History honorees** include Governors Hubbard, Hogg and Roberts; Sen. Thomas Glover Pollard, the Tyler Woman's Building, Shirley Simons, Doc Witt, Texas College and several other important people and places in our history. R.W. Fair will be our 25th nominee to be so honored.
- **And now I would like to introduce City Manager Mark McDaniel, who will share with us the history of R.W. Fair.**

III. CITY MANAGER reads history of R.W. Fair:

R.W. Fair was born near Arp in 1886 and grew to become a successful pecan farmer, oilman, philanthropist and religious and civic leader.

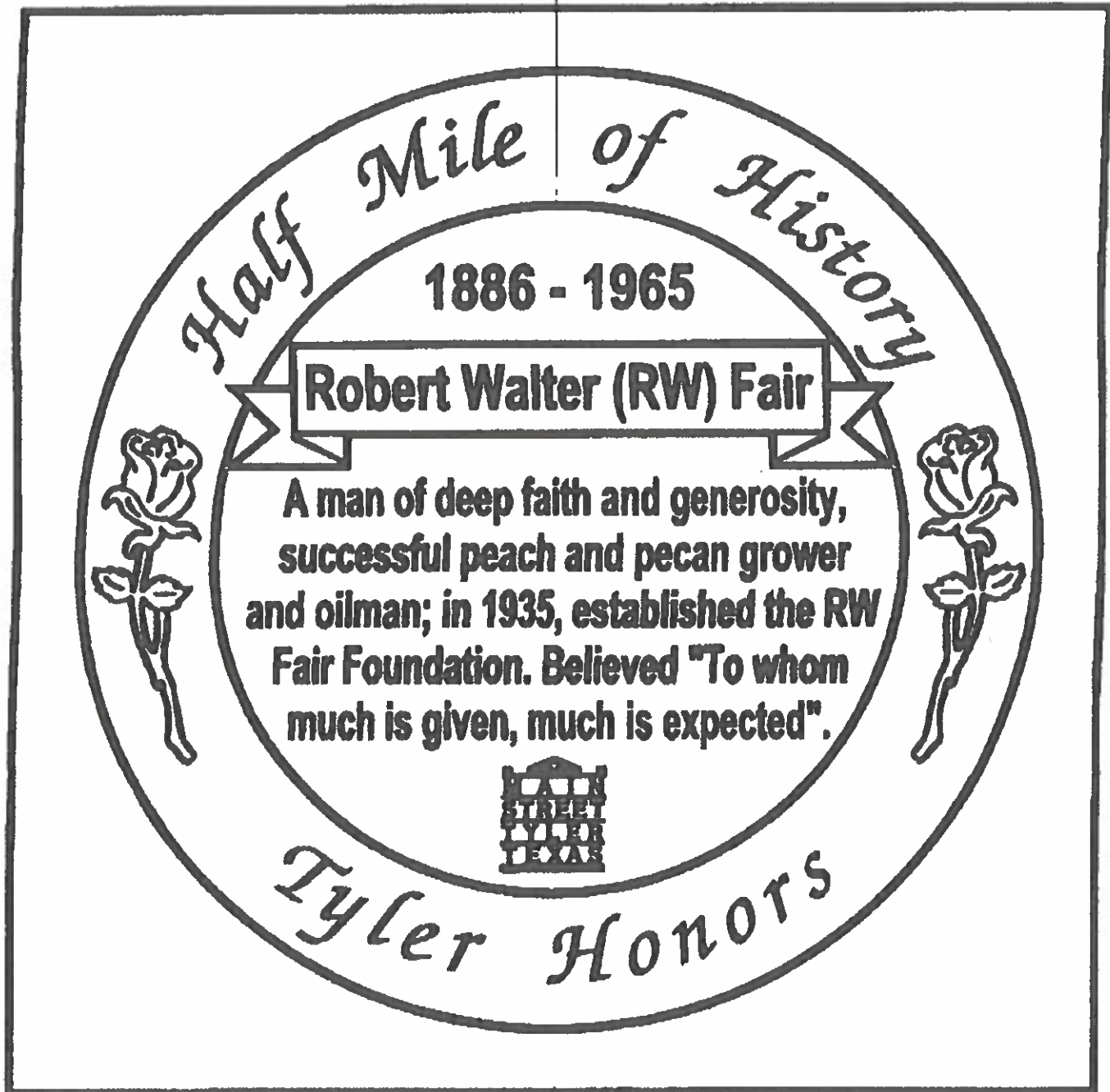
In 1923, he moved his family to Tyler and by the 1930s he had established large peach and pecan plantations in Texas and Arkansas. One of his earliest ventures was the Texas Pecan Nursery located in Tyler, which was the largest paper shell pecan operation west of the Mississippi.

In 1931, Fair leased one of his peach orchards to a Dallas oilman who had drilled a successful oil producer on a farm just down the road. Although R.W. Fair had no experience in the oil business, his entrepreneurial instincts took over and shortly thereafter, he became the first individual to finance 100 percent working interest in a well drilled on his own property with 100 percent royalty interest. The rest is history and Fair was in the petroleum business, successfully developing fields in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Colorado, Louisiana and Mississippi.

In 1934, Fair and his wife, Mattie, established the R.W. Fair Foundation. During his lifetime, Fair's many accomplishments included funding over 1,000 college educations for theological students worldwide, serving on the Board of Trustees of both SMU and Lon Morris College for 39 years, financing the production of several full length faith-based motion pictures translated into languages from around the globe, printing and distributing over 12 million copies of **A Better World Begins With Me** pamphlets worldwide and serving as a long-time member of Marvin United Methodist Church, where he was Chairman of the Board of Stewards and taught men's Bible study.

Until his death in 1965, Fair remained very active in the Tyler community. Activities included Chamber of Commerce officer, bank director, president of the Tyler Rotary Club, chairman of the Salvation Army, director of

2



Approved

1/5/11

ThanksHeather
Rich

the East Texas Fair Association, president of the East Texas Boy Scout Council, TISD Board of Trustees and treasurer of the Texas College Advisory Committee. He was a founder and the first president of the East Texas Hospital Association (now ETMC) and a trustee of Houston Methodist Hospital. In 1941, he received the T.B. Butler award.

VIII: MAYOR asks representatives of R.W. Fair to the podium.

IX: MAYOR congratulates representatives of the nominee and presents certificate.

- **MAYOR** then invites the representatives to remain and help her unveil the new marker.
- **MAYOR** invites representative to offer response.
- **MAYOR** again congratulates representatives and asks members of Council present to comment.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

X: MAYOR thanks everyone for attending and reminds those in attendance that the next Half Mile of History ceremony is set for Thursday, April 28th at 11 a.m.

Light refreshments served in the gallery.

12/20/2010

Fort Worth Monument Company
5811 Jacksboro Hwy
Fort Worth, TX 76114
Main Number: (817) 625-2721
Fax Number: (817) 624-8428

James,

Please remit proofs to 903-531-1170.
We are expecting to have our ceremony on February 24th.
Please let me know when these will be ready for shipment.

Note: NEW Shipping instructions.
Please call the day before delivery.
Deliver to Street Department, 3305 Frankston Highway, Tyler, Texas
Phone: (903) 531-1393 or (My direct line) 903-531-1174
Deliver between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

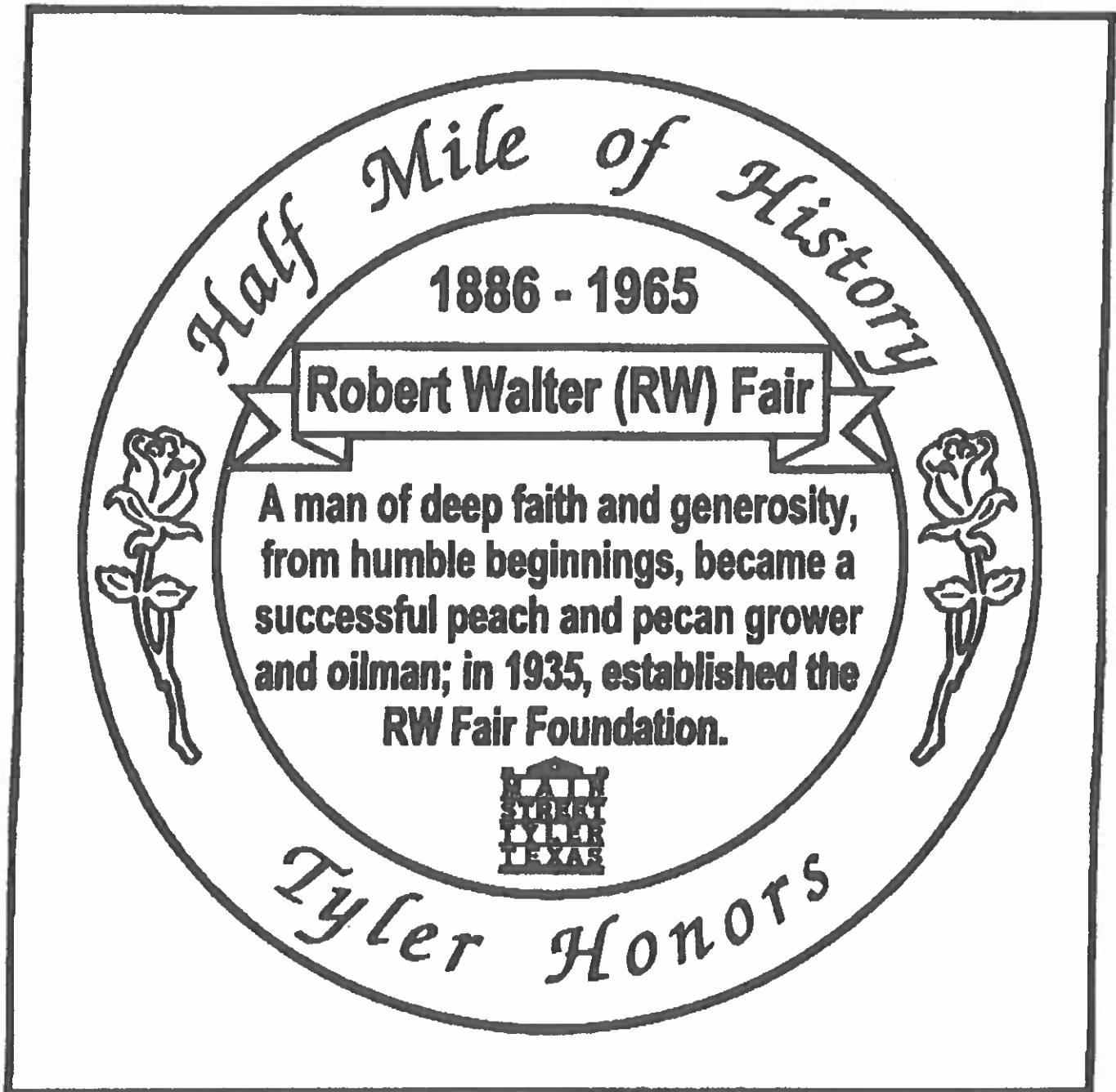
ROBERT WALTER (RW) FAIR

1886 – 1965

A man of deep faith and generosity, from humble beginnings, became a successful peach and pecan grower and oilman; in 1935, established the RW Fair Foundation. Believed “To whom much is given, much is expected”.

Thanks,
Heather
Principal Planner
903-531-1174

①



A77J:
Heather

I can not fit all of the lettering.
Here are 2 proofs that can work.

Thank you James

Heather Nick

From: Bob Garrett <bob.garrett@fairoil.com>
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 6:00 PM
To: Heather Nick
Cc: Fariba Pouraryan
Subject: FW: R. W. Fair stone

Heather, will this work? Let me know your thoughts. Thanks, Bob

From: Fariba Pouraryan
Sent: Friday, December 03, 2010 8:51 AM
To: Bob Garrett (bob.garrett@fairoil.com)
Subject: R. W. Fair stone

Bob,

Heather needs the following for the stone:

- Name Robert Walter (RW) Fair
- Date of Birth May 24, 1886
- Date of death December 10, 1965
- A summery and highlight of Mr. R. W. Fair that describes his attributes in about 35 words... It cannot be too long or it will not fit on the stone. This is trial & error kind so it may go back & forth a few times. Please have it to Heather by early next week so there is ample time to engrave and have it ready for the Ceremony.
A man of deep faith and generosity, from humble beginnings, became a successful Farmer and Oilman; In 1935, established the RW Fair Foundation; Believe "To whom much is given, much is expected".

Fariba Pouraryan
Assistant to Bob Garrett
903-510-6534
903-510-6542 (Fax)

No virus found in this message.

Checked by AVG - www.avg.com

Version: 10.0.1170 / Virus Database: 426/3294 - Release Date: 12/03/10

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Version: 10.0.1170 / Virus Database: 426/3294 - Release Date: 12/03/10

About the

Half Mile of History

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A Natural Beauty

Half Mile of History Marker Unveiling

in honor of

R. W. Fair

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011

R. W. Fair, who founded the R.W. Fair Foundation with his wife, Mattie, joins historic figures such as T.B. Butler, Shirley Simons, Lady Willie Lee Glass, Brookshire's and others honored with inclusion in the Half Mile of History.

Fair was born near Arp in 1886 and grew to become a successful pecan farmer, oilman, philanthropist and religious and civic leader.

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Half Mile of History Marker Unveiling in honor of

R.W. Fair

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2011

Opening Remarks: Mayor Barbara Voss

*Half Mile of History honoree history by:
City Manager Mark McDaniel*

Unveiling of Marker and Certificate Presentation

Responses

Special Announcements

Adjourn; reception following