

THE SIXTIES

With Dallas assisting, the Fort Worth Chapter was founded in 1960. In the early days, about 20 -25 members regularly attended meetings in Dallas. As required by AGA National, most of the meetings had speakers who discussed topics of a technical nature related to accounting or auditing. In addition to the technical presentations, other meetings covered subjects of local or general interest.

The chapter learned in September 1960 about "Computers and the Federal Government" from Dr. Kenneth Crider from IBM, and the next month members heard about the proposed new Presbyterian hospital from Roderic Bell. Pros and cons of the Trinity River Canal project (which as we later learned did not make Dallas a port city) and "Woman's Lib and What's Wrong with the Post Office" must have generated lots of interest. SA Earnest Gentry the District Director of the Bureau of Narcotics in Dallas warned of the dangers of drugs in November 1960. Jack Pearce told the chapter how they were "Accounting for the Management Gap" at the Post Office. Speakers in 1961 included David Phillips, GSA regional commissioner (January), Robert Lewis DOD assistant Director of accounting and finance (April), and Forrest Sorrels SAIC of the Dallas Secret Service Office (September).

The Officers serving with Smith Blair Jr. in the 1961-62 year were Walton H. Sheley Jr., vice-president; James H. Clarke, treasurer; Virginia L. Johns, secretary; John H. Adams, Carroll G. Campbell, John H. Ellis, Stephen D. Michell, Claude Y. Parker, Richard A. Reed and William J. Robinson, directors. We are not sure what the topic was in October 1962 when Max Clampitt, president of the Clampitt Paper Company, spoke - maybe "The Beverly Hillbillies"? While the members listened to Darrell K. Glenn from GSA discuss "Accountability" on November 21st 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald was getting ready that night to go to the School Book Depository Building the next morning to change history in Dallas.

B. M. Myers, Jr. one of the charter members of the chapter, was sworn in as Post Office Regional Director in the Courtroom of U.S. District Judge Joe Estes in March 1964. A native Texan, Mr. Myers rose from postal clerk to the top postal job in Dallas at the age of 51. Mr. Myers addressed the chapter at the April meeting. Other speakers in 1964 included Louis S. Lyon, regional director of the U.S. Civil Service, who spoke on "Men, Jobs and Money" (January) and Clyde Skeen, executive vice-president of Ling-Temco-Vought, who spoke on "Let's Talk about Decision Making" (February). Albert O. Doffort, a charter AGA member, supervisory auditor with Army Audit, and veteran of World War I, died in an auto accident in Dallas on October 17, 1964.

Sometime between April 1964 and September 1967, the Dallas AGA meeting place changed from the Downtown Club, used since 1957, to the Melrose Hotel in Oaklawn. At the September 1964 meeting, Sam L. Carter, WFAA's accounting manager spoke to the chapter about "Federal Income Tax - Its Use as a Means for Directing the Economy."

In October 1967, members heard from Glenn Scott of Southwestern Bell on "The Magic of Communications." In November 1967, Dallas Mayor Erik Jonsson addressed the group. Mayor Jonsson was probably the most beloved and successful mayor in the history of Dallas. He was a founder and CEO of Texas Instruments and during four terms as mayor he led Dallas back in recovering from the negative image resulting from the Kennedy assassination. The Central Library is named on behalf of Mayor Jonsson and the legacy of his visionary leadership is still felt in Dallas today.

The "Club Activities" section of the Dallas Morning News regularly chronicled chapter meetings in the 1950's and 1960's, but sort of dwindled and ceased in the mid- 1970's. That section of the News noted that William Dow, director of the Civil Service Commission Office Skills Training Institute, spoke to the members on "Report Writing Pitfalls" in April of 1968. Dow was followed the next month by James Kelly, assistant secretary comptroller of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare who spoke on "Progress in Financial Management." HEW functions have been reshuffled and reorganized many times over the years and now HHS, Education, and Social Security are each separate organizations. Nathan Cutler, the FGAA national president was the guest of honor for the joint meeting with the Dallas and Fort Worth chapters in February of 1969 at the Western Hills Inn in Fort Worth.