



HM # D9-14-005



NOMINATION FORM HALF MILE OF HISTORY

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: EARLE BRADFORD MAYFIELD

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

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

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: LEE G. MAYFIELD / SAM C. KIDD

Address: 3770 CANYON HEIGHTS RD. / 17595 SOUTHPOINT RD.

City: BELTON / WHITEHOUSE State: TX / TX Zip: 76573 / 75791

Daytime telephone: 254-939-5559 / 903-839-8483 Email: lmayfield@vvm.com / sskidd66@qol.com

Relationship to nominated individual: GREAT NEPHEW / RESEARCHER + NEIGHBOR

Nominated Individual's year of birth: 1881 Nominated Individual's year of death: 1964

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. The two-page narrative submittal must utilize size 12 Times New Roman font and be double spaced. Please include a recommended 25-30 word marker caption at the end 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

Earle B. Mayfield – Proposal for Half Mile of History Recognition

Earle Bradford Mayfield was an influential attorney, politician and civic leader who resided in Tyler during the last 34 years of his life. Among his accomplishments was being elected by the citizens of Texas to serve in the United States Senate, the third highest elective office in the nation. He also was elected to the powerful Texas Railroad Commission, serving ten years in that capacity.

Born April 12, 1881 about 14 miles east of Tyler in Overton, Texas, Earle was the son of Col. John Blythe Mayfield and Mary DeGuerin. The family owned Mayfield Grocery Company, a large wholesale provider of grocery products throughout Texas.

Earle completed Overton Public Schools and graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown and The University Texas Law School. Mayfield first practiced law in Meridian, Bosque County, Texas. His skill as a lawyer and orator were immediately recognized, for the people of Meridian first elected him City Attorney and then, in 1907 at the age of 26, he was elected to the Texas Senate.

Earle B. Mayfield married Ora Lumpkin on June 19, 1902. They had three sons: John S. Mayfield, Earle B. Mayfield Jr. and Horace M. Mayfield. John lived in Washington DC, Earle Jr. practiced law with his father in Tyler and Horace became a doctor in Galveston.

In 1912 Mayfield was elected to an unexpired term on the Texas Railroad Commission. At age 31, he was the youngest person to hold that post. The citizens of Meridian elected him to two additional six-year terms on that powerful board, in 1914 and 1920.

Mayfield had become active in the state Democratic Party and in 1922 he resigned from the Railroad Commission to campaign for the United States Senate.

One major issue in the campaign was Mayfield's staunch support of Prohibition, while his opponents favored repeal of the law. Although Mayfield had resigned his membership in the Ku Klux Klan in January 1922, some also held that membership against him. The campaign included lawsuits among both Republicans and Democrats, challenging certain candidates' right to run for the Senate. These issues would trouble Mayfield when he arrived in Washington in March 1923.

Mayfield was triumphant in two Democratic Party runoff elections and won the Senatorial election in November 1923 with 70% of the votes, compared to Republican George E.B. Peddy's 30%. He swept Smith County by a 5 to 1 margin. During his six years in the U.S. Senate, Mayfield authored four pieces of legislation that were enacted into law, focusing on agriculture and transportation issues.

Senator Mayfield was defeated in 1928 in his attempt for a second term in the U.S. Senate and lost a bid for Texas Governor in 1930 while practicing law in Austin.

Mayfield moved permanently to Tyler in 1931, just as the oil boom was hitting. He opened Mayfield, Grisham, Patterson & Grisham Law Firm on the second floor of the Swann Building. Partners included Judge James S. Grisham. By 1933 Mayfield & Grisham Law Firm occupied the entire top (14th) floor of the new People's National Bank Building, the most prestigious office space in East Texas.

In Tyler, Senator Mayfield and his wife Ora lived first at 436 S. Fannin, then in 1942 they moved to 505 S. Chilton, where they lived the rest of their lives.

In addition to practicing law for over 30 years in Tyler, Senator Mayfield was active in several civic organizations. In 1953 he became president of Mayfield Grocery Company, which had moved its headquarters to Tyler many years earlier and was conducting its regional wholesale grocery business from several facilities in eastern Texas. Mayfield also served as vice president and a director in U.S. Wholesalers and Growers Association.

Senator Mayfield died at age 83 on June 23, 1964 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. He was a member of St. John's Masonic Lodge 53 of Tyler, Smith County Bar Association, Marvin Methodist Church, Scottish Rite, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Woodmen of the World and Knights of Pythias.

Ora Lumpkin Mayfield was born Feb. 20, 1883, died Oct. 10, 1979, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. In addition to being Earle's faithful wife and active worker in Marvin Methodist Church, she a founder and first president of the local chapter of Daughters of 1812. Also she was a member of Daughters of the American Revolution, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Colonial Dames, Tyler Woman's Forum, and co-founder of Tyler Day Nursery.

There are several side issues that surround Senator Mayfield's life in Tyler that help explain why he was such an iconic figure in Tyler.

- One of his secretaries, Jo-Carroll Dennison, was Miss Texas and Miss America in 1942. Because of her efforts entertaining troops during the War, she was made an honorary Marine Sergeant. She had a career as a model in Paris and was married to comedian Phil Silvers.
- Earle and Ora's grandson, Earle B. Mayfield III, died in 1957 at age 7 of leukemia and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. The children's reading room at the Austin headquarters of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas is named for him.
- Earle Mayfield owned a ranch in Meridian, Bosque County, Texas all of his adult life, where he raised and bred registered cattle.
- Nancy Reagan was the guest of honor for a fundraising tea hosted by the Tyler Republican Women's Club at the Mayfield home at 505 S. Chilton in 19xxx.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

"Tyler Daily Courier-Times, Oct. 11 and Nov. 8, 1922.

"Tyler City Directories", 1932 – 1946.

“The New Handbook of Texas”, vol. 4 & 5.

“A History of Tyler and Smith County, Texas” by Dr. Albert Woldert.

“Tyler & Smith County Texas: An Historical Survey”, by Robert W. Glover and Linda Brown Cross.

“Chronicles of Smith County Texas”, vol. 39-1, 40-1,

“Texas Almanac”, 1991 & 1936.

“A Chronological History of Smith County Texas”, pages 33, 59, 63, 71.

Sam C. Kidd, Aug. 7, 2014

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Earle Bradford Mayfield was an influential attorney, politician and civic leader who resided in Tyler during the last 34 years of his life. Among his accomplishments was being elected by the citizens of Texas to serve³ in the United States Senate, the third highest elective office in the nation. He also was elected to the powerful Texas Railroad Commission, serving ten years in that capacity.

Born 14 miles east of Tyler in Overton on April 12, 1881, Earle completed Overton Public Schools and graduated from Southwestern University in Georgetown and The University of Texas Law School.

Mayfield married Ora Lumpkin on June 19, 1902. They had three sons: John S. Mayfield, Earle B. Mayfield Jr. and Horace M. Mayfield. John lived in Washington DC, Earle Jr. practiced law with his father in Tyler and Horace became a doctor in Galveston.

Mayfield first practiced law in Meridian, Basque County, Texas, where his skills as an orator and lawyer were immediately recognized. He was elected City Attorney and then in 1907, at the age of 26, he was elected to the Texas Senate.

In 1912 Mayfield was elected to an unexpired term on the Texas Railroad Commission. At age 31, he was the youngest person to hold that position. Then he was elected to two six-year terms on that powerful board, in 1914 and 1920, serving eleven years in all.

Mayfield had become active in the state Democratic Party and in 1922 he resigned from the Railroad Commission to campaign for the United States Senate. One major issue in the campaign was Mayfield's staunch support of Prohibition, while several of his opponents favored repeal of the law.

Mayfield was triumphant in two Democratic Party runoff elections and won the Senatorial election in Nov. 1923 with 70% of the votes, compared to Republican George E.B. Peddy's 30%. He swept Smith County by a 5 to 1 margin. During his six years in the U.S. Senate, Mayfield authored four pieces of legislation that were enacted into law, focusing on agriculture and transportation issues.

Senator Mayfield was defeated in 1928 in his attempt for a second term in the U.S. Senate and also a run for Governor in 1930.

In 1931 Senator Mayfield moved to Tyler, because his family's business, Mayfield Grocery Co., was headquartered here and because of the booming oil field business. He opened a law office first in the Swann Building on the Square. As soon as the new People's Bank Building was available, he and law partner James S. Grisham leased the entire fourteenth (top) floor, which was the most prestigious office space in East Texas.

Ora and Senator Mayfield lived first at 436 S. Fannin, then in 1942 they moved to 505 S. Chilton, where they lived the rest of their lives.

In addition to practicing law in Tyler for over 30 years, Senator Mayfield was active in several civic organizations, including St. John's Masonic Lodge 53, Smith County Bar Association, Marvin Methodist Church, Scottish Rite, Kappa Sigma Fraternity, Independent order of Odd Fellows, Elks Club, Woodmen of the World and Knights of Pythias. In 1953 he became president of Mayfield Grocery Company, which conducted its regional wholesale grocery business from several facilities throughout eastern Texas. He also served as vice president and a director of U.S. Wholesalers and Growers Association.

Senator Mayfield died at age 83 on June 23, 1964, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

Earl Andrews, born in Austin in 1907, moved to Tyler in 1916. He graduated from Tyler High School and upon graduation, worked as a bookkeeper at Peoples National Bank and then for the Wadel-Connally Company.

Andrews was the first president of Tyler Little Theatre, which later became Tyler Civic Theatre. He also served as president the Civic Music Association and on the boards of Community Concerts Association, East Texas Symphony Association and Tyler Museum of Art, in addition to being president of the Retail Merchants Association and Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, director of Tyler Industrial Foundation and on boards of Tyler Savings and Loan Association and Citizens First National Bank.

Andrews was chairman of the Mental Health and Mental Retardation Regional Center and was instrumental in bringing MHMR to Tyler; re-named Andrews Center in his honor in 1990.

Andrews served on a myriad of local boards and civic groups, many time in leadership roles.

In recognition of his life of service, he received the T. B. Butler award and W. C. Windsor awards.

Earle Mayfield was born April 12, 1881, in Overton, His family owned Mayfield Grocery Company, a large wholesale provider of grocery products throughout Texas.

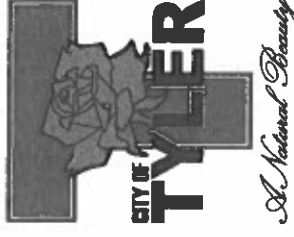
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Mayfield moved permanently to Tyler in 1931 and opened Mayfield, Grisham Patterson & Grisham Law Firm on the second floor of the Swann Building. By 1933 Mayfield & Grisham Law Firm occupied the entire 14th floor of the new People's National Bank Building, the most prestigious office space in East Texas.

In addition to practicing law for over 30 years in Tyler, Senator Mayfield was active in several civic organizations.

Sen. Mayfield died at age 83 on June 23, 1964, and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.



Half Mile of History

Marker Unveiling

In honor of

Earl Andrews and
Sen. Earle Mayfield

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Opening remarks: Mayor Martin Heines

Half Mile of History honoree biographies read by:

Historic Preservation Board Member Danny Noteware

Historic Preservation Board Member Vicki Betts

Unveiling of Marker and Certificate Presentation
Responses

Special Announcements

About the

Half Mile of History

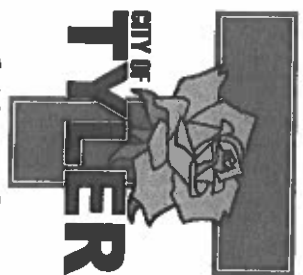
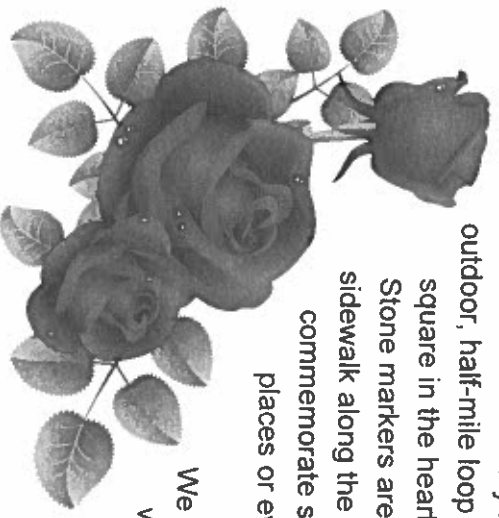
The City of Tyler's historic preservation program, the Half Mile of History, resulted from a recommendation that came out of the Tyler 1st (formerly Tyler 21) planning process. The fifth goal of the Historic Preservation chapter is:

"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 markers are placed in the sidewalk along the Half Mile of History to commemorate significant people, places or events.

We encourage you to view all of the markers to learn more about our history.



A Natural Beauty

Half Mile of History

Marker Unveiling

In honor of

Earl Shubert and

Sam Earle Mayfield

Tuesday, April 14, 2015



Earl B. Mayfield - April 12, 1956



