

**CITY OF TYLER  
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**



**Agenda Number:**

**Date:** August 27, 2008

**Subject:** Request that the City Council consider designating Wood T. Brookshire as a Half Mile of History recipient.

**Page:** 1 of 2

**Item Reference:** Half Mile of History Preservation Program

The Half Mile of History is a cultural and historic landmark program paying tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County. The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor walk-around loop that covers an approximate one-half mile stretch of sidewalk surrounding the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. People, places and events chosen for the Half Mile of History are honored with a commemorative plaque placed in the sidewalk.

One of the responsibilities of the Tyler Historical Preservation Board is to recommend people, places and events to be included in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. On August 6, 2008, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Wood T. Brookshire for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A brief narrative follows.

Wood T. Brookshire moved to Tyler in 1928 and opened his first store on the east side of the downtown square. This small 2,500 square foot store would prove to be the cornerstone for today's Brookshire Grocery Co. The company had the distinction of operating the first air-conditioned grocery store in East Texas, at the corner of Front Street and Broadway. Today, Brookshire Grocery Company has more than 150 supermarkets operating in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi. As the company grew, Brookshire's opened it's first warehouse on Dean Street in 1953. The Tyler Distribution Center opened in its current location on South Loop 323 in 1968. Under Mr. Brookshire's leadership the company has thrived and currently operates three distribution facilities with more than two million square footage, and employs approximately 12,000 people (of which 2,500 are in Smith County).

In addition to providing fair-priced products of the highest quality for Tyler consumers, Mr. Brookshire was the director of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce in 1945 and served on the Tyler School Board from 1941 to 1950. Brookshire's also built the Brookshire's World of Wildlife Museum and Country Store in Tyler, which hosts more than 40,000 visitors annually. With Mr. Brookshire's strong belief in being involved in the Tyler community, Brookshire's Company continues its commitment in helping local charities and schools.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Tyler Historical Preservation Board recommends by a vote of 8-0 that the City Council designate Wood T. Brookshire as a Half Mile of History recipient.

*Barbara Holly*

**Drafted/Recommended By:          Barbara Holly**  
**Department Leader**

**Edited/Submitted By:**

Approved by HP 8-0

8/27/08  
Spoke w Sam  
Anderson on  
Congress for  
player he  
wanted "the"  
removed. could  
problem get  
it changed?



NOMINATION FORM  
HALF MILE OF HISTORY

**Section A: Nomination Information**

Name of Nominated person, place or event: Wood T. Brookshire

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

10/20/08  
left vme  
& follow up  
w/ e-mail  
to verify  
about  
presented

**Section B: Nominator's Information**

Name of person making nomination: Sam Anderson

Address: P.O. Box 1411

City: Tyler State: Texas Zip: 75710

Daytime telephone: (903) 534-3112 Email: samanderson@brookshires.com

Relationship to nominated individual:  
Employee of company founded by Mr. Brookshire

Nominated Individual's year of death: 1977

**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

Legal rev. 2/18/08

RECEIVED

JUL 07 2008

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Wood T. Brookshire opened his first store near the downtown square in Tyler, Texas, in 1928. This small 25 x 100-foot store served as the beginning of today's Brookshire Grocery Company. Today, Brookshire Grocery Co. has more than 150 supermarkets operating in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi.

The grocery business was a very competitive industry with numerous stores in Tyler when Wood opened that first store in 1928. At his memorial service in 1977, Dr. W.M. Shamburger, then pastor of Tyler's First Baptist Church, said, "In 1928 he was numbered among 1,000 grocerymen in East Texas. Today, he stands alone at the top."

Wood succeeded by founding the company with strong convictions in a "people first" operating philosophy, encouraging a service-driven attitude among all who worked along side him and rewarding them with competitive wages and generous benefits. He created the company's profit-sharing plan in 1960. He truly believed the grocery business was his calling – a way for him to serve his fellowmen by providing fair-priced products of the highest quality for consumers and a partner-style work environment for employees.

Wood also believed in being involved in the communities where the company operates, including Tyler. For example, he gave a \$1,000 scholarship grant to a deserving Tyler Junior College student in 1966. At the time, it was the largest presented to any one TJC student. He was the director of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce in 1945 and served on the Tyler School Board from 1941 to 1950.

Brookshire's made history in several ways during its early days under Wood's leadership. The company had the distinction of operating the first air-conditioned grocery store in East Texas, at the corner of Front Street and Broadway in Tyler. This store opened in 1939 after fire destroyed another location. When Bergfeld Shopping Center debuted in the 1940s, it featured a brand-new Brookshire's store. Today, Brookshire's still stands in this historic shopping district – a newer, larger version with modern amenities yet the same friendly charm as always.

As the company grew, with stores starting to pop up across East Texas, Brookshire's opened its first warehouse on Dean Street in 1953. The Tyler Distribution Center opened in its current location on South Loop 323 in Tyler in 1968. Through the years, the company continued to experience healthy growth, building new stores in new markets and branching into even more territories by acquiring stores from other operators.

*still own property*

The company currently operates three distribution facilities – two in Tyler and one in Monroe, La., with more than 2 million total square-footage and a fleet of tractor-trailer rigs. Brookshire Grocery Company's internal manufacturing facilities include bakery, dairy, ice cream, yogurt, fresh-cut, ice and water/drink plants, all in the Tyler area, which produce a wide variety of award-winning products such as the popular Goldenbrook Farms Premium Ice Cream.

Brookshire Grocery Company currently employs approximately 12,000 people who are proudly referred to as "partners." Of these 12,000, approximately 2,500 are in Smith County.



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HALF MILE OF HISTORY**

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Name of person making nomination: Sam Anderson

Address: P.O. Box 1411

City: Tyler State: Texas Zip: 75710

Daytime telephone: (903) 534-3112 Email: samanderson@brookshires.com

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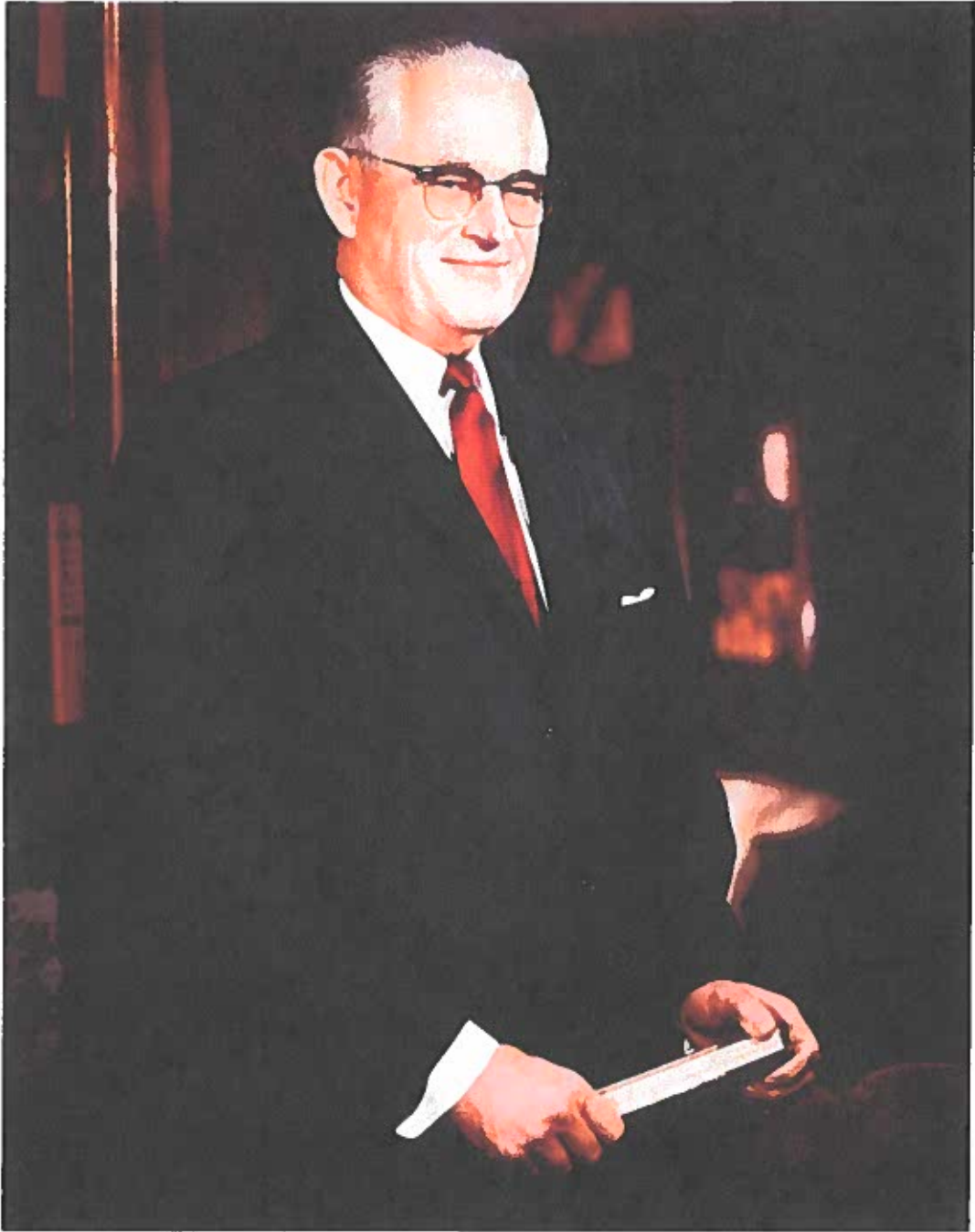
## Bernadette Spitz

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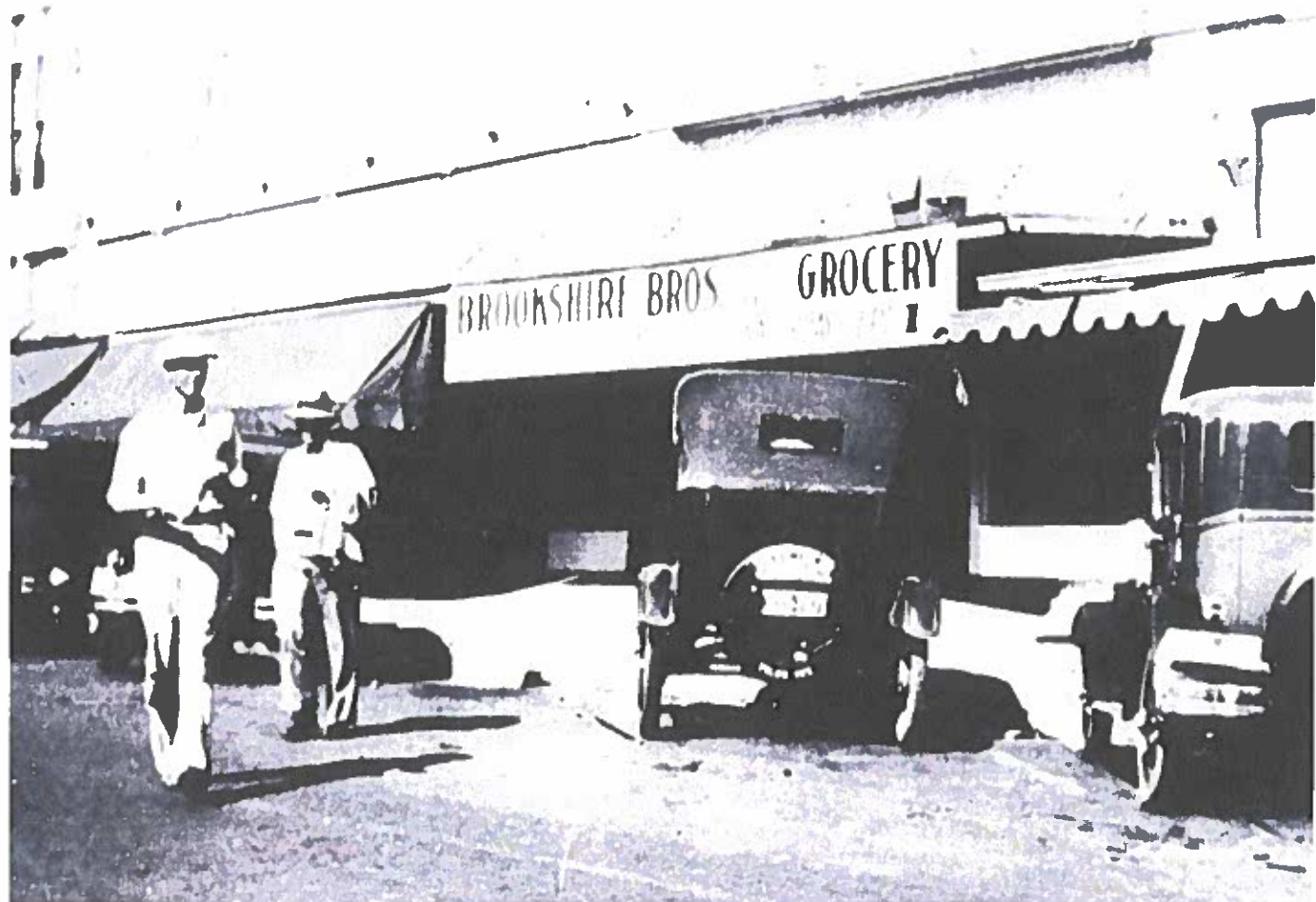
**From:** Sam Anderson [samanderson@brookshires.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 25, 2008 9:14 AM  
**To:** Bernadette Spitz  
**Subject:** Re: Half Mile of History

1904

> From: Bernadette Spitz <bspitz@tylertexas.com>  
> Date: Tue, 19 Aug 2008 17:05:56 -0500  
> To: Sam Anderson <samanderson@brookshires.com>  
> Conversation: Half Mile of History  
> Subject: Half Mile of History  
>  
> Mr. Anderson:  
>  
> I am working on your application of Wood T. Brookshire for the Half  
> Mile of History designation and I was hoping that you could tell me what year Mr.  
> Brookshire was born? Thanks for your help. Bernadette  
>  
> Bernadette Spitz  
> Senior Planner, Historic Preservation Officer City of Tyler  
> 903.531.1173  
> bspitz@tylertexas.com  
>







BROOKSHIRE BROS GROCERY