



## Garland Landmark Society

GarlandHistorical.org

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## Bootlegging in Garland 1920-1933 - The Prohibition Years - Part 2



**Anderson Park Tourist Camp, c. 1920 - 1933. This plot of land is located north of Mills Cemetery between what is now Commerce St. and State Hwy. 66. Donated by the Killion Family. Garland Landmark Society Archives.**

Previous *OnTrack* articles outlined a brief history of gambling and bootlegging in the Garland area during Prohibition. For this article, we dig into one location that was hopping during the Prohibition years. That speakeasy was known informally as the Green Lantern. (It was understandably not listed in any local business directories.)

The Green Lantern was situated on the Anderson Park Tourist Camp property, to the north of Mills Cemetery. It was a popular hangout during Prohibition not only for the locals, but for people further afield. For example, there was a highly publicized shooting involving four patrons in 1925. Not one of the four was local – they all came to the Garland/Rowlett border from downtown Dallas. The Anderson Park Tourist Camp and the Green Lantern were owned by the Killion family. They had purchased the land from bootleggers right around the time the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment was ratified, although the actual date of the purchase is a bit nebulous.



**Interior of the "Green Lantern" speakeasy, January 1932.  
Donated by the Killion family.**

This area, north of Mills Cemetery, was full of deep creeks at the turn of the last century, and cold, clean water flowed through those waterways. Additionally, the deep embankments and thick treeline obscured any illicit activities in the creek bottoms. Once the sun set, it was pitch black in the woods, further cloaking the illegal pursuits.

The Killion family was friendly with many law enforcement officers. They were often given a courtesy warning to get their affairs in order before the sheriff arrived. This gave the family time to put away all gambling equipment and hide the moonshine. There was a tap in the Green Lantern attached to a button in the floor. This button could be stomped on to switch the tap from delivering whiskey to plain water. By the time the sheriff arrived from downtown Garland to the border of Rowlett, no evidence of anything wayward was to be seen.

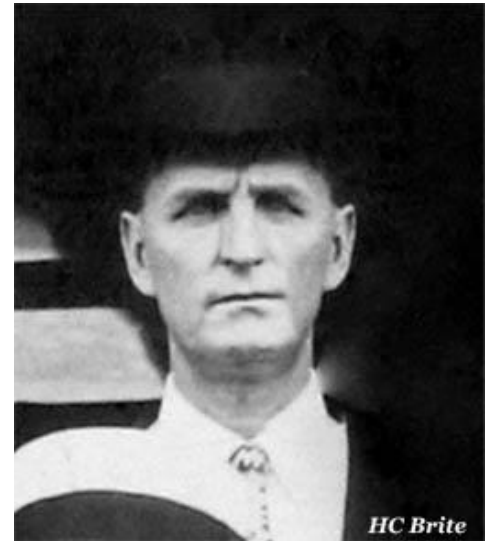
Professional courtesies aside, not everything ran smoothly at the Green Lantern. Things went decidedly south in spring 1931 when Killion family members began quarreling amongst themselves. According to the April 23, 1931, *Dallas Morning News*, the words being exchanged were over "business interests." The outcome was that Ed Corley, 45, shot Luther Killion, 30, non-fatally through the leg. Ed Corley was an uncle by marriage to the Killions.

The police were not called over the shooting as (it was assumed) the family had no desire to involve local law enforcement for something as trivial as a bullet in the leg. The initial shooting of Luther happened around midnight, although the reported details are scant. A second round of shootings on the property would happen near 4:30 a.m., which not only resulted in a fatality, but the necessity of calling local law enforcement to the scene.

Arther (not Arthur) Killion, age 17, was the brother of the recently shot Luther Killion. Arther, who must have taken this shooting much more personally than Luther, hunted his uncle Ed Corley

down with the same shotgun used earlier in the night and killed him.

Deputy Sheriff HC Brite received a personal phone call from Arther Killion. Arther then arranged to give himself up on the Garland Square. Brite is also listed as the person who brought charges.



Brite and Arther Killion were personal friends, hence the call. Arther was taken into custody on charges of murder in Justice John Baldwin's court. Arther made no statements other than "self defense" and did not make an effort to bond out of jail.

The last paragraph of the *Dallas Morning News* article states: "This story was that the two men had a disagreement about midnight in the tourist camp office and that Corley threatened to shoot Killion. Some time later another argument started and as Corley went to the place where a shotgun was kept, Killion took it from a new place where he had hidden it, and the shooting followed."

Arther Killion was ultimately "no billed" meaning that no charges were filed. It is not known whether that was because he was underage, because it was felt that the case was self defense or for some other reason. It is simply listed as "no billed."

But our story with Arther Killion is not finished. Months later, he was then charged with not one, not two but three charges of automobile theft. In one spectacular instance, the car he stole

belonged to one Mrs. BF Morton. This theft resulted in a high-speed chase through northern Dallas County. Law enforcement included Deputy Sheriff John Chisea [sic] and Ted Hinton. The police, frustrated, shot at the fleeing automobile repeatedly. At one point, the car swerved into a ditch. Arther Killion, his passenger Punkin Payne and an unidentified woman, fled from the car in various directions, through a field. Punkin Payne and Arther Killion were apprehended and charged with felony theft. The woman's fate is not included in the story.

In an entertaining bit of reporting on the court case, the Oct. 26, 1933, *Dallas Morning News* carried the testimony of Mrs. BF Morton, of 4105 Worth Street, Dallas.

Testimony:

Attorney: Was the car damaged any when it was returned to you?

Mrs. BF Morton: Well, the ventilating system was changed.

Attorney: How was that?

Mrs. BF Morton: There were 37 bullet holes in the back.

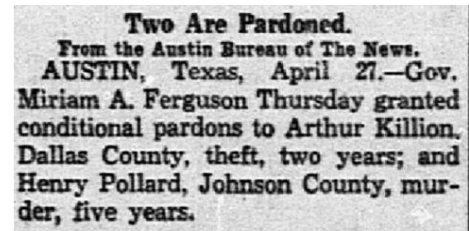
Arther Killion was found guilty in three grand felony cases and given two years in each to run concurrently. Others from whom he was alleged to have stolen cars: A Reichenstein at Bryan Parkway and HC Leak, Fakes Furniture Company.



**Miriam "Ma" Ferguson, the 29th and 32<sup>nd</sup> governor of Texas. Image courtesy of Wikipedia.**

It appears that Arther Killion was given a pardon by none other than Governor Ma Ferguson. According to local papers "April 27, 1934 – Austin, Texas – Governor Miriam A Ferguson Thursday

granted conditional pardons to Arthur Killion, Dallas County, theft, two years...."



April 28, 1934 *Dallas Morning News*

March 1933 appears to have been a rough month for the Killions as neighbors complained so much about the shenanigans at the tourist camp that it was padlocked by police. Quite a few people came to testify in defense of owners, though, to no avail. On the other side, several law enforcement officers testified that they had been to the tourist camp numerous times, "so many times since that I can't keep track of them."

Deputy Bud Walker under cross examination said that he had not been able to make any cases 'stick' against any persons at the Anderson Park. The attorney, Mr. Dailey, asked, "Isn't it a fact that the officers aren't smart enough?" Deputy Walker responded, "Well, you know those people get some pretty smart attorneys."

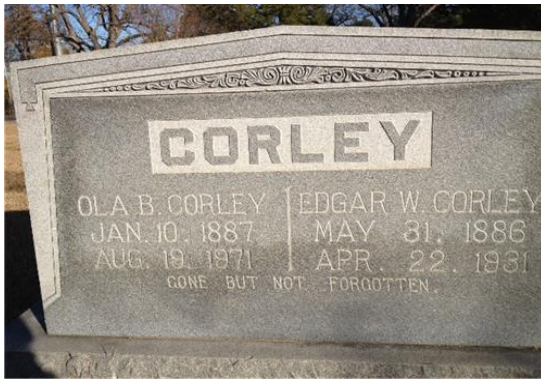
After his pardon, Arther Killion went on to work in the pickle factory in Garland. In the 1940 census, he was listed as working in "vinegar" at the plant. His wife also worked in the pickle factory at the time.



**Headstone of Luther Lee Killion at Garland's Mills Cemetery.**

To close out our story on the Killions for now, Arther is buried in Restland Cemetery. However, Luther Killion and his uncle, Ed Corley, are both

buried in Mills Cemetery, just yards away from where Anderson Tourist Camp and the Green Lantern once stood.



**Ed Corley's headstone at Mills Cemetery in Garland. Image courtesy of FindAGrave website.**

Watch for the next *OnTrack* article to learn more about Garland during the Prohibition years.

Deputy Sheriff HC Brite, who received the call that Ed Corley was deceased, is a main character in the upcoming third instalment on local bootlegging.

-- Written by Holly Stevens

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## **Landmark Museum celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Heritage Crossing hosted a festive party Saturday, Sept. 28, to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the [Landmark Museum](#). Everyone enjoyed games and food, along with some great music. In addition, Mike Hayslip, one of the original Landmark Society board members, was honored.

The Landmark Society was established in 1972 when City Manager Charles Duckworth assembled a group of volunteers to help preserve the city's history. In addition to Hayslip, other original board members were Joann Bardin, Wayde Cloud, Cecil Cooper, Curtis Crossman, Jr., Duane C. Holford, J. Elmer Newman, W. E. Peavy, Jr. and Dorothy O. Range.

Cooper was elected to be the society's first president, but he died soon after, and Hayslip became the next president.



**Mayor Scott LeMay, Emily Gray,  
Mike Hayslip**

The city Garland soon acquired the 1901 Santa Fe depot which provided the space for a museum so that the society could display artifacts and exhibits.

“Over the past 50 years, the museum has welcomed thousands of visitors, displayed a variety of artifacts and helped provide insight and understanding through special exhibits,” said Mayor Scott LeMay. “The Landmark Museum has taught us about the businesses that built Garland and the recreational activities that we’ve participated in. But more importantly, it has taught us about the people. Maybe more than anything, the museum has helped us appreciate that it’s not so much the artifacts or the buildings, but honestly it is the people that help connect us to the past and to the present and to each other.”

The mayor thanked the society's board members that have helped the Landmark Museum reach its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. He also thanked city of Garland employees Kim Nurmi and Emily Gray. LeMay began the special recognition of Mike Hayslip this way:

“Every town has a keeper of the stories, an old timer who remembers “back when” or a person who is the source. In Garland, that is Mr. Mike Hayslip.”



**Emily Gray, Sara James, Mike Hayslip, Carlotta Barnes**

The mayor added that 50 years ago when City Manager Duckworth was working toward preserving Garland's history, he recruited a young Mike Hayslip to serve with a group of elders.

"Through the years, Mike Hayslip has dedicated more time, more energy and more effort to express his deep love for Garland...On behalf of the city of Garland, and the Landmark Society, it is our pleasure to celebrate Mike's half-century investment in our city," LeMay said.

The honoree received a plaque, along with a new pair of bib overalls, his standard "uniform."

## **Kraft celebrates anniversary at Landmark Museum**

The Landmark Museum hosted the Garland Kraft plant's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary in July. The museum also debuted a Kraft exhibit that shares the plant's history. The exhibit is open until Dec. 28.

### **Highlights of Kraft's history shared in the exhibit include:**

James L. Kraft founded the company in 1903 when he began daily delivery of cheese to Chicago grocers. In 1909, the company incorporated as J.L. Kraft Brothers Company and began selling cheese in the Eastern U.S. market. They also opened a New York office. In 1914, the first factory opened in Stockton, Illinois to manufacture bulk American cheese. Within 20 years, Kraft became the world's largest company of its kind.

Kraft soon added more types of cheese, and in 1928, the company expanded to the South and began manufacturing salad dressing and other items.

From 1933-1949, the company had a popular radio variety show that Bing Crosby hosted for 10 of those years. From 1947-1958, the company also created a show called "Kraft Television

Theatre." In 1958, the program was revamped as a musical variety show hosted by Perry Como and ran for another 13 years.

In early 1949, Kraft moved its Southwestern Division headquarters from Denison to Garland. In April of the same year, the first food processing operations began in Garland. By May, Kraft had hired 275 Garland residents.

### **Present-day Kraft:**

The company continues to positively impact Garland and its economy.

According to Mayor Scott LeMay, the current staff totals 1,592 full-time employees with more than \$94 million in annual payroll. They own a 635,000 square-foot facility on approximately 50 acres and lease a 300,000 square foot facility for cold storage, fulfillment and logistics.



### **The future:**

"They [Kraft] have wanted to beautify their property, and we are working with them in conjunction with our improvements to Forest Lane," LeMay said.

There is also an upcoming expansion project that will add 200 new positions and increase Kraft's payroll by \$8 million, as well as increase utility usage.

**The Landmark Museum and the Pullman Railcar are operated by the Garland Landmark Society, a nonprofit, volunteer organization.**

**Open  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**



*Please join us as we work to preserve to Garland's history and share it with the community.*



Heritage Crossing has partnered with the Math Happens Foundation to provide math for all ages, shared at all places. Join us on the first Saturday of each month to explore math-based activities and discover the beauty and relevance of mathematics in the world around us.

**FREE PROGRAM**

First Saturday of each month  
 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Landmark Museum  
 393 N. Sixth St.  
 Downtown Garland

Questions? Email [Heritage@GarlandTX.gov](mailto:Heritage@GarlandTX.gov)  
[GarlandHeritage.com](http://GarlandHeritage.com)



**GarlandHistorical.org**

**Membership Rates:**  
**\$20 Individual/Couple**  
**\$100 Corporate**

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**PO Box 462232**  
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