

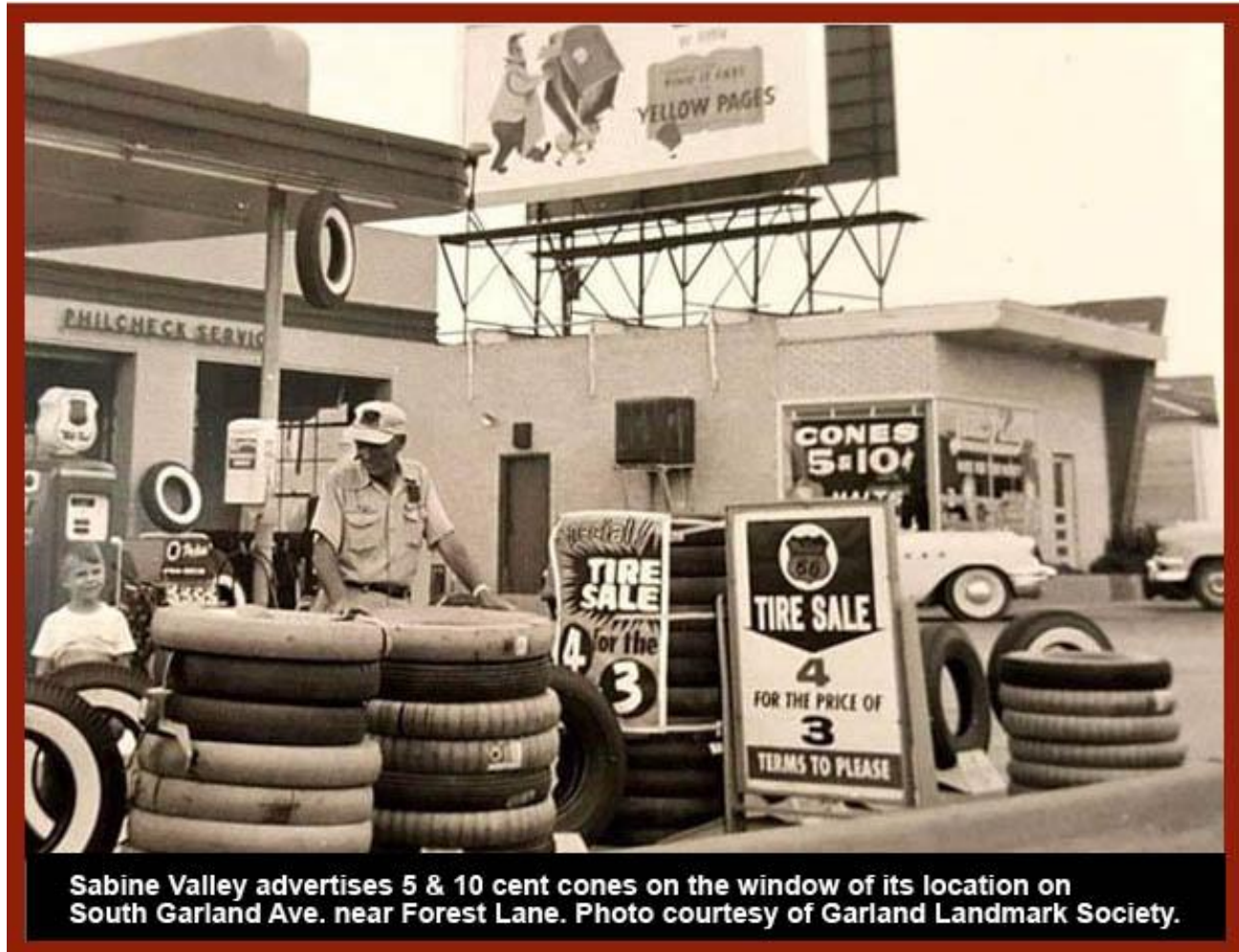


On Track

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Too much ice cream? Impossible.



The history that led to Garland's ice cream shops, including Sabine Valley and Dairy Queen, spans many years. A few mentions of other ice cream shops, including Coyle's, Sam C. Hall's, Souter's and Coolidge's, can be found, but little information is available. Sabine Valley and Dairy Queen are the ones that most folks remember, and of these two, Sabine Valley was the favorite.

The arrival of ice cream in America is believed to have been with the Europeans in the early 1700s.

According to a [Public Broadcasting Service article](#), the history of ice cream includes several United States presidents, prohibition and the military. The first ice cream parlor opened in New York in 1790, and in the

summer of that same year, President George Washington is said to have spent \$200 on the tasty frozen treat.

Later, President Thomas Jefferson purportedly owned several ice houses that contained huge amounts of ice cream. In addition, Mary Todd Lincoln often hosted strawberry parties and served those berries with cake and, of course, ice cream.

The frozen treat has grown in popularity and variety since then. An [article](http://www.eater.com) at www.eater.com reports that during prohibition, brewers such as Anheuser-Busch and Yuengling began making ice cream and soda to stay in business. And ice cream took the place of alcohol as a source of comfort for many. However, consumption of the treat decreased in 1929 when the stock market crashed.

This frozen comfort food also has a history with the military. During World War I, soldiers received ice cream as a “home comfort.” When World War II came around, ice cream had become an important part of American life. So, in the 1950s, when United States Marine Corps General Lewis B. “Chesty” Puller made the mistake of calling ice cream a “sissy food” it caused a national scandal!

Not much is known about Garland’s ice cream history in the town’s earliest years. But in the mid-1900s, ice cream was a popular part of life. In 1952 the ice cream shop believed to be the crème de la crème of ice cream shops came to town.

Sabine Valley

Sabine Valley Ice Cream Co. of Greenville, Texas, founded by Clyde and George Benbrook, opened its first Garland store in 1952 on S. Garland Ave. across from Garland High School. The second location opened in 1953 near the present intersection of Main St. and Hwy. 78. The company also had stores in Greenville as well as in several other North Texas towns.

Mrs. Marie May managed the first Garland location. It offered 10-cent ice cream cones, along with malts and milkshakes.

In the early 1950s, the company placed an advertisement in *The Garland News* which stated that their preference was to hire a “married lady with no children.” Imagine the reaction to that ad in today’s world.

In the early 1950s, a half-gallon carton of Sabine Valley ice cream was 50 cents. In 1958, five gallons cost \$4.



According to John Washington, retired Garland ISD administrator, Sabine Valley was one of the more enlightened restaurants during the era of segregation. He remembered that Lin-Dee's, a popular spot for hamburgers, was not as forward thinking.

“They [LinDee’s] would not allow Black folks to come in to sit and eat,” Washington said. “You ordered from a side window that you walked up to, stood outside and paid for it and received a burger in a sack to go.”

Sabine Valley had a different policy that allowed everyone, regardless of skin color, to sit inside and enjoy their ice cream.

“You walked inside, walked to the counter and ordered your ice cream or malts, and you had an option to sit inside to eat it or carry it out to go,” Washington said. “There was never an issue if you decided to sit in the air conditioning to eat your cold treat.”

Although Sabine Valley closed its doors many years ago, long-time Garland citizens continue to share memories and talk about their affection for the ice cream shop and its variety of flavors.

When asked about the ice cream store, everyone smiled as they shared their memories. Some remembered a trip to Sabine Valley as a reward for special accomplishments. Others look back on it as a favorite family outing. Some loved going there after school with friends.

Many cited Honeydew as their favorite flavor. According to a [Texas Monthly article](#), Eddie Bell, the grandson of Clyde Benbrook, once asked for the recipe. Bell said that his grandfather's reply was that there were no recipes. He then pointed to his head and said, "They are all up here."

The blog, [Homesick Texan](#), included an ice cream recipe that might be similar to the Sabine Valley version with one change. It calls for cantaloupe, but the recipe below is edited to replace the cantaloupe with honeydew melon.

Honeydew Ice Cream

- 2 cups diced ripe honeydew melon
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 2 cups half & half
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-4 tablespoons lime juice
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- ½ teaspoon salt

Directions: In blender, puree honeydew melon with ½ cup half & half. In pot, cook the honeydew puree with the cream and remaining half & half on medium heat until warm – do not let it come to a boil. Turn off the heat. Beat the eggs with the sugar, vanilla, lime juice, ginger and salt. Stir ½ cup of the warm liquid into the eggs and then pour egg and cream mixture into pot. Heat this mixture on medium-low while stirring occasionally for five minutes or until it gets slightly thick. You will know when it is ready when it coats the back of your spoon. Cool in the refrigerator for four hours.

Freeze and churn according to ice cream maker's instructions.

Dairy Queen



Dairy Queen made its Garland debut in 1950 on S. 14th St. (current S. Garland Ave. near Forest Ln.) across from Garland High School. Owner Horace F. Herring declared its specialties to be ice cream cones, malts, sundaes and shakes in a variety of flavors. Six months later, Glenn Branham bought the building, and the property became a car lot.



Fred Harris and Edgar Boyd purchased Herring's Dairy Queen franchise and equipment. Harris opened a DQ at another establishment he owned called Harris Restaurant at 2405 S. Garland Ave. (then called Dallas 'Hiway'). This DQ advertised that they sold "the cone with the curl on top," malts, sundaes, burgers and hot dogs. Cones cost 15 cents, and to celebrate the shop's first year anniversary, cones were free. Other anniversary specials included malts and shakes for 19 cents and sundaes were buy one, get one free.

An early pioneer's childhood recollections

In June 1959, another Dairy Queen opened across the street from Garland High School at 501 S. Garland Avenue. The owner was Graham Cain, and its specialties included ice cream, fountain drinks, sandwiches and chicken and shrimp baskets. It was popular with GHS students who snuck out of the school's windows for lunch and enjoyed a burger, fries and drink for 50 cents. The faculty discouraged this practice, but that didn't stop the students.

In April 1962, the Dairy Queen at the corner of First St. and Miller Road opened, and more than 60 years later it continues to serve ice cream, burgers and fries and more.

A Dairy Queen located at Broadway Blvd. near Interstate 30 also continues to offer a popular, familiar menu of items as well as a variety of ice cream treats.

Other Dairy Queens opened in Garland during the 1960s but have since closed. Some of those locations were Jupiter Road near Walnut St.; Miller Road near Shiloh Road; Plano Road near Buckingham Road; and Kingsley Road near Saturn Road.

Garland has been through many changes since DQ began doing business here. The borders have expanded, and the population has grown from 10,571 in 1950 to almost 250,000. But the love of ice cream continues as is evidenced today by the plentiful number of ice cream and yogurt shops.

Sources: www.garlandtx.gov, www.tshaonline.org, www.garlandhistorical.org

--Written by Sara James, Debbie Cawthon and Kim Everett

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.**

When Kate Jones James was 3 years old, she and her siblings and parents set out in a covered wagon for a trip from Tennessee to Texas. The family arrived in Texas in November 1855 and soon made their way to the area that Garland would later occupy.

When James was 76 years old, W.A. Holford, editor of *The Garland News*, asked James to commit her memories of pioneer life to paper for a series of articles.



The Prairie Schooner - a sway-back covered wagon in which many pioneers traveled to the area that eventually became Garland. Photo from collection of Garland Landmark Society.

James' recollections are informative and interesting glimpses of what life was like in the area before the birth of the City of Garland. The articles were published later in book form, *Sketches of Kate James: Dallas County Pioneer*.

In recalling her childhood, James wrote, "It will be amusing to the children of today to be told the way those children of the Wild West passed away the time."

That was true in 1926 when James wrote the articles, and it's still true in 2025.

The nearest town, Dallas, was 16 miles away and not very populated at the time. There was no place to buy toys until after the Civil War, so the kids improvised. They made balls using the raveling threads of worn-out men's socks.

"If we could find a piece of rubber to start the winding on, it made the ball bounce pretty well," James wrote.

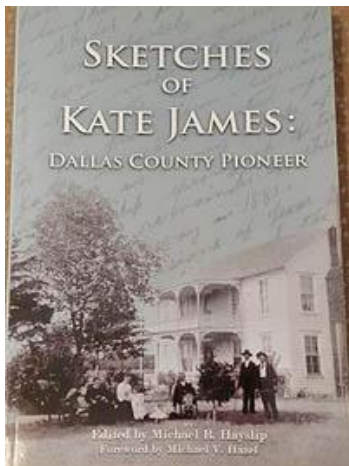
The children used the ball to play a game they called "Base," which was a simple form of today's baseball. They also played "Ante Over," a game in which the kids on one side tossed it over the house, and those on the other side caught it.

In another game called "Shinny," they used sticks to knock the ball into holes in the ground. The name was appropriate because when they hit the ball, they hit each other's shins. The children also enjoyed chasing rabbits and possums.

The girls played with primitive rag dolls made from scraps of fabric, and they used broken dishes for their playhouses.

"If someone could have given one of those little girls a set of the lovely painted dishes girls have today, she would almost have died from joy," James shared.

To make doll buggies, the kids would find a bleached white lower jawbone of a horse and fit cloth around it to make something like a basket. Then they attached a string to pull it.



At parties, the kids played games they had invented. Some of those were "Snap," "Pass the Thimble," "Hull Gull" and "Even or Odd."

It's difficult to imagine how today's kids, as well as adults, would exist without I-Pads and Smartphones and other conveniences. But they would most

likely do just fine, as it's all relative to the lifestyle to which they have become accustomed.

James' memories do not reflect a child's life that lacked in love or fun or adventure. It was a very difficult life based on today's standards, but it also sounds as though she quite enjoyed it!

Sketches of Kate James: Dallas County Pioneer was edited by Michael R. Hayslip, the great-great grandson of Kate James, and published with support from the Summerlee Foundation. The book is available at the Landmark Museum, 393 N. Sixth St. in downtown Garland.

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