



On Track

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Celebrating the life of Mike Hayslip



Michael R. Hayslip, 82, Garland historian and the last living founder of the Landmark Society and Museum, left this life June 19, 2026. He will be missed by his family, friends and fellow Landmark Society Board members. Mike was the go-to person for all things about the city's past.

Former Mayor Scott LeMay honored him at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Landmark Museum in 2024 with these words: "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."

LeMay added, "Through the years, Mike Hayslip has dedicated more time, more energy and more effort to express his deep love for Garland."

This was a fitting tribute to a man that spent more than 50 years ensuring that Garland's history would live on.

For the last few months, Mike often mentioned that he wasn't going to live much longer, and he talked about things that he needed to get documented before he passed. It was important to him to get all his knowledge of Garland history recorded.



He began to build his future reputation as Garland's historian in 1972 when City Manager Charles Duckworth appointed a group to work toward preserving Garland's history. Duckworth wisely included Mike in that group. He then spent over 50 years fulfilling that responsibility by accumulating an encyclopedic knowledge of Garland's past. He served on the board of the Landmark Society in several capacities for half a century and on the Dallas County Historical Commission. He was also a lifetime member of the Dallas County Pioneers Association.

A gifted writer, he penned numerous articles for *The Dallas Morning News* and *The Garland News*. He also wrote *Garland: Its Premier Century*, a historical account that celebrates the 100th anniversary of Garland receiving its status as a city. In addition, Mike edited *Sketches of Kate James: Dallas County Pioneer*, a collection of memories written by his great-great grandmother.

Mike had a memory like a steel trap, which was possibly only second to that of Kate James. At 76, she documented her memories of a long life that began with traveling in a covered wagon to the area now known as Garland. At least part of Mike's interest in documenting history must have come from her.

A short conversation with him revealed his intelligence. It also revealed that he was very direct. He did not mince words, which he likely believed to be a waste of time.

Bryan Bradford said that he depended on Mike's knowledge of Garland history during his time as city manager.

"Mike's intelligence and unmatched understanding of Garland's history made him a community icon," Bradford said. "He understood, better than anyone, how our past shaped the present and how it was influencing the future."

He added that Mike's counsel had been invaluable when they would visit about renovating the downtown square.

"While he often spoke in his unique 'code', it was always full of wisdom," Bradford shared. "I will miss his witty style of storytelling that could keep you entertained for hours while at the same time educate you about how Garland grew from a small agricultural town to a modern city of a quarter of a million."

Bradford said that his favorite parts were when he would talk about the many 'characters', as he would call them, that made Garland what it is.

"I have lost a dear friend and collectively we have lost a community treasure," Bradford said.



Patty Granville shared that she lost a very dear and wonderful friend with Mike's passing. She described him as intelligent, creative and unique. Granville fondly remembered the 25 years she worked with Mike on the roasts that served as fundraisers for The Garland Summer Musicals.

"We worked many hours together writing skits and songs for the roasts, and he was amazing. He was funny and creative and a great writer," she said. "I have so many great memories."

"Mike was an amazing friend, and I'm really going to miss him," Granville said.

A sixth-generation Garland resident, Mike graduated from Garland High School in 1962 and attended Washington & Lee University, The University of Texas at Austin and Southern Methodist University and graduated with BBA and MBA degrees in finance.

On July 21, 2026, Mayor Dylan Hedrick honored the life and legacy of Michael R. Hayslip by proclaiming July 25 as Mike Hayslip Day.

He was a father, grandfather, great grandfather, historian, researcher, author, speaker and storyteller. He was a Garland treasure who will be missed.



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

**The museum is open
Thursday, Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Garland's Perspectives

Free Exhibit Open
May 30 - Aug. 1

★★★★★

Garland City Hall
200 N. Fifth St.

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Noon to 4 p.m. Saturday

Visit
GARLAND

**GARLAND
LANDMARK
MUSEUM**

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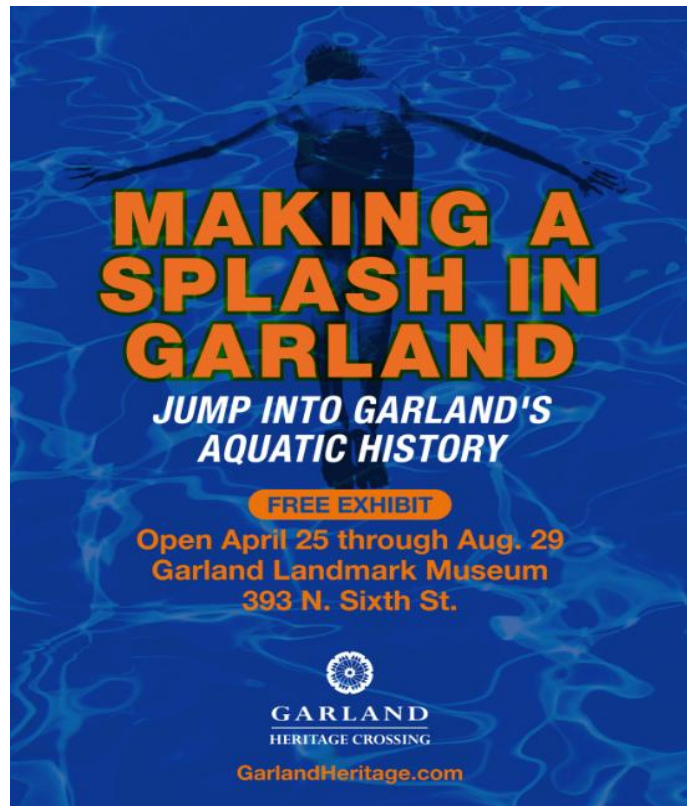
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Share Your History

If you're a Landmark Society Member or friend—and you must be if you are reading this—you have history in your head that we would like to share with other members. We encourage you to write your memories of Garland's history and send them, along with supporting pictures, letters or newspaper articles, to us.

Email: Heritage@GarlandTX.gov