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*Bob Warren at home in his office.
photo by Chris Johnson*

bob warren's now & then: learning about **NOW** from then

by natalie medigovich

WHETHER YOU'VE BEEN A FRISCO RESIDENT FOR TWO OR 20 YEARS, you'd be hard pressed to find someone who knows Frisco better than Bob Warren. The long time mayor and city council member converted his knowledge and love of history into a regular column, "Now & Then" which he began writing for *Frisco STYLE Magazine* in December 1996.

Seven years of those articles will be available to the public this month in a book, *Frisco – Now and Then*. The commemorative compilation is being published by the Heritage Association of Frisco and is the second book they have published with a third about Frisco schools on the way. A book signing will be held at Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Stonebriar Centre from noon to 4 pm Saturday, June 19. All proceeds will benefit the Heritage Association, which is in the process of building a museum and meeting place at the state-of-the-art Frisco Square. Steve Quinn, author of *Frisco: The First 100 Years*, the first book published by the Frisco Heritage Association, will also be at the bookstore to sign copies of his book.

The column idea developed from Warren's desire to write

a book someday about the town where he was born, reared and decided to retire. Linda Sutton, who published *Frisco STYLE Magazine* from 1995-2003, and friend of the ex-mayor, asked Warren to write a column for the magazine almost ten years ago. Warren had been taking notes, doing research and interviewing the locals before he officially retired in 1981, so it seemed like a perfect outlet for his findings.

Many of his insightful columns, i.e. the one on Native Americans and the one on allowances have generated much feedback from readers over the years. The author definitely has a following that is eager to learn from his experiences and memories. Warren can recall the good old days when Frisco was nothing but cattle farms and doctors made house calls to tend the sick and deliver babies.

After graduating from Texas A&M University where he earned his BS in Economics in 1942, Warren enlisted in the military and became an airborne troop carrier pilot in Europe during World War II. He carried paratroopers, equipment and fuel and towed gliders while on active duty. He remained in the Air Force Reserve for 22 years and retired with the rank of Lt. Colonel. Upon leaving the military he worked for what is now ExxonMobil for 31 years. Though not a writer by trade, while working in the accounting field and serving on Frisco's City Council, Warren said he always had to write reports, summaries and financial statements, so writing the interesting and factual (and often humorous) columns was not too difficult.

The father of five moved his family eight times during his career, ending up in Houston for much of his time with the oil company. Although 36 years had lapsed since he left Frisco, Warren and his wife decided to move back to Frisco when he retired. The Warrens built a home on the same property his childhood home had stood (he had retained ownership over the years.)

Only two years into his official retirement, Warren was asked to serve the remainder of a city council member's term. Thirteen years later – seven of those as mayor of Frisco – Warren says he is truly retired other than working on preserving the history of Frisco so future generations can learn from the past.

According to Warren, progress is inevitable and when done correctly, like Frisco is careful to do, can be a wonderful thing.

Natalie Medigovich is a freelance writer living in Frisco.

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