

June 8, 2012

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The Burleson Century book written by James L. Haley can be in your hands tonight if you attend the second Hot Sounds of Summer Concert Series in Old Town Burleson.

Members of the Friends of the Library will be selling the hardback version for \$38 and a soft cover version for \$27 (both prices include the tax). The sales table will be set up next to the Burleson Visitors Center at the corner of Ellison and Wilson streets. Plans are in the works for a book signing with Haley in July. Payment at outdoor venues must be made by cash or check.

The 240-plus page hardback book was commissioned by the City of Burleson and a \$35,000 contract with Haley was approved unanimously by Burleson City Council members in July 2010. The contract was for the City of Burleson Centennial History book, now named the Burleson Century book. Gas revenues were used to fund the writing contract.

The book is an original composition written in narrative form with quotes from historical memoirs as well as City documents and newspapers. Haley visited Burleson and talked to residents concerning family, church and commercial history. The history book starts with a preface by Mayor Ken Shetter and ends with a chapter by former city manager Curtis Hawk. Burleson Century covers the exploration of this area, the founding of the city, the Roaring 20s, the Depression, World War II, the Baby Boom, and Modern Times.

The town was founded in October 1881 when the original warranty deed for a town site was conveyed and recorded, but the town was not incorporated as a city until May 1912. The Centennial celebrates that May 1912 incorporation.

Haley is a noted researcher and author of Texas history, including *Texas: An Album of History*, *Texas: From Spindletop through World War II*, *Sam Houston: A Life* (which won nine historical and literary awards) and *Passionate Nation: The Epic History of Texas*. Haley also completed a history of the state supreme court, which includes some long-forgotten cases from early Johnson County.

The Burleson Century book will be sold tonight at the 7:30 p.m. Hot Sounds of Summer concert as well June 15, June 22, and June 29. Hot Sounds concerts are hosted in Old Town, at 124 W. Ellison St. Copies of the book will also be for sale at the Fourth of July Asleep At The Wheel concert at Chisenhall Fields Sports Complex. The gates at 500 W. Hidden Creek Pkwy. open at 5 p.m

The Burleson Century can be purchased at the Burleson Public Library starting next week. A copy of the book will also be available next week for checkout at 248 S.W. Johnson Ave. You can pay with cash, check or use a debit or credit card at the library.