

May Meeting

When: 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 6, 2013

Where: Trinity United Methodist Church
4001 Speedway

Note: HPNA general meetings usually take place on the first Monday of each month.

HPNA General Meeting Agenda for May 6th

- Presentation by Marya Crigler, Chief Appraiser and Bruce Elfant, Tax Assessor and Collector on Property Taxes and Appraisals.
- Presentation by Susan Moffat on the May AISD Bond Election
- Presentation by Outreach Chair, Larry Gilg on results of the Hyde Park Outreach Survey

All Hyde Park residents are welcome.

News from Formosa: The Elisabet Ney Museum

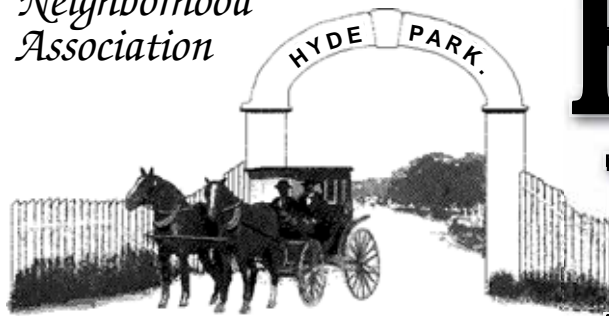
March 13, 2013

As you may have observed, there has been change recently at the Elisabet Ney Museum. I am happy to introduce myself as the Ney's new Museum Site Coordinator/Director. An Austinite since childhood (my family lived at 32nd and West Ave for several years) I received both my BA and MA in Geography at UT. My Master's Thesis was on wall murals in Austin. I began my career at the Museum of South Texas History, in Edinburg. After a few good years in the Valley, I moved home and continued in museums and historic preservation. My most recent post was as Executive Curator for Public Programs at the Harry Ransom Center.

Being Site Coordinator of the Ney Museum is a wonderful job. It is a magnificent place with tons of potential. Miss Ney herself was such an amazing character that stories practically fall out the building's doors as you open them.

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The Hyde Park
Neighborhood
Association



Pecan Press

May 2013 • National Register District Neighborhood • Vol. 39, No. 5

The Story of Huff's Corner

Albert Huffstickler was a familiar figure in Hyde Park.

It was a short half-block commute from his apartment at 43rd and Avenue H to his favorite table outside Quack's, under the tree that once shaded that little corner by the alley.

We all knew that our neighbor Huff was a poet. If you engaged him, he might write a verse or draw a picture for you on the spot and give it to you. It was only after his death in 2002 that some of us fully realized just how much of a poet he was. In the words of Austin Poetry Society president Elzy Cogswell, Huff was "the Willie Nelson of poetry." He may also have been the most widely published, in hundreds of the little journals and chapbooks published across the world by people more interested in poetry than money.

Just as the sculptor Elisabet Ney a century before him, Huff came to Hyde Park to live out the last days of his life and, like Ney, did some of his best work here.

His late work, written at that table at Quack's, and the others outside Dulce Vita and Julio's, often ponders the intimations of impending mortality.

"Knowing there is only so much time, I don't rejoice less, but more," Huff wrote in *"Don't Ask the Angels How They Fly"* on his 69th birthday, in 1996.

In 1997, Huff was honored with a special tribute by the Austin International Poetry Festival and, though some of this recognition was growing among other poets and readers, Huff remained as open and yet self-contained as he had always been, to us, his neighbors.



A young Albert Huffstickler at the Ney Museum

After his death in 2002, there were more tributes amid the dawning recognition of his unique place among American writers. The Austin Poetry Society continues a tradition that began with Huff at open mikes for poets every fourth Thursday at NewWorld Deli and Huff's poems are often included in the *Pecan Press* by poetry editor Charlotte Herzele, but except for the mural on the side of Fresh Plus with a button inscribed "Long live Huff" in one corner, there

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From the Co-Presidents



As temperatures creep into the 90s and the daylight lengthens past dinnertime, we are surely headed into another memorable Austin summer. But before the summer solstice is upon us (and it's so hot that leaving our air conditioned homes becomes a daunting task), we have plenty of chances to engage in rewarding and exciting Hyde Park activities!

First, we'd like to thank Lisa Harris for spearheading the effort to revitalize Waller Creek through Keep Austin Beautiful's annual Clean Sweep event. On Saturday, April 13th twelve volunteers from Rosedale, Mueller, and Hyde Park participated in the city-wide day of service and ended up removing 22 bags of trash from the Creek. Volunteer Wendy Hiles found the coin slot from a coin-operated washer or dryer in the creek and won the event's Most Unusual Object contest with it!

Second, we'd like to recognize the Hyde Park neighbors who

have coordinated the dedication of Huffstickler Green, which is set for Saturday, May 4th at 10:30am. Thank you John Paul Moore, Kathy Lawrence, and Mark Fishman! However, this is the culmination of years of hard work - quoting John Paul, "They say success has many fathers and many neighbors contributed to the creation of this little green space in Huff's honor." These include Judy Fowler of Austin Energy; the late Joel Cryer, who recruited his own next door neighbor Michael Biechlin to design the landscape; Mary Ingle of NUNA, our own Wanda Penn and Lisa Harris; Michael Hirsch and Carolyn Palaima of HNA; John Eastman of City Public Works who brought Biechlin's plans to fruition; and Elzy Cogswell.

Looking farther forward, our annual Shipe Pool Party is scheduled for Saturday, June 22nd at 6:00pm. Come share a patch of grass with Hyde Park's many families while listening to live music and marveling at the beautiful Shipe Park mosaic mural as it reaches completion! As the final panel of the mural is unveiled, we would like to thank Adam Wilson and everyone at the Griffin School for their countless hours and their willingness to invite Hyde Park neighbors in to be part of this creative process.

Finally, a plug for the Hyde Park Homes Tour! We need YOU to make the 2013 tour a success and we need you NOW! Volunteers can provide their homes or their time, and we need persons before and during the event. Opportunities include advertising the event in tradition and social media outlets, coordinating transportation, creating signage, acting as house captains or docents, etc. Anyone interested in helping can contact Homes Tour Chair Carolyn Grimes at: <cgrimes@cbunited.com>.

As I close this month's column, I am sad to announce that I will be

leaving Hyde Park at the end of June, as I embark upon the next chapter of my career in Seattle, WA. I have spent four glorious years in this beautiful, eccentric, lively, opinionated, diverse, passionate neighborhood and will greatly miss all of the friends I have made. That being said, I have no doubt in my mind that my fellow Co-President John Williams will continue his outstanding service to Hyde Park without missing a beat!

— John Williams
<jawilli@grandecom.net>
& Ashley Schweickart
<amschweickart@gmail.com>
HPNA Co-Presidents

Pecan Press

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Spring 2013 Update for the Ney Museum:

Year three of the five-year historic landscape restoration project at the Ney continued to show progress even though the 2011 and 2012 growing seasons were not ideal. Fewer extremes in the drought, less 100 degree days, and the rain that did fall allowed the prairie treatment areas closer to the museum to mature into a mixed grass prairie with seasonal wildflowers showing great color in April and May last year. Invasive Bermuda grass was treated regularly and the monitoring and removal process of this tenacious intruder will continue. The mixed grass areas received an over-seeding of native grasses and wildflowers to boost diversity and density in an effort to reduce invasive grassy weeds in the treatment areas. Thanks again to our three dedicated landscape volunteers who assist with landscape tasks weekly.

2012 also saw some progress in the removal of invasive trees including a tree species survey being completed on Waller Creek. Plans are being developed toward the removal of invasive species on Ney property in 2013. A new Mesquite has been planted to replace the loss of a historic Mesquite in front of the museum near E. 45th Street. PARD Forestry assisted the Ney with comprehensive evaluations of all trees on site and recently completed much needed pruning and ligustrum removals near the creek. The young native trees planted about three years ago are thriving.

Our prairie expert, Mr. James Alderson, visited the site in January and continues to share his expertise. Plans move forward to complete the removal of the remaining Bermuda grass and other invasive weeds from the south side of the site closer to Avenue G. This includes seeding that area with mixed native grasses and wildflowers and will include a very special batch of seeds gathered from a Blackland Prairie remnant known as Clymer Meadow. A prescribed minimal mowing plan is being considered and developed with our expert and other stakeholders.

Special projects or volunteer opportunities for the Ney's landscape and the museum itself will be announced through the HPNA List Serve and here in *Pecan Press*.

If you have questions specifically about the landscape, please contact Margaret Russell, at <margaret.russell@austintexas.gov>. If you have questions about the museum or about this column, please contact Oliver Franklin at <oliver.franklin@austintexas.gov> or 512-458-2255.



Formosa News... ...cont'd from pg 1

I'd add that, as a seventh-generation German Texan, with family throughout Gillespie, Blanco, Llano and Burnet Counties, I feel I'm practically kin to Elisabet myself. I look forward to much fun and good learning in the years ahead.

I want to thank all those who participated in the Friends of Shipe Park's It's My Park Day, especially those who worked the Museum grounds. Jill Nokes deserves special thanks for supervising the crew. We had a great time getting to know everyone, and the day's accomplishments were numerous. Thank you.

We are also starting a monthly column in the *Pecan Press*, in which we will outline news and events at the Ney. These will include calendar listings, museum news, exhibition stories, and of course, landscape updates. To that end, it's my pleasure to share with you the Spring 2013 Landscape Update for the Ney.

Coming in next month's column: The new roof and celebrations for the reopening of the Ney! Pencil in the date: June 15, 2013, Family Day!
Sursum!

— Oliver Franklin

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Note: The *Pecan Press* will not publish unsigned/unattributed poetry. All poems (even if written under a pen name) must carry a name and address or phone number for identification and verification purposes.

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HPNA Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Co-President Ashley Schweickart at 7:05 pm. Ashley told the group that Susan Moffat was ill and would not be at the meeting to talk about upcoming school bond elections. Instead, Mary Sanger is presenting information about the increasing appearance of "stealth dorms" in and around central Austin.

Ms. Sanger defined a dorm duplex as a domicile where at least 6 unrelated adults reside. In reality, more persons are able to live in a unit because they are built with rooms that are labeled "study," "game room," or something else, but these become bedrooms, and thus more people can be accommodated. Neighbors have health and safety concerns due to location, traffic, transiency and crowding in single-family residential neighborhood zones. Right now there is a proposal for six three-bedroom duplex units, to house 18 unrelated adults, next to Lee Elementary School where Hyde Park children attend.

Neighborhoods in the broader region of central Austin are already being affected by this issue. According to Ms. Sanger, there have been 10 demolitions of single-family homes in Northfield Neighborhood in the past six weeks. Other college towns in Texas have addressed this issue by reducing the number of unrelated adults in a domicile to 2 (San Marcos) or 4 (College Station). However, one HPNA member commented that Austin's Code Enforcement Department has reported that it is neither monitoring nor enforcing occupancy limits. Therefore, The Hancock Neighborhood Association (HNA) is stepping forward with a resolution addressing resident numbers. Testimonials about living near stealth dorms can be found on the Hancock Neighborhood Association website: <www.hancockna.org>. One meeting attendee commented that while the Imagine Austin Plan indicates density recommendations for corridors, Hyde Park has both conservation and historic district designations that must also be respected. The HPNA Steering Committee will consider HNA's resolution at their meeting next week. Another neighbor commented that stealth dorms are a result of neighborhood resistance to increased density. The neighbor suggested that it may be more effective to work with developers and accommodate higher density in a way that is compatible with the Hyde Park neighborhood and the neighborhood plan, and that also preserves the quality of life. Any citizens interested in mitigating the detrimental effects of stealth dorms are encouraged to write and meet with city council members, to contact television and newspapers, contact other city offices and respond when notified as to proposed developments.

Next, Lisa Harris gave an update concerning the city council's decision to eliminate "project duration" regulations for construction, and also whether requirements for building permit limitations will be revised. Explanation

Continued on following page

was given that "project duration" refers to expectations that benchmarks during the development process must be met by specific deadlines, or else there is risk of expiration of the building permit. If a permit expires, a new one is required and must follow the current code, including any changes that occurred since the first permit request. Questions about the definitions of dormancy and expiration are on-going at this point. Lisa explained that the city's ordinance may not be compliant with state laws that are more lenient, therefore the city council repealed the current ordinance and offered no replacement ordinance at this time. The city website has a list of expired permits in and near Hyde Park that could be revived under the project duration regulation repeal. The parking lot proposal at Hyde Park Baptist Church may be one such project.

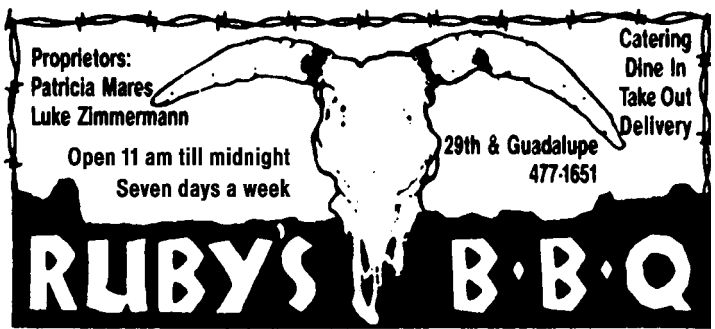
Then, Co-President Ashley Schweickart gave an update on the city's effort to rewrite the Land Development Code (LDC), based on a presentation at last week's Austin Neighborhoods Council (ANC) meeting. The effort now has a LDC Revision Advisory Group, composed of one person appointed by each city council member, and four appointees from the city manager. The organization acting as a consultant on the project is in process. An initial public input process will begin around mid-July. With the direction of this rewrite in the rudimentary phases, now is a good time to make neighborhood opinions known. Citizens are encouraged to participate by email, stating what may be either positive or negative about the current code. Notice was given that members of the LDC Revision Advisory Group are welcoming e-mails with comments and suggestions. (Jeff Jack, <jjack2@austin.rr.com> and Dave Sullivan <sully.jumpnet@sbcglobal.net> are the Group members who presented at the ANC meeting.)

In other news, an update was presented regarding the Huffstickler Green official opening ceremony at Duval and 38th Street. The ribbon cutting will be May 4th at 10:30 am. A temporary sign for the Green has been created. All residents in the Hyde Park, Hancock, and North University neighborhoods are encouraged to participate. Also, a Tree Preservation Chairperson is still needed so that communication is maintained with the City departments involved in tree "trimming." Finally, the Keep Austin Beautiful annual Clean Sweep will be held on April 13th and Lisa Harris is leading a Waller Creek clean-up effort. Also, thanks went out to Michelle Rossmando and John Williams for getting the Hyde Park Egg Scramble organized. It was well attended and enjoyed by neighbors.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 pm.

— Mike Pikulski &
 Claire de Young,
 HPNA Co-Secretaries

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Story of Huff's Corner...

...cont'd from page 1

was no other outward memorial to remember our own Hyde Park Poet Laureate.

Later, when Austin Energy awarded "visual mitigation" funds to make up for the towering rust-colored transmission-line posts that run along 38th street, neighbors Wanda Penn and Lindsay Nakashima walked the stretch with Judy Fowler of AE, scouting places where we could plant new trees with the funds. This was in 2006, four years after Huff's death and now seven years ago.

The northeast corner of 38th and Duval presented the best place to plant what will one day be grand trees, unthreatened by overhead wires. Better, this was city property, the remains of a single house lot that had been condemned to make room for a left-turn lane for west-bound 38th Street traffic to turn south on Duval, toward the University of Texas.

They say success has many fathers and many neighbors contributed to the creation of this little green space in Huff's honor. These include Judy Fowler of Austin Energy, who on her last day before retiring, saw to the transfer of the mitigation funds to an account established for the Green; Huff's friend and neighbor, the late Joel Cryer, who recruited his own next door neighbor Michael Biechlin to design the landscape; Mary Ingle of NUNA, our own Wanda Penn and Lisa Harris, who kept the pressure on the city while leading us through the bureaucratic maze; Michael Hirsch and Carolyn Palaima of HNA; John Eastman of City Public Works who brought Biechlin's plans, largely intact, to fruition; and Elzy Cogswell.

Elzy knew both Huff and Margret Hofmann. When the proposal to name the grove of oaks across Cesar Chavez from City Hall for Hofmann, Austin's beloved "Tree Lady," came to the City Council in 2010, the APS members made a convincing case for naming it after Huff, but Elzy graciously assented to Hyde Park's proposal to name our corner for Huff, in the face of sentiment from what he referred to, tongue in cheek, as Austin's "powerful tree lobby."

Cogswell wrote at <http://tinyurl.com/huffcorner> our effort was successful, in no small part, "because poets are also tree people."

As Don Wentworth of Issa's Untidy Hut, the Lilliput Review's blog, put it, "...though the tribute is in some ways humble, a tribute it is."

In the seven years it took to realize this tribute, the corner had become something of an eyesore, an illegal parking lot where refuse containers sat all week, where big dogs left evidence their owners cared too little about this shabby place to pick up after them.

This spring, as the fine new oak trees, crepe myrtles and grass take hold, the low limestone sitting walls will attract those who wish to muse, as Huff did, on the passing of the number 7 bus, the students walking and cycling between homes here and the University, no longer an eyesore but a point of pride for all of us.

What remains is for us to involve all who share our love of Albert Huffstickler and the work he left behind.

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When a guy with this much gray hair talks, it pays to listen.



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Story of Huff's Corner... ...cont'd from page 6

There is much of Huff's poetry online; the trick is choosing the right words for this memorial. The Lilliput Review (linked above) is a great place to start, but be warned, it can be addictive and there is always another Huff verse to be Googled or stumbled upon, or found in boxes and file cabinets in Hyde Park as many other places.

Appropriately enough, most of the planning for the May 4 dedication that hasn't been conducted online has been accomplished at the tables outside Quack's.

Dian Donnell sat at one of Huff's favorite tables in front of Quack's, and reminisced about her longtime friend. She mentioned the table that had Huff's name on it around the corner at Dolce Vita, where the baristas would delight him by having his coffee ready when he arrived. One of his most available books is entitled *Why I Write in Coffee Houses and Diners*. It was at these tables that Huff spoke with and came to know so many of us.

Dian, who would go on to found the iconic Vulcan Video, knew few people when she arrived at UT in 1967. Huff was a neighbor on 22nd Street, took his coffee and talked and smoked and wrote in those days in the Chuckwagon in the UT Union.

They became friends and remained so for the rest of Huff's life. What was her strongest, most lasting impression of Huff, after all those years of friendship, 11 years after his death? Dian replied, "Most people will let you talk and just be waiting for their turn, but Huff really listened." As so many others, Dian would find pieces, objects, fleeting references to things she had told him among his many verses. She would not be alone in pondering these glimpses, "Was that what I mentioned to him? Was that me?"

Elzy Cogswell came to Quack's to share the planning and some Huff stories that bear repeating. On a sunny beautiful April day under the new palapas, Elzy counseled no haste to create a permanent memorial marking Huff's Corner, but to let such take shape in the minds and imagination of those who want to create something meaningful, who want to be a part of this.

For her part, Dian Donnell believes that what Huff would most want to last, more than his own name, would be his words, his work. Dian, Elzy and others had a suggestion, and she recited lines from Huff's last poem, written in the hospital on Sunday, February 24, 2002:

"Tired of being loved,
Tired of being left alone.
Tired of being loved,
Tired of being left alone
Gonna find myself a place
Where all I feel is at home."

—*Albert Huffstickler*

I, for one, believe Huff would approve, but I also want to hear the thoughts and hearts of others.

— *John Paul Moore*

*Dedication of Huffstickler Green will be at
10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 4, 2013 at 38th & Duval.*



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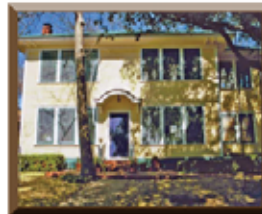


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Huffstickler Green Dedication: May 4

The dedication of Huffstickler Green, honoring the Bard of Hyde Park, Albert Huffstickler (1929-2002), will be **10:30 Saturday morning, May 4.**

The Green, already becoming known in the historic Hyde Park and Hancock neighborhoods as Huff's Corner, now freshly landscaped with a low sitting wall, oak trees and crepe myrtles, is on the prominent northeast corner of 38th and Duval, now marked with a temporary banner created by Mark Fishman.

The spot marks the convergence of the Hyde Park, Hancock and North University neighborhoods, and was created with help of neighbors in all three, working with the City of Austin Public Works Department.

With the enthusiastic participation in both the creation of the Green and the planning of the dedication event, Huff's friends and fellow poets, including an astounding number who Huff directly inspired to become poets themselves, we look forward to sharing and hearing Huff's own words as well as the poems and stories of those whose lives he touched.

Few neighborhoods have their own poet laureate. Kathy Lawrence, who is leading HPNA's dedication effort, reached out to mutual friend and Huff's one-time neighbor David Jewell, who contributed his own poem, "*Huff walking to mail a poem*," (see page 18) to this commemoration, one that aptly captures the image of Huff, the neighbor so many of us knew. And what did Huff think of Hyde Park? In his words, plucked from the seemingly bottomless well of verse that is Huff's legacy, this:

"Whether you are sitting in front of the bakery drinking coffee or walking the evening or standing on your front porch watching the night come in, you're surrounded by this deep sense of place, of being in a neighborhood, of being spoken to, recognized when you walk down the street, of meeting faces that lack that closed city look that is part of so many areas as crime and distrust grow. People still recognize and greet each other here and give each other the benefit of the doubt because we're all part of the neighborhood. You can't put a price on that, not in these times."

Albert Huffstickler

— Article Submitted by John Paul Moore

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Memories of Hyde Park

When I think of my favorite neighborhood in Hyde Park, I think of my memories associated with it. I think of Albert Huffstickler, his poetry and his old apartment next to my favorite grocery store Fresh Plus. I see him smoking at Quacks with his grey beard and his weathered face.

The first time I saw the sign at Dolce Vita in memory of Huff it made me sad. No longer would his poems be written or published. No more scenes of him smoking and drinking coffee out front.

I think of Julio's where the food and flan is always fantastic and how they don't take credit cards like back in the olden days. I think of the Dr. Chocolate sign where I could buy chocolate. I think of the old Movie Store where, when in college, I rode my bike to buy fresh popped popcorn every night so I would not be so lonely after that divorce. I think of the old flower shop, now a home across from my Hyde Park theatre. I say "my" for everything in the area because I coined all the business establishments as mine when I lived at Redwood North Apartments on 51st Street.

I think of Limbo and sweet Alex who owned the shop. I bought my first antique tapestry chair there back in 93. I still have it. All my dogs who sat in it and rocked have now passed. When I sit in it I think of how my friend John carried it on his shoulder across the street to my apartment. I think of the old Xmas tree I still use to this day with old fashioned ornaments I put on it that came from Limbo too. I think of the Hyde Park gym where Dave tried to help me get my diabetes in check by working out. I think of the Campbell Newman antique show. I lined up on the street for hours before it opened to get a ticket to go in.

I think of Little City where I rode my bike every Sunday morning to sit on the sidewalk and drink hot java. I think of Flightpath and how I went there every night to study and for morning coffee before school. I think of riding my bike back and forth to UT-Austin. I also think of Fresh Plus and how because it was just me, I could ride my bike there to hand select my individual package of meat for dinner. I think of the museum with all the beautiful sculptures and the park.

I remember how I had wished and hoped that one day I would meet some nice man in the area, get married and live my life out in HP. Sadly that did not happen. But I love HP so much I still go there weekly for coffee and groceries and the theatre. You see, one can live outside of HP, but love it enough to always go back time and time again.

— Rose Di Grazia

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Austin's Hyde Park... the first 50 years 1891-1941

by Sarah Sitton and Thad Sitton

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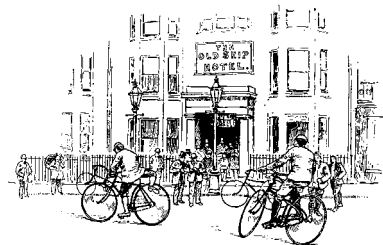
The beetles are omnivorous and feed on grain dust and milled grains, but can also feed on undamaged grains. In homes they may be found in cereals, flour, pasta, dried beans, chocolate, nuts, herbs and spices. With large populations of the insects, they may cause a foul taste and odor to infested products due to a secretion from their scent glands.

If you are having a problem with these beetles, but cannot locate the source in your pantry, it may be that they are coming from somewhere else. Check where pet food is stored. Also look in areas with dried flowers or potpourri. Sometimes people will see these beetles during or after they have had a rodent infestation. The beetles can come from rodent baits that may contain grains or from rodent nests where food was stored.

Management tips:

- Inspect all food items and get rid of anything infested. If you do not want to throw away the food, you can either put in in the freezer for a week or heat in the oven at 200 degrees for 2-3 hours.
- Clean all pantry areas, making sure to get any grain dust out of cracks and crevices. Use a cleaning solution after all debris is removed. Seal any cracks where grain dust may accumulate with a sealant product.
- Do not buy damaged or expired items from the grocery store.
- Use products promptly and if you go away for a period of time (a week or more), store items in the freezer.

— Wizzie Brown





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or feel it but
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or as much of a saint
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and compassion for everyone. . . .
not smarmy syrupy stupid
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and he walks and walks on legs
that look at times
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— David Jewell



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