

# From the book “Sweet Flower Mound Land” p172

## The Summit Club of Flower Mound

*by R. L. (Buddy) Dwyer*

The Summit Club of Flower Mound, the town's first civic organization, was originally formed because of the political turmoil that existed in the early 1970s. There had been six disannexation elections that had split the town wide open. Friends of many years weren't speaking to each other because of political differences. The club was the brainchild of the late Leonard Johns who felt, and many agreed, that something had to be done to rectify this intolerable situation.

A group of ten men met at Ranchland late in 1973 to form a fraternal organization for the purpose of healing these wounds. The name, "Summit", not only signified the top of the hill, but mainly because it envisioned that Flower Mound's future leaders would gain knowledge and interest through their association in the club.

The initial dinner meeting was held on January 9, 1974, at the Holiday Inn in Denton. Leonard presented a preliminary set of by-laws, 64 charter members with diverse viewpoints joined and elections were held: Buddy Dwyer, President; John Immel, Vice President; Joe Smith, Secretary; Curtis Duty, Treasurer. The next order of business was the appointment of the various committee chairmen to form a Board of Directors: Sid Beck, Special Projects; Hiro Otsuji, Membership; George Metarelis, Community Relations; John Immel, Programs; Skip Parker, Youth Activities; Jack Wise, Attendance; Elwood Ross, Publicity; Leonard Johns, At-Large.

The very first by-law passed stated, "Any member who either directly or indirectly makes any attempt to make this a political organization shall find this to be a cause for immediate expulsion from membership by a majority vote of the board of directors." The club's purpose was immediately achieved through light-hearted meetings that witnessed a certain amount of horseplay that would result in a 25 cent fine collected

# From the book “Sweet Flower Mound Land” p172

by Otto Consolvo, the sergeant- at-arms. On the serious side, invited speakers would deliver informative talks on a wide variety of subjects.

A series of activities were initiated beginning with the interdenominational Easter Sunrise Service on The Mound, a tradition that continues to this day. This was followed by a Fourth of July picnic and parade, a horse show, a chili cook-off, sponsoring Boy, Girl and Cub Scout troops, garage sales to raise money for charitable purposes, a Christmas dinner dance and the establishment of Martin J. Keane Scholarship Fund for deserving elementary school students.

Meetings became the focal point for people to get acquainted, including newcomers, past, present and future leaders. Even though it strictly adhered to its non-political pledge, it almost became mandatory for anyone seeking office to show up; especially before election day.

Several months later, the members' wives formed a sister organization, The Women of Flower Mound, which effectively, in a cooperative manner, doubled activities for the betterment of the community. Both groups have experienced the membership peaks and valleys, but have continued to function.