

**HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION  
NOVEMBER 18, 2019  
DEMOLITION AND RELOCATION PERMITS  
HDP-2019-0534  
3303 SOUTHILL CIRCLE**

**PROPOSAL**

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Demolish a ca. 1963 house.

**ARCHITECTURE**

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Split-level brick veneer house with symmetrical configuration, side-gabled roof, a full-width columned porch, and front-facing garage. Decorative bars cover the street-facing windows, and the first-floor windows sit at ground level. A decorative pediment adorns the front door. A rear addition and deck have been added.

**RESEARCH**

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3303 Southill Circle was built in 1963 by the Carret Corporation. Its first known owner-occupants were John Coyle White and his wife Mary. White's long career in Texas politics spanned the latter half of the twentieth century. During this time, he served as Texas Commissioner of Agriculture (and retains the status of longest-serving Commissioner), U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and chairman of Democratic National Committee.

At the time of his election to office in 1950, White was the youngest candidate ever elected to statewide office and the youngest Commissioner of Agriculture in the United States. That year, *Life* magazine named him one of the top ten "outstanding young men" in the nation because of this, and the state Democratic chairman dubbed him a "giant-killer." White's humble roots as the son of a North Texas sharecropper during the Great Depression fueled his passion for advocating for Texas farmers through legislation. He was elected to the position 12 more times throughout his career, resigning only to accept a position as the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture in 1977.

White was a conservationist and supporter of the Civil Rights movement, integrating the Texas Department of Agriculture for the first time in the 1960s. During White's ownership of the house, he served President John F. Kennedy as an adviser on international agricultural issues. White also became a delegate to the Democratic National Convention, later chairing the Democratic National Committee under President Carter (1978-1981).

After Mary J. White sold the home in 1970, it was purchased by the Balagia family. S. Jack Balagia was a World War II veteran, and, after leaving the family produce business, became one of Austin's leading insurance salesmen and real estate brokers. Balagia served as president of many charitable organizations, vice-president of the Austin Club and Austin Country Club, and vice-chairman of the Austin Urban Renewal Agency. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he served on the Texas Judicial Qualifications Commission and the Texas Film Commission.

Sophia Koury Balagia was as active as her husband, serving on the boards of the Austin Public Library and the Austin Mental Health Association and helping to establish the KLRU annual fundraising auction. The Balagia family were devoted leaders in the Catholic Church, and actively supported the University of Texas. In 2003, the S. Jack and Sophia K. Balagia Presidential Scholarship was established in their honor.

**STAFF COMMENTS**

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The applicant has indicated that the porch posts were changed after the Balagia family purchased the property. No permits for this alteration are available.

*Designation Criteria—Historic Landmark*

- 1) The building is more than 50 years old.

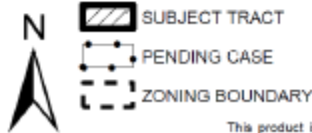
- 2) The building appears to retain high to moderate integrity. If the existing porch posts were changed less than 50 years ago, it may render the building ineligible under this criterion.
- 3) Properties must meet two criteria for landmark designation (Land Development Code §25-2-352). 3303 Southill Circle may meet two criteria for designation.
  - a) *Architecture*. The house displays Colonial Revival influences, predominant in this era of residential building in Austin, with a split-level plan. The split-level, while common in other parts of the country, is a rare midcentury form in Austin.
  - b) *Historical association*. The house is associated with State Agricultural Commissioner John Coyle White.
  - c) *Archaeology*. The house was not evaluated for its potential to yield significant data concerning the human history or prehistory of the region.
  - d) *Community value*. The house does not possess a unique location, physical characteristic, or significant feature that contributes to the character, image, or cultural identity of the city, the neighborhood, or a particular demographic group.
  - e) *Landscape feature*. The property is not a significant natural or designed landscape with artistic, aesthetic, cultural, or historical value to the city.

#### **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

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Consider initiation of historic zoning based on architecture and historical association with John Coyle White. Should the Commission choose to release the demolition permit, encourage rehabilitation and adaptive re-use or relocation, and require completion of a City of Austin Documentation Package, consisting of photographs of all elevations, a dimensioned sketch plan, and a narrative history, for archiving at the Austin History Center.

LOCATION MAP



1" = 333'

**NOTIFICATIONS**  
CASE#: HDP-2019-0534  
LOCATION: 3303 SOUTHHILL CIRCLE



This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does not represent an on-the-ground survey and represents only the approximate relative location of property boundaries.

This product has been produced by CTM for the sole purpose of geographic reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



## PROPERTY INFORMATION

### *Photos*



*Street View, 2015-18*

### *Occupancy History*

City Directory Research, Austin History Center  
November, 2019

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| 1992    | Jack and Sophia K. Balagia, owners<br>President, The Balagia Agency, Inc. |
| 1985-86 | Jack and Sophia K. Balagia, owners<br>Employee, The Balagia Agency, Inc.  |
| 1981    | Jack and Sophia K. Balagia, owners<br>Employee, The Balagia Agency, Inc.  |
| 1977    | Jack and Sophia K. Balagia, owners  |

	The Balagia Agency, Inc.
1973	S. Jack and Sophia K. Balagia, owners The Balagia Agency, Inc.
1968	John C. and Mary J. White, owners Commissioner, State Department of Agriculture
1965	John C. and Mary J. White, owners Commissioner, State Department of Agriculture
1962	Address not listed



*Biographical Information***WHITE, JOHN COYLE**

★ [tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fwh63](http://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fwh63)

John C. White, Personal collection.

Courtesy John R. White.

**WHITE, JOHN COYLE** (1924–1995). John Coyle White, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, and chairman of Democratic National Committee, son of Edward Hilliard White and Carrie Lou (Campbell) White, the youngest of three children, was born near Newport, Clay County, Texas on November 26, 1924. He was raised on his father's tenant farm in Clay County in the Dust Bowl during the poverty of the Great Depression. A teacher and his older sister, Marie, encouraged him to work hard and excel in school.



He graduated from Iowa Park High School in 1942 and was able to go to college because he won a Sears & Roebuck nationwide contest for a \$100 F.A.A. Achievement scholarship for college tuition. He went to Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University), the nearest college to his home, with less than a dollar in his pocket. Since the family did not have a working automobile, White likely walked and hitchhiked to school and even slept in a field during his earliest days in attendance. At Texas Tech he was able to earn money by working as a janitor, dishwasher, and bellhop. Known as "Red White" because of his bright red hair, he was popular with his fellow students and won his first election as head cheerleader. (After graduation he preferred to be called "John C.") While he was at Texas Tech, he met and married Mary Jean Prince, and he graduated with a B.S. degree in agriculture in 1946. Their first son John Richard White was born the same year. After working as a teacher of veterans vocational agriculture in north central Texas, White managed farms and taught agricultural courses at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls from 1947 to 1950.

John C. White, at age twenty-five, was elected Commissioner of Agriculture in 1950 "in one of the most stunning political upsets in the annals of Texas history." He defeated a slate of candidates to emerge in the run-off with J. E. McDonald who had held the post for twenty years. At that time, White was the youngest man ever to be elected to Texas statewide office and the youngest person elected Commissioner of Agriculture in the United States. (He was actually twenty-four years old when he was running for the office and twenty-five years by the time he was sworn in). Shortly after his election, the January 1, 1951, issue of *Life* magazine listed him as one of the fourteen young people in the nation who were "Hope For The Future." After his election in 1950, the White family moved from Wichita Falls to Austin where they joined the First Baptist Church. John C. and Mary Jean had two more sons—Edward Prince White and Jake Rayburn White.

The Texas Department of Agriculture underwent its first major overhaul under White's leadership. The agency's six divisions were made into three—Marketing, Quarantine & Inspections, and Seed—and organized within a central administrative branch. White decentralized the department into six regional offices throughout the state with Austin serving as the main headquarters. Consequently, the reorganization of the agency resulted in an increase in efficiency with no need for an increase in appropriations; it was the only state agency that did not have to request the Texas legislature for greater funding. Without significantly hiring more staff, White improved the agency's services "by an increase in regulatory and inspection work of 44% the first year and 62% the second year." The department had grown to seven district offices across the state by 1972.

When White first entered Texas politics, candidates for statewide offices had to run every two years. In his next election in 1952 White faced a tough decision. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was heading up the Republican ticket, and most candidates saw that as the winning ticket. Texas Governor Allan Shivers led statewide Democratic officials to cross-file as Republicans to help Eisenhower carry Texas. Based on the advice of U.S. House Speaker Sam Rayburn and after threatening to sue the Texas secretary of state, White got his name removed from the Republican ballot. He was the only candidate not to cross-file. He was loyal to the Democratic Party and said, "The voters are entitled to have a choice between political parties and candidates, but I believe a state official should respect and honor the party which is supporting him."

In 1957 White suffered the only major political defeat of his career when he ran for the U.S. Senate in a special election for the seat vacated by Senator Price Daniel. Ralph Yarborough won that election, and White continued as Commissioner of Agriculture. He remained undefeated as Commissioner of Agriculture for twenty-six years that included thirteen elections in total and became a powerful force in Texas politics and the Democratic Party of Texas (although he lost a race to become the statewide chairman in 1972).



Texas was transitioning from a rural-based economy to a predominately urban-based economy during his tenure as commissioner. White changed his department to meet the ever changing needs of Texans. In 1972 he established a Consumer Affairs Office in the department to insure Texas consumers got accurate measures on everything from the scale in the grocery store to the gas pump. In 1975 he started the *TDA Quarterly*, a glossy magazine on agricultural issues designed for a general audience. White, "adamant in his beliefs that the strength of a nation's economy was the ultimate responsibility of the agricultural producer," continued to be a strong advocate for Texas farmers and ranchers, especially in Washington during the severe 1950s Texas drought. He also supported the civil rights movement of the 1960s and supported repealing the poll tax in Texas that blocked many minorities from voting, especially poor black people. During the 1960s he integrated the staff of the Department of Agriculture for the first time.

White was a conservationist. He created soil conservation districts in the effort to promote soil and water conservation in the state and initiated the first cooperative effort with Mexico to control insect pests. White pushed for state legislation for the analysis and registration of agricultural chemicals. He also set up laboratories to test chemical contaminants and residues before and during harvest. During White's tenure, the Texas Department of Agriculture launched the Texas Agricultural Products (TAP) marketing project to promote Texas goods. Ever mindful of helping the farmers and ranchers of Texas, in 1974 he recognized them by creating the Family Land Heritage Program, an annual program honoring Texas farmers and ranchers who have worked their land for 100 years or more.

In 1970 he married Wynelle "Nellie" Watson Coffee after his divorce from Mary Jean White. Wynelle had three children—Russell W. Coffee, Kay Lynn Coffee, and Craig A. Coffee.

White came to know and work with many national figures including presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson. Through politics and his interactions with the federal government representing Texas agriculture, he was always interested in national politics. In 1960 and 1964 he served as a delegate to the Democratic National Conventions, and he was on the executive committee of the Democratic Charter Commission in 1974 and chairman of the Texas delegation to the 1974 mini-convention. Under President John Kennedy, White led a task force that negotiated the "chicken war" with the European community in 1963. In 1964 he was selected by President Lyndon Johnson to be a representative at the Turkey and Yugoslavia Trade Conference. White functioned as a special adviser in Vietnam to establish a self-sustaining food production program for Southeast Asia in 1967. He was active in many presidential campaigns, and he was the Texas chairman for the 1972 George McGovern campaign for president against Richard Nixon. During that campaign he met campaign workers Bill Clinton and Hillary Rodham, and in later years they became trusted colleagues.

White resigned as the Texas Commissioner of Agriculture in 1977 to become Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture at the request of President Jimmy Carter, and he and Nellie moved to Washington. His first responsibilities included dealing with thousands of angry farmers who called for new farm policies and protested in Washington by driving their tractors around the National Mall. In December 1977, after only a few months at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, he was chosen by President Carter to become the chairman of the Democratic National Committee. Serving as chairman from 1977 to 1981, he helped the Democrats retain their majority in Congress in the 1978 election. Also he was able to get the Democratic Party on a sound financial basis for the first time in many years. After the election of President Ronald Reagan in 1980, White returned to private life after thirty years of public service. He formed the John C. White Consulting firm and he remained a "behind-the-scenes consular to the Democratic Party" and a power-player in Washington until his death. Among his clients were longtime friend and Texan Oscar Wyatt of the Coastal Corporation.

White died in Washington, D.C., on January 20, 1995. His funeral was the first to be held in the Rotunda of the Texas State Capitol, and Republican George W. Bush was governor. White was one of the rare politicians who worked well with both parties. When he was first hospitalized with a serious unknown illness two years before his death, Republican President George H. W. Bush had the White House physician call to see if he could help. White's bi-partisanship was best reflected in his two funeral services—a funeral and graveside burial in Austin on January 27, 1995, and a later memorial service at the First Baptist Church of Washington, D.C., on January 31, 1995. Democratic presidential candidate Rev. Jesse Jackson (whom White helped advise during his 1988 presidential campaign) conducted the funeral and graveside service in Austin. White's close friend, Republican presidential candidate Senator Bob Dole, gave one of the eulogies in Washington. White loved politics and once said, "Politics isn't a war, it's a process. I want to win every election, but I've never felt I compromised my principles by having friends on the other side or hearing another point of view." He is buried at the Texas State Cemetery in Austin.

*Handbook of Texas Online , John R. White, "WHITE, JOHN COYLE ,"* accessed November 07, 2019, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fwh63>.

# John C. White, 70, Chairman Of Democrats in Carter's Term

 [nytimes.com/1995/01/21/obituaries/john-c-white-70-chairman-of-democrats-in-carter-s-term.html](https://www.nytimes.com/1995/01/21/obituaries/john-c-white-70-chairman-of-democrats-in-carter-s-term.html)

By David Binder

January 21,  
1995

## About the Archive

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John C. White, a Texas sharecropper's son who became Democratic national chairman under President Jimmy Carter, died here today at Georgetown University Hospital, where he had been under treatment for a heart ailment. He was 70 and lived in Washington.

Mr. White had a successful career in state politics before he was drawn to Washington, and along the way he won the friendship of powerful older Texas Democrats such as Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and Representative Sam Rayburn, the longtime Speaker of the House.

Within the fractious state party, he gained a reputation as a conciliator. "He always took a position on one side or the other, but without indulging in mean-spirited things or personal attacks," Robert S. Strauss, another Texan who became a national leader of the party, said today. "He literally had no enemies."

Mr. Strauss, who had earlier served as party chairman, endorsed Mr. White for the post in 1977. Mr. White was chosen by President Carter late that year and was elected by the national committee in January 1978.

The next year he found himself in the middle of a fight over movements in six states to replace Mr. Carter as the party's 1980 Presidential nominee with Senator Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts. Mr. White denounced those efforts as a recipe for discord that would "hand the Presidency on a silver platter to the Republicans." In the end, after Paul G. Kirk, the Kennedy campaign chairman, had failed to oust Mr. White from the party chairmanship, Senator Kennedy withdrew from the race.

But Mr. Carter lost the subsequent general election to Ronald Reagan. Of his own future, Mr. White said afterward that the chairmanship was not much but was "the only bone in the yard." A few weeks later, however, he announced his resignation. He remained in Washington as a lobbyist.

John Coyle White was born on Nov. 26, 1924, on his family's tenant farm near the North Texas town of Newport, in Clay County, and chopped cotton as a boy in the Depression. His father was able to buy the land in 1937 with one of the first loans issued by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Farm Security Administration, and it stayed in the family thereafter.

Mr. White attended rural schools, earned an undergraduate degree at Texas Tech University in 1946, then worked as a farm manager and taught agricultural courses at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls.

At age 24, he ran for an influential state post, Commissioner of Agriculture, and defeated five candidates, including the incumbent. He was re-elected 13 times.

He served Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson as an adviser on international agricultural issues and in 1977 was appointed Deputy Secretary of Agriculture by President Carter, a post he held for nine months before the President asked him to become party chairman.

Tall, with a shock of hair the light brown color of his North Texas home country, Mr. White kept a patchwork quilt on a settee in his Washington home. "My mother made the quilt," he once said. "We had nothing new. Every year we moved to a different shack with no electricity or plumbing. All you had was your wagon and your team." And the quilt.

Mr. White is survived by his wife, the former Wynelle Watson; two sons, John R. White and Edward P. White, both of Austin, Tex., and two grandchildren. A third son, Jake, from a previous marriage, has died.

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**The New York Times**

*Obituary for John C. White. The New York Times; January 21, 1995.*



# John C. White Endowed Scholarship

The John C. White Endowment was established by various donors in 1995. The scholarship is awarded to students majoring in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources.

The Honorable John Coyle White began his political career in 1950, when he was elected Texas Commissioner of Agriculture at the age of 25. He was the youngest man ever elected to a statewide office in Texas and the youngest Agricultural Commissioner in the nation. He was re-elected to that high office 12 times, 26 1/2 years, and helped Texas in its difficult transition from an agricultural to a predominately urban economy. His progressive policies and leadership abilities were recognized early by agricultural heads in other states and he served several times as president of the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture as well as the Southern Association of Agricultural Commissioners.

In 1977, President Jimmy Carter called him to Washington to serve as Deputy U. S. Secretary of Agriculture during a period of great unrest among the nation's farmers. His calm and reasoned arbitration with disaffected groups resulted in several successful changes in U. S. farm policy. Shortly afterwards, he was named Chairman of the Democratic National Committee and served with distinction, putting the committee back on a sound financial basis. His efforts also resulted in a cohesive party platform at the 1980 Democratic Convention in New York, where he was convention chairman. In later years, White was an admired and respected business and political consultant, whose advice was sought by Democratic and Republican leaders, alike.

White never lost his love for Texas and his rural roots. He was the son of Clay County tenant farmer, Ed White, who was honored at the State Fair in 1950 for being one of the first to pay off one of the long-term loans provided by the old Farm Home Administration. With an initial start of \$100 Sears Scholarship, John White worked his way through Texas Tech, earning a degree in Agriculture in 1946. After graduation he became a teacher and later head of the Department of Animal Husbandry at Midwestern University, Wichita Falls. Ambitious for a political career that would help further the interests of his beloved farm roots, he ran successfully for the office of Texas Commissioner of Agriculture against a field of five opponents. He achieved an enviable record of longevity and service in every task he undertook.

White and his wife, "Nellie," were looking forward to an eventual retirement to Texas in the near future. They maintained a residence in Washington and a ranch in South Texas.

To support this scholarship, please visit the [John C. White Endowed Scholarship](https://www.depts.ttu.edu/agriculturalsciences/Students/scholarships/college/White.php) gift page.

*John C. White Endowed Scholarship, Texas Tech University.*

*<https://www.depts.ttu.edu/agriculturalsciences/Students/scholarships/college/White.php>*

# McDonald Finally Concedes Defeat; Offers White 'On-the-Job' Training

By Associated Press

J. E. McDonald, 10-term winner as state commissioner of agriculture, Tuesday conceded John C. White's nomination to the post.

He offered congratulations and wishes for a successful administration to the 25-year-old Wichita Falls agriculture teacher.

White collected 11,074 votes more than the veteran McDonald, according to the Texas Election Bureau's final count of Saturday's Democratic run-off election. White had 351,149 votes to 340,073 for McDonald. Votes had been tabulated from 253 of Texas' 254 counties, with 175 complete.

McDonald offered White a desk in his office after the general election "where, if he desires, he may stay and familiarize himself with the work of the department before he begins his official duties."

McDonald's statement also said:

"I am deeply grateful to Texans for having had the honor and pleasure of serving them for 20 years as commissioner of agriculture. I have employed assistants who are worthy, capable and courteous and together we have made a service record in which I have much pride.

"I have served all Texans, regardless of race, color, creed or politics because all of these are taxpayers and send their sons to fight our country's battles.

"In retiring from politics, the greatest consolation I have is that through all the campaigns I have never made an unkind remark, in public or in private, about one of my opponents. I hold no animosity but will continue steadfast in my interest in the welfare of agriculture."

The election bureau estimated 12,000 votes remained uncounted.

The only county not reported was Borden, which cast just 99 votes in the first primary in July and favored McDonald slightly.

White is an agriculture teacher and school executive. He made, among other things, party loyalty a campaign issue.

McDonald was opposed by many Democratic Party regulars. They said he had given too much aid, comfort and support to the Republicans. The party tried to bar him from the ticket, but McDonald got his name on the list by court action.

White had a lead of just under 7,000 votes Sunday night. It grew steadily Monday, reaching 10,564 in the bureau's next-to-last count when Duval County reported its vote. County Judge George Parr already had told the Associated Press (Continued on Page 2, Col. 6)

## White's Victory Acknowledged

(Continued from Page 1)

White had swept Duval County—the bureau's figures gave his 3,598 votes in the county to 45 for McDonald.

Decisions had been reached in all other major state contests by Sunday. The election bureau's final tabulation Monday showed:

For lieutenant governor: Ben Ramsey 449,915, Pierce Brooks 274,600.

For US representative, 16th District: Ken Regan 23,272, Paul Moss 18,364.

For US representative, 18th District: Walter Rogers 22,224, Mrs. Altavene Clark 16,765.

For Court of Criminal Appeals: W. A. Morrison 392,238, R. L. Latimore 274,220.

For Supreme Court, place 1: Will Wilson 388,015, Fagan Dickson 294,658.

For Supreme Court, place 3: Meade F. Griffin 440,807, George Harwood 228,663.

The Austin *Statesman*; Aug 29, 1950

## GIANT KILLER SAYS HE'S GREEN AS GOURD

MINERAL WELLS, Sept. 12.—(AP) John C. White attended his first state Democratic convention Tuesday. He said "I'm green as a gourd."

It's all new to the 25-year-old Wichita Falls redhead who brought joy to many members of his party in the Aug. 26 second primary by defeating J. E. McDonald for agriculture commissioner.

"Like I said in my campaign, I'm not a politician," White said in an interview. "I've always been a Democratic voter. But this is my baptism so far as politics is concerned."

He was enjoying it.

"It's lots of fun, but it's serious business, too. The maneuvering gets pretty intricate sometimes. I'm not always sure exactly what is going on. It's like in a chess game—you slide off in one direction when you're really intending to go another."

The big, stocky North Texan was something of an oddity at the assemblage of old-timers versed in the ways of politics.

State Chairman John C. Calhoun interrupted Monday's meeting of the state executive committee to announce "we have in our midst a young giant killer I want you all to know."

White blushed.

And everyone looked at the uncomfortable young man who removed what loyalist Democrats considered a big thorn from the side of the Texas Democratic Party.

The thorn, of course, was McDonald, an almost-legendary Texas political figure who held office 20 years while voting independently.

"I'm glad now that I didn't say anything in my campaign about McDonald voting Republican," White said. "I'm glad I campaigned on the pertinent issues—how the office of agriculture commissioner was being administered."

*The Austin Statesman; Sep 12, 1950*





## Farm Commissioner

# White Slaps Trade Protectionists

By WRAY WEDDELL JR.  
The Austin Statesman Staff  
HOUSTON — Texas Commissioner of Agriculture John C. White hit hard here Wednesday at "protectionist" groups who would severely restrict foreign imports.

To do so, White said in essence, would be to invite retaliatory measures hurtful to Texas agricultural economy.

White, just back from an eight day swing through central European and Mediterranean countries, addressed a conference of government and business leaders exploring means of expanding this state's already sizeable trade with booming Japan.

The Japanese ambassador to the US, Ryuji Takeuchi, was to address the Texas Conference on Exports to Japan later in the day.

The conference in the Hotel America sponsored by the US-Japan Trade Council is the occasion for the ambassador's first official Texas visit.

Even now, Texas leads the

nation in the value of agricultural and industrial goods sold to the Japanese. The trade balance is extremely favorable. Exports last year totaled \$163 million while the import trade amounted to only \$43 million.

Speaking to the morning session of the one-day conference, White said that Texas probably has the greatest economic stake of any state in the future of foreign markets for farm products.

"We have just concluded an historic, record smashing year in our national export trade, and Texas played a major role," White said.

During that year, according to White, US farm exports hit an all time high of \$6.1 billion, with Texas agriculture accounting for roughly 10 per cent.

"Therefore, exports are big business in the Texas farm economy," the commissioner said. Approximately 25 per cent of the state's agricultural income is derived from exports.

As for Japan, said White, that nation "is one of the bright-

est stars in our export skies—buying more Texas agricultural commodities than any other single nation."

And yet, White said, there is heard "the hue and cry of protectionists against any such partnership.

"Some people in influential positions frequently advocate prohibitive measures against the import and sale of Japanese textiles in the US. These people fail to take into consideration that Japan is one of the biggest buyers of Texas cotton.

"This cotton goes into the manufacture of the very textiles which the protectionists seek to outlaw."

White then asked:

"How long do these people think we could continue sending some \$143 million worth of cotton from the Port of Houston to Japan each year if we refused to open our markets to their textiles?

"What would happen to our rice and grain markets in West Germany if we told the Germans, 'don't send us any more Volkswagens'?"

# John White Lauds Farm Legislation

By CLARK BOLT  
Staff Writer

THRALL — The way Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White figures it is this: It might be a good thing for country boys if the Legislature had some more city slickers in it.

White was featured speaker at the annual Stiles Farm Foundation field day here Tuesday. He talked about state legislation as it affects agriculture.

He said the recent Legislature was "really the first one" which was dominated by city legislators. His appraisal: Agriculture fared better by this Legislature than at any time since the farm-to-market road bill was passed.

Agriculture, White said, received more appropriations this time, and had more legislation passed providing for its good than at any time in a long time.

And he said some of the things which weren't passed were just as important for the betterment of agriculture as those which were.

He referred specifically to the agricultural development board. White said he was opposed to it because, as he explained, "It put me in an untenable position." He said he could not see how he as an elected office holder could serve the people and at the same time have to answer to a board. He said it would slow down progress as well.

White said he did not believe his opposition to the agricultural development board had anything to do with Gov. John Connally's cutting out an appropriation of \$325,000 to the Department of Agriculture for market development. "I have not had the chance to talk with Gov. Connally about this matter, but I will. I believe it is a misunderstanding," White said.

About the good things the Legislature did for agriculture, White noted these:

1. Passage of the volunteer check-off program gives agriculture a chance to promote and research on its own, and puts the farmer in a position to go after markets. "People aren't going to come to us. We must go after markets, and this legislation will give producers a chance to initiate a really aggressive market development program," White said.

2. A \$100,000 appropriation for mesquite control research. "This will give us an

opportunity to really attack this problem," he said.

White also commended the Legislature for action regarding citrus regulations and milk weight checks.

Williamson County Agent John Wakefield was master of ceremonies.

The Stiles farm has been under supervision of the Texas A&M University board for the past five years. Farm manager is Calvin Rinn.

Taylor Chamber of Commerce president Bill Black said the farm this year might reach goals of 4,500 pounds of grain sorghum per acre and a bale of cotton per acre. These are goals set by the Blackland Income Growth — BIG — under which the farm is managed. The farm also utilizes livestock and swine in its program.

Rinn said the cotton and grain sorghum looks good now, and if the weather cooperates he expects a good yield and return from the farm's operations this year.

Kenneth Johnson, Hutto farmer, explained that the BIG program has meant the difference of some farmers staying in business or going out of farming.

## White Plans AID Study in Vietnam

Capitol Staff

Agriculture Commissioner John C. White has been requested by the US State Department to serve as special observer on a mission to Vietnam, evaluating work of the Agency for International Development.

White told of his two-week foreign study Monday at the Texas Farm Bureau's 34th annual conference in Austin. He will leave early Tuesday for a briefing session with USDA and State Department officials in Washington and depart for Saigon late Wednesday or early Thursday.

In Vietnam, Commissioner White is scheduled to confer with Ambassador Eugene Locke and Agriculture officials of the US and Vietnamese Governments before his fact-finding trip into farm areas and battle zone villages where aid is in operation.

The AID in Vietnam has designed a number of self-help programs for villagers and farmers to increase their agricultural productivity. White's mission, in part, will be to evaluate the progress of these food and fiber programs and make recommendations for better usage of US farm tools and agricultural shipments.

Following the Saigon conferences, Commissioner White will contact local leaders and farmers in northern villages within Sector 2, between the demilitarized zone and Da Nang. Proceeding south, his field inspection will include the fertile production areas of the Mekong Delta where the war has crippled farm efforts.

White plans to return to the US around Dec. 3 to present his findings in a two-day debriefing in Washington.

During his stay in Vietnam,

White hopes to visit briefly with his son, Richard, 20, a specialist 4 with the US Army Signal Corps near the demilitarized zone. Young White has been in the Army since early 1966 and is scheduled to end his Vietnam tour in mid-summer of next year.

This will be commissioner White's second major effort on behalf of US state department overseas programs in two years. In 1935, he served as special representative to the international trade fairs and conferences in Turkey and Yugoslavia.



## Texas Tech Honors 3 Top Leaders

LUBBOCK — L. D. (Don) Anderson, C. G. (Charlie) Scruggs and John C. White were honored at Texas Tech University Tuesday. Each was cited as an "Outstanding Leader in Texas Agriculture."

The awards honored Anderson as a producer, Scruggs as an agri-businessman and White as a public servant.

The awards, presented for the first time at the annual Texas Tech Aggie Pig Roast, were awarded by the Student Agricultural Council and the faculty of the College of Agricultural Sciences.

Presentations were made by Dean Gerald W. Thomas of the College of Agricultural Sciences following traditional ceremonies recognizing outstanding students in the college, departmental team members and 45 scholarship winners whose awards ranged from two \$75 winners to four who received four-year \$700 awards.

Anderson farms approximately 1,200 irrigated acres near Crosbyton. He is immediate past president of Plains Cotton Growers Inc. and currently chairman of its board and chairman of the Beltwide Cotton Producers Committee. The award made particular mention of Anderson's contribution in the organization, coordination and successful operation of the Diapause Boll Weevil Control Program on the High Plains.

Scruggs, vice president and editor of "Progressive Farmer," holds a degree in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University. He was the first Texan to hold the office of president of the American Agricultural Editors' Association and was the founder and first president of the Screwworm Eradication Program.

White, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, holds a degree in animal husbandry from Texas Tech and was head of the School of Agriculture at Midwestern University prior to his election. White was recognized for initiating the collection and publication of County Agricultural Statistics and of the Texas Agricultural Products (TAP) program which has become the "most successful" agricultural marketing promotional project in the United States. The citation also noted White's role in international agriculture. He has represented the U.S. government in several foreign assignments.

## New TAP Insignia Gains Hold

TAP is apparently gaining hold, reports Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White. TAP is the green and black Texas Agricultural Products insignia.

"TAP is a year-round market development and promotion program designed to stimulate awareness of the fine quality and limitless abundance of Texas Agricultural Products," White said. It provides Texans with an organized channel which boosts marketing of these commodities, he said.

"The basic idea behind the program is that high quality marketing and promotion stimulates growth in the economy, and in this case it is Texas' farm economy that is being helped," White said.

The promotional campaign spotlights a different Texas agricultural commodity every two months in an intensified and organized effort.

During the period, agricultural products are brought to the attention of the consuming public by all communications media. For each promotion, Texas Department of Agriculture displays full color posters and case strips in thousands of grocery stores and over a million billing inserts are mailed out by banks and utility companies.

## John White Announces For Race

Capitol Staff

Veteran Agriculture Commissioner John C. White announced Tuesday he will be a candidate for reelection — seeking his 11th term — next year.

White at 45 years old is second only to Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes as the youngest statewide elected official. White was first elected in 1951 at the age of 26.

So far no opposition has been rumored for White in the May Democratic primary.

White said in his announcement that Texas agriculture has "had many shifts in emphasis and needs" during his 18 years in office and that today his department "renders a vast number of vital services which promote the economic well-being of every Texan."

"My goals for Texas extend from the soil to the supermarket on a national and international basis," White said. He said the Texas Agricultural Products has boosted the state's position as a top world exporter of farm and ranch commodities.

White is a native of Clay County in Northwest Texas. He is a graduate of Texas Tech and has done graduate work at Texas A&M University.

Before being elected agriculture commissioner he was head of the School of Agriculture at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls.

Last year White was one of five American agricultural leaders to receive special commemorative medals authorized by Congress for the federal land banks of America. He also has been decorated by the government of France for distinguished service to agriculture.

## DDT Faces Ban, Farm Chief Says

By ROWLAND NETHAWAY  
Staff Writer

Chemical compounds containing DDT for general agricultural use will no longer be registered by the Texas Department of Agriculture until further notice, Commissioner John C. White announced Tuesday.

"We want to be the protectors of the environment and not the contaminators of it," White said.

He said the action is being taken to give a special three-week-old advisory committee appointed by Gov. Preston Smith time to study and report on DDT use in Texas.

White said his department also is studying existing statutes involving the sale and use of pesticides with an eye toward their possible revision.

He said the suspension of registration does not mean that any ill effects from the agricultural use of DDT compounds have been reported or found.

DDT compounds are used mostly in household uses "and very little in agriculture," he said.

The registration ban does not affect the household use, he said. "In home use, it is up to the individual to judge the harmful effects," he said.

The suspension, however, will give the special committee time to continue the study of effects of pesticides and to make recommendations, he said.

The commissioner said the "50 to 60" companies presently registered may continue to use the DDT compounds for farm use until the Aug. 31 yearly registration date, but no new companies will be registered until the study is complete.

# White Underlines Importance Of Good Pollution Controls

WACO — Sensible pollution control programs and rural redevelopment can offer a quality environment for all Texans, Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White said here Friday night at the annual meeting of the Waco Jaycees.

White said a quality environment is the aim of all Texans, whether they live in the "concrete jungles or at the forks of the creek." He said, "Our number one commitment should be improving our society and the quality of life and environment. This can be accomplished through rural redevelopment programs and workable pollution control plans."

Texas, he said, has taken positive steps to develop "rational and sensible" solutions to problems of pollution. He referred to the formation by the Texas Legislature of the Pesticide Advisory Committee of Texas. The committee was set up to study use of pesticides in Texas and to make recommendations to the commissioner for his final decision.

White announced recently that as of Aug. 31 household use of DDT would be banned in the state. The decision was based on recommendations of the pesticide committee. The decision, he said, has met with overwhelming approval. "I believe we have seen a turning point emerging in our way of thinking regarding our

environment. We are beginning to reach some semblance of reasoning concerning our environment. We are taking a realistic look at the problems involved and then are putting into operation sensible solutions," he explained.

A rural redevelopment program can also lead to a quality environment, White said. The program should include three areas of approach, he said:

1. Metropolitan officials are

going to have to realize that rural areas offer a solution to their problems. "Big city officials and Chamber of Commerce and Industrial leaders are going to have to be convinced that a rural development program will answer the big city problems."

2. A national policy of rural-urban society must be developed and implemented.

3. Rural areas, too, will have to take an active part in rural development.



# White To Lead Farm Delegation

Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White will head a delegation representing 24 state commissioners of agriculture at a hearing of the Democratic platform committee June 16 in Sioux City, Iowa.

White will present a national farm program which has been devised by the 24 agriculture commissioners. The commissioners are from all parts of the nation.

"Agriculture programs on a national level need a new approach and concept. There is a need for improvement of our environment through rural development and the survival of the family farm concept in agriculture. Unless we act quickly, we are going to lose the family farm type of agriculture which has made this nation the greatest on earth. The other

commissioners of agriculture and I have spent a great deal of time and study and consultation with agriculture producers in our respective states to get their ideas on what is needed in national farm programs. We believe we have put together a program that will be acceptable to agriculture and to the rest of the economy," White said.

Commissioners of agriculture from other states than Texas include: Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, West Virginia, Maine, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, and South Dakota.

"The last Presidential election was determined by the rural vote. This can happen again in 1972. The Democratic Party can be the victor provided it offers a national farm program with positive approaches to achieving a prosperous agriculture and a quality environment," White said.

# White Proposes Program To Assure Demo Victory

By CLARK BOLT

Farm Editor

SIOUX CITY — Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White proposed a seven-point program here Friday which he says can provide a victory for the Democratic party this fall.

White presented a farm program which has been devised by 24 state commissioners of agriculture representing all parts of the nation.

"Farmers are disenchanted with present farm programs. Rural Americans are a forgotten people. Yet, it is their votes which can determine the outcome of the coming Presidential election. This is what happened in 1968. The Democratic Party can be the victor provided it offers a national farm program with positive approaches to achieving a prosperous agriculture and a quality environment," White said.

The program of the 24 state agriculture commissioners includes 100 per cent of parity on domestic production, collective bargaining, rural redevelopment programs, a total approach to environmental quality, and provisions for special incentives for the family farm.

Provisions include:

1. A national rural redevelopment program to assure the best quality of life for rural Americans.

2. National farm policies to provide 100 per cent of parity on domestic production of nationally essential commodities with proper supply mana-

gement to assure equitable distribution.

3. Collective bargaining for agriculture.

4. Establishment of international trade agreements on agricultural commodities and establishment of a national import-export authority to safeguard markets at home and to bolster prices in international commodity trade.

5. Provisions for special incentives and programs for agricultural homesteads to stabilize the waning strength of rural America.

6. A national land policy to encourage people to live on farms and help redevelop rural areas.

7. Environmental resource programs to preserve and safeguard soil, clean air and clean water.

"This program encompasses opportunities this nation has to make a real effort to revive America: not just rural America but urban America too," White said.

A quality environment, he said, should be the number one commitment of this nation. "A quality environment program means putting together urban and rural programs to complement each other. One is as important as the other," he said.

The family farm, the basis for growth of this nation, can be preserved with special incentives and programs for agricultural homesteads.

He also noted that agriculture income is still a fourth below

that of the rest of the economy. Supply-management and 100 per cent parity programs are needed to get agriculture's economy on an equal footing with the rest of the nation, he said.

## Heritage program underway

Registration for the 1975 family land heritage program runs through August 15, according to Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White.

The program, which recognized 560 families in its inaugural year in 1974, is intended to honor those families who have a history of 100 years or more of owning and working the same land.

Applications for this year's program are available from county judges and the Texas Department of Agriculture. Judges in counties organized by 1875 have applications available, while applications in counties organized after 1875 should write the TDA.

"The criteria for qualification this year are almost the same as last year," White said. "A family must have owned the same land and worked that land for 100 years or more. We changed the date of qualification from 1874 to 1875 and tightened the rules somewhat, but essentially it is the same application as a year ago."

Families qualifying for the program will receive a certificate suitable for framing, be recognized in special ceremonies later this year, and be listed in the Land Heritage Registry.

Complete information may be obtained by writing the Texas Department of Agriculture, Box 12847, Austin, 78711

*The Austin Statesman; Jun 17, 1972*

*The Austin American Statesman; Jun 20, 1975*

# White going to Washington

BY JON FORD

Political Editor

Texas Agriculture Commissioner John C. White, a veteran of 26 years in state elective office, Wednesday accepted a long-expected offer to become the No. 2 man in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

President Jimmy Carter announced in Washington he had nominated White, 52, as deputy U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

The appointment is subject to Senate confirmation.

**WHITE SAID HE** will not resign as state commissioner until he is cleared by the Senate.

Reports circulated for more than two months that White, second Texan selected for a high post in the Carter administration, would be appointed any day. He was active in Carter's 1976 campaign after earlier leading the unsuccessful "favorite son" effort of U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

F. Ray Marshall, a University of Texas economics professor, was one of Carter's early nominations — as secretary of labor.

**TEXAS POLITICAL** figures, including Gov. Dolph Briscoe, pushed hard for White as deputy to Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland. Some never considered appointment of Marshall, a political outsider with liberal views, a suitable reward for

Texas going strongly Democratic in the November presidential election.

White fought back tears as he told a hastily-called news conference in Briscoe's office: "Leaving Texas is about the hardest thing I have ever done."

Briscoe, smiling broadly, "announced" the appointment to a crowd of well-wishers, who included at least two aspirants to White's present job: State Reps. Pete Laney of Hale Center and Joe Hubenak of Rosenberg.

**"THE CHALLENGES** presented by President Carter's appointment cannot be ignored," said White. "It is an opportunity to participate in decisions which affect food and fiber production throughout the world."

White tagged as his first priority "trying to make it possible for farmers and ranchers to make a living . . . There must be some correlation between what we need and what we produce . . . If we have to go back to a subsidized industry, then the free enterprise system has failed."

Briscoe said he has not decided who he will name to take White's place. He has ordered a staff study of the eligibility of legislators to the position. (A constitutional provision appears to rule them out).

**BRISCOE SAID** he "does not have the answer" as to the constitutional question

which raises doubts as to whether he could appoint Laney, 33, a West Texas farmer, or Hubenak, 39, an accountant with family farming interests.

White's deputy, Bill Pieratt, 62, of Giddings, is also a contender for the anticipated appointment.

Senate action on the appointment is not anticipated for at least two weeks, White said. Meanwhile, he expects to continue holding the state commissioner's job.

White indicated he had received a special concession from the Carter administration which would permit him to return to state agriculture service if he chooses to immediately after he leaves the Washington scene.

**A PROVISION OF** Carter's code of ethics prohibits for a period of two years high level appointees from taking up positions in fields which they will be regulating as government officials.

The commissioner, if confirmed by the Senate, will receive a \$57,500 a year salary as deputy secretary. He makes \$43,300 in his present job. Although he will gain in salary, he stands to lose substantially in state retirement benefits. His retirement would double if he remained in office another two terms.

Son of a tenant farmer in Clay County, White went to Texas Tech and earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

*The Austin American-Statesman; Mar 10, 1977*



# White believes government can help farmers

By CLARK BOLT

Farm Editor

WASHINGTON — John C. White is the first to admit he still is "very new" in his role of No. 2 man in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but he remains totally dedicated to this premise: the government can work for the farmer, and not the farmer work for the government.

Can he succeed in making the USDA, one of the biggest bureaucracies in government, really work for the farmer? He admits he already has found it frustrating, but he says he will continue to give it his best shot.

From his office next to Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland on the second floor of the sprawling USDA complex, White looked up and asked: "Did I make a mistake in coming to this place?"

A lot of his friends in Texas still think he did. Consider the fact that he had spent half his life as agriculture commissioner in Texas, running for office every two years (with the exception this last four-year term), and defeating his opponents two and three and four to one.

He developed a reputation as the dean of state agriculture commissioners in the nation, and put together programs that have since been copied by other state departments of agriculture. He probably could have kept on being agriculture commissioner in Texas for the rest of his life.

So why did he switch? Perhaps he felt he was somehow obligated to the federal government because the Farmers Home Administration 40 years ago enabled his father to get a loan with which to buy a farm; or perhaps his ego finally got to him and he decided he needed national exposure. He admits that he doesn't have the answer.

Regardless of that, White is very much involved in making policy decisions that will affect all farmers. He is in charge of putting together a national energy policy for agriculture. He also is in charge of farm exports on a nationwide basis. He also is involved with a reorganization program for USDA. And that's just "openers" for him. He also has to get the state appointments for USDA cleared and make sure the Texas congressional delegation is pleased as well as following guidelines of the Carter administration concerning this matter.

Regarding the energy problem, he noted that his good friend, Gov. Dolph Briscoe is seething over the Carter proposals.

White said, he, too, doesn't like all the ideas in it. "But it is a program, and this is the first time we have had that.

"I have no objection to anyone complaining about it provided he has a better answer. We keep hearing mostly from the opposition that all we need to do is raise prices so that will encourage more exploration and drilling for oil. I think those who believe in that sort of reasoning are going to have to come up with something more concrete if they are going to convince Congress to go along with that kind of thinking.

"Just raising the price of oil alone won't get the job done.

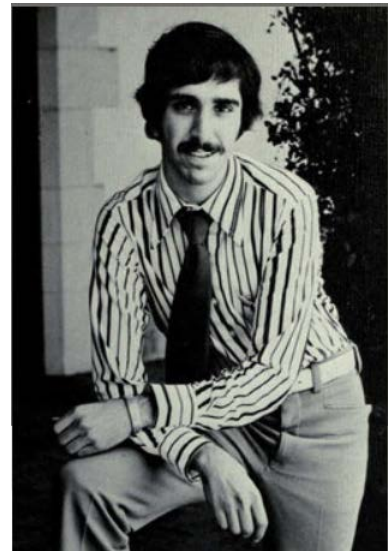
"We are all involved in this thing; one thing we need to really take to heart is the conservation recommendation. The President is asking us to cut down on our use of oil by 10 per cent. Surely, we can voluntarily do that. Just a few simple plans ahead of time could enable us all to cut down at least 10 per cent on our use of energy," White said.

Regarding agriculture's role in use of energy, White indicated that if the standby tax on gasoline had to be imposed, there would be, or should be, a provision exempting gasoline used in production of food and fiber.

Abundant production of food and fiber, White said, has made it possible for the American economy to survive in light of the skyrocketing costs for foreign oil.

*The Austin American-Statesman; May 15, 1977*

JACK BALAGIA was born in Austin, Texas on April 28, 1914 to George Balagia and Louise Mike Balagia. He grew up in Austin where he attended Austin public schools and St. Edwards. At a young age, he began working in his family's produce business, the Balagia Produce Company, on East Fifth Street in Austin, working with his uncles Charles Balagia and Tofie Balagia, who founded the company. During his time there, Balagia Produce was one of the largest suppliers of meat and produce in the State of Texas and was the best-known market of its kind in Austin.



In 1941, Jack applied for service in the United States Army Air Force and was accepted into cadet training school. During his service in World War II as a bombardier and navigator, he flew B-24s in Ecuador and conducted submarine patrol for a year. He then was stationed in the India theatre flying B-29's and transporting fuel from India to Chinese airfields in preparation for bombing missions to Japan, Manchuria, Burma and China. He flew three trips "over the Hump" through the Himalayas. He served two tours of duty in the Air force, flew 38 missions and was awarded many medals including the Air Medal with Oak Leaf Clusters, the Asia Pacific Medal with Two Clusters and the India Burma Medal with Two Clusters. He received a Presidential Citation with two Oak Leaf Clusters and was honorably discharged from the Air force in 1946 as a Captain. He returned to Austin and continued to work in the produce business.

In 1950, on a trip to New York, an Air Force colleague introduced him to Sophia Elizabeth Koury from Quincy, Massachusetts. A year later, they were married and moved to Austin where they raised their four children. In 1955, Jack began work in the insurance business and eventually founded the Balagia Insurance Agency. A successful insurance executive, he was a member of the Austin Life Underwriters' Association, the Austin Association of Insurance Agents and the Million Dollar Roundtable.

During his more than 90 years in Austin, Jack has been active in many civic, charitable, religious and educational organizations. He has been a member of the Austin Sheriff's Posse, the Austin Symphony Society board, the Knights of the Symphony, the Knights of Columbus (a fourth degree knight), and the KLRU fundraising auction. He has served as President of the University Optimist Club, President of the Darrell Royal Workshop (supporting muscular dystrophy research), President of the Texas Children's Mental Health Association, and President and Chairman of the Capital Area United Cerebral Palsy Association. He has served on the board and held other officer positions with the Downtown Optimist Club (board member), the Broadway League of Austin Club (vice-president), the Texas Statue of Liberty Commission (vice-chairman), the Austin Club (vice-president), the Austin Country Club (vice-president), the Austin Assembly and the Austin Urban Renewal Agency (vice-chairman). He has been a member of the Austin Chamber of Commerce and the Headliners Club.

He was a devoted and active member of (and served in numerous capacities at) St. Austin's Catholic Church for many years. He also served on the Board of St. Michael's Academy in Austin. In 1985, Pope John Paul II inducted him into the Knights of Malta, one of the highest lay honors of the Catholic Church.

He has also been a lifetime supporter of the University of Texas, where all four of his children were educated, and in 2003, the University established the S. Jack and Sophia K. Balagia endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law in his and his wife's honor. He attended most UT home football games, and has been a fixture at UT baseball games in his regular seats behind home plate at Disch-Falk Field, and at Clark Field before then. He served UT in many capacities, as a member of the UT Chancellors' Council and the UT Longhorn Foundation and the UT Longhorn Foundation Advisory Board. He was a charter member of the UT Club of Austin.

He has been an active participant in many state and local political campaigns for a number of candidates, most of whom were personal friends. In 1969, Governor John Connally appointed him to the Texas Judicial Qualifications Commission and in 1971, Governor Preston Smith appointed him to the Texas Film Commission. He had a cameo role in Peter Fonda's film, *Outlaw Blues*, which was filmed in Austin.

*Jack is survived by his wife, Sophia Koury Balagia and their four children, Jack Balagia, Jr. and his wife, Mary, James K. Balagia and his wife, Linda, G. Terry Balagia and his wife, Heather and Susan Marie Balagia. He is also survived by 12 Balagia grandchildren: Elaine, Terrence, Ben, Callie, Sarah, Michael, Rebecca, Amanda, Adam, James, Bo and Lily. He also leaves behind three brothers, George Kaleel, Lewis Kaleel, Mike Kaleel and his sister, Gloria Kaleel Dick. He is preceded in death by his parents, his sisters, Josephine Beard and Vicki Peacock, his brother, William Kaleel and his cousin, Eileen Jacob Cook. There will be a visitation on Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Cook-Walden Funeral Home, 6100 North Lamar Blvd., Austin. Private interment will take place on Friday, January 25, 2008 at Mt. Calvary Cemetery. A Memorial Mass will be held at 2:00 p.m. Friday at St. Mary's Cathedral, 203 East 10th Street, Austin, with Reverend George Joseph, celebrant. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the S. Jack and Sophia K. Balagia endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law at the UT School of Law, 727 E. Dean Keeton Ave., Austin, Texas 78705, or to a charity of your choice. Arrangements by Cook-Walden Funeral Home, 6100 North Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas 78752.*

*Obituary published in Austin American-Statesman on Jan. 24, 2008, via <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/33276730/saba-jack-balagia>*

*Sophia Elizabeth Koury Balagia was born in Frackville, Pennsylvania on April 14, 1924, and died on Mother's Day, May 12, 2019. Sophia was the oldest child of Agnes Zammer and Nicholas Carl Koury, and had three siblings, Linda Koury Hajjar, Carl Koury and Dan Koury. In 1933, her parents moved the family to Quincy, Massachusetts, where her father found work during the Great Depression as a riveter in the Boston shipyards, and where Sophia attended Fisher College. Her first job was as the assistant to G. Prescott Low, the publisher and owner of the Quincy Patriot daily newspaper.*



*In 1950, Sophia was introduced to Jack Balagia of Austin, Texas by one of Jack's World War II Army Air Force colleagues, Thurman Sallade. After a brief long-distance courtship, they married in February, 1951 and she courageously moved to Austin, at that time thousands of miles, geographically and culturally, from her friends and family. Although Sophia never shed her New England roots, nor her devotion to her parents and siblings, she embraced her adopted Austin soon after her arrival.*

*Sophia and Jack raised four children in their home on Waller Creek across from Robert E. Lee Elementary School. She actively participated in her children's education, often staying up late to type term papers and book reports, and always encouraging their achievement. She participated in their extracurricular activities as a den mother in the Cub Scouts and the Campfire Girls, and on the Board of the Austin Council of Parent Teacher Associations. Because all of her children attended the University of Texas, her and Jack's home often served as the venue for get-togethers of classmates and friends, many of whom have continued to keep in touch with her over the years.*

*Sophia also set an example in fulfilling civic responsibility, serving on the Board of Trustees of the Austin Public Library and helping to establish the city's new library building on Guadalupe Street. She was a founding member of the KLRU fundraising auction, served on the St. Michael's Development Board and on the Board of the Austin Mental Health Association. She was active in St. Austin's Church, Caritas and co-wrote a catechism for her fifth grade CCD class with her friend and colleague Jan Hearne. She was active in a number of local, state and national political campaigns, especially on behalf of her friend Congressman Jake Pickle and President Lyndon Johnson. She had an insatiable appetite for reading and learning and after her children had grown, she went back to school at UT for a number of years. She and Jack were founding members of the UT Club and members of the Longhorn Foundation, the UT Chancellors Council, the Friends of the LBJ Library and the Headliners Club.*

*After Jack died in 2008 at age 93, Sophia's active life continued to be focused on her home and family, her reading and audio books, opera, Turner Classic Movies, cooking for her family, and bridge games with her friends. She was extremely proud of her children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. She always looked forward to their visits. She insisted on living at home independently, with her daughter Suzy and son Jimmy always nearby to help out.*



She is survived by her children, son Jack, Jr. and his wife Mary, son Jimmy and his wife Linda, son Terry, her best friend and devoted daughter Suzy, as well as twelve grandchildren and four great grandchildren, her "adopted" daughter Laurie Brown and her Watson grandchildren, and many nephews and nieces. She is preceded in death by her parents, her siblings, her husband and her infant daughter Linda Dorice. She leaves behind a legacy of family, friendship, faith, education and civic duty. The family is grateful to Dr. David Joseph for his devotion to Sophia as her and Jack's personal physician for many years.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Thursday, May 16, at St. Austin's Catholic Church in Austin, with parking at 500 West Martin Luther King Blvd., a reception will follow at the Headliners Club. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the S. Jack and Sophia K. Balagia Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law at the UT School of Law, 727 E. Dean Keeton Ave., Austin, Texas 78705, to the LBJ Library Foundation at [www.lbjlibrary.org/foundation/support/](http://www.lbjlibrary.org/foundation/support/) or to a charity of your choice.

Obituary published in *Houston Chronicle* on May 14, 2019 via  
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/199115529/sophia-elizabeth-balagia>



**BRIDE OF AUSTIN MAN**—Mrs. S. Jack Balagia is the former Miss Sophia E. Koury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas C. Koury of Quincy, Mass. The marriage was solemnized Feb. 18 in Our Lady of Annunciation Church in Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Balagia now are at home in Austin at 719 Landon Lane. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Balagia of Austin. A graduate of Austin High School, he is owner of Balagia Poultry and Market. Mrs. Balagia was graduated from Fisher School of Boston and has been secretary to the publisher of the Quincy Patriot Ledger.

## Lucky 'Chute Was Saved For 'Biggest Jump'

"I saved my parachute because it saved me," said Jack Balagia.

And on Feb. 18 in Our Lady of Annunciation Church in Boston, his bride, Miss Sophia E. Koury, came down the aisle wearing a bridal gown fashioned of the heavy white nylon parachute, which during World War II had carried Captain Balagia twice to safety.

He made two jumps with the parachute over India when his plane ran out of gas.

Not only is it outstanding in that the bride's gown was made of this parachute issued to Jack in 1943, but also in that Jack designed the dress himself.

"I've been best man in weddings six times," he said, "and just observed the dresses." Then, after looking through several bride's magazines, he designed the dress. His aunt, Mrs. M. Jacob, and his cousin, Mrs. A. B. Garza, both of Austin, sewed the dress under the watchful eye of its designer.

The bride didn't see the dress until it was completed. The full skirt had three panels of Spanish lace. The same lace formed a Mantilla veil, inserts in the train and edging on the front of the bodice. Unusual feature is the Calla lily effect at each shoulder.

Which all goes to show that a wartime parachute can have more uses than one—sometimes the peacetime use may be just as important.

*The Austin American*; Mar 18, 1951.

**G N L**



Jack Balagia

**"Man  
of the  
Month"...**

**JACK  
BALAGIA**

This is the second time this year we have had the honor of recognizing Jack Balagia as our Company Sales Leader for the month. He is now No. 2 man in the Company for his 1962 production — and he is leading the Austin Agency.

These accomplishments are consistent with the type of sales record Jack has maintained during his years of association with Great National Life.

Jack has many friends in Austin. If you're not one of them, you should be. He's a good man to know because he can make your money do several important jobs for your future.

**AUSTIN AGENCY**

Manager: Oscar T. Doell, CLU  
710 West 7th Street, Austin, Texas, Phone GR 6-5307

Jack Balagia  
David Bradshaw  
E. J. Davis, Jr.

L. F. Frymire  
James P. Gage, Jr.  
Al Kaplan

Norwood King  
Eldon Newton, CLU  
Maurice Quigley  
Clint Sansom

**GREAT NATIONAL LIFE  
INSURANCE COMPANY**

FOUNDED 1928

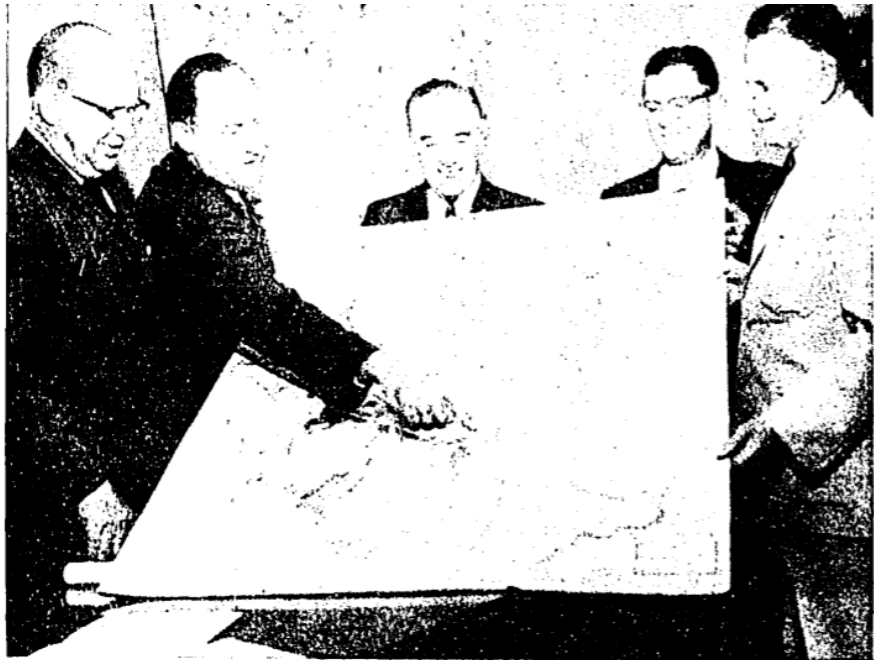
*"Life on the Move!"*

HOME OFFICE: DALLAS

S. J. Hay, Chairman of the Board

Carl C. Weisner, President

*The Austin American-Statesman; Nov 14, 1962*



**RENEWAL COMMISSION**—Austin's first Urban Renewal Commission looks over a "land use" map following swearing-in ceremonies. From left are Harry

Peterson, Milton Smith, Jack Balagia, Wesley Pearson and Jack Chiles. The commission will be responsible for directing the city's Urban Renewal activities in Austin, acting as a board of directors for the UR division of the city. District Judge Jack Roberts administered the oath to the new commission members at City Hall.

*The Austin Statesman; Jul 24, 1962*

## Area Chairman Selected For Fund-raising Auction

Col. and Mrs. Robert Langford, KLRN Auction chairmen, have named five area chairmen to head a group of 180 Austin women to help raise money for the Channel 9 educational television station through the third annual on-the-air auction May 5 through May 10.

They are Mrs. Jack S. Balagia, Mrs. T. Hardie Bowman, Mrs. William M. Day, Mrs. J. Chrys Dougherty and Mrs. E. A. Ripperger. Each of the five chairmen will select six captains who will build "Go-Getter" teams to call on Austin business firms for new merchandise to be auctioned. The gifts collected by the 30 five-member teams will be sold by local guest auctioneers during the six days of TV auctioneering.

The KLRN Auction will provide funds to support Channel 9's evening programming in the area of art, music, drama, discussion and public affairs. The educational station's day-time "in - school" programming, which serves more than 200,000 school children, is supported by 47 school districts. The 1968 auction netted \$87,000. This year's auction goal is \$100,000.

This will be Mrs. Balagia's third year to work on the auction. She has been a team captain and auctioneer. Mrs. Balagia is a trustee for the City Library Commission and is a member of the Austin League of Women Voters, Laguna Gloria Art Museum, Women's Symphony League and Optimistic Garden Club. She and her husband, an insurance man, are life members of the Parent Teachers' Association. They are vice presidents of Baker Junior High School PTA and are on the budget and finance committee of Robert E. Lee Elementary School PTA. They are past PTA presidents of Robert E. Lee and University Junior High School. Mrs. Balagia teaches a fifth-grade Sunday School class at St. Austin's Catholic Church. She has four children, Jack, 17,

Jimmy, 15, Terry, 13, and Susan, 10.

Mrs. Bowman, who has been chairman of the Volunteer Bureau and president of the Junior League of Austin, is secretary of the Community Council of Austin and Travis County, secretary of the Child and Family Service board, a co-chairman of the Homemaker Advisory board, and a member of the 1969 United Fund board of directors. She and her husband, an account executive for Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith, Inc., have three children, Tee, 18, Cliff, 10, and Sally, 6. The Bowmans are members of the Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church. This will be Mrs. Bowman's second year to work on the auction.

Mrs. Day is affiliated with Austin Lawyers' Wives Club, Heritage Society and Laguna Gloria Art Guild. She has been a volunteer at the Old Bakery and a "Go-Getter" and team captain for the auction. She and her husband, an investor and attorney, are active in St. Luke's on the Lake Episcopal Church and have a daughter, Lisa, 9.

The wife of an attorney, Mrs. Dougherty has been president of the Junior League of Austin and has served on the Ballet Society Board. She is on the advisory board of the Women's Symphony League, Laos House Board, the KMSA Radio Station board, and the Austin Symphony Orchestra board. She is a member of the English Speaking Union, Colonial Dames, the Open Forum, Kappa Kappa Gamma Alumnae, and the Jocalia Syndicate, an investment group. A member of the University Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Dougherty has two children, Molly, 19, and Chrys, 17. She was an auction team captain last year.

Mrs. Ripperger, who will be working on the auction for the first time, has been first vice president of the University Ladies' Club and is the club's current membership chairman. She is a member of the Austin League of Women Voters and has been an active worker in the Girl Scouts for the past nine years, serving as



Area chairman Mrs. T. Hardie Bowman, left, and Mrs. Jack Balagia visit a recording session of "Who Knows the Answer," a Channel 9 quiz program for fifth and sixth graders from Austin and San Antonio school. The program is aired Tuesday through Thursday afternoons at 5 p.m. Last week's winners from Zavala School are pictured (Staff Photo)



Mrs. Chrys Dougherty, left, Mrs. William M. Day and Mrs. E. A. Ripperger, three of five area chairmen for the third annual KLRN-TV on-the-air auction, visited the KLRN booth at the Travel and Boat Show last weekend. The booth displayed recording and television equipment,

provided information on the educational channel, and promoted the May 5-10 fund raising auction. Volunteer "Go-Getters," working under area chairmen and team captains will solicit merchandise for the auction March 1-April 15. (KLRN Photo)



## CAPITOL CITY SAVINGS HAS NEW ADVISORY DIR.

Insurance executive Jack Balagia, a lifelong citizen of Austin, has been appointed Advisory Director, according to Board Chairman Dr. James Moritz.

Balagia attended schools here. His interest in education led him to PTA work at Lee Elementary, Baker and University Junior Highs, and Austin High School.

A member of the long-ago Balagia Produce firm here, he was a captain in the Air Force during World War II. Sports interested him and he helped in Little League and American Legion Junior baseball.



He has been on countless civic boards, worked with Boy Scouts, Chamber of Commerce, Knights of Columbus, Sierra Club, Optimist Club, United Cerebral Palsy, Urban Renewal Commission, Sheriff's Posse, American Lebanese Assn., Darrell Royal Workshop, and others.

Jack Balagia  
Advisory Director

A member of Great National Life President's Council, Balagia has been in insurance 25 years, and works with his son, James.

*The Austin American Statesman; Aug 16, 1978*

### Building Permits

OWNER	Carret Corp.	ADDRESS	3303 Southill Circle
PLAT	171	LOT	9
		BLK.	K
		DIV	
SUBDIVISION	Herman Brown Addition # 2		
OCCUPANCY	2 Story Brick Ven & Frame Res. & Att. Garage		
BLD PERMIT #	86524	DATE	1-15-63
		OWNERS	ESTIMATE 30,500.00
CONTRACTOR	Owner	NO. OF FIXTURES	10
WATER TAP REC #w	E 32427	SEWER TAP REC #s	39037

*Building permit, 1-15-63*

# WATER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

MM  
E

Nº 32427

Received of CARRET CORP. Date 1-15-63  
 Address 3302 South Hill Circle  
Fifty + 70/100  
 Amount \$ 50.00  
 Plumber \_\_\_\_\_ Size of Tap 3/4"

Used 1/2 Stub E-22 110

Date of Connection 2-20-63  
 Size of Tap Made \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size Service Made \_\_\_\_\_  
 Size Main Tapped \_\_\_\_\_  
 From Front Prop. Line to Curb Cock 7'  
 From EAST Prop. Line to Curb Cock \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of Meter CURB (WEST METER)  
 Type of Box TWO-WAY  
 Depth of Main in St. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Depth of Service Line \_\_\_\_\_  
 From Curb Cock to Tap on Main \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checked by Engr. Dept. 3-1-63 JRT.

No. Fittings	Size
Pipe	
Corp. Cock	
Cop. to Iron ell	
Cop. to Cop. ell	
Cop. to Iron Coupling	
Cop. to Cop. Coupling	
2 1/4" Angle Stop	
1 1/2" Brass Stop	
Bushing	
1 Nipples	
Service Clamp	
Valve	
1 Meter Box	
1 Lock Lid	
1 Drain Tile	
1 Drain Tile Lid	
Stop & Drain	
Job. No. <u>U323-502</u>	
Foreman <u>Keener</u>	

Water tap permit, 1-15-63

# SANITARY SEWER SERVICE PERMIT

Austin, Texas

Nº 39035 ✓

Received of Carret Corp. Date 1-16-63  
 Address 3303 South Hill Circle  
 Amount Fifty + 100/100  
 Builder or Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Plumber H. Davis  
 Lot 9 Block K Subdivision Hwy. 177 Plat No. 177

Date of Connection 4-18-63  
 By City 19 1/2" W of ELL  
 By Plumber \_\_\_\_\_  
 Checked By Sesna  
 Size Main 8" Depth ± 5 1/2'  
 Main Assign. 19 1/2' N of S.R.  
 Stub Depth 4 1/2' Prop. Line 4  
 Stub Location 18' W of E.L.L. 2+18  
 Book No. A 4407  
 Paving Cut \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
OK 3-25-63 J.C.

No. Fittings	Size	Price
12	Pipe 6"	300
2	Bends 6"	196
	Reducers	
	Plugs	
	Sand	
	Gravel	
	Remix	
	Stoppers	
	Castings	
	Other	
Labor: 16 hrs		20.80
1-1/2 hr		2.55
1-1/2 hr		1.50
Total		429.81

Sewer tap permit, 1-16-63