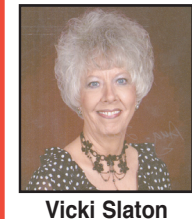




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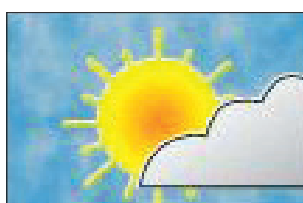
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Interior demolition at Settles almost complete

"The title transfer of the Settles Hotel, along with completion of the environmental asbestos abatement and clean-up signals an important milestone in the restoration of the historic hotel."



B. Ryan

By THOMAS JENKINS
Staff Writer
Almost one year and 700 tons of debris later, officials with the Settles Hotel Development Company say interior demolition work at the downtown landmark is nearing completion.
According to SHDC General Manager Kristopher Ryan, asbestos abatement and cleanup at the

structure have gotten the thumbs-up from officials.
"Abatement Inc. out of Sugar Land recently completed the environmental clean-up and asbestos abatement at the Settles Hotel property in accordance with the abatement specifications prepared by Houston-based Honesty Environmental Services," said Ryan. "Upon completion of abatement at each area, air samples

were collected to verify that the clearance level for abatement projects — as specified by the Environmental Protection Agency and Texas Department of State Health Services regulations — was achieved.
"Interior demolition has reached substantial completion, except for several limited areas
See **SETTLES**, Page 3A

Nov. 4, 1916-July 17, 2009

Walter Cronkite passes

Remembered as 'honorable' and 'an icon'

By FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer
NEW YORK — The death of Walter Cronkite elicited tributes from colleagues, presidents past and present, world-famous astronauts and those who hoped in vain to fill his empty anchor chair, all honoring the avuncular face of TV journalism who became the "most trusted man in America."



AP Photo/Michael Caulfield

Cronkite died with his family by his side Friday night at his Manhattan home after a long illness, CBS vice president Linda Mason said. Marlene Adler, Cronkite's chief of staff, said Cronkite died of cerebrovascular disease. He was 92.

"It's hard to imagine a man for whom I had more admiration," Mike Wallace of "60 Minutes" said on CNN. "... He was a superb reporter and honorable man."

Cronkite was the face of the "CBS Evening News" from 1962 to 1981, when stories ranged from the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to racial and anti-war riots, Watergate and the Iranian hostage crisis.

It was Cronkite who read the bulletins coming from Dallas when Kennedy was

In this Nov. 16, 1996 file photo, veteran newsmen Walter Cronkite acknowledges a standing ovation from the audience at the 18th annual CableACE Awards show in Los Angeles. Famed CBS News anchor Walter Cronkite, known as the 'most trusted man in America' died Friday. He was 92.

shot Nov. 22, 1963, interrupting a live CBS-TV broadcast of a soap opera.

"Walter was who I wanted to be when I grew up," said CBS's "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer, 72, who began working at CBS News in 1969.

"He set a standard for all of us. He made television news what it became."

Cronkite died just three days before the 40th anniversary of the moon landing, another earthshaking moment of history linked inexorably

with his reporting.

"He had a passion for human space exploration, an enthusiasm that was contagious, and the trust of his audience. He will be missed," astronaut Neil Armstrong said.

President Barack Obama issued a statement saying that Cronkite set the standard by which all other news anchors have been judged, echoing sentiments from former Presidents George W.

See **CRONKITE**, Page 3A

Chalet set to open Monday

Special to the Herald

Big Spring State Hospital's volunteer-run Chalet Resale Shop will reopen Monday after being closed the past two weeks for street and sidewalk construction.

Construction is still ongoing but work crews' progress in recent days will ease the ability of customers and volunteers to safely exit and enter the store when the store reopens next week, said Chalet Co-chairman Ruth Nanny.

The Chalet Resale Shop is located at 115 E. Second St. and is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Nanny

Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday. The time off has been productive for the volunteers who run the Chalet, Nanny said.

"We have worked on the inside of the building — painting and decorating." When the street and sidewalks repairs are completed, the volunteers will renovate the outside of the building, Co-chairman Tommy Corwin said.

See **CHALET**, Page 3A

BREAK FOR THE BLUES



HERALD Photo/Thomas Jenkins

While most people would look for some shade or an air conditioned building on their lunch break, local resident Ed Myers isn't most people. Myers plays his horn at the Comanche Trail Amphitheater Friday afternoon, and while there was no applause waiting at the end of his sad, bluesy notes, the lone musician said it gives him the chance to hear the instrument as it was intended to be heard.

Friends of the Library needs your books

Donate your used books for the Friends of the Library sale Sept. 18-20 by bringing them to the Howard County Library from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Please, no magazines or condensed books.

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SETTLES

Continued from Page 1A

in the basement. We estimate approximately 700 tons of debris has been removed from the building during demolition."

Ryan said structural repairs are also on the verge of being completed.

"Tommy E. Hixson and Associates Inc., from Eastland, recently inspected the historic structure and determined the Settles Hotel building is structurally sound," said Ryan. "According to Mr. Hixson, the only damage (to the structure) appears to be the result of moisture infiltration and vandal-

ism, and all the damage noted is repairable and the structure should continue to serve its intended use with the proper repairs and maintenance. Structural repairs, under the direction of Mr. Hixson, are approximately 90 percent complete."

Ryan said completion of the asbestos abatement and clean-up has allowed SHDC to take control of the building's title, part of an agreement between the development company and the Settles Hotel's prior owner, the city of Big Spring.

"The Big Spring City Council approved SHDC's bid of \$75,000 in November 2006 and subsequently entered into

a definitive purchase agreement. The agreement provided for title transfer upon completion of the environmental clean-up and asbestos abatement of the historic property."

And while hammers continue to swing inside the Settles Hotel — now being heralded by city officials as the crown jewel of the downtown area — Ryan said work atop the building is under way, as well.

"In addition, we recently completed removal of all letters from the historic rooftop sign," said Ryan. "The original letters will be catalogued and used as templates for replicating the historic rooftop signage."

Brint Ryan said the recent advances represent a milestone in the restoration of the hotel, which has endured numerous rehabilitation attempts in the past, along with vandalism and neglect.

"The title transfer of the Settles Hotel, along with completion of the environmental asbestos abatement and clean-up signals an important milestone in the restoration of the historic hotel," said Brint Ryan. "We would like to express our appreciation to Mayor Russ McEwen, the city council, officials with the city of Big Spring and the Big Spring Economic Development Corporation for their continued support

of these efforts."

The building, erected for \$500,000 in 1930, was a destination of choice for travelers for many years — as well a center of activity for the community — but has been vacant and in an advanced state of dilapidation for more than two decades.

Brint Ryan, a Big Spring native, announced plans for the multi-million dollar renovation project in December 2006. According to SHDC officials, the project includes plans for commercial and residential use of the property, with retail space available on the first and second floors. The project's budget has ballooned from \$12 mil-

lion to \$20 million since its inception, but Ryan insists he isn't interested in the project for its profitability.

"I have no aspirations of making a bunch of money on this project. I would like to limit the amount of money I lose on this project, but it's clear to everyone that's looked at this that it will never achieve a market rate of return," Brint Ryan said in a previous interview with the *Herald*. "So, why am I doing it? I've been very fortunate in my career — some would say I've had some financial success — and I can't think of a better way to invest it in a legacy I feel will be tremendous for this community."

CHALET

Continued from Page 1A

Donations for sale at The Chalet are being accepted, Nanny said.

Shelves and racks have

been restocked with new merchandise, Nanny said. "There are plenty of good bargains to make the trip downtown worthwhile."

Additional volunteers are always needed at The Chalet and the many other projects undertaken by the Volunteer

Services Council, said Billie Christie, director of Community Relations.

The 77 volunteers donate more than 4,900 hours a year, generating \$290,136 for the hospital's patients.

If you are interested in donating a few hours a week,

call Christie at (432) 268-7535 or stop by The Chalet to tell them of your interest.

Big Spring State Hospital is a 200-bed psychiatric hospital serving people with mental illness in West Texas — stretching from El Paso to San Angelo, Abilene and Lubbock.

MYERS & SMITH FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL

24th & Johnson 267-8288
Gregoria Escanuelas, 57, died Wednesday. Funeral Mass was at 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Thomas Catholic Church with burial at Mt. Olive Memorial Park.

James Thomas Averette, 63, died Thursday, July 16, 2009. Funeral Services will be at 2 p.m. Monday at Myers & Smith Chapel with burial at Trinity Memorial Park. The family will receive friends from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Lupe Pineda, 77, died Thursday, July 16, 2009. A Prayer service will be at 7 p.m. Sunday at Myers & Smith Chapel. Funeral Service will be at 10:00 AM Monday at Myers & Smith Funeral Home with burial at Trinity Memorial Park.

Felix Garcia, 89, died Friday, July 17, 2009. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

Maria Lara, 74, died Friday. Services are pending at Myers & Smith Funeral Home.

CRONKITE

Continued from Page 1A

Bush and Jimmy Carter.

"He invited us to believe in him, and he never let us down," Obama said. "This country has lost an icon and a dear friend, and he will be truly missed."

Cronkite was the broadcaster to whom the title "anchorman" was first applied; and his name was at one point synonymous with the role even outside the U.S. — in Sweden anchors were sometimes termed Cronkiters; in Holland, they were Cronkiters.

"Walter Cronkite was and always will be the gold standard," said ABC News anchor Charles Gibson. "His objectivity, his evenhandedness, his news judgment are all great examples."

CBS has scheduled a prime-time special, "That's the Way it Was: Remembering Walter Cronkite," for 7 p.m. Sunday.

"He was a great broadcaster and a gentleman whose experience, honesty, professionalism and style defined the role of anchor and commentator," CBS Corp. chief executive Leslie Moonves said in a statement.

A former wire service reporter and war correspondent, Cronkite valued accuracy, objectivity and understated compassion. He expressed liberal views in more recent writings but said he had always aimed to be fair and professional in his judgments on the air.

But when Cronkite took sides, he helped shape the times. After the 1968 Tet offensive,

he visited Vietnam and wrote and narrated a "speculative, personal" report advocating negotiations leading to the withdrawal of American troops.

"We have been too often disappointed by the optimism of the American leaders, both in Vietnam and Washington, to have faith any longer in the silver linings they find in the darkest clouds," he said, and concluded, "We are mired in stalemate."

After the broadcast, President Lyndon B. Johnson reportedly said, "If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost middle America."

He also helped broker the 1977 invitation that took Egyptian President Anwar Sadat to Jerusalem, the breakthrough to Egypt's peace treaty with Israel.

Off camera, his stamina and admittedly demanding ways brought him the nickname "Old Ironpants." But to viewers, he was "Uncle Walter," with his jowls and grainy baritone, his warm, direct expression and his trim mustache.

When he summed up the news each evening by stating, "And THAT's the way it is," millions agreed. His reputation survived accusations of bias by Richard Nixon's vice president, Spiro Agnew, and being labeled a "pinko" in the tirades of a fictional CBS's "All in the Family."

Polls in 1972 and 1974 pronounced Cronkite the "most trusted man in America." Like fellow Midwesterner Johnny Carson, Cronkite seemed to embody the nation's mainstream. When he broke down as he announced Kennedy's death, removing his glasses and fighting

back tears, the times seemed to break down with him.

Cronkite was the top newsman during the peak era for the networks, when the nightly broadcasts grew to a half-hour and 24-hour cable and the Internet were still well in the future. In the fall of 1972, responding to reports in *The Washington Post*, Cronkite aired a two-part series on Watergate that helped ensure national attention to the then-emerging scandal.

As many as 18 million households tuned in to Cronkite's top-rated program each evening. Twice that number watched his final show, on March 6, 1981, compared with fewer than 10 million in 2005 for the departure of Dan Rather.

Rather, who replaced Cronkite at the anchor desk, called Cronkite "a giant of the journalistic craft."

Cronkite had stepped down at a vigorous 64 years old with the assurance that other duties awaited him at CBS News, but he found little demand there for his services. He hosted the short-lived science magazine series "Walter Cronkite's Universe" and was retained by the network as a consultant, although, as he was known to state wistfully, he was never consulted.

He also sailed his beloved boat, the Wyntje,

hosted or narrated specials on public and cable TV, and issued his columns and the best-selling "Walter Cronkite: A Reporter's Life."

For 24 years he served as onsite host for New Year's Day telecasts by the Vienna Philharmonic, ending that cherished tradition only in 2009.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, Cronkite was asked to introduce the postponed Emmy awards show. He told the audience that in its coverage of the attack and its aftermath, "television, the great common denominator, has lifted our common vision as never before."

Cronkite joined CBS in 1950, after a decade with United Press, during which he covered World War II and the Nuremberg trials, and a brief stint with a regional radio group.

At CBS he found a respected radio-news organization dipping

its toe into TV. He was named anchor for CBS's coverage of the 1952 political conventions, the first year the presidential nominations got wide TV coverage. From there, he was assigned to such news-oriented programs as "You Are There" and "Twentieth Century." (He also briefly hosted a morning show, accompanied by a puppet named Charlemagne the Lion.)

On April 16, 1962, he replaced Douglas Edwards as anchor of the network's "Evening News."

"I never asked them why," Cronkite recalled in a 2006 TV portrait. "I was so pleased to get the job, I didn't want to endanger it by suggesting that I didn't know why I had it."

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Home Hospice, throughout the years, made her life easier and was always available to answer any questions, as best they could. I hesitate to single out one individual, but Becky was there the longest and as the end neared, the one I called on the most, so thanks to you and everyone at Home Hospice.
To the Rev. "Dot" Lee and Bill Myers and staff at Myers and Smith Funeral Home, thank you for making our final goodbye to her as easy and pleasant as possible. For all the flowers, food and condolences, a heartfelt THANK YOU to each and everyone of you. 200060
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