

Dan Glass Family History Heritage Park 2019

Dan Glass's family is honoring him for his contributions in ranching, land management and historical preservation. Dan's grandfather, J.L. Glass actually settled in Sterling County in 1889 and purchased 640 acres and that is how the ranch started. The family ranch has been a continuously working ranch for over 125 years in the same county.

Dan grew up and only child in a ranching family and then attended Texas Tech where he received his civil engineering degree and offers upon graduation to go different places but wanted to return to Sterling City.

In 2007 Dan was awarded a fairly informal but meaningful plaque thanking him for his 40 years of service and it included town historian, Fire Marshall, land surveyor, and civil engineer to name a few. As an engineer he was instrumental in the implementation of water plants, sewer systems and water towers in the area. There is a picture of Dan Glass in front of the Sterling City Water Tower. Due to being a surveyor, he knew the ranches by heart. He could tell you where their markers were, the property lines and who the ranch belonged to. He was very respected so much that also in 2007 he was honored as Sterling County Citizen of the Year.

Also, of significance is that in Sterling county the courthouse, the train depot and two cemeteries all have historical markers due to Dan's research. He helped in the publishing of a book Milling Around Sterling County which includes photographs that he collected and some as an excellent photographer that he took himself. On the cover of the book is a windmill which was intentional because at one time Sterling County had more windmills per capita than any other county in the state of Texas.

Even with his active work schedule, Dan was there for his family. He was selfless and worked with Boy Scouts and other organizations. He is remembered as a faithful Sunday School teacher, and school board member which exudes that he , was very community service oriented. He was appointed by the governor to the Upper Colorado River water board and he served six years doing that.

He was diagnosed later in life with kidney and liver failure. He needed a kidney and liver transplant so he and his wife went to Mayo Clinic. He took his paperwork with him to the hospital so he could study for the text to renew his civic engineering license. He was very motivated and driven.

The family shares that much remains the same in the ranching industry. Things like water conservation, soil conservation and brush control remain paramount. One change cited was the existence of renewable energy maintaining the herds and the wind energy production. They feel maintaining the land should always be the number one priority. The income from gas and minerals keeps some in the ranching business that otherwise could not afford to be. Also, there's some agreements concerning roads, fences, cattle guards that must be negotiated before signing a

lease or other document affecting your property. The family also shared that when you go to the ranch, one really meaningful aspect is if there is an original homestead there with the house, pens, barns and you know the stories associated with these structures because your parents have shared them with you. Also, through these stories one can know those ancestors that they never were fortunate to share their life with. These are the ties that bind and that Dan wanted for his children to understand and feel these ties.

If Dan were here today his family feels that he would advise “never stop learning and never stop researching, especially the history of your area.”