

Are you a long-time Garland resident with 1-2 hours to spare?

Make an appointment to visit the Museum and help us identify hundreds of photographs. We are looking for information on WHO is in the picture, WHAT they are doing, WHERE the picture was taken and by WHOM, as well as WHEN the photographer pushed the button!

Appointments available on Mondays and Wednesdays 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.

Email: Heritage@GarlandTX.gov

The Landmark Museum and the Pullman Railcar are operated by the Garland Landmark Society, a non-profit and volunteer organization.

Open Thursday, Friday, Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Private tours available on request

Heritage@garlandtx.gov 972-205-2992

FREE Admission Donations are appreciated

# ON TRACK



VOLUME 18 NO. 3

GARLAND LANDMARK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

July Aug Sept 2021

## Cole & Davis Garland's Oldest Department Store

Today on the downtown Square is the boutique vintage clothing store Boogie Nights, and in years past it was Suzie's quilt shop. But you might remember the store that was previously at that location for decades – Cole & Davis. Before Macy's and Dillard's, when Firewheel was only bare fields, Garlandites shopped at this busy department store that began as a dry goods store.

**GARLAND LANDMARK MUSEUM**

GAMES of the XXIIIrd OLYMPIAD  
LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA 1984

### Garland at the OLYMPICS

**FREE**  
GarlandHeritage.com

Come see our newest exhibit featuring Garlandites who have participated in the Olympics at 393 N. Sixth St.

Open Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays  
June 3 - Aug. 28  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Make Your Mark*  
GARLAND

**THE GARLAND NEWS.**

By John H. Cullom. GARLAND, DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS, September 21, 1900. VOL. 14, NO. 24

### WITH TWO BIG STORES FULL

from ceiling to floor containing all the new and up-to-date lines of desirable merchandise, we are better prepared to offer to the buying public better values in all lines that go to make a first-class Dry Goods Store. For the following reasons it will pay you to make your purchases at our stores: 1st. You get new goods. 2nd. You get exclusive designs and styles--everyone else won't have something just like you. 3rd. We have Mrs. Harper, an expert Dressmaker, who will be of great service in helping you to select styles, Trimmings, etc., and last, we give you polite treatment, and better values for less price than any house in North Texas.

<p><b>DRESS GOODS.</b></p> <p>New Fall Goods in Silk Waist Patterns all the prettiest... <b>\$3.50</b></p> <p><b>Amisilk.</b> This new fabric is gaining popularity every day. It takes the place of very fine silk and wears better. Comes in lorraine and plain black, per yard <b>35c</b></p> <p>10 pieces Assorted colors Cashmere Dress Goods at per yard <b>25c</b></p> <p>30 pieces Assorted colors Percale wide goods, per yard only <b>10c</b></p>	<p><b>THOMSON'S "Glove-Fitting" CORSETS.</b></p> <p>Too cheap over and see how All come out around the body.</p> <p>When you want grace, elegance, comfort and service buy the well known brand, <b>Thompson's Glove Fitting Corset.</b> We carry this line at popular prices. <b>50c, 75c, \$1, \$1.25.</b></p> <p>All The Latest Novelties in Dress Goods and Trimmings.</p>	<p><b>Overalls, Shirts, Ties.</b></p> <p>Our line of Overalls, the Carhart brand, is well known to be the best. If you haven't tried them get a pair and be convinced.</p> <p>Men's Lot 15 Blue Rib Overalls, best fiber on earth. <b>\$1</b></p> <p>Men's blue Pant Overall, best fiber on earth. <b>90c</b></p> <p>Men's pin check overalls. <b>75c</b></p> <p>Coats to match above pants. <b>5.00</b></p> <p>Boy's line shirt. <b>35c</b></p> <p>Men's shirt, a line in new fall styles, 50 to <b>1.00</b></p>	<p><b>Notions.</b></p> <p>You may have a noble suit, a smart hat and swell shoes, but unless you have an up to date Tie you won't keep up with the procession. We have them:</p> <p>All the late styles in Windsor, the Coin Spot, Polka Dot and Crinkled effects at low prices for <b>25 &amp; 50c</b></p> <p>New styles in Four in hand <b>25 &amp; 50c</b></p> <p>Neckties <b>5, 10 and 20c</b></p>	<p><b>SHOES.</b></p> <p>The reputation of this house for good shoes is an established fact, and we have the largest stock in Garland to make selections from.</p> <p><b>LOTTA--Ladies Bright Douglas, size 7 to 11</b> <b>\$1</b></p> <p><b>110 Ladies Satin Calif, button, the best shoe ever shown for</b> <b>\$1.35</b></p> <p><b>Ladies Congress Calif button,</b> <b>1.10</b></p> <p><b>Old Ladies Always easy shoes for tender feet</b> <b>1.50</b></p> <p><b>Pacific</b> an up-to-date shoe for ladies <b>3.00</b></p> <p><b>Atlantic,</b> an up to date shoe for men <b>\$3.50</b></p> <p>Our Atlantic and Pacific, as the name indicates, are worn from ocean to ocean, and give satisfactory service to the wearers of good shoes.</p> <p>We carry a general line of childrens Shoes. Ask to see them, inspect them and you'll buy.</p> <p>See our Clothing department</p>	<p><b>Friedman's Atlantic</b></p> <p><b>WORN FROM OCEAN TO OCEAN</b></p>
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**ONE PRICE CASH HOUSE,**  
**HUDSON, DAVIS & COMPANY.**

One Store Masonic Brick. One Store Newton Brick.



GarlandHistorical.org

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In 1895 Charles E. Hudson and J.C. Davis opened the Hudson & Davis variety store in a small frame red-front tin building that faced east on what is now Fifth Street at Main Street. The first building was previously a saloon and measured only 20 x 40 feet. The new store had stock valued at \$500, which would be \$15,656 today, a huge investment. It was the first local store of the type that would later be called a nickel store or a five and ten cent store.

Charles E. Hudson was born and raised in Pine Bluff, Arkansas in 1866. He graduated from the US Naval Academy in Annapolis and served in the Navy for two years. He resigned from the Navy, moved back to Pine Bluff and started his life in the mercantile business. He then moved to Texas where he lived in McKinney, Plano, San Angelo and eventually Garland.

According to family information, James C. Davis was born in Orange, Georgia in 1872. He lived in Plano and moved to Garland when the store opened in 1895.

Charles Hudson and J.C. Davis were both single men in the Plano area when they chose Garland for their new business. They were "aggressive young merchants of little means but good judgment, honest and industrious" according to a 1920 McKinney newspaper article.

Though the store's volume of business was small in the early years, there was still need for a helper familiar with the local people since they themselves were new to Garland. E.G. Cole, a schoolboy and son of local pioneers Reverend and Mrs. C.L. Cole, was hired to work

during summer vacations and at Christmas time.

In 1898 the Garland Masonic committee agreed to rent the lower floor of their building at Sixth and State Streets to Hudson & Davis for \$25 a month for two years. This prompted the store's first of three moves.

There were changes in the store's location but also changes in the firm. Stock in the store was owned almost completely by the officers, managers and employees making all of them devoted to the success of the company. G.L. Davis, a brother of founder J.C. Davis, came to Garland and joined the business. J.C. Davis sold his interest to other stockholders. J.C. moved to Coppell, Wichita Falls and Carrollton in later years. G.L. Davis served as manager until his death in 1941. He was active in civic affairs, served as



E.G. Cole, Garland mayor from 1906-1908.  
Garland Landmark Museum Archives

From its very beginning the Hudson & Davis company was active in the local community. They were often represented in local charities and events, providing items for flower shows and auctions, donating to city causes and events, and even sponsoring a baseball team that beat teams from other area cities such as Rowlett in Mesquite. C.E. Hudson himself was president of the Dallas Newsboy's Club and was active in welfare efforts. Mrs. J.B. Chastain, who had worked at the store since 1906, won the 1951 Businesswoman of the Year award for outstanding service in directing the 1951 Cancer Crusade.

Hudson & Davis staff members were proud of the store and tended to be long term employees; notably Hettie Skipwith who began work there in 1905 and worked at the store for 70 years. Cecil Sarver began work there in 1934. He started out as a jack of all trades, washing windows, sweeping floors and chopping wood for the wood-burning stove in the store. He became a salesman in 1941 and was the store manager until the late 1970s. Even E.G. Cole's grandson, Danny, a student at Thomas Jefferson High School, worked at the store for a time.

Did you ever shop at Cole & Davis? Please share your memories with the Garland Landmark Museum!

-Carlotta Barnes



Many original Cole & Davis business accoutrements can still be seen today. On display in the mezzanine of Boogie Nights is the phone and cash register from Cole & Davis when it finally shut its doors. In the basement is the old wooden delivery shoot, and in the back ally is the black and white neon sign.

Garland Landmark Society Archives



Garland downtown square ca. 1981 with Accent Lighting and Cole & Davis Apparel bookended by the oldest surviving buildings on the square. Garland Landmark Society Archives

line. The store now had a loading dock and a warehouse.

The expansion was done to install the shoe department and some mens' furnishings in the basement. The mezzanine would be stocked with ladies' ready-to-wear and other accessories. New office space would also be in the mezzanine. Cole & Davis now had a complete line of shoes and clothing for all ages, luggage, piece goods and home furnishings. One notable item in the Cole & Davis inventory was the Resistol hat made in Garland. The enlargement and expansion program added three additional clerks on a full-time basis.

Because of the new space, the store management and employees were proud of its additional new sections: expanded millinery, preteen clothing, costume jewelry, draperies and slip covers, and a pattern bar, as it was still common for Garland citizens to make their own clothes.

An open house in August 1951 was held to celebrate it being the oldest department store in



West side of the downtown square ca. 1980 with Cole & Davis Apparel, Nicholson's Variety Store and McKnight Drug. Garland Landmark Society Archives

Garland. Favours and door prizes were given to the attendees. Ten employees were there to greet the visitors including William R. "Billy" May, assistant manager and salesman in men's and boys furnishings and shoes; Mrs. J.B. Chastain, bookkeeper and board member; Mrs. Bertha Adair, assistant buyer and in charge of the ready-to-wear department, and Miss Hettie Skipwith, saleslady on the main floor and in charge of piece goods (fabric by the yard) and lingerie.

In the mid-1970s, the store was still doing well despite competition from national department stores in Mesquite and other parts of Garland. It was renamed and renovated as "Cole & Davis Apparel". The store interior was redone in white antique and walnut with orange carpeting, soft lights and up-to-the-minute fashion displays. What had long ago been a dry goods store now offered sophisticated women's clothing in a Cloud Nine department and a private area for junior women called The Beehive. Clothing with a western flair was in a new department called the Westerway, looking forward to a new line of country western costumes for women from Levi. The store had its own fashion consultant in the Dallas Apparel Mart. It also offered a new Manshop. Its manager, Bob Webb, offered suits and sport coats from a high-end 75 year old suit-making company. The store offered famous names like Hagar slacks, Manhattan shirts, Wembley ties, Jockey underwear and other popular brands.



Cole & Davis Co. newspaper ad from August 2, 1951  
Garland Herald

Garland mayor three times, and was president of both the Chamber of Commerce and the Rotary Club.

Charles Hudson's health was not good, and by 1900 he was living in San Angelo, considered to be a health resort. Although he lived elsewhere, he said that Garland "is the best town and the best people in Texas". The *Garland News* noted that he always took an interest in Garland's welfare, even after he moved away. In 1903 he moved to Dallas after a plan to open a dry goods store in San Angelo was deferred due to short crops all over Texas.

In October 1908, Hudson & Davis were authorized to put plate glass fronts in their store, not to exceed the cost of \$150. It was the first plate glass placed in Garland. Awnings were installed in that row of stores. The newspaper reporter at the time excitedly said that "the west side of the Square is looking greatly improved". In August 1912 a concrete sidewalk was built in front of the Alexander and Hudson & Davis stores for the first time giving the west side of the town square a solid, safe walk.



Garland downtown square ca. 1908 during a well attended Trade Days event. Businesses left to right are Claude Joyce Jewelry, Spillers and Son, and Hudson Davis. Garland Landmark Museum Archives



This photograph, looking northeast across the square ca. 1920, shows Hudson Davis & Co. on the far left. The Crossman Block on the right has since been demolished and was anchored by Garland's Citizens National Bank.

*Garland Landmark Museum Archives*

Rhoton Funeral Home, still in business today, was a direct outgrowth of Hudson & Davis. J.T. Rhoton moved with his family from Garland to Carrollton and managed three of the Hudson & Davis stores. In 1923, he bought those stores and renamed them Rhoton Dry Goods and Undertaking Company.

1918 saw the second move for Cole & Davis from the west side of the square to the north side of the square where the Plaza Theatre currently stands.

Hudson and Davis held banquets every year for all its clerks from the stores in the chain, and all the staff members looked forward to the annual events. All expenses were paid for, including transportation from the different towns where their stores were located. It was said that "all that the clerks have to do is to enjoy the hospitality of their employers".

In June 1920, the banquet was held in the seventh floor banquet room at Sanger Brothers store in downtown Dallas. A special interurban rail car came from Whitewright filled with the clerks from Salina and Whitewright, and a car came from

Van Alstyne via the Texas Traction Company rail line. Sadly only 14 stores' staff members could attend since the area had recently had heavy rains and storms in the days before the banquet.

In 1923, Hudson held a luncheon for the management of all the stores at the Oriental Hotel in Dallas. The Oriental was built in 1893 at Commerce and Akard Street in downtown Dallas. The hotel had a grand ballroom and modern elevators and was completely electric. It boasted one of the first tile floors in Dallas and was for years the best hotel in the city until it was torn down in 1924. Twenty people attended. At the event, a *Garland News* reporter noted that Hudson was called "the daddy of the firm".

For many years, staff members from the store frequently went to St. Louis, New York, Chicago and Philadelphia clothing districts to buy new stock and to monitor the new styles of the day. Even though Hudson & Davis was a local store in a smaller town, it kept up-to-date with the latest fashions for men and women.

In December 1926, Charles Hudson died at Parkland Hospital following an operation. He had been in ill health for several years and for the last two or three years of his life hadn't been active in the business, spending most of his time on a farm in the Rio Grande Valley. His funeral service was held in Highland Park and he was buried at Restland Memorial Cemetery. His funeral was attended by a large number of his Garland friends.

In 1928, after the death of Hudson, his family decided to sell some of the stores so that his heirs could withdraw from the firm. Hudson & Davis was dissolved. The new company Cole & Davis, composed of E.G. Cole, G.L. Davis and associates bought the stores in Garland, Venus, Midlothian, and Whitewright. Other stores in the chain were sold or closed out.

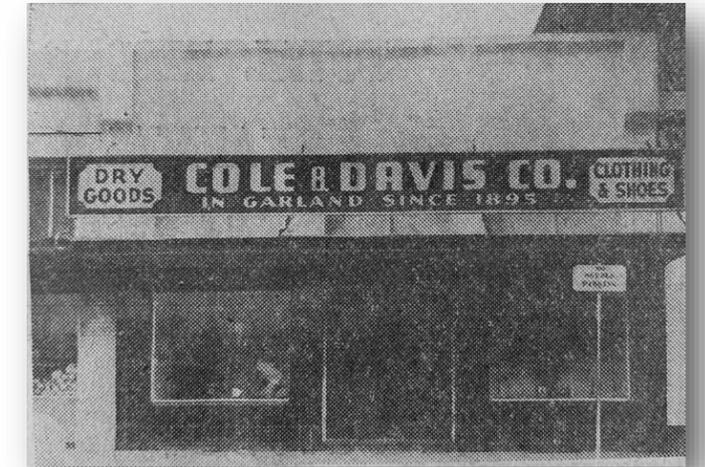
After 22 years on State Street, the Garland store moved to its final location, 111 N. Sixth Street, in the first week of December, 1940. It's vacated lot was to become one of Garland's most iconic landmarks, the Plaza Theatre. In 1941, G.L. Davis passed away. Glenn Cole of Dallas, son of E.G. who had died in 1940, served as chairman of the board and later became president of the company.

In 1942, after just two short years, the new store was remodeled but the increasing growth of the Garland community soon demanded an even better store.



Cole & Davis interior ca. 1945. Working at the infants wear counter is Bertha Sarver Adair and with her back to the camera is Naomi Sarver Cyganik.

*Photo courtesy of Rose Ann Cyganik Husband*



Cole & Davis Co. in 1945 on the west side of the square. The exterior was described as having a modernistic front of black mirror tile with attractive display windows on either side.

*Garland News*

In 1951, the current building was expanded, and the improvements can still be seen today. Remodeling and expanding to 4900 feet more than doubled the store's floor space. It gave the store a mezzanine and a ground floor. The mezzanine gave shoppers an attractive view of the front of the store. The ground floor was dug 5 feet below ground. The building had been 80 feet in length but was extended another 56 feet to the rear property