

NTRCA Takes the Field in Arlington, Texas

BY MONTY BANNER

The North Texas Roofing Contractors Association (NTRCA) took part in a community project organized by Richard S. Frazier of Frazier Roofing and Guttering Co. on March 21. As the result of work by 27 roofing contractors, supply houses and rental companies, one of Arlington, Texas' historical landmarks obtained a sorely needed roof overhaul and the NTRCA received a chance to show what it was made of.

In November of 1997, Richard Frazier was called on by Philip Stork, one of the Fielder Museum's directors, to inspect and consider its roof problems. In short order, Frazier realized that the \$22,000 estimated price tag for a new roof was more than the museum's budget could possibly bear. In December, he informed the NTRCA board of his intention to help the museum with its roof predicament. The NTRCA responded by publishing Frazier's aspirations in its newsletter, *The Rafter*, asking for members to volunteer.

The old Fielder House, now the Fielder Museum, was recorded as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1979. It was the first house in Arlington to have electricity and one of the first brick houses in the city. Built in 1914, it was occupied by James Park Fielder and his family. The Fielder House was also known as the "home on the hill" because of its conspicuous elevated position.

The existing roofing materials on the aged structure included three layers of composition shingles and the original wood cedar shingles which were overlain with 1"x4" wood lathing. The ambitious scope of the project included: total removal of all roofing materials down to the lathing; installation of a plywood deck; a ply of 15 lb. felt; a pre-painted metal edge on the perimeter; and, finally, the application of new composition shingles. This project was complicated by an 8" on 12" roof pitch and a building height of 28' from ground level to eave.

On the day of the roof blitz, large dump trucks were positioned in strategic locations around the work site, a new sky-track was in constant operation off-loading and roof-loading materials, and an army of local roofers diligently went about the task at hand. Board members of the Fielder Museum prepared and served a tasty lunch to workers. This project had special fringe benefits. I personally met over a dozen contractors who were previously only names without faces. I now feel honored to call them my peers.

Plans are underway to submit the project to the NRCA



NTRCA roofers everywhere.



Fifteen-year museum volunteer Ted Holloway (left) and project organizer Richard S. Frazier.

Gold Circle Awards Program under the category of Community Service. We can all learn a lesson about leadership from Richard Frazier, who has demonstrated the proper way to lead: by example. He saw a need and conceived an idea, then took the initiative to turn his idea into something tangible. As a result, the community has been improved, the roofing profession's reputation has received a much-needed boost, and North Texas roofers have something to be proud of. I, for one, will always have special feelings and memories whenever I am in the vicinity of Abrams Street and Fielder Road and look up at the "home on the hill."

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