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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prosper Centennial Celebration features local historian

PROSPER (January 15, 2015) As the year-long celebration of Prosper's official founding 100 years ago enters its final months, a rare treat for residents and visitors unfolds next month, says Centennial Committee Chair Robyn Battle, the Town Secretary.

"Prosper's home-grown treasure, its official historian, will share first-hand accounts of the Town's signature events," she said. "Bill Hays not only grew up in Prosper, his family was among the Town's pioneers. And, he's kept incredibly detailed accounts of daily life in early Prosper."

Chairman of the Prosper Historical Society and a widely-read author of two large volumes of Prosper's history, "Prosper, Texas Its History and Families" (Anundsen Publishing Company, Decorah, Iowa), Hays will participate in two sessions of remembrances and recollections of Prosper's long and storied history. The first session centers on young children, and the second on adults and families.

On Thursday, Feb. 5 at 11 a.m., the Prosper Community Library will hold its weekly Children's Story Time at the Prosper Historical Society's museum in the Board Room of the Prosper ISD, 605 East Seventh St. The Prosper Historical Society uses portions of the board room as a makeshift museum, displaying various exhibits, photos, clothing and documents.

Hays will be one of the presenters that morning along with Rebecca Hunter, Sharon Alderton and Leslie Scott. The 45-minute session will focus on local historical events that children will find fascinating, if hard to comprehend. Songs, dances and stories directly related to the day's topic will be included. Several members of the Prosper Historical Society will appear in period costumes.

"The kids may be three or four generations removed from 1915, so they would have no frame of reference," said Battle. "Besides, the world has moved incredibly fast in the last 100 years. We hope to share some very memorable stories that they can understand and keep for the rest of their lives."

The second presentation is set for Thursday, Feb. 26 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the same location. Geared toward adults and families with older children, the second presentation will include the costumed participants and light refreshments. A question and answer session will conclude the second presentation.

To help tell the story, the Prosper High School video department has created a documentary-style program that uses many of the photos and stories collected by Hays. The video will be part of the second session.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Bill Hays," said Battle. "He's a living reminder of what this Town was. He serves as a bridge between the rural, small cotton town that was Prosper, to what today is one of the fastest growing towns in the nation."

Both sessions are free, although contributions to the Prosper Historical Society will be accepted.

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ABOUT THE TOWN OF PROSPER – The Town of Prosper is a fast-growing suburb with small town charm, located 30 miles north of Dallas at the crossroads of U.S. 380, Preston Road and the Dallas North Tollway in Collin and Denton Counties. Prosper sits on 27 square miles and is home to more than 15,000 people. A home-rule municipality, governed by a council-manager form of government, the town has full-time fire and police departments, including its own dispatch service. As the Town grows to its projected build-out population of 70,000 residents, Prosper's vision is to remain a "Place Where Everyone Matters."