



## **Q125—BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH**

For immediate release

Contact: Charlene Orr  
(972) 216-6468

Mesquite, TX...Brothers of the Brush Contest Registration opens: March 24 at Opal Lawrence Historical Park, 701 E. Kearney St., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mesquite's first Brothers of the Brush contest is designed to allow the men of the community to participate in one of the Q125 celebrations. Open to any male who can grow facial hair, the contest will run between March 24 and April 28, when a panel of judges will name winners in each of five categories at the Real. Texas. Festival.

Categories for the event were chosen from an historical look back to the men of the 1870s through the 1890s. At that time, smooth-faced men were considered too young and undistinguished to be an important part of the community. The country had just come through a hard-fought war that divided the north from the south, and facial hair had become commonplace on the battlefield as tools were not readily available for shaving.

As a result, men with beards were considered courageous and dignified. To pay tribute to some of the most noted Americans with facial hair, participants will be asked to choose one of their favorite figures.

The first four categories – those who choose to participate in one of these categories will need to register clean-shaven, so that a photo can be taken for the judging.

*The Bat Masterson or the Handlebar/Petit Handlebar Moustache* – this hair formation was worn long enough to curl the ends upward. The only difference between the Handlebar and the Petit Handlebar is the width of the hair actually grown over the lips. One of the most famous – or infamous – men of the time who wore a Handlebar was William Bartholomew Masterson, or “Bat” for short.

*General Ambrose Burnside/Mutton Chops* – Sideburns were named for the good general because he had the ability to grow them in an artistic sort way that melted into a moustache! The overgrown Mutton Chops were a sign of being a member of the middle- to upper- class. Alexander the Great wore sideburns; however, Wolverine makes Mutton Chops look fashionable again!

*The Honest Abe/Goatee* – Abraham Lincoln's early years' photos show a clean-shaven man. He only began growing facial hair during his run for the presidency in 1860. It is rumored that a young girl requested he grow a beard while he was along the campaign trail and he took her suggestion to heart. Between the clean-shaven photos and his later years, our 16<sup>th</sup> president sported a perfect goatee, sort of like Uncle Sam.

*The Movie Star/Pencil Moustache* – What man doesn't want to look like swash-buckling, heart-stealing Errol Flynn? The Pencil Moustache became a symbol of early Hollywood as well as with men in the high-business world. Some other Pencil wearers were Clark Gable and Walt Disney.

Because a month is hardly enough time to grow a moustache, this category is open to men who already have established a reputation for having that full-flowing heavy symbol of masculinity – the beard!

*The Henry Wordsworth Longfellow/full beard* – a free-for-all category where participants will be judged on just how well they wear that facial hair! The category is named for the famous poet due to his abundance of manly mane. No shaving allowed!

All contestants will gather at the Real. Texas. Festival. Community Stage at 10:45 a.m., April 28. The Mesquite Symphonic Band will perform for the contest prior to the judging. The registration fee for each category is \$10. Watch for further information regarding details, such as prizes. Call (972) 216-6468 for further information.



**Q125—BROTHERS OF THE BRUSH  
REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Paid? \_\_\_\_\_

By checking a category below, I certify that I am clean-shaven and am ready to escape the tyranny of the razor until at least April 28, 2012:

\_\_\_\_\_ The Bat Masterson (handlebar/petit handlebar)

\_\_\_\_\_ The Gen. Ambrose Burnside (mutton chops)

\_\_\_\_\_ The Honest Abe (goatee)

\_\_\_\_\_ The Movie Star (pencil)

By checking the category below, I certify that I have long been a free-flowing, free-thinking man, full of courage and willing to stand up for all that is facial hair:

\_\_\_\_\_ The Henry Wordsworth Longfellow (beard)

(Attach photo here if applicable)