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PRESS RELEASE

AMARILLO CLUB CELEBRATES 60TH ANNIVERSARY

AMARILLO, TX, NOVEMBER 12, 2007: Originally located on part of the so-called Baker Hotel property on 7th Ave. and open only to men, the Amarillo Club has seen several changes throughout its 60-year history. Even so, the club remains dedicated to its original purpose – for the support and maintenance of an educational undertaking in the City of Amarillo and for the improvement of the human mind through reading, association, exchange of ideas, lectures, information, and all other means that will contribute to the education and development of the members of the club.

The germ idea for a private city club crystallized in 1947 when a group of men were lunching together one day. The one who receives credit though is James L. McCormick, Amarillo Club's first president. They decided on a site that was a segment of the unfinished Baker Hotel, abandoned after the double basement and first floor steel work had been completed. The club had the initial advantage of two underground floors that were constructed about two decades prior, and the club itself was completed in August 1949. The investment totaled \$400,000.

Between 1947 and 1949, Amarillo Club had grown from its original 221 charter members to 466 resident and firm members and 143 non-resident members. They even had 42 associate women members, though they had no voice in club business. As of Oct. 3, 1949, there were 35 employees, a weekly payroll of \$1,900 and weekly food sales of \$3,220.

Very little information remains of the club's history until it relocated in 1972 to the summit of what was then known as the SPS Tower – a magnificent 31-story building located at 6th and Tyler – the tallest building between Fort Worth and Denver. The Amarillo Club went from the basement to the top of the city.

An *Amarillo Daily News* article dated June 25, 1950, indicated that "a man would have to travel a long way to find a more plush, efficiently run city club than the Amarillo Club." That holds true today. General Manager Rick Madrigal has been with Amarillo Club for more than 33 years. Starting out as a bus boy, Madrigal worked his way through the ranks, even becoming executive chef before becoming general manager in 2004.

During the last 60 years, Amarillo Club has earned the distinction for being the social, business and civic haven of the Golden Spread. Atop what is now called the Chase Tower, on the 30th and 31st floors, Amarillo Club offers a fantastic view of Amarillo's vast skyline.

To celebrate 60 years of providing quality facilities, unsurpassed personal service and superb cuisine, Amarillo Club is hosting a celebration party for its members Saturday, Nov. 17 on both the 30th and 31st floors. There will be fabulous food, live entertainment, a fur fashion show, door prizes, dancing in the Main Dining Room and the Grill and more.

For more information, contact Sonja Gross, membership and marketing director at 373-4361 or e-mail membership@amarilloclub.net.

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