

The Caroline Dowell Legacy

By Candice C. Allmand

IN THE LATE 1960'S Caroline Dowell began acquiring ranch land in Travis County just south of Austin. My friendship with Caroline began about ten years later, after she retired from the University of Texas. In retirement she had time to devote to ranching, raising Hereford Cattle and creating a unique herd of Tennessee Meat Goats. Along the way she provided a home to dozens of animals—horses, donkeys, working dogs, her beloved beagles and more.

Miss Dowell had a vision to preserve her land in perpetuity as open space, protected from housing or commercial development. She not only left the framework of this vision in a Trust, but equally important, she left assets to ensure it could be funded. As the Executor of her Estate, it has been my privilege to make the vision a reality. The Dowell Ranch, now a preserve, has been donated to NPAT; a permanent endowment through Austin Community Foundation will guarantee funds to maintain and restore the land and a Conservation Easement will protect the land from future development.

Caroline liked to tell the story of how she got started raising goats. It was shortly after she acquired her land. Caroline and her mother went shopping one Saturday morning to buy landscaping plants and ended up at the Heep Ranch. While there, she bought two fainting goat kids. Since the back of the station wagon was full of potted geraniums she put the goats in the back seat. The kids happily munched on geranium blossoms and her mother's sleeve on the ride home. At the time of Caroline's death, those two baby goats had grown into a herd of more than 200.



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Uno, Ms. Dowell's most famous beagle, won Best in Show at the Westminster Dog Show in 2008. He even visited the White House and later worked as a therapy dog.

Caroline Dowell passed away at her home near Manchaca on April 29, 2019, at the age of 89. She was the daughter of James P. and Louise Dowell of McKinney, Texas. Caroline provided significant assistance to many dog organizations—for purebred and rescue dogs alike. While many knew of Caroline's devotion to things beagle, she was a complex, intelligent lady and a great friend to those fortunate enough to spend time with her. Visit www.legacy.com and search Caroline Dowell.



A few of Ms. Dowell's many animals still live on the ranch.