

**Permian Historical  
Society**

**The University of  
Texas  
Permian Basin  
Campus**

Fall 2001

**Permian Historical Society  
Officers and Directors  
2000-2002**

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*Trivia:* What Permian Basin county is a site for the manufacturing of surfboards?

Answer on page 4.



## Crane County Attendees To Be Given Special Recognition At Fall Meeting

Date: 13 October 2001

Place: Petroleum Museum, Library, and Hall of Fame, 1500 I-20 West, Midland

Members and visitors should arrive at 9:30 A.M. for coffee and pastries. A meeting of the board of directors is scheduled at the same time in the Hall of Fame Room. Members and guests from **Crane County** are to be recognized as honored attendees by **Peggy Kelton**, Membership Chairman, at 10:15 A.M. Permian Historical Society extends an invitation to everyone from Crane County, as well as every other county, who is interested in the history of the Permian Basin.

This meeting is somewhat different from our regular meetings. **Peggy Kelton**, Membership Chairman, wants all attendees to show pride in our pioneer heritage for this meeting. She requests that attendees wear some items of dress that reflect that period of history, such as bonnets, aprons, boots, jeans, cowboy hats. One may wear a full costume or simply one item.

The program of papers, moderated by **Eula Huffman**, will appeal to all attendees. Papers cover a wide range of interests—biographies of **Harvey Stewart [Bud] Ratliff**, and of **Paul Patterson**, a modern history of Colorado River Municipal Water District, and a story of the Odessa Oilers, a semi-professional baseball team. After the program of papers, the voting for the best presentation, and a visiting and book-browsing time, lunch is catered by Murray and the Frenchman. Cost is \$8 per person. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, 10 October 2001 to **Eileen Welch** at 915/682-0839 or Ewelch115@aol.com. You may come without a reservation, of course. There will be enough food.

### Life in West Texas

Little remains of Rankin Beach, once the exotic playground for thousands of oilfield workers and ranch families in the middle of dry, scorched, wind-blown West Texas.

Rankin Beach was a glistening white swimming pool and bathhouse complex built 200 yards from a fancy, three-story hotel that rancher-oilman Ira G. Yates constructed in his hometown of Rankin during the roaring 1920s when oilfields suddenly began to spring up for many miles around Upton County...

After the gigantic oil strike on Yates' land on October 28, 1926, Yates wanted to express confidence in the future of what was once his hometown. He built the Yates Hotel to "put the town on the map." The hotel was elegant for its day. Three stories high, constructed of brick and tile, with forty-six guest rooms on the upper floors, of which twenty-three had private baths, the hotel quickly became a hub of the community...

Among the big band musicians to play at Rankin and neighboring oil boom towns were Lawrence Welk, New Orleans jazz man Jack Teagarden, and trumpet player Louis Armstrong.

—**Ross McSwain**, *Tales From Out Yonder* (Plano, TX: Republic Texas Press, 2001), 128-129. \$16.95 + \$1.35 tax + \$1.50 s & p. Available from Shade Tree Enterprises, P. O. Box 2186, San Angelo TX 76902 or at major bookstores.

# News of Permian Historical Society

## Necrology

**Thomas David [Tom] Linebery** of Frying Pan Ranches at Kermit, prominent rancher and friend to all he met, died 31 March 2001 in Midland. He and his wife, **Evelyn**, gave their support to the care of those who needed it most—children, the elderly, the sick, and the handicapped.

**Evelyn Catherine Scarborough Linebery** of Frying Pan Ranches at Kermit, longtime member and supporter of PHS, died 14 April 2001, two weeks after the death of her husband, **Tom**. The Evelyn Scarborough Linebery-J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article Award was funded in part by Mrs. Linebery.

**Marjorie Rogers Morris** of Odessa, retired Odessa College professor and founder of the Globe of the Great Southwest Theatre and Anne Hathaway Library, died 17 June 2001 in Odessa. She was a recipient of PHS Permian Pioneer award in 1994.

**Edward [Ed] Fisher** of San Angelo, prolific writer of regional history and frequent contributor to *The Permian Historical Annual*, died 6 July 2001 in Dallas. Ed's articles became the mainstay of *The Annual*.

**Ernest M. Schur** of Odessa, prominent community leader and PHS member, died 19 July 2001 in Odessa. He was a banker and devoted much time in the last forty-three years to serving his community.

**Dr. Raymond Yell** of Midland College died 19 August 2001 in Midland.

### ***The Annual Still On Sale***

Back issues of *The Annual* are offered for \$7 per single issue and \$150 for a complete set. Costs of handling and shipping are included in the price.

Orders should be sent to:

**Cindy Rosser**, Archivist

Permian Historical Society

The Univ. of Texas-Permian Basin

4901 East Univ. Blvd.

Odessa, TX 79762-0001

## God Bless America

## Spring 2001 Meeting

The spring meeting was interesting with its exceptional presentations and eye-catching displays. Permian Historical Society thanks those historians who gave their fine presentations at the spring meeting.

Howard County attendees were given special recognition and a Howard County resident was awarded the Evelyn Scarborough Linebery-J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article Award. She is **Dorothy Pennington Jones** and her excellent article was titled, "A Depression Era Road Show in Texas: A Reminiscence." Well done, Dorothy.

Seventy-one members and guests attended the spring meeting. The food was good and conversation around the tables was entertaining. Permian Academy of History awards were given to **Betty Orbeck** and **Bobbie Klepper**, recently retired archivists.

Booksellers showed books of local interest. The twelve copies of two books contributed to PHS by **Ava E. Mills** as a fundraiser sold out at the spring meeting. Thanks to Ava for her kind gesture.

### **New Members**

**Jo Beth Elrod** of Dryden, **Craig V. Fischer** of Big Spring, **Debbie Gibbs** of Odessa, **Ellen Hopkins** of Midland, **Charlene Ragan** of Big Spring, **Charlena Vargas-Prado** of Dryden, and **Sharon Welch** of Midland became new members at the spring meeting. Welcome new members!

### **Call For Papers**

Permian Historical Society Program Committee welcomes proposals for papers to be presented at the Spring 2002 and Fall 2002 meetings. Contact Program Chairman **Eula Huffman** (915/367-8753 or [belledolph@clearsource.net](mailto:belledolph@clearsource.net)) for details. Any person, physical feature, industry, or event that affected the lives of people in the Permian Basin is an ideal topic for a paper.

Scholarly papers submitted for publication should be documented, well researched, and clearly written. However, *The Annual* Editorial Board accepts and publishes reminiscences because they are important to the preservation of our regional history. The best story is one from the person who lived it.

### **Some Howard County Members and Guests Honored at Spring Meeting**



*Image by  
Lorene Barbee*

Back row: **Craig V. Fischer**, **Sue Ann Damron**, **Charlene Ragan**, **Ozella Long**, **Dorothy Jones**. Front row: **Ruth Robinson**, **Nila Allen**, and **Lorene Barbee**. Howard County historians busy themselves with the writing and preservation of regional and local history.

# Program For Fall 2001 Meeting

## Petroleum Museum, Library, and Hall of Fame

1500 Interstate Highway 20 West, Midland, Texas

13 October 2001

- 9:30 A.M. Registration, coffee, and pastries
- Board meeting in Hall of Fame Room
- 10:15 A.M. Recognition of members/guests from Crane County ..... **Peggy Kelton**, Membership Chairman  
*Crane County is the second in a series of counties that Permian Historical Society will recognize at its spring and fall meetings. Our warmest welcome goes to members and guests from Crane County.*
- Program of Papers ..... **Eula Huffman**, Program Chairman
- 10:25 A.M. **Harvey Stewart [Bud] Ratliff, Ranching Pioneer of Ector County, Texas** ..... **Brad Behrendts**  
*Holding a B. A. and M. A. History from UTPB, Brad teaches history and coaches football and baseball in Ector County Independent School District. His paper reviews the pioneer life of a Permian Basin rancher.*
- 10:45 A.M. **Water In A Dry and Thirsty Land** ..... **Ross McSwain**  
*A journalist as well as a historian, Ross has written several books about West Texas. He had planned to present this paper last spring. Illness forced its postponement. The presentation deals with the writing of a book he recently finished with Joe Pickle, a longtime and influential PHS member. He completed the book from notes, old manuscripts drafts, and meeting minutes that Pickle preserved over his more than forty-year career as secretary of Colorado River Municipal Water District. The book, funded by CRMWD, represents Pickle's attempt to keep the history of the 50-year-old organization current.*
- 11:05 A.M. **The 1950 Odessa Oilers** ..... **Richard Cummins**  
*The writer, who holds a B. A. and M. A. History from UTPB, is director of The Parker House Ranching Museum. This paper is his second presentation to Permian Historical Society this year. This paper is a history of a local semi-professional baseball team that was sponsored by the Parker family. The team won the Longhorn League championship. Photographs and memorabilia will be displayed.*
- 11:25 A.M. **Paul Patterson, My Master Teacher** ..... **Evelyn Stroder**  
*With a B. A. Journalism from Baylor and M. A. American Literature / Mass Communications from UTPB, Evelyn taught public school more than thirty years. Using her years of experience in writing, she has produced a biography of the well-known West Texan, Paul Patterson.*
- 11:45 A.M. Casting ballots for best paper presented. Break for visiting and book browsing until lunch is served.
- 12:00 NOON Lunch catered by Murray and the Frenchman
- 12:30 P.M. Short business meeting
- 12:50 P.M. Adjournment

# More News of Permian Historical Society

## Crane County is the Quiz Answer

*Texas Almanac 2000-2001*, page 160, states that Crane County has a population of 4,583 and its economy is based on the industries of oil-well servicing, oil and gas production, cattle ranching, foundry, surfboard manufacturing, and hospital.

Physical features of the county include rolling prairies, the Pecos Valley, some hills, soils of sand and loam, Juan Cordona and Soda lakes, Landreth Draw, and historic Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River, which forms the southwestern boundary of Crane County.

The area was home to the Lipan Apache in earlier times. The county was created from Tom Green County in 1887 and ranching developed in the 1890s. The county was organized in 1927 after oil was discovered in 1926. Named for W. C. Crane, president of Baylor University, Crane County is surrounded by Ector, Upton, Crockett, Pecos, and Ward counties. Today, the county is home to some of the finest people in the Permian Basin.

## Feed Sacks Were On Program and On Display at Spring Meeting

When it was learned that **Ross McSwain** was ill and could not present his paper at the spring meeting, several members from Upton and Midland counties volunteered to fill the time assigned to his paper with stories and displays of feed, flour, tobacco, and salt sacks and their many uses. Such sacks provided fabric for quilts, dresses, shirts, skirts, children's clothing, bonnets, and underwear in the decades of 1920s into 1960s.

**Donna Bell**, **Peggy Kelton**, and **Modene Yocham** of Upton County along with **Nancy McKinley**, **Eileen Welch**, and **Julia Cauble Smith** of Midland County participated in the presentation. Several attendees had stories of their own to tell, entertaining all.

A scrapbook of stories and samples of feed and other sacks is being completed for Permian Archives. Anyone who has a story or sample to contribute should contact the editor at the address shown on the return label below.



*Flour sack provided by Rankin Museum,  
Rankin, Texas*

If undeliverable, please return to:

J. C. Smith, Editor

2905 Sentinel Drive

Midland, TX 79701

cauble@apex2000.net (915/697-4955)

PHS dues per year: students \$5; individuals \$10; families \$20; libraries, museums, groups \$35. Send checks to Eileen Welch, 3610 South County Road 1187, Midland, TX 79706.

