

**Permian Historical
Society**

**The University of
Texas
Permian Basin
Campus**

Fall 2002

**Permian Historical Society
Administration, 2002-2004
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**Upton County Historians To Host Fall Meeting in
McCamey at the Depot on 19 October 2002**

Date: 19 October 2002

Place: The Depot in McCamey, Texas

Program: Five Papers About That Area

An Invitation from the Upton County People

Howdy from McCamey and Upton County,

We are really proud to be hosting the Permian Historical Society for its fall meeting right here in McCamey. At this time we will also honor Upton County members and include Pecos County and Crockett County members as there are so few of us (at this time) and we are so scattered.

We will be meeting at **The Depot**, the original depot, which is adjacent to the Mendoza Trail Museum. These are located on Highway 67 East and there is a museum sign. Arriving from Rankin it will be on your left immediately after entering town. Coming in from Crane turn left on 67 (East) and go to second exit which has the sign and it will be on the right. From Iraan turn right on 67 and same directions and from Ft. Stockton just mosey on straight until you see the sign or the depot and there we are. We will be there to greet early arrivals @ 9:00 A.M. with hot biscuits cooked outdoors in a Dutch oven and honey and sweet breads, juice, and coffee and good old visiting (wish it were around the campfire).

The meeting and stories mostly about the surrounding area will begin at 9:30, giving everyone plenty of time to get here. After the tall tales, oops, *stories* there will be a delicious meal served by the Upton County Historical Commission. We extend a big invitation for all of you to come on down! We are cooking for you.

Adios for now,

Peggy Kelton

Cost of the meal is \$6.50 and reservations **must** be made to
Lanita at 915/552-2280 / lanitaakins@notmail.com
or **Peggy** at 915/652-8738 / pkelton@nwol.net.
Please make reservations by Friday, 18 October 2002.

Life in Texas

It looks like God kind of made it easy for Big Spring to be a town three hundred miles each way from everything and a natural jumpin' off place. If you don't know where Big Spring is, it's in West Texas, in the foothills of the Cap Rock, where the Great Plains start, running and rolling all the way north, clear through to Colorado. Nary a bush to interfere with your vision, and you can see as far as your eyes are good up there on the Ballies—rolling country, open-faced as a Waterbury watch, and monotonous as a nagging woman... Sometimes I think it's something about the air—so clear and blue and kind of unpolluted and so durn much of it—and the space and the distance. Why on a clear day, you can stand on top of one of these little hills around Big Spring and see to hell and gone, way over to Lamesa, and that's forty-five miles...I don't reckon anybody knows how long this "Big Spring" has been attracting humans, but the spring itself is a right historic spot. A good while before the Texas and Pacific Railroad came along, it was a stopping place on the Comanche War trail.

—**Shine Philips**, *Big Spring: The Casual Biography of a Prairie Town* (New York: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1944), 3–4.



News of Permian Historical Society

President's Letter

Dear members, friends and special guests,

I wish to join our hosts, the Upton County Historical Commission and residents of our host community, McCamey, in welcoming you to the fall meeting of the Permian Historical Society on Saturday, October 19, 2002.

For the first time since the spring of 2000, the society has been invited to hold its meeting in one of the many communities that this organization serves. If the surrounding communities invite us, we will be meeting each fall in one of them. Meanwhile, our spring meetings will be held in the Midland-Odessa area.

Since our last meeting in April, the society's new executive committee has worked very hard to improve basic operations, clarify requirements for accepting historical materials, finalize a long-overdue audit, and develop some new projects for the future. We invite members to participate in the business meeting that will follow the noon meal. We will discuss the new policies, the audit, and our future.

The meeting will begin with registration, coffee, biscuits, and honey at 9:30 A.M., and presentation of papers will start promptly at 10 A.M. We promise that each presentation will attempt to be interesting and to be of twenty minutes duration or less. Permian Historical Society takes pride in planning informative programs, dealing with various facets of the settlement and development of this vast area in West Texas. We invite new members to join with us in the preservation of our region's history. Please make plans now to attend. We look forward to seeing you in McCamey on the 19th.

Cordially,

Ross McSwain, President



Craig Fischer, left, presented his paper on the history of Big Spring Independent School District at the spring meeting in Midland

Events and Members

Call For Papers

Permian Historical Society Program Committee calls for papers to be presented at Spring and Fall 2003 meetings. Potential presenters should contact Program Chairman **Todd Houck** at 915/570-8669 or thouck@midland.edu.

Scholarly papers and reminiscences are accepted as presentations. *The Annual* Editorial Board publishes reminiscences which need no documentation. Scholarly papers should be documented, well researched, and clearly written. Permian Historical Society welcomes stories from all ethnic groups and from all educational levels.

Membership Dues

Dues for all memberships in Permian Historical Society are \$15 per year. An individual, library, or museum may pay dues at any time by sending a check to **Lanita Akins**, Treasurer, Permian Historical Society, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, 4901 East University, Odessa, TX 79762.

Our retiring treasurer kindly sent a dues notice and a self-addressed envelope to every member in January of each year to aid in paying dues. *In an effort to reduce expenses and to ease the new treasurer into office, each member or prospective member is asked to accept this newsletter as a dues notice.* Please use the treasurer's mailing label found within the staple of this newsletter as a mailing label for paying dues for next year by January 2003.

New Awards Added

The Awards Committee has designed two new awards. The first, called *Distinguished Service Award*, honors members of Permian Historical Society who have volunteered their time for the improvement of the organization over the years. It will be awarded at fall meetings when merited. The first Distinguished Service Award will be made at the October 19 meeting to our retiring treasurer, **Eileen Welch**, who dedicatedly served eighteen years as treasurer of this society. Congratulations, Eileen. Well done!

A second new award, called *Best Presentation Award*, honors the presentation from the last program of papers that the members voted the best. The criteria for Best Presentation Award is that assigned by the voter. The purpose of this award is to inspire more interesting and enjoyable presentations. [*We have had our last boring paper!*] The winner for the spring meeting will be announced at time of the award on October 19.

—**Lorene Barbee, Donna Bell, Peggy Kelton, Bud Lindsey, J. C. Smith**, Awards Committee

Program For Fall 2002 Meeting

The Depot, McCamey, Upton County, Texas

19 October 2002

- 09:30 A.M. Visiting, registration, coffee, juice, hot biscuits with honey, and sweet rolls
- 10:00 A.M. Recognition of members/guests from Upton, Pecos, and Crockett Counties **Peggy Kelton**
Program of Papers **Todd Houck**, moderator
- 10:05 A.M. **Integration in Crane Schools** **Evelyn Stroder of Crane County**
Graduating from Baylor with a B. A. in Journalism and receiving an M. A. in American Literature / Mass Communications from UTPB, Evelyn Stroder taught public school for more than thirty years. She lives in Crane with her husband, Charles, a former president of Permian Historical Society.
- 10:25 A.M. **Perspectives on Trans-Pecos Archaeology** **Jim Collett of Midland County**
Jim Collett grew up in Sheffield and Iraan, graduated from UT Austin, spent a couple of years at Bracketville, and came to McCamey High School to teach history. He is currently president of the state gifted and talented program and has been the curriculum director for McCamey High School. He is active in the Archaeology Society of Pecos and Upton County. Now working at Education Service Center, Region 18, Jim works on curriculum for the entire region.
- 10:45 A.M. **Girvin and the Pecos River Country Before and After
the Railroads** **Eddie Mae Woodward of Upton County**
Both Eddie Mae Woodward and her husband grew up in McCamey and attended school there. Having ranched in the area for many years, their ranch headquarters is in Pecos County not far from Girvin, just down the road from McCamey. They have grown sheep and cattle through drought and rainy spells, although they currently have only cattle and a new ranching product called wind generators. Eddie Mae has four sons who are also involved in the ranching business.
- 11:10 A.M. **A History of McCamey** **Roylene Chandler Davis of Upton County**
Roylene Chandler Davis came to the McCamey area in her early years. She is an authority on the history of McCamey and knows anyone who made an impact on the town. She worked for many years as secretary/manager of the McCamey Chamber of Commerce, learning even more history of McCamey. She has written columns for the Chamber of Commerce for the local newspaper, is currently the reporter for the Chamber, and continues to write a weekly column that features an old-timer or an event which took place in McCamey in the past. She currently works for the sheriff's office.
- 11:30 A. M. **Ranching in Upton County** **Odis Holiman of Upton County**
Odis Holiman, longtime rancher and businessman in the Permian Basin, is owner of the widely-known Wagon Wheel Ranch that is located 35 miles south of Midland and 20 miles north of Rankin off State Highway 349. In modern times, the speaker made a drive of livestock over several counties of West Texas. This is a presentation for those who want to hear about ranching.
- 11:50 A. M. Casting of ballots for Best Presentation Award that will be given at the spring 2003 meeting.
Visiting and book shopping until lunch is served.
- 12:05 NOON Lunch: *Rump Roast of Beef, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Fresh Green Beans, Garden Slaw, Hot Rolls, Iced Tea, and Surprise Cake; all homemade by Upton County Historical Commission*
- 12:35 P.M. Best Presentation Award from Spring 2002 Meeting **Peggy Kelton**, Awards Committee
Best Article in *The Permian Historical Annual* 41 **Donna Bell**, Best Article Chair
Distinguished Service Award presented to **Eileen Welch**
for eighteen years of dedicated service **Julia Cauble Smith**, Awards Chair
- 12:45 P. M. Short business meeting **Ross McSwain**, President
- 1:15 P.M. Adjournment of general meeting; Board meeting for officers, directors, and ex-officio members begins.



News of the Society

New Name for This Newsletter

The Scroll staff and the executive committee have agreed to rename this newsletter with a more appropriate and less highfalutin name. A contest with a prize for the selected name is underway. Send entries by email to:

cauble@cox.net

or by post office mail to:

**Permian Historical Society
The Univ. of TX—Permian Basin
4901 University Blvd.
Odessa, TX 79762**

The membership of Permian Historical Society is filled with intelligent and witty people. We want to hear your suggestion for a fitting name for this newsletter.

Bookseller Fund-Raiser

Permian Historical Society continues its policy of inviting local booksellers and authors to display printed and electronic media for sale at the fall meeting. In addition to these displays, the society will provide a table for donated collectible Texana and related books for sale as a fund-raiser. *Each member is invited to bring a collectible book to add to the sale. If the book does not sell after two meetings, the donor may take the book back to his or her library.*

Several back issues of *The Permian Historical Annual* will be offered for purchase at this sale.

Sue Ann Damron has agreed to served as chair of the book sales. For questions or table reservations, call Sue Ann at 915/393-5790 or email sjd@crcom.net.

Permian Pioneer Awards

The Awards Committee has accepted nominations for two Permian Pioneer Awards to be given at the Spring 2003 meeting.

Permian Pioneer is an award that is given to an individual who has resided in the Permian Basin for fifty or more years and who has continuously worked for its educational, cultural, religious, economic, or recreational development with no material compensation for himself or herself.

Permian Historical Society will proudly honor **Bob Deavenport**, the beloved helping hand of Martin County, and **Eileen Welch**, native of Midland County, who willingly offers her volunteer services wherever they are needed.

***The Permian Historical Annual 41* will be distributed to members at the 19 October 2002 meeting. Thanks to Managing Editor, Dr. Warren Gardner, as well as the Editorial Board and the contributors for the months of work this publication represents.**

If undeliverable, please return to:

**Permian Historical Society
The University of Texas of the Permian Basin
4901 University Blvd.
Odessa, TX 79762**

All PHS annual dues [individuals, libraries, museums, groups]: \$15. Send checks to **Lanita Akins, Treasurer, Permian Historical Society, The Univ. of TX of the Permian Basin, 4901 University Blvd., Odessa, TX 79762**. Look for the treasurer's mailing label inside.

