

## Permian Historical Society

The University of  
Texas  
Permian Basin  
Campus

Fall 1999



Permian Historical Society  
Officers and Directors  
1998-2000

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# The Scroll of Permian Historical Society

## Permian Historical Society To Meet 16 October 1999 for Fall Program of Papers

Date: 16 October 1999

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

Permian Historical Society fall meeting is set for 16 October 1999 at the Petroleum Museum on Interstate 20 at the southern edge of Midland, Texas. The museum is a comfortable and friendly place to hold meetings. Permian Historical Society offers its gratitude to the Petroleum Museum for providing a free-of-charge setting for its meetings.

Coffee will be served at 9:30 A.M. to members and visitors while they talk with old friends and meet new ones. The board will hold its meeting at the same time. The program of papers, with **Jean Reid** moderating, begins at 10 A.M. The papers are varied in scope. Two look at institutions (the Connell House at Stanton and First Presbyterian Church of Odessa) and the people who built and used them. Two papers focus on individuals (Herb Atkins and General James J. Byrne) and their influences on and connections to the Permian Basin. Another paper considers an event (celebration of the bicentennial in Odessa) and the activities of a local hero (John Ben Sheppard). Three of the writers will present their own papers, while two will be read by well-known public speakers of the area. This is expected to be one of the best programs the society has offered in several years.

After the program, lunch will be catered by Murray and the Frenchman at a cost of \$8 per person. The caterer always serves good food and this menu consists of chicken with rice pilaf, salad, iced tea, and dessert. Reservations should be made for this meeting by Wednesday, 13 October 1999 to **Eileen Welch** at **915/682-0839** or to **Bobbie Jean Klepper** at **915/362-3654**. One may pay for the meal at registration or one may mail a check in advance to Eileen Welch, 3610 South County Road 1187, Midland, TX 79706.

A short business meeting is scheduled after lunch with President Bobbie Jean Klepper presiding. Adjournment is promised by 1:15 P.M. to allow attendees time to appreciate the golden fall afternoon.

*The Annual* editors announce the deadline of 31 December 1999 for submittal of papers for publication in Volume 39. For details contact **Dr. H. Warren Gardner** at The University of Texas-Permian Basin, 4901 East University, Odessa, TX 79762-0001.

## Life in Texas

In December 1928, when I was in the seventh grade, I left school for six weeks to trap on the Hop Hover Ranch on the Pecos River just northeast of Live Oak Creek. I had sixty sections to trap in. It was 50 miles from town. I had fifty #2 traps. Dad helped me with all my camp outfit and helped me set up camp. I had a two-man tent and located it facing a high bluff. We cut cedar and made a high wall around the front of the tent to the bluff, so my fire was protected with a six-foot wall and it made a good warm camp. The traps I had were double spring traps and it took me about three days to get them all set in good places...By the time I had them all out, my trap line was twenty-five or thirty miles long and I saw them all every day. I was catching six to ten furs each night. Mostly fox, ring-tail, coon, a badger sometimes, and sometimes a skunk...A fox was worth three to five dollars and a ring-tail about the same. A good big coon was five to ten dollars, a skunk two to three dollars and a good bobcat ten to fifteen dollars...I stayed there thirty-five days and did not see another person till my dad brought me more groceries and took my furs to sell for Christmas money. I had two younger brothers at home.

— George W. Short, *80 Years + Changing Times and the Man Who Lived Them* (Breckenridge TX: by author, 1996), 12-13.

# News of Permian Historical Society

## Necrology

Permian Historical Society notes the passing of three of its longtime members.

**Clyde Heron** (16 April 1929 Ardmore, Oklahoma-8 June 1999 Odessa, Texas; buried Sunset Memorial Gardens, Ector County, Texas) was both a charter member and a life member of Permian Historical Society. He maintained an interest in history, art, music, and community service throughout his life. Clyde's talent for art was recognized at an early age by his public school teacher who impressed his parents, **Anna and Joe Heron**, with Clyde's natural ability. His loving parents, even in years of economic depression, arranged for their only son to have private lessons.

On 3 August 1947 Clyde married **Feleceia Mayberry**, whom he had met in childhood in the art classes of **Miss Ginnie Smith**. The young couple moved to the oil fields of Jal, New Mexico, where they lived until Clyde went into the military during the Korean War. Fort Ord, California, was their next home, but by 27 August 1954 they returned to the oil fields of New Mexico and Texas. Their daughter, **Fritzi Gail Heron** was born in Monahans, Texas. During these years Clyde worked at El Paso Natural Gas and he and his family lived at Denver City, Frankel City, Goldsmith, and eventually Odessa.

After accepting early retirement, Clyde pursued his art full time. He was able to combine his interest in history and in art to win recognition as an artist that accurately portrayed images from the past. Clyde's work was especially valued by Permian Historical Society because he voluntarily drew the sketches of the individuals and lettered the captions on all Permian Historical Society awards that hang in its Hall of Fame at The University of Texas—Permian Basin. Since Clyde's exceptional work cannot be duplicated, the Awards

Committee is changing the format of its awards. Permian Historical Society acknowledges the end of an era.

**Lela Clyde Cole Kelley** (30 November 1912 Balmorhea, Reeves County, Texas-10 May 1999 Escondido, California; buried Balmorhea Cemetery, Reeves County, Texas), a daughter of **Edna Emma Earle Burch** and **Jefferson Petty Cole**, grew up at Balmorhea, Texas. She graduated from Sul Ross State Teachers College in Alpine and taught school in Pecos, Texas. She moved to Odessa, Texas, in 1957, where she taught third grade until her retirement in 1978. She married **William Ernest [Bill] Kelley** (15 September 1903-11 February 1995) and had three children. Lela Clyde and Bill were interested in history and were active members of Permian Historical Society. Lela Clyde was a photographer. She was a member of Permian Basin Gem and Mineral Society, Permian Basin Stamp Club, West Texas Archaeological Society, and Daughters of the Republic of Texas. She was proud to be a fifth-generation Texan, descended from **Dorothea Brown** and **Samuel Lewis Burch**, from **Mary Ann Rotan** and **Peter Cauble**, and from **Ann Cauble** and **Valentine Ignatius Burch**. Lela Clyde Cole Kelley happily claimed three granddaughters, five grandsons, two great-grandsons, and three great-granddaughters when she died.

**Mrs. John A. Moravcik**, a charter member of Permian Historical Society, has passed from this life. The staff regrets that no facts of her life are known.

Permian Historical Society honors the memory of these three and all other men and women who contributed their dreams and their labors to the improvement of this region and now have passed from this life.

## Permian Historical Society Seeks New Members

PHS invites those interested in regional history to become members and to join in the effort to preserve Permian Basin history. Dues are \$5 per year for students, \$10 for individuals, \$20 for families, \$35 for libraries, museums, and groups.

Checks should be sent to Eileen Welch, 3610 South County Rd. 1187, Midland, TX 79701.

## An Invitation to Booksellers

Tables will be available for the display of print and electronic publications by local and regional writers, giving attendees an opportunity to support Permian Basin authors and booksellers.

## Back Issues of *The Annual* Now For Sale

Back issues of *The Annual* are available at the cost of \$10 for a single issue and \$225 for a complete set. Costs of handling and shipping are included in the price. Orders should be sent to: Bobbie Jean Klepper, Archivist, Permian Historical Society, The Univ. of Texas-Permian Basin, 4901 East Univ. Blvd., Odessa, TX 79762-0001.

# Petroleum Museum, Library, and Hall of Fame

1500 Interstate Highway 20 West, Midland, Texas

16 October 1999

- 09:30 A.M.                    Registration and coffee  
Board meeting in Hall of Fame Room
- Presentation of papers in auditorium following board meeting ..... **Jean Reid**, Program Chairman
- 10:00 A.M.                    **The Connell House: Martin County Historical Museum Period Home** ..... **Irene Springer**  
*In 1882 lumber was unloaded for the building of the first structure in Stanton, Texas. It was home to the Connell family for many decades and now is maintained by Martin County Historical Museum. The writer, Irene Springer, and her husband, Grover, were longtime area school teachers and were presented Permian Pioneer awards in 1994.*
- 10:25 A.M.                    **So Little Time in Which to Do So Much: A Tribute to the Late Herb Atkins** ..... **Diana Atkins**  
*Read by the writer's son, Billy Atkins, this paper recounts the short life and extensive work of Herb Atkins, an Odessa community leader, radio station owner, and supporter of local sports. Mrs. Atkins is a free-lance writer and an assistant at The University of Texas - Permian Basin archives.*
- 10:50 A.M.                    **A History of the First Presbyterian Church, Odessa, Texas, 1899-1999** ..... **Roger Corzine**  
*The paper traces the story of an influential church through its one hundred years of existence. The writer is a biologist, a Master Gardener, and a community volunteer.*
- 11:15 A.M.                    **James J. Byrne: A Many-Faceted Man** ..... **Ed Fisher**  
*Read by Robert Grady, the paper considers the life and achievements of a noted Irish-born military man of the Red River Campaign. But, as an officer in Union Major General Nathaniel P. Banks' Army of the Gulf, Colonel Byrne represented the enemy to the C. S. A. Texans who fought to prevent Union invasion in that Louisiana campaign. Byrne may have been the youngest general in the U. S. Army when he was brevetted for gallantry on 13 March 1865. He died from wounds received in an attack by Apache Chief Victorio's band as he rode in a stage about nine miles east of Fort Quitman, Hudspeth County, Texas, in the summer of 1880. This is another in a series of interesting papers from Mr. Fisher.*
- 11:40 A.M.                    **Historical Pageantry: The U. S. Bicentennial in Odessa, Texas** ..... **Damon Kennedy**  
*The writer, a doctoral student at Texas Tech University, has focused much of his past work on the efforts of John Ben Shepperd and the development of public history in Texas. This paper continues that tradition.*
- 12:05 NOON                    Lunch catered by Murray and the Frenchman
- 12:45 P.M.                    Business meeting ..... **Bobbie Jean Klepper**, presiding

## Call For Papers

Permian Historical Society Program Committee is accepting proposals for papers to be presented at the Spring and Fall 2000 meetings. Contact Program Chairman **Jean Reid (915/684-5185)** or President **Bobbie Jean Klepper (915/362-3654)** for details. Any topic with a past that can be discussed in polite company (and some that cannot) represents Permian Basin history—an event, a personality, a physical feature, a landmark, a vanished community, a ranch, a religious institution, an organization, an oil field, or a business enterprise. Scholarly papers for publication should be documented, well researched, and clearly written. However, reminiscences are important also to preserving local history. One's recollection of events may be published as just that. Will you allow us to hear and read your story?

# Permian Historical Society Awards

## Nominations For Awards

Permian Historical Society plans an awards ceremony at the spring meeting on 15 April 2000. The committee is ready to approve one award to be presented in the Permian Academy of History category.

Any PHS member may nominate any worthy living individual for any of the four awards. No posthumous awards will be made unless the recipient should die between the time of nomination and of presentation.

Unlimited nominations may be made by a member in one or all of the categories. Nominees need not be members of Permian Historical Society. A formal letter of nomination that documents the accomplishments of the nominee and a picture of

the nominee should be submitted before 31 December 1999 to the Awards Committee Chair:

Julia Cauble Smith  
2905 Sentinel Driveidland, TX 79701  
or cauble@apex2000.net.

## Criteria For Awards

*Permian Academy of History* is the highest award of merit and is given to one who has made outstanding contributions in the field of historical preservation or the development of historical resources of the Permian Basin. The recipient must be a resident of the Permian Basin and the work must be of area-wide significance.

*Fellows of the Permian Historical Society* is an award given to an individual who has published significant historical work concerning the Permian Basin. The author need not be a resident of the Permian Basin.

*Permian Pioneers* is an award given to an individual who has resided in the Permian Basin for fifty or more years and who has continuously worked for its religious, educational, cultural, recreational, or economic development.

*Permian History Preservationist* is an award given to one who has made substantial and outstanding historical contributions to the

## Answer to Quiz

Duval, Texas, and Joiel, Texas, were the first post offices established in Winkler County, both in 1908. However, both closed in 1910. Neither community was recorded in *The New Handbook of Texas* (1996). See Charles Deaton, compiler, *Texas Postal History Handbook* (Houston: by compiler, 1980), 92, 109.

**Julia Cauble Smith, Editor**  
**Permian Historical Society**  
**University of Texas - Permian Basin**  
**4901 East University Blvd., Odessa TX 79762-0001**

