

Permian  
Historical Society

The University of Texas of  
the Permian Basin Campus

Fall 2003



# Permian Historical News

## Permian Historical Society Fall Meeting At Monahans Convention Center, Monahans, Texas 18 October 2003

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Next Meeting: 18 October 2003  
Place: Monahans Convention Center,  
Monahans, Texas  
*Uniform of the Day: Oil Patch*

The Permian Historical Society has been invited to hold its fall meeting in the Ward County Convention Center, located at 4th and Calvin streets, on Saturday, 18 October 2003. Registration and Happy Hour will commence at 9 A.M. with coffee, biscuits, and sweet rolls. The morning presentations of papers will be from 10 A.M. until noon, when a catered lunch of barbeque and all the trimmings will be served. Joining the PHS group for lunch will be the Ward County Genealogical Society who will also be holding an all-day meeting in the convention center. The cost of lunch is \$8.50 per person—payable in advance or at the door. Peggy Kelton, who is handling the lunch reservations, asks that reservations be made early. Contact Peggy at 432/652-8738 or pkelton@nwol.net by 16 October 2002.

Immediately after lunch there will be presentations, awards, and a short business meeting. One special award will be the prestigious Permian Pioneer Award to **Kathlyn Cosper Dunagan**, widow of **J. Conrad Dunagan**; both were avid supporters of Permian Historical Society for decades.

Theme of the October meeting will be *History Along the Pecos* and since both Monahans and Ward County are noted for oil production, attendees are invited to dress in oil-patch style—hard hats, steel-toed boots, shapeless cotton dresses, coveralls, or other casual attire.

Attendees are encouraged to visit the Million Barrel Oil Tank and the Sandhills State Park, outside of Monahans.

PHS offers its appreciate to **Bill Modisett**, editor of the newspaper in Monahans and to **Elizabeth Heath**, a tireless volunteer and retiree from Monahans public schools for their help in planning this event.

### A Letter of Welcome

Dear Permian

Historical Society,

Both Ross McSwain and Dr. J. Tillapaugh have told me they have fond memories of an earlier meeting of the Permian Historical Society in Monahans several years ago. With that notation in mind, it is the distinct honor of the people of Monahans and Ward County to welcome back this fine group of people who keep alive the history of our land.

A loyal group of local history enthusiasts has tirelessly toiled in the sand of this region's past and, according to Mrs. Elizabeth Heath, many of them plan to join with representatives of the Permian Historical Society on October 18th for this meeting.

It is said out in this part of West Texas that the people are so friendly to newcomers because there are no distractions like rivers, lakes, and trees to draw their attention away from the people they meet. That may be true, but whatever the reason please join us this October for a bit of "History Along the Pecos." We will look forward to meeting you at the Ward County Convention Center on October 18th.

**Bill Modisett**

Editor

# News of Permian Historical Society

## About Spring 2003 Meeting

The Spring 2003 Meeting was well attended and interesting papers were presented by **Warren Taylor**, **Bill Yeates**, **Bob Alexander**, and **Jan Devereau**.

Permian Pioneer Award was given to **Eileen Welch** of Midland and to **Bob Deavenport** of Stanton. Their framed awards will hang in The University of Texas-Permian Basin library.

Others who were recognized at the spring meeting for outstanding service over many years were **Geniece Childress** of Crockett County, **Ann Clark** of Upton County, **Nancy McKinley** and **Betty Orbeck** of Midland County, **Paul Patterson** and **Charles Stroder** of Crane County, **June Reid** and **Mary Prudie Brown** of Martin County, **Mamie Shepperd**, **Enid Hold**, **Vernon Vasbinder**, **James Day**, and **Bobbie Jean Klepper** of Ector County, and **Noble H. Smith** of Culberson County.



Noble H. Smith of Culberson County, Texas, was given an honorary life membership at the spring meeting in April.

*Image: Bud Lindsey*

### Directions to Monahans Convention Center

The center is located at 409 East Fourth Street and the telephone number is 432/943-6343.

If coming from the east or west, one should take Business 20 which parallels the railroad tracks. Turn on Calvin Street near downtown. If traveling from the south on Highway 18, one should continue downtown and turn right on 4th Street. From the north, one should cross the railroad tracks and turn left on 4th Street. The center is located one block east of the county courthouse.

### Memorials

Memorials were made for  
**Twala Pearl Scott Timmons**  
**Miannice Aaron Damron**  
**Cecil Drake and June Naylor**  
by Julia Cauble Smith

A Memorial was made for  
**William A. Rollins, Jr.**  
by Sue Ann Damron



Gary Elliott, the Biscuit Man, is shown above tending the biscuits in Dutch ovens before the spring meeting. The biscuits were served with butter and honey during Happy Hour. Gary will bake biscuits again at the meeting in Monahans. Pat Patrick, who baked pound cakes for dessert at the spring meeting lunch will bake again for the fall meeting. Thanks to the bakers!

*Image: Bud Lindsey*



Eileen Welch accepted the Permian Pioneer Award from Dr. Warren Gardner at the Spring 2003 meeting.

*Image: Bud Lindsey*

# Program For Fall 2003 Meeting



## Permian Historical Society Fall Meeting Monahans Convention Center, Monahans, Texas 18 October 2003

9:00 A.M. Happy Hour with visiting, registration, coffee, hot biscuits with honey..... **Peggy Kelton** and  
the Upton County Bakers

10:00 A.M. Recognition of members/guests of Ward County ... **Peggy Kelton**, Membership Vice President

**Program of Papers** ..... **Todd Houck**, Program Vice President, moderator

The Jacobs Family and Castle Gap ..... **Gary Cutrer**

Courthouses of Jeff Davis County ..... **Bob Miles**

Surface Usage of University Lands, 1896-1996 ..... **Todd Houck**

Stagecoaching Along the Pecos River in Crane,

Ward, and Loving Counties ..... **Glen Ely**

11:30 A. M. Casting of ballots for Best Presentation Award that will be given at the Spring 2004 meeting

..... **Donna Bell**

11:45 A. M. **Catered Barbeque Lunch**

12:25 P.M. Prizes—Door, Costume, Permian Basin Resident for Longest Time, Best Presentation

Award ..... **Peggy Kelton** and **Donna Bell**

12:35 P.M. **Permian Pioneer Award**

**Kathlyn Cosper Dunagan of Ward County**

1:00 P. M. Short general business meeting ..... **Ross McSwain**, President

Board meeting for officers, directors, and ex-officio members.

### Call For Papers

Permian Historical Society Program Vice President and his committee have issued a call for papers to be presented at Spring and Fall 2004 meetings. Potential presenters should contact **Todd Houck** at 432/570-8669. His email address is [thouck@midland.edu](mailto:thouck@midland.edu).

The Program Committee has a goal of finding interesting presentations for meetings. Personal reminiscences are important because of their wide appeal. If you have a story, submit it now.

If undeliverable, please return to:  
**Permian Historical News**  
**Post Office Box 2186**  
**San Angelo, TX 76902**



### **About The Permian Historical Society**

The Permian Historical Society, a nonprofit organization, was formed in the fall of 1958. The society's mission is to record and preserve the history of the Permian Basin. The Society meets twice each year—spring and fall. Dues are \$15 per year for individuals, libraries, museums, or other organizations. Family memberships are available for \$20. Each member receives a copy of *The Permian Historical Annual* for that year. Membership dues are payable each January for the calendar year. Correspondence and remittance for dues should be directed to:

**The Permian Historical Society**  
**The Univ. of Texas –Permian Basin**  
**4901 University Blvd.**  
**Odessa, Texas 79762**

### **Complete Sets of *The Permian Historical Annual* Available**

An excerpt from an article, “Four Square Miles Per Man—Loving County, Texas,” by Sue Navarro, *The Texas Permian Historical Annual* 4 (1964):

With the help of a Mexican named Julian, I built my house out of railroad ties and daubed it with mud, and had a well dug and put up a windmill. Of course, the place had to be surveyed by a county surveyor who came out with a board or rag in his hand which he tied to a wagon wheel. I drove the wagon while he walked by the side of the wheel and counted the number of turns. If brush was in the way, I cut it out so that the team could walk in a straight line. The surveyor was a big man around in those days. In camp we waited on him like he was a king and how he measured by the wagon wheel was his trade secret and a big mystery to us. We didn't know it then, but years later in resurveying, we found that he often missed his mark.

A few complete sets of *The Permian Historical Annual*, dating from 1960 and consisting of forty-one volumes, is offered for \$150, plus shipping. The volumes are not only entertaining to read, but they are a source of material for research.