



The Guard House at Fort Stockton.

Image: TourTexas.com

Permian Historical Society

The University of Texas
of the Permian Basin Campus
4901 East University Blvd.
Odessa, TX 79762

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PHS website: PermianHistoricalSociety.org
Webmaster: Les Blalock

Permian Historical Society will meet at the Petroleum Museum in Midland, Texas, for its spring meeting in April 2010.

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Historians and Friends,

At last it is time for our annual fall meeting of Permian Historical Society. We have an informative and enjoyable meeting planned. In conjunction with the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the town of Fort Stockton we have several speakers from that area giving us 150 years of history. We have Gene Riggs who will tell about his ancestor, Annie Riggs, who started the Annie Riggs Memorial Museum in Ft. Stockton; Travis Roberts will bring the history of the Comanche Trail in the years when nomadic natives raided along its path; Georgia Jamison and Betty Christall will relate tales of living in the Old Jail at Ft. Stockton; Hub Parker will give the history of Pecos County ranching; and Betty Hargus will inform us about the big 150th birthday celebration of Fort Stockton.

As usual, folks can gather around 9 A.M. at the Officers' Quarters at the fort for the *Happy Hour* with coffee and breakfast treats. A board meeting begins at 9:15 A.M. and paper presentations at 10 A.M., continuing until the noon hour.

Lunch will be served on the site and will cost \$10 per person. After lunch, a PHS business meeting will elect new or renewed board members for two-year terms. PHS awards and door prizes will be given. Everyone is invited to tour the town and all its interesting sites. [See pages 2-3 for details].

Dress as an early-day pioneer settling the West!
Register Now: Peggy Kelton, Box 901, McCamey, TX 79752, or peggy.kelton@gmail.com, or 432-652-8738.

Sincerely,

Peggy Kelton

Celebrating Historic Fort Stockton, Texas

After the program of papers and the business meeting on 10 October 2009, Permian Historical Society members and guests are invited to take the Fort Stockton Historic Tour. Directional signs are located around the town to lead visitors to seventeen points of interest.

1. Chamber of Commerce Depot Visitors Center is first.
2. Paisano Pete, the world's largest roadrunner statue, is eleven feet tall and twenty-two feet long
3. Annie Riggs Memorial Museum, owned by Fort Stockton Historical Society, makes its home in the former Adobe Hotel, built in 1900 of adobe with Victorian wood trim in Territorial-Style architecture. Its exhibits are devote to area history.



Annie Riggs Memorial Museum in Fort Stockton, Texas

4. St. Joseph Catholic Church, built in 1875, was the first church erected in Fort Stockton.
5. The Old Jail, built in 1883, was the original jail for civilian in Pecos County.
6. Zero Stone Park and Pecos County Courthouse: The Zero Stone is a marker placed in 1847 as a reference point for later surveys. Four additional markers were set in the park. Pecos County courthouse was built in 1883 and remodeled extensively in 1911-1912.
7. The Oldest Remaining School was constructed in 1883 by Pecos County citizens and its east end was used as a telegraph office by the U. S. Army.
8. The Oldest House was already in existence by 1859 and may have been part of Camp Stockton, later Fort Stockton, which was established before the Civil War. —————>



Pecos County Courthouse: The county has had only one courthouse since its organization in 1872. The courthouse was constructed in 1883, but it was so substantially remodeled in 1911-1912 that it became a new and different structure from the original. It stands today as a beautiful example of Classical Revival architecture in stone.

Image: TexasCourthouseTrail.com



Officers' Row: There are three remaining quarters located in Officers' Row on the grounds of the historic Fort Stockton, 1867-1886

Image: TourTexas.com

9. Grey Mule Saloon was once owned by A. J. Royal, frontier lawman, and it opened for business in 1883.
10. Young's Store opened as the sutler's store for the fort and its transom shows the date 1876.
11. Koehler's Store was built in 1878 and served as a bank and a saloon [but not at the same time]. In the 1930s a second floor was constructed by the WPA. It is now Small Community Hall and sits across the street from the Blue Hole, one of the nine springs in the Comanche Springs system.
12. Comanche Springs Pavilion and Swimming Pool are located over Big Chief Spring, the largest spring and the one that flowed 65 million gallons of water per day. The pavilion was built in 1938.
13. Rollins-Sibley House was constructed in 1905 on the foundation of the Old Fort Hospital.
14. St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, one of the first Protestant churches west of the Pecos River, was built in 1896. It was moved to the present location in 1958.
15. Historic Fort Stockton, built after the Civil War in 1867, consists of the Guardhouse, Officers' Row, and Parade Grounds. A museum occupies the enlisted men's barracks. A visitor's center is found at 301 East Third Street.
16. 5th Street House is an example of a mail-order house. It was ordered from Montgomery Ward catalog in the late 1920s and constructed from the kit that was delivered to the site.
17. Old Fort Cemetery was used between 1875 and 1912, but it has no soldier graves. Those bodies were removed to the National Cemetery in San Antonio in 1888. Sheriff A. J. Royal's headstone reads, *Assassinated*. Mostly the civilian graves are those of people who died younger than age 40, giving evidence of the hard and sometimes-violent life Pecos County offered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Old Fort Cemetery, Fort Stockton
Image: TourTexas.com



**Permian Historical Society Fall Program
Officers' Quarters at Fort Stockton, Pecos County, Texas
10 October 2009**

Happy Hour and Program of Papers

- 9:00 A. M. Registration and Happy Hour..... Coffee and Breakfast; Distribution of *Annual 49*; Visiting; Viewing of displays; Book buying to benefit PHS
- 9:15 A. M. Board of Directors Meeting
- 10:00 A. M. Memorial Tribute **J. Tillapaugh**, Moderator

A Memorial Tribute to Elmer Kelton Ross McSwain

Program of Papers **Betty Cash**, Program Vice President, Moderator

The Story of Annie Riggs Gene Riggs
The presenter is a descendant of Annie Riggs who founded the famous museum in Fort Stockton. Annie Riggs Memorial Museum gives visitors a look into Pecos County life in the late 19th century. It is housed in the building that was once the Adobe Hotel, built in 1900 at 301 South Main Street. The museum is owned by Fort Stockton Historical Society.

History of the Comanche Trail J. Travis Roberts
Travis has presented many papers on Big Bend history. In this presentation he recounts the routes taken by the Comanche as they left their buffalo-hunting grounds in the current states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Panhandle on the Great Plains. They followed the light of the Comanche moon over these paths each fall as they raided into Mexico.

Living in the Old Jail in Fort Stockton, Texas Georgia Jamison and Betty Christall
The Old Jail was built by the county in 1883 and remodeled and enlarged in 1911-12, when steel cages were installed on the second floor. The building had a welcoming appearance to all except those who were about to be locked in.

Ranching in Pecos County, Texas Hub Parker
Ranching in Pecos County and in all of the Permian Basin has always been subject to droughts, livestock prices set by a faraway market, livestock disease, and isolation from most of the outside world. It has never been an easy life.

The Celebration of the 150th Birthday of Fort Stockton, Texas Betty Hargus
The town that grew up around the pre-Civil War military fort by the same name has reached its 150th birthday. Its proud citizens are planning a real celebration of the event.

Remainder of the Meeting

Casting of ballots for Best Presentation Award to be given at Spring 2010 meeting **Donna Bell**, chair

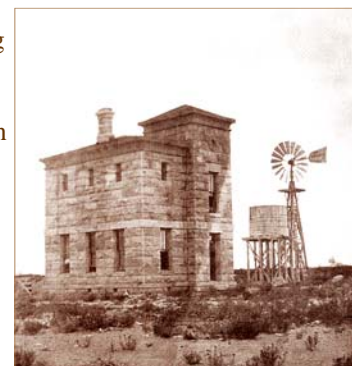
After Lunch: General Business Meeting..... **Peggy Kelton**, presiding

Awards and Prizes

Best Article Award from *Permian Historical Annual 49*; Best Presentation Award from Spring 2009 Meeting; Best Costume Awards; Door Prizes

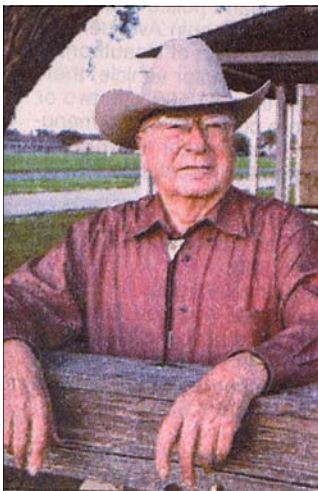
The lonely **Old Jail** was built by Pecos County at Fort Stockton, Texas, in 1883 to hold civilian lawbreakers.

Image: Fort Stockton Historical Society



Remembering Elmer

Elmer Kelton (1926-22 Aug 2009), the No. 1 Western writer of all time and a Fellow of PHS, was born at Horse Camp on Five Wells Ranch in Andrews County, Texas. He grew up on McElroy Ranch near Crane, where his father Buck Kelton was foreman for thirty-six years. After graduating from Crane High School, he studied at The University of Texas at Austin two years before going into the Army at the end of World War II. Returning from military service in Europe, Kelton graduated from U. T. with a degree in journalism and became a writer for *San Angelo Standard Times*. Over the years he wrote and edited for *Sheep and Goat Raisers Magazine* and *Livestock Weekly*. As he worked for the newspaper and magazines, he managed to write more than forty Western novels which made him a popular and honored author. Kelton received numerous awards including those from Texas Institute of Letters and the Western Literature Association. He was named a Fellow of Permian Historical Society in 2007. PHS is saddened by the loss of this talented and humble friend who was always just one of us!



Elmer Kelton

Image: *Midland Reporter-Telegram*, 27 August 2009

Presentation Requirements For PHS Programs

Acceptance Rules

Presentations for regular spring and fall meetings of Permian Historical Society are accepted from anyone who has an interest in regional history—county, amateur, or professional historians. In selecting papers for programs, the Executive Committee gives priority to those presentations that will be submitted for publication in *The Permian Historical Annual*. If PHS accepts a presentation and the presenter chooses to publish the paper or presentation, PHS has first right to publish or to reject the work. If a presenter knows he or she will publish the paper with another organization, the presenter should submit the work for presentation at **that** organization rather than at PHS.

Content of Presentations

Presentations must be based in the Permian Basin and/or its fringe counties. That is, the sites and events must closely relate to the Permian Basin—its history, historical characters, social institutions, and physical features.

Presentations Not For Publication

There is space on regular programs for one or two presentations that are not intended for publication as articles. Power Point presentations can be published as photographic essays and are accepted as such. Writers of reminiscences are welcome to submit for publication in *The Annual*.

Presentation and Publication

The Permian Historical Annual publishes **only** previously unpublished material. If a paper using the same research material has been published with another organization, the text must be totally rewritten by the author for submittal to *The Annual*. However, presentations are accepted for meeting programs that **have** been given previously to other groups. No one tells a story or reads a paper the same way twice! One may read a documented paper, tell a reminiscence or a research finding, or present a PowerPoint before a regular meeting that has been presented to other groups.

Any presentation that is submitted to *The Annual* will be carefully considered for publishing by the Editorial Board, but the editors reserve the right to ask for a rewriting or to reject articles that do not meet the requirements of the publication.

Proposals for Papers

Paper proposals must be sent to:

Program Vice President Betty Cash

P. O. Box 1088, Iraan, Texas 79744

bbtcash@yahoo.com

432/639-2705

or

PHS President Peggy Kelton

Box 901, McCamey, TX 79752

peggy.kelton@gmail.com

432/652-8738

2007-2009 Committees

Archives: Chair Peggy Kelton, Nancy McKinley, Jean Reid, Mary Prudie Brown, Betty Cash, Genny Townsend, and Elizabeth Heath

Awards: Chair: Dr. J. Tillapaugh, James Collett, Ross McSwain, Patsy White, and Donna Bell

Best Article: Peggy Kelton, James Collett, Charlena Chandler, and Evelyn Stroder

Best Presentation: Chair Donna Bell and Peggy Kelton

Executive: President Peggy Kelton, Betty Cash, James Collett, Sue Ann Damron, Sherry Phillips, J. Tillapaugh, Bud Lindsey, Ross McSwain

Hospitality Chair: Jeanette Paige and friends

Investment: Chair J. Tillapaugh, Peggy Kelton, Betty Cash, Sherry Phillips, and Ross McSwain

Membership: Chair James Collett and friends

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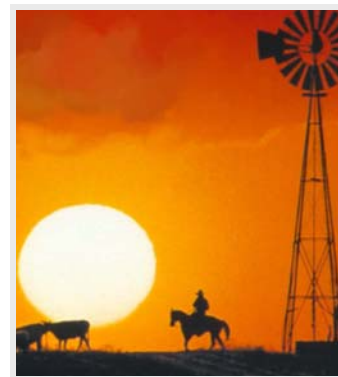
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Publicity: Bud Lindsey

Webmaster: Les Blalock

Old Pecos County Jail, as it looks today, was built in 1883. It is open for tours on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. Donations are used for restoration of the old structure.
Image: TourTexas.com



Permian Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and recording the history of the Permian Basin of West Texas. Officers and committee members invite suggestions and recommendations for paper presentations and for articles to be published in *The Permian Historical Annual*.

Annual PHS Dues
Individuals, libraries, museums, and other organizations: \$25;
Family dues: \$30
Student dues: \$12.

PHS no longer offers Life Memberships; all Life Memberships are awarded. Life Memberships purchased before their elimination will be honored.

Dues checks should be sent to:

**Sherry Phillips
PHS Treasurer
P. O. Box 11
McCamey, TX 79752**