

Permian Historical Society

Fall 2010

<p>PHS Officers</p> <p>Peggy Kelton, President</p> <p>Betty Cash, V.P. Program</p> <p>James Collett, V.P. Membership & Editor of the annual</p> <p>Sue Ann Damron, Secretary</p> <p>Sherry Phillips, Treasurer</p> <p>J. Tillapaugh, Investments</p> <p>Directors</p> <p>Crane County: Genny Townsend,(2012)</p> <p>Crockett County: Beth Hoover (2012)</p> <p>Ector County: Richard Cummins (2012)</p> <p>Martin County: vacant</p> <p>Midland County: Mary L. Midkiff 2010</p> <p>Reagan County: Ann Schneemann 2010</p> <p>Terrell County: Charlena Chandler 2011</p> <p>Upton County: Donna Bell 2010</p> <p>Winkler County: Shelley Shackelford 2011</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">President's Letter</p> <p>Dear Fellow Historians,</p> <p>Here it is again time for another meeting of the Permian Historical Society. It is a special time for PHS as in the fall we go out into the area and spot-light some historical place, event or person. This meeting will be to honor and celebrate the 100th birthday of the Union Church in Grandfalls, Texas. We will meet in the Grandfalls Community Center located on the Crane Hwy. There will be a presentation on the history of the church, a story on T.M. White, an early Ward County resident, teacher, farmer and one of the founders of the Union Church. There will also be a presentation on archeology. Then on a field trip (real close) to the Church where we will learn the history of the stained glass windows as we tour the Church. As usual there will be "Happy Hour" refreshments and visiting at 9:00 and at 9:15 a board of directors meeting. Presentations begin at 10:00 followed by a catered meal.</p> <p>We will also be electing or renewing some of our board members at this meeting. So, mark your calendars and be ready to trek on over to Grandfalls, TX for another great meeting of the Permian Historical Society. Theme will be Sunday best (comfortable for travel) with perhaps a hat as was worn by all 100 years ago.</p> <p>Most sincerely,</p> <p>Peggy Kelton</p> <p style="text-align: center;">President of the Permian Historical Society</p>
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Jim Collett, long time historian, history teacher, archeology enthusiast and member of Permian Historical Society has taken the reins of putting the 2010 PHS annual together. He has worked long and hard on it since taking the job. It will be a 50th anniversary for the book and will feature the murals found in Odessa and Big Spring done by the CCC or WPA back in the 1940s. There will be other stories of presentations presented so if you missed a meeting you will have a chance to read the stories. The book will be ready and available to all members at Grandfalls and for sale to non members at that time also. The price of the book is the price of membership, \$30. Join now.

Permian Historical Society
Grandfalls Community Center

9 October, 2010

9:00 A.M. **Registration**—Coffee and breakfast treats; Visiting & Viewing of displays. Buy books to benefit PHS.

9:15 A.M. **Board of directors meeting.**

The terms of several members of the board are expiring and replacements must be elected.

General Meeting 10:00 A.M.

Welcome & History of Grandfalls.....John Mac Carpenter

John Mac grew up in Grandfalls, attended the schools and attended the Union Church.

History of the Union Church of Grandfalls.....Mary Walker Huhn

Ms. Kuhn is the pianist at the First Union Church which was established in 1910.

T.M. White, one of the founders of the Union Church.....Mark White

Mark White & Mary Huhn are cousins and grandchildren of T.M. White. Mark lives in San Angelo, has a business in Ozona and ranching interest and will become a member of the PHS Board of Directors.

History of the Stained Glass windows of the Union Church.....Kellie Acosta

We will take a short field trip over to the Church to view the Stained Glass windows and hear of their story. Kellie is a former police officer and is now the librarian at the Grandfalls branch of the Ward County Library.

Henry B. Hutchins Great grandfather of presenter..... Tommy Garrison

Republic of Texas granted him a land grant of 640 acres: Tommy was born in Iraan, is a member of the Pecos County Historical Commission and has an avid interest in history and archaeology.

Remainder of the Meeting

Casting of ballots for Best Presentation Award that will be given at Spring 2011 meeting;

Best Presentation Award from the Spring 2010 meeting: Peggy Kelton

Other awards and prizes.....Peggy Kelton

Best Costume Award

Oldest in attendance

Door Prizes

Youngest in attendance

Permian Historical Society has chosen for each of their meetings to dress according to a theme. It raises interest and provides fun. You Know, History can be fun!

Since the Union Church is celebrating its 100th birthday it would be appropriate to dress as folks did in 1910 or as close as possible from your closet. Just come up with something that would represent that time period if you choose to participate. One is not required to participate, we just do it for fun. Ladies should wear a hat & gloves if they have them, gentlemen a tie and a stiff upper lip and slicked back hair (if present.)

You authors bring your books to sell. There will be a table set up for Book Sellers. 10% of sales goes to PHS.

WARD COUNTY. Ward County (G-7) is on the southwestern edge of the High Plains region of southwest Texas. The center of the county is at 31°32' north latitude and 103°07' west longitude, near the community of Pyote. Monahans, the county seat, is in the northeastern corner of Ward County at the intersection of Interstate Highway 20 and Farm Road 18, thirty-three miles southwest of Odessa on the Missouri Pacific Railroad. The area was named for [Thomas W. Ward](#). Ward County covers 539,460 acres, or 836 square miles, of generally level land; elevations range from 2,400 to 2,800 feet above sea level. Large areas in north Ward County are composed of active, windblown sand dunes, subject to wind erosion and sediment transport. This area has scattered oak groves and a number of sections commonly barren except for grasses and non-grassy herbs, the abundance of which depends on rainfall. Along the Pecos River in the south and west are areas of alluvial fans composed of sand, gravel, and mud substrate. Scrub brush and sparse grasses grow in this part of the county. Near the towns of **Grandfalls** and **Royalty** are areas of caliche with bedrock and alluvial material in the substrate. Scrub brush, sparse grasses, creosote bush, and [cacti](#) grow in the shallow, stony soils. Less than 1 percent of Ward County is considered prime farmland. The Pecos River is the only continuous flowing source of surface water in the area; the average annual rainfall is twelve inches. Temperatures in Ward County range from an average low of 29° F in January to an average high of 98° F in July. The average growing season lasts 223 days. The production of petroleum and natural gas are quite important to the economy.

The sand dunes east of the site of present Monahans are claimed to have been an annual watering spot for Comanches. Water is available at shallow depths in the sand hills, a critical factor in attracting human populations to the area. Large numbers of artifacts, including projectile points, beads, and scrapers, and various other stone tools have been found in the sand hills. The Emigrant Road, routed on a survey conducted in 1849 by [Randolph B. Marcy](#), passed from Dona Ana to Preston and skirted the southern part of what is now Ward County. The [Butterfield Overland Mail](#) used Emigrant's Crossing of the Pecos River. In 1881 the Texas and Pacific Railway crossed the region and established stations at Sand Hills, Monahans, Aroya, Pyote, Quito, Quito Quarry, and Barstow. The Texas state legislature carved Ward County from a portion of Tom Green County in 1887, but by 1890 only seventy-five people lived there. The county was organized in 1892, and Barstow became the county seat; a red sandstone courthouse was built in 1893. By 1900 the United States Agricultural Census found 167 farms and ranches, encompassing 424,000 acres, in the area, but only 5,500 acres were described as "improved." The economy revolved primarily around [ranching](#) at that time. Almost 13,000 cattle and about 4,400 sheep were reported in the county that year, while only eighty-three acres were planted in corn and 1,500 acres in cotton. The census reported 1,451 people that year. By 1904 Barstow had become a farming and ranching trade center located near numerous vineyards and orchards made possible by irrigation projects on the Pecos River. In 1904, however, an earthen dam on the Pecos burst, and the resulting flood waters salted and ruined many of the farms near Barstow. A serious drought plagued farmers in 1907; nevertheless, by 1910 there were 231 farms and ranches, and 2,389 people lived there. Almost 14,000 cattle were reported that year, and 3,000 acres were planted in cotton.

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