

Permian Historical Society

The University of
Texas
Permian Basin
Campus

Spring 1996



Permian Historical Society
Officers and Directors
1995-1997

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The Scroll Staff

Julia Cauble Smith
Eileen Welch

The Scroll of Permian Historical Society

Permian Historical Society Plans Spring Meeting At Energy Center 18 May 1996

Presentations To Feature Histories of Permian Basin Companies and People

The spring program of Permian Historical Society focuses on the histories of two Permian Basin petroleum-related companies and of early day West Texans. Presentations draw upon the research of UT-Permian Basin graduate students and of West Texas historians.

Lunch is catered by Murray and the Frenchmen at a cost of \$7.50 per person. Reservations can be made by calling **Eileen Welch at 915/682-0839.**

The annual business meeting, including reports of committees and county historical organizations, will follow lunch. Presentation of the Evelyn Scarborough Linebery - J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article Award will conclude the meeting.

Volume 35 of *The Annual* Will Be Distributed At May Meeting

The latest issue of *The Permian Historical Annual* has arrived from the printer and will be distributed to members at the spring meeting. Those members who are unable to attend the meeting will receive their copies by mail in early June from the campus office of Archivist **Bobbie Klepper.**

Articles in *The Annual* deal with life and events in the history of the Permian Basin of West Texas and Eastern New Mexico.

Life in Texas

Horsehead Crossing, one of the most historic spots in West Texas, is a lonely, remote place with a long, bloody history. The ford of the Pecos River on the Pecos-Crane county line was the site of several battles, including Indian ambushes of cowboys driving cattle and settlers moving westward by wagon train. Indians used the crossing to ford the Pecos and reach the 'Staked Plain,' the roaming place of Comanches, Apaches, and Kiowas.

The crossing was used by the Butterfield stage, and once an adobe stage station was built near the river. Legend has it that Spanish explorers were among the first civilized men to ford the river at this lonely place hidden by salt cedar, sagebrush and stunted mesquite...A visit to the crossing can be a disappointment to tourists, but to early-day pioneers and to cowboys pushing Longhorns to New Mexico and Colorado, the river crossing was an oasis in the desert that had to be reached at any cost. Even though the Pecos water is gypsy and salt-laden, it is the only available water for nearly a hundred miles.

— Ross McSwain, *Out Yonder Revisited* (San Angelo: Mulberry Avenue Books, 1988), 137-138.

For Your Information

1995-1997 PHS Committees

Some of the people who keep Permian Historical Society operating receive little attention or praise for their service. Among those dedicated workers are the members who serve on the Best Article Committee, the Scholarship Committee, and *The Annual* Editorial Staff.

Members of the Best Article Committee read each paper submitted for publication in *The Permian Historical Annual*. At the spring meeting each year, the committee presents the Evelyn Scarborough Linebery — J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article Award to the writer of the article that is judged to be the best. Committee members for this term are **Irene Paulette** of Odessa, **Mary Frances Beverley** of Midland, and **Deanna Krehbiel** of Midland.

The Scholarship Committee reviews applications and makes recommendations of The University of Texas of the Permian Basin graduate students for Permian Historical Society scholarships. The committee also awards mini-grants to aid Permian Basin researchers. Members of the 1995-1997 Scholarship Committee are **Roger M. Olien** of Midland, **Eileen Welch** of Midland, and **Lorene Barbee** of Big Spring.

The Annual editors spend many hours reading and editing articles submitted for publication in the PHS yearly publication. The editors are **H. Warren Gardner**, **Diana Davids Olien**, and **Roger M. Olien**, from the university, and **James Fenton** of Lubbock, who edits the book reviews. The society offers it appreciation to these committees.

Necrology

Dr. **Franklin B. Pruitt** of Snyder, who spent his career teaching history in Scurry County, died 18 August 1995. He taught at Snyder High School from 1952 to 1974 and at Western Texas College from 1974 until 1994. Dr. Pruitt inspired a generation of West Texans, including *The Scroll* editor.

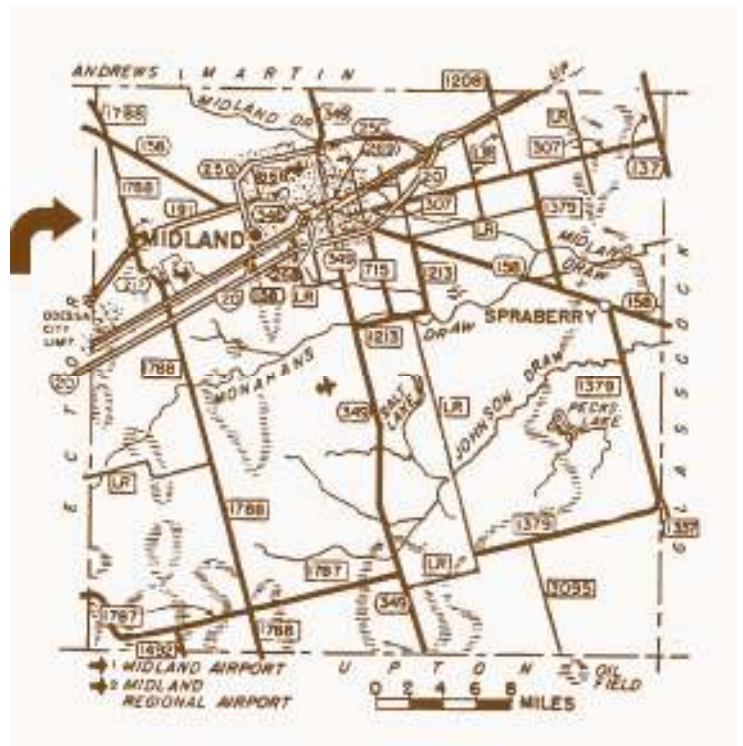
William E. Kelly of Odessa, who ably served as PHS treasurer in the 1980s, died in the fall of 1995.

J. Evetts Haley of Midland, author of

many Western U. S. histories and biographies, died 9 October 1995. He established the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library in Midland in 1976. Mr. Haley's collection of books and interviews with early cattlemen and lawmen is available at the research library.

Jack M. Haynes of Big Spring, who contributed to past issues of *The Permian Historical Annual*, died in January 1996.

Location of Energy Center



1994-1995 Texas Almanac (Dallas: *The Dallas Morning News*, 1993), 246.

Permian Historical Society Fall Meeting

Center for Energy and Economic Diversification

Farm Road 1788 and State Highway 191

Northwestern Midland County, Texas

18 May 1996

- 09:30 A.M. Registration, Coffee, Board Meeting
- Presentation of Papers to follow Board Meeting **Loraine Grady**,
Program Chairman
- 10:00 A.M. **Dawson Geophysical Company** **Robert Grady**
Written by a graduate student, the paper traces the development of L. Decker Dawson's Midland-based geophysical company from its establishment in 1952. Robert Grady is a recipient of a PHS scholarship.
- 10:30 A.M. **Parker and Parsley Petroleum Company** **Betty Stice**
The paper is a case study of the Midland-based petroleum exploration and production company over a four-year-period, 1991-1994. Betty Stice is a graduate student at U.T. - Permian Basin.
- 11:00 A.M. **Footprints in Time**..... **Permian Basin Petroleum Museum**
This video was produced for the 1990-1991 Hall of Fame induction. It consists of short biographies of George Herbert Walker Bush, Halbert Pleasant Bybee, Edith Whatley McKanna, and Frank Phillips.
- 11:30 A.M. **A History of Leasial B. Harris** **David Smith**
Smith's paper traces the life of this early Texan. As a child Harris watched the battle of San Jacinto. Later, he served in the Texas Rangers as a mounted volunteer in defense of the frontier. He hauled freight and lumber to help build cities and forts in early Texas. Finally, he was a cattleman and a businessman who established the first bank and department store in San Angelo.
- 12:00 NOON Lunch
- 12:30 P.M. Business Meeting, County Reports, and Best Article Award **H. Warren Gardner**,
Moderator
- By
- 01:30 P.M. Adjournment



Call For Papers — Fall 1996 Meeting

PHS Program Committee is accepting papers for the fall meeting.
Contact Program Chairman Loraine Grady (915/550-2560) for paper requirements.

Permian Historical Society Spring Meeting: 18 May 1996 at the Energy Center

Reservations

The Planning Committee requests that members and guests call for lunch reservations at the May meeting. The meal is catered again by Murray and the Frenchmen, who have served enjoyable meals for our past meetings. Cost is \$7.50 per person. For reservations call:

Eileen Welch @ 915/682-0839

or

Betty Orbeck @ 915/683-4403

Booksellers Display at May Meeting

Permian Historical Society again invites local writers and booksellers to display works of regional interest for sale at the spring meeting. Those interested should contact the president in advance of the meeting to allow for proper planning.

Call or write:

Louise Whelan

1606 Harvard

Midland TX 79701

915/682-0770

Our Apologies

The Planning Committee regrets any inconvenience caused by the delay of this issue of *The Scroll*. The delay was caused by conflicts in the scheduling of papers for the program. The date for the spring meeting of Permian Historical Society is the third Saturday in May of each year. If members mark that day on the calendar, they will know the date of the meeting before *The Scroll* arrives.

Julia Cauble Smith, *The Scroll* Editor
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