

Permian Historical Society

The University of
Texas
Permian Basin
Campus

Spring 2000



Permian Historical Society
Officers, Directors, and Editors
1998-2000

Officers

Bobbie Jean Klepper, *President*
Jean Reid, *Program*
Lorene Barbee, *Secretary*
Eileen Welch, *Treasurer*
Bobbie Jean Klepper, *Archivist*

Directors

Mary Prudie Brown, *Stanton*
Geniece Childress, *Ozona*
Mary Belle Jones, *Mentone*
Ozella Long, *Big Spring*
Wayne McClure, *Midland*
Nancy McKinley, *Midland*
Betty Orbeck, *Odessa*
Irene Paulette, *Odessa*
June Reid, *Stanton*
Noble H. Smith, *Van Horn*

The Annual Editors

H. Warren Gardner
Diana Davids Olien
Roger M. Olien
James Fenton, *Book Review*

The Scroll Staff

Lorene Barbee, *Assistant Editor*
Eileen Welch, *Mailing*
Julia Cauble Smith, *Editor*

The Scroll of Permian Historical Society

Permian Historical Society to Meet 15 April 2000 for Spring Program of Papers and to Honor June Redford Reid of Stanton

Date: 15 April 2000

**Place: Cactus Room in the Student Union
Building on Howard College Campus
Big Spring, Howard County, Texas**

Permian Historical Society spring meeting is scheduled for 15 April 2000 at the Cactus Room in the Student Union Building on Howard College campus in Big Spring, Texas. Directions on page 2 will guide attendees to the Cactus Room. One should arrive by 9:30 A.M. so there will be time to visit with the new officers and to meet all the visitors. Lunch will be catered by the campus cafeteria at a cost of \$7.95 per person. Reservations are important for this meeting and should be made by:

Monday, 10 April 2000 to Eileen Welch at 915/682-0839
or email to <Ewelch115@aol.com>.

The awards program, honoring **June Redford Reid** of Stanton with the Permian Academy of History award, will follow lunch. A short business meeting is scheduled after the awards program to elect new officers. See page 4 for the slate of new officers.

June Redford Reid To Receive Award

The awards committee of Permian Historical Society will present its prestigious Permian Academy of History Award to **June Redford Reid** of Stanton for her work to preserve and write Permian Basin history. Her work in Martin County has been remarkable, including the raising of \$100,000 to build Martin County Museum in 1977 and serving as curator and president of its board for twelve years. Mrs. Reid established an archives at the museum that features an oral history collection.

She wrote a grant to restore the old jail as a visitors center and an office for Martin County Chamber of Commerce. She researched and wrote many articles for a publication of Martin County history, titled *Martin County, Its Land and People*.

Recently, Mrs. Reid initiated a drive to successfully restore Connell House, an historic pioneer home that had been donated to Martin County Museum by the Connell family in 1994. Well done, Mrs. Reid, you have earned the award.

Life in Texas

My husband, two children, and I left Kimble County when there were few roads even there, and none in the parts. We put our scant supplies and meager household goods in a covered wagon and started out on what was then a long and perilous journey.

Mr. Hoover and one cowboy drove 200 head of cattle and mapped out a road for me most of the way. When we started, he thought I could not manage the two babies, the team, and my rifle, so he hired a boy as teamster. I do believe that was the greenest boy I ever saw. He worried me all day long, and when we camped that first night and he got up next morning putting the horses' collars on backwards, I told my husband to send him back home before we got farther out on the road and we had him on our hands for all time. I could manage the team, the babies, and everything else better than I could him...

Somehow we escaped the Indian attacks of which we were in constant dread, and after camping along Devil's River for three months, looking for a suitable place to locate, we finally decided upon a place here in Crockett County.

—from the reminiscences of **Mrs. Laura Hoover**, Ozona, Crockett County in 1937, in **Ava E. Mills**, ed., *A Legacy of Words: Texas Women's Stories 1850-1920* (San Angelo: Doss Books, 1999), 31-32.

For Your Information

News of Permian Historical Society

Necrology

Valerie Molyneaux Richardson

Val was a long-time member of Permian Historical Society, often helping at the registration desk during meetings. She was born 11 February 1920 in New Jersey. She had lived in Midland for many decades, where she was an office worker and a charter member of St. Nicholas Episcopal Church. She died 8 November 1999.

Floreine D. Hale Coody Palmer

Flo was also a long-time member of Permian Historical Society as well as several other local historical groups. She was born 7 January 1915 in the historic town of

Thurber, Texas. She graduated from Caddo High School in 1932 and attended Ranger Junior College. Flo came of Odessa in 1950. After working thirty-two years for El Paso Products, she retired in 1982. She was an active member of First Methodist Church in Odessa. Death came in an auto accident on 23 January 2000.

Permian Historical Society honors the memory of these women 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.



Directions: Exit I-20 onto West 4th Street. Go to the stop light on Birdwell Lane. Turn right and drive to Kentucky Way. The coliseum sign is visible on the left.

Turn left and the coliseum will be on the right. There is a

two-lane street between the coliseum and the parking lot. Turn right. One may park any where in the parking lot or continue on south [after a jog in the road] and park in the small lot in front of the SUB. Go to the front entrance of the building and continue to the back to find the Cactus Room. There is a side entrance that will take one into the meeting room. [We hope for another large rain cloud like the one we had at our last meeting at the Cactus Room.]

March is

Women's History Month
The contributions of women to the building of this nation and to the making of individual lives were long overlooked. The month of March has been designated as a time to honor women of the past for their achievements.

Booksellers Invited To PHS Meeting

Local and regional writers and booksellers are encouraged to display their works at the spring meeting. Permian Historical Society meetings are enriched by book and map displays and attendees are given an opportunity to support Permian Basin authors and booksellers.

One-Time Sale On Back Issues of *The Annual*

The complete 38-volume set of *The Annual* is on sale through the summer at a one-time reduced price of \$150. Costs of handling and shipping are included in this sale 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.

Quiz: In which Permian Basin county was the post village of **Chicago** located in 1904?
Answer page 4

Cactus Room, Student Union Building, Howard College Campus
Big Spring, Texas
15 April 2000

- 09:30 A.M. Registration and coffee for all members, guests, and visitors
Board meeting for current and next-term officers, directors, and advisors
- Presentation of papers following board meeting **Jean Reid**, Program Chairman
- 10:05 A.M **McCamey, McElroy, and Other Fields of the South Central Basin Platform** **Julia Cauble Smith**
There was a time when this writer thought she would live long enough to write the history of every Permian Basin oil and gas field. Now that she is old, she has begun to combine the fields in an attempt to complete the project. The San Andres/Grayburg play of the South Central Basin Platform was discovered in 1925 at McCamey Field, Upton County, and continued through Midland Farms, Andrews County, in 1944 and Goldsmith North, Ector County, in 1964. A total of nineteen fields in this play are located in Crane, Upton, Ector, Andrews, and Martin counties of the Permian Basin. They have contributed greatly to the economy of the basin over nine decades.
- 10:30 A.M. **Evolution of Technology in the Natural Gas Processing Industry** **David Screws**
The writer is a Master of Arts - History student at The University of Texas - Permian Basin. He is a native Texan, and an employee of Texaco, Inc. His paper traces advancing technology in the processing of natural gas, an industry important to the Permian Basin.
- 10:55 A.M. **The Road Show** **Dorothy Jones**
The writer lives in Big Spring and became interested in this subject because her family had a part in it. In the first half of the twentieth century, before each small town had its own movie theatre and when slow transportation isolated farms and small towns, the traveling movie tent show brought the outside world to lonely farm and small-town families. The show gave rural residents transcendence, relief from their hard-working, seldom-changing lives, even when they had seen the movie previously. Most shows were family ventures and all members of the family worked. The tent show families were little-known, but greatly-appreciated entrepreneurs, as they bravely traveled the open countryside.
- 11:20 A.M. **Pecos Bend: A Terrell County, Texas Ranch** **Terri Pease**
Terri Pease is another Master of Arts - History student at The University of Texas - Permian Basin. Her paper follows the history of Pecos Bend from 1889 through the twentieth century. For those who feel that the history of the Permian Basin is the history of ranching this is a paper to appreciate.
- 11:45 A.M. Lunch by reservation
- 12:15 P.M. **Awards Program:**
Permian Academy of History presented to **June Redford Reid** **Lorene Barbee**
Evelyn Scarborough Linebery and J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article presented to the writer of the best paper published in *The Annual* 39..... **H. Warren Gardner**
- 12:35 P.M. Business meeting and election of new officers **Bobbie Jean Klepper**, presiding

Call For Papers

Permian Historical Society Program Committee is accepting proposals for papers to be presented at the Fall 2000 and Spring 2001 meetings. If you have a paper proposal, contact Program Chairman **Eula Huffman (915/367-8753)** or President **Bobbie Jean Klepper (915/362-3654)**. Almost every topic with a past is subject for a paper. Scholarly papers submitted for publication should be documented, well researched, and clearly written. However, reminiscences are important also to preserving local history. Give us your story and we will applaud.

New Permian Historical Society Leadership

As many of our members have witnessed, Permian Historical Society came through hard times in the last decade with the loss of many long-time leaders who finished their lives or reached the end of their active service. One of the most important of these members was **J. Conrad Dunagan**, who effectively used his influence and means to encourage the writing of regional and Texas history. With the loss of these leaders, the society suffered from low attendance at meetings and the attempt to find officers among willing, but over-worked graduate students. In fact, the Fall 1996 meeting was cancelled when too few papers were submitted for the program.

However, we now proudly announce that *Permian Historical Society is on solid ground* with two meetings each year and with the continued publishing of *The Annual*, filled with papers dedicated to Permian Basin history. *The Scroll* continues to inform about upcoming meetings and other events.

The society was fortunate to have good officers in the current term and their efforts have helped the organization turn the corner and head towards recovery. The nominating committee,

consisting of **Irene Paulette**, **June Reid**, and **Julia Cauble Smith**, recognized the effective work of the current officers and tried to keep as many of them in place as possible for the next term. Fortunately, **Bobbie Jean Klepper** and **Eileen E. Welch** agreed to another term of service as president and treasurer. Also, a few long-time board members have promised to give PHS the benefit of their experience and dedication.

But, six of the nineteen names that will be presented for election at the spring meeting are new and enthusiastic members. Four of the nineteen are members new to the board. All members are encouraged to attend the spring meeting to offer support to our newly-created society.

New Officers

Bobbie Jean Klepper, Odessa, *President*
Eula Huffman, Odessa, *1st VP/Program*
Peggy Kelton, McCamey, *2nd VP/Membership*
Modene Yocham, Rankin, *Secretary*
Eileen E. Welch, Midland, *Treasurer*

New Directors

Donna Bell, Rankin
Mary Prudie Brown, Stanton
Geniece Childress, Ozona
Cecil Drake, Big Spring
Marshall D. Huffman, Odessa
James V. Humphrey, Midland

William B. Johnston, Midland
Nancy R. McKinley, Midland
Ross F. McSwain, San Angelo
Betty Orbeck, Midland
Irene Paulette, Odessa
June Reid, Stanton
Noble H. Smith, Van Horn
Pat Zellmer, Midland

Permian Historical Society is grateful to these members who have agreed to serve. Every organization needs good officers, **but no organization can survive without an active membership**. That is where **you** come in!

Thanks To Our Editors

All Permian Historical Society members will want to be present at the 15 April 2000 meeting to thank *The Annual* editors for their dedicated work and to accept the new issue. The editors are **Dr. H. Warren Gardner**, **Dr. Diana Davids Olien**, **Dr. Roger M. Olien**, and **Dr. James Fenton**. Remember that the only compensation these professional historians receive from Permian Historical Society for their good work is our praise and gratitude! Please tell them that we think they are special as well as all-important to our purpose of preserving and writing Permian Basin history.

Answer: Dawson County. Source: Henry Gannett, *A Gazetteer of Texas* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904), 43.

Julia Cauble Smith, Editor
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Odessa TX 79762-0001
Email to: cauble@apex2000.net



PHS dues: \$5 per year for students, \$10 for individuals, \$20 for families, \$35 for libraries, museums, and groups. Send checks to Eileen Welch, 3610 South County Rd. 1187, Midland, TX 79706.