

Permian Historical
Society

The University of
Texas
Permian Basin
Campus

Spring 2002



The Scroll of Permian Historical Society

Ward County Attendees To Be Given Special Recognition At Spring Meeting on 20 April 2002 at Petroleum Museum in Midland, Texas

Permian Historical Society
Officers and Directors
2000-2002

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J. C. Smith, *Editor*

Date: 20 April 2002

Place: Petroleum Museum, Library, and
Hall of Fame, 1500 I-20 West, Midland

Since the Petroleum Museum is located on Interstate 20 at the southern edge of Midland, it is easy to find. If directions are needed, call the editor (915/697-4955) or the museum (915/683-4403).

Coffee, pastries, and visiting are planned to begin the meeting at 9:30 A.M. on 20 April 2002 at the Petroleum Museum. A board of directors meeting is scheduled in the Hall of Fame Room at the same time. Permian Historical Society will honor members and guests from **Ward County** for their work in collecting and preserving **Ward County** and Permian Basin history. All **Ward County** residents are invited to attend.

The program of papers begins at 10:25 A.M., covering a variety of topics. Among them are a history of the national pastime in Midland and of desegregation of the media in West Texas. Two other papers trace the stories of two basic institutions—church and school. They give the stories of Second Baptist Church of Odessa and Big Spring Independent School District.

Voting for the best paper presentation and a break for visiting and book-browsing precede lunch. At noon, a meal catered by Murray and the Frenchman is planned at the cost of \$8.00 per person. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, 17 April 2002 and should be sent to **Eileen Welch** at 915/682-0839 or Ewelch115@aol.com. You may come without a reservation, of course. If there is not enough food, we will share with you.

Each attendee is encouraged to wear comfortable, casual clothing and shoes for sitting through the papers, lunch, and business meeting.

Life in Texas

The town's businesses, in 1941, were clustered around the courthouse square, Brady being the county seat of McCulloch County. It was an era when the rural residents came to town on Saturday and the businesses stayed open late. The local theaters had a one-cent day, usually on Tuesday, where two could gain admission to the show for the price of one admission plus one cent, a bargain of which I availed myself on the rare occasion I was able to persuade a member of the opposite sex to accompany me...

The big event of the year in Brady, other than Thanksgiving and Christmas, was the Fourth of July Jubilee...There was always a traveling carnival in Richard's Park drawing a large crowd. The park also had a race track where the locals pitted their steeds against each other and out of town racers. Despite the fact that betting on horse races was illegal, some was present but not advertised...

The depression was gradually fading into the past as the nation was embracing some of the new controversial programs from Washington offered by FDR's administration. One such program of which my dad took advantage was the Federal Housing Program...An FHA loan allowed Dad and Mother to purchase their first home...at 1103 South China...

—A. L. (Bud) Lindsey, *A Soda Jerk Goes to War* (Stanton, TX: by author, 2001), 4–6.

God Bless America

News of Permian Historical Society

New Officers

It is time to elect new officers and the nominating committee has found members to serve well over the next two years. Thanks to **Peggy Kelton** and her committee of **Lorene Barbee** and **Donna Bell**. Elections will be at the spring business meeting. Nominations may be made from the floor, but the following names are offered by the nominating committee:

Officers

President - **Ross McSwain**, San Angelo journalist and area historian, who has held offices in several historical groups over the years;

1st VP/Program - **Todd Houck**, Midland, Petroleum Museum archivist and historian;

2nd VP/Membership - **Peggy Kelton**, McCamey historian and former teacher;

Secretary - **Sue Ann Damron**, Big Spring historian and recent new member;

Treasurer - **Eileen Welch**, Midland volunteer and local historian, who has served as PHS treasurer for many years;

Archivist - **Terrance G. Schults**, Odessa, who works in Technical Services and Special Collections at UTPB. Dr. Schults is new to our area and is really interested in Permian Basin history.

Directors - **Donna Bell**, Upton County

Mary Prudie Brown, Martin County

Geniece Childress, Crockett County

Cecil Drake, Howard County

Eula Huffman, Ector County

Marshall D. Huffman, Ector County

James V. Humphrey, Midland County

Nancy McKinley, Midland County

Betty Orbeck, Midland County

Irene Paulette, Ector County

June Reid, Martin County

Noble H. Smith, Culberson County

Pat Zellmer, Midland County

The editors and staff for both *The Annual* and *The Scroll* will remain as printed in the first column of page 1.

Future Dates for PHS Meetings

Beginning with the fall meeting, PHS plans to return to its set schedule for fall and spring meetings as approved by vote several years ago, or it will set new dates and abide by them. This action will avoid as many as possible conflicts with meetings and events of other local, regional, or state organizations as well as religious and patriotic holidays. Our apologies to those who have to miss the spring meeting of PHS due to date conflicts.

Events and Members

Fall 2001 Meeting

The fall 2001 meeting was well attended with more than 50 members and guests gathering to hear the papers, to discuss local events, and to lunch together. Crane County attendees were given special recognition for their efforts in preserving the history of their county and of the Permian Basin.

Attire for the meeting was frontier dress and some people came in full costume. Remember that PHS has no dress code for regular meetings, other than cleanliness and decency. Since one sits from morning into afternoon at the meetings, comfortable clothing is essential. Attendees should feel free to wear casual shoes and clothing, such as jeans or other comfortable pants and cotton or denim skirts.

New Members

Several new members have been added to Permian Historical Society membership recently. They are **Dr. Terrance G. Schults** of UTPB, **June Morris** of Odessa, **Eva-lena Fisher** of San Angelo. **Howard County Historical Commission** has purchased a life membership. Welcome to these new members. Their help is needed in the preservation and writing of Permian Basin history.

Booksellers, Display Your Books

Permian Historical Society invites local booksellers and authors to display their books for sale at PHS spring meeting. Tables will be available for display use. To assure that enough tables are available, potential displayers should contact the Petroleum Museum (915/683-4403) to reserve a space.

Ross McSwain and **Bud Lindsey**, PHS members who recently had joint book-signings at Hastings in Odessa and in Midland, have promised to bring copies of their books. These are enjoyable and informative publications, giving a West Texas view of life.

All other local writers are encouraged to bring their books, allowing members the opportunity to support West Texas writing and writers.

Thanks to those who served as officers, directors, editors, and staff during the 2000-2002 term. PHS members appreciate your service.

Some Crane County Members, Guests, and Friends Who Attended PHS Fall 2001 Meeting



*Photo supplied by
Peggy Kelton
Image by
Lorene Barbee*

Left to right: **Peggy Kelton** of McCamey, **Buella McManus**, **Charles Stroder**, **Clara** and **Wm. B. Johnston**, **Paul Patterson**, **June White Morris**, **Evelyn Stroder**, **Debby** and **Gene Cowden**, all from Crane County. Some attendees enjoyed dressing in frontier attire for the meeting.

Program For Spring 2002 Meeting

Petroleum Museum, Library, and Hall of Fame

1500 Interstate Highway 20 West, Midland, Texas

20 April 2002

- 9:30 A.M. Registration, coffee, and pastries
- Board meeting in Hall of Fame Room
- 10:15 A.M. Recognition of members/guests from Ward County **Ross McSwain**
Ward County is the third in a series of counties that Permian Historical Society will recognize at its spring and fall meetings. Our warmest welcome to members and guests from Ward County.
- Program of Papers **Eula Huffman**, moderator
- 10:25 A.M. **A History of Professional Baseball in Midland, Texas: 1928 to Present** **Michele K. Yost**
Ms. Yost, a UTPB graduate history student, traces the history of professional baseball in Midland over nine decades. This is an excellent time for a history of Midland baseball. The town is excited about the partial opening of its Scharbauer Sports Complex and its home-grown Four-star General Tommy Franks, who threw out the first baseball of the season. Native Midlander Randy Velarde of the Oakland A's was the first batter to step up to the plate. Midland and all of West Texas loves baseball.
- 10:45 A.M. **Red, White, and Black: Desegregation in West Texas** **Lanita Atkins**
Ms. Atkins, as a UTPB graduate student, was the recipient of a PHS scholarship. As the title states, her paper deals with desegregation in the media of West Texas.
- 11:05 A.M. **A History of Second Baptist Church, Odessa, Texas** **Bobbie Jean Klepper**
Ms. Klepper, the retired archivist of Special Collections at UTPB, frequently presents papers at PHS meetings. This is another in her series of Ector County organizations.
- 11:25 A.M. **History of Big Spring (Texas) Independent School District** **Craig V. Fischer**
Mr. Fischer, a retired high school principal, spent many years with Big Spring Independent School District. His paper was taken from research he completed for a Texas State Historical Commission marker to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the school district's organization.
- 11:45 A.M. Casting of ballots for best paper presented. Visiting and book browsing until lunch is served.
- 12:00 NOON Lunch catered by Murray and the Frenchman
- 12:30 P.M. Short business meeting with the election of new officers and directors
- 12:50 P.M. Adjournment

Call For Papers

Permian Historical Society Program Committee has called for papers to be presented at the Fall 2002 and Spring 2003 meetings. Contact Program Chairman **Todd Houck** (915/683-4403). Almost any area of Permian Basin and West Texas life in earlier decades provides material for a paper.

Scholarly papers submitted for publication should be documented, well researched, and clearly written. However, *The Annual* Editorial Board accepts and publishes reminiscences because they are important to the preservation of regional history. Since the best storyteller is the person who lived it, Permian Historical Society welcomes personal stories from all ethnic groups and from all educational levels.



Ward County, Texas

The boundaries of Ward County are defined by those of Loving, of Winkler, and a tip of Ector counties on the north and of Crane County on the east. The Pecos River separates Ward County from Reeves and Pecos counties on the south and southwest. Enclosed within its lines are slightly fewer than 11,000 people on 835.7 square miles of beautiful Permian Basin land, comprised of grass- and sand-covered plains. Under the plains and in the subsurface are found valuable deposits of caliche, gravel, sand, oil, and gas.

The land is prime for raising cattle and goats. With some irrigation, fine crops of cotton, alfalfa, pecans, and nursery produce are grown. Annual agricultural market value averages \$1.8 million.

Towns and communities within the county have interesting names, such as Barstow, Grandfalls, Pyote, Royalty, Thorntonville, and Wickett. Seat of county government is Monahans in the northeastern part of the county on Interstate 20, which runs across the county diagonally from the northeastern corner to the southwestern edge.

Monahans, established in the 1880s as a water stop on the Texas & Pacific railroad, serves as the financial and marketing center of the area. Its current population is just over 6,820. Each May the town hosts a fajita festival and each August there is a stagecoach celebration. Other attractions in and around the county seat are Sandhills State Park and Museum and Million Barrel Museum.

Pyote, near the center of the county, was once the location of a World War II bombardment crew training base and is now the site of West Texas Children's Home and Pyote Rattlesnake Museum.

Although the county was home to the Jumano when the Spaniards arrived in the 1580s and to the Comanche later, it is now ethnically diversified with a population of Anglo, Hispanic, and Black residents.

Permian Historical Society proudly salutes Ward County and its historians as they collect and preserve county and regional history. — J. C. Smith
Source: *Texas Almanac 2002-2003* (Dallas: The Dallas Morning News, 2001), 276.

If undeliverable, please return to:

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PHS dues per year: students \$5; individuals now \$15; libraries, museums, groups \$35.
Send checks to Eileen Welch, 3610 South County Road 1187, Midland, TX 79706

