

Vol. 5 No. 11

Spring, 2014

Permian Historical News

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Historians,

Do I ever have a treat for you at the Spring Meeting, 2014. We are combining our meeting with the West Texas Historical Association out of Lubbock.

They do their meeting a bit different from PHS as it is a two day affair. I think they sent out paper announcements to you as well as their members with all of the information on it. On Friday the schedule is:

Session 1: 3 classes (you choose one) from 8:30 to 9:45

Session 2: 3 classes (you choose one) from 10:15 to 11:30

Women's History Luncheon 11:30 to 1:00 PM (\$24)

Session 3: 3 classes (you choose one) from 1:00 to 2:25

Session 4: 3 classes (you choose one) from 2:30 to 3:45

Session 5: 3 classes (you choose one) from 4:00 to 5:15

Reception for J. Tillapaugh @ Commemorative Air Force Museum
6:30 PM

Banquet 7:00 Featured speaker, Bill O'Neal 7:30

Saturday

Session 6: 3 classes (you choose one) from 9:00 to 10:15

Session 7: 2 classes (you choose one)

Permian Historical Society regular type meeting. 10:45 to 12:00

3 speakers Patrick Dearen, Richard Brantley, Snap Woodward

OR: Cattle Ranching in West Texas with 3 speakers.

You may only attend the PHS session & stay for lunch (\$25) with J. Tillapaugh as the speaker. Refer to the mailing you received.



Permian Historical Society

Officers

Peggy Kelton—President

Betty Cash—VP—Programs

Betty Damron—VP—Membership

Sue Ann Damron—Secretary

Sherry Phillipa—Treasurer

J. Tillapaugh—Investments

Jim Collett—Editor

Directors

Mark White-Tom Green County (13)

Carolyn Hodge-Reagan Co. (13)

James Collett-Midland Co. (14)

Donna Bell-Upton Co. (14)

Shelley Shackelford-Winkler Co. (14)

Beth Hoover-Crockett Co. (15)

Genny Townsend-Crane Co. (15)

Roger Goertz-Howard Co. (15)



Wagon Train Tour to Horse Head Crossing Thursday Morning

The Permian Historical Society has planned an exciting trip through the “Old West” by van, but one can pretend that we are traveling by wagon train. The group will leave the MCM Grande @ 8:00 A.M. and head out on Hwy. 385 toward Crane, TX. We will turn at Hwy.1233 heading West passing through the fantastic sand hills. These dunes are ever changing as the wind blows. At the Sand Hills State Park near Monahans they are mostly bare of brush & weeds looking like a desert. We will intersect with Hwy. 1053 where we will turn South until we arrive at Imperial, TX. (Bathroom break if necessary.) We cross the Pecos River and come rather close to the Cordona Salt Lake where the early settlers and the Indians got their salt. At Imperial we will take Hwy. 11 winding through what was once a thriving farm area. The Salt Cedar trees have helped suck up a lot of the water and make what was left too salty to use on the farms. Imperial Reservoir was once a great little lake for fishing and for water skiing. It has dried up at times and grass/weeds have taken over even when it does gain water making it un-usable for motor boats.. On down Hwy. 11 until we come to Horse Head Crossing. Patrick Dearen will give a talk about the history of the crossing. This will be a good place to take pictures as well.

From there back on Hwy. 11 heading South passing through the Ghost Town of Girvin which at one time was a railroad spot where they changed shifts. The engineers and others stayed at the hotel overnight and when the train returned they switched again. A few years back an arsonist burned Girvin as well as the old court house, Stiles, near Big Lake, and The Mule Train watering hole near Rankin. He was eventually caught. We will cross the tracks and take a short dirt road to the historic Girvin School House which has been saved and used for parties or meetings. Here is where we will have our Chuck Wagon Dinner prepared by authentic Cowboys & Cowgirls. There will be cowboy stew, cornbread, biscuits and cobbler prepared and served right out of the Dutch Ovens. There will be tea & perhaps coffee. Bathrooms are available and according to weather one can eat outdoors or indoors, both available.

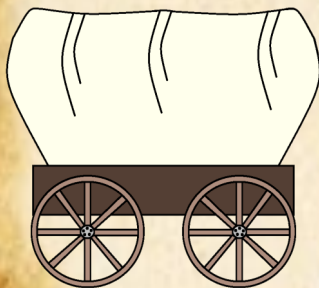
From there we will roll on into McCamey on Hwy. 67 and visit the Mendoza Trail Museum. There is a possibility of going on to Rankin for a visit to their very interesting Rankin museum and then on to Crane and a visit to the Museum of the Desert Southwest. The trail leads from there back to the hotel in Odessa.

The trail is about 150 miles giving much time to stop and take photos, and when we reach the Horse Head Crossing marker one can take many photos as Patrick Dearen gives us the history of the crossing. Wear your comfortable clothes & shoes & sun block. The fee charged for this is basically to pay for the Vans. This great food is on PHS.



WANTED

Many brave souls to travel to the wild, roaring Pecos River to the Horse Head Crossing to hear a bit of history of how the crossing got its name, who traveled the cattle trails, what adventures did they encounter, and much more. It will lead to a delicious Chuck Wagon Dinner and a short glimpse of the Girvin Social Club which is now closed & falling to ruin, but many a good story has come from inside throughout the years.



Y'all Come



Business

- 1) It is time to re-elect or replace two of our board members. The terms of Mark White & Carolyn Hodge expired at the end of 2013. Nominations are open for replacements or reinstatements. NOW Send to me; Peggy Kelton Box 901 McCamey, TX 79752 peggy.kelton@gmail.com
- 2) It is time to elect a new slate of officers. I have enjoyed being your president for several years, but it is time for new officers. A fresh look at the society is needed, young enthusiasm & new ideas are needed. This is a great organization and should grow with new & young members, but the older ones must stay and be involved. Nominations for a slate of officers is open- NOW.
- 3) We have many annuals from several years and we must help sell them. One goes with each membership, and we send to many libraries, but we need to find more markets. Perhaps each Historical Commission in the Permian Basin & museums would be interested. Each of you look into it.
- 4) We also are open for a couple of presenters for the Fall Meeting, plus an invitation of where to have the meeting. We are also always open for articles for the Annual, with pictures.

The Fall Meeting in Big Spring was wonderful, the Settles Hotel beautiful and comfortable and the presentations very good and interesting. Those in costume were very clever. And the attendance was better than ever.

Now we are challenged to do as well at this meeting in Odessa or even better. There are some very interesting presentations prepared, some interest for everyone and it will be good to attend the whole event. However, those who do not want to do a 3 day event can just attend the last session for PHS & perhaps attend the meal where our own J. Tillapaugh will give his presidential address. \$24.

I do hope that many of you will sign up for the Wagon Train Tour to Horse Head Crossing. We plan a very fun day. You may rest Friday and attend the PHS session on Saturday & lunch.

WTHA/PHS MEETING APRIL 3rd-5th, 2014 MCM Grande Hotel, Odessa (432)362-2311 @ \$109 per night with full breakfast Deadline March 20 also: westtexas/WTHAregistration.html

The reason congressmen try so hard to get re-elected is that they would hate to have to make a living under the laws they've passed.

Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

Because they had no reservations at a busy restaurant, my elderly neighbor and his wife were told there would be a 45-minute wait for a table. "Young man, we're both 90 years old," the husband said. "We may not have 45 minutes." They were immediately seated.