

Permian Historical Society

The University of
Texas
Permian Basin
Campus

Fall 2000



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2000-2001**

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The Scroll of Permian Historical Society

Permian Historical Society To Meet 21 October 2000 for Fall Program of Papers

Date: 21 October 2000

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

For the fall meeting Permian Historical Society returns to Midland and the Petroleum Museum on Interstate 20 at the southern edge of the city. Providing a comfortable and friendly setting, the museum ranks at the top of favorite places to hold meetings. Its easy access from the interstate saves time and prevents anyone from losing her way.

According to our tradition, coffee and pastries will be served at 9:30 A.M. to members and visitors. The board, with all its new members, will hold its meeting at the same time. The program of papers will be moderated by **Eula Huffman**, beginning at 10:05 A.M.

The program of papers promises to entertain and enlighten. Papers cover such topics as Hispanic Texas Rangers, bravely protecting our borders on the frontier; West Texas cowboys and their South American adventures; and histories of two Odessa institutions—The Presidential Museum and The Parker House.

After the papers, lunch will be catered by Murray and the Frenchman at a cost of \$8 per person. The caterers will delight us with an entree of chicken scampi on a bed of rice pilaf, Caesar salad, garlic-herbed and buttered bread, iced tea, and dessert. Reservations are requested by Wednesday, 18 October 2000 to **Eileen Welch** at 915/682-0839, EWelch115@aol.com, or to **Bobbie Jean Klepper** at 915/362-3654, klepperb@aol.com. If you forget to call or email, come ahead as unexpected, welcomed company!

A short business meeting will follow lunch. Early adjournment is promised by President Klepper.

The Permian Historical Annual 40

Papers for *The Annual 40* must be submitted to **Dr. H. Warren Gardner** at The University of Texas-Permian Basin, 4901 East University, Odessa, TX 79762-0001 by 31 December 2000.

Life in Texas

Most sheriffs went into office; performed their strange, complicated job more or less adequately for a term or two; gradually eroded their political bases by arresting voters and revealing their impatience with the wearing, relentless, personal demands of citizens; and were voted out or quit. Some sheriffs, however, served their counties selflessly for long decades and put down their wonderful burden only when their health broke or they died in office. Invariably, these “thirty-year men” regarded themselves, first and foremost, as everyone’s friend at the courthouse...

A wave of shock passed through a rural county when a thirty-year man like Jim Scarborough II, Rufe Jordan, Truman Maddox, Nathan Tindall, Dan Saunders, or Wallace Riddel left office, and for a time citizens felt disturbed and unmanned, as if they had lost both an ancient county tradition and their own stern and generous grandfather.

—Thad Sitton, *The Texas Sheriff: Lord of the County Line* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000), 194, 196.

News of Permian Historical Society

Permian Academy of History



June Redford Reid of Stanton, left, received the prestigious Permian Academy of History Award at the Spring 2000 meeting. The award presentation was made by **Lorene Barbee** of Big Spring, a long-time friend of the recipient.

PHS Committees, 2000-2001

President **Bobbie Jean Klepper** has announced the following committee members:

Program: **Eula Huffman**, Chair
Modene Yocham and the president

Membership: **Peggy Kelton**, chair
Eileen Welch and the president

Archives: **Bobbie Jean Klepper**, chair

Awards: **Julia Cauble Smith**, chair
Lorene Barbee

Best Article: **Louise Whelan**, chair
Irene Paulette and **Donna Bell**

Fellowship: **Roger M. Olien**, chair
Eileen Welch

Annual Editors:

H. Warren Gardner, *Managing Editor*
Diana Davids Olien, **Roger M. Olien**
Betty Orbeck, **Julia Cauble Smith**
J. Tillapaugh, **Glenn Justice**, *Book Review*

The Scroll staff:

J. C. Smith, *Editor*
Lorene Barbee, *Graphics Consultant*
Eileen Welch, *Mailing*

PHS Fellowship Committee Makes Two Awards

Permian Historical Society proudly announces that fellowships have been awarded to two graduate students at The University of Texas-Permian Basin, beginning with the Fall 2000 semester.

Those students are **Lanita Atkins** and **Debra A. Gibbs**, both of Odessa. Congratulations to these fine scholars, who will present papers based on their theses at later dates.

Back Issues of *The Annual* Still For Sale

Back issues of *The Annual* are available at the cost of \$7 for a single issue and \$150 for a complete set. Costs of handling and shipping are included in the 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.

Congratulations to Nancy Rankin McKinley

Nancy Rankin McKinley from Midland High School Class of 1931 has been inducted into that institution's Hall of Honor. As a descendant of citizens of the Republic of Texas and early Midland County ranchers, she has maintained a lifelong interest in the history of Texas and Midland County. Nancy has served as president of Midland County Historical Society [later Commission] since 1954. She is a past president of PHS.

An Invitation to Booksellers

Tables will be available for the display of print and electronic publications by local and regional writers. Attendees will have an opportunity to support Permian Basin authors and booksellers.

Spring 2000 Meeting

The spring meeting, held at Howard College in Big Spring, was an educational and enjoyable time with thirty-nine members and guests in attendance. **Sara Blocker** of Stanton became a new member at the meeting. Welcome, Sara.

New Members

New members since the spring meeting are **Melissa Moeller** and **David Rafus, Jr.**, of Kermit, **Terri Pease** of Midland, **Deana Savage** of Midkiff, and **Cindy Rosser** of Odessa. We are pleased to welcome these historians into our group. We need their help.

Membership in PHS is open to all people in the region and outside of it. The only requirement is an interest in Permian Basin history.

PHS is proud of its membership, a fine mix of local amateur historians as well as a sprinkling of professional ones. The talents of all of our members are needed for the great task of preserving and writing our regional history.

Best Article Award



Damon Kennedy of Texas Tech University, center, received the Evelyn Scarborough Linebery-J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article Award at the spring meeting in Big Spring. The award was presented by **Dr. H. Warren Gardner**, right, managing editor of *The Annual* 39. President **Bobbie Jean Klepper** is shown at left.

Program for Fall 2000 Meeting

Petroleum Museum, Library, and Hall of Fame

1500 Interstate Highway 20 West, Midland, Texas

21 October 2000

- 9:30 A.M. Registration, coffee, and pastries
Board meeting in Hall of Fame Room
- Presentation of papers in auditorium following the board meeting **Eula Huffman**, Program Chairman
- 10:05 A.M. **Hispanic Texas Rangers Contribute to Peace on the Texas Frontier** **David Screws**
David Screws' second paper for Permian Historical Society this year centers on the contributions that Mexican-Americans made to frontier peace-keeping as they rode with the Texas Rangers. According to the writer's findings nearly four hundred Hispanic men served with the Rangers. Ten of them were officers, giving evidence of the intelligence, commitment, and bravery of these men.
- 10:30 A.M. **Dedicated to the Office of the Presidency: Past, Present, Future** **Carey F. Behrends**
Carey Behrends, director of The Presidential Museum, recounts the history of this unique museum that is devoted to all of the U. S. presidents. Established in 1965 as the Presidential Room inside Ector County Library, the museum attempts to give a better understanding of the office of president and to the responsibilities of the presidency. Behrends' paper discusses present and future work and plans for the museum.
- 10:55 A.M. **West Texas Cow-Boy's South American Adventures** **Ed Fisher**
Read by Jim Bradshaw, Ed Fisher's paper reflects some of his personal experience. Orphaned at age thirteen, Fisher lived until adulthood in the home of the Ira Driver family. This paper attempts to express his gratitude to Uncle Ira and Aunt Sarah Driver for their love and guidance. The paper also records the history of those cowmen who went to South America in the early part of the last century.
- 11:20 A.M. **The Parker House, Odessa, Texas** **Bobbie Jean Klepper**
The writer has been working in local history organizations, as well as collecting and writing local history, for several decades. She has served as PHS archivist and president. Her paper records the history of an early-day Ector County home.
- 11:45 A.M. Break: visiting and book-browsing until lunch is served.
- 12:00 noon Lunch catered by Murray and the Frenchman
- 12:45 P.M. Short business meeting **Bobbie Jean Klepper**, presiding

Call For Papers

Permian Historical Society Program Committee welcomes proposals for papers to be presented at the Spring and Fall 2001 meetings. Contact Program Chairman **Eula Huffman (915/367-8753 or BelleDolph@aol.com)** or President **Bobbie Jean Klepper (915/362-3654 or klepperb@aol.com)** for details. Any community leader, outlaw, bootlegger, landmark, community, school, ranch, windmill, river crossing, dry lake, cemetery, place of worship, oil field, business enterprise, hoax, or unique event that affected the lives of people in the Permian Basin is an ideal topic for a paper. Scholarly papers for publication should be documented, well researched, and clearly written. However, *The Annual* publishes reminiscences as well because they are important to the preservation of our regional history. Everyone enjoys a story from the person who lived it. If you have lived a long time, we want to hear your story.

Permian Historical Society Awards

Nominations For Awards

Any PHS member may nominate any worthy living individual for any of the four awards. No posthumous awards will be made unless the recipient should die between the time of nomination and of presentation.

Unlimited nominations may be made by a member in one or all of the categories. Nominees need not be members of Permian Historical Society. A formal letter of nomination that documents the accomplishments of the nominee and a picture of the nominee should be submitted before 31 December 2000 to the Awards Committee Chair: Julia Cauble Smith, 2905 Sentinel Drive, Midland, Texas 79701 or cauble@apex2000.net.

If undeliverable, please return to:

Julia Cauble Smith, Editor
2905 Sentinel Drive
Midland, TX 79701

Criteria For Awards

Permian Academy of History is the highest award of merit and is given to one who has made outstanding contributions in the field of historical preservation or the development of historical resources of the Permian Basin. The recipient must be a resident of the Permian Basin and the work must be of area-wide significance.

Fellows of the Permian Historical Society is an award given to an individual who has published significant historical work concerning the Permian Basin. The author need not be a resident of the Permian Basin.

Permian Pioneer is an award given to an individual who has resided in the Permian Basin for fifty or more years and who has continuously worked for its religious, educational, cultural, recreational, or economic development.

Permian History Preservationist is an award given to one who has made substantial and outstanding historical contributions to the libraries, museums, and archival collections of the Permian Basin. The nominee need not be a resident of the Permian Basin.

Three Nominations Have Been Made For Spring PHS Awards

Three long-time Permian Basin residents have been nominated for awards at the spring meeting. Although a great deal of work must be done yet by the awards committee to complete the process, it appears that Permian Historical Society will be honoring these three in the spring. Plan to attend the awards program at the spring meeting on 21 April 2001.

