



Permian Historical News

President's Letter

Permian Historical Society

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Dear Fellow Historians,

October 26, 2013 is right around the corner, time for the Fall Meeting of PHS. And, we are in for a treat. Our meeting will be held in the historic Settles Hotel, newly restored to its original beauty with a few embellishments. It is very impressive and draws in many tourists. One of the presentations at the meeting will be on the history of the Hotel. This is a program you won't want to miss.

The **Settles Hotel** is an historic 15-story hotel located at 201 East Third Street in [Big Spring, Texas](#). Originally completed in 1930, the Settles opened for business October 1, 1930, and was occupied until the early 1980s. It has stood abandoned since that time. The building was purchased by the Settles Hotel Development Corporation in late 2006. Since that time, the SHDC has also acquired adjoining properties, including the Big Spring Boys and Girls Club and the abandoned Greyhound Bus terminal, which was then demolished. The building was listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#) on April 18, 2013.

According to the SHDC website, the corporation is "committed to the preservation of this remarkable building. We believe the Settles is a treasure in and of itself. We are working from the original set of blueprints and have begun an extensive process to bring back the beautiful details that evoke the craftsmanship and architectural details of a bygone era."

The corporation updated the hotel with such conveniences as heating, air conditioning, modern plumbing, and an elevator.

The new owners planned a mixed-use residential and commercial property, with retail space available on the first and second floors. A fitness center, restaurant, and conference center were considered. The first floor lobby and ballroom was reconstructed along the original 1930s plans. On December 17, 2009, the Settles lit up in Christmas colors for the first time in more than three decades. The corporation had planned the opening in September 2012. We know now that the plans were successful and happened faster than thought and at the cost of \$30 million dollars. [Information gathered from information on Facebook & Wikipedia]

Let's gather up friends & neighbors and go to Big Spring on Oct. 26, 2013 @ 9:00 a.m. and check it out and listen to its history as well as other stories of Big Spring & area. It will be nice if some of you coming from out of town will spend at least one night in the Hotel & shop around Big Spring.

Inside this newsletter you will find the program and the costs of meals.



THEME

The PHS usually has a theme and members and visitors try to dress to fit the theme. Since the Settles Hotel originated in 1930 I thought we could dress in the 30's era. Was the era of the flappers begun in the 1920's? Let's research and come up with some fantastic costumes.



CALLING ALL AUTHORS

ONCE AGAIN HERE IS THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AUTHORS TO BRING YOUR BOOKS TO THE PHS MEETING AND HAVE THEM FOR SALE AND A SIGNING EVENT.

GET YOUR BOOKS OUT TO THE PUBLIC WHETHER THEY ARE NEW, HOT OFF THE PRESS, OR PUBLISHED A LITTLE WHILE AGO. HISTORIANS ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR A GOOD BOOK TO READ.

GORDON HOOPER

GLENN WILLIFORD

JIM COLLETT

PATRICK DEAREN

RUSSELL SMITH

DENZEL HOLMES

MARY LOU MIDKIFF



PERHAPS WE CAN ARRANGE TO HAVE SOME ROSS McSWAIN & ELMER KELTON BOOKS FOR SALE.

ANY OTHERS ARE WELCOME TO BRING BOOKS FOR SALE.

BACK ISSUES OF THE PHS ANNUAL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE

THE NEW PHS ANNUAL WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR MEMBERS TO PICK UP AND FOR VISITORS TO PURCHASE.

A Little Homework for you. Give your answers at the meeting.

As a man waits at a stoplight, another car pulls up beside him. The second driver lowers his window and yells, "Hey, your wife fell out of the car a half-mile back."

So what did the careless man say? The person with the best answer will receive a small present. Be brave and participate, we all need a good laugh.

Those who walk with God always reach their destination.



Welcome to Big Spring

Big Spring, The county seat of Howard County, is at the intersection of Interstate Highway 20, U.S. highway 87, State Highway 350, Farm Road 700, and the Missouri Pacific line in southwest central Howard County. The city is in a rocky gorge between two high foothills of the Caprock escarpment in West Texas. The northern limit of the Edwards Plateau and the southern most hills of the Caprock converge in Big Spring. It derives its name from the nearby "big spring" in Sulphur Draw, which was a watering place for coyotes, wolves, and herds of buffalo, antelope, and mustangs; the spring was a source of conflict between Comanche and Shawnee Indians and a campsite used by early expeditions across West Texas. Signal Mountain, ten miles southeast of Big Spring, was a landmark used by early cattlemen. In 1849 Capt. Randolph B. Marcy's expedition reached Big Spring on the return trip from Santa Fe and marked it as a campsite on the Overland Trail to California. As a midpoint in West Texas, Big Spring delivers a mixture of yesterday, today, and tomorrow that welcomes the native and the newcomer alike.

It is the location that brings you here, the unique beauty that gives you pause and the kindness of the community that will make you stay.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!

The Big Spring Visitors Center is helping sponsor this event. One of the requirements is that several people stay at least one night at a Hotel or Motel in Big Spring. It is their job to promote the city. This will be a great opportunity for some of you that have to come from a long distance to stay the night before the meeting. The Settles Hotel would be perfect, but if it is too pricy then another hotel or motel would serve just as well. I plan to spend one delightful night at the newly refurbished and historic hotel. It will be my vacation.

Also: We must have an accurate account of those planning to have lunch. It will make a difference on the room we get, size and price. The deadline will be two weeks before the meeting: Friday, October 11, 2013. We will have to pay the hotel for the meals in advance so please register by the deadline, phone will be fine & then get your money in the mail that same day. These are rules from the hotel and we must follow them. Call or e-mail me and then send the money ASAP. We want a big crowd and the program will be great and the visit to the fantastic hotel will be worth it all.

The Cost of the meal will be \$14.00.

The Chamber of Commerce & Visitor's Center in Big Spring is helping pay for the breakfast and PHS is helping with the lunch so that many guest will come. Thank you very much, Peggy Kelton

Some Quotes to Think About

The game of life is a lot like football. You have to tackle your problems, block your fears, and score your points when you get the opportunity. *Lewis Grizzard*

The Beautiful thing about learning is that nobody can take it away from you. *B.B. King*

Ken Burns

Good history is a question of survival. Without any past, we will deprive ourselves of the defining impression of our being.