

Permian Historical Society

The University of Texas
Permian Basin Campus

Winter 2003

Permian Historical Society
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2002-2004

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Permian Historical News

[formerly titled *The Scroll*]

McCamey Meeting Was Best In Years; Spring Meeting Set For Petroleum Museum in Midland on 26 April 2003; Fall Meeting in Monahans on 18 October 2003 for History Along the Pecos

Next Meeting: 26 April 2003
Place: Petroleum Museum, 1500 Interstate West, Midland, Texas

Life in West Texas

After a highly successful meeting at McCamey in Upton County, Texas, on 19 October 2002, Permian Historical Society returns to Midland for its spring meeting on 26 April 2003.

Permian Pioneer Awards will be presented at the spring meeting to two long-time Permian Basin residents who have given years of volunteer service to the area. They are **Bob Deavenport** of Martin County and **Eileen Welch** of Midland County. Congratulations to our newest Permian Pioneers.

Honorary Life Membership awards will be made at the spring meeting to eight members who have worked to preserve regional history and who have supported Permian Historical Society over the long years. Two were charter members of PHS. They are **Geniece Childress** of Crockett County, **Ann M. Clark**, formerly of Upton County, **Nancy McKinley** of Midland County, **Paul Patterson** of Crane County, **June Reid** of Martin County, **Mamie Shepperd** of Ector County, **Noble H. Smith** of Culberson County, and **Charles Stroder** of Crane County. Three other members who have contributed greatly to Permian Historical Society over the long years are already paid life members. However, the awards committee chooses to introduce these three people as well. They are **Mary Prudie Brown** of Martin County, **Bobbie Klepper** of Ector County, and **Betty Orbeck** of Midland and Ector counties. All living charter members in attendance will be recognized, especially **Dr. James M. Day**, **Mrs. William M. Holm**, **Betty Orbeck**, **Mamie Shepperd**, **Charles Stroder**, and **Vernon A. Vasbinder**.

PHS Executive Committee plans an interesting and educational meeting on 26 April 2003 and invites all who are interested in regional history to attend.

"I finished all the schoolin' there was two years ago. I decided to come lookin' for you"

"How'd you find me?"

"Just asked around. Anywhere you've been, they remember Hewey Calloway."

Hewey tried to sound severe. "You ought to be helping' your daddy right now. Plantin' time, ain't it?"

"Me and Daddy ain't gee-hawed too good lately. I want to learn to be a cowboy like you."

"You're too late. They ain't makin' no more cowboys like me, hardly. The times have gone off and left us."

"You always said I was a natural hand. I've been breakin' horses and mules for Alvin Lawdermilk the last couple of years when Daddy could spare me."

"Then why don't you stay home and work for Alvin?"

"I've learned all there is to learn around Upton City. I want to see different county, different people."

"People are pretty much the same wherever you find them, most of them good, a few not worth hangin' with an old rope."

—**Elmer Kelton**, *The Smiling Country* (New York: Tom Doherty Associates, Inc., 1998), 45.

News of Permian Historical Society

Richard Cummins Wins Evelyn Scarborough Linebery-J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article Award

Richard Cummins, who holds an M. A. History from UTPB, received the Best Article Award at the fall meeting for his paper, "The 1950 Odessa Oilers." It was judged the best article published in *The Permian Historical Annual* 41, which was mailed to members in January 2003.

This award, funded by a grant from **Evelyn Scarborough Linebery** and **J. Conrad Dunagan**, early PHS members who are now deceased, is presented annually. The award carries a cash prize of \$250. Congratulations, Richard.

Lanita Akins Wins Best Presentation Award for Spring 2002 Program

Lanita Akins, who is finishing an M. A. History from UTPB, became the first recipient of the *Best Presentation Award* for her paper called "Red, White, and Black: Desegregation in West Texas." The winner of this award was determined by the votes of those who heard the presentation at the Spring 2002 meeting. The new award consists of a framed certificate and PHS dues for one year. The aim of the award is to encourage interesting and thought-provoking presentations at meetings. This paper did that. Congratulations, Lanita.

About That October Meeting in McCamey

"You can see that we love to have company in McCamey," the mayor said as I was packing up to leave. I nodded my head in agreement, assuring her that we knew that to be a fact. I was remembering the slices of pound cake that Lanita and I ate with delight, although we dared not calculate the number of its calories. I thought about the aroma of their country cooking, their sincere smiles of welcome, and the brightly decorated depot that made Martha Stewart wish she had been in charge. Yes, they do treat company well in McCamey. As my grandmother would say, "They took the rag off the bush" for us.

We had a good time visiting, enjoyed delicious biscuits cooked outside, learned from well-presented papers and old-timers' comments, and gained a new appreciation for Upton County people, their memories, and their history. Thanks!

—J. C. Smith



Eileen Welch, left, received the Permian Historical Society Distinguished Service Award and a standing ovation in recognition of eighteen years of devoted service as treasurer of the organization. Presentation was made by the awards chair, J. C. Smith, at the fall meeting in the crowded Depot at McCamey, Texas.

Image: Bud Lindsey

Membership Dues

Dues for all memberships in Permian Historical Society are \$15 per year. An individual, library, or museum may pay dues at any time by sending a check to **Attn: Lanita Akins, Treasurer, Permian Historical Society, The University of Texas of the Permian Basin, 4901 East University Blvd., Odessa, TX 79762.**

Contrary to the thinking of some, dues are needed to operate this organization because endowments cannot be used for normal expenses. Below is the list of those who have paid 2003 dues. *If you have paid 2003 dues and do not see your name on the following list, contact Lorene Barbee, 5901 E. Midway Road, Big Spring TX 79720 (915/263-1053) lbar62@apex2000.net or the treasurer at the above address.* Thanks to all who have paid 2003 dues. You keep PHS going. You are:

Lanita Akins [awarded]
R. M. and Carol Arndt
Troy Wayne Bradshaw
Mrs. Charles S. Broughton
Mrs. Richard J. Cassin
Geniece Childress
Roger R. Corizine
Sue Ann Damron
Peggy Garner
Mr. / Mrs. J. A. Hord
James V. Humphrey
Anne Holmes Jennings
Dorothy Jones
Peggy Kelton

Mrs. H. A. Lindsey
Ozella N. Long
John B. Meadows
Bill Modisett
R. C. and Irene Paulette
Terri Pease
Sherry Phillips
Mr / Mrs D.E. Sanders
Irene Springer
Lloyd F. Stoebner
Charlena Vargas-Prada
Frances Walker
Eddie Mae Woodward

The following names are listed on PHS records as being life members—purchased or awarded. Any corrections to this list should be sent to Lorene Barbee at the above address.

Lorene Barbee
Mary Prudie Brown
Dr. James Colwell
Mrs. Edd Cox
Dr. James M. Day
Mrs. J. Conrad Dunagan
Mr./Mrs. John C. Dunagan
Lynn Durham
Ector County Public Library
Glen Ely
Mrs. George Fletcher
Mrs. Bryan Henderson
Heritage Museum
Howard County Hist. Com
Grace King
Bobbie Jean Klepper
Midland College Library

Mrs. W. D. Noel
Odessa American
Odessa Chamber of Com
Dr. Roger Olien
Betty Orbeck
Joe Pickle
Travis Roberts, Jr.
Tom Scott
Julia Cauble Smith
John J. Taylor
Texas Commerce Bank
Eileen Welch
Thomas D. White, Jr.
Mr./ Mrs S. B. Wight
Mr./Mrs. Paul J. Williams
Sue Wilson
West Texas State Bank

Living Charter Members of Permian Historical Society

James M. Day, Mrs. William M. Holm, Betty Orbeck, Mamie Shepperd, Charles Stroder, and Vernon A. Vasbinder were listed among the charter members of Permian Historical Society when the charter membership closed on 28 February 1960.

From Our Leaders

President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

The past eight months has been a busy time for the officers and executive committee of the Permian Historical Society. We have accomplished much during this period of time but we still have additional matters we must address in order that our organization will remain strong - both financially and with integrity of purpose.

Our fall meeting held at McCamey on October 19, 2002, was one of the best attended sessions in recent years. The program was excellent and program chair Todd Houck says he will have some interesting presentations for our annual spring meeting at Midland on April 26, 2003. Special thanks goes to Peggy Kelton, vice president and membership chair, and to the Upton County Historical Commission for their work and planning of the fall meeting.

The most important accomplishment made during the last eight months was the completion of an audit of our books and discussions with our financial advisors on reorganizing the society's investment committee. Longtime member, Mr. Dick Hoyers of Wichita Falls, has asked to be replaced, and Dr. J. Tillapaugh has been appointed to serve in his place. Also, Lanita Akins was appointed to fill the unexpired term of treasurer, succeeding Eileen Welch, who served so faithfully for 18 years. She retired due to health reasons.

Other matters taken under consideration were policies relating to the publication of papers in the annual; development of a new society brochure; appointment of a committee to study the by-laws; establishing the sale value of our inventory of annuals; and getting a better understanding of the working agreement between the society and UTPB on the safekeeping of PHS archives and records.

Membership and the non-payment of dues is an issue that needs to be addressed during our spring meeting. Our membership list has now been put on a computer by Lorene Barbee so that we can maintain better records of dues payments and related matters.

We look forward to seeing you on April 26. Please plan to attend.

Sincerely,

Ross McSwain

President

yonder1@gte.net

About Our Meetings

Howdy Partners.

Consider this a special invite to the Spring 2003 meeting of the Permian Historical Society. It will be in Midland at the Petroleum Museum on Saturday, April 26, 2003. Plans are to recognize the Midland members of Permian Historical Society. Midland was begun as a ranching town and has retained that flavor throughout the years even when oil appeared to be king. With that reasoning, we plan to have a cowboy theme. This will be your chance to wear those cowboy duds—jeans, bandanas, hats, spurs, etc. This has been fun for the last few meetings and several have dressed for the occasion.

There will be many honors presented at this meeting so plan to come and be a part of history. Listen to stories, visit with old friends, make new friends, and have a rip-roaring good time. We will have another *Happy Hour* before the meeting with your favorite beverages—coffee and orange juice—and lots of time for visiting. There will be hot biscuits cooked out on an open fire in a iron Dutch oven and served up with honey during Happy Hour. We have a catered meal planned for lunch time. *There will be interesting door prizes for several lucky people, a prize for the best costume, and one for the person who has lived the most years in the Permian Basin.*

Y'all come and bring a friend to see all the things we have in store for you. Please RSVP so that we will have everyone's name tag and a certificate for each Midland member and guest.

Peggy Kelton

Membership Chairman

pkelton@nwol.net

Call For Papers

Todd Houck, Vice President for Program, and his committee invite the submittal of papers for future programs. Potential presenters should contact **Todd** at 915/570-8669 or thouck@midland.edu.

Permian Historical Society appreciates both *interesting* scholarly papers and personal reminiscences as presentations at spring and fall meetings. *The Annual* Editorial Board proudly publishes both forms of papers since each offers its own view of regional history. Permian Historical Society welcomes stories from all ethnic groups and from all educational levels. You have a story and we want to hear it.

If undeliverable, please return to:
Permian Historical News
Post Office Box 2186
San Angelo, TX 76902
For complaints: cauble@cox.net

ATTENTION: All PHS annual dues are \$15 and dues for 2003 are now past due. To receive a copy of *The Permian Historical Annual* 43 and of this newsletter, one must pay dues by sending a check to **Lanita Akins, Treasurer, Permian Historical Society, The Univ. of TX of the Permian Basin, 4901 University Blvd., Odessa, TX 79762. If a red dot appears on your address label, your membership should be paid on or before 26 April 2003, when expired names will be dropped. No Dues notices will be sent because of the cost of postage!**

New Name, Awards, and Book Sale

New Name for This Newsletter

The decision has been made! Our newsletter has a new and descriptive name. Since no one submitted a suggested title, the executive committee was forced to select the new name, which is *Permian Historical News*.

Send Your Nominations for Awards

PHS gives four awards for work in the historical community and in other areas of public life. Any PHS member may nominate any worthy living individual for any of the four awards. No posthumous awards will be made unless the recipient dies 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 the 31st. of December any year to the Awards Committee Chair: Julia Cauble Smith, 2905 Sentinel Drive, Midland, TX 79701 or email cauble@cox.net.

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.

Fellow 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 Pioneers 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.

Book Sale Fund-Raiser

Permian Historical Society has combined two of its interests in a book sale scheduled for each meeting. The first interest is that of encouraging local authors and booksellers by inviting them to display books or other historical items for sale to our members and guests. The second interest is that of raising money for the organization by charging booksellers a 10 per cent fee for displaying. *As a member of PHS, you have the important obligation of looking over and buying the offered books, maps, or historical items.*

Each sale will offer back issues of *The Permian Historical Annual* for purchase at the price of \$4 each or \$150 for a complete set. This special offer is in effect only as long as back issues are available.

Sue Ann Damron serves as chairman of Permian Historical Society Book Sale. For questions, donations, suggestions, or table reservations for displayers, contact Sue Ann at 915/393-5790 or email her at sjd@crcom.net.