



THE CYCLONE



WTHA Celebrates Eighty Years



WTHA members enjoy a reception at the American Wind Power Center.

The West Texas Historical Association celebrated eighty years of discovering West Texas history at its annual meeting in Lubbock on April 11-12.

Highlights included a tour of the Buddy Holly Museum and the Lubbock Lake Landmark Friday morning. The Association banquet and reception held Friday night at the American Wind Power Center featured speaker Dr. Archie McDonald of Stephen F. Austin University on "The Texas Mystique." A special showing of "Lewis and Clark" at the Omnimax Theatre followed the banquet.

Thirty papers in ten conference sessions covered subjects from "Transients, Jesuits, and the Devil in Texas" to "Relationships between Genealogy and History." The luncheon/business meeting Saturday was presided over by President Tom Crum of Granbury at the 6666 Barn in the National Ranching Heritage Center. Annual awards for books and articles were presented (see "From the Executive Director" page 2 for details).

Congratulations to WTHA's new president, Dr. Kenneth Davis of Lubbock and vice-president, Preston Lewis of San Angelo. New board members include Betty Carr of Lubbock, Tiffany Fink of Abilene, Bruce Glasrud of Alpine and Betty Hargus of Fort Stockton. Monte Monroe is editor of the *Year Book*. The 2004 conference will be held in Abilene, April 2-3 in cooperation with the Texas Map Society.

Rath City

by Cheryl Lewis & Paul H. Carlson

Rath City, located in modern Stonewall County near the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River, enjoyed only a short existence during the last years of bison hunting activity in Texas. Established in December 1876, the rough-edged trade center experienced its busiest activity during the winter of 1877-78 when more than 200,000 hides sold there. Bison hunters and Rath City hide buyers may have conducted a million dollars worth of business through the winter. The boom did not last, and by 1879 Rath City had been deserted.

Charles Rath, a Dodge City-based businessman and hide buyer, was largely responsible for Rath City, a place that some called either Rath's Store or Camp Reynolds. Rath had been at Adobe Walls in 1874 when Comanches and Cheyennes struck the Texas Panhandle trade center, and he had determined to move south and get below the bison herds. Thus, his agents cut a trail due south from the Fort



Elliott area, and in December laid out Rath City. The place held a couple of saloons with a dance hall, Rath's large store, a blacksmith shop, a barbershop, a laundry, a combination restaurant-hotel, a wagon yard, and corrals. Men constructed the wood-frame buildings with sod and bison hides. The corrals were likewise of sod.

Some 4,000 hunters, skinners, teamsters, hide buyers, and others worked the West Texas bison herds between 1876 and 1879. Many of them came to Rath City on a regular basis to sell their hides, purchase supplies, and take in what few

amusements that existed, for the place also attracted gamblers, prostitutes, transients, and others, including cowboys, to its saloons and dance hall. The entertainment has been called brutally raw; fights were common and at least one murder occurred.

Bison hides, waiting for shipment to Fort Worth and from there to tanning companies in the east or in Europe, piled up like cotton bales. In April 1877, Comanches stole more than one hundred horses from the Rath City corrals, and in May soldiers from Fort Richardson stopped at the little community before going in pursuit of the Comanche raiders.

In the spring and summer of 1878, with bison herds having been depleted, Rath City declined and quickly disappeared. Today, the site, located about 8 miles north of Hamlin just off Highway 83, lies beneath a wheat field. In the past dozen years, archaeologists have dug through the abandoned site to find old foundations and other evidence of Rath City's material culture.

From the Executive Director



Dear Association members:

In the afterglow of our successful spring meeting in Lubbock, I wanted to thank the program committee and the local arrangements folk once more. With their hard work and diligence the association put on quite a show. Between the scheduled sessions, the silent book auction and exhibits, and the tours, everyone had plenty to see and do. Also, congratulations to all of the winners of the various awards and grants that were announced at the meeting. They include the following:

- **Mike Cox**, Percy Jones Award for the Best Year Book Article. \$1250 cash award.
- **Jo Ella Powell Exley**, Rupert Richardson Award for the Best Book on West Texas History. \$500 cash award.
- **Preston Lewis**, R. C. Crane Award for the Best Fiction work on West Texas History. \$500 cash award.
- **L. Patrick Hughes**, William Curry Holden Research Grant. \$1,000

cash award.

- **Alexander Cano**, Student Essay Award. \$250 cash award.

As you can see from this issue of *The Cyclone*, **Becky** and **Jim Matthews**, co-editors of the newsletter, have done another outstanding job. By including a variety of news bulletins, short articles, photos, and other items of interest to our West Texas crowd, they keep us updated, informed, and entertained. Please continue to share your ideas for articles and any news events of interest. They would be most appreciative. They can be reached via email at jbmattew2@juno.com

We have also finalized our joint session with the East Texas Historical Association meeting that will take place on September 25-27 in Nacogdoches, Texas. The session is entitled "Exploring West Texas--Aviation, Literary Arts, and Tejano Research". WTHA members who have agreed to present include **Arnoldo DeLeon**, **Bruce Glasrud**, **Ken Untiedt**, and **Erik Carlson**. **Kenneth Davis**, WTHA president, will chair.

In other good news, Texas Tech University (TTU) approved next year's budget that includes continued financial support for our editorial assistant (Robert Hall), a \$300 office subsidy, and our office phone charges. In spite of increasing budgetary cuts across the state, we continue to enjoy TTU support. We extend our sincere thanks

to TTU administration, the History Department, and the Library System.

We are looking forward to returning to our "birthplace" for next year's annual meeting that will be held on April 2-3, in Abilene. **B. W. Aston** and **Don Taylor** of that city are busy with local arrangements and have been working with members of the Texas Map Society (TMS) for our first joint meeting with that organization. **Tiffany Fink** and the program committee have issued a call for papers. Many of you will be in contact with people who may be interested in presenting. She asks that you put them in contact with her, or any member of the committee. The due date for proposals is November 1.

On a final note, the WTHA marks an important transition in its leadership. This spring, Paul Carlson stepped down as editor of the *Year Book*, thus ending 23 years of continuous service to the association. During that time he served as board member, president, book review editor, editor, interim executive director, and helped guide the association through the important relocation of its editorial and executive offices to Lubbock. We take this opportunity to thank him for his hard work and vision which left the association strong and vibrant.

Please accept my best wishes for what remains of the summer, and enjoy those "... lazy, hazy days . . ."

Best regards,
Tai

Did You Know? West Texas Facts and Trivia

COMPILED BY VICKIE JONES GINTHER

----The town of Zybach, in northern Wheeler County, is named for John B. Zybach, a Swiss farmer who moved to the area from Kansas in 1909.

----Francis R. Lubbock, brother of Thomas S. Lubbock, for whom Lubbock County was named, was governor of Texas from 1860 to December 1863. He then entered the military, where he later became aide-de-camp to Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederacy.

----The University of Texas at El Paso was founded in 1913 as the State School of Mines and Metallurgy.

----Captain Kendall L. Card, Commanding Officer of the USS Abraham Lincoln, is a native of Fort Stockton, Pecos County. The USS Abraham Lincoln, a Nimitz-class nuclear powered aircraft carrier, recently returned from duty in the Iraq war.

Frontier Experiences of J. Wright Mooar

by J. Wright Mooar

[Editor's Note: For this issue, I've done something a little different. I have condensed and combined two short articles written by J. Wright Mooar, "The First Buffalo Hunting in the Panhandle" from the 1930 Year Book and "Frontier Experiences of J. Wright Mooar" from the 1928 Year Book. The two overlap and repeat some experiences, but most of the beginning of this current article comes from the 1930 Year Book and is noted by brackets. The remainder comes from the 1928 article. Words I've added to the article are contained in parentheses.

The ideas expressed in the article are Mooar's and are useful from a historical perspective, even if the reader does not agree with them. BM]

[Commercial buffalo hunting was commenced at Fort Hayes, Kansas, in 1870 by Charles Rath and A. C. Myers, who shipped the meat without removing the hides to Kansas City and St. Louis.

I commenced (buffalo hunting) in the fall of 1870 on Smoky Hill River. In 1871, we hunted on the Arkansas River above Fort Dodge. We used the Springfield Army rifle with a center fire cartridge, 70 grains of powder, a swedge ring ball 50 calibre. In 1872, the hide market was established and Sharps Rifle Manufacturing Company developed the Big Fifty rifle, with 90 grains of powder, a slug ball 11 to 16 ounces of lead with paper patch. The weight of the gun was from 12 to 16 pounds. This was a success and is the one that exterminated the Buffalo herd. In 1872 the railroad came to Fort Dodge, and Dodge City became the principal shipping and supply depot for buffalo hunters. A. C. Myers engaged in merchandise, bought hides and meat, and shipped to



J. Wright Mooar (photo courtesy Southwest Collection)

Kansas City. Charles Rath was his competitor and shipped to Leavenworth, Kansas. Business was rushing and many new hunters (arrived).

Early in the spring of 1873, many hunters went south to the Cimarron River, then supposed to be the south line of Kansas and the north line of the Indian Territory. The strip, known as the "Neutral Strip" between Kansas and Texas, was 34 miles wide. Hunters were all under the impression if we crossed the Cimarron, the U. S. Army at Fort Dodge would seize and confiscate our teams. The river was patrolled once a month by a company of soldiers.

Buffaloes now were very scarce in Kansas. In July of 1873, John Webb and I made a trip on horseback south. We each carried 200 rounds of ammunition, Big Fifty guns, and a pocket full of salt. We crossed Beaver Creek twelve or fifteen miles below where Beaver City now is in the Strip. We went south across Wolf Creek, up the divide between the Canadian River and Palo Duro Creek, and west until we could see the breaks

of Blue River. (We saw) buffalo, a solid herd as far as we could see. All day they opened up before us and came together again behind us. We now turned north back to the Cimarron River, then drove down the river to home camp.

We told A. C. Myers and Charles Rath and other hunters of our trip to Texas and the many buffalo we had seen. All contended it was not safe to cross the strip as it was Indian Territory. A young hunter named Steel Frazier proposed we go to Fort Dodge and ask the commanding officer, General (Major Richard I.) Dodge, what would be the penalty should we cross the strip to Texas or perhaps kill some buffalo in the strip. So we slicked up some, new clothes to be presentable, went to the fort six miles from town, and asked for an interview with the commanding officer. The officer of the day said the general was very busy today, but he sent an orderly to tell the general that two buffalo hunters desired an audience. The general said to bring them right in at once and dismissing his other engagements, received us very cordially. We introduced ourselves, were seated and asked the general what his policy would be to us if we crossed the Neutral Strip to hunt buffalo in Texas. General Dodge was very much interested and surprised as we told him about the trip. He asked many questions about buffalo, their habits, methods of hunting, and profits derived, and seemed to enjoy our visit. Finally we got up ready to go. I said, "General, you have not answered my question." He said, "What was it?" I repeated the question. General Dodge said, "Boys, if I were a buffalo hunter, I would hunt buffalo where buffalo are." He then took our hands,

bid us goodbye, and wished us success.]

In September, 1873, I crossed the Neutral Strip then known as "No Man's Land," Between Kansas and Texas from Dodge City, Kansas, entering the northwestern portion now known as Hansford County to hunt buffalo.

The party consisted of ten men, including my brother John W. Mooar, who was my partner, and eight employed men. We went as far south as the Canadian River before making camp to hunt. In November, Lane and Wheeler came and camped about six miles above on the same creek. During the last of February, 1874, Wheeler was shot by Indians, and they moved to Dodge.

A supply merchant in Dodge by the name of A. C. Myers said if the Mooar Brothers and Lane and Wheeler could stay down there all winter and hunt, he could put a store there for all the hunters to come to; so he brought a large stock of goods and several outfits and located on the Canadian River about four miles east of some old, abandoned ruins. These were supposed to have been the remains of a former trading post with the Indians built by the traders of Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River near the Colorado line and from which ruins the new trading post took its name of "Adobe Walls."

Charles Rath, a competitor for the hunter's trade, followed with a stock of supplies. [Nearby James Hanahan built a sod house for a saloon. Tom O'Keefe (set up) a blacksmith shop (in) a picket house. All got to doing a good business. About May 1, more hunters came from Dodge, and the stores did a big business, bought many hides. The Indians were very troublesome (and) killed out some small outfits. The small parties now began to merge together for strength against the Indians. Buffalo were plentiful, and this plan worked well

until June 28, (1874) when a large party of Indians attacked the stores, made a desperate fight, (but) were repulsed with great loss to the Indians. In August the stores were abandoned. Indians destroyed all improvements.]

In March (1875), we left Dodge for Fort Griffin, Texas, going by Dennison, arriving there in May. The trip into the Fort Griffin territory was made with the view of getting on the south side of the buffalo herd. We stayed some time in Denison recruiting our teams and rigging up some ox teams for freighting our hides. We loaded half our wagons with government freight and the balance with our own supplies, twelve wagons in all. One of our new drivers had been over the road and knew the best camping places.



(photo courtesy Southwest Collection)

After passing Decatur, every day we saw stone chimneys by the roadside; this driver knew their history. All were silent monuments of tragedies where attempts had been made to settle and occupy a home, but in those days the ever present Indian had destroyed all that hope and ambition of the settlers by killing, scalping or worse by making them prisoners and burning the humble log home, leaving only the stone chimney to tell the story of disaster.

On leaving Fort Richardson, where Jacksboro now stands, we saw on Salt Creek Prairie where two years before Indians had massacred Long's train of ten six-mule teams; had burned the wagons and such of the goods they could not take away; killed and scalped ten men. One got away we

were told. At Fort Griffin we delivered the Government goods to General (Colonel George P.) Buell, then commander, who did not appreciate a hunting outfit.

I had quite a tilt of words with General Buell, after which he forbid our going more than 20 miles out of Fort Griffin, saying the government could not be responsible for what the Indians did if we went further, and in addition it would be his duty to come out and arrest me and bring me in. We did not take the General very seriously and went 100 miles beyond the Fort.

That same fall other hunters came from Dodge and about a dozen outfits of different sizes went out from Griffin to hunt buffalo, and that ended for all time Indians depredating on the settlers, for they had more than they could do looking after the hunters and no time to go after the settlers. One small raiding party went to the settlements in 1877, but they never all got back, and that was the end. It had been the custom of these Indians for many years to go to Salt Creek Prairie between Forts Griffin and Richardson to depredate on the settlers, get a few scalps, steal horses, sometimes going as far as Parker County in small bands to congregate at some given point and start their raids. Before the alarm would spread news to reach the fort, sometimes, Rangers got on the trail, but before the citizens gathered a party and the Fort ordered a detail and a requisition on the commissary for supplies and twenty rounds of ammunition to each man, pack outfit rigged up, the Indian had slipped by and all of the pursuing parties were behind them on a hot trail which was easy for follow until the Indians got into the vast buffalo herd, which destroyed their trail. There the Indians broke into small parties scattered with the buffalo to come together again at some designated point a hundred or a hundred and fifty



Buffalo hides ready for market in Kansas (photo courtesy Southwest Collection)

miles away, which the pursuers did not know about. There was nothing to do but go back home, sad, disappointed, and defeated; no fault of theirs.

With the hunter it was quite different. He lived with and on the buffalo, followed them and ever present had plenty of ammunition and to spare. He had a vastly superior gun to anything the

Indian had ever met. In four years the buffalo hunters opened up a vast empire of territory to occupation, put the Indian forever out of Texas, changed him from a bloodthirsty savage to a meek submissive ward.

As the hunters drove the Indian and the buffalo back, the cowman, ever quick and alert to see opportunity, followed in the wake of this forward movement so closely that many large herds were located within hearing of the roar of the Big 50 and so when the buffalo was exterminated, the country was stocked with cattle.

Buffalo hunting was a business and not a sport. It required capital, management and work, lots of hard work, more work than anything else. Many magazine and newspaper articles claim the killing of the buffalo a national calamity and

accomplished by vandals. I resent their ignorance. On the 28th day of June 1874, twenty-eight buffalo hunters killed more Indians at Adobe Walls in three hours time than all the government expeditions and all other forces ever did in the Panhandle of Texas, and if it had not been for the accomplishment of the buffalo hunters, the wild bison would still graze where Amarillo now is and the Red Man would still reign supreme over the pampas of the Panhandle.

And in conclusion I want to state that any one of the many families killed and homes destroyed by the Indians would have been worth more to Texas and civilization than all of the millions of buffalo that ever roamed from the Pecos River on the south to the Platte River on the North.

In Search of the Nolan Expedition Pecan

On a fiercely cold February afternoon, WTHA members Bryan Edwards, Paul Carlson, Clint Chambers, Tai Kreidler and Monte Monroe went in search of an ancient pecan tree under which Nolan's Lost Cavalry Troop had bivouacked in 1877. Carlson recently wrote a book about the troop and had visited several sites to retrace the troop's route. On one trip, he mentioned in passing that he sure would like to find the pecan tree mentioned by one survivor of the expedition. Pecans are not native to the South Plains, so Carlson's curiosity was whetted by the description of a tree with a trunk of 13 feet in circumference and a canopy of 80 feet. Kreidler remembered hearing an acquaintance talk of such a tree in Borden County. After a few phone calls, the group obtained permission from a rancher to see the huge pecan.

According to Kreidler's field notes, the tree sits in a streambed, "so you really do not see it readily from a distance. But you realize as you get closer that it is a massive tree-towering over the mesquite trees. It sneaks up on you in a fashion." The



Paul Carlson measures Borden County pecan.
main trunk is 16 feet in circumference, and the crown is 90 feet across, giving some indication of the shade it could provide during the spring and summer.

No one can be certain that the Borden County tree is the one the troop camped under, but the facts are promising. An expert from Texas A&M University said that based on the tree's measurements, "some Indian stuck a pecan in the mud between 1750 and 1800." According to a *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* article, Texas Tech anthropologist Grant Hall agreed that pecan trees were planted by a "Comanche or an Apache version of Johnny Appleseed" in several places in West Texas. Hall added, "We think they were brought

out and planted by Native Americans as a food resource" along trade routes, as were wild plums.

Kreidler says the group plans to return to the tree, on a warmer day, with a metal detector to look for camp trash as evidence of encampments.

In Memory . . .

Grover E. Murray, 86, died May 22, 2003. He was born in Maiden, N.C., on Oct. 26, 1916. Dr. Murray earned his baccalaureate from the University of North Carolina and his Masters and Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He served as the eighth President of Texas Tech University from 1966-76 and as the first President of Texas Tech University School of Medicine at Lubbock from 1971-76. The Ranching Heritage Center and the International Center for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands (ICASALS) were established during his tenure. Dr. Murray participated in various professional and governmental organizations. He also received the Hollis D. Hedberg Award in Energy, the Antarctica Service Medal, and Distinguished Alumni Awards from the University of North Carolina and Louisiana State University. He was designated a Texas Distinguished Scientist in 1986. Dr. Murray was author of over 150 publications plus many special reports and articles.

NEWS FROM AROUND WEST TEXAS

Keith Owen, a former WTHA board member from Lubbock Christian University, received the L. R. Wilson Teaching Award on May 11, 2003. The award, accompanied by a \$1000 check, is presented annually to two outstanding LCU faculty members. Owen, an associate professor of history and chairman of the Department of Humanities, is a 1973 graduate of Lubbock Christian University and has taught at the school for nine years.

Sara J. Holmes has joined the staff of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library as the conservator for special collections.

Bruce A. Glasrud announces his retirement as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and Professor of History, effective August 31, 2003, from Sul Ross State University. Glasrud's sojourn in the Big Bend has been fraught with enjoyment, and he thanks all the friends and colleagues from West Texas who have helped make it so pleasurable. Glasrud will be moving to Seguin, Texas.

Cherry Ligertwood Asker of Stockholm, Sweden, plans to return to the states in April 2004 to attend the WTHA meeting and read an essay by Alec Ligertwood, her grandfather, on cowboy life on the Matador and JA Ranches during the late 1880's. Ligertwood's brother, Arthur G., was manager of the Scottish-held Matador Ranch and allowed the 17-year-old to go up the trail with the Matador herd. Alec also worked at the JA Ranch and took many photos of the early day ranch house and outbuildings that have been preserved in a family photo album. Other sessions are being planned by **Marisue Potts** and **Troy Ainsworth** to complement Ms. Asker's presentation.

Bruce A. Glasrud and **Arnoldo De León**'s book *Bibliophilng Tejano Scholarship: Secondary Sources on Hispanic Texans* (Alpine, Tex.: SRSU Center for Big Bend Studies, 2003) was released in August.

In cooperation with the black community of Crosbyton, the Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum has published *Mt. Zion Cemetery and Crosbyton Cemetery*. The book contains information about black burials and copies of obituaries.

Johnny Palmer and wife Anita are writing a history of Megargel in southern Archer County. They have also organized a fund for a new Texas State Historical Marker for the town.

Pecos County won a Preservation Award from Texas Historical Commission for the year 2002.

The **Crosby County Historical Commission** received its 38th consecutive Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Historical Commission in May.

A Texas Historical Commission marker in Dickens County was dedicated to **Marshall "Pots" Formby** on June 6, 2003. The marker, erected at the McAdoo Cemetery, commemorates Formby's life of service to his state and community. He served as a Dickens County Judge from 1936 to 1940 and afterwards was elected to the Texas Senate. In the 1950s, he was appointed to the Texas Highway Commission. Formby died in his Plainview home in 1984 at age 73 and is buried in the McAdoo Cemetery. A crowd of about fifty people, including prominent family members, attended the dedication ceremony on the Dickens County Courthouse lawn.

Southwest Collection staff members, **Bill Tydeman** and **David Marshall** brought famed author and naturalist, **Barry Lopez** (OF WOLVES AND MEN, ARCTIC DREAMS, etc) to the Crosby County Pioneer Museum in Crosbyton after the Lubbock meeting of the American Association of Mammalogists, on Thursday, June 26, 2003. **Bill Bennett** of the Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Education Project, then took the group to Blanco Canyon, the historic (and scientifically important) sites of Silver Falls, Mount Blanco, and Casa del Sol, Georgia Mae Ericson's ranch in the North Canyon.

As part of the annual **Floyd County Pioneer Reunion** in May, the Floyd County Historical Museum hosted a book signing by **Dr. Richard Flint** and wife **Shirley Cushing Flint**. Their recent volume *The Coronado Expedition from the Distance of 460 Years* includes nineteen papers presented at the April 2000 Coronado Conference held in Blanco Canyon.

Cochran County Texas' Last Frontier Museum grand opening was held on June 28, 2003. The new historical museum located on Taylor Street, in Morton, TX, has an array of interesting exhibits tracing the history of soldiers and early settlers in the area. **Dr. Paul H. Carlson**, Professor of History at Texas Tech University and author of a recent book, *The Buffalo Soldier Tragedy of 1877* (Texas A & M Press, 2003), was present at the museum for a book signing.

The Texas' Last Frontier Trail Drive, a driving tour of historical points of interest in the Cochran County area, was also be held, Saturday, June 28th. The Trail Drive included morning and afternoon tours of historic routes taken by the Buffalo Soldiers of Company G of the Tenth U.S. Cavalry in 1877. Over a three month period in the spring and summer of 1877, the soldiers went from Silver Lake in eastern Cochran County through the sand hills in the northern part of the county to present eastern Roosevelt County, New Mexico in pursuit of a Comanche raiding party. An afternoon tour included sites of battles between the Buffalo Soldiers and the Comanches, including Yellow House Ranch, Silver Lake and the Alkali Hill near it, as well as the Fort Sumner Trail and the historical colony of Pep, Texas.

Relocated from Terrell, the new **Silent Wings Museum** honoring glider pilots opened in Lubbock in October 2002. It occupies the original terminal building of Lubbock International Airport, which is in the general area of the old South Plains Army Air Field. Before the formal opening, a preview was held for former World War II pilots, most of whom trained there during the war, and their families.

With a grant from NEH and the Summerlee Foundation, the **Old Jail Art Center** has begun the physical and intellectual reorganization of the Robert Nail Archives in the museum.

The Texas Department of Transportation began work in February to give a 2.7 million dollar facelift to the rest area at **Silver Falls** in Crosby County. A haven for early travelers as well as present-day city dwellers, the area was a favorite campground for the Comanche, Kiowa, and Southern Cheyenne tribes.



Bob's Oil Well service station, a 1934 landmark beacon for the Rolling Plains and Caprock foothills, is being restored, on a shoestring budget, by volunteers from the Motley County Historical Commission, Chamber of Commerce, City of Matador, and Market Matador. The station is remembered for its pit of writhing rattlesnakes, a roadside zoo, a 25 cent hamburger, and a restaurant that attracted tourists and truckers who promoted the truckstop by carrying promotional signs far down the road to their destination. The first phase, cleanup of more than 70 years of trash, treasures, and debris of living, has been completed. The next phase will tackle physical restoration of the two story structure and lighting of the derrick tower. The third phase will include an adaptive use for the site, perhaps as a visitors' center touting the tourism of the region and travel virtues of Texas Highway 70 as a scenic route connecting I20 and I40. Bob Robertson's granddaughter, Princess Skaggs, is taking an active interest in preserving the historical significance of the site and working closely with the group seeking to restore the landmark.

In April, fifty-three commissioners courts of counties in the Panhandle-South Plains area submitted resolutions to support the development of an infra-structure for the **Texas Plains Trail Project**.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 25-27, 2003. East Texas Historical Association meeting at the Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches. **Ken Davis** will preside over the WTHA panel, featuring the following speakers: **Arnoldo DeLeon** and **Bruce Glasrud**, "Bibliophilic Tejano Scholarship"; **Ken**

Untiedt, "Albert Benjamin Cunningham, Forgotten West Texas Writer"; and **Erik Carlson**, "Dallas American Air Transport Company: First Attempt for an Airline in West Texas?"

October 8-11, 2003. Western History Association meeting at the Renaissance Worthington Hotel, Fort Worth, Texas. This year's theme is "The Boundless West: Imagery and Popular Culture of the American West." **J'Nell Pate** will be commentator for the Westerners session, "Women in Ranching and Rodeo." Actual participants in these fields will be speakers. For more information contact the Western History Association at (505) 277-5234 or <www.unm.edu/wha>.

October 18, 2003. Permian Historical Society fall meeting, at the Monahans Convention Center. The program will begin at 9 a.m. with visitation and a light breakfast. The program will get underway at 10 a. m. with presentations by **Bob Miles** of Fort Davis on the Jeff Davis County Courthouse; **Glen Ely** will present a video production on the Butterfield Stage line; **Gary Cutier** will present a paper on Castle Gap and perhaps another presentation will be made on trail driver Oliver Loving. Focus of the program is Permian History, west of the Pecos. A brief business session will be held following the noon lunch, said President **Ross McSwain**.

October 18-19, 2003. Cowboy Days will be held at the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum in Las Cruces.

November 7-8, 2003. Center for Big Bend Studies Conference, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. Details of the conference can be found at <www.sulross.edu/~cbbs> or Kelly Garcia at (915) 837-8723.

ONGOING EVENTS

August 16, 2003 - February 15, 2004. "Photographing Navajos" at the **New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum**, Las Cruces.

Through December 31, 2003. "Tom Ryan: The Brotherhood of Man," National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock. An exhibit of 40 black and white Tom Ryan photographs shot at the 6666 Ranch when the acclaimed Texas artist was there in 1963. Ryan said the experience was "pivotal in his life." It instilled in him a desire to put on canvas his realistic interpretations of ranching culture.

Mid-September through 2004. M.B. Loyd Firearms Collection," National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock. Loyd was great-great grandfather of current 6666 Ranch owner Anne Marion. Captain Martin B. Loyd established the First National Bank of Fort Worth. Also the "Samuel "Burk" Burnett's Quanah Parker Collection." Burnett was Anne Marion's great-grandfather, a rancher/oilman, who in 1870 founded the 6666 Ranch in King County. He and the Comanche chief established a friendship in their later years when Parker was a rancher in Oklahoma.

CALL FOR PAPERS

Center for Big Bend Studies is now accepting papers to be given at the 10th Annual Conference, November 7-8, 2003, in Alpine, Texas. Presentations should focus on prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the borderlands region of the United States and Mexico. Presentations are 30 minutes long. Papers accepted for presentation are eligible for consideration for publication in the Journal of Big Bend Studies. Please submit an abstract of 200 words or less by *September 30, 2003* to Kelly Garcia, Box C-71, Alpine, Texas 79832 or <kkgarcia@sulross.edu>.

The West Texas Historical Association invites proposals for papers to be presented at the 81st annual meeting in Abilene, Texas, April 2-3, 2003. Topics should cover historical subjects pertaining to West Texas. For individual proposals please include the name of presenter, title of paper, and a one-paragraph overview of the paper. Proposals for compete sessions are encouraged. For session proposals please include the name of a moderator, the name of three presenters, the title of their papers, and a one-paragraph overview of each paper. Presentations must be NO longer than 18 minutes.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

November 1, 2003. Send proposals to: Tiffany Fink, Chair. Hardin-Simmons University, P.O. Box 16125 HSU Station, Abilene, Texas 79698-6125, Ph. 915-670-1512 <tfink@hsutx.edu> or to the program committee chair, West Texas Historical Association, Texas Tech University, P.O. 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409; or via email to <wthayb@ttu.edu>. Phone inquiries can be made to 806/742-9076.