



# THE CYCLONE



## WTHA Announces Award Recipients



Monte Monroe receives recognition as a Fellow of the West Texas Historical Association from Jim Matthews. Monroe and Bill O'Neal are the new WTHA Fellows for 2017.

**Mrs. Percy Jones Best Article Award** - Nicholas Roland for his article "*If i git home I will take care of Num Bir one: ' Murder and Memory on the Hill Country Frontier*"

**Paul H. Carlson Best Student Essay Award** - Briana Weaver, Sam Houston State University, for her paper "*Texas Settlement: Deception in the German Hills*"

**Rupert Richardson Award for the Best Book on West Texas History** - Glen Sample Ely for his book *The Texas Frontier and the Butterfield Overland Mail, 1858-1861*

**Elmer Kelton Award for the best creative work on West Texas** - Preston Lewis for his book *The Fleecing of Fort Griffin*

**R. C. Crane Heritage Service Award** – No award given this year

**WTHA Student Scholarship** – No award given this year

## The Case of the Ranch Life Learning Center

by Lynn Whitfield

Among the many great sessions given at this year's WTHA annual meeting in Lubbock was one titled "Ranch Life Learning Project at the National Ranching Heritage Center." The NRHC, a center focused on preserving, interpreting and actively promoting ranch life and culture of the American Southwest, formally opened its doors on July 4, 1976. Currently comprised of 49 historic structures and a museum, it has become a very popular attraction with locals and visitors alike. Educating the public, particularly children who have never experienced ranch life, is a primary goal of the NRHC, which sees each year between 5,000-8,000 school kids touring its grounds.

That's roughly one-third of its overall visitor count.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, it was only natural for the center to explore ways to expand upon its appeal for this audience segment. Enter Texas Panhandle writer John R. Erickson and his beloved creation, Hank the Cowdog. Erickson, a native of Midland, worked as a cowboy on ranches in Oklahoma and Texas while sharpening his skills as a writer. His first Hank the Cowdog book was published in 1983 and the



**Julie Hodges and Ashley Wilson.**

immensely popular series continues today, with book #70 coming out in September of 2017. In this spring's *Ranch Record* publication, Erickson elaborated on his appreciation for and desire to preserve the history of the ranching lifestyle. "Somehow they manage to keep it all in perspective with their marvelous, wry, understated cowboy sense of humor. The Hank books crackle with that kind of humor. It came to me through my mother's milk and five generations of ranch people in my family."<sup>2</sup>

The award-winning author has partnered with the NRHC to create a new, three book collection called the Ranch Life Series. Featuring Hank the Cowdog, each is "written to engage students in learning about ranching and to serve as a resource book for science and social studies classes."<sup>3</sup> Julie Hodges, Unit Assistant Director at the NRHC, collaborated with LISD and Region 17 to introduce the first book, *Ranching and Livestock*, to local fourth graders. LISD educators created a Social Studies and

Science TEKS plan and an activities guide, both downloadable from NRHC's website, to supplement teaching of important themes found the first book.

Erickson's publishing company produces the books, of which nearly 5,000 copies have been distributed for free, thanks to generous donation by George Clay. The second book, *Cowboys and Horses*, will be available at the end of September 2017. Both books can also be ordered through the NRHC's Cogdell's General Store or online from Maverick Books. Additionally, fundraising is underway for the Ranch Life Learning Center, an interactive concept with indoor and outdoor exhibit space for permanent exhibits on ranching life that is geared towards a younger audience. The National Ranching Heritage Center is located on the north side of the Texas Tech University campus.

For more information on the Ranch Life Series, contact Julie Hodges at 806-742-0498.

<sup>1</sup> "The Ranch Life Learning Center at the National Ranching Heritage Center" (2016), p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> John R. Erickson, "The America I Love and Write About," *Ranch Record*, Spring 2017, p. 9.

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/nrhc/Learn/ranchlife.php>

# Celebrating 20 Years of the Southwest Collection's "New" Building

by Lynn Whitfield and Robert Weaver

Although the Southwest Collection was not formally established by the Texas Tech Board of Regents until 1955, its origins date to the founding of Texas Technological College in 1925. Texas Tech's first librarian, Elizabeth Howard West, an avid historian and archivist, began collecting research material from West Texas ranches.

By 1949, materials included the records of several historic West Texas ranches, including the Espuela Land & Cattle Company, the Matador Ranch, and Double U Company. By 1963, the Southwest Collection's three million manuscript items had far outgrown its modest space in the basement of the West Texas Museum and it moved to quarters in the old Library. It opened its current facility in 1997.

Now also housing the Texas Tech University Archives, Rare Books, the Sowell Family Collection in Literature, Community, and the Natural World, the Crossroads of Music Archive, and the Archive of Turkish Oral Narrative, the Southwest Collection evolved into the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. Today it contains more than 1,800 collections, including original manuscript materials, letters, diaries, military documents, and business records. It also houses hundreds of books on the American West and Southwest; 1 million photographs; 6,300 oral histories; 1,500 newspaper and periodical titles, with over 175,000 issues available digitally;



Some of the many WTHA members who have worked at the Southwest Collection over the past 40 years include, from left to right, Lynn Whitfield, Freedomia Paschall, David Murrah, Annette Nall, and Jim Matthews.

8,000 reels of microfilm; and thousands of reels of motion picture film and video tape.

With continued collecting emphasis on ranching, water, natural history, sports history, wind power, and aerospace history, the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library is one of the major research collections in the United States. The SWC/SCL has had a long-standing association with WTHA. Its four former directors – Seymour V. Connor, Sylvan Dunn, David J. Murrah, and Bill Tydeman – were all WTHA members. Its current Associate Dean, Jennifer Spurrier, is a WTHA Life Member and Executive Board member. The WTHA headquarters also transferred from Abilene in 1997 to be housed into the new building, and it continues to reside there. Here's wishing another successful 20 years of collaboration between the two organizations!

## Rattlesnake Springs

by Jim Matthews

Rattlesnake Springs is located twenty-two miles north of Van Horn on the west side of Texas Highway 54 along the base of the Sierra Diablo mountain range. The spring rises through a limestone fault and was part of a system of springs and waterholes throughout West Texas that allowed Comanches, Apaches and traders to cross the wide arid lands. Today, the spring is located on private ranch land.

In the late 1870s, Captain Louis H. Carpenter of the Tenth Cavalry reported concerning Rattlesnake Springs, "The water of this spring is always reliable,



but is disagreeable to the taste, and not very beneficial for horses or men. In addition to the sulphuretted hydrogen, so plainly tasted and to the smell, the water is also charged with some of the salts of lime, making it excessively hard." To the east rose two large salt lakes. The ground between lakes and spring was flat, covered by sparse grasses and saline deposits. West of the spring rose

the jagged rocks of the Sierra Diablo. A wide cut wound back into the mountains from near the spring forming Rattlesnake Canyon.

In 1880, the spring became a focal point in the army's campaign against Apache raiders under Victorio. In an attempt to prevent Victorio from reaching water, four companies of the Tenth Cavalry engaged the Apaches at Rattlesnake Springs on August 6, 1880 in the last major Indian battle fought on Texas soil.

*(The Cyclone* tries to print a short article on a geographic or historic site in West Texas in each issue. If you have an article to share, send it to [jjmatthews2@att.net](mailto:jjmatthews2@att.net).)

# West Texas and Its Press as I Have Known Them

By George S. Anderson

[From the 1942 West Texas Historical Association Year Book]

West Texas was in a state of evolution in 1885. Its people were not certain what the outcome would be. Ranchers said it would never be a farming country and the few farmers who inhabited the sparsely settled counties wondered if they were of sound judgment in trying to grow crops in this country.

Abilene, San Angelo, and Wichita Falls, now splendid cities of thirty-five to sixty thousand population, plus the war camps, were villages of three to four thousand inhabitants. State school land sold for as little as \$2.00 per acre and West Texas farmers were looked upon with a degree of pity. However, at that early date in the development of the West there were numbers of farms and smaller ranches where the owners were producing feed and grain crops with success. Cotton was almost an unknown quantity.

The Santa Fe Railroad had reached Brownwood on the way to San Angelo, and the Texas & Pacific Railroad was the only rail system in what Abilene people were pleased to designate the Abilene Country. For many years railroads dominated transportation without any sort of competition and were lords of all they surveyed. Abilene, Merkel, Sweetwater and Colorado City were the principal trading points for the entire section known as Central West Texas.

December 26, 1885, Captain V. H. Anderson, S. V. Anderson, Sam H. Lyons and the writer landed at the old Cottonwood Spring on Cottonwood Creek, about one-half mile south of the present Fisher County court house at Roby, Texas, camped in the only house near there (the X. O. X. Ranch, owned by Bill Patterson, who lived at Comanche, Texas) and began preparation to locate Roby and enter the town in the race for the county seat of Fisher County.



Captain Anderson and his two sons had arrived from Bell County in a covered wagon on December 21, a trip that required two weeks. Sam Lyons lived with his father, Captain Lyons, a veteran of the Mexican War, about ten miles east of Roby in the Woods Chapel community, and was known as a land agent, locating "suckers" on school land for a commission.

Fisher County was attached to Nolan County for judicial purposes and John Bagby was the county surveyor of Nolan County. It being necessary to secure the services of a surveyor, a partnership was formed consisting of Anderson, Lyons & Bagby. The town of Roby was laid out. The first court house square being placed on the site of the present High School building, where Captain Anderson erected the first store building in Roby. It was soon discovered that the land belonged to El Paso County, and as Anderson, Lyons & Bagby had a contract to locate the county site, or try to do so, on land belonging to D. C. and M. L. Roby, another survey was run and the court house was located on its present site. The Anderson store was moved to the southwest corner of the square, the

present location of the Citizens State Bank of Roby. For some time the Anderson building was occupied by the post office and as a boarding house or hotel. The building was small, but during the first year religious services were held in it. Rev. S. H. Blair, a Baptist minister from Merkel, was among the first to preach in the new town. A Presbyterian minister by the name of Moody from Sweetwater also preached in the small building, as did a Methodist minister by the name of Johnnie Dickerson, of Sweetwater.

Captain V. H. Anderson was the first postmaster of Roby. He was appointed in 1886 and served until Harrison was elected President, when the Republicans removed him and appointed a man by the name of J. W. Cave, who had cast the only Republican vote in Fisher County. Cave held the office a few months and resigned. December 31, 1889, Mrs. V. H. Anderson was appointed postmaster and held the office until January 11, 1916, when President Wilson ruled that no one could be reappointed who had reached the age of 65 years. At this time her daughter, Mrs. M. M. Ferrel, was appointed, and she held the office from January 1916, to March 1941.

The writer recalls that it fell to his lot to carry the flag to locate the blocks, lots, streets, and alleys in Roby; and though a small boy at that time, in later years he was a flag bearer when the County of Fisher was surveyed and the lines of the county established.

In 1886 a petition was circulated in which the county commissioner's court of Nolan County was asked to allow Fisher County to be organized. It was at this time that the big contest for the county site was staged. The petition contained some 160 names, some of which were fictitious (names of dogs among them) and the opposing parties, headed by a man by the name of E. D. Strang, who was promoting the opposition town of Fisher, located on the Clear Fork of the Brazos River, four and one-half miles north of Roby,

had a lot of trouble securing evidence to remove such names from the petition, for advocated of Fisher wanted more time before the election was called, and if they could succeed in showing that there were fewer than 150 legal voters on the petition, the court would not call the election nor grant the petition asking that Fisher County be organized. However, after several days of hotly contested court hearings the election was ordered and the day for the election for the organization of the county fixed by the court.

As usual in such elections, great interest was manifested by the supporters of each town. Roby being in almost the exact center of the county furnished the Roby crowd a strong talking point and so the contest warmed up from day to day. Means of securing election returns were not as they are today, and in consequence when the election was held the result was not known until the following day. Fisher was five votes to the good with one box, Eskota, out. When the Eskota box was heard from the total of 20 votes were solid for Roby, and the victory for the new town was complete. There was talk of a contest, but it soon stopped and the town of Fisher gradually faded from the picture. Some of its buildings were moved to Roby. The first court house in Roby was a small two story frame building which cost about \$6000. In this building some of the hottest court contests that West Texas has known were held. The Hon. J. V. Cockrell, later elected to Congress, was district judge, and he was a most staunch judge. Lawyers of statewide reputation often practiced in his court. Judge C. R. Breedlove, one of Texas most outstanding lawyers, owned a ranch in Fisher County and often practiced in the courts at Roby. Judge Breedlove wrote the charter for Simmons College and was a member of its first board of trustees.

West Texas in those early days, as was stated in the first paragraph of this article, was "evolving." Farmers came in covered wagons, stayed awhile and left. They did not know how to dry farm, and when sandstorms rolled in

and the crops failed many of them left. Some "stayed with the stuff" and all who did were repaid for the pioneer spirit that made them believe in West Texas. As the years passed and the seasons became more regular, farming in West Texas reached a point where row crops and cotton could be counted on with as much certainty as in other parts of the state.

Today it can be said without fear of successful contradiction that the farmer who stays on the farm and mixes a few head of good stock with feed crops and cotton will find that the average in West Texas is really above that of other sections, and he will also find that a large per cent of the people who live in West Texas are genuine American citizens.



**Postcard of the courthouse in Roby, TX.**

The larger ranches of the early days were gradually cut up and sold to small ranchers and farmers. The old longhorn steer with a spread of five to ten feet is no more. In his place the beautiful herds of Herefords roam the valleys and hills.

It has been a most interesting experience to have witnessed the vast pastures of 1885 change into the rich farms of today; the small villages of that day expanded into such fine cities as Abilene, San Angelo, Sweetwater, Colorado City, Big Spring, Midland, Odessa, Lubbock and other thriving towns of West Texas. And this brings me to the consideration of the second subject:

#### *Newspapers of West Texas*

My first experience in the journalistic field was in 1887, when just a lad. Fisher County had no newspaper at that time and only a few post offices. Judge Royston C. Crane, now of Sweetwater, Texas, had graduated from Baylor University and

the law school of the University of Texas, and upon the recommendation of his friend, Judge C. R. Breedlove, located in Roby for the practice of law, his chosen profession. The need for a county newspaper caused him to establish on January 26, 1888, the *Fisher County Call* at Roby, Texas. He was joined in the publication of the paper by Judge W. M. Smith, who moved to Roby from Anson, Texas. Printers were almost unknown in the west at that time, but it was found that Dr. J. D. Davis of Roby was an experienced printer, and he was put in charge of the *Call* and the writer was employed by Judge Crane as "Devil," the name for beginners in the trade at that time. The *Call* had a rather up and down experience financially, often causing Judge Crane to reach into his funds secured from the practice of law in order to make ends meet. But at all times the paper was a credit to the county and town. Judge Smith sold his interest to his partner, who took Frank Kiefer, Jr., into partnership, and later the paper was sold to Marvin McLean, of Georgetown, Texas, a young lawyer, who now resides in Washington, D. C. McLean sold it to Speer Brothers, now living in Fort Worth (Judge John Speer is a member of the court of civil appeals at that place). Judge Crane served Fisher County as county attorney and county judge, and had much to do with the growth and prosperity of the county. He moved from Roby to Abilene in 1899, and practiced law here for three years. After receiving "a tip" that the Orient Railroad would build into Sweetwater, he bought property there and moved to that place in 1902, where he has resided to this date. Judge Crane is without doubt one of the leading, if not the leading, historian of West Texas. He has given Hardin-Simmons University and other educational institutions of Texas many priceless volumes of historical value, and has been untiring in his efforts to see that the true history of the glorious West is kept for posterity.

The writer and E. H. Keifer established the *Roby Times* in 1892. The *Times* was printed on a Gordon job press one page at a time and was a four

page, six column paper with a circulation of around 500. It had a rather successful career, but after the writer moved to Abilene it was sold to L. B. Allen and A. P. Kelly, who moved the plant to Anson to publish a Populist paper.

In December 1894, the writer bought a half interest in *The West Texas Baptist*, at Abilene, Texas, and thus became a part of Abilene. In 1895, John Hoeny, Jr., President and principal owner of The Abilene Printing Company, publishers of the *Abilene Reporter*, a weekly newspaper, employed me as foreman, local editor and business manager of *The Reporter*.

In 1896, *The Reporter* began the publication of a daily edition which was a small local paper without telegraph service. *The Reporter* also later issued a semi-weekly publication and purchased a small afternoon paper. J. A. Lowry, an early day printer in Abilene, established *The Taylor County News*, a weekly paper which he successfully published in Abilene a number of years. *The News* was owned during its existence by a number of firms and was finally absorbed by *The Abilene Daily Reporter*.

*The Abilene Reporter* purchased the first linotype to be shipped west of Fort Worth and east of El Paso. The writer became the first member of the Associated Press between Fort Worth and El Paso east and west and Wichita Falls and Austin north and south, a five hundred word service, a membership which I still enjoy. *The Reporter-News* is now receiving around 20,200 words daily. The morning franchise of similar size is held by M. B. Hanks, who is also a member of the United Press and other news gathering associations.

Weekly newspapers in the earlier periods were carefully edited and printed and many of the files will compare most favorable with the best weekly papers of today. News in the early days was good for a week and did not cause the paper to appear out

of date. Now an item two days old seems ancient history, making it hard to publish a weekly paper that will appeal to the reader. Daily papers publish from three to five editions each day, the radio broadcasts news almost every hour, leaving the weekly or semi-weekly field little but local news that really interests the public. Even with that handicap there are many weekly papers published that are making good and serving their communities with profit to town and owner.

San Angelo, Sweetwater, Big Springs, Midland, Odessa, Lubbock, Wichita Falls, Abilene, and other cities of West Texas have daily newspapers at this time that compare favorably with any in the United States. All issue from one to five editions daily and have circulations of 5,000 to 50,000.

The Exchange list of the *Fisher County Call* of 1888 contained the names of the following weekly newspapers in West Texas: *Scimitar*, Seymour; *Leader*, Graham; *Times*, Throckmorton; *News*, Albany; *Star*, Baird; *Western*, Anson; *Pantagraph*, Big Spring; *News*, Abilene; *Voice*, Anson; *Herald*, Mineral Wells; *Review*, Della Plain; *Cresset*, Seymour; *Free Press*, Haskell; *Index*, Childress; *News*, Estacado; *Exchange*, Benjamin; *Record*, Sweetwater; *Reporter*, Abilene; *Headlight*, Dublin; *Leader*, Ballinger; *Panhandle*, Mobeetie; *Light*, Wichita Falls; *Standard*, San Angelo; *Ranger*, Miami; *Gazette*, Fort Worth.

Outstanding weekly papers published at that time in West Texas, among others, were: *The Abilene Reporter*, John Hoeny, Jr. editor; *The Colorado Clipper*, Dr. Alf H. H. Tolar, Editor; *The Sweetwater Record*, R. A. Musgrove, Editor; *The Albany News*, Dick McCarty, Editor; *The San Angelo Standard*, "Pat" Murphy, Editor; *The Fisher County Call*, R. C. Crane, Editor.

## George S. Anderson

The author was born on October 18, 1871, in Salado, Texas. In 1885, at the age of 15, George traveled with his father and older brother in a covered wagon to Fisher County where his father helped establish the town of Roby. In 1888, Judge R.C. Crane and W.M. Smith established the first newspaper in Fisher County, the *Fisher County Call*. George was hired as a printer's apprentice and within three months became the typesetter for the paper. He married Minnie Kiefer in 1890 and they moved to Abilene in 1893. Anderson bought a half-interest with Dr. George W. Smith in the *West Texas Baptist* newspaper. The paper began publication primarily as a means to promote the establishment of what is now Hardin-Simmons University. He continued to publish and edit a number of papers including the *Abilene Reporter*. In 1903, he became a trustee of Hardin-Simmons and remained active in that position for the rest of his life. Anderson died on February 16, 1964. At the time of his death, Hardin-Simmons vice president W. T. Walton recalled, "His moral support in the affairs of the school and the community and his wonderful example of Christian stewardship made him one of the truly great men of our area."



### Roby in 1996

In November 1996, Roby briefly rose to national fame when 42 local farmers and workers at the cotton gin won \$46 million in the Texas Lottery. This made 7% of the population millionaires, a higher percentage than the Kingdom of Brunei. While Roby achieved temporary celebrity, the lottery did not make much difference in the long run. Each winner was paid 20 yearly installments of \$39,000 after taxes, not a lot to keep a cotton farm operating.

# NEWS AROUND WEST TEXAS



Bob Saul, Robert Hall and Becky Matthews presented the WTHA session at the first conference of the Central Texas Historical Association.

**Ruth Cooper**, Chair of the Runnels County Historical Commission, announced **Randall Conner** as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award in the Preservation of History in Runnels County. Conner has been a long time member of the commission, and has been active in the founding and operation of various museums in Runnels County. He is now working closely with the Southwest Collection in the preservation of the Runnels County newspapers.

**Jessica Tharp** of San Angelo, who presented *Prohibition in San Angelo: Demon Rum's Persistence* at the 2017 conference participated in the first Summer Institute on Holocaust Remembrance at Hanze University of Applied Sciences in Groningen, the Netherlands.

**Sylvia G. Mahoney** was a speaker for the Great Western Cattle Trail Association Conference and History Symposium in Bandera. She is author of the award winning book *Finding the Great Western Cattle Trail*.

**Alwyn Barr** and **Debbie Liles** were program faculty in the recent Humanities Texas "Writing Texas" conference held in association with Texas State University. The institute drew 51 Texas teachers to San Marcos in June for three and a half days of faculty presentations and seminars.

**J. Brett Cruse** has a new edition released of *Battles of the Red River War: Archeological Perspectives on the Indian Campaign of 1874* which was the 2009 winner of the Rupert N. Richardson Award

**Jerry Lobdill** was a speaker at the 2017 RoundUp of the Wild West History Association in Fort Worth during July with a 30 minute presentation on "The Bloody Legacy of Deacon Jim Miller".

**Anne Medlock** of West Texas A&M University, **Joel Zapata** of Southern Methodist University and **James Vice** of Texas Tech University are the first recipients of the Center for the Study of the American West research grants. The grants, which range from \$400 to \$1,600, fall into two categories: CSAW Research Grants (internal) and Jo Stewart Randel Grants (external). The grants are open to professional researchers and students in all academic disciplines and allow the recipients to pursue research opportunities on any topic related to the American West.



The Official Historian of the State of Texas, **Bill O'Neal**, was a featured speaker at the National Cowboy Symposium on September 9 in Lubbock. In the audience to hear his presentation on "Outlaws of the Old West" were former WTHA president **Marisue Potts** (left) and **Carol Campbell** (right), the R. C. Crane Heritage Service Award winner for *Line in the Sand*, which is scheduled to air on KERA, the Dallas-Ft. Worth PBS station.

The **Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library of Texas Tech** announced that it now has 175,000 digitized newspaper issues online. **Austin Allison** of the SWC/SCL digitization group made that announcement on September 8. The entire newspaper collection can be viewed by the public at <https://swco-ir.tdl.org/swco-ir/handle/10605/2123>.

The **Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library** at Texas Tech University recently acquired the records of H. T. Ponsford and Sons Company that worked with the Trost and Trost architectural firm in building many commercial structures in El Paso. **Freedonia Paschall**, SWC/SCL archivist made the announcement.

Members of the **Parker County Historical Commission** and the **Taylor County Historical Commission** recently were presented Distinguished Service Award certificates from the state of Texas. The Texas Historical Commission gives the award to county historical commissions that document programs of history and preservation-related projects. Other counties that have received the Distinguished Service Award include **Jeff Davis, Kimble, Mason, Menard, McCulloch, Runnels and Tom Green**.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the **Center for Big Bend Studies** at Sul Ross State University and the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia, the federal agency that oversees and investigates all anthropological and historical sites in Mexico. The agreement will initially focus on several U.S.-Mexico frontier projects along the Texas-Coahuila and Texas-Chihuahua border. The first two projects under the memorandum focus on two historic cave sites: Mexican Lion and Spirit Eye. The former is in Coahuila directly on the Rio Grande/Río Bravo, adjacent to the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River; the latter is on a private ranch on the Texas side of the river in the Big Bend area.

The **Heart of West Texas Museum** in Colorado City celebrated the opening of a museum annex with a number of new local exhibits and the dedication of a historical mural painted by Leola Anderson.

The community of **Rowena** unveiled a historical marker on their public square in a ceremony conducted by descendants of Rowena's early families and the **Runnels County Historical Commission**.

**UPCOMING:**

*October 7, 2017 – Edwards Plateau Historical Association* at Celebration Hall, First United Methodist Church in San Angelo, TX. Registration begins at 9:30 am and a luncheon is available. For information contact [tomgreen.chc@gmail.com](mailto:tomgreen.chc@gmail.com).

*October 12-14, 2017 - East Texas Historical Association* fall meeting, Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston, TX. For information go to <https://etha.wildapricot.org/Fall-Meeting>.

*October 19, 2017 - The Center for the Study of the American West* at West Texas A&M will have UC Berkeley borderlands historian Brian DeLay present the Nall Lecture this fall. His title is "The Texas Gun Frontier and the Travails of Mexican History." The lecture will be at 7:30 pm in the Hazlewood Room at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum.



White buffalo statue in Snyder, TX.

*October 20-21, 2017 – West Texas Trails Association* annual meeting at the Snyder Coliseum, Snyder, TX. Includes tour Friday. For information contact Robert Hall at 903-261-1044 or [westtexastrails@gmail.com](mailto:westtexastrails@gmail.com).

*October 21, 2017 – Permian Historical Society* Fall Conference in Kermit, TX. 9 am–1 pm, Winkler County Senior Citizens' Center, 416 E. Campbell. To reserve lunch or for information: [peggy.kelton@gmail.com](mailto:peggy.kelton@gmail.com) or [sjd@crcom.net](mailto:sjd@crcom.net).

*October 25-28, 2017 - Texas Map Society* Fall Meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southwest Division of the American Association of Geographers at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, TX. For more information go to <https://texasmapsociety.org/events/>.

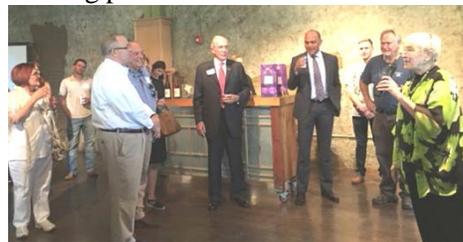
*Oct 27- Oct 28, 2017 - Fort Belknap Days*, Newcastle, TX. A living history event including a blacksmith, chuck wagon, candle maker and military re-enactment units from across the state. For more information call 940-846-3222 or email [jnhammond1836@gmail.com](mailto:jnhammond1836@gmail.com).

*November 1-4, 2017 - Western History Association* at the Hilton San Diego resort and Spa, 1775 East Mission Bay Drive, San Diego, CA 92109. For information contact [westernhistoryassociation@gmail.com](mailto:westernhistoryassociation@gmail.com).

*November 10-11, 2017 - Center for Big Bend Studies* annual conference, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX. For information contact <http://cbbs.sulross.edu/conference.php>.

## **WTHA Co-Sponsors Reception for Texas Historical Commission**

The Lubbock Heritage Society in conjunction with the Lubbock County Historical Commission, McPherson Cellars, the Texas Plains Trail and the West Texas Historical Association sponsored a meet and greet reception for visiting members of the Texas Historical Commission on July 26, 2017. The event was held at McPherson Cellars, a wine production and events facility renovated from what was originally the old Coca-Cola bottling plant in downtown Lubbock.



Lubbock Heritage Society President Pam Brink welcomes guests to the reception.



Mari Nicholson-Preuss and Gene Preuss were two of many WTHA members to attend.

**In Memory . . .**

**John Caldwell** was a rancher, photographer, and independent businessman. Born in Abilene in 1933, Caldwell moved to Albany at the age of

three and graduated from New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell in 1950. He attended West Point and served in the US Army. Clifton married Shirley Welch in 1958, and they had five children. Caldwell devoted more than five decades to the preservation and promotion of Texas history and culture. He was appointed to the Texas State Historical Survey Committee in 1968 by Governor Preston Smith. He was an active member for thirteen years. As Chairman, he changed the name from Survey Committee to the Texas Historical Commission. Caldwell led many historical organizations in Texas. In the 1980s, he was appointed to the National Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. He and his wife established the Clifton and Shirley Caldwell Texas Heritage Series at the University of Texas Press. Caldwell died April 11, 2017.

**Almeda Ruth "Poopsie" Watts** — a little lady who lived a very big life, passed away on July 25, 2017, just five days after celebrating her 98th birthday. She was a native of Floyd County and resident of Floydada for more than 50 years. She was born July 20, 1919, the second youngest of five siblings. Poopsie graduated from Lockney High School in 1935 and attended West Texas State College in Canyon. While there, she met and married H. G. (Red) Watts, a native of Happy. Red and Poopsie had five children. They moved to Floydada in 1950 and in 1956 bought the Barwise gin. In addition to farming 820 acres, they ginned around 15,000 bales of cotton every winter and sold starter seed every spring. Poopsie kept all the accounting books for both operations and was trusted and respected by all of the farmers.

**The West Texas Historical Association  
Announces**

**A Scholarship for Those Interested in the Study of  
the History and Culture of West Texas  
In the Amount of \$750**

The scholarship is open to both high school seniors with a proven interest in history and historical research and undergraduate college students with a proven interest in history and historical research who also are declared history majors.

1. Applicants must return a completed official application by May 30<sup>th</sup>.
2. All applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0 (B) grade point average.
3. All applicants must provide a current transcript to the scholarship committee.
4. Applicants must forward two letters of recommendation to the scholarship committee. One of these letters should be from a teacher, counselor or employer. The second should be a personal recommendation from someone other than a family member.
5. The scholarship recipient must be willing to have name announced via WTHA website & Facebook page.

**Notification:** All applicants will be notified upon completion of the evaluation process.

**Contact:**

Scholarship Committee  
West Texas Historical Association  
Box 41041  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041  
806-834-4479

**THE CYCLONE**

Published by the West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas. Browse back issues of *The Cyclone* at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org).  
Editor: Jim Matthews at [jjmatthews2@att.net](mailto:jjmatthews2@att.net).

**WEB PAGE**

This site lists association news, conference updates, and membership forms for new members. Members are encouraged to submit professional and organization news and photographs.  
Editor: Lynn Whitfield at [Lynn.Whitfield@ttu.edu](mailto:Lynn.Whitfield@ttu.edu).

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

The WTHA Facebook is maintained for the benefit of members and affiliates who are interested in West Texas history.  
Editor: Wes Sheffield at [wes.sheffield@wtha.org](mailto:wes.sheffield@wtha.org).

**WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL  
ASSOCIATION**

Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University  
P.O. Box 41041  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

Phone: (806)742-9076  
Fax: (806)742-0496  
E-mail: [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@ttu.edu)

**Website:** [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org)



# Join the West Texas Historical Association

Throughout its distinguished history, the West Texas Historical Association has encompassed a wide range of both professional and non-professional historians, from lawyers to ranchers to teachers. Although their interests vary, members share a common desire to preserve the rich history of West Texas. All members receive the *West Texas Historical Review* and the *Cyclone*.

**Membership Levels**

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Student       | \$ 10  |
| Regular       | \$ 30  |
| Institutional | \$ 25  |
| Family        | \$ 35  |
| Sustaining    | \$ 50  |
| Life          | \$ 750 |
| Sponsoring    | \$1000 |

To join mail your check to: West Texas Historical Association, Texas Tech University, Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041 or register online at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org).