



# THE CYCLONE



## WTHA Annual Meeting Returns to Wichita Falls

After an absence of forty-four years, the West Texas Historical Association returns to Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls for its seventy-eighth annual meeting on March 30-31, 2001. Program Chair Janet Neugebauer has assembled a variety of panels including a plenary session on the life and works of Dr. Lawrence Clayton and a special session from members of the East Texas Historical Association, Archie P. McDonald, F.E. Abernethy, Jo Ann Stiles and Carol Riggs. The silent auction and vendor displays will also be a feature of the meeting again this year.

Kenneth Davis, retired professor of English at Texas Tech University will be the banquet speaker Friday night. Dr. Davis is a noted author, Texas folklorist and raconteur. At the Saturday luncheon, Dr. Clint Chambers of Lubbock will deliver his presidential address.

Sessions will be held at Midwestern State University's Clark Student Center, 3400 Taft Blvd. in Wichita Falls. For room reservations contact the Fairfield Inn, 4414 Westgate at 940/691-1066. The conference rate is \$57.00 per night at the Fairfield which is located within one-half mile of the campus. This rate will be effective through March 9. Mention WTHA to get the discount. Make your plans to join the West Texas Historical Association as we return to Wichita Falls on March 30-31 for one of our first conferences of the new century.



Registration at the 2000 annual meeting in Midland.

## Chambers Commissions WTHA Lapel Pin as Fundraiser

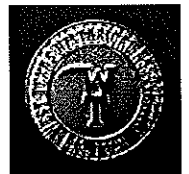


Clint Chambers and Tai Kreidler with a representative from the company that produced the WTHA lapel pin.

Thanks to those who have donated through the lapel pin project and to our sustaining members (listed on page 8), WTHA grants and awards have already been expanded. Submission and application requirements for all awards are listed in an article on page 7. Dr. Chambers also suggested and the board has approved a teaching award for public school teachers involved in activities or instruction that furthers the interests of West Texas history. Through the support of all WTHA members and friends who proudly wear their lapel pins, we are increasing interest in researching, writing and teaching history in West Texas.

In the summer of 2000, WTHA President Clint Chambers commissioned 250 lapel pins displaying the West Texas Historical Association seal. Chambers donated the pins to the association hoping that the proceeds would be used to encourage participation in the WTHA, especially among students and younger members. Dr. Chambers has a special interest in expanding our membership to all with an interest in West Texas history, including those who traditionally have not become members, such as public school teachers and high school students.

The gold embossed pins are available to anyone who would like to support this effort with a donation of \$10.00 or more. Donations can be made to the West Texas Historical Association, Texas Tech University, P.O. Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041. They will also be available at the annual meeting of the association in Wichita Falls on March 30-31.



## From the Executive Director



Dear Fellow Members:

We hope the new millennium finds you well and productive. It has been a busy fall and winter for the association. Paul Carlson and Robert Hall have completed the Year Book and it has been distributed to the membership. Harry Hewitt (Wichita Falls) has also been busy with local arrangements for our annual meeting on March 30-31 in Wichita Falls. Janet Neugebauer and the program committee have received many good proposals and have put together an outstanding group of sessions. Freedonia Paschall who is handling the silent auction and exhibits for the annual conference has been busy making arrangements. Also the board met in Hamlin, Texas for its fall meeting.

Other WTHA members have been busy as well. B. W. Aston (Abilene), Tom Crum (Granbury), and Don Walker (Lubbock) showed the association "colors" by participating in the WTHA session at the fall East Texas Historical Association meeting in Nacogdoches. In a true pioneering effort B. W., Tom, and Don spoke to a continually growing and appreciative East Texas audience. B. W. regaled them about the history of the WTHA. Tom clearly delineated the geographic requirements of being a West Texan. Don Walker gave them colorful insights into the political persona of former Texas Governor Preston Smith. The session was successful and very well received. Association members also in attendance were Ken Neighbours (Bowie), Ken Hendrickson (Wichita Falls), and Ty Cashion (Huntsville). These joint sessions began at the Midland 2000 meeting last March. So far they have been successful and we look to continue them for the foreseeable future. In fact, the East Texas folk have already

"set their hat" for the Wichita Falls meeting. Joining us this year will be Archie McDonald of the East Texas Historical Association, F. E. Abernethy of Stephen F. Austin University, Jo Ann Stiles of Lamar University and Carol Riggs of the Texas Forestry Museum.

Your board has been busy as well. During the fall board meeting it increased the cash prize given for book awards and research grants. The Richardson (best non-fiction book on West Texas history) and Crane (best fiction work on West Texas) book awards were increased to \$500 each from \$100. The board also voted to increase the Ernest Wallace (graduate research) and William Curry Holden Research grants to \$1000 each. The board hopes to generate interest among graduate students and WTHA members who have research projects, but lack the funds to get started. We encourage you to apply and spread the word among qualified students. For additional information please contact us or consult the WTHA web page--<[www.lib.ttu.edu/swc/westtexas](http://www.lib.ttu.edu/swc/westtexas)>.

Please remember that the association is soliciting books, journals, maps and other artifacts for use in the silent auction we hold at the annual meeting. You can send them throughout the year to the WTHA offices. Your donations will be used to fund scholarships, scholarship increases, and other awards. Please contact Freedonia Paschall at 806/742-3749.

We would like to thank Clint Chambers, WTHA president, for his generosity in donating 250 lapel pins as a fund raiser. The gold pins feature the distinctive WTHA emblem and are very attractive. They are available for a donation of at least \$10. We would also like to recognize the numerous sustaining and sponsoring members that continue to remind us that the association's greatest strength is its membership. All of these donations will help fund awards and scholarships.

The last time the WTHA visited Wichita Falls the city was celebrating its Diamond Jubilee and the association had the honor of "kicking off" festivities by holding its thirty-fourth annual meeting on the campus of then Midwestern University on May 4, 1957. The members and officers attending that meeting comprise a "Who's

Who" of the association from that period. They include Louise Kelly (Wichita Falls), J. W. Williams (Wichita Falls), Lewis Nordyke (Amarillo), Kenneth Neighbours (Wichita Falls), Grace Connally (San Angelo), Thomas L. Miller (College Station), Jo Ann Farmer (Albany), James T. Padgett (San Antonio), Floyd Ewing (Wichita Falls) and Ernest Wallace (Lubbock).

Over forty-four years later the association will return to now Midwestern State University after a gracious invitation from President Louis Rodriguez (now retired), Dr. Michael Collins, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and Dr. Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., Chair of the History Department. It should be an exciting conference enhanced by MSU's inauguration of its new president--Dr. Henry Moon--that same week. We look forward to an outstanding meeting.

Please remember to phone ahead and make your hotel reservations at the Fairfield Inn (4414 Westgate at 940/691-1066) by the March 9 deadline. Additional hotel information can be found on-line at the WTHA web page.

Though the return to Wichita Falls will be a festive affair, it will be tempered by the absence of our long-time friend, colleague, and benefactor--Dr. Lawrence Clayton who passed away on December 31. We will miss his intellect and good fellowship. We will be thinking of him.

Tai Kreidler  
Executive Director



Freedonia Paschall and Abel Ramirez prepare the silent auction at the 2000 WTHA meeting.

# Today's Cowboy: Coping With a Myth

by Lawrence Clayton

[Editor's note: This is a reprint of an article first published in the 1984 Year Book.]

When Joe B. Franz and Julian Ernest Choate, Jr., published their fine study *The American Cowboy: the Myth and the Reality* in 1955, many may have erroneously assumed that the final word had been said on the subject. If anything, however, the discussion of the cowboy image has continued unabated and is as controversial today as it has ever been. Of the various interpretations of the figure, there are two noticeable extremes and, it seems to me, a tenable middle ground reasonably close to actuality. Atop the triad, however, still sits the mythic cowboy, apparently as secure as ever.

One approach has been to discredit the figure. Even if people feel threatened by the image casting its shadow from the past on the present, one can but wonder why the demythologizers attack the image so vehemently as Jane Kramer, a *New Yorker*, does in *The Last Cowboy*. Her protagonist often sits on a rotting chuck wagon dreaming of the good old days rather than facing contemporary life. This kind of hostile response comes typically only when people feel threatened by something they cannot accept or understand. Jack Shafer's *Monte Walsh* is one of the best novels downplaying the cowboy myth, but it deals with a character who clings to the cowboy role even when he grows old. He can adjust to no other life. I doubt this cowboy is the only person to cling to a career when he has outlived his usefulness.

The debunkers describe the cowboy as only a hired hand working for low wages. The man himself has been depicted as lazy, shiftless, celibate, free spirited, unsophisticated, stubborn, and antisocial. He was just a laborer who happened to ride a horse to do his work.

No doubt, his work was dirty, demanding, smelly, and dangerous. OSHA certainly would have had a field day on employers. There was no health insurance, retirement plan, disability insurance, or union dues. His life, seen in this light, certainly appears unattractive, or can be made to appear so.

One of the most significant events dealing negatively with the cowboy is the 1983 exhibit on the figure done by the Library of Congress. The opening of the display was complete with live performers who sang, exhibited skills, and generally demonstrated the continuation of this kind of life in the present day and emphasized the realistic view. One of the obvious results of such an occasion is the demythologizing of the idea of the cowboy by presenting much of the reality of his life and depriving the public of the preferred conception. The furor raised over the negative kind of presentation in the exhibit—and the figure—has been significant and resulted in the withdrawal of some of the items from the exhibit by the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City.

Although currently out of vogue, film parodies of the Western hero—cowboy, gunfighter, etc.—have had their effect as well. *Blazing Saddles*, *Water Hole #3*, *Cat Ballou*, *The Apple Dumpling Gang*, and others have belittled the whole idea of serious Western heroes, usually gun fighters instead of cowboys, but the effect is the same. A cowboy figure as hero is rare anyway. Most “cowboy” films had their climax in gunfights and other life threatening situations, not in just handling cattle. The status of the hero is usually determined by his ability with a gun or with his fists, not with a rope at roundup time. *The Outlaw Josey Wales* starring Clint Eastwood, though not a “cowboy” movie, is the only really successful serious Western film in recent years and



is actually a treatment of one rebelling against the injustices of society, a popular theme even today.

On the other extreme, the most prominent recent romanticized view of the cowboy followed in the wake of a box office smash film, *The Urban Cowboy*, stemming from an article on that phenomenon that Aaron Latham published in *Esquire Magazine* in 1978. The film created a subculture rivaling that triggered by the Beatles and their rock music in the 1960s. The urban cowboy image, of course, has little to do with life on a ranch but instead highlights the night life in the huge club of Country and Western music star Mickey Gilley in a suburb of obviously non-rural Houston, one of the nation's largest metropolitan areas. Millions have watched actor John Travolta play out the fantasy of a generation of discontented city dwellers living a version of “rural” life sporting mechanical bulls and flowing with cold beer, preferably Lone Star, instead of with milk and honey. One wonders why the attraction was so strong except that it offered through the costume an escape into the neon-lit cowboy life without the sweat, dust, and boredom found in actual ranch life. They took to heart a line in “The Cowboy's Lament,” a folk song containing the statement, “I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy.” For these, clothes make the man, or woman as the case may be, as the wide appeal of Western-style clothing evidences. Dressing like cowboys are supposed to dress is enough for those who will never do any cowboy work anyway. Even though by 1982 Texas “chic” was dead as a national fashion trend, the

boom to the clothing industry in the late 1970s and early 1980s was economically as well as culturally significant. It is likely that the feeling is only waning, waiting for another stimulus to wax again.

These barroom cowboys are not real cowboys; however, in a perceptive contemporary song, Billy Crash Craddock sings, "A real cowboy don't care how he fills out his jeans;/ He just cares how he feels in his heart." Clothes do not make real cowboys, as old photographs tend to confirm. These oldtimers looked pretty motley in their range getups. Real cowboys still exist, much to the surprise and chagrin of many skeptics who would see him gone if they had their way. The proof is before us on such ranches at the Matthews, Nail, Caldwell, and Green in the area north of Albany as well as on the Pitchfork, 6666, King, Swenson, Double U, and others in the state. Also a comparison of the photographs Irwin Smith made in the early days of this century (*Life on the Texas Range*) and Ray Rector in the 1930s (*Cowboy Life on the Texas Plains*) with the contemporary ones made by Martin Schreiber (*Last of the Breed*) conclusively proves that though some technology has evolved, much of ranching life and, at least as important, attitudes in it remain virtually unchanged.

The real cowboy continues to draw other printed comment as well. *Buckaroos in Paradise* is a modern classic documentation of cowboy life in Nevada. Closer to home, John Erickson, a modern-day cowboy, author, and folklorist, has written two books on the subject. *Panhandle Cowboy* reflects his experiences running a ranch in the Oklahoma Panhandle in the 1970s, and *The Modern Cowboy* can actually serve as a training manual for anyone who would like to develop cowboy skills but cannot find a teacher. Like those listening to army veterans talking about the "joys" of boot camp, Erickson's readers are regaled with humorous versions of sometimes dull but dangerous activities that can

become exciting when judgment errs only slightly. Andy Adams in his *Log of a Cowboy* and Teddy "Blue" Abbot in *We Pointed Them North*—both early cowboy classics—reflected the same kind of experience.

A seemingly minor incident, with far reaching implications, appears in Elmer Kelton's *The Good Old Boys*, a fine novel dealing creatively with the motif best labeled End-of-the-West. In it there is a calm recognition that the old days are over and realization that the situation can be faced without altering the idea or, worse, degrading it. Boy Rasmussen is an aged drifter following the old ways in 1906, well past the time amenable to his ways. He is found dead beside his horse where he stops, ironically, to open a pasture gate in a barbed wire fence, a barrier that altered open range practices forever. A pauper by modern standards, Rasmussen faces burial at county expense. The young "cowboys" at the bar in town refuse to allow this injustice and pool their meager resources to pay the cost of the funeral. This truthful view is sobering but not disgusting like that of the demythologizers.



Although we know that the daily life of this real American cowboy was filled with dust, sweat, toil, loneliness, and frequently death, the "popular" image of the figure—that held by many people today—is infused with an aura of romance that elevates him to a pure-hearted knight-errant. This cowboy, this figment of the imagination fed on B-Western movies and pulp magazine stories and novels and dude ranches, must be considered part of the myth of the West, for indeed he still looms larger than life. He is usually imagined trotting over the prairie on a cowpony, working the herd around a branding fire, or sitting around an evening campfire singing songs of lonely and

dying cowhands. In reality, trotting on horseback can be painful to the inexperienced or clumsy, and working around the branding fire is difficult and dangerous work requiring skill, patience, and often daring. In addition, few sing well enough to garner accolades for their voices, even if they had time and fortitude to sit around a campfire harassed by buzzing insects and campfire smoke and enduring the extremes of the weather.

One must ask, what influence does the truth have on the image of the mythic cowboy? The response is certainly a resounding none! Myths meet little resistance from verifiable truth. Instead they help us visualize the exotic, the supernatural, the unexplainable. Mythology deals with matters of cosmic importance, with gods and creation, and with the source of life itself. Disregarding actuality, we see these knights of the range in our mind's eye wandering the open prairies, free from the confines of the city, of marriage, of capitalism, and of many other fetters and fetishes that plague our lives. People today are attracted by the very things cowboys did not depend upon, definitely a contrast as we try to get all the "good life" allows and requires. We want bucolic, not urban, cowboys though the urban version gets a fair share of the attention through imitation. I propose that emulation of the mythic cowboy results in the attire, the urban cowboy image. Actually the existence of the Library of Congress exhibit proves the lasting appeal of the figure, especially since it was put on display at the Institute of Texan Cultures in December of 1983. The mythic figure has an appeal we cannot deny. We care little that real cowboys may have been thin because of poor diet, celibate because their wages were too small to allow marriage, and broken and battered by the kind of life they lived and thus unsuited for other kinds of physical labor. We subconsciously—perhaps romantically—refuse to give up completely. It wells from so deeply within us that without it—and our other myths—we could not exist.

## In Memory . . .

The West Texas Historical Association lost one of its most distinguished members when Dr. Lawrence Clayton of Abilene died of Lou Gehrig's Disease in the early morning hours of December 31, 2000.

Dr. Clayton was born April 21, 1938, in San Antonio. He graduated from Rusk High School and Ranger Junior College, earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Stephen F. Austin State University, a master's degree from North Texas State University, and a doctorate from Texas Tech University in 1974.

On January 11, 1958, he married Sonja Irwin, the daughter of early Shackelford County settlers. Because of her background, she shared his interest in researching and writing about ranching and cowboys. Lawrence studied and wrote about every facet of the ranching culture-- the history, folklore, literature and music. Throughout his career, he wrote over 130 articles (14 for the WTHA) and 170 reviews. He wrote seven books and edited six others, beginning with *Clear Fork Cowboys* (1985). Other books include *Historic Ranches of Texas* (1993), *Watkins Reynolds Matthews: A Biography* (1989), *Horsing Around: Contemporary Cowboy Humor* (edited with Ken Davis, 1991),



and *Vaqueros, Buckaroos and Cowboys and Roots of Texas Music to 1950*, both of which will be released soon.

He spent thirty-three years at Hardin-Simmons University, serving as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, department head, and professor. His passion for teaching touched the lives of countless students. He helped both students and colleagues to stretch beyond what they thought they could achieve. He especially encouraged many women, who often found it difficult to break into the "old-boy" network of academe.

Dr. Clayton's service was not limited to Hardin-Simmons University. He was a founding member of the Western Heritage Classic in Abilene and served as president

of WTHA, the Southwest Popular Culture Association, the Texas Folklore Society, and the Western Literature Association. His honors include the Cowboy Culture Award for Writing and Publishing from the National Cowboy Symposium in Lubbock, 2000; Ranger Junior College distinguished alumnus, 1976; distinguished English Graduate at Texas Tech University in 1988 and University of North Texas in 1990.

He is survived by his wife Sonja, his daughter Lea Clayton, daughter and son-in-law De Lys and Matt Mitchell, two granddaughters, Amanda and Ashley Mitchell, and many, many friends. He was a man whose kind spirit and gentle heart quietly enhanced the lives of all those who knew him.

Dear Fellow West Texas Historical Members,

Your actions did console our hearts. Thank you for the lovely basket of white glads and carnations for the Memorial Service. Your thoughtfulness during this time was greatly appreciated.

As ever,

Sonja and Lea Clayton  
De Lys, Matt, Amanda, and Ashley Mitchell

## Did You Know? West Texas Facts and Trivia

COMPILED BY VICKY JONES, SOUTHWEST COLLECTION, TEXAS TECH

Bailey County, created from Bexar County in 1876 but not organized until 1917, was named for Peter J. Bailey, who died at the Alamo.

Sugar has been produced in Texas since the days of Stephen F. Austin's colony, first by growing sugar cane, then sugar beets. In 1964, the Holly Sugar Company opened Texas's first mill for processing sugar beets in Hereford (Deaf Smith County). During that first year, approximately 539,000 tons of sugar beets were processed in Texas.

Texas's greatest monthly snowfall (36 inches) occurred in Hale Center (Hale County) in February 1956. Thirty-three inches of this came from one snowstorm (February 2-5). The same storm dumped 24 inches on Plainview in 24 hours.

The Santa Claus Bank Robbery, which occurred at the First National Bank in Cisco (Eastland County) on December 23, 1927, was one of Texas's most infamous crimes at that time. "Santa," Marshall Ratliff, was later caught and imprisoned. During an escape attempt, Ratliff mortally wounded one of his jailers, Tom Jones. A mob of angry townspeople lynched Ratliff. No-one was ever tried for the lynching. A medallion commemorating the robbery was placed on the bank in 1967 by the Texas Historical Commission.

Mount Livermore (Baldy Peak) in Jeff Davis County is one of seven peaks in Texas with an elevation over 8,000 feet. The others are all in Culberson County. Jeff Davis County also has the highest average county elevation in Texas.

## NEWS FROM AROUND WEST TEXAS

Dr. B. W. Aston has been named associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts at Hardin-Simmons University. Aston, senior professor of history and director of the Rupert Richardson Research Center, is a former head of HSU's history department and is a former Executive Director of the West Texas Historical Association.

Fred Rathjen is resigning the editorship of the *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review* on completion of the 2000 number, upon which he is now laboring. Garry Nall will assume the editorship. Dr Rathjen has edited the *Review* for ten years.

The Dodge-Jones Foundation in Abilene, Texas, has given Hardin-Simmons University \$450,000.00 to furnish a large room in the university's new social sciences building. This room is to be named The Clayton Roundup Room in honor of Dr. Lawrence Clayton who died Sunday, December 31. The Clayton Roundup Room will seat 105 and will contain memorabilia of the American west. The Southwest and Texas Popular Culture Associations have also named a scholarship in Clayton's honor.

Clint Chambers, Tai Kreidler, Ken Untiedt, and Ken Davis were in a wreck on their way to Lawrence Clayton's funeral January 2. Dr. Chamber's van hit a patch of black ice in Scurry county, rolled over and ended upside down. Fortunately, no one was hurt.

David Murrah and his wife Ann have relocated to Rockport, Texas, on a full-time basis. David continues to work for Southwest Museum Services of Houston and is moving from project management to project development.

Ty Cashion and Frank de la Teja have edited a book for Scholarly Resources out of Wilmington, Delaware, called *The Human Tradition in Texas*. Among WTHA members who contributed essays are Paul Carlson, Tai Kriedler, J'Nell Pate, Charles Townsend and Ty Cashion. The book is part of a series on "The Human Tradition" that uses biographies to reflect how men and women reacted to historical events.

Ross McSwain's book, *Water In a Dry and Thirsty Land, The 50 Year History of the Colorado River Municipal Water District*, was introduced in November at Big Spring when the CRMWD held a special program celebrating its 50th anniversary. The book, by retired CRMWD secretary Joe Pickle, in collaboration with Ross McSwain of San Angelo, a retired journalist, was given to those in attendance. The 318 page book, a hardcover, is fully indexed and illustrated with numerous photographs. Limited copies are available from the CRMWD office. Price had not been established. Contact John Grant, general manager, CRMWD, Big Spring, TX. for information on ordering the publication.

Lou Rodenberger published a long essay on "20th Century Women Writers and the Literary West" in *Roundup*, the publication of Western Writers of America in August 2000. She and Sylvia Grider are finishing their manuscript on the history of the short story in Texas as women have developed the form, which prefaces an anthology of short stories illustrating each stage of the history, beginning back in 1865. A&M Press will publish the work, titled *21 Short Stories by Texas Women: Then and Now*.

David Murrah and Elvis Fleming of Roswell, NM are working on a revision of Fleming's 1965 book, *Texas Last Frontier: A History of Cochran County*. The new book, which will be expanded, will be ready in the fall of 2001.

Dr. Bruce Brasington and Marty Kuhlman have a classic rock show on KWTS 91.1 FM, the West Texas A&M University radio station. The show features music by the Who, Led Zeppelin, the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. It airs from 7 to 9 p.m. on Thursday nights.

Fort Concho National Historic Landmark in San Angelo hosted the Annual Bivouac of the United States Cavalry Association in September. A hundred people, including some of the last surviving veterans of the U.S. mounted cavalry, enjoyed a weekend of living history, saddle-making demonstrations, a cavalry sculpture show, and a World War II style Big Band concert.

The Old Jail Art Center in Albany received a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services in September. The two-year grant is designated for general operating support. The grant is for \$65,102, 15% of the museum's operating budget.

The Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center in Langtry recently renovated and expanded to include Judge Roy Bean's home, called "The Opera House, Town Hall and Seat of Justice," a video viewing room, and six new dioramas depicting the life of the judge.

Historic Fort Stockton has acquired a new building which will serve as a visitor center. The center will open to the public in the spring of 2001.

The Moore County Historical Museum in Dumas is building a new museum. Their projected opening date is July 4, 2001, the museum's twenty-fifth anniversary.

The Sutton County Historical Society has just completed painting the Mier's House Museum in Sonora, thanks to help from local Boy Scouts working on an Eagle Scout project. On October 28, 2000, the historical society also hosted a Veteran Memorial Marker placement for Joseph Terry, a CSA veteran whose grave had been unmarked. The marker placement and the dinner which followed were featured on the 6 p.m. news on KLST-TV, San Angelo.

The Knox County Historical Commission dedicated the Knox County Veteran's Memorial in Benjamin on November 11, 2000. The site is across the street east of the courthouse. Over 2,400 names are on the memorial, from the Civil War through the twentieth century, arranged on columns by war. During the gathering of names, the commission obtained information about veterans and their families, plus many photos and war stories. This information is archived for the possibility of future publication.

The Board of Trustees of the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library in Midland has established an endowment fund that will help to insure the long term financial security of the institution.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**March 1-3, 2001.** The Texas State Historical Association Meeting will be held in at the Renaissance Hotel in Houston. The event will feature more than 30 sessions on topics including the NASA Oral History Project, black Texas writers, historic cemeteries, and women on the New Spain frontier. In commemoration of Spindletop's 100th anniversary, several sessions will deal with the oil industry and the geyser that started it all. The meeting will also feature book exhibits and an auction of Texana. For more information, call the Association at 512/471-1525.

**March 7-10, 2001.** Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association Meeting. Sheraton Old Town Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. Panel topics include history, literature, geography, ethnic studies, southwestern culture, folklore, ranching, West Texas culture, and much more. For more information visit their website at <<http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~swpca>>

**April 13-14, 2001.** Texas Folklore Society. San Angelo, Texas. For more information contact Francis E Abernethy at <[fabernethy@sfasu.edu](mailto:fabernethy@sfasu.edu)>

**June 2-3, 2001.** Back to Rath's Trail, Hamlin, Texas. Includes a free shuttle service to Rath City site, opportunity to fire a Sharp's rifle on a 650 yard range, and the opportunity to experience living history. A special artifacts exhibit (in the Hamlin National Bank lobby) will feature one of the largest Sharps rifle collections in the state. Other exhibits include Doug Baum and his Camel Corps, fine arts and quilts shows, musical entertainment, storytellers, and historical lectures.

**CALL FOR ARTICLES:** *The Cyclone* seeks articles about historic sites located on private land or in out-of-the-way places. The articles should be about 1000 words, written in popular rather than scholarly style, preferably with photographs. For examples, read the article on Horsehead Crossing in the February 2000 newsletter or the article on Muchaque in the August 2000 issue. Please query the editors with your ideas. Contact: Jim & Becky Matthews, 4230 Briarcrest, San Antonio, TX 78247 or email [jbmatthews2@juno.com](mailto:jbmatthews2@juno.com). Jim's work phone: 1-800-940-2721, ext.21. **ALSO WANTED:** Your news for "News from Around West Texas."

## Board Increases Awards and Research Grants

On October 7, the WTHA board voted to increase the R. C. Crane and Rupert Norval Richardson Book Awards to \$500, and raised the association's research grants to \$1000 each. The Richardson Award is for the best book on West Texas history published within the past two years, while the Crane Award is for the best creative work on West Texas. The authors must be members of WTHA. Research grants are available to both graduate students and to general researchers working on West Texas history.

At the suggestion of president Clint Chambers, the board also approved the creation of a teaching award for public school teachers whose activities or instruction contribute to the interests of West Texas history. It was recommended that the award be named in honor of a distinguished association member.

The WTHA also presently gives the Percy Jones Best Article Award each year. This \$500 award is given for the best article published in the Association *Year Book* in the preceding year. Additionally, a \$200 Student Essay Award is offered annually for the best student paper submitted for inclusion in the program at the WTHA meeting. The student will also receive a \$50 grant to defray the cost of attending the meeting and publication of the essay in the *Year Book*. The recipients of all the awards are announced at the presidential luncheon during the association's annual meeting.

Specific submission and application requirements for the book awards and research grants follow.

**Rupert Norval Richardson Award--The Best Book on West Texas history.**

- 1) Non-fiction. The book must focus on West Texas history.
- 2) Eligible books are to have been published within the past two (2) calendar years.
- 3) To be eligible, an individual must have been a member of the association for at least one full year prior to the application deadline.
- 4) Publishers should submit two copies of each nominated book.
- 5) The award winner will receive a \$500 cash award and a certificate.

*Due Date November 1*

**R. C. Crane Award--The Best Creative Work on West Texas.**

- 1) Fiction. Novel, poetry, collection of short stories, or drama. The books must emphasize a West Texas theme or setting.
- 2) Eligible books are to have been published within the past two calendar years.
- 3) To be eligible, an individual must have been a member of the Association for at least one full year prior to the application deadline.
- 4) Publishers should submit two copies of each nominated book.
- 5) The award winner will receive a \$500 cash award and a certificate.

*Due date November 1*

**Ernest Wallace Grant--Graduate Research on West Texas history.**

- 1) Applicants must be enrolled in a graduate program at the time of application.
- 2) Applications should include a proposal, recommendation from major adviser, vita, and budget for needed funds.
- 3) One grant per year for \$1,000 will be awarded; the grants are non-renewable.
- 4) Grant recipients will submit a written report regarding the progress of their endeavors.
- 5) Recipients are ineligible for an interim of two years between successful grant applications.

**William Curry Holden Grant--Research on West Texas history**

- 1) Applicants must have been members of the Association at least one full year prior to the application deadline.
- 2) Applications must include a proposal and a budget for needed funds.
- 3) One grant per year for \$1000 will be awarded; the grants are non-renewable.
- 4) Grant recipients will submit a written report regarding the progress of their endeavors.
- 5) Recipients are ineligible for two years between successful grant applications.

### TOHA Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Thomas L. Charlton, Baylor University

Dr. Thomas L. Charlton, Baylor University's Vice Provost for Research and Professor of History, received the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the Texas Oral History Association on August 26, 2000. Dr. Charlton was the founder and director of the Baylor University Institute for Oral History. He also was the co-founder of the Texas Oral History Association in 1982. His scholarly publications and professional presentations on oral history include dozens of journal articles, lectures, and keynote addresses. His book, *Oral History for Texans*, remains a classic handbook among both professional and amateur historians in the Southwest. Furthermore, the TOHA is pleased to announce that in the future its lifetime achievement award will be named the Thomas L. Charlton Lifetime Achievement Award.

## Sustaining Members

The West Texas Historical Association wishes to thank its sustaining members.

Cheryl Lewis, Hamlin  
Donna Cook, Concord, Calif.  
Fred Rathjen, Canyon  
Clarence Mason, Bloomington, Ill.  
Tom Crum, Granbury  
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### NEW ADDRESS?

Remember to send your change of address to the WTHA office: Southwest Collection, Box 41041, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041.

### THE CYCLONE

*A Newsletter for members of the West Texas Historical Association*

Editors: Jim & Becky Matthews

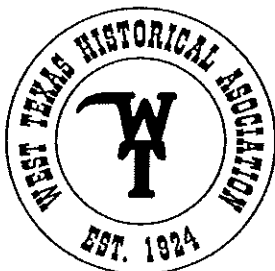
Published twice a year (February and August) by the West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas. Members also receive *The Year Book*, published each fall, containing articles, news, notes, and book reviews about West Texas history. Annual membership fees are \$10 for students, \$20 regular, \$25 family, \$35 sustaining, \$20 institutional/library. All back issues of *The Year Book*, published since 1925, are available for \$15 each.

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