



The Cyclone

Volume II, No.2

May 1995

From the Executive Director's Desk:



I bring you greetings from Dr. Jacobs and myself from beautiful Abilene where the wind, rain, and, sand, in that order, have reminded us of our graduate days at Texas Tech. Nevertheless, we are well underway with Volume 71 and are pleased to inform you that once again the membership has supplied us with an outstanding variety of papers to add to our knowledge of West Texas.

For those of you who missed the meeting in Snyder, you missed a grand experience. **Dr. Harry Krenek**, President of Western Texas College, his staff, and **Mildred Sentell** went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that the meeting was a success. We had several first time attenders and presenters, which was good for the Association is in one of those transition periods where we old members begin to make way for a younger generation to take over. A good example is the presence of **Wes Watters** on the board, **JoDee Dyreson** serving as West Texas Editor, and **Ty Cashion** taking over as Book Review Editor. If you wish to review a book, contact Ty at (903) 886-55627 or at Department of History, East Texas State University, Commerce, Texas 75429.

I was talking with **Garry Nall** the other day, and it seems as if the best time for our annual meeting in Canyon will be April 19-20, 1996. It is still uncertain as to whether our headquarters will be in Canyon or Amarillo. By the time the fall letter goes in the mail, those details will be ironed out. For those of you who would like to get an early start, **President Lou Rodenberger** has appointed the following program committee for 1996:

Garry Nall, Chairperson, Box 807 West Texas A&M University, Canyon, Texas 79601-0001

Lawrence Clayton, School of Arts and Sciences, Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas 79698

Jack Loftin, Rt. 1, Windthorst, Texas 76389

Wes Watters, Box 32319 Texas Christian University, Fort Worth, Texas 76129

I would hope that you will start making plans now to attend the meeting in Canyon as it will be another first for the Association. As far as I know, we have never met north of Lubbock. Let's make this one of our greatest meetings ever.

Some news on a personal note. First, the good news. Hardin-Simmons University has created a new title, Senior Professor, and I have been named the Senior Professor in History. I feel that I have been greatly honored by the institution. The bad news is that both of my trips to China and England have been cancelled. That means I will have plenty of time to put out the *Yearbook*.

Again, let me thank **Harry Krenek** for showing us such a wonderful time in Snyder and encourage you to present a paper at next year's meeting in Canyon. Thanks for all you do to support the Association, and if your local school or library does not subscribe to the *Yearbook*, give them a membership for a year and encourage them to become a permanent members. Thanks,

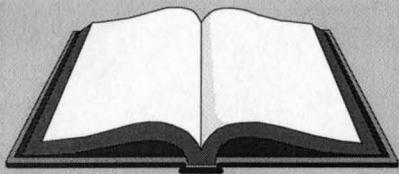
B.W.

Don't forget that October is renewal time for membership in the Association. A modest \$15 fee maintains your membership as well as entitling you to the 1995 West Texas Historical Association *Yearbook*. Student rates are \$10. Remember that all contributions to the Endowment Fund are not only appreciated but tax-deductible.



CONTENTS

<i>Executive Director</i>	1
Jones Award	1
Renewals	1
1995 Meeting	2
Book Notes	2
Kelton movie	2
Members	3
In Memorial	3
Meetings	3
Board members	4
E-Mail	4
Handbook Info	4



Book Notes

Texas A&M University Press published *Blood and Treasure: Confederate Empire in the Southwest* by **Donald S. Frazier** of McMurry University, .

The Texas State Historical Association reprinted *The Indian Papers of Texas and the Southwest, 1825-1916* edited by **Dorman H. Winfrey** and **James M. Day**

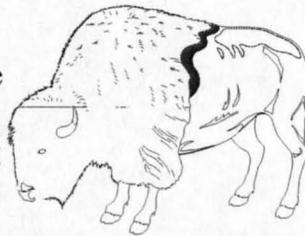
Texas Tech University Press published *Oil, Taxes, and Cats: A History of the DeVitt Family and the Mallett Ranch* by former W.T.H.A. president **David J. Murrah** of the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech University.

The latest from **Elmer Kelton** of San Angelo, *The Far Country*, was published by Doubleday.

Joseph Milton Nance has a three-volume work being published in 1995 by Eakin Press entitled *Dare-Devils All: The Texan Miér Expedition, 1842-1844*.

1995 Annual Meeting in Snyder

The Seventy-second Annual Meeting of the Association was held in Snyder on the campus of **Western Texas College** on April 7-8. Papers presented included such topics as NAFTA, military history, life and work in the Big Bend, ranching and literature, and visual documenta-



tion of West Texas history. The **Scurry County Museum** hosted the annual reception among exhibits on local county history as well as travelling one on windmills. Well-known author **Leon Metz** regaled the audience at the annual banquet with hilarious anecdotes on the pitfalls of "Chasing Gunfighters across the American Southwest." Following the banquet, the **Theatre Department of Western Texas College** presented Jerome Kitty's adaptation of *Dear Liar* based upon the correspondence

between George Bernard Shaw and Mrs. Campbell. The W.T.H.A. would like to extend special thanks to the cast and crew of this fine production for graciously offering a command performance for the Annual Meeting. President **Jack Loftin** of Windthorst presented the address at the annual luncheon on

"A Twentieth-Century Chase for the White Buffalo" describing a poignant story tracking down the elusive history of the famous chase in Scurry County. Afterwards members received the rare chance to view the white buffalo hide housed at a private residence. At the business meeting prior to Loftin's address, the membership voted to move the headquarters to Lubbock probably in 1997. Details will be forwarded to members when available. Vice-President **Lou Rodenberger** of McMurry University presided.

Congratulations
to
Elmer Kelton
for the recent
TNT
production
of
The Good Ol' Boys
starring
Tommy Lee Jones



Enjoying the annual banquet are (L-R) Darlene Bellinghausen, David J. Murrah, Jack Loftin, Julius DeVoss, and Leon Metz.

Members

Stewart Caffey served as content specialist for ACT's Pilot Study for the U.S. History NAEP, St. Louis, in August 1994. During January and April of 1993 **Steven F. Mehls** of Western Cultural Resource Management undertook a photodocumentation and mapping project of the mill and company building ruins of Texas' only silver mill at Shafter. The site is in the process of being reclaimed and prior to disturbance the conditions were recorded and correlated to a 1930s fire insurance map of the mill. The photos and maps are now part of the permanent collection of the Texas Historical Commission. The project was completed during 1994. The Friends of the Pioneer Memorial Library in Fredericksburg have appointed **Larry Wolz**, Professor of Music History at Hardin-Simmons University, as Research Curator of the Vander Stucken Collection there. Wolz will be pursuing extensive research on Frank Vander Stucken, Fredericksburg-born composer/conductor, leading toward a festival of the composer's works and dedication of a Vander Stucken archive during the Fredericksburg Centennial in 1996. A second edition of **Lawrence Clayton's** book *Watkins Reynolds Matthews: Biography of a West Texas Rancher* has just been issued by Eakin Press as well as his *Longhorn Legacy: Graves Peeler and the Texas Cattle Trade* by the Cowboy Press. He also received a grant from Hardin-Simmons University's Academic Foundation to continue his research on ranch history. **Lou Rodenberger**, president of the W.T.H.A. and Professor of English at McMurry University, has been named to a two-year appointment on the Texas Commission on the Arts Literature Review Panel. As a review panelist, she is responsible for reviewing grants in the discipline of literature and making qualitative assessment of each application at the annual panel meeting. **C. Richard King** received the prestigious History Award Medal from the Teha Lanna Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in Stephenville. The nationally recognized award is given to a person whose study and promotion of some aspect of American history has significantly advanced the understanding of our nation's past. The annual meeting of the Western History Association, held in October of 1994 in Albuquerque, and Honorary Life Membership was presented to **Harwood P. Hinton** by W.H.A. President Alvin M. Josephy. Also Hinton was the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the Center for Big Bend Studies in November at Sul Ross State University. **Andy Wilkinson** of Lubbock released an album and book of original songs and poetry about his distant uncle, Charles Goodnight. **The Rev. Chuck Helmer, Jr.** regretfully announced the closing of the Helmer Lock and Tool Museum in Wink. The collection had been accumulated over fifty years, and the museum was operated by Helmer for the last twenty. The **West of the Pecos Museum** in Pecos has been recently undergoing major renovation, allowing for fifty rooms of exhibits. Money was raised from private citizens and three substantial grants from the Meadows, Abell-Hangar, and Mabee Foundations. The third annual **Cynthia Ann Parker Days Celebration** was held in Crowell on April 28-30. A part of this event was a symposium concerning the Battle of Pease River and the recapture of Cynthia Ann Parker.

Western History Association

Denver is the site of the thirty-fifth annual conference of the Western History Association in October. The conference this year will emphasize the National Grasslands. For more information contact W.H.A., University of New Mexico, 1080 Mesa Vista Hall, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1181, (505)277-5234.

Center for Big Bend Studies

The second annual meeting of the Center for Big Bend Studies is tentatively scheduled for November 17-18 at Sul Ross State University. For more details contact the Director, C.B.B.S., Box C-71 SRSU, Alpine, TX 79832, (915) 837-8179 or FAX (915) 837-8046.

InMemorial

Thelma F. McCarley Berry, former president and Life Member of the West Texas Historical Association, died April 4, 1995, in Abilene. She moved to Clyde in 1924. She was the widow of the late John F. Berry, also a former president of W.T. H.A., whom she married in 1926. She and her husband operated the Berry Ranch, a working ranch registered as a historic landmark, since 1928. Her teaching career spanned 25 years before she retired in 1954. Mrs. Berry was extremely involved in national and local civic organizations.

J. Conrad Dunagan of Monahans, former president and Life Member, is also mourned by the West Texas Historical Association. He was a strong supporter of Texas history in general but especially the history of West Texas and the oil industry. He was also a Life Member of the Texas State Historical Association as well as an honorary life member of the Executive Council. He was particularly instrumental in the publication of the *Handbook of Texas*. Mr. Dunagan also endowed a chair in history at the University of Texas at the Permian Basin.

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**The New Handbook
of Texas**

is available to W.T.H.A. members for a special pre-publication price. For details, contact Texas State Historical Association, 2.306 Sid Richardson Hall Univ. Sta., Austin, Texas 78712, (512) 471-1525 or FAX (512) 471-1551. Don't miss out on this extraordinary chance to obtain the definitive reference guide to Texas history!



W.T.H.A. Goes On-Line

**Contact The Cyclone via
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