



# THE CYCLONE



## WTHA in Abilene April 8-9, 2016

The 93rd annual meeting of the West Texas Historical Association will take place April 8-9 in Abilene. This year's President Diana Hinton (Midland) will preside over the meeting and will have the honor of introducing the Friday night keynote speaker Dr. Glen Ely of Fort Worth who is an award-winning author and scholar. He will talk about West Texas trails and highlight his life-long quest to trace the famed Butterfield Trail. The Friday night banquet will be held in the multi-purpose room of the Johnson Building on the Hardin-Simmons University Campus. As an added program feature a "Lead-Off" session, featuring Bill O'Neal, the State Historian of Texas, and Jerod Haines, Wayland Baptist University, will start at 6:15 P.M. Thursday before the regularly scheduled "Early Bird" meal (see program). Robert Hall, the Conference Coordinator, has secured additional hotel rooms in a WTHA-block at the Marriott Courtyard next door at 325-695-9600 for \$89/night. Members planning to attend can register and pay for the conference online (wtha.org) or phone in a registration via the conference "hot line" (806-543-9741) and send in a check later or pay upon arrival.

## Tahoka Lake Pasture

by Holle Humphries

Recently, Clyde May of Tahoka Lake Pasture in Lynn County received revived attention owing to the site's past. A wayside stop for prehistoric and historic peoples who hunted along the lake shore, all were attracted to the area due to the plentiful game and freshwater springs that discharged water into the lake. Purportedly the name of the lake is derived from the Comanche word, "Tohoko," meaning "fresh water." The alkali soil of the lake bed and evaporation by the sun caused the fresh water flowing into the lake to become brackish. Yet, as a salina, it served as a water destination for all. Located near to the edge of the Caprock, Indians following a trail from Buffalo Gap to the headwaters of the Brazos and Colorado rivers could ascend the escarpment from the canyons below and be within a ten mile ride by horse to this major body of water on the southern High Plains. Recently, the Quanah Parker Trail project recognized the Comanche-named significant site with the installation of a 24-foot arrow. The addition of a granite marker and formal dedication will follow on August 27.

In her quest to protect and preserve the Tahoka Lake Pasture, Ms. May and her family have formed a non-profit foundation named the J.C. Calm

Foundation, Inc. Ms. Clyde May has devoted much of her life to seeking the means to preserve this incredible historic site and ranch belonging to her family, which has never been turned by a plow. The foundation already has initiated several projects that will work to educate, conserve, preserve and promote ecotourism of the site. Researchers from the Lubbock Lake Landmark Quaternary Research Center under the direction of Dr. Eileen Johnson have confirmed by analyzing layers of strata surrounding the lake, the presence of soil types, animals and plants dating to . . . 36,000 years before the present (BP). As a part of that effort, a research team from the Lubbock Lake Landmark of Texas Tech University has identified a hunter-gatherer campsite that overlooks the lake and is seeking local volunteers to help with an excavation effort to take place May 9-13.



Barbara Brannon addresses those at the Quanah Parker Trail Arrow installation October 18 at Tahoka Lake Pasture

Other artifacts have been found indicating visits by Apaches and the Comanches. Euro-Americans followed, among them the buffalo hunters, the U.S. Cavalry, Pastores, cattlemen and now -- us. The Tahoka Lake Pasture has been the "stage" for the whole parade of humanity since ancient times. However, modern pressures to develop the site as a commercial source of minerals remain omnipresent and so the land that has never been turned by a plow is under constant threat of being totally excavated.

Anyone interested in donating to the foundation, visiting the site or assisting with any of the projects at the Tahoka Lake Pasture can call Clyde May at 806-327-5434.

## A TEEN'S WILD RIDE IN HENRIETTA [TX] IN THE 1890'S

The Clay County 1890 Jail Museum archives houses several personal letters that paint a vivid picture of one teen age young lady growing up in the frontier town of Henrietta in the 1890's. The letter was written by Mrs. Ethel Goodenough Kelley, when she was 82 years old, to an old classmate, Cliff Easley of Waurika, Oklahoma, in 1962. She wrote:

*Thinking of Tinker (her horse) recalls to my mind many incidents we shared together so many years ago, one of which was a very, very wild ride on a very hot July 4th morning. I had just had my 13th birthday and was supposed to leave my Tom-Boy ways behind and be a dignified young lady, so it being a holiday I donned my black riding habit and the black derby hat I wore with it. Besides being quite stylish, its heavy weight and tight fit served to take care of the mop of thick, unruly hair I had in those days and which would never stay put unless crammed into this derby.*

*And so Tinker and I started out on an errand for Aunt Bill. Seemingly all was well with the world, but as we passed the Satterfield house, (in the north part of Henrietta) young Henry, a beastly brat, threw a giant firecracker at us. It exploded right under Tinker, who leaped into the air and lit running faster than any horse ever ran before or after. Everything scattered in front of us as we roared thru town and out the main road west. I remember passing the Carver place and then we were going down Weddington Hill, not a road at that time, just a rocky trail between boulders, hard for a team to negotiate in a walk. I never expected to get to the bottom of that hill; miraculously we did. The soft dirt road seemed like heaven and our ride ended at a section house I don't know how much farther on. It may still be there.*

*Tinker was covered with sweat, lather and red clay dust and shaking like a leaf, ready to take off again. It took a lot of soothing talk to get him pacified into a prancing, trembling walk.*

*Then down the road from the hill came another horse and rider, not in a run as we came, but pretty fast. It was Tex Rickard, known at that time as Dink. The city council had hired him for city marshal for \$25.00 per month plus a blue uniform with brass buttons, which he wore proudly and in which he cut quite a dashing figure.*

*His face was vexed with anger as well as exertion and he yelled at me, 'Here you! Whata you mean riding thru our town in a dead run! You mighta killed a dozen people! Teams bolted and a wagon tipped over!*

*Streets full of folks enjoyin' the 4th! Don't you know it's a holiday?'*

*'I didn't run thru your town on purpose. I was only just going along. Better jump on Old Man Satterfield. One of his brats thru a giant cracker under Tinker. We went straight up and he started getting out of the way of the heel flies fast, and if I went down Main Street it was because I couldn't turn him; he had the bit, Mister. We were lucky. I thought we'd be killed on that awful hill. Now my derby is gone, hair in a tangled mess, skirt in shreds from mesquite thorns. I look like the wrath of God and feel worse and you threaten us! You should be grateful!'*

*'You what?' he yelled. 'Yes, Mrs. Yantis said I did save your life the day you were shut up in her bedroom closet and Mr. Yantis—'*

*The Ben Yantis were our close next door neighbors for years. Mr. Yantis was from a rich milling family, the men all drunkards or near, and Ben was the worst, so they staked him to a flour mill in Tex and told him to sink or swim --- no more dough.*

*He married the cook in a boarding house where he stayed, older than he, very ugly and the typical household drudge. She took care of her drunken husband and their son, went no where except occasionally to church. That was her life.*

*He was a sullen, dangerous man who had nothing whatever to do with anyone... he walked stiffly down the street, seeing no one, speaking to none. When drunk he headed for his favorite saloon and the gamblers who hung around waiting for him to get stewed enough to start throwing his money away.*

*He paid cash for his wheat, never gave a check, drew out a large sum in currency from the bank and kept it in his safe for the wheat as it came in. So when sufficiently stewed he filled his pockets with bills and made connection with his pals. Now Mrs. Yantis, though ignorant, had plenty of business sense. She knew the mill couldn't run without money, so her problem was getting him home, when on these bats, before the money was gone.*

*The doctor had given her some kind of dope to put in his coffee in these emergencies. He would sleep for hours. She would restore the money to the mill safe, and business would proceed as usual. I don't think he ever questioned how the money got back.*

*"This day the miller sent word Ben had drawn the total balance out of the bank, had it on him and was headed for town, and to get him home --- somehow and quick, else the mill would have to close. She caught Aunt Bill (Ethel's step mother who was the telegraph operator) on the way to her office and begged her to find*

*Dink Rickard and send him down to her house pronto. She must talk to him and plan some*

*way to get Ben home. Aunt Bill found Dink. He came, and as they were talking, they heard someone at the back door. Mrs. Yantis was petrified; she pushed Dink into her bedroom closet and closed the door, sure that Ben had come home, but it was one of the mill hands on an errand. She ran back into her room but couldn't get the closet door open. Frantic, she went to the west window and down the street toward town, she saw Ben weaving home. She knew he was armed and very, very drunk.*

*I was in our side yard facing her house. She saw me and called, 'Ben's down the road apiece, on his way home and drunk!! I've got Dink Rickard shut up in my closet and please stop Ben at the gate; he'll kill Dink! Take him over to your house; do anything quick!!'*

*I raced to their gate, got Mr. Yantis by the arm and screamed, 'Help, help! A snake! A big one! Mr. Yantis, come quick! It's in the kitchen; you have a gun and can kill it! Oh, please come, do something, oh ---' and I literally pulled him across the yard and into the kitchen where I hunted in vain, into the dining and living room, and into my bedroom --- no snake. But I continued to move furniture and open drawers until I had to give up. Mr. Yantis had staggered around with the gun in his hand and a queer half smile on his face, instead of the usual black scowl. Maybe he was in a way happy --- Someone else was seeing snakes and for once he wasn't. He made no comment. Just reeled back home.*

*Later Mrs. Yantis told me that together she and Dink broke the latch on the closet door and Dink 'escaped' through the kitchen and back alley --- safely. No one suspected the near tragedy. but she told me I had saved Dink Rickard's life and I guess I did, but I bet neither in the Klondike or his Goldfield gambling house he ever came as near death --- and as innocently --- nor in any of his other exploits."*

*Now thinking about the Satterfields, old man Sam was the meanest man in north Texas, it was said. He had a general store in the block where Worsham's old bank was so long; I believe it was the same building. He sold everything---literally. And collected too. Old man Squires got badly in debt to him and Sam was riding him hard. Squires was a hard drinker, so his wife and boys, Fred and Deb, decided they would do something about it--- and they did. After being warned what would happen when and if he came home drunk again, he showed up one day loaded to the gills, fell on the bed and passed out. His family simply sewed him up in the sheet; then the boys cut strong switches from a tree and proceeded to give him a real thrashing. He couldn't do anything about it. He couldn't get (continued on page three)*

# NEWS FROM THE REGION

**T. Lindsay Baker**, Tarleton State University history professor, recently was elected to membership as an Associate Fellow of the Center for Great Plains Studies at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

**Norm Brown** recently published a history of Sheppard Air Force Base via Arcadia Press. He's had a series of presentations and book signings at the Museum of North Texas and with the Westerners group in Wichita Falls. He also did a signing in Post City.

**Paul Carlson**, professor emeritus of history at Texas Tech, writes or edits each contribution in *Caprock Chronicles* in the "Lubbock Avalanche-Journal" which is a yearlong series of short articles that examines the life, people and historical places of West Texas.

**Arnoldo De Leon**, a member of Angelo State University's history faculty for 42 years retired in June 2015. He was honored by friends and colleagues last November for his pioneering work in the field of Latino-American history.

**Bill O'Neal** was presented the A.C. Greene Distinguished Author Award of 2015 at last September's West Texas Book Festival in Abilene. Bill is the State Historian of Texas.

**Gene Preuss** reports that his book, [A Kineno's Journey](#), on former Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos for the past three years is moving toward completion at Texas Tech University Press. It is expected out in the Summer of 2016.

## In Memory:

**L. Patrick Hughes**, 66, died on January 29, 2016 in Austin, Texas at the age of 66. Hughes was born on September 21, 1949 in San Antonio, Texas. He graduated from The University of Texas in 1975 with a Master of Arts in History and taught at the Austin Community College (ACC) as a professor of history from 1977 until his retirement 35 years later. He was a member of various historical organizations including the East Texas and the West Texas Historical Associations, and the Texas Folklore Society.

**Harry Franklin Snapp**, 84, of Denton, died October 12, 2015. Snapp was an active member of various historical groups including the Texas State Historical Association, Panhandle-Plains Historical Society, and the West Texas Historical Association. He was born October 15, 1930, in Bryan, Texas. He held a Ph.D. from Tulane University (1963). He taught British history at the University of North Texas for 31 years (1963-1994).

**Sherry Robinson** presented "Apache Voices" during a presentation in the Silver City, NM Museum Annex on Dec. 7. A New Mexico journalist and author, Sherry's book, "I Fought

a Good Fight: A History of the Lipan Apaches," received the Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez Award from the Historical Society of New Mexico in 2014.

**Margaret Waring** recently announced her retirement from the Comanche Public Library. She devoted 56 great years of service to the community, state and region both as a librarian, historian, colleague, and darn good friend.

## PLACES

The State of Texas officially recognized **William H. Hamblin Highway** as an official Memorial Highway of the State of Texas. Stretching through Palo Duro Canyon along an old Indian trail William H. Hamblin started the road project in the late 1920s as a means of linking the north and south sections of Armstrong County and to attract interest to the region. The highway was eventually incorporated into SH 207.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**Janet Saiers**, Historical Society of New Mexico President, invited attendees to the "four corners" for its first ever meeting April 14-16 in Farmington. She advises that the program brochure is on the web site at [www.hsnm.org](http://www.hsnm.org) under the conference tab and that they have lowered the registration fee by \$20 from the 2015 conference.

## AWARDS:

**WTHA Student Scholarship** \$750. This scholarship is for high school seniors and undergraduate college students with a proven interest in West Texas history and historical research. Preference is given to college students who have a declared history major. Submissions should be sent to Scholarship Committee, WTHA/Southwest Collection, Box 41041, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas 79409. Interested students should download an application form ([wtha.org](http://wtha.org)) and submit it by April 15. Applicants must have a minimum of a 3.0 (B) grade point average and provide a current transcript to the scholarship committee. For additional requirements go to [WTHA.org](http://WTHA.org). Funds for this award come exclusively from donations and proceeds of the Silent Auction. For more information email [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@ttu.edu).

## WTHA 2015 Awards

Ernest Wallace Graduate Research Grant.  
**Joel Zapata** of SMU.

Elmer Kelton Fiction Book Award. **Patrick Dearen** for [The Big Drift](#) published by TCU Press.

Fellows Award. **Suzanne Campbell** (San Angelo), **Sylvia Mahoney** (Fort Worth), and **J. Travis Roberts, Jr** (Marathon).

Rupert N. Richardson Award for the Best Book on West Texas History. **Alvin Lynn** for [Kit Carson and the First Battle of Adobe Walls: A Tale of Two Journeys](#) (Grover E. Murray Studies in the American Southwest) published by Texas Tech Press.

Mrs. Percy Jones Award for the Best Article in Volume 90 of the Review to **Alex Hunt** of West Texas A&M University for "The McCorkle Debacle: A JA Land Fraud Case."

The R. C. Crane West Texas Heritage Service Award went to Historic Scurry County, Inc.

Tillapaugh Public History Award for Excellence went to the Quanah Parker Trail Project.

## NEW BOOK

The Runnels County Historical Commission (RCHC) is releasing [Schools of Runnels County](#), the second book on the history of Runnels County and the third book published by the RCHC in recent years. Ruth Cooper was the co-inaugural winner of the WTHA R. C. Crane Heritage Award, who with Randall Conner compiled the new publication with considerable help from numerous contributors. Contact: [jrc@abilene.com](mailto:jrc@abilene.com) or [rconner@wtxs.net](mailto:rconner@wtxs.net).

## "Wild Ride" cont. -----

*loose---all he could do was to roll around in his sheet and swear to reform if they would just let up.*

*His bed was next to a window at the front of the house and while all this commotion was going on a dray drove up and unloaded a coffin on the front porch!! The driver left a note and beat it. And the old man threshing around in his sheet saw it and began to shriek, 'No, no, no! I ain't dead yet; take it away, take it AWAY! I ain't dead!'*

*The family, of course, was astounded and horrified. They read the note; it went something like this: 'Bill Squires, your account is way past due. You told me you would pay in full Monday morning early, which is today---if you were alive. It's now 4 o'clock and you haven't showed up. I presume you are dead or dying. I am sending a coffin which will stay on your porch till you finish dying. Then I'll collect from your estate...Sam Satterfield.*

*The boys brought the note to Father (the mayor), who fixed it up with Sam. And the coffin was removed. The beating and the coffin were just co-incidental but---old man Squires reformed."*

Transcribed, edited, submitted, and permission to publish given by Ms. Lucille Glasgow of the Clay County 1890 Jail Museum in Henrietta. For more information on the museum go to <http://www.claycountyjailmuseum.com/>

## SECOND ANNUAL WEST TEXAS TRAILS MEETING

A second successful West Texas Trails meeting took place October 23-24 in Matador and Quitaque prompting the creation of a steering committee led by Bob Saul of Fort Worth to formally organize a non-profit organization committed to tracking, researching, and preserving the human traces upon the West Texas, eastern New Mexico and Oklahoma Panhandle landscape. The annual meeting featured Dr. Alex Hunt of West Texas A&M University as the keynote speaker. The program historians such as Dr. Scott White of the National Ranching Heritage Center, Mr. Jim Brokenbeck (Amarillo), Dr. Frances Ferris (Wayside), Ms. LeAnn Pigg (Caprock Canyons State Park), and Dr. Shelly Armitage (Vega). The conference was sponsored by the Comanchero Canyons Museum in Quitaque with support from the West Texas Historical Association.

Approximately 15 people joined the organizing committee to formulate a plan for filing paperwork to obtain non-profit status, setting membership dues, and setting the location for the 2016 meeting which will be held on October 15 in historic Old Mobeetie. Steering Committee members included Drew Bullard (Snyder), Leland Turner (Wichita Falls), Bob Saul (Fort Worth), Carol Campbell (Matador), Jim Brokenbeck (Amarillo), Holle Humphries (Lubbock), Barbara Brannon (Lubbock), Robert Hall (Pittsburg), Jim Crownover (New Deal), Ada Lester (Mobeetie), Marisue Potts (Mott Creek Ranch) and Duane Johnson (Crowell). For more information on the 2016 meeting contact Ada Lester at [allester@windstream.net](mailto:allester@windstream.net) or 806-631-1421. For more information about the organization go to <http://westtexastrails.com/>.



Dr. Alex Hunt at the West Texas Trails Meeting, Quitaque, Texas

## Borden County Heritage Day

Borden County will be celebrating 125 years with living history events June 10-11 at the county's event center and downtown at the museum in Gail. Events include an 1880-rules baseball game on Friday and a Comanche blessing of the Quanah Parker arrow at 9 am, followed by a variety of activities until 5 pm. Jody Nix and the Texas Cowboys will play for a dance in the event center from 8 pm to midnight. All activities are free except the dance. For more information email Lisa Mahler at [lmkm@suddenlink.net](mailto:lmkm@suddenlink.net).

## Mason County Annual Symposium

The Mason County Historical Commission's Annual Historical Symposium will be held at 2 pm on the the historic Seaquist House grounds at 405 Broad in Mason, Texas. A history of the Seaquist House and the Broad, Reynolds and Seaquist Families will be highlighted. Speakers include: Scott Zesch and Descendants of the Seaquist House Families. Following the program, there will be tours of the house, and a book sale featuring

publications highlighting Texas and Mason County history. For more information contact Jan Appleby, Chair of the Mason County Historical Commission, at [janell@ctesc.net](mailto:janell@ctesc.net).

## New Book Issued by SAGH

The San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc. announced the publication of its Winter/Spring 2016 Stalkin' Kin In Old West Texas. The publication features noteworthy historical articles, genealogical tips and abstracted records. To inquire about it and other publications contact SAGH at [www.SAGHS-Tx.org](http://www.SAGHS-Tx.org) or email [SAGHS.inc@gmail.com](mailto:SAGHS.inc@gmail.com)

## Red River War Summit

The Red River War Summit June 26-27, in Wheeler, Texas will develop a strategic plan to further preserve and enhance the historic, cultural, and tourism legacy of this event. The county historical commissions and the museums of the upper 26 counties of the Texas Panhandle, the Panhandle Tourism and Marketing Council, the Texas Plains Trail Region, and the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum are among those that have already stepped forward in preliminary discussions. Stressing the extra regional and interstate breadth of this project, public history groups and organizations from Oklahoma and New Mexico have been contacted as well. These include Crosby County Historical Commission, the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Fort Supply Historic Site (OK), and Fort Union National Monument (NM). Other groups, organizations, historians (both profession and citizen) and the public are encouraged to participate. For more information contact Ms. Ada Lester at [allester@windstream.net](mailto:allester@windstream.net) or call 806-631-1421.

### THE CYCLONE

*A Newsletter for members of the West Texas Historical Association*  
Published twice a year by the West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas. Browse back issues of The Cyclone at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org)

### WEB PAGE

*A Website for members of the West Texas Historical Association*  
Editor: Lynn Whitfield

The site lists association news, conference updates, and membership forms for new members. Members are encouraged to submit professional and organization news and photographs. Please send those to [Lynn.Whitfield@ttu.edu](mailto:Lynn.Whitfield@ttu.edu) or [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@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 [wes.sheffield@wtha.org](mailto:wes.sheffield@wtha.org)

### MEMBERSHIP

Members receive *The West Texas Historical Review*, published each fall, containing articles, news notes, and book reviews about West Texas history. Annual membership fees are \$10 for students, \$30 regular, \$35 family, \$50 sustaining, \$25 institutional/library. All back issues of the *Year Book*, published since 1925, are available for \$15 each.

New members can join electronically at [www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org) or they can obtain information at [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@ttu.edu).