Trans-Pecos Wagon Trail Tour
West Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting
April 3, 2014, Odessa, Texas

Come join us for the Thursday tour

**Horsehead Crossing** is a ford on the Pecos River, Crane County, Texas. Historically it was major landmark on the trail west as one of a few fordable sections of the Pecos in West Texas, and as a first source of water for about 75 miles on the wagon and stage route from the east. Elmer Kelton used *Horsehead Crossing* as subject and title of one of his Tales of Texas books (July 1, 1988). Several other books on the West and West Texas including *Crossing Rio Pecos* (Chisholm Trail Series) by Patrick Dearen (1996) have used Horsehead Crossing as part of their material. Legend says that when Maximillian was toppled in 1867, his wealth was packed up for overland shipment to Galveston, where it would be sent to Austria. The treasure train was ambushed at the historic Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos River in West Texas by six former Confederate soldiers. They killed the teamsters, buried the loot and headed back east. Five were soon killed in an Indian attack, and the sixth, stopped briefly at Fort Concho to treat an illness, where he told the story. Do you think that is true?

**Castle Gap** in Crane County, Texas

Peggy Kelton, President of the Permian Historical Society, who is hosting the tour explained—“I HOPE to leave Odessa early in the morning, 7:30 or 8:00 go West on I-20 past Penwell to Hwy 1053 and turn South, travel through the large & impressive always shifting sand hills on through Imperial, crossing the Pecos River and coming to the marked crossing. After Patrick's [Dearen] explanation we will trek on to the Historic Girvin School house which has been saved & is used for special occasions & have our Cowboy Lunch prepared by real cowboys in Dutch Ovens (cowboy stew, cornbread, biscuits, cobbler, coffee & tea.) Rest Rooms available. Eat outside or inside according to the weather and the wishes of the crowd. On to Hwy 67 with perhaps a quick stop at the Girvin Social Club, take photos & hear a short history then on to McCamey then Crane with stop at the Museum. We can do this is a day if we keep . . . moving . . . I will crack my whip.” --We will be ready Peggy.

**Museum of the Desert Southwest**—Crane, Texas; **Mendoza Trail Museum**—McCamey. Crane and McCamey, Texas are due south of Odessa, Texas. We will stop in Crane and McCamey for visits to the respective museums. These stops and the entire tour has been arranged and sponsored by the Permian Historical Society.

After the tour, Thursday Evening attend the “early-bird” reception at the hotel.