On the cover: Union Station, Wichita Falls, Texas 1953. Located near Eighth and Ohio, it cost $100,000 to build in 1910. (Photo courtesy of Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University)

In 1876 M. W. Seeley mapped out Wichita Falls on a tract of land near the Wichita River. The site was named for a five-foot waterfall that subsequently washed away. Seeley envisioned prosperity from steamboats on the river and warehouses laden with cotton. Wichita Falls did grow to become a transportation and supply center for Northwest Texas and southern Oklahoma, but it was railroads and oil that made this happen.

Shortly after the turn of the century oil was discovered outside the city, in Clay County, and by 1913 the North Texas fields were producing forty-six percent of all the oil in Texas. Refineries began to appear in Wichita Falls, and by 1915 there were nine refineries and forty-seven factories within the city. The boom was on!

Refinery activity was at an all-time low in 1962 when the city's leaders moved to diversify the economy by attracting other types of industry. The economic base shifted to manufacturing and commercial activity, Sheppard Air Force Base, and county government.

The doors of Wichita Falls Junior College opened in September, 1922. Operated by the Wichita Falls ISD, it was the second municipal junior college in Texas. In 1937 the junior college moved to a new campus on Taft Blvd. and opened under a new name, Hardin Junior College. It became Hardin College in 1946 when junior and senior years were added. In 1950 the school became Midwestern University and post-graduate degrees were offered. The last name change, to Midwestern State University, came in 1975.

One of the largest tornadoes on record hit Wichita Falls on April 10, 1979. The storm destroyed more than twenty percent of the dwellings in town and damaged many commercial buildings, however, recovery was rapid and within three years most of the damage was repaired.
Midwestern University, circa 1950. In 1975 it became Midwestern State University. (Photo courtesy of Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University)

Exhibitors – Cheyenne Meeting Room (CSC 171*)
National Ranching Heritage Center
Texas Oral History Association
Book Club of Texas
Southwest Collection
Texas Tech University Press

2001 Program Committee
Janet Neugebauer, Lubbock, Chair
Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., Wichita Falls
Troy M. Solis, Alpine

Local Arrangements
Harry Hewitt, Wichita Falls
David Gaines, Wichita Falls

*All locations are in the Clark Student Center—CSC
Friday, March 30, 2001

12:30 p.m.  Registration. Continues until 5:00 p.m. and will open again from 8:30-10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

Atrium-West Entry (CSC 160)

1:00 p.m.  Silent Auction Viewing and Bidding. Auction items will be on display and available for bidding until 5:00 p.m. on Friday and from 8:30 until 10:00 A.M. on Saturday.

Clark Hospitality Room (CSC 161)

Session 1
1:15 – 2:30

West Texas Personalities

Monte Monroe, Texas Tech University, presiding

Wichita Meeting Room (CSC 172/177)

R. C. Crane: One of West Texas' Greatest Lay Historians, Rick Bates, Ft. Worth

Sheriff Gerome Shield, All Fists, No Gunpowder, Barbara Barton, Knickerbocker

Henry C. 'Hank' Smith: A Study of a South Plains Capitalist, 1900-1912, M. Scott Sosebee, Texas Tech University (Student Essay Award Winner)

Session 2
1:15 – 2:30

West Texas in the Imagination

Kregg Fehr, Lubbock Christian University, presiding

Kiowa Ex-Students Dining Room (CSC 162)

Origins in Art Traditions of West Texas and the South Plains, Holle Humphries, University of Texas

Transcending the Moment: Local Texas Poetry Chronicling History, Becky Davidson, Texas Tech University

Tommy Hancock and Family: Musical Legends of West Texas, Robert G. Weiner, Mahon Library, Lubbock

2:30 p.m.  Break
Session 3
2:45 – 4:00
Distant Voices From the Banks of the Wichita
Lynn Whitfield, Texas Tech University, presiding

*The Wichita Indians in Southern Plains History: Identification and Historiography*, Earl Elam, Granbury

*For Gallantry in Action: James B. Dosher and the Battle of the Little Wichita*, Michael L. Collins, Midwestern State University

*Beneath Arrowhead’s Waters: The Story of Halsell, Texas*, Lucille Glasgow, assisted by Mildred Wines and Leda Roe, Henrietta

Session 4
2:45 – 4:00
The New and Old Hispanic Heritage of West Texas
Troy Solis, Sul Ross State University, presiding

*The Culture of Candelilla*, JoAnn Pospisil, Baylor College of Medicine Archives

*Brewster County, Texas and its Courthouse*, J. Travis Roberts, Jr., Marathon

*Becoming Raiders Rojos: Using Sports to Claim Hispanic ‘Space’ at Texas Tech University*, Jorge Iber, Texas Tech University

Session 5
4:00 – 5:15
A Tribute to Lawrence Clayton
Darlene Bellinghausen, presiding

*Lawrence Clayton’s Perspective on Western Fiction*, Lou Rodenberger, Baird

*Lawrence Clayton: A Cowboy’s Historian*, B. W. Aston, Hardin-Simmons University

*Lawrence Clayton: A Man of Vision*, Kenneth Davis, Texas Tech University
6:15 – 6:45 President’s Reception Honoring
Comanche
Suites (CSC 135)

Banquet
7:00 p.m.
President Clint Chambers, presiding
Speaker – Kenneth Davis, Texas Tech University,
Local Lore and History: What the Tale Tells Us

Saturday, March 31, 2001

8:30 a.m. Registration
Atrium- West Entry (CSC 160)

8:30-10:00 Silent Auction Viewing and Bidding
Clark Hospitality Room (CSC 161)

Session 6
8:30- 10:00 Association
Shawnee Theater (CSC 138)
Archie P. McDonald, Director, ETHA, presiding
East Texas Folklore, F. E. Abernethy, Texas Folklore Society
The Spindletop Discovery and Its Impact, Jo Ann Stiles, Lamar University
Lumbering in East Texas, Carol Riggs, Texas Forestry Museum

Session 7
8:30 – 10:00 Tilling His Roots: Elmer Kelton in Context
Wichita Meeting Room
Harwood P. Hinton, Austin, presiding
Always Another Chance: Elmer Kelton’s Development of Characters and Themes through His Short Stories, Jim Matthews, San Antonio
Gypwater and Lacy Mesquite: Gendered Views of West Texas in the Fiction of Elmer Kelton and Jane Rushing, Becky Matthews, San Antonio College

Rotten Hay from a Rotten Government, Lewis Toland, New Mexico Military Institute

Session 8
8:30 – 10:00

Weaving Pioneers, Populists, and Politics into the Fabric of West Texas

Garry Nall, West Texas A&M University, presiding

The Sharecropper Frontier, Preston Lewis, Angelo State University

West Texas and Civil Rights Ordinances, Martin Kuhlman, West Texas A&M University

The Last Populist: George W. Armstrong, the Texas Election of 1932 and the ‘Zionist’ Threat to Liberty and Constitutional Government, Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., Midwestern State University

10:00 – 10:15

Break

Session 9
10:15 – 11:30

Texas Oil: Past, Present, and Future

Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., Midwestern State University, presiding

It’s Not Your Father’s Oil Industry Anymore, Roger Olien, University of Texas at Permian Basin.

Today in the Oil Patch, Kent Cassity, Cassity Oil, Wichita Falls.

The Future of the Oil and Gas Industry on the Great Plains, Diana Olien, University of Texas at Permian Basin.
Luncheon  *Historians as Heroes*, Clint Chambers, WTHA President, Awards and Business Meeting

Comanche Suites (CSC 135)

**Notes and Comments:**
Membership in the WTHA entitles you to the most recent issue of the *YEAR BOOK* which has been published annually for over 76 years.

Membership also includes a subscription to the Cyclone, the WTHA newsletter. Distributed twice yearly, this publication highlights current events and acquisitions at museums, archives, and libraries located throughout West Texas. You will also be able to keep abreast of WTHA members and their current activities and interests.

As a member, you will be encouraged to attend WTHA’s Annual Meeting, held each spring, and featuring a number of outstanding historians and writers.

**NOTE:** All membership dues are payable on November 1, each year. Any dues paid between November of one year and October of the following year will be applied to that fiscal year unless otherwise specified by the member.
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On exhibit through June 13, 2001
at the National Ranching Heritage Center

3121 4th Street, Lubbock, Texas
Mon. – Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1-5 p.m.
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