

**A Short Schedule of Events for the 90<sup>th</sup> meeting of WTHA in Odessa, Texas:**

**Thursday Afternoon, April 3, 2014**

- 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM Trans-Pecos “Wagon Trail” tour guided by noted WTHA historian and award-winning author Patrick Dearen includes stops at the beautiful sand dunes north of Imperial, Texas, historic Horsehead Crossing, Girvin schoolhouse, Girvin Social Club, McCamey’s Mendoza Trail Museum, Crane’s Museum of the Desert Southwest, and a photo op of Castle Gap. The trip includes a real cowboy lunch. Registration is necessary.
- 6:00 – 8:00 PM Evening Reception at the MCM Grande (conference hotel). Registration required.
- 7:30 PM WTHA Board Meeting in Ballroom C

**Friday, April 4, 2014**

- 8:00 AM – 5 PM Registration – Lobby Area at the MCM Grande Hotel, Odessa, Texas.
- 8:300 AM – 11:30 AM Sessions – see schedule
- 1130 AM – 1:00 PM **Women’s History Luncheon** or lunch on your own. For more information on the Women’s History Luncheon please consult the program. Registration necessary.
- 1:00 PM – 5:15 PM Sessions – see schedule
- 6:30 – 8:30 PM **Banquet and Reception** at the Petroleum Museum just up the road towards Midland. The Petroleum Museum has graciously extended the gallery hours to accommodate our group. Bus transportation will depart from the east entrance of the hotel at 6:15 pm.
- 7:30 – 8:30 PM **Evening Speaker** – Texas State Historian Bill O’Neal will regale us with his encounter with citizen historians and public history in his two years as the Lone Star historian.

**Saturday, April 5, 2013**

- 9:00 AM – Noon Registration – Lobby Area at the MCM Grande Hotel, Odessa, Texas.
- 9:00 AM – Noon Sessions – see schedule
- 12:00—1:30 PM Luncheon – Awards and Business meeting, Room B- ballroom of the MCM Grande Hotel.
- 2:30 – 7:00 PM. Odessa Tour, includes supper, and an evening program. Tour stops includes the Tom Lea mural—Stampede, The White-Pool House Museum, the Parker Ranch House Museum, the Presidential Museum and Leadership Center, the Ellen Noel Art Museum, and Odessa’s Stonehenge. Transportation provided and registration necessary.

**WTHA 2014 CONVENTION NEWS THAT YOU CAN USE**

**WHERE:** All sessions (Rooms A, 3-4 and 1) and the Saturday luncheon (**Room B-ballroom**) will be held in **MCM Grande Hotel in Odessa, Texas**. The Friday evening Banquet will be held at the Commemorative Air Force Museum. Transportation available.

**EXHIBITORS:** Some exhibitors have already registered (please see program). Interested vendors should call and reserve their table with **Freedonia Paschall @ 806/742-3749 or email: Freedonia.Paschall@ttu.edu**. Book exhibitors will be located in the lobby near the WTHA registration desk in the MCM Grande Hotel.

**SILENT AUCTION:** A silent auction will be held in the MCM Grande (Room 171). Members interested in donating items please send to Freedonia Paschall, WTHA, TTU, P. O. 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409. **Auction closes at 10 AM Saturday, book pickup at 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM** on Saturday

**THURSDAY - April 4, 2013:** “Trans-Pecos “Wagon Trail” tour. Tour will depart at 8 AM from the east entrance of the MCM Grande. (see above for more information)

**BANQUET - Friday, April 4:** The banquet will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 PM at the Commemorative Air Force Museum. (transportation available).

**SATURDAY LUNCHEON AND BUSINESS MEETING: 12:00 PM – 1:30 PM.** The Saturday Luncheon will be held in the Room B- ballroom of the MCM Grande Hotel.

**Saturday Afternoon and evening** – Odessa tour , supper, and additional program (see above)

**HOTEL: MCM Grande of Odessa** (432-362-2311). \$109 per night. Rates are available for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. **Tell them that you are with the West Texas Historical Association to get the preferred rate. Deadline – March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.** For more information go to <http://mcmgrandeodessa.com>. Robert Hall, WTHA Annual Conference [Coordinator—robert.j.hall@ttu.edu](mailto:Coordinator—robert.j.hall@ttu.edu)

Hotel address:

6201 E. Business 20

Odessa, Texas 79762

Toll free phone # 866-362-2311

## 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.

**West Texas Historical Association Tour  
Saturday Afternoon April 5, 2014 Odessa Meeting  
Transportation Included**



**Gaze upon Tom Lea's WPA mural-- *Stampede***

*We was camping on the Pecos when the wind began to blow,  
And we doubled up the guard to hold them tight,  
When the storm came roaring from the north with thunder  
And with rain,  
And the herd stampeded off into the night. From "Little Joe the Wrangler"*



**Tour the White-Pool House Museum.**



**Visit the Parker House Ranch Museum**



**Be inspired by the Presidential Museum and Leadership Library**



**Reflect on art in the Ellen Noel Art Museum**



**Play with Stonehenge**



**... or watch the sunrise.**



**Dine and Be Entertained at the Barn Door and Pecos Depot Steakhouse**

**Tom Lea's WPA Mural—Stampede.** Painted by the well-known El Paso artist, Tom Lea, for the Odessa, Texas Post Office, it was completed in 1940 as one of the New Deal projects. This immense oil on canvas mural measures 5 ½ by 16 feet and simply has to be seen in person to be fully appreciated. The lightning streak against a coal black sky with the worked-up herd moving underneath is spellbinding.

**The Parker Ranch House Museum** is Odessa's newest addition to the historical records of Odessa. In 1935, the Jim and Bessie Parker family moved into this modest house. It represents the lifestyle of a prominent ranching family, who served the communities of Andrews and Ector counties since 1907. This restored modest house was once the headquarters of a ranch that took over 175 sections in Andrews and Ector Counties. Owned by the Parkers from the 1930s to the 1950s, this home features exhibits regarding the life and times of this family.

**White-Pool House Museum** stands as the oldest remaining structure in Odessa, Texas that was built in 1887, restored in 1979-1984. Rooms in the house are interpreted in two major periods: The 1880's "Pioneer Era" representing the time of occupancy by the White family, and the 1930's "Oil Boom Era", representing the time of occupancy by the Pool family. The museum complex features an Eclipse windmill and wood tank, barn replica, farm out-buildings, and an outhouse of handmade blocks from 1887. The barn also houses a permanent collection of horse drawn equipment. The White-Pool House was donated to Ector County for historical preservation in 1978. The White-Pool House Friends, a non-profit organization was formed in 1986 to preserve the historic heritage of the house and buildings on the grounds. The outside walls are red brick with plaster masonry over wooden lattice boards inside. The rock-lined cellar is made of native caliche rock found on the West Texas Prairie.

**The Presidential Museum and the Leadership Library** is unique among the presidential libraries in that it is dedicated to the Office of the President rather than an individual president. Originally open in 1964 in downtown Odessa the museum moved to the campus of the University of Texas, Permian Basin in 1999. The Hall of Presidents gallery offers visitors an opportunity to view objects related to individual presidents. The collections of artifacts include campaign memorabilia of presidents and presidential hopefuls. Also shown is the intricate Dishong collection of First Lady inaugural gown miniature replicas. The Library of the Presidents contains more than 3,500 volumes of subjects relating to the presidents and the office of the presidency. Students, scholars and the general public invited to use the reference facility for research.

**The Ellen Noel Art Museum** is the cultural oasis of Odessa since its opening in 1985 as the Art Institute for the Permian Basin. The Ellen Noël Art Museum of the Permian Basin is the culmination by Odessans to build a fine arts museum. The Museum was renamed to honor the leadership and philanthropy of Mrs. Ellen W. Noël. The American Association of Museums accredits the Museum. With 22,120 square feet of gallery and office space, including a storage wing for the growing permanent collection the Museum has three impressive galleries of varying sizes and configurations that allow for exhibitions of varied works, each in its own unique setting. Admission to the galleries is free.

**Stonehenge.** Built in 2004 by creative Odessans the impressive Stonehenge replica stands on the eastern edge of the UTPB campus. Formed by 20 stone blocks it is nearly full-scale with only the height of the stone blocks a tad shorter than the originals. The tallest original stone measures 22 feet with the replica only measuring 19. Purportedly one of the creators of the stonehenge in Odessa said "The stones are free, you take what you can get."

**Barn Door and Pecos Depot Steakhouse.** Tour members will have dinner at one of Odessa's favorite places to eat with entertain tailored especially for the WTHA members. A ghost story no less.