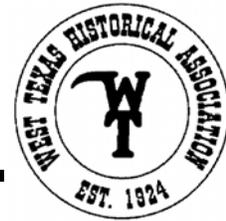




# THE CYCLONE



## Tours Accent San Angelo Meeting



Association members tour Fort Chadbourne.

The West Texas Historical Association held its seventy-ninth annual meeting at Angelo State University in San Angelo on April 5-6. The meeting featured several special tours including San Angelo's historic Concho Avenue, Fort

Concho and nearby Fort Chadbourne. Fort Concho hosted the Friday night banquet where speaker Mike Cox presented "Scraping the Layers off the Battle of Paint Rock Story."

The Best Student Essay Award went to Dana Magill for "William Harrison Bledsoe and the Founding of Texas Tech University" while Lou Rodenberger received the Mrs. Percy Jones Award for Best Article in the *Year Book* with "West Texas Pioneer Women: 'The Wilder, Stronger Breed.'" The Rupert N. Richardson Award for the best book on West Texas history was presented to Jim Pfluger for *Pitchfork Country: The Photography of Bob Moorhouse*. The R.C. Crane Award for best creative work on West Texas went to Preston Lewis for *They Call Me Old Blue*. The association awarded two research grants: the Ernest Wallace grant to Dana Magill and the W.C. Holden grant to Jim Matthews.

Tom Crum of Granbury was elected president of WTHA for 2002 with Kenneth Davis of Lubbock as vice-president. New board members are John Meadows of Austin, Marisue

Potts of Floydada, Wes Watters of Bedford, and Travis Roberts of Marathon.

Drummers at Fort Concho.



## San Saba Presidio

by Becky Matthews

For many Texans, the words San Saba Mission conjure up stories of lost silver mines. According to legend, the mission served as the single landmark for lost travelers who stumbled upon hidden Spanish silver, were attacked by Indians, and finally struggled back to civilization, only to leave the silver mines lost forever. The most famous of these travelers, Jim Bowie, never returned to the mines because of his death in the Alamo. For many years, both before and after Dobie made the stories even more famous, people have searched for the lost San Saba mines or the lost Bowie mines.

Today, the landmark mission is gone. It rests in the middle of someone's field, long buried under the plow. The nearby San Saba presidio, however, lies nestled against a golf course in Menard. Its single circular bastion rises against the sky like a castle turret amidst the rocky ruins of the presidio walls. On a nearby doorpost, the name "Boue" is carved. Whether the name was carved by Jim Bowie or a later prankster has not been determined. With imagination, though, one can still hear ghosts of the past.



The San Saba mission and presidio were originally built by the Spanish at the request of the Lipan Apache. In the spring of 1757 Father Alonso de Terreros arrived with high hopes and about 400 people, including soldiers and civilian settlers, but the mission was never particularly successful. The Apache were actually more interested in Spanish protection from the Comanche who were encroaching into the area than they were in becoming good Christian subjects of the Spanish king. The mission was attacked by Comanche in 1758 and never rebuilt. The presidio was abandoned in 1769 and has been deserted ever since.

Much of what the visitor sees today was preserved or reconstructed in the 1930s. The bastion that so appeals to the imagination was rebuilt by people with good intentions but a poor knowledge of its original location. Some of the original walls and doorways remain, but the presidio was much larger than the present structure, stretching hundreds of yards to the banks of the San Saba River.

In recent years, archeology students from Texas Tech have excavated the ruins. They've located many of the original walls and are still trying to locate the chapel. As they dig, their "finds" consist mostly of musket balls, shards of pottery and bones. The bones tell something of the soldiers' diet, and the pottery is white with blue flowers, much like what can still be found in Mexican markets. Through their slow, painstaking work, they're learning more about life at the presidio.

Anyone can visit the San Saba presidio ruins, which are only a few blocks off US 83 inside Menard, with signs noting the directions. As for the mines—they remain lost in the mists of legend.

## From the Executive Director



Dear association members:

I heard it said a number of times during and after the 2002 annual meeting in San Angelo that it was one of the best. Many thanks to those who made it possible.

Without a doubt the fine folks from San Angelo put on a great show. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Preston Lewis and his local arrangements committee made up of Suzanne Campbell, Tonya Norris, and Ross McSwain. We are also most appreciative of the fine work done by Arnoldo DeLeon's (San Angelo) program committee which included Jorge Iber (Lubbock) and Donathan Taylor (Abilene). Our special thanks go to our good friends and counterparts from the East Texas Historical Association. Mark Barringer (Asst. Director), Linda Hudson (Marshall), and Ouida and R. G. Dean (Nacogdoches) made the long trip out and put on another great joint session. Also, we give a special salute to Mike Cox who was the keynote speaker for the Friday evening banquet. His presentation, "Scraping the Layers off the Battle of Paint Rock Story," was both enlightening and entertaining.

A final tribute is extended to Garry Nall who served as the association president this past year. His wise counsel and steady hand

was very much appreciated. His outgoing address, "Just Where are the Farmers in the West Texas Saga?," reminds us of an oft forgotten dimension to our historic legacy.

In addition to having fun, your association also performed good work on your behalf. The membership elected Tom Crum of Granbury as this year's president. Ken Davis of Lubbock will ride "shotgun" as vice president. New board members are Marisue Potts of Floydada, Wes Waters of Bedford, John Meadows of Austin, and Travis Roberts of Marathon.

The association board set the 2003 meeting in Lubbock for April 11-12 and tentatively set the 2004 meeting in Abilene for April 1-3. There is some preliminary talk of taking the 2005 meeting to Alpine. The board is also exploring the possibility of holding a joint meeting with the Texas Map Society for the 2004 Abilene meeting. In addition, the board voted to set an interim price for full sets of the Year Book at \$800. On a final note, the board set a spousal registration fee of \$5 for the annual meetings. For those of you who have been leaving the "better half" at home, you now have incentive to bring them along.

The West Texas Historical Association will once again put on a session at the September 19-21 East Texas Historical Association meeting in Nacogdoches. This year Paul Carlson (Ransom Canyon), Tom Alexander (Fredericksburg), and Tom Crum (Granbury) will represent us. Paul will present a paper on West Texas Rock & Roll--Buddy Holly, and Tom Alexander will regale the East Texans about West Texas military aviation. Tom Crum will chair. If you would like to attend please contact us at the WTHA offices.

Please spread the word that the association

has issued a Call for Papers for the Lubbock meeting. Proposals should be submitted by November 1, 2002 to association offices either by mail or via email (wthayb@lib.ttu.edu).

Remember that gift memberships in the association are available.

Have a great summer,  
Tai Kreidler

## WTHA Student Essay Award

The West Texas Historical Association announces an award of \$200.00 for the best article written by an undergraduate or graduate student on some aspect of the history of West Texas. The region is defined for purposes of this contest as that area west of Interstate 35.

The essay, ranging from 10 to 14 pages, should be written by a student enrolled in a college or university and be sponsored by a faculty member of that institution. A cover letter from the sponsor and a one-page abstract of the paper must accompany the submitted manuscript.

The winning essay will be included on the program of the annual meeting and will be published in the *Year Book*. The winner will be awarded an additional \$50.00 to defray the expenses of attending the meeting.

**Deadline for submission:** January 10, 2003.  
Submissions should be sent to:

Student Essay Award  
% Executive Director, WTHA  
Southwest Collection  
Box 41041  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, TX 79409

## Did You Know? West Texas Facts and Trivia

COMPILED BY VICKIE JONES

---One of the nation's earliest recorded rodeos was in Pecos, Texas, in 1883. It was also the first rodeo to award prizes. Fort Worth hosted the first indoor rodeo in 1917.

---The town of Quanah (Hardeman County) was named for the Comanche chief Quanah Parker. His father, Peta Nocona, had the town of Nocona (Montague County) named after him.

---Artist Peter Hurd (1904-1984) was commissioned to create murals in several U.S. Post Offices, including Big Spring, Dallas, and Alamogordo, New Mexico.

---U.S. 83, extending from Brownsville to Perryton (Ochiltree County) and beyond, is the longest highway in Texas at 899 miles long. The longest Interstate Highway in Texas is IH 10, running from El Paso to Orange; it is 878.7 miles long.

---Since recordkeeping started in 1911, Lubbock's lowest yearly precipitation was in 1917, when only 8.73 inches were recorded. The highest was 1941, with 40.55 inches.

---The buffalo is the mascot of West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

# Robert S. Neighbors and the Founding of the Texas Indian Reservations

by Kenneth F. Neighbours

*[Condensed from an article published in the 1955 Year Book.]*

A hundred years ago this year, one of the most singular and noteworthy experiments ever begun in Texas was made under the leadership of Robert Simpson Neighbors. This was the founding, in 1855, of the Indian reservation system in present Young and Throckmorton counties. The dual motive of Major Neighbors (Major was a title inherited from the Texan Army) in this undertaking was to protect the white settlers in their westward expansion and to save the Indians from starvation and extermination, while diverting them from the use of the scalping knife to the use of the plow.

Two schools of thought concerning the Indian problem were born with the Republic of Texas. Sam Houston advocated a policy of peace and land for the Indians. Mirabeau B. Lamar is credited, not entirely justly, with heading the other faction which advocated expulsion and extermination of the Indians. This policy found embodiment on the frontier in the expression that the only good Indian was a dead one.

Robert S. Neighbors represented the policy of peace and land for the Indians, and was given the warm support of Sam Houston throughout his career. Neighbors came to Texas in 1836 at the age of twenty, and after serving several years as an officer in the Army of the Republic of Texas, was appointed by President Anson Jones on February 12, 1845, to be agent for the government to the Lipans and Tonkawas. In his services as Indian agent, Neighbors came into contact with the other tribes and studied their needs. The Indian tribes of Texas were divided roughly between agrarian tribes such as the Caddo, Anadarko, and Ioni who had once dwelled in the forests of East Texas, and the predatory, nomadic tribes of the Upper Cross Timbers and prairies, the Comanche, Apache and Tonkawa. Between these two groups



were tribes partaking somewhat of the nature of both, such as the Waco, Keechi, Wichita and Tawakoni. It was obvious to a discerning mind that the current state of affairs could not long continue without disaster to both Indians and whites.

Major Neighbors found the Tonkawas on the San Marcos River living a miserable existence indeed. They were oppressed on one side by the whites and on the other by the Comanches. From a once powerful tribe, the Tonkawas had been reduced to subsisting on fish, roots, small animals, snakes and other reptiles. When Agent Neighbors had been with the Tonkawas long enough to acquire the confidence of the chief, the agent discovered, at the hazard of his life, that the aversion of the Tonkawa tribe to farming was religious in nature. In the most sacred rite of the Tonkawa religion celebrating the origin of the tribe, Neighbors, concealed in the lodge, observed the vicarious progenitor of the Tonkawas disinterred from the earth by wolves (warriors dressed as such) and instructed that henceforth he must make his livelihood as the wolves did, by killing and stealing while wandering from place to place. The Tonkawa progenitor was warned that if he ever tilled the soil or built a house, he would surely die. This injunction, the chief assured the agent, had been observed ever since. The disastrous effect was evident. In time the agent led the Tonkawas to overcome in a measure their aversion to farming.

Soon Major Neighbors learned at first hand the unsatisfactory mode of livelihood pursued by the Comanches. When not actually fighting the Tonkawas, the Comanches treated them in a most

insolent and domineering manner. One day forty Comanche warriors led by Old Owl rode into the Tonkawa camp and demanded in "a most abrupt and dictatorial manner" that their horses be cared for and supper prepared, as they proposed to spend the night. The orders were obeyed quickly by the Tonkawas, who also assigned forty of the best looking, comparatively speaking, of the Tonkawa maidens to entertain the guests.

The agent used this opportunity to establish friendly relations with the visitors. He explained his functions as Indian agent, and expressed the desire of the government for peace, especially with the Comanches. Old Owl, the chief, replied that the whites were all great rascals, but he liked the Major and especially admired his coat. The agent understood the import of the compliment, and taking off the garment, presented it to the chief. Others expressed their admiration for the Major's pants, then for other portions of his clothing until he was stripped of all but his shirt. Notwithstanding his own predicament, Neighbors laughed heartily at the grotesque appearance of the Comanche warriors as they strutted about with odd portions of his clothing on their tawny figures.

The Comanches were so pleased with the agent's generosity that they proposed adopting him into their tribe and making a good horse thief out of him. They initiated him immediately upon a horse stealing expedition among the Mexican citizens of the southwest. He went along, hoping to prevent depredations, and when the party came to the rancho of an old Mexican, he applied for beef on government credit. When the beef was refused, Old Owl stipulated that unless two beeves were forthcoming, the rancho would be burned and all the beeves taken. Needless to say, the beeves were produced forthwith. The agent soon tired of the journey with the Comanches and took his leave from them.

The experiences with the Indian tribes of Texas led Neighbors in the final report at the end of the Republic of Texas to recommend that land be set aside for the Indians where they might be induced to subsist by farming, and in the view of the coming change of government, he urged that the matter be consummated speedily. His recommendation was not carried out, however, by the Republic of Texas.

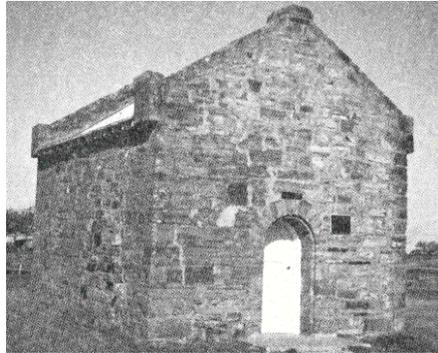
When Texas ended its national existence, Neighbors continued in the Indian service of the United States. From his experiences, the agent formulated a five-point program for the Indian service, and in the summer of 1849, was summoned to Washington to help work out a permanent policy for the Indians of Texas.

This five point program called for the general government to extinguish the Indian claim to as much land as was needed for immediate white settlement; to acquire from Texas sufficient land for permanent settlement of the Indians of Texas; to extend the intercourse laws of the United States which regulated relations between Indians and whites, and especially prohibited the sale of liquor to the Indians; to establish a general agency with at least three sub-agencies to minister to the agrarian tribes, the Comanches, and the Apaches in the far West; and to establish the necessary military posts in the Indian country to assist the agents in carrying out their duties under the law and treaties of the land. Along with this program, the agent envisioned the government's extending such services as carpentry, blacksmithing, agricultural instruction for adults, academic instruction for the youth, and the supplying of cattle, tools, seeds, and utensils until the Indians became self-supporting. After Neighbors, a Democrat, arrived in Washington, however, he was removed from office because of the spoils system to make way for a Whig adherent of President Zachary Taylor. A four year interregnum ensued in which the Indian situation in Texas deteriorated steadily.

In the meantime, Major Neighbors was elected in 1851 to the Texas legislature, and as chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs in the House of Representatives, labored for legislation to set aside land for the Indians. On the last day of the session, a resolution which he

sponsored was passed which authorized the governor of Texas to enter into negotiations with the United States government to establish an Indian territory in the northern part of Texas. This was the basis upon which the reservations were later established.

When Neighbors, after the election of Franklin Pierce, was appointed again to the Indian service in Texas as supervising agent, he again brought all his influence to bear upon the state and national authorities to have lands assigned for the use of the Indians. He was joined in his campaign by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, the future President of the Confederacy. The two officials prevailed upon Governor Peter Hansbrough Bell to make recommendations to the Texas legislature, which on February 6, 1854, appropriated twelve leagues of land for three reservations upon which the United States might locate the Indians of Texas.



Powder magazine at Fort Belknap.

Neighbors and Captain Randolph B. Marcy of the United States Army were selected by the general government to explore the waters of the Brazos and Wichita rivers in search of lands for the Indians. Both officers had distinguished themselves previously in trail blazing explorations. Among other things each officer had laid off a route across Texas leading toward the west coast.

The two officers met at Fort Belknap, which they left of July 15, 1854. The expedition proceeded in a general northerly direction [exploring through present Archer, Baylor, Knox, King and Stonewall counties.]

The two leaders then proceeded into present Throckmorton County where on the Clear Fork of the Brazos about thirteen miles north of present Throckmorton, the southern Comanches under chiefs Sanaco and Ketumse were

met in council. Ketumse readily agreed to settle on the reservation, but Sanaco had to be prodded into referring to the matter and stated doggedly to Captain Marcy: "You come into our country and select a small patch of ground, around which you run a line, and tell us the President will make us a present of this to live upon, when every body knows that the whole of this entire country, from the Red River to the Colorado, is now, and always has been, ours from time immemorial. I suppose, however, if the President tells us to confine ourselves to these narrow limits, we shall be forced to do so, whether we desire it or not."

According to the preference of the Comanches, the two officers selected a reserve of four leagues of land on the Clear Fork of the Brazos near where the council was held. For the Caddo, Anadarko, Ioni, Tawakoni, and other related tribes, a reserve of four leagues was selected on the double bend of the main Brazos in Young County south of the present city of Graham. The north line of the reserve ran through the southern limits of the present city. Another reserve of four leagues adjoining the Brazos Reserve was selected for the Apache tribes of West Texas. Neighbors did not think they would move to it, which proved to be the case, and he prevailed upon the legislature to provide lands west of the Pecos for those tribes. The tardiness of the United States government prevented the setting up of this fourth reservation before the whole system in Texas was abandoned. A fifth reservation was established by Major Neighbors in a district leased from the Choctaws and Chickasaws north of the Red River between the 98th and 100th meridians. He intended this reservation for the northern Comanches, Kiowas, and Wichitas to prevent their depredating in Texas, but these Indians were not settled, and he finally located the Texas Indians in the leased district.

The problem of transferring the Indians to the lands selected for them in Throckmorton and Young counties was not an easy one. Before approval of the lands selected could be obtained from Washington, a campaign undertaken by Major General Persifer Frazer Smith sent Sanaco and about 800 southern Comanches scurrying to the cedar brakes

at the head of Red River. Only Ketumse's band of about 180 was left to settle on the reserve in present Throckmorton County. The Tonkawas near Fort Inge were scattered to the four winds by a demonstration of hostile citizens who wanted to steal the Indians' ponies.

On March 1, 1855, however, Neighbors directed Agent George W. Hill to proceed with the settling of about eight hundred Indians, including the Anadarko, Caddo, Ioni, Waco, Tawakoni, Delaware, Shawnee and other tribes on the Brazos Reserve. The Tonkawa tribe arrived later in the year and was assigned lands in what is still known as Tonk Valley. The number on the Brazos Reserve had increased to 1051 souls by 1859. The two reserves on the main Brazos were fused into one, which became known as the Brazos Reserve or Lower Reserve. Ketumse's band of Comanches on the Clear Fork, or Upper Reserve, was joined from time to time by additional members of the southern Comanches until at the time of their removal they numbered 370. Agent George W. Hill soon resigned and was replaced by Captain Shapley Prince Ross on the Brazos Reserve. John R. Baylor was appointed as agent to the Comanches, but was later replaced by Matthew Leeper.

The reservation system consisted of a supervising agent, or superintendent, a resident agent on each reservation, agricultural instructors, farm laborers, blacksmiths, a sutler, beef and corn contractors, carpenters, school teachers,

surgeons, interpreters, and a missionary at the Brazos Reserve only. The missionary, the Reverend Pleasant Tackitt, prayed for the success of the expedition of Rangers and Indians under Captains John D. Ford and S. P. Ross, and when it was eminently successful against the northern Comanches, a Tawakoni warrior was loud in his praise of the white medicine man's powers. The Indians had their own court which once sentenced two Comanche horse thieves to be shot, and in another case tried the Tonkawas for stealing watermelons. The Tonks were let off with an admonition to sin no more, and the session ended peaceably with all smoking a pipe around. The agents were assisted by the military on various occasions.

Under the supervision of the agents, the Indians made commendable progress. The Indians put several hundred acres of the tough prairie sod to the cultivation of corn, wheat, and other crops. After initial hardships because of grasshoppers and dry weather, the Indians produced an abundance of grain sufficient for their sustenance. The first efforts of the Comanches at farming were pathetic. They insisted on pulling melons the size of hens' eggs, and according to their agent, they gave the roasting ears "fits." The Indians on both reservations made progress in stock raising. Their fields were fenced with rails laboriously prepared from the timber on the reserve. The Indians on the Brazos Reserve either built themselves comfortable log houses after the manner of the whites, or built the

conical grass thatched houses of their ancestors. The Comanches continued to live in tents, except Chief Ketumse, who built himself a fine, panel log house. Neighbors established a school at each reservation where, it was reported, the Indian children, with the encouragement of their parents, applied themselves to learning with a zeal which exceeded the most sanguine expectations. Prominent Texans of long standing visited the reservations and remarked with pride on the progress made toward civilization by the Indians.

This then was the flourishing condition of the Texas Indian reservations when conditions outside them made it imperative to order their abandonment. The northern Indians above [the] Red River continued to raid in Texas. When designing white men convinced the white settler that the offenses on the frontier were committed by the reservation Indians, this led to the killing of them when white men caught them off the reserves, and to armed attacks upon the reserves. In the summer of 1859, Neighbors, with an escort of United States troops, moved the 1420 Indians from Texas to the reservation that he had provided in the Washita Valley in the Choctaw leased district. He had proved that the Texas Indians were capable of advancing in the arts of civilization, and their descendants still live where he left them in present Caddo County, Oklahoma.

## In Memory...



Doc Neighbours was born **Kenneth Franklin Neighbours** on September 21, 1915, in Fannin County Texas. He died in Wichita Falls, Texas on March 27, 2002 and was buried in the family plot in Olney, Texas. He received a B.A. and M.A. degree from SMU and a Ph.D.

from the University of Texas. Neighbours taught history at Midwestern State University from 1954 to 1981. He authored four books: *Indian Exodus: Texas Indian Affairs, 1835-1859*, *Quanah* (Nortex Press, 1973); *Government, Land, and Indian Policies Relative to Lipan, Mescalero, and Tigua Indians* (New York, Garland Publishing, Inc., 1974); *Robert S. Neighbors and the Texas Frontier, 1836-1859* (Waco, Texian Press, 1975); Co-author of *Frontier Forts of Texas*, (Waco, Texian Press, 1966). He edited 4 books and published numerous articles. Doc Neighbours was a long-time member of the West Texas Historical Association and was honored by them at the Association's meeting in Canyon, Texas in 1996. He was also a lifetime member and Fellow of the Texas State Historical Association.

(information contributed by Harry Hewitt)

**Ed Eakin**, founder of Eakin Press, passed away February 20, 2002, of a heart attack at the age of 74. Ed was born in Chilton in 1927. He obtained a bachelor's degree in journalism from Baylor University in the 1940s and owned a number of weekly papers. He sold those by 1979 to develop Eakin Press. As an independent press, it published "close to a 1000 books" on Texas subjects, from biographies to children's stories to history.

**Dr. Weston A. Pettey**, 94, of Lubbock died on June 22, 2002. He was born Jan. 3, 1908, in Dubberly, La. He graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in optometry in 1929. An avid amateur historian, he was a long-time member of the Llano Estacado Corral of Westerners International and served as Sheriff. He wrote five books and numerous articles.

(Information contributed by Cindy Martin)

## NEWS FROM AROUND WEST TEXAS

**Lou Rodenberger** edited and wrote the introduction for *31 by Lawrence Clayton*. The book, published by McWhiney Foundation Press, is a collection of **Lawrence Clayton's** essays about folklore, ranches, cowboys, and Fort Griffin area history. Rodenberger was also elected secretary of the Texas Woman's University Institutional Development Board, of which she is a Director.

The **Haley Memorial Library & History Center** released its latest publication *More Basic Texas Books* by **Mike Cox**. Cox has expanded on the 1983 bibliographic work, *Basic Texas Books* by the late John H. Jenkins.

**Charles Rodenberger's** "Computer and the Cowboy" is now appearing in the *Santa Gertrudis Journal* as well as the *Rocky Mountain Livestock News*.

**Jim Bradshaw**, archivist for the **Haley Library & History Center**, has completed name indexes of interviews collected by J. Evetts Haley over a 60-year period. He is currently assembling the massive Haley correspondence files into a usable fashion.

Honorees at the 2002 Haley Library & History Center annual Fall Gathering Storytelling and Foy Proctor Memorial Cowman's Award of Honor program will be **Mr. Courtney Cowden** of Midland, **Mrs. Linda Mitchell Davis** of Cimarron, NM, **Mr. Jim Tom Kelton** of Pecos, **Mr. Giles Lee** of Lovington, NM, and **Mr. Tom Moorhouse** of Benjamin.

**Ross McSwain** of San Angelo, a former member of the WTHA board of directors, is the new president of the **Permian Historical Society**. Other officers elected at the annual meeting in April are **Todd Houck** of Midland, vice president and program chair; **Peggy Kelton** of McCamey, vice president and membership chair; and **Sue Ann Damron** of Big Spring, secretary. **Eileen Welch** of Midland, the society's treasurer for 18 years, was reelected but had to resign later due to illness. An interim treasurer was named to fill the post on a temporary basis. Other committee chairs are **Donna Bell** of Rankin, best article award, and **Dr. J. Tillapaugh**, chair of the fellowship-scholarship committee.

**Kenda Josselet** is the new director of the **Museum of the Plains** in Perryton.

**Sylvia Penchon** has been appointed photograph conservator at the **Amon Carter**

**Museum**. She will operate the Carter's photograph and paper conservation laboratory, part of the new 109,000-square-foot building that reopened in October 2001 following a two-year expansion project.

**Virginia Gholson Messer** of **Eakin Press** announces that the press will continue operations as usual as a legacy to **Ed Eakin**, who died in February. Books in production at the time of his death will come out with only short delays. If you have a contract pending or any other questions, please contact her at 512-228-1771 or email: virginia@eakinpress.com

For the first time ever, a group of six historians convened this spring to talk about the controversial **Mason County War of the 1870s**. The meeting took place on Sunday May 5, 2002 at the Odeon Theater in Mason, Texas and was sponsored by Mason County Historical Society. George B. Ward of the Texas State Historical Association served as moderator. The Mason County War, also known as the Hoodoo War, arose over cattle rustling in 1874. Governor Richard Coke sent a group of Texas Rangers to maintain law and order in Mason. The feud divided the German and non-German white settlers in the region, who for three decades had already disagreed on everything from Indian policy to secession. The range war created such bitter feelings on both sides that several generations of Mason County natives refused to talk about it. As late as 1966, local historian Stella Gipson Polk confessed when she wrote about the feud: "I am too close to this war. I know too much, and yet, I must tell to little."

The **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum** in Canyon has acquired a major painting by Taos master Victor Higgins. "Evening Sky (Solitude)" fills a major gap in the Museum's Taos art collection, one of the finest in the Southwest. The painting will hang in the Recent Acquisitions area then will be moved to the Museum's permanent Southwestern Art Gallery. This will be the first public exhibition of "Evening Sky (Solitude)" in eighty years. The painting was acquired by the Museum through a gift/purchase from an Amarillo-area family and contributions from arts supporters across the area.

The **White Deer Land Museum** in Pampa has obtained another building and has remodeled the exterior. The Advisory Board is in the process of acquiring land for

the display of a drilling rig as a memorial to early settlers and Pampa's boom town period.

The **National Ranching Heritage Center** in Lubbock is in the midst of a capital campaign to raise \$5.1 million to construct an east wing onto the existing DeVitt-Mallet Museum building. It will have approximately 29,000 additional square feet for exhibit galleries, office space, a board room, educational and curatorial space, and storage.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*August 24, 2002. Museum of the Plains, Perryton. Pioneer Day.* For more details e-mail mop@arn.net.

*September 19-21, 2002. East Texas Historical Association* meeting at the Freedonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. The WTHA panel titled "Winds of Change in West Texas--World War II and Rock n' Roll" is scheduled for 1:30 PM on Friday, September 20. **Tom Crum**, Granbury, will preside. Presentors are **Tom Alexander**, Fredericksburg, "The United States Army Air Forces and West Texas During WWII" and **Paul Carlson**, Texas Tech, "Buddy Holly, Beethoven, and Lubbock in the 1950s." For hotel reservations call 936-564-1234.

*September 26, 2002. Haley Library and History Center, Midland. Fall Gathering Storytelling and Foy Proctor Memorial Cowman's Award of Honor.* Honorees will be recognized with an authentic chuck wagon dinner and awards program following the afternoon storytelling session. For more details call 915-682-5785 or go to the website [www.haleylibrary.com](http://www.haleylibrary.com).

*October 5, 2002. Gray County's 100th Anniversary Celebration, Pampa's main street.* The oldest settlers will be recognized. Persons attending will also enjoy two meals and music by several bands.

*October 12, 2002. Fort Davis NHS. Friends of the Fort Festival.* Plans include 19th century crafts demonstrations, live action, historic dancing, 1880s baseball, military drills, children's activities, and a barbeque. Free admission. For more information, please contact Superintendent, Fort Davis NHS, P.O. Box 1347, Fort Davis, Texas 79734, telephone (915) 426-3224.

October 19, 2002. **Permian Historical Society** meeting at the Depot in McCamey. Program chairman Todd Houck, archivist at the Permian Petroleum Museum, notes that he hopes to provide programs with broad appeal "with something for everyone." Persons interested in future programs should contact Houck at 915-683-4403 or e-mail thouck@petroleummuseum.org.

October 19-20, 2002. **New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum**, Las Cruces, NM, *Cowboy Days*, a festival that honors the state's ranchers and includes cowboy poetry and music, chuck wagon cooking, and demonstrations such as roping, horseshoeing, and Mexican-style rodeo. The fiesta honors New Mexico's farming traditions and includes mariachi music, folklorico and flamenco dancing, and food demonstrations. All museum events include children's activities. For more information contact Cameron Saffell at csaffell@frh.state.nm.us.

October 31, 2002. **Fort Concho HSM**, San Angelo. *Halloween Ghost Tours*. For more information go to the website [www.fortconcho.com](http://www.fortconcho.com) or call special events at 915-657-4441.

November 15-16, 2002. **Center for Big Bend Studies** Conference, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas. For conference updates or more information on the Center for Big Bend Studies, please check their website: [www.sulross.edu/~cbbs](http://www.sulross.edu/~cbbs) or call Kelly Garcia at (915)837-8723.

November 16, 2002. **Fort Davis NHS**. *From Retreat to Tattoo*. Visitors will literally "step back in time" to an evening in the 1880s. For more information, please contact Superintendent, Fort Davis NHS, P.O. Box 1347, Fort Davis, Texas 79734, telephone (915) 426-3224.

December 6-8, 2002. **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum**, Canyon, *A Pioneer Christmas*, their 26th Christmas Open House. The event is scheduled for 7-9 pm on Friday and Saturday evening and 1-4 pm on Sunday.

December 6-8, 2002. **Christmas at Old Fort Concho**, San Angelo. The grounds of Fort Concho will be bustling with entertainment, living history, music and food. Events for the whole family. Enjoy the activities, holiday shopping, and Chapel services in the beautifully decorated buildings. Money raised supports continued restoration and education programs at the fort. For more details go to the website [www.fortconcho.com](http://www.fortconcho.com) or call special events at 915-657-4441.

December 13-14, 2002. **National Ranching Heritage Center**, Lubbock. *Candlelight at the Ranch* from 6:00 p. m. to 8:00 p. m. Call 806-742-0498 or go to [www.ttu.edu/RanchingHeritageCenter](http://www.ttu.edu/RanchingHeritageCenter).

December 14, 2002. **Gillespie County Historical Society**, Fredericksburg. *Candlelight Home Tour*. For more information go to the website [www.pioneermuseum.com](http://www.pioneermuseum.com) or e-mail Paul Camfield at [gchs@ctesc.net](mailto:gchs@ctesc.net).

February 23, 2003. **Fort Concho**, San Angelo, *Buffalo Soldier Heritage Day*. For details call special events at 915-657-4441 or go to the website [www.fortconcho.com](http://www.fortconcho.com).

## ONGOING EVENTS

Through September 15, 2002. **Museum of Texas Tech University**. *The Vatican Exhibition*. The exhibit will highlight 31 medieval frescoes by master painters of the Roman School. For free tickets to the Exhibition, call 886-803-6874 (toll free) or 806-742-6800 (local), email [exhibit2002@vaticanexhibit.org](mailto:exhibit2002@vaticanexhibit.org). For more information, check the website - [vaticanexhibit.org](http://vaticanexhibit.org).

Through October 5, 2002. **White Deer Land Museum**, Pampa is showing the work of Amarillo photographers Jim Jordan and Louise Daniel. The pictures are of various sites in the Texas Panhandle. For details e-mail [museum@pan-tex.net](mailto:museum@pan-tex.net)

Through January 5, 2003. **National Ranching Heritage Center**, *Vaquero: A Vanishing Tradition*, featuring the photography of Bill Wittliff of Austin. Curated and designed by Duward Campbell of Lubbock, the display includes 70 pictures and 100 accompanying artifacts dating from the 16th century, together telling the story of the genesis of ranching in North America. For more information go to the website [www.ttu.edu/RanchingHeritageCenter](http://www.ttu.edu/RanchingHeritageCenter) or call 806-742-0498.

December 14, 2002 - February 23, 2003. **Old Jail Art Museum**, Albany. *Visions of the West Collection*. Fine art and historical artifacts spanning several centuries and cultures will be shown. For more information call 915-762-2269 or e-mail [ojac@camalott.com](mailto:ojac@camalott.com).

December 21, 2002 through February 15, 2003. **Grace Museum**, Abilene. *Mondel Rogers: Realities and Fantasies of West Texas*. The works of this Texas artist capture the golden age of ranching (1870 - 1917) and the following years. For details call Courtney V. Sloane at 915-673-4587 or e-mail [Courtney@theracemuseum.org](mailto:Courtney@theracemuseum.org).

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**The Center for Big Bend Studies** is now accepting papers to be given at the 9th Annual Conference, November 15-16, 2002. Presentations should focus on prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the borderlands region of the United States and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and north-central Mexico. Presentations are 30 minutes long. Papers accepted for presentation are eligible for consideration for publication in the *Journal of Big Bend Studies*, Volume 15. Please submit an abstract of 200 words or less by *September 30, 2002*. Kelly García, Box C-71, Alpine, Texas 79832, (915)837-8723 . Email: [kgarcia@sulross.edu](mailto:kgarcia@sulross.edu)

**The West Texas Historical Association** invites proposals for papers to be presented at the 80th annual meeting hosted in Lubbock, Texas April 11-12, 2003. For individual proposals please include the name of presenter, title of paper, and a one-paragraph overview of the paper. Proposals for compete sessions are encouraged. For session proposals please include the name of a moderator, the name of three presenters, the title of their papers, and a one-paragraph overview of each paper. Presentations must be NO longer than 20 minutes. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: *November 1, 2002*. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by December 14, 2002.

Send proposals to: Kenneth Davis, Program Chair, West Texas Historical Association, Texas Tech University, P.O. 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409; Email [wthayb@lib.ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@lib.ttu.edu); Phone 806-742-9076. Other program committee members are: Albert Camp, Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University; Shirley Eoff, Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas; Bruce Glasrud, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.

**Val Verde County Historical Commission** seeks skilled writers to produce *The History of Val Verde County, Texas*. They are interested in a popular-style historical narrative approximately 200-300 pages long, unillustrated, with Table of Contents, index, and extensive bibliography. All rights will belong to the Commission. To apply, please send an example of your work, a proposed timetable, and an estimated fee to: Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 South Main Street, Del Rio, Texas 78840-5998. See an up-to-date announcement by following links from the Commission Website at: <http://www.whitehead-museum.com/history.html>