



# THE CYCLONE



## Abilene Joint Conference a Success



2003 WTHA President Kenneth Davis

The West Texas Historical Association returned to its long-time home at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene for the eighty-first annual meeting on April 2-3, 2004.

For the first time, WTHA held a joint conference with the Texas Map Society that included fifty-seven papers on a variety of subjects of interest to both societies from "Pistol Packin' Preachers in West Texas" to "Tracing the Comanche War Trail." Fulbright lecturer and scholar of the American West, Jim Hoy spoke Friday evening followed by a special showing of "The Searchers" at the Paramount Theatre.

Kevin Sweeney received the Mrs. Percy Jones Award for Best Article in the *Year Book* for "Pandora's Drought: Aridity and the Brazos and Clear Fork Indian Reserves." He was also presented the William Curry Holden Research Grant. David Holt was the winner of the student essay award, while Paul Carlson received the Rupert N. Richardson Award for the Best Book on West Texas for *The Buffalo Soldier Tragedy of 1877*.

Congratulations to WTHA president for 2004, Preston Lewis of San Angelo and vice-president, J'Nell Pate of Fort Worth. New board members include Shirley Eoff of San Angelo, Mike Harter of Amarillo, and Keith Owen and Lynn Whitfield of Lubbock. Tiffany Fink is the new Book Review Editor and Lynn Whitfield is the Webmaster. The 2005 meeting of the association will be at Sul Ross State University in Alpine, Texas.



2004 WTHA President Preston Lewis

## Coronado's Campsite in Blanco Canyon

By Ralph H. Brock

Many people believe a campsite of Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, the first European explorer to wander through West Texas, has been located south of Floydada in Blanco Canyon. The precise location is secret, not only because it is on private property, but also to protect artifacts from being looted. An archaeological dig under the direction of Dr. Donald Blakeslee, Professor of Anthropology at Wichita State University in Kansas, is in progress. Dr. Blakeslee believes the site is where Coronado camped for a fortnight in 1541 before leading a small detachment in search of Quivira, the second city of gold in northeast Kansas.

An encampment of 300 soldiers, 1,500 Indians and servants, 1,000 horses and thousands of other animals should have left a lot of detritus in two weeks. Dr. Blakeslee reminds us, though, that the Indian trail through the canyon has seen use for 11,000 years. His own dig has found metallic noise linked to Indians, Comancheros, Ranald Mackenzie's army, and pioneer settlers. Thus a Spanish chain mail gauntlet plowed



Dr. Donald Blakeslee holds an awl from the excavation.

up in the 1960s in a Floyd County pasture, though persuasive, is not definitive proof of Coronado's presence; other expeditions could have passed through the region.

However, Dr. Blakeslee points to certain finds that he says are uniquely indicative of the Coronado expedition. The most important are metal points from crossbow bolts. Coronado's campaign is the only one known to have carried crossbows. More than thirty such bolt points have been found at the site. Hundreds of horseshoe nails unique to Coronado's time have also been found there, as well as one metal aglet that covered the end of a leather lace.

Moreover, the Spanish accounts speak of five standard bearers, which is consistent with what Dr. Blakeslee believes are the campsites and campgrounds of five distinct units within the 200 by 300 yard area of interest in Blanco Canyon. Two of the army units were mounted, and most of the horseshoe nails have been found in sites that he believes they occupied. The bolt points have been found where he believes one of the infantry units camped. He says the Indians and servants probably camped on the other side of the river. They did not have much metal, so the magnetometers and metal detectors Dr. Blakeslee uses to determine where to dig are not of much use there.

Coronado's exact route has long been a matter of debate. The five accounts of the Coronado expedition, Dr. Blakeslee says, are contradictory, and sometimes an account will contradict itself, making the documents maddening to work with. The Pedro de Castaneda narrative says the party camped for a short time in a small Panhandle canyon where it suffered a hailstorm that tore tents, dented helmets, (continued on page 2)

## From the Executive Director



Dear Fellow Members:

Plans are already underway for our 2005 annual meeting on the Sul Ross State University campus in Alpine, Texas. Your President, Preston Lewis, has been busy appointing a fine local arrangements and program committee. While it will be a challenge to replicate the outstanding Abilene meeting, we have every expectation of seeing another great conference.

To facilitate a big turn out we have been talking to TNMO Bus Lines about chartering two buses. While most of us like traveling the roads of West Texas, we thought it might be helpful if we provided an alternative to driving—i.e. chartered bus. Please let us know if you would be interested in such an initiative.

Planning is in the very preliminary stages, but we are looking to have two buses—one leaving from Lubbock and the other from Abilene. Seat prices range from \$55 to \$65 round trip, based upon a noon Thursday March 31 departure and 7pm return (Each bus would be back at their respective starting points (Lubbock/Abilene) by 7pm Saturday night). While in Alpine, buses would carry passengers to their Thursday night meal/event, the Friday morning field trip and to and from the hotel and conference site.

If you are interested in seeing us put together the bus option for the 2005 meeting please write, call or email us by September 15.

Once again the WTHA will hold a joint session at the East Texas meeting that will take place September 24-25. This year our presenters include Mitchell Davenport, Jacksboro, Texas who will present his paper, "Lt. Col. C.B. McLellan: A Life of Service in the Texas and Southwestern Frontier." He will be joined by WTHA President, Preston Lewis, San Angelo, Texas who will read his paper, "Charley Wilson: West Texas' Greatest 19th Century Racehorse." We encourage WTHA members to show their support and attend the conference.

Currently, we are putting together a similar session for the Center for Big Studies Conference in Alpine on November 12-13. If any member would like to participate, please let us know.

Also, Shirley Eoff (shirley.eoff@angelo.edu), Chair of this year's program committee has issued a call for papers. Her committee that includes Judy Parsons (jparsons@sulross.edu) of Alpine, Brenda Haes (brenda.haes@tu.edu) of Lubbock, and Bruce Glasrud (bglasrud@gvec.net) of Seguin are already hard at work preparing this year's program. Please remember that proposals are due by November 1 and everyone will be notified if their proposals have been accepted by December 14.

Finally, on behalf of the Association, we would like to take the opportunity to thank the Local Arrangements Committee for the Abilene meeting for their hard work. Their commitment to purpose and their love for the Association made the 2004 "Homecoming" one of the best meetings on record. Most sincere thanks to B. W. Aston, Tiffany Fink, and Donathon Taylor.

Have a great summer.  
Tai Kreidler

## Coronado's Campsite

(continued from page 1)

wounded horses, and destroyed all of the army's crockery. Dr. Blakeslee believes this site was near Roaring Springs. Then the expedition moved on to a second canyon described as a league wide from side to side. Although Blanco Canyon is not that wide, Dr. Blakeslee believes, from the amount of metal found there, that it is the second site.

Coronado's expedition occupied this second site for an extended time because the army was hunting bison for jerky. Hunters who left the canyon often got lost, and the accounts describe building fires, blowing horns, firing guns and beating drums to help them find their way back after nightfall. Dr. Blakeslee has found burnt rocks where the Indian trails enter and leave the canyon, which by themselves prove nothing. He believes, though, that the Coronado-era metal found there will establish Blanco Canyon as the second encampment.

Other experts argue that a camp of two weeks duration would not have left much metal behind because metal was scarce and nails, for example, were reused. Crossbow points were worked into tools such as awls and hooks. Their explanation is that the metal artifacts were scattered by stampeding pack animals during the hailstorm in the first canyon. They believe excavations eventually will recover the broken pottery that will establish Blanco Canyon as the first site, and that the second site probably is where the Palo Duro and Cita Canyons converge.

The site in Blanco Canyon is called the Jimmy Owens site after the Floydada municipal employee who spent his spare time exploring it with a metal detector. In only one afternoon, Owens found most of the bolt points that have been recovered. Most of those were lying on the surface. All of the recovered artifacts have been donated to the Floyd County Historical Museum. These are contained in the one small display case that one sees upon walking through the door. Even so, the value of the artifacts on the open market would be in the six figure range.

Dr. Blakeslee has been bringing students to work at Blanco Canyon since 1995, mostly on long weekends and during spring break. The site is covered by mesquite that must be cleared before magnetometer surveys can be made and excavations begun. Only a fraction of the 16 acre site has been cleared, and of that, only five or six square yards have been excavated. Nevertheless, Blakeslee promised to reveal an important discovery he made at the site. He hasn't yet, so that leaves two mysteries. Is this site the first or the second canyon Castaneda described, and what else has Dr. Blakeslee found? Given the slow pace of the work, it may be quite a while before we know.

# A Chapter in the Life of Col. Charles Goodnight

by L. S. Kinder

[Condensed from an article in the 1930 *Year Book*]

A high place in the history of northwest Texas will be accorded Col. Charles Goodnight when such a work is written. He was among the first to see the great possibilities of this part of Texas as a ranching country and from the time he located on the Palo Duro in 1876 until his death, he was active and foremost in the development of the country.

The writer first became acquainted with him nearly forty years ago. At that time he was in the active control and management of one of the largest ranches in the entire country. He was then past fifty but a man of unusual vigor and activity. I was then a young man and was greatly impressed with the character of Col. Goodnight. He was powerful and rugged in his physique; of unusual intelligence, although totally unlearned in schools; a man possessed of a wide range of knowledge, of unquestioned honesty and the highest sense of honor.

It is necessary here to mention another man in the early history of West Texas with whom Col. Goodnight was intimately connected. This man was Oliver Loving. Those two men had known each other from boyhood back in the Sixties on the Texas frontier. They had many similar traits of character. They had grown up from boyhood on the range and were naturally inclined to the cattle business. They had been together on many an expedition against the Indians.

These men knew every foot of the country occupied by the Comanche, Kiowa, and Cheyenne Indians. Goodnight, and probably Loving also, were members of the Texas Ranger force from 1860 to 1865 and campaigned through all this country as far west as the Staked Plains.

At the close of the Civil War Goodnight and Loving began handling cattle. They undertook to find a market for some of the thousands of cattle then grazing the prairies of what at the time was known as West Texas. Their headquarters were in Belknap County on the Brazos River in what afterwards became Young County. A railroad was building in Kansas, on toward Colorado, where there was considerable excitement [about] the discovery of gold and silver. At the same time the government was establishing forts and locating soldiers throughout New Mexico and Colorado for the purpose of preventing further Indian depredations. Goodnight and Loving had been in the Colorado country and had found a profitable market for Texas cattle if they could drive them there with any degree of safety and



Charles Goodnight (courtesy the Southwest Collection)

without too great a loss. There was no trail to the Colorado country and the difficult question was to determine what route to go so that cattle could be driven there with the least danger from Indian attacks. Goodnight was well informed as to the range of the buffalo. He knew that they had never been known to range west of the Pecos River, or south of the Colorado. Therefore they concluded that there would be less likelihood of danger from the Indians in the country where there were no buffalo; with that thought in view they established in 1866 what was known for many years as the Loving and Goodnight Trail. They started from Fort Belknap, and thence southwest following the old Butterfield stage route to Fort Concho; hence up the South Concho to its headwaters, and across the plains, striking the Pecos River at Horsehead Crossing. While this was a circuitous route, it was thought that cattle could be driven over it with less danger than any way which ran directly through from Belknap to Colorado.

They drove over this trail in 1866, returned to Texas in the spring of 1867, and began at once to gather a herd of some twenty-five hundred steers. This they succeeded in doing, and in June started on the first cattle drive of any importance from Texas to the northwest.

The route traveled by these men was southwesterly across the country passing about where Buffalo Gap is now located, and on to Fort Concho, at what now is San Angelo. During this part of the drive they were attacked several times by the Comanches and by the time they reached Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos, the savages had stolen from them some three hundred head of cattle. Leaving Fort Concho, the trail continued on up the South Concho to its headwaters, where the trail extended on a distance of about ninety-six miles to the Pecos. This distance was over a desert country barren of grass and devoid of water.

Col. Goodnight described this journey in his own language in a written article as harrowing in the extreme, and the suffering of themselves and the cattle, resulting from the heat and alkali dust and want of water, as almost unbearable. He says that as they neared the Pecos River, and the great drove of steers smelled the water, all that the men could do did not prevent a mad stampede into the river. They again suffered a considerable loss of cattle. After resting at this place for several days, the drive was started on north, following the west side of the river.

After continuing the drive some hundred and fifty miles up the river, and seeing no evidence whatever of Indians, Loving concluded to go on ahead of the herd and reach Santa Fe where the contract for furnishing beef to the government in the western country would be let in July. Goodnight tried to dissuade him not to undertake such a perilous trip which would have to be made by him alone, or in the company of only one man, as all were badly needed to protect the herd from further Indian attacks. However Loving insisted on going, and it was agreed that one man would accompany him, and that they would travel altogether of a night until they got near Fort Sumner, where they would be, to an extent, under the protection of the military forces.

Loving and his companion, Wilson, started and traveled solely at night the first two nights, resting during the day in some place where they would be hidden from view. The third day, seeing no sign whatever of Indians, Loving determined, unless danger became more apparent, to travel by day. They were well armed for those days, and their absolute fearlessness prevented the exercise of that degree of caution which renders ordinary travel on the frontier at all times necessary. Towards the afternoon, after crossing the Blue River and reaching a point four or five miles from the river, Wilson observed a large number of Indians charging them from the southwest. They at once left the trail taking the shortest course to the river, where the mesa across which they were traveling broke off very abruptly into the banks of the river. (From this point on the description of this fight is largely in Goodnight's own language.) When they had almost reached the river banks, they came to a small sand dune covered with mesquite bushes. In these they tied their horses. Then they retreated beyond the sand dune to the river banks which extended out to the end of a sharp curve in the river, the river being on three sides of them and the sand dune

on the other. An arroyo had cut into the river banks on the south side and the Indians could only reach them from across the river on the east or else by coming over the sand dunes on the west which acted as a fortification. There were some five or six hundred howling, screaming Comanches. Goodnight in looking over the scene of this fearfully unequal battle, when he came upon it a few days after, says that Loving and Wilson selected a most excellent location to fight what they thought was their last and losing fight with a horde of atrocious savages. He says that they were certainly prompted in selection of this location by unerring instinct or providence.

They repulsed every attack of the Indians until near sundown. During this time the Indians could only reach them from across the river on the east, and this point they kept clear with their guns, and when an Indian came into view from any direction he was the fatal target for the unerring marksmanship of Loving and Wilson. Towards dusk the Indians called for a parley in the Spanish language, which Wilson understood. It was agreed that Loving would remain where they were entrenched. Wilson would go and see what could be done, and Loving would do his best to prevent them from shooting Wilson in the back. Some of the Indians were armed with guns, and while Wilson was advancing, Loving was fired on from some Indians who had stealthily crept up under the banks from below them, and shot Loving in the arm breaking his wrist and another shot striking him in the side, which he thought was a fatal wound. Seeing the treachery of the Indians, Wilson and Loving retreated behind the bank and sand dune and the fight kept up until next day. Loving believed that he could not recover from his wounds and told Wilson to try and make his escape, and go back to the herd and if the Indians had not already killed Goodnight and his men to tell him to get word to his family back at Weatherford how he had died, and to tell him that if he saw that he would be captured, he would get to the river bank and before they could capture him, he would shoot himself and fall into the river. He knew the devilish savagery of the Comanches and knew to what torture he would be subjected if taken alive. He had no thought of escaping, being so completely surrounded, and he believed the wounds given him the day before would be fatal. Yet with that super-human courage which he possessed, he intended to fight the battle to the end. Loving thought that he killed several of the Indians. They used every effort to reach him except coming out in the open. They cut tunnels through the sand dune within only a few feet of where Loving lay; but they did not dare to put their heads over far enough for him to get a shot at them. They carried almost a cart load of boulders from the bluffs

not far away and threw them over the sand dune, but fortunately none of them struck him, and afterwards in describing the fight he said that their throwing these boulders over was annoying in the extreme.

It is unlikely that but few of them were armed with guns, most of them using bows and arrows. When Goodnight went upon the ground, he found many arrows stuck in the bank just below where Loving was entrenched which had been shot from across the river; but the distance being so far the arrows had struck below him in the river bank.

Loving had expected that the herd was near, and that Wilson might reach the men, and possibly they could yet aid him before he died or was killed. The Indians having taken their horses, Wilson had to return afoot. Wilson was found a few days later by Goodnight's men, after he had wandered around in a bewildered half starved condition for three or four days. Goodnight at once took six of his best men and started to Loving's relief, riding all night through a violent rainstorm. They kept their direction on the trail by the almost continuous flashes of the most vivid lightning. They rode all night during the storm, and until the middle of the next afternoon, when they got to the place where the fight took place, which Goodnight easily located from the description Wilson had given him. The very closest search was made but no trace of Loving could be found, and it was thought that he had done as he had told Wilson, that at the last to prevent capture he had killed himself and had fallen into the swollen current of the Pecos River.



Loving, however, with the most remarkable nerve and determination fought the Indians off, killing one every time he showed himself; this extraordinary and unparalleled fight was kept up for two days and nights when they left Loving uncaptured in his natural fortification. Loving saw that the wound in his side was not so serious as he first thought, but his broken wrist caused him great pain and suffering. He made his way some miles up the river to where the trail crosses it with the thought of remaining there until someone should come along. He believed that if he would ever see anyone in all that wholly unsettled country it would be at this river crossing. He found a place near the trail in a thicket of china trees and mesquite bushes. He said that it was the only clump of bushes that he saw in all that immediate country. He became very weak, not having eaten anything since the first morning of the fight since the Indians had taken their

horses along with them and their saddle bags, which contained all they had to eat.

He tried to shoot birds, but his ammunition had become water soaked, and he could not fire either his gun or pistols. He laid on the bank a few feet above the river and tied a cloth around a stick and by dipping it into the river he would get enough to quench his thirst, not being able in his weakened condition to get down to the water.

He remained there three days and tried to make a fire so that he could burn his Mexican gloves to a crisp and eat them; but he had no means, he found, of making a fire. He had been five days without food [when] three Mexicans and a German boy were passing there going into Texas from Mexico and had stopped at the river crossing to prepare their dinner. The boy was gathering sticks for a fire and went into the clump of bushes where he discovered Loving in a weakened condition. Loving in his delirious condition thought he was again being attacked by the Indians and made an effort to shoot, but he was unable to fire his pistols because of the wet condition, as at that time no one had metallic cartridges, but only the old cap and ball.

The boy, however, assured him that there were no Indians near and at once gave him such relief as he could. They gave him a drink of what they called "Toley," which in the Mexican means a gruel made of corn meal; fortunately nothing better could have been given him in his famished condition.

The crossing of the river where Loving took refuge in the clump of bushes is near the present town of Carlsbad. The scene of the fight was not far from the village of Loving, which might have received its name from the hero of this memorable conflict.

It was about two hundred miles from where Loving was found to Fort Sumner, and when they had gotten within about seventy-five miles from the fort, they were met by a Mr. Burleson who was driving cattle from the Austin country over the same trail. His herd was back of Loving's and Goodnight's. He had gone on to Fort Sumner some time before and was there awaiting the arrival of his herd. He had become uneasy and feared that his herd probably had been taken, and made trips down the trail as far as he could and safely return with a small party, and on one of these trips met the party of Mexicans taking Loving on to the fort. Burleson, seeing Loving's condition, returned immediately and got the government ambulance and doctors and returned, meeting the wagon pulled by oxen, some fifty miles down the trail.

The doctors at once dressed Loving's wounds and returned with him to the fort. He appeared to do well for several days. The wound in his side was entirely healed, but the one in the arm continued to give him trouble.



Later on Burleson, when making another trip down the trail, met Goodnight under rather peculiar circumstances. It was Goodnight's custom to go on ahead of the herd in the evening and reconnoiter, to watch for Indian signs and to locate a suitable camping place for the night. In making these trips it was never his custom to follow the trail, but to travel some distance away so that he could discover if any Indians were in the country and not be taken by surprise. On this occasion he was slipping through the broken country and observed a man riding through the hills. He says that he was perfectly sure that it was an Indian and began to maneuver to get closer to him without being seen and then to get him before he would escape into the breaks. The man seemed to be very cautious, looking from one hill to another but never seeing Goodnight, when he was discovered to be a white man. Goodnight went towards him to attract his attention, but because Goodnight was behind him, Burleson did not notice his presence until he was close, as Burleson was interested in looking ahead. When he did see Goodnight, he started to run, but seeing that a white man was following him, he stopped and at once inquired about the cattle. On being told where they were, mention was made of Loving's being killed by the Indians, and Burleson at once replied that Loving had not been killed but that he was taken back to the fort and doing well, and detailed the circumstances of meeting him and taking him there. Goodnight could not believe it and told him that it was impossible; Loving had been killed some hundred miles below. He could not believe that the man Burleson had taken on to Fort Sumner was Loving; it was unbelievable that he had lived from his wounds and made his escape from the Indians. Goodnight could not express his feelings in knowing that his friend and partner was still alive and without a moments delay returned to the herd and getting the best horse he had, started about an hour before sunset to the fort. He rode the entire night and reached there the next morning making the trip of seventy-five miles in fourteen hours. He soon met Loving, who was feeling well, but the wound in his arm had not healed and was giving him some trouble. He had been treated by a young doctor at the fort, who had assured him that he was all right and there was no danger, the old post doctor being away at Las Vegas attending a court martial hearing.

Goodnight rested a few days and then thought that he would go on to the mountains and recover some mules and saddle horses which had been stolen from them when they were in that country the year before. The stock was in between Las Vegas and San Jose. He soon recovered them and started on his return and when he had gotten within about



Colonel Charles Goodnight (courtesy of the Southwest Collection).

thirty miles of his destination he was met by a courier sent by Loving requesting him to come on, that the arm by long neglect and excessive heat had become poisoned and gangrene had set in requiring amputation immediately, and that Loving, fearing he might not survive the operation, did not want it performed until he was there. Goodnight proceeded at once and reached Fort Sumner within a few hours. Preparations were made and the operation was performed next morning, and he recovered from the effect of the chloroform splendidly and grew better for about eight or ten hours when the arteries began to leak. This required another operation from which he apparently revived in good condition; but from then on he grew weaker and in about three weeks death relieved his unbearable suffering.

He was buried there by the post officers and Goodnight shortly afterwards continued the drive on to Colorado. The grief felt by Goodnight over the death of his friend and partner was inexpressible. Loving had expressed his wish that his body be not left for final repose in what he termed a foreign soil, but that it be carried back and interred at his old home for his last long sleep near his family and friends.

So far the story of Loving's fight with the Indians, his escape and death afterwards at Fort Sumner are substantially in the words of Goodnight as written by him in his memoirs. The truth of this remarkable exploit cannot be questioned because all of its details were told by Loving to Goodnight immediately after they happened. Upon the death of Loving, Goodnight continued the drive on the Colorado where the cattle were sold at a profit, and then he returned to Fort Sumner. It was his purpose at once to return the body of his friend to his Texas home. The wish that Loving had expressed was that his final resting place should not be an unfriendly and foreign soil.

It was Goodnight's purpose to fulfill that wish to the letter in spite of the many

difficulties which seemed to confront such an undertaking. The body of Loving was taken from its temporary resting place and the metallic casket in which it reposed was placed in a wagon for its last journey over that trail that that these two intrepid men had established the year before. Loving's great work had been accomplished. He had given his life that another step in the development of the west could be taken. Thus this memorable journey began, a funeral cortege across the river, mountain and desert. The distance was something over six hundred miles, but Goodnight, with that loyalty for his departed friend and that firm determination that distinguished him among men, intended to sacredly guard the body against all danger and any attack which might be made by the Comanches.

The weird, unique scene of this funeral procession as it slowly took its way down the Pecos back into Texas, across river and plain homeward bound has no counterpart in all history. Through a country of hundreds of miles without human habitation, the wagon was guarded by about a half dozen men whose lives had been lived among privations and dangers, men of the utmost fortitude and courage who would have guarded their sacred charge against the attack of a thousand savages and would not have yielded a single inch of ground as long as a one of them was alive.

Goodnight and his companions, hardened by many years of struggle in a frontier country where it was unusual to expect the tender sensibilities of life, had thrown aside that harsh exterior and were truly mourners as they guarded the casket that contained the body of their departed friend.

For nearly a month this journey continued across desert and plain under the diligent and watchful care of these hardened, determined plainsmen. At last Goodnight, with that supreme exultation of a solemn promise made to a dying friend kept and performed, delivered the body of Oliver Loving to his family and friends at his Texas home where he lies in his eternal sleep in that friendly soil that he cherished and loved.

#### Did You Know?

---that Charles Goodnight invented the first chuckwagon in 1866 using an old Army Studebaker wagon.

---that there are towns named for Oliver Loving in Eddy County, New Mexico near where he was attacked by Indians and in Young County, Texas.

---that there is a town named for Charles Goodnight in Armstrong County, Texas and a statue of him at the Panhandle-Plains Museum.

---that the story recounted in this article is retold in the novel *Lonesome Dove* by Larry McMurtry.

## NEWS FROM AROUND WEST TEXAS

*Across Time and Territory ~ A Walk Through the National Ranching Heritage Center* by **Marsha Pfluger** will be released in September or October 2004. The book features beautiful photographs of historic buildings from such well-known ranches as the 6666, Pitchfork, XIT, JA, Matador, Spur, and others. Pfluger, associate director at the NRHC, has compiled historical documentation and architectural information on each structure and added to that the legends, little-known stories and personal histories that give human interest to the Heritage Center's almost 4 dozen ranch structures. Price is set at \$39, available through the RHA or Cogdell's General Store. Ranchhc@ttu.edu.

**Steve Bogener** published two books last year: *Ditches Across the Desert* with TTU Press, on irrigation, money, and politics along New Mexico's Pecos River, and *Lubbock: Gem of the South Plains* by Cherbo Publishing Group in California.

The publishing firm of Albin Michel in Paris, France, has recently issued **Paul Carlson's** *The Plains Indians* in a French translation titled *Les Indiens des Plaines*.

WTHA life member **JoAnn Pospisil** contributed "The Industry Today" segment and reviewed the recent addition regarding candelilla wax camps to the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory <[www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net)> website which is devoted to the preservation and dissemination of Texas cultural history. This study explores the economic impact, cultural manifestations, historical legacy and current conditions within the little-known candelilla wax industry unique to the Big Bend region of Texas and northern Mexico.

**Lou Rodenberger** and **Sylvia Grider's** book, *Let's Hear It: Stories by Texas Women*, out of Texas A&M Press last fall, has won for them an invitation to present a panel at the Texas Book Festival. Their first book, *Texas Women Writers: A Tradition of Their Own*, was featured at the 1997 festival. This year's festival is October 30-31.

**Lou Rodenberger** and **Joyce Roach** share the honor of being named the first "West Texas Author of the Month" in March at a new series initiated by Abilene Public Library.

**Ken Untiedt** is the new secretary-editor of the Texas Folklore Society. He has also secured a full-time teaching position at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches.

**Walt Davis**, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum Director, retired in February 2004. He had held the position since 1992.

**Daniel Alonzo** is the new Archivist/Librarian at the Old Jail Art Center in Albany. The Old Jail has both a fine arts research library with a collection now numbering around 3,000 volumes and an historical archives. Mr. Alonzo will have responsibility for both collections.

**Rodney Watson** is the new director of Wayland Baptist University's Museum of the Llano Estacado, replacing **Eddie Guffee** who retired after 30 years with the museum. Watson had spent 4 years as a staff artist at the museum in the 1980s and had a hand in setting up about 70 per cent of the current exhibits.

**Andrew Liccardo**, who has worked in Exhibits & Outreach at the Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University for the past four years, has taken a full-time position as professor of photography at Northern Illinois University.

Motley County attorney **Tempie T. Francis** of Matador was appointed a member of the board of directors of the National WASP WWII Museum Association in Sweetwater. The proposed museum will tell the history of the first women to fly U. S. military aircraft. It will be built at Sweetwater's Avenger Field where the women trained.

**Tiffany Fink** received her Ph.D. in History from Texas Tech in May 2004. She is also succeeding **J'Nell Pate** as Book Review Editor for the WTHA *Year Book*.

**Rob Fink** completed his Ph.D. in History at Texas Tech in December 2003.

The highlight of the Permian Historical Society's Spring 2004 meeting, held at the Permian Basin Petroleum Museum, was election of officers for 2005-2006. Officers are **Ross McSwain** of San Angelo, President; **Bud Lindsey** of Stanton, first vice president and program chair; **Peggy Kelton** of McCamey, second vice president and membership chair; **Sue Ann Damron** of Big Spring, recording secretary; **Lorene Barbee** of Big Spring, membership secretary; **Sherry Phillips** of McCamey, treasurer; and **Damon Kennedy** of Midland, archivist.

Exhibits & Outreach at the **Southwest Collection** is working on an exhibit on the writer, **Barry Lopez**, whose papers they hold in the archive. The exhibit is set to kick off a tour throughout West Texas high schools and other venues in late fall 2004 to encourage young writers in their craft.

The **Brewster County Historical Commission** was recognized with the **Distinguished Service Award** for outstanding preservation work completed in 2003. The awards ceremony was held at the Texas Historical Commission's annual historic preservation conference in Fort Worth on May 7, 2004.

**Lyn Stoll** has recently designed five new displays in the cases at the Southwest Collection's Coronelli Rotunda: "Arid Lands: Books from the Collection of Dr. Idris Traylor," "The Pastels of Frank Reaugh," "A Kaleidoscope of Color: the Artistry of Helenn Rumpel" (in two cases), and "Water, a Crucial Resource."

February 2003 brought much wanted attention to **Bob's Oil Well** in Matador when Preservation Texas placed it on its first-ever list of Most Endangered Historic Places. The oil derrick replica is perched on top a once bustling combination of gas station, eatery, and tourist attraction. Hundreds of lights on the 65-foot-tall structure beckoned travelers for miles in the 1930s and 1940s.

**Wildcatter Ranch** opened at Graham, Texas in May 2004. In addition to offering traditional guest ranch activities, Wildcatter Ranch shares a story of the Texas frontier. Visitors to the ranch will be surrounded by historic sites where the stories of historic cattle drives, outlaw mysteries, legendary frontier battles, as well as stories of overnight oil boomtowns were made.

In May 2004 the **Old Settlers Reunion in Floyd County** celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> annual anniversary in Floydada. The Floyd County Pioneer Association has guided the event since its inception.

*The Southwest Chronicle*, newsletter of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections of Texas Tech library, is now in its fifth year of publication. The latest issue is available at: [http://swco.ttu.edu/exhibits/pdfs/Newsletter\\_Spring\\_2004.pdf](http://swco.ttu.edu/exhibits/pdfs/Newsletter_Spring_2004.pdf)

### Call for Papers:

**East Texas Historical Association** meeting, February 18 and 19, 2005, at the Tremont House in Galveston, Texas. To submit proposals, contact program chair: Don Willett, Texas A & M University-Galveston, P.O. Box 1675, Galveston, TX 77553-1675 <[willettd@tamug.tamu.edu](mailto:willettd@tamug.tamu.edu)>

**2006 Texas State Historical Association** meeting, which will be held in Austin on March 2-4, 2006. Committee chair Gerald Saxon is looking for papers on any aspect

of Texas history. The committee prefers to receive complete sessions for consideration. A complete session proposal includes a chairperson and either three paper presenters or two presenters and a commentator. All proposals must include (1) session title; (2) the names, addresses, phone numbers, institutional affiliations, and brief resumes of all participants; and (3) the title and short summary of each paper.

Please make two copies of each proposal. Send one copy of the complete proposal to Gerald Saxon, Dean of Libraries, University of Texas at Arlington, 3409 Sheffield Drive, Arlington, TX 76013; and send a second copy to 2006 TSHA Program, The University of Texas at Austin, 1 University Station D0901, Austin, TX 78712-0332. Proposals for the 2006 meeting should be submitted by February 15, 2005, to be considered at the committee's first meeting, but no later than April 15, 2005, to be considered at the committee's final meeting. Please call 512/471-1525 with questions.

### Upcoming Events:

*September 17-18, Silver Stars to Six Guns*, Kerrville, TX. A gala weekend benefiting the Former Texas Rangers Foundation and the Texas Rangers History and Education Center. Host will be World Champion Cowboy Larry Mahan. Writer and historian T.R. Fehrenbach is among those being honored. For ticket reservations call 1-888-766-4055.

*September 24-25, East Texas Historical Association* meeting, Fredonia Hotel, Nacogdoches. The WTHA session will include the following papers: Mitchell Davenport, Jacksboro, Texas, "Lt. Col. C.B. McLellan: A Life of Service in the Texas and Southwestern Frontier;" Preston Lewis, San Angelo, Texas, "Charley

Wilson: West Texas' Greatest 19th Century Racehorse."

*October 16, Permian Historical Society* meeting, at the Dora Roberts Community Center in Big Spring. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with coffee and pastries for early arrivals. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. with speakers focusing on Howard County history. A short business meeting will follow the presentations in which directors will be elected.

*November 12-13, Center for Big Bend Studies Conference*, Sul Ross State University, Alpine.

*December 3-5, Christmas at Fort Concho*, San Angelo. Three days full of Christmas cheer, including shopping, living history, a special area for children, ongoing entertainment as well as special scheduled shows, and much, much more, all on the historic fort grounds. For more information, contact Carol Cummings, Fort Concho Special Events Coordinator, at 325-657-4441.

### Ongoing Exhibits:

*Now through September 5*, Old Jail Art Center in Albany, special Western art exhibits "Diverse Journeys" by the Blagg Brothers and "Fandangle Photographs" by Michael O'Brian.

### In memory--

**Milford G. "Ford" Mitchell** died on March 10, 2004 in Lubbock. Member and avid supporter of the West Texas Historical Association, he became well-known when he served as the news anchor for Lubbock's KCBD Channel 11 from 1957 to 1973. He was also a member of Texas Tech Friends of the Library and Lubbock Friends of the Library.

## Native American Remains Interred at Morton Cemetery

Around 11:00 a.m. on March 10, 2004, a small group gathered at Morton Memorial Cemetery, Cochran County, Texas for the interment of remains believed to belong to early American Indian residents of the area.

Texas' Last Frontier Museum volunteers found human bones stored in a box at the Old Cochran County Museum. Records indicated the bones had been brought to the museum in the late 1950s labeled, "Indian bones—part of skeleton found in Southern Cochran County." A human skull found near Pietown, New Mexico, was also interred with the remains.

The Cochran County Commissioners generously approved the designation of ten gravesites on the far western edge of the cemetery as a Native American burial site for remains from desecrated graves and remains relocated from burial sites on private land.

Ken (Yazzie) Chambellan of the Navajo Nation presided at the graveside rite. Mr. Chambellan sprinkled fragments of cedar branches around the gravesite to mark a sacred space. He then ritually blessed those in attendance with the smoke of a smudge torch woven from native leaves and grasses. The boxes containing the remains were wrapped in a red woolen blanket to evoke good fortune. Mr. Chambellan indicated that he drew upon records of speeches by respected Native American tribal leaders and elders, including "Two Bears", an adviser to Comanche Chief Quanah Parker.

The Morton Memorial site is thought to be the only county-designated public burial site for unidentified Native American remains in Texas. For more information, contact Dorothy Barker, Chair of the Cochran County Historical Commission, (806) 266-5484 or jodaphi2@juno.com.

## Did You Know? West Texas Facts and Trivia

COMPILED BY VICKIE GINTHER

-----Areas of West Texas were hit hard by drought and grasshopper invasions in the 1890s. Floyd, Moore, and Hale counties were particularly hard hit. Due to the harsh conditions, the towns of Dumas and Estacado were almost completely deserted.

-----Hackberry, located in Cottle County on the N. Wichita River, was named after the hackberry trees that grew in the area. (Hackberry trees are related to elm trees, with small edible fruit about the size of a cherry.)

-----The "ghost town" of Perico (Dallam County) may have been named after a Spanish word meaning "parakeet." Perico was originally a railroad shipping point for the nearby XIT Ranch.

-----Elvis Presley performed at the South Plains Fair in 1956, two years after the Fairpark Coliseum opened.

-----Tommy Lee Jones was born in San Saba, Texas September 15, 1946.

-----Amarillo's first radio station, WDAG, was started in 1922 by J. Lawrence Martin.

-----The Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area, east of Canadian in Hemphill County, was named for Eugene A. Howe, a Kansas journalist who established the *Amarillo Globe* newspaper in 1924. Howe was an avid sportsman and conservationist who raised Herefords on his Big Bull Ranch, also in Hemphill County. Some of the species protected by the Gene Howe WMA are quail, mourning dove, and white-tailed deer.

# WTHA Call for Papers

The West Texas Historical Association invites you to submit proposals for papers to be presented at the 82nd annual meeting hosted in Alpine, Texas, April 1-2. Topics should cover historical subjects pertaining to West Texas.

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 18 minutes.

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:** November 1, 2004. Presenters will be notified of acceptance by December 14, 2004.

Program Committee:

Shirley Eoff, Chair. History Department, Angelo State University, ASU Station #10897, San Angelo, Texas 76909, Ph. 325/942-2203, [Shirley.Eoff@angelo.edu](mailto:Shirley.Eoff@angelo.edu)

Bruce Glasrud, 434 Rudelott Road, Sequin, Texas 78155, 830-557-6819; [bglasrud@gvec.net](mailto:bglasrud@gvec.net)

Brenda Haes, Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, P.O. 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409; 806/742-3749, [brenda.haes@ttu.edu](mailto:brenda.haes@ttu.edu)

Judy Parsons, Sul Ross State University, P.O. Box C-114, Alpine, Texas 79832; 432-837-8011; [jparsons@sulross.edu](mailto:jparsons@sulross.edu).

**Send proposals to:** The program committee chair. For additional information contact the West Texas Historical Association, Texas Tech University, P.O. 41041, Lubbock, Texas 79409; or via email to [wthayb@ttu.edu](mailto:wthayb@ttu.edu). Phone inquiries can be made to 806/742-9076.

## NEW ADDRESS?

Remember to send your change of address to the WTHA office: Southwest Collection, Box 41041, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041.

## THE CYCLONE

*A Newsletter for members of the West Texas Historical Association*  
Editors: Jim & Becky Matthews

Published twice a year (February and August) by the West Texas Historical Association, Lubbock, Texas. Members also receive the *Year Book*, published each fall, containing articles, news notes, and book reviews about West Texas history. Annual membership fees are \$10 for students, \$20 regular, \$25 family, \$35 sustaining, \$20 institutional/library. All back issues of the *Year Book*, published since 1925, are available for \$15 each.

**Check out back issues of the Cyclone at our website <[www.wtha.org](http://www.wtha.org)> updated by webmaster Lynn Whitfield.**

## WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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