



# THE CYCLONE



## Lubbock Conference Honors Kelton



WTHA presidents Cheryl Lewis and J'Nell Pate

Hamlin and vice-president, Travis Roberts of Marathon. New board members for 2006 are Janet Neugebauer of Lubbock, JoAnn Pospisil of Houston, Wes Sheffield of Burleson and Don Taylor of Abilene. The 2007 meeting of the association will be in Abilene, Texas on March 30-31.

For its eighty-third annual meeting, the West Texas Historical Association returned to the association headquarters in Lubbock on March 30-April 1, 2006. The conference, held at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza, featured a special birthday tribute to western writer Elmer Kelton. Other highlights included tours of the United Spirit Arena at Texas Tech, the Lubbock Lake Site, the Ranching Heritage Center and museums in Floydada and Crosbyton. Over 50 papers were presented in eighteen panels.

Sandy Hoover received the Mrs. Percy Jones Award for Best Article in the *Year Book* with "Searching for Meaning in the Llano Estacado." Nicholas Pruitt of Wayland Baptist University was winner of the Best Student Essay Award for "Broadening the Scope: The Texas High Plains Klan of the 1920s." Tom Alexander received the Rupert N. Richardson Award for the Best Book on West Texas with *Rattlesnake Bomber Base*.

Congratulations to our WTHA president for 2006, Cheryl Lewis of

## Cottonwood Springs

By Eddie Wolsch

For the past several years, I have been researching where the Mackenzie Trail crossed my farm which lies on the north bank of the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos River in southeast Stonewall County, near the Haskell County line. I have been doing so not only in preparation for a historical marker text submission but most importantly, to preserve our heritage.

My research of this region, the Double Mountain country, has actually been life-long. My interest in history was piqued at an early age from the many conversations I had with my grandfather, Emil Wolsch, who came to the Rolling Plains of northwest Texas in 1905 or so as a young man when his father moved his family to Sagerton, Haskell County. He did so, as did many other Central Europeans and Germans from the "German belt" of the Austin to Houston area, to take advantage of cheap land made possible with the laying of railroad tracks to the area. Born in 1888, Emil came to the Double Mountain country only 25 or so years after the last buffalo had been slaughtered on the Southern Plains and the last Comanches removed from the area. He told



me about roping wild horses that roamed the river bottom when he first came here, and of a vast prairie with grass belly high to a horse with no mesquites. He told me of how local farmers had to watch their stock as herds moved west to the Plains over the Mackenzie Trail and he showed me where the trail crossed our farm, a trail which was still used until the railroad came through in 1904.

The farm which my grandfather bought was a part of one of the first land surveys of the Double Mountain country. It was surveyed in the spring of 1856 by Daniel Montague who later gained notoriety as jury foreman in the "Great Gainesville Hanging" of Union sympathizers in Cooke County in 1862. Montague's survey crew was likely

accompanied by troops from Fort Belknap, for after leaving from Camp Cooper, 60 miles east in modern Throckmorton County, they were in Comanche territory. They would have followed the Marcy Trail to a large spring which today is about 2.5 miles west, upriver, from the bridge over the Double Mountain Fork on the Stamford-Aspermont highway. They likely camped here for the two months it took to complete their survey, and I have found an 1856 era Browning rifle lever near the spring, which was not military issue.

This spring is one of two large springs in a series of seeps which extend up a creek about a mile. The other spring now feeds a tank just east of the Old Glory-Hamlin farm-to-market road. These springs were well-known and well-used water holes long used by the natives and later became a crossroads of military trails as the Marcy, Mackenzie, and later post roads, all crossed at these springs. In July of 2004 John Yates of the Texas Archeological Society, who specializes in tracing the Comanche War Trail, surveyed the area surrounding the spring for artifacts. We found a large quantity of flint chips, the refuse of worked flint, as well as the burned rocks of a fire ring. The greatest find, (continued page 2)

## From the Executive Director



Dear Fellow Members:

Congratulations to the Association for another great meeting this past spring in Lubbock. We extend a heartfelt thanks to all of the members who attended the various events and the outstanding sessions put together by Keith Owen and his program committee. As always, we have Connie Aguilar, Paul Carlson, Brenda Haes, Robert Hall, Monte Monroe, and Lynn Whitfield, to thank for handling local arrangements and managing the registration table. Freedomia Paschall once again did an outstanding job setting up and managing the silent auction. Special thanks go to Professor Donald Blakeslee of Wichita State University who regaled

the crowd at the Friday night banquet about the famed Coronado encampment in Blanco Canyon. Our sincere and final thanks go to Carolyn Hardy and Nancy Marble and the fine members of the Floyd County Museum Association who hosted our group following the Blanco Canyon tour Saturday.

Plans are currently underway for our next annual meeting which is slated for Abilene. Tiffany Fink, B. W. Aston, Donathan Taylor, and Robert Hall are already busy, and rumors have it that it is shaping up to be one of our best meetings. If you would like to assist or work on any of the committees please contact Robert Hall at the Association offices.

With the break in the summer heat came the early fall rains for West Texas. A slow soaking rain from Hurricane John blessed the entire southwest from the west coast all the way to the Mississippi River. It was the major news story for us and grateful West Texans celebrated Labor Day in a special way. A friend, in a phone conversation with an east coast acquaintance, bragged about the rain and thanked Hurricane John. The "east coaster" was silent for a minute and said, "You mean Ernesto? No, said my friend, "John." Sometimes "West" and "East" don't connect--and, so it goes.

Tai Kreidler  
Executive Director

### Cottonwood Spring

(cont. from page 1) however, was an 1870s era military button. From a catalogue supplied by Rolla Shaller, curator of the Panhandle-Plains Museum at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, it was likely a sleeve or collar button from a coat of the type in use by the military during the time period of Mackenzie's Fourth Cavalry. Other than the written and oral accounts, this was the first material evidence I had of where the trail crossed through the area when Mackenzie's Tonk scouts established for him the trail to the Plains from Fort Griffin in October 1871. Considering that the trail was later used extensively by supply trains in the Red River War and the springs were at a crossroads of military trails of that era, I am hoping that other artifacts will turn up.



The written accounts of the trail and Mackenzie's map of it identify a "cottonwood springs water holes" near the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos, which I believe to be this series of springs. Max Tidmore, the authority on the trail, identified Cottonwood Spring as one of these springs on a hand drawn map in his papers in the Southwest Collection at Texas Tech. From the J.W. Williams map collection at the archive at Hardin-Simmons, a hand drawn map of the various post roads of that era all converge at that site, as well. Further evidence that this is Cottonwood (cont. page 8)

## *Did You Know? West Texas Facts and Trivia*

COMPILED BY VICKIE GINTHER

----The movie "Boys' Ranch" (1946), starring James Craig, Dorothy Patrick, and Skip Homeier, was filmed in Oldham County.

----Franklin Mountains State Park, created in 1979, is the largest urban park in the US. It covers approximately 37 square miles, or 24,247.56 acres, and is located entirely within El Paso's city limits.

----Darrouzett, Texas (Lipscomb County) was named after John Louis Darrouzett, an attorney for the Santa Fe Railway. The town's original name was Lourwood, after the first child born there, Opal Lourwood.

----Capt. Alan Bean, lunar module pilot of Apollo 12, was born in Wheeler, Texas. He was also the spacecraft commander for Skylab Mission II in 1973.

----Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. ACU opened on September 10, 1906 with 25 students. Last year, 4,703 students were enrolled.

----The Texas state native pepper is the chiltepin, which is a small, hot, bright red, oval-shaped berry. It is also called the "bird pepper" because it is popular with birds, who helped spread the plants throughout Mexico and the southwestern United States.

# Education in the Early Days of West Texas

by E. V. White

## *Two Counties Typical of the West*

In talking about the educational opportunities of West Texas during the pioneer period, it is natural that I should think of Taylor and Jones counties where I lived as a boy, where I attended the public schools, and where I did my first teaching. Conditions in these two counties were doubtless typical of those in other sections of the West.

My first teaching job was in rural schools of Jones County in 1896-97 and 1897-98. A few years later I was principal and superintendent of the public schools at Merkel. Beginning in the early part of 1907, I was, for nearly five years, county superintendent of Taylor County. I shall not at this time speak of my experience as a superintendent. Rather I shall think of my own school days in Taylor County and the early teaching experience which I had in Jones County.

## *Aims of Early Education*

The pioneers of West Texas might not have had a very clear conception of what *education* was. Whatever it was, they were for it. But they were pretty well agreed on the aims or purposes of education. This aim, stated briefly, would have meant substantially the following: The purpose of education is to qualify one to fill a useful position in a work that limits one's presence to a maximum amount of shade and a minimum amount of sunshine. Such an aim was a great inspiration to the ambitious, hard-working, sweating youth of the day, who dreamed of himself seated in a cool office and wearing starched clothes. We are still debating the all-important question of what education is and what it seeks to do. If the youth of today would express himself frankly, his ideas in respect to this problem would not differ materially from those of his forebears of half a century ago.

## *The First Schools*

My family came to Taylor County in a covered wagon the latter part of 1881 and settled about ten miles northwest of Abilene. At that time Abilene had a population of about 400, most of them living in tents or temporary residences. The nearest school to us was at Abilene.



A Texas school room during the period of this article. Courtesy of the Southwest Collection.

We were interested in schools because my grandfather and some of our neighbors had several children who were of school age. Beside, my father was a college graduate and had taught for two or three years before we came to Texas. During the year 1882 or 1883, my father taught the first school at Merkel. This was a private or "subscription" school, lasted about four months, and was conducted in a church building of the town. Some of the students came daily a distance of five to seven miles. In 1883-84, my father taught the first school at Salt Branch which was located at the time about five miles east of Merkel. He continued to teach this community school until 1889.

No State apportionment was available at first. Within this period, however, the State paid from one to three dollars per capita on children between the ages of eight and fourteen. Later the scholastic age was raised to 16. As the State apportionment increased and as local communities began to levy special school taxes, which were then limited to twenty cents on the one hundred dollars of the assessed value of property, private or subscription schools gradually disappeared. The salaries of teachers usually ranged from forty to fifty dollars per month, and the free-school term varied from three to five months in each year. Occasionally the free-school period was supplemented by a month or so of pay school. Often this was held during July and August after the crops were laid by.

## *Lack of System*

School districts were established by the commissioners' court upon petition of

communities in the county. These communities were often widely separated by large pastures in which resided few children. As these pastures were gradually opened up to settlers, new school districts would be formed. Or, sometimes several schools were established in the same district. Since school districts were created as emergency measures in a frontier country, the hodge-podge division of the country was a real obstruction to school progress in later years when uniform settlements, good roads, and consolidations were in evidence.

In those days the county judge was ex-officio school superintendent. Usually he was a lawyer by profession. His multitudinous duties as the head of the county's business left but little of his time to devote to school matters. His chief school duties were limited to the approval of teachers' contracts and vouchers, and to assistance in the settlement of a variety of school rows. Each community was almost wholly a law unto itself. The teacher usually sought no professional outside aid, nor did he look kindly upon any suggestions that might accidentally come to him. It was not until 1907 that professional supervision was given to counties whose rural districts had a scholastic population of 3,000 or more.

## *Protection From Ignorance*

Even in early years school communities were presumed to have some protection against ignorant teachers. Therefore, teachers were required to hold certificates. In the eighties and early nineties, the county judge gave oral examinations, issuing certificates of first, second, or third class. The grade of certificate often depended on the degree of opaqueness of the judge or on the political influence of the applicant. Such certificates were valid only in the county. After 1890, the state superintendent was given authority to issue certificates of state-wide validity. Examinations were conducted by the judge or by a board appointed by him, and the papers were sent to Austin to be graded for a state certificate. An applicant for a second-grade certificate took the examination in twelve subjects, an

applicant for a first-grade in seventeen subjects; while an applicant for a permanent was examined in twenty-six subjects. The public had great respect for the holder of a first-grade certificate because he was able to teach algebra, geometry, physics, and other advanced subjects. The holder of a permanent certificate was held in reverential awe because he could teach subjects still more advanced. In fact, it was presumed that he knew everything about everything, and that his head was the sepulchre of all the knowledge there was.

Since my father was a teacher, I inherited the idea that the holder of a second-grade certificate was, in reality, a second-class teacher. I had so little respect for this grade of credential that I was determined never to be the recipient of such a dishonor. My lowest aim was to hold at least one of first grade. My friends thought I was foolish when I took the examination, in the summer of 1896, for recommendation of such high rank. Well do I remember the many days of waiting for my report from Austin. I would haul a load of wood to town, sell it, then inquire nervously at the post office if my report had come. Finally, one hot day in August the report and the certificate came! I really held a certificate of *First Grade*. As I drove my team home that afternoon, I ventured to say that I took out and read the certificate at least a hundred times. Often I was afraid to look again, thinking maybe I was dreaming or that I was mentally upset. To be promoted from *wood hauler* to *professor*—all in one day—was an ecstasy that never came to me again! Even now I am sometimes thrilled at the memories of that great event. And it is needless for me to say that my first certificate still holds an important place in the chest where I now keep my valuable papers.

#### *Miscellaneous Books*

In those days we had no classification of students, nor did we have uniform textbooks prior to about 1897. Every student studied what he pleased and brought with him the particular books he preferred to use. Of course, the chief subjects were spelling, arithmetic, reading, writing, and geography. When a student completed the Blue-back speller, he usually studied the dictionary. If he completed the fifth reader, he usually read some history of the United States. Many of us did not

know that any other country had a history. The shining stars in mathematics waded into algebra after they “went through” Ray’s Third Part Arithmetic.

Since the school had only one teacher, it was necessary to run the schedule from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Even then, some of the patrons often complained about the short hours, because ranch hands and cotton pickers began earlier and worked later than the schedule of school hours. Despite the multitude of textbooks in every subject, the formation of classes was necessary in order to finish during the day. But the use of many books in the same class did not impede progress since it was presumed that the teacher knew everything in every book. The plan seemed to work very well at times except when we studied the Civil War period of American history. I remember particularly that bad feeling was developed in one such class. One group had a book written by Alexander H. Stephens, formerly Vice-President of the Confederacy. Then some boys from Kansas brought with them a copy of American history by Barnes. The two books—one containing the prejudices of the Confederacy, the other the prejudices of the Union—were irreconcilable as to the number engaged in battles of the Civil War, the victories or the defeats of one side or the other, and the consequent importance of each engagement. This event seemed to open the eyes of the natives in two respects: first, it destroyed the idea which many of us held that a printed book could not contain untruthful statements; second, it impressed us with the home teaching that “damned Yankee” was a reality and not a fantastic romance of the mind.

#### *Punishment Certain*

A good school teacher, in those days, was one who was skillful in the art of administering corporal punishment. One who didn’t whip was considered a poor teacher. As a rule, the big boys in school furnished excellent reasons for this action on the part of the teacher, and quite often they resisted, singly and collectively, the efforts of the teacher to apply the gentle rod of correction to the padded cuticle of the erring urchin. Age and size were not presumed to be a deterrent force. There were few communities that did not have a full quota of bad boys who craved the reputation of being unwhippable. In these

designs they were often successful, making it necessary for the poor teacher to resign and seek more amicable fields. One could always be assured of one thing—somebody was going to get whipped, whether the teacher or the pupils! The wise teacher, astute in the art of applied psychology, always beat the bad ones to it. For example, one young teacher, elected to a school where several teachers had been run out of the community, heard many boasts as to what the boys proposed to do. The young teacher prepared for the emergency by secreting about the building a good supply of hickory switches. Before the close of the first day, half a dozen ring leaders, including two six-footers, had been thoroughly thrashed, pin-drop quiet prevailed in the temple of knowledge, and the teacher’s reputation for sagacity and scholarship was indisputably established.



#### *Community Entertainment*

Any picture of the pioneer school would be incomplete without reference to the Friday afternoon exercises which were held from time to time. It was then that the trustees and other patrons, even the young women and men, would visit the school that they might hear the “speeches,” the dialogues, and the compositions of the pupils. Sometimes the programs would vary so as to include spelling matches. Two students would “choose up” the entire student body and the visitors. Often the battle would last for hours with the words pronounced from the Blue-back Speller. The school term was usually closed with an “exhibition,” which also consisted of speeches, dialogues, and black-face comedies. The close of the school was one of the great events in the life of the community, and even the roughnecks cooperated in making such affairs a success. Participation in these events often stimulated the better students to greater and more worthy ambition.



### *Center of Activities*

The country schoolhouse was also used as a forum for debates on Saturday nights. The subjects of these debates ranged all the way from the most frivolous to the most ponderous questions. At least, they gave a wonderful opportunity to practice the subtle art of oratory and eloquence. Sometimes the debates gave way to the merriment of "Kangaroo court" which selected all the officers of a real court and tried one of its members on a frivolous charge. The defendant was usually convicted and assessed a certain number of licks with a boot leg. On Sunday the pioneer preacher spoke words of spiritual admonition to the entire community. If the variety of religious opinions justified, one denomination would hold forth on the first Sunday of each month, another on the second Sunday, etc. Nearby the country grave yard marked the last resting place of those who passed on to the Great Beyond. The country schoolhouse was in reality the center of community activities where a hard-working people, resting from their toils, met to visit with each other and to discuss matters of common interest.

### *The First College*

No degree-conferring colleges were

available to the youth of West Texas. In a few of the larger towns, private academies were established, but the existence was usually of short duration. Old Buffalo Gap College, located at Buffalo Gap in the center of Taylor County, was a Presbyterian institution which survived for many years and which did much to inspire the youth of the entire West. Simmons College, now Hardin-Simmons University, was established by the Baptists at Abilene in 1892. This institution thus became the first permanent, degree-conferring college of West Texas. The Rev. Charles Frily was its first president. His successors, especially Oscar H. Cooper and Jefferson Davis Sandfer, have developed a unique institution out of this humble beginning of a few devout souls who belonged to the pioneer period of the West.

### *Beacons of Light*

While many teachers of the early days of West Texas were more or less itinerant and while their supply of the world's knowledge was indeed limited, I would not leave the impression that there were no good schools and that there were no good teachers in those good old days. On the contrary, there were many excellent schools and scholarly teachers, even in

remote places. It is true that the buildings were poorly and meagerly equipped. It is also true that the number and the qualifications of teachers would fall far short of the modern, standardized school of today. But let it also be remembered that it takes more than big buildings and degree-holding teachers to maintain a genuine school which touches the hearts and souls of human beings. The schools of today doubtless have something which the schools of the early days did not and could not have. But it is equally true that the schools of the pioneer period had something too which is not found in the temples of learning that decorate the land of today. In my contacts with thousands of college students during the past quarter of a century, I have not infrequently found them to be entirely ignorant of great truths, both philosophical and scientific, which I learned in the obscure, one-teacher school of West Texas. These schools were poor, they were unknown, they were located in obscure surroundings. But God bless the memory of them. They helped abundantly the ambitious youth of the time to find the way.

## *Texas in World War II*

# Regional Oral History Training Workshops

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) *Texas in World War II* initiative is a multi-year statewide effort to honor the role of Texas during the Second World War. The THC launched the initiative on September 2, 2005 at the Texas State Capitol in Austin. The grant funded initiative is composed of various components: *Vignettes of Wartime Texas* (21 new historical markers), *Texas in World War II* heritage tourism travel brochure, a statewide survey of historic World War II military and home front sites, enhancements to the THC's World War II webpage, and a series of regional oral history training workshops entitled *Here and There: Recollections of Texas in World War II*.

Made possible by generous grants from the Summerlee Foundation of Dallas and the Houston Endowment, the workshops are free to the public. Earlier this year THC staff conducted the first four in Austin, Uvalde, Bonham and Georgetown. Others are being planned across the state, including one in Palacios, the site of Camp Hulen during the war. The THC encourages communities or organizations interested in hosting a workshop to contact the agency.



*Here and There* oral history training workshop

The purpose of the *Here and There* workshops is to train local volunteers to gather oral histories relating to their communities and families during the war years. The primary focus is on questioning techniques, the core of any good oral history interview. Particular emphasis is given to the quality of interview content that can be maximized through sound research, extensive project planning, engaging interviewing techniques, respect for interviewees, and open-ended and insightful exploratory questions. The workshops, which involve discussions, research presentations and some practice of techniques, end with a challenge to incorporate all ideas into their interviews,

if possible, but ultimately to *get the stories*.

World War II transformed the United States like no other event in our nation's history. Over 750,000 Texans joined the armed forces during the war, while hundreds of thousands more contributed at home toward the war effort. Texas enjoyed the economic benefits from millions of dollars of federal investment and experienced the social growing pains created by the 1.5 million transplant Texans who served in the state during the war. The resulting influx of federal revenue combined with new ideas, experiences and personalities altered nearly every Texan's life and hastened the progress toward modernization and urbanization. Through the *Texas in World War II* initiative, the THC has launched a multi-pronged approach to record, interpret and preserve this history. Anyone interested in attending or hosting a *Here and There* workshop should contact the THC's Military History Sites Coordinator, William McWhorter ([william.mcwhorter@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:william.mcwhorter@thc.state.tx.us)) or call 512/463-5833. To learn more about the initiative, check the THC web site ([www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)).

## NEWS FROM AROUND WEST TEXAS

After more than three years of work, **Bill O'Neal** has three new books in publication this summer. In June, Eakin Press released *Cheyenne, 1867-1903, A Biography of the Magic City of the Old West*. This detailed history of the formative years of "The Holy City of the Cow" features 200 photographs. Also in June, Publications International, Inc., of Chicago released *Best of the West*, a "brick book" with a richly-illustrated, light approach to the Wild West. In September the East Texas Historical Association will release *War in East Texas, Regulators Vs. Moderators*, the story of the first and deadliest of the blood feuds of Texas. This significant but overlooked feud is the first volume in the East Texas Series, sponsored by Bob and Doris Bowman for the ETHA.

**Lou Rodenberger's** book, *Jane Gilmore Rushing: A West Texas Writer and Her Work*, will be out of Texas Tech University Press in December. Rodenberger is currently working on a memoir on contract to TTUP that will cover the years she has been associated with women writers in Texas.

*Cemeteries and Funerary Practices in the Big Bend of Texas, 1850 to the Present* by **Glenn P. Willeford** and **Gerald G. Raun** has just been released by Johnson's Ranch and Trading Post Press. The book contains narrative concerning such topics as: ghost stories, grave typology, art and ornamentation, All Soul's Day, old-time Borderlands funerals; epidemics, motifs and symbolism. It contains forty-two photographs and all the known historical cemeteries in southern Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Presidio counties are listed alphabetically. Also listed alphabetically are the names of all known persons buried in the three counties prior to 1980. This does not include the major cemeteries in Alpine, Marfa, and Marathon which have been adequately documented elsewhere. Of perhaps utmost importance, the book details the locations and site descriptions of sixty-three rural (and for the most part hidden) graveyards, including some on private property and those situated within the cemetery-rich Big Bend National Park. To order individual copies contact: Front Street Books: [findit@fsbooks.com](mailto:findit@fsbooks.com); telephone (432) 837-3360 or contact Dr. Gerald Raun: [graun@sbcglobal.net](mailto:graun@sbcglobal.net).

**Ty Cashion** had an idea for a new approach to the history of Fort Worth. Thinking that the frontier period had been covered on numerous occasions, he began with the year 1900 and did a chapter for every decade in the 20th century. The resulting book, *The New Frontier: A Contemporary History of Fort Worth & Tarrant County* is now available in book stores.

The initial issue of *The Spirit of the Old West* journal, published by World Wide Westerners is at the printers and will be available from **Ted Knorr** at [spiritofthewest@yahoo.com](mailto:spiritofthewest@yahoo.com) or by calling 806-745-9933 for a free copy w/subscription form at two for one during this special time. Dedicated to keeping the spirit and values of the Old West alive, the journal contains an ever growing list of events, mostly in West Texas, and stories about historic and heritage subjects that enliven and educate, as well as some pieces aimed at enjoying our unique place in history, geography and the hearts of all Americans, in fact, those of people all over the world.

*Ted Knorr is seeking* articles, story ideas, subscriptions, and advertising. He is eager to get input from every angle of keeping our American Western Heritage alive and available to all people who have an interest.

**Ralph H. Brock's** article "Perhaps the Most Incorrect of Any Land Line in the United States: Establishing the Texas-New Mexico Boundary Along the 103rd Meridian" was recently published in *the Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, vol. 109, no. 4 (April, 2006). The article concerns the establishment and subsequent survey of the boundary between Texas and New Mexico, and the errors in the survey that placed the boundary line several miles west of the true 103rd meridian. The survey line was finally accepted by the United States and Texas in 1891, and the State of New Mexico was bound by that acceptance when she joined the Union in 1912.

**Charles Behlen** was made monthly literary critic for Southlit.com in May and has poems due to appear in *Borderlands: Texas Poetry in Review* (Austin) and *Navagante* (Santiago, Chile) later this year.

**Lewis Toland** has been promoted to full professor at New Mexico Military Institute.

**Kevin Sweeney** of Wayland Baptist University-Plainview has been promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor.

**Christy Lemons** has been hired as manager of education programs at the National Ranching Heritage Center. She is directing student and adult education and serves as the staff liaison with the Ranch Hosts volunteers on special events where re-enactors are an important element. She also supervises the Junior Rough Riders membership.

To fill shortages unexpectedly created during the year 2006-2007, the History Department at Angelo State University has hired **R. Gary Pumphrey** and **Leland Turner** (both from Texas Tech) for one-year appointments. Dr. Pumphrey will teach Geography classes and Mr. Turner will be responsible for American history survey classes.

Hired to fill a tenure track position in the Angelo State University History Department is **John Eusebio Klingemann**, who hails from Terlingua, via Sul Ross State University (BA, MA) and the University of Arizona (Ph.D.). Mr. Klingemann is presently on leave (2006-2007) from Angelo State on a Fulbright García-Robles Fellowship for Mexico where he is working on his dissertation, a study of the Villistas.

**Gretchen Adams** of Texas Tech University has been awarded a research fellowship from the Cody Institute for Western American Studies for 2006-07. She is working on a biography of Buffalo Bill covering the years before the Wild West Show.

**Paul Cool** of Maryland has signed a publishing agreement with Texas A&M University Press to publish a history of the El Paso Salt War of 1877. This will be the first book-length history of this conflict.

**Kerry Chandler** of Texas State University is finishing research for a thesis studying the impact military bases had on their local communities. The study focuses on bases in Bryan, San Marcos, Marfa and Peyote. The focus of this study has been the impact caused by a small community losing a military base built there during World War II. On a small scale, this study is a cross-state comparison of how different towns have fared after losing one of the many military bases built in Texas during World War II. On a larger scale, this study should remind the government of the disastrous consequences that come along with budget cuts and base closures. Chandler is a graduate student and vice president of the Sigma Nu chapter of Phi Alpha Theta.

**Joe W. Specht**, author of *The Women There Don't Treat You Mean: Abilene in Song* (State House Press, 2006) was featured on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Radio National's new show "Into the Music." The interview, called "Abilene Jukebox," ran in an 1 hour slot on July 15, 2006, on all ABC-affiliated stations across the continent. ABC's sister company, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), may pick up the piece as well.

**Allen Anderson** and the photoarchives department at Texas Tech's Southwest Collection continue to work on the Irl Smith Photo Collection from Pampa, TX. Right now, they are concentrating on the commercial photographs, as these likely will be the ones people doing research are most interested in.

The **Frontier Times Museum** in Bandera received a grant from the Texas Historical Foundation's Jeanne R. Blocker Endowment. The financial assistance will be used to conduct the first inventory of the collection, document artifacts and determine which ones need cleaning or conservation, and create a database of the items.

An open house at **Fort Concho** to celebrate the completion of its new Living History Stable took place on April 2, 2006. Planned to serve the site's living history needs for years to come, the eighteen-stall facility has a feed storage area, a tack/equipment room, an educational center, and meeting room.

Palo Pinto County **Old Jail Museum** has received a donation of a collection of flint effigies which were found in the Mineral Wells area. It contains images of many animals that are native to the area. One flint napping is the profile of a person's head.

In order to preserve the area's history as an ongoing project, the **Callahan County Historical Commission** is collecting any old photographs, scrapbooks, articles, or other memorabilia local residents are discarding. In the case of originals that people want to keep, the commission hopes to find a way to scan materials on the spot so they can be returned immediately.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

WTHA board member and **Texas Oral History Association** Vice President JoAnn Pospisil is requesting three papers for a WTHA/TOHA joint session for the spring 2007 WTHA annual meeting in Abilene. Any West Texas history-related topic for which you have conducted oral histories will be a welcome addition to our program. Contact JoAnn at [pospisil@bcm.edu](mailto:pospisil@bcm.edu) or telephone 713-798-4501.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 14-16, 2006. Clay County Pioneer Reunion and Rodeo**, Henrietta. The cowboy parade will kick off activities at 4 PM, Thursday, followed by the crowning of the Pioneer Queen and the rodeo at 7:30. Friday and Saturday include the float parade at 10 AM Friday, followed by a barbecue and entertainment on the Court House square. The Clay Co. 1890 Jail Museum will be open from 11 AM to 4 PM on Friday and Saturday, with a special display of Selby Schwend's famous gun collection. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for students. Some of the guns in the Schwend collection belonged to Buffalo Bill Cody, Frank James, Bill Tilghman, Bill Doolin, Cole Younger, Bat Masterson, Sam & Belle Starr, Tex Rickard, James Bonham, Texas Ranger Captain Bill McDonald, Billy Dixon, over 100 guns total.

**September 30, 2006. Texas' Last Frontier Ranch Heritage Tour**, Levelland. Visit historic ranches and other sites of historical interest, including Silver Lake, a prehistoric Native American campsite and location of major battles between the U.S. infantry and Comanche warriors; the Muleshoe Heritage Center where enactors will bring alive the history of Texas' Last Frontier; the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge, the first national wildlife refuge in Texas; Morton, Texas, and the headquarters of major area ranches, including the Slaughter Ranch, Duggan Ranch, and the Mallet Ranch. Enjoy a barbecue dinner and country and western music entertainment. The price of the ticket for the full day of events, including the bus tour, meals and entertainment, is \$65 per person. The deadline for purchasing tickets is *September 1, 2006*. CONTACT: Jim Hogue, [jhogue2848@aol.com](mailto:jhogue2848@aol.com), (806) 229-2741 or John Hope, [jdhope@llano.net](mailto:jdhope@llano.net), (806) 894-4062 or <http://www.ci.levelland.tx.us/>

**October 21, 2006. Permian Historical Society**, fall meeting, Iraan, Texas. Happy Hour begins at 9:00 and the reading of papers at 10:00. There will be a table for the sale of books and book sellers are welcome to attend and bring their books. There will be a meal, price unknown at this time and a visit to Alley Oop Park and the Pecos County Museum. Patrick Dearen, Charles Stroder, Annette Lopez-Lane and Louie Jones are the speakers at this time. We are in search of another one or two. For more information, call Peggy Kelton at 432-652-8738 or e-mail at [PeggyKelton@hughes.net](mailto:PeggyKelton@hughes.net) Y'all come.

**October 21, 2006. 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Ranch Day**, Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Ranch hosts and special event participants demonstrate period craftsmanship and lifestyles that represent a history of ranching from the 1780s to the 1930s. For the kids, a Stick Horse Rodeo. Events and a barbecue lunch (nominal charge) held in Proctor Park. Free admission.

**December 1-3, 2006. Christmas at Fort Concho**, San Angelo, Friday 3:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M., Saturday 10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M., Sunday 11:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Fort Concho National Historic Landmark and Museum's largest fundraiser. 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. Admission: Adults - \$5.00, Seniors/Military/Students - \$3.00 Children (6-12) - \$2.00, Children under 6 - Free. For information call 325-657-4441, or e-mail [hqtrs@fortconcho.com](mailto:hqtrs@fortconcho.com)

**December 8-9, 2006. Candlelight at the Ranch**, Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock, 6:30-8:30 p.m. (5:30 p.m. on Saturday for visitors with special needs). Volunteers in the historic structures recreate holiday activities of the past. Watch or join in at the Cowboys' Christmas Ball in the Pitchfork Pavilion. Suggested donation \$2 per person. For tickets and additional information, call (806) 742-0498.

### ONGOING EXHIBITS

**Through October 8, 2006. Panhandle-Plains Museum**, Canyon. "Picturing Palo Duro." This exhibition presents the numerous interpretations of the "Grand Canyon of Texas" from the first known images to the present day. Call PPHM for information 806-651-2244. The exhibit is sponsored by the Center for the Advancement and Study of Early Texas Art (CASETA), housed at Texas State University in San Marcos.

**Through 2006. Ranching Heritage Center**, Lubbock. "6666." This exhibit showcases the history of this historic ranch based in Guthrie, Texas, the people who made it famous, the collections they acquired and the friends they made. Includes items from M.B. Loyd International Firearms Collection, a reproduction of Burk Burnett's room from his 1917 "Big House," plus Burnett's Quannah Parker Collection, which contains rare artifacts given to Burnett by Parker and his family including prized ceremonial lances.

## Cottonwood Spring (Cont. from p. 2)

Spring is the location of a spring at this site on the map developed by Randolph Marcy from his military surveys of the Southern Plains. On his 1849 map he identified an Indian trail running North and South through the spring which was undoubtedly part of the system of trails comprising the Comanche War Trail. Research conducted by anthropologist Daniel Gelo, a specialist in Comanche geographical place names, concluded that the Comanches used Kiowa Peak (north of the spring about 20 miles) and Double Mountain, as landmarks to water holes in the War Trail system. Kiowa Peak and Double Mountain have always been prominent landmarks in the area noted by not only Marcy and Mackenzie in their official reports but also by Robert E. Lee. He followed the Marcy Trail to the spring in his patrols of the Double Mountain country while he was stationed at Camp Cooper prior to the Civil War.

The first Europeans to come through these ancient crossroads were the Frenchman Pierre "Pedro" Vial, employed by the Spanish, and the Spaniard Jose Mares, in 1787-88 to link Santa Fe and San Antonio and guard the silver mines of Santa Fe and Chihuahua. According to historians Loomis and Nasatir, Mares named a spring on the Double Mountain Fork San Crisanto, possibly Mackenzie's Cottonwood Spring, although there is no way to know. In 1806 Jefferson sent the Freeman-Custis Expedition to explore the Red River, the southern boundary of his new acquisition. Although turned back by the Spanish, the party managed to circle through Clear Fork country about 60 miles east of the spring. In 1808, a Spanish military detachment under Francisco Amangual pursued Comanche horse thieves up the trail from San Antonio.

Though the Mares-Vial trail was actually only used three times by the Spanish to protect the Santa Fe/Chihuahua silver mines, a myth nevertheless arose that Spanish treasure was buried somewhere in the vicinity of the confluence of the Salt and Double Mountain forks of the Brazos near Kiowa Peak about 20 miles north of the spring. The myth

of the "spider rock" treasure probably arose from a melding of Coronado's search for Quivira and the Mares-Vial trail. The Clear Fork natives' worship of a large metallic rock – a meteor now in the Smithsonian – a legend which was reported by the Freeman-Custis expedition may have further developed the myth of "Spanish gold." The report of the state geological survey of the early 1850s which placed copper in the Kiowa Peak area may also have contributed. The myth was strong enough to lure an Ohio man to spend much of his life searching for "Spanish gold" in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

After the 1874-5 Red River War effectively ended Comanche and Kiowa resistance, Charley Rath moved his hide hunter supply business south and developed Rath City in the winter of 1877 about 20 miles west of Cottonwood Spring. After raids on Rath City and its hunters in the winter of 1877-78 by the last group of roving Comanches, hunters from the area joined with "Buffalo Soldiers" from Fort Griffin and Fort Concho to pursue the Comanches onto the Llano Estacado. This came to be known as the "Forlorn Hope" expedition due to the deaths by dehydration in July of 1877 of four troopers. During the buffalo slaughter the trail was used to ship the hides by "bull wagon" from Rath City to Fort Griffin and later to ship buffalo bones via the same route.

Even before the Comanche removal, the Mackenzie Trail became the "highway to the plains" as men like One-Armed Jim Reed, the first cattleman in the Double Mountain country, moved their herds west over the trail. He moved into the area in the early 1870s and built a stone house with gunports near the Salt Fork north of present Old Glory. His herd ranged over the country between the Salt and Double Mountain Forks, and his ranch was known as the Double Mountain Horseshoe T Cross. Another stockman in the area was Jesse Hittson whose stock ranged south of Reed's on the Clear Fork. The trail was used until the Stamford and Northwestern Railroad was opened in 1904 to connect the Stamford and Spur SMS ranches.

I didn't realize how extensively our farm had been traveled and the spring had been used, until I

uncovered its history. The spring which I had cooled off in during the summer as a boy had seen quite a bit of activity. Although I feel certain this is the Cottonwood Spring Mackenzie referred to, I don't know with enough certainty to name it on my historical marker. One of his maps places it on Mulberry Creek which appears to be modern day Tonk Creek. Brune's *Springs of Texas* also places it on Tonk Creek as does the *Handbook of Texas*. An article in the WTHA *Year Book* about the Spider Rock treasure lists a dripping springs on Flat Top Mountain which suggests my spring could be this spring although it is near but not on Flat Top. In any case, it is the search which brings pleasure. I have built a cabin on my farm near the spring under a cottonwood old enough to have seen Quanah Parker, Marcy, and Mackenzie, and enjoy sharing my enthusiasm for history there with like-minded others. [The author invites WTHA members who have suggestions, corrections, additions, or comments to email him at [eddiewolsch@hotmail.com](mailto:eddiewolsch@hotmail.com).]

### 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)> maintained by webmaster Lynn Whitfield.**

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