Tai Kreidler New WTHA Executive Director

At the meeting of the West Texas Historical Association last March, Dr. Tai Kreidler was approved as the new Executive Director of the association. Dr. Kreidler is a long-time employee of the Southwest Collection and a graduate of Texas Tech University. He fills the important role recently vacated by Dr. B.W. Aston.

Dr. Paul Carlson filled the position as interim director last year, enabling us to make a smooth transition when the office moved from Hardin-Simmons to Texas Tech. WTHA owes its thanks to Carlson for his willingness to fill the gap.

A new slate of officers for 1999 was also approved at the March meeting. Congratulations to President Darlene Bellinghausen of Knox City and Vice-President Clint Chambers of Lubbock. New board members are Yolanda Romero Irving, Harry Krenkel of Snyder, Preston Lewis of Lubbock and Harry Hewitt of Wichita Falls. Mary Parker of Canyon will fill Kreidler’s unexpired term on the board.

From The Executive Director

Greetings from Lubbock, Texas, where the 76th meeting of the West Texas Historical Association took place, March 26-27, at the Southwest Collection on the Texas Tech campus. The successful two day program saw over 105 attendees at eight sessions. Over 90 members and guests gathered for the Presidential Reception and Friday night banquet at the Lubbock Women’s Club. Lanny Fiel and his Ranch Dance Piddle Band serenaded us once again, and gave us an evening of fun and song. One of our largest crowds (100) attended the Saturday luncheon at the Ranching Heritage Center to hear WTHA President Harwood Hinton talk about Scholarly Writing on the Texas Range Cattle Industry.

It was announced at the luncheon that John Miller Morris’s book, *The Llano Estacado*, won the Rupert Norval Richardson Award for the Best Book on West Texas History, and Jack Becker’s article about J. P. Morris and the Rafter-3 Ranch won the Mrs. Percy Jones Award for the Best Article in the *Year Book*.

The local arrangements committee chaired by Betty Carr provided wonderful facilities and fine entertainment. A sincere thanks go out to her, the committee, and everyone who made the meeting a success.

The move of the executive offices to Lubbock in 1998, and the election of a new Executive Director in 1999 certainly point the organization to new challenges and opportunities. Some of these include increasing membership, maintaining cooperative links to local and regional historical groups, and reviving dormant contact to various West Texas communities and educational institutions. However, it remains the primary mission of the WTHA to serve as the positive medium through which people can visit about history, hear about new information, and learn about related activities and events. The association’s great strength has been, and will continue to be, its members. With this bedrock of support, the WTHA’s continued success is assured.

Summers are usually busy, and WTHA editors and staff members have been working hard. Paul Carlson and Andy Young are diligently working on the articles for the next *Year Book* issue. Freedonia Paschall is putting finishing touches on her “History in West Texas” report, and Albert Camp is revising the “Documents” segment. Ty Cashion has been busy and has the “Book Review” section ready. Finally, Jim and Becky Matthews have graciously taken on the responsibility for compiling and editing *The Cyclone*, the association’s newsletter. To both of them, we owe our thanks and appreciation for this issue. Also, a special thanks to David Murrah for an outstanding job editing the newsletter this past year.

Best wishes to everyone. Have a great fall.

Tai Kreidler
News From Around West Texas

Yolanda Romero (Ph.D.) of Northlake College, Irving, Texas, has been recently appointed to the Irving City Library Board, and will serve to 2001.

Shirley Eoff of Angelo State University was promoted to Full Professor, and her term as Faculty Senate President and then past president is just over.

In June, Ty Cashion of Commerce, and Tai Kreidler of Lubbock were guests of Kenneth F. Neighbours at what was informally named, the 1st Annual Neighbours Cantonment at his horse ranch in Montague County. Emulating the famed gatherings held by Webb, Dobie, etc., Neighbours, Cashion, and Kreidler broke bread, and engaged in lively discussion on topics current and historical. In the process, they solved all of the world’s problems, tossed the bottom-lands, visited Neighbours’s children—and his fine herd of horses, and had a restful night’s sleep under a gentle rain.

Last spring, Arnolfo De Leon was elected to membership in the Texas Council for the Humanities.

Mrs. Brad (Nancy) Allen has been elected and approved by the commissioners as head of the Brath County Historical Commission. Former chairwoman, Mrs. Everett (Lillie) Gibson recently resigned from the position she had filled since 1981. She served on the commission for nine years before becoming president. Upon accepting Mrs. Gibson’s resignation, county commissioners named her a lifetime member of the historical group.

Approximately 1500 books collected by C. Richard King, PhD and life member of WTHA, have been donated to the Dick Smith Library of Tarleton State University. “We were extremely pleased to receive this unique collection of materials,” said Dr. Kenneth Jones, librarian. “Not often does a library receive such a large collection representing such a wide variety of subject matter.” Jones said some of the volumes are quite rare and others he has never seen before or only admired in catalogues. King began his collection in 1942, when he was a student at John Tarleton Agricultural College.

Becky Matthews’ article “Elmer Kelton’s Women: Hummingbirds with hard Steel Strength” has been nominated for the Don D. Walker Prize, an award presented by the Western Literature Association for the best article on western literature or culture each year. The article appeared in the January 1998 issue of Journal of the West.

Texas Tech University Press has re-issued Horsing Around: Contemporary Cowboy Humor edited by Lawrence Clayton, Kenneth W. Davis and Mary Evelyn Collins. In Horsing Around, Clayton, Davis and Collins draw upon the vast number of anecdotes portraying the lighter side of working on the range. The collected vignettes will provide the collector of Texana greater accessibility to stories that are often told only at public performances.

The Garza County Historical Museum announces the re-print of Post City, Texas, written by Dudley Eaves and C.A. Hutchinson. Out of print since 1932, this book carefully documents the efforts of C.W. Post’s colonization of his namesake town in 1907 until 1918. In 1998, the Maxine Durrett Earl Charitable Foundation reprinted this classic piece of West Texas history for the benefit of the Garza County Historical Museum. Copies are available @ $24.50 plus $1.78 tax. If mailed, add $3.00 S/H. Contact the Garza County Historical Museum, 119 North Ave. N, Post, TX 79356. (806) 495-2207.

Golden Days of Purple and White: The John Tarleton College Story by C. Richard King has been published by Eakin Press of Austin. The volume traces the story of the college from its founding in 1896 to the time the name was changed to Tarleton State College in 1948. One chapter is devoted to the reclusive rancher who bequeathed money for establishing the school to bear his name.

Upcoming Events

September 9-12, 1999. The 1999 National Cowboy Symposium and Celebration will be held at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. The Symposium features exhibits, speakers, cowboy poetry presentations, storytelling, a chuckwagon breakfast, the 4th Cavalry, cooking contests, horse shoe demonstrations, singing, dancing, horse training, and much more.

September 17, 1999. Third Annual Storytelling Session and Fall Roundup at the Nita Stewart Haley Memorial Library in Midland. For more information on events at the Haley Library contact them at 1805 W. Indiana Ave, Midland, TX 79701. (915) 682-5785 <www.haleylibrary.com>

December 3-5, 1999. It’s a real Blast from the Past at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum’s 23rd Annual Christmas Open House. Relive those magical moments as role-players throughout the museum portray Christmas celebrations in the Texas Panhandle during each decade of the 20th Century. Children can visit with Santa in his sleigh, play games and make unique craft items. Entertainment will be provided by area schools, barbershop quartets and other musical groups. You are invited to share in this unique celebration as the Museum recreates Christmas throughout the 20th Century.

Ongoing: The Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum announces its new exhibit, “The Cow, the Plow, the Sow, and the Hen: Agriculture in the Texas Panhandle,” which opened April 17. The exhibit discusses developments that have made agriculture successful in the region. Contact Linda Moreland, (806)651-2244, for more information.

Ongoing: “Quilt Treasures from the Collection” is also on view at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum throughout the year. The museum’s extensive Clothing and Textile Collection includes more than 150 quits and quilt tops, many of which have never before been shown.
WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
The WTGA Program Committee for the April 2000 conference invites proposals for entire panels and single papers on any aspect of the history of West Texas. Proposals should include the title of the panel or paper, a brief abstract of the paper(s) and the names, addresses and phone numbers of the participants. Deadline for submission is February 1, 2000. Please send proposals to Cindy Martin, 3701 97th Lubbock, Texas 79405; Marian Potts, Cynthia Savage and Becky Matthews will also accept submissions. Call (806)793-3525 with questions.

Submissions are also requested for the best student paper on the history of West Texas. To be considered for the Best Student Paper Award, completed works should be sent to the WTGA office by December 1, 1999.

CENTER FOR BIG BEND STUDIES
The Center for Big Bend Studies, Alpine, Texas, is now accepting papers to be given at the 6th Annual Conference, October 15-16, 1999. Presentations should focus on prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the borderlands region of the United States and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and North Central Mexico.

Papers accepted for presentation will be considered for publication in the Journal of Big Bend Studies, volume 12.

Please submit an abstract of 200 words or less by July 31, 1999

Kelly Garcia, Center for Big Bend Studies, Box C-71, Alpine, Texas 79832.
(915) 837-8723
E-mail <kgarcia@uilsoast.edu>

SOUTHWEST/TEXAS POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION
The Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Associations and American Culture Associations are holding a series of panels at the next meeting of these regional groups, February 9-12, 2000, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, at the Sheraton Old Town Hotel.

Areas of interest to historians include Texas Culture; Preservation, Material Culture and Public History; Race and the Southwest; Frontier Myths; Outlaw Myths; Southwest Ranching; Civil War; Plains Wars; and many other topics dealing with literature, history, and culture. Deadline for submission of abstracts is December 1, 1999.

For more information about the conference and a complete list of area chairs, check out the Southwest Popular Culture web site: <http://www2.okstate.edu/swpca>
Or contact Program Chair, Peter C. Rollins, RR 3 Box 80, Cleveland, Oklahoma 74020 (918) 243-7637.

 MOSAIC OF TEXAS CULTURE CONFERENCE 2000
Hardin Simmons University will host its third Mosaic of Texas Culture Conference April 6-8, 2000, and seeks proposals for papers and panels from interested individuals. Several threads will run through the conference. Theses will include Texas history, folklore, music, culture, art, geography, and the like.

Special speakers include Dr. Jose Angel Gutierrez, Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at Arlington, Political Activist, and Attorney; founder of La Raza Unida. Also, Yvonne Jo Harris, Assistant Vice President of Operations and Character Development, YMCA and the Dallas Coalition on Character and Values.

Send proposals to Dr. Lawrence Clayton, Box 16205 Hardin Simmons University, Abilene, TX 79698 (915) 670-1486 E-mail <jclayton@hstux.edu>

SOUND HISTORIAN/TEXAS ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION
Call for Manuscripts: Sound Historian represents the commitment of the Texas Oral History Association to excellence in the practice of oral history research methodology. The journal, published annually, consists of scholarly articles focused on multidisciplinary topics. Papers concerning Texas and the surrounding states or written by regional oral historians throughout the Southwest U.S. are welcomed but all appropriate topics will be considered. Address inquiries or manuscripts to Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., Department of History, Midwestern State University, 3410 Taft Boulevard, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308.

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE FOR ORAL HISTORY
Baylor University Institute for Oral History is researching rural African American churches. The researchers, Rebecca Sharless and Lois Myers, welcome any information from West Texans concerning African American churches in rural areas. Please send contact information to the researchers at PO Box 97271, Waco, TX 76798-7271 or call Lois E. Myers at 254-710-6285, fax 254-710-1571, or E-mail <Lois_Myers@baylor.edu>

"TEXAS DOCUMENTS" for WTGA YEAR BOOK
Albert Camp will be editing a department on "Texas Documents" in the Year Book. If anyone has information they think should be included in this department, they should contact Albert Camp at alitse@lbttt.edu or send the material to the WTGA office.

---The highest recorded temperature in Texas is 120 F. Two West Texas towns tied for this honor—Seymour on August 12, 1936, and Monahans on June 28, 1994.
---Cross Cut, Texas (Brown County) was originally called Cross Out. The town was so named because it was in the northwest part of the county and far away from the county's usual travel routes. The town name was changed to Cross Cut in 1879 when the post office opened.

Did You Know? West Texas Facts and Trivia

COMPiled by VICKy JONES, SOUTHWEST COLLECTION, TEXAS TECh

---The Abilene Zoo is the only zoo located between El Paso and Ft. Worth.
---The town of Glenrio is partially in Texas (Deaf Smith County) and partially in New Mexico. Parts of the movie "The Grapes of Wrath" were filmed there in 1940.
---The Gulf No. 2 Burnett well was the Texas Panhandle's first producing oil well. It was located in northern Carson County on Capt. S.B. (Burk) Burnett's 6665 Ranch. On its first day of operation (April 5, 1921), the well produced 175 barrels of oil.
---At least three Texas Tech University students have gone on to become governors:

Preston E. Smith, Governor of Texas, 1968-1972
Daniel J.J. Thornton, Governor of Colorado, 1950-1954
John H. Burroughs, Governor of New Mexico, 1955-1960
---The Dublin Bottling Company (Dublin, TX) is the only bottling plant that still produces Dr Pepper the original way, using pure cane sugar. All other Dr Pepper bottling plants today use corn syrup.
JOIN THE FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY/SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

The Friends of the University Library/Southwest Collection is an organization of individuals who share a common interest in the Texas Tech University Libraries and their educational programs. Membership is open to the public on a dues schedule that can fit any budget. In addition to receiving Library privileges and invitations to special events, members gain the satisfaction of helping the University Libraries in their ongoing quest for excellence.

Membership Levels:
- Founders Club $5000
- Library Fellow $1000
- Benefactor $500
- Patron $250
- Sustaining $125
- Contributing $75
- Regular $30
- Student $15

To join, mail a check to Friends Coordinator Jo Ann Landin, Office of Library Development, Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041. Make checks payable to the Texas Tech Foundation, Inc., with a designation for the Friends, Library/SWC. For more information call (806)742-2685.

NEW ADDRESS?
Remember to send your change of address to the WTSA 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, $15 regular, $20 family, $30 sustaining, $15 institutional/library. All back issues of The Year Book, published since 1925, are available for $15 each.