



# THE CYCLONE



## Abilene Hosts Joint WTHA-Texas Map Society Conference

On April 2-3, 2004, the West Texas Historical Association will join the Texas Map Society in Abilene to present a program of 57 papers in 21 different sessions. All sessions will be held in the Skiles Social Sciences Building at Hardin-Simmons University. They begin at 11:30 on Friday and conclude at 12:45 Saturday.

Highlights of the conference include the president's reception at 6:00 p.m. Friday at the Grace Museum in downtown Abilene followed by a dinner featuring guest speaker Jim Hoy, a Fulbright lecturer and scholar of the American West. At 9:00 p.m. there will be a special showing of "The Searchers" at the Paramount Theatre. On Saturday there will be a luncheon in the Johnson Building at Hardin-Simmons beginning at 1:00 p.m. Also planned are a tour of Buffalo Gap Historical Village at 4:00 p.m. and a chuck wagon buffet dinner at Perini Ranch Steakhouse.

Display facilities will be available for exhibitors and vendors adjacent to the registration area. All those interested should contact Freedonia Paschall at (806) 742-3749. There will also be a silent auction in the exhibit area.

WTHA and the Texas Map Society have reserved blocks of rooms at three local motels. Conference rates at these locations apply for Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.



Archie McDonald speaks at the 2003 conference banquet. WTHA president Ken Davis is at the far right.

They are the Whitten Inn-University, (800) 588-5050, \$54/night; Holiday Inn Express, (325) 675-9800, \$84/night; Comfort Inn, (325) 676-0203, \$71.10/night; or Civic Plaza Hotel, (800) 588-0222, \$49/night. Make your reservations now and join us in Abilene this April.

## The Frontier Community of Finis

by Wes J. Sheffield

For the casual traveler, the winding bend of FM 1191 in far southwestern Jack County holds little significance. It is, however, the location of the once prominent frontier community of Finis, made famous by a group of nineteenth century brothers accused of stealing horses and a talented architect turned politician.

Before settlement, the country surrounding Finis was a deadly section of the Texas frontier. Northwest of Finis, Salt Creek Prairie was often referred to as "the most dangerous prairie in Texas". Numerous settlers and travelers were ambushed and killed by bands of Kiowa and Comanche Indians in the 1860s and early 1870s.



Cattleman and merchant Finis Marshall founded Finis at a natural crossing on Rock Creek in 1880. Its location is in the oak and cedar covered hills near the Brazos River, close to the Young and Palo Pinto County lines. The region afforded plentiful water and

prime grass for raising cattle. In the 1870's on nearby Dillingham Prairie, cattleman C.C. Slaughter grazed his herds. A post office was granted to Finis in 1881, and by 1884 it boasted of a general store, cotton gin, grist mill and an estimated population of fifty. Finis also served as a stage stand along the old Fort Belknap-Weatherford road (see photo).

More than any other event, Finis is known as the burial place of the Marlow brothers. A group of five brothers Charley, Alfred, George, Boone, and Lewellyn or "Epp", were accused of stealing horses in Indian Territory in 1888. They were arrested, brought to Texas, and placed in the Graham jail for several months. (continued on page 2)

## From the Executive Director



Dear Fellow Members of the Association:

Spring has blessed us with rain--finally--and it ushers in a homecoming annual meeting on the Hardin-Simmons University campus. Not only do we have the pleasure of returning to Abilene, the birthplace of the association, we are meeting with our friends and colleagues with the East Texas Historical Association and the Texas Map Society. As a result, the April 2-3, 2004 meeting shapes up as one of the largest meetings in recent memory. We currently have over 50 individual papers being

presented over a two day period. We are deeply indebted to the program and local arrangements committees.

As many of you know, in February the *Dallas Morning News* discontinued the Texas-Southwest Section in the Sunday paper and re-assigned Kent Biffle's *Texana* column to the Texas Living section. At one point there was a real possibility that the paper might cancel Biffle's column completely. An outpouring of protest from history lovers across the state, along with many WTHA members sending their notes of displeasure, deluged the newspaper's editorial offices. While the Texas-Southwest section is history, your efforts succeeded in saving Biffle's column. He thanks you with the following note. See you in Abilene.

Tai Kreidler

---

Just learned that *Texana* will reappear in Texas Living section--occasionally. Don't know exactly when or where. As for the Texas & Southwest section...It was sad when that great ship went down.

That *Texana* survived may be credited to the influence and importance of historians like you and members of the West Texas Historical Association. Please express my thanks to members of WTHA. I believe everyone in West Texas and a few transients from New Mexico wrote letters in behalf of both the T&SW section and its columnist. Generally, readers from across the state reacted in a way that underscores the vital signs of the too-often neglected preservation and study of Texas history.

Mil gracias,  
Kent

## Finis

(continued from page 1)

After posting bond, the brothers gathered at a home near Finis to celebrate their release. They were visited by the local Sheriff, Marion D. Wallace, who held a warrant for Boone Marlow connected to an 1886 shooting in Vernon. A conflict arose, with Sheriff Wallace being shot and killed with a bullet from Boone's gun. Boone fled, while the remaining Marlow brothers were again placed in jail at Graham. Mob violence was on the increase in Graham, and it was



Old Finis stage station on the Fort Belknap road.

decided the prisoners would be moved. On January 19, 1889, during a nighttime transport to Weatherford, the group was ambushed by an armed mob at Dry Creek just outside of present day Graham. The Marlow's acquired firearms to protect themselves during the attack and a gun battle ensued; two of the brothers Alfred, and Epp, were killed during the battle. The surviving Marlow's rode hard toward Finis. Once they arrived in Finis, the pair alerted the local blacksmith, W.C. Pogue to cut the shackles from their legs. Later, George

and Charley were acquitted, and moved to Colorado. Boone Marlow was killed in the Indian Territory by bounty hunters and his body was buried next to his brothers in Finis. For many years a crude sandstone marker stood in the Finis cemetery, etched with the names of the slain brothers. It was removed in the late 1990s and replaced with a modern headstone. Today the original headstone can be seen at a museum in Marlow Oklahoma, a city named in their honor. The story of the Marlow brothers has been documented in several books and was the basis of the 1965 John Wayne, Dean Martin movie "*The Son's of Katie Elder*".

Another notable resident of the Finis community was John McDonald. A successful architect and builder from New York, McDonald settled in Paris, Texas in 1874. In the 1880's McDonald served as general contractor for several construction projects in Austin including the Old Main building on the University of Texas campus. He later was also credited with building the first permanent granite and limestone dam on the Colorado River in Austin, which created Lake McDonald in 1893. McDonald won the election for Mayor of Austin in 1890, and purchased 1,640 acres in Finis and began constructing a vacation home. Doctors suggested the country air would benefit the health of his ailing wife, Ellen. The two-story rock home was a landmark to travelers for many years in southwestern Jack County. The house faced east on a large plateau over looking Rock Creek and Finis. The five-bedroom home made of native quarried stone, had a fireplace in each bedroom, and the main living room. The main hallway of the home was so large it was also used as a living room. For many years, young people from the surrounding area would gather for parties and dancing in the main hall. The McDonald home was purchased by Fred C. Chesnut in 1907, several improvements were made, including a wrap around porch and a sandstone wall surrounding the home.

The original town site of Finis (now on private property) has few if any remains. Its post office and school closed in 1920. The McDonald/Chesnut home was completely destroyed by fire on July 3, 1950. The crumbling remains of the stage stop and the Finis cemetery are the only reminders. The Finis cemetery also on private property, contains numerous graves of former pioneer residents. Among those, John McDonald and his wife Ellen, Blacksmith W.C. Pogue, and three of the Marlow brothers buried in the far corner of the cemetery next to an old friend and outlaw George F. Short.

# The Founding of Abilene, the “Future Great” of the Texas & Pacific Railway

by Naomi Kincaid

[Condensed from the 1946 Year Book. The original article was an exert from a thesis Ms. Kincaid presented for a Master’s degree at Hardin-Simmons University, May 1945.]

Around dawn on a sultry later summer’s day in 1880, a buggy containing two men and drawn by a pair of frisky little Spanish mules pulled away from Buffalo Gap, the county seat of the two-year-old Taylor County in West Texas. They struck out north, with just a slight easterly bearing. There was no road, and the country was rough and hilly around the Gap.

Yet before noon S. L. Chalk, surveyor, and J. D. Merchant, cattleman, both of Callahan County, pulled up before the headquarters of John. N. Simpson of the Hashknife Ranch on Cedar Creek and climbed stiffly from the buggy. They were welcomed by their host and by H. C. Withers, the track and town-site locator of the Texas and Pacific Railway. Colonel C. W. Merchant, twin brother of J. D., and Colonel J. T. Berry, a merchant, arrived soon from Belle Plain, their home town in Callahan County. After a good dinner, they began their discussion.

The purpose of this meeting was to decide on the location of a new cattle shipping center that was to become the “future great” of the Texas and Pacific railroad. “Mr. Withers represented the railroad,



Mr. Simpson his firm, and C. W. Merchant our interests, says S. L. Chalk in recounting that day. “Mr. Withers left the naming of it to Simpson and Merchant.”

There seems to have been two previously suggested routes for the advancing Texas and Pacific railroad to follow, but by the summer of 1880 both had been discarded. The first of these was to have been through Fort Phantom Hill, in Jones County, about twelve miles northeast of the site that later became Abilene. It is said that some lawyers in Fort Worth bought up the land there and gave “Phantom Hill” Scott a share in it to go there and look after their interest. When the road did not go through, the holdings were left to Scott.

The second suggested route was through Buffalo Gap. A March 6, 1880, issue of the Buffalo Gap News has this to say about it:

The managers of the Texas and Pacific Railway have selected Buffalo Gap as supply depot and headquarters for the engineers on this end of the line. Already

their stores and men are coming in. Straws show which way the wind blows and if we are not badly fooled the indications are favorable for a railroad through Buffalo Gap at no distant date.

John L. Stephenson, an early day resident and newspaper man bears out this general belief in his *A Census and Directory of the City of Abilene*, 1901; he also helps account for its failure to materialize.

When the railroad surveys were made through the county there was a great deal of guessing where the town would be. Surveys were made through Buffalo Gap and on up Elm (known in the General Land Office as the Clear Fork of the Brazos). C. W. Merchant and associates tried to buy out the litigants in the land controversy at Buffalo Gap, but failed. Had they succeeded, Abilene would have been located in the Gap and the T. & P. would have run up through the mountains and out on the divide southwest.

It would seem that after the failure of both the Phantom Hill

and the Buffalo Gap routes, and previous to this meeting at the Hashknife Ranch, S. L. Chalk and C. W. Merchant had bought up several hundred acres of land near the present sites of both Elmdale and Merkel, while Withers had bought some near Tye-- or Tebo switch, as it was first called. The Elmdale and Merkel locations seem to have already been discarded, however, and the controversy now lay between the proposed Withers' site, three miles east of Tye, and the present Abilene location or Merchant site.

After the meeting at the Hashknife Ranch, Withers seems to have gotten the idea that his site at Tye was accepted and it was advertised as such. Yet in the meantime, the Merchant group was quietly buying up the holding of the present Abilene site. These "holding fathers" consisted of C. W. and J. D. Merchant, John N. Simpson, and J. T. Berry. S. L. Chalk made a belated effort to buy in but was told by the county surveyor that there was no vacancy; he sold out and went to Baylor County. A vacancy was found, however, and Withers and a Mr. Northington both filed on it in January and February, 1881; it was patented to Northington and figured in the town-lot sale that March, although it was not in the original 1,760 acres which formed a basis for the agreement with the Texas and Pacific Railway on December 18, 1880.

J. Stoddard Johnston, a prominent politician from Kentucky, might well be added to the list of the founders of Abilene, as also might the Texas and Pacific Railroad; for certainly they became

determining factors in the decision, and their holdings were extensive.

Johnston had been wooed into the Merchant camp. He was also a close friend of ex-governor John C. Brown, the receiver for the Texas and Pacific Railway at that time. "The intimate friendship existing between Johnston and ex-governor Brown may have borne results," says John L. Stephenson. "Anyhow, the Withers' site was rejected and the site selected by Merchant and others was laid off in blocks for the town-lot sale." It was not until Johnston's visit to Taylor and Callahan counties during the first weeks of December, 1880, that the present site was announced or the name Abilene found in print.



Surveyor R. Ernest Lee dressed as a pioneer.

Furthermore, a formal contract between the railroad and the founding fathers was made on December 18, 1880, agreeing to locate Abilene on the present site. Thus it is not too much to say that the influence of J. Stoddard Johnston, the Kentucky politician

dabbling in Texas real estate, determined the exact location of Abilene.

#### *The Town is Named Abilene*

The name Abilene must have been decided upon by the Merchant brothers and other cattlemen in the fall of 1880 after their meeting at the Hashknife Ranch. It probably was suggested to J. Stoddard Johnston during his trip to the area the first of December, for that name is used in the contract between the promoters and the railroad company, made December 18, 1880.

The first use of this name that appears in a newspaper was made by a reporter of the *Dallas Herald*. He accompanied a train of railway officials, headed by General Grenville Dodge, Texas and Pacific construction manager, on their tour of inspection to their western terminus, December 18. The next newspaper reference to the name was in the *Fort Griffin Echo*, January 29, 1881: "Saturday night, the 22<sup>nd</sup> inst., the end of the track of the T. & P. is seven miles west of Abilene," [sic] the paper stated. Four days later in the *Fort Worth Democrat* one finds: "Dr. F. B. Barradall of Barradall Bros. went to Abilene [sic] to open up there a drug store."

Thus we might definitely say that Abilene had been officially named by December 18, 1880, and was soon so recognized. Neither can there be any doubt that it had been named for Abilene, Kansas; for to these cattlemen of the open range the memories of the Kansas town as queen of the cattle shipping centers were still living experiences.

### *The Texas and Pacific Arrives*

The country was growing and demands for a shipping center for its cattle were increasing. The Texas and Pacific Railroad was definitely heading west from Weatherford. By November 13, 1880, Eastland had been reached and two passenger trains were running daily, connecting that place with St. Louis. On December 17, General Grenville Dodge and other railroad officials visited Baird, the purpose being to hurry up construction to two miles per day. The Abilene site was reached between January 9 and 15, 1881.

People were not waiting for any town-lot sale before settling there. "The woods are full of immigrants," a newspaper item of February 3 relates. In the February 12 issue of the Fort Griffin *Echo*, editor G. W. Robson stated that there were already some forty houses and tents erected in Abilene, the largest being that of Robinson Brothers, the railroad's supply contractors. Abilene was called the city of tents and mud, and the biggest canvas town in Texas; but to the railroad construction crew it was simply milepost 407. The town claimed a population of 300 by the end of February.

Although the town-lot sale was held until March 15, the town had been "opened" by the railroad company of February 18. On that date Major H. W. Stocking, the agent, arrived with the terminal cars and opened the ticket and freight offices. Later he also took over the management of the T. & P. hotel and ran it for years. At the time of the town-lot sale, the hotel had not been built and the depot itself seems to have been either a tent or a railway car placed near the Pine Street crossing. Furthermore, there were



Simmons College, Old Main 1891-92

no coaches on the regular trains and the passengers rode on flats, or long plank platforms, with no cover. The trains were always late and the Fort Griffin people complained of this, as it caused the stages to be delayed with the mail to the fort. Trains were sidetracked for hours, "waiting to cut wood."

Hotel facilities were meager indeed for the many attendants at the town auction, but the best "tent cot house" was on south side and was a crude structure with one large guest room. A man's "room" consisted of his cot crowded in close beside that of his neighbor, and if a fellow became tipsy and got turned the wrong way, his neighbor might be awakened by a pair of muddy boots slammed in his face.

As the time for the Abilene town-lot sale drew near, interest increased daily. Being the child of the Texas and Pacific, it received publicity in the eastern cities. A special train was scheduled to run, with round-trip rates. Fort Worth was asking \$6.45 for such a ticket, the train to leave there at 2:30 in the afternoon on March 14 and to leave from Abilene on its return trip at seven the following evening.

A reporter for the Dallas *Herald*, previously sent to Abilene, records "Strangers have been arriving for several days. Last night's train (March 14) brought

many, and a special of five coaches arrived here at 4 A.M. Not less than 500 people from abroad are here.

The day of the auction, March 15, 1881, dawned bright but cold, and every little near-by camping place began to be emptied of its wagons. The auctioneer cried the sale from the platform of the Heyck warehouse, a flimsy structure which had been erected just a day or two previously on the right-of-way at a point where Chestnut Street met the railroad.

The Dallas *Herald* reporter states that J. T. Berry, bidding for his son, W. T., got the first choice lot at \$355; he bought two. The next choice went to William Cameron at \$335; he also took two. One hundred and thirty-nine lots were sold during the day, bringing \$23,610. The sale was finished at noon on March 16 with 178 lots bringing \$27,550. "The remainder of the lots are to be sold at private sale," he stated.

Berry chose the corner lot at North Second and Pine, where the Farmers and Merchants Bank now is. Cameron & Phillips chose the southwest corner of North Second and Pine. The next, across the street due east from the present bank site, was chosen by William Cameron. Henry Montgomery got fourth choice, and chose the corner at North First and Pine, where the Alexander building now is.

Another proof that the founders of Abilene were taking the title of "Future Great" quite seriously is the fact that along with the town-lot sale they were planning to sink two artesian wells and were making preparations to start a brick yard.

## NEWS FROM AROUND WEST TEXAS

**Tom Alexander** of Fredericksburg is one of four individuals recently appointed to the Texas Historical Commission for terms to expire Feb. 1, 2009. The commission works to preserve Texas' architectural, archeological and cultural landmarks.

**Lou Rodenberger** and **Sylvia Grider**'s new book *Let's Hear It: Stories by Texas Women Writers* published by Texas A&M Press has been recently released and is doing well. **Rodenberger** is also reading and judging sixteen books for the Friends of the Dallas Public Library Award for the Most Significant Contribution to Knowledge for the Texas Institute of Letters and serving as secretary of the executive committee of the Texas Woman's University Development Board.

The booklet "**San Saba: Self-Guided Tour of an Eighteenth Century Spanish Colony, Menard, Texas**" has been published to inform the public of the mission, Spanish colonial historical resources in Menard, and other related points of interest. Copies are available at \$3 a copy from Presidio San Saba Restoration Corporation, P.O. 1592, Menard, Texas 76859. The price includes postage and handling. All proceeds will go to the development and restoration of the presidio.

Lubbock gained another historical marker when the Texas Historical Commission designated the City of Lubbock Cemetery as a historic cemetery. Containing more than 60,000 graves, the burial ground is one of the largest in the state. In cooperation with the City of Lubbock Cemetery, the **Lubbock County Historical Commission** held a dedication ceremony and unveiled a historical marker on August 25, 2003.

In the summer of 2003 the Texas Historical Commission designated the **Texas Plains Trail** as the sixth trail in the Texas Heritage Trails Program. On September 15, 2003, the official

kickoff took place in Tulia. Encompassing 52 counties in the Panhandle and South Plains regions, the trail will help to revive heritage tourism in the area.

On August 31, 2003, the **American Wind Power Center** in Lubbock opened a new permanent exhibit titled "80 John: Legendary Black Rancher" in its Interpretive Center. Born to a slave, Daniel Webster Wallace (1860-1939) worked on several Texas ranches where he gained respect as a cowboy. Nicknamed "80 John," he later established his own ranch; the first windmill erected in Mitchell County watered his cattle. The Center has used original pieces of Wallace's Fairbanks-Morse Eclipse windmill to re-create a ranch scene from his life.

In September 2003 the **West Texas Rehabilitation Center** observed its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of providing service to adults and children with disabilities.

*The Lynn County News*, the oldest retail business in Lynn County, celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 9, 2003.

The city of **Muleshoe** celebrated its 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on September 27, 2003.

The famous **Lt. Colonel William Barret Travis Letter of February 24, 1836** from the Alamo and the **Texas Declaration of Independence** dated March 2, 1836 have been printed for the first time in color and printed to their exact size. Distribution of these historic Prints to important Texas Museums and Junior High Schools in the State of Texas has been underway since the early part of 2002. The original documents were photographed with the help of the Texas State Library & Archives in Austin, Texas. Individuals, who might want to separately acquire these historic Prints, can participate in the donation program being conducted by The American Legion Post 78 at web site <[frame.html>. For more information on these important Prints, please reference the Publisher's Web site at <\[www.wardocuments.com\]\(http://www.wardocuments.com\)>.](http://www.wardocuments.com/AL/al</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Through March 28, 2004.* **Amon Carter Museum.** "James Otto Lewis and the Aboriginal Port-Folio, 1835-1836." In 1835, James Otto Lewis (1799-1858) produced the first comprehensive pictorial record of North American Indians with his illustrated account of the United States Indian Bureau's treaty councils in the Upper Great Lakes region, The Aboriginal Port-Folio. The plates from this publication, all hand-colored lithographs of some of the most famous figures in Native American history, make up this exhibition.

*April 8-10, 2004.* **Texas Folklore Society** will meet at the Hilton Garden Inn in Allen, Texas. For more information contact Jack or Elizabeth Duncan at 972-542-5089 or email at <[e-duncan@raytheon.com](mailto:e-duncan@raytheon.com)> or <[jeduncan75069@yahoo.com](mailto:jeduncan75069@yahoo.com)>

*April 24, 2004* - **The Permian Historical Society** will meet at the newly expanded Permian Petroleum Museum in Midland. The session will begin with registration and visitation at 9 a.m. with presentations starting at 10 a.m. Following lunch, a short business meeting will be held, including the election of officers for 2004-05. The Permian Historical Society is composed of members in 29 counties of West Texas and New Mexico.

*Through May 2, 2004.* **Amon Carter Museum.** "Sights Once Seen: Photographing Frémont's Last Expedition Through the Rockies." View daguerreotypes by Robert Shlaer, who from 1994 to 1998 retraced the 1853 Missouri-to-California expedition of John C. Frémont, whose mission was to locate a route for the proposed transcontinental railway.

May 15-16, 2004 – The New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum will host La Fiesta de San Ysidro.

### CALL FOR PAPERS

The Center for Big Bend Studies is accepting articles for inclusion in Volume 16 of the *Journal of Big Bend Studies*. The *Journal* is a peer-reviewed, multi-disciplinary journal that focuses on the history and archeology of the Big Bend and eastern Trans-Pecos regions of Texas and northern Mexico. For more information, please contact Kelly Garcia: 432-837-8723 or <kgarcia@sulross.edu>.



Year Book Editor Monte Monroe represented WTHA at the East Texas Historical Association.

### In Memory...

**Terry Gilbert Jordan**, died on October 16, 2003, from pancreatic cancer. He was 65. Terry was the longtime Walter Prescott Webb professor of History at the University of Texas. Before that he spent many years as chairman of the geography department at the University of North Texas in Denton. At the time of his death he had completed field research in 65 countries, exploring topics as diverse as the origins of livestock ranching, folk architecture, burial customs, forest colonization, agricultural practices, and village life. As one of the most published and cited cultural geographers of his generation, he brought out one lauded book after another. Along the way he won numerous professional and teaching awards and served as president of the Association of American Geographers. He received his B.A. from SMU in 1960, and then went on to earn a master's degree from the University of Texas and a doctorate from the University of Wisconsin.

**Preston Smith**, Texas' 40th governor, who graduated from Lamesa High School and owned movie theaters in Lubbock, died October 18, 2003. He was 91. Smith was born March 8, 1912, in Williamson County near Austin and is remembered for overcoming Depression-era poverty to become a successful businessman and popular politician. One of thirteen children of a tenant farmer, Smith worked his way through Texas Tech with a job at a service station while earning a business administration degree. He graduated in 1934. Smith is best known for a political career, which began in 1944 when the Democrat was elected to his first of three straight terms as state representative from the 119th District. He lost his first try for the state Senate in 1952 but won in 1956 and was re-elected in 1960. In 1962, Smith began the first of three terms as lieutenant governor. Smith was then elected governor in 1968 and re-elected in 1970. As governor, Smith was the driving force behind establishment of a medical school at Texas Tech University. He also signed the bill that authorized the Texas Tech School of Law, further stretching the university's mission. He retired in Lubbock at the end of his political career.

## Did You Know? West Texas Facts and Trivia

COMPILED BY VICKIE GINTHER

-----The Shamrock St. Patrick's Day Celebration in Shamrock, Texas, held on the weekend closest to March 17, includes a parade, an arts & crafts show, the Lad 'n Lassie Beauty Contest, and the Donegal Beard Contest. Around 10,000 people enjoy the celebration each year.

-----Jazz musician Weldon Leo "Jack" Teagarden was born on August 20, 1905 in Vernon, Texas (Wilbarger County.)

-----The Cap\*Rock Winery, located just outside Lubbock, opened in 1990. It is one of 48 wineries in Texas.

-----Camp Barkeley, located southwest of Abilene, was one of the largest military installations in Texas during World War II. It was named for David H. Barkley, a native Texan who received a posthumous Congressional Medal of Honor for his service during World War I. Barkley drowned in the Meuse River in France while on a mission to gather information on German formations.

-----The town of Impact was incorporated in 1960 to provide a wet town for dry Taylor County. Legal challenges to its incorporation reached the Texas Supreme Court. When the city of Abilene voted in 1970 to legalize liquor sales, Impact lost its reason for existence and became an Abilene suburb.

-----A 5.4 magnitude earthquake occurred near Borger (Hutchinson County) on July 30, 1925, and was felt in the nearby towns of Cuyler, Plemons, and White Deer. Damage reports included a cracked cistern, a fallen chimney, and a damaged railroad track.

-----The Rita Blanca National Grassland is located in northern Dallam County, along the Oklahoma border. Comprised of 93,763 acres, it was purchased by the U.S. Department of the Interior in the 1930s to try to return some of the land affected by the Dust Bowl to its natural state.

# Join the West Texas Historical Association

Throughout its distinguished eighty-one year history, the West Texas Historical Association has encompassed a wide range of both professional and non-professional historians, from lawyers to ranchers to teachers. Although their interests vary, members share a common desire to preserve the rich history of West Texas. All members receive the *Year Book* and a subscription to the *Cyclone*.

### Membership Levels

Student	\$ 10
Regular	\$ 20
Institutional	\$ 20
Family	\$ 25
Sustaining	\$ 35
Life	\$ 300
Sponsoring	\$1000

To join mail your check to: West Texas Historical Association, Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, Box 41041, Lubbock, TX 79409-1041.

**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.

## WEST TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University  
P.O. Box 41041  
Lubbock, TX 79409-1041

Phone: (806)742-9076  
Fax: (806)742-0496  
E-mail: wthayb@ttacs.ttu.edu

On line? Check out our Web Site at  
[www.lib.ttu.edu/swc/westtexas](http://www.lib.ttu.edu/swc/westtexas)

Non-Profit Orgn.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lubbock, Texas  
Permit No. 719

