East Meets West in Fort Worth

For the first time, the East Texas Historical Association and the West Texas Historical Association will meet in a joint conference in Fort Worth on February 25-27, 2010. This will be the eighty-seventh annual meeting for the WTHA. For those arriving on Thursday there is a plenary session on the future of history in Texas at 4:00 p.m. followed by an “early bird” reception at 5:30 p.m.

The Thursday activities and all programs of the “East meets West” conference take place at the Marriott Hotel at Champions Circle off State Highway 114. Sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. Friday and continue through 12:15 Saturday. The program will also include book exhibitors and a silent auction.

On Friday evening, a combined banquet will be hosted by ETHA in the Trinity Room at the Marriott at 6:00 p.m.

On Saturday, the awards and business luncheon will also be in the Trinity room beginning at 12:30 p.m. Following the luncheon a special program is available including a tour of the Fort Worth Stockyards, barbeque dinner at Risky’s and a World Championship Rodeo performance.

Accommodations for the conference have been made at the Marriott Hotel at Champions Circle for $89 per night. For reservations call (800) 228-2100 and mention you are attending the conference.

First Spoke

By Bob Burton

Construction trains crept across the new Yellowhouse trestle in late September of 1909 and the first passenger train arrived October 25th, but as far as the railroad was concerned, January 9, 1910, was when Lubbock joined the world. On that date, the name “Lubbock” could be found in timetables of the Santa Fe Railway for the first time.

In the early 1880s, there had been no city of Lubbock. The peopling of the South Plains was little more than Estacado, the Quaker settlement in Crosby County. In time, Estacado became a jumping off place for further settlement in the area. Merchant George W. Singer, possibly in 1881, closed his store in Estacado and reopened some miles to the west, at a waterhole in Yellowhouse Draw where ancient and modern trails crossed.

A decade later, Singer had close neighbors in the towns of Lubbock and Monterey, on opposite sides of the Yellowhouse. Civic rivalry was intense, but cool heads prevailed. The towns combined under the Lubbock name on a new location south of the canyon. It was speculated that if a railroad built east-west through the area, it would be built south of the Yellowhouse.

That speculation eventually proved true, but Lubbock’s first railroad came from the north because of the town’s location at the right spot on the Yellowhouse. Lubbock was the most eastward place where a north-south railroad could cross the Yellowhouse. A little to the east of town, the canyon became too wide and deep. For this reason, several Santa Fe surveys crossed the Yellowhouse at Lubbock. As the eastern parts of the Llano Estacado felt the bite of plows and the weight of clusters of buildings, the Santa Fe’s Pecos & Northern Texas Railway subsidiary extended its line southwards, pausing at Plainview in 1907.

In the Fall of 1908, word came that the railroad would be extended to Lubbock. The Santa Fe asked the citizens of Lubbock to donate the right of way through the county and to raise a cash bonus of $50,000. Lubbock’s railroad committee set to work with enthusiasm, but soon reported a problem to Santa Fe headquarters. A group of railroad employees in Amarillo had used inside information to quietly purchase land that was needed for the right of way. They jacked up the price when the railroad committee came to call. The railroad fired several people over this incident, which was not known to the public.

There was another secret, one unknown to the Santa Fe, behind the construction of the first spoke of Lubbock’s railroad wheel. In 1935 Texas Tech student Carl Harper learned this secret while researching for his Master’s Thesis, “Movements Towards Railroad Building on the South Plains of Texas: 1907-1914.” When the Santa Fe constructed into Plainview in 1907 and delayed in coming (continued on page 2)
From the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Members of the Association:

By the time you receive this issue of *The Cyclone* the joint meeting with the East Texas Historical Association will have been judged an outstanding success. Praise and congratulations must go to every member of both groups for making this meeting possible. Of course, as we stand in the afterglow of another annual conference, we should thank all of those who preceded us for creating and sustaining such a wonderful organization.

We've lost many good friends and associates this last year, but we can take comfort in a reprise of another great article drawn from one of the back issues of *The Yearbook*. As we read Elmer Kelton's article, we are reminded that he was not only one of the greatest western writers ever, he was also an outstanding historian.

Best wishes to you all. Tai

First Spoke

(continued from page 1) further south, there was concern that rails might never come to Lubbock. In 1908, Lubbock became interested in an east-west railroad: The Altus, Lubbock, Roswell and El Paso Railroad. promoter Ed Kennedy of Houston managed to build several sections of roadbed, then departed suddenly, leaving his company to founder. Harper interviewed O. L. Slaton and Lorenzo Dow. They revealed that Kennedy had been secretly employed by Lubbock's railroad committee to make lots of noise and to scare the Santa Fe into building to Lubbock. The Lubbock *Avalanche* had cooperated by giving massive publicity to Kennedy's enterprise. When the Santa Fe arrived, Kennedy's weekly salary was discontinued and he went home.

If Santa Fe officials were concerned about the rival railroad project, they gave no indication of it. Instead, they professed to “a very genuine respect for the driving business-like methods of the Lubbock people, and [we] cannot see how, with such men back of it to push the place, it should not continue on the path it has so well begun.” Well pleased with Lubbock’s prospects in the Spring of 1909, citizens incorporated the city.

Meanwhile, the citizens of Plainview looked with no favor upon the extension to Lubbock. The merchants there had no desire to lose the trade that had come with the railroad. When right of way agent Monroe G. Abernathy approached the citizens of Plainview, they would not cooperate. The citizens of Hale Center called on Mr. Abernathy proposing to supply the right of way through Hale County and a $50,000 bonus if the railroad's line was changed from the straight survey between Plainview and Lubbock to a new one passing through Hale Center. The railroad agreed. Construction began in the Spring when the new survey was completed. Two towns between Hale Center and Lubbock were named for Monroe Abernathy.

Also in the Spring the Santa Fe announced that ground would soon be broken for the long anticipated main line to connect the Gulf of Mexico with the Pacific Ocean. But instead of following the route through Plainview and Abilene, it would follow a new route through Lubbock and Sweetwater.

As construction neared the city from the north, Lubbock citizens witnessed the human cost of their railroad. Premature explosions injured several laborers. Later, a lightning strike flattened an entire crew. The two human causalities included a married man. Citizens chipped in to provide a house in the best part of town for the widow and children.

In the Fall, there was bad news from the railroad. The shops for the main line would be built fifteen miles southeast of Lubbock. The railroad wanted divisions of track being laid for the Santa Fe line into Lubbock (photo courtesy of the Southwest Collection). a certain length and Lubbock was in the wrong place. No amount of money could make the Santa Fe move the division point to Lubbock. However, the railroad promised to retard the development of the new town at the division point so the older town’s growth would not be injured. “We do not wish to appear to be doing anything detrimental to the town of Lubbock,” assured a Santa Fe official, “which we believe will be the natural center of that portion of the plains country.” The *Avalanche*, expressed a similar opinion of Lubbock’s position: “Putting two and two together, it is as simple as falling off a log to figure this as one of the most important railroad centers in the entire southwest. Lubbock is the lucky point. She is the hub, around which all of the good things in the development of the south Plains must circle.”

In 1917, with five railroad lines, Lubbock adopted the slogan “Hub of the Plains.” By 1928, eight rail lines radiated outwards from Lubbock County and paved highways were being constructed. Lubbock was well on its way towards domination of the South Plains.
Generational Chauvinism

by Elmer Kelton

[The following article was first delivered as Kelton’s presidential address to the West Texas Historical Association in 1991. It is reprinted from the 1991 Year Book.]

A few nights ago I was talking to a small group of students at Angelo State University, and one asked me why I write mostly about historical subjects. She said, “The old West is gone. History is in the past. We live today. What does history mean to us?”

That was not the first time I was ever asked this question, or one similar to it, and I suspect many of you have been asked the same thing. It is a question that demands an answer, and I believe we have a valid one.

I told her that everything around us today is rooted in history. Neither the world nor we were born yesterday, full-grown. All that we are, everything we believe in, the way we live our lives, is rooted in the times, the mores, the histories of our parents, our grandparents, and many generations before them. We may sometimes veer away from some of the old teachings, we may challenge them, we may even renounce them, but they have been a factor in making us whatever we are.

Very few of the problems that so sorely vex the world today are new. Most are deeply grounded in history, often centuries of it. The problems in the Mideast are by no stretch of the imagination new. To understand them, you have to understand their root causes, and those in some cases go back many generations, even hundreds of years.

The racial problems that beset this nation today did not start with the recent videotaped beating of a black motorist by Los Angeles policemen, or the Watts riots of a generation ago, or the race riots of the World War I period. They go back as far as the first slave ship to these shores, and in a sense to enslavements of Biblical times.

To understand these problems, to have any hope of ever solving them, we had better know where they came from, and to do that we have to know our history.

This group’s basic realm is the history of West Texas, but one cannot divorce that from a much broader historical context. To understand our early forebears who came into this state, or this part of the state, we have to understand where they came from, what drove them to seek different life in a new place, and what they did when they got here.

History is an enjoyable subject, but not all of history is pleasant by any means. Much of it is definitely unpleasant. Much of it we have to regret, wishing we could somehow live it over and do better. But pleasant or unpleasant, it happened, and we must deal with it or perchance find ourselves repeating it, making the same mistakes that were made before, with the same regrettable results.

If history is set in concrete, interpretations of history are not. Historians have constantly reexamined our past and found new ways of interpreting it.

In the first decades after what we regard as our pioneer period, we find that most writers glorified it. They exalted what we call “the winning of the West” and disregarded the fact that our history had losers as well as winners. They accepted the “manifest destiny” belief which many of our forebears carried into that period and found little or no fault in the way the West was won, the way the Indian was treated. To them a white triumph was victory, and a white defeat was a massacre.

Most of us today find ourselves somewhere in the middle ground, proud of our forebears even though we can recognize and acknowledge that there were wrongs, that there was indeed another side to the story.

Some modern historians imply that we should be ashamed even to live in this country because it was taken by brute force and with the shedding of much innocent blood. They imply that we ought to give it all back to the Indians, though I do not recall an instance in which one of them ever offered to give up his or her own part of it to some needy tribe and move back to whatever foreign land his or her own ancestors came from.

They condemn Granddad for his greed but seem perfectly happy to hold onto their share of the loot.

F.E. Abernethy of Stephen F. Austin University recently came up with a name for that kind of attitude. It may not be original with him, but it was new to me. He called it “generational chauvinism.”

Those who practice it seem to be saying between the lines, “Isn’t it remarkable how wonderfully enlightened I turned out to be, especially when you see how awful my ancestors were?”
Or, “If not my ancestors, certainly yours.”

I find a great deal of hypocrisy in this viewpoint, which seems to fit today’s definition of the “politically correct.”

They are judging past generations in the light of a current generation’s attitudes. They condemn Granddad even while they proceed to eat up the seed corn he left them.

I can’t help but wonder how future generations are going to regard this one someday when they are handed the bill for all of our excesses, when they face the payday for our penchant for spending money we don’t have and signing our grandchildren’s names to the mortgage.

In looking at the history of our region, our people, we should always regard it in the light of the times in which the events occurred, and not judge people of the past on the basis of today’s standards. They were products of their own times, their own circumstances and environments.

To think that we would have done better under those conditions and in those environments is arrogant. In a great many ways we are not doing as well in our own time and in our own environment. Future generations will have much to blame us for if they choose to judge as our revisionists do.

Racial, religious and tribal prejudice is a worldwide phenomenon, not a sin exclusive to the white Anglo-Saxon Protestant. Tragically, it has existed throughout history, and there is little sign it is going to end anytime soon. Long before the white man landed on our Eastern shores and began pushing westward toward the Pacific, Indians were killing each other in bloody tribal warfare, dispossessing each other from disputed lands. Today we have constant turmoil in the Mideast, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the religion-based troubles in Ireland and the intertribal warfare in a dozen African countries as proof that it is a curse of all mankind, and not simply the province of our own white ancestors.

But to listen to these generational chauvinists, you would think it was all Granddad’s fault.

I feel that it is time to blow the whistle on them and tell it like it was.

That is what this association is all about.

Elmer Kelton, a noted journalist and author, is a past president of WTHA. He died on August 22, 2010. For many years, he maintained parallel careers as an agricultural journalist and freelance writer. He is best known for his work for Livestock Weekly and for his more than 40 books, including The Time it Never Rained, The Wolf and the Buffalo, and The Good Old Boys. His novels showed his bone deep knowledge of the people, history and mores of West Texas. The strong sense of place and historical accuracy of his stories brought the history of our area alive for many readers, and his knowledge of our history rivaled that of most professional historians. These books earned Kelton seven Spur awards from the Western Writers of America for best Western novel of the year, a WWA career Saddleman Award and four Western Heritage Wrangler awards from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Kelton was also named the number-one Western writer of all time by the WWA. Those who knew him remember him as a man of wit, humility, and courtesy.

Gaining Perspective

Looking at the “Affairs of the Association” in the 1960 Year Book can give us perspective on how much the West Texas Historical Association has grown in the last fifty years. Seventy-two members and guests attended the one-day meeting held on the Texas Tech campus in Lubbock on May 7, 1960. Ten papers were presented. The association president Ben O. Grant of Albany was unable to attend because of an automobile accident, so W. C. Holden presided over the business luncheon. The treasurer’s report presented there showed that the organization had total cash assets of $3,191.10. The Year Book editor was Rupert Richardson of Hardin-Simmons University, and the “History in West Texas” editor was Ernest Wallace of Texas Tech College.

We are walking in the footsteps of giants, but the association itself has grown much stronger.
New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum Announces Oral History Updates

The New Mexico Farm & Ranch Heritage Museum has completed two, year-long projects that will make accessing New Mexico’s oral history easier. The Oral History Program at the Museum in Las Cruces announces the publication of the third edition of the *Oral History Collections Catalog for New Mexico*. The 264-page publication lists all of the particulars for close to 10,000 archived interviews from around the state. Each entry lists the names of persons interviewed, the location where it is stored, description of the interview, the geographical coverage, the date range, the format (cassette, reel-to-reel, video, etc.), availability to the public, and research aids.

"It is our hope that the *Oral History Collections Catalog* will prompt the additional use of existing interviews or the undertaking of new oral history projects as we approach the centennial of New Mexico statehood in 2012," said Cameron Saffell, the museum’s curator of history and oral history program director.

The publication of the catalog coincides with the debut of the Museum’s new Oral History Program web site. Part of the Museum’s general site, the upgraded Oral History Program section now includes a searchable database for over 500 hours of material gathered since the Museum opened in 1996.

The rollout of the new web site and catalog mark a major step forward for the Oral History Program. "We have quietly built a very strong program which is integral to our statewide collecting efforts and in the production of our exhibits and public programs," Saffell said. "These additions establish a new research portal for New Mexico history and will become key tools for anyone interested in farming, ranching, and rural life in the American Southwest." Visit the Oral History Program web site at http://orahlistory.frhm.org. To access the new edition of the *Oral History Collections Catalog*, click the link for “Search the Database of Interviews” on the OHP’s front page.

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**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION COMMITTED TO SAVING WEST TEXAS CEMETERIES**

Time and progress are the common enemies threatening historic cemeteries in Texas. Neglect, vandalism and theft are affecting cemeteries throughout the state, but the dangers are especially apparent in the West Texas region. To combat this deterioration the Texas Historical Commission (THC) established the West Texas Cemetery Preservation Initiative to engage and train individuals and organizations in 70 counties in the West Texas and Panhandle regions that did not previously contain designated Historic Texas Cemeteries.

The initiative utilizes the THC’s two cemetery preservation efforts, the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation and the RIP Guardian program. Supported through grants from the Dodge Jones Foundation, the Permian Basin Area Foundation and former THC Commissioners Clifton and wife, Shirley Caldwell, of Albany, the initiative has been effective in developing education, surveys, documentation, training workshops and ongoing technical assistance that is provided free of charge to participants. One year ago, only 173 counties had HTC designations and 70 counties in West Texas had none. Thanks to the generous sponsors of this program, there are now 220 counties with HTCs, and most of the new designations are in West Texas.

In the current segment of the initiative, 50 counties have been targeted to become self-sufficient stewards of Texas’ rich historic legacy. These counties will utilize the RIP Guardian program to recruit and train volunteers to identify, document, protect and preserve the historic cemeteries in their local communities. “West Texas cemeteries are diverse in geography, cultural associations and even in their locations,” said THC Cemetery Preservation Coordinator Gerron Hite. “We have worked closely with county historical commissions and our goal is to engage and inform these communities about the benefits of the Historic Texas Cemetery designation.”

The Historic Texas Cemetery designation and RIP Guardian program are part of a broad cemetery preservation program offered by the THC. For more information or to submit an application, contact the THC’s History Programs Division at 512.463.5853 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us.
Jean Stuntz is the 2010 president of H-Net: Humanities and Social Sciences Online. H-Net is an interdisciplinary organization of scholars and teachers dedicated to developing the enormous educational potential of the Internet and the World Wide Web. Their edited lists and web sites publish peer reviewed essays, multimedia materials, and discussion for colleagues and the interested public. They have over 100,000 members in over 90 countries.

The New Mexico Military Institute Foundation awarded the $4,500 John Bogle Professorship to Dr. Lewis Toland. He proposes to visit major Civil War battlefields in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania to provide more historical insight into the military fiction portion of Freshman Comp II, which is taken chiefly by Academy Preps headed for the nation's five service academies.

Rob C. Fink's new book us just out from Texas Tech University Press - Playing in Shadows: Texas and Negro League Baseball. Rob is assistant professor of Educational Studies at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. He will be signing copies of his new book at Texas Star Trading Company on Cypress Street in Abilene on March 11, 2010 from 6:00pm to 7:00pm.

Davis Ford will be on the Texas Tech campus on March 24, to sign his new book, Reflections of a Soldier & Scholar: The Life of Earnest Gloyna, published by the Cockrell School of Engineering, UT Austin and Morgan Printing. The book captures the life of Dr. Earnest F. Gloyna, Ph.D., P.E., Dean of the College of Engineering, University of Texas at Austin. Gloyna grew up near Crowell and graduated from Texas Tech in 1942. Gloyna was a dedicated teacher and outstanding leader of academia, but also a gentleman, an innovator, a civic leader, and an advisor to industry and governments.

To Everything on Earth: New Writing on Fate, Community and Nature, edited by Kurt Caswell, Susan Leigh Tomlinson and Diane Hueter Warner, with an introduction by William E. Tydeman has recently been released by Texas Tech University Press.

Ty Cashion’s new book, The New Frontier: A Contemporary History of Fort Worth and Tarrant County has been released by Historical Publishing Network of San Antonio.

The Centennial history book of West Texas A&M University has been finished by Marty Kuhlman and is available at <wtamu.edu/wtbook>. The price is $30.

Up until late last year it was generally thought that Alfred Giles was the architect that designed the Customs House in Ciudad Juárez, but then three members of the WTHA, Francisco Ochoa, Troy Ainsworth and Ben Brown, discovered that another British architect, George Edward King, was responsible. In addition to designing and constructing buildings in El Paso and Ciudad Juárez, King designed much of Leadville, CO, the original "Old Main" at Colorado State and New Mexico State, and the theaters in Chihuahua, Durango, and Zacatecas.

The Haskell County Historical and Genealogical Society is pleased to announce its publication, Haskell County, in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America Series. A collection of quality historic photographs from this West Texas county (named for Charles Ready Haskell who was martyred at Goliad), the book is available for $21.99 (plus $3.00 shipping) by sending check or money order payable to Haskell County Historical and Genealogical Society to Susan Turner, PO Box 254, Rochester, Texas 79544, <s57_turner@hotmail.com> or call 940-742-3347.

A new epic story celebrating our parents’ and grandparents’ generation here in West Texas has been launched on the Internet by Shelley Shaver. It is fictional account of a woman who is struggling to survive the worst economic and environmental disaster in our nation's history, the Dust Bowl. Shaver spent ten years writing this epic. She studied oral histories from the Southwest Collection and also did research at the National Archives. She says, “There I was allowed to hold in my hands letters hand-written by farmers during the 1930’s to President Roosevelt. Looking at those yellowing pieces of paper, I felt the living presence of that time.” The story of West Texas during the Dust Bowl years can be found at <http://dustbowlpoetry.wordpress.com>.

The Institute of Texan Cultures has been accepted into the Smithsonian Affiliations program and formalized the agreement at a signing ceremony on January 28, 2010. As a Smithsonian Affiliate, the Institute of Texan Cultures will receive access to artifacts, education and performing arts programs, expert speakers as well as teacher workshops, along with resources to complement and broaden exhibitions.

UPCOMING:
March 4, 2010. Groundwater Lecture by Dr. Megan Benson, El Paso Museum of History 6-7 p.m.
March 6, 2010. Texas Independence Day celebration, Haskell, 10:00 am-3:00 pm around the courthouse square. The event, sponsored by Committee to Help Haskell County, features a book signing by Wyman Meinzer, soldiers and artillery from Fort Griffin and cavalry from Fort Chadbourne, flintknapping, a rope making demonstration, the Lone Star Ladies riding group, Hardin Simmons University White Horses, and vendor booths. For more information contact Susan Cockerell 940-864-2851, or Susan Turner 940-742-3347.
March 18, 2010. Texas Heritage Pecos Trail Regional meeting, Santa Fe Depot, McCamey 10:00 to 3:00. Lunch is $10. Visitors and/or historians are welcome. McCamey is the Wind Energy Capital of Texas and surrounded by wind generators.

March 26, 2010. Bob Boze Bell to speak at the National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock, 7 pm. Author and Old West historian Bob Boze Bell of Cave Creek, Arizona, will discuss "True West Moments." Bell is a humorist, artist and publisher of True West Magazine.

April 10, 2010. 9th Annual Genealogy Workshop, First Baptist Church, San Angelo, from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm. Will feature workshops, speakers, and displays. For information contact Shirley Dobson at (325) 656-9912 or e-mail <shirleyhuntleydobson@yahoo.com>. Download the registration form at the SAGHS website <www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txsaghs>

April 24, 2010. Ranch Day at the National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock, 10 am-4 pm. Highlights include cowboy poetry, chuckwagon food, crafts, horseback riding, rope making, and steer roping. For more information, call 806-742-0498 or visit <www.NRHC.com>

May 8, 2010. The Permian Historical Society meeting, the Petroleum Museum in Midland beginning at 9:30 a.m.

May 15, 2010. Visit the historic Sherwood Courthouse. This vacant but beautiful two-storied limestone building was the Irion County Seat from 1901 until 1936. They are having a Sherwood Festival to raise funds for the building’s restoration. Sherwood is one mile east of Mertzon, Texas, which is 25 miles west of San Angelo on Highway 67. Tours of the building are free. There will be arts and craft vendors, food and a chili cook-off on the grounds. For more information call 325-949-7303.

May 16, 2010. Mason County Annual Historical Symposium, Mason High School Auditorium, 2 pm. The topic this year is “Texas Rangers in the Hill Country,” with speakers Dave Johnson, Bob Alexander, Bill O’Neal, and Chuck Parsons. There will be author tables set up also. If anyone would like a table (no charge), contact Jan Appleby at <janell@ctesc.net>.

September 29-October 3, 2010. United States Cavalry Association Annual Meeting, Fort Concho National Historic Landmark, San Angelo. Up to one hundred competitors and two hundred USCA members are expected to attend. The mounted competitors are required to wear replica uniforms and equipment from the past two centuries of cavalry history. This may be the largest number of cavalry at Fort Concho since the late 1880s, when it was an active military fort. For more information call the fort at (325) 657-4444.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:
The Texas Historical Commission (THC) is offering a round of Heritage Tourism Partnership Grants for communities in the Texas Lakes, Mountain, Plains and Tropical Trail Regions. A total of $30,000 in grant monies is available to each heritage region. Individual grants of $5,000 minimum require a one-to-one matching contribution. The grant program helps communities fund projects that enhance a visitor’s experience to cultural and historic sites and events. Grant information and applications are available on the THC website <www.thc.state.tx.us>. The application period is February 1 through April 30, 2010. Grant recipients will be announced in August 2010. For more information, contact April Garner at 512-463-2630. Grant applications can be downloaded from the THC’s web site at <www.thc.state.tx.us/grantsincident/grant.htm

Great Plains Research, a multidisciplinary journal that publishes peer-reviewed research on the natural and social sciences of the Great Plains, is soliciting current manuscripts on important research results and synthetic reviews of critical scientific issues for the Great Plains. For “Instructions to Authors,” discussion of potential articles, or subscription information, see the website <www.unl.edu/plains> or the editorial office. Telephone: (402) 472-6970; Fax: (402) 472-0463; E-mail: <gpr@unl.edu>

IN MEMORY... Rose Richardson of Oklahoma City passed away on February 18, 2010. Rose was a member of the Association and a History Department faculty member at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. She had recently retired. Her sister is Freedonia Paschall is the West Texas History Editor for the Association.

Jack Yates of Abilene passed on January 26, 2009. He was a long time member of the Association and was a close friend of Kenneth Neighbours. He practiced law and lived history. In fact, he was working on a compilation of his great grandfather’s Civil War letters, a project his wife hopes to complete.

Bob Green, 85, a rancher, historian and narrator for the Albany Fandangle for 27 years, died December 22, 2009, at the family’s ranch home in Shackleford County near Albany. Green was well known for his achievements in preserving the history of West Texas through his writing and storytelling.

Edward Hake Phillips, a long-time member of the West Texas Historical Association, died August 15, 2009. Dr. Phillips was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on Jan. 7, 1918. He held degrees from the University of Cincinnati and Harvard University, and was professor emeritus of history at Austin College. He was co-author of Adventures of a Frontier Naturalist: The Life and Times of Dr. Gideon Lincecum published by Texas A&M Press in 1994.
New Historical Markers in West Texas

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently approved undertold marker topics to be funded statewide through Marker Application Funds. For each new and replacement historical marker, a $100 application fee funds “an account to offer funding incentives for special or priority markers” to address historical gaps, promote diversity of topics, and proactively document significant undertold or untold stories. A statewide call for candidates resulted in 21 new topics to be documented. Through this program, the THC will pay for Official Texas Historical Markers placement.

West Texas topics commemorated through this program in the last two years include: Intact murals painted by soldiers and prisoners of war during World War II at Camp Bowie in Brown County; Chinese immigration to El Paso; Mabel Welch, the first woman architect and first woman builder in El Paso; The Syrian-Lebanese Community in El Paso; a major Comanche Trail through Camp Verde in Kerr County; Little Mexico in Kimble County; the Carver School for the Black-Seminole community in Kinney County; the 2nd Cavalry Division of Kinney County, a buffalo soldier unit from World War II and the last unit in the US to turn in its horses; the Sherman County Courthouse; and the Atlas ICBM Launch Facility in Taylor County.

Check the THC web site at <http://www.thc.state.tx.us> for the next call for undertold marker candidates.