



THE CYCLONE



WTHA Returns to Hardin-Simmons

The West Texas Historical Association will hold its eighty-fourth annual conference at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene on March 30 - 31, 2007. For those arriving on Thursday evening there will be an "early bird" reception and dinner beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Sharon's Barbeque. On Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. there will be a tour of Frontier Texas, a 14,000 square foot facility that allows visitors to relive the old West with the help of technology.

Conference sessions will begin Friday at 1:00 p.m. in the Skiles Social Science Building at Hardin-Simmons. Over 45 papers will be presented in sessions from Friday afternoon through Saturday morning covering all phases of West Texas history and culture. A president's reception will begin at 6:00 p.m. on



A silent auction is one feature of the WTHA conference. Friday evening followed by a banquet featuring guest speaker Clive Siegle. Siegle's research has centered on the nineteenth century American Southwest exploring such topics as Southern Plains Indians, the Santa Fe Trail, Texas Rangers, ranching and the Indian Wars. He is currently manager for the Santa Fe Trail Association and executive director

of the Zebulon Pike National Bicentennial Commission.

On Saturday, the association's awards and business luncheon will be held at Hardin-Simmons featuring an address by WTHA president Cheryl Lewis entitled "A Century of History Yields Far More Than Railroads, Grain Elevators, and Pied Pipers." Following the luncheon a special program is available including a tour of Buffalo Gap Historic Village and an 1880s style base ball game. An evening meal and program will be provided.

Hotel accommodations for the conference have been made at the Whitten Inn, (800) 588-5050, for \$65 per night and the Days Inn, (800) 375-6433 for \$62 per night. Both hotels are located at exit 288 off Interstate Highway 20 in Abilene. Reservations should be made by March 3, 2007 to receive the conference rate.

Archaeological Research at the Alamo

By Jim Matthews



Surrounded by the bustle of weekday business in downtown San Antonio, thirteen archaeology students from the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) conducted the first excavation at the Alamo in more than ten years during the summer of 2006. The project, which lasted from July 12 through August 10, concentrated on

previously unexcavated areas along the interior wall of the Long Barracks and in the Alamo courtyard.

Over the period of several weeks with hand trowels and sifting screens, the students uncovered a variety of pottery shards, buttons, glass beads and grapeshot. Project archaeologist, Kristi Ulrich commented, "To me this is amazing, to be able to dig at the Alamo. It doesn't happen that often." The project certainly placed the team in the center of San Antonio history with some of the intact deposits found being dated back to the mission period.

The exterior wall of the Long Barracks and the wall between the courtyard and the chapel are the only original walls remaining at the Alamo. The interior wall of the barracks had been destroyed during the nineteenth century when the site was used as a

mercantile store. After demolishing the store, reconstruction was completed on the Long Barracks from 1910-1930. The 2006 UTSA project demonstrated that the reconstructed wall was only about ten centimeters off of the original foundation. Other findings are still being catalogued at the Center for Archaeological Research at UTSA and should be available later this year.



From the Executive Director



Dear Fellow Members:

Snow fall in West Texas always conjures images of the famous blizzards of 1885-1887 when the open range cattle industry died. While these winters are legendary in our history we must remember the winter of 1898-1899 which is still the coldest on record. In February 1899 a norther hit the state that left an indelible imprint on the memory of Texans. While Tulia officially recorded a low of -23 degrees F on February 12, 1899, unconfirmed sources said it was more like -31 F. Nonetheless, it still stands as the state's all time low. As the front pushed southward Abilene recorded -23 degrees F, Denison -11, and Corpus Christi a balmy 11. Trains stalled, people froze and fires erupted from overheated stoves. As far south as Laredo and San Antonio, livestock and rivers froze. At Port Aransas along the coast the boat harbor froze solid. Well, winter is almost over this year. We've enjoyed some snow and rain, but we are definitely looking forward to spring. With that bit of optimism, I feel warmer already in spite of our "balmy" 12 degrees and light snow.

The 2007 Annual conference is shaping up nicely. Tiffany Fink, Don Taylor, B. W. Aston, Robert Hall, and Freedonia Paschall have planned an outstanding meeting. The conference events and schedule are listed in the newsletter and at our Online page—WTHA.org. At this year's Friday night banquet Clive Siegle will give our after dinner talk entitled--Cibolos and Shaggies: El Mundo Of Cook, The Hide Man." Siegle is a historian whose teaching and research has centered on the 19th century American Southwest and has explored such topics as Indian tribes of the Southern Plains, the Santa Fe Trail, the Texas Rangers, bandits, gunfighters, cattle trailing and ranching, and the Indian Wars. He is currently doing a comparative study of the Cibolos and the buffalo hunters in the southern plains. He is the Association Manager for the Santa Fe Trail Association, and the Executive Director of the Zebulon Pike National Bicentennial Commission.

See you in Abilene,

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Mallet Ranch Development and Preservation Update

Christena Stephens

The Headquarters of the historic Mallet Ranch, established in 1895 in Hockley County, Texas, remain virtually intact from the ranch's early days, and the buildings provide an excellent site for West Texans to link to their past. With the initial funding provided by the CH Foundation, the Mallet Ranch Development and Preservation Project has spent the past year researching the preservation and development potential of the Headquarters and ancillary structures, as well as making new discoveries at the site.

After evaluations, consultations, presentations, and site visits to other facilities, this study concluded that preservation and development of the

site *in situ* would afford the best opportunity for students and visitors to identify with the true ranching history of early West Texas.

The project has made some interesting discoveries. For instance, the foreman's house was originally thought to have been moved to the ranch in the 1960s. An on-site evaluation by local volunteers in October 2006 discovered that the house had actually been built at the ranch in the early 20th century. It had been remodeled so many times that it was literally in disguise. History can hold the most fantastic surprises.

As of January 2006, numerous professionals, companies, and volunteers have offered specific services to help this project come to fruition. A total break-down of in-

kind services is as follows: Professional services – 178 hours valued at \$6,507.00; Volunteer services – 74 hours valued at \$1,334.00; Research services - \$2,156.59; and allowance for miles driven - \$2,434.32. These amounts total more than \$12,400.00. The numbers represent the enthusiasm and dedication of individuals who want to see this project succeed.

A rare and priceless treasure for West Texas, the Mallet Ranch Headquarters and its pristine landscape will provide exceptional cultural and natural resources to area students and adults. Over the months ahead, the preservation project will be seeking funding and volunteer support from the West Texas historical and cultural community.

Experiences of a Pioneer Doctor

by Dr. P. C. Coleman

[Reprinted from the 1931 Year Book.]

I was born in Rutherford County, Tennessee, January 2, 1853. I received my medical training at the University of Louisiana, graduating with the class of 1874. For seven years I practiced medicine in my home county in Tennessee, then came to Texas and located at Colorado [City] in January 1883. I tried out the advice which I have often given to young doctors, namely: go where you would like to live; stay there and starve it out until you get a start.

At that time Colorado claimed about 5,000 persons, a large number of whom were transients—going and coming. It was a railroad town and a great cattle shipping center. I might add that Colorado had street cars as early as 1884. The idea was to build out to an addition, which is now the east part of town near where the standpipe now is. They were horse drawn and were abandoned after a few years. There were fifteen doctors in Colorado at that time, and I had plenty of competition.

My field of practice was a vast area; on the north it extended to about where Lubbock now is—about one hundred miles; on the south it extended some forty miles, or about half way to San Angelo; to the east it did not extend so far, since the doctors at Sweetwater had some of that practice, but to the west it extended more than a hundred miles.

At that time people had pretty much the same diseases that they now have, but we designated some of them by a different name. Rheumatism and pneumonia were common. In the way of epidemics, small pox, brought in from Mexico, was common and was dreaded. There was very little typhoid. Most of my long trips to ranches were to treat injuries to cattlemen—setting broken limbs, adjusting fractures and



(they were not all peaceful in those days) removing bullets. We used ether and chloroform only; no local anaesthesia was known at that time.

A trip I made in the winter of 1886 will illustrate some of the difficulties we encountered in ministering to the needs of people so far away before we had telephones or even roads. One day, about noon, a rider came in with an urgent call that I visit a sick woman who lived at a ranch just south of the location of Lubbock, a hundred miles away. In cases like this the rider would return with me riding with me in my buggy and leading his horse. In fact, it was often necessary that he do this in order to show me the way to the home of the patient. As I was about ready to leave town with the messenger, who was now to ride with me and be my guide, the sheriff called me aside and inquired if I knew the man I was about to leave with. I knew nothing about him, but the sheriff informed me that he was a "bad man" and "wanted." Then, to add to my disturbed state of mind, this officer explained that he was going to take a deputy or two and waylay us on the road, admonishing me to knock the fellow's gun aside if he tried to make a fight. I did not like this plan and told the sheriff so. The man had made the long hard ride on an errand of mercy; it was none of his relations who were ill, but the wife of the ranchman he had been working for

or, at least, putting up with; and the fellow had placed his freedom and possibly his life in peril as an act of gratitude and kindness.

Furthermore, I did not relish the thought of taking part in a pistol duel where I could not participate in the firing and yet might be shot by either party. I pled with the sheriff to give up his crazy idea, but he never did agree to do so.

We left about one o'clock in the afternoon and traveled continuously (except for one or two stops to change horses) until sunup the following morning. My sheriff friend had really given up his plan to compel me to help capture my guide, but so far as the effects on my nerves were concerned he might just as well have gone through with it. During every moment of the journey, or at least during the first ten or twelve hours of it, I was expecting the officers to try their ill-advised plan.

When we arrived at the ranch where the sick woman was, I observed that my guide did not enter the house. Later I learned that the rangers were then after him and that he had heard of it. He made his escape at that time, was arrested later, tried for murder and acquitted. I found the ranchman's wife suffering with chronic kidney trouble. She recovered from that particular attack.

We could not have made these extended journeys if we had not been sure of the cooperation of the ranchmen. When our teams were exhausted, we simply left them with some ranchman, took from him a fresh span and went on our way. By the time we had reached our destination and returned, our jaded team would have rested and be ready for the trip in the opposite direction. The cow men of the west were a generous lot. I can not

recall a single instance where they ever even hesitated to do all in their power to help us along. It was a part of the unwritten law of the West that a doctor should be given aid without stint in such cases. In fact, these people were liberal with everybody and hospitality prevailed generally. A friend of mine once told me about a trip he took to a point in New Mexico two hundred and fifty miles away. He took three dollars and seventy-five cents along, spent seventy-five cents on the entire journey and returned with three dollars.

On another occasion a rider came from a ranch about seventy-five miles north of Colorado to call me to minister to a fellow cowboy who had been thrown from his horse and suffered the fracture of his collar bone. The man who came for me weighed one hundred and eighty pounds. His pony carried him in a continuous jaunt to Colorado, where he was tied behind my fresh team of horses and started out almost immediately for the ranch seventy-five miles away. He made the return journey without great difficulty, making all told one hundred and fifty miles within about twenty hours with only about an hour's rest. Horses were tough in those days and men had to be tough also. I never rested on such journeys unless the condition of the patient made it imperative that I stay awhile; and then there was generally very little rest. Ordinarily as soon as I had looked after the patient, I began my return journey. Other patients were sure to need me. At that time (1883) there was almost "nothing" north of Colorado, just a box store at Snyder, no doctor there.

Sometimes when I found it necessary or expedient to spend the night at a home where I had called, the conditions were not such as to make it easy to sleep. In this connection I recall a trip I made during 1900 or 1901 to see a sick child at a place on the Colorado River about forty miles south of town. It was a dark night and the boy who came after me rode ahead

of my buggy to select my route. (There were no roads. In fact most of my country traveling was done by simply selecting a course and following it.) After we had made a long and tiresome journey with many turns the boy finally said, "This is the place." In the darkness it seemed to me that there was nothing whatever in the vicinity except a bank of bluff set back a short distance from the river bank proper. But I hitched my team, took my medicine case and followed him down this bluff. Near the bottom of the steep incline we found a door opening into a dug-out. After I had seen to the wants of the baby (suffering with some temporary trouble) the family gave me the choice bed. This was on the ground under the bed on which the sick baby lay. This dug-out was about fifteen feet square with low ceiling, but twelve persons occupied it that night!



In my long practice I have known some remarkable cases of recovery. Once when a few courageous souls were just beginning to farm in this country in the late eighties or early nineties, a boy about twelve years old was seriously injured while plowing. For some reason or other, perhaps to make some adjustment, he got in between the team and the turning plow he was using. The team ran away and he was caught on the point of the plow and dug about two hundred yards. The point of the plow had penetrated the abdomen and when they found him, his intestines were out of the body cavity covered with dirt and trash. I arrived there about two hours after the accident and found the lad pulseless and almost dead. We did not think that

he could live but a few minutes. They had not moved him; he was lying on the ground at the place where his body had been thrown loose from the plow. We improvised a stretcher out of an old door shutter and carried him to the house. I cleaned the parts and replaced them, closed the ugly cut with stitches and the boy made rapid recovery. He is living yet.

In 1887 a woman was thrown from a cart when her horse ran away. She was thrown into a wire fence and her scalp completely torn away from ear to ear, this is, torn back and left hanging at the back of her head. She also had been dragged through the sand, trash and grass burrs. I cleaned the exposed parts, replaced the scalp and she made a complete recovery. She also is still living.

The pioneer physician found it necessary to engage in all kinds of medical practice. No doctor could rigidly follow a specialty. Of course, we all pulled teeth in those days. I have pulled teeth for people who came from as far away as New Mexico, one hundred or one hundred and fifty miles. One dollar per tooth was the price then. Naturally we all took maternity cases. It has been said that I have officiated at the birth of two thousand children. Naturally in those early days we were sometimes baffled by diseases which we can now overcome. No doubt many a patient died with "lock bowel" who could be saved today by a simple appendicitis operation.

The doctor's pay was prompt and sure in those days. "Prompt pay and no questions" was the motto for both doctor and patient. The cowmen were generally able to pay. As the country become more thickly settled we were not paid so promptly. It was not that the farmers were less ready to pay than the cowmen, but rather that a larger percentage of them were not able to do so.

I never lose an opportunity to express my appreciation and love for the old West Texas pioneer population.

They were the most generous people in the world, and they never betrayed a friend.

[Dr. Coleman was recognized as one of leading doctors in early West Texas. He was elected president of the State Medical Association in 1895 and was a member of the American Medical Association and a Fellow of the

American College of Surgeons. He participated in the work of county and district medical societies of his section since their organization. Likewise, he was associated with many community and regional activities. He was president of the Colorado Chamber of Commerce for over twenty years; he was president of the West Texas

Agriculture and Mechanical College movement from 1916-1923 – a movement which led to the establishment of Texas Tech College (now Texas Tech University). For twenty-five years, he was a member of the Board of Trustees of Austin College. He enjoyed relating accounts of early activities in West Texas.]

FORT CONCHO

Robert F. Bluthardt

Fort Concho National Historic Landmark in San Angelo enjoyed a successful 2006 with many site improvements and public programs.

The site reconstructed the "company street" on the post's north side, the 1870s style walkway that parallels Barracks Row. In addition to recreating the authentic appearance of the fort's past, this pathway improves visitor accessibility to all four barracks structures.

The fort also made improvements to its Bay 3/Stables Block space on Flipper Street. This historic space has been adapted as a meeting and function hall with a 600-person capacity. The original 1870s walls have been preserved and the space now hosts various special events throughout the year.

Christmas at Old Fort Concho celebrated its 25th edition on December 1-3 with 18,000 visitors drawn from many Texas communities, a dozen states and a few foreign countries. A new chuckwagon camp, and expanded Winter Rendezvous on the Parade Ground, and a special photo display marking the previous twenty-four Christmas events were among the many activities that weekend. The tradition Rotary Barn Raising evening on Thursday, November 30, was enjoyed by 200 guests who heard a medley of very talented San Angeloans as scheduled entertainer, Red Steagall and his two band members, were trapped by icy roads in their various homes in North Texas and Oklahoma!

Fort Concho celebrated a new event in July with its National Cowboy Day Celebration in conjunction with the San Angelo Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the San Angelo State Park. The Bureau held a cowboy dance, the state park had a cowboy breakfast and church service, and the fort held a cowboy concert, a western movie festival, and living history and western artifacts displays.

The fort also received a national award for its restoration of Officers' Quarters 7 from the American Association for State and Local History. Officers' Quarters 7 will receive from a local scholar a new book collection on frontier/Southwestern history with the eventual re-location of several thousand volumes.

Lastly, Fort Concho was pleased to host guests from five different state and national historical groups in 2006: the Texas Downtown Association, the Order of the Indian Wars, the Texas Old Missions and Forts Association, the Texas Archaeology Society, and Preservation Texas.

The fort has already posted on its web site at www.fortconcho.com its expected 2007 programs and events and invites all Cyclone readers to visit the site.



The WTHA Board during a tour at their 2006 fall meeting.

NEWS FROM AROUND WEST TEXAS

Dr. Jean Stuntz's book, *Hers, His and Theirs: Community Property Law in Spain and Early Texas*, has recently received three awards - finalist for the Liz Carpenter Award for best book on Texas Women published in 2005; Presidio La Bahia Award for best book on Spanish Colonial Texas; and best book on Spanish Texas by the Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration Association and the Texas Catholic Historical Society.

Gene Preuss has received a Formby Research Fellowship at the Southwest Collection. The Formby fellowship provides a \$2,000 per month stipend for short-term fellowships of 1-3 months to researchers residing outside the Lubbock area. He is doing research on Lauro F. Cavazos and Hispanic Education. Preuss also began serving on the Faculty Advisory Board to *Foundations: An Undergraduate Journal in History*, published at The Johns Hopkins University. The journal is published freely and online biannually.

Bob Burton's story, "Little Office on the Prairie: A Discourse Upon Portable Towns, Commuter Trains, and Mr. Batman," appeared in the JAN-FEB-MAR 2006 issue of the Midwest Historical & Genealogical Society's *Register*.

Kenneth W. Davis published "The Lore of Retirement and Extended Care Facilities," in *Folklore In All of Us, In All We Do*, Publication of the Texas Folklore Society. Davis has also been reappointed as member of the Lubbock Country Historical Commission for 2007.

AWR "Rusty" Hawkins has had an article, "Alson Asa Meredith, A Man on Fire," accepted for publication in *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review* in early 2007. He will soon finish his doctorate at Texas Tech with a dissertation on the Italian Resistance during World War II.

In 2007 and 2008, **Bruce A. Glasrud** will publish three books: with James M. Smallwood, *African Americans in Texas History: An Anthology* (Texas Tech University Press); with Michael N. Searles, *Buffalo Soldiers in the West: A Black Soldiers Anthology* (Texas A&M University Press); and with Merline Pitre, *African American Women in Texas: A History* (Texas A&M University Press).

Dr. Rodney L. Preston, former Horn Professor and holder of the first Thornton Chair in Animal Sciences at Texas Tech, has published a biography about Dan Thornton entitled, *Stetson, Pipe and Boots, Colorado's Cattleman Governor*. Trafford Publishing printed the biography in 2006 and more information can be found at: www.trafford.com/05-2077. Dr. Preston has books for sale (\$35 plus \$3 shipping and handling). His address is: 191 Columbia Court, Pagosa Springs, CO, 81147-7650.

Barbara Barton published *Stagecoach Lines and Freighters of West Texas*, which tells about the many stage lines that crisscrossed West Texas until 1910. Problems with outlaws, cantankerous mules, and swollen streams added to the drivers' challenges. She also includes the freighter who was the precursor of the trucking industry seen today. This book can be purchased for \$17.95 plus handling. Contact by mail: Barbara Barton, Box 6, Knickerbocker, TX 76939 or inquire by email: bba7303@aol.com

Marty Kuhlman has published a historical novel entitled *Barriers*. It is found on the website publishamerica.com and then by searching for Kuhlman.

Paul Carlson was elected to membership in the Philosophical Society of Texas.

Brenda L. Haes, former Texas Tech University Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library Assistant University Archivist, is now Curator of Collections for the new Tohono O'odham Nation (formerly known as the Papago) Cultural Center and Museum on the tribe's reservation in Arizona, southwest of Tucson.

Dr. Scott White is taking over as construction liaison for all National Ranching Heritage Center building and remodeling projects. He will also serve as assistant editor of the *Ranch Record* and be responsible for several recurring areas of the magazine. Another employee, **Spence Miller** was named exhibit designer/fabricator. This came following his outstanding work designing and building sets for two of the NRHC's recent exhibits.

Robert Tidwell, registrar, takes on the temporary job of heading a project that will make available iPod tours of the museum's exhibits and historical park. The podcasting project is funded by Texas Tech University. Committee members are **Jim Pfluger**, budget; **Christy Lemons**, education; **Marsha Pfluger**, scriptwriting; and **Whitney Barron**, Web technology.

Glenn Dromgoole has resigned as senior editor of State House Press and McWhiney Foundation Press at McMurry University, effective Dec. 31, 2006.

Fort Chadbourne has received an anonymous donation in the reconstruction of the Double Officer's Quarter building. Archeology work will begin in mid-March and reconstruction shortly after.

A collection of rare paper money from the Mexican Revolution has been donated to the **West Texas Collection** at **Angelo State University** by a Dallas collector and his wife. **Elmer and Diane Powell** donated the 676 individual pieces of money to the collection. Appraised at more than \$90,000, the collection includes paper currency printed between 1910-17 during the turbulent years of the Mexican Revolution.

The **West Texas Collection** also acquired two new collections which significantly enhance its holdings on Mexico and the Mexican Revolution. This acquisition came through the purchase of a major collection of photo postcards and other materials concerning the borderlands between the 1870s and 1940s. The collection includes books, railroad brochures, photograph albums, pamphlets, posters, maps and other ephemera. The purchase was made possible through an anonymous gift to the Friends of the Porter Henderson Library and WTC.

The **Dodge Jones Foundation** and the **Dian Graves Owen Foundation** awarded the **Abilene Library Consortium** \$2.2 Million dollars to begin a Digital Archives project. The group will build a digital repository to preserve and present historically significant materials that tell the stories of people in their communities. This repository will be available to the public and to each home institution. The Abilene Library Consortium consists of Abilene Christian University, Abilene Public Library, Hardin-Simmons University, McMurry University and Howard Payne University.

In November 2006, the fourth **student archeological dig** took place at **Mott Creek Ranch** near Matador, this time involving fourteen Andrews Middle school students, their science teacher, digmaster Rick Day, and adult sponsors and volunteers. The controlled excavation is uncovering information about a late pre-historic bison processing camp along the headwaters of the Middle Pease River. Students are trained in excavation techniques, gridding, mapping, identification and preservation. The on-going project is a fund raiser for the Motley County Museum, Matador.

The **Crockett County Historical Commission** dedicated a historical marker for Camp Melvin and the Pontoon Crossing of the Pecos River on Saturday, October 14, 2006. Camp Melvin was a sub post of Ft. Stockton in the 1870s. Pontoon Crossing was the most used crossing of the Pecos River by wagon trains and stage lines until the railroads were completed in 1883. The historical marker is located at a picnic area on State Highway 349 approximately half way between Iraan and Rankin.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Hamlin will be celebrating her 100th Anniversary as an incorporated town on *June 8-10*. There will be historical topics discussed as symposium-type venues, along with activities for the entire family. They are offering a special commemorative calendar with early-day 8 x 10 photos for each month that date back to 1906; these are available for \$10.

A Wichita County Community kicked off its centennial celebration year on January 26. **Electra** will turn 100 this October and the Electra Chamber of Commerce has been preparing a long calendar of events celebrating the milestone.

Dr. Jerry Marshall of the **Rotan** Centennial Celebration committee reports the city had a reception on January 20 to mark the date when the post office went into operation. They will hold a two-day celebration later this year on *June 22-23*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1, 2007. 6-9 pm. The West Texas Collection at Angelo State University and The Railway Museum of San Angelo located at the Historic Orient-Santa Fe Depot are having a joint **opening of a new display on the Kansas City, Mexico & Orient Railway**. The WTC's display will consist of original documents dating from the inception of the railway through the purchase of the KCM&O by Santa Fe. These items are a part of a large collection donated to the WTC by Robert Pounds of Temple, Texas.

March 24, 2007. **Bridging National Borders in North America Symposium**, Southern Methodist University, Dallas. An international group of scholars will discuss the history of borderlands in North America. In the past century "Borderlands" has become shorthand for the U.S. Southwest and the Mexican north, yet little attention has been paid to the border dividing Canada and the U.S. despite a rich history. This conference aims to correct that oversight. Sharing knowledge on First Nations

peoples, labor migration, industrial growth, political policies and environmental trends, this conference will illustrate how the shared histories of Canadians, Mexicans and Americans hold lessons for all North Americans and beyond.

April 21, 2007. **Permian Historical Society** meeting at the Petroleum Museum in Midland. The annual will be available as well as stories about desegregation, growing up in the oil field, plus stories from 90+ year old members and the awarding of Fellows to four members, Paul Patterson, Elmer Kelton, Ross McSwain and Patrick Dearen. For information contact Peggy Kelton PeggyKelton@hughes.net or 432-652-8738 or Box 901, McCamey, TX 79752.

April 28, 2007. **Ranch Day 2007**, National Ranching Heritage Center, Lubbock. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Theme for the 37th Annual Ranch Day is "Home Runs on the Range." It will feature exhibition games from the vintage base ball (spelled as two words in 1883) team, The Buffalo Chips, from Buffalo Gap, Texas. Other events include "The Ranch Hand Experience," an interactive program for young visitors, a stick-horse rodeo, and springtime events such as a cakewalk, a Maypole dance, gardening and kite-making. Music for dancing in the McLaughlin Arbor and the aromas of chuck wagon beans, biscuits and coffee will fill the air in Proctor Park.

May 4-6, 2007. **Celebrate the Western Trail**, Vernon. This celebration marks the final dedication of a Western Trail marker in Texas and presents a celebration of the history of the Great Western Trail. Activities include an art show, chuckwagon breakfast and barbecue, parade of flags and a Trail Drivers Ball—dinner, dance, and auction. For more information contact Sylvia G. Mahoney 940-357-1269 or Jeff Bearden 940-839-7276.

May 5, 2007. **Fort Chadbourne Living History Event**, Bronte. For more information call 325-743-2555 or email at fortchad@taylortel.com

June 22-24. **Texas' Last Frontier Heritage Celebration and Buffalo Soldier Encampment**, Morton. Step back into the early life and times on Texas' far western frontier! Tour an authentic Texas Buffalo Soldier camp. Listen to the stories and experience what daily life was like in camp and on patrol for these brave guardians of the early Texas frontier—brought to you by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Texas Buffalo Soldier Living History Program. Everyone is invited to attend a

special dedication ceremony inaugurating the "*Trails of the Last Frontier*" segment of the statewide Texas Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Trail, including **the designation of the Texas' Last Frontier Museum in Morton, TX, as the Trail Headquarters**. For more information, contact Dorothy Barker, Chair, Cochran County Historical Commission, jodaphi1@windstream.net, (806) 266-5484.

July 27-29, 2007. **National Cowboy Day Celebration**, San Angelo. Sponsored by Fort Concho, the San Angelo Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the San Angelo State Park. For information see the Fort Concho web site at www.fortconcho.com

September 27-29, 2007. **East Texas Historical Association** at the Fredonia Hotel in Nacogdoches. The ETHA Fall meeting offers paper sessions, the Max and Georgiana Lale Lecture on Thursday evening, the Friday night banquet, and the Saturday awards luncheon. This year's Lale Lecturer will be historian and archival restorationist William Seale. Members of the West Texas Historical Association also participate in a session. For more information about meeting, please see the ETHA web site at <http://www.easttexashistorical.org>.

ONGOING EVENTS

February 17- August 19, 2007. **Panhandle-Plains Museum**, Canyon. "JA: The Paloduro Ranch"— A major exhibit about the history of an operation that has borne the livelihood of many managers, cowboys, cattle, horses and buffalo. The exhibit will spotlight JA Ranch founder Charles Goodnight, his business partner John George Adair and Adair's wife Cornelia Wadsworth Ritchie Adair. Photographs, maps, ranch records, JA chuck wagon and a Sharps rifle carried by Goodnight will help interpret his career at the JA. In addition, the display will feature other ranch managers and information about the JA buffalo herd.

March 17- June 10, 2007. **Panhandle-Plains Museum**, Canyon. "19th-Century Prints of Cities"— An exhibition of more than 60 views of Texas cities ranging from local communities like Amarillo, Childress, Clarendon, and Quanah, to distant cities like Austin, Victoria, Wichita Falls, Texarkana and El Paso. Between 1871 and 1914, eleven different itinerant artists drew and published at least 67 bird's-eye views of Texas cities. The images were drawn by hand using, most often using two-point perspective to produce a three-dimensional rendering.

CENTER FOR BIG BEND STUDIES CONFERENCE

Dr. Troy Ainsworth

On November 10-12, 2006, Sul Ross State University in Alpine hosted the 13th Annual Center for Big Bend Studies Conference. Members of WTHA were in attendance to enjoy reconnecting with friends and colleagues, listen to paper presentations, and absorb the rugged beauty of the Texas Alps. The drive from Lubbock, where I met up with Tai Kreidler and Janet Neugebauer, was one part research trip, one part philosophical discussion, and a heaping dollop of soul-regeneration that can only occur in the Lone Star's Last Frontier. In our much-too-brief sojourn in the Good Country, time was well spent at Front Street Books,

Jett's Grill in the Paisano Hotel, at the Mystery Lights Viewing Area in Marfa, and at the Gage Hotel's Café Cenizo in Marathon, where Travis Roberts treated a dozen of us to dinner, drinks, and good stories. The conference itself was first-rate and well-attended, a testament to the hard work and dedication put forth by the Center for Big Bend Studies staff. Alpine, of course, is an ideal location for a conference, and I strongly encourage more WTHA members to participate next November. Our support of the CBBS is much appreciated, and for the reward of recharging your mind, body, and spirit you ought to attend the next one. For more information, contact the Center

for Big Bend Studies at 432-837-8179.

THE CYCLONE

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Check out back issues of the Cyclone at our website <www.wtha.org> maintained by webmaster Lynn Whitfield.

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