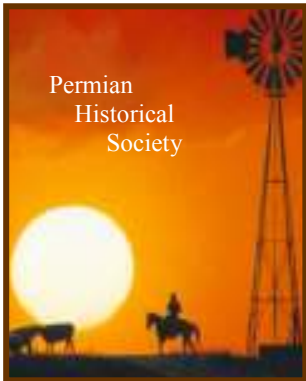


Permian Historical News

PHS to Meet in Iraan, Texas, on
21 October 2006 at the Community Center

Volume 1, Issue 2
September 2006



Permian Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and recording the history of the Permian Basin of West Texas

President's Letter

Dear friends,

I hope you are planning to attend our fall meeting in Iraan, Texas, on 21 October 2006. As most of you know, Iraan was the home of Vincent T. Hamlin, creator of Alley Oop and Dinny, his pet dinosaur, from cartoon fame. Iraan, just across the Pecos River in Pecos County, is filled with about 1,200 people who are proud of its heritage and want to share it with us.

We will start our time together as we always do—coffee, pastries, and visiting at 9 a. m. I have planned a short Board of Directors meeting at 9:15 a. m. By 9:30 a. m., we will begin the meeting with something a little different—a short business meeting to vote on changes in our by-laws and to elect three directors to replace the three whose terms are expiring. This arrangement should work well to allow those who leave after they have lunch to vote on these important changes. Those changes will be sent to you by email or post office mail by 21 September 2006.

Our Program Chair, Betty Cash, and her committee have planned an interesting program, consisting of papers about Iraan and its people, about riding the rails during the depression, about growing up in an oil camp, and about integration in the Crane public schools. For those who tired before our papers were finished at the spring meeting, we will have a time-keeper to allow each speaker only twenty minutes at the podium.

You will want to make a reservation for lunch. To get a first-line ticket and be in the first group through the food line, make a reservation and send your \$10 check with it. To be in the second-line group, make a reservation and pay \$10 at the door. Those who make no reservations are always welcome for \$12.50, but sometimes the end of a barbeque line offers slim pickings.

Cordially,

Peggy Kelton
President

*Watch for a
separate
message giving
details about the
by-laws
changes!*

About Reservations and the Serving Line

First-line tickets go to
those who made a
reservation and sent
\$10 in advance.

Second-line tickets go to
those who made
reservations and paid
\$10 at the door.

Third-line tickets go to
those *without*
reservations who paid
\$12.50 at the door

For reservations, contact:
Peggy Kelton
P. O. Box 901
McCamey, TX 79752

432/652-8738

PeggyKelton@hughes.net

Iraan barbeque for
Lunch!



Texas Highway Department map

Images of the Spring Meeting in Midland



Above: Peggy Kelton in Hollywood garb at the spring meeting.
Image: Bud Lindsey



Above: Frances Walker, as the It Girl, talks with Donna Bell at the meeting.
Image: Bud Lindsey



Above: Paula Marshall-Gray from Texas Tech reported on her research of Texon, Texas, as a model company town to the enjoyment of the many former Texonites present.
Image: Bud Lindsey



Above: Melanie McDonald, winner of the Evelyn Linebery—J. Conrad Dunagan Best Article Award for *The Permian Historical Annual* 45, talks with Brandon Young across the serving line.
Image: Bud Lindsey



Above: Jim Collett, dressed as Indiana Jones, presented a paper about a soldier's life.
Image: Bud Lindsey



Above: Lee Bennett entertained attendees with personal stories from her life as an extra in making the movie *Giant* in the 1950s.
Image: Bud Lindsey



Above: Gordon Hooper told how the King Ranch related to Crane County ranching.
Image: Bud Lindsey

What To Expect At the Fall 2006 Meeting

Permian Historical Society Fall Meeting Community Building Iraan, Texas 21 October 2006

Happy Half-Hour of Visiting, Registration, Coffee, Book Shopping, and Board of Directors Meeting at 9 to 9:30 a.m.

Short business meeting to vote on by-laws changes and elect three new directors **Peggy Kelton**, President

Program of Papers **Betty Cash**, moderator

Riding the Rails: Persevering Through the Great Depression **Patrick Dearen**
The widely-known speaker has written many books about historical characters and events of the Permian Basin.

Growing Up in an Oil Camp in Wink, Texas **Charles Stroder**
This interesting paper comes from the writer's own experience.

Integration Memories in Crane Schools **Louie Jones and Annette Lopez Lane**
These talented writers talk about the experiences of minority students in uneasy times.

Alley Oop and His Time Machine **Betty Cash**
The speaker tells about the influence of the cartoon character on its creator's town and on those who appreciate the script.

After the program of papers, Mesquite Barbeque of Iraan caters lunch. Door prizes and awards follow. Book sellers display books. Local sites to appreciate are Iraan Archeological Museum and Alley Oop Fantasy Land.



Ross McSwain, after serving two terms as Permian Historical Society president, received the Life Membership Award from Peggy Kelton at the spring meeting.

Image: Bud Lindsey

2006-2008 Committee Appointments

Permian Historical Society

The University of Texas of the
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4901 East University Blvd.
Odessa, TX 79762
Editor's Phone: 432-697-4955
Dr. Tillapaugh: 432-552-2530

PHS Officers

Peggy Kelton, President
Betty Cash, V P-Program
James Collett, V P-Membership
Sue Ann Damron, Secretary
Sherry Phillips, Treasurer
J. Tillapaugh, Investments

2005-2006 Directors

Mary Prudie Brown, Martin County
Charlena Chandler, Terrell County
Richard Cummins, Ector County
James V. Humphrey, Midland County
Nancy McKinley, Midland County
Mary Lou Midkiff, Upton County
June Reid, Martin County
Rosemary Rogers, Pecos County
Patsy White, Crockett County
Snap Woodward, Pecos County

Archives: Chair Peggy Kelton, Dr. Terry Shults, Nancy McKinley, Jean Reid, Mary Prudie Brown, Betty Cash, Genny Townsend, and Elizabeth Heath

Awards: Co-Chairs Peggy Kelton and J. C. Smith, James Collett, Ross McSwain, Patsy White, and Donna Bell

Best Article: Chair J. C. Smith, Ross McSwain, Patsy White, James Collett, and Donna Bell

Best Presentation: Chair Donna Bell and Peggy Kelton

Executive: President Peggy Kelton, Betty Cash, James Collett, Sue Ann Damron, Sherry Phillips, Dr. J. Tillapaugh, Bud Lindsey, Ross McSwain, and J. C. Smith

Hospitality Chair: Jeanette Paige and friends

Investment: Chair Dr. J. Tillapaugh, Peggy Kelton, Betty Cash, Sherry Phillips, Ross McSwain

Membership: Chair James Collett and friends

Newsletter: Editor J. C. Smith, Photographer Bud Lindsey, Print Copy Mailers—Peggy Kelton, Sherry Phillips, Donna Bell, and Jeanette Paige

Permian Historical Annual Editorial Board: Julia Cauble Smith, Peggy Kelton, Dr. J. Tillapaugh, Ross McSwain, Evelyn Stroder, and Book Review Editor Charlena Chandler

Program: Chair Betty Cash, Peggy Kelton, James Collett, Sue Ann Damron, Sherry Phillips, Dr. J. Tillapaugh, Bud Lindsey, Ross McSwain, and J. C. Smith

Publicity: Bud Lindsey

**Spring 2007 Meeting is planned at the Petroleum Museum in Midland and
Fall 2007 Meeting at Stanton in Martin County.**

The CCC and Texas State Parks

Texas state parks were begun in the painful years of the 1930s, when the hardships of the Great Depression inspired several government work programs. Immediately after Franklin D. Roosevelt's inauguration in March 1933, he proposed the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to Congress. It was an emergency program to preserve and maintain natural resources, but it is remembered for the incomes it provided for young men and their families back home.

Between 1933 and 1942, as many as 274,000 young men between the ages of 17 and 25 lived in quasi-military camps in isolated areas to reclaim eroded and burned lands, to plant trees, and to build public structures. Each man enrolled for six months and was paid \$30 per month. At least \$25 of his wage was sent home to his needy family.

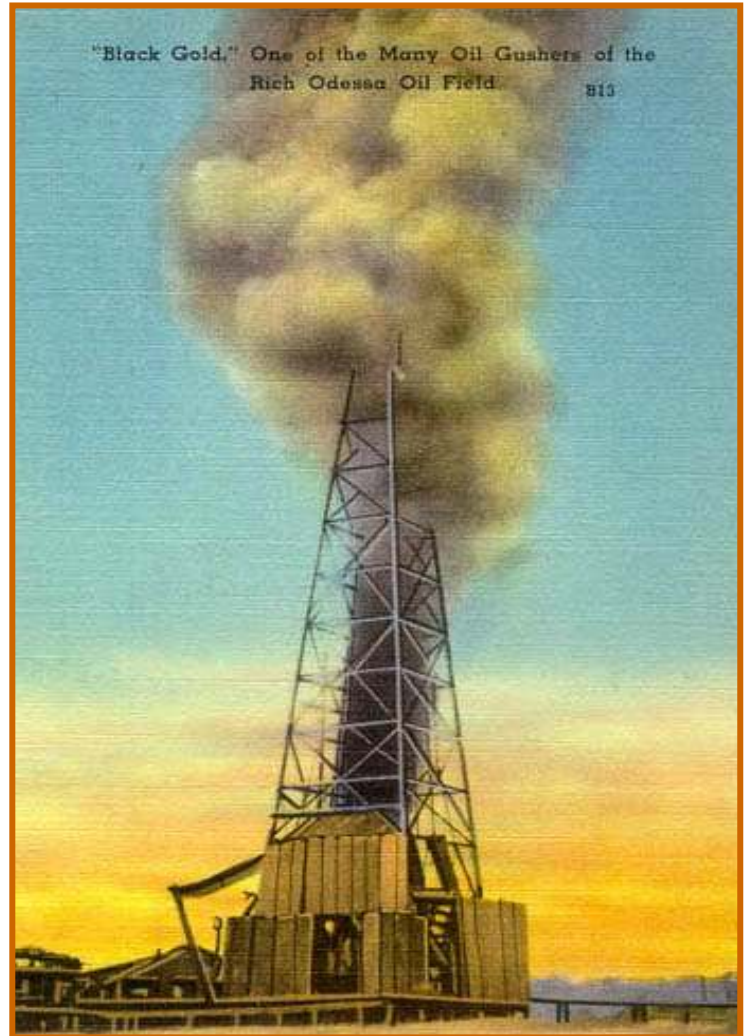
The CCC came to Texas by trainloads. They built thirty-one state parks and several city and county parks that still operate. In our area, Company 1856 constructed at Toyahvale the motel, huge natural swimming pool over San Solomon Springs, and canals that handle the runoff. Company 1857 settled on Scenic Mountain to construct Big Spring State Recreation Area in 1934-35. Company 879 built Davis Mountains State Park with its Indian Lodge in Keesey Canyon in 1933.

These state parks—once tributes to the perseverance of young men in hard economic times—have fallen on hard times of their own. They are in desperate need of structural repairs. Contact your state representative, telling him or her the parks are important to our history and enjoyment. They must be maintained properly by the State of Texas. — Editor



Image of pool and CCC facts taken from Texas Parks and Wildlife, *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Texas State Parks* (1986).

Vintage Postcards Tell Our History



Public domain image from a 1920s picture post card
Send your favorite for a later issue.

Congratulations to longtime and life member Paul Patterson on reaching his 97th birthday last spring!