

Permian Historical News



We are celebrating railroads at the spring meeting, 21 April 2007. Bring your collectibles to show off. Dress as a railroad worker, a passenger on a steam-powered train, or as a member of the Black Jack Ketchum gang.

Permian Historical Society
The University of Texas
of the Permian Basin Campus
4901 East University Blvd.
Odessa, TX 79762

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President's Letter

Dear Friends,

Remember when we traveled by train when going any distance? We are going to review those good old days at this meeting. Trains kept us from having so many big, bad trucks on the road.

We will have a story about flying from a WWII veteran coming from Atlanta, Georgia, to give his paper. Roger Goertz will tell about growing up at Texon; Louie Jones and Annette Lopez Lane have a presentation about Crane School integration. Nancy McKinley and Frances Walker have stories and graduate student Brandon Young with talk about oil field workers. The historian from Iraan—Snooks Collett—is standing in the wings if we need her. Jim Collett has our entertainment planned.

To keep the fun in history we plan to dress in railroad clothes and/or outlaw clothes of those who would dare to rob trains in the bad old days. Not only will it be fun, but we will learn much about history.

To top this off we have a fine lunch planned and many people are already sending their money and making reservations so that they can be first in line to eat.

A special event for the day will be the official naming of four Fellows of PHS—**Paul Patterson, Elmer Kelton, Ross McSwain, and Patrick Dearen. Jean Reid and Lorene Barbee** will receive the Pioneer award.

You will not want to miss this! Call or write me for reservations—PeggyKelton@hughes.net or 432/652-8738
Cordially,

Peggy Kelton, Box 901, McCamey, TX 79752

The Permian Basin county with the largest attendance at the spring meeting will be awarded a PHS membership for one of its libraries or museums.
Encourage those in your county to attend this meeting!

Fellows of Permian Historical Society

The award known as *Fellows of the Permian Historical Society* is one that has been awarded only five times and is long overdue for the four men who will be officially named as Fellows at the spring meeting. Each has published significant works concerning the Permian Basin in its historical setting, using both non-fiction and fiction genres.

Permian Historical Society proudly introduces its Fellows—**Paul Patterson, Elmer Kelton, Ross McSwain, and Patrick Dearen.**

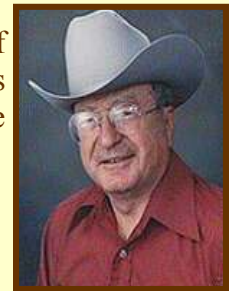


Paul Patterson of Crane is a widely-known Permian Basin writer and teacher. He inspired countless students over the years and entertained just as many with his stories of Permian Basin life. He has written numerous books, a play, and poetry.

Left: Mr. Pat danced with a young aide at his 98th birthday party on 29 March 2007.

Image: Peggy Kelton

Elmer Kelton, right, of San Angelo is known to every Texan and most of those not so fortunate as to live in Texas. His forty books about life in Texas during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries give the world a true picture of the struggles and achievements of those who lived on the land.



Ross McSwain, left, of San Angelo is widely-known as a columnist for the *San Angelo Standard-Times* and as author of seven books—three in his *Out Yonder* series about interesting places and people of the Permian Basin and surrounding areas of Texas.

Patrick Dearen, right, of Midland writes both fiction and history. He has used the Permian Basin as well as other Texas locations as settings for his sixteen books—four about the Pecos country and several about the cowboy life.



New Schedule For *Permian Historical Annual* 47

Since the first volume of the *Permian Historical Annual* was released in 1960, *The Annual* carried the date of the previous year when it was distributed at the regular meeting each spring. At the upcoming meeting on 21 April 2007, *Permian Historical Annual* No. 46 will be given out to members. That volume carries last year's date—2006.

This pattern will change in the fall of this year. The Editorial Board will complete the 2007 volume of *The Annual* over the summer and early fall for distribution at the fall meeting on 6 October 2007 at the Community Center in Stanton, Martin County, Texas.

The editors feel that *The Annual* should be published in the year of its date and the period from late spring to early fall is a logical time for work on the publication. There are fewer holidays to work around and writers and editors who are tied to the academic year have a freer schedule during these months. The assignment board for the 2007 *Annual* is complete, has been accepted, and work has already begun.

With the distribution date moved to the fall of each year, the Editorial Board will continue to work during the late fall and winter on a number of Special Series books. These publications are devoted to specific topics, events, or families. Your help is needed. If you are willing to research, write, or edit, contact the general editor.

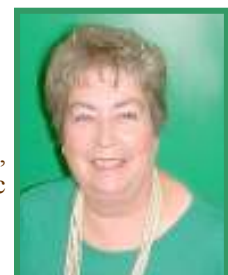
Editors' Correction for *Annual* 46, page 144-145: A bond election was held in the spring of 1944 to fund the building of a new courthouse, a hospital, and a home for nurses. The date should read: 1948.

Permian Pioneer Award

Permian Historical Society will present its Permian Pioneer Award to two of its longtime members at the spring meeting. PHS salutes these notable women.



Jean Reid, left, came to the Permian Basin shortly after World War II with an interest in regional history. She worked for the restoration of Fort Davis, the abandoned military post in Jeff Davis County, as well for the improvement of her community through civic and church groups.



Lorene Barbee, right, grew up in Stanton, Martin County, Texas. She taught public school, community college, and private music lessons over the years. She worked in history and civic groups and was a church organist for many decades.

Vintage Postcards Tell Our History



The above post card showed El Capitan Hotel in Van Horn, Culberson County, Texas, shortly after it was built in 1930. In the previous decade of the 1920s, U. S. citizens found they were able to realize their dreams of seeing the county, especially the West. The average worker could afford an automobile and small-town hotels and service stations sprang up to help with the dream.

El Capitan was one of those small-town hotels. It was designed in Pueblo Revival style by the El Paso architectural firm of Trost & Trost. Although its architectural style was more popular in New Mexico than in Texas, the structure has been called the finest Texas example of Pueblo Revival style. But it is not the only example in West Texas.

El Paisano Hotel in Marfa, Texas, is another example of the style. Built in 1926, it was also designed by Trost & Trost and continues to operate as a nine-room hotel at 207 North Highland. El Capitan's building still exhibits its famous architectural style as a tribute to its place in twentieth-century history, but it is now the home of a bank, an office supply, and an electronic store.

2006-2008 Committees

Archives: Chair Peggy Kelton, 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

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

Membership: Chair James Collett and friends

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

Permian Historical Annual Editorial Board: Editor Julia Cauble Smith, Peggy Kelton, Dr. J. Tillapaugh, Ross McSwain, James Collett, Evelyn Stroder, Book Review Editor Charlena Chandler; Graphics Editor Sylvia Caldwell Rankin

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



Permian Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and recording the history of the Permian Basin of West Texas. Officers and committee members invite suggestions and recommendations for paper presentations and for articles to be published in *Permian Historical Annual* or the Special Series books.

Beginning 1 January 2007, dues increased to \$25 for individuals, libraries, museums, and other organizations.

Family dues are \$30 and student memberships are \$12.

Dues checks should be sent to:

Sherry Phillips
PHS Treasurer
P. O. Box 11
McCamey, TX 79752

The Fall 2007 Meeting is scheduled for 6 October 2007 at the Community Center in Stanton, Martin County, Texas.

Visit our website: PermianHistoricalSociety.org