



West Texas Historical Association Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 1

November 1992

Endowment Reaches \$100,000

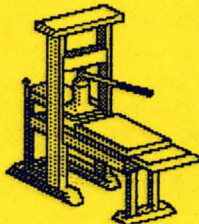
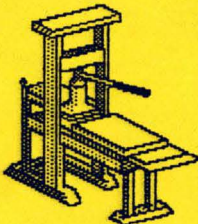
From the President's Desk:

Paul Carlson
Associate Professor of History
Texas Tech University

The Newsletter, the Association's first, represents a new and additional way in which to serve members of the West Texas Historical Association. JoDee Kite has put together an attractive and informative piece. The Newsletter is designed to keep members informed of Association affairs and abreast of related developments in West Texas between publications of the annual *Year Book*.

The Association has over the last year made other important changes. We think they represent the work of a growing and dynamic organization. One of the most significant steps was reaching B.W. Aston's long-sought goal of \$100,000 in the permanent endowment. That was achieved this year, thanks to B.W.'s careful management of funds and the generosity of our members.

Pass the Newsletter to your friends. Encourage them to join the Association. And write with your "news" to Dr. Kite. We want to include it in the *Year Book*.



From the Executive Director:

B.W. Aston
Professor of History
Hardin-Simmons University

Year Book News:

Volume 68 of the *Year Book* will not be off the press until early December. Thanks to a generous donation by Conrad Dunagan we have gone to desktop publishing. We did not get started until late August. It has been, of course, somewhat of a learning experience. However, you can see from the enclosed Table of Contents that it contains a wide variety of articles.

Membership Dues:

Once again, it is time to pay your annual dues. As you will note from the enclosed membership form, it was necessary to increase our annual dues. This is the first increase that we have had in ten years. It was just something that we could no longer ignore with the continued increase in the cost of producing and mailing the *Year Book*. I believe that you will agree that it still one of the best bargains in the country. Please use the form when renewing your membership so that proper credit can be given. I also hope that you would consider becoming a life member for a modest \$250. Life memberships help us increase our endowment.

Endowment and Donations:

Thanks to Mr. Dunagan's gift, we have been able to buy the latest computer equipment, software, and printers to allow us to not only typeset the *Year Book* but produce a Newsletter to keep our membership better informed on the happenings in West Texas. Thanks to the

donations made by the members and guests at Alpine, we have now reached our goal of \$100,000! This insures the continued publication of the *Year Book*. However, we would like to see this endowment continue to grow so that we could encourage the study of West Texas through scholarship competitions for young promising historians, the printing of scholarly monographs, and perhaps even research grants. Therefore, we encourage you to remember the West Texas Historical Association when you are making your tax-exempt contributions. It has been your generosity in the past that has kept this organization fostering interest in regional history.

Don't Forget!

Annual membership dues of \$15 (\$7.50 for students) should be returned with the enclosed membership form. All donations over \$15 are tax-deductible and are placed in the Association's Endowment for publications and scholarships.

Endowment goal of \$100,000 has been reached! Thank you!

Are you stuck every year trying to find a Christmas gift for the person who has almost everything and doesn't like the rest? Avoid the malls and the holiday season rush. Give a gift membership in the West Texas Historical Association for only \$15.

Mark your calendar!
Annual Spring Meeting
Friday-Saturday, March 26-27, 1993
on the beautiful campus of Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene

An evening of enchantment on Friday is planned at the historic Paramount Theatre including a banquet and vintage motion picture showcasing the restoration of the downtown landmark. Local residents and visitors alike will be delighted and charmed. This is in addition to the always outstanding scholarship presented and the presidential luncheon on Saturday.

An Annual Meeting Not To Be Missed!

Bring your friends. Non-members are always welcome.



Drop an early Christmas card to B.W. and Lillie Mae Aston. They are going to enjoy a spring sabbatical in New Zealand. Ken and Marilyn Jacobs are going to hold down the fort at the Association office.

Book Excerpt--"Northers"

"There are two kinds of northers--the wet and the dry; and both are exceedingly cold. Tongue cannot tell, nor pen express, how cold a norther feels to a man who gets up in the night, at his wife's suggestion, to see if he forgot to fasten down the dining-room window. The northers are really not so cold as they are supposed to be. The mercury seldom registers below twenty-five degrees Fahrenheit. The cold is as severe on the people subjected to it as a much more severe cold, measured by degrees, would be to a resident of a much more northern clime. It is the contrast and sudden change that account for this fact.

The following pictures, now in my mind's eye, will illustrate what I mean. A chromo representing in the foreground a man dressed in a linen suit. His shirt

is open at the neck; and he is sitting on a refrigerator, fanning himself with his *sombrero*. In the background a soda water fountain, and the middle-distance a perspiring . . . waiter coming with an iced lemonade. We might call this picture 'Yesterday in Texas.' Next, the same man dressed in winter clothes, a buffalo robe on his shoulders, and a seal-skin cap with ear-flaps on his head. The man is sitting cooking his half-soles at a large wood-stove; while the same waiter, with his teeth chattering at every pore, is bringing him an oyster-stew with red pepper in it. We may call this picture 'Today in Texas.'

"Northers come into market about the end of October, although some years an early variety develop in September. Like the oyster, they are seasonable in all months that have an *r* in them. . . . The Northers are very bracing in their effects, and do much to purify the air, and carry off all malarial and miasmatic influences. The thermometer falls very rapidly during a norther, sometimes forty degrees in an hour. A man once told me that in Austin, Tex., he saw the thermometer fall three feet in two seconds--off a nail." from *Alex Sweet's Texas*, edited by Virginia Eisenhower (essay originally published in 1883).



Newsletter Inaugural Issue

★ Please send information or news items for the spring Newsletter. Also, if you have an idea of a more-than-generic name for this Newsletter, send your suggestion to JoDee Kite, Box 638, McMurry University, Abilene, TX 79697.

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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