



77th Annual Meeting of
The West Texas Historical
Association

March 31 – April 1, 2000

Midland Holiday Inn
Midland, Texas

2000 Program Committee

Cindy Martin, Lubbock, Chair

Cynthia Savage, Midland

Becky Matthews, San Antonio

Marisue Potts, Floydada

Local Arrangements

Cynthia Savage, Midland

Friday, March 31, 2000

12:30 p.m. Holidome **Registration.** Continues until 5:00 p.m. and will open again from 8:30-10:00 a.m. on Saturday.

1:00 p.m. Tall City 1 **Silent Auction Viewing and Bidding.** Auction items will be on display and available for bidding until 5:00 p.m. on Friday and from 8:30 until 10:00 A.M. on Saturday.

Session 1 *The Historic JA Ranch*
1:15 – 2:30 Tall City 2 Martin Kuhlman, West Texas A&M University
presiding

Montie Ritchie and the JA Ranch. H. Allen
Anderson, Texas Tech University

History of the JA Ranch Headquarters. John White,
Texas Tech University

The Goodnight Bison Herd: Past and Present.
Danny Sweptson, Canyon

Session 2 **Preserving the Heritage of West Texas**
1:15 – 2:30 Tall City 3 Carey Behrends, Presidential Museum, *presiding*

*Commemorating the Pacific War: Fredericksburg's
Fleet Admiral Nimitz Museum.* Carol Parsonage,
Georgetown

*Willard B. Robinson and the Ranching Heritage
Center at Texas Tech University.* Gary Lindsey,
Texas Tech University (Student Paper Award
Winner)

Preserving the American Windmill. Jan Hayes,
American Wind Power Center

2:30 p.m. Break

Session 3 **Ranching in West Texas**
2:45 – 4:00 Troy Solis, Sul Ross State University, *presiding*
Tall City 2 *Terlingua Creek Valley and Ranching.* Lovinka
DeKoninck, Sul Ross State University
The Morris Cattle Company, 1921-1937. Jack
Becker, Texas Tech University
The Pitchfork Ranch: Tradition and Change.
Kenneth Davis, Lubbock

Session 4 **Trails and Trade Between Mexico and West**
2:45 – 4:00 **Texas, Old and New**
Tall City 3 Betty Orbeck, Midland, *presiding*
Tracing the Comanche War Trail. John Yates,
Benbrook
Stradling the Border: Don Tomas Barksdale,
Border Trader. Marisue Potts, Motley County
Historical Commission
Texas and NAFTA at Five: Who Cares? B. W.
Aston, Hardin-Simmons University

Session 5 **West Texas History: Looking Back, Looking**
4:00 – 5:00 **Forward**
Tall City 2 Darlene Bellinghausen, WTHA President, *presiding*
The WTHA at Seventy-Seven and Beyond. B. W.
Aston, Hardin-Simmons University
Women and West Texas History. Lou Rodenberger,
Baird
A Literary View of West Texas. Lawrence Clayton,
Hardin-Simmons University

6:15 – 6:45 **President's Reception Honoring**
Texas **Darlene Bellinghausen**
Deck B

Banquet President Darlene Bellinghausen, *presiding*
7:00 p.m. Speaker - Robert Flynn, San Antonio
Texas *Miracles in Chillicothe*
Deck B

Saturday, April 1, 2000

- 8:30 a.m.** **Registration**
Holidome
- 8:30-10:00** **Silent Auction Viewing and Bidding**
Tall City 1
- Session 6** **African Americans in West Texas**
8:30- 10:00 Alwyn Barr, Texas Tech University, *presiding*
Tall City 2 *Mae Simmons and Edward Struggs: The African American Educational Experience in Lubbock, Texas, 1935-1960.* June Steele, Texas Tech University
- Desegregation of Public Schools in Lubbock, Texas.* Scott Sosebee, Texas Tech University
- African-American Baseball: The Negro Baseball League in West Texas.* Rob Fink, Texas Tech University
- Session 7** **Exploring and Settling West Texas**
8:30- 10:00 ~~Steven Kirk Dane~~ ^{not coming}, Natchitoches, La., *presiding*
Tall City 3 *Unsettling Settling: Notes on Exploration and Occupation of the Texas Panhandle.* Steve Schroeder, Capital University
- John Chadbourne Irwin: Clear Fork of the Brazos Pioneer.* Sonya Irwin Clayton, Abilene
- The Three R's and the Hickory Stick on the West Texas Frontier.* Ty Cashion, Sam Houston State University

Texas Constables, An Unheralded American Peace Officer. Allen Hatley, LaGrange

10:00 **Break**

Session 8 **Greetings from East Texas: Joint Session with
10:15 - the East Texas Historical Association**

11:30 Donald Willett, president of ETHA, *presiding*
Tall City 2

The East Texas Historical Association. Archie P.
McDonald, Stephen F. Austin State University

*I Ain't Sure I Understand Everything I Know About
This: A Study of East Texas Good Ol' Boy
Expressions.* Bob Bowman, Lufkin

Tex Ritter: Country Music's Most Versatile Artist.
Bill O'Neal, Panola College

Session 9 **West Texas Personalities**

10:15 - Lynn Whitfield, Texas Tech University, *presiding*
11:30

Tall City 3 *A Vaquero in the Backfield: The Football Career of
Texas Tech's Bobby Cavazos.* Jorge Iber, Texas
Tech University

*Sonny Gordon: An Afro-American Cowboy in The
Texas Big Bend.* Marilyn Dell Brady, Sul Ross
State University

*The Soldier and the Empresario's Daughter:
Alexander Keyes and Virginia Maxwell.* Jim and
Becky Matthews, San Antonio

*Richard Franklin Tankersley: Cattleman, Indian
Fighter, and Texas Ranger.* Barbara Barton,
Knickerbocker Texas

Luncheon *Our Legacy: Learn from the Past, Preserve the
Noon Present, and Imagine the Future.* Darlene
Texas Bellinghausen, WTHA President, Business
Deck B Meeting

Session Notes:



Midland, sometimes called "The Tall City," sits in the heart of Texas cattle and oil country. Founded in the late nineteenth century, Midland is home to some 100,000 people. It is served by Interstate Highway 20 and by rail and air lines. Midland College and the University of Texas, Permian Basin provide higher education opportunities for its citizens, and the oil industry employs a major part of Midland's work force.

Once a large number of sheep grazed in the Midland area, but cattle raising and oil exploration have come to dominate this oasis in Southwest Texas. The city contains museums, art galleries, and live theaters. Its symphony is the largest in West Texas. There is much to see and enjoy here. **Make yourself at home.**