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EAST TEXAS NEWS AND EVENTS

by Mark Barringer

Longtime ETHA member Norman Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, received several accolades during the past year. In April 2003, he was named "Man of the Year 2002-2003" by the Longview Federated Clubs and in May 2003 received the National DAR Award for Historical Preservation, the first such award ever made in Texas. We at the ETHA extend our heartiest congratulations to Dr. Black for his accomplishments.

The William P. Clements Center for Southwest Studies in the Department of History at Southern Methodist University in Dallas has several programs of interest to East Texas historians. Research and travel grants to facilitate study at the Center and at SMU's DeGolyer Library are available for periods of one and four weeks. Three Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellowships will be awarded to persons involved in the humanities or social sciences in the American Southwest. Fellows will reside at SMU during the 2004-2005 academic year, receive a substantial stipend, and have access to all of the Center's resources. For more information about these programs, contact the Clements Center at (214) 768-1233 or via email at swcenter@smu.edu.

Dr. James S. Olson delivered the seventh Georgiana and Max Lale Lecture at Stephen F. Austin State University on September 25, 2003, to a large appreciative audience. During his lecture, titled "Dread Disease: Breast Cancer in Modern History," Dr. Olson discussed the awareness and treatment of breast cancer through history as detailed in his Pulitzer-nominated book, *Bathsheba's Breast*. His personal experiences and compelling vignettes made this event a highlight of the series.

The East Texas Historical Association held its forty-second annual Fall meeting in Nacogdoches on September 25, 26, and 27, 2003. Sessions began on Thursday afternoon and continued through Saturday morning, with presentations by local members as well as visitors from as far afield as Wisconsin and South Carolina. Outgoing ETHA President Ty Cashion spoke at the Friday banquet about the perils and rewards of coffee-table history, and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* book review editor Jeff Guinn, author of the acclaimed story of the Negro Seminoles, *Our Land Before We Die*, delivered the Saturday luncheon address. More than 200 people attended the meeting.

ETHA stalwart Willie Earl Tindall of San Augustine received the Doris and Bob Bowman Best of East Texas Award at the ETHA Awards Banquet on Saturday, September 27, 2003, in Nacogdoches. Her contributions to the study of our region are legendary in Deep East Texas, and her selection as the fourth Best of East Texas winner was greeted with a well-deserved standing ovation from the ETHA membership.

Several of the ETHA awards were shared by multiple winners this year. The Ottis Lock Best Book Award was presented to Jo Ann Stiles, Judith

Linsley, and Ellen Rienstra for *Giant Under the Hill: A History of the Spindletop Oil Discovery at Beaumont, Texas, 8n 1901*, and to Bob Bowman, Doris Bowman, and Edward Barrett for *The Mystery of Lady Bountiful*; honorable mention was made of *Echoes from Forgotten Streets, Memories of Kilgore, Texas: The Oil Capital of America* by Caleb Pirtle, III and Terry Stembridge. Carol Taylor of Greenville and Dyson Nickle, Jr. of Lufkin, were named as co-winners of the Ottis Lock Educator of the Year Award.

The C.K. Chamberlain Award for best article published in the *East Texas Historical Journal* during the previous year was presented to Kenneth E. Hendrickson, Jr., for his piece on colorful Texas political figure George Washington Armstrong. James Smallwood, recently retired professor of history at Oklahoma State University, was named a Fellow of the ETHA, an honor reserved for only twenty-five living members at one time. Congratulations to all the winners.

Ottis Lock Research Grants were awarded by the East Texas Historical Association at the Saturday luncheon as well. Kenneth W. Howell, a doctoral candidate at Texas A & M University, was presented with a grant for research on the life and career of former Texas Governor James W. Throckmorton. Karen Kossie-Chernyshev, assistant professor of history at Texas Southern University, was also awarded a Lock Grant for her continuing study of Black Pentecostals in Texas.

After what seems like a long absence from the capitol city, the Texas State Historical Association will return to Austin for its 108th annual meeting at the Renaissance Hotel on March 4-6, 2004. TSHA meetings are always impressive gatherings, but Austin adds something intangible to the experience. Plan on attending, and don't miss the amazing selection of donated books and prints in the TSHA's annual Silent Auction fundraiser.

The Southwestern Historical Association will hold its annual meeting on March 17-20, 2004, at the Omni Hotel in Corpus Christi. Many ETHA members attend this meeting regularly, and over the years it has become a popular gathering for professional historians, graduate students, and lay historians alike. One of the highlights are the many Phi Alpha Theta sessions that appear on the program; few meetings present a better opportunity to hear the historians of tomorrow present their early work in a friendly, yet professional, atmosphere. Visit the SWHA at <http://swhistorical.uta.edu/firstpage.html> for more information.

The Texas Folklore Society will meet in McKinney on April 8-10, 2004. This marks the eighty-eighth year that historians, raconteurs, musicians, and other disreputable types get together to tell tales and swap stories. The Thursday night hootenanny is some of the most fun you can legally have in Texas in the spring. For more information, contact the TFS at (936) 468-4407 or see the TFS website at <http://leonardo.sfasu.edu/tfs>.

The East Texas Historical Association will hold its Spring meeting in historic San Augustine on February 20 and 21, 2004. Program chair and

ETHA second vice-president R. G. Dean, with the able assistance of Robert Robertson and Jim Maroney, is rounding up an impressive list of participants for what promises to be an entertaining event. Local events are being coordinated by Dr. Dean, Willie Earl Tindall, John and Betty Oglesbee, and other San Augustine-area ETHA members. Plan on joining us in the Redlands in February. For more information, contact the ETHA at (936) 468-2407 or visit us on the web at <http://leonardo.sfasu.edu/etha>.

The Lucille Terry Award will be presented to Andy Bergfeld of Dewberry Plantation in Bullard, Texas, during the Saturday luncheon at the ETHA meeting in San Augustine. This award, presented each spring by the East Texas Historical Association and the Texas Forestry Museum, recognizes outstanding examples of historic preservation in East Texas. The Ralph W. Steen Award for individual contribution to the study, teaching, and promotion of East Texas history will be presented to Jo Ann Stiles of Beaumont at the luncheon. Plan on attending and personally congratulating both winners.