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East Texas News and Events

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NEWS AND EVENTS

By Mark Barringer

The 2006 Fall meeting of the East Texas Historical Association set a new attendance record for the organization, as members old and new gathered in Nacogdoches on September 21, 22, and 23 to hear presentations from nearly fifty individuals. More than 220 persons registered for the meeting and enjoyed topical sessions ranging from Native Texans to Oilfield Schools to LBJ and Sam Rayburn. Thursday afternoon's plenary session, dedicated to remembering the life and career of Texas historian Barry Crouch, drew an enthusiastic crowd and featured reminiscences from personal friends and professional colleagues alike. All in attendance agreed that Barry had been one of a kind, a dedicated and demanding scholar who upheld the highest standards of the profession. He has been, and will continue to be, missed by those he left behind.

The Lale Lecture on Thursday evening featured Jeff Guinn, former books editor and senior writer for the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram* and award-winning author of numerous books. Guinn delivered an address titled "Christmas in America," which traced the evolution of the holiday mythology from its Old World origins through its American incarnations and the commercial qualities it currently possesses. The audience of approximately 600 remained enthralled by the story throughout, and many will no doubt bring a new perspective to the annual celebration most anticipated by the young and the young-at-heart each December.

On Friday, September 22, outgoing ETHA president R.G. Dean delivered his Presidential Address to a banquet audience of nearly 100 persons. Dr. Dean, a mathematician by training but an avid historian and folklorist at heart, spoke about a legend in the history of mathematics, Dr. R.L. Moore of the University of Texas at Austin. Saturday's traditional closing luncheon featured Bill Crawford of Austin and a lively account of the preachers, peddlers, hucksters, and hillbillies who populated the airwaves of the "border blasters," the radio stations that boomed their signals into the United States from across the Mexican border during the middle of the twentieth century. Crawford's book, *Border Radio*, co-authored with Gene Fowler, was published by the University of Texas Press more than twenty years ago. It is now available in a revised edition, and remains one of the hidden jewels of Texas history scholarship.

Also at the Saturday luncheon the Association presented awards for publishing, scholarship, and teaching. The C.K. Chamberlain Award for the best article published in the *East Texas Historical Journal* during the previous year went to Mary L. Wilson for her article titled "Profiles in Evasion: Civil War Substitutes and the Men Who Hired Them in Walker's Texas Division," published in the Spring 2005 issue. The Ottis Lock award for best book published in the past year about East Texas history was awarded to Charles H. Russell for *Undaunted: A Norwegian Woman in Frontier Texas*, published Texas A&M University Press. Lock research awards went to Linda Hudson, Susannah

Bruce, and Kenneth Hendrickson, Jr., and Jeffrey Owens of Tyler Junior College was named the Lock Educator of the Year.

Dr. Linda Hudson, distinguished teacher and author of Texas history, was honored as a Fellow of the East Texas Historical Association at the Saturday luncheon as well. Dr. Hudson has taught at East Texas Baptist University and Panola Junior College and is the author of *Mistress of Manifest Destiny*, which won the T.R. Fehrenbach Award from the Texas Historical Commission in 2001. Dr. Hudson joins an exclusive group comprised of twenty-three other ETHA Fellows, all of whom have contributed important scholarly publications on the history of East Texas. And finally, James Wilkins of Tyler was presented with the Bob and Doris Bowman Best of East Texas Award, which recognize outstanding achievement in promoting the study of East Texas' history. Mr. Wilkins has been the driving force behind *The Chronicles of Smith County* for many years, and during that time he and the Publications Committee of the Smith County Historical Society have established the benchmark for publications of that type. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Wilkins and to all of the other recipients of ETHA awards this year.

New ETHA officers for 2006-2007 were approved by the membership on Saturday. Dan K. Utley of Austin and the THC was elected president; Beverly Rowe, professor of history at Texarkana College, was elected first vice-president; and Theodore Lawe of Dallas and Emory and the A.C. McMillan African American Museum was elected second vice-president. New members of the Association's Board of Directors are John Oglesbee of San Augustine, Kenneth Howell of Prairie View A&M University, and Caroline Castillo Crimm of Sam Houston State University.

The Center for East Texas Studies at Stephen F. Austin State University received the Mary Faye Barnes Award for Community Service from the Texas Oral History Association in a ceremony held at the East Texas Research Center in the Ralph W. Steen Library at Stephen F. Austin State University on September 21. The award was in recognition of the Center's work on the African American Heritage Project, a cooperative oral history initiative of the university and the community that documents the rich history of African Americans in Nacogdoches. The project remains vital and ongoing, and we anticipate further well-deserved accolades in the future.

Upcoming meetings and conferences dot the Spring calendar this year, as is usually the case. On January 27, 2007, the eighth annual Dallas History Conference will be held at the Hatton W. Summers Courtroom in the Old Red Courthouse on South Houston Street in Dallas. The conference theme is "Dallas Lost and Found," and presentations include "Black Dallas: The Rise and Fall of Jim Crow," by ETHA Board Member Ted Lawe. For more information or registration information, contact Michael V. Hazel at mvhazel@sbc-global.net.

On February 15-17, 2007, the East Texas Historical Association will meet in Beaumont at the MCM Eleganté Hotel and Conference Center. Program information is available at the ETHA web site at <http://www.easttexashistori->

cal.org; hotel reservations can be made on the web at <http://www.mcmelegantebeaumont.com>.

On March 8-10, 2007, the Texas State Historical Association meets in San Antonio along the historic San Antonio Riverwalk. Headquarters for the meeting will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel, and more information is available at the TSHA web site at <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu>.

On March 30-31, 2007, the West Texas Historical Association members will gather in Abilene on the campus of Hardin Simmons University for their eighty-fourth annual meeting and the East Texas Historical Association will furnish a session or two, as has become traditional. Information is at <http://swco.ttu.edu/westtexas/>.

The seventh annual Battle of San Jacinto Symposium will take place on Saturday, April 14, 2007, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of the University of Houston. The theme of the conference for 2007 is "Contending Factions Within the Texas Revolution," and speakers include Gary Clayton Anderson, Paula Mitchell Marks, and James E. Crisp, among others. The conference is sponsored by the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground, whose web site at <http://www.friendsofsanjacinto.org> contains further information about the event.

September 2007 will find the members of the East Texas Historical Association gathered once again in Nacogdoches. Program chair and Association First Vice President Beverly Rowe is seeking papers and sessions for the event. The ETHA web site (<http://www.easttexashistorical.org>) contains contact information. The eleventh annual Lale Lecture, which traditionally launches the Fall meeting, will feature historian and architectural restorationist William Seale. Educated at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, and Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, Seale has spent the past four decades involved in the restoration of historic buildings across the nation, specializing in public buildings. His projects have included buildings at Appomattox Court House, Rosedown Plantation in Louisiana, and state capitol buildings in Alabama, Michigan, and Georgia.

And finally, the East Texas Historical Association has produced the first book in a new series sponsored by Bob and Doris Bowman of Lufkin, both longtime supporters of the Association. *War in East Texas: Regulators vs. Moderators*, written by Bill O'Neal, tells the story of one of the bloodiest feuds in American history in a dramatic and engaging fashion. Many readers will be familiar with O'Neal's work from his numerous publications documenting a wide array of historical events from range wars to baseball. *War in East Texas* is available for \$25.00 per copy, hardbound, from the East Texas Historical Association at Box 6223 SFA Station, Nacogdoches, Texas, 75962.