

Texas Folklore Society



FOUNDED 1909

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June 9, 2007

Paisanos:

It's finally here—your June Newsletter, which includes an overview of the official Minutes of the last meeting, the Financial Report, member news and recognition, a CALL FOR PAPERS, and a SECOND NOTICE for this year's *Dues*.

TFS Essentials

I want to thank last year's President and Local Arranger **Jean Schnitz** for pulling double duty to make the 2007 meeting in San Antonio such a memorable event. Thanks also go to Vice-President **Cynthia Savage** for putting together a wonderful program. We had 194 people who registered and attended (filling 85 hotel rooms, with 167 adults and 10 kids at the banquet). We had two amazing groups that provided music for us: **The Riverpickers** played "old time music" before the Hoot on Thursday night, and a local band of military people called **The Tailpipes** performed at the banquet on Friday night, after the induction of our newest Fellow: **Fran Vick**.

Pictures from the meeting are now on the web site. **Janet** wants to make some major changes to the site in the future, but for now it includes links for TFS history, our publications, meeting information, and other good stuff. Please let us know if you have any difficulties with the site, or if you have suggestions for updating it.

NOTICE: This is a second notice for 2007 dues. I sent the first notice in the January Newsletter, and many of you have paid already. This second notice is only for those who have not yet paid their dues. **Janet** will remove inactive members if dues are not received by the end of August, so if you're not sure if your dues are current, please call or email.

The latest PTFS, *Folklore in Motion: Texas Travel Lore*, is at the publisher now, and all current members should receive it this fall. CALL FOR PAPERS (#1): The next book will be a little different; it will feature articles on the darker side of life. Well, actually, it will feature articles about death: burial rituals, superstitions about the afterlife, tombstone inscriptions, obituaries, wakes, murder, and anything else associated with what happens at the end of our lives. The topic may seem a bit morbid, but it's as natural as birth, and lots of times it's more interesting. As many of you know, we're accepting papers via email now, so send your submissions to us at tfs@sfasu.edu. We'll also take them the old-fashioned way, via "snail mail."

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

TFS Folks

Lou Rodenberger and **Kenneth Davis** were both recently made Honorary Life Members of the West Texas Historical Association. **Sylvia Mahoney** took part in two Western Trail Dedication Ceremonies in Kerr County, Texas, January 12th and 13th. **Margaret Waring** was honored with the Community Builders Award on May 27th by members of Hope Lodge 481 in Comanche for her long tradition of civic contributions.

Faye Leeper traveled to China last year, and she returned with a gold medal for her participation (as a member of the United Poets Laureate International) in the International Cultural Congress. She also received a certificate of appreciation from the People's Republic of China for her contribution to World Peace through Poetry; her work is featured in *Swimming for the Moon* (Dolphin Publishers, 2006).

The *San Antonio Express-News* did a feature article (January 14, 2007) on **Bain Walker**'s Sunset Bat Flight Tours, which led to his appearance on Animal Planet network's new show *Ms. Adventure*. **LeAnn Sharp** was also quoted in the article, which mentioned their Hill Country Nature Center.

Texas Tech Press recently published **Bill Neal**'s book *Getting Away With Murder on the Texas Frontier*.

If you're anywhere near San Angelo on July 3rd, please consider attending **Elmer** and **Ann Kelton**'s 60th wedding anniversary, hosted by the San Angelo Symphony (reservations at 325-658-5877). Congratulations to **Elmer** and **Ann**!

We have a few deaths to announce: **Lee Haile**'s mother **Betty** died in February; she had attended the meeting in Galveston last year, and many members had the pleasure of getting to know her. **Jerry Hunt** had to leave the meeting this year when his mother passed away, and **Don Swadley** died just a few weeks later.

TFS Events

Kenneth Davis will be hosting our 2008 meeting in Lubbock, the Paris of the Plains, as he calls it. CALL FOR PAPERS (#2): Send paper ideas for the meeting to Program Chair **L. Patrick Hughes** as soon as possible and no later than the end of October—before hunting season begins (12202 Midland Walk, Austin, TX 78727; phughes5@austin.rr.com; 512-335-6244).

The Texas Folklife Festival (June 8-10 in San Antonio) is scaling back this year. The festival lasts only three days, and not as many groups were invited. However, **Jean Schnitz** will be there performing (with members of **The Riverpickers**), and she says she'll be distributing TFS brochures to everyone who's interested.

Kay Arnold will be overseeing the Society's participation in the Texas Book Festival, November 3rd and 4th in Austin. This will be our first official appearance.

Kathleen Hudson has again asked the Texas Folklore Society to participate in the Texas Heritage Living History Day in Kerrville (September 28th). It will last only one day this year, but it truly is an interesting event, so get to it if you can.

TFS Business

The 91st Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society met in San Antonio at the Omni San Antonio Hotel April 5-7, 2007, with **Jean Schnitz** presiding. The Board has had so much new business over the last few years that we decided to meet on Thursday evening in addition to our regular meeting on Friday. Between the two we were able to accomplish a lot. Among other things, we discussed updating our by-laws and forming a committee to grant travel stipends for students who present papers. See, we actually do something to warrant that lunch we get.

Treasurer **Janet Simonds** presented the Minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved, along with the following Financial Report:

Balance as of January 1, 2006	\$188,422.27
Revenue	
Dues	\$14,790.00
Lifetime	\$2,000.00
Royalties	\$3,497.09
Permission to Reprint	\$50.00
Contributions	\$710.00
Incidental Income (rebates, etc.)	\$660.00
Interest	
Investments	\$6,617.46
Bookbinding Fund	\$2.37
Dividends from Money Market	\$1,904.04
Matured Securities	\$20,000.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$50,230.96
Expenditures	
Publications	
<i>Folklore: In All of Us, In All We Do</i>	-\$1,489.61
Listings (Web and Librarians HB)	-\$147.00
<i>Inside the Classroom (And Out)</i> shipping cost	-\$1,412.30
Meeting	\$1,786.18
Office	-\$5,741.38
Miscellaneous	-\$2,749.56
Purchase Investment	-\$20,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-\$29,753.67
Net Increase in Assets	\$20,477.29
BALANCE AS OF 12/31/06	\$208,899.56

You'll notice that we have over \$200,000 in total assets. That's a first for us. One thing that helped was coming out ahead on the meeting expenses (we took in more than we spent, for once). Obviously, we're financially stable, and we're looking into ways to make our money do more for the organization and its members.

Henry Wolff, Phyllis Bridges, and Rhett Rushing served as this year's Nominating Committee; after the dust settled, the following recommendations for officers to serve for 2007-2008 were made:

President: **Cynthia Savage**; Vice-President: **L. Patrick Hughes**;
 Secretary-Editor: **Kenneth L. Untiedt**; Treasurer: **Janet Simonds**;
 Counselor: **Tom Crum**;
 Directors: **J. Rhett Rushing ('08)**, **Jerry Hunt ('09)**, **David LaRo ('10)**, **Mary Margaret Campbell ('10)**, and **Jean Schnitz ('10)**;
 Councilors: **Sarana Savage ('08)**, **Kay Arnold ('09)**, **Karen Haile ('09)**, Lucy Fischer West ('10), and Elizabeth Duncan ('10);
 Ex Officio: **Ron Chrisman, Fran Vick, Ross Vick, and F. E. Abernethy.**

Tom Crum presented the following resolution, which was accepted:

WHEREAS, the 91st Annual Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society, held at the Omni San Antonio Hotel in San Antonio, Texas, the 5th through the 7th of April, 2007, has provided the members in attendance with many interesting and entertaining sessions;

AND WHEREAS, many hours of planning and work by numerous Society members, the chairpersons and presenters at each session, and the staff of the Omni San Antonio Hotel have contributed to the success of this meeting;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED that the members in attendance at this 91st Annual Meeting of the Texas Folklore Society express their appreciation to the following:

Local Arrangements Committee Members Jean and Lew Schnitz, David and Margie LaRo, Rhett Rushing, Patsy Patten, Mary Margaret Campbell, and L. Patrick Hughes; Donna Stachowiak, Samuel Garcia, and the staff of the Omni San Antonio Hotel; City of San Antonio Representative John Casanova; President Jean Schnitz, and Vice-President and Program Chair Cynthia Savage; all of the members that chaired sessions and those that presented papers; and the Officers, Directors, and Councilors who serve the Society.

As always, the Board discussed ways of attracting new members. Any ideas? We really want to encourage you to take part in a program we unofficially started last year: the "Each One Reach One" plan. Commit to signing up at least *one* new member by giving a membership to a friend or relative as a gift, and then invite them along to a meeting. Once they come, I'm sure they'll come back.

Everything discussed by the Board was approved by the general membership, including the nomination of another new Fellow: **Lou Rodenberger**.

Keep other members informed of any important information by sending us your comments, suggestions, and news updates or other items deserving of announcement.

Have a great summer!

Len