



The Texas Folklore Society collects, preserves, and shares the practices and customs of the people of Texas and the Southwest.



A Note from the Director

Greetings Paisanos!

The past two years have been chaotic for everyone, and the past year has particularly been a whirlwind for me. I want to take a moment to thank everyone in the Texas Folklore Society for the warm welcome I have received. Although the current circumstances have prevented me from meeting many of you face to face, the interactions I have had (both in person and virtual) have really made it clear what a wonderful organization this is.

I want to particularly thank the TFS Board for all of their hard work; Fran Vick for her service as Secretary-Editor/Executive Director during 2020-2021; Patrick Vick for his service as treasurer; Lori Najvar, Gwen Dixie, and Glen Chappell for helping me unpack and organize our offices; and Kay Arnold for everything she's done in her role as TFS President and for helping me to learn the ropes.

I can't wait to meet the rest of you!

Kristina

ANNUAL MEETING

We had been planning for our Annual Meeting to be held in Granbury this Easter, but Hood County, along with the rest of the state, continues to have high numbers of coronavirus cases and hospitalizations, so, out of an abundance of caution, the 2022 Annual Meeting has been canceled. While we are very disappointed not to be able to see you all in person this April, we are channeling our energy toward several exciting programs for outreach. Since we can't be together in Granbury, stay tuned for information about a live online program that will be broadcast from our new home office at Tarleton State University.

We are planning our next annual meeting for April 6-8, 2023 and will be announcing the location as soon as details are finalized.



HOME OFFICE REPORT

We are getting settled in our beautiful offices on the campus of Tarleton State University. The folks of Tarleton continue to be excited about us being there and have been very welcoming, ensuring that we are a part of the university family. Our Executive Director/Secretary-Editor Kristina Downs is teaching two classes per term while also working to reach out to folks about the organization. She has been invited to give talks at several events and has worked to ensure our name is getting out there to interested folks. So far Kristina has given talks for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UT Austin, the Granbury chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas, and the Southlake Newcomers Club.

Kristina's coedited volume *Advancing Folkloristics* was released in August from Indiana University Press. In October, Norma E. Cantú listed it as one of the three most important books in folklore studies to be released in recent years in her Presidential Address for the American Folklore Society.

Our library with more than a thousand books is now shelved and organized thanks to the efforts of our undergraduate intern Guinevere Rogers. The Society has some amazing treasures in our collection! All TFS members



HOME OFFICE REPORT (CONT.)

can access our library and utilize our research materials there on site. If you would like to visit, just send us an email.

Our new Communications Specialist and Office Manager will be starting soon. This position is critical to the success of our organization in managing our membership and volunteers as well as supporting the Executive Director/Secretary-Editor. We look forward to announcing introducing her to you soon.

Please make a note of a change of address for our mail:

Box T-0295
Tarleton State University
Stephenville, TX 76402

When we began our relocation in 2020, we anticipated having our main office in Granbury, but the pandemic made that space unavailable. As we have settled into our suite of offices on campus in Stephenville, we find that traveling to Granbury to get the mail has become inconvenient.

Also, having mail services on campus has allowed us to have a street address which gives Google a more accurate way to pinpoint our location. We still anticipate collaboration with organizations and events in Granbury, so watch for updates.



Our new front office

TARLETON STATE UNIVERSITY NEWS

Tarleton State University continues to impress us as a host institution. The University began the Spring term of 2022 with all-time record enrollment and retention, surpassing last year's previous high and up 6.6 percent from its pre-pandemic count. Fall-to-spring retention is 89.26 percent—the highest in university history—with a preliminary headcount of more than 13,300 students taking courses in Stephenville, Fort Worth, Waco, Midlothian, Bryan, and online. "These are exciting times at Tarleton as more and more students see our university as a first-choice destination," said President James Hurley. "It's no secret that we're a front runner for anyone seeking a university education."

The Texas Folklore Society is housed in the College of Liberal and Fine Arts (COLFA), led by Dean Eric Morrow, which has also seen growth and excitement throughout the pandemic. On March 1, 2022, the university announced the creation of a \$5.4M endowment to benefit the band programs at Tarleton, which are housed in COLFA. The endowment was made possible by the gift of ranchland by Dennis G. Hunewell, former director of bands for more than two decades. A portion of the land was sold, allowing for funds that will be used for scholarships, instruments, and uniforms. Over 150 band members perform on stages and in athletic arenas across the country. Tarleton kept the portion of the Hunewell Ranch that is home to the university's observatory. The third largest in the state, the observatory houses one of the few fully robotic telescopes in the world. You can read more about Hunewell's legacy online.

Dean Morrow continues to be a tireless supporter of TFS, looking for ways that we can collaborate with the university, the students, and the public. We will alert you to news of opportunities to participate in future events.



The TFS Library holds over 1000 books.

Tarleton's famous spirit organization, The Purple Poo



REGIONAL WRANGLERS

We've been talking for a number of years about how to be better at outreach, but truthfully, it's been hard to figure out how with the pandemic and with Texas being such a large state, and our membership being so geographically dispersed. To better meet our collective needs, we are organizing a system of regional wranglers. Regional wranglers will help to identify outreach and sponsorship opportunities in their community, coordinate events and volunteers, and help to develop membership in their region. Looking down the road, we hope this program will help develop closer ties to folks in various communities, while helping us become a more diverse and inclusive organization. All of this comes back to supporting our mission of collecting and preserving folklore in Texas and the Southwest.

Although we are still putting together a map of the regions, if you're interested in becoming a regional wrangler or you have questions about serving, please email us at texasfolkloresociety@gmail.com.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Our book for 2024 will be a compilation of writings by you, our members! The last compilation was in 2015, so we're ready to hear what you've got to say on the topic of "Gatherings." With the pandemic, we know we've all missed getting together as a Society, but also gathering with friends, family, community members, colleagues. This is a chance to share stories of the traditions that made gatherings you've attended so special.

The "Call for Submissions" for the book is included as an attachment to the email that you've received with this newsletter, but will also be posted on our website.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS



Even though we haven't been getting together, the officers and the board of directors have been working! At our last meeting, we agreed to work on a five-year strategic plan. The five-year plan comes out of work that was done back in 2018 when our Future of Texas Folklore Society Task Force reported on various aspects of the Society's potential. The board agreed to formulate plans that will support outreach, membership engagement, board and home office development, financial planning, and fundraising. The Strategic Plan will provide a roadmap so that we are all moving in the same direction for the success of our Society.

One aspect of the strategic plan will be fundraising. Throughout our history, a part of being hosted by a university is that they pay for our office space as well as for the salary and benefits for our office manager and our director. To ensure our folks are safe from potential future budget cuts, we want to help raise funds to create a safety net of sorts. We are working with the Tarleton folks to plan this fundraising and soon we will share the exciting news with you as to how we'll go about this—and how you can help.

In coming months we will have three board members rolling off the board. We welcome nominations to fill these positions. If you're interested or know someone who is/might be, please let us know. Because we are trying to ensure diversity of regions/communities being represented on the board, we can't guarantee that you/your nominee will serve this year, but we may hold onto the nomination for the following year.

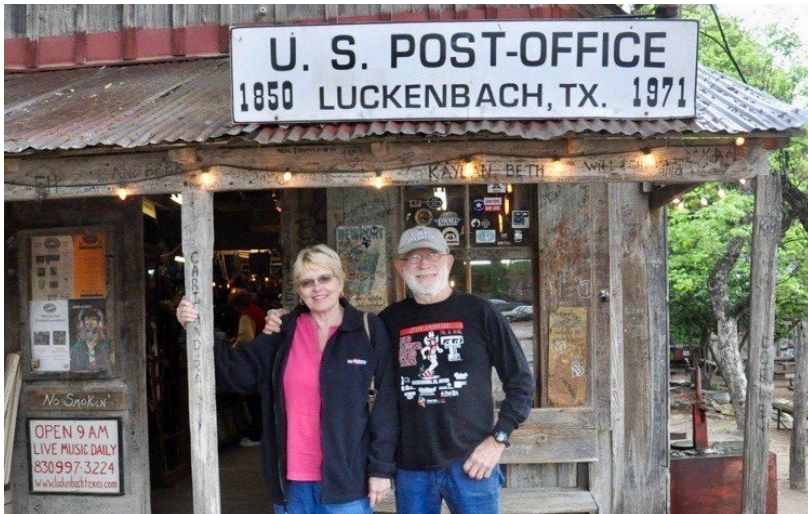
PUBLICATIONS

We hope you have enjoyed learning more about one of our founders through the 2021 publication *Rare Integrity*.

Our 2022 publication is titled *Fiestas in Laredo: Matachines, Quinceañeras, and George Washington's Birthday*. It is written by Norma E. Cantú. Dr. Cantú is a native of Laredo, TFS lifetime member, and recently served as president of the American Folklore Society. This book celebrates the fiestas found in the border community of Laredo, Texas. Told from an insider's perspective and blending memoir, ethnography, and a folkloristic analysis, the author explores the meaning of the celebrations for the community. The release date is targeted for November. Make sure that your TFS dues are up to date so that you don't miss out on this exciting book!

HONORS

New Fellows of the Texas Folklore Society



Mary Harris and Jim Harris

Jim Harris and **Mary Harris** live in Hobbs, New Mexico. Together they have brought organization, creativity, and new members to give papers at our annual meetings. They created a sense of community among TFS members at each conference with an “invitation to get to make new friends and see old friends” to their self-funded “wine in our room” gatherings. They took TFS with them to New Mexico in numerous ways. Jim expanded the depth of the New Mexico Junior College literature and writing faculty, invited TFS noted authors such as Elmer Kelton, Lou Halsell Rodenberger, and many others to initiate the new Western Heritage Center and Lea Cowboy Hall of Fame on the NMJC campus and to inspire folklore research. After Jim’s retirement from NMJC, he began a new career, twenty years as executive director at Lea County Museum in Lovington, NM. Jim raised money for free-to-the-public programs featuring music, art, street dances, major Native American art and sculpture, noted authors such as Max Evans, and talks that brought together “aging, revered cowboy heritage with the realities of the changing ethos of the Latinos,” (“Tribute to Jim Harris,” Uyless Black)



Mary Harris

Jim Harris



Jim penned 1,330 “History Notebook” columns/photos for two county newspapers. He raised money to buy vacant buildings across the street from the museum. Using his carpenter skills, Jim transformed the buildings including the Town Hall and Athletics Hall of Fame, and more. He published for the museum sixteen books on folklore, southwest literature, local history, and biographies. Jim served as TFS President 1986–87.

Mary brought her warm spirit to Hobbs public education classes while earning her Ed.D. At the University of the Southwest she has served as a professor for education courses, as Dean of the School of Education, and currently serves as the director of the Office of Special Services. Her dedication as an educator, particularly in special education, has ensured that a college education is accessible for all. She has tirelessly volunteered in her community and served as a director on numerous boards. Mary served as president of TFS 1999–2000. She is currently serving on the board of directors, helping bring the vision Future of Texas Folklore Society to fruition. She continues to serve and support the organization by contributing her time and efforts to strategic planning and development/fundraising efforts.



Jean Granberry Schnitz

New Fellows (cont.)

Jean Granberry Schnitz, served as president of TFS 2006–07. She was raised in Raymondville and attended school in Alice before studying at Texas A&I University. She worked as a legal secretary at Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and for firms in Corpus Christi and San Antonio. Jean never met a stranger and dedicated herself to TFS by volunteering at the Texas Book Festival, the Texas Folklife Festival, and Schreiner University's Texas Heritage Music Festival. Inspired by her grandmother, she is known for performing her hammered dulcimer at our hootenannies as well as at events in communities and schools. She has written countless entries about her ancestors in our publications and has given many papers at our meetings and on our behalf at Texas State Historical Association. Because of her outreach efforts, she's recruited many of our current members. Jean lives and breathes folklore by continuously collecting and preserving traditions and memories of her extended family and communities in which they have lived. Jean is a mother and grandmother and lives with her husband, Lew, in Boerne.



Lee Haile

Hermes Nye Hootenanny Award

When we were planning for the 2021 Annual Meeting, we came across the fact that in 1956 Hermes Nye had organized the first official TFS Hootenanny. We figured that sixty-five years later would be the perfect time to honor someone from our family who has been an important part of keeping that tradition alive. For those of you who haven't yet attended an annual meeting, our Thursday night and Friday night hootenannies are an epic combination of music, poetry recitation, and storytelling. It's a lively way to come together that has really become a big part of our sense of community.

The first recipient of the inaugural Hermes Nye Hootenanny Award is **Lee Haile** of Tarpley, Texas. Lee has been a TFS member for decades. He plays just about every instrument, sings just about every song, and often wrangles wife Karen and daughters Acayla and Sierra into joining him on stage. He has been leading the hoots for the past few decades ensuring that everyone who wants to perform gets a chance. Lee is a treasure and we are happy to be able to honor his dedication in this way. Jack and Elizabeth Duncan were so excited about this award that they volunteered to sponsor the presentation once we all come back together as a group.

