

BY LANCE VANZANT  
OF THE SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

# Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

## Southwest Collection holdings cast doubt on JFK movie

The release of Oliver Stone's movie "JFK" has resurrected the long-standing controversy over the Warren Commission's report of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. But serious scholars should take note that the papers of two key individuals who were contemporary to the events of Nov.

22, 1963, are housed in the Southwest Collection and may shed some light on the controversy.

The late congressman from West Texas George Mahon was an eye witness to the tragedy in Dallas and he recorded his memories on the spot. This record, comprising a personal notebook, is a part of Mahon's voluminous personal papers housed in the Southwest Collection.

Also, Texas Tech alumnus Waggoner Carr, who was Texas Attorney General at the time of Kennedy's death, compiled an exhaustive investigation of the assassination at the request of President Lyndon B. Johnson. Recently, Carr donated these valuable papers to the Southwest Collection.

In a recent interview, Carr, who

lives in Austin, expressed disappointment in the content of the controversial movie "JFK."

"It was based largely on innuendo, suspicion, rumors ... and circumstantial evidence," he indicated. "I thought it was a disservice to the general public that has no opportunity to read

approximately 10,000 items, include biographical data on Lee Harvey Oswald, witness statements taken by the Dallas Police Department, transcripts of Dallas police radio transmissions, and correspondence between Carr and federal authorities involved in the investigation.

No less interesting are items such as Carr's personal notes and correspondence from his Texas constituents which highlight the regional aspect of the tragedy.

Stone's movie focuses on questions raised by former New Orleans district attorney Jim Garrison more than 25 years ago. Garrison, played by Kevin Costner, posits the thesis that the murder of



Waggoner Carr (left) visits with President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House in 1966.

or to become acquainted with the Warren Commission report."

According to Southwest Collection staff archivists, the Carr papers, containing transcribed interviews conducted by the Warren Commission to copies of autopsy photos, provides researchers with the documentation needed to make an informed judgment.

Carr's papers, which include

the President was orchestrated by a combination of military contractors, the FBI, the CIA, the military high command, anti-Castro extremists, and a collection of New Orleans transvestites with fascist leanings.

Persons interested in pursuing independent research about the Kennedy assassination are encouraged to consult these materials available at the Southwest Collection.

# Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

By H. ALLEN ANDERSON  
OF THE SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

## When the Chief Came to Raiderland

The old gymnasium on the Tech campus, the "Mule Barn," was an unforgettable scene that morning of March 3, 1938. Students and faculty had packed the facility to hear a joint lecture on wild animal lore and Indian culture given by Earnest Thompson Seton, the beloved old nature writer, wildlife artist, illustrator and Boy Scout leader, and his diminutive but dynamic wife, Julia. The Lubbock Morning Avalanche described in detail their performance:

"Students and faculty listened in child-like delight as the eccentric-looking, gray-haired writer told and acted out in illustrative fashion Indian fairy tales. A story which parallels the American Cinderella story served as a background to Mrs. Seton's performance.

"Wearing long black braids and an Indian dress composed of red and white headpiece and red, green, blue and white full-skirted dress, Mrs. Seton sang an Indian lullaby, a travel song, a hunting song and a death song to the weird accompaniment of an Indian drum...

"Changing her costume to that of the Sioux, ... she told of Indian religions and music and their similarities to the white man. Summing up their religious creed, she said that 'there is one great spirit, creator and ruler of all, to whom all are responsible. Man's first duty is the attainment of manhood, consecration of manhood, and service to mankind...'"

The Setons had come to the campus by invitation of the Ko-Shari Club, which was sponsored by Dr. Curry Holden and composed mostly of outstanding Tech coeds. Every spring the Ko-Sharis made an annual field trip to New Mexico to initiate their new members at an ancient kiva in the ruins of El Rita de los Frijoles, the scene of Adolph Bandalier's novel "The Delight Makers" (from which the club's



Earnest Thompson Seton, 1938.

name was derived).

In 1937 the delegation visited Seton Village, the home of Seton's internationally known summer institute, The College of Indian Wisdom, near Santa Fe, by special invitation of the "Chief" and his wife. So charmed were the coeds by their hosts and their work that they invited the Setons to come and speak on their campus.

Accordingly, on the evening of March 2, 1938, after a

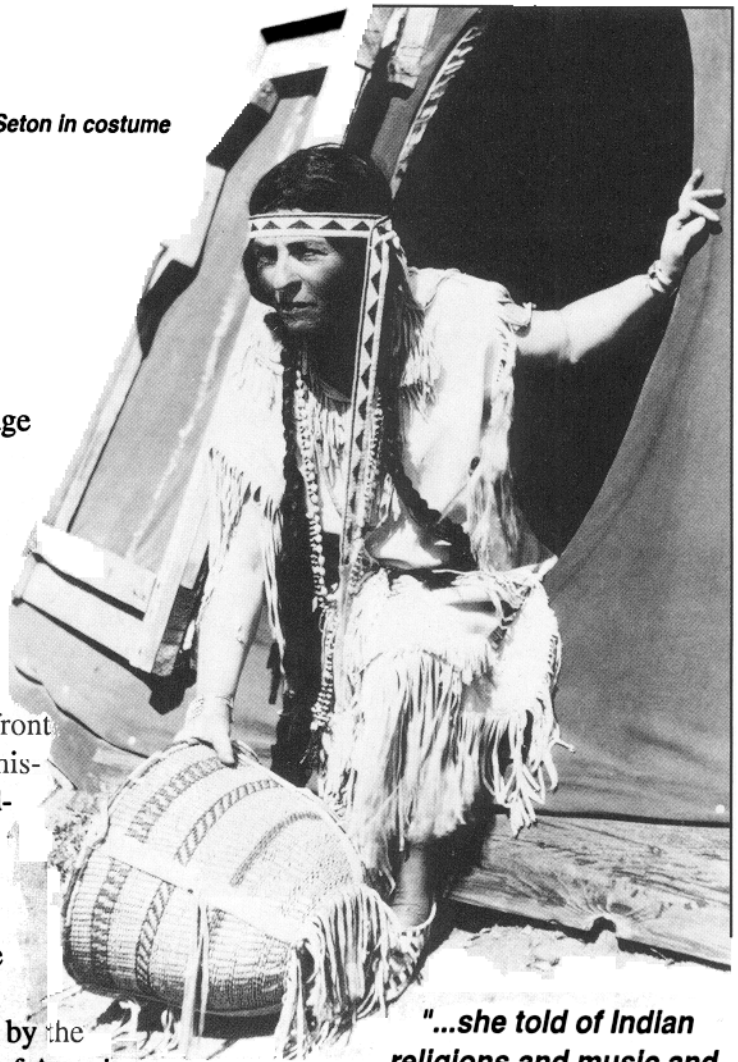
two-week lecture tour through Texas, the distinguished couple were the guests of honor at a reception hosted by the Ko-Shari Club at the home of W.G. McMillan, who was known for his animal trophy collection and home movies on native West Texas fauna. Mrs. McMillan was a patroness of the club, and the setting certainly was fitting for the eccentric visitor who had spent his life studying wild creatures. The next morning, Mrs. Seton spoke in the lounge of Doak Hall before she and her husband delivered their joint lecture at the gymnasium.

The students and faculty enjoyed the presentation so much that they invited the Setons back as part of the college's summer recreation program. Arrangements were thus made through James G. Allen, acting Dean of Men, for them to give an outdoor presentation on the afternoon of July 6. Dean Allen later recalled that Seton had with him certain "varmits" from his numerous bird and mammal specimen collection. On the appointed day, despite threatening rain, the Setons gave


their "Message of the Redman" to an audience of about 400 people on the lawn in front of the Administration Building.

At a time when Indians were still largely looked upon by the mainstream of American society as backward, superstitious and inferior "savages" to be exploited, the Setons were busy attempting to dispel that notion, arguing that they were a unique society and culture worthy of the white man's respect. Since 1938, the Ko-Shari Club has become the Pi Beta Phi sorority. Seton Village is now a residential area with most of its founders' papers, collections and art pieces scattered to various museums and repositories. Seton's books are still widely read and his ideals

*Julia Seton in costume*



*"...she told of Indian religions and music and their similarities to the white man. Summing up their religious creed, she said that 'there is one great spirit, creator and ruler of all, to whom all are responsible.'"*

carried on by others. And even today, Dr. Holden, Dean Allen and many former Ko-Shari Club members are still around who remember the time when the Chief came to Raiderland. 

# Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY JIM MATTHEWS  
OF THE SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

## Red Raiders From West Texas

Today, the striking image of the Red Raiders from Texas Tech University identifies a tradition of excellence in college athletics. But in 1925, when the West Texas college opened its doors, there were no Red Raiders.



Pete Cawthon, 1931

The athletic teams were known as the Matadors, in keeping with the Spanish heritage developed through Tech's architecture. Then in 1930, Pete Cawthon came from Austin College to coach the Matadors. Cawthon proved to be an innovator and a tireless competitor. He scheduled football games with colleges from across the nation and was among the first to use airline transportation for away games. His football teams dressed in distinctive scarlet jerseys, red satin pants, and red and black socks.

In 1932, Texas Tech traveled across the Southwest, claiming the Border Conference championship with a 10-2 season record. Following their victory over the University of New Mexico, Collier Parris, sports writer for the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal, began his story, "The Red Raiders from Texas Tech, terror of the Southwest this year,

swooped into the New Mexico University camp today."

As easily as striking the keys on his typewriter, Parris gave a new name to Tech sports. Cawthon liked the term "Red Raiders" and began using it to describe his scarlet warriors. By 1936, Texas Tech teams were known almost exclusively as the Red Raiders.

Cawthon continued to produce winning teams, with his finest season coming in 1938. Led by halfback Elmer Tarbox, the Red Raiders completed an undefeated season and were invited to the Cotton Bowl. There, they lost a hard-fought battle 20-13 to Saint Mary's of California.

But by this time, the image of the Red Raiders from the plains sweeping down on their opponents had become engraved permanently in Texas Tech tradition.



One of Cawthon's teams clowning around.

# Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

By STEPHANIE EDWARDS  
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

## Texas Tech Goes to War

These dramatic words were blazoned on the inside covers of the 1942-43 La Ventana. Fifty years have passed since the fall of 1942 when students began the term with the nation at war on two fronts. Though World War II raged abroad far away from Lubbock, the war greatly affected the Texas Tech community. Because many students and faculty joined the war, enrollment dropped in half, down from 3,896 in 1938 to 1,928, the smallest since 1927.

Throughout the 1942-43 La Ventana, we are reminded how the war affected Texas Tech. In addition to the endpapers having the above phrase, patriotic motifs run throughout the issue. Colors of red, blue, black and white were used. On the title page, planes fly through colored clouds, shaped as a flag. The front of the yearbook listed alumni and students who had been killed in the war and those serving in the armed forces.

Images in the yearbook showed Tech's involvement with homefront activities, such as a group making surgical masks for the Red Cross, students buying war stamps, faculty members riding bicycles to save on gasoline and tires, and students marching in military attire. In the class section, numerous student portraits were taken in military uniforms. The dominant color at Tech was army khaki.

While the social activities revolved around war work, other events, such as field trips, the Aggie Rodeo and the Engineering Show were canceled. Major sports, such as football and basketball, were played, as it was felt it

would boost campus morale.

In February 1943, the Army Air Forces Air Crew Detachment arrived on campus, as one of the first college training detachments in the nation. These 625 students moved into the male dormitories West Hall and Sneed Hall. Named Barracks Number 1 and Barracks Number 2, these dorms changed to typical army barracks with strict military discipline and had four cadets to a room.

Tech students who were majoring in engineering or taking pre-med work were moved to Women's Dorm No. 1. Others moved off campus. The displaced women were either moved to Women's Dorm No. 2 or into Lubbock homes. Following the changes, more than 480 coeds lived in this dorm, three to a room. They accepted the changes

with a "full spirit of cooperation."

The publication of the 1942-43 La Ventana was not an easy task. The editor appreciated the accomplishment despite government restrictions. Because of the shortage of film and photographic supplies, less snapshots were used. With the shortage of labor in the engraving and printing companies, the editor was forced to set early deadlines, thus leaving out some students and events.

Today, 50 years after the publication of this yearbook, La Ventana still depicts daily life at Tech, but none is as dramatic as the 1942-43 issue which shows a country and campus coming to grips with a world war. All La Ventanas, from 1926 to date, are available for use at the Southwest Collection. *F*



Tech students make surgical masks for the Red Cross, 1942-43.



Students make contributions for the Red Cross war relief drive, 1942-43.

# Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY LANCE VANZANT  
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

## The Proletarian Party at Texas Tech

*"I, the undersigned, having severed connections with all other political organizations and accepting the revolutionary principles of International Communism, do hereby apply for membership in the Proletarian Party of America."*

So reads the Party's official application for membership which was one of several elements in Texas Tech's first major controversy which resulted in board hearings, student protests, and the dismissal of John Granbery as chairman of the history department.

While Granbery was not a party to the distribution of this application, he was involved in a seemingly related incident. On the evening of March 26, 1932, Paul Porter, field secretary of the League for Industrial Democracy, spoke at a meeting at the home of Jack Boyd, secretary of the Texas Tech YMCA.

According to Lois Jacques, who was present at the March 26 meeting and testified before the board of regents on June 3, Porter stated that "Russia had immense possibilities and a very bright future." It was her impression that while "everything that he said was very much in favor of Russia and of their form of government, he didn't say that the United States should adopt it exactly.

Porter addressed Dr. Granbery's history class the following day. Miss Jacques stated that this lecture was "practically the same as he had given the night before.

In a letter dated March 29, Roscoe Wilson asked his fellow regents Clifford Jones and John Carpenter for information on Porter and questioned the propriety of providing him an audience

at Texas Tech.

On the same day, University President Paul W. Horn, confined to a hospital bed, discussed the matter with Dean J.M. Gordon and stated that "if Dr. Granbery can't bring himself to the point that he will leave off such as this, I shall not be able to save him much longer."

Dr. Horn died less than a month later

and there indeed was no one of sufficient influence to halt the momentum which had gathered in favor of Granbery's ouster.

In response to Granbery's letter protesting his treatment, Clifford Jones responded that, "he was not dismissed, rather his contract was not renewed."

In addition to the professor's letter of bewilderment, this bitter incident provoked a response from 181 students who signed a declaration in support of Granbery. This plea along with words of support from former students and colleagues were not enough to keep Granbery on the faculty.

The card of which the following is a photostatic copy is the one which was circulated in 1932 on the campus of Texas Technological College by a few students growing out of some subversive activities at that time. This card was introduced at the hearing held by a special committee of the Board of Directors in 1932 and is the one referred to in the testimony reflected by the records of the Court Reporter who was employed to preserve a record of said hearing.

*Clifford B. Jones*

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP PROLETARIAN PARTY OF AMERICA

I, the undersigned, having severed connections with all other political organizations and accepting the revolutionary principles of International Communism do hereby apply for membership in the Proletarian Party of America and agree to be governed by its manifestos, platforms and constitutions.

Name .....  
Address .....  
City ..... State .....  
Occupation ..... Age ..... Citizen .....  
Endorsed by ..... Amt. Pd. \$ .....  
Card issued ..... 19.....

The Southwest Collection holds extensive files on the Granbery case, including this note from the papers of former Board of Director's chairman and President Clifford B. Jones.

# Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

By CINDY MARTIN  
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

## Will Rogers and Texas Tech

The statue of Will Rogers astride his horse, Soapsuds, has been a predominant landmark on the Tech campus since its dedication in 1950. Nearly every Tech alumnus since then has had a photograph made in front of, or sitting on, the statue. But few students or alumni understand the connection between Will Rogers and Texas Tech.

The memorial was a gift of the Amon G. Carter Foundation of Fort Worth. Carter, who worked in support of the establishment of Tech and served as chairman of the first board of directors, was a life-long friend of Rogers and they, no doubt, discussed the progress of the new college.

On Oct. 30, 1926, Tech was scheduled to play against Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, the first match against a Southwest Conference team. The Matadors were undefeated that season and had the enthusiastic support of both students and townspeople. A special train was chartered for the game and almost 500 Tech fans signed up for the trip.

Rogers was in Fort Worth that week and was asked by Carter to stay over for the game. In the discussion, Carter also mentioned that the college wanted to bring its full 80-piece band but lacked \$200 in having the necessary funds. Rogers was unable to stay for the game,



President D.M. Wiggins accepts the Will Rogers statue at dedication ceremonies, Feb. 16, 1950.

but he wrote a check for \$200 to allow the band to make the trip, stating that, "It will be worth \$200 to me to provide Fort Worth with the opportunity of seeing and hearing a real West Texas band such as the Tech boys have."

Thanks to Rogers, the band made the trip, marched in two parades, and made its first live broadcast on WBAP Radio. According to legend, a copy of the check stayed under the glass top of the President's desk for many years.

The next week, Rogers entertained a large crowd in the Lubbock High School auditorium with his comments on a variety of subjects, including the new college.

"You've got a wonderful school here for a two-year-old institution. I have been all over the world and I've never seen one with a record as good as yours. Your coach has done more with that school than any other coach could. I've heard a lot about him, but I don't know who your president is. I'm not interested in that sort of thing. What we need is some good broken field running."

In 1951, the college joined the Lubbock County Sheriff's Posse in celebration of Will Rogers' birthday. The celebration included a parade from the

Fair Grounds to the statue, (where a wreath was placed around the neck of Soapsuds) and a recital of cowboy ballads in the Museum auditorium.

The celebration did not become a tradition on the campus, and today few students know why a statue of Rogers resides at the University. But they do know that the statue, "Riding Into The Sunset," stands as one of the most visible and spirited symbols for the students and alumni of Texas Tech.