

Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY JANET NEUGEBAUER
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

Vision and Determination = Texas Tech

A campaign – one of the best organized and most intensive ever carried out in West Texas – was for the establishment of Texas Technological College. Interest for a school of higher education west of the 98th meridian began to take shape as early as 1896. Settlers moving into the area quickly realized the importance of knowing what the soils and climate of West Texas were best adapted to.

It was not until 1916, however, that the West Texas A&M Campaign Association was organized to make a determined effort to locate an agricultural college within its borders. The following reasons were cited for the school: the inaccessibility of the present Agricultural and Mechanical College at Bryan; the impossibility of teaching agricultural practices in East Texas that would be successful in West Texas; and the cramped and crowded conditions at College Station. A matter of common concern, the effort was also strongly supported by West Texas editors, but the path was

not to be an easy one.

The first bill to establish a college in West Texas was passed in 1917 under Governor Jim Ferguson. Ignoring the wishes of the locating

January 1923, W.H. Bledsoe in the Senate and R.M. Chitwood in the House had charge of writing a bill for the establishment of the West Texas A&M College. After a deadlock with

other forces that introduced a bill for "a Technological College somewhere in Texas," an agreement was reached. The bill was rewritten and West Texas got a college much broader in scope than the one it had been striving for so long. The Texas Technological College bill established a school that was to be statewide in scope rather than regional.

Seventy years ago, on Feb. 10, 1923, Gov. Pat M. Neff signed the bill creating Texas Technological College. The occasion was considered important enough to have a photographer on hand. Neff used three pens to complete the signing of this bill, and according to Bledsoe family members, one of the pens is included in the final portion of W.H. Bledsoe's papers that were donated to the Southwest Collection in 1985



Gov. Pat M. Neff (seated) signs the bill that created Texas Technological College, Feb. 10, 1923. From left, standing, are Silliman Evans of the Fort Worth Star Telegram, Homer D. Wade of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce, Sen. W.H. Bledsoe of Lubbock County, and Rep. R.M. Chitwood of Nolan County.

committee, he arbitrarily selected Abilene as the site. The bill was repealed when a controversy erupted between Ferguson and the committee.

Then in 1921, Gov. Pat M. Neff vetoed a second bill because he believed the state could not afford another college. This angered West Texans so much they threatened to secede and form their own state.

Cooler heads prevailed, however, and when the legislature met in

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BY DR. DAVID MURRAH '64
DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

SOUTHWEST COLLECTION DOCUMENTS TEXAS POLITICAL HISTORY

Texas Tech University has more than just its current legal and financial connections to the Texas Legislature. Within the vast manuscript holdings of the Southwest Collection are the personal and political papers of 14 former and current state legislators which document much of 20th century Texas political activity.

Among the Southwest Collection's oldest legislative papers are those of Senator W.H. Bledsoe, who served first in the House of Representatives from 1915 to 1919, and then in the Senate until 1927. It was Bledsoe's guidance which led to the establishment of Tech in 1923, and his political influence probably determined that the school would be located in Lubbock.

Other significant collections include the papers of R.L. Templeton of Wellington, who was first elected to the Texas House in 1912, and A.P. Duggan of Littlefield, who was elected in 1932.

More recent collections of former representatives include the papers of Grainger W. McIlhaney, Elmer Tarbox, Dorsey Hardeman, H.J. "Doc" Blanchard, Froy Salinas and Waggoner Carr. Carr's papers also include his tenure as Attorney General and document his investigation into the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The Southwest Collection also holds the papers of former state senators Kent Hance, Marshall Formby and John Lee Smith. Smith also served two terms as lieutenant governor from 1943 to 1947.

In addition, the repository is currently receiving the papers of current senator Bill Sims of San Angelo.

By far the most comprehensive of the Southwest Collection's Texas political papers are those of former Governor Preston Smith, who served terms in both the Texas House and Senate, as well as lieutenant governor and governor from 1945 through 1973.

Containing more than 1,500,000 documents, the Preston Smith Papers include a wealth of information about education, community development, highway safety and crime prevention.

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| Record #1 | Format: Manuscript |
| Main entry: | Hance, Kent 1943- |
| Title: | Papers, 1953-1978. |
| Collation: | 83,663 leaves |
| Annotation: | Includes correspondence, proceedings, reports, photographs, legislative material, newsletters, newspaper clippings, Senate bills, general office files and miscellaneous items all relating to his tenure in the 64th and 65th legislatures. |
| Notes: | Includes papers concerning the State Senate impeachment of O. P. Carrillo, former Duval County District Judge, and attempts to remove Associate Justice Donald Yarbrough from the Texas Supreme Court. |
| Subject: | A native of Dimmitt, Texas, Hance received his B.A. degree at Texas Technological College in 1965 and his law degree at University of Texas in 1968. Married Carol Hays in 1964 - two children. Opened his own law firm and taught business law for five years at Texas Tech. Served as an area campaign manager and was appointed to the West Texas State University Board of Regents and the Texas Citizens Water Advisory Council. Elected to the Texas State Senate in 1978 and to the U.S. House of Representatives (from the 19th Congressional District) in 1978. After serving three terms there he ran unsuccessfully for governor but later was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission, where he served until 1991. |
| | Carrillo, O. P. Yarbrough, Donald B. Texas. Legislature. (64th) Texas. Legislature. (65th) Impeachments Texas. Texas Politics and government. |

Information about the Southwest Collection's political holdings are provided to potential users on computer screens around the world through the Texas Tech Libraries' new on-line data base, called TechPAC. This entry describes Kent Hance's Texas Senate Papers. Local access is available through computer terminals on campus or through remote dial-in.

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TEXAS TECH'S FIRST LIBRARIAN

Elizabeth Howard West



Elizabeth Howard West at work in the library. She died in Florida in 1948.

Elizabeth Howard West came to Texas Tech in 1925 with an already illustrious background in government service. Her first job was as a cataloger for the Texas State Library in 1906.

From there she moved to Washington to work for the Library of Congress. After returning to Texas, she worked as an archivist at the Texas State Library from 1911-1915. In 1918, two years before the amendment giving women the right to vote was ratified, she was elected as the Texas State Librarian, which made her the first woman department head in the Texas state government.

Elizabeth West was not the only Texas Tech library employee who had been Texas State Librarian. Roy Sylvan Dunn, archivist and later director of the Southwest Collection (1956-1977), once served in that capacity.

A charter member of the Texas Library

Association, Miss West served as president for the organization from 1914-1916. She helped to found the Southwestern Library Association and was the director of that organization's regional literature program in Texas. Elizabeth West came to the new college with a background in history.

A driving force, Miss West had an impact on the college from its beginning. Early issues of the *Toreador*, the student newspaper, contain articles of advice about using the library from Elizabeth West. She was responsible for the choice of La Ventana (the window) as the name of the student yearbook.

The first library was housed in the basement of the Administration Building and Elizabeth West fought to have a library built. After it was announced in 1937 that the college had received \$275,000 in funding for a new library building, Miss West personally rang the

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Victory Bells in the Administration Building tower.

Because of her background as an archivist at the Texas State Library, Miss West realized the importance of archival materials and in 1929, she began collecting with the Spur Ranch records. She saved vital funds for the library when she started the library catalog using Library of Congress instead of the Dewey Classification.

Elizabeth West retired from Texas Tech in 1942 with the title "librarian emeritus." She stayed on at the college, working as a researcher for the history department. Miss West died in Pensacola, Fla., in 1948.

Elizabeth Howard West's papers are available for research in the Southwest Collection.

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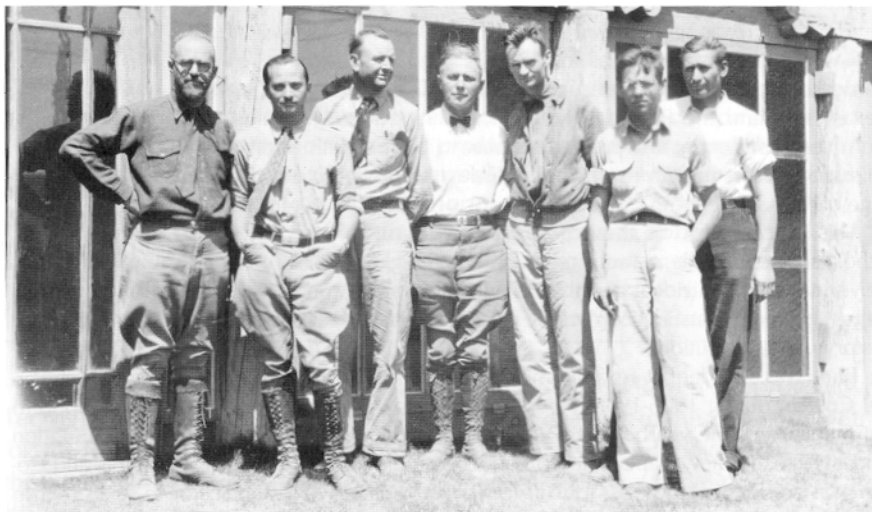
BY DR. DAVID J. MURRAH
DIRECTOR, SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

'CARRYING A BIG PART OF THE LOAD' WILLIAM CURRY HOLDEN AND TECH

Texas Tech University recently lost one of its greatest treasures with the passing in April of Dr. William Curry Holden at the age of 96. But he in turn left for Tech great institutional treasures which will remain for centuries.

Holden's association with Texas Tech dates almost from the founding of Tech in 1925. As a young history professor, then teaching at McMurry College in Abilene, Holden was on hand as a fan to witness Tech's first-ever football game played in September 1925, and his enthusiasm on behalf of McMurry's Indians caught the attention of the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal reporter covering the game. The A-J credited Holden for the Indians' scoreless tie effort against Tech and for "carrying a big part of the load."

Fortunately for Tech, Holden joined its faculty as a history and anthropology professor in 1929, and to the young college he brought unparalleled vision and energy. For the next 37 years, he would serve as professor, department chair, dean, and director of the West Texas Museum. For the fledgling museum, he secured its first permanent quarters in spite of the Great Depression, and, many years later, he played the leading role in the development of the modern Museum complex, which opened in 1970. The Museum remains today as one of Tech's great treasures.



Dr. William Curry Holden (third from right) in 1934 with the field team he led into northern Mexico to study the Yaqui Indians. The others are (from left) Dr. Walter Studhalter, Dr. Carl Seltzer, W.G. McMillan, Dr. C.J. Wagner, Frank Maddox and Bennie McWilliams. (Photo courtesy Southwest Collection)

Holden played a leading role in the establishment of three other prominent Texas Tech gems. He was the mastermind behind the development of the Southwest Collection, which formally opened in 1955. He was on the founding committee of the Ranching Heritage Center, and his work and influence led to the establishment of the Lubbock Lake Landmark.

Holden's contributions also extended far beyond the campus borders. He was a founder of both the West Texas Historical Association and the Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society. He also led several expeditions into Mexico

to study and to work with the Yaqui Indians. And, he found time to share his research by writing 13 books dealing with the history and culture of the American Southwest and Mexico.

In 1986, Holden, along with his wife, Frances, established the William Curry and Frances Mayhugh Holden Collection within the Southwest Collection by donating to Tech their rich collection of research materials. Thus, scholars yet unborn will have the opportunity to mine the rich veins of knowledge discovered and opened by Holden through his long years of loyal service to Texas Tech University.



Texas Tech IN RETROSPECT

BY TAI KREIDLER
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

WORLD WAR II TRAINING EXERCISES

PHOTOS DONATED TO THE SOUTHWEST
COLLECTION BY HULEN PENNEY

Fifty-four years ago World War II had begun. As the world braced for the onslaught during the winter of 1939-1940, the war seemed a far away and remote disturbance totally unrelated to the rhythm of life at Texas Tech and in West Texas.

However, in January 1940 Texas Tech University served as host to the Texas 36th Division, 131st Field Artillery field training exercises. Members of Lubbock's National Guard unit, Battery C, had planned their monthly joint field maneuvers at Echols Ranch near Floydada with other batteries from Plainview, Abilene and Wichita Falls.

Unfortunately, one of those legendary ice storms blew through West Texas interrupting travel. Instead, Battery C spent a bone-chilling day on the ice-frosted landscape of the Texas Tech campus. Much of the practice took place on the present sites of the R-14 parking lot and the Southwest Conference Circle.

Still dressed in World War I-style uniforms, the images come to us from a nearly forgotten time—a time before World War II, where the names Salerno, Monte Cassino, Rapido River, and Java were yet unknown to these troops.

By November 1940, the 36th Division mobilized, and a year later a detachment found itself troop-ship bound for the Western Pacific. Later, the rest of the



Troops take part in field maneuvers during an ice storm that settled in over the Tech campus in November 1940.




Three members of the 131st Field Artillery in Lubbock.



Officers of the 131st Field Artillery at Texas Tech Bivouac, November 1940.

division made its September 1943, Salerno landing that made it the first American division to invade Europe. Fighting in some of the fiercest battles, divisional units suffered through "Lost Battalion" incidents in both the Pacific and European theaters, and the division, as a

whole, experienced the third highest casualty list of any American division.

However... on the chilly landscape of the Texas Tech campus in mid-winter 1940, these troops worried only about keeping warm, and the war seemed so far away. 

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BY LANCE VANZANT
SOUTHWEST COLLECTION

THE STUDENT UNION BUILDING

The multi-purpose University Center enjoyed by today's Tech community stems from more modest beginnings. As early as 1928, Dean James G. Allen recommended the creation of a university community center, a location where students and faculty could enjoy recreational and leisure activities without having to travel off campus. The idea took years to develop.

In 1947, three war surplus barracks were pieced together on the site of today's University Center, providing students with a cafeteria and a dance floor.

By the 1950s, building expansion was an obvious priority at Texas Tech. New facilities for home economics, engineering, music, science and agricultural engineering were the proposed projects listed by President D.M. Wiggins at a meeting of the Board of Directors' building committee in 1950.

In this same year, the school began a preliminary search for planners to design a new Student Union Building. Officials at SMU recommended the services of Porter Butts, director of the Union at the University of Wisconsin and a pioneer in the field of student union design and construction.

In October 1952, the cornerstone for the Student Union Building was laid. The new center opened to students on March 10, 1953. Shortly after its completion, the University considered an addition to the Union and once again hired Butts as a consultant.

The Southwest Collection recently received a collection of correspon-



Original Student Union Building, circa 1949.

dence and reports which detail the planning and design of subsequent additions to the UC. Not all of the recommendations were implemented, but the plan does reflect nationwide trends in the creation of college student union buildings. The documents reveal the ambitious proposals of Porter Butts.

Approximately 30 percent of the new Union's estimated \$750,000 price tag would have gone toward construction of a swimming pool and an eight-lane bowling alley complete with pin boys.

Separate rooms were also reserved for billiards, table tennis, shuffleboard and cards. The report noted "gambling" and "clique domination" as

supervision problems inherent in the inclusion of a card room.

Other interests were to be accommodated as well, with the construction of a darkroom, a small library, an art gallery, an arts and crafts workshop, a music listening area, and even a "Quiet Room" equipped with cots.

While not all of Butts' proposals became reality, features of the modern University Center such as theaters, meeting rooms and the Faculty Club did become a part of the UC. Butts' total plan reflected his contention that the student union is the "campus counterpart of the civic, political, and social life of the thousands of communities into which students will move after graduation." 