

# Benjamin Franklin and Nasreddin of Asia Minor

By H.B. Paksoy, D. Phil.

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*The following is an excerpt from the introduction of the book entitled "The Bald Boy and the Most Beautiful Girl in the World" currently being prepared by Paksoy for publication.*

All folk archetypes are created by people from the intellectual wealth of their environment, and the process may be akin to crystals forming in nature. Upon a seed character, structurally kindred layers may be deposited, over time, to enlarge the entity until it reaches the heights of international renown. Two examples are Benjamin Franklin (d. 1790) of Philadelphia, and Nasreddin (d. 1261) of Asia Minor. These archetypes transmit their teaching to future generations through didactic stories. One such story may serve us for instructional purposes:

"Nasreddin and his son were traveling towards a market town, with an ass which they had to sell. The road was bad, and the old man therefore rode, but the son went afoot. The first passenger they met asked Nasreddin if he was not ashamed to ride by himself and suffer the poor lad to wade along through the mire; this induced him to take up his son behind him. He had not traveled far when he met others, who said they were two unmerciful lubbers to get both on the back of that poor ass, in such a deep road. Upon this the old man gets off and let his son ride alone. The next they met called the lad a graceless, rascally young jacka-naphs to ride in that manner through the dirt while his aged father trudged along on foot. And they said, the old man was a fool for suffering it. He then bid his son come down and walk with him, and they traveled on leading the ass by the halter; till they met another company, who called them a couple of senseless blockheads for going both on foot in such a dirty way when they had an empty ass with them, which they might ride upon. The old

man could bear no longer. My son, it grieves me such that we cannot please all these people. Let us throw the ass over the next bridge, and be no further troubled with him."

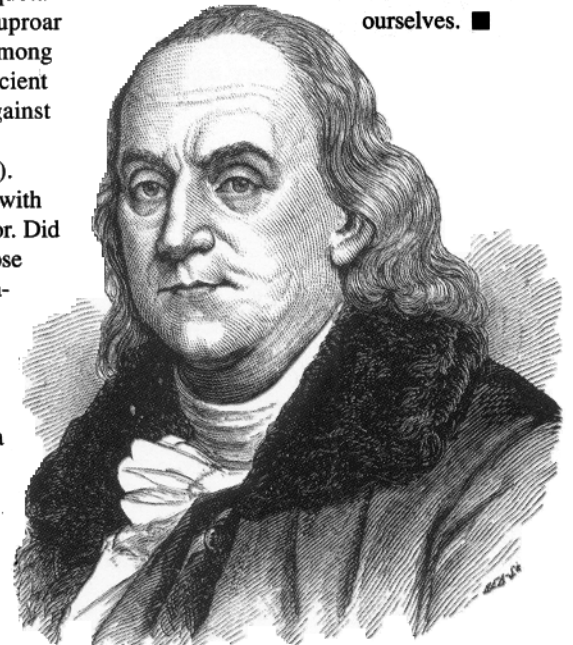
This is the story I collected some years before sitting down to compose this introduction. Except the narration above belongs to Benjamin Franklin, and he does not use Nasreddin's name (he calls the primary character, 'Old Man'). The story appears here as Franklin published it in his *Pennsylvania Gazette* (c. 1731). Now, how did Franklin know about this Nasreddin story?

Apparently, Franklin knew more than he disclosed. For example, on another occasion, when Franklin was working to establish the "New House" in Philadelphia for the purpose of taking care of disenfranchised, itinerant or newly arrived preachers, he is said to have stated: "If the mufti of Constantinople were to send a missionary to preach Mahometanism (sic) to us he would find a pulpit at his service..." (After recording this quotation, Brands adds: 'for all the uproar the Great Awakening caused among Protestants, they retained sufficient composure to band together against such irretrievably lost souls as Moslems, Catholics and Jews').

So, Franklin was acquainted with the lay of the land in Asia Minor. Did his stay in London, a city in close commercial and diplomatic relations with the Ottoman port cities, especially Istanbul and Izmir, help him acquire his information? Franklin must have either had amassed quite a bit of information, or had easy access to it, both from the books he personally owned, and through the Library Company he pioneered in Philadelphia. Franklin began

drawing on all that accumulated information when he began "Poor Richard's Almanack." Brands again observes: "Every Almanack offered pearls of wisdom on personal conduct and related matters of daily life, that the pearls had been retrieved from other oysters bothered no one except perhaps the owners of those other oysters, who in any event had no recourse in the absence of applicable copyright laws. The trick for writers like Franklin was to polish the pearls and set them distinctively." The reader may decide. Nasreddin's didactic messages, in the disguise of tales, moved far and wide over time and space. In fact, his name and teachings are familiar bright spots in many geographic and cultural terrains, stretching from the Mediterranean into the Eastern reaches of the Asian Continent. Even Mark Twain was moved to include an episode from Nasreddin in one of his volumes, which he encountered on one of his own peregrinations.

Perhaps we have much more to learn about the world and ourselves. ■

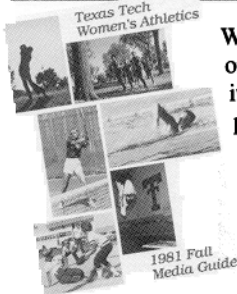
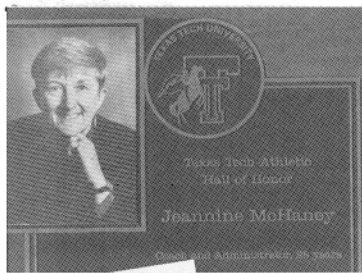


# Women's Sports Leader Remembered

By Monte L. Monroe, Ph.D., Archivist, Southwest Collection

Nowadays it is commonplace for 10,000-plus screaming spectators to pack the United Spirit Arena to cheer on the Lady Raider Basketball team against Big 12 rivals, or for the other Texas Tech women's sports programs to draw enthusiastic crowds and finish their season with winning records. As a result, it is difficult to imagine that not too long ago the dream of a successful women's athletic program at Texas Tech represented the fervent hopes of a few visionaries. One of the pioneers of this earlier period was Jeannine McHaney.

In 1966 Drs. Mary B. Dabney and Margaret Wilson of the Women's Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Department hired Jeannine McHaney of Arkansas State as an assistant professor and director of the Women's Intramural Program, then located in the old Naval Reserve building on campus. With McHaney onboard, Texas Tech was poised to take advantage of revolutionary changes on the horizon of women's sports. In 1966 Texas Tech affiliated with the Texas Commission of Intercollegiate Athletics for



**Women.** The new organization and its successors provided opportunities for female athletes at Texas Tech to compete with teams from other

universities. At that time, however, no paid coaching staff existed. They were all volunteers. On road trips, women athletes slept on floors at the homes of friends and family members, and paid for their own food, travel expenses and uniforms. Indeed, in 1966, the entire budget for extramural women's basketball and volleyball programs was a mere \$500. According to former player Carolyn Schneider George, by 1970, the situation had improved little.

The total attendance at women's basketball games often numbered only 30 spectators. A chalkboard in the corner of the Women's Gym served as the scoreboard.

The situation for women's athletics at Texas Tech and other colleges soon improved. In 1971 the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) was formed. And, by 1982, the organization boasted 961 member institutions. More importantly, during the summer of 1972, President Richard Nixon signed Title IX into law, which had the effect of mandating equal opportunities for women in athletics at most public universities. Jeannine McHaney seized upon the changing opportunities in women's athletics during the decade of the 1970s. In so doing, she would lead the way in developing a sports organization for women at Tech that became second to none by the 1990s.

In addition to her normal duties, McHaney volunteered to coach women's volleyball (1966-1974) and gymnastics (1968-1971). During a celebratory Roast in 1985, Dr. Margaret Wilson made light of McHaney's physical stature and training methods. Wilson joked that as the volleyball coach, McHaney had to reach a spike while standing on a six-foot ladder. The comments were apropos, because the determined and spunky McHaney understood that she must take innovative steps for the Tech women's sports program in order to move up the ladder of success.

By 1975, she became the first director of the new Women's Athletics Department. That same year she was named Texas Tech Woman of the Year. In 1976 McHaney was included in "Who's Who among American Women." Furthermore, she was elected president of the Texas AIAW in 1976 and would shortly become president of the Southwest AIAW Regional Organization that comprised schools from Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

In 1985, when the women's and men's athletic programs were merged, McHaney became assistant athletic director. Between 1987 and 1991, McHaney helped to administer 30 first and second-round National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA regional basketball championship games. She was awarded the Lubbock Women in Communications Outstanding Achievement Award in 1990 and promoted to associate athletic director in 1991. McHaney also served on the Division I Women's Basketball Committee of the



NCAA. In 1993, the same year the Texas Tech women captured the National Basketball Championship, the Women's Basketball Association conferred its Administrator of the Year Award on McHaney. Also, the Jeannine McHaney High Riders Award was established in her honor. At the apex of her career, in Oct. 1994, McHaney lost a decade-long battle with brain cancer. At homecoming, prior to her death, the Texas Tech Ex-Students Association presented her its Distinguished Service Award and an endowed scholarship was established in her name to assist deserving women athletes at Texas Tech. She also became the first woman inducted into the Texas Tech Athletic Hall of Honor.

By 1994 Jeannine McHaney had helped to transform Tech women's athletics from a \$500 afterthought to a \$1.2 million program, comprising eight sports, including: basketball, cross-country, track and field, diving, golf, tennis, volleyball and softball. Perhaps Noel Johnson, the former Lady Raider basketball player, summed up McHaney's contribution best in a 1994 article saying, "Any success in the past or future of women's athletics at Texas Tech is a result of Jeannine McHaney."

Recently, Judi Henry, Ed.D., associate athletic director at Texas Tech, donated the papers generated by Jeannine McHaney to the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. The materials are the foundation of a burgeoning women's sports archive initiative at Tech. ■

For more information, contact Monte L. Monroe, Ph.D., Archivist, Southwest Collection; Lynn Whitfield, University Archivist; or Dr. Judi Henry.

# The Place for Football

By Tai Kreidler, Department Chair  
Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

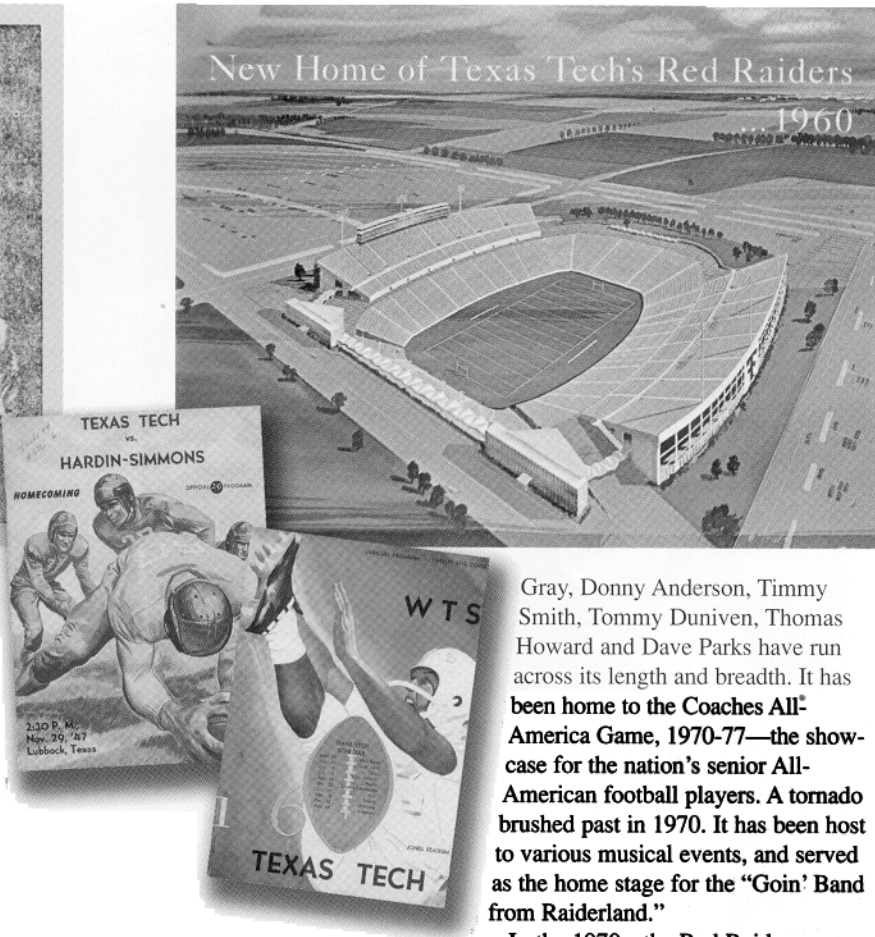


*The caption for this newspaper photo reads: "Looking over the good news with a big grin typical of all Techsians today is Student Association president Glen Cary. Says Cary: 'This is the greatest day in the history of Tech.'"*

As we watch Jones SBC Stadium undergo extensive renovation/reconstruction, we are reminded that during its half-century history, Jones Stadium has been the football home of the Red Raiders, and, the site of many memories including hard fought victories over Border and Southwest Conference rivals.

In 1945, former Texas Tech President Clifford B. Jones envisioned a new stadium and generously underwrote the project by promising \$100,000 toward the \$300,000 total cost. The new 18,000-seat stadium opened on Nov. 29, 1947, with a 14-6 victory over heavily favored Hardin-Simmons. The win secured for Texas Tech the Border Conference championship, and a trip to the Sun Bowl.

Texas Tech's 1956 admission into the Southwest Conference prompted the administration to spend \$1.7 million for stadium expansion. Phase 1 started in 1959 with the addition of new athletic offices, dressing rooms, and a press box. In late 1959, Phase 2 began with the excavation of "The hole," and the skid-



ding of the east stands 226 feet further out. The new stadium was ready on Sept. 17, 1960, as the Red Raiders played its first conference schedule. It also signaled the beginning of the J. T. King headcoaching era. The Red Raiders christened the stadium by defeating West Texas State 38-14 before a record crowd of 30,000 fans.

Since then, various modifications and additions have increased capacity to 47,000, and the stadium has also seen the addition of AstroTurf, a Lettermen's Lounge, and a modern Double T scoreboard.

Through its history, Jones Stadium, named for Clifford and Audrey B. Jones, has been the site of many indelible TTU memories. Legendary Red Raiders such as Gabe Rivera, E. J. Holub, James

Gray, Donny Anderson, Timmy Smith, Tommy Duniven, Thomas Howard and Dave Parks have run across its length and breadth. It has been home to the Coaches All-America Game, 1970-77—the showcase for the nation's senior All-American football players. A tornado brushed past in 1970. It has been host to various musical events, and served as the home stage for the "Goin' Band from Raiderland."

In the 1970s, the Red Raiders enjoyed unprecedented success. Jones Stadium set eight attendance marks—in 1977 one of the largest crowds, 55,008, watched the Red Raiders and Aggies play to an 17-33 finish. But, the stadium's most inspirational and emotional moment came when it served as the welcome home reception site for the National Champion Lady Raiders basketball team in 1993. There, 30,000+ fans found redemption for what they had always known and understood about Jones SBC Stadium, Texas Tech, Lubbock, the South Plains and West Texas—winners live here.

*Featured materials are part of the reference file and the University Archive photograph collection of the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library at Texas Tech.* ■



# History was made at Texas Tech...and you were there!

By B. Lynn Whitfield, University Archivist/Assistant Records Manager  
Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library  
Photos courtesy of Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

Going through the day-to-day activities of being a student, one generally does not reflect on the significance of the process. Writing that term paper, researching the next and working a part-time job takes up all one's time. Generally, it is not until many years later that students look back on their days at Texas Tech and realize what really happened. Not only are they a part of the university's history—they are, in fact, its legacy!

The University Archive, repository for Texas Tech's history, seeks to preserve historical information, photographs and memorabilia celebrating Texas Tech's growth and expansion. Some recent donations documenting our students and their activities include the following:

## The Evolution of a College

In 1925, the School of Home Economics boasted enrollment of 78 students, three staff persons, and was composed of the Department of Clothing and Design and the Department of Foods and Nutrition. The faculty even taught art courses until an art department was later established in 1927. The school was one of the four original units of Texas Technological College and grew to include over 19 faculty members by 1955. Under the strong leadership of its deans, it grew in both size and reputation to eventually become the College of Human Sciences.

Realizing the importance of its history, the dean's office wrote to its alumni in 1993, asking for recollections, photographs and memorabilia to establish a Human Sciences Archive. Alumni responded to questions on why they chose to attend Texas Tech, who or what had the greatest influences on their studies and other such memories of life at Texas Tech.

In the fall of 2001, the University Archive acquired these materials and more. The collection dates from the



Members attending the 1935 Home Economics Club banquet.

1920s, with the opening of the School of Home Economics, up through the establishment of the College of Human Sciences in 1993. Materials include such things as annual departmental reports, alumni recollections, faculty biographies, brochures, program proposals and more than 50 scrapbooks. Establishment of Phi Upsilon Omicron and the Home Management House are also documented. The collection also contains more than 3,005 prints, 1,227 negatives and 2,429 slides of the college's alumni, faculty, facilities and activities.

## Good Sports, Good Times

Sports have always been a part of Texas Tech. Baseball, track and tennis were played beginning in 1926. Golf began in 1936. The university also at one time maintained a swim team. Since 1925, the university's football team, the Red Raiders, has participated in over 22 bowl games and produced numerous notable athletes. Texas Tech joined the Border Conference in 1932 and became a member of the Southwest

Conference in 1956. The disbanding of the Southwest Conference in 1996 led to Tech's joining the newly formed Big 12 Conference the same year. The men's and women's basketball teams have put Texas Tech and Lubbock in the national spotlight time and time again.

The papers of the Athletic Media Relations office became part of the University Archive in 2000. Within this collection are the player files from all Texas Tech sports, and include such items as news clippings, statistical information and personal information sheets filled out by the players. The collection also contains 32,097 prints, 1,306 slides and 855 negatives.

Unfortunately, the player files are not complete. Students were given the option of taking their files when they left Tech or having the files destroyed. Thus, a part of Texas Tech's history has been lost as well. Tech is part of the Texas Archival Resources Online project (TARO) which seeks to provide Internet access to historical information throughout the state. The site can be found at [www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/).

## RETROSPECT

Just one of many at TARO, the Athletic Media Relations collection lists all the player files currently available. Were you or a family member part of Texas Tech's athletic programs? Is your player file one of those missing? If so, please contact the University Archives at (806) 742-3749.

### The Cowboy Way at Texas Tech

Papers documenting the Texas Tech Rodeo Association were received in 2000. Established to promote collegiate interest in rodeo activities, continue western heritage traditions, and to sponsor an intercollegiate rodeo team, the Tech Rodeo's membership was restricted to enrolled Texas Tech students.

Meetings were originally held in the Agriculture Pavilion. The collection itself consists of the articles of incorporation, brochures, news clippings, newsletters, a rodeo handbook, rodeo ticket stubs and numerous rodeo programs.

To learn more about the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library, please visit <http://swco.ttu.edu/>. ■



Hang on, cowboy! A Tech student tries to stay on his steed as it races about Jones Stadium.

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# *A Bit of This and That*

Reference Files at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library

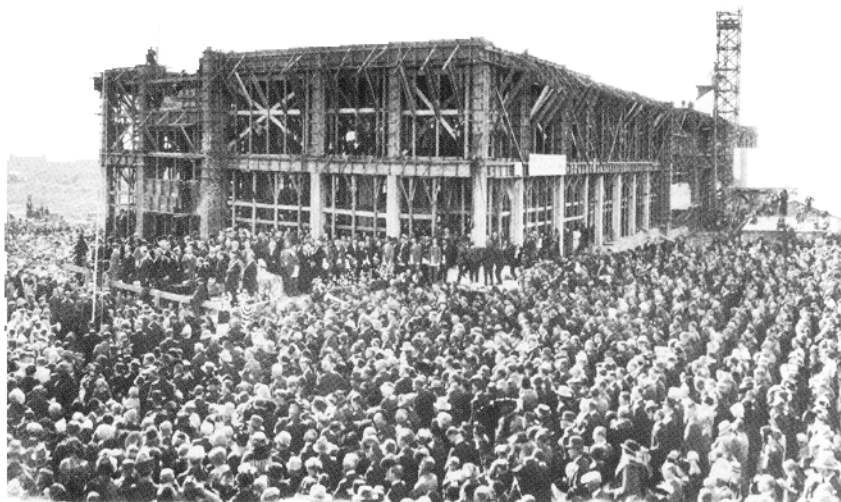
By Jennifer Spurrier, SWC/SCL Reference Archivist

The Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library offers a wide variety of materials related to Texas Tech University. The University Archive is a significant part of the SWC/SCL which offers an abundance of material concerning the university and its history. Within the Southwest Collection is a host of information about the university. All of the available materials can be accessed by visiting the SWC/SCL, which is located next to the University Library. Within the Holden Reading Room, one finds what is considered by some to be a four-leaf clover, or a lucky charm for some researchers, the reference files of the SWC/SCL.

These files date back to the early collecting years and were first used as "drop files." Today there are thousands of files, which are an integral part of the SWC/SCL. Some files are large; others are small but still important. The uniqueness of the reference files is that one is never quite sure what might be found. Often the files contain inventories for collections or "see sheets," which might refer one to a related collection or oral history. Yet, within the files one might also find copies of important documents.

One such example is found in the Texas Tech: Locating Board file. Within this file is an inventory of the Locating Board Collection. The collection itself contains materials presented to the Locating Board by the various towns vying for the privilege of being home to Texas Technological College. Newsclippings related to the Locating Board, an article about the board and the competition for the college, as well as an oral history abstract of an interview with W. T. Raybon, who recalls the locating of the college in Lubbock, are all found in the file. But, perhaps the most unique document is a photocopy of Senate Bill No. 103 which establishes Texas Technological College. Also included is a newsclipping of Gov. Pat M. Neff signing the bill.

Mentioned in the Locating Board file is William Bledsoe, which leads one to another reference file. In the Southwest Collection file on Bledsoe, one learns



*The laying of the cornerstone of the Administration Building, which was dedicated Nov. 11, 1924, in front of a crowd of 20,000 people.*

that Bledsoe was a Lubbock lawyer and state senator who played an important role in bringing Texas Technological College to Lubbock. The file is filled with biographical information as well as an inventory for the Bledsoe manuscript collection. The file also includes newsclippings and photocopies of letters. One letter is an attempt to correct an article in a 1935 Dallas newspaper that discussed the creation of Tech. The letter presents that Bledsoe and R. M. Chitwood of Sweetwater (for whom there is a reference file) should be credited with drafting what would eventually become the basis for Senate Bill 103. Today, Bledsoe and Chitwood are still recognized names on the Texas Tech campus. Although one might not be familiar with their significance to Texas Tech, one certainly would recognize them as names of buildings on campus.

This leads one to another reference file, Texas Tech: Buildings. In this reference file one finds miscellaneous information related to Texas Tech structures. There are several brochures depicting buildings, related newsclippings and even an aerial view of the Tech campus in 1970. One article in the file describes the original

architects for the Administration Building. Of course, there is a reference file for the Administration Building, which includes a newsclipping showing the building in progress, as well as other newsclippings of the building. There are several other files related to specific Texas Tech buildings, as well as some located at the National Ranching Heritage Center. In the files labeled Texas Tech: Ranching Heritage Center, one finds information on various structures such as the Barton and Jowell houses. Additionally, there are Southwest Collection reference files on both Barton and Jowell family members.

Needless to say, the reference files at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library offer a plethora of information relevant to Texas Tech University. The files themselves are a part of SWC/SCL history which is a part of campus history. The files' primary function is to serve as a guide and refer researchers on to more materials, but sometimes a file has the answer one is searching for and there is no need to search further than the reference files at the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library. ■