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ACHS NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Issue 3

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Save the Date: October 28 for 2022 Calendar Premiere

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Always an important annual event, the ACHS Historical Calendar Premiere and Photo Contest Awards will be on **Thursday, October 28, at 6:30 pm at the Woman's Club of Rockport.**

This year, a record number of historical photos were entered in the Photo Contest, giving the judges a considerable challenge to pick the winners and those for the new calendar. Judges for this year were Phil Albin, Donna Husak and Christopher Rice. ACHS is very grateful for their good work.

The ACHS Photo Contest began in 2007 at the suggestion of Phil Albin as a way of recruiting historical images for the Annual Historical Calendar. The 2022 Calendar will be the 16th consecutive issue, which began under the leadership of long-time trustee Janie white.

Since that time, the Photo Contest has produced nearly five hundred

ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORY IN PHOTOGRAPHS



Sesquicentennial Edition
1871 to 2021

The 2021 Sesquicentennial Edition of the ACHS Historical Calendar has been one of the most popular in the fifteen-year series, and a few issues are still available.

historical photos that were added to the ACHS Photo Collection, thanks to the support of long-time members and friends of the Society.

Past issues of some of the Historical Calendars will be available, once ACHS is able to move back into its Lab at the Rockport School, hopefully later this year.

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(year term expires)

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

David J. Murrah

FROM THE LAB: A message from the President

Happy Fall! On September 22nd we began autumn and a little cold front at least helped to break the oppressive heat and humidity we experienced this summer. Summer indeed has had its ups and downs.

One question I'm often asked is when ACHS will be able to move back into the Rockport School on North Live Oak Street. The latest information from ACISD is that repairs continue but there are breaks in the projects because insurance adjusters are coming to offer revised estimates for repairs. The original bids and costs shortly after Hurricane Harvey are no longer valid. Our organization does have a room assigned and we will be able to move in again, although the date is uncertain.

Our friends at the Fulton Mansion allow us to have monthly Board meetings at the Education Center. We appreciate their hospitality and generosity.

It's almost time to show off our 2022 Historic Photo Calendars. The calendar premiere will be held on October 28th at 6:30 at The Woman's Club of Aransas County. This was a record-breaking year as we had more photos submitted than we've had in past years. Also, our friends at the Bee County Historical Society gave us permission to use photos from their collection that feature Aransas County visitors from the early 1900's. The submitted photos were judged in early July by our panel of esteemed judges, Phil Albin, Donna Husak and Christopher Rice, and they chose an excellent set of photos for the calendar.

The Calendar Committee has been hard at work for months to produce the 2022 Calendar. We hope to see you at the Premiere on October 28.

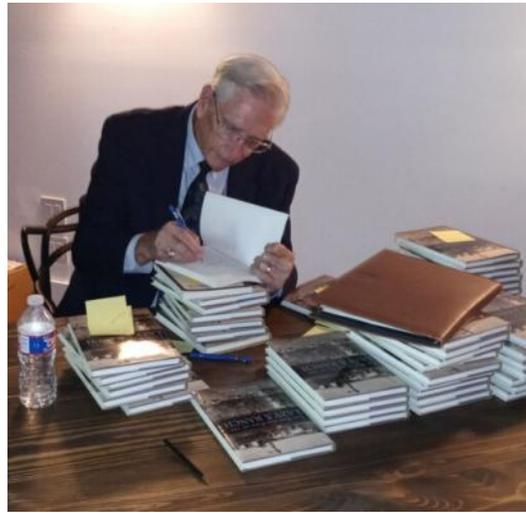
The Historical Society has been working with the Rockport Center for the Arts to honor the life and celebrate the 80th Birthday of Guy Clark on November 6th. This is an exciting and multi-faceted project covering multiple days. Please check the Rockport Center for the Arts Facebook page or website to get all the details. The details are also posted on our

website achs1985.org. We are excited to be included with the Center's salute to Guy Clark.

Congratulations to our board member John Jackson. He is being awarded the Distinguished Citizen Award for 2021 by the Boy Scouts of America South Texas Council on November 10th.

Find details at <https://southtexasbsa.org/distinguished-citizen-award-ceremony/>

Congratulations also to board member David Murrah whose new book, *The Rise and Fall of the Lazy S Ranch*, premiered on September 15 at Weatherford, Texas, at an event hosted by descendants of the ranch's founder, C.C. Slaughter. More than a hundred were in attendance. David said he signed 172 books at the party and now has writer's cramps!

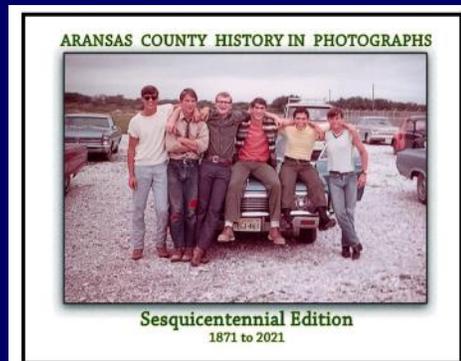


David Murrah's new book premiered at an autograph party in Weatherford, Texas, on September 15. His son Jerel of Fort Worth furnished us with this shot of his dad busily signing books for the event.

Kline's Café Building continues to settle in at the new location on St. Mary's Street in downtown Rockport. The heavy rains and flooding caused delays in its preparation. Keep an eye on the site as further work is completed.

We'd love to hear from you if you have a story to tell or photos that you'd like preserved in our archives for future information seekers.

—Cheryl Livingston



The 2021 Calendar is still available!
 Order online from the ACHS at
achs1985.org
 All sales benefit the
 Aransas County Historical Society

PART 2: Early Days in Lamar, from the Viewpoint of Archibald McRae

by
Bobby Jackson

[Editor's note: This story continues from Part 1 which appeared in the May 2021 Newsletter. It is by noted local historian and ACHS Trustee Bobby Jackson and was originally written as a first-person reenactment of a story that Lamar's earliest

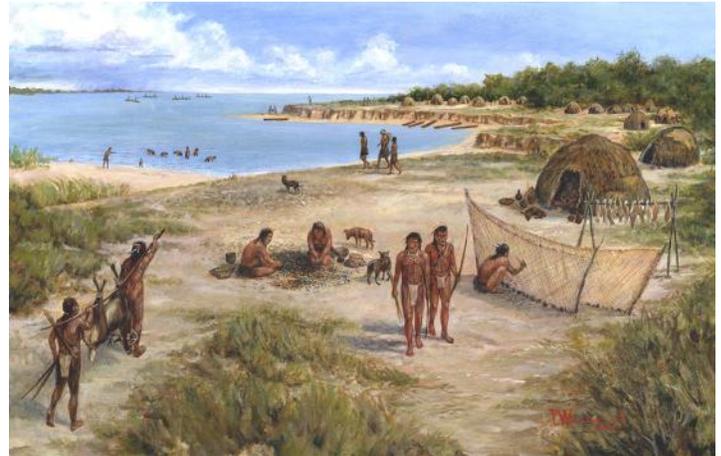
resident, Archibald McRea would have told from his viewpoint in 1850.]

As I told you when we last met, it is now 1850. When we first moved here 12 years ago, Indians presented a problem for us, both from the local Karankawas to the wandering bands of Comanches and the raiding Apaches. As more settlers moved into Lamar, the starving Karankawas came to visit. They thought nothing of taking horses and cattle for food. They would come without warning, so all of the men of Lamar kept their rifles beside them at all times. Any time we saw the Indians coming towards us, we would hurry to our loft. My boys and I stationed ourselves at the portholes with guns ready. My daughter Susan stood with us, as she could shoot as well as us. My wife Vincey and our daughter Sarah stood ready to supply home-molded bullets, powder, and wadding.

However, we were never attacked, perhaps because Karankawas would often appear in Vincey's kitchen, demanding food. She gave them sweet potatoes and other produce from her garden. And, one time, a Karankawa chief presented me with a bow and arrows.

Others were not as fortunate. One late October day in 1840, following their bloody raid on the town of Linnville (near Port Lavaca), the Comanches rode through Lamar wearing clothing they stole from Linnville settlers. They ransacked and pillaged the town of Lamar, causing people to flee for their lives.

Two young sisters, Eve and Sarah Thomas, had been looking for two stray milk cows. Their father saw the Indians coming, so he blew a horn for the girls to come home. But it was too late! The Indians captured both girls and took off. They travelled all night, and Eve tried several times to escape. Disgusted with her, one Comanche threw her to the ground. The others rode past her, stabbed her with their spears, and took her scalp. Her brother found her the next day, bloody and shaken, but still alive. Sarah was taken to Comanche territory, but later was rescued by the U.S. Army and returned to Lamar.



Painting, Karankawa Native Americans by Frank Weir. Commissioned by and courtesy of Texas Beyond History.

Despite the incursions of the Apaches and Comanches, many Lamar residents continued to have pleasant relations with the Karankawas. On very cold nights, people would open their front doors so the Karankawas could creep in for a warm night's sleep. The next morning, the home owners would find baskets of oysters on their porches as gifts of thanks. In Aransas City, James Power and his wife even took in two orphaned Karankawa children and raised them as their own.

This past twelve years has brought remarkable changes. Texas became a state about four years ago, which in part prompted the U.S. war with Mexico. At the beginning of the war, about four years ago, we got to see General Zachary Taylor land his troops just across the bay from us, and they camped over in the middle of Live Oak Peninsula before moving on down to Corpus Christi. And, speaking of Corpus Christi, one of Aransas City's old settlers, Henry Kinney, started that place and it just boomed during the war with Mexico, so much so that it virtually killed off Aransas City.

Our little town of Lamar is a busy place, and I hear we might get a railroad. If we do, Lamar will become bigger than Corpus Christi. I hope to live long enough to see that day!

Now it is time for me to go. Vincey no doubt has chores for me to do. I bid you farewell and Godspeed.

[Post script: Unfortunately, Archibald did not live to witness the dramatic events that lay ahead for Lamar. He died February 24, 1851 in Victoria, and is buried there.]

ROCKPORT CENTER FOR THE ARTS LAUNCHES GUY CLARK FESTIVAL Verlon Thompsn and Shawn Camp to return for encore performance

Rockport Center for the Arts (RCA) recently announced the Guy Clark Festival, a new brand and experience incorporating art, film and music celebrating the Grammy Award-winning American songwriter and folk singer who spent his teen years living in Rockport.

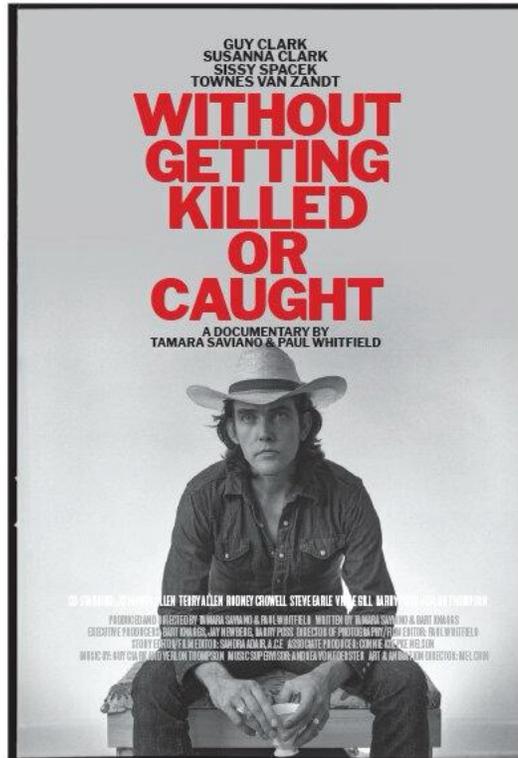
With multiple events scheduled October 15 –November 14 to benefit RCA and its new facility under construction, the unique festival is a tribute to Clark, who would have celebrated his 80th birthday on November 6 of this year.

The festival will kick off October 15 with the *Rockport Kind of Guy* exhibition at RCA showcasing new, original paintings by Steve Russell, Rockport artist and personal friend of Clark, interpreting 16 of Clark's songs. Running through November 14, the exhibition is free and open to the public.

There will be a *Rockport Kind of Guy* art book and CD release event with artist Steve Russell on Thursday, October 21, from 5–7 p.m. Memorializing Russell's 16 paintings, the book includes historical photographs, information, and personal memories from those who knew Clark best during his formative years in Rockport, as well as commentary by the artist, the 16 musicians/performers who recorded the songs in the CD, as well as local history champions Cheryl Livingston and Ty Husak, of the Aransas County Historical Society.

The companion *Rockport Kind of Guy* CD was produced by John Macy and Coastal Bend Music, featuring the 16 Guy Clark songs represented in the exhibition and book as performed by noted singer and songwriters such as Lyle Lovett, Michael Martin Murphey, Gary P. Nunn, Steve Earle, Verlon Thompson, Shawn Camp and more.

The Festival includes ticketed events as well, including *An Evening with Verlon Thompson and Shawn Camp* – an acoustic musical performance at the Rialto Theater in Aransas Pass, November 7 and 8, beginning at 7 p.m. Celebrating Guy Clark's musical legacy, the evening features performances and storytelling by Thompson and Camp with a special post-concert meet and greet and CD signing for premium ticket-holders. The duo were



The 95-minute documentary, *Without Getting Killed or Caught*, will make its Aransas County debut on November 12 at the Movies, Inc. theater in Aransas Pass.

featured in two-sold out performances by the Aransas County Historical Society in 2019.

Fans can also purchase tickets to attend a special screening of the documentary film *Without Getting Killed or Caught*, directed by Tamara Saviano and Paul Whitfield, on Friday, November 12, 7 p.m., at Movies Inc Aransas. Based on the diaries of Susanna Clark and Saviano's 2016 book *Without Getting Killed or Caught: The Life and Music of Guy Clark*, the film tells the saga from Susanna's point of view, with Academy Award winner Sissy Spacek providing narration.

Tickets for the concert will be available online beginning September 28 at 10 a.m., with tickets for the film screening on sale beginning October 1.

To learn more, pre-order merchandise, and book tickets, visit GuyClark-Festival.com.

HISTORY CENTER CONTINUES SPECIAL EXHIBITS, PROGRAMS

The History Center is currently featuring three exhibits, *Landmarks of Aransas County*, *Voices from the Past*, and *Connie Hagar Corner*.

Upcoming programs are as follows:

Sunday October 17, 2:00 PM "A Lone Star Rising in South Texas: A History of the Lone Star Brewing Company from 1864 to Today," by Joe Fox, Educator at Fulton Mansion State Historic Site.

Sunday November 21, 2:00 PM "Holiday Traditions and Vintage Ornaments" by Maureen Winkelman, Board member for Friends of the History Center. View decorated trees to welcome the holiday.