

CHAUTAUQUA IN TEXAS CITIES

1885 – 1930

INDEPENDENT CHAUTAUQUA

Soon after the founding of the original Chautauqua in New York in 1874, numerous independent “daughter” Chautauqua assemblies were established throughout the country, based upon the ideals of the original. Each had their own campgrounds and programmed their own lectures, musical events, and religious exercises.

In 1885, the first of these independent Chautauquas appeared in Texas. The following Texas cities are among those that hosted these Independents:

- San Marcos (1885 – 1895)
- Georgetown (1888 – c1897)
- Weatherford (1891 – 1898)
- Glen Rose (1898 – 1899)
- Waxahachie (1900 – 1930)
- Paris (c1900 - ?)
- Mineral Wells (c1905)
- Dallas (1906 – 1907)

CIRCUIT CHAUTAUQUA

Additionally, in an effort to reach those who could not attend the established independent Chautauqua assemblies, traveling circuits or “Tent Chautauquas” sprang up and continued until the early 1930’s. On the circuits, towns were grouped and the lecturers and performers moved on a specified course from town to town. Frequently, the circuit organizations also brought along their own tents, thus obtaining the name of “Tent Chautauqua.”

The following Texas cities were on the Redpath-Horner Bureau Circuit:

Abilene	El Paso	Nacogdoches
Amarillo	Fort Worth	Paris
Austin	Hereford	San Antonio
Burnet	Hillsboro	San Marcos
Canyon	Houston	Sweetwater
Chillicothe	Huntsville	Temple
College Station	Kelly Field	Texarkana
Commerce	Kingsville	Waco
Corsicana	Lubbock	Waxahachie
Dallas	Marlin	
Denton	Mathis	