
CHAUTAUQUA NEWS

CHAUTAUQUA PRESERVATION SOCIETY
WAXAHACHIE, TEXAS

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Marvin E. Singleton, Jr. Plaque Dedicated At Chautauqua Auditorium

On April 26, 2003, about 20 current and former Chautauqua Preservation Society Board members and friends gathered at the Chautauqua Auditorium with honored guests, George and Shirley Singleton, to dedicate the plaque honoring Marvin E. Singleton, Jr. and his mother, Susie Clary Singleton. The ceremony recognized Mr. Singleton's efforts to restore the Chautauqua Auditorium and the generous financial gift he bequeathed to the Chautauqua Preservation Society, which has become the organization's endowment fund.

Kirk Hunter served as Master of Ceremonies. After welcoming everyone, he said that the Singleton's name was frequently mentioned in the early Waxahachie Chautauqua history, and that "in the 1970s Marvin Singleton and other local residents harnessed the energy of the community to save and restore the Auditorium for the enjoyment of future generations."

Steve Chapman, who was one of the original Board members with Marvin Singleton, made a few comments about the restoration effort and about Mr. Singleton's love for history and historic preservation. "His vision of a restored and vital downtown is becoming a reality and I think Mr. Singleton would approve," Steve said.

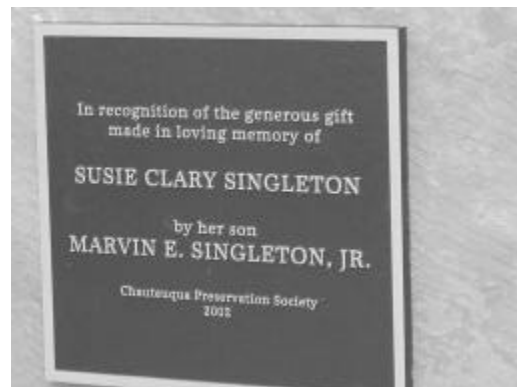
Maureen Moore read a few excerpts from poems written in 1903 that reflected the themes of respite, camaraderie, inspiration and enrichment which were found at the early Chautauquas. She commented that "Perhaps the sentiments in those poems might give us a hint of what went on here in this building and in this park from 1900 to 1930 that inspired such dedication and enthusiasm from Marvin Singleton and Susie Clary Singleton and other Chautauquan of their era — and why it still continues to inspire us today to pursue the Chautauqua Ideal."



Kirk acknowledged all those who helped facilitate the production and placing of the plaque: Jo Bhone, County Judge Chad Adams, Mayor Joe Jenkins, Parks Director John Smith, and Perry Giles Monument.

The ceremony concluded with a toast to Marvin E. Singleton, Jr.

The sandstone on which the plaque is mounted is from the same era and the same quarry as the sandstone on the Ellis County Courthouse. The plaque sits in the crape myrtle bed on the north side of the Auditorium in Getzendaner Park.



The American West—an Idea That Became a Place

Programs Planned for 2003 Waxahachie Chautauqua Assembly

The American West is the theme for this year's assembly scheduled for September 27 in Getzendaner Park in Waxahachie. A broad spectrum of talented speakers and performers will bring back the spirit of the West with stories, music, lectures and reenactments from this great American adventure.

Here is a brief overview of the exciting educational and entertaining programs coming your way. Mark your calendars today!

- Keynote speaker, Don B. Graham, is a J. Frank Dobie Regents Professor in American and English Literature at the University of Texas. He will explore the theme of what our mythology tells us about our past in comparison to what our actual experiences tell us.
- Helen Plummer, curator of the Amon Carter Museum, presents the life and works of famed photographer of the West, Charles Fletcher Lumus.
- Charles S. Finsley, author and former curator of the Dallas Museum of Natural History, shadows the wanderings of Spanish explorer, Cabeza de Vaca.
- Sherry Smith, SMU historian specializing in the American West and Native Americans, examines the day-to-day relationships that pioneer women had with the Native Americans.
- Larry Beachum, Assistant Principal of Waxahachie Junior High School, tells the story of William Becknell, who sparked the Santa Fe Trail.
- The Buffalo Soldiers stage a reenactment of frontier warfare, with a focus on "a woman who fought as a man."
- Felicity Coltman and Kay Sparks of the Austin Chamber Music Center will entertain on two baby grand pianos, playing music written by Texans and other Western composers.
- Charlene Rowell of the Heard Museum shares her knowledge of native plants.
- The Threadneedle Street Band presents a musical history of the railroad—"Iron Horses, Steel Rails, and Tin Whistles."
- Dr. Mark Busby, Director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest and Professor of English at Southwest Texas State University, examines the life of Katherine Anne Porter, Texas' most distinguished writer.
- Dr. Jesus de la Teja, Professor of History at Southwest Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas and Managing Editor of Catholic Southwest will present a program on the Franciscan missionary conversion of Native Americans in Texas.
- Dr. Carol Reynolds, Professor of Music History, Meadows School of the Arts, SMU, Dallas. Program to be announced.
- The Community Choir, led by Ira Pinkston, will open the day with a spiritual tribute.

More details about these programs will follow in this and subsequent newsletters.

Threadneedle Street Band Returns to Chautauqua

In keeping with the Waxahachie Chautauqua's 2003 theme, the American West, Threadneedle Street Band brings "Iron Horses, Steel Rails, and Tin Whistles" to the Chautauqua stage. This program is a musical history of the American railroads that includes railroad classics such as "Casey Jones" and "Orange Blossom Special." It also explores the work songs traditions of the railroad laborers and gives tribute to special history in songs like "Wreck of '97."

Threadneedle Street got rave reviews at the 2000 Waxahachie Chautauqua with their historical musical program "From Celts to Cowboys" which traced the development of songs and music of the British Isles into traditional Texas music. Now they're back, bringing us another aspect of our American musical heritage.

Threadneedle Street has been performing throughout Texas for ten years. They perform traditional dance music and songs of America, Ireland, Wales, Scotland and England. They combine a high level of musicianship with a warm personal style on stage to create an entertaining performance.

Jim Brunke (bodhran and other ethnic drums) and **Peggy Turner** (flute, recorder, tin whistle) met in a band in their native Milwaukee in the late 1970s. They have lived in the Fort Worth area since 1981 and have traveled to all parts of the country playing at Renaissance and Irish festivals. In between tours, they give lessons and perform regularly at area schools.

Melina Wilkins (violin/fiddle) started playing in Odessa at the age of 6. She later teamed with her father and sisters in a string quartet and played regularly with the Odessa and Lubbock Symphonies. She is now the head orchestra director at a large high school in Arlington.

Bobby Bush (guitar, mandolin, banjo) grew up in the Fort Worth area and has been playing a wide variety of styles for over 35 years.

SW Texas Professor Brings Katherine Anne Porter to Chautauqua

Professor Mark Busby tells us that Katherine Anne Porter is arguably Texas' most distinguished writer. Dr. Busby, who is Director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest and Professor of English at Southwest Texas State University, is coming to the September 27th Waxahachie Chautauqua Assembly to tell us about this important author.

Katherine Anne Porter (1890-1980) was a Pulitzer-winning short-story writer and novelist whose elegant prose earned her wide renown. Porter's work includes the collections *Pale Horse, Pale Rider* (1939), *The Leaning Tower* (1944) and *The Collected Short Stories of Katherine Ann Porter* (1965), as well as the best-selling novel *Ship of Fools* (1962).

Dr. Busby is coeditor with Dr. Dickie M. Heaberlin of the book [From Texas to the World and Back: The Journeys of Katherine Anne Porter](#), which was selected as the "Best of 2001" in Texas nonfiction by the *San Antonio Express-News*. The collection includes essays by scholars of Porter's work and of Texas literature. Some concern specific aspects of her life, such as her love for her birthday or her marital record. Others focus on the main elements of her relationship with Texas, while still others deal with specific works, often relating them to her Texas heritage. This important addition to Porter studies provides new insight into the ways in which Porter's Texas heritage shaped her life and her fiction. (From the Texas A&M University Press Consortium website)

Dr. Busby, a native of Ennis, Texas, received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder, in 1977, and his BA and MA from Texas A&M University Commerce. He taught at Texas A&M University, Indiana University-Purdue University, the U.S. Army Adjutant General School, and the University of Colorado. He is currently serving as President of the Texas Institute of Letters, a position he will hold until 2004.

In addition, he is author of *Larry McMurtry and the West: An Ambivalent Relationship* (U of North Texas P, 1995); *Ralph Ellison* (Twayne/Macmillan 1991); and editor of *New Growth/2: Short Stories of Contemporary Texas* (Corona, 1993). He has also published *Preston Jones* (1983) and *Lanford Wilson* (1987) in the Western Writers Series at Boise State University, coedited *The Frontier Experience and the American Dream* (Texas A&M UP, 1989).

Two Pianos to Provide Western Music for Chautauqua Stage on September 27

Felicity Coltman and Kay Sparks of the Austin Chamber Music Center will combine their piano expertise to bring music of the southwest to the Waxahachie Chautauqua Assembly. For the first time (in our knowledge), two baby grand pianos will grace the Chautauqua stage while the music of piano duets fills the Chautauqua Auditorium, including excerpts from *Rodeo* and music written by Texas and other Western composers during the frontier days.

Felicity Coltman has performed as solo pianist and soloist with orchestras in South Africa, and performs frequently with chamber ensembles in Europe and the United States. She teaches piano, theory, and chamber music in addition to organizing and managing the education and performance programs of the Austin Chamber Music Center. She holds diplomas from the Royal School of Music, London, the Trinity College of Music, London and the University of South Africa, and has a degree from the University of Kansas. Last summer she performed at the Park Avenue North Chamber Music series in London and at the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival in California.

Felicity Coltman, along with two other members of the Arundel Trio, presented "Three Composers, Three Styles" at last year's Waxahachie Chautauqua Assembly. There they played the music and told the stories of turn of the century composers, Dvorak, Debussy, Rachmaninoff in a popular and informative program:

In addition to performing and teaching, Felicity Coltman is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Austin Chamber Music Center (founded 1981), whose mission is to help musicians and audiences discover the joys and benefits of chamber music through year-long teaching and coaching of students, a two-week summer institute, a professional performance program (Intimate Concerts) and, beginning in 1997, the annual Austin Chamber Music Festival. For more information, see www.austinchambermusic.org.

Kay Sparks, a native of Elgin, Texas, is a lecturer and performs as a soloist and in ensembles throughout North America, Hawaii and Europe in festivals and workshops devoted to chamber music, jazz, and folk music. She also plays at concerts accompanying Puerto Rican singer Lourdes Perez. She owns and operates a private piano studio in her home in Dripping Springs and was named "Teacher of the Year" by the Austin District Music Teachers Association.

We Invite You to Become a Friend of Chautauqua

Thank you to all the new and renewing Friends so far in 2003! For those who have been putting it off, enclosed with this mailing, you will find a membership/renewal form for the Friends of Chautauqua for the year 2003 AND a self-addressed envelope. Becoming or renewing as a Friend of the Chautauqua Preservation Society for 2003 will entitle you to Chautauqua membership, mailings and announcements, special invitations, as well as reduced registration fee for the 2003 Waxahachie Chautauqua Assembly. Supporting the Chautauqua Preservation Society with your memberships and additional donations helps us to continue offering a quality and varied program at the Assembly on September 27, 2003. Thank you!

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you interested in becoming more involved with the Chautauqua Preservation Society? There are all sorts of ways you could volunteer and make a difference. If you'd like to help stuff envelopes or would like to join a committee in preparation for this year's assembly, WE WANT YOU!

Listed below are our committees. Please contact Susie Sambell at 972-938-0901 or susielutz@hotmail.com to find out more about how you can help.

Programming
Fundraising
Finance
Publicity
Volunteer
Social
Database
Historical
Event Staff

Fundraising Committee

We are excited to have new and old members of our fundraising committee this year. The committee so far includes Debbie Jones, Susie Sambell, Beth Price, John Luther, Bob Morris, and Becky and Jim Kauffman.

We will be starting our corporate fundraising drive in May to find underwriters for the individual programs at the assembly. We are also considering alternate fundraising events due to the ever-growing challenges we all face in raising funds these days. WE NEED YOUR HELP! We would love to hear your ideas! We'd love YOU to sponsor a program! If you are interested in joining the fundraising committee or would like to sponsor a program, please contact Susie Sambell at 972-938-0901 or susielutz@hotmail.com.

We are also in need of a **Webmaster**. Volunteer to keep our website updated with new information (www.waxahachiechautauqua.org) OR be creative and make changes to the design!

Call Maureen Moore at 972-937-8887.

Cindy Forbes, who joined Friends of Chautauqua this year, is the new newsletter editor. Articles were contributed by Maureen Moore, Kirk Hunter, Susie Sambell, and Claudia Morris.

"Chautauqua Showcase" Talent Show Debuts at Crape Myrtle Festival

With all the school concerts and recitals behind us for the year, "Chautauqua Showcase" will now give the adults a chance to show their hidden or long-suppressed talents. No—this is NOT "Waxahachie Idol"! No judging, no prizes, no multimillion-dollar recording contracts. Just time to share and enjoy each other's talents.

On July 4th, the 101-year-old Chautauqua Auditorium will once again provide a venue for local talent —YOURS! The Chautauqua Preservation Society will present a talent show during the Crape Myrtle Festival at Getzendaner Park, after the 4th of July Parade ends its trip down Main Street in the park. Even if your talent is simply "watching," come enjoy your neighbor's talents at the Chautauqua Auditorium, along with the crafts, food, and other activities that will be in the park on July 4th.

When: Friday, July 4th, 2003, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Length of performance: Sign up for a 5-minute or 12-minute time slot

Where: Chautauqua Auditorium, Getzendaner Park,
Waxahachie, Texas

Entrance Fee: None!

Who: Any adult (18 years or older) or group (with at least 50% adults)

How to Enter: Mail or email us the information from the form below.

Sponsoring organization: Chautauqua Preservation Society

What types of talent:

- Music: Instrumental or Vocal
- Spoken Word: Drama, Oratory, or Storytelling
- Dance or Movement
- Other types of performances or skills

Hurry and enter —limited number of time slots! Schedules will be made up around June 15.

- Acoustic instruments only (A piano is NOT available)
- Microphones provided
- REMEMBER IT WILL BE HOT!

Chautauqua Showcase 2003 Application

(A TALENT SHOW FOR ADULTS)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Type of Performance (choose one):

Music - Vocal

Storytelling

Music - Instrumental

Dance or Movement

Drama

Other: _____

Oratory

Length of Performance (choose one): 5 minutes 12 minutes

Describe your performance in a sentence or two: _____

Mail to: Chautauqua Showcase, PO Box 126, Waxahachie, TX 75165 **OR** **Email to:** khmm@hpnc.com

First Chautauqua Programs Give Glimpses of 1900 Waxahachie

What were the first Chautauqua programs like? This question is difficult to answer since little remains of the first Assemblies (that we can find!) except newspaper articles. Even with these, some of the information about the programs is missing. Journalistic writing was a little different in those days and filled with editorial comments, but it still captures the spirit and essence of those first meetings.

Here are some highlights of the first Waxahachie Chautauqua in 1900 from *The Waxahachie Enterprise*.

Friday, July 27

- Opening ceremonies. The keynote address was given by the Honorable R.W. Hall, a representative from the Texas Panhandle, entitled, "Anti-past for the Twentieth Century." This was followed by religious instruction in a "chalk-talk" format given by Rev. Farr, Rev. McConnell and others.
- Evening program. Judge O.E. Dunlap, a beloved Waxahachie lawyer and civic leader, and his travelling companions, J.V. Clark, Ralph Getzender, and R.K. Erwin, talked about their world travels. The auditorium was packed with people standing in the windows.

Saturday, July 28

- Devotionals, bible lectures, and reports of various missionary work were held in the morning. Women's groups filled the afternoon with meetings.
- Evening program. An orchestra opened the evening entertainment. This was followed by a choir, a violin solo by Miss Willbanks, a piano solo, and a women's quartette composed of Ms. Newton, Middleton, Spencer and Smith.

Sunday, July 29

- Morning Sunday School, religious service, a "chalk-talk" lecture, and an evening service.

Monday through Friday, July 30-August 3

- **Mornings:** a devotional and a chalk-talk lecture. The topics of all but Tuesday's chalk-talk lecture on July 31 are unknown. That day, Prof. Bodenhammer from Trinity University in Tehuacana gave a presentation entitled, "The Educational Value of the Study of Mathematics."
- **Evenings,**
 - **Tuesday, July 31**
Prof. S.Y. Hornbeck, also of Trinity University, gave a science demonstration lecture on "The Air We Breathe" using liquefied air. When he took the stage, the crowd spontaneously gave the Trinity yell. The main act that evening was to be a well-known impersonator from Chicago, Mr. Roberts, but due to an illness he did not come. Professor Stoakes, another Trinity University professor, substituted and gave a stereoptican (slide) lecture.
 - **Wednesday, August 1**
Professor Stoakes presented another stereoptican lecture. A severe thunderstorm coupled with the inattentiveness of the projector operator and equipment problems, spelled disaster.
 - **Thursday, August 2**
A favorite Ellis Countian, Dr. Ira Landreth, gave the evening lecture on Thursday, August 2. Dr. Landreth was the head of the Cumberland Presbyterian publishing house in Nashville and had just prior to the Waxahachie Chautauqua had accepted the presidency of Trinity University.

Saturday, August 4

- Mr. W.S. Newton was introduced as the new Director of the Waxahachie Chautauqua. A photographer took a picture of the audience from the stage that was to be used in promotional material. The musical entertainment was classical and seemingly recital-like in nature. The Orchestra played "Poet and Peasant", a duet was sung by Mrs. McMillian and Mr. Newton, a violin solo was given by Miss Ruby Rice, and a vocal solo was given by Miss Margaret Rice.

Sunday, August 5

- Closing day and was filled with religious services and lectures. At the closing ceremony a hearty appreciation was given to the citizens of Waxahachie for their hospitality and, amidst sad farewells, a promise to return to the park the following year.

Chautauqua Preservation Society

Friends of Chautauqua 2003

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

New Friend Renewal

By becoming a Friend of Chautauqua you will receive:

- Mailings and Announcements for 2003
- Special Invitations
- Reduced admission to Assembly (9/27/03)

Friend of Chautauqua (Individual) \$15

Friend of Chautauqua (Family) \$20

Amount

Friend \$ 15 / 20
(Circle one)

Donor Levels:

If you would like to make a donation to the Chautauqua Preservation Society, please consider the following: (Your name will appear in the Assembly program - 9/27/03.)

Supporter Level \$25

Sponsor Level \$50

Founder Level \$100

Patron Level \$250

Benefactor Level \$500 or more

Donation + \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

I would like to get involved in the Chautauqua Preservation Society and/or help with the fall 2003 Assembly. Please contact me.

**Mail to: Chautauqua Preservation Society
PO Box 126
Waxahachie, Texas 75168**

Note: The Chautauqua Preservation Society is an (IRS 501(c)3) non-profit organization.

Chautauqua Preservation Society
PO Box 126
Waxahachie, Texas 75168

