

ESTABLISHMENT OF TEXAS TECHNOLOGICAL COLLEGE

First Board Meeting
March 2, 1923

CELEBRATION IN SWEETWATER

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the handsome Nolan County Courthouse in the center, was a triumph in color. The Snyder delegation carried numerous banners adorned with slogans that had snap to them. "Boy, Snyder has arrived" was one. Another was "West Texas Thanks You, Pat"...

The writer then goes on at length to describe the arrival of other delegations, and gives lurid accounts of the fine impressions that they made.

This quotation from the *Dallas News* is typical of the description given by other newspaper correspondents, and shows the pervading spirit of the great throngs that came to Sweetwater for the great celebration.

The splendid West Texas daily papers, such as the *Abilene Reporter*, the *San Angelo Standard*, and others had their star men at the meeting; these and the picture machines made records of an occasion that was history in West Texas.

At two o'clock the new Board of Directors had its first meeting in the Wright Hotel. All members were present, and also Governor Neff and some other invited guests. Governor Neff called the meeting to order, made a brief address reminding the new Board of the responsibility it was undertaking, and urged that the Board begin its duties with such speed as the occasion demanded. The Board proceeded to organize by the election of Amon G. Carter, publisher of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, Fort Worth, as Chairman; R. A. Underwood, Plainview, Vice-Chairman; Clifford B. Jones, Spur, Treasurer; and C. W. Meadows, Waco, Secretary.

The Board went into executive session, and decided in this session that it would proceed with its duties as promptly as possible. It was announced that no president would be elected for the present, though it was admitted that talent was available. Following the meeting and organization of the new board, all repaired to the public square, where the speaking was to take place. A large speaker's stand had been erected, and it was estimated that 10,000 souls

* The actual minutes do not include mention of the election of Underwood as Vice Chair. No mention of Vice-Chair and association w/ Underwood is made until the July 1924 meeting and of the next election of officers at the Aug 15, 1925 meeting. He is listed as Vice Chair in the Administration Bldg. Cornerstone dated Nov. 1924.

Establishment
of
Texas Technological
College
1916 - 1923

BY
HOMER DALE WADE

WITH FOREWORD BY
CLIFFORD BARTLETT JONES

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Sweetwater, Texas,
March 2nd, 1923.

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of the Texas Technological College was held in Sweetwater on March 2, 1923. The occasion was the celebration by the people of Western Texas of the passage by the legislature of Texas, and the approval of Governor Pat M. Neff, of the bill creating the Texas Technological College. The Governor himself attended the celebration, and presided at the first meeting of the Board of Directors.

There were present at the meeting the following members of the board, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate of Texas:-

Mrs. F. N. Drane of Corsicana.
C. W. Meadows of Waco.
Clifford B. Jones of Spur.
William P. Hobby of Beaumont.
Robert A. Underwood of Plainview.
Dr. J. E. Nunn of Amarillo.
Amon G. Carter of Fort Worth.
John W. Carpenter of Dallas.

Mrs. Charles De Groff of El Paso was unable to attend the meeting of the Board.

The City of Sweetwater was decorated for the gala event, and national colors were floating over the streets of the town. From the arrival of the first special train early in the morning from Colorado bands paraded through the business district, and as each delegation arrived the crowd was augmented. Governor Neff and members of the official party arrived on a special train from Fort Worth and were greeted at the station by the Plainview and Colorado bands. Special trains came during the morning from Plainview, Lubbock, Colorado, Big Spring, Snyder, San Angelo and Fort Worth.

Demonstrations were held throughout the morning. As each train arrived the delegations representing the various towns paraded through the streets. Banners were displayed on which were mottoes reflecting the spirit of the day. The hotel at which the Governor and the official party were staying was serenaded by the

the price to be paid for the land on which the college was to be located.

Mr. Underwood opposed such a conference, stating that he was familiar with the feeling that existed in West Texas and that he was fearful that should such a meeting be brought about that there might arise a question in the minds of the people who lived in the various towns asking for the college as to whether or not there was a little politics creeping into the matter of the location.

After listening to Mr. Underwood's argument against such a meeting, the Board became convinced that his contention was well taken, and Mr. Jones, with the consent of Mr. Meadows, withdrew his motion.

The Chair appointed the Architectural Committee consisting of Clifford B. Jones, of Spur, Tex., Chairman; John W. Carpenter of Dallas and W. P. Hobby of Beaumont.

Mr. Samuels, attorney for the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, accepted the Board's invitation to give his opinion as to the authority vested in the Board of Directors by the Act establishing the Texas Technological College. His remarks were delivered in a very pleasing manner and his points were clearly stated.

The Board of Directors was also honored by a visit from Colonel Wortham, a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas.

No other business coming before the Board, a motion was made, duly seconded, and unanimously adopted, that the Board adjourn until the next called meeting.

A. G. Carter
Chairman

C. W. Meadows
Secretary