

THE CHASER

SPJ

March 1997

Fort Worth Chapter / Society of Professional Journalists

*"If it happened in Fort Worth ...
it's news to us!"*

items: jdycus@arlington.net



Wagons, ho!

Region 8 conference is coming to Cowtown

From genteel to gee whiz — from dinner with former House Speaker Jim Wright to a luncheon discussion on covering the Dallas Cowboys on the front page as well as the sports page — expect a full chuck wagon of professional development seminars and social doin's at the Region 8 SPJ Conference April 11-12 at the Ramada Plaza downtown.

The coffee pot will be waiting early Saturday morning, April 12, when participants gather to hear from the best in the business. Just a sample of the session topics (OK, OK, the whole slate):

- *The Media Under Fire*
- *Column Writing: Journalism's Best Job*
- *The Internet & Broadcasting*
- *Accessing Criminal Records on College*

Campuses

- *Help, I'm Entering the Real World!*

- *Stress and Leadership*
- *Effective Interviewing Tips*
- *Trends in Crime Reporting*
- *When Is News Really News in a Newspaper War?*

- *Talk Radio: Kissing Cousins to the Fourth Estate?*

- *Medicine & the Media*

Mark of Excellence Awards for Region 8 college students will be announced at the Saturday luncheon and banquet. Representatives in broadcast and print will interview prospective employees at a student job fair Saturday afternoon. All the planned stuff knocks off at 4 p.m. to allow time for the Main Street Arts Festival going on right outside the door.

see RIP-ROARIN' TIME, p. 2

The Gridiron lives (!) in the form of a roast held in conjunction with the inaugural Texas Trail of Fame celebration.

Date: May 9 Place: Cowtown Coliseum in the Stockyards

Info: Delbert Bailey (877-2406), Carolyn Poirot (390-7687)

Details in Region 8 conference packets, Fort Worth Star-Telegram



Activities begin Friday afternoon at 5 when buses herd revelers to Joe T. Garcia's for Tex-Mex reconnoitering before advancing to the Stockyards for a quick walking tour guaranteed to bring Cowtown's pulsating past to life. The buses start return trips at 8:30.

Chief organizer Verlie Edwards of the host Fort Worth chapter encourages members ("local yokels," she calls them) "to show the out-of-towners a rip-roarin' good time — plan to stick around and explore the Stockyards with our guests."

Registration covers the seminars, Stockyards Stomp and dinner Friday, and Saturday lunch and banquet. Cost before April 1 is \$60 pro member, \$45 student member, \$70 pro nonmember, \$55 student nonmember. Separate event tickets are available. After April 1, add \$10; on-site, add \$15.

For conference goers who'd like to bunk at the Ramada

Plaza, the charge is only \$65 for a single, double, triple or quad. Reservations must be made by March 21.

Rather than wait until the program arrives by Pony Express, the form below and a check may be sent to SPJ Convention, P.O. Box 3212, Fort Worth 76113.

Check all that apply:

- ☐ pro member, \$60
- ☐ student member, \$45
- ☐ pro nonmember, \$70
- ☐ student nonmember, \$55
- ☐ student job fair, free
- ☐ You bet, I will attend the Stockyards Stomp.

Separate events:

- ☐ Stockyards Stomp, \$25
- ☐ luncheon, \$25
- ☐ banquet, \$30
- ☐ sessions, \$15 each
(indicate which sessions)

Thanks to Verlie Edwards and co-conspirators Doug Jumper, Mark Woolsey, George Hedrick, Dallas SPJ whizzeroo Mark Witherspoon, Dorothy Estes and Region 8 Director Melanie Bush of the Arlington Morning News.

NEXT MEETING

Hedrick, Harris lend expertise to disaster panel

Storms, crashes, near misses and explosions will provide a dramatic impact to the **March 18** meeting as SPJers George Hedrick and Breck Harris join Angel Biasatti from D/FW Airport and Kent Worley of the Fort Worth Fire Department to discuss disaster coverage. Don't be surprised at a "can you top this" conversation.

Arrive at Mama's Pizza, 1813 W. Berry St., around 6 p.m. so we can find seats together and socialize. We'll order once we do a nose count, so no reservations required. Cost should run \$7-\$10 per person. Drinks will be on your own.

Attendance at the regional conference will count as the April chapter meeting.

— Sue Winter

SPJ

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