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Prepared for 4th–8th grade Social  
Studies teachers and their students by



From the Editor:

Thanks for meeting us again at the Crossroads of Culture!

In this issue, we take a closer look at our region through the stories of William Sidney Porter, whom we remember as “O. Henry.” The author spent the years 1882 through 1898 in our state, and his stories, written in contemporary settings, offer rich views of life in our region during those years. Knowing about his famous “twist at the end” of each story keeps students listening diligently for clues, trying to guess what might happen. His rich vocabulary and keen descriptions of the innocent and the wicked carrying on their day-to-day affairs offer unself-conscious examples of the attitudes and vicissitudes of his day, especially a closer look at our own regional biases, such as the ethnic and gender constructs of the borderlands frontier.

Study the photographs of O. Henry’s contemporary I.N. Hall to discover landscape and economic differences between then and now. Use the tried and tested lesson plans and rubrics developed by a team of teachers from Southwest ISD (San Antonio) to consider the environmental impact of such change on the Texas horned lizard and use technology that was unimaginable a century ago to accomplish the task. Do the Timeline Activity to view historic events from the point of view of one who lived them. Share the literary, scientific, mathematical, and health education insights from this issue and on the related Web site with colleagues to stimulate team-teaching ideas and connections with other disciplines. Consider a field trip to the Institute to coincide with any of various upcoming events or exhibits.

Then e-mail me and tell me what kinds of content material and class activities are most useful to you.

—Mary Grace

Mary Grace Ketner, Editor  
mketner@utsa.edu

# Crossroads of Culture

www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads X

SOUTH TEXAS IMAGES AND IMAGERY, 1880-1910

## 0. Henry in Texas

by Donna Ingham, Ph.D.  
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**W**illiam Sidney Porter came to Texas for his health. He was 19 years old, sickly and pale. Born in Greensboro, North Carolina, on

September 11, 1862, he traveled to Texas in March 1882 on the advice of his doctor,

James K. Hall. Dr. Hall thought the sunny

Texas climate might be a cure for Will’s persistent cough, possibly evidence of a tubercular condition.

Porter spent two years on the Dull-Hall sheep ranch in LaSalle County near

Cotulla, where he worked for two of Dr. Hall’s sons, Lee (“Red”) and Richard (“Dick”). It turned out that Porter was not a very good rancher, however, so one of his chores was to ride 15 miles into town to get the mail. The long ride took him through mesquite thickets and prickly pear flats and occasionally required his horse to sidestep a rattlesnake. Porter’s health began to im-

prove, and he began to store up observations of the Texas landscape and its people.

Those observations and his own experiences later showed up in some of the fifty or more stories he wrote with a Texas setting. The first of his ranch stories, for example, was “Hygeia at the Solito,” in which a young man recovers from

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tuberculosis at a ranch south of San Antonio in LaSalle County. In “Caballero’s Way,” he describes a dense field of prickly pear where “uncanny and multiform shapes of cacti lift their twisted trunks and fat, bristly hands to encumber the way.”

After two years on the Dull-Hall ranch, Porter moved to Austin, where he worked as

a draftsman in the General Land Office and a bank teller, then to Houston where he worked as a newspaper reporter. In 1896 he was indicted for embezzlement allegedly committed while he worked in the Austin bank. Even though he steadfastly proclaimed his innocence, he was convicted and sent to an Ohio penitentiary. It was there that he finally had time to write, and he adopted the pseudonym O. Henry. (There are at least three different theories about how he came up with that name.)

Once he got out of the penitentiary, he never came back to Texas. He died in New York in 1910. But Will Porter spent a third of his life in Texas, and his stories capture a time in the state's history when cattlemen were kings and women often demonstrated cleverness and courage in their responses to frontier life. Such is the case, for example, in "The Princess and the Puma." Fascinated by the tales he heard from cowboys and sheepherders, he later transformed some of those anecdotes into such tales as "The Pimienta Pancakes" and "Art and the Bronco."

Times have changed in Texas, but the spirit of the state and its people, its mix of cultures, and its appeal for those who hanker for adventure live on in O. Henry's short stories. His trademark twists at the ends of his stories continue to intrigue and delight readers, and his insights and observations move his tales beyond the regional and the historical into the universal and the timeless. X

*Donna Ingham is a retired college professor turned storyteller. She has a Ph.D. in English with a particular focus on late 19th and early 20th century American literature. A native Texan, she now tours the country telling tales from the history, folklore, and humor of the Lone Star State.*

## Learning from Historical Photographs

These photographs are the work of Canadian Texan I.N. Hall, who moved to Cotulla in 1886. An itinerant artist, Hall worked from his photographer's wagon throughout the area now outlined by I-35, I-90, and the Rio Grande. Since he did not have a studio, Hall's "backdrop" was the natural landscape, and he was able to photograph persons alone or in groups who might never have walked into a studio to have their portraits made. What can we learn about South Texas life and landscape, 1886-1908, from these images? (To print larger images for classroom use, go to our Web site <http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads>.)

### Social/Political Landscape

In these two photographs, Hall shows clearly which people were considered more prominent or important.



The well-dressed Anglo couple are seated on chairs, front and center, with an Anglo foreman or overseer standing casually behind them, off-center. To their left, a Mexican-Texan family seems ready to serve if called; a black man in work clothes stands "at attention" on the right. The foreground-to-background arrangement suggests the socio-economic class and political status of the people pictured.

*Photo: ITC 88-289, courtesy John Wildenthal Family.*



In what appears to be a family grouping, father and son are highlighted in the foreground with wife/mother and other valuable "possessions," an accordion and a chair, displayed behind the fence.

*Photo: ITC 88-278, courtesy John Wildenthal Family.*

## Physical and Economic Landscape

These three photographs give evidence of changes in landscape and land use during the years in which I.N. Hall worked in southwest Texas (1886-1908).



This 1880s photograph of the Asher Richardson ranch in Dimmit County illustrates the ranching industry that O. Henry remembered and wrote about in such stories as “Hygeia at the Solito,” “The Pimienta Pancakes,” “The Red Roses of Tonia,” and “A Chaparral Christmas.” Sheep ranching declined throughout the 1890s and disappeared entirely soon after the turn of the century.

*Photo: ITC 88-59, courtesy John Wildenthal Family.*



The whole family appears to have come out to pose beside a new construction project (about 1900) of which they were quite proud, just as people might gather in front of a new car, home, or business.

*Photo: ITC 88-254, courtesy John Wildenthal Family.*



This early 1900s image illustrates one result of the development shown in the middle photograph.

*Photo: ITC 88-96, courtesy John Wildenthal Family.*

Discuss this statement: “Irrigation and the railroad made the winter garden a profitable possibility.” X

Go to [www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads) to print copies of these images, then mount on cardstock and laminate for student use. To research Hall’s work and other historical photographs, visit the ITC library between 12 and 5 weekdays. Prints in various sizes and mounting styles may be purchased for school use. For more information, call (210) 458-2298.

# What's on the Web Site?

[texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads](http://texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads)

**Crossroads of Culture.** E-mail a printable copy of this newsletter to friends. Also on the site is our Fall 2002 issue, "Ghosts and Cucuis," and its related lesson plans and resources.

**Creating and Using a Timeline: A Half-Century through the Eyes of O. Henry.** In this activity, students create a timeline for the era in which O. Henry lived; select and transfer historic information from a date list to their timeline; then insert O. Henry mileposts (birth, schooldays, moving, marriage, etc.); and discuss how or whether selected events, inventions, and publications might have affected O. Henry or influenced him at particular stages of his life.

**Five Historic Photographs by I.N. Hall.** These images are the same ones shown in this newsletter but may be printed larger so that students may handle them and see details more clearly. They are "primary resources" from the same period in which O. Henry lived and wrote about Texas. Print 7" x 10" images on 8.5" x 11" paper and mount or laminate for repeated student use.

**An Annotated Bibliography of O. Henry's Texas Stories for the Middle Grades.** Read a listing and review of a dozen of the author's Texas tales selected for oral reading to 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Includes book citations and Web links for each story, a brief plot summary, grade-appropriate recommendations, read-aloud time, themes, and curriculum applications for each selection. At the end of the reviews are some "Hints for Reading Aloud," which includes practical tips as well as considerations regarding how to use stories which include possible incendiary language.

**An O. Henry Webliography** including links to biographical sites, the O. Henry Museum in Austin, the O. Henry house in San Antonio, literary criticism, and Web versions of most of his Texas stories.

**The Complete Text of "Jimmy Hays and Muriel" and links to horned toad sites on the Web,** including a fabulous lesson plan related to Texas's changing landscape, "A Home for the Texas Horned Lizard" designed and student-tested by Southwest ISD (San Antonio) teachers Dennis Howe, Georgia Neuman, and Veronica Wolf. This lesson plan utilizes Internet and computer technology to discover and present information related to horned toad environment.

**Life in the Nueces Strip.** This excerpt from *The Mexican Texans* by Phyllis McKenzie (to be published by ITC and Texas A&M Press in 2004) offers a glimpse of the political landscape of South Texas as the clash of cultures between Anglo and Mexican Texans peaked in the period between the 1870s and 1920.

**A Digital Storytelling Tour of the Texas "Iron Age."** Link to the ITC site and listen while our storyteller passes along tales of the iron horse and steel barbed wire in Texas during the 1880s.

**Cotulla Memories: A Primary Resource.** This is the typewritten text of a speech given by Mrs. Fredna Knaggs Dobie Wood to the Woman's Club of Cotulla in the late 1980s. Mrs. Wood's speech contains many anecdotal stories about Cotulla, including a few memories of O. Henry. Students may select an anecdote to use as the content of a story-writing assignment.

## Midwinter Tales

Join us for our eighth annual Midwinter Tales, a Midwinter/Midweek/Midmorning treat for Middle Grades. Bring your class at 10:45 any Wednesday, January 15 – February 19, for a story session. Combine your tour of the Exhibit Floor or Back 40 with a storytelling session. For reservations, call Blanca at (210) 458-2291.

*Take your pick from these fine topics and storytellers:*

January 15 *O. Henry's South Texas Tales* with Donna Ingham and Larry Thompson

January 22 *Northern Myths and Magic: Scandinavian Tales* with Karin Carlson

January 29 *Cuentos de Puerto Rico* with Elida Guardia Bonet

February 5 *Generations: A Century of African-American Memories* with Atheria Scott

February 12 *Grimms and Grins: German and German-American Folktales*  
with Judy Dockery Young

February 19 *Fables and Foibles: French and Americanized Fables* with Richard Young

A Sneak Preview of

## 0. Henry's "Jimmy Hayes and Muriel"

A 14-minute Texas read-aloud with a "twist at the end"

SUPPER WAS OVER, and there had fallen upon the camp the silence that accompanies the rolling of corn-husk cigarettes. The water hole shone from the dark earth like a patch of fallen sky. Coyotes yelped. Dull thumps indicated the rocking-horse movements of the hobbled ponies as they moved to fresh grass. A half-troop of the Frontier Battalion of Texas Rangers were distributed about the fire.

A well known sound—the fluttering and scraping of chaparral against wooden stirrups—came from the thick brush above the camp. The rangers listened cautiously. They heard a loud and cheerful voice call out reassuringly:

"Brace up. Muriel, old girl, we're 'most there now! Been a long ride for ye, ain't it, ye old antediluvian handful of animated carpet-tacks? Hey, now, quit a tryin' to kiss me! Don't hold on to my neck so tight—this here paint hoss ain't any too sure-footed, let me tell ye. He's liable to dump us both off if we don't watch out."

Two minutes of waiting brought a tired "paint" pony single-footing into camp. A gangling youth of twenty lolled in the saddle. Of the "Muriel" whom he had been addressing, nothing was to be seen.

"Hi, fellows!" shouted the rider, cheerfully. "This here's a letter for Lieutenant Manning."

He dismounted, unsaddled, dropped the coils of his stake-rope, and got his hobbles from his saddle-horn. While Lieutenant Manning, in command, was reading the letter, the new-comer rubbed solicitously at some dried mud in the loops of the hobbles, showing a consideration for the forelegs of his mount.

"Boys," said the lieutenant, waving his hand to the rangers, "this is Mr. James Hayes. He's a new member of the company. Captain McLean sends him down from El Paso. The boys will see that you have some supper, Hayes, as soon as you get your pony hobbled."

The recruit was received cordially by the rangers. Still, they observed him shrewdly and with suspended judgment. Picking a comrade on the border is done with ten times the care and discretion with which a girl chooses a sweetheart. On your "side-kicker's" nerve, loyalty, aim and coolness your own life may depend many times.

After a hearty supper, Hayes joined the smokers about the fire. His appearance did not settle all the questions in the minds of his brother rangers. They saw simply a loose, lank youth with tow-colored sunburned hair and a berry-brown, ingenuous face that wore a quizzical, good-natured smile.

"Fellows," said the new ranger, "I'm goin' to interduce to you a lady friend of mine. Ain't ever heard anybody call her a beauty, but you'll all admit she's got some fine points about her. Come along, Muriel!"











He held open the front of his blue flannel shirt. Out of it crawled a horned frog. A bright red ribbon was tied jauntily around her spiky neck. It crawled to its owner's knee and sat there motionless.

*Continued on our Web site.*

Print this complete story in large type for easy oral reading from  
[www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads)

### ***Crossroads on the net:***

[www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads)

-  A printable copy of this issue to mail to a friend
-  TEKS applications of these resources for Social Studies grades 4–8
-  Annotated bibliography of selected O. Henry Texas tales appropriate for the middle grades and an O. Henry Webliography.
-  Printable copies of I.N. Hall photographs
-  The complete "Jimmy Hays and Muriel"
-  A Horned Toad Webliography, including link to "A Home for the Texas Horned Lizard" Web quest project
-  Life in the Nueces Strip—a view of ethnic conflict in the borderlands
-  Link to ITC's Digital Storytelling Tour of 1880s Texas
-  Cotulla Memories: A primary document
-  Texas Storytelling Youth Olympics (January 25) Information and Application

***Crossroads of Culture*** is distributed three times each school year (in September, December, and March) by the Institute of Texan Cultures.

The Institute of Texan Cultures, one of the three campuses of the University of Texas at San Antonio, is an educational center concerned with the history and diverse cultures of Texas. Located at the corner of Bowie and Durango in HemisFair Park in downtown San Antonio, the Institute has easy access from I-10, I-281, and I-35. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays. Closed Mondays, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the week of Texas Folklife Festival except during Festival hours.

Two school tours are available and may be scheduled for the same trip or separately: (1) a docent-led tour of our Exhibit Floor and the Dome Show, *Faces and Places of Texas*, and (2) Back 40 tours demonstrating pioneer life in replicated 19th century structures. Tours beginning 9:00, 10:45, or 12:45 are \$1 per student, one adult free per every 10 students. Call Blanca at (210) 458-2291 to reserve a tour or to answer other questions about tour scheduling. Our patio and covered verandas may be reserved at no cost for group lunch areas. Unscheduled school groups admitted space permitting; no tour guide provided.

Bus parking available on-site. For driving directions, programs, Texas Folklife Festival information, teacher resources, student activities, and regular admission rates, go to [www.texancultures.utsa.edu](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu). X

## Institute of Texan Cultures Selected Events for Winter 2002-2003

**Through FEBRUARY 23, 2003.** Special Exhibit. **Photographs and Paragraphs: The Images of I.N. Hall and the Imagery of O. Henry.** Photo Gallery. The narrative imagery of O. Henry's Texas stories is powerfully reflected in the photographic images of I.N. Hall. Each artist lived and worked in South Texas over a century ago, and each, in his own medium, left timeless characters and rich settings for today's Texans to ponder. Together, their photographs and paragraphs "tingle like seltzer, perfumed faintly with late prairie blossoms and mesquite grass."

**DECEMBER 8, 4-7 p.m.** Special Event. **Texas Holiday Traditions.** Back 40. Celebrate with ITC and the McNay Art Museum. Trim a pine tree, listen to traditional holiday music, join the town pageant in a one-room schoolhouse, make corn-husk angels and visit "Pancho Claus" at the adobe house, string popcorn and cranberries at the barn, and create Victorian ornaments amidst strolling musicians and glowing luminarias. Hot chocolate and tamales available for purchase.

**DECEMBER 8, 2002-FEBRUARY 9, 2003.** Special Exhibit. **Nacimiento, A Fantasy Christmas Village.** Exhibit Floor. Unusually large but traditional in design, this hand-crafted Advent village has welcomed the birth of Christ for many years in the home of its creator, Mrs. Gloria Cadena of San Antonio.

**JANUARY 12, 2 p.m.** Special Event. **An Afternoon with O. Henry in South Texas.** ITC Auditorium. Hear storytellers Donna Ingham and Larry Thompson tell favorite O. Henry stories selected from among his many tales set in Texas. Meet Jenny Lind Porter, author of the newly published book *O. Henry, Witter Bynner, and "A Fog in San Antone."* Come celebrate America's master of the "twist at the end."

**JANUARY 15, 22, and 29; FEBRUARY 5, 12, and 19; 10:45-11:45 a.m.** Special Event. **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Midwinter Tales.** Exhibit Floor. ITC presents this eighth annual event especially designed for middle graders and anyone interested in exploring a new culture through the art and entertainment of storytelling. For a complete schedule of storytellers and themes, turn to page 5.

**JANUARY 25, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Special Event. **Texas Storytelling Youth Olympics.** A gentle competition for storytelling students in grades 2 through 8. Information and application forms are on our Web site, [www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads](http://www.texancultures.utsa.edu/crossroads).

**FEBRUARY 1, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.** Special Event. **16<sup>th</sup> Annual Asian New Year Festival.** Institute Building and Grounds. Celebrate the Year of the Ram with the Institute of Texan Cultures and San Antonio's Asian Community. The Asian New Year Festival presents traditional Asian folk dances, music, food, and activities of Chinese, Malaysian, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Lao, Pakistani, Polynesian, Singaporean, Thai, and Vietnamese peoples. Admission fee.

**FEBRUARY 8 and 22, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 2:15-3:45 p.m.** Special Program. **ITC Patch for Girl Scouts.** Exhibit Floor. **Earn a badge!** Come spend a Saturday morning or afternoon learning why 24 flags are represented in the Institute's flagpole area and other interesting facts about ITC. Charge of \$5 per girl includes materials, admission, and patch. 15 girls per troop; must be booked in advance (210) 458-2291.

*To learn more about these exhibits and events, call (210) 458-2300. To schedule a school tour of ITC's permanent and special exhibits and/or the Back 40, call (210) 458-2291.*



The University of Texas  
Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio  
801 S. Bowle St. • San Antonio, TX 78205-3296

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To: