

## **Fine Art Prints Given to Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum by Carol and David Farmer**

Carol and David Farmer, formerly of Dallas, Texas, and now of Taos, New Mexico have given seventeen (17) fine art prints to the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum at Canyon, Texas. Longtime collectors of Regionalist prints, the Farmers are placing “books and prints with institutions that have an interest in regional work, both artistic and in print.”

The Farmers had visited PPHM several times over the years and were impressed with the Museum’s commitment to Regional and regional art, especially prints. David Farmer wrote recently, “We still remember the splendid tour you gave us and our friends.”

Recently the Museum created a graphics gallery in which to exhibit its growing prints and drawings collections.

Carol Farmer taught high school English and drama, directing plays, and established a Head Start summer program in Austin in the 1960s. Then she worked as an independent banking consultant in New York, London, Canada, and the Far East. Upon retirement she studied large format black & white photography at SMU, then exhibited in Texas and New Mexico venues and has won awards in juried exhibitions in California. She also creates handmade artists’ books.

David Farmer, retired director of Southern Methodist University’s DeGolyer Library, received the 2001 Maura Award from the Women's Center of Dallas for his efforts to further the issues of women. Only the sixth man ever to receive the award, Farmer was selected for his efforts to preserve women's history with the creation of SMU's Archives of Women of the Southwest. The collection includes diaries, correspondence, lectures and files documenting the roles of women in business, law, medicine, government, education and homemaking. In addition, he has participated and served on the program planning committee of SMU's Women's Symposium, the longest continuously running women's symposium in the world, to preserve the roots and history of the struggles for women's rights through curating exhibits.

As collectors, Carol and David Farmer have focused on the all-female Texas Printmakers and other female print makers. They moved to Taos in 2001.

Among the prints in the Farmers’ gift are lithographs, serigraphs, etchings, and aquatints by Mary Doyle, Constance Forsyth, Stella Lodge LaMond, Barbara Maples, Blanche McVeigh, Janet Turner, Elizabeth Walmsley, Barbara Whitehead, Edward Bearden, and Ben Carlton Mead.

“With the Farmers’ generous gift, added to our recent efforts in collecting regionalist prints, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum may now have one of the finest collections of regionalist prints in the American Southwest,” noted Michael R. Grauer, associate director for curatorial affairs and curator of art and Western heritage.

David Farmer said after delivering the gift prints, “We were so encouraged by your enthusiasm that after our recent visit we would like to add to our offer of prints---some works by Gene Kloss and others which we'll list as soon as we get home.”

“The Panhandle-Plains Museum rocks,” he added.