

March 29, 2011

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Acclaimed author, Texan Elmer Kelton, has been gone since August 2009, but he is not forgotten. The 2011 Mayor's Book Club spotlight is on his book, *The Time It Never Rained*, which won the Spur Award, an annual literary prize awarded by the Western Writers of America. *The Time It Never Rained* has been proclaimed Kelton's classic.

The Mayor's Book Club event is Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at Hill College of Burleson. Talking about Kelton will be Dr. Judy Alter and Dr. James Ward Lee. Alter and Lee recently edited a book, *Elmer Kelton: Memories and Essays*. Copies of that book will be available April 12. The hour-long lecture will be followed by a reception. Co-sponsors of the event are the Burleson Public Library, Hill College and Texas Wesleyan University (the Burleson campus). Door prizes will be awarded after the presentation.

Kelton was a World War II veteran and author of more than 60 books. *The Good Old Boys* became a 1995 TV movie starring Tommy Lee Jones. Four books, including *The Time It Never Rained* (which focuses on the great 1950s drought), won the Western Heritage Award from the National Cowboy Hall of Fame. Seven also won the Spur Award. The Western Writers of America voted Kelton as "Best Western Author of All Time."

Kelton was honored numerous times. He earned honorary doctorates as well as lifetime achievement awards. The author was a native of Crane, where he grew up on a ranch. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and spent 15 years writing for the *San Angelo Standard Times*, *Sheep and Goat Raiser* magazine, and was editor of the *Livestock Weekly* for many years after that. Kelton wrote his novels in his spare time as he worked as a journalist.

The 2011 Mayor's Book Club features reading for both adults and children. The children's' reading selection is *Sam Houston is My Hero* by Alter. Alter is scheduled to speak to classes at Kerr Middle School on April 14.

Judy Alter is a former director of TCU Press and author of more than 40 books. Her most recent books are *Cooking My Way through Life with Books and Kids* (2009), and, with Katie Sherrod, *Grace and Gumption: The Cookbook* (2010). James Ward Lee is the author of *Classics of Texas Fiction* (1987), *Texas, My Texas* (1992), *Adventures with a Texas Humanist* (2007), and *Texas Country Singers* (2008), among others. He is a fellow of the Texas Folklore Society and a member of the Texas Institute of Letters.

The Time It Never Rained and *Sam Houston is My Hero* are available for check out at the Burleson Public Library, 248 S.W. Johnson Ave. For more information, call the library at 817-426-9210.