

March 2, 2011

Sally Ellertson  
Public Information Officer  
141 West Renfro  
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261  
817-426-9622  
F: 817-426-9390  
[sellertson@burlesontx.com](mailto:sellertson@burlesontx.com)  
[www.burlesontx.com](http://www.burlesontx.com)

The 2011 Mayor's Book Club spotlight is on "The Time It Never Rained" and its acclaimed author, Texan Elmer Kelton. The book won the Spur Award, an annual literary prize awarded by the Western Writers of America, in 1973.

Kelton died in August 2009, but local authors Judy Alter and James Ward Lee will talk about Kelton's book, and Kelton, at the Mayor's Book Club event on Tuesday, April 12, at 7 p.m. at Hill College of Burleson. The hour-long lecture will be followed by a reception for the authors. Co-sponsors of the event are the Burleson Public Library, Hill College of Burleson and Texas Wesleyan University (the Burleson campus). Door prizes will be awarded following the authors' presentation.

Kelton is a World War II veteran and the author of more than 60 books. "The Good Old Boys" was made into 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. Kelton was honored numerous times, including by the Texas Legislature which proclaimed Elmer Kelton Day in April 1997. Kelton earned honorary doctorates as well as lifetime achievement awards. The author is 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 *Livestock Weekly*.

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.

Alter is a novelist and author of books for both adults and young readers. She has also been the director of TCU Press in Fort Worth since 1987. Alter earned a lifetime achievement award from the Western Writers of America and her novels, "Mattie" and "Sue Ellen Learns to Dance" also earned the Spur Award.

James Ward Lee is the acquisitions editor for TCU Press and professor emeritus of English at the University of North Texas where he taught for 41 years. He is known as a specialist in Texas literature and is the author of dozens of books, including "Adventures with a Texas Humanist." Alter and Lee edited "Literary Fort Worth."

"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.