

Billy W. Sills Center for Archives/FWISD

presents

Dan Smith

“Bankhead Highway: Fort Worth's Connection to the First All-Weather Transcontinental Highway”

October 22, 2016

Americans now routinely cruise in air conditioned comfort, driving high powered cars on broad, smooth ribbons of concrete that span the country and touch virtually every city in the USA. Roadside hotels, restaurants, parks and entertainment centers make long distant travel a memorable experience.



But it wasn't always like that. At the dawn of long distance motoring, the highways were primitive, narrow and risky. Cross-country trips were challenging, an adventure for only the most daring and bold. It was a pioneering era for highway travel, a time when Americans were just beginning to embrace the automobile way of life. And it is an era most of us know little about.

Dan Smith, a retired meteorologist and an historian and author, will revisit that era in a presentation on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Billy W. Sills Center for Archives.

Smith first encountered remains of the Bankhead while bicycling the back roads of Parker County near Aledo. He discovered that little was known about the highway and the significance it played in the developing history of American motoring. After years of research, Smith wrote a book – The Bankhead Highway in Texas – that documents the history of one of the first coast-to-coast roads for U.S. motorists. Along the way, Smith found remarkable, untold stories about the people who built and traveled the long road. Come hear those stories in his Billy W. Sills Lecture Series presentation.

Join us for coffee and “nibbles” beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Saturday morning, October 22, 2016, 10:00 to 12:00

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