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## East Texas Colloquy

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## EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

by Bobby H. Johnson

The *Journal* continues to receive news of historical activities throughout East Texas. Numerous county and local groups are pursuing the past with considerable zeal, and the *Journal* is happy to print pertinent information dealing with the heritage and history of our region. Please address such material to: The Editor, *East Texas Historical Journal*, SFA, Box 6223, Nacogdoches, Texas 75961.

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The Smith County Historical Society reports progress toward the re-writing of its constitution following the December, 1971, meeting. Other business included a report from the nominating committee, consisting of Loy J. Gilbert, James L. Wilkins, and Mrs. C. E. Gayle. New members of the Smith County group for 1972 include: Miss Jean Allen of Tyler and Homer Brelsford of Bullard. Further news from Tyler indicates the opening of a genealogical section of the Carnegie Public Library, under sponsorship of the Mary Tyler Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Local members will operate a room from 1 to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and they are eager to acquire any books and materials that might be helpful in genealogical research.

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Members of the Polk County Historical Survey are to be congratulated for winning Distinguished Service Awards following the 1971 meeting of the Texas Historical Survey Committee and Texas Historical Foundation. The Polk County Survey also reports the acquisition of a collection of 23 fans from Alice Lindsay Freel of Houston. They will be displayed at the museum in Livingston, along with other artifacts acquired by the Survey Committee. The 1971 Scrapbook may also be examined at the museum.

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The Jefferson County Historical Survey Committee sends word of a planned dedication of the Fort Manhasset Historical Marker on the site of the Fort six and a half miles west of Sabine Pass on State Highway 87. Ralph Ramos of Channel 4 News was scheduled to serve as master of ceremonies and state Sen. D. Roy Harrington was to deliver the dedicatory address, "Fort Manhasset and the Men Who Fought There." Mrs. W. F. Fredeman of Port Arthur is chairman of the Jefferson County group.

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From northeast Texas comes news of the varied activities of the Bowie County Historical Survey Committee, which is presided over by Mrs. Arthur L. Jennings of Texarkana. The Texarkana Historical Museum enjoyed a successful opening and is now welcoming visitors at its quarters in the Offenhauser Building, 219 State Line. The Bowie County Survey Committee also takes pride in having received the Distinguished Service Award. Members of the committee in addition to Mrs. Jennings, are Judge Robert Dalby, Arthur Jennings, Mrs. Lyles M. Burch, Henry E. Fagan, Mrs. Kelley Varner, Mrs. Herbert McClure, Sr., Mrs. R. M. Davis, Mrs. Raymond Lutz, Mrs. Claude Phillips, Mrs. Ben Wilson, and Lloyd Wilson.

The Bowie County marker has been placed in the Roadside Park five miles west of New Boston. The marker reads:

Bowie County named for James Bowie (1799-1836), who fought for Texas Independence from 1819, when he joined Long's expedition, to 1836 when he died in defense of the Alamo, inhabited before 1800 by Agriculture Indians, charter 1819 of Anglo-American settlement, this was created Dec. 17, 1840; organized Feb. 1, 1841. County seats: DeKalb, Old Boston, Texarkana, and Boston. Forceful citizens joined in beginning railroad construction in 1857. Economy is based on Agriculture, lumber, manufacturing. Erected by State of Texas-1971.

Another marker, commemorating the town of Nash, has also been erected with the assistance of the Bowie County group. This marker reads:

Begun about 1873; first named "T. C. Junction" for its location on Transcontinental Division of Texas & Pacific Railroad. In 1884 Post Office was established and named "Park", after Dr. J. N. Parker, the first postmaster.

First School started in 1885 in single room. New buildings have been erected in honor of Martin Manny Nash, Division Superintendent of Texas & Pacific. Noted resident was Dr. Joseph Abner Dodd (1871-1944), who served 6 terms in Texas House of Representatives. Present town population stands at 2,000.

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The State Historical Association held its mid-year meeting at Marshall and Jefferson in November, 1971. Sponsored by TSHA and the Harrison County Historical Association, the meeting featured events in both Marshall and Jefferson. The Marshall portion of the meeting included tours of the restored Ginnocchio Hotel and Old Courthouse Museum.

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The courthouse plaza in Tyler was the scene of a marker dedication in honor of W. C. Stallings of the Dixie community, this past November 11. Stallings was the first county agent in the nation employed to serve only one county. He was hired in 1906 by the Tyler Commercial Club and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. During his tenure, Stallings worked with some 600 farmers to bring about large increases in cotton and corn productions.

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The City of San Antonio and the San Antonio Conservation Society sponsored a seminar on historic conservation in San Antonio, January 28, 1972. Purpose of the meeting was to consider enabling legislation concerning historical conservation and to

suggest revisions in local, state, and federal laws to encourage investors in conservation. Speakers included Luis Sifuentes, architect and businessman from San Juan, Puerto Rico; Harvey Hardy of San Antonio; A. D. Moore, Jr., of Beaumont; and U. S. Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez.

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The American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of Texas is seeking information on burial places and residences of American Revolutionary veterans in Texas. This information will be included in a bibliography and memorabilia check list to be printed and circulated in schools and repositories across the state. Mrs. Gene Riddle, Association Director, requests that information be submitted to:

ARBC of Texas  
P. O. Box 12366, Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711

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A consultant service for history museums has been established by the American Association for State and Local History. Funded by an \$27,000 grant from the Smithsonian Institution, the consultant program will furnish technical assistance to inventive but understaffed museums. Preference will be given to a majority of the 2,000 history museums having minimal budget and staffing. Inquiries should be addressed to the American Association for State and Local History, 1315 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee 37203.

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The following note has been received from Mrs. Charles Martin informing the Association of the passing of Mrs. Will Bridges of Roganville. Mrs. Bridges was a member of the Board of Directors.

We are saddened to note that Mrs. W. H. Bridges of Roganville recently passed away. Grace Richardson Bridges was born on September 24, 1900, at Silsbee, Texas, the daughter of Benjamin and Ella Cowart Richardson. She moved at an early age to Roganville where she grew up. After attending Southwest Texas Normal Institute in San Marcos, Mrs. Bridges married William Henry Bridges of Houston in April, 1919. Living in Houston, Austin, and Youngstown, Ohio, Mr. and Mrs. Bridges moved to their country home near Roganville in 1936 where he died in 1956.

Mrs. Bridges was always interested in Texas and local history. Her home at Roganville, built in 1840, was awarded the Texas historic medallion in 1966. On the grounds are two champion trees—an Eastern red cedar that is a state champion and a crepe myrtle that is a national champion. She was first active chairman of the Jasper County Historical Survey Committee and continued to work with that group until her death. She was a charter member of the East Texas Historical Association, a member of its board of directors, and a member of the Tejas Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas in Beaumont.

Survivors are two sister, Mrs. George Blake of Hattisburg, Mississippi, and Mrs. A. L. Myers of Tyler, one nephew, three nieces, and numberless friends. She died December 22, 1971 at her home in Roganville. We shall miss her.