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East Texas Colloquy

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EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

by Bobby H. Johnson

Approximately one hundred persons attended the Association's spring meeting held on the campus of Texas A&M University in February. In a special evening session on Friday—a "first" for the Association—Col. Harold B. Simpson of Hill Junior College spoke on "Contributions of East Texas to Hood's Texas Brigade." Saturday's sessions dealt with a variety of topics. John M. Brockman of Bee County College delivered a paper entitled "From Jefferson to Fort Worth via Austin: The Political History of the Texas and Pacific Railway Company." Panola Junior College's Bill O'Neal presented "Feudists and Gunmen: An Examination of East Texas Violence During the Nineteenth Century." The third session featured papers by Jean S. Duncan of Sam Houston State University and Terry Booker of Hudson High School. Duncan spoke on "An East Texan at an Oriental Court: Richard Bennett Hubbard, Ambassador to Japan, 1885-1889." Booker's paper was entitled "The Woodlake Cooperative Community: A New Deal Experiment."

The luncheon address was delivered by Dr. Haskell Monroe, Dean of Faculties at Texas A&M, who spoke on "Allan Nevins' Visit to Texas: A Personal Reminiscence." This session met in the Memorial Student Center, and was attended by about fifty persons.

The Association's fall meeting was set for September 23-24 in Nacogdoches. Named to the fall program committee were Dr. Milton Nance of Texas A&M, Dr. Robert Cotner of the University of Texas at Austin, and Dr. Calvin Hines of Stephen F. Austin State University.

Because the *Journal* is published only twice a year, we are often late in reporting new publications and historical activities. Some events are worth reporting, however, despite the lack of timeliness. One such item is the publication of a book on Wood County. Entitled *The History of Wood County, Texas*, the work contains stories on old-timers and other information on the county. Even at this late date, it may still be available. If you're interested, write the Wood County Historical Society, P.O. Box 337, Quitman, Texas, 75783.

The activities of various historical societies and commissions continue to impress upon us the high degree of interest in historical matters. The Smith County Historical Society is an especially active group. Their publication, "Chronicles," treats the history of that area in a professional and interesting manner. An upcoming issue, prepared by Linda Brown Cross, will deal with the town of Omen, or Old Canton. "Chronicles" is available for \$7.50 a year plus five per cent sales tax. Subscriptions may be entered by writing to Mary K. Haynes at 918 Camellia, Tyler, Texas, 75701.

The Shelby County Historical Society is another active organization. As reported in December of 1976, their membership rolls include more than 150 persons. Mrs. Birdie Childs served as president during the bicentennial year.

On the state level, one of the more active historical attractions is the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos. An attractive newsletter chronicles the events associated with the museum and park located near Brenham. One of the museum's projects last year was a juried exhibition of

ceramics. Piero Fenci, a faculty member at Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, won first place in the competition. Reva Jo Brown of Austin won second and Ellen Watts of Dallas was third. The competition was sponsored as part of the museum exhibition, "Texas Pottery: Caddo to Contemporary."

The park recently acquired about 94 additional acres, bringing the total park acreage to about 154 acres. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is to be complimented for its efforts to preserve this historical Texas site.

"Tyler and Smith County Texas: A Historical Survey" has been published by the American Bicentennial Committee of Tyler. Composed of nine chapters, the work also includes photos and sketches. Perhaps copies are still available. Write to Tyler Bicentennial Publishers, P.O. Box 181, Tyler, Texas, 75702.

Another book on local history, *Houston County Cemeteries*, has been published by the Houston County Historical Commission. Some 18,000 names appear in the book, which lists 145 cemeteries. This was a limited edition affair, but you may want to check your local library.

The Houston County group is hard at work again this year under the leadership of president Eliza Bishop.

An interesting happening is on tap for November in Kerrville. "I Love Old Things," described as "the only seminar for antique dealers and collectors that combines the wisdom of experts and the beauty of vacation settings," is scheduled for November 8-12 at Schreiner College. Sponsored by Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College near Terre Haute, Ind., the seminar will meet at a number of places throughout the nation. A similar program was offered in 1976.

Most of our readers are by now aware of the losses suffered by the Jefferson Historical Society and Museum. Fortunately, most of the good books have been returned, but the group is still interested in regaining other articles missing from the Museum. Curator Lucille Bullard has asked for assistance in locating the items. If you can be of any help in finding the following items, please contact Lucille at 223 Austin, Jefferson, Texas, 75657.

87 WHITNEY PERC. PISTOL, 3015 36 Cal.

96 MANHATTAN NAVY PISTOL 1859, 34761, 36 Cal.

99 DERRINGER PISTOL, PHILADELA, 2 1/4 inch barrel, 40 Cal.

100 DERRINGER PISTOL, PHILADELA, 2 inch barrel, 40 Cal.

103 DERRINGER BROWN PISTOL (Southerner) 4840, 38 Cal.

107 DERRINGER REMINGTON PISTOL (over and under), 41 Cal.

111 PEPPER BOX PISTOL, ALLEN THURBER, 32 Cal.

THREE BAYONETS, 18" blade, back of blade ribbed, U.S. Springfield

.45-70 Caliber, complete with clasp

THREE BAYONETS, 18" blade, back of blade ribbed, U.S.

Springfield .45-70 Caliber, complete with clasp

THREE BAYONETS SAME AS ABOVE, EXCEPT WITHOUT CLAMP

- 146 DIRK, 8¾ inch blade, 13¾ inch over all, triangular blade, horn handle
SWORD FROM SWORD CANE
ONE DOUBLE BARREL SHOTGUN, marked with initials of owner DBH over 100 years old.
BRASS BUTT OF HENRY RIFLE
- 115 ALLEN AND WHEELLOCK, NAVY, SIDE HAMMER, 133, 36 Cal.
- 125 GERMAN LUGER PISTOL, 1260, 7.65 mm
- 127 MAUSER AUTOMATIC PISTOL, 379134, 7.65 mm
ONE FRAME OF INDIAN ARROW POINTS ABOUT 10x12 size frame
Star shape Indian artifact
One Indian pipe
Turquoise beads
MEERSCHAUM PIPE