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## EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

by *Bobby H. Johnson*

The Association traveled to Beaumont for its spring meeting on February 24-25, 1978. Held at Lamar University, the program featured sessions on a variety of topics, ranging from museums to the Great Depression.

Following a Friday evening open house at the French Trading Post, the meeting adjourned until Saturday when the first session considered museums as historical resources. Calvin B. Smith of Lamar University spoke on "Spindeltop Museum: A Resource for Research," followed by Carol Nelson of the Beaumont Heritage Society who discussed "French Trading Post: A Resource for Education." Peter M. Rippe of the Harris County Heritage Society concluded the session with a talk on that group's contribution as a resource for training.

Session II was divided into three parts. The first dealt with depression and disasters in East Texas. Donald R. Walker of Texas Tech University spoke on "Martin Dies and the Onslaught of the Depression," while Paul E. Isaac of Lamar University talked on "The Depression in Beaumont." Michael L. Toon of Austin discussed the New London school explosion of 1937. The second part focused on timber, cattle, and rice in East Texas. Participants and papers were James J. Cozine, Jr. of the Sam Houston Regional Library and Research Center, "The Timber Industry in East Texas"; Bill Brett of Hull, "East Texas Cattle Drives"; and Julian P. Craigmiles of Beaumont, "History of Texas Rice." Ethnic groups in East Texas were featured in part three. "Cultural and Biological Miscegenation in Spanish Texas," was the topic of James M. McReynolds of SFA. Elizabeth Brandon of the University of Houston spoke on "'Roots' of the East Texas Cajuns," and Howard N. Martin of Houston discussed "Westward Migrations of the Alabama-Coushatta Indians."

William A. Owens of Nyak, N.Y., a familiar figure to Texas historians, delivered the luncheon address. His topic was "East Texas Folklore."

The meeting was well-attended, thanks to the efforts of program chairman Naaman Woodland, a professor of history at Lamar. He is to be commended for such a fine program, and thanks are also in order to Lois Parker of Beaumont, who handled the local arrangements. The Association also expresses its appreciation to the Beaumont Heritage Society, Southeast Texas Genealogical and Historical Society, Texas Gulf Historical Society, Beaumont Chamber of Commerce, as well as Lamar University.

Members are reminded of the fall meeting in Nacogdoches on Sept. 29-30.

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The Houston Metropolitan Research Center has recently announced the acquisition of several valuable archival and manuscript collections. Affiliated with the Houston Public Library, the HMRC received nearly 900 linear feet of materials from the University of Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast Historical Association, which have designated HMRC as their archival depository.

The following collections came from the University of Houston:

1. Port of Houston Collection, 1920s-1970s—operational records, ship records, scrapbooks, printed materials, and photographs.
2. Ballinger and Associates Law Firm, 1854-1907—correspondence files of a prominent Galveston law firm.
3. Lawrence J. O'Connor Papers, 1960s-1970s—correspondence, speeches, reports, transcripts, published material of the former Federal Power Commissioner.