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## East Texas Colloquy

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## EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

Springtime means a visit to some part of our region for a gathering of our members. This year the meeting was hosted by Lamar University's Department of History and other agencies in Orange. We checked in the Orange House, but mostly stayed at the magnificent Brown Center for the majority of the sessions and meetings. An exception to this was a tour of the First Presbyterian Church conducted by Mrs. R. B. Johnson and then later a reception at Mr. and Mrs. Johnson's restored home, *Les Vitreaux*.

All Saturday morning sessions convened at the Brown Center. Mrs. E. H. Lasseter chaired a session on East Texas in the Civil War, and papers were presented by Robert Wooster (University of Texas at Austin) on "The War Front" and Ralph A. Wooster (Lamar University) read a paper on "The Home Front." Robert Maxwell (Stephen F. Austin State University) chaired a session on the Development and Control of Water Resources, with papers entitled "History of the Salt Water Barrier on the Neches River" and "Opposition to the Trinity River Project" (Corps of Engineers) read by Paul C. Wilson and J. B. Smallwood, Jr., (North Texas State University). And Law and Law Enforcement in the Republic of Texas was chaired by Max Lale of Marshall. This session featured papers by Terrell W. Connor (Palestine) on "The Judicial County of Paschal, 1841-1842," and by Joe E. Ericson (Stephen F. Austin State University) on "Frontier Justice: The Trial of Infamous Crimes in the Republic of Texas."

Following a coffee break, Robert Janak chaired and commented on the Czechs in Texas, and Marjorie Williams (La Grange) spoke on "Czech Cooking in Texas" and served samples of her work. Meanwhile, another session featured Texas Baptists in the Twentieth Century with papers by John W. Storey (Lamar University) on "Preachers, Politics, and Prohibition," and by Gwin Morris (East Texas Baptist College) on "J. Frank Norris and Fundamentalism in Texas." Finally, Patricia Kell (Baytown) presented Norma Provost (Port Arthur), who read a paper on "Allan Shivers in the Gubernatorial Campaign of 1954," and Richard Bailey (San Jacinto College), who read a paper on "Morris Sheppard."

President Marion Holt presided at the Luncheon in the Solarium of the Brown Center. Program Chairman Paul Isaac (Lamar University) introduced Sara E. Boehme, Curator of Collections at the Stark Museum of Art, who discussed the museum's exhibits and holdings. Following the luncheon several members visited the museum, while others toured the restored Stark Home nearby.

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CONGRATULATIONS . . . to the Smith County Historical Society. This year is the twentieth anniversary of their publication, *Chronicles of Smith County*, which is one of the superior publications in Texas. Associate chairmen of the Publications Committee for this year are Mary K. Haynes and Lucille Mardock. Both worked with James Wilkins, whose name is virtually synonymous with the *Chronicles*.

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A copy of the latest edition of *A History of Hill County* is available to contributors to the Hill County Museum Fund. Write to Mrs. Walton T. Smith (Hill County Historical Commission, P. O. Box 72, Brandon, Texas 76628), with your contribution in the amount of \$17.50 to receive a copy in appreciation for your tax deductible gift. The book contains over 500 pages, is hard-bound, and contains pictures, biographical sketches, and information about the communities, archeology, topography, businesses and other notable aspects of Hill County.

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The Newton County Historical Commission announces the publication of *A Journal of the Coincidences and Acts of Thomas S. McFarland, Beginning with the First Day of January, 1837*. It is a detailed record of McFarland's activities, thoughts, and life in the area along the Sabine River in the days of the Republic. Copies may be ordered from the Newton County Historical Commission, Box 56, Burkeville, Texas 75932.

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The filmstrips on Texas history prepared several years ago by geographer William T. Chambers and used by scores of teachers in the state are being reissued with cassette records. The scripts were prepared by Dr. James L. Nichols of Stephen F. Austin State University. For information on prices or related matters, write Associated Educators, 609 Lakeside Drive, Irving, Texas 75062.

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The Fall meeting of the East Texas Historical Association will be held on Friday and Saturday, September 25 and 26 in Nacogdoches. This will be an important meeting. President Marion Holt has appointed James V. Reese, Frank Smyrl, and Milton Nance to a committee to consider and recommend revisions of the Association's constitution. Program Chairman for the Fall meeting is Irvin May of Texas A&M University.