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East Texas Colloquy

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EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

The Association held its 1985 Spring meeting in Kilgore, Texas. We headquartered on the campus of Kilgore College, especially in the East Texas Oil Museum. Museum Director and Association Vice President Joe L. White joined David Castles as chair of the program and local arrangements committee.

The Friday evening session was devoted to a tour of the Museum. On Saturday morning David Stroud, Bill O'Neal, Steve A. Lindsey, Fred Tarpley, and Lt. Col. H.R. Brantley read papers on Presentation Swords, the East Texas Country School, the Oil Museum, the Legacy of Frank Teich, and East Texans in Captivity.

The luncheon speaker was John H. Jenkins, who spoke on "Texas Books: Past and Future."

President William J. Brophy presided at the luncheon. Nelda Smith and Carla Neeld presided at the morning sessions.

Captain Charles K. Phillips of Nacogdoches received the Ralph W. Steen Award at the luncheon.

Association member Lincoln King received the Leadership Award presented by the Texas State Historical Association at its annual meeting in Fort Worth on March 2, 1985. King's students at Gary High School, under his direction, have published over thirty issues of *Loblolly* since 1973. Articles are based on oral interviews with sheriffs, farmers, mill workers, and other East Texans. "What we've been trying to do with the magazine is to discover, collect, and preserve the local and regional history of East Texas," said King. "While the students are doing this, they discover much, much more about themselves, their own roots, heritage, and culture."

King sponsors the Junior Historian Chapter at Gary High School.

Association member J. Milton Nance received the American Revolutionary History Award through the La Villita Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on February 15, 1985. The Award consists of a bronze medal and a certificate "for outstanding achievement in promoting the study of American History."

Civil War buffs will be interested in a new publication, *Civil War Monitor, Review of Current Periodicals*. It focuses on the period from 1860 through 1865, and provides a bibliographic reference for publications dealing with the military, naval, state and local, economic, cultural and biographical studies of the American Civil War period.

It may be ordered from J.L. Harsh, Civil War Monitor, Box 1776, Centreville, VA 22020.

Board member Melvin Mason of Sam Houston State University announced the availability of a videotape, "Martha Mitchell of Possum Walk Road: Quiltmaker." In the presentation the viewer visits with Mrs. Mitchell while she quilts, paints, and feeds the birds and squirrels. The program was produced by Sam Houston State University in cooperation with KAMU-TV, with funding from the Texas Commission on the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Meadows Foundation. Copies may be ordered from writer/producer Melvin Mason, Department of English, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas 77341.

The Association co-sponsored a series of lectures on Texas History with the Smith County Historical Society and the Texas State Historical Association in Tyler. Beginning on April 2 and continuing through May 14, seven lectures were presented by Texas history scholars Dr. James Corbin, Dr. Sandra Myres, Dr. Archie P. McDonald, Dr. Thomas Kreneck, Mr. Max S. Lale, Dr. Randolph B. Campbell, and Dr. Ralph Wooster.

We also joined with the Texas State Historical Association to co-sponsor a History Awareness Workshop in Austin on August 15-16. This is an in-service program for teachers.

A number of publications have reached our desk. Among the more interesting is *Phil Coe: Texas Gambler*, by Association member Chuck Parsons. (Chuck Parsons, P.O. Box 203, South Wayne, Wisconsin 53587). This is the first biography of Coe, a son of a Texas pioneer, a Civil War veteran, and a professional gambler in Texas and Kansas during the cattle drive days. He was a companion of such noted gamblers as John Wesley Hardin, Ben Thompson, and Ben Hinds. The book covers Coe's early life but concentrates on his life as a gambler and his death following a gunfight with Marshal "Wild Bill" Hickok.

A similar sized book, altogether different in content, is *Governors of Texas, A Sesquicentennial Booklet of the Texas Almanac* (The Dallas Morning News, Communications Center, Dallas, TX 75265). It features a photo and biographical sketch of each governor of Texas from J. Pinckney Henderson to Mark White, with essays on the Governor's mansion, powers, and election returns.

Houston: A Twentieth Century Urban Frontier, by Francisco A.

Rosales and Barry Kaplan, editors (Associated Faculty Press, Inc., 90 South Bayles Avenue, Port Washington, NY 11050), contains nine essays on the history of Houston by David McComb, Kaplan, Charles Orson Cook, James Maroney, Rosales, Louis Marchiafava, Hyland Packard, Robert Haynes, and Don Carleton.

The University of Texas Press (P.O. Box 7819, Austin, TX 78713) has reissued J. Frank Dobie's *Apache Gold* and *Yaqui Silver*, a classic of Southwestern legend and lore. It explores the mysterious and alluring sagas of lost mines and high adventure. In this collection Dobie introduces us to Pedro Loco, General Mexhuira's ghost, the German, and a colorful group of odd fellows driven to roam the hills in an eternal quest for the hidden entrance, the blazed tree, the box canyon, and fabulous wealth glimpsed, lost, and never forgotten.

The Smith County Historical Society has published the Smith County Probate Records, Smith County, Texas 1846-1880. They were abstracted by Andrew L. Leath. You can obtain a copy from J. Wilkins, 2914 Pounds, Tyler, TX 75701. The cost is \$15.00 plus tax and postage.