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STARS ACROSS TEXAS

Vol. I, No. 1

Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission

May 1985

What Is Stars Across Texas?

With the 150th anniversary of Texas independence only a year away, the planning activity statewide for 1986 has reached "stellar" proportions. We want to tell the world about the wonderful things that are happening for our Sesquicentennial, and it had become nearly impossible to include everything we'd like in the *Texas National Dispatch*. So, *Stars Across Texas* has been created to share the burden of the *Dispatch* in reporting news of our Sesquicentennial "stars" – the people, events, and ideas that are going to make the Sesquicentennial the best birthday Texas ever had!

Persons on the *Dispatch* mailing list will automatically receive *Stars*, which will alternate publication months with the *Dispatch*.

In keeping with its "Republic newspaper" format, the *Dispatch* will report the doings of our historical "stars" – persons and groups working on Sesquicentennial projects that will focus on the rugged, colorful history of our great state. The *Dispatch* will also continue to feature the ever-popular "News From the Republic" and "Texana 1920: A Time Trip."

Stars Across Texas will recognize the myriad of activities of a non-historical nature. These "stars" run the gamut from balloon races to exchanges with foreign countries to caravans of "Winter Texans" – events too exciting and too numerous to list here! And *Stars* features two special columns – "Star Points" (see page 3), a list of suggestions, ideas and resources available to Sesquicentennial volunteers and planners, and "Star Tracks" (see page 6) – tidbits of information and news from our

hundreds of local planning committees.

Most important, *Stars Across Texas* and the *Texas National Dispatch* are your newsletters – the voice of you Texans and Texan sympathizers with that "Sesquicentennial Spirit," to whom this celebration really belongs. We want to hear from you, and welcome any suggestions or information you would like to see included in the newsletters. Remember, information about historical projects should be directed to the *Texas National Dispatch* (Jaclyn Jeffrey, editor), and news of other Sesquicentennial events to *Stars Across Texas* (Susan McClelland, editor). ☆



Meet R.T. Texadillo!

Say hello to R.T. Texadillo, the new mascot of the Texas Sesquicentennial!

Texans will be seeing a lot of R.T. in 1985 and 1986 through special appearances, a selection of products, and printed material. The whimsical armadillo character was designed specifically for the Sesquicentennial.

According to Sheila Lyons, president of Lyons Share Marketing Group, R.T.'s name was derived from the words "Republic of Texas Armadillo." "R.T. Texadillo will be a unique breed of armadillo known only to Texas," said Ms. Lyons. The Houston company developed the mascot and is handling publicity, product endorsements and public appearances of the character.

The live costumed character will be available to local Sesquicentennial

committees for a variety of uses. Special appearances of R.T. Texadillo will enhance any local celebration or festival and will present photo opportunities with city and Sesquicentennial leaders. Visits to hospitals and schools and promotion of charity benefits or fund-raising programs will also keep Texadillo busy.

The mascot is also expected to gain national exposure and attention by appearing at functions outside the state. "Texadillo will be a true representative of our famous Texas hospitality and should draw a tremendous amount of free publicity to the celebration by appearing at all the major Sesquicentennial events such as the Cotton Bowl, San Antonio Fiesta, professional sports events, and rodeos," said Ms. Lyons.

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The state of South Australia, also celebrating a Sesquicentennial in 1986, has adopted J.W. the Hairy-Nosed Wombat as its mascot, and plans are under way to develop a mascot exchange program with Texas. "For example, a community could send a special gift commemorating our joint Sesquicentennials with our mascot to their sister city in Australia, and sponsor J.W. the Wombat's visit in return," said Ms. Lyons.

A variety of R.T. Texadillo promotional items will be available to Sesquicentennial communities, and Lyons Share Marketing has developed a retail outlet market for Texadillo products. The communities will be able to generate extra revenues from the sale of the products, in the same manner as the other Sesquicentennial promotional items (see related story).

DALLAS' BIG WHEEL

Bragging about the big things in Texas is almost as common here as bluebonnets and armadillos, and, if all goes according to plan, the State Fair will have one more thing for Texans to brag about. Fair operators have purchased a giant, 210-foot ferris wheel, and are making arrangements to bring it to Dallas for the Sesquicentennial.

The big wheel is being manufactured in Milan, Italy, and was purchased by Dallas carnival operator Buster Brown for \$1.5 million. According to Brown, the ride is taller than a 20-story building and is four times the size of the fair's current ferris wheel.

Hopefully, said State Fair spokesman Bob Halford, the huge wheel will be in place in time for this year's fair in October and will definitely be operational during the expanded, 52-day fair in 1986.

Each one of the wheel's 44 gondolas will hold 6 people. "It's going to be gigantic," Brown said. "You can practically see it from every downtown freeway. You'll be able to look down inside the Cotton Bowl."

With that kind of view, who needs tickets for the Texas-O.U. football game? ☆

As Ms. Lyons emphasized, communities and other groups are encouraged to book live appearances of R.T. as soon as possible, as there will be only a limited number of costumed mascots. All sanctioned Sesquicentennial communities, associations and other groups should receive Texadillo guidelines and information regarding character appearances soon, Ms. Lyons said.

Any questions about R.T. Texadillo should be directed to Ms. Lyons, c/o Lyons Share Marketing Group, Inc.; P.O. Box 920952, Suite 442; Houston, Texas 77292-0952; 713/937-9971.

"R.T. Texadillo will be our own goodwill ambassador, relaying the message of the Texas Sesquicentennial and providing a continuity to our celebration," said Ms. Lyons. ☆

Fun In Fort Worth

During the Texas Centennial in 1936, visitors to the huge Centennial Exhibition at the State Fair grounds in Dallas were greeted by a huge neon sign with the message, "30 Miles West to Whoopee." Fort Worth was not about to be overlooked by the masses of Centennial visitors, and it staged a dazzling array of shows, parties and festivals including Billy Rose's famous Casa Mañana Theatre. "Come to Dallas for Culture; Come to Fort Worth For Fun" became the unofficial slogan of Fort Worth Centennial planners.

And Fort Worth's Sesquicentennial celebration in 1986 promises to be even bigger and more exciting, with plenty of culture sprinkled in, to boot! As reported by Raymond Teague of the Fort Worth *Star-Telegram*, the

Fort Worth Sesquicentennial Committee has signed up nearly 400 persons to work on various city committees for the celebration. "People's enthusiasm for the Sesquicentennial is definitely going up each month," said Carole Taymon, executive director of the committee.

The committee is encouraging at least one project in each of three major tourist areas in the city — downtown, the west Fort Worth museum-cultural area, and the Stockyards in north Fort Worth. "We want to involve the entire community," said committee chairman Jane Schlansker.

Some highlights of the Fort Worth Sesquicentennial calendar for 1986 are on the next page.



TOMBALL IS OFFICIAL — The city of Tomball now holds the distinction of being the first Texas Independence Community to be sanctioned on the steps of the State Capitol in Austin. Attending the ceremony are (from left) Sharon Eisenmenger, Sesquicentennial Commission program officer; Cheryl Biggins, Bruce Hillegeist and Sherry McDonnell of the Tomball Sesquicentennial Committee; State Representative Paul Hilbert; Carlene Durrett of the Tomball Committee; and Tomball Mayor Lee Tipton.

FT. WORTH 1986 EVENTS

- Chisholm Trail Round-up Celebration, June 6-8.
- Ballet Concerto Southwest Regional Ballet Festival, April 17-20.
- Western Writers of America annual convention, June 23-27. (This convention was to be elsewhere but was moved to Texas especially for the Sesquicentennial, said Schlansker.)
- Grand opening of Stockyards redevelopment project, March 1-2, for which an extensive restoration of Cowtown Coliseum and conversion of Commerce Street into a pedestrian midway should be completed.
- Southwestern Exposition and Fat Stock Show, January 22 - February 2.
- Indian Sun Dance by the Traditional Native American Circle, Inc., during 12 days in May.
- National Cutting Horse Futurity, to recognize the National Cutting Horse Association's 40th anniversary, late November - early December.
- Festival Fort Worth, an international arts festival sponsored by the Fort Worth Arts Council and Downtown Fort Worth, Inc., March or April.
- Culmination of Sesquicentennial Wagon Train, which ends up in Fort Worth on July 2 after a 2,600-mile trek around Texas. And much more! The Fort Worth

Sesquicentennial staff plans to expand this list to include at least one event a month. Immediate priorities include fund raising to support and publicize Sesquicentennial events.

For more information about the Fort Worth Sesquicentennial celebration, contact the Fort Worth 150 Committee, P.O. Box 1206, Fort Worth, Texas 76101, 817/927-1986.★

Come Home to East Texas

If the East Texas Chamber of Commerce has its way, East Texas alone will be visited by eight million of its former residents in 1986! The Chamber has announced a plan that it hopes will call former East Texans from all parts of the globe back home for the Sesquicentennial, and so far the plan has drawn commitments from representatives of more than 100 East Texas communities.

The plan was unveiled at the East Texas Chamber of Commerce's annual Tourism Conference in Port Arthur in March.

"Their job now is to form homecoming and reunion committees," said James I. Perkins, chairman of the Tourist Committee of the East Texas Chamber of Commerce. "Not only will reunions of families, school and church groups, military and naval clubs and townships be a great experience for former East Texans living elsewhere, but eight million folks coming home will be a fine boost to the economics of many East Texas communities."

The first step in the plan will be to develop a calendar of reunions, Perkins said. Texans who wish to report reunions in their communities will be able to call a special toll-free tele-

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STAR TRACKS

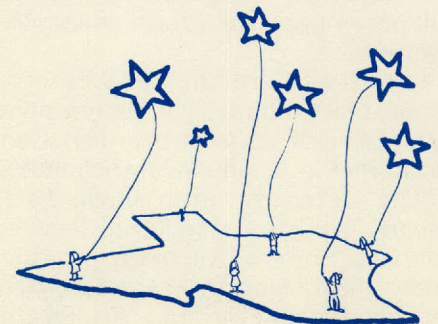
(News from our many local and statewide Sesquicentennial planning committees)

CONGRATULATIONS to the good citizens of Tomball for becoming the first Texas Independence Community to be officially sanctioned on the steps of the State Capitol in Austin. The sanctioning ceremony, held on February 28, was conducted by State Representative Paul Hilbert and Sesquicentennial Program Officer Sharon Eisenmenger. The Hon. Lee Tipton, mayor of Tomball, and Tomball Sesquicentennial Committee Chairman Sherry A. McDonnell graciously received their logo flag and certificate as some 25 Tomball-ites and other well-wishers looked on.

SHOT HEARD 'ROUND THE STATE - Bell County's Sesquicentennial plans began "with a bang" during its official sanctioning ceremony in Belton recently. To mark the momentous occasion, members of Company C of the 6th U.S. Cavalry and Light Artillery of Salado, a military re-enactment group, fired a cannon shot so loud that it shattered a window in the courthouse. Capt. William Kelley took it all in stride, saying, "We blew out four windows in the courthouse last year at the Belton Fourth of July Celebration!"

KILGORE UPDATE - Sesquicentennial Program Officer Jo Ann Starr points with pride to the Kilgore Sesquicentennial Committee, that has nearly completed most of the items on its original master plan and has several new projects in store. The city's centerpiece project, Sesquicentennial Plaza, is nearing completion and has already become a tourist attraction, said Committee Chairman Nelda Lewis. The acre-sized plaza features several monuments to local heroes, landscaping, spotlighting, and a beautiful lighted fountain.

The committee has also held a logo contest and a lyric contest to choose a Sesquicentennial song. The winning tune, "Texas Under Six Flags," was recorded in a professional recording studio and was released to radio stations in March. Nice work, Kilgore!



(continued from page three)

phone number or may write: East Texas Homecoming '86, P.O. Box 1592, Longview, Texas 75606. "We eventually expect to have several thousand listings," said Perkins.

The second step will be to get the word out to former East Texans around the world. A Homecoming '86 packet will be developed to include the calendar of all reported reunions, an East Texas Fun Map, a lodging and dining directory, a calendar of Sesquicentennial events, an instruction sheet on "how to talk like an East Texan," a capsule history of the Republic of Texas, and a bumper sticker.

"In any given year, almost 1,000 festivals and special events are held in East Texas communities. It's just natural and hospitable to add reunions of families, schools, churches and other groups to our invitation for 1986," said Perkins. "The spirit to be captured is a sense of home, family and roots." ☆



Support Your Local Committee – Buy Sesquicentennial Products!

The Sesquicentennial promises to be a huge success, thanks to our hundreds and hundreds of local and association planning committees statewide. And now, the Sesquicentennial Commission's promotional products program will help enable these committees to finance the bigger, more lasting projects they are planning – the museums, parks, libraries, memorials, and other permanent fixtures that will endure generations after the celebration is over.

Bumper stickers, glassware, jewelry, t-shirts, caps and visors, posters, and many more attractive items are available for sale by Texas Independence Communities and Associations from a list of Commission-approved vendors. The local committees will receive a royalty based on the items they sell. The approved vendors have met with the Commission's marketing staff and have agreed to prices,

quantities and delivery times that are fair to the manufacturers, the committees and, ultimately, the consumer. The committees may also choose to develop and market their own line of customized products.

We'd like to encourage all of our readers to get behind their local Sesquicentennial committees and support their work by buying Official Sesquicentennial promotional products (see accompanying photo).

For more information about promotional products, contact the Marketing Department, Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission, P.O. Box 1986, Austin, Texas 78767, 512 / 475-1986.

Stay tuned to future issues for information about another exciting new program of the Sesquicentennial Commission – official commemorative products! ☆

Texas" for Independence Day in 1986 and their participation in the Wagon Train; a reunion of former German POW's in Mexico; an exhibit of cowboy art to tour Germany; student ex-

changes at the high school and university levels; and specially-designed tour packages for German visitors targeting the Hill Country, the Big Bend, and the Llano Estacado. ☆

GERMAN COMMITTEE SIGNS NEW SPONSORS

When the Texas Tech German Dancers travel to Germany May 23, they'll go in style on American Airlines, which has just joined Mercedes Benz as the second major sponsor of the Texas-West Germany 1986 Sesquicentennial Committee. The dancers will take a six-week tour through Germany to kick off activities of the Texas-West Germany committee, which has many exciting things in store for Germans and Texans alike.

While in Germany the dancers will travel in three Mercedes Galändewagen (the elegant German version of a land rover), each sporting a Texas or Sesquicentennial flag, said Texas-West Germany committee chairman Dr. Meredith McClain. Dr. McClain will accompany the group as faculty sponsor.

The Texas-Germany 1986 Sesquicentennial Committee is represented by a statewide advisory board chaired by Dr. McClain, who is on the faculty of the Germanic and Slavic Languages Department of Texas Tech in Lubbock. Some of the many projects under discussion by the committee are a visit of 300 German "Friends of

"Celebrate Texas" is '86 Reading Club Theme

Texas children will get hands-on exposure to the Sesquicentennial when they join in the 1986 Texas Reading Club program, which will have as its theme "Celebrate Texas."

The theme was chosen to further Texans' awareness of their history.

Sponsored by the Texas State Library, the Reading Club allows children from ages 6 to 10 to participate

in exciting reading activities at public libraries across the state. More than 300,000 children statewide participated in last year's program, "Magical Mysteries."

Austin artist Mark Donaldson will create a poster, bookmarks, reading logs, certificates and other materials in keeping with the Sesquicentennial theme. His concept for the poster involves the six flags of Texas, with historical characters stepping out to grasp the hands of children and take them to the past.

The materials provided by the State Library make reading fun and challenging for kids. Librarians use their own creativity to develop related activities. In the past, libraries have sponsored puppet shows, storytelling sessions, contests, games, and parades. The result is a very rewarding and popular pastime for kids every summer.

"We hope that Texas youth will experience their state's heritage during 1986 by participating in this special reading event. Of course, the best place to begin any search for history is with a book, whether you are six or sixty," said Dr. Dorman Winfrey, director-librarian of the Texas State Library and a member of the Sesquicentennial Commission.

Reading Club kits will be available to librarians in February 1986. Contact your local library to find out its plans for the "Celebrate Texas" program. For more information about the statewide program, contact Barbara Crosby or Maria Atkission, Texas State Library, P.O. Box 12927, Austin, Texas 78711, 512/475-4119. ☆



STAR POINTS

SAM – Do you have a home computer? If so, you will soon be able to tie in to an exciting new program which will allow you to instantly learn of the latest Sesquicentennial doings. Our "Bulletin Board," christened SAM (for Sesquicentennial Alert Machine) will soon be on line and will offer information on a variety of topics, from Historical Tidbits to State-wide Events. And all it will take is a modem, a device which allows your computer to make a telephone call to the Sesquicentennial Commission computer in Austin. Stay tuned for more information in later issues of Stars!

NEW SLIDE SHOW – As most of our readers are aware, the 7-minute slide presentation, "The Sesquicentennial: An Introduction", has been available for some time now, loaned out to interested groups and individuals. Now that the Sesquicentennial is only a year away, we've updated the old show and added information about some of the exciting local and statewide events that are being planned. The resulting 10-minute presentation, "The Sesquicentennial: A Texas Celebration", is now available on the same basis as the old show. We'll be glad to mail you a copy free to show to your group or meeting – all we ask is that you pay the postage to return it to our offices. Be sure to reserve the show as far in advance of your meeting date as possible, so we may be assured of having an available copy to mail to you.

ATTENTION LOGO USERS – One of the privileges of officially-sanctioned Texas Independence Communities and Associations is the use of the Sesquicentennial logo on publicity and promotional materials. Since there has been some confusion about the proper use of the logo by these groups, here are the rules:

1. The name of the community, county or association must be used and should appear across the bottom of the logo (see detail).
2. The title "Texas Independence Community" (or "County" or "Association") should appear in a semi-circle above the logo, as pictured.

The generic, stand-alone logo is the property of the Sesquicentennial Commission, and is to be used at the Commission's discretion only. One such authorization is its use by official Sesquicentennial Promotional and Commemorative Product vendors.

We appreciate your cooperation!



COMING SOON – A new, full-color Sesquicentennial brochure, to be distributed internationally. We want the whole world to come to our party!



"Old Time Texas" Portrayed in Radio Series

Imagine turning on your radio and suddenly experiencing a cow pasture in the Texas Panhandle, where a windmill creakily splashes water into the well while nearby cattle chomp the grass to a stubble. Or perhaps a Black country church, where the preacher's powerful style and rhythm mingle with the lilting strains of a Gospel choir. Or a chat with a west Texas farmer as he describes a cotton boll, or how he feels when it rains, or what he thinks about on the tractor. Or an evening in a country and western dance hall, where "dance hall etiquette" is just as important as each distinctive dance style.

Each of these experiences is a part of "Old Time Texas," a series for radio

portraying old-time Texas culture and music, under production for the Sesquicentennial by independent artist and producer Ginger Miles.

"There are many myths about Texans outside of the state, most of which have very little basis for reality. Having been away from Texas long enough to savor the value of the old ways, I felt the radio series would be appropriate," said Miles, an Abilene native who now lives in New York. The 10-part series will illustrate the richness of a cross-section of Texans from three major cultures — whites, Blacks, and Mexican-Americans.

"Sound, in its own unique way, can take the listener back in time to a place which may no longer exist. The unpredictable quality of the West Texas wind, the song of the mockingbird set against the music of a country fiddler, the sound of the railroad track taking us back to the roots of Texas culture — these sounds, along with the music and voices of old-timers, will be blended throughout the series," said Miles.

Sample segments include Hill Country, Portrait I, which tells the

story of the early German settlers in Texas; Panhandle, Portrait II, a profile of various individuals from the town of Booker to conjure a cultural portrait of life in the Panhandle; Portrait of a Fiddler, focusing on the early life of Bob Wills; A Mexican Courtship, an elderly woman's account of old-time ritual courtship featuring indigenous Mexican music styles; and An Old Time House Dance, in which old-timers fondly recall the days before dance halls when spontaneous dance, fiddle and family parties occurred in farmhouses.

Miles has had radio work featured on National Public Radio and aired throughout the country on public radio stations, and has prepared programs and directed at production studios such as NPR, ZBS Media, David Rapkin Studios, WXXI-FM in Rochester, KERA-FM in Dallas, and Western Public Radio in San Francisco.

The series should be completed in time for the Sesquicentennial, said Miles, and will then be promoted and distributed to radio stations in Texas and throughout the country. ☆

MY, HOW YOU'VE GROWN!

Perhaps the best measure of how hard our thousands of statewide volunteer planners are working is the level of activity in our office over the last six months. It may interest you local committee members and other readers to know the following:

Since September, the Sesquicentennial Commission office in Austin has received:

- 6,000 pieces of incoming mail per month
- 25,000-plus incoming telephone calls
- 3,783 new additions to our newsletter mailing list
- word of 693 new Sesquicentennial planning committees.

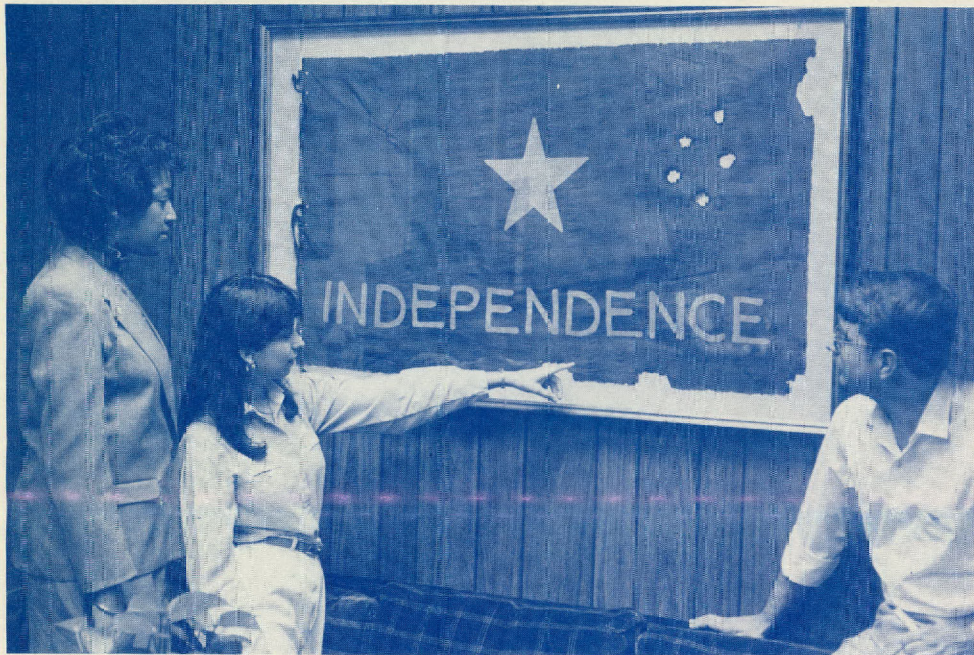
In response to the needs and requests of our planners since September, the Sesquicentennial staff:

- mailed out a total of 178,697 individual publications
- mailed out the Sesquicentennial slide show 44 times
- made 150 individual trips to promote and encourage local Sesquicentennial committees.

And absolutely all the credit goes to you, our local Sesquicentennial "earth-shakers!" Give yourselves a big pat on the back! ☆



R.T. TEXADILLO, the new mascot of the Sesquicentennial, is proudly displayed by Sheila Lyons of Lyons Share Marketing, the firm that is handling R.T.'s public appearances and promotion, and David Walton, the artist/cartoonist who designed the lovable character.



"CAPTAIN SCOTT'S FLAG", an authentic replica of a historic Republic of Texas flag, is admired by Sesquicentennial staff members (from left) Sharon Lee, Yvonne Martinez and Tom Harper. The flag was donated to the Commission offices by the Gallery of the Republic of Austin, and is part of an entire series of flag replicas from the Texas Republic era which the Gallery is sponsoring for the Sesquicentennial. The Gallery is encouraging sale of the flags by local Sesquicentennial Committees, who will receive 15 percent of the proceeds. For more information about the Republic of Texas flag replicas, contact Ted Pearsall, Gallery of the Republic, 2104 Nueces, Austin, Texas 78767, 512/472-7701.

NEW MUSIC FOR HOUSTON

The streets of Houston will resound with some of the most sonically exciting music ever heard in Texas, when the eighth annual New Music America Festival comes to the Bayou City.

Scheduled for April 5-13, 1986, the renowned music festival will be sponsored by the Houston Festival Foundation, Inc. as part of Houston's Sesquicentennial celebration.

The nine-day festival will feature composers and performers in a variety of idioms, including art-rock, video, sound installations, improvisation, electronic and computer music and performance art. New Music America '86 will highlight current developments in new instrumentation including new uses of traditional instruments, new uses of new instruments, and invented instruments.

Many of the artists associated with New Music America are working with the most advanced technological methods to produce their art. More than 100 artists, composers and

musicians from across the country are expected to participate.

Activities during the festival will include the exhibition "Scribing Scound," various sound and video installations, and late-night open microphone sessions. The Texas Chamber Orchestra will present a complete program of new music at a special concert, and there will be daily nonstop concerts at the Market Square Stage, happy-hour concerts at various downtown bars and restaurants, and sound installations in several other downtown Houston locations.

New Music America 1986 is open to all artists and musicians living and working in the United States, say NMA spokespersons. The works will be screened by a selection committee chosen from local, regional and national figures in the area of new music. Proposals from artists should be submitted no later than June 1, 1985, and selection of performers should be completed by this July.

How Do You Say "Chili" In Russian?

We're expecting "Texans" around the world to join in the Sesquicentennial party — maybe even in the U.S.S.R.!

New York's Lone Star Cafe has done it again. The cafe, designated "Official Texas Embassy" in New York City by the Texas Legislature, is making plans to open a branch in Moscow.

The idea developed after several announcements were received from official sources that the Lone Star Cafe is Soviet Foreign Secretary Andre Gromyko's favorite place in New York.

"We feel that the Lone Star Cafe can help lighten the tension that currently exists between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.," said Mort Cooperman, co-owner of the popular Texas-style cafe.

"We plan to open discussions with the appropriate Soviet sources in the very near future, and our plans call for having the Lone Star Cafe in Moscow open in 1986 in time for the Texas Sesquicentennial. This would then allow us to serve as the official Texas Embassy to the Soviet Union."

On March 1, 1984, the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission went to New York with a proclamation from Governor White inviting the Lone Star Cafe to become sovereign Texas territory for the Sesquicentennial. And now, the Cafe is in the process of being annexed by Texas after its patrons voted to secede from New York.

"Through projects like this, we want to spread the Texas message of goodwill and welcome to all of the world," said Richard Franck, program manager for the Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission. "And not only will the cafe offer a bit of Texas atmosphere to Moscow, but Russians will get a taste of a Lone Star long-neck and some good 'ole Texas chili, too!"

Wonder if Secretary General Gorbachev likes chili? ☆

For more information about New Music America '86, contact Michael Galbreth, New Music America, 1964 W. Gray Suite 227, Houston, Texas 77019, 713 / 521-9036. ☆

CALLING ALL WINTER TEXANS!

Plans are being made to involve a very special group of "temporary" Texans, the Winter Texans from the northern United States who travel south to the Rio Grande Valley for the winter months.

The Winter Texan Sesquicentennial Association is a newly-created organization of such "snowbirds" and has planned some very exciting activities for 1986. The association is already encouraging Winter Texans to make their "temporary Texan" status more permanent — by seceding from their home cities!

These Winter Texans will give their cities one "out" before breaking the home ties. They will ask their city governments to become affiliated with the Sesquicentennial as Texas Independence Communities. If the cities refuse, the Winter Texans will "secede" from their home communities' "negative attitudes" and petition the Governor of Texas to be admitted as Texas citizens. If enough Winter Texans secede, they may organize as a collective Texas Independence Community.

Central to the association's plans are two caravans which are expected to bring thousands of Winter Texans to the state in the fall and winter of 1985, one leaving in late October and the other leaving in December. Both will begin at three of the northernmost points in the United States — Emerson, North Dakota; International Falls, Minnesota; and Sault Ste.

Marie, Michigan. The branches of each caravan will eventually join at the Alamo in San Antonio, and the combined group will continue down to the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

"Any Winter Texan can participate in our caravans," said the Rev. Michael Zilligen, association organizer. "Since many Winter Texans will

be traveling the same routes as the caravan, participation is expected to send a strong message to Texas that Winter Texans are indeed an important part of the Lone Star State's celebration."

For more information about participation in the Winter Texan Sesquicentennial program, write P.O. Box 1986, Alamo, Texas 78516 or call 512/781-1986. ☆



THE TEXAS 1986 SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Hon. Emmie Craddock, Chairman

Dr. Dorman Winfrey, Vice-Chairman

Randy M. Lee, Executive Director

* * *

Stars Across Texas is a bi-monthly publication of the Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission, with information on the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration and related activities. Deadline for stories is five weeks prior to date of publication; if photographs are to accompany articles, please submit only black-and-white glossy prints.

Address correspondence to: Susan McClelland, Editor, P.O. Box 1986, Austin, Texas or call 512/475-1986. Portions of *Stars Across Texas* which are not copyrighted or reprinted from other sources may be reprinted provided proper credit is given.

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