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STARS ACROSS TEXAS

Vol. II No. 2

Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission

June 1986

Significant Celebrations Fill March and April

The historical events of 150 years ago — skirmishes and battles of Texans in revolt against the Mexican Government, lives lost and victories won, conferences and conventions expressing dis-

satisfaction with the dictator, Santa Anna, and finally the declarations of independence from Mexico — all have stirred today's Texans to re-enact these histori-

cal events, to commemorate their heroes, and to celebrate in diverse ways the freedoms gained and the Republic born in 1836. ☆

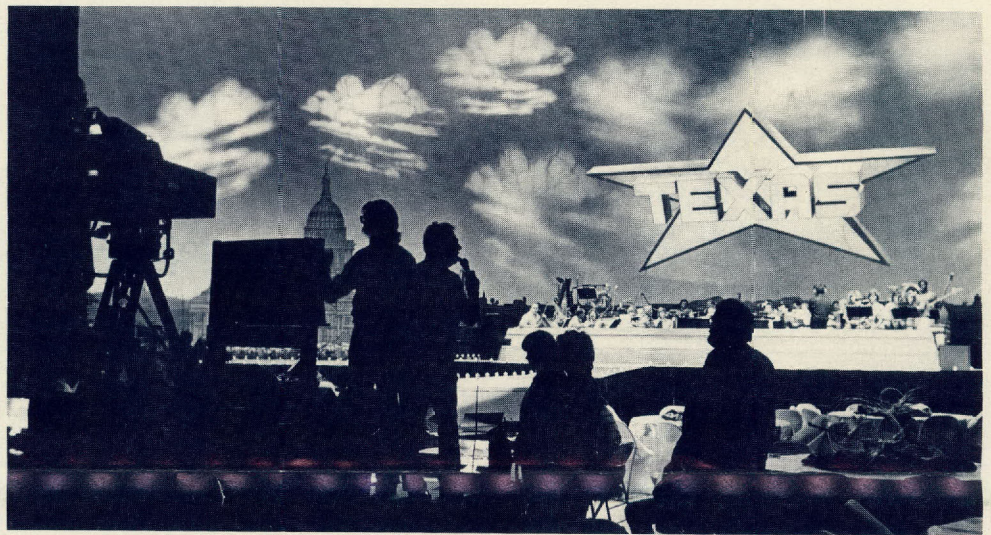
MARCH 2, 1986: TEXANS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY

More than 100 communities and associations across Texas produced major celebrations to commemorate Texas Independence Day. There were parades, concerts, barbecues and chili cook-offs, old-time brush arbor and church services, tours of historic homes and battle sites, all kinds of races and contests, formal balls and fireworks. One activity touched nearly every community—bells rang from church steeples, fire stations and schools at high noon.

Washington-on-the Brazos State Historical Park officially celebrated the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Texas Sesquicentennial with the opening of three new exhibits. Ceremonies included a keynote address by Governor Mark A. White and the presentation of an official United Nations flag from Dr. Samir Sanbar, U.N. representative. United States Postal Service representative officiated at a ceremony marking the first day issue of the Republic of Texas Sesquicentennial Stamp. Band and choral concerts highlighted the afternoon on the site where independence was declared.

At noon in San Antonio, city fathers read the proclamation designating March 2-9 as the city's Texas Independence Week. The Alamo bell pealed, leading

continued on page 2



— Photo by Richard Reynolds

Stars Salute Texas on Prime Time

ABC Television said "no" to California. Same to New York City. But when approached with the idea of presenting a television spectacular saluting Texas, ABC had an offer too good to turn down.

That's why ABC gave the o.k. to "Texas 150: A Celebration Special" and presented it as a two-hour, prime time telecast over the ABC Television Network on the night of April 28, 1986.

"Texas 150" featured the largest gathering of Texas superstars ever assembled to perform in a television special. The show was taped in Austin the evening of April 27 at The University of Texas Frank Erwin Special Events Center before an

enthusiastic audience that paid \$20, \$50, \$100 and \$500 for tickets. Ticket sale proceeds went to benefit the State Capitol Restoration Project.

"Texas 150" combined live performances and pre-taped "I Remember Texas" segments of stars' reflections of their home state, colorful historical features, and film clips.

Performing on a panoramic stage set depicting memorable scenes of Texas past and present, the stars showcased talents as wide as the Lone Star State. Country Music of America award-winner George Strait sang "Amarillo By Morning" *continued on page 7*



INDEPENDENCE DAY

continued from page 1

church bells city-wide as they rang 150 times. "Celebration of Texas History," a drama set to music, was presented by the Daughters of the Republic on the plaza in the front of the Alamo.

Chief Postal Inspector Charles R. Clauson spoke at the dedication of the 22 cent U.S. postage stamp issued that day to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Texas' independence. Ceremonies concurrent with those at Washington-on-the-Brazos were held on the steps of the Downtown Station, San Antonio's original Main Post Office located just north of the Alamo. The stamp, designed by Don Adair of Richardson, features the central portion of the State flag, angled down from the white Lone Star on a blue field at the top to the flag's broad red and white bands at right. In silver, near the center of the stamp is a spur depicting those believed to have been worn by defeated Mexican General Santa Anna. "San Jacinto 1836" is inscribed in white across the bottom to denote the date and site of the final military victory which secured independence for Texas.

In the State Capital, Austinites lined Congress Avenue five and six deep to view the city's largest parade in history. With 158 entries ranging from floats to dancing Chinese dragons and numerous saddle club and mounted posse groups, the parade lasted for more than two hours. After remarks by the Governor, many in a holiday mood adjourned to Town Lake where free concerts and a fireworks display ended the day.

Dallasites enjoyed an afternoon of festivities at Fair Park, highlighted by a visit and remarks from Vice President George Bush.

In Fort Worth leaders presided at the Grand Opening of the \$30 million restoration of authentic turn-of-the-century buildings in the National Stockyards Historic District.

El Pasoans declared via bumper stickers that: "El Pasoans are Texans, Too!" as they prepared for a series of celebrations. "We party in four languages," one of the Sesquicentennial leaders said. ☆



Vice President and Mrs. George Bush officially added their names to the list of contributors to Houston's 150th birthday gift to itself, the Buffalo Bayou-bordered Sesquicentennial Park then, joined James L. Ketelson, chairman of the park fund-raising campaign, to view the winning design for the facility. Sesquicentennial Park is located on the banks of Buffalo Bayou bounding the Civic Center and is very near the spot where the city of Houston was founded. Houston is celebrating its 150th year as a city as well as the State's Sesquicentennial.

APRIL 21, 1986:

STATE'S OFFICIAL CELEBRATION OVERFLOWS SAN JACINTO SITE

It was the largest official celebration by far, but not necessarily the noisiest. There were more than 100,000 visitors at the State's official commemoration of the Sesquicentennial, but when former Texas Congresswoman Barbara Jordan spoke, the silence was awesome. "It seemed like no one was breathing," Patrick Terry, executive director of the Sesquicentennial Commission, said. "She instilled in all of us the true meaning of the word, 'crator'."

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department hosted the two-day event on the grounds of the San Jacinto Monument and Governor Mark White presided. Vice President George Bush spoke, too. The crowd included visiting dignitaries from many states and nations as well as proud Texans celebrating what is, for this year only, a state holiday — April 21 — San Jacinto Day.

The battle which won independence for Texas was re-enacted and living historians pitched a camp nearby for all to visit. Seven stages featured music of all kinds and Texans danced. The entertainment was sponsored by Texaco. There was a

pavilion especially for children as well as regional and ethnic foods recognizing the "six flags" under which Texas has prospered.

On Sunday night the Houston Symphony Orchestra featured Willie Nelson and the concert was broadcast live on public television.

Monday night was the brightest of all. The largest fireworks display ever to be seen in Texas or anywhere lit the skies. The fireworks were choreographed to patriotic music developed specifically for the event and were simultaneously displayed in ten Texas cities. The event was anchored in Houston, but was "simulblast" in Austin, Corpus Christi, Waco, Dallas, Lubbock, El Paso, Longview, Beaumont and Brownsville. "Viewed from the heavens, the effect should simulate a huge star across the Lone Star State," according to the show's executive producer. Gary Caimano of Pyro-Spectaculars. The music was heard simultaneously on radio stations in each of the ten cities. Called the "Bud Light Star of Light," the extravagant finale was sponsored by Anheuser Busch. ☆

MARCH 6, 1986:

THOUSANDS REMEMBERED THE ALAMO

From the darkness just before the dawn until darkness came again, Texans and visitors from around the world remembered the Alamo and those who fell in its defense. Thousands thronged Alamo Plaza on March 6 to pay tribute to the loss of a battle and the ultimate victory of freedom.

Traditional memorial services for those who died at the battle were conducted by the Alamo Committee, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, as they are annually. However, in this Sesquicentennial year several public services — both inside and outside the shrine — were necessary to accommodate the crowds.

Daylong activities included several re-enactments of the now famous “drawing of the line” by Travis. Long muskets were loaded and fired. Men in boots and long coats brandished their sabers. Several women and children shuddered, cried, but walked bravely as did their predecessors 150 years ago.

Most noticeable among the visitors and participants were several Scottish pipe bands resplendent in kilts. There was also a large delegation from Tennessee. Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, along with Alex Haley, author of *Roots*, and 33 hand-picked high school juniors who represented the 33 Tennesseans who died at the Alamo, attended most of the day's events. Governor Alexander presented a native Tennessee red oak tree which was planted on the grounds at twilight. He stressed the many ties that Tennesseans and Texans have to bind them together — including Sam Houston whose walking stick he carried throughout the day. Governor Mark White accepted the gift for Texas and dignitaries took turns covering the roots with Alamo soil.

On the 150th anniversary of the famed battle, the scenario was repeated in several locations, including classrooms across Texas. At San Antonio's Brackenridge Park, a three-day living history encampment provided impressions of Mexican, Texican and Tejano soldiers and civilians attired in authentic costumes.

Professional portrayals of the 1836 skirmishes and camp life were given March 1-2 and March 8-9 at Alamo Village in Bracketville, built originally as the setting for the John Wayne movie, “The Alamo.” Sponsoring this event, with more



— Photo by Jo Starr

One of the less well known legends of the Alamo was re-created on Alamo Plaza March 6, when Charlie Daniels stepped up to the Scotsman, Pipe Major Gavin Stoddart, and began to fiddle. Stoddart squeezed his bagpipe in answer.

Daniels was portraying another famous Tennessean, Davy Crockett. Stoddart played the role of John McGregor, a defender of the Alamo who was of Scottish descent and who fiddled along with Davy Crockett to while away the hours. Remember, this was before television. The two instruments seemed to battle each other for attention, but were harmonious at the same time. It was almost like a hoedown or a battle of the bands. At any rate, the music of the fiddle and the pipes highlighted the day. And Charlie Daniels reminded on-lookers that a lot of our American fiddle music began in Scotland on the pipes.



Ghostly double exposure captures Alamo's spirit. — Photo by Jeanine Hicks

than 300 members coming from across the U.S. and Denmark, was the Alamo Lore and Myth Organization. Assisting to portray the events realistically were the recently formed Fort Sherman Ranging Company from East Texas, the Crossroads Living History group, and several

outfits of Buck-skinners.

History, indeed, came alive in early March — and the spirit of those who came and fought and died and lived pervaded the minds of others who came to remember. ☆

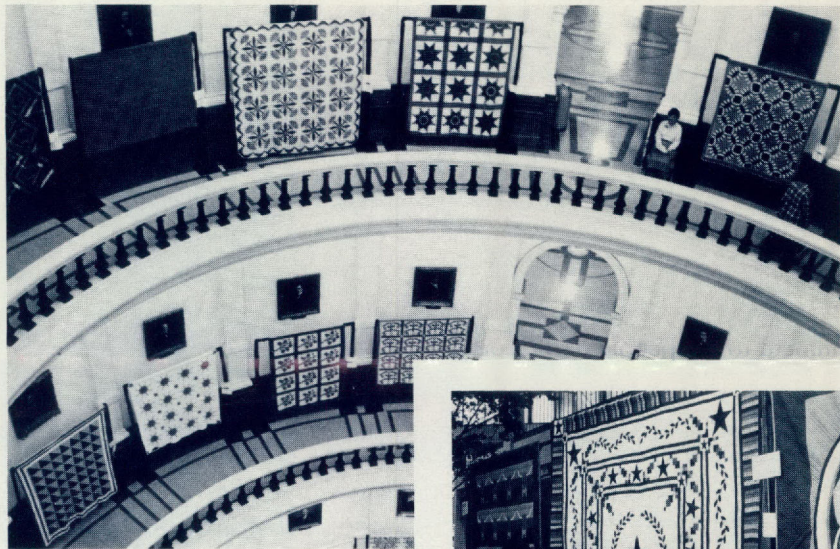
TEXAS QUILTS PRESERVE HERITAGE

Little scraps of fabric (both bright and subdued) pieced together with nimble fingers (both delicate and calloused) to provide warmth for both the body and the spirit...quilts tell the story of the Texas heritage and experience as women remember it. In this Sesquicentennial year there is a definite resurgence of interest in quilting both as an art form and as a social and historical commentary.

Two statewide associations sanctioned by the Sesquicentennial Commission have dedicated themselves to finding and documenting quilts and their history in Texas. Governor Mark White proclaimed April 18-26 as "Texas Quilt Appreciation Days" and virtually every community has included a special quilt to be pieced, quilted, displayed, or auctioned as one aspect of the Sesquicentennial celebration.

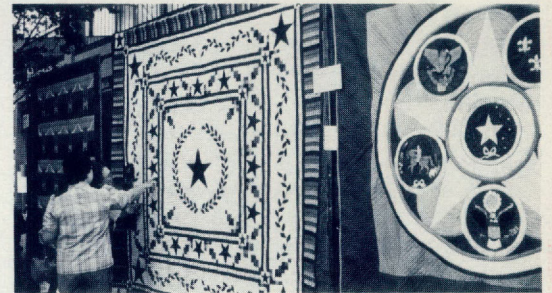
The Texas Heritage Quilt Society has sponsored eighteen Quilt Search Days in communities across the state since September 1984. More than 1800 quilts were photographed and documented. The data collected will be included in both a National Quilt Archives and a Texas Quilt Archives. Fifty-five of the most historical quilts found in East Texas were exhibited in the Old University Building in Nacogdoches in April, "Texas Treasures: East Texas Quilts & Quilters." More than 1200 area school children toured the exhibit as part of their Texas history classes. In addition, the group plans area exhibits in Paris and Orange in the fall. *Texas Quilts — Texas Treasures*, a hardbound book with colorful photographs of more than 800 historic and exceptional quilts, is the result of their labors. For information on purchasing the book or on a slide presentation of Texas quilts and quiltmakers, contact chairman, Kay Hadee, 1902 Forest Laurel, Kingwood, TX 77339.

A one-time-only Texas Quilt Exhibit was sponsored by the Texas Sesquicentennial Quilt Association in the Rotunda of the State Capitol on April 18-21. Showcasing 100 years of Texas quilts — those that were made in Texas and those that came with their "gone to Texas" owners — the quilts encircled the Rotunda on four levels, creating a dizzying kaleidoscope of color and patterns. TSQA members documented the 62 exhibit quilts in their book, *Lone Stars — A Legacy of Texas Quilts, 1836—1986*,



Whether cherished heirlooms or newly created designs, quilts tell the story of Texas and its women.

— Photos by Jo Starr



which also served as the catalogue for the exhibit. Part of the exhibit will travel the state, but this was the only display of the complete set — the culmination of a three year search for Texas quilts. The group turned up over 3,500 quilts which were unknown treasures still cherished by individual families. These 62 were the best of the best — one sample of almost every type of quilt.

The Great Texas Quilt Round Up, a fascinating exhibit of the top 100 entries in a statewide contest for new quilts on Texas themes, opened the same weekend at Highland Mall in Austin. It will travel through Texas for display at shopping malls and contains a wide range of needlework exhibiting Texas symbols, abstract wildflowers, lifelike deer and wild life, traditional Lone Stars and Texas samplers — each with outstanding workmanship.

The TSQA is enlisting names for the Honor Roll of Texas Quilters. Interested persons may list the name of their favorite quilter for a \$5 donation. The honor roll book which boasts a quilted cover, will be placed in the Quilt Archives. For information on honor roll listings, the *Lone Stars* book, or a pattern of the group's official logo — the Texas Sesquicentennial Quilt — please contact chairman, Mrs. Mary Reddick, 10885 Katy Freeway, Houston, TX 77079. ☆

Patrick Terry Named Director

At its February 1986 meeting, the Sesquicentennial Commission welcomed Patrick Terry as its executive director after accepting with regret the resignation of Lynn Nabers who had served in the position since August 1985. Terry had served as deputy director under Nabers, with responsibility for day to day execution of the Commission's activities.

A native of Abilene, Terry holds a B.S. degree in Advertising/Marketing from the University of Texas at Austin. He worked as an account executive for Tracy Locke/BBDO Advertising in Dallas until he left the firm in 1984 to become a marketing consultant in Dallas.

"We have the ideal replacement in Mr. Terry," Dr. Emmie Craddock, chairman of the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission, said, "His experience and proven talents qualify him for the key leadership role in carrying out Sesquicentennial policies during our 1986 celebration."

Nabers' resignation was due to the serious illness of his mother. "As the only son, Lynn must now devote a considerable amount of his time to family business affairs," Craddock said. "We appreciate his decision, but regret losing him. His skillful managerial abilities have contributed productively to Commission activities. It is a job well done and we owe Lynn a debt of gratitude." ☆



STAR TRACKS

WHITESBORO TOOK TO THE AIR — The community of Whitesboro in Grayson County flew high with its "Happy Birthday, Texas!" held May 17. On the ground there was a carnival, a circus, arts and crafts, concessions and entertainment. But, participants' spirits soared with hot air balloon rides and a special F-4 fighter flyover by the 301st Tactical Wing from Carswell Air Force Base near Fort Worth.

SUGAR LAND BOASTS ANOTHER FIRST — On March 1 the city of Sugar Land raised "the largest flag in the world" — a Sesquicentennial flag measuring 150 feet by 100 feet. Following the flag raising was a parade and the dedication of a 22-foot granite monument to the people of the community.

BEEVILLE LED THE EFFORT TO SECEDE — Bee County Judge Kinkler Handley invited 253 County Judges to send representatives with the power to vote in the "Consultation on the Poesta," a tongue-in-cheek secessionist convention held March 1-2 to honor the 1836 Washington-on-the-Brazos Consultation. Bee County College and local merchants sponsored contests including one to name The First Admiral of the Texas Navy, a Lorenzo de Zavala look-alike contest, and The Yellow Rose of Texas contest whose winner would be chosen from those "dressed appropriately with the demeanor of Santa Anna's infamous lover." The logo for the venture was a raised hand — with the fingers crossed!

BLACK GOLD CREATED IN RUSK COUNTY — The Rusk County Sesquicentennial Committee planned a concentrated celebration entitled "The 21 Days of April" and began a tradition with the first annual Black Gold Festival celebrating the discovery of the East Texas Oil Field. The two-day festival featured a play, "I Dream of Oil," a Roughneck Reunion, a 10-K run, Sesquicentennial parade, a "Texas 42" tournament and a Wacky Raft Race on the lake. The 21 days of April celebration also included the dedication of the Tatum Depot, a tour of historic homes, and the dedication of a time capsule.

EL PASO SCHOOL CHILDREN PARTICIPATE — On April 18, first grade students at Western Hills School buried a time capsule containing pertinent lists of people and events of 1986. Their intent is to return to the site in 25 years and unearth the receptacle themselves. Third graders of L.B. Johnson Elementary raised money from an aluminum can drive to purchase two Arizona ash tree which they planted as their Sesquicentennial gift to the school on April 24.

"HANDS AROUND TEXAS" — opened May 3 at the Hands Around the World Museum, 1010 Pecan Street in Bastrop — and it is much more than just a children's art competition according to Brenda Wagner, chairperson. Students in the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades throughout Texas were invited to consider the people, events, and places of historical significance in their counties and one entry from each of the 254 counties was selected. The exhibit will travel to Dallas for a showing in the City Hall on September 1, then on to the State Fair beginning September 26. It will be available for touring after these dates.

GONZALES... THE CITY WHERE THE FIRST SHOT OF THE REVOLUTION WAS FIRED... invites the state and the nation to their "Come and Take It Celebration" which will be October 3-4-5, 1986. Of course, the original "Come and Take It" cannon will be on display in the square. There will be helicopter rides daily, a parade on Saturday morning, arts and crafts, plenty of good food, a mule pull, and a chicken flying contest. Three performances of "The Immortal 32" will be featured at the Crystal Theatre, Eddie Raven will perform at the Saturday night street dance, and of course, there will be a "Come and Run It" 10 K race on Saturday. All of these events were inadvertently left out of the Official Guidebook.



Executive Director Patrick Terry congratulates Texas Agriculture Commissioner at opening of exhibit.

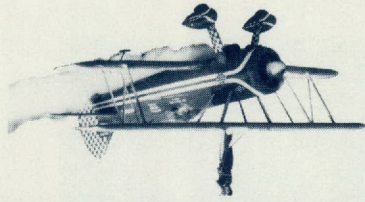
Land Exhibit Opens

The men, women, and children of Texas who worked the soil, literally shaping the state through their toil, are being honored with a mobile photographic exhibit — a joint project of the Texas Department of Agriculture, Central Freight Lines Inc., Lufkin Industries, Inc, and the Texas Motor Transportation Association. "What better way to celebrate the State's 150th anniversary than by honoring Texas families who have farmed, ranched and cared for their land for a century or more," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said at ceremonies unveiling the exhibit.

"The Department of Agriculture is proud to pay tribute to the Texas families whose land is our very heritage," he continued. The exhibit is housed in an 18-wheel tractor-trailer rig. The trailer is provided by Lufkin Industries, Inc., while Central Freight Lines Inc. is furnishing the truck and driver. The Texas Motor Transportation Association financed the painting of the trailer which features an agricultural silhouette against a magnificent Texas sunrise.

Inside are pictures detailing the State's progress in agriculture. To date, 1,900 farms and ranches have been certified and entered into the *Family Land Heritage Registry*: the name of each family is included in the mobile exhibit.

For information on the Texas Family Land Heritage Program or the tour schedule for the exhibit, contact the Texas Department of Agriculture, P.O. Box 12847, Austin, TX 78711 or call (512)-463-7476. ☆



TEXAS AIR EXPO SET FOR JUNE

Texas Air Expo — a Sesquicentennial Event promises “something for everyone” who attends the two-day aviation spectacular scheduled for June 11-15 at TSTI Airport in Waco.

The event will bring the past and the present together with both flights and static exhibits from leading aviation organizations around the world in celebration of the spirit of the aviation industry which began in Texas.

The Concorde — traveling at twice the speed of sound — will be there and several roundtrip flights over the Texas coast will be available. One of America’s largest airships, the Goodyear blimp “America,” will be on hand as will the world’s smallest jet, The Coors Light “Silver Bullet.”

Several aerobatic groups are scheduled to perform: the world-famous Thunderbirds; the amazing Eagles Aerobatic Flying Team; and individual stunt acts such as Chuck Stockdale and his “Super Chipmunk,” and Wing Walkers Ruth and Bob Blankenship with “Ole Red.”

Bombings, straffing runs, and military maneuvers will be re-enacted by The Confederate Air Force. Their Flying Museum, an international collection including fighters, bombers and trainers of the Royal Air Force, German Luftwaffe, and Imperial Japanese Navy, as well as U.S. aircraft from the war years, will be a highlight of the show. Another feature of Texas Air Expo is the new technology which will be displayed in aircraft such as the Bell/US Army/NASA XV-15 Tilt Rotor — an aircraft which converts from a helicopter to a fast turboprop airplane while flying.

For Air Expo and Concorde information, hotel reservations, and updated schedules contact: Waco Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, P.O. Box 2570, Waco, TX 76702-2570 or call 1-817-753-1505. Pre-sale tickets for adults are \$6 per day and for children are \$2 per pay. Tickets will be \$8 and \$3 at the gate. Tickets are available at many 7-11 Stores throughout Texas. ☆

TEN CORPORATIONS JOIN PROGRAM

Ten corporations have joined the Corporate Sponsorship Program of the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission since January, bringing the total corporate contribution to the Sesquicentennial Fund up to \$118,500.

American Airlines, Coca-Cola U.S.A., Fidelity Investments Southwest Company, Miller Brewing Company, Mobil Oil Corporation, Nabisco Brands, Inc. (Biscuit Division), The Oasis Water Company, Procter & Gamble (makers of Duncan Hines), RE/MAX, and Schenley Industries, Inc., will all be recognized as Corporate Sponsors through usage of the “Proud Sponsor” Sesquicentennial logo on their products and advertising.

Donations to the Sesquicentennial Fund will be awarded to the Commission on the Arts and to the Texas Tourist Development Agency for support of the arts in

Texas communities as well as tourism throughout Texas. After the first \$3,500,000 has been distributed between these two agencies, the Sesquicentennial Commission will benefit equally from gifts to this fund.

Corporate sponsors do not receive any exclusive license or title in return for their contribution, but are allowed the use of the official logo for promotional purposes.

Corporate sponsors who joined the program before January are as follows: Burlison’s Honey, Coca-Cola Foods (makers of Maryland Club Coffee), H.E. Butt Grocery Company, Kelly Childs Productions, Inc., Outline, John B. Stetson, The South Australian Brewing Company, Sunshine Bullion Company, and Texas Utilities Company. ☆

MARCH 22, 1986:

FORGOTTEN GOLIAD RELIVES TRAGEDY

The commemoration of the State’s Sesquicentennial began on October 9, 1985 for the city of Goliad. It was on that day in 1835 that a small band of soldiers under Fannin’s command captured the Mexican Presidio La Bahia. And long before a convention drew up the official Declaration of Independence, the men at Goliad wrote their firm views that the province of Texas “ought to be a free, sovereign, and independent state”.

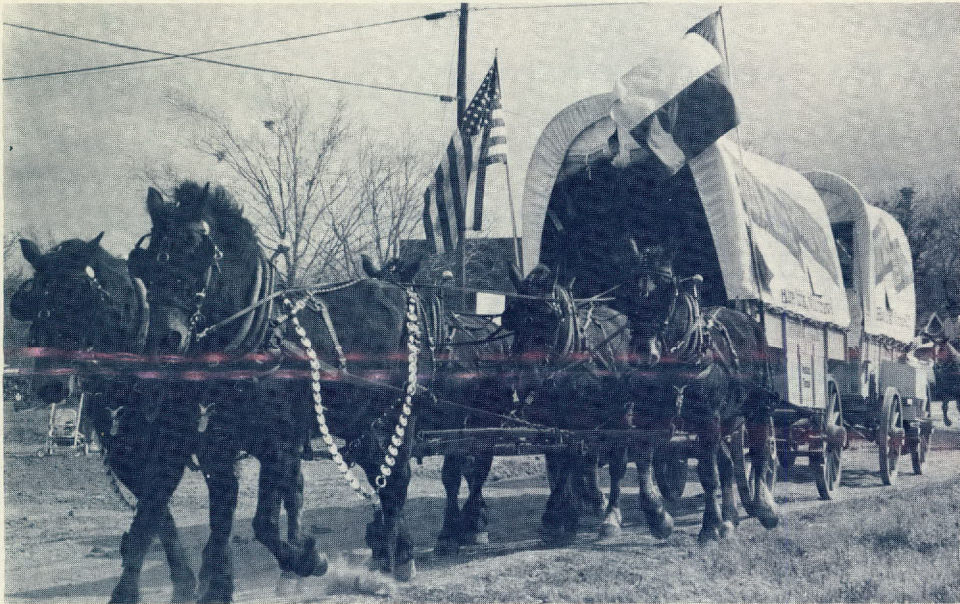
Fannin’s men, mostly volunteers from various parts of the United States, held the fort until ordered by General Houston on March 13, 1836 to withdraw from La Bahia and establish defensive positions at Victoria. But it was March 19 before Colonel Fannin began the withdrawal. Then it was too late. The forces of General Cos trapped Fannin’s men on an open prairie. Under siege, with many wounded and without water — and believing their lives would be spared — Fannin surrendered. The Texians were marched back to Goliad, held for one week, and then all were executed by order of Santa Anna.

The execution of 400 men was the largest single loss of life during the Texas Revolution. An all-day living history program designed to interpret the occupa-

tion of Presidio La Bahia by the forces of COL James W. Fannin in March of 1836 was presented to the public on March 22, 1986. “The other point of view” was an interpretation of the Mexican Army at nearby Goliad State Park on the site of Mission Espiritu Santo. The entire day focused on educating Texans about the events of the Revolution in Goliad. Visitors found that they were talking to men who believed and talked as if it were 1836. “Our authenticity standards are very high,” noted Kevin R. Young, Presidio La Bahia’s chief of historical interpretation and living history programs. “Many of the groups here today were contracted by Warner Brothers to add historical accuracy to the battle scenes for the TV series, ‘North and South’.”

A special memorial service and march to the Fannin grave was held on Sunday, March 23. “If one wants to appreciate the true feel of the Sesquicentennial,” Young said, “then visit this old fort on the lower San Antonio. Here 400 men died that we might *have* a Sesquicentennial. It is a powerful image.” For other presentations and tours, write Presidio La Bahia, P.O. Box 57, Goliad, TX 77963. ☆

Texas Wagon Train Keeps on Rollin' Along...



— Photo by Brett Bunner

Prime Time Salute

continued from page 1

ing." Sandy Duncan and Tommy Tune performed a show-stopping number from their hit Broadway musical "My One And Only." Van Cliburn brought Gary Morris to the stage to thrill the audience with an aria from "La Boheme." The legendary Johnny Cash paid tribute to the heroes of the Alamo. And Freddie Fender brought the crowd into the act with his foot stomping, hand clapping rendition of "I Love My Rancho Grande."

The audience was treated to a behind the scenes "out take" when Jimmy Dean stopped his number "Bob Wills Is Still The King" half way through to start over. Dean confided to the audience, "I get nervous because I don't do this much anymore. But I don't have to — I sell sausage."

The warmest welcome of the evening fell to the movies' first and foremost "singing cowboy" Gene Autry. The Sesquicentennial celebration stirs fond memories for Autry, a Tioga native. Autry had been a star attraction at the 1936 Texas Centennial in Dallas, where he made one of his first movies, "Ride, Ranger, Ride." "If I'd a known I was gonna live this long, I'd a took better care of myself," Autry quipped.

Other stars appearing live at the Erwin Center include Mac Davis, Larry Gatlin & the Gatlin Brothers, Roger Staubach, Johnny Rodriguez, John Hillerman (of

"Magnum P.I."), Tom Jarriel (of ABC News), Patrick Swayze (of "North and South"), Jennifer Holliday (Tony award winner for the Broadway show "Bubblin' Brown Sugar"), Phyllis George Brown, Michael Martin Murphey, B.J. Thomas, Johnny Lee, Dorothy Malone, The Mighty Clouds of Joy and The University of Texas Longhorn Marching Band — all 300-plus members on stage at one time.

Appearing on tape were Walter Cronkite, Phyllicia Rashad, Jacklyn Smith, Sissy Spacek, Barbara Jordan, Tom Landry, Mean Joe Greene, Boz Scaggs, Morgan Fairchild, John Henry Faulk, Ana-Alicia, Lydia Cornell, Ginger Rogers, Willie Shoemaker, Katherine Helmond, Jerry Hall, Martina Navratilova, Byron Nelson, Dennis Quaid and Tommy Lee Jones.

The show was more than a year in the making. It took the cooperative efforts of the Capitol Committee, Texas Tourist Development Agency, Sesquicentennial Commission, Sesquicentennial Productions of Dallas, SFM Entertainment Network in New York City and the ABC Television Network to turn the concept into a reality.

"Texas 150: A Celebration Special" was produced and directed by Emmy award winner Joe Cates. Executive Producer was Bill Starnes. Head writer was Chet Hagan, a former producer of the "Today Show." Set design was by George Pettit of Dallas. Special consultant for production was Gordon R. Wynne, Jr., of Wills Point. ☆

Kevin Walter of the *Marshall News Messenger* said it best: "It fires the imagination. The rumble of wagon wheels over Texas roads, the clattering of hooves, the slap of leather. The misty breath of a hundred snorting horses rises in the snap of a cold winter's morning. Men and women call out as the traveling caravan prepares for another day on the trail..."

The Texas Sesquicentennial Wagon Train moves on. It has completed approximately two-thirds of its intended route and will arrive in Fort Worth on July 2-3, 1986 for its grand finale — the end of the trail.

Horses and riders will perhaps show signs of sweat rather than misty breath. Some have died, some have been injured, some have flourished along the way as the rugged pioneers who came to Texas did in their time. The group has had its daily problems, but has coped with them all along. Perhaps there is no other one project of the Sesquicentennial year which so embodies all that we are and were.

For information on the Wagon Train schedule and participation, contact The Texas Wagon Train Association, P.O. Box 167217, Irving, TX 75016 or call: Texas Watts 1-800-441-1986; National Watts 1-800-224-1986. ☆

LIVELY SAILS AGAIN

A descendant of Moses Austin was on board when the schooner *Rachel B. Jackson* retraced the route of the *Lively* during Freeport's Sesquicentennial celebration, April 20-27.

In a re-enactment of the 1821 voyage by Austin and the first 300 Anglo-American families to come to Texas, the 67-foot tall *Rachel B. Jackson* set sail from New Orleans on April 21 and docked at Freeport's Brazos Harbor on April 25.

University of Texas at Austin student Alicia Bryan, a direct descendant of Moses Austin, was on board for the voyage.

The recreation of the historic event highlighted Freeport's week long Sesquicentennial celebration, which culminated with the concert performance of Ricky Skaggs, the 1985 country music entertainer of the year, on April 27. ☆

APRIL 1, 1986:



Concert Benefits Commission

On April Fools' Day, 1986, 20 musical entertainers and their bands gathered in Austin at the Austin Opera House to do some serious "foolin' around" to help raise money for the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission. The benefit concert, dubbed the "April Fool-off," began at 7 p.m. and continued into the wee hours of the morning.

Thoses in attendance tapped their toes to the music of the following groups and performers: Mack Abernathy, Skeet Anglin, Asleep at the Wheel, Vince Bell, Johnny Dee and the Rockett 88's, Duck Soup, The First Take, Eliza Gilkyson, Alex Harvey and Friends, Roy Head, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Karen Kraft, Reg Lindsay, The Maines Brothers, Bobbie Mack, Steve Mendell, Billy Joe Shaver, Ernie Sky, Floyd Tillman, T. Gosney Thornton, and Rusty Weir.

Singer/songwriter Alex Harvey, composer of the official Sesquicentennial song, "No Place But Texas," came up with the idea for the benefit concert to help the Sesquicentennial Commission with its printing and mailing costs. "Times are tough and money's hard to come by, so this is our chance to go a little extra in helping Texas celebrate its 150th birthday," said Harvey, who also hosted the concert.

Local sponsors for the evening were KASE/KVET Radio, Anchovies Bar & Grille, Lite Beer from Miller, and Allen's Boot Center. Members of the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission, at the April meeting, unanimously voted to express their thanks to the groups and sponsors with this article for *Stars Across Texas*. So — on behalf of the commission members and the staff — MANY, MANY THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS! ☆

THE TEXAS 1986 SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

Dr. Emmie Craddock, Chairman
Dr. Dorman Winfrey, Vice-Chairman
Patrick Terry, Executive Director
Sam Garner, Information Coordinator
Jo Starr, Information Coordinator

This issue of *Stars Across Texas* may be the last issue you receive. In accordance with the budget cuts in state spending requested by the Governor, the agency has reduced its printing and mailing expenditures. If money becomes available after the end of the fiscal year (August 31, 1986) we will publish a "wrap up" issue of *Stars Across Texas* at the end of the year.

For librarians and others, the serial numbers of publications of the Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission are as follows:

The Texas National Dispatch

Vol. I, Number I (February 1981)
Vol. II*, Number II (June 1981)
*incorrectly numbered, should have been Vol. I, Number II)
Vol. I, Number III (November 1981)
Vol. II, Number I (February 1982)
Vol. II, Number II (May 1982)
Vol. II, Number III (August 1982)
Vol. II, Number IV (November 1982)

Vol. III, Number I (March 1983)
Vol. III, Number II (June 1983)
Vol. III, Number III (September 1983)
Vol. III, Number IV (December 1983)
Vol. IV, Number I (February 1984)
Vol. IV, Number II (April 1984)
Vol. IV, Number III (June 1984)
Vol. IV, Number IV (August 1984)
Vol. IV, Number V (October 1984)
Vol. IV, Number VI (December 1984)
Vol. V, Number 1 (February 1985)
Vol. V, Number 2 (April 1985)
Vol. V, Number 3 (June 1985)
Vol. V, Number 4 (August 1985)
Vol. V, Number 5 (October-November 1985)

Stars Across Texas

Vol. I, Number 1 (May 1985)
Vol. I, Number 2 (July 1985)
Vol. I, Number 3 (September 1985)
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