

March 1, 2001

Photo by Carl H. Deal, III

Celebrate 150!

San Marcos, Texas

Sesquicentennial *1851-2001*

The Daily Record and The Free Press

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Mountain Laurel Garden Club



Sesquicentennial Logo

San Marcos, Texas

Designed by Samantha Gonzales,
age 13

The surrounding color is purple because our school district's colors are purple and white, and we are a truly royal city. The gold star is the lone star of our great state.

The red ribbon represents our community's attitude toward drugs: "Just Say No"/ Red Ribbon Week. At the top left is our beautiful river that gives life to our city. Also depicted is the wonderful Playscape in one of our city's parks. At the top right is Old Main of SWT, a defining part of our community.

At the lower right is our glorious flag of Texas that we all revere. At the very bottom are our beloved bluebonnets that are so much a part of San Marcos in the Spring. Also, they are our state flower. At the lower left is our newly renovated courthouse, the heart of our city and county.

San Marcos City Council

Mayor - David Chiu

Place 1 - Louis Doiron, Jr

Place 2 - Earl Moseley, Jr.

Place 3 - Jane Hughson

Place 4 - Joe B. Cox, Jr.

Place 5 - Paul Mayhew

Place 6 - Martha Castex Tatum

City Manager - Larry D. Gilley

Deputy City Manager - Laura Huffman

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Louis Doiron Jr.,

Co-Chair

Diana Finlay,

Co-Chair

Rodney Van Oudekerke,

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Viola Stillman

Virginia Witte

Janis K. Womack

Lisa Morris,

City Staff Representative



City of San Marcos - Sesquicentennial Year In Review

January 28, 2002 Report to City Council

*Submitted by Diana Finlay, Chair
2001 Sesquicentennial Commission*

January, 2001 -

Sesquicentennial Logo - designed by 13-year old Samantha Gonzales is unveiled on banners and flags. City buildings begin flying the flag in year-long salute to founders
The Daily Record runs the Sesquicentennial Logo on its banner at the top of each front page for the entire year.
Martin Luther King Festival pays tribute to city in birthday celebration

February, 2001 -

Celebrate San Marcos! 76 page commemorative newspaper brings history to life to honor 150th birthday - thousands of copies are distributed through local newspapers, libraries, city buildings, and schools.

March, 2001 -

Historic Firebell Dedication - Sponsored by the Heritage Association of San Marcos, the 1890 firebell is placed in a permanent structure at the front door of City Hall. The City Council Chambers were filled with citizens welcoming the bell to its new home.

Come Back Special - Roy Head and The Traits - San Marcos' most famous rock and roll band performs for local audiences in spite of torrential rains that cancel the Homecoming Celebration in the park.

April, 2001 -

Bluebonnet Kite Festival flies birthday kites all over San Marcos in celebration of city's sesquicentennial celebration

May, 2001 -

Texas Senate honors San Marcos Sesquicentennial with Senate Resolution 366, sponsored by Ken Armbrister and Gonzalo Barrientos.

City celebrates birthday in full bloom with Senior Association Daffodil Days
Viva Cinco de Mayo Celebration recognizes Sesquicentennial year in San Marcos

June, 2001 -

Dedication ceremony for landscape clusters of native plants along the entryway to downtown San Marcos - Crepe Myrtles are the centerpiece of this xeriscaped project of the Sesquicentennial Committee and San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department
Sesquicentennial Committee sells souvenirs at Summer in the Park concerts and Visitors Center.

July, 2001 -

Summerfest shares the stage with the Sesquicentennial Celebration for 4th of July Birthday Homecoming Picnic - popular singer-songwriter Terri Hendrix headlines the show and fireworks make for a grand finale for the celebration.

August, 2001 -

Sesquicentennial Committee and City Council host Cottage Kitchen Luncheon in Charles S. Cock House. The menu - King Ranch Chicken, Tossed Salad, Hot Bread and assorted desserts - The luncheon was deemed a success as we sold out of food.
Bright lights, good food and colorful festivities brighten our birthday year at St. John's Fiesta

September, 2001 -

Local students brainstorm ideas for Sesquicentennial time capsule (final list of items is attached to this report)
Republic of Texas Chilympiad joins in cele-

bration of 150th anniversary with the first open chili cookoff - as women are welcomed to compete for the first time ever in the world's largest cookoff! San Marcos and Chilympiad could adopt the theme, "We've come a long way, baby...."

October, 2001 -

Cemetery Walk brings crowds to early settlers' historic resting places in San Marcos at three historical cemeteries: The San Marcos Cemetery, San Pedro Cemetery and San Marcos - Blanco Cemetery

November, 2001 -

Veterans salute birthday in Veterans Day Celebration and Parade.
Final plans are made for the Time Capsule burial and the planting of a founders' tree.

December, 2001 -

Sesquicentennial Committee teams with Sights and Sounds committee to sell souvenirs for both groups at the successful holiday event.

Founders Tree - A burr oak is planted in honor of William Lindsey, Eli Merriman and Edward Burleson across Hopkins Street from the San Marcos Activity Center
The Time Capsule is filled with interesting icons and documents with instructions to open it in 2051 - during the Bicentennial of the City of San Marcos

January, 2002 -

Dr. Gwen Smith mentions during the final Sesquicentennial Committee meeting that 2002 is the 125th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of San Marcos.

Celebrate 150!
San Marcos
Sesquicentennial Picnic
Saturday
March 3, 2001
Festival Stage
at Old Fish Hatchery Park
Entertainment All Day
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
FREE! FREE! FREE! FREE!
All Ages Welcome!
Larry D. Gilley
Master of Ceremonies
 Abundant Life Christian Praise Singers: 10 – 10:30
 SMCISD Ballet Folklórico: 10:40 – 11 a.m.
Final Call for Entries for Baking Contests - 11:00 a.m.
 Hernandez Intermediate Choir: 11– 11:30 a.m.
 UMOJA Steppers: 11:30 – 11:45 a.m.
 Daryl Fleming: Story Teller: 11:45 a.m. – 12 noon
Welcome by Mayor David Chiu
Dedication of Beautification Project
Sons of the American Revolution
 Lane Johnson & members of SMHS Choir, 12:30 – 1 p.m.
 Cake Walk 1: p.m.
 M.C. Kids from the Mitchell Center: 1 – 1:20 p.m.
 HalleyAnna Finlay 1:20 – 1:50 p.m.
 SMHS Mariachi Band: 2 – 2:45 p.m.
 Baking Contest Winners Announced: : 2:45 – 3 p.m.
The Traits with Roy Head: 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.
 Wes Austin 4 – 4:20 p.m.
Terri Hendrix Band: 4:30 – 5:50 p.m.

For maximum enjoyment, bring your own picnic lunches and lawn chairs. For more information, call San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department at 393-8400.



**Heritage
 Association,
 City to
 dedicate
 historic fire bell**

The City of San Marcos and the Heritage Association of San Marcos will dedicate a century-old fire bell that called fire fighters and citizens for much of the 20th century at a ceremony on Friday, March 2 at 11 a.m. at City Hall. The gray 1000-pound cast iron bell, purchased by the City of San Marcos around 1890, has been relocated in front of the present City Hall at 630 E. Hopkins Street.

For 58 years, from 1915-1973, the bell rang from a tower above the old City Hall and Fire Station at 224 Guadalupe Street. It was taken down in 1973 because of concern for the structural integrity of the tower.

Mayor David Chiu and City Council Members will accept the dedication of the bell from the Heritage Association, which contributed to its restoration and construction of a limestone mount to hold the bell.

Also participating in the ceremony will be City Manager Larry D. Gilley, master of ceremonies, Rodney Van Oudekerke, President of the Heritage Association, Dr. Gwen K. Smith, Heritage Association, Robert Cotner, Past Heritage Association President, and Council Member Earl Moseley.

The bell was restored in 1986 for the Texas Sesquicentennial by Dr. Robert Habengreither, Chairman of the Department of Technology at Southwest Texas State University. Its recent relocation to City Hall was coordinated by the City's Parks and Recreation Department in cooperation with the Heritage Association.

The ceremony will also include recognition of the San Marcos Fire Department, the past Volunteer Fire Department, and members of the San Marcos Sesquicentennial Committee. 📞

The fire bell will
 be rung to officially
 begin the celebra-
 tion year of the
 150th
 anniversary of
 the founding of San
 Marcos in 1851.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Start your ovens!

The Sesquicentennial Commission for the City of San Marcos is hosting a contest for the best pie, cobbler and cake in the city of San Marcos. Each entry must be accompanied by two identical cakes or cobblers or pies, one to be judged for taste, and the other will be auctioned for proceeds to benefit the Sesquicentennial event. All entries must be received between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the Old Fish Hatchery Building.

The winners will be announced at 3:30 p.m. Mayor David Chiu will proclaim the winning recipes as the Official Sesquicentennial Cake, Pie and Cobbler for San Marcos, and ribbons and awards will be presented at that time.

Each entrant is requested to include a written copy of the recipe accompanying their entry, and the contest is open to all citizens of San Marcos. For additional information, please contact the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of San Marcos. (512)-754-PARK





- 2B.....Introduction, Acknowledgements
by **Bob Barton, Jr., Diana Finlay**
- 3B.....San Marcos de Neve by **Juan R Palomo**
- 4B..... Early County Government:
Close to the People: by **Jim Green**
- 5B.....Empresario's Deal Leads to Founding
by **Jim Green**
- 6B.... Stringtown Just A Memory Today
by **Hill Rylander**
- 7B....A Subjugated Race: Blacks faced harsh life
by **Juan R. Palomo and Ollie W. Giles**
- 9B...The First Count by **Melissa Millecam**
- 10B...San Marcos Feels Pain of Civil War
by **Bob Barton, Jr.**
- 11B...Civil War Recollections: A Diary
by **D. P. Hopkins**
- 12B...The Town's First Businesswoman
by **Al Lowman**
- 13B...Reconstruction by **Bob Barton, Jr.**
- 14B...Early Mexican Settlers by **Juan R. Palomo**
- 16B...Incorporation: A City is Born
- 18B...Vignettes from San Marcos' Past: It's The Law
by **Melissa Millecam**
- 20B...Crime and Punishment by **Melissa Millecam**
- 21B... Jack C. Hays Law Enforcement Museum
OLD JAIL IS FUTURE HOME by **Carl H. Deal, III**
- 22B...Two World Wars by **Bob Barton, Jr.**
- 24B...Taking Notes: A PERSPECTIVE OF LOCAL POLICE HISTORY
by **Carl H. Deal, III**
- 26B...Luciano Flores: FIRST MEXICAN-AMERICAN MAYOR
by **Josh Millecam**
- 28B...Lucious Jackson: THE HARD ROAD
by **Carl H. Deal, III and Bill Cunningham**
Mexican American elected officials
by **Bob Barton, Jr.**
- 29B...Population Explosion by **Bob Barton, Jr.**
Activated Sludge: A NATIONAL PROTOTYPE
by **Al Lowman**
- 30B...San Marcos in the 1850s by **Jim Green**
- 31B...San Marcos in the 1950s
by **Diana Finlay and W. C. Carson**



See enlargement of this letter on
page 37 of this PDF

Sincerely,

David Chiu
David Chiu
Mayor

"A Texas Friendly City"

City Hall • 630 East Hopkins • San Marcos, Texas 78666 • 512/393-8000 • FAX 512/396-1576

CITY HALL AND FIRE STATION, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS.

You hold in your hand a sampler of local history. We had to leave out far more than we could include in this modest project, but our hope is that it will serve to kindle old memories and spark new enthusiasm for historic preservation.

Labor of love - ah, perhaps... but *labor* was a key word... We burned the midnight oil on more than a few occasions, comparing, researching, double checking and proofing - so be reminded of that should you find mistakes within these pages -- there could have been a lot more!

As a lifelong resident of San Marcos, I am so very proud to have been a part of this project, which would never have seen the light of day if not for :

- The tremendous enthusiasm and dedicated editorial talents of **Bob Barton, Carl Deal, Melissa Millecam and Pat Murdock;**

- The patience and proofreading of **HalleyAnna Finlay and Sue Hess;**

- Decades of research by historians **Johnnie Armstead, Harvey Miller, Juan Palomo, Soila Rodriguez, Frances Stovall, Ofelia Vasquez-Philo, and Tula Townsend Wyatt;**

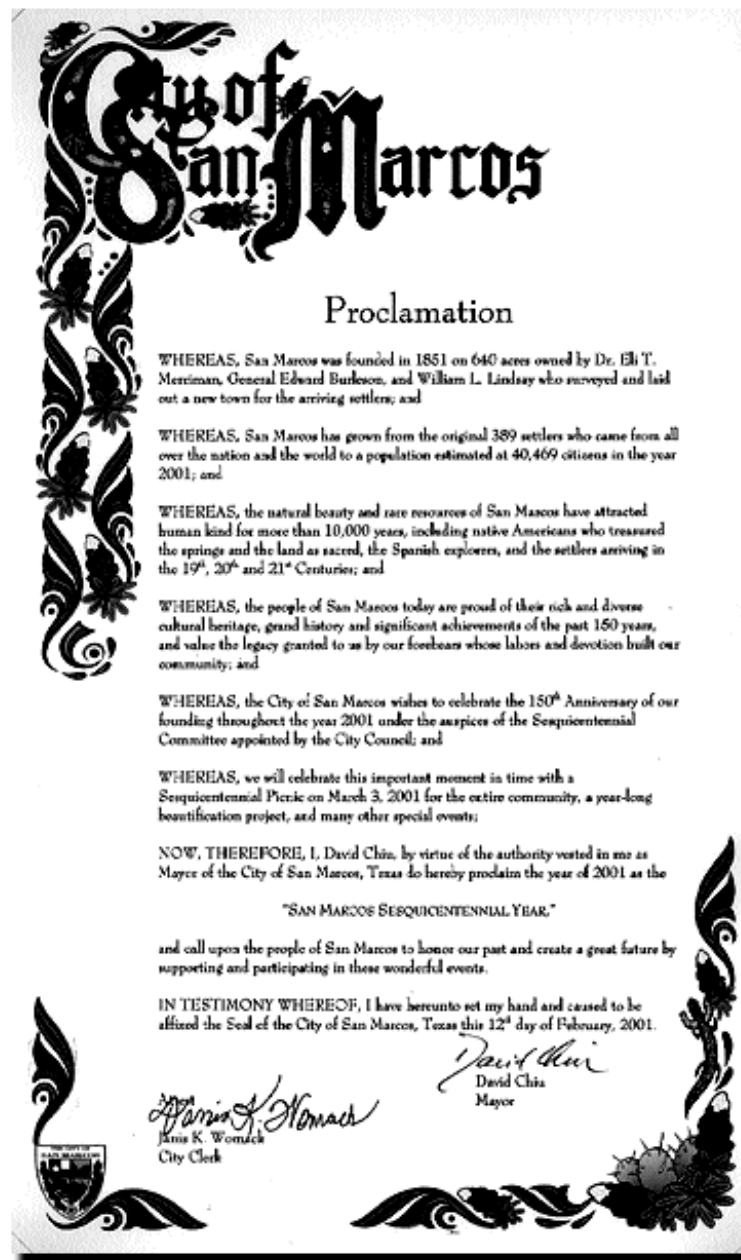
- The technical, printing and distribution efforts of **Chuck Williams, Rowe Ray** and the staff of the *Daily Record*; and

- The encouragement of **Mayor David Chiu** and the **City Council** and **City Hall staff**, and the resources of the **San Marcos Public Library**.

And should some of the ink from this newsprint rub off on our hands, let it be a reminder of the spirit of those pioneers who came before us to touch our lives and color our future with their vision of where we've been, who we are and where we are going. As we celebrate the Sesquicentennial of the founding of our city, may we continue in the tradition of our forefathers, who settled here with strong commitment, great hope for the future of San Marcos.

Happy Birthday San Marcos,

Diana Finlay, Editor
March 1, 2001



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UNDERWRITTEN BY THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS

FOR THE SESQUICENTENNIAL PROJECT

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About four weeks ago, Diana Finlay asked me if I wanted to get involved in putting out a special edition to commemorate the 150th birthday of the founding of the City of San Marcos.

Three years ago, in cooperation with *The Daily Record* and *The News-Dispatch* of Dripping Springs. I had ramrodded the writing and production of a special historical edition that told the story of Hays County from the first Spanish explorers through the coming of the railroad in 1880.

We spent nearly three months on the project and a group of talented writers and local historians produced "The Times of Hays County" which was distributed free to all subscribers and news stand purchasers of the regular editions of the three cooperating newspapers.

It was a massive job but the talented editors Juan Palomo and Jon Schnautz did a masterful job and 100 years from now historians, researchers and ancestor hunters will be devouring their stories and enjoying the contents.

That was then and this was now...

...Time is much shorter and I am much older.

But you don't say no to Diana when she engulfs you with her optimistic enthusiasm. I offered to contribute whatever stories she wanted to use from the previous publication and she has used a handful of them.

I promised her more help than I intended to give and then I intended to go into hiding. Over the past month she has been a whirling dervish... and while she has coerced *less* work out of me than I promised, she has gotten *much more* than I originally intended to perform.

She has been the Queen Bee of this project and performed the duties of at least a dozen worker bees. Her days have begun early and the lights in her office have burned deep into the night.

Of course the other members of her team have done their job well, but she can more appropriately dish out accolades to them. The City of San Marcos is making much of this publication's cost part of the their financial contribution and they are due credit and praise for their generosity.

The Daily Record has stepped forward and taken on a considerable cost of the printing of this 76- page history and they have been most helpful in scores of ways while Diana and the staff of writers have been engaged in building it into a superior publication in a very short gestation period.

I will shout my praise of this endeavor from every available rooftop. I am extremely pleased to have played a role in its creation.

Bob Barton, Jr.
The Free Press
March 1, 2001

Felipe Roque de la Portilla believed he'd been promised a verdant paradise on the banks of the Río de San Marcos when he established the settlement of Villa de San Marcos de Neve in 1808 under the authority of the Spanish governor at San Antonio de

San Marcos de Neve

Town might be very different today had Spanish village survived nearly 200 years ago

There would plenty of land and 25 Tlaxcaltecan Indians to clear it. Seeds would be provided to plant, soldiers would safeguard the physical well-being of Portilla's party and priests would be sent to look after their spiritual needs. A school and a teacher would also be provided.

Yet, 18 months later, much to Portilla's dismay, none of these promises had been fulfilled. The soldiers had not stuck around and the threat of Indian attacks was causing the disenchanted servants to want to return to Mexico. Indians — Tancahuas, Comanches — were constantly raiding the village and taking with them whatever cattle and horses they could find, forcing the settlers to make do on foot.

What cattle the Indians didn't take, the wolves did, and what the wolves didn't devour, the settlers were forced to eat, for there was no other food around. The irrigation system was never constructed and dry weather had killed any hopes of growing enough grain to feed the settlement.

Portilla had brought with him a number of settlers who had no money and he had advanced them funds, seeds and equipment. When they could not repay him because of their inability to make the farmland produce, they demanded more credit and when he could no longer supply it, they accused him of going back on his word.

Much of the equipment he had given his settlers he'd bought on credit and now, with more than 6,000 pesos in debt, his own credit was in ruins.

Without equipment, they couldn't plant their corn or, if they could, they couldn't weed their fields.

It was with all this in mind that Portilla, broke and in ill health, appealed to Gov. Juan Ygnacio de Arrambide to fulfill the government's promise.

At the least, he said, the government should keep soldiers at San Marcos to bring the settlement some much-needed stability.

In his reply, on June 30, 1809, the governor denied all responsibility, pointing out that the only promise he had made was to supply soldiers to accompany the settlers on their long journey from Mexico to San Marcos, and that he'd fulfilled that promise.

It is not surprising, then, that Portilla and his followers soon abandoned San Marcos de Neve, which was about four miles from the present city of San Marcos, and returned to Mexico.

The few shacks and corrals they had been able to build soon disappeared into the thick woods by the river and today there is no trace of the settlement and much speculation as to where it so tenuously stood for those four years.

Perhaps those early settlers should have paid heed to the omens even before they arrived at their new home. The first half of the families started off from Nuestra Señora del Refugio, which is now Matamoros, in December, 1807 but they were met with extremely harsh weather — including ice and snow — and they had to travel over long large areas of semi-arid territory without water in a very dry year. They arrived in San Marcos two months later.

The second half left in September, 1808 and were luckier, arriving after only a month of travel. They had a military escort from the Nueces River to their destination (which cost Portilla 600 pesos). They had to build everything from scratch in severe weather — cold in the winter, hot and dry in the summer — with only a handful of axes and other tools.

By Juan R. Palomo

Initially there were 81 settlers, who were transported to the settlement at a cost to Portilla of 79 pesos. Plans called for a church and government buildings around a plaza with homes built around them.

By the time Portilla wrote his letter to the governor, there were only 52 settlers. Of the 1,620 head of cattle, 1,400 horses and 72 burros, only 570 horses, 30 burros and 300 cattle survived — and none were in good health.

Portilla had built a ranch house with two rooms, two apartments and two pantries roofed with cypress bark, as well as a number of pens and corrals. There was also a grass-thatched *jacal* (shack) and a grass-thatched kitchen. One field had been fenced for cultivation.

No one knows what the course of San Marcos de Neve, the last Spanish settlement in Texas, would have been had it survived, but chances are the present San Marcos would be a lot different today.

For starters, its center would be four miles downstream, near where the old Camino Real (Old Bastrop Road) crosses the river and it would probably be dominated by an open central plaza, in the Spanish tradition, not a courthouse square.

It might have become a much larger town, a city even, perhaps rivaling San Antonio as a center of commerce and Spanish-Mexican culture. Its residents would be tracing their roots to Mexico and Spain, not Tennessee or Alabama. Their ancestors would have names such as Salinas, Ayamontes, Gallegos and Loyosa instead of Moon, Burleson, McGehee and Pitts.

And finally, slavery might never have gained a foothold in the area since extensive Spanish cultivation of the land would have discouraged the settlement of slave-owning immigrants from the southern United States.

Early county government was simple and close to the people

Hays County was formed on March 1, 1848, from the southwestern portion of Travis county. All of that county's territory had been a part of the old Travis Land District which encompassed Central Texas and stretched deep into the hill country.

State Sen. Edward Burleson, veteran of both the Texas Revolution and the Mexican-American War, and famed frontier Indian fighter, introduced and carried the legislation creating the county and making San Marcos, Burleson's home, the seat of the new county government.

The first local public official was William C. Pitts, commissioned a notary public on March 8, 1848. However, the new elected posts were not filled until balloting on August 7.

Some years later, Caton Erhard, owner of the county's first mercantile store and also the first clerk of the Commissioners Court, provided some insight into a crucial factor in electioneering.

"When election day came, I had not much whisky left. I had neither the means nor the time to replenish, and being well aware that my Texas friends as well as the Arkansas settlers, who emigrated from the poor piny hills to Texas, expected treats from the candidate, I for the first time in my life watered my whiskey. I saw I was compelled to stand treat all day, and as I got no pay, my conscience was easy in regard to watered whiskey. Fortunately my watered whiskey held out to the close of the election, and when I was announced the successful candidate, I hauled out a demijohn of good brandy and treated all my friends."

Due perhaps to Erhard's efforts, or maybe in spite of them, 71 souls made it to the polls that election day.

Henry Cheatham was elected chief justice, the office now known as county judge, and Erhard became county clerk. The first county commissioners were Clement R. Johns, Shephard Colbath, Ulysses A. Young, and A. B. McDonald.

The other newly elected officials were District Clerk William A. Owen; Sheriff John Kirby; Treasurer Michael D. Faylor; Tax Assessor-Collector Nelson F. Owen; Justice of the Peace Winthrop Colbath; Coroner H. S. Harvey; and Constable William W. Moon.

They took office after vowing to uphold law and constitution, with each, in his turn, assuring those listening that he had never fought a duel nor had he assisted anyone in such an activity.

In what apparently was considered a less important contest a few months later in November, only 55 Hays countians bothered to vote. In that election, Lewis Cass, the Democrat, defeated the Whig Zachary Taylor 43 to 12 in the race for president

of the United States. However, despite his overwhelming support from Hays County and the state of Texas, Cass went down to defeat nationally.

It was 1849 before Hays County voters could participate in selecting the state's governor since gubernatorial elections were held in odd-numbered years. In that election, voters here gave Peter H. Bell 44 votes to incumbent Gov. George T. Woods' 10. The also-ran John T. Mills received only one vote.

Bell's victory in Hays County was expected. As Col. Bell, he was the respected commander of the Texas Mounted Volunteers who were garrisoned on the west bank of the San Marcos River during the mid-1840s. Even though he couldn't muster a majority, Bell did triumph statewide with 10,319 votes to Woods' 8,764 and Mills' 2,632.

The chief justice and the commissioners were each paid \$3 for every day they attended a meeting. The sheriff was paid \$50 once a year and, as were the other officials, was elected every two years. However, in what appears to be an early attempt at term limits, the state Constitution prohibited the same person from serving as sheriff for more than four years out of any six.

The treasurer received no salary or per diem compensation, as were most other officials; he received a small percentage of the county's receipts and disbursements.

For the first few years, the Austin -to-San Antonio road was the only recognized public road in the county.

Since the sheriff was the sole face of the law in the county, the Commissioners Court provided assistance in the form of groups of citizens known as patrolers. Normally, these adjunct bodies consisted of a captain and six privates who were appointed for one three-month term.

At the end of 1850s, the county numbered around 2,200 people and the county government had long since settled into a productive routine involving many active citizens. During that first decade, public officials were regularly challenged and elective offices frequently changed hands as citizens eagerly fulfilled their role in a democratic government.

By Jim Green

Sam Houston and the Kissing Tree

The summer of 1857 was hot and dry — the weather and the political climate. For three months that summer, Sam Houston traveled more than 1,000 miles by buggy across the dusty roads of the state making campaign appearances to large audiences in his bid for the Texas governor's seat.

In July, he planned a public speech in San Marcos and through advance circulars invited citizens of the community. Although they could not vote, Houston stated "The Ladies are most respectfully invited to attend."

The *Texas Sentinel*, a weekly newspaper in Austin recorded the account of Houston's July 28 speech:

"Gen. Houston was escorted into town, by an elegantly uniformed company of Ladies

and Gentlemen on horseback, which took the Wacoites all aback.

"They had hoped and predicted, that we could not get up anything like a procession, and were chuckling in their own minds, as to one grand failure.

"The leading Wacos of this county have lowered themselves in the estimation of all good men, by their course on the day of speaking. Houston's majority in this country will be between 40 and 50 votes, so far as this count is concerned."

Another account was provided to the *San Marcos Record* in 1959 from Mrs. W.L. Thomas, a descendant of one of the participants.

Houston spent the previous night at the residence of Judge Roy Cheatham on the

Blanco River. Several hundred citizens gathered under the large oak trees near the San Marcos River to hear Houston's address.

Following a reported four-hour speech, several women in San Marcos presented Houston with a flag. Accepting the tribute, Houston then "went out into the crowd and kissed some of the ladies who had made the flag."

The oak trees along the river became known as "the kissing oaks" and were recognized by the Texas Forest Service for the historic event.

Houston defeated Runnels in Hays County by a popular vote of 129 to 86, but Runnels defeated him by a statewide total of 32,552 to 28,628, giving Houston his only electoral defeat.

Empresario's deal leads to founding of San Marcos

In the dusty town of San Antonio in summer 1839, William Lindsey sought out María Josefa Veramendi. He had a business deal in mind. As a surveyor working out of San Antonio during Mirabeau B. Lamar's presidency of the Republic of Texas, Lindsey had most likely crossed the San Marcos River on the old road known as El Camino de los Tejas.

He had only recently moved out of bustling Galveston and onto the frontier; and the Veramendi land along the river and the natural ford, both only a short distance below the springs, apparently impressed the 38-year-old surveyor. Neither María Veramendi nor her late father, Juan Martín Veramendi, who was granted land on both banks of the San Marcos in 1831, had ever seen the 640 acres that would become the site of the river's name sake city. But Lindsey had seen it and was quick to grasp the potential of the land along the clear, swift stream.

The deal Lindsey struck with the señora and her husband, Rafael Garza, was a classic empresario's arrangement that offered the seller a stake in the development of the land and the buyer a chance to get in with less capital up front.

For some cash up front and his promissory note, the latter two totaling \$2,214, Lindsey became the owner of the approximately 4,400 acres in Veramendi League No. 1.

The parties further agreed that if Lindsey were to "lay off a town" on the "Western bank of [the] River Saint Mark's in League No. 1," it would be one mile square, and the sellers would own an undivided half interest in the site.

So, for about 50¢ an acre Lindsey had his deal, but if he defaulted on the note, the sellers could return his \$1,107 down payment and with that act rescind the sale and all its conditions.

In effect, Lindsey was the general partner in this rather crude limited partnership agreement.

However, the heiress and her husband didn't hold on to their share for long. A San Antonian named Nathaniel Lewis bought the Veramendi interest the following year, and in 1845 sold it in equal shares to Edward Burleson and Dr. Eli T. Merriman, both of Bastrop County.

Within a few years, all three owners had joined others who had settled on the banks of the San Marcos. However, unlike Lindsey and Merriman, Burleson didn't build within the boundaries of the town site.

At one time vice president of the Republic of Texas and a former Indian fighter as well, the now middle-aged state senator situated his chinked log house on what is now Ed J. L. Green Drive, immediately above the springs and with a commanding view of the entire river valley.

By the time the first U.S. census was conducted in Texas, Hays County had 41 households containing 259 free inhabitants and 128 slaves, and most of them lived on or near the upper San Marcos or lower Blanco rivers.

Early in 1851, as more settlers arrived on the west bank of the San Marcos, the developers decided the time had come to make the town's layout official. The plat they filed with County Clerk Caton Erhard shows "town lots" organized into 30 blocks with all lots within three blocks of the central square.

Comal Street was the southern boundary of the town lots and Colorado Street, now University Drive, marked the northern limits. The western boundary of the town lots was on a line halfway between Comanche Street and the north-south survey line upon which North Street was later established.

The most easterly three blocks, containing four lots each, backed up to the river. That area is now city land along C. M. Allen Parkway. between University Drive and East Hopkins Street.

The land bordering downtown, except on the east where the river marked the limits of the 640 acres, was divided into "farm lots" which varied greatly in size. The smallest was a 1.5-acre triangular lot situated on Pecan Creek at the southwestern corner of the town lots. However, some lots out on the western reach of San Antonio Street swelled to around 50 acres.

Using today's landmarks and names, we can trace a rough outline of the original town.

The northern boundary of the town tract begins at a point on the river's west bank about midway in Sewell Park and runs in a straight line west through the university's theater arts building. On that same line, it continues on or near Concho Street and extends over to and west along Lindsey Street

Then in a straight line it crosses North Street to a point just west of Academy Drive, where it then angles southwest across Moore Street. It proceeds along Rogers Street and then over to and along Prospect Street to the intersection with Bishop Street, where it forms the northwest corner of the town.

The western boundary proceeds south with the line of Bishop for about eight-tenths of a mile to end at a point south of the railroad tracks. There, meeting a perpendicular line from Dakota Street, it forms the southwest corner of the original town.

The southern boundary of the farm lots runs east with Dakota to a spot on Rodríguez Street then angles northeast back across the tracks to the point where Jackman Street crosses Purgatory Creek.

From there for about six-tenths of a mile, it travels east over to and along Cheatham Street to the west bank of the river.

To close the box, the eastern boundary follows the meanders of the river back to Sewell Park and the place of beginning.

Immediately after the plat was filed with the clerk, the deeds for town property quickly crowded the pages of the county records.

But unfortunately, none of the three, neither Lindsey, nor Burleson, nor Merriman, would be around long enough to reap the benefits of a developing town.

The tough Texas pioneer, Ed Burleson, at age 53, died in December, 1851, while attending a session of the state Legislature. His was the first burial in the new state cemetery in Austin.

The deal-making surveyor, William Lindsey, in his 51st year, followed soon after in 1852 and is buried in San Marcos.

However, Eli Merriman, still a young man in his early 40s, left the banks of the San Marcos voluntarily. A divorce and the removal of his extensive family back to Connecticut shook the doctor's life.

He later remarried and lived in Brownsville and Corpus Christi, where he practiced medicine and became an important figure in South Texas medical and cultural life.

The future of the young community would now be in hands of other men and women.

By Jim Green



John Pitts

THE GEORGIA SETTLEMENT

Stringtown is just a memory today

Hunter Road today is a two-lane asphalt road running between San Marcos and Gruene and is used primarily by students from Southwest Texas State University heading for Gruene Hall and the Guadalupe River, shoppers looking for a back road to the outlet malls, and young families who have begun to settle in developments that feed off Hunter Road.

Most of the folks traveling that road today are unaware of its role in the development of the city of San Marcos, Hays County and the state. One hundred and fifty years ago, it ran through a thriving community of newly arrived settlers who eagerly began the tough task of creating homes in an area previously occupied principally by bears, mountain lions, snakes, scorpions and Indians. They called it Stringtown, and those families who created Stringtown left a legacy that not only endures today, it thrives in the descendants who still work and live in San Marcos and Hays County.

The community of Stringtown was created by John Drayton Pitts in 1850, and consisted of a “string” of farms lining a road built along the Balcones Escarpment between San Marcos and New Braunfels. This stage coach road extended between Austin and San Antonio, and joined the 100-year-old Camino Real near York Creek.

All of Stringtown consisted of no more than eight miles, with every house facing the only road Stringtown ever had. The first 4 1/2 miles coming from San Marcos found the houses facing northwest, since the planters living there felt the hills would protect them from the harsh winter winds. The next 3 1/2 miles found houses facing southeast in order to take advantage of the prevailing breezes during the summer. These modest log homes generally had a long hall with connecting rooms. There were fireplaces at both ends of the house, and the kitchen and dining room were built in a building away from the main house, because of the potential fire hazards associated with an open hearth.

John Pitts first came to San Marcos in 1847 at the request of his friend, Edward Burleson. Soon after establishing himself in San Marcos, the governor appointed Pitts adjutant general of Texas, requiring him to move once again to Austin. In 1850, Pitts returned to the area, and bought 640 acres of land from Burleson’s original San Jacinto grant on the San Antonio Road. Thus began the era of Stringtown.

Many of the families who were instrumental in the creation of Stringtown had come to Texas around 1847 in covered wagons led by John Pitts’ brothers, William and Edward Pitts.

The wagon train from Macon, Georgia, became known as the “Pitts Caravan” and was estimated to be over two miles long. These families endured the greatest of hardships, losing not only family members and friends along the way, but also having to discard family possessions because of the difficulties of early travel.

Although many of these families initially settled in Grimes County and other spots in Texas, they later joined Pitts in Stringtown, which was often

called the Georgia Settlement.

John Pitts was a civil engineer and was instrumental in laying out the streets and courthouse of San Marcos. He established the First United Methodist Church in San Marcos. Descendants of these original families created the homes along Belvin and San Antonio streets and were the merchants, doctors, engineers, lawyers and farmers who helped create a strong Hays County.

The core of Stringtown consisted of Pitts’ immediate family, as he encouraged his daughters and their families to settle along Hunter Road. Four of his married daughters did just that, as did one of his brothers.

During the heyday of Stringtown, the community exceeded San Marcos as a residential center, and boasted its own post office, stage coach stop, blacksmith, store and school.

The James Purdy Mathews home, which was the stagecoach stop, had an large front veranda where the passengers could sit and drink cool water in the summertime.

Later, after the establishment of Coronal Institute in San Marcos, many of the Stringtown residents built new homes in San Marcos in order to be closer to the school.

Many of the county’s original black families arrived with the white families as slaves before the Civil War. They worked hard and, side by side with the white families, cleared the land, built the homes and barns and hunted and fished for food.

While life on the frontier was harsh, it was not without some high spots. Consider that annually, the men — both black and white — would set out on horseback to spend month-long forays hunting bear, deer and other game to get them through the winter. While these hunts were enjoyable, it could not have been the same story for the women and children left at home to defend against the elements, Indians and the other problems which were common on the edge of civilization.

According to Ed Kone, the equilibrium of Stringtown was destroyed by the muttering of civil war in 1860 and the early part of ‘61. Neighborhood meetings were held everywhere. Most advocated secession but Pitts, “the oracle of Stringtown,” contended that a way should be found for the Southerners to maintain their rights without secession. He died before the election on secession was held.

Stringtown’s demise came after the Civil War. With no slaves, farmers had to turn to Mexican tenant farmers who were beginning to arrive in Hays County.

That, wrote Kone, “completely changed the social environments of the neighborhood and the remaining whites’ social, school and religious relations were cast entirely with San Marcos.”

Today, little is left to be found of the Stringtown other than some of the original stone walls, and the Pitts cemetery, the oldest cemetery in Hays County — and a lot of memories.

By Hill Rylander

A SUBJUGATED RACE

As slaves, as free people, blacks faced harsh life

African Americans arrived in Hays County at the same time as Anglo settlers, little is known about their early lives here. The reason is obvious: records of the area's early history were written by whites who at that time — and for many years afterward — saw the slave population as less than equal, and their story as not as worthy of being recorded.

The slaves were, after all, nothing more than property, on a par with the settlers' cattle and other possessions (See story on slavery in this section). In her history of Mountain City, for instance, Bonnie Carpenter talked about the colonists who "brought their Negro slaves, cattle, horses and household goods along with them."

That view prevailed for many years even after the slaves were freed.

In recent years, some attempts have been made by some local African Americans to piece together a history of this group of people who contributed so much to the county — on whose backs this county was built, actually — but too many pieces remain missing and we will unfortunately never have a complete and accurate picture of that important aspect of this county's history.

That their history is important cannot be disputed. The old farms and many of those historical buildings that dot the county and are much celebrated would not have been built without those slaves.

Those slaves had names. They were people. They had lives and thoughts and emotions. They had a spiritual life. None of that, sadly, is recorded.

There were undoubtedly free African Americans in Texas during its infancy, but they weren't many. There is no documented evidence that any lived in Hays County. When Texas entered the Union as a slave state, it ordered all free Negroes to leave, but some stayed. They were unwilling to leave behind something they had helped build.

The few fragments of African American history that did make it into the books represent a necessarily distorted picture. It is history as seen through the lenses of a white society that chose to believe — had to believe — that its slaves were a contented lot, happy to serve their beloved masters.

A descendant of Edward Burleson wrote that the Burleson slaves loved Mrs. Burleson, "even as they feared her in her busy march about that plantation."

Listen, also, to Judge E. R. Kone's idyllic account of Stringtown, a settlement along what is now Hunter Road south of San Marcos:

"We were a happy and contented people. No one, whether white or black, working very hard. The grownups raising large families and raising stock and Negroes for their children, for all the settlers of Stringtown were slave owners, and serving God and their fellow creatures, taking the Bible as their guide."

The writer apparently saw no contradiction — nor any irony — in the fact that they were raising stock and Negroes for their children while serving God. Those slaves that did not fit the description as a contented lot were depicted as savages, or worst.

Joe Cruze, for instance, writes in *Wimberley's Legacy* of his grandfather, Bill Cruze, and his experiences as a slave trader shortly after the fall of the Alamo:

"A Mr. McKinney, a Mr. Maverick and Bill Cruze located on a ranch below Austin, near McKinney Falls. Besides ranching they started slave trading out of Africa. They made several trips and brought back only men. Bill Cruze was six-feet-five-inches tall and weighed 250 pounds. He was the only man who could handle the slaves. They were all but cannibals and on several occasions wanted to eat some of the white settlers."

Although some historians doubt that Cruze's account ever took place, his description illustrates how blacks were often seen as less-than-human.

The other picture of slaves, that of them as a gentle, happy group, does not quite jibe with the need for "The Patrol," a quasi-legal law enforcement group whose members were appointed by the Commissioners Court that was formed before the Civil War "primarily to keep Negroes in the place they belonged and to see generally to their proper conduct," according to one account.

This is not to say that there weren't blacks who were happy to be with their masters. A story is told, for instance, of Uncle Rance, a slave belonging to Col. John Wheeler Bunton. He was with Bunton's party when they were captured by Mexican troops on their way to Texas from their native Tennessee in 1831 and taken to Mexico where all the slaves were freed.

Uncle Rance, then a young man, and a young sister of his, started to walk to Texas, hoping to find Bunton, who by this time had been released. They faced many hardships along the way and the girl died, but Uncle Rance reached Vera Cruz. There he got work on a ship that took him back to the United States. He finally reached Kentucky and from there he made his way back to Texas where he put himself back into slavery with Bunton. As his reward for his loyalty, Bunton gave Uncle Rance 160 acres of land, but he refused to leave



African Americans were critical to the survival and growth of young county

**By Juan R. Palomo
& Ollie W. Giles**

The 1850 census lists 128 slaves, owned by 19 families, representing a third of the 387 residents of Hays County. With the increased growth in cotton farming, the slave population also grew, making up 37 percent of the population in the 1860 census.

Today we are reminded of their presence every day with names such as Cheatham, Hardeman, Burleson, Bunton, all names of slave holders, names that were adopted by their slaves. Many of their descendants in Hays County are part of the backbone of its African American community. Bunton is a prominent African American name in the Buda and Kyle area, and in what was once known as "Colored Town" in San Marcos, there is a Johns Street.

Continued on page 8B

A SUBJUGATED RACE, from page 7B

and spent the remainder of his life with the Bunton family.

And there is evidence that at least some slaves were treated well by their owners. Col. Adolphus Weir, for instance, is said to have decided to grow corn on his farm near Manchaca Springs because cotton required too much hard labor and he would not have his slaves overworked in the cotton fields.

In 1859, a Hays County grand jury petitioned the governor to protest the fact that some landowners were letting their slaves own property.

The Civil War, of course, ended the master-slave relationship. During the war, however most slaves are said to have remained loyal to their masters and help run their farms while the white men were fighting the war.

Writes Kone: “We soon felt the effects of the blockade, but the heroism of the women and girls of Stringtown, aided by their devoted Negroes — God bless them for their noble conduct and faithfulness during the entire war! — fed and clothed themselves and sent wagon loads of clothing to the front for the soldiers.

“The men were all in the army and the boys, with the aid of their faithful darkies, cared for the stock for the country.

“When the men reached their homes after Lee’s surrender, they had no trouble at all in the coming to an agreement with their darkies as to that year’s crop. It was divided 50-50 and the darkies all remained with their former masters, contented and happy, and gathered and harvested the crops. The darkies, as a rule, had more money the following Christmas than they have ever had since.”

Again, this is a story told by a white man. A black person would no doubt have seen it differently.

Indeed, there is evidence that not all slaves were that loyal and would go to great lengths to gain their freedom. Caton Erhard, the first Hays County clerk, wrote in the *West Texas Free Press* in 1874 about an incident in 1856 involving the theft of the county’s treasury, which he had hidden in his house because the county had no vault at the time. After first suspecting a man who worked for him as his clerk, Erhard turned his attention to his cook, a slave apparently belonging to a Dr. W.W. Brown, whom Erhard had hired to work for him. (It was not unusual during tough times for slave owners to earn extra money by renting out their slaves.)

Brown, Erhard wrote, was convinced of the cook’s honesty, “and tried to no avail to get her to tell the truth, but all to no avail, he consented then to experienced slave holders and sharp slave overseers to take her in hand.”

Those men proceeded to administer to her “awful lashings” and they hoisted her with a rope until she was nearly dead. Despite the harsh treatment, the “black fiend in human form” refused to confess, even accusing a white woman of the crime — a woman who, with her husband, “was not in good repute.” The “artful ne-gro wench” stuck to her story and it wasn’t until later that it was discovered that she had given the money to another slave, named Cuff, who had run away from his master, a Mr. Hardeman from Prairie Lea.

Cuff was planning to use the money “to make a break for Mexico” with Erhard’s cook.

Cuff confessed but Erhard refused to press charges. “If I had, he would have been hung,” he wrote.

Apparently unrepentant, Cuff ran away again and was accused of setting fire to a cotton gin. Court records show that Cuff was charged with arson, but the judge couldn’t impanel a jury because of “bias or prejudice” against Cuff in Hays County. Testifying to that effect were William Barbee, John D. Pitts, T. J. Bagley, and Claiborne Kyle, all prominent Hays County landowners.

Why these men would testify for Cuff is unknown, but it is possible that they were acting in sympathy with Hardiman who stood to lose the services of his slave if Cuff were to be found guilty and punished.

After finding that the same kind of prejudice existed in surrounding counties,

the trial was moved to Travis County. No record could be found of the trial’s outcome.

As slaves, African Americans were not allowed to marry legally although many did form informal, unsanctioned partnerships and produced children. It should come as no surprise then that soon after they were freed from bondage, they took steps to sanctify or legalize their relationship.

On Nov. 24, 1865, just five months after Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston and declared the state’s slaves free, Richard Nance and Caroline Brown, both listed as “Colored” became the first freed slaves to be granted a license to marry in Hays County.

They were followed less than one month later by Zachariah Rucker and Harriett Dixon, who married on Christmas Day. By the time 1866 ended, 16 other “colored” couples had been issued marriage licenses. Many of them had the last names of prominent slave owners, names such as Johns, Bunton, Woods and Durham.

By 1870, now “freedmen” instead of slaves, the black population of the county had grown more slowly—from 790 in 1860 to 1,192 in 1870 —and continued to be concentrated in the farming areas around San Marcos and Mountain City, where cotton continued to be king.

Their life could not have been easy. The resentment of their newly granted freedom must have been immense and it would be a long time before racial bigotry became something to be frowned upon.

Even among the most “enlightened” whites, there appeared a necessity to demonstrate their credentials as good white citizens.

Consider, for instance, this vicious parody of African Americans published on Aug. 8, 1874 in the *West Texas Free Press*, a San Marcos newspaper published by I.H. Julian, an Indiana transplant of Quaker background who is seen by many as a liberal in those times.

The article, reprinted from a Tennessee newspaper, is called “A Couple of Darkies Express Their Ideas About Civil Rights.” It recreates an alleged conversation between two men, a young “sapient-looking darkie” named “Josiar” and an older man, “Uncle Billy.”

As Josiar attempts to educate Uncle Billy of the “pervisions” of recently enacted Civil Rights Act (“We’s gwine to be allowed to stop at the de hotels and set at de head ob de table, and hab the biggest slices ob de chickens...”), the old man’s attention centers on one word and one word only, the word “pervisions.”

If there are “perversions” in the act, he tells Josiar, “I want a sack ob flour dis berry minnit. Dam de smokin in de ladies’ car ..., I want de pervisions.”

However, African Americans, as did their counterparts throughout the American South, had ways to deal with all of this. They had their families, of course. They had their communities — their friends and their neighbors. But above all else, they had their churches and brush arbors.

Those early black churches served as a place of worship, but they were also the sources of leadership for the black people and they provided a place where they could gather at least once a week to socialize.

The churches were the cradle of the African Americans’ economic, cultural and social life. They were the foundation of their survival. And they were the vehicle for motivating the establishment of schools for their children.

That drive got a giant push when, after the Civil War, Congress created the Freedmen’s Bureau to build a bridge from slavery to freedom. In 1866 the bureau reported, “In San Marcos the freed people have purchased a house and only require a teacher.

“Their tuition has been paid for by the appointment of Mr. Jenkins... I do not think the freed people would be secure in person or property if the troops were withdrawn.”

County records show that on Jan. 23, 1868, the trustees of the Freedman’s School paid Ed Burleson \$100 for a parcel of land to be used for school purposes.

All other phases of the bureau’s work ceased in 1868. The educational operations, through state authorities, were sustained until 1872.

In 1876, the public free school law went into effect. Hays County organized 31 school districts and on Jan. 13, 1877, the Colored School District was established in San Marcos with 50 students enrolled.

“We were a happy and contented people...The grownups raising large families and raising stock and Negroes for their children, for all the settlers of Stringtown were slave owners, and serving God and their fellow creatures, taking the Bible as their guide.”

**- Judge E. R. Kone
Stringtown Settlement**

The First Count

The 1850 Federal Census listed 41 households and 387 individuals in Hays County, including 259 whites and 128 slaves. The count was conducted of people "in or about St. Marcos in the County of Hays of Texas, enumerated by me on the 26th day of August, 1850, Henry K. Judd, Ass't Marshal."

White settlers, men, women and children, were listed in Schedule I, *Free Inhabitants in St. Marcos*... by name, age, sex and the occupation of "each male person over 15 years of age," and their birthplaces. There are also columns to indicate recent marriages, school attendance, adult illiteracy, and "whether deaf, dumb, blind, insane, idiotic, pauper or convict."

Slave Inhabitants were listed in Schedule II under the names of the slave owners. The form had no place for such personal information as their *names*, much less occupation or birthplace. The census only provided narrow columns for age, sex and color. The census form also had columns to note if they were "fugitive from the state," "number manumitted," (freed from slavery), or whether they were to be listed as "deaf & dumb, blind, insane or idiotic." None was so designated.

The microfilm pages of the 1850 census at the San Marcos Public Library and the slave lists are faint and difficult to read. Deciphering the census is eased by the modern invention of the Internet: the 1850 census of white settlers and much of the 1880 census have been posted on the web page of rootsweb.com [<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txhays/hayscen.htm>]

The surnames continue to be familiar ones in San Marcos today—since many of

The year before San Marcos was officially surveyed and laid out by Edward Burleson, William Lindsey, and Eli T. Merriman, San Marcos was already a settlement that was attracting people, most from southern states. In 1850 the first census of Hays County was taken, with the majority of people counted on farms near "St. Marcos."

the streets of the community are named for these first families. The households included:

Adams, Allen, Bagley, Burleson, Kyle, Cannon, Carr, Cheatham, Anderson, Durham, Donaldson, Erhart, Faylor, Bell, Flanagan, Hageman, Harvey, Jewell, Johns, Harrison,

Labenski, Zell, Hamblin, Wright, Laferty, Lancaster, Whitaker, Lindsey, McDonald, Shelton, McGehee, Marshall, Merriman, Fusselman, Moon, Giddois, Connolly, Moore, Myrick, Oatenhouse, Owen, Graham, Parks, Patton, Pitts, Sessom, Sowell, Stevenson, Barton, Tucker, Young, Leatherwood, and Michael.

Most of the men were farmers, though a number of other crucial professions were counted. Thomas Durham was a hotel keeper from North Carolina. Dr. C. Erhart—whose 1874 "Sketches of the Early History of Hays County" described the "settlement of that pretty and romantic county"—was a

storekeeper from Germany. Charles Wright was a botanist from

Connecticut, while the Reverend Pleasant Zell, age 31, was a Methodist Minister from Tennessee. William Lindsey, who surveyed San Marcos and drew the first maps of the town, was raising four teenage children alone.

David Owen, 22, listed his profession as "ranger service." As Bob Barton wrote in the 1998 Hays County Sesquicentennial history, the 1848 enlistment records of Ranger Capt. Henry McCulloch also showed "that Andrew Sowell, Sessom, Bird Owen, William Owen, William Myrick and Merriman were also ex-Rangers." Their presence was further evidence of a Texas ranger camp on the banks of the San Marcos near the Hopkins Street bridge.

Other occupations included carpenters, wagon makers, shingle makers, blacksmiths, laborers, clerk, trader, surveyor, school teacher, ginwright, tailor—the talents by which a town is built.

Several were foreign-born, including William and Christina Oatenhouse, a

farmer from Germany, and J.L. Labenski, a farmer from Poland, who married his wife in Missouri and had five children in Texas. Elizabeth Bell, the only woman whose occupation is listed, was a 15 year old "servant girl" from Germany, and William Koufoutze was a 19 year old laborer from the same land, both living the Faylor household. Bernard Hageman was a tailor from Germany.

Many of the white families owned slaves, though Claiborne Kyle had by far the greatest number at 28 and Henry Cheatham owned 20 slaves. Slave owners also included Thomas McGehee, 7 slaves, Clement R. Johns, 12 slaves, John Pitts, 10 slaves, Edward Burleson, 5 slaves, John L. Durham 4 slaves, Thomas Durham, 2 slaves, M.D. Faylor, 2 slaves, Eli Merriman, 2 slaves, James Moore, 2 slaves, J.D. Stevenson, 3 slaves, and S.B. Patton, 2 slaves. Owning one slave each were Albert Adams, H.L. Harvey, William Lindsey, H.L. Harvey, Edward Burleson, and Wiley Bagley. A couple of names are indecipherable. The minimal record of the people so enslaved has become a faint scratch on a darkened film.

The first permanent San Marcos settlers came from Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, Indiana, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Germany, Ohio, New York, Missouri, Alabama, Connecticut, Poland, Pennsylvania --and Texas.

Research on the early African American settlers—forced here as slaves—then freed, continues to be researched by such able historians as Ollie Giles of San Marcos and Johnnie Armstead, who maintains the Calaboose African American Museum.

--Microfilm copy of 1850 census, San Marcos Public Library.

--Microfilm copy of the 1850 slave census --
The Times of Hays County, 1998, Free Press,
San Marcos Daily Record, News-Dispatch

--
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~txhays/hayscen.htm>
--C. Erhart, "Sketches of the Early History of Hays County," *West Texas Free Press*, Aug. 1, 1874.



Melissa Millecam

Street Signs

The "first family" surnames from the 1850 census continue to be familiar ones in San Marcos today—since many of the streets of the community are named for these first families. The

households included:

Adams, Allen, Bagley, Burleson, Kyle, Cannon, Carr, Cheatham, Anderson, Durham, Donaldson, Erhart, Faylor, Bell, Flanagan, Hageman, Harvey, Jewell, Johns, Harrison, Labenski, Zell, Hamblin, Wright, Laferty, Lancaster, Whitaker, Lindsey, McDonald, Shelton, McGehee, Marshall, Merriman, Fusselman, Moon, Giddois, Connolly, Moore, Myrick, Oatenhouse, Owen, Graham, Parks, Patton, Pitts, Sessom, Sowell, Stevenson, Barton, Tucker, Young, Leatherwood, and Michael.

- Melissa Millecam

Nearly 200 Hays County men- many of them were legally still boys- wore a Confederate uniform during all or part of the extended and bloody Civil War. Of these, about half came from San Marcos or the farms that spanned out on all sides of the county seat community.

San Marcos feels pain of Civil War

At the outbreak of the war in 1861 a dozen or so went to Virginia and enlisted in the three infantry regiments that became a part of the Texas regiments that served throughout the war and became among General Lee's most famed fighters. Others joined the Frontier Brigade and other units, but the overwhelming majority signed up with what became the 32nd Texas Cavalry, headed by Hays Countian Peter C. Woods.

Formed in the spring of 1862 the regiment consisted of 10 companies raised in the counties lying within 50 miles of San Antonio. In the tradition of the time the men elected their own commander and planter Woods, a medical doctor and planter who had come to Texas from Mississippi in 1851, was chosen as the regiment's colonel. His second in command was also a San Marcan, Major W.O. Hutchison, a young lawyer who later in life was elected as a Populist to the Texas Senate.

Company A, with former District Clerk James A. Storey as company commander, was composed almost exclusively of Hays County residents, with about half of them living in the San Marcos vicinity. He was the son-in-law of Henry Cheatham, who had been the first county judge when Hays was created in 1848 Stationed for a few months at the beginning at Camp Clark on the San Marcos River, near the present town of Staples, Company "A" eventually did more marching and patrolling than actual fighting, except for a couple of hot battles in Louisiana during the 1864 Red

River campaign.

Woods was a tolerant commander and too lenient on his men to satisfy superiors who were strict disciplinarians. Casualties were light in his regiment, although he himself was wounded in one of the Louisiana battles.

Lists compiled from various sources indicate that about 120 Hays Countians eventually served in Company A before it was disbanded in May, 1865.

A sizable number of San Marcos men did see extensive combat, led by the contingent that went to Virginia early in the war and by the volunteers who enlisted in Terry's Texas Rangers and saw extensive service in battles in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia.

Also seeing extensive action were a number of men who enlisted in Terry's Texas Rangers. Ferg Kyle, who lived a few miles north of town on the Blanco, commanded one of the companies in the regiment, and four of his brothers were members of his unit, along with other area residents. .

Almost a dozen county enlistees served with Col. "Rip" Ford on the Texas-Mexico border and a number were in the last fight of the War-a spirited skirmish at Palmetto Ranch near Brownsville which the Confederates won, only to learn from prisoners that Lee had surrendered at Appomattox more than a month earlier.

A cavalry battalion commanded by James Duff which was spread along the frontier west of Hays County, attracted a group of local men, including Desmond P. Hopkins of San Marcos, who kept a diary that showed long periods of inactivity in primitive camps located in a buffer zone between the strongly pro-Union primarily German settlements around Fredericksburg and Comal, Hays, and Travis counties. Their chief duties were to attempt to enforce conscription laws and guard against sporadic Comanche Indian raids from their strongholds further west.

Unfortunately, a detachment of these troops stained the reputation of the Confederacy in 1862 by engaging a group of German Union sympathizers in a pitched battle near Fort Clark in Kinney County as they sought to flee to Mexico.

After a brisk battle with a few fatalities the German men surrendered, only to be taken out and massacred by a contingent of the Confederates under the command of Lt. C.D. McRae.

Since records are incomplete, it isn't certain that any of the 15 or so Hays Countians in this frontier battalion were involved in this incident, although one of Hopkins' diary entries implies that some may have been.

Both Hopkins and Major Hutchison were honored by having major San Marcos streets named in their honor. Col. Woods is also honored by the fountain bearing his name located on the county courthouse grounds.

General Henry McCulloch, who with his brother Ben became the only brother duo to be awarded generalships by the Confederates, had headed a Mexican War camp on the San Marcos River near the current Hopkins Street crossing. He even lived briefly in Hays County while later commanding a Texas Ranger company. During much of the war he was the top commander in the North Texas region and Capt. Billy Pitts of San Marcos served on his headquarters staff.

Ben McCulloch died early in the War while commanding Confederate troops in the Battle of Pea Ridge in Arkansas. Later, in the 1890s when a Confederate Reunion Camp was established on Onion Creek near Driftwood, the old soldiers named the campground for Ben McCulloch. Descendants of the Camp Ben founders still hold

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'Big beef for Scurry!'

Chief Placido and Gen. Burleson

One of the most well known accounts of conflicts between settlers and Native Americans is a collection first published in 1889 by J.W. Wilbarger entitled *Indian Depredations in Texas*. Included in this collection was the account of "The San Marcos Fight of the Burlesons."

In 1848, Gen. Edward Burleson had several horses stolen from his house above the San Marcos springs. Burleson's long time friend, Chief Placido of the Tonkawa Indians, would bring his family to visit the Burlesons annually.

Placido fought for many years alongside Burleson and the Texans in many engagements against Comanches and soldiers from Mexico. During that fateful evening, while Burleson, his son, Ed. Jr., Placido and his son were sitting around the fire, Burleson's favorite horse, Scurry, was taken. Since Scurry, presented to Burleson by Gen. Dick Scurry after the battle of Monterrey, was the only horse taken, Burleson, Placido and others left in pursuit.

"The Comanches, never dreaming that pursuers were on their trail, had gone leisurely along," wrote Wilbarger. Placido and two younger men quickly outdistanced Burleson who shouted, "Big beef for Scurry, Placido" should he catch the Comanches.

Placido pursued the Indians until dawn when he caught the Comanches on the open prairie. He killed the Comanche riding Scurry with his lance, and returned the general's prized horse unharmed. He suffered a slight arrow wound. As a reward, Burleson undoubtedly delivered to his friend a "big beef."

Placido lived 12 to 15 years after Burleson died, serving as a scout until his tribe was relocated to a reservation in Oklahoma. In his memoirs, Noaw Smithwick wrote of Placido: "He was a soul of honor and never betrayed trust. He was simply trusted by Burleson and rendered invaluable services to the early Texas pioneers."

Community shudders at approach of Civil War, from page 10B

reunions there every June.

Some letters from soldiers have been preserved and Bonnie Carpenter in her 1970 book, *Old Mountain City*, reprinted some that were written to her mother, Maggie Rector, who was a teen-ager at the time in rural Hays County ..

Many early letters are optimistic about the future of the Confederacy, but several from the Virginia front written by her cousin, John Wheeler, who was serving in the Fourth Texas Infantry originally commanded by John B. Hood, brought home the realities of warfare.

"We have no tents, ovens nor skillets, but we have drums, fifes, bands, all manner of military duties, and life out of doors in "reality. We are sun-burned, weather-beaten, dirty as a deck-hand and bearded like a parson.

"There is a great deal we don't know, but we console ourselves in our ignorance by calling whatever we don't understand a 'military strategy,' and for what we dislike, we comfort ourselves by calling it a 'military necessity.' We can bake pretty good bread on bark, and broil meat on a stick."

Not long after that he wrote Maggie to sadly inform her that a close-by Hays County neighbor, Steve Burnham, had died from wounds suffered at the Battle of Manassas.

In another letter he lashed out at some of the men who had stayed at home.

"You have men in Hays County who make patriotic speech, evince much enthusiasm, look with great anxiety to the arrival of the mail, and work themselves into a perspiration over our holy cause, but could the veil of their hypocrisy be penetrated it would be perceived that they are affected only so far as their property is affected."

"The pathetic calls of their country can never touch their small hearts unless it tends to diminish the plethora of their purses; and if the salvation of the country depended on their patriotism, they, like Sodom, would be destroyed."

Wheeler survived the War, although he lost an arm at the Battle of the Wilderness -the same bloody battle that killed Stonewall Jackson.

An examination of the 1860 Hays County census indicates that more than half of the men who were between 16 and 40 during the war years saw military service. However the proportion was much higher in the San Marcos and Mountain City areas and quite low in the mountain region of the county.

The majority of San Marcans in the war, as mentioned earlier, were in Company "A" of Col. Woods' 32nd Cavalry Regiment. Early service centered on protecting the Texas Coast and some Mexican border duties. That finally changed in the spring of 1864, when General Nathaniel Banks and a fleet of Union ships moved up the Red River in Louisiana, intending to eventually invade East Texas.

Confederate authorities dispatched Woods to the front near Shreveport, but ordered the troops dismounted because of the difficulty in providing rations for the horses on the trip.

Despite strong protests and some desertions, the majority of the 32nd got there in time to participate in the bloody conflict at Mansfield, Louisiana, where Banks was defeated and forced to begin a long retreat.

Several days later the Confederate cavalry division commander, Gen. Tom Green foolishly called for some of Wood's troopers to follow him into the river and attack some passing boats loaded with Union troops.

Woods, ever mindful of his men who had families at home, called for volunteers from among his troops who were unmarried. Several rode into the water with Green and were met with a tremendous barrage of both rifles and cannon mounted on the ships.

The first volley killed Green, virtually severing his head. Among the dead at the end of the brief battle was Private David Barton of rural Hays County

The Red River campaign was the only major battles in which Woods' brigade was engaged. Barton was the only battlefield death from Company A during the long war, although Nicholas Chamberlain of San Marcos died of illness in 1863 while in camp near King's Ranch.

Other Hays Countians to die during the War were Bill DeWoody of San Marcos, , who was killed in action while serving with Capt. Kyle in Tennessee and Nathan Gatlin died in a Northern prison of war camp.

John T. Dixon, whose father Shadrack operated a big plantation on the Blanco River, was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness in Virginia and he died later of his wounds.

Others who died in the Eastern fighting were Lt. Will Malone, B. Cochrehan and John Lyle, all of Stringtown.

Among the last to die were Jack Jackson, the shingle cutter from Onion Creek and Hack Oliver from San Marcos. They were killed in a skirmish with federal troops on the Mexican border.

AWAY FROM HOME Civil War recollections of D.P. Hopkins

Some years after the Civil War some newcomers to San Marcos were bold enough to challenge the honor of D.P. Hopkins, a former county commissioner and one of the charter members of the San Marcos City Council.

The charge? That Hopkins was not what he claimed to be, which was one of the first San Marcos boys to enlist in the Confederate forces. This outrage prompted the colorful Hopkins to defend himself in an early edition of the San Marcos Record:

"I was not conscripted, but on the contrary, I resigned a lucrative position (salary \$10 a month with board and washing) to join the patriots, who could eat a dozen Yankees for breakfast."

Hopkins wrote down some his daily activities while a member of Henry T. Davis ranger company. Here are excerpts from some of Hopkins more colorful tales:

I left San Marcos on Wednesday morning at 9:30 o'clock, the 26th day of February, 1862, with many sorrowful thoughts and forebodings to our dear Southland; for I must tell you right now that I voted against secession, but the thing inevitable, so I thought of the girl I left behind, and whistled to keep up my drooping spirits (the best brand). I am a member of the Sons of Temperance so do not make any mistake as to the kind of spirits I am talking about.

I arrived at Purgatory Springs at 12:30 o'clock, where we found an old-fashioned barbecue in full blast prepared by the good people for our special benefit.

(B)etween you and me, there was an undercurrent of feeling (sweethearts) that would creep out every now and then, in spite of the whistling to keep up their courage.

FEBRUARY 27: Arose early; felt awful lonesome; had a light breakfast and was soon on the road again. I forgot to state for future information that my horse's name was Thomas Jefferson, in honor of the great statesman of that name, but Thomas J. don't know it.

About 12 o'clock we arrived at the City of Pittsburg (now Blanco), as we were informed by one citizen that lived there. In honor of our arrival, the boys sang "Run, Yank or Die." It was here that we got a glimpse of the first Confederate flag since we started.

MARCH 4: (O)ur company was to be made up, one third each, from Hays, Gillespie, and Kerr Counties, and we had about sixty men, so when the dutch got nifted and bolted, and our boys had a sure thing in organizing the company ... we were sworn in, hard and fast for twelve months, and the word was desert if you dare ... It was a forgone conclusion that Henry T. Davis, from San Marcos was to be our Captain, for when the dutch bolted, that left our San Marcos boys in the majority ... There was James L. Williamson and W.S. Colbath from Hays County ... All the noncommissioned officers were then appointed by the Captain. I had the very great honor of being appointed "Orderly Sergeant".

MARCH 5: About 5 o'clock the commanding officer received orders from Capt. Davis to arrest Andy Rhodes and John Anderson for being drunk and fighting and other misconduct unbecoming gentlemen and soldiers in the city of Fredricks-burg.

He told Anderson if you raise your hand I will brand you. Anderson wilted, and Smith at once became the bold, daring reckless bad man of the company. The Smith family generally are a pretty tough set.

MARCH 16: Right here I would remark our company had been treated shamefully. Our field and staff officers were appointed before our company was mustered into service and they knew the day and place of meeting, our destination, and not a thing to eat — ordered to the frontier at once (with empty guns) no ammunition and plenty of Indians. We were promised

Continued on page 12B

D.P. Hopkins' Civil War journal,

continued from 11B

twenty-five dollars a month in Confederate money, but that was only a promise.

APRIL 2: Today we raised the Confederate flag over our camp, sang "Dixie" and things looked military. When I saw the flag hoisted, it did not appear to me like the old "Stars and Stripes," and I did not cheer. It seemed as if some foreign power had invaded our soil, and dared to raise their flag.

APRIL 3: We had gone down on a level piece of ground near the river to drill; and the day was very warm, and as we were all but ignorant of military tactics with the exception of our captain (and I don't think he knew much more than we did), you may possibly imagine the tangle we got into, as we were trying to make some flank movement, or counter march, or something else. I never did understand — some of the boys got in the creek — and the captain got so darned mad he dismissed the company.

APRIL 5: Last night, the guard had been stationed, and the remainder of the company had retired for the night, no doubt dreaming of a camp to be made tomorrow, for any change was welcome; when about 11 o'clock the report of a gun rang out on the stillness of the night, and all hands sprang to arms, with the certainty that the Indians were upon us, even some of us weaker ones thought we heard the rattle of musketry (mostly old shotguns), and the groans of the wounded.

Oh, my, what would I have given to be at home just then. On a full and complete investigation it was found that Sinclair Colbath had shot at his own shadow, caused by walking between the campfire and a steep bank just beyond him. After this the excitement died down, and everything got quiet again. Some of the brave and fearless ones went right off to sleep again, as if nothing out of the ordinary had happened; but about 2 o'clock in the morning another shot rang out; and again the camp was aroused. Orders were hastily given "to arm" and pickets were thrown out. There was no doubt this time — it was a plain case; and while some of us were trembling in our boots (those who had boots), some of the advance pickets reported that they had found a cow lying down and could not make her get up.

A light was brought, and on close examination it was found that she was the whole cause of the racket. The guard (Billy W.) said he heard something crawling through the brush, but owing to intense darkness, he could not tell what it was and in accordance with the rules of war, he had given the command to halt. Receiving no response he fired and broke for the camp. It was hard on the poor cow. She died the next morning.

MAY 8: Today the boys divided out equally and had a sham battle, and I was mortally wounded, our general was captured and our side was battered up generally. Finally, to save our lives, we surrendered.

MAY 13: Measles, measles, every man in the camp down with the measles but three, Captain Davis, John Anderson and Jim Buchanan. Jim claimed to be immune because he had the measles when he was about 12 years of age and so had I the measles when I was about 12 years old, and yet I was caught again. Brother Alex and myself thought we were recovered, but later, to our sorrow, we found our differently. We very foolishly went bathing in the creek and had a relapse. The captain thought best to send us to town where we could have a doctor. So we were sent to town to the Nimitz Hotel; brother Alex soon recovered but it was three weeks before I was well enough to be sent home in a buggy.

JULY 16: Just as the sun shone above the morning horizon, Allen McCord breathed his last, and the long imprisoned spirit took its flight and winged its way to the great beyond — to that bourne from whence no traveller ever returns. It was, indeed, a solemn scene for a ranger camp. A good man had gone to his eternal rest, for Allen was a good man. Behold the scene: rough, wicked men accustomed to noise and racket, standing in the presence of the dead, speaking in whispers. No roll call this morning. The corpse lay in the hospital all day — no noise, no loud talking — all was quiet. It was not necessary to detail men to sit with the corpse. The boys willingly volunteered their services. It was the first death in our camp.

JULY 18: Capt. Frank von der Sturken's company of soldiers passed through town, making complete fools of themselves, just because they had on brass coats with blue buttons. I very much doubt their loyalty.

August 23: One of the wounded men died today; and three each had an arm cut off. My book is full, I have written the last page. Here ends my diary.

Three years ago, when the Free Press was assembling its county sesquicentennial edition, certain staff members wondered who might have been San Marcos's first businesswoman. At the time, they had not a clue.

Who was the town's first businesswoman?

Perhaps an argument could be made for Mrs. Phoebe Faylor whose husband ran a saloon on the east side of the square where Valentino's Pizza Parlor is located today. Mike Faylor saw a business opportunity when Henry McCulloch's Ranger detachment was stationed along the right bank of the San

By Al Lowman

Marcos River in 1846. Mike probably could not have managed without help from Phoebe who, by the way, was an early attendee of the first Methodist Church in San Marcos.

The Faylors soon left, however, and what became of them no one knows. Who else would have been a likely candidate for the town's first businesswoman?

The most compelling argument can be made for a lady with the unlikely name of Queen Lindsey. Queen was one of four children of the town's primary founder, William Lindsey. William Lindsey died in November 1852, leaving behind large chunks of San Marcos real estate. Two surviving sons, William F. Lindsey and Andrew Lindsey assumed major roles in managing the family's landed interests, but Andrew was dead by the end of the Civil War and William F. died in 1872. This left the three sisters, Louisiana, Mary, and Queen. Louisiana--Lou, on her tombstone--was married to H.S. Harvey. The Harvey's surviving daughter, "Miss Adice", died in 1946, having never married. Lou seems never to have had any role other than homemaker, and neither did Mary who never married either.

That left Queen Lindsey, who had taken a hand in the family's real estate affairs early on, and took over entirely after her brothers died. Henceforth she was wheeling and dealing in San Marcos real estate until her demise early in the twentieth century. Buried in the San Marcos City Cemetery, the years of her birth and death are illegible on her tombstone.

So until a more compelling case can be made for someone else, Queen Lindsey, a realtor, appears to have been San Marcos's first businesswoman.

Unlike what took place throughout much of the deep South, violence was more prevalent in Hays County after the Civil War than it had been during. While most of the gunfire had kept at least an arm's length from San Marcos, the state of lawlessness and disorganization after the war did not know so clear a boundary

Reconstruction

When the Civil War ended, a provisional government was appointed for the state. Civil officers for the state government, districts and counties were appointed on a temporary basis, and all laws reverted to those in affect immediately before secession, save that emancipation of the slaves was now to be included. The state government was in perhaps the worst shape of all following the war. There was not even a roof on the state Capital building, and state records were exposed to the elements.

Undaunted, this government, led by Provisional Gov. A.J. Hamilton, set out to guide Texas back into the Union. If the provisional officials had known then how difficult this process would prove to be, they might have given up on the spot.

One of the first steps was to register voters to vote on a new state Constitution. In each county the county judge, district clerk and county clerk acted as a Board of Registration, which would convene one day a week at the county seat to offer the "oath of amnesty" to all who applied. This oath cast off allegiance to the Confederacy and reaffirmed same to the United States. For whatever reason, this process was extremely slow in Texas; all the other southern states had completed their constitutional

conventions by October of 1865, while Texas plodded along.

Some Texans refused to take the oath, as did others in the South, and many held out hope for what was called a "gradual emancipation" of the slaves, as opposed to immediate freedom. There were also overly optimistic hopes on the part of the newly freed slaves. Many believed the property of their masters was to become theirs, and that such a transaction would occur on Christmas Day, 1865.

Those rumors provided an obvious disincentive towards going back to work for the old masters. The provisional government did what it could to convince the new citizens that they now simply needed to enter the regular work force, but this was not easy for a group whose expectations were understandably higher than what they were to receive.

In Hays County, there is evidence in the minutes of the Commissioners' Court of the activities of Hamilton's provisional government. On Aug. 21, 1865, James G. Storey was named county judge. County officers C.S. Cock and William Leath also "took oaths according to the law" and were seated in office. On Oct. 9, 1865 the Court ordered the treasurer to pay the State Gazette in Austin \$9 for printing the blank certificates and oaths for amnesty of the county.

The other effects of the immediate postwar period were less delicate. Much as it had been during

the war, life here was not as rough and tumble as it was in other sections of the state, but the same influences did trickle over. Crime was apparently a good deal more pronounced than it had been before and during the war. Some of these reports were probably politically motivated, in that it was helpful to those who argued for harsher reconstruction in Texas to allege that disorder

reigned in the state, and that much of it was aimed at "good Union men" or freedmen.

There was certainly some of that, along with a lot of good old fashioned anarchy. Highway robbers and, perhaps on occasion, a dwindling number of Indians from the west made their presence felt in the county, taking advantage of the disorganization of (or lack of) governmental authority. Again, from former County Judge Ed Kone:

"Dr. R.C. Manlove looked after the widows and orphans and did a general practice ... One night he called to see a dying man, Mr. Powell, at or near Dripping Springs, who had been shot by Jayhawkers in

the middle of Onion Creek, (and as he approached the creek) he could hear their swords click. As he met them, he said, 'Good evening, gentlemen,' and all was well. He recognized some of the men, but it was not safe in those days to tell all you knew.

"The Indians made a raid after the Civil War, coming as far down as the 'Cross House' on the Kuykendall Ranch. One woman was scalped, but the Indians failed to use the tomahawk. Dr. Manlove dressed her wound every other day until she had entirely recovered."

Horse stealing, off and on a business of its own in the county in those days, prospered. Teams had to be locked in at night to avoid theft. One horse theft in Stringtown ended gruesomely, as the thieves were later caught stealing elsewhere and were hanged from a live oak tree just west of San Marcos. In an effort to make some good come from this spree of lawlessness, the Commissioners Court decreed in August of 1865 that one James Ford, for the compensation of \$1 per day, be authorized to "take charge of all persons convicted of vagrancy, and employ them in digging a cistern at the Court House of Hays County."

Other responses to the disorder and confusion that followed the war were less benign. The Ku Klux Klan organized in Hays County in this era, with such "upstanding" citizens as County Clerk Ed J.L. Green and W.W. Martin among the members.

In November, 1865, Hamilton issued a proclamation authorizing the organization of a police force in every county in the state, subject to the civil authorities but acting, sometimes, with the military. The state, also concerned about a "Christmas uprising" by freedmen, issued an address that county judges were to read to all the former slaves, telling them that they "must go to work and must not remain



Continued on page 15B

Although Hays County, like the rest of Texas, was part of Mexico for many years, Mexican Americans did not begin to settle in Hays County in any significant numbers until after 1900. But contrary to popular belief, Mexicans were part of this county almost from its birth. Mexican names are scattered here and there in early official records of the county.

What's missing, though, are any accounts of what their lives were like after they made their way here from Mexico. Few of them had the skills or the time and inclination — given the many hardships they faced — to commit their stories to paper, and no one else was apparently interested in their stories.

Most came here as farm workers. Some may have actually owned farm land, but none was among the movers and shakers in the community. There are no streets or buildings named after them.

There have been recent attempts by local Hispanics to record the memories of some of the older Mexican Americans, but most of those oral histories contain little information before 1900, says longtime San Marcos civic leader Ofelia Vásquez Philo, who is involved in the project.

But they *were* here. The 1870 Census, the first to show the presence of Mexicans, listed 156 Mexican-Americans — most of them born in Mexico — living in Hays County. Only about 45 of those lived in San Marcos and the rest,

Early Mexican settlers: *Present but unrecorded*

Most settlers from south of the border worked in the farms around San Marcos

farm laborers and their families, were scattered throughout the rural areas. (The Census also listed several Mexican males who had married, or were living with, African American females. Their children were listed as mulattos.)

County clerk records show a marriage license was issued to a Victoriano Costa and a woman named Soledad (her last name is unreadable in the official records) on Sept. 30, 1869. (Three years before that, Gregory Baylor and Isabella Gonzales were issued a marriage license, making them perhaps the first mixed marriage in the county.) In 1870, four more Mexican couples were issued marriage licenses here. Between 1871 and 1880 there were 43 more marriage licenses issued to Mexican couples.

Despite such official evidence, there are no recorded births of Mexican-American babies in Hays County between 1873, the first year for which birth records are available, and 1876. (There are no records of births available for the years 1877 through 1903.)

As was the case with many foreign-born people coming to this country throughout its history, many of those Mexicans had to contend with officials altering — often drastically — the spelling of their names. Domínguez, for instance, became Domingis; Rivas became Rebas, Villarreal became Bereal or Berrarral; Sierra became Sciera; Villegas became Beagas; Veracruz became Bera Cruz; Martínez became Martinas, Martenus or Martinis; Hinojosa became Anahosa; and Gutiérrez became Butieres.

A woman whose first name was obviously Estanislada was listed as Tanis Lada. A Pantaleón Perales was listed as Panta León Perales. One license was issued to Betus Martenus and Wardalupe Sánchez. Isabel Rivas was listed as Esavel while his bride was listed as Victoriana Swares (Suárez).

The Census also had its share of comical versions of Spanish names. There was a Philicia Kinnon (Felicia Quiñon?), an Arrsha García, a Fairfella Casteo (Castillo), a Hosa Mareo Ermandis (José María Hernández?), a Pamble Davis, a Merehala Crus, and an Island Oretaveros.

These people were lucky. One poor woman was listed on her marriage license simply as “Cresenso, a Mexican woman.”

And district court records of 1858 and 1859, for instance, tell of “Tom a Mexican,” “Antonio a Mexican,” and “Alek a Mexican” being charged with adultery “with a negro slave of affrican decent.” For some unexplained reason, the district attorney was forced to change their charge to fornication (it could have been that any sexual activity with a slave, who was forbidden by law from marrying, could not have legally been considered adultery) and all three were found not guilty.

Perhaps those whose names were mangled in public records considered themselves lucky, for prejudice against Mexicans was about as bad as it was for blacks. A bit of that prejudice is revealed in Joe Cruze's recollections, collected in an oral history project by Doris Connally, in which Cruze refers to Mexicans as “garlics.”

If people were marrying, there had to have been celebrations. There had to have been music and musicians. There had to have been places where people gathered to celebrate or to worship. According to Ofelia Vásquez-Philo, there was a small Catholic church in San Marcos as early as the 1860s. That church was called Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, a clear indication that it was founded to serve the Mexican population. That church was located at the old site of St. John's Catholic Church, on the SWT campus at the top of the hill on Guadalupe Street.

Before that, the Mexican Catholics were served by priests who periodically rode on horseback from San Antonio or elsewhere to conduct mass, to marry couples and baptize new arrivals, says Vásquez.

A Mexican, Juan Martín de Veramendi, was the first large landowner in what was to become Hays County, but neither he nor his children (one of his daughters married Jim Bowie), who sold the land to the first settlers here, ever lived in the area.

Some of the early maps of Hays County show some plats of land with Spanish-surnamed owners — Juana Rodríguez (in northwest Hays County and Southwest Travis County), Jesusa Pérez (near Onion Creek), there is no indication that they were any more than absentee landowners, like Veramendi.

But here and there there are tidbits of information that hint at the early presence of Mexicans. A man named Anacleto Arrietta, was once quoted in an Austin newspaper story as claiming to have been living in the Kyle area as early as 1861.

A man named Domingo Lacosta is listed as having sold a mare on Oct. 25, 1876. Julio Martínez and George Cortez were compensated \$8.60 a couple of months later for a mare that had strayed from them and been sold.

Poll tax records of 1908 show that Kyle-area resident Vicente Ybarra had been in the county since 1871 and that a Buda-area resident named “Cisnero” had been in the county since 1872. And Wimberley-area farmer Florencio Trejos had lived in Hays County since 1873.

Most of the Mexicans who came here settled in the surrounding countryside, to do the field work that slaves no longer did for free for their former masters.

In his history of Stringtown, the settlement along the Old Stage Coach Road south of San Marcos, County Judge E.R. Kone writes a there-goes-the-neighborhood account of the end of that community shortly after the Civil War:

“Then came the influx of Mexican tenants on the farms, which completely changed the social environment of the neighborhood and the remaining whites' social, school and religious relations were cast entirely with San Marcos. Thus passed one of the free-est, happiest, and best communities the sun ever shone upon.”

(Continued on page 15B)

García & his buried loot

Near (San Marcos), on a farm now owned by Mr. Woolfolk, a band of Mexican robbers is supposed to have buried their plundered treasures, as far back as 1830, or earlier. An old Mexican, Teodoro García by name, made a statement to the effect that some 800 of them had their headquarters, where the college now stands. They robbed the trains passing from Nachitoches to Laredo, and those from the San Saba and San Gabriel mines.

The robbers had accomplices in Mexico, to whom were sent a plat of the locality where they buried their plunder. But justice overtook the robbers. They attacked one of the Nachitoches trains near the Blanco.

They were whipped, and driven back to their headquarters, closely followed by a large company of armed horsemen. Many were killed; others fled. But the cavalry, intent upon their annihilation, rushed into the camp and massacred the women and children. The few that escaped hid in a mountain cave, but their hiding place was betrayed by a small boy, and they were slain likewise.

The war between Texas and Mexico prevented the accomplices of the robbers, to whom the chart had been sent, from possessing themselves of the buried treasure, as it was dangerous for Mexicans to be seen in this portion of the country during that period, and when the war was ended and they did attempt to make use of the knowledge imparted to them, the landmarks had been obliterated, and their search was fruitless.

However, they said García, to whom the chart was familiar, while in the employ of Woolfolk, discovered marks which he believed to be identical with those of the chart, on the farm, some time during the year 1872. He confided the secret to his employer, and a search was instituted but no treasure was discovered. In fact, the larger portion of a 10-acre lot was dug up to no advantage, and but for the fact that the description tallied so well with the chart as described by García, the whole story might be considered a canard. But the existing facts are sufficient to establish some belief in its probability. v

—*from the American Sketchbook by Bella French Swisher*

Mexican settlers, from page 14B

Needless to say, as was the case with African Americans, while the newspapers and historians failed to make any positive mention of Mexicans, they were quick to make note of any notoriety they could attribute to them.

By the time the 1880 Census was taken, there was an increase of more than 200 percent in residents who were born in Mexico or were children of recent immigrants from there, from 156 in 1870 to 382, with all but a handful concentrated near Stringtown and south of San Marcos or in the Mountain City area.

This was the first Census that showed many complete family units of Mexicans.

As we shall see in future accounts, the number of Mexican Americans will grow significantly in the decades to follow.

Reconstruction, from page 13B

idle", and that there would be no further aid than what was to be provided by the Freedmen's Bureau.

Strangely, the spate of violence in the state was used by both the conservative and radical elements as a political tool. Common perception among many rank and file Texans, and a perception still perpetuated in 20th century accounts, is that all the troubles in the state could be traced to the North.

As Zora Malone Talbot, descendant of an old Stringtown family, wrote in 1961: "The 'carpet baggers' tried to turn the negroes against the whites, stole food and molested the women and children. The Southern white men who sided with negroes were called 'scalawags.' The 'scalawags' joined forces with the 'carpet baggers' and the two working together caused much trouble."

No doubt some of this is true, as it is no doubt true that some violence was directed against outspoken proUnion men and freedmen. Radicals emphasized the latter very successfully in lobbying the U.S. government to implement harsher Reconstruction measures.

But to try to trace all or even most of the disorder and crime of the period to specific political differences is no less ridiculous than it sounds. A civil war had just occurred in this country. The South was a conquered land, and was embroiled in the period of chaos and uncertainty that almost always comes with that fate.

In fact, compared to what would come, Texans had it pretty well. The general attitude toward the provisional government was good. It was at least a civil authority, not a military one; and most of the resentment toward it was based specifically on the loss of slave "property."

This would change in the next five years. A Constitutional convention was called, eventually, in February of 1866, and most of the delegates fit the conservative label — they opposed the radicals, but not the Union.

A conservative governor, J.W. Throckmorton, and Legislature, were then elected and inaugurated in August. The Legislature foolishly passed a number of laws dealing with apprenticeships, vagrancy, and labor contracts, all of which were aimed at regulating free blacks and their labor. It refused to endorse black suffrage through the 14th Amendment.

The "honeymoon period" from federal interference would end abruptly on March 2, 1867, with the passage of the Reconstruction Acts by Congress. State governments across the South were dissolved and replaced by military districts. The states of the South would now be required to hold another convention, and adopt the 14th Amendment and take any other actions necessary to comply with federal

law, before they would be readmitted. For Texas, real Reconstruction had just begun.

Voting for a new constitutional convention was ordered held in February, 1867 in each county seat. Votes would be taken on whether to hold a new convention and to elect delegates to it, if it was approved.

One caveat — at least half the registered voters in the state had to vote for the election to be valid. The convention was approved by almost a four to one margin, but the vast majority of conservative whites registered and then did not vote, hoping for less than a 50 percent turn out. They were unsuccessful, and the convention was called for June, 1868.

This would all culminate in what was for many Texans the most infamous event of the entire Reconstruction era: the election, in November, 1869, of the Radical E.J. Davis to the office of governor, at the same time the new Constitution was approved. Accusations of voting fraud were widespread, and Davis still carried the day by only 800 votes out of some 80,000.

Davis enacted a number of measures that were unpopular with the majority of Texans, although he was so personally despised by so many that it probably would have mattered little if he had been more moderate. He postponed all state elections until 1872 and "managed" (through some very questionable tactics) to get the more Radical (but still not very) Legislature to allow for the formation of local police forces under his control. Restrictions were also placed on the carrying of weapons.

State aid for the railroads was one of the bigger issues of the day as well, and Davis approved a bill to grant subsidies to the International line that would later lay tracks through Hays County. He was accused of graft in these railroad deals, although there was no real evidence of that. On the positive side of Davis' ledger was his support for public education in the state, and the fact that his passions were apparently sincere, and not merely fronts for some self serving purpose.

When E.J. Davis was eventually defeated by Democrat Richard Coke by more than a two to one margin in the 1873 elections, things looked grim for the unpopular governor. He would briefly rally again, however, as the election was ruled void on a voting irregularity.

But eventually, when he saw that further federal support for his government was not coming, he yielded to the popular vote and stepped down, though not before some heated moments that many thought would result in an exchange of bullets at the Capital itself.

For many Texans, the valid government of the state had been restored, and the scars of disunion could finally begin to heal.

Mayors of San Marcos
1877 - Present

1. A.B.Kerr	1877-1879
2. C.S. Cock	1879-1881
3. William Giesen	1881-1884
4. H.B. Coffield	1884-1888
5. Hammett Hardy	1888-1893
6. J.R. Porter	1893-1895
7. Hammett Hardy	1895-1900
8. J.R. Porter	1900-1913
9. Ed J.L Green	1913-1915
10. A.L. Davis	1915-1923
<i>Built Old City Hall</i>	
11. Fred F.Erck	1923-1925
12. John H. Bales	1925-1927
13. J.R. Wilhelm	1927-1931
14. Charles R. Ramsay	1931-1940
15. Oscar C. Smith	1940-1941
16. Earl C. McGee	1941-1945
17. Norman Jackson	1945-1949
18. Frank W. Zimmerman	1949-1951
19. Norman Jackson	1951-1953
20. Frank Dietterich	1953-1955
21. Calvin M. Allen	1955-1962
22. J.E. Younger	1962-1963 (acting Mayor)
23. Frank Taylor	1963-1965
24. Ellis Serur	1965-1970 (elected by Council)
25. Hollis Smith	1970-1971 (elected by Council)
26. Herbert Yarbrough	1971-1972 (elected by Council)
27. Luciano Flores	1972-1973 (elected by Council)
28. Eddy Etheredge	1973-1974 (elected by Council)
<i>Built new City Hall</i>	
29. Ross King (Pro Tem)	1974-1974 (acting Mayor, 4-74 to 5-74)
30. Dr. Emmie Craddock	1974-1977 (elected by Council)
31. Frank Arredondo	1977-1978 (elected by Council)
32. Robert Cavazos	1978-1979 (elected by Council)
33. John Hansen	1979-1980 (elected by Council)
34. Ken Kraus	1980-1981 (popular election) (resigned 3-81)
35. John Stokes (Pro Tem)	1981-1981 (acting Mayor, March - May)
36. Berry James (Pro Tem)	1981-1981 (acting Mayor, May- August)
37. Dr. Emmie Craddock	1981-1986 (special election 8-81)
38. J.E. Younger	1986-1988
39. Kathy M. Morris	1988-1996
40. Billy G. Moore	1996- 2000
41. David Chiu	2000- Present

(From City records and Tula Townsend Wyatt Collection, San Marcos Public Library)



City Managers of San Marcos
1957 - Present

1. B.R. Fuller	July 1957 - November 8, 1965
2. Dorothy O. Worrell	November 8, 1965 - December 1, 1965 (Acting City Manager)
3. W.E. Wolf	December 1, 1965 - June 26, 1967
4. Dorothy O. Worrell	June 26, 1967 - August 14, 1967 (Acting City Manager)
5. Richard G. Bean	August 14, 1967 - March 21, 1971
6. Warren Leddick	March 21, 1971 - June 28, 1971 (Acting City Manager)
7. Mark E. Gresham	June 28, 1971 - May 14, 1973
8. James B. Baugh	May 29 - August 6, 1973 (Acting City Manager)
9. James B. Baugh	August 6, 1973 - May 19, 1977
10. C.J. Webster	May 19, 1977 - August 7, 1978
11. Albert Sierra	August 7, 1978 - December 18, 1978 (Acting City Manager)
12. Royal Dunlap	December 18, 1978 - June 29, 1979
13. Ray Kotowski	June 30, 1979 - September 24, 1979 (Acting City Manager)
14. A.C. Gonzalez	September 24, 1979 - September 5, 1988
15. Larry D. Gilley	September 6, 1988 - Present

Incorporation

A city is born

The *village* of San Marcos grew a great deal in the 1870s, its population rising by some 75 percent during the decade. With the new people came new businesses and expansions in commerce, a new mill, and many new farms. Most accounts show that San Marcans in that era reacted to growth much the same way as we do today — with some trepidation, but usually a sense that of inevitability and a desire to check some of the more negative effects.

The problem for the more forward-thinking citizens of the 1870s , like Isaac Julian, the editor of the local newspaper, was this: any serious discussion about improving the village’s ruddy dirt roads, restricting livestock’s free reign, or working as a community in any way could in the end mean only one thing, or at least their opponents would claim: *incorporation*. Some clearly considered this too drastic.

The first attempt to consolidate the community of San Marcos into a real city came on March 2, 1874. The issue was politically treacherous, especially for the only local politicians in Hays County at the time, the members of the Commissioners Court. In November, 1873 someone identified only as “NEW CITIZEN” wrote a letter to the *Free Press* accusing County Court Judge S.B. McBride of not acting on a petition to incorporate the town, and putting it to the voters. McBride tersely responded, three weeks later: “I will vote for it, but no legal petition has been brought to me.”

When the election was finally held the next March, McBride’s side was in the minority. The final vote count was reported as 59 against to 41 for, but the margin is later said to be 17 votes, and obviously both cannot be correct. In any case, it failed, and San Marcos remained as it had been. For Julian, one of incorporation’s strongest advocates, his only qualm about forming a town was the added taxation that would come with it, and this was probably the biggest reason for the defeat of the attempt.

One factor commonly blamed at the time can be ruled out — the black vote. Rather comically, at least in a mathematical sense, some of the proponents of incorporation blamed this segment of the vote for their defeat. Julian repeated this rumor in his *Free Press*, in fairly racist tones. He set the record straight in his next issue, pointing out that while the margin of defeat was 17 votes, the record showed only nine blacks had voted.

Rumblings about incorporating echoed for the next few years. And shadows of the debate about whether to become a real community can be seen in most of the issues that confronted San Marcos residents in the late ‘70s.

Continued on page 17B)

Battles heat up all the way to incorporation (continued from 16B)

One of the first of these to come up would have made the San Marcos of today a very different place, had the outcome been different.

Less than a year after the failure of the first incorporation attempt, Texas began considering sites for a new western branch of the state penitentiary and targeted San Marcos as one of its top prospects.

“Do the people of San Marcos and vicinity want the Western Branch of the New State Penitentiary located here?” asked the *Free Press*. “If they do, they should at once unmistakably manifest their wish ... A public meeting should be had, and the sense of the people taken on the subject ... In a business point of view, it would be no doubt a great thing for our town and country. We repeat, then, if we want it we must speak out proudly and emphatically.”

This public meeting was held, at the courthouse, and resolutions were passed at the meeting “favoring the location of the penitentiary at this place.” It would have seemed a done deal, but like many development plans, things don’t get really complicated until the exact location being considered is named. In this case, what the state had in mind was a 12- to 14-acre site located smack dab at the source of the *San Marcos River*.

The reaction to this announcement was predictable. In the April 29, 1876 *Free Press* Julian again asks for the “sense of the people” on the issue, but with a decidedly different presentation: “Do we want the penitentiary located at the head of the river? State Rep. Mr. Hutchins wants to know. It is quite clear to our mind that an overwhelming majority are opposed to it.”

Julian was so moved by this issue that, for the one of very few times, he was openly hypocritical. The location of the penitentiary, dismal as it might have been, altered every other aspect of the project. What was once to have been a boon to San Marcos was now decried as its death knell. At the lowest point the *Free Press* ran a piece entitled “Do we want to become another Huntsville?”

Then on May 6, Julian, calling on all his poetic training, penned the following editorial:

“Do we want to see that glorious SPRING, by which, in seasons of drought, men and animals are driven to resort for 10 miles around, thus defiled, and the grand flood of LIVING WATER flowing therefrom, more precious than gold to this thirsty land, become the sewer to this horrible concentration of filth and poison, taking its slimy way alongside our beautiful town, leaving defilement, disease and death in its course? ... We feel sure that the almost universal response in this community would be one emphatic ‘No!’ Let it then be given, of necessary, and may it be heeded by the powers that be.”

The state relented, probably in large part due to the public outcry. By September, 1876 the *Free Press* could state that the “project of a penitentiary at the source of the San Marcos is dead, dead, dead. May it never have a resurrection.”

There were other efforts made at community works

such as street repair and sidewalk building, although they were apparently slow and understandably disorganized.

One issue that seemed to divide the citizenry right down the middle originated in the Legislature in 1876, when citizens of a county were granted the right to petition and hold a “local option” election to ban the sale of alcoholic beverages.

This enabled what was already something of a revival for the temperance movement in many counties. The sentiment also grew in San Marcos, as this unsigned letter in the *Free Press* demonstrates: “It is, I suppose, an admitted fact, even by those who

oppose prohibition, that nine-tenths of the street brawls and rows and murders that occur in Texas, have their origin in the barroom and are generated in the fumes of whisky, and around the card table ... If men must drink, let them drink at home.”

Many counties around the state held votes on local option, Hays no exception, and when the question was put to voters on March 24, 1877 the division in the county on this issue was clear: 392 for, 389 against. The precinct vote in San Marcos was equally close at 202 for and 205 against.

The “local option” proposal went into effect on April 1, and the day before an ad in the *Free Press* urged customers to “fill their jugs!” Doubtless many did. Again, the problem with the law was its enforcement, which was spotty and easy to evade. The law forbade the sale of liquor except for medicinal purposes, and the definition of medicinal purposes was open to interpretation.

All these issues, along with many that do not survive

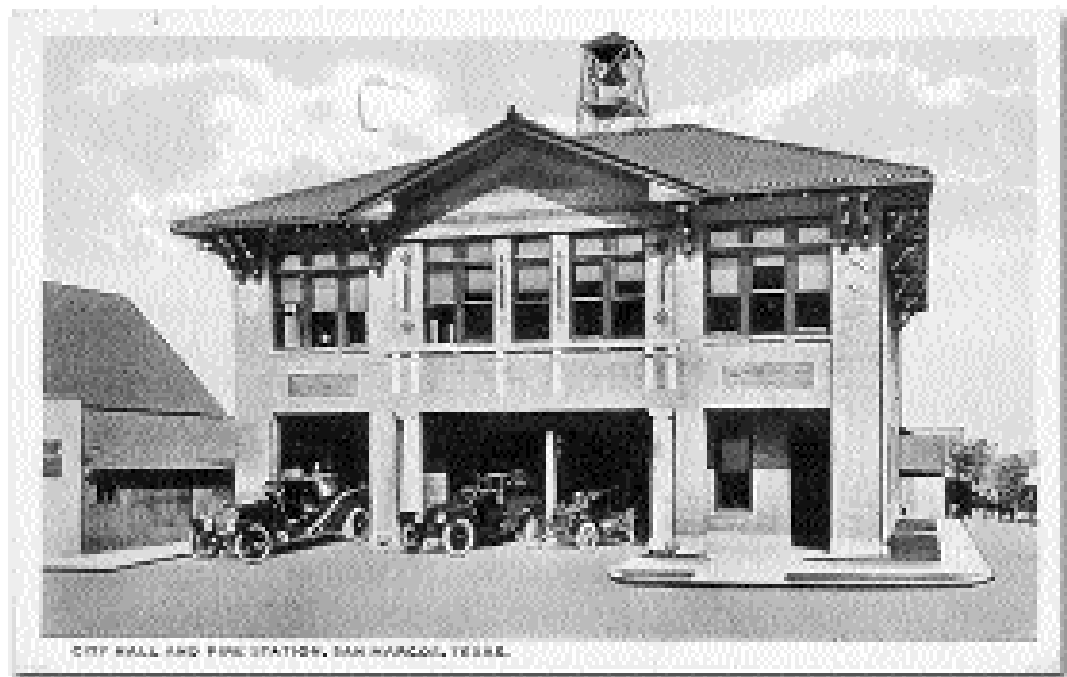
to be told, probably added fuel to the fire as far as the drive for another incorporation attempt was concerned. At some point between 1874 and 1877 the tide of local opinion turned strongly toward incorporating. This probably had something to do with population growth and something to do with the continued problems that a city government might alleviate, through its organization alone.

There were other concerns at the time. In 1877 San Marcos was in the process of building a free school house for its white children, and the availability of public funds from the state for the operation of the school was tied to the incorporation of the village. Thus the very issue that had helped defeat the incorporation attempt in 1874 — money, and taxes — now was somewhat in its favor in 1877. If the citizens continued organized as they were, the school would be theirs alone to support; as a city, this might not be the case.

The clamor was such that a meeting on incorporation was held at the courthouse on May 21, 1877, and the comment there was very favorable. County Judge Sterling Fisher spoke out in favor, and there was only one speech noted in opposition, though perhaps many of the “agin’ers,” stayed at home.

The decisive blow as far as public opinion was concerned may have been on June 30, 1877, just one week before the election. A group of five San Marcos doctors, including some of the more respected men in town, made a public statement for the incorporation petition, focusing on the potential benefits for public health and improved sanitation. The bottom line, as they wrote it: “(T)he people, for mutual convenience and profit, form themselves into towns and cities.”

So on July 7, 1877, the village of San Marcos became the town of San Marcos, by a 70 to 45 vote. Its problems were far from solved, but they had forever changed — as had Hays County, now the proud parent of one city, with more on the way.



San Marcos City Hall, (c. 1920) also housed the police department, the fire department and the jail. (San Marcos Public Library Photo)

Vignettes from San Marcos past: No flirting, gambling - or cross dressing allowed

Lost in Time

City government was organized in 1877 when San Marcos was officially incorporated as a town by the State of Texas. The first 11 years of City Council actions—from 1877 to 1888—are lost with "Volume I" of the City's minute books, which disappeared many years ago. City Clerk Janis K. Womack today maintains all the rest of the original volumes in a vault at City Hall—a precious repository of the life of a community.

Some things never change

The City Council received a petition from Tom Cade signed by "quite a lot of citizens" asking the city to appropriate money to keep the head of the river cleaned out "for the benefit of visitors and the healthfulness of citizens." A week later Mr. Cade won a \$200 annual contract, \$50 each quarter, to keep the river cleaned out of limbs and debris.

City Council Minutes 4-4-1888

Election Delay

In 1888 the City Council had to postpone canvassing the City Council election by one day when an election judge failed to show up with the ballots. The election of aldermen in four wards was certified the next day.

City Council Minutes 4-4-1888

A Pungent Town

In the late 1880s the City Council passed a resolution condemning "backyard privies that were kept in an offensive and bad condition." The resolution ordered the City Marshall to enforce nuisance ordinances against the privy owners and "livery stables with an accumulation of decaying, rotting mat-

By Melissa Millecam

ter, offensive to the smell and exceedingly dangerous to the health of the inhabitants of the city"—especially considering that "warm weather and the sickly season is approaching."

4-9-1889

Let there be Light

In 1889 the City Council granted San Marcos Electric Light and Power Company a 20 year franchise to install poles for their wires. The Council also made it illegal to hitch your horse to a light pole.

Council minutes 5-2-1889

Drafted

In 1889 the City Council passed an ordinance requiring all males over 18 years to be summoned to work the streets and alleys of the city—"not to exceed five days in each road year."

Council minutes 7-3-1889

Segregated Schools

In the fall of 1889, the City Council's judiciary committee reported favorably on building public schools for both white and colored children.

Council minutes 10-3-1889

Building Code

In 1889 the City Council passed a law requiring all buildings "within the fire limits" of San Marcos to be constructed of brick, stone or concrete and have roofs of zinc, tin, iron, slate or gravel. Later the Council banned blacksmith shops from the fire limits, making violations a criminal misdemeanor.

Council minutes 9-14-1889; 10-3-1889

Fish Hatchery

In 1893 the City Council approved

Article 63: Forbidden

Appearing in any public place in dress not belonging to his or her sex, without permission of the Mayor.
Original Code of Ordinances, 1877

the establishment of a fish hatchery—the first one built west of the Mississippi. The ponds at SWT—and the Old Fish Hatchery Community Building are what remain of that early federal fish hatchery.

2-18-1893

And We'll Wash Your Mouth Out with Soap, Too!

A person using abusive language could be fined from \$5 -\$100 if he "in the presence of another curse or abuse such person or use any violently abusive language to such person concerning him or any of his female relations under circumstances reasonably calculated to provoke a breach of peace."

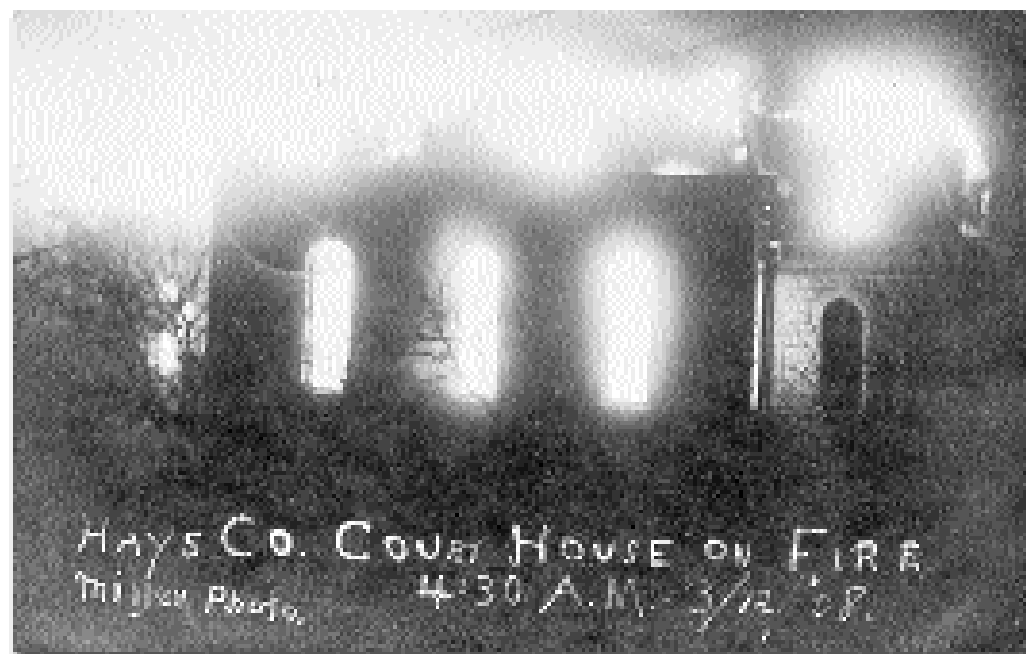
City Council minutes: 7-12-1894

Quarantines

The fear of the spread of virulent

Continued on page 19B

Tula Townsend Wyatt Collection San Marcos Public Library



When the Hays County Courthouse burned to the ground in the wee hours of the morning on March 12, 1908, a local photographer caught the action on film.



The aftermath of the 1908 Courthouse fire.

No flirting... continued from page 18B

illnesses caused the City Council to pass emergency quarantines in 1903 for yellow fever and in 1912 for cerebrospinal meningitis. "...said disease is considered contagious and infectious and is epidemic at certain points in the state and after mature deliberation, the Council deems it to the best interest of the health of the City to have and establish a quarantine against all infected points or sections of the state of Texas or other state."

City Council minutes: 10-3-1903; 1-16-1912

Up in Smoke

In 1914 the City Hall-Fire Station burned to the ground, losing not only the building, but 1200 feet of new fire hose and 3 good horses. Within a few weeks the City Council ordered an election to issue \$20,000 in bonds to build a new City Hall and Fire Station. City Council minutes 7-8-1914

No flirting— or winking, either!

In 1921 the City Council passed an ordinance "to define and punish flirting in a public place, or any rude attention on the part of any male person in the City of San Marcos, towards any Female person therein." The City Council, with A.L Davis as Mayor, and E.E. Barnes City Clerk, ordained:

"That any Male person who shall Hereafter go into or near any public place within this city and shall then and there by word, motion, wink, sign, or action, smile or attempt to invite any Female person to become familiar with

him without then and there being first invited or encouraged by said female to said familiarity, shall be deemed guilty of flirting,"

"Section 2: It shall be unlawful for any male person to make a loud, rude, vulgar, ungentlemanly, obscene, or other annoying or objectionable remark, in the presence or hearing of any female person...or to follow after or trail after, or to drive after in a car or walk beside, or in front or to interfere with the movement of said female person, or to invite said female person directly or indirectly, to ride or drive, without then and there first invited by said female person, to such familiarity."

The punishment was a fine of \$10 to \$100.

Council minutes: Sept. 7, 1921

No Gambling!

Slot machines were outlawed in 1894 and cock fighting was prohibited 1895 in San Marcos.

Council minutes: 9-5-1894 and 4-8-1895

It Seemed Normal at the Time

The City Council took one of its most momentous actions in history on October 16, 1899 when the City of San Marcos deeded 11 acres to the State of Texas for the South West Texas Normal School.

Council minutes—10-16-1899u

It's the law

A few original city ordinances

When San Marcos citizens decided in July, 1877 that it was time to become a city, it was largely due to a need, real or imagined, for local rules and regulations on everything from animals to drunkenness.

Here are some of the more interesting articles from the original ordinances.

Article 6: It shall not be lawful for any person to take up, or in any manner use, any horse, ox, cow or other animal belonging to another, without the consent of the owner or keeper thereof.

Article 7: It shall not be lawful for any person to kill, maim or injure, or cruelly or unmercifully beat, any domestic animal or Dumb Brute in this town.

Article 9: The owner of any proud bitch shall, during the time she is proud, keep her confined to a closed building.

Article 33: It shall not be lawful for any auctioneer while plying his occupation in this town to make any outcry greater than is actually necessary, nor to act in a boisterous manner, so as to disturb the peace of any one.

Article 43: It shall not be lawful for any person to establish any slaughterhouse or pen in this town, or to slaughter any animals for butcher's meat within the limits of this town except for the use of the person so slaughtering.

(The following were forbidden, with punishments ranging from \$3 to \$100 fine, 10 days imprisonment, or 20 days "on any public works in the town.")

Article 54: Beating drums, blowing horns, or making other unusual or unpleasant noises in the streets or other public places, provided, this shall not apply to military or other lawful processions, marching or assembling by the same.

Article 55: Maliciously or mischievously ringing any door bell or bell-pull, or using any door knocker or breaking or defacing the same.

Article 56: Exhibiting, or causing to be exhibited, any Bull or Bear fight, or taking part in, or encouraging by his or her, or their presence at, any pugilistic contest or prize fight.

Article 58: Keeping or operating any disorderly house or place, such as a fandango house, dance or dance house, where lewd women, prostitutes, vagrants, persons who have no visible means of support, or any disorderly persons, are admitted, or allowing the same to be kept, or operated in, or upon any premises owned or controlled by him, her, or them, and the Constable is instructed to suppress the same.

Article 61: Being asleep in any street, alley, highway square, sidewalk, or other public place, not belonging to him, her or them.

Article 62: Being intoxicated or pretending to be intoxicated in any street, highway, alley, square, or other public place.

Article 63: Appearing in any public place in dress not belonging to his or her sex, without permission of the Mayor.

Article 75: Riding or driving a beast of burden in or through any street, alley, square, road, highway or other public place, in a gait faster than a slow trot or pace, except in case of an urgent necessity.

Article 81: Depositing, placing or leaving, or causing to be deposited or left, within less than one thousand yards beyond the town limits the dead body or carcass of any animal whatever, owned kept or controlled by him, her or them.

Article 83: Depositing, placing or throwing into any street, alley, road, highway, or other public place, strychnine or any other poisonous substances, or poisoned meat, whereby the lives of dumb brutes are endangered.

Article 103: Tying to any dog or any other animal any tin can or any other article whatever, for mischief or sport.

(A fee of \$2 per day was required for any person doing the following:)

Article 135: For every skating rink, velopedrome, flying horse, or amusement of like nature.

A criminal obsession

“We are sick of reading of and recording crimes.”

— Isaac H. Julian, *San Marcos Free Press*,
Sept. 20, 1879

Crime is perhaps more heavily covered by our modern media than at any time in our history. But as a quick study of the *San Marcos Free Press* of the late 19th century reveals, reporting on crime in the county is far from new.

In fact, it appears that Hays Countians of 1875 had just as strong a desire to read about the underbelly of society as do their modern brethren.

Grand jury proceedings were almost always covered in depth by the *Free Press*, with a brief description for every case.

We pass on a few of those, for what they are worth:

- Aug., 1874: Criminal case decisions included: one murder (by a J.B. Hester), sent to prison for life; three assaults; two “swindlings;” three robberies/thefts; two unlawful milkings of a cow; one unlawful use of an ox; one disturbing of a religious worship.
- Aug., 1875: one murder (Richard Rounds, found not guilty); four assaults; three thefts; two gambling; and multiple thefts of stock.
- Sept., 1877: theft of cattle, Lewis Wilson and Wm. Day, sentenced to two years; horse stealing, George Ash, five years, and Ruben Marshall, nine years, in the penitentiary; theft of horse and buggy (two cases), Charles Williams, 15 years; theft of cattle, Townsend and Isbell, acquitted; theft, Jas. Sublett, fined \$20.
- March, 1879: forgery (three cases), William McDonald, seven years; theft of cows, “Duffy”, two years; theft of cattle, Jas. Stevenson and William Stevenson, two years; theft of a watch, John Avatt, jail 30 days, \$500 fine; aggravated assault, “Pedro”, \$100 fine.
- Sept., 1879: murder, Truman Driskill, acquitted; theft of a gelding, J. McLane, five years; six others for thefts of various animals.

Crime and Punishment

In the third quarter of the 19th century, as Texas struggled to recover from the Civil War, Reconstruction, and the hardships of pioneer life, crime became a more frequent and unwelcome part of life. When lawlessness stalked the streets of early towns in the form of horse thieving, stage robberies, arson or even rape and murder. Retribution was immediate and often harsh.

The spring and summer of 1874 were terrible seasons for crime in San Marcos and Central Texas. Newspaper editor Isaac Julian summed up many horrific events occurring across the state in terse prose in his *West Texas Free Press* published in San Marcos: “Thirteen suspected horse-thieves were murdered this week in Bell County-nine were shot together in jail by a mob.”

A week later, on June 6, 1874, Julian reported that “More Mob Outrages” had occurred in Bell County when nine more men were murdered by a mob. “We are glad to see the press coming down on these outrages and calling on the Governor to suppress them.”

UNLAWFULLY MILKING A COW

But it was not always murder and mayhem. A court docket printed in Julian’s newspaper in August of 1874 demonstrates the justice meted out for some of the routine crimes of the day: Ed Fields got five years in the penitentiary for robbery, while Doc Payne was found not guilty for the “unlawful use of an ox.”

Nat Taylor and W. Rucker got a \$25 fine each for disturbing religious worship, while Wash Murray was fined \$100, surely an enormous penalty for the day, for assault. W. Crane appealed his seven-year term in the pen for assault with intent to murder, although Jerry Grant escaped jail time for a similar charge by being fined \$150.

Eli Glover was fined \$25 for stealing corn, while Dock Roberts and S.B. McCoy were assessed \$5 plus costs for “unlawful milking cow.”

Levi Irving was fined \$35 and costs for illegally carrying a pistol and William Thompson and John Victor both went to the penitentiary for two years for swindling. A murder conviction incurred a life sentence for J.B. Hester.

LYNCHINGS

As Reconstruction continued to evoke bitter reaction in the 1870s, African Americans accused of crime sometimes didn’t live long enough to make it to a trial. Some were lynched by anonymous mobs:

“The negro Galloway, who committed the outrage on a little white girl in Bexar county, was captured at Austin and lodged in jail at this place [San Marcos] one night last week after his return. After leaving here, he was hanged by unknown parties, somewhere on York’s Creek. The girl it is said has since died.” (*West Texas Free Press*, June 20, 1874)

A month later the paper reported another lynching at York Creek: “Another negro was lately hung on York’s Creek for rape. Some excitement prevailed among the negroes in consequence and an outbreak was apprehended, but it appears to have blown over.” Such stories were sparse in details and absent of any follow-up, in the press, at least.

In May, 1874, Julian reported an interracial murder: A white man and a black man were jailed after an “altercation concerning a grindstone” led to the murder of a Mexican man named Marino on On-ion Creek. “The white man shot the Mexican in the back with buckshot and the negro split his skull open with

an axe. We have not learned the names of the murderers.”

ROBBERY IN SAN MARCOS

Sometimes, the big city press sensationalized the news, especially when it came from the hinterlands like San Marcos. In early June, 1874, Julian quoted a story from the *Austin Statesman*:

By Melissa Millecam

“ROBBERY IN SAN MARCOS — There is a report in the city

that a bold and daring robbery was perpetrated at San Marcos a few nights since, a gang of men riding into town at night, breaking open stores and carrying off, unmolested, large quantities of goods. We shall await the receipt of the *San Marcos Times* with some degree of impatience.”

Julian scoffed at the report with this reply: “To relieve the anxious minds of the editors of that paper we will state that the ‘gang’ it speaks of consisted of one transient hanger-on, without a horse to ride, who is now in jail. Two young men charged with acts of petty thieving have since shared the same fate. That is all the ‘daring robberies’ at San Marcos.” He also pointed out that the editors “will have to wait a good while for the arrival of the *San Marcos Times*...”there having been no paper of that name published here for six months past.”

SO WHERE WAS LIZZY BORDEN?

In New Braunfels in July, 1874, “one of the darkest deeds of the present dark period of crime” occurred when an axe murderer attacked Mrs. Faust, the wife of Dr. Faust, and Miss Emma Voeleker. Faust had gone to Seguin on business and left his wife at the home of Dr. Voeleker, a druggist. Emma was rumored to have attended a “sociable party” until well after midnight. She had gone to sleep on a pallet on the floor next to Mrs. Faust, when around 1 a.m. someone made the “murderous attack” on the two ladies.

A white man in white clothes was seen fleeing the scene of the crime and at first a man from San Antonio was suspected because he had “suddenly disappeared.” The two women lingered in agony for several days until they died. “The affair is wrapped in mystery. The theory of some is that the object of the murder was robbery, while others think it was inspired by jealousy.”

A week later, the paper reported: “Among the persons most strongly suspected of the murder of Mrs. Faust of New Braunfels is her husband.”

The most notorious local event was the April 7, 1874, robbery of the stage from San Antonio to Austin.

Crime in the 70s occupied the newspaper columns and the resources of the Commissioners Court who spent considerable funds reimbursing themselves and others for the care of prisoners.

As we read today’s news and fret about the violence of our times, we at least might realize a criminal past, too, is part of our cultural heritage.

Old jail is future home of Jack C. Hays Law Enforcement Museum

Located on Fredericksburg Street, just north of Martin Luther King Dr. stands the historic Hays County Jail. Not long after the Civil War, when trains and cowboys were still taming the land, San Marcos was a growing community, rising from the limestone, the gateway to the Texas Hill Country. And with the settling of this new frontier came the taming of bad people, and all communities needed places to put them.

Standing as one of the few remaining examples of the Italian style architecture in Hays County, this old jail is significant to the history and heritage of San Marcos.

Architecturally popular along the east and west coasts and in the Midwest, "Italian Block" in America was fashioned after a similar Italian style popular in England in the 1830's and 1840's. With wide overhanging brackets, tall, narrow windows, crowned with elaborate moldings, simple porches with chamfered square posts, at least two stories in height and a rustic stone base, the style is a unique example of the building technique.

This jail was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. It was designed by Edward Northcraft, a noted architect of more than 40 public building around the state, and whose designs include the 1886 San Marcos Cemetery Chapel and the 1903 "Old Main" building at Southwest Texas Normal School. Mr. Northcraft served as Texas Superintendent of Public Buildings from 1887 to 1891.

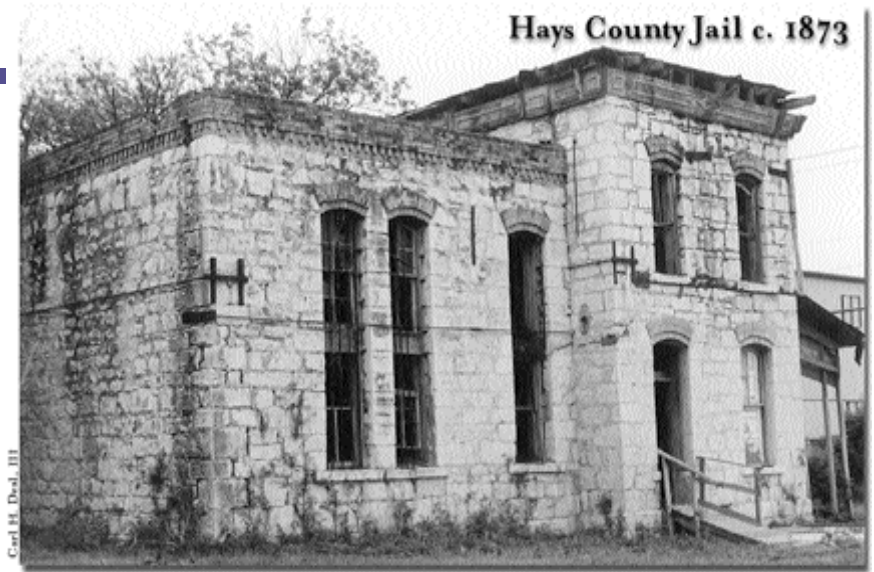
In January of 1873 the Hays County Commissioner's Court petitioned State Representatives C.W. Hollingsworth for the authority to assess property taxes to build the first jail in Hays County. Plans and specifications presented by Northcraft and Donalson were adopted on August 25, 1873 with the cost not to exceed \$5,000.

The first jail was erected and operational by March 1874. According to the *West Texas Free Press*, the Grand Jury report described the new jail as neat, clean, safe, secure, and well arranged. The report does not describe the physical structure of the building, but jails of the period were typically two story buildings with an exterior staircase. Prisoners were taken up the stairs and lowered into the first floor through a trap door. They were kept on the first floor in a metal lined jail cell measuring approximately 10' x 12'. The first Hays County Jail was located at the corner of Martin Luther King and Fredericksburg, where the Calaboose African-American Museum sits today.

The historic Old Hays County Jail on Fredericksburg Street represented the second jail built for the County. The sale of bonds was authorized on February 14, 1884 after Isaac Julian, editor of the *San Marcos Free Press*, criticized the county for the abuse of the prisoners in the 1873 jail. He printed an article written by a Kyle resident who described nineteen men confined in one 10' x 12' metal cell. Julian personally denounced the 1873 jail as "abominable" and a "monstrous moral ulcer." Other serious incidents influenced the County Commissioner's Court vote including the suicide of prisoner Harris Hudson, an Alabama lawyer, who died after consuming a bottle of carbolic acid.

He left a suicide note describing the poor conditions of the prisoners and the necessity for a new jail. In March of 1884 the following express was published in the *San Marcos Free Press* regarding the 1873 jail:

By Carl H. Deal, III



"In the construction of the old jail, we remember well it was said there was to be a sort of windmill connected with it to circulate the air through the cells. The windmill part, however was at last overlooked. A thing better designed for a place of torture. Yet we hear it said that it is still to be used as a sort of supplement to the new jail when completed. Against this in the name of the humane people of this county, we utter our solemn protest. Rather let it be razed to the ground as the French Republicans of 1789 did the Bastille. We wonder the lightnings of heaven have so long spared the infernal thing."

Ultimately, the two-story jail was replaced in the same location by the brick and frame building now known as the "Calaboose". Restoration of the Calaboose in the 1980's revealed the prior existence of two individual cells in the original brick portion of the building. According to Ms. Johnnie Armstead, historian for the Calaboose African-American History Museum, these cells were used for holding African-American prisoners while the second jail (the Old Hays County Jail) housed Anglo and Latin-American prisoners. This segregation continued until 1937 when the construction of a third jail at the northwest corner of Martin Luther King Street (formerly Comal Street) and Guadalupe Street.

The Old Hays County Jail building consists of a ground floor and a second floor, totaling approximately 1,635 square feet in area. The back portion where the detention cell is located is a double height single story room whereas the front wing if two separate floors, served as living quarters for the jail and his family and may have been fashioned with detention cells for female prisoners.

During the period in which the Hays County used the 1884 jail, several notable incidents occurred. The only execution at the jail occurred after Benigno Guerrero was convicted of murdering a 14-year-old girl when she refused to elope with him. Mr. Guerrero was hanged from scaffolding built behind the jail in 1915. In another incident, the Newton Gang served time in the 1920's after an attempted bank robbery.

With the construction of the new jail facility in 1937, the Old Hays County Jail subsequently served as a community center for the Methodist Church before passing into private ownership. As one of six remaining Italianate jails built in the State of Texas, the old jail continues to make an excellent contribution to the cultural history of San Marcos.

In 1998, an initiative to save the Old Jail

Continued on page 25B

Jail Restoration Committee Members

C. Hill Rylander/Chairman
Bob Barton

Sgt. Allen Bridges
Hays County Sheriff's Office
Capt. Carl H. Deal

San Marcos Police Department
Lila Knight Ethridge

Kate Johnson
Al Lowman

Sheriff Don Montague
Hays County Sheriff's Department
Brenda Renne

More than 50 years passed between the horrors of this nation's Civil War and the first of the great World War's. In 1917 San Marcos had more than 4,000 residents and had a strong reputation in educational circles, since it had been the home of Coronal Institute for decades and Southwest Texas State Normal had begun to grow in size. The entire county had given President Woodrow Wilson an almost 10 to 1 victory in 1916, partly on his pledge to keep America out of the war that had engulfed Europe.

The Two World Wars

However increased sinkings of American ships by German submarines resulted in Wilson's call for war in April, 1917 and the citizens of San Marcos staged a giant Loyalty Rally to show their support.

By summer three San Marcans, Captain Howard Woodall, First Lieutenant Howard Davis and Second Lieutenant William Montgomery, formed a National Guard company made of more than 100 Hays County men. It was later federalized and made a company in the fabled 36th Division.

During the next year and a half more than 600 Hays County men served in the various branches of military service, with many of them serving overseas in France and Germany. Included among those who saw extensive action on the front lines were Tom Johnson, who later became one of the town's best lawyers, Jack Arnold, Lee

By Bob Barton

Hutchinson. Charles Walters, Spurgeon Smith, Maurice Suttles and both William Montgomery

and Woodall.

A number of soldiers and Marines won special recognition. Lee Hutchinson captured 171 German prisoners and 50 enemy machine guns. Overton Perkins was decorated by the French for his heroism and Jack Arnold won the Croix de Guerre.

First casualty

The first San Marcan to die in combat was Clinton Steven Lindsey, who was killed at Chateau Thierry in July, 1918.

Others who were killed in action or died of wounds they suffered were Jack Arnold, Clarence Allen, Maurice Suttles, George Zapalac, Overton Perkins, Austin Lowery, and Charlie Walters.

Casualties didn't just occur on the battlefield. The terrible "flu" epidemic during the winter of 1917-18 wreaked havoc throughout the land, including at various training camps and overseas.

Out of 27 deaths to service personnel during the First World War, nearly 20 of them were the results of flu and pneumonia.

Dying from illness were Elmer Adair, Ramon Andrade, John Bell, David Haile, William T. Harris, Tom Harwell, Murray Lawrence, Wallace McPherson, William Mayfield, Paul Moore, Matthew Quick, W.J. Schaumleffel, Edwin Stiles, William Stribling, Ira Taylor, William Watson, Henry Whipple and Will Matts.

In addition Wharton Jones was killed in an overseas accident.

Late in the war a new National Guard cavalry troop was organized in Hays County by Oran Cliett, who was more than 40 years old. Most of the recruits were below the draft age or "over's" like Cliett. The war ended before they were federalized.

On the home front

On the home front the city and county organized to help in the war effort. G.A. McNaughton took on the tough job of heading the local branch of the Federal Food Administration, which had the job of stimulating food production and controlling distribution and pricing of commodities. He was editor of the San Marcos Daily Times during that period.

Dudley Johnson headed the War Savings Committee and quickly raised \$180,000 in pledges. In the extreme patriotism of the time, he also turned in three local families who refused to participate, branding them as "pro-German". He later added three more to the list, noting that they were "full grown slackers."

Before the war ended nearly \$500,000 in Liberty Loans were secured in the county.

Continued on page 23B



Back in the Saddle Again

In 1948 on a post-war campaign trip for the United States Senate, Lyndon Johnson returned to San Marcos for a political rally along with singing cowboy/movie star and WWII veteran Gene Autry.
(Tula Townsend Wyatt Collection • San Marcos Public Library)

The Two World Wars

continued from page 22B

Heading up this drive was County Judge J.R. Wilhelm and Mayor A.J. Davis.

In addition to men in the armed forces, Claude Ivey, Ralph McClellan and Charles Rugel joined the YMCA and the first two served overseas bringing aid and comfort to front line troops.

After World War One ended the town converted old Fisher Hall of the defunct Coronal Institute to serve as a hospital and officially named it San Marcos Memorial Hospital in honor of the men who had died in that conflict.

Pearl Harbor

On December 6, 1941 not more than one person out of 100 in San Marcos could have identified the location of Pearl Harbor and even fewer could have identified the nationality of men with names like Tojo, Yamamoto and Hirohito.

Oh, they knew there was a big war going on in Europe and some local boys had been drafted earlier in the year as the war there continued to go badly.

Radios were frequently turned to WOAI, the "clear channel station" in San Antonio. It carried reports from a young broadcaster named Edward R. Murrow about the Luftwaffe raids on London and the bravery of the outnumbered fighter pilots of the Royal Air Force.

Winston Churchill's name was on everyone's lips and Franklin Roosevelt was barely into his third term, and tremendously popular in Hays County. (He had carried the county by an overwhelming 2,270 to 453 margin in 1940 against Wendell Wilkie. A mighty big 83 percent of the total vote, but small potatoes to the 88 percent he had gotten back in 1932).

Within the next 24 hours the world turned upside down. Following church services throughout the town some folks whose religion didn't prohibit them from attending "picture shows" on Sunday went to Frank Zimmerman's Palace Theater to see the latest Abbott and Costello picture built around the comics troubles after mistakenly enlisting in the peacetime Army.

About the time the first show ended someone announced that the Japanese had bombed the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii and that an invasion of the Phillipine Islands was underway.

School children gathered around radio sets the next day, as did anyone who could get near one, to hear President Roosevelt address Congress and call for a declaration of war against Japan and their allies, Germany and Italy.

Shortly thereafter news was received that Lt. Arthur Edward Gary had been killed in action on the first day of war on the island of Luzon by the Japanese. The street in downtown San Marcos was named in his honor.

Joining the ranks

Hundreds of San Marcos men and women entered the various branches of the service during the four and a half years of war, many of them serving overseas and in battle action throughout the world.

On the home front community leaders worked together in massive bond drives and scrap metal was gathered by school children through the town. The need for additional training bases for the rapidly expanding Army Air Corps resulted in the construction in 1942 of Camp Gary at the eastern edge of town, just over the line into Caldwell County. Congressman Lyndon Johnson,

who had lived in San Marcos while attending Southwest Texas State Teachers College was instrumental in getting the air field established here.

The heavy influx of offi-

cers and enlisted men into the area to staff and train at Gary brought additional commerce and business to San Marcos and resulted in many homes being remodeled to add apartments for men stationed here.

USO's were organized, including the renovation of the old jail on what is now Martin Luther King Avenue, for African-American service men. (The armed forces were not integrated until after the war under the administration of President Harry Truman.)

Enrollment at SWT greatly diminished during the War, since most young men were in the service or working in various war related industries.

Ultimate sacrifice

Among Hays Countians who made the extreme sacrifice by giving their lives for their country were Thomas W. Barber, Rodolfo Barrera, Casmiro M. Besnaiz, James Brumley, Claude Clark, Charles E. Clayton, Luis Costilla, Rafael Cruz, James Cummings, John Decker, I. De Los Santos, Thomas Falls Jr., Orman Fitzhugh, Arthur Edward Gary, Peter Garza Jr., David Gauna, Joe Gomez, Rexford Harber, John W. Hargus, Thomas E. Key Jr., Marshall Langley and Ramon Lucio.

Also C.E. Marshall, Saturnino Martinez, Johnny J. McCarty, John E. McDonald, Juan Navarez, Charles Neyhardt, Walter Oliver, Willie W. Oliver, Raymond Pacheco, Jessie Palacios, Jose Ramirez, Logan Roberts, Pedro Rocha,

Santiago Sanchez, Harry W. Scheel, Clarence J. Schuetzeberg (he was killed on Okinawa only a few days before the end of the War), Carroll E. Smith, Albert Spindle, Alfred Stachbein, Edwin Taylor, Bobbie W. Wagner, I.L.J. Walker, Howard White and Calvin Watson.

Among those who were wounded were Daniel Aguirre, William Shearan Barber, C John M. Cook, Ramon Coronado, Thomas Curtis, Charles Decker III, Victor Law, James P. Frazier, Thurman Glasgow, Raul Gonzales, James N. Graves, Ray Haisley, Richard M. Harris, Willie Higgs, Robert Jackson, Bobby Jennings, George Kennedy, Wilburn Kitchen, Robert L. Lancaster, Manuel Lucio, Augustin Lucio, Robert Massey, Clarence Swanney, John A. McCarty, Horace Milligan, Carl Montague, Alton Morris, Carrol Parman, Isaac Pinales, George C. Reed, Jack H. Reed, Edgar Rose, Wilburn Schiwitz, James Stroud, Ray Tatsch, Ronald Vann and Alfred Wisian.

Cleto Rodriguez, who grew up in San Marcos and attended school at Southside, won the nation's highest military award-the Congressional Medal of Honor, and was presented with it by President Truman.

Major Sydney Weatherford, Major Sydney Smith and Col. Sidney Woods all won Distinguished Flying Crosses for their air force combat services, while area Army and Marine men who won high honors by receiving Silver Stars included James Brumley, James Frazier, Bonny Garza, Thurman Glasgow, Robert Ivey, Robert Jackson, Augustin Lucio, and Earnest Puryear.

Among those who served in Japanese prison camps were William Shearon Barber and John A. McCarty. Included in the group those who were in German prison camps was Emmett Sutton.

Quite a number of San Marcos area women served in the newly formed WACS and WAVES, as well as the Army Nursing Corps.

Mr. and Mrs. O.A. Drumm of San Marcos were noteworthy in the fact that they had six sons who served in uniform during this war.

When the War finally ended San Marcos was filled with young men and women who were anxious to gain further schooling. Many enrolled in SWT and others attended farm and vocational schools that were operated as part of legislation enacted to aid them in their return to civilian life.



Carl H. Deal, III

Taking Notes:

A perspective of local police history

From the time that Texas was a wild and untamed wilderness, Texas lawmen have roamed these parts, in good times and bad – with duties as diverse as the day is long. From raids by the Indians to train robberies, posse's on horseback to the high speed cruiser, the cops of Hays County have seen it all.

The City of San Marcos was incorporated on July 11, 1877 but remained without an official charter until February 24, 1967. Minutes from City Commission meetings make the first mention of law enforcement in 1888. Records from those days are few and far between, but there is a trace, and footsteps left by those charged or sworn to uphold the law since the earliest days of San Marcos.

On April 3, 1888, the city commissioners acknowledged that J.M. Turner defeated William Leyell in the City Marshal election of that year. Since City Marshal elections were held every four years, it is presumed that William Leyell was previously elected in 1884. One month after Turner's election, the Mayor of San Marcos was authorized by the City commissioners to appoint a special policeman "as necessary."

M.T. Chastain made application for the "special policeman" position, and on July 5, 1888, Chastain's appointment was referred, presumably by the Mayor, to the Committee on Streets and Alleys for their consideration. Two months later, on September 12, the first "special policeman" was appointed.

In less than a year, on March 6, 1889, the commissioners excused the City Marshal on the charge of "drunkenness." In return for his dismissal, the city received his promise that it would not happen again.

These were different times and police duties were curious to say the least.

On April 8, 1895, a city ordinance was passed requiring owners of any "cock-pit" or any place where chickens fight together to procure and to pay the City Marshal or Policeman. A "cockpit" was a pit or enclosed space where cock-fights and gambling took place. There is no mention of the amount of pay or a particular fee a Marshal or Policeman might receive.

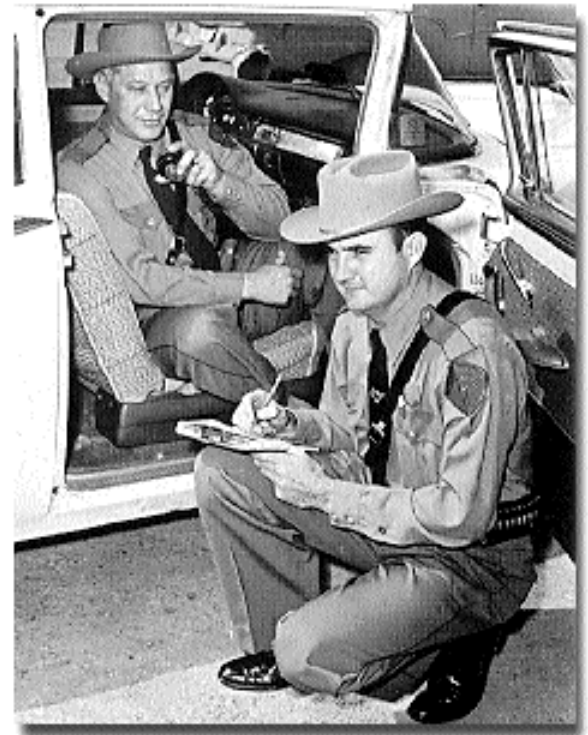
By 1902, the city commissioners abolished the City Marshal's office, replacing it with an appointed "policeman," who then assumed all of the responsibilities of law enforcement and keeping the peace in the community.

In 1902, travel by railroad was the principle method of transportation and may have generated a flurry of activity with the arrival of a train. On March 5, 1902, following complaints by citizens coming and going from the depot, the city passed an ordinance prohibiting "drumming" on the railroad platforms. "Drumming" was thought to have been "panhandling", or

the "drumming up of business" by salesman. Though it is not known for sure, one reason for limiting the activity of salesman on train platforms may have been for safety.

On January 9, 1907, the mention of the City Marshal's position is again mentioned in the city commission minutes, although there was no previous mention of the position being re-established after the January 1902 change of classification. During this meeting, the City Marshal's pay was increased to \$75 a month.

Laws meant to manage both morals and reasonably acceptable behaviors were not unusual. On September 7, 1921, the city passed an ordinance to define and punish "flirting in public" and "rude attention on the part of any male toward any female person." The city continued to grow and with the advent



DPS Troopers Bobby Kinser and Chester Reeves (1958)

By Carl H. Deal, III



Carl H. Deal, III

Continued on page 25B

**Pete Weaver and Danny Arredondo,
SMPD (2001)**

Taking notes

continued from page 24B

of the automobile, traffic became a concern for the citizens of San Marcos. In response to vehicle speeding hazards, the city passed the first speed limit on August 1, 1923.

During the Depression, there are several entries in the city's records that indicate that the city would borrow money from the "Moore Grocery Store" for the city's operating budget.

On May 1, 1950, the position of City Marshal was once again abolished after the resignation the Roy Lane. On April 23, 1951, then Mayor Norman Jackson appointed E. Mendez and Fred Ybarra as City Policemen to supervise Latin dances. Seven weeks later, the minutes indicate that the two commissioners, who along with mayor made up the city commission, felt that the Mayor's action was illegal and voted to cancel the appointments. The Mayor in protest, refused to sign the minutes of the meeting. The next day, June 13, 1951, the mayor vetoed that commissioner's resolution removing the officers, which presumably re-instated them.

At the June 12, 1951 commissioner's meeting, there is the first mention of a Chief of Police, Martin Davis.

The Police Department was located originally, or as far back as people can remember, in the basement of the old fire station on Guadalupe Street just south of Hutchison, currently the Fire Station Recording Studio of SWT.

In 1974, the City of San Marcos benefited from the many efforts of the Federal Government to increase the professional demeanor of law enforcement in general. Many Law Enforcement officers of that time were provided financial incentives to continue and receive higher education, through LEAA(Law Enforcement Assistance Administration) grants. In that same year, the City of San Marcos received a financial award from the Federal Government to build a new police station. Located at 401 East Hopkins Street, the new 5000 square foot police facility was constructed and was meant to house a department of 14 officers. With the continued growth of the city, the department soon outgrew this facility.

In a transitional sort of move, in 1992 and 1993, the police department left its former headquarters on the corner of Hopkins Street at CM Allen and headed for the re-modeled 42,000 square foot "Widelite" building at 2300 IH 35 South near Wonderworld Drive. This move took over a year to complete.

Recognizing that San Marcos would not remain the same and that growth was here to stay, city officials facilitated a major move both physically into a new building and literally into the new age of law enforcement. The new facility offered innovative opportunities for the training and education of the police force. The development of a system-wide 911 center, dispatching for police, fire and EMS gave citizens a faster, one stop place for emergency services. It provided a site for emergency operations and civil defense leadership during flood and other disasters, and left sufficient room for growth in the years ahead.

The San Marcos Police Department Headquarter serves as a regional training facility for much of the central Texas law enforcement community. The Department now employs 77 police officers and 24 civilian employees. Officers are deployed throughout the community and include specialized units dedicated to local schools, the downtown business district and to the outlet mall, the second largest tourist attraction in the State of Texas.

As the century turns for the Police Department, it marks a decade of transition. With the advent of both an ever-increasing population and the pace of technology, the arts of convention, tradition and of history are changing. The department facilitates a personalized patrol vehicle program, outfitting each officer with a fully equipped police vehicle, providing increased visibility, a significantly increased ability to mobilized public safety assets in emergencies, reduced maintenance costs while increasing the life span of vehicles.

The necessity for today's police officer to recognize patterns in criminal activity and other community problems, and to formulate solutions to them, requires efficient access to all sorts of stored information. Local police officers will soon have mobile reporting capability from their police units in the field, accessing not only state and federal data resources, but local ones as well. Police officers will be able to complete and download their investigative findings from the field through a unit based lap top computer and transmission conduits in the airwaves.

Our best assets are of course our human ones, and what has not changed in recent times is our continuing dream and effort to attract and maintain the highest quality police employees that our community can provide. Our strength is our diversity, our prize is our community. Despite the many changes that we now face and will face in the future, it will always be police officers from a community, of a community, and part of a community that will sustain the mission of our fellowship as a community. Police officers who play a role in the fellowship of a community contribute to the quality of life, and to a safe and thriving environment in which we all can live.

Carl H. Deal, III is a 23 year law enforcement officer in San Marcos and is currently a commander with the San Marcos Police Department.

Special thanks to City Clerk Janis K. Womack and Former Chief of Police Dan Nelson for research assistance on this project.

Historic Jail *continued from page 23B*

and to preserve its historical significance for future generations began developing plans for its purchase and restoration. In 1999, Preservation Associates, Inc. and the Jail Restoration Committee, comprised of all local citizens, were able to purchase the jail with funds donated toward the initiative by the McCoy family foundation.

Plans are currently being made for restoration and preservation of the old Hays County Jail to its original beauty and grandeur. It will eventually house a law enforcement museum named after Texas Ranger Jack C. Hays, the namesake of Hays County, Texas. In partnership with CLEAT, the Combined Law Enforcement Agency of Texas, the largest police association in Texas, the Old Hays County Jail may one day be the site of a statewide law enforcement memorial and archive to salute all law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty since the birth of Texas.

A special thanks to Jeffrey H. Kester and Associates and Lila Ethridge for help with the history.



Carl H. Deal, III

Luciano H. Flores

First Mexican-American Mayor of San Marcos



San Marcos, Texas is a very diverse community, with a rich cultural heritage from the Anglo-European, African American and Hispanic pioneers who settled in San Marcos 150 years ago. Today, more than 34% of the city is Mexican American and an even higher percentage of today's school children (over 60%) can boast of a Hispanic heritage. This heritage is celebrated every year during such holidays as Cinco de Mayo (the fifth of May) and Diez y Seis (September 16th) which celebrate the tradition of freedom and independence in Mexico's history.

In San Marcos and across the State of Texas, there was a very special generation of Mexican-Americans who opened the doors of education, employment and political leadership to their children and grandchildren. Many of this generation were the children of immigrants, coming from a rural, farming background, from remote villages in Mexico.

They were a generation who overcame poverty, a lack of education and discrimination to become the leaders of San Marcos. They grew up during the Great Depression, they fought bravely in World War II, and they helped change San Marcos's social and political history. One of the distinguished members of this generation is Luciano Flores, the first Mexican American Mayor of San Marcos.

Luciano Flores has lived in San Marcos for all of his seventy-five years. He was born in 1922 to Luciano and Adella Flores and was the youngest child in a large family. "My parents didn't discriminate," Flores said. "They had five sons and five daughters." Flores was born a few years after his parents came to San Marcos from Mexico. Some of his older brothers and sisters were born in Mexico.

His parents were poor, but his father had a lot of pride and worked hard all of his life. "He was a hustler," Flores said about his father. "He worked himself to death." The family lived near Purgatory Creek and Flores remembers his father going out into the hills with a horse and buggy to chop and sell wood. The children had to saw the wood into firewood. "I remember that, sawing that wood. I hated it," Flores said. His father accepted no charity. One day someone donated clothes to the family. When his father got home and saw his wife and children in strange clothes, he made them return everything and thank the person. As a child, Luciano, along with his brothers and sisters, had few toys. Most of the things they played with were homemade. After school, he would go swimming with friends in a secluded area on the San Marcos River called the "Blue Hole" near what is now the Children's Playscape above Rio Vista Park.

He went to Bonham School, which was the "Mexican" school when he was growing up in San Marcos in the days of segregation. Bonham is only a couple of blocks from where Luciano and his wife, Minnie Lucio Flores, have lived for most of their adult lives and raised their four children. After completing elementary school, he attended the high school at what is now the Lamar Administrative Annex, but did not finish. He remembers being embarrassed to go to school with a taco for lunch instead of a sandwich. Now, he laughs, "everybody likes tacos." Minnie Flores grew up on a farm in the area that is now called River Hills east of San Marcos. She had to walk four miles to high school at Lamar when she was growing up. "There was a bus that came out to pick up one Anglo girl who lived out by us. But the bus would not pick us up and drove right past. I wanted to be in music in high school, but there was no one to walk home with me if I stayed late, so I could not take music."

The Courthouse Square used to be the center of business with the surrounding area all residential neighborhoods. San Marcos has since expanded into a thriving town. The Square's appearance has not changed except for the renovation of some old historic buildings. The same buildings still stand today; only they used to be run-down and did not look as nice. People used to travel by horse and buggy. Some of the rings where the horses were tied up when people went to town still stand on the square today. The south side of San Marcos, across the railroad tracks used to have unpaved streets and no plumbing. This was a hardship many Hispanics had to face. Hispanics also had to face discrimination from the Anglos. Many restaurants would not serve Hispanics. The movie theatres in town were segregated. Whites sat downstairs, Blacks and Hispanics sat upstairs. School buses would not pick up Hispanic students, so many had to walk four or more miles to go to class. Flores

went to the movies, when he could, which only cost ten cents. He had to sit upstairs in those days of segregation, only whites could sit downstairs. He received a little extra money by working in a pharmacy stocking the shelves for little pay. He remembers being worked very hard by the owner.

When war with Germany and Japan became evident, he joined the Army. He was sent to California and then was deployed to Australia. He served in the Pacific Theater during the war. For a long time he fought in New Guinea. He was stationed at a weapons depot where the Army stored thousands of bombs and machine guns. "One day the Japanese came in and bombed us. I felt something hit my back. I never knew what it was," he said. "It hit me in the right side and broke a bone in my back. To this day, when it is cold, I can still feel that wound." He was sent to a hospital in Manila in the Philippines. That's where he finished out the war.

Flores feels that World War II was one of the best things to happen for Hispanics because it brought Mexican Americans into mainstream

The Ties That Bind

Josh Millecam wrote about Luciano Flores for "The Ties that Bind," an oral history project conducted by San Marcos teens in 1999. Twenty-nine youths interviewed 21 senior citizens about their lives and their community. The project was part of a larger intergenerational program, a "Mutual Adoption Pact," developed by Dr. Oren Renick, Associate Professor of Health Care Administration at Southwest Texas State University. The program strives to connect the generations by building relationships, service, mentorships, and celebration. *The Ties the Bind* is available at the San Marcos Public Library. Millecam is now a student at Texas A&M University. (Used by Permission)

By Josh Millecam

Continued on page 28B

Luciano Flores, continued from page 26B

society. Hispanics fought along side whites, and they were given opportunities that had been denied them earlier. The kind of training and respect that came with fighting a war side by side helped the Mexican Americans.

After the war, Lucian Flores returned to San Marcos. But he came home, like many Mexican-Americans in Texas, to a world that still had a lot of discrimination. In 1945 at the end of the war, Private Felix Longoria from Three Rivers, Texas was killed in action while serving in the Philippines. A Three Rivers funeral home refused to take his remains and bury him because he was Mexican-American. Dr. Hector P. Garcia of Corpus Christi organized efforts to have Longoria laid to rest, with full military honors, in Arlington National Cemetery. This incident was the major factor in the founding of the American G.I. Forum in 1948.

Luciano Flores was one of the founders of the American G.I. Forum in San Marcos. He realized that veterans of the war were not given the support they needed. Many came back physically and mentally scarred and needed support. The American G.I. Forum gave veterans that support. The goals of the American G.I. Forum were to improve the social, economic and political conditions of Mexican-Americans in their communities. The American G.I. Forum also had a Women's Forum and a Youth G.I. Forum. The objectives were to help Mexican-Americans get an education, to provide channels of communication with the public and private sectors, to fight for civil rights, and to work for legislation that would help veterans and minorities.

Up until that time, no Mexican Americans had been elected to any political office in San Marcos or Hays County. Over the years the American G.I. Forum was instrumental in helping Mexican-Americans achieve their political goals.

After the war, Luciano and Minnie Flores married had four children: George, Rick, Blanche and Laura. Luciano Flores had a long career as an insurance agent. Both Luciano and Minnie remained very involved in their children's education. Minnie Flores often went to school to see how her children were doing. Luciano Flores would help out other parents who spoke only Spanish by going to the school and translating for them. When George was in high school, he was on the football team. But Mr. Flores went to watch the practice one day and noticed that George and the other Mexican American players just sat on the bench. They didn't even get to practice. "How could they ever play if they never got to practice?" he said. He went to the practices every day for a week, and then the coach let the boys play. "There were some big guys, and they were pretty good," he remembers.

Ruben Ruiz, Sr. was the first Mexican-American to break the barrier and serve in an elected office. Luciano Flores was the second. One day he decided to get into politics. He ran for City Council in 1967 and was elected and served for the next nine years. He never did a lot of campaigning because he was so well known. After being on the Council, he was elected Mayor pro tem in 1971 and again in 1975. In 1972, the City Council elected him as mayor, the first time in history that a Mexican-American had been chosen as the political leader of San Marcos.

There was a lot of controversy during his tenure as a Council Member and Mayor. In 1972, shortly after he was chosen as Mayor, the Council raised water rates which sparked a meeting between eight hundred angry people and the Council. The meeting had to be moved (from the old City Hall on Guadalupe Street) to a church to make room for all the people. The Council backed off a little, but the rate increase was cited later as one cause for a recall election in 1973 to try to remove five of the City Council, including Flores. When the election was held, it was defeated by a 2-1 margin, with citizens supporting the City Council.

"In politics you make a lot of enemies, but you also make a lot of friends, too," said Flores." But you always have to step on some toes." If he thought he was doing the right thing, he would stick to it all the way. This gave him a balance of friends and enemies. As the Mayor, he also interpreted for Spanish-speaking citizens. He opened new avenues of communication with people in the city who did not have that kind of contact with government in the past. The most rewarding thing to him as mayor was the fact that people appreciated him and thought he did a good job.

Luciano Flores accomplished a lot as a Councilman and as Mayor of San Marcos. During his years of service, San Marcos started growing and changing. When he first started, the city had to borrow money from the bank to pay employees. The city had almost no decent equipment and many parts of San Marcos had unpaved roads and no sewer lines. He fought to get streets built in the south side of town. While he was on the City Council, the city built a fire station, a sewer treatment plant, police and courts building and a city hall. Major streets like Thorpe Lane and Sessom Drive were built. Federal programs like Urban Renewal helped many San Marcos neighborhoods with housing and public services.

The City Council honored Luciano Flores when he decided not to run again and left office in 1976 after nine years of service. They named a new street in the Wallace Addition Luciano H. Flores Drive. He feels that being on the City Council taught him the most. He used to be afraid of the Anglos but soon realized that they were just as afraid of him. San Marcos changed throughout his life.

Luciano Flores believes that San Marcos has changed for the better. His grandchildren today don't worry about discrimination or the hardships that he and his children have faced. And as for the future of San Marcos, he says that he could never have predicted some of the things that have happened during his lifetime. "We don't need the American G.I. Forum as much as we did 50 years ago. There are many Mexican-American children today who don't even know that their parents were discriminated against."

The Flores family has a lot of newspaper clippings and pictures from those years. There are pictures with many prominent San Marcos leaders and business people. There are photos with Congressman J.J. Pickle and pictures with Lady Bird Johnson, the former first lady of the United States. The son of immigrants who didn't finish high school is proud that his four children all attended college. His youngest daughter works for a member of the United States Congress.

What is most important for the future? "Education," said Luciano Flores. "Education is the future for all people."

*What is most important for the future?
"Education," said Luciano Flores.
"Education is the future for all people."*

Mexican-American elected officials break barriers

Mexican-Americans did not begin come in Hays County in large numbers until about 1870, with the largest immigration occurring after 1900 with the outbreak of Civil

War in Mexico. Handicapped originally by ethnic prejudices and inadequate educational facilities, most Mexican-Americans lived on farms and worked as day laborers are farmed on shares with farm owners.

Although no details are available concerning the circumstances, E. Mendez became the first Mexican-American to seek elective office when he sought the Democratic nomination for constable in 1910. He lost but ran ahead of at least one competitor.

During the First World War a number of Mexican-American men served in the armed forces and Santiago Turnine and Y.W. Vasquez were given leadership roles in securing support on the home front through war loans and the stimulation of food production.

The horrors of the great Depression stifled political development for more than a decade and it was not until the end of World War Two that returning Mexican-American soldiers came home determined to organize to improve their economic and educational opportunities.

Organization of the American GI Forum occurred shortly after the war and voter registration drives helped persuade city leaders to establish house to house mail delivery on the predominately Mexican-American southside.

After several attempts to win elective office to the city council, Mexican-Americans united behind Ruben Ruiz Sr. and in 1961 he became the first of his ethnic group to win a seat on the council.

Nine years later he broke additional barriers by becoming the first Mexican-American county official, winning a seat on the Commissioners Court.

Other barriers were broken in the 60's and Celestino Mendez was elected to serve as the first Hispanic member of the school board. Other early successful candidates included Augustin Lucio and Ophelia Vasquez-Philo to the school board.

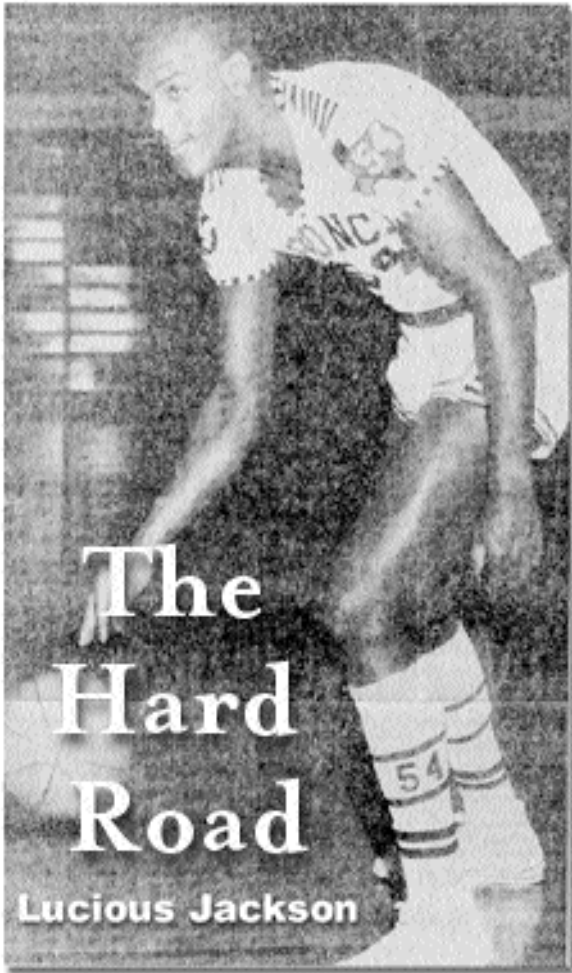
By the 1970's other new ground was broken. Luciano Flores became the first Mexican-American mayor, and within a decade the post would also be held by Frank Arredondo and Robert Cavazos.

Others who have been elected to the San Marcos city council include, Guliermo "Willie" De La Rosa, Frank Contreras, Gilbert Tenorio, Bill Nicola, Elida Mendez-Hinojosa, Fred Guerra and Rick Hernandez.

Additional school board victors have been Marcos Hernandez, Eliazor Salinas, Pete Rodriguez, Jerry Flores, Nick Lara, and current members Ruben Garza, Michael Villalpando and Lupe Castillo.

In recent years many Mexican-American leaders from San Marcos have been elected to county office. They include District Attorney Marcos Hernandez, County Court at Law Judge Linda Rodriguez, County Commissioners Ralph Gonzales, Pete Rodriguez and Debbie Gonzales-Inglesbe, Justices of Peace Becky Sierra, John Polanco and John Polanco Jr., and Constables Jessie Saucedo and Lupe Cruz.

By Bob Barton



At 6'9", San Marcos native Lucious Jackson stood taller than most at a time when for young black men the path to success was hard fought. President Kennedy was carrying the torch for desegregation. San Marcos, not unlike many other places in the South, was struggling with the culture of the times. In the early 1960's, most high school athletic programs were still segregated and competitive teams were generally white.

Lucious Jackson was born in San Marcos at a time when black kids couldn't participate in sports, couldn't attend the high school prom, be in the band or even use the high school cafeteria, having, instead, to walk home for lunch. Lucious, the son of Mrs. Mattie Jackson of San Marcos, "was a very talented basketball player, but was kept out of high school basketball," according to San Marcos Record reports from the time. His situation became the focal point of arguments to desegregate basketball players in high school sports.

Jackson graduated from SMHS and went on the play college ball at Pan American College in the Rio Grande Valley, setting many individual and team records, some of which stand today. With two national championships under his belt, and before signing an NBA contract with the Philadelphia 76ers, Lucious Jackson represented Pan American College and the United States on the 1964 Tokyo Olympics Basketball team, leading the squad to victory over the Russian team in the finals, winning the gold medal.

The number one draft choice in 1964 by the 76ers, Jackson played in the NBA All-Star game and chosen by the league's coaches to the NBA All-Rookie team for having averaged 14.8 points per game. Under the guidance of Wilt Chamberlain, the 76ers and Jackson won the World Championship in 1967. In 1972, at 30 years old and following surgery on an injured Achilles tendon, Jackson retired from the game. He returned to Pan Am College, earning his degree and was last know to be working with the Recreation Department of the City of Beaumont, Texas.

- Carl H. Deal, III

Growing up in San Antonio, I avidly followed St. Mary's University basketball. The Rattlers had some great teams in the Big State Conference during the 60s, but when Lucious Jackson transferred to Pan American, St. Mary's title reign came to an end. There was no stopping this San Marcos native as he led Pan Am to the national title (passing hometown SWT on the way) in the playoffs. At 6'9", he probably could have played center in the pros - like he did in college but with Wilt the Stilt as center, Lucious was moved to forward. Watching him play for the 'Sixers was the first time I ever heard the position described as "power forward."

- Bill Cunningham

Population Explosion

Sometime this month the U.S. Census Bureau is expected to announce that San Marcos population totals soared slightly past 40,000 when all of the counting was done in last spring's compilation of who was living where as the 20th century neared its end.

Those totals will mean that San Marcos has registered its strongest percentage of growth during the last decade since the construction of Camp Gary during World War Two and the growth of enrollment at what was then Southwest Texas State Teacher's College triggered an increase of 66.6 percent between 1940 and 1950.

Totals for 1950 within the city limits reached 9,980 compared to 6,006 in 1940.

This year's total percentage of growth will knock on the door of 40 percent, since the 1990 census totals registered 28,743 residents. City officials took great issue with those totals but they stood up and became the formula that was

used for all sorts of statistical and monetary decisions on the part of the federal government. The growth between 1940 and 1950 is not the highest in the city's history. That distinction goes all the way back to 1880 when population totals hit 1,332. That meant the population increased 79.8 percent over the 10 year period since the first town census of 741 was registered in 1870.

During the following decade San Marcos jumped by another 75 percent to 2,335. Then the tough year's of the 1890's hit, with depressed farm prices and great discrepancies of wealth and power. For the only time in its history San Marcos lost population over a ten-year census period.

The 1900 census dropped by nearly two percent, officially coming in at 2,292.

Recovery began shortly thereafter and the city's population grew by nearly 78 percent over the next decade, hitting 4,071 in 1910.

That was the end of the growth boom for awhile, with less than a 20 percent increase over the next three national censuses. The official totals in 1920 were 4,527, followed by 5,134 in 1930 and 6,006 in 1940.

By Bob Barton

SAN MARCOS POPULATION TOTALS-1870-2000

YEAR DECADE	POPULATION	% GROWTH DURING
1870	741	unknown
1880	1,332	79.8%
1890	2,335	75.3%
1900	2,292	(-1.8%)
1910	4,071	77.6%
1920	4,527	11.2%
1930	5,134	13.4%
1940	6,006	17.0%
1950	9,980	66.6%
1960	12,713	27.4%
1970	18,860	48.4%
1980	23,420	24.2%
1990	28,743	22.7%
2000	40,000 (est.)	39.2% (est.)

The jump in 1950 to 9,980 was followed by a solid increase of 27 percent in 1960 to 12,713 and then a real bang to 18,850 in 1970. That amounted to more than a 48 percent increase.

Over the the next two decades the growth amounted to a respectable 24 percent in 1980 to 23,420 and then 23 percent more in 1990 to 28,743.

Activated sludge sewage plant was national prototype in early 20th century

The 1986 publication of T. Lindsay Baker's *Building the Lone Star: An Illustrated Guide to Historic Sites* highlighted a remarkable engineering feat: the successful introduction of the world's first city-wide sewage treatment plant, utilizing the activated sludge principle, at San Marcos, Texas, in September 1916. Sanitation engineers nationwide came to San Marcos to witness the new facility in operation, and then returned home to introduce the technology in their own communities.

Arguably this was the most important and far-reaching event ever to occur in the human history of the San Marcos River valley because it marked such a giant stride forward in pollution control and disease prevention. The positive environmental import of this new development was, and is, incalculable. As Baker points out, the dawn of the twentieth

century saw population explosion in cities throughout the world, creating unprecedented strain on rudimentary disposal systems. Something had to be done. One of the new theories was to accelerate bacterial decomposition by infusing compressed air into the liquid effluent.

Although the process had tested successfully in laboratories it had never before been applied to a working municipal system. Ashley F. Wilson, engineer-manager of the San Marcos Utilities Company decided to act. To quote Baker:

The central feature of the San Marcos plant was a sunken concrete aeration tank sixteen feet wide, forty feet long, and eight feet, six inches deep. The tank was divided into four channels, the bottom of each having a row of twelve-inch-square Boston-type Connersville blowers with a rate capacity of 260 cubic feet of air per minute. Before entering the aeration tank, the raw sewage passed through the old circular sump, which served as a preliminary settling tank. From the aeration tank the treated effluent went to a second settling tank measuring ten feet wide, twenty-five feet long, and twenty-five feet deep, before passing into the San Marcos River.

After only a few months of use, many of the aeration plates at the bottom of the

aeration tank became clogged. Wilson replaced them through the simple and effective expedient of installing small galvanized-steel pipes with their lower ends extending down into the effluent and with their upper ends connected to a compressed air line.

So much for the technicalities. U.S. Public Health Service officials were mightily impressed when they visited the facility a year later. It operated efficiently with only the assistance of a single part-time employee who came once or twice daily to oil the electric blower.

As San Marcos population grew, the facility was expanded and minor refinements added. Excess sludge was pumped into plowed furrows, dried, then turned under and the process repeated. The final expansion took place in 1935. But the basic structure remained intact. Testimony to the effectiveness of the method came when companies with their equipment in use at San Marcos wrote city officials requesting pictures for advertising purposes. The plant survived until 1946 when it was replaced with a new facility located beyond the town's southeast edge. Lindsay Baker concludes his 1986 essay by noting that this important site "lies unmarked in the San Marcos City Park."

By Al Lowman

An issue that Baker does not address is why San Marcos' first sewage plant was located east of the river in the first place. When San Marcos began forming as a town in 1846-47, the first settlers chose the west bank for their homes.

Twenty years later the largely unoccupied east bank became a bedding ground for longhorn cattle being driven from the south Texas brush country to Kansas railheads. Augustus Koch's Birds Eye View of San Marcos in 1881 shows no structures on the east bank. In the early 1950s the writer heard his father and the late Joe Cruze, a pioneer Hays County rancher, recalling their fathers memories of cattle holding operations on the east bank.

When the railroad arrived in 1881, trail herds soon ceased, much to the joy of housewives who detested the flies they drew from April through August. However, shortly before his death, the late Henry Kyle told the writer that he remembered, as a small boy in the late 'teens, how cattle were driven from the Wimberley hills down Moore Street, Nance Street, Shady Lane, across the railroad tracks, east on Cheatham Street, then forded where the bridge now stands.

Once on the east bank, herds would be loaded into waiting cattle cars. Thus the east bank was never a desirable residential location in those days and, therefore, was deemed suitable for a sewage treatment facility.

A good many travelers through Texas in the mid-19th century, hoping to slip unnoticed past the Comanchería, the stomping grounds of the deadly Comanches, edged along below the Balcones Escarpment and, doing so, passed through the little settlement on the banks of the St. Mark's River.

Some were afflicted with wanderlust and had struck out to 'see the elephant,' as new adventures were slangily characterized. Others had more specific destinations as did the 49ers rushing west to the California gold fields. Many of those hardy souls, their dreams overflowing with visions of a mother lode, saw San Marcos through a window of a stage coach. Then, after resting briefly in San Antonio, they would strike out northwest on the hazardous El Paso Road, which had been blazed by none other than Jack Hays, the famous Texas Ranger and surveyor.

Approaching San Marcos from the north on the Austin to San Antonio road, which we know as Post Road and Five Mile Dam Road, a traveler would catch a glimpse of the ash, dust and gray smoke marking Maj. Samuel Blue Bales' lime kiln. The enterprise was located a little way from the main road, up a lane known ever since as, yes, Lime Kiln Road. The chimney footing remains today, just northwest of Travis School.

Lime producers such as Bales heated limestone rock at very high temperatures in their kilns to produce a rough powder called 'hot lime' or 'slag lime,' which was mixed first with water and then sand to produce a remarkably good frontier mortar. Bales' lime was used in Hays County's first stone courthouse.

If you looked to the right as the coach closed on the river crossing, you would see the elm, oak, cedar, pecan and black walnut trees marching along the banks of the headwaters, or springs, of the San Marcos River.

Immediately above the headwaters was the Edward Burleson home, a two-room dogtrot cabin perched on a narrow plateau that grips tight as it circles the

What was where in San Marcos in the 1850s?

The young town as seen through a stagecoach window

hill about halfway up. That plateau now supports Ed J. L. Green Dr. and the hill is Rogers' Hill, a part of the larger ridge complex.

As the coach slowed for the river crossing, looking west offered the passengers a good view of Burleson's milling and ginning operation. His business was both a grist mill and a saw mill, providing flour for baking and lumber for building. The dam that provided the mills power existed then where the dam that muscles back Spring Lake sits today.

Some have suggested instead that the mill was located on the west bank of Sewell Park, about where the arched foot bridge is situated.

However, both county records and common sense argue for the Ed J. L. Green Dr. location.

The Edward Burleson probate records contain a hand-rendered plat of the late frontiersman's land holdings on and around the Rogers' ridge complex. Included is one tract sited on the river and clearly labeled 'Mill Tract ... 40 acres.' A legal description, found nearby in those same pages, confirms the plat's visual contention that the mill tract didn't include the west bank of Sewell Park, south of University Drive.

Also, common sense tells us that a dam built immediately below the road would flood the area and end the use of that very essential hardpan, low-water crossing.

After fording the stream and leaving the mill behind, the coach veered left toward a huddle of log structures on the near horizon.

After a few hundred yards, the driver pulled the horses right on Mountain

St. and stopped at Mr. Moon's hotel to drop off the mail and for the passengers to rest for the night.

Mountain Street was today's Hutchison Street. William Washington Moon's home, the first permanent dwelling in the county, faced the river and sat near where the historical marker stands across C. M. Allen Parkway. from the Chamber of Commerce building.

It's generally asserted that Moon's hotel was across Mountain St. from his home and, more specifically, on the northeast corner of today's Hutchison and Edward Gary intersection across from Kinko's.

However, a problem arises when you try to verify that location. It appears

By Jim Green

that Moon owned no property north of Mountain St. and across from his home until the late 1860s, but he did acquire a single lot across Union St. from

his home from one Philip Prator in February, 1852. Perhaps that was the hotel location. That lot is now across C. M. Allen and next to the Chamber of Commerce parking lot.

Another possibility is that the hotel was behind Moon's house on the southeast corner of Hutchison and Edward Gary where the Kismet Cafe is today.

Across Mountain St. from Moon's house was a log building used as school and public meeting place. Today, a historical marker standing beside Colloquium Books and close by the old live oak that shades the street there informs us of the site's importance. The Commissioners Court met there often, and it's reported that San Marcos' three founders gathered there for the final meetings before birthing the town.

Near the public building was the town's first mercantile store. Its owner wrote that it was 'opposite' the school building. Knowledge of the exact site is probably lost forever, but the most likely spot was somewhere on farm lot 24, that strip of state land across from Colloquium Square and Red's Texaco that runs from Moon St. on the Southwest Texas campus to the junction of University Dr. and C. M. Allen.

German immigrant Caton Erhard began the business in 1846 to cater to the Rangers of Henry E. Mc-Culloch's Texas Mounted Volunteers, who were garrisoned along the west bank of the river for service in the Mexican-American War. The northernmost point of the encampment was on what is now city land across the river from the city park pavilion and across C. M. Allen Drive from Red's Texaco and Balcones Bank.

In 1851, with the Rangers long gone, Erhard moved his store to the northeast corner of Fort St. and Austin St., now on the square at the intersection of Hopkins and LBJ streets.

Pulling away from the hotel the next morning, the coach traveled west on Mountain St., then turned left at the corner of Austin St. The turn put the coach directly in front of what was probably the site of Mike Sessom's smithy on the intersection's southwest corner.

Clattering south on Austin, the passengers passed Erhard's new store and, if they looked quickly, they could catch a glimpse of Dr. Eli Merriman's two room cabin located behind the store at the Fort and Cedar St. intersection. Cedar is now Edward Gary St., Fort is Hopkins St. and the Goodyear store has been built where the cabin once stood.

The driver would've slowed the horses for the right turn onto San Antonio to begin the last leg out of town. The coach passed town-owner William Lindsey's home in the 200 block of San Antonio St. and moved west into the countryside.

The trip would follow today's Hunter Road through Stringtown and then on to New Braunfels. Three days after leaving Austin and two days out of San Marcos, the stagecoach would arrive in San Antonio.

What was where in San Marcos in the 1950s?

Tripping down Memory Lane

We liked Jim Green's stagecoach tour of San Marcos in 1850, so much that we decided to turn the clock forward a century and see what 100 years would do to a town...

Memory Lane: First Stop

Our first stop was the north side of the square - Hopkins Street. W. C. and Bitsy agreed that the north side of the square was always the most successful for long term businesses in the downtown heyday.

The first store on the corner of what was then Austin Street (LBJ) and Hopkins was The Collegiate Shop which specialized in fashions for young misses and college girls. Next door to that was W. G. Bass, a men's wear store. J.C.Penney's had recently moved from their original location on the east side of the square, into Harper's Hall, where the Draft Choice is now.

And next door to that Wood Brothers specialized in the finest men's wear in San Marcos. Harrison's, an upscale women's fashion shop was next door to Wood Brothers. Bitsy added that Harrison's was the first place in San Marcos to stock nylon stockings after World War II. Williams Drug Store was next door, featuring a fine soda fountain and a full line of makeup and other items as well as a full service pharmacy.

Above Williams Drug Store, where the Hungry Stick Pool Hall is located now, had originally been Dr. W.C. Williams' office. Dr. Williams, Myrtle Tarbutton's daddy, was the doctor who delivered W.C. Carson (though W.C. was born at home - not in the Hungry Stick).

We wandered down a few sideroads on our trip down Memory Lane, and this was one. It seems that the Carsons were planning to name their son after his daddy, Clyde Carson. And they had

One of the big events in San Marcos in the early 1950s was going to town on Saturdays. W. C. Carson remembers his "trips to town" with his mother and grandmother as a weekly ritual. "I went into every store on the square every single Saturday until I was ten years old and got my first job. I could probably still name every business on the square if I set my mind to it," he added.

Okay. We decided to put him to the test.

He called in reinforcements: his high school classmate Virginia "Bitsy" Witte. We all piled into his Expedition and took a road trip down Memory Lane the other day - as W.C. remembered San Marcos in 1950. Bitsy called "Shotgun," and I took notes from the back seat.

considered Clyde William Carson as a possibility. But Dr. Williams said, "No, name him William Clyde and he can have my initials." Ah, but we digress. (*This is, with-*

out doubt, one of the most informative journalistic endeavors you will read.)

Stay with us now as we move "back to the future." By 1950, Dr. M.D. Heatly and Dr. William L. Moore had taken over Dr. Williams' offices.

Crossing the alley beyond Williams Drug Store was Serur's, owned by Dempsey and Nettie Serur. "This was a great store," W.C. recalls. "You walked into the front of the men's store and on the left were all the men's clothes and on the right were the shoes all the way to the back. And up in front they had the belts and ties and wallets. Next door, with an adjoining doorway as well as a separate entrance from the sidewalk, was the Serur's women's store, The Smart Shop. This was the department for ladies.

Next door to Serur's was Boggus Shoe Shop. It smelled like rich leather and polished shoes. "I liked to go in there and just smell around," W.C. said with a grin.

Wood's Jewelry was next door to the shoe shop, and Bitsy remembers that well. "The girls would all window shop there for diamond rings!" she laughed.

And then Duke and Ayers took up the corner of the block, a fine large five and ten cent store. "They had the best candy counter in town," W.C. said. "When you walked in the door, it smelled like chocolate covered peanuts. That scent comes to mind even today when I look at that building."

"There were a bunch of doctors and dentists and such upstairs above the stores on the north side of the square.

Dr. Bill Moore was brought in to town by Dr. Williams, and Dr. Sowell and Dr. White and Dr.

Thompson - they were all general practitioners," Bitsy recalled, adding that her daddy's insurance agency was up there too.

W.C. remembers having a tooth pulled by Dr. Cook upstairs in that office. "It really hurt, and Dr. Cook took a nickel out of his pocket and put it on the foot rest of the dentist's chair. He told me that if I'd stop crying, he'd give me that nickel. It *didn't* work!"

West Side Story

Moving over to the west side of the Square, the corner building which now houses the county's records, was Bass Drug Store. They had a soda fountain, and to W.C., it seemed somehow a more professional sort of drug store than the others on the square. "They blended their own medicines, and they were really serious in there - and it was really clean in there but it had a funny smell -I guess it smelled like medicine."

Next door to the Drug Store was a little shotgun barber shop called Bragg Barber Shop and then we came to the Hays Theatre.

The Hays Theatre was where the LBJ Museum is going to be. Later renamed the Texas, it was owned by Frank Zimmerman, who had the monopoly on theatres in San Marcos for years. By that time, the Hays was the #3 theatre in town, Bitsy and W.C. agreed. "The Palace was *the* movie theatre with the first run picture shows - that was where we all went - and the Texas was second best."

And next door to the Hays was Jacob Schmidt's Department Store. "It was a beautiful big department store. Very nice. They had salesladies waiting down every aisle to help you," said W.C. "You would go to Jacob Schmidt's and then over to Penney's and check prices back and forth.

Bitsy added, "And remember? It smelled really good in there -- like that old sawdust floor wax and wood polish."

The LCRA electric utility company was located in what is currently Espinoza Graphics and the Monroe

Higgs and Son grocery store was next door to that. San Marcos had about seven grocery stores around the square at that time, and while a couple were general grocery stores, most had a specialty like a meat market or a good produce section, they explained. "My mother would shop at one store for certain things, and then walk around to the other store for other items," W.C. said.

We had a Piggly Wiggly on the square, and then Wuest built a big store around the corner on San Antonio Street and that soon changed the way we bought our groceries, he added. "And in a few years, we had an H.E.B. and that was the beginning of the end of the mom and pop small grocery stores."

Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

Next to Monroe Higgs was Petrich Hardware store. "That was my first job on the square," recalls W.C. "Cleaning windows and sweeping floors. It was an innovative hardware store - with pots and pans and small kitchen appliances up front and traditional hardware in the back. Mr. and Mrs. Petrich lived upstairs above the hardware store. They were really nice people but she didn't know how to cook," W.C. recalls. "The summer I worked there, Mrs. Petrich would go upstairs every day and prepare grilled cheese sandwiches for our lunch. That was all she knew how to cook."

The Petriches retired and closed their hardware store the summer W.C. worked for them. He had a bunch of horse and mule bits in stock and told me to go throw them away. I took them to the other hardware store and tried to sell them but they didn't want them, so I took them back home to Westover and sold them to the Crayton Brothers, Bruce, Baylor and John. They still plowed with mules - and they plowed practically every garden in Westover at the time. Anyway, I made a little money instead of throwing those bits

(Continued on page 32B)

By Diana Finlay & W. C. Carson

Tripping down Memory Lane Continued from page 31B

away. And I think the Petriches retired somewhere up around Lake Buchanan after that summer.”

The Dement and Jacks grocery store was next door to the hardware store, and in the Nephew’s building was Hills Auto Supply. He said, “It was the first auto supply in San Marcos and, when I started to drive, that was where I had to go to buy starter springs for my Model A Ford (*W.C. isn’t really that old - he just bought an old car!*) Every time the weather was real cold, the starter spring would break when you cranked it up - so it was a good idea to always have an extra one on hand!”

The south side of the square was traditionally the poorest location for a business, with the exception of the car dealership. Jack Hughes Motor Company was on the corner. It was the most modern building on the square and they sold Fords and Mercurys, which was what my dad drove. Each September when the new models came out, everyone would go down to see them in the showroom window.”

Crime On The Square

“In the fall of 1950, Dad bought a brand new white 1951 2-door hard-top coupe. We were really proud of it. He worked late at the post office sometimes until 9:30 at night, when the last mail train came through town. He parked our brand new car right there on the square. One Saturday night it was stolen. We were so proud of that car - and of course, we were really upset,” he said.

“We called the police and they took the report. And at about 3 o’clock on Sunday morning we got a call from the San Antonio police. They had found the car. It had run out of gas at a stop sign in San Antonio and the thieves had abandoned it. Dad got a ride to San Antonio to get it. When he opened the door, it had about two inches of pecan shells in every seat and all over the floor. It appeared that the thieves had no money for food - much less gas - and were just eating pecans and driving around until they ran out of gas.”

But all’s well that ends well, and the Carsons got their new car back - and after whisking the pecan shells out - it was no worse for the wear.

Beyond the Ford company was O’Bryant Plumbing. Here is where our expert memories faltered a little. It seems that both W. C. and Bitsy remembered Ted Dycus’s plumbing company being downtown. Ted’s son, George went to school with Bitsy and W.C. so we talked about him a little. But we soon came to realize that Mr. Dycus had his plumbing shop down around the corner and no one knew any tales about Mr. O’Bryant, so we

moved on.

Williams Flower Shop and the Singer Sewing Machine store were both right there - but since neither was a shop that would appeal to a kid running loose on the square on a Saturday, W.C. was at a loss as to which was where.

But there was no doubt that the next store was Spiller Butane. Shiny new gas appliances tempted customers out on the showroom. “I really only know what I saw through the window - I never actually went in there, since we didn’t have butane up in Westover,” he admitted. Then there was the alley and what is now Gordo’s was the Texas Theatre, Zimmerman’s second best movie theatre in town.

Pappas Cafe was next on the south side of the square. It was one of the best restaurants in town, Bitsy and W.C. agreed. “They had a blue plate special every day. In 1950, for 45¢ you could get a smothered steak, green beans, mashed potatoes and tea - and it was all well seasoned - not bland like the stuff you get at the cafeterias now,” said W.C.

And any time the cafe was open, Mr. Pappas was there, they recalled. He was Greek. But the food was not. As an aside (*Did I mention the sideroads?*) one of the Pappas sons, Jimmy, grew up to be an Admiral in the United States Navy and was home just a few years ago as the parade marshall in our Veteran’s Day parade.

Then we came to Dean’s Hardware, which had been Shuhardt’s Hardware before Dean took it over. Okay - no one in the car knew exactly how to spell Shuhardt, so we were glad that Mr. Dean had bought it -- but this was where W.C. got a little concerned about this project. “Now if you print this as a story, someone may call us on some of these names,” he worried. Bitsy mumbled something about laying the blame on the liberal media and we continued on our mission.

Anyway, Dean’s was a traditional hardware store - and had been where W.C. took the horse bits to try to sell them when Mr. Petrich told him to throw them away. Alas, Mr. Dean said, “No one is buying that sort of stuff anymore, son. People aren’t plowing with horses and mules much anymore. They’re going with tractors now. ”

Chinese Grocery

Long before San Marcos ever dreamed of electing a Texas’ first Chinese mayor, a Chinese merchant ran The Corner Grocery Store on the corner of San Antonio and Austin (LBJ). It wasn’t a store that stocked Chinese foods, just a regular limited grocery store that happened to be run by a man of Chinese heritage. Everyone remembers that, but no

one knows much more about this man - where he came from or where he went - than that. Alas, with that mystery still unsolved, we moved over to the east side of the square.

Stephen F. Austin Street

The Courthouse Annex Building housed the First National Bank on the corner of San Antonio and Austin Street in 1950. And behind the bank was the historic Carroll Hotel.

Next to the First National Bank was White’s Gift and Book Store.

The building that is now Valentino’s was San Marcos’ first tavern in the 1800s, according to Al Lowman. By the 1950s it was Milligan Radio Service. Another moment of confusion came about here - Tom Serur’s Radio and Television Shop, first thought to have been on the square, was actually in the 200 block of South Austin. That was the shop that both Bitsy and W.C. recalled. In 1950, Serur carried mostly radios and repaired them. But he lived up on Bluebonnet Circle, and W.C. remembers that he had a 100 foot tall television antennae out behind his house. “There weren’t but a few in town. And my dad had sprung for one so we had a 100 foot television antenna in our yard, too.”

Anyway, back to the square... the red brick building next to Valentinos was the Piggly Wiggly, run by Mr. Hartley. It was the first chain grocery to come to town and W. C. remembers they were the first grocery store in town to have push carts.

Lamar’s Barbershop was Joe Hermann’s Barbershop in 1950. W.C.’s granddad, A.W. Luersen had started his barbering career at Joe Hermann’s. Luersen went on to take over the Parlor Barbershop over on Guadalupe in the State Bank Building, the premier barber shop in San Marcos for decades.

And Dude Guest ran the cafe next door to the barbershop, specializing in hamburgers, french fries, and sandwiches.

“One of my earliest memories happened right out on the sidewalk in front of Dude’s,” recalled W.C. “My mother, my grandmother and I were just sitting in the car in front of the barbershop watching the people one afternoon when she came running out of the cafe yelling, ‘The President is Dead!... President Roosevelt is dead!’ She ran up and down the street telling everyone she met. It scared me to death - hearing that the president had been shot. I was just a little kid. ”

This is where I leaned forward for clarification. “Was this Dude’s wife?”

Bitsy and W.C. both turned to look at me like I’d lost my mind. “Dude was a woman,” they said at the same time.

“Oh,” I said - only a little less con-

fused (*a woman named Dude?*), returning to my note-taking - but somewhere about then was when W.C. stopped worrying about this story. “If she gets any of this wrong, it’s not our fault, Bitsy,” he said with confidence, as she nodded in agreement.

Marshall’s Photography Studio was in the Hill Country Humidor. It’s worth mentioning that at this time there were about four professional photography studios around the downtown area. This afternoon, we had to wonder how they all stayed in business. Who was getting all those portraits made?

And then, where Cafe on the Square is now, was Voglemann’s 5¢-10¢ store. “It was half the size of Duke and Ayers, but worth going through,” W.C. said. “They had a big candy counter up front, also. You couldn’t get around it without buying something!” Along about that time, Voglemann’s shut down and some smaller businesses moved in.. Cliett Hardware was over in one of these Austin Street buildings at that time and several businesses came and went in the San Marcos Title Company Building ranging from the Economy Ladies Wear to the Whiteford Auto Store. The Goodyear store was along there and on the corner was Jackson Grocery, “Jane and Ann Jackson’s grand-daddy’s store,” Bitsy reminded us.

“We never shopped at Jackson’s much,” W.C. admitted. “I don’t know why, but my mother always shopped at Dement & Jacks, Higgs, and Piggly Wiggly. Force of habit, I guess.”

With that, we had made it all the way around the square. It was great fun. We also went up and down the side streets, but we’re out of space for now so that tour will have to wait until a future date in a future publication. We probably have enough material to write an entire Field Guide to Yesteryear San Marcos.

But before you get out your red pens and start making corrections, commend us for being so brave. Jim Green isn’t going to have to hear from nearly as many San Marcos critics who were here in 1850 as we will in 1950! So bring it on. Tell us what we got wrong - *and what we got right*. And - for the record - W.C. really could name every business on the square – and I will take the blame for any mis-named or misidentified buildings!

Diana Finlay may be contacted via email at finlay@sanmarcos.net

David Chiu
Office of the Mayor



Sesquicentennial 1851-2001

March 1, 2001

Welcome to Our Sesquicentennial Year!

On behalf of the City Council of San Marcos, Texas, I want to invite the participation of the community in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of San Marcos. This is an important moment in our history. We have a rich heritage to cherish and a promising future to anticipate.



Mayor Chiu

In 2001 San Marcos, Texas stands as a unique community in the second fastest-growing metropolitan region of the United States. The natural beauty and rare resources of this area have attracted human kind for more than 10,000 years. Our character over the past 150 years has been defined by the exquisitely beautiful spring-fed San Marcos River, the rocky hills and forests of the Edwards Plateau, and the rolling prairies that all converge in this place.

We are also defined by the pioneer spirit of people from around the nation and around the globe who have populated San Marcos. The native peoples who discovered San Marcos in deep prehistory believed in the sacred nature of the springs and the bountiful land. When the Spanish explorers came here and later the settlers in the mid-19th Century, they recognized that San Marcos possessed precious resources and great opportunity.

The people of San Marcos today celebrate and honor the cultural diversity of our community. Our history has evolved from the labor and the love of our forebears who built a city and created a community. Their wonderful legacy that we enjoy today is reflected in our families, our public places, our buildings, our businesses, our local governments, our educational institutions, our churches, our civic organizations, and our community.

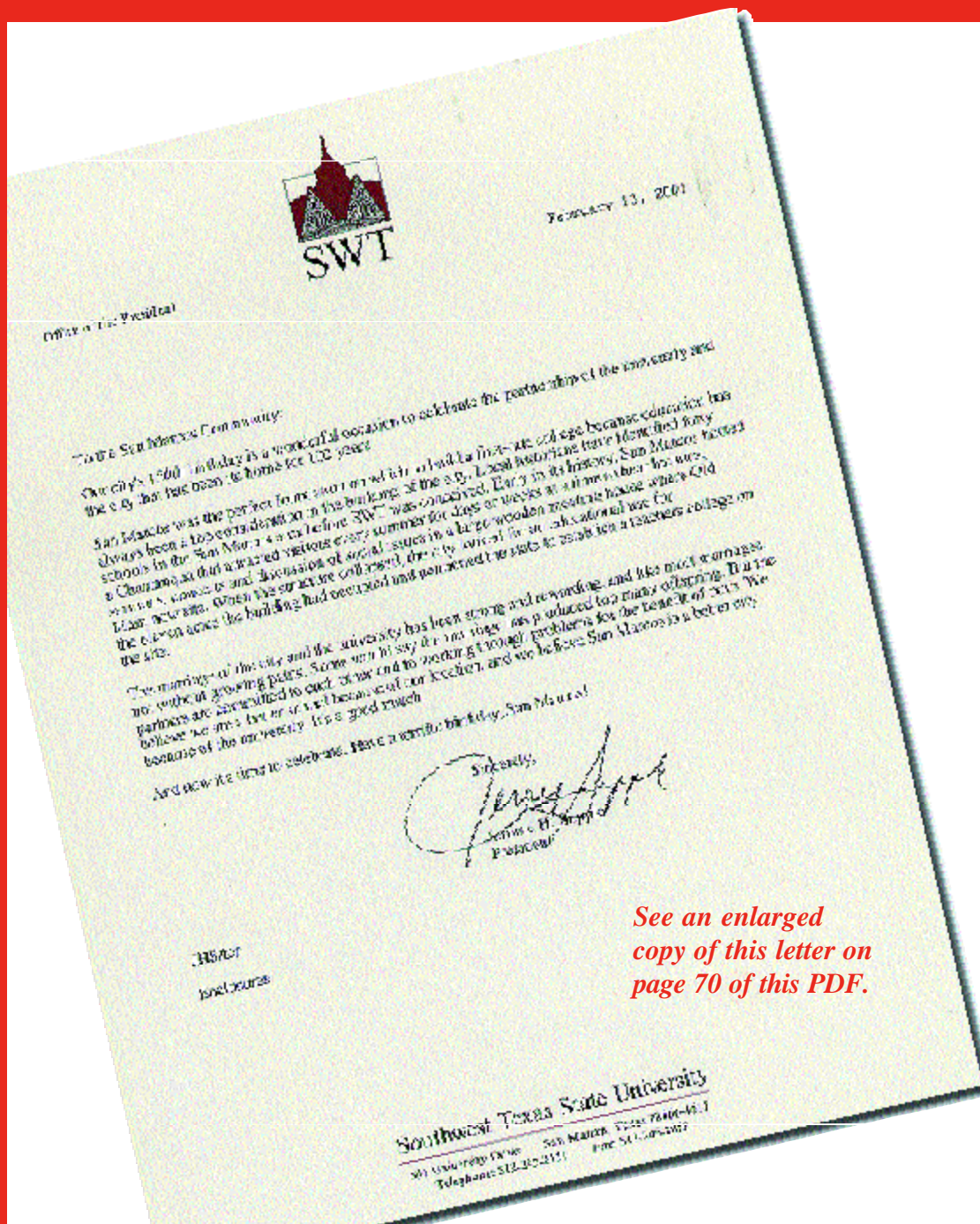
I ask all San Marcos residents and those who love our city to contribute to and participate in the year-long celebration of our Sesquicentennial. This party belongs to everyone!

Sincerely,

David Chiu
Mayor

"A 'Tech'xas Friendly City"

City Hall • 630 East Hopkins • San Marcos, Texas 78666 • 512/393-8090 • FAX 512/396-1576



2C.....San Marcos CISD: TEA RECOGNIZED DISTRICT
by Kim Porterfield

3C.....From log cabin to technology:

EDUCATION IS TOP PRIORITY by Virginia Witte

4C.....The Long Road: FROM CRADLE TO CAP AND GOWN
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5C.....Seeds of Learning: MEXICAN AMERICAN EDUCATION
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9C....A College for San Marcos: SOUTHWEST TEXAS
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13C...Jake Pickle, CONGRESSMAN
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14C...Seasons of Plenty: WEATHER ACROSS THE AGES
by Troy Kimmel

17C...Tales of Old San Marcos: POINTS OF INTEREST
by Dick Henderson

18C...A Chronicle of Newsprint and Ink:
NEWSPAPERS IN SAN MARCOS by Bob Barton

19C...Hispanic Chamber: BUILDING BRIDGES OF OPPORTUNITY

20C...Chamber Focused on Future by Phil Neighbors

21C...Aquarena Center: A LIVING TIME CAPSULE
by Deborah Lane

22C...Special Attractions: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE
by Pat Murdock

23C...SOUTHWESTERN WRITERS' COLLECTION AND WITTLIFF GALLERY

25C...Events and Festivals: CELEBRATING 150 YEARS
by Pat Murdock

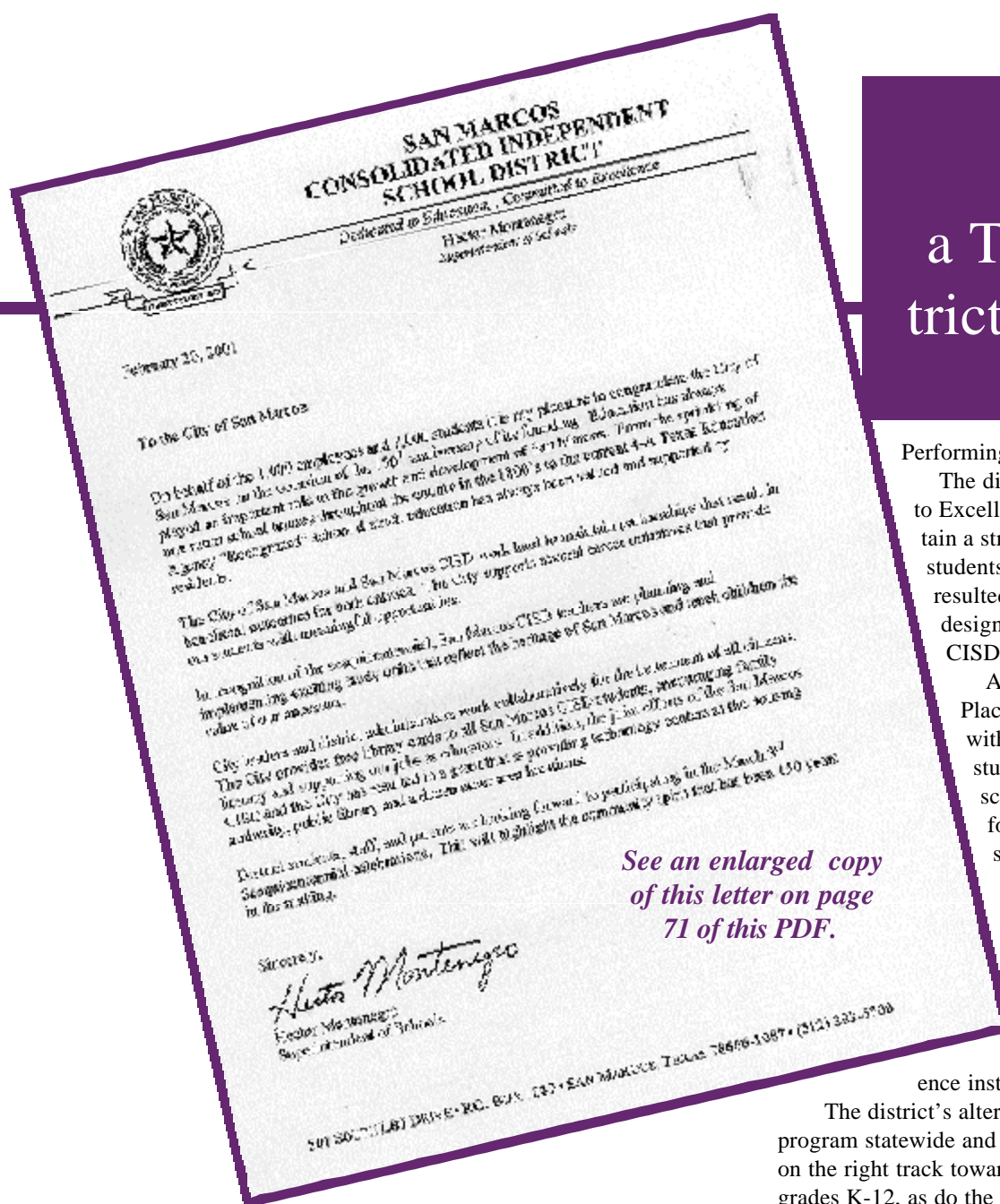
28C...2001 TOURS OF DISTINCTION & MERRIMAN LOG CABIN
by Ronda Reagan

29C...It's Showtime by Barry Warren

VINTAGE FILMS PREMIER AT PUBLIC LIBRARY

30C...THE TOTALLY TRUE AND ABSOLUTELY FACTUAL AUTHORIZED
BIOGRAPHY OF The Traits by Dan Buie

**32C...Terri Hendrix to headline March 3, 2001
Sesquicentennial Picnic Celebration**



San Marcos CISD a TEA "Recognized" district for two years in a row

Performing Arts and in Science, Math, and Technology.

The district motto, "Dedicated to Education, Committed to Excellence," is in the forefront as faculty and staff maintain a strong focus on instruction, high expectations for all students, and a productive school atmosphere that has resulted in increased student achievement. Programs are designed to meet the varied needs of all San Marcos CISD students.

At the high school, a full complement of Advanced Placement and Pre-AP courses and special partnerships with nearby Southwest Texas State University enable students to earn college credit while still in high school. The expanding program is benefiting from the formation of a vertical team of teachers that prepare students for AP courses beginning at the fifth grade.

A strong Career Technology program offers students skills that prepare them for employment upon graduation in such fields as Health Science, Agriculture, Automotive Technology, Business Education, Family and Consumer Science. A strong Air Force JROTC program is providing students with leadership training, aerospace science instruction, and community service opportunities.

The district's alternative education campus is recognized as a model program statewide and is responsible for getting hundreds of students back on the right track toward success. The Gifted and Talented Program covers grades K-12, as do the federal bilingual, migrant, English as a Second Language and Title 1 programs.

The district's comprehensive dyslexia program has been recognized for its successes nationwide. Community partnerships, such as the mentoring program developed in conjunction with the Education Committee of the Chamber of Commerce, are a priority of the district.

Other collaborative efforts allow high school students to learn state-of-the-art job skills at the federal Gary Job Corps Center. The Adopt-A-School and Volunteers in Public Schools programs bring parents, local business people and community members into the schools on a regular basis.

Austin Community College classes are held at the high school and Creative Education Institute computer labs that are used by students during the day are open for parent and other adult use in the evenings.

The district's "zero-tolerance" policy on alcohol, weapons and gang activity has sent a strong message to students and the community that San Marcos CISD does not allow disruptive behavior.

A discipline alternative education program allows students with behavioral problems to continue their education as they receive counseling and other needed services away from their regular campus.

For additional information, contact Kim Porterfield at San Marcos CISD, P.O. Box 1087 (501 S. LBJ Drive), San Marcos, TX 78667, or call (512) 393-6768.

Student academic performance is the number one priority in the San Marcos CISD. Covering 212 square miles at the "Gateway to the Hill Country" on Interstate 35, the district serves 7,200 students on ten campuses.

Rated "Recognized" by the Texas Education Agency for the second year in a row, San Marcos CISD is home to two Blue Ribbon Schools. Goodnight Junior High is a national Blue Ribbon School, while DeZavala Elementary is a state finalist.

Two schools are rated "exemplary" and five are rated "recognized."

The district's emphasis on academic excellence, advanced coursework and varied opportunities for all students is preparing its students for bright futures.

With two special interest academies opening at the high school in the 2001-2001 school year, opportunities for students are expanding. The academies will offer specialized, advanced coursework in Visual and

By Kim Porterfield

*See an enlarged copy
of this letter on page
71 of this PDF.*

History, education and San Marcos have always held a fascination for me, so this project is a dream come true.

*From log cabin to
state-of-the-art
technology*
**Education has
always been a
top priority**

In 1846, William W. Moon, the first settler in what became San Marcos, built a log cabin that served as a school, church and courthouse near present day Colloquium Books. For the next 20 years or so small private schools, tutors and parents would provide most of the education for the children.

By Virginia Witte

Then in 1868 the Coronal Institute, a Methodist High School, was built on the site of the present

Lamar Annex. The school's initial success was due to its healthy climate. Yellow fever epidemics were hitting the schools in the coastal regions and in East Texas. The 1869 Coronal Catalog stated that, "out of 300 students received into the Institute within the last three years, not one death has occurred, and there has been only one single case of serious illness."

Coronal Institute closed December 21, 1918 for the Christmas vacation--the last student to leave that day was C.M. Maurice Waldrip, father of Charles Waldrip. The school failed to reopen in January, thus making Waldrip the last student of the Institute. In 1925 Coronal was sold to the San Marcos School District.

San Marcos High School was built on the block of Comanche and Hutchison across from the present Pennington's Funeral Home. It was an elegant three-story red brick building. The last Rattler yearbook produced from this location was in the spring of 1940. The 1941 yearbook edited by J.M. Cape was produced from the Education Building located on Southwest Texas State campus.

In 1918 Southwest Texas Normal School (SWT) built the Education Building "intended

in large part as a demonstration and laboratory school." In 1939 the Auditorium-Laboratory School Building was completed by the college and all public school students, kindergarten through 6th grade, were housed there. By 1941 all the public school students were located on the college campus.

Patty Sherrill Sullivan entered first grade in the Education Building in 1933 and would graduate from there in 1944. Hers was the first class to go all the way from start to finish at the Education Building. Elementary grades were on the first floor; Junior High was on the second floor, and High School was on the third floor.

By 1949 the college and the public schools were bursting at the seams so the last of the Coronal Buildings were destroyed to build a new High School on the site. In the fall of 1951

the first students moved into the brand new school, which consisted of grades 10-12. In the fall of 1952, grades 9 through 12 were housed in the high school. Bonham Elementary opened in 1951, Travis Junior High School and Bowie Elementary opened in 1954, and Crockett Elementary in 1964. By 1965, all San Marcos Public Schools were gone from the Southwest Texas campus.

In the ensuing years, San Marcos CISD has continued to add new campuses. These include the present San Marcos High School on Highway 123, Hernandez Intermediate School, and Goodnight and Miller Junior High Schools.

I spent many happy hours searching through old clippings, yearbooks, publications, scrapbooks and visiting with various BISM's. I learned that San Marcos' love affair with athletics began early on.

In 1911, Mr. Moore and Coach Woods set about to make us contenders and in 1912 the Rattlers "wiped up the ground with Austin High School." In 1914 the Rattlers beat both Southwest Normal and San Antonio High School. The early Junior High School teams were known as the Trojans, and later as the Bull Dogs, but the High School team has always been called the Rattlers.

The history of education in San Marcos would be incomplete without mention of the selfless, dedicated men and women who devoted their lives to improving the lives of our children. Some members of this honor roll include Yancy P. Yarbrough, Mary Dodgen, Irma Bruce, Willie Higgs, Ed Lyons, Ruth Munk, Non Douglas Wray, Owen Goodnight, Thomas Yoakum, James Farmer, Bush Ewing and Gwen Smith.





For 150 years in San Marcos, the churches have been the cradle of the Negroes' economic, cultural and spiritual life. Church life was the foundation of our survival and became the vehicle for motivating the establishment of schools for Negroes.

From cradle to cap and gown The long road

The first Board of Examiners was appointed in 1858 by Judge J.C. Watkins. Members were Peter Wood, Thomas Lyons and William Brown. Because of the Civil War, in 1861 the court ordered that only indigent children could receive money public money for education.

This was for all races, including colored, white and Mexican children. Trustees for the Colored School were Henry Thomas, Henry Watkins and William Barnett. The colored Preachers became the teachers.

Congress passed a stopgap to create the Freedman's Bureau. The bureau built a bridge from slavery to freedom. A 1866 report to Lt. Charles Garretson in Galveston, Texas noted: "In San Marcos Texas the freed-people have purchased a house and only require a teacher. Their petition for the appointment of Mr. Jenkins I forward by mail. I do not think the freed-people would be secure in person or property if the troops were withdrawn." The Freedman's Bureau was terminated 30 June 1872. The public free school law went into effect in 1876.

Hays County organized 31 school districts. The Colored School District was established, with 50 colored students enrolled. A new brick school for the white children was voted on and passed by the white school board, and \$8,000 was appropriated in 1890. After the new building was completed, the old wooden building that had been used by the white children was moved to "colored town" on Centre Street, next to the African Methodist Church. Repairs were made so the colored children could use it for their school. They had homemade benches, a teacher's table and a few other pieces of furni-

ture.

Professor L.D. Simmons was the principal of the school in 1897. Kittie Smith and M.A. Dodson were his assistants.

As the population in Colored Town grew, the white school board purchased the 7.3 acres of property on Endicott Street and the old school building was moved there in 1918. There was a need for more qualified teachers because more students were enrolling. Most of the colored teachers hired had to attend the County Teachers Institute. Professor J. M. Brown served as principal from 1918 through 1919.

The school district received money for the renovation of schools in 1947. The money was spent on the white school and the Colored School got an old army barrack that was moved from Camp Swift in Bastrop, Texas. A room was added to make an extra room for the Colored School.

Integration became law in 1954. The San Marcos School System started integrating in 1955 with the senior classes. They continued with this plan by one grade a year until integration was complete.

Mr. Earl Scott Harris was the principal during the first part of this change. The Colored School Board suggested renaming the school in 1961. This suggestion was taken under consideration by the white board.

The three names suggested were

"Coleman," for Miss Ola Lee Coleman; "Dunbar" for the famous African American poet, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, and "Lincoln" for President Abraham Lincoln. A motion was made by Houston Marney, Jr., and seconded by Gene Phillips to rename the school Dunbar. Mr. Maurice Powell served as principal until integration was completed in 1962. After integration was completed, not one Negro teacher had a job teaching in San Marcos.

By Ollie W. Giles

The old school stood empty for a number of years. The only things left were memories--some good and some not so good. There were many adjustments to be made.

The school board put the school up for sale. Mr. and Mrs. C.D. Marshall purchased the property in 1973 for \$31,000. They donated it to the city to be used as a parks and recreation center for the community.



Early documentation of education for the Mexican Americans in San Marcos revealed that both public schools and parochial schools existed in the early days of the community. The public educational system for the Mexican Americans of San Marcos seemed lacking in many areas. Records of the San Marcos school board minutes offered valuable information to substantiate the findings.

Seeds of Learning:

The Education of Mexican Americans in San Marcos

According to the research, the earliest findings were dated May 20, 1897. Only two public schools were described in the City Free Schools. These institutions were referred to as "the White School and the Colored Schools" in the San Marcos Free Schools. The idea of establishing a separate school for the "Mexican" children of San Marcos was first discussed as early as 1899. The discussion, however, was the only thing that transpired. "The feasibility of establishing a separate school for the Mexican children enrolled within the corporate

limits of San Marcos was discussed, but no settled plan was adopted." (July 4, 1899)

By Dr. Yolanda Fuentes Espinoza

On August 8, 1899, a committee was assigned to examine the enrollment list of children within the scholastic age for the city of San Marcos to determine how many "Mexican" children were be enrolled in order to view an opening of a separate school for the "Mexican" children. At the next meeting, the committee could not find the scholastic census in order to furnish the board with names of the "Mexican" children.

At the November 7, 1899 meeting, however, 21 Mexican children were counted who could be enrolled at the Mexican School. A motion was adopted on whether or not a suitable house and a competent teacher for the Mexican children could be obtained. The rental fee for the home and salary of the teacher was to be given in a report at the next monthly meeting.

Upon the December 5, 1899 meeting, the committee on Mexican Schools reported that only half of the enrolled Mexican children could be found in the city limits of town, therefore, a recommendation was made that the Mexican children in town and those near by outside the corporation could be taught at one school. No other mention of the Mexican School was made at the following meetings from January 2, 1900 until August 25, 1900.

At the October 3, 1900 meeting, the motion was again raised and a committee appointed to

find the number of Mexican children enrolled and to find the parents of those children. By April 16, 1901, a report of Theo Taylor & T.C. Johnson (committee on the Mexican School) read that they had found a house formerly occupied by the "Colored School" and belonging to the city of San Marcos. It was available for the Mexican School and there appeared to be an average attendance of 15 to 20 students.

On May 7, 1901, the committee secured a room on San Antonio Street (part of John Barber Food Store) at the monthly rental of \$2.00. The following year, March 18, 1901, the Mexican School was declared to be opened at the Methodist Mexican Church on Monday, March 24, 1902. Again, at the October, 1902 meeting, the board stressed that the Mexican School had to have 20 students for minimum attendance "and if at any time the attendance should fall below that number, the school should be immediately discontinued"

In the March 3, 1903 meeting, the motion by unanimous vote declared the Mexican School be adjourned because of poor attendance. By the March 23, 1903 meeting, the Mexican School was in better condition. It had a larger attendance, so the resolution to adjourn was dissolved.

In June, 1906, Cemetery Creek, in its crossing through the town was designated as a line between the East End and West End Schools. From that time on, reference was made to the "White Schools" which included both of these institutions.

At the October 1, 1907 meeting a petition by several Mexican citizens was read which asked that the Mexican School be opened earlier in the month. After discussion, the board ordered that Mexican School be opened the 15th day of October instead of November 1st. That opening date remained until August 19, 1910 when the opening date of both the Mexican School and the Colored School was fixed for October 1st.

By February, 1909, a committee was appointed to provide more school room for the Mexican children. After various investigations, the decision made was to build additional rooms to the Mexican School (18' X 20'). In September, 1911, "The question of admitting children of Latin people to our "White School" was fully

discussed and was dismissed by a motion to refer the matter to the attorney general" (p. 149, School Board Meeting minutes). The secretary was supposed to request an opinion from that department immediately.

Statistical reports for the Mexican School revealed some interesting information about attendance between September, 1913 to December, 1915.

The number of Mexican children enrolled September 13, 1913 was 26 with an average attendance of 20. By January, 1914, the numbers were extremely high-173 enrolled, with 130 the average. The February, 1914 meeting showed that enrollment dropped to 140 with an average of 82. Such a drop may have been caused by Diphtheria (cases were cited at the West End School for both students and teacher).

Careful study of statistics revealed that the lowest attendance for the Mexican School existed every September and October. Perhaps, the increased enrollment at the Mexican School was due to employment of a Mexican interpreter to assist in taking the census for the Mexican children in April, 1911.

In October, 1918, the pupils from the Mexican School were promoted to the fifth grade if they were on grade level. All the students below the fifth grade had to attend the Mexican School. The following year, October, 1919, saw the first mention of janitorial services for the Mexican School, yet, the approval for these custodial services did not get certified until February 5, 1920.

Another even that happened that same year of 1919, was that the pupils of the first and second grades were granted the privilege to take home their books for home study. Still another important date was November 6, 1919, when the principal of the Mexican School was instructed "to use the English language exclusively both in the classroom and on the grounds" Installation of a telephone in the Mexican and Colored Schools happened in the year of 1920 during the last two months of school.

By February, 1928, the Superintendent was asked to provide another room and teacher to take care of the Mexican children at the East

Continued on page 6C

Seeds of Learning

from page 5C

End and some of those at the Mexican School. In 1928, the Superintendent did authorize the building of the first school --Southside School.

A gap occurred in the research on the public school system between 1929 to 1951. Records were not available because of a fire that destroyed the majority of the documents. The only significant record that showed the education of the Mexican Americans was noted in a reunion booklet of the class of 1933-34. In the list of graduates, a few Hispanic names appeared. So, sometime between 1929 to 1930, some Hispanics moved into the San Marcos high school. These names included Lilia Guerrero, Celia Renteria Ramirez, Josephine Reyes, and Rebecca Elodia Rivera R. Only female names, however, appeared in this roster.

‘Latin American’ School

With the 50's came the reclassification of the Mexican School. At that time, the White Schools now included the elementary schools (Campus & Southside), Jr. High, and High School. The Colored Schools included an elementary and high school combined. Due to the revamping of the system, the board had the foresight that the jr. High school would increase more rapidly than the senior high school because more of the migrant and "Latin-American " students continued through jr. High school than through the senior high school. Even though the "White Schools" now included Campus Elementary and Southside, a barrier still existed between the two elementary institutions.

One campus was actually a "white " school while the other one was a "brown" school. Southside Elementary School consisted of an eighteen room modern (for that time) building on the southside campus. The old wooden building had six rooms, the old Baptist Church had two rooms; the old dwelling house had two rooms and another shack - one room. The total eighteen rooms housed 540 children. In 1951, 837 students had occupied the dwelling. The old Baptist Church, the old dwelling house and the other shack were never designed for a school building. When the building was originally constructed the tin was put on wrong. The roof was patched year by year, which stopped the water temporarily, but during the summer, the cracks opened and in the fall, the roof had to be patched again. The entire plant was located on 7/8 of a city block 334' X 345' . No lunch facilities existed on campus. Even as late as November, 1953, the Southside School was still referred to as the "Latin American School". This was noted in the minutes when an extension class in English was offered at the Southside School. It was noted as "the Latin American School." Permission was granted to Mr. A.A. Grusendorf to use the Southside School for adult classes in the evening.

The recommendations made in 1952 were that the Lucio property was the best location for the 6h grade school, the old fair grounds property were the next desirable. The Jr. High was to be constructed with 7th & 8h grade on one wing; 6h grade elementary in another. The 6th grade was still housed at the college campus. At that time the Southside included 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. The old church, old dwelling house and old shack were then removed. In 1953, the superintendent asked the board to consider Southside becoming a 3rd or 4th grade school.

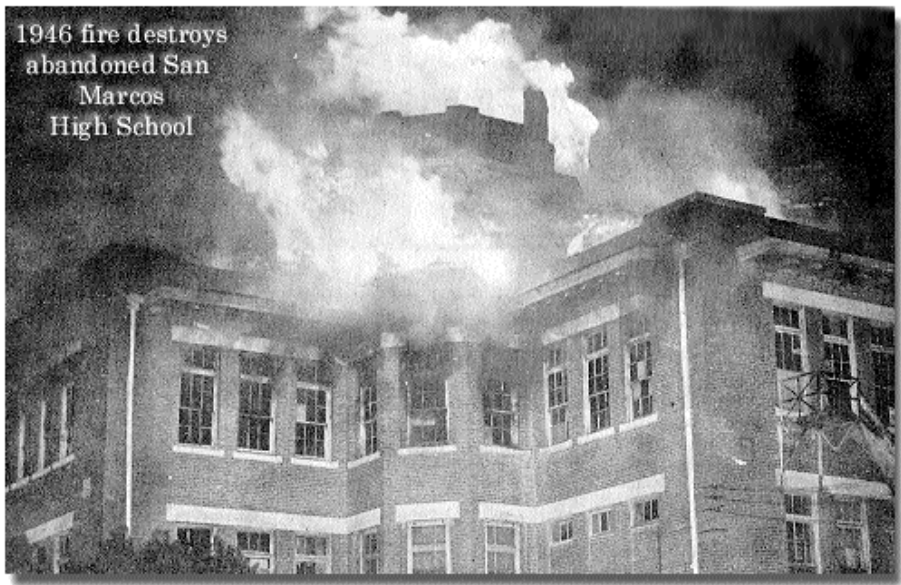
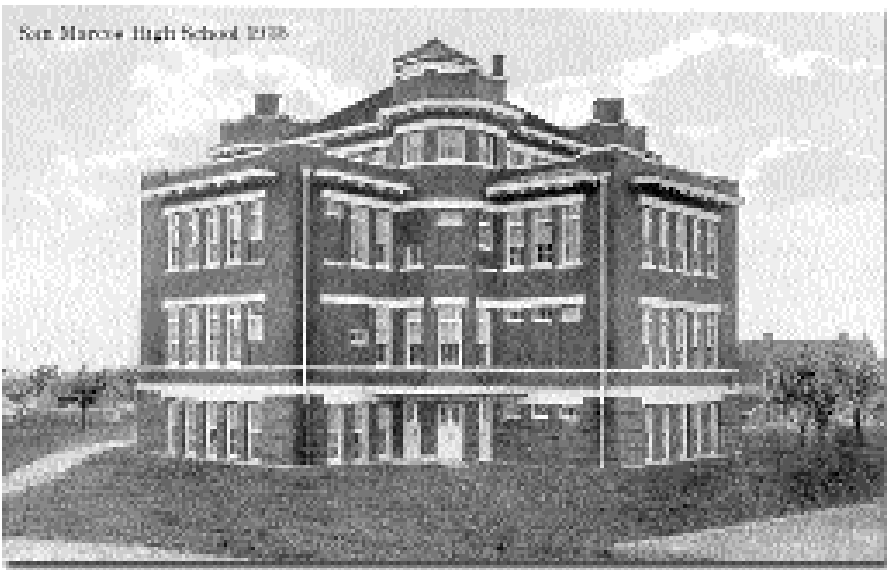
During the 1952-53 school board budget meeting, the schools were still identified by the San Marcos School Board as being either white or colored. A significant event on May 14, 1953 occurred when a letter written by Frank Castaneda to the School Board President requested that the board consider appointing one of four members to fill one

of the four vacancies on the school board--Clyde Flores, Joe Rodriguez, Alfonso Aranda and Augustine Lucio. It was discussed and agreed to select one of the four Latin Americans to represent the Latin American people of San Marcos or to wait and select one of their own candidates. No Latin American names appeared on the roster for 1954-56).

In February, 1954, Mr. Ruiz, Mr. Flores, Mr. Lucio and citizens of San Marcos appeared before the board and requested that a special teacher be employed whose primary function would be to get students in school who were not attending at that time. They suggested that a Latin American be employed. Mr. Flores presented the request for a purchase of real estate in the corner of the present school (Southside).

At the June 14, 1955 school board meeting, a large delegation of the Latin American school patrons asked to speak to the Board . The principal speakers for the delegation were Augustin Lucio and Clyde Flores. Other citizens who spoke during the meeting included John Rangel and Gilbert Arredondo Sr. The citizens protested the assignment of their first, second and third grade children to the San Marcos Southside Elementary School. They pointed out that their children had been going to the Campus School and that they felt that the educational opportunities of those children would be lessened by attendance of the Southside School. Mr. Lucio also contended that the School Board was trying to continue a segregated school when they failed to assign Anglo, children to the Southside School. The Superintendent pointed out that no hard and fast zone lines had been drawn and it was not the intention of the Board to make the Southside School a school of free choice as it had been in the past. At the conclusion of the meeting, Superintendent Hutchinson instructed the members of the Latin American delegation that their children could be transferred out of Southside School and into either James Bowie Elementary School or Campus Elementary.

Continued on page 7C



Tula Townsend Wyatt Collection/San Marcos Public Library

Seeds of Learning

from page 5C

Pre-school Language School

A proposal in October, 1959, was made to develop a Pre-School Language School for about 100 children during February, March and April. This school was to be paid out of state money. The Pre-School Language Program (summer) was evaluated

in March, 1961. The program was described as "the program being open to any child with a language barrier" The Pre-School was housed at Southside School.

By 1962, the Pre-School instruction was described as a program for non-English speakers with 50 days of summer instruction in English. It helped a child make better progress in first grade. The child became better adjusted to school routine, could follow directions better and also understand and speak more English than nonEnglish speaking children entering school for the first time. Again, the Pre-School program was offered at Southside School. The school's population was all Hispanics. The following year, 1963, the recommendation was made that elementary summer school be opened to "colored" students who desired to attend. The Pre-School Program continued until Head Start was introduced.

Bonham opens its doors

In March, 1964, Southside was cited as having a major problem. Lack of an available library as well as uncovered walkways between the frame building and main building created a need to demolish the building. If the frame building continued to be used, the roof needed to be replaced. As a result, the school district decided in June, 1964, to abolish Southside as it existed. Even a consideration for a new site was noted. A Citizen Committee concluded that the school, as it existed, was unsatisfactory and needed to be equalized with other elementary schools. By September, 1965, the renaming of Southside School was suggested. It was to be given a different name in line with the other elementary schools. Bonham, after the Texas hero, James Bonham, was the name selected. This school to the present day still exists as a Pre-School for four year olds, who qualify as either being from a limited income family or being limited in English.

With the changes in the past years, so came the changes with the types of instructional programs offered in the San Marcos schools. In May, 1968, two types of bilingual programs were presented for consideration: 1: Academic Instruction in Spanish for non-English speaking students while they were learning the English language. The instruction in Spanish was gradually reduced until all instruction in English was given. 2: Other program put English speakers, regardless of proficiency levels in class with English and Spanish. The purpose was to teach and improve English and Spanish to both Mexican Americans and Anglo-Americans. The first type of program was offered at first grade at Bonham and the second type of program was the one class set up at each of the other schools. If a classroom did not have students, then they could transfer to a school that offered such a program, as long as space was available. These programs went into effect in September, 1968. At the present time, all the elementary schools in San Marcos offer a bilingual program to students of limited English proficiency.

'Parochial school is another option

According to one of the oral histories collected from a community member, the parochial school sat at the end of Guadalupe Street where the old St. John's Catholic Church was located. It was next to "Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church" which was a wooden mission style church. Concepcion Martinez taught classes in English and her sister Anastacia taught in Spanish. Evidence of the school was also found in the Cronica de los Acontecimientos mas notables ocurridos en esta residencia de San Marcos, Texas, as early as March, 1916. Reference in these important papers was also made in May, 1916, where the "Extension Society" gave \$ 1,000 to the Parochial School. St. John's Catholic Church continued to have a parochial school until the mid-fifties when the school closed its doors.

In short, the "Mexican " School has undergone a lot of changes and Mexican American educators have traveled a long road. The seeds of learning were definitely planted by those early Mexican American educators that struggled in that "Mexican" School!

Mexican American Educators

The earliest mention of a Hispanic teacher was noted in the Board minutes in April, 1901 when Gabriel Tafolla was selected as teacher of the "Mexican" School. She was followed by E.C. Cardenas, in 1911 who was administrator until the end of 1914 when he was earning a salary of \$80 a month. Other principals included Miss Ester Trevino (1918-1921). Her salary started at \$60, however, by 1921, she earned \$950 a year. Even with the raise in 1921, she was still underpaid. The principals at the East End School (\$1500 per year) and West End School (\$1100 per year) were still receiving a higher salary. The only other principal paid less was the one of the Colored School (\$84 a month per 8 1/2 mos.).

The name of one man was recognized as a pioneer in the struggle against education. Felipe Reyna, who had the administration building dedicated in his honor in 1974, was a Mexican American teacher who taught during the late 1940's and early 1950's. Although he remained in the San Marcos system for only three years, he was credited with contributing to the Mexican American political movement in San Marcos.

In 1953-54, Mrs. Petra Nicola (Joe Nicola's wife) was reelected to teach at Southside Elementary. She was the only Hispanic teacher in the district at that time. She remained at Southside (Bonham) until May, 1969, when she moved to Crockett for Phase 2 of the Bilingual Program. She remained at Crockett until her retirement in the mid 70's. The following year, 1954-55, brought another Hispanic teacher, Bert Hernandez. He joined Mrs. Nicola as the only male Hispanic teacher in the district at the time. Mr. Bert Hernandez's name was found in the 1965-66 teacher directory of the elementary schools. Another male Hispanic teacher was Mr. Frank Contreras, Sr. He was at Bonham, along with Mrs. Nicola and Mr. Hernandez during the 1965-66 school year. His position that year was with the Head Start Program. In May, 1968, Mr. Contreras was appointed part-time principal of Bonham and part-time Director of Community School Services. The Jr. High directory did not have any Hispanic names included. The high school level had 2 names-Gloria Flores (Science teacher) and Rosario Garza (Spanish teacher).

The 70's brought many changes to the small town of San Marcos. Mrs. Vela Cavazos was the first Hispanic person in the Guidance and Counseling program with the San Marcos school district. In September, 1970, Soila Rodriguez taught Spanish at San Marcos High School. She became the first Hispanic woman Assistant Principal at San Marcos High School. With the introduction of bilingual education came the demand for Hispanic bilingual teachers. At the beginning, at least one bilingual teacher per grade level was hired (Grades 1-5). Presently, at least 2 Hispanic teachers per grade level, if not more, instruct at the elementary schools. Hispanic teachers are also found at the Jr. High and High School. Two of the four elementary schools have Hispanic principals. The Middle School, Jr. High, and High School either in previous years or currently have Hispanic principals and/or assistant principals within the past two decades. The first Hispanic Superintendent for the San Marcos Consolidated School District was Dr. Gonzalo Garza. At the present time, Hector Montenegro heads the district with the position of Superintendent.

- Dr. Yolanda Fuentes Espinoza

Gary Job Corps offers training, for thousands of young adults

The Gary Job Corps Center, located in San Marcos on Highway 21, is a federally funded job training program for young adults between the ages of 16 and 24. Training is free for income eligible men and women. Gary's goal is to teach young adults the academic, vocational and social skills needed to get and keep a job.

Job Corps is the oldest and largest federally funded residential job training, education and job placement program in the nation. More than 68,000 youth train at one of the 111 Job Corps Centers.



Gary is among the first Centers to open, receiving male enrollees in March, 1965. The program became co-educational in 1976. Today, Gary is one of the largest centers in the nation, with 2,200 men and women in training.

The campus is 800 acres in size, with 200 buildings and one million square feet of building space. In earlier years, from February 1943 to the summer of 1959, the facility was used by the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army to train navigators, helicopter pilots and rotary mechanics. From 1965 to 1995, the property has continuously been operated by the Texas Educational Foundation, Inc. for the U.S. Department of Labor. Over the years Gary has graduated thousands of men and women who have become employed, tax-paying citizens. Job Corps returns \$1.46 for every dollar invested because its graduates go to work.

Gary Job Corps students attend classes Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. New students are tested to determine if academic courses are needed to strengthen math and reading skills. Students who do not have a high school diploma are scheduled into a General Educational Development (GED) program. Classes are taught by state certified teachers. Students progress at their own pace.

The Gary Center offers training in 26 trades. Advanced training is offered in computers, automotive diagnostics and heating and air conditioning. When students complete trade training, they intern at local businesses utilizing their new job skills.

Experienced placement specialists help students find jobs and assist those who plan to enter college, the military or a technical training program. In addition to academics, job training and job placement, Gary Job Corps students receive meals, medical and dental care, a spending allowance based on class attendance, a clothing allowance and a readjustment allowance based on achievements.

The Gary Job Corps program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges Commission on Occupational Education Institutions.

*For more information, call 512-396-6652.
- from the San Marcos Community Website*

A tradition of excellence since 1907

True to the vision of its founders: San Marcos Baptist Academy

For 94 years, San Marcos Baptist Academy has remained true to the vision of its founders by providing a full program of academic work for boys and girls in a nurturing, Christian context.



By Jody Jennings

Unique among Texas Baptist institutions, the Academy is the only preparatory school supported by the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Parents turn to San Marcos Baptist Academy for a variety of reasons. Some are drawn by the challenging Carroll AP Scholars Program, featuring an Advanced Placement/pre-AP curriculum that prepares students for acceptance in the most prestigious universities. Others are attracted by the Academy's international/ESL program, which currently includes over 54 students from 9 different countries. Some parents choose the Academy because its small class sizes provide individualized attention and better opportunities for success. An Enhanced Learning Program also offers supplemental instruction for students with learning differences.

Finally, many parents are drawn to San Marcos Baptist Academy because it provides students with a family atmosphere of nurture, love and accountability. Through its holistic approach to learning, the Academy stresses the intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual development of each student.

Because a majority of its students are dormitory residents, the Student Life Program at San Marcos Baptist Academy is rather broad. Coordinated in the Office of the Executive Vice President, the Dean of Girls and Dean of Boys oversee the dormitory programs. Boys are organized as a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, with each boy assigned to live within a military squad and company. In the annual formal inspection, the Academy has consistently earned the Honor Unit with Distinction rating, given to those schools scoring within the top 10 percent in the nation.

Girls at the Academy are grouped into "families" within an organization known as C.O.E.D.S. This stands for Community, Orientation, Enthusiasm, Discipline and Support. Older girls serve as leaders in this organization, through which the girls take part in community service projects and other campus activities.

Although primarily a boarding school, the Academy has attracted an increasing number of day students in recent years. Along with the population of day students has come the increased involvement of local parents, who provide support to students and the school through the Parent Connection. Open to all Academy parents, the organization has sponsored several events this year, including a silent auction during fall Parent Day, a Homecoming Party at the Freeman Ranch, the Christmas Gala at the Crystal River Inn in San Marcos, and the Military Ball. They will also offer assistance with upcoming events such as the Junior/Senior Prom and the Middle School Party.

A significant change at the Academy recently has been the emergence of the Middle School. With a separate academic facility and faculty, the Middle School includes students in grades six through eight. These students participate along with the high school in campus-wide events, while also taking part in their own age-appropriate clubs and activities. Among the various opportunities for involvement are a Boy Scout troop, Praise Band, Bible studies and prayer groups, field trips, parties and a variety of sports.

When Dr. J.M. Carroll led in the founding of San Marcos Baptist Academy in 1907, he made the following prediction: "If the Baptists and their friends in this great territory will rally around this school, it is destined to be the beginning of a glorious future." The Academy has indeed enjoyed great success in fulfilling its mission over the past 94 years, and with the continued support of alumni and friends, its future continues to be a glorious one.

With their founding dates just half a century apart, Southwest Texas State University and the City of San Marcos have literally grown up together.

Southwest Texas State University

A 'College' for San Marcos

The city and the university share many common bonds, not the least of which is a picturesque setting, complete with the crystal-clear San Marcos River. They share a sense of community, a commitment to education and a sense of history. Were it not for the good citizens of San Marcos, there would not be an SWT.

Ground Work

Deplorable conditions in the state of Texas in the 1880s dramatized the need for education. In 1870, Texas had twice as many murders as any other state and 17 percent of the whites and 90 percent of the blacks were illiterate. Encouraged by a national movement, including the newly established Federal Bureau of Education, Texans voted for public schools. The creation of public schools meant an increased demand for more teachers in the state, a demand that Texas' two normal schools – Sam Houston in Huntsville and North Texas in Denton – simply could not fill.

Captain Ferg Kyle, a demobilized Civil War veteran, had climbed up Wood's Hill and proposed that a school be built on the site. Kyle's family had moved from Mississippi when he was a child and settled on the banks of the Blanco River. Prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, he had served in the Texas Rangers and after the war began, he joined Terry's Rangers, 8th Texas Cavalry, winning his captaincy in the battle of Shiloh.

Captain Kyle was to remember his dream later and to fight for appropriations for the new normal school. But much was to happen to the hill between that visit by Captain Kyle and the opening of Southwest Texas State Normal School in 1903.

Continued on page10C



By Pat Murdock

SWT, Continued from page 9C

Written histories note that local historians Dudley R. Dobie and Annie Hall had identified 40 schools in the San Marcos area prior to the creation of Southwest Texas State Normal School by the 26th Legislature. In 1885, Methodist minister Horace N. Dubose of Houston delivered the commencement address for Coronal Institute, a Methodist preparatory school in San Marcos that operated in conjunction with Southwestern University in Georgetown. It was Dubose who dreamed up the idea of establishing a Chautauqua in central Texas, above the banks of the San Marcos River. Like the original Lake Chautauqua, New York, Dubose found a scenic and recreational paradise ideally suited to religious instruction and inspiration.

A San Marcos Chautauqua

Dubose joined with Coronal Institute President John E. Prichett and local bankers W. D. Wood and Ed J. L. Green to organize the first Real Estate Association of San Marcos, which later became the San Marcos Chautauqua, both subscription stock companies. They brought the Chautauqua experiment to San Marcos. The association purchased Wood’s Hill from W. D. Wood for \$5,000 and renamed the site Chautauqua Hill.

A 60-foot by 90-foot wooden tabernacle that would seat approximately 1,500 people was erected on the crest of the hill. The grounds were fenced, and an entrance gate was located somewhere between the current Psychology Building and Centennial Hall (the old Science Building).

Between 1885 and 1895, the Chautauqua sponsored an annual summer session of activities that lasted a month or more and featured Bible studies, sermons and Sunday school institutes, outdoor recreation, travel lectures, temperance rallies, discussions of social reforms and political speeches.

Admission was charged to the grounds; a canvas-topped restaurant opened; water was piped up the hill and fountains and pools were built. A small steamboat, the Tom Glover, offered river excursions for a nickel a ride. Visitors could also ride a horse-drawn carriage to the top of the hill for a nickel.

Beginning in 1886, San Marcos hosted a Texas summer normal institute where educators gathered to study and earn advanced certification. Teachers received credit by passing exams or completing normal school work that entitled them to teach more advanced students or to become administrators.

Those who came to San Marcos for study saw its promise as a site for a permanent normal school to serve teachers in south Texas. In December, 1892, a teachers’ institute meeting in San Marcos petitioned the legislature "to establish at least one more state normal in this state, to be located in southwest Texas."

In 1893, the Texas Legislature authorized Coronal Institute to issue diplomas, if it obtained state approval for a teacher education program. Although Coronal never pursued

Spirit and Tradition

When legendary Bobcat coach and athletic director Oscar Strahan (it’s correctly pronounced Stran – not Stray-han) came to SWT in 1919, the school had no athletic nickname or mascot.

Soon after Strahan’s arrival, the Star newspaper started an editorial campaign in support of adopting an athletic mascot to "raise school spirit from the depths of oblivion." A committee was appointed by the student council and chaired by Biology Chair C. Spurgeon Smith. Smith’s personal choice of the Bobcat was selected because it was native to the central Texas hill country and a "fighter of great courage." Strahan noted that "a Bobcat will fight you with everything he has – four claws, teeth, speed and brains."

The new name seemed to work wonders as the first "Bobcats," the 1921 football team, walked over seven opponents for an undefeated gridiron season. At that time, it was a point of pride that SWT was the only college in the country with Bobcats as mascot. By the late 20s, however, our monopoly had ended, when Montana State adopted the label.

SWT was actually ahead of its time in the athletic arena – for the first decade, women’s teams outnumbered men’s. The first formal teams were women’s basketball and bore such interesting names as the Gypsies, the Nymphs and the Topsies. The first men’s teams appeared in 1904-05. The first football team was organized in the fall of 1908.

Continued on page 11C

Periodic Fall Semester Enrollments, 1903-2000

Years	Enrollment	Years	Enrollment
1903-04	303	1953-54	1,670
1908-09	510	1958-59	2,309
1913-14	712	1963-64	3,850
1918-19	974	1968-69	8,406
1923-24	1,428	1973-74	12,142
1928-29	2,027	1978-79	15,070
1933-34	1,266	1983-84	18,314
1938-39	1,266	1988-89	20,505
1943-44	584	1993-94	20,879
1948-49	1,791	1997-98	20,702
2000 – 2001		22,423	

SWT, Continued from page 10C

approval, San Marcos strengthened its claim as the logical site for the "southwest" Texas normal. The Chautauqua decade strengthened San Marcos' commitment to education and awakened an interest in tourism, both of which would become economical assets to the community.

Birth of the Normal

The Texas Legislature voted in 1899 that a normal school could be started in San Marcos if local citizens would furnish the land. The bill to locate a normal school here was first proposed March 3, 1899, by Fred Cocke, representative from the 98th Legislative District, which included Hays, Blanco, Comal and Gillespie counties. Despite considerable opposition that developed to the bill, it passed with Cocke's leadership in the house and the backing in the Texas Senate of J.B. Dibrell of Seguin. It was finally passed and approved on May 10, 1899, by Governor J.D. Sayers.

The San Marcos City Council, meeting in special session on Oct. 16, 1899, voted to give the 11-acre tract of land, plus several lots, to the state for the normal school campus. Mayor Hammett Hardy and his aldermen – George W. Donaldson, N.K. Farris, W. D. Wood, Peter Ault, Thomas Taylor and G. G. Johnson – placed a value of \$12,000 on the land and buildings they were presenting to the state and then published a brochure advertising the wonders of the town and the river.

On March 28, 1901, members of the Texas Senate passed Senate Bill No. 142, accepting the gift of land from the city of San Marcos and appropriating \$35,000 -- \$25,000 for the erection of buildings and \$10,000 for maintenance. The bill was sponsored and pushed through the Senate by Senator Dibrell. In the House, Bill No. 124 was proposed by Captain Kyle. Official state approval of the Normal School was given in 1901.

Work on Old Main Building began in 1902, and, in spite of construction difficulties caused by what appeared to be a deep cave in the hill, the normal school was ready for the 303 students and 17 faculty members who were there when Southwest Texas State Normal School opened its doors in 1903.

Broadening the Scope

The early normal schools were little more than high schools, offering from one to two years of college-level instruction but by 1923, the Texas Legislature had converted the state's seven normals to four-year institutions and changed their names officially to "teachers colleges."

Over the years, the Texas Legislature broadened the scope of SWT and changed its name accordingly, in succession, to Southwest Texas State Normal College, Southwest Texas State Teachers College, Southwest Texas State College and, in 1969, Southwest Texas State University. Each name reflects the university's growth from small teacher preparation institution to major, multipurpose university.

Current discussions are underway regarding the possibility of another name change, to Texas State University, is likely to be introduced in the 2003 legislative session.

SWT's original purpose was to prepare Texas public school teachers, especially those of the south central Texas area, and it became well known for carrying out its mission. But SWT today is far different from what it was even ten years ago. What started out as a normal school now has two doctoral programs with nine more in the approval pipeline. Besides educating teachers in its College of Education, the

Continued on page 12C

Presidents of SWT

Thomas G. Harris
1903 - 1911

Cecil Eugene Evans
1911 - 1942

John Garland Flowers
1942 - 1964

James H. McCrocklin
1964 - 1969

Leland Derrick –
Acting -- 1969

Billy Mac Jones
1969 - 1973

Jerome C. Cates
Interim – 1973 – 1974

Lee Harvey Smith
1974 - 1981

Robert L. Hardesty
1981 to 1988

Michael L. Abbott *Interim*
– 1988-1989

Jerome H. Supple
1989 to the present

More than 100 Distinguished Alumni

honor that their alma mater can bestow upon them.

The DAA recipient list includes a broad cross section of former students – from LBJ and country western super star George Strait and nationally syndicated columnist Heloise (Ponce Heloise Cruse Evans) to Mamie Brown, recipient of SWT's first bachelor's degree; Fred Adams, the son of the founder of Adams Extract Co.; and Texas Supreme Court Judge Joe Frazier Brown. In addition to George Strait and Heloise, celebrity type alumni whose names and faces tend to be familiar are Powers Boothe, Thomas Carter, Chelcie Ross, Eugene Lee, Charles Barsotti, Charles Austin and G.W. Bailey.

Since the first award was presented, a host of prominent attorneys, business executives, scientists, writers and media executives, teachers, philanthropists, public servants and performers have been so honored.

Since the late President Lyndon B. Johnson received the first Distinguished Alumnus Award (DAA) from the SWT Alumni Association in 1959, more than 100 former students have received this highest

Eras by School Status

Southwest Texas State Normal School – Sept. 9, 1903 – 1916

Southwest Texas State Normal College – 1916-1923

First bachelor's degree awarded: 1919

Southwest Texas State Teachers College – 1923-1959

First master's degree awarded: 1937

Southwest Texas State College – 1959-1969

Southwest Texas State University – 1969

First doctoral degree awarded: 1999

SWT, Continued from page 11C

university offers programs in the Colleges of Applied Arts, Business Administration, Fine Arts and Communication, Health Professions, Liberal Arts and Science and Technology. The University College assures a broad general education for all students, regardless of major, and the Graduate College offers some 80 graduate programs, including doctorates in geographic education and environmental geography.

Although university officials have implemented enrollment management strategies, including rigorous academic standards, that have helped control growth, SWT's student population increased from 303 in 1903 to more than 22,400 in the fall of 2000, making it the seventh largest public university in the state.

SWT is by far the largest university in the Texas State University System, which is governed by a nine-member board of regents. Other system schools are Angelo State University, Lamar University-Beaumont, Lamar University Institute of Technology, Lamar University-Orange, Lamar University-Port Arthur, Sam Houston State University and Sul Ross State University.

Jerome H. Supple has successfully guided SWT as president since 1989, serving longer than any previous presidents except for its second, Cecil Eugene Evans, who was president for 1911 to 1942, and its third, John Garland Flowers, 1942 – 1964. Rounding out the list of men who have served as president are the first, Thomas G. Harris, 1903 – 1911, who later served as president of San Marcos Baptist Academy; James H. Mc Crocklin, 1964 – 1969; Leland E. Derrick (acting), 1969; Billy Mac Jones, 1969 – 1973; Jerome C. Cates (interim), 1973-1974;

Lee H. Smith, 1974 – 1981; Robert L. Hardesty, 1981 – 1988; and Michael L. Abbott (interim), 1988-1989.

It was Supple who led the university through its successful

Centennial celebration during 1999 that

included the successful completion of a capital campaign, the school's first major fundraising effort. Under his guidance, SWT has increased its emphasis on research while maintaining its strong focus on service and teaching excellence.

-- Pat Murdock

Let The Band Play On

The Bobcat Band was organized in the fall of 1919 with 22 student musicians. The band's first performance was at an SWT- San Marcos Baptist Academy football game on Nov. 28, 1919. The band got its first uniforms in 1928.

The high-stepping Strutters made their debut in 1960. They continued under the direction of their original choreographer, Mrs. Barbara Tidwell, until her retirement in 1996. From Bobcat football halftime shows to performances around the world, the Strutters gained fame with several movie appearances and a couple of national TV commercials – including one for Coca-Cola. More recent years have seen them travel around the world, including China.

Both the band and the Strutters gained national prominence when they performed in presidential inaugural parades in 1961 and 1965. National recognition was spurred by the 1965 performance that brought the SWT and UT-Austin bands head-to-head in competition for which group would lead the parade heralding the inauguration of SWT's own alumnus – President Lyndon B. Johnson.

Diversity at SWT

Old SWT records verify that a Hispanic surnamed student enrolled at SWT as early as 1906. Elena Zamora – who would become teacher and novelist Elena Zamora O'Sheay – attended the normal school in 1906 and the summer of 1911, in pursuit of teacher certification. By the 1920s, there were numerous Hispanic surnames on student rosters.

It was much later before African-American students would be admitted. In the beginning, students had to be at least 16 years old, reside in Texas and promise to teach in the public schools. They also had to be white.

In February of 1963, five young African-American women registered for classes on the hill as a result of a U.S. District Court order. The first – Dana Jean Smith – had applied for admission for the fall of 1962 but was rejected because the school charter required that students be white Americans. She pursued admission through the courts, with success. She and fellow students Georgia Faye Hoode, Gloria Odoms, Mabeleen Washington and Helen Jackson became the first African-American students enrolled at SWT. Smith, a San Marcos resident, received a bachelor's degree in elementary education in 1967.

With the signing of the Higher Education Act of 1965 at his alma mater, SWT's most distinguished alumnus, President Lyndon B. Johnson, focused the nation's attention on the school's commitment to equal access and diversity. Diversity continues to be one of SWT's highest priorities, and today minorities represent more than 25 percent of the student body.



Jake Pickle, Congressman

When Jake Pickle was a high school student in 1930's Big Spring, his English teacher was a young Southwest Texas graduate, Ralph Houston. In 1989, Mr. Pickle came to San Marcos to visit his old teacher one last time.

Having learned that Dr. Houston--by then retired after a distinguished career as a faculty member and English Department Chairman at SWT-- was terminally ill, Mr. Pickle had me schedule a visit and they spent a wintry Christmas season afternoon in Ralph's book-lined study reminiscing about Depression-era West

Texas, Texas political battles and mutual friends. Two weeks later, Ralph was gone.

This story is supposed to be about Jake Pickle's contributions to San Marcos as Congressman for almost 30 years--20 per cent of our history--and there are plenty but in this era of overheated rhetoric from both parties, the quality that stands out important about Jake Pickle is the fact that we were represented by a kind, thoughtful man.

He never forgot a friend. He never let his lofty position as second-ranking member on the House Ways and Means Committee keep him from

attending to the problems of the folks back who all were on a first-name basis with him. And he would have eaten a whole box of those ubiquitous "Squeaky Pickles" before he stood in front of a TV camera

and criticized a colleague of either party.

Of course, those qualities--which seem so innocent in the present battleground that is Congress--were part of the secret to his success. Senator Phil Gramm, a most conservative Republican, always remembered that it was Jake Pickle who took him under his wing as a freshman Congressman (even providing office space until he was assigned one) and mentored him.

As a result, when a Pickle-sponsored bill went over to a Republican majority Senate, it faced a much easier time than many of his Democratic colleagues' initiatives.

Another secret to his success was his astounding intelligence--belied by his folksy manner--about the intricacies of the federal legislature and bureaucracy. Of course, he had learned from the master, Lyndon B. Johnson.

Mr. Pickle had been LBJ's "wood and water man" in the historic 1948 Senate election. One of his favorites stories is about the assignments to go into small Texas communities and build up a crowd for an LBJ appearance by heralding the candidate's arrival in a spectacular manner--by helicopter.

As the copter would circle the rally site before landing, Johnson would

lean out of the cockpit and toss his Stetson into the crowd. "My job was to get it back," Mr. Pickle will tell you, adding proudly, "And I always did."

When LBJ persuaded President John F. Kennedy to appoint Homer Thornberry, his successor as Congressman for the 10th District, to a federal judgeship, Mr. Pickle was anointed to run for the vacancy.

After a bitter special election (many liberal Democrats opposed JJP because he had been chairman of the State Democratic Executive Committee under conservative Governor Allan Shivers), he took the office he was to hold until his 1994 retirement.

Ironically, he fully-expected to be one-term Congressman. Assuming the Presidency after the JFK assassination, LBJ moved swiftly to enact sweeping civil rights legislation. Mr. Pickle knew support for such action was not going to be broad in what was still a rural Congressional district.

Nonetheless, he was the only non-minority member of the Texas congressional delegation (Henry B. Gonzales of San Antonio cast the other "aye") to vote for the Civil Rights Act of 1964, an action he now regards as "the best vote I ever made."

Mr. Pickle survived criticism of that vote. Aside from a liberal Democratic opponent in the 1974 primary and a 1986 general election challenge from now-State Comptroller Carol Rylander (both of which he won with about 70 per of the vote), he was never seriously challenged.

He took care of his people. He took care in the small ways--the missing Social Security check for Aunt Bettie-- and the big ways--overseeing the revision of the entire Social Security program when its solvency was threatened in the 1970's. In San Marcos, his efforts are everywhere. They can be seen at Gary Job Corps, Southwest Texas, the neighborhoods of the Southside. And of course--the dams.

After touring the flood-ravaged city in 1972, he used his skills at the legislative process to create the flood control system. When a 500-year flood struck in 1998, the damage was bad but nothing compared to what it would have been without the dams. I wrote an article on the first anniversary of the 1998 flood reminding San Marcans of Mr. Pickle's efforts.

Subsequently, Mr. Pickle received a letter--which he shared with me--from a fellow who had retired here in 1995.

Neighboring the Sink Creek Dam, the writer noted that "he could never imagine that enough rain would fall to fill the dam," always considered it "just another example of pork barrel spending" and referred to it as the "Pickledoggle."

But on the day that two feet of water fell in 24 hours, he had made his way to the site and recorded photographic evidence of the dam's performance. "Clearly, your efforts saved the town of San Marcos," the writer concluded, noting that he now referred to "this very special structure" as the "Dam Pickle Project." Jake Pickle did save San Marcos from a disaster that would still be haunting us. He has helped thousands of us in countless ways.

Still, the quality I always go back to is his innate decency and integrity, the burning desire to have people work together to solve problems rather than seeking short-term political gain by creating division and casting aspersions. It is a quality he fortunately passed on to many of his friends--former County Judge Bud Burnett, former Mayors Kathy Morris and Billy Moore and present Mayor David Chiu. It is a quality that would serve San Marcos well in the next 150 years.

Contact Bill Cunningham at bcpr@centurytel.net

By Bill Cunningham

When one takes a close look at the weather of the 1900s in Texas, one finds, as expected, a great deal of variability. Warm years, dry years, colder years, warmer years.. they're all there.

Seasons of plenty

Weather across the ages

By Troy Kimmel

Weathering the storms of the 19th century

San Marcos Free Press editor Isaac H. Julian frequently chronicled the county's weather. He didn't have nerve enough to try to predict whether or not it would rain or not, but his comments (and complaints) leave us with as good a record as we have of the 1870s.

1874

The weather is dry much of the year; heavy rains in June help salvage some of the crops. Summer is hot and dry. In August the *Free Press* reports that drought has killed seven-eighths of Kentucky's tobacco crop. Very heavy rains come in October, creating the usual muddy mess in downtown San Marcos.

1875

On April 3, the *Free Press* reports that the winter in the North has been the coldest in 40 years. In Hays County, a heavy frost comes after Easter.

Drought returns in the summer, with "wells and cisterns failing" through September.

In September a "great storm"

Continued on page 15C

We started off the 20th Century with Texas experiencing one of the worst tropical cyclones in history. The "Galveston Hurricane," as it is known, moved ashore on the upper Texas coast just west of Galveston on the evening of September 8, 1900. Over 6,000 people perished (recent research has suggested that number should be closer to 8,000) in the hurricane.

In early April, 1900, flooding mainly north of San Marcos resulted in flooding along the Colorado River. This caused the collapse of the McDonald Dam which resulted in 23 deaths in the Austin area.

December of 1901 was rather chilly marked by a severe cold wave about the middle of the month which resulted in Brownsville recording a 15 degree F minimum temperature.

May 18, 1902 saw one of the state's worst tornadoes in history as Goliad was virtually wiped off the map. 114 persons were killed by the tornado which would be later ranked by modern meteorologists as an F5 tornado. On the same day, a tornado (F2) moved from 3 miles west of Kyle to 6 miles northwest of Kyle about 2 p.m. One injury was reported.

1903 was one of the coldest years in Texas weather history. Overall, in Texas, the year's average temperature was about 2 to 3 degrees below what was "normal." 1904 followed as a year that saw temperatures and precipitation pretty close to average although the year ended on a dry note across central areas of the state. In August of 1907, heavy flooding was reported along the Colorado River during the early part of the month.

1908 and 1909 saw temperatures warmer than average with a trend toward much drier weather.

1910s

The early 1910's saw Texas.. and particularly central Texas.. as warm and dry years. River flows, it is noted, were generally much below normal. By 1912, while the dry weather continued, the pat-



Carl H. Deal, III

March, 1999

tern turned colder with rain finally picking up in 1913, which ended up being a year with colder and wetter than average weather. November of 1913 was particularly wet with "unprecedented" floods along the Guadalupe, the Colorado (below Austin) and the Brazos Rivers. These floods caused over 3,000 square miles to be inundated, 177 persons to die and property damage estimated at \$8.5 million. 1914 into 1915 continued wet and cold. Many rivers flooded during these years with high monetary losses. After a brief drying and warming trend during late summer 1914, more floods and much colder weather returned late in the year and continued into 1915. On April 22 and 23, heavy rains caused 40 people to lose their lives by drowning, 32 of these in Austin.

1916 saw warming temperatures and drier weather overall, while 1917 ended up being one of the driest months in Texas history. Hays County saw annual rainfall of 12 to 14 inches... which is over 60% less than what long term precipitation averages are for the county. Serious drought conditions continued into 1918.

What nature brings, nature also takes away as 1919 ended up being one of the wettest months on record in the Lone Star State. Most parts of Hays County saw, at least, 60 inches of rain for the year!

Continued on page 15C

Weather, continued

1920s

1921 goes down as a red letter year in Texas weather history. In September, one of the most intense rainstorms to ever be recorded in U. S. weather history as a weak tropical cyclone came ashore in Mexico on September 7. As it meandered northward, on the 9th and 10th, rain gauges near Taylor and Thrall in Williamson County recorded over 38 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. 215 people were killed, bridges and railroad tracks were washed away and \$19 million in damage was realized. This storm, according to National Weather Service records, produced about 10 to 15 inches of rain across Hays County.

Inclement weather continued from 1921 into 1922 when two tornadoes on May 4, 1922, killed 12 persons near Austin. More stormy weather was noted in 1924, when in April, another tornado killed five people in Travis County with extensive hail damage noted. 1925, even as it was a warmer and drier year than average, continued as an active weather year when on April 28th, a tornado (F2) killed 3 persons about 3 miles east of Kyle with some accounts stating that hailstones in Hays County were piled to a depth of 10 inches. This tornado left 40 people with injuries.

1927 was a dry and, in addition, a warm year; in fact, one of the warmest on record in Texas. April 1927 saw one of the worst tornadoes in Texas history with the town of Rocksprings, in Edwards County, virtually wiped away. Of the 800 people living in Rocksprings, 72 were killed and over 200 injured by what is now ranked as a "F5" tornado.

1930s

Severe drought would plague large portions of Texas in the mid and late 1930s. This drought was widespread bringing about the "dust bowl" days of the plains states. Warmer and drier weather is noted in Texas weather records even as early as the early 1930s.

Notable exceptions were there, though. Torrential rains did fall over parts of south central Texas in late June and early July of 1932 with flooding noted on the Guadalupe River system. Seven deaths and \$500,000 damage was reported.

Beginning in 1933, temperatures were noted to be well above average. Dry weather set in, as well. This pattern continued into the first few months of 1935. As the weather pattern turned wetter, March 5, 1935 saw a severe hailstorm hit San Antonio with over \$1 million in damage to autos and homes. As if that wasn't enough, May and June of 1935 ended up being very wet with devastating floods along the Colorado River.

Even as drought continued in other parts of the state, May through October 1936 saw flooding in central parts of the state. Heavy rain in south central Texas in July 1936 led to a flood on the Guadalupe River which resulted in 20 deaths.

The fall of 1937 turned colder with an unusual snow storm during the pre Thanksgiving period across parts of south central Texas. Austin picked up 10 inches of snow on the 22nd and 23rd of November.

1940s

Overall, the 1940s were wet years in Texas, but drought was noticed in weather records by late 1948.

January 1940 was a cold month; in fact, weather records indicate that snow fell in most areas of Texas with the exception of the extreme southern part of the state.. with, at least several inches observed in most areas during the month. 1940 was also a wet year with June having heavy rains that resulted in floods on the

Guadalupe and Colorado River systems. This led to 1941 which was, in addition, a very wet year. Hays County rainfall during 1941 averaged 40 to 45 inches.

Although Texas was hit by a tropical cyclone in August 1942, it was not a year of extremes in Texas. It wasn't until 1943 that a drying trend was recognized only to replaced a wetter than normal year in 1944. Tornadoes on May 1, 1944 killed three persons in Travis and Williamson counties.

May 1946 was not a good month to be in San Antonio. A severe hailstorm hit on May 16th with a severe thunderstorm and damaging winds noted on May 29th.

Drier than normal weather was noted in late 1948, only to be replaced by wetter than normal weather again in early 1949. Of more interest in late January of 1949 was one of the worst cold waves in history for Texas with all time record lows for many stations still holding through today. Temperatures through Hays County were at or below zero. Ice storms and measurable snow were seen in many areas.

1950s

Drought was the name of the game in the 1950s... at least into 1957. The driest of the years.. being 1954 and 1956.. were two of the driest in Texas history.

There were, again, notable exceptions. The remnants of a tropical storm brought drought ending heavy rains to the hill country west and southwest of Austin in mid September of 1952. Streams in the Colorado and Guadalupe River systems flooded. Five persons were killed. On September 11, 1952, both Blanco and Hye, in Blanco County, reported more than 17 inches of rain within 24 hours.

Another period of flooding following hill country rains produced a 56 foot rise in Lake Travis, west of Austin, in a single 24 hour period on September 17th!

On May 11, 1953, a tornado struck San Angelo with 11 killed and 150 injured. Only two hours later, Waco was extensively damaged with 114 killed and another 600 injured by another tornado.

In early September 1955, Hurricane Gladys struck the Texas coast and resulted in flooding across parts of south central Texas.

1956 was seen as the most extreme period of the 1950s drought with rainfall across Hays County noted to be around 15 inches, less than 50% of the average annual precipitation.

The drought ended, though, as rainfall returned to Texas with a vengeance in 1957. Rainfall averages continued above average through 1958 and 1959.

1960s

These are noted as the "wet and dry years" with 1962 through 1964 noted as dry years and 1960, and 1968 through 1969 averaging out above average rainfall wise.

A tropical storm moved ashore into Texas on June 23rd, 1960. Flooding resulted on the lower Colorado and Guadalupe Rivers. The fall ended up being wet, too, with a storm on October 28, 1960 producing 7 to 10 inches of rain in parts of Austin. 11 persons were killed and 300 were forced to evacuate.

Hurricane Carla struck the Texas coast on September 11th, 1961 with the storm moving northward through central and north Texas. 34 persons were killed statewide and 465 people were reportedly injured.

1962 through 1963 and into 1964 were dry years. By July

19th Century Weather from page 14C

(hurricane?) strikes Galveston. A relief meeting is held at the San Marcos Methodist Church on Oct. 2, 1875 and \$108.20 is raised to aid the victims.

Drought continues at home, reaching its height in November, when McKie's Branch of Purgatory Creek goes dry. By December, though, the rainy season is reportedly "on."

1876

This must have been a frightfully cold winter. The *Free Press* reports in February that the temperature has dropped below zero several times.

"Copious" rains are welcomed in the summer after a dry spring. But by August, dry conditions have returned, as has oppressive heat. The *Free Press* reports that the average August temperature was just over 96 degrees, with a high of 104 and a low of 84.

In September the drought was in earnest. The Blanco reportedly failed "for milling purposes," with water only found in "deep holes".

In December, a harsh winter begins. Ice is reported a half-inch thick on two separate occasions.

1877

Dry weather is gone, temporarily. So says Julian in the Feb. 17 *Free Press*: "The heaviest rain we have had for many months came the first of the week. It filled the streams and ponds, so stock water is again abundant. The weather has been cloudy, and rather wintry."

A great hail storm comes up on March 20 — hail as "big as hens' eggs" is reported.

Hail storms also strike other parts of the state. One fun if improbable report comes from

Seasons of Plenty

continued from page 15C

1964, many small Texas communities were experiencing water shortages.

Rainfall picked up statewide from 1965 into 1966 with May of 1966 noted for record setting rainfall amounts across South Texas.

On September 20th, 1967, Hurricane Beulah struck the Texas coast near the mouth of the Rio Grande near Brownsville. Most areas south of San Antonio received 10 to 20 inches of rain from the storm. In addition, Beulah spawned a record number of tropical cyclone related tornadoes.. 115, in fact.. the worst to strike was at Palacios on September 20th where four people died.

1970s

Heavy rains and the associated flash flooding was common in the 1970s.

On May 14th, 1970, rains of 15 inches fell over the watershed of the San Marcos River resulting in a flood wave which inundated over a third of the city of San Marcos. This is noted as one of the worst floods in the history of the city. Two deaths were reported.

Hurricane Celia came ashore on the Texas coast (between Corpus Christi and Port Aransas) on August 3rd, 1970, and then proceeded west northwestward into the mountains of northern Mexico where it dissipated.

1970 ended and 1971 started out as a dry period in Texas but rainfall picked by by summer of 1971. By late 1971, rainfall in south Texas was enough to bring annual rainfall totals to some of the highest in 10 to 20 years.

During the second week in May of 1972, south central Texas suffered when torrential rains resulted in flooding along the Guadalupe and Comal River resulting in severe flooding in New Braunfels and Seguin. Sixteen persons drowned and damage estimates were set at \$17 million. The wet weather continued into 1973 and 1974. Flash floods on November 23rd, 1974 killed 12 persons in south central Texas (10 in Austin and two deaths in San Marcos) and resulted in \$1 million in damages.

1975 also saw inclement weather across south central Texas. On May 23, 1975, severe thunderstorms and floods hit the area around Austin. 4 to 7 inch rains were recorded. Four drowned in Lee, Milam and Travis counties. Thunderstorm winds of 80 mph and large hail caused damage totalling \$5 million.

1976 was noted as a cooler than average year with rain being fairly common. April 1976 was a particularly wet month across south central Texas. The fall months saw snow in many areas of northern Texas.

1977 turned the corner as far as rainfall was concerned as it ended up being one of the driest years in Texas since the early and mid 1960s. Drier than normal weather continued through the first half of 1978. Tropical Storm Amelia moved ashore on the Texas coast in early August causing some of the worst flooding of the century in the hill country north and west of San Antonio. In Bandera, Kerr, Kendall and Gillespie counties, the flood death toll reached 27. Canyon Dam

saw water rise to the spillway.

1979 was one of the colder years in history but that wasn't the big weather story. The Wichita Falls tornado of April 10th, 1979 killed 53 people and 1800 were injured. More than 20,000 were left homeless and damages topped \$400 million. On July 24th, 1979, a relatively weak tropical storm, named Claudette, moved ashore near Galveston causing little damage with its 50 to 60 mph winds. On the following three days, however, torrential rains developed. During one 24 hour period, the National Weather Service office at Alvin recorded 25.8 inches of rain. An unofficial gauge about 3 miles northwest of Alvin reported 43 inches of rain in a 24 hour period during the 25th and 26th. Flooding followed with \$230 million in damages.

1980s

1980 was highlighted by Hurricane Allen which moved ashore on the Texas coast on the 9th of August. 29 individual tornadoes were spawned by Allen with tornadoes striking the Austin airport. Another tornado (F2) moved from east of San Marcos westward across the north part of the city then westward into Blanco county about 5 p.m. in the afternoon. 20 injuries were reported. Extensive damage was reported near the IH35/Loop 82 intersection in San Marcos. This caused \$20 million in damage, most of that in San Marcos.

1981 was one of the wettest years in history in parts of Texas. On May 24th and 25th of 1981, disastrous floods struck the Shoal Creek watershed in Austin with over 10 inches of rain observed. Flash floods swept 13 persons to their deaths. Flood damage in and around Austin was estimated at \$35-40 million.

1982 saw a great number of tornadoes in the state with temperatures being above average. This continued in 1983 with a flash flood on May 10th noted along the Pedernales River in Blanco county where flood water surged through a youth camp site. One counselor and three youth drowned. Another Texas weather event was recorded in August when Hurricane Alicia moved ashore near Galveston. Alicia is now the costliest hurricane in Texas history; damage was figured to be \$13 billion.

By late 1983, temperatures began to cool so that by December 1983, many Texans experienced some of the coldest temperatures in recent memory. This colder than normal weather continued into January 1984.

1985 started off with a snow storm that blanketed much of south Texas with snow amounts of 6 to 14 inches in an area from Eagle Pass to north of Uvalde to near San Antonio. The National Weather Service office near San Antonio International Airport had 13.5 inches of snow on the ground at one time during the storm.

November of 1985 was a very wet month for San Marcos with a new daily rainfall record set on November 24th when 9.02 inches of rain in the 24 hour period.

Wet and warm was the best way to sum up 1986 across Texas. Most all major weather stations in the state recorded well above average temperatures and precipitation. In December, San Antonio recorded 7.11 inches of rain while Austin reported 5.77 inches.. both being records for the month.

1987 weather made headlines. Following January and March snowstorms across northwest Texas, a tornado on May 22nd, 1987, completely destroyed the west Texas town of Saragosa. 30 people were killed and 121 were injured with 85% of the structures in the small town destroyed. June and July of 1987 was exceptionally wet across south central Texas with many locations recording in excess of 20 inches of rain for the two months. Flash flooding in the San Antonio area from the 1st through the 17th of June resulted in three deaths. Less than a month later, heavy rains of up to 11 inches flooded Blanco, Kerr, Gillespie, Hays and Kinney counties. In eastern Kerr county, a caravan of school buses leaving a summer church camp were caught in the raging flood waters sweeping 39 teenagers and four adults downstream. 10 persons drowned in the event while 33 were rescued from the treetops by police and media helicopters.

Dry conditions returned to areas in central and east Texas in 1988. In September, Hurricane Gilbert (the most intense hurricane on record in the Atlantic basin!!) swept into northern Mexico. 29 confirmed tornadoes occurred over south Texas as a result of the storm. Six of those tornadoes occurred in the San Antonio area on September 17th. One caused extensive damage to Kelly Air Force Base. \$28 million dollars in damage was reported. Another tornado hit northwest San Antonio near the Texas Medical Complex with \$4 million in damage. Other significant tornadoes were reported near Del Rio.

1989 saw wetter weather return to much of Texas. On May 5th, severe thunderstorms produced 1- 3/4" hail at San Marcos Municipal Airport. Thunderstorms over central Texas on May 17th and 18th produced an early morning tornado at Jarrell that resulted in one death. At the end of the year, bitterly cold air surged into Texas with the period of December 19th through 23rd being the coldest that many reporting stations had ever seen during any December.

1990 to 2000

The 1990s were noted for a great deal of variability in weather across Texas. At the same time, though, the Texas coast was spared from any major land falling hurricanes during this time period. In addition, there weren't many extreme cold outbreaks during the winter months with freezing and frozen precipitation being uncommon in the south central areas of Texas during the ten year period.

Late 1991 into 1992 was very wet with significant flash flooding, then river flooding over much of south central Texas. Record flooding was reported on the Colorado River Basin.

There was stormy weather in 1992. On May 27th , thunderstorms produced 1 1/2" hail in parts of Hays County.

On September 7th, 1994, 2 Hays High School students, walking to classes outside, were struck by lightning from afternoon thunderstorms. Amazingly, both survived the direct lightning strikes.

On May 27th, 1996, severe thunderstorms produced 1 3/4" hail in Nederwald.

May 27th, 1997 will be remembered by many cen-

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19th Century Weather from page 15C

San Saba County in May; a storm reportedly stacks hail eight feet deep, and it was still four feet deep two days later. Many sheep and a few people are reported killed.

A rare complaint from local farmers, in the same issue: “A little too much rain, the farmers say.”

1879

In April, heavy rains arrive to end a dry period. “The Blanco, which had ceased to run for many months, is scarcely fordable after the rains,” Julian writes on April 26.

Mountain City farmers report in May that the rains have saved the corn and cotton crops, though not much. Julian notes it will “probably be one-fourth the usual crop, which is better than no bread.”

The drought grows more severe as the year wears on. In October many wells fail, including the public well in San Marcos. A correspondent for the *New York Herald* traveling through the county in November notes that the Blanco is dry. On Dec. 13, Julian issues high praise to this or any drought:

“We believe that this is getting to be the driest season ever known in Texas, 1857 not excepted.” u

Seasons of Plenty from page 16C

tral Texan as the day that a F5 tornado swept south and westward into Jarrell, Texas in Williamson County with incredible damage and 27 people killed. An hour later, another tornado hit Cedar Park (northwestern area of the Austin Metro Area) resulting in another death and more damage.

What is now referred to as the "Great October Floods" of October 1998 will long be remembered as producing major river flooding all across south central Texas. River flooding was catastrophic on the Guadalupe and San Marcos Rivers. Up to 30 inches of rain fell in extreme southern Hays county and northern Comal county just south and west of San Marcos. 25 people drowned. 100 homes were destroyed and 3000 homes were damaged. u

Tales of Old San Marcos Points of Interest

Henry C. Kyle, Jr. When Austin Street was changed to Lyndon Baines Johnson Drive, these two men with business addresses on that street could not stomach the new name. Kercheville's Pontiac dealership was on the corner of Austin and Colorado (now University Drive). All of his papers listed his address as Austin Street--now to be LBJ Drive. Alex switched his address to Colorado. Henry was not on a corner and thus could not use Alex's dodge. But Henry was equal to the occasion and changed his address to read: East Side of the Square.”

Bank Robbery

The building which for a few years had the gold leaf sign, “First Bank, Beacon City,” where Sam Peckinpah shot the Getaway with Ali McGraw and Steve McQueen in 1972, was the scene of a real bank robbery almost 40 years before. About 3 a.m. on a bitter cold January 5, 1924, four men, the Newton gang, systematically isolated the building, destroyed communications, and blew open a vault while winds of a “norther” howled outside, and got away with \$24,000 in cash and \$18,000 in securities. Norman Jackson, a young groceryman and later Mayor of San Marcos, was an eyewitness to the event. He lived in an apartment over the Mutual Mercantile across the street. When he went downstairs to investigate, he was told by one of the Newton perimeter guards to go back upstairs. He did not hesitate to do so. A bakery worker down the street had a similar encounter...The sheriff and his deputies arrived right after the robbers had fled. On February 22, 1977, two survivors of the Newton gang, now respectable citizens, returned to San Marcos to help a fund drive for the San Marcos Museum. They (Joe, 74, and Willis, 86) talked freely of how they carried out the job and boasted they had never killed anyone. They had carried out robberies across the nation (some 60-odd) until they were arrested after botching a \$3 million mail train robbery in Chicago.

The Great Commoner Speaks in San Marcos

One of the most celebrated events in San Marcos in the 1920s was the speech of William Jennings Bryan at the Baptist tabernacle on February 8, 1924. The San Marcos Record said that “all schools will turn out to attend.” In fact it seems that the entire town will suspend business for the hour in honor of the great statesman... the greatest living American citizen and statesman.” The tabernacle probably seated 1,000 people--yet some 2,500 assembled in and around..to hear the great commoner who was introduced by Governor Pat M. Neff. For about an hour and a half Bryan condemned “5,000 evolutionist professors in colleges and universities for destroying the youths' conception of God and belief in Christ.” The tabernacle was on the site of the (now HEB) parking lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of Hutchison and Comanche Streets...

Before the Days of Monopoly

Few young people realize how relatively new “supermarkets” are. When I came to San Marcos in 1946 as late as that date seems to me, small grocery stores ringed the square. At about the location of Lamar's Barber Shop on LBJ, there was a Piggley-Wiggley small chain store; across the square was Dement and Jacks Grocery Store. On the corner of Hopkins and Austin Street was Norman Jackson's Grocery Store. Next to the State Bank & Trust on W. Hopkins was the Red and White Grocery Store; and on West San Antonio within view of the Courthouse was Hoch's Grocery. One block up Austin Street at the corner of Hutchison Street was Smith's Grocery. In 1946 there was a small, weathered shanty at the present location of the Colloquium parking lot which was Mrs. Murray's Grocery. After several successful years Mrs. Murray put up a somewhat larger masonry building (IGA) store and finally the building which is the headquarters of Colloquium Books. With the coming of the supermarkets--Wuest's, then H.E.B., and Safeway, Mrs. Murray's came to and end--perhaps the end of an era. All of the little grocery stores eventually disappeared.

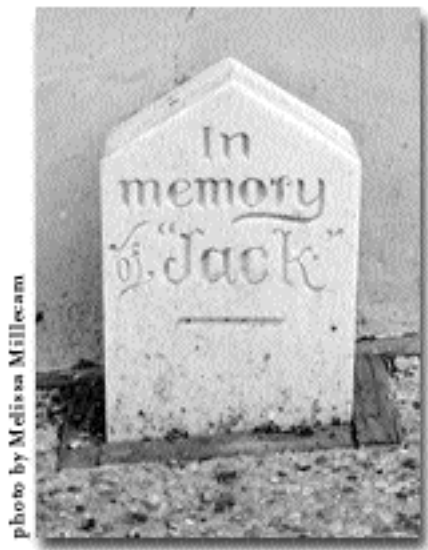
Remembering Jack the Fire Dog

The tiny marker in front of the old City Hall on Guadalupe Street with “Jack” on it honors the long-time mascot of the San Marcos Volunteer Fire Department. Jack, a fox terrier, was bought from a passerby for one dollar by one of the firemen. He was for years the faithful mascot until one fateful day around Christmas of 1922. Jack, as was his wont, was hanging around a nearby meat market when the fire bell began to ring. He ran to the firehouse to carry out his responsibilities, but he was hit in the head and killed by a hose coupling. [Taped interview of May 3, 1978 with retired Fire Chief Lewis Haynes and longtime fireman, Eddie Serur, San Marcos Public Library].

No Fans of LBJ

My favorite anecdote concerning the San Marcos business district involved two of the city's most distinguished conservatives--the late Alex Kercheville and the

By Dick Henderson





Boyd Hale sets hot type at the *San Marcos Record*. (c. 1940)

A
chronicle
of
newsprint
and
ink

Newspapers of San Marcos

During its 150 years of existence San Marcos has been the home of nearly 20 newspapers. They varied in longevity, ranging from a few issues for *The Saturday Morning Eye* around 1910 to *The San Marcos Record*, which is now a daily, and is more than 90 years old.

Owners and editors have come and gone with some frequency, particularly in the early years when the town was struggling to get off dead center and experience both economic and numerical growth. Many of the first newspapers were also printing shops and some were highly competitive operations.

Some of the publishers were paragons of virtue and became community leaders. Others were more flamboyant.

The very first, George Snyder, a fire-eater from Georgia who came to San Marcos in the early days of reconstruction, was one of the latter.

He established the *San Marcos Pioneer*, the late 1860's, but gave up the ghost and turned its operation over to Joe

Manlove, an attorney with deep county roots, and to Ed Kone, whose family came to Stringtown in the early 1850's. Kone later held the county judgeship for a record number of years and eventually ended up as Commissioner of Education for the state.

Snyder went back to Georgia for awhile, but returned in the 1890's and owned a large farm in Stringtown. One Sunday in 1891, he greeted his wife as she returned from church with a shotgun blast and he ended up in the state penitentiary for an extended stay.

Manlove was a better lawyer than editor and in 1873 he got lucky. Isaac Julian, an experienced editor from Indiana showed up in San Marcos, looking for a more healthy climate for his wife.

Julian, overcoming the fact that he was a "Yankee" and a nephew of Congressman George Julian who had long been a staunch supporter of punitive measures against the South following Lincoln's death, to become the most able newspaperman of the 19th Century in this area of the state.

He fought for the establishment of public schools and tended to take the side of the middle class citizens of the town against the long established political hierarchy. Many people didn't like him, but he but out a top notch newspaper that won the respect of readers for more than 30 years.

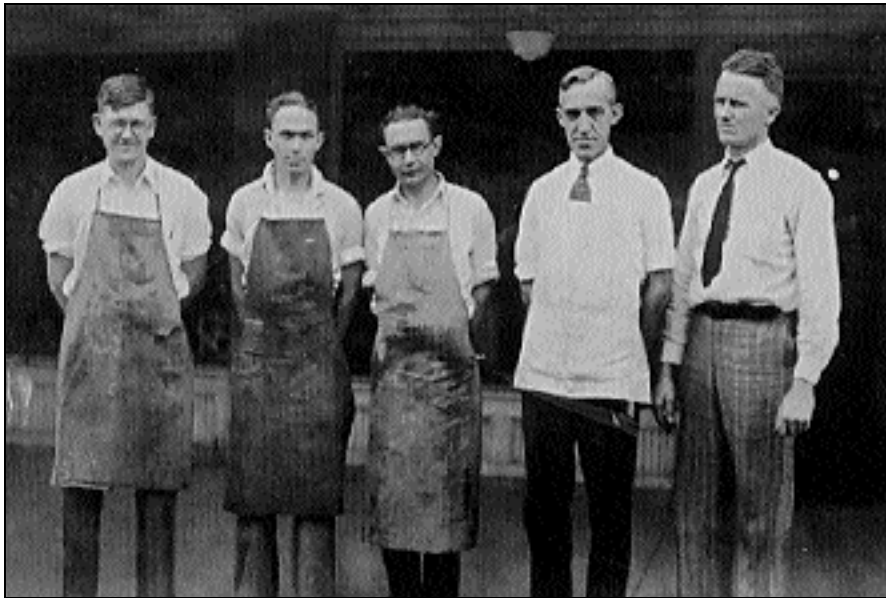
In the 1892 he sold *The Free Press* to a man incapable of keeping it going. A few years later he became an ardent Populist and put out *The People's Era* for several years during the height of the political controversies of that decade.

His enemies had earlier tried to bring in opposing newspapers to try to put him out of business. A man named Marion brought out *The Busy Bee* in 1874, but it folded within six months.

Sheriff Henry Barber and attorney B.G. Neighbors fell out with Julian and backed a newspaper in Kyle



San
Marcos' first
newspaperman Isaac Julian.



San Marcos Record office (c. 1940) Addison Buckner, Boyd Hale, unknown, Dewi Graham and Alphas Coers.

(Photo courtesy of Garnette Hale)

Newsprint and Ink, continued

called the *Hays County Times*. They persuaded the county commissioners to move the profitable county printing business to that paper and for awhile there was a holy war of words between Julian and the *Times* editor, Jeff McLemore.

Young and impetuous, McLemore filled his pages with love poems to various area belles and sometimes pulled the cork from a bottle too often.

His printing shop caught fire and burned to the ground and McLemore moved away. Less than 20 years later he was a member of the U.S. Congress and a constant thorn in the side of President Woodrow Wilson.

Ironically, about 40 years ago a large delegation of prominent state historians showed up looking for McLemore's printing press. They believed that it was the famed printing press used in Texas Revolutionary times that had been dumped in Buffalo Bayou to keep Santa Anna from capturing it.

It was a wild goose chase. The burned press had long since been sold for a pittance to a junk dealer.

A stronger challenge to Julian was started in 1885 by C.M. Hull and given the unusual name of *The San Marcos Cresset*. It was a better paper, but Hull was hotheaded and on one occasion fired a shot at rival Julian's son. In 1887 he sold it to David McNaughton who simultaneously moved his Kyle paper, called *The Hays County Times and Farmers Journal* to San Marcos.

McNaughton was moderately successful and his son George took it on after the turn of the century and turned it into the San Marcos Daily Times. However it too went out of business in 1920.

The Busy Bee and the *Cresset* weren't the only newspapers with unusual names. Horace Luckett and Sidney Mooney started the *San Marcos Daily Thomas Cat* in 1899, but barely lasted into the 20th Century before folding its tent.

There were other turn of the century papers, including *The San Marcos Star Vindicator* with a woman proprietor-Mrs. C.K. McPherson. One of her sons, Lee Rountree, later became a famous journalist and served as president of the National Editorial Association.

About 1902 Pappy Harris started *The San Marcos Daily Herald*, lasted about a year and sold it to W.S. Davis, who later consolidated it with the *San Marcos Leader*, which was birthed by B.R. Blankenship. This paper was eventually consolidated with McNaughton's *Daily Times*.

The longest established newspaper, *The San Marcos Record*, was first established in 1910 by George Staples of Llano. During the next decade it went through two or three other owners before T.A. Buckner of Bandera and his partner G.C. Jones purchased the Record in 1921.

Buckner prospered and he and his son Walter bought Jones' interests a few years later and another son, Addison came home from World War One and joined the team. Before they sold it in the 1970's, a third generation of Buckner's had joined the management team.

Since that sale to the Worrell chain, it has changed hands several times, and is now owned by Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc., which operates more than 100 newspapers throughout the country.

During the last 40 years there have been a number of other local newspapers. T.F. Harwell was a contemporary of the elder Buckner's and had established *The Kyle News* in that town in 1903. Nearly 50 years later his family sold it to a group of young Southwest Texas State University students and in 1955 its name was changed to *The Hays County Citizen*. During the late 50's it was purchased by Garland Stokes and moved to San Marcos for several years before returning to Kyle.

In 1972, it returned to San Marcos, with Bob and Wynette Barton, as publishers, and built up a strong readership. However it too ended up in 1978 under the ownership of the chain and was eventually consolidated with *The Record*.

Another political newspaper came out in the 50s and 60s usually around election time, published by Johnny Morales. *El Reportero* was a staunch supporter of Sheriff Jack Gary and an opponent of the City Hall ruling majority - "The Powerful Three."

The highly politicized 1970's also saw the evolution of *The Weather Report*, put out for a number of years as an "underground" newspaper by John Pfeffer, a Southwest Texas State University student.

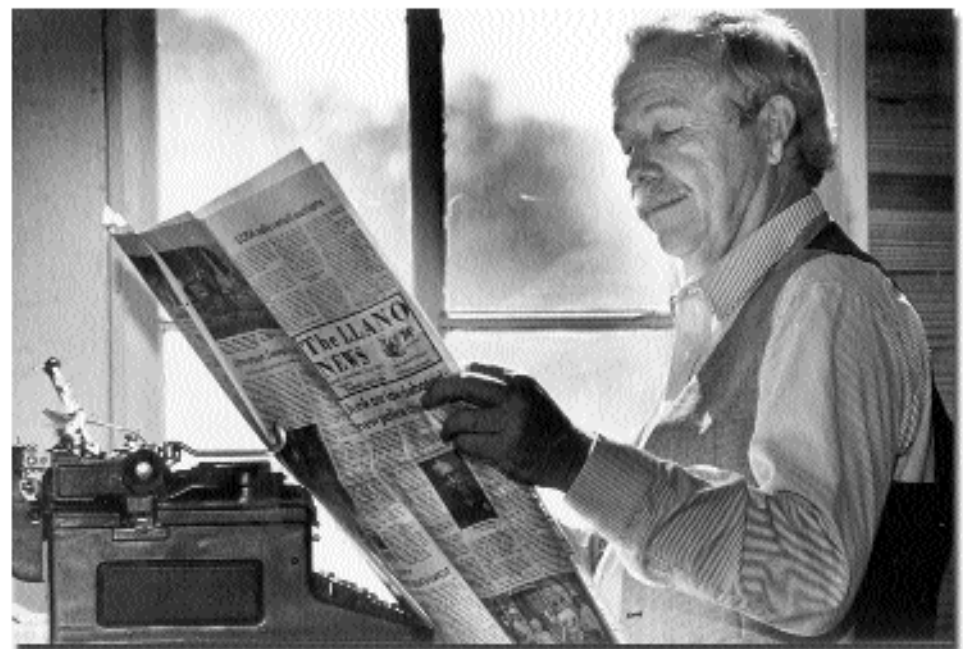
Juan Palomo and Melissa Millecam also published an alternative newspaper for several years during the early '70's, called *La Otra Voz*. It was later consolidated with *The Hays County Citizen*.

The San Marcos News was another newspaper of this era. Owned and operated by several different owners, including Bud Buckner and W.C. Carson, it, too, eventually was purchased by *The Daily Record*.

The University Star has been published by SWT students since the early days of the school and numbers among its former editors, Lyndon Johnson.

During the past two years, Diana Finlay, along with Carl Deal and a talented pool of writers, joined me and my co-workers in publishing *The Chautauquan*, an alternative newsweekly with a strong emphasis on entertainment, public affairs and lots of commentary. It was a popular success and well-accepted by readers throughout the county but like a lot of the start-up businesses that boom for a while on the NASDAQ, it didn't register the economic growth that was necessary to sustain it over the long haul.

Currently *The Free Press*, headquartered in the Hays School District, also puts out a San Marcos weekly edition. This special edition is put out through the joint efforts of *The Free Press* and *The San Marcos Daily Record*.



Bob Barton, Jr.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Building Bridges of Opportunity

The mission of the San Marcos Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is to strengthen and promote economic development of the San Marcos Hispanic Business Community by placing a special emphasis on established and new small, minority-, and women-owned firms that support the demographic growth of our market area.

In 1985, San Marcos witnessed the birth of a chamber of commerce that understood the culture of the Hispanic business community.

Since its establishment, the San Marcos Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (SMHCC) has played a vital role in the cultural and economic growth of San Marcos.

One objective of the SMHCC is to strengthen the partnership between businesses and the Hispanic and minority communities to create a diverse economic base for the San Marcos Area. Through the implementation of economic development seminars, our members have the opportunity to learn and understand the latest advancements in technology or the latest trends in management practices. In addition, these seminars also enable our members to increase their market shares and develop successful business strategies. For example on November 3, 2000, the SMHCC hosted an international trade seminar. The attendees learned how to sell and market their products in the international market. Furthermore, the Chamber offers monthly luncheons, which serve as networking vehicles for our members and the community. Through these luncheons our members are introduced to the business community of San Marcos.

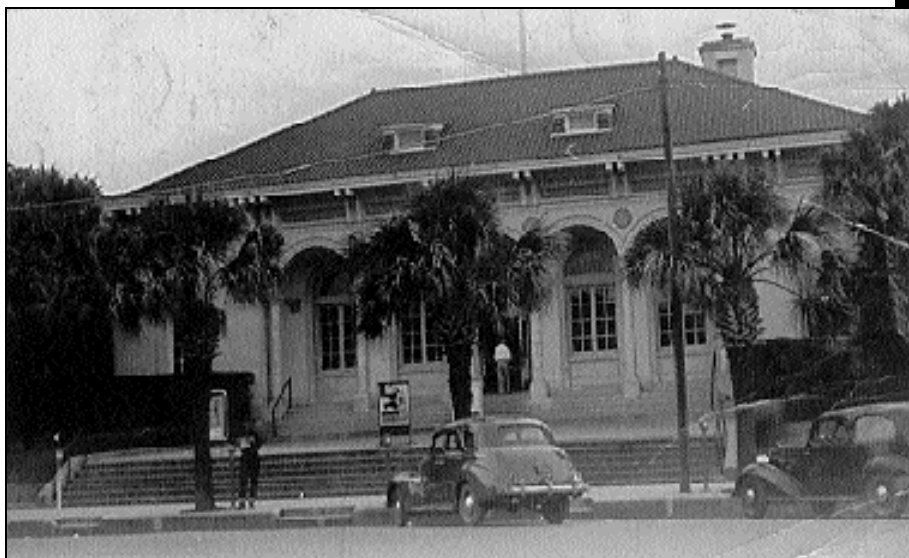
The key to progress lies in obtaining the right information. A crucial objective of the SMHCC is to be a resource center that provides local, state, national, and international information. From education and civic affairs to trade and procurement opportunities, the Chamber's website (www.sanmarcoshispanic.com) provides the latest information as well as links to important international electronic newspapers. The in-house business information center benefits members with business contacts and with private and public agencies that provide financial resources. In addition, the SMHCC's monthly newsletter, El Puente, updates members on chamber news, international happenings, and business opportunities.

Economic growth goes hand in hand with cultural growth. The SMHCC understands this relationship and it is reflected in its community goals. An important community mission is to promote projects that involve cultural, civic, patriotic, charitable, and educational programs for the benefit of Hispanics and the entire community. A good example of SMHCC's commitment to meeting this particular goal is the "Salute to Educators" banquet. This banquet celebrates and honors the students and educators of San Marcos. Another example is SMHCC's involvement with "Tejano Fest", which is a cultural celebration of Latino music and musicians. SMHCC's involvement in the cultural growth of San Marcos ensures that the economic growth will continue.

SMHCC's future as an organization that provides value to the Hispanic and minority business community of San Marcos is well secured. In the last three months corporate membership has grown 50 percent, and in the last two months SMHCC's membership as grown at an average of three members per week. The increase in membership reflects SMHCC's vital role in the growth of San Marcos and Central Texas.



An outstanding citizen, Ruben Ruiz, Sr. was the first Hispanic city councilman in 1961. In 1972, he was the first Hispanic county commissioner and he was state chairman of the G. I. Forum.



The San Marcos Post Office was originally located where the Frost Bank downtown branch is today. Recognize the palm trees?

Chamber focused on the future

by Phil Neighbors
Executive Director

The Chamber completed construction on its expansion/renovation project in January, 2001, providing a professional front-door contact for the community and quality meeting space for its membership.

The Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) arm of the Chamber is geared toward marketing the area to tourists and visitors. The centerpieces of San Marcos tourism are the crystal clear San Marcos River, the historic downtown area, and two major shopping outlet centers featuring over 200 designer shops. The CVB is chaired by Gloria Salazar, Fidelity National Title Insurance Company, with Rebecca Ramirez serving as Director.

Another important part of the Chamber is the Greater San Marcos Economic Development Council (EDC), which works to strengthen the economic health of the San Marcos area. The efforts of the EDC are focused on supporting existing businesses, attracting new employers, the creation of new jobs and increasing the local tax base. The EDC is chaired by Don Garrett, Randall Morris & Associates, with John Boswell serving as Director.

The Small Business Council is also an intricate part of the San Marcos Chamber. The SBC provides personalized, confidential small business consultations, conducts workshops and seminars, and oversees the annual Business Expo. Walter Mott, Dean's Shop, currently serves as chair of the council, with Chamber President Phil Neighbors staffing the Council and Vice President Kathy Castoldi giving staff leadership to the Business Expo.

The work of the Chamber is conducted through committees. The committees and their chairs for 2001 are: the

The 2001 San Marcos Chamber boasts of 942 members, a record setting number of community leaders coming together to focus on the future of the community through outstanding leadership and directed vision and goals.

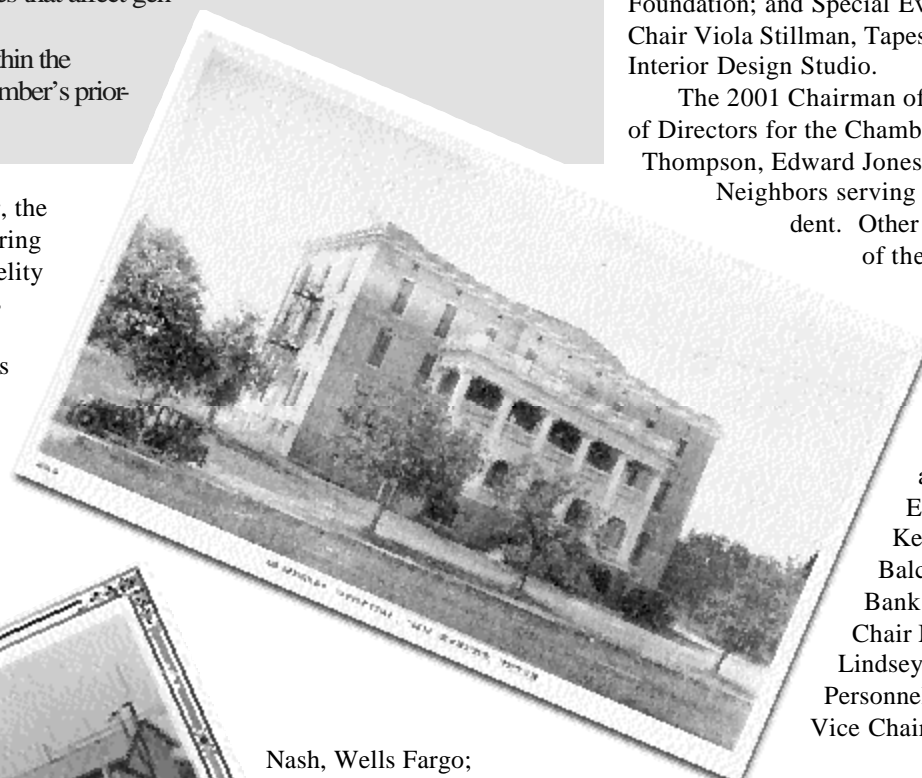
Top priorities of the San Marcos Chamber for 2001 are:

- Maximize members' return on investment.
- Recruit and expand participation of members in activities and leadership roles.
- Enrich educational opportunities through interaction between the business and educational communities.
- Continue the funding for completion of the expansion and remodeling of the Chamber facility.
- Assist the EDC in securing private sector funding.
- Promote CVB's role in tourism development and marketing.
- Actively seek solutions for promoting positive growth and infrastructure needs in response to growth.
- Continue to support responsible management of our precious natural resources.
- Assist members in meeting the challenges of a global marketplace and the impact of electronic commerce advances that affect general business practices.
- Promote communication within the Chamber to advance the Chamber's priorities.

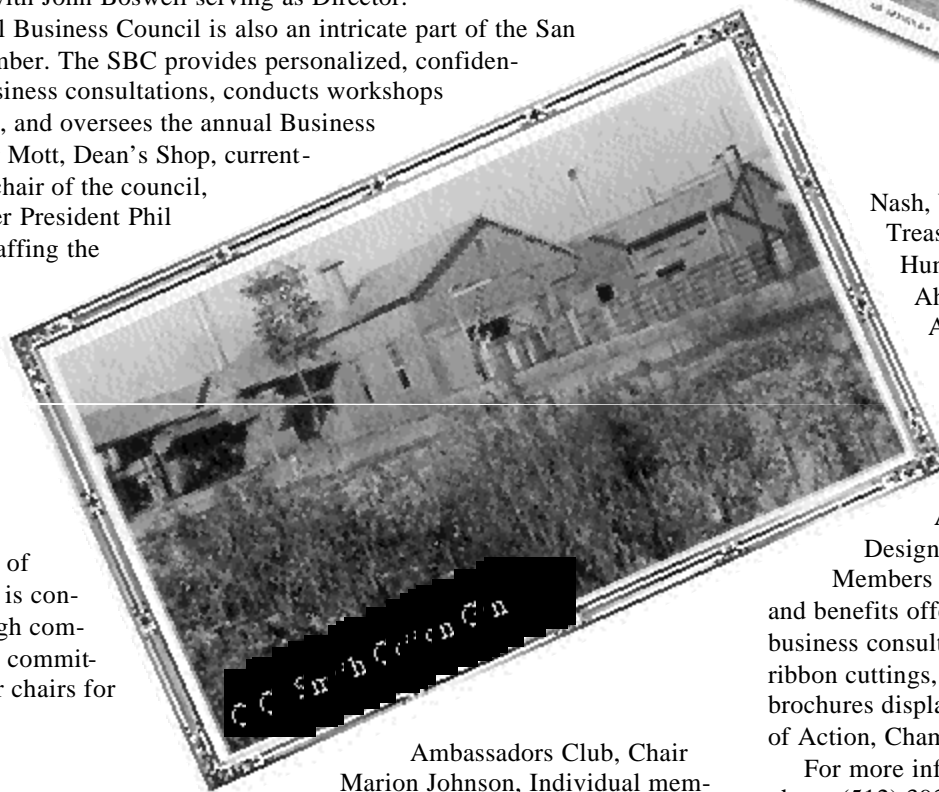
Breakfast/Mixer Committee, Chair Clara Brinkley; Coldwell Banker First National, Realtors; Education Committee, Chair Jeff Rudolph, Jewelers National Bank; Golf Fest Committee, Chair Bill Pennington, Pennington Funeral Home; Government Affairs Committee, Chair Don Nash, Wells Fargo Bank; Health Services Committee, Chair Scott Yarbrough, Benchmark Insurance; Internet Committee, Chair Mark Thornton, San Marcos Internet; Natural Resources Committee, Chair Jack Fairchild, San Marcos River Foundation; and Special Events, Chair Viola Stillman, Tapestries Interior Design Studio.

The 2001 Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Chamber is Will Thompson, Edward Jones, with Phil Neighbors serving as president. Other members of the 2001

Board of



Directors are: Chair-Elect Joe Kenworthy, Balcones Bank; Vice Chair Margaret Lindsey, Priority Personnel, Inc.; Vice Chair Don



Ambassadors Club, Chair Marion Johnson, Individual member; Business Expo Committee, Chair Nancy Rodriguez, McCoy Corporation;

Nash, Wells Fargo; Treasurer Gene Pettet, TXI Hunter Cement; Past Chair Lynn

Ahrens, Central Texas Medical Center; Kevin Blewett, San Marcos Auto Outlet; Gene Majors, Fitzgerald, Majors & Stevens; Walter Mott, Dean's Shop; Susan Narvaiz, Sedona Staffing; Nancy Rodriguez, McCoy's Building Supply Centers; David Schlageter, Farmers Insurance Group; Linda Shutt-Browning, Central Texas Higher Education Authority; Albert Sierra, San Marcos Housing Authority; Connie Skiles, Skiles & Associates Real Estate; Viola Stillman, Tapestries Interior Design Studio; and Darby Wright, SERVPRO Cleaning Service.

Members of the Chamber benefit in a great many ways. Among services and benefits offered through the Chamber are: internet listing and links, small business consultations, networking opportunities, referrals from the Chamber, ribbon cuttings, workshops and seminars, Business Expo, membership directory, brochures displayed, newsletter, economic and demographic information, Plan of Action, Chamber seal, and lists and labels.

For more information about the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce please phone (512) 393-5900 or make a virtual visit to www.sanmarcostexas.com.

Aquarena Center

A Living Time Capsule

The San Marcos River was a watering place for Native Americans throughout the ages. Mastodon bones and Clovis points, uncovered in an underwater archeological dig conducted by Dr. Joel Shiner of Southern Methodist University, produced evidence that the Clovis Man lived in and around the headwaters of the San Marcos River over 12,000 years ago.

In 1689 on St. Mark's Day, Spanish Conquistadors gave the name "San Marcos" to the river, when Alonso De Leon's men sighted the "bubbling springs."

After the Conquistadors roamed the San Marcos River area, there were several attempts made by non-natives to live here. Franciscan Monks built the San Xavier Mission on the hillside overlooking the headwaters of the river but they abandoned the mission a year later and returned to Europe, fearful of Indian attacks and the rising tensions between France and Spain. Later, a group of military men established a fort at the headwaters of the San Marcos River to facilitate the building of a more direct road between San Antonio and Austin but they too abandoned it the following year.

Then in 1844, San Jacinto battle hero Gen. Edward Burleson chose San Marcos for settlement. Burleson built a log cabin on the hillside above the headwaters of the San Marcos River, and, one year later, he constructed a dam to run his gristmill, forming Spring Lake and in effect sealing off 12,000 years of historical artifacts in a liquid time capsule. In 1851, General Burleson, William Lindsey and Dr. Eli Merriman officially established the town of San Marcos.

Tourism begins at Spring Lake

A.B. Rogers purchased the Spring Lake property in 1926 and opened the Spring Lake Hotel and Golf Course in April of 1929. Rogers featured several innovative swimming devices in the lake in front of the hotel, including a water trolley, a water slide, a spinning top and an elevator-type diving bell that actually submerged below the surface of the lake for sight seeing purposes.

The hotel closed during the depression and became a hospital during World War II; later, it became Brown School.

It was Paul Rogers who developed Aquarena Springs into a popular tourist attraction. Rides were offered in an oversized, canvas topped rowboat, and, in the winter of 1950-51, the resort featured the first submarine theatre and an enlarged version of Paul Rogers' glass bottom boats. The Aquarena Springs Inn reopened in 1961 as a 25-room resort Hotel. By 1969, when "Ralph" the swimming pig made his first "swine dive" in the lake, Aquarena Springs had become one of the most popular tourist destinations in Texas.

SWT Purchases Aquarena Springs

SWT purchased Aquarena in 1994, changing the focus of the former theme park

By Deborah Lane

from entertainment to preservation and education. Re-designated as Aquarena Center, the facility's mission is to enhance the university's educational, research, service and leisure activities; promote the protection and preservation of the San Marcos Springs and other ecosystems; and to foster an appreciation and stewardship of natural and cultural resources for the benefit of the citizens of Texas and its many other constituencies.

Today, more than 100,000 visitors a year view and interact with a variety of educational exhibits and attend various conference and meeting functions managed and coordinated by the office of Continuing Education.

A unique convergence of attributes come together to create the gem of Aquarena Center. The high caliber of knowledge in sciences, cultures, education and the interpretive arts within the university is a supporting framework for the work done at this environmental education center. Evening lectures, weekend kid programs, seniors tours and Girl and Boy Scout merit badge programs serve a diversity of individuals in local communities.

Tours of the center are available any day of the week for any age group, which is highly unusual in educational centers or museums. Student teachers leading peers, secondary school science classes assisting biology research projects, elementary school children preparing for river project presentations and the on going archaeological investigation being conducted on future exhibit sites are just a few examples of the exciting educational experiences taking place outside the classroom in

this extraordinary setting.

The fleet of glass bottom boats at Aquarena – with 50 years of uninterrupted service – are better than ever, with one completely rebuilt. In the winter of 1999, one of the most deteriorated boats was meticulously dismantled and each piece recreated, using the finest quality genuine mahogany log leaf pine and a proven blend of other woods to meet Lloyds of London's A1A standards for marine construction. Two more of these boats will rejoin the fleet this spring, bringing the total to five that have been restored in the four years they been operated by Continuing Education.

Wetlands Project

The Wetlands Project to restore the Aquarena wetlands to their natural state was initiated by the SWT Biology Department and the Aquatic Biology program. The idea is to create an environmental education and research area dedicated to teach the public about the economic and ecological values of wetlands. Restoration efforts include the removal of exotic species and re-introduction of native species. One of the most exciting part of the Wetlands Project is the construction of a wetlands walk, a boardwalk that will traverse portions of Spring Lake and the Aquarena slough. The boardwalk will include information kiosks that inform visitors about the wetlands and the species of plants and animals they may see there. The walkway will be constructed of "boards" made of 100 percent recycled plastic. Construction of the walkway is underway and expected to be completed soon.

Texas Rivers Center at San Marcos Springs

SWT and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department formed a partnership to create a major educational and research facility devoted to aquifers, rivers and aquatic systems in Texas. Work is scheduled to begin this summer on the Texas Rivers



Special Attractions: *Something for Everyone*

San Marcos boasts a number of special attractions that help make the city a very popular tourist and shopping destination. (And don't forget our two local outlet malls – Prime and Tanger – that have become the third most popular tourist attraction in the state!)

At the heart of the city is the San Marcos River, a longtime favorite for tubing and relaxation. The river's source is at the fresh water springs of Aquarena Center. Here you can ride glass-bottom boats and get an intimate look at the unique plant and animal species that live in the crystal clear San Marcos River. Aquarena features several historical sites within the park, including an old grist mill, the historic ruin of a Spanish mission, and several bird watching trails.

Don't forget to check out the San Marcos Noon Lions Club's tube rental service at City Park. Tube down the river and hitch a ride on the River Taxi on the way back up stream.

At Wonder World, you can explore an earthquake-formed cavern and ride to the peak of the 110-foot Tejas Observation Tower. There you will experience the beauty of the Texas Hill Country like never before. You can also take a unique train ride through Mystery Mountain into Texas' largest wildlife petting park.

Live music has maintained a strong foothold in San Marcos, with a diverse range of talent. Guitar pioneer Eddie Durham grew up here, George Strait started his band at the legendary Cheatham Street Warehouse, a birth-place and training ground for countless top national and international musicians including Stevie Ray Vaughan, Charlie and Will Sexton, Slaid Cleaves, and more. The Fire Station Studio has produced Grammy-award winning acts such as The Texas Tornados and more. Look to SWT for the world-renowned SWT Jazz Ensemble as well as a great many other accomplished programs and concerts through the years.

Other attractions include the Millie Seaton Collection of Dolls and Toys, the Calaboose Museum



Photo: Calaboose African American Museum

By Pat Murdock

of African-American History, and the Confederate Air Force Exhibit and the Southwestern Writers Collection in the Albert B. Alkek Library at SWT.

Calaboose African-American Historic Museum

The Calaboose African-American Historic Museum is one of the gems in San Marcos' historical and cultural "crown" that, like the culture it reflects, has struggled mightily to get where it is today. While it still has a way to go, the museum has already become an important part of the rich local educational, historical and tourism scene.

The small building housing the museum was constructed as the first Hays County Jail in 1873. It was later used as an annex for Black prisoners. Known locally as the "Calaboose," it served as a U.S.O. Center for Black World War II servicemen. The City of San Marcos purchased the building in 1985 and today it serves as an African-American History Museum. Displays in the facility offer a look at the roles of African Americans in law, medicine, science and exploration.

A local black history showcase and an exhibit on the Buffalo Soldiers who helped settle the Texas Frontier are also featured. A "traveling trunk" is available for presentations to schools and organizations. The Calaboose, located at 200 Martin Luther King Drive, is open by appointment by calling (512) 353-0124.

A special exhibit titled "Stirring Up Some Memories: Reflections on the Life and Work of Ulysses Cephas, Anthony Giles, John Tolliver, Sammie Hardeman and the Rev. Alphonso Washington" will be on display July 29 – Oct. 28.

Much of the accomplishments of the museum can be attributed to its "founding mother," Johnnie Armstead, who has collected and displayed memorabilia, begged and borrowed meager support for operating and maintaining the facility and for bringing it into the mainstream of local historical activities.

The museum building falls under the auspices of



the City of San Marcos' Parks and Recreation Department, which provides the building, utilities and insurance, as well as basic building maintenance.

Central Texas Wing of the Confederate Air Force

The Confederate Air Force is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving, in flying condition, a complete collection of the combat aircraft flown by the Allies during World War II.

The Central Texas (Centex) Wing of the Confederate Air Force is located at the San Marcos Municipal Airport, in the only remaining 1943 vintage wooden hangar on the airport. Visitors are invited to tour the WW II Artifacts Exhibit and the display dedicated to the Doolittle Raiders. The Stokes Memorial Library contains the personal aircraft memorabilia collection of John Stokes, founder of the Centex Wing.

The Centex Wing houses two CAF aircraft for which the Wing has maintenance and restoration responsibility: a very-rare flying P-39 Bell Airacobra; and a P-40 Warhawk. A CAF Japanese "Kate" torpedo bomber replica and a Japanese Zero replica, built for the movie Tora, Tora, Tora are on display along with privately-owned vintage aircraft including: A Lockheed T-33 jet trainer, a PT-17 Stearman WWII trainer, two WW II Liaison spotter planes; a Chinese-built Yak-18 trainer and a T-34 Mentor trainer.

The exhibit areas are officially open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Admission is \$3.00 per person (kids under 6 are admitted free). Restoration and maintenance of the hangar and aircraft are done entirely by tax-deductible donations. Come and see for yourself the historic aircraft and exhibits and help us KEEP 'EM FLYING!

At the airport, follow the Perimeter Road along the fence to the end to find the big Centex hangar. The address is 1841 Airport Drive, San Marcos Texas 78666

LBJ Museum of San Marcos

The museum has its origins in the deliberations of the San Marcos "Blue Ribbon Committee on Tourism Development". Among the future product develop-

Continued on page 25C

When Bill Wittliff bought what was left of J. Frank Dobie's literary papers at the Dobie Estate sale in December, 1985, he quickly realized that he had an important collection that belonged in a Texas library. Early in 1986, Wittliff and his wife Sally had entered into negotiations with Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

The university agreed to establish the Southwestern Writers Collection and to provide appropriate quarters in the new University Library building whose construction had just been approved by the Texas Coordinating Board.

The Wittliffs ran the Encino Press in the 1960s and '70s, and through the press had published and become friends with all of the leading Texas

writers including John Graves, Larry L. King, Larry McMurtry, and Bud Shrake. By the end of 1986, the SWT library received its first gifts for the collection. These were from folklorist Wilson Hudson, Russell Lee's widow Jean Lee, the Wittliffs (their first Dobie gift), and Larry McMurtry. A year later a curator for the collection, Dick Holland, had been hired, and major gifts of manuscripts from Larry L. King and Bud Shrake had begun to arrive in San Marcos. In 1988, the writers collection acquired a landmark Texas book, the 1555 printing of Cabeza de Vaca's *Relacion y Comentarios*, and had the beginnings of a collection from the CBS miniseries "Lonesome Dove," adapted for television and co-produced by Bill Wittliff.

The Southwestern Writers Collection moved to the new building in the summer of 1990, and had a gala Dedication in October, 1991. John Graves delivered the dedicatory speech, Governor Richards added her remarks, and Bill and Sally Wittliff were presented with the University's highest award.

For the dedication, the collection featured a large "Lonesome Dove" exhibit of costumes (including all of the cowboy hats), drawings, scripts, and the mummy of Gus McCrae's body, that fell from the casket during a rough trip from Montana back to Texas, where Gus (memorably played by Robert Duvall) insisted on being buried.

Other parts of the dedicatory exhibit featured John Graves's *Goodbye to a River*, including Mr. Graves's canoe paddle from the trip and his own personal snapshots (transformed for the Book Club's edition of the book), Larry L. King's manuscript notes, scripts, and memorabilia from "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," portions of Bill Brammer's typescripts of *The Gay Place* and its never-published sequel, *Fustian Days*, and a rich selection of manuscripts, letters, typewriters, and inscribed books from writers ranging from Noah Smithwick and John C. Duval, through the generation of Dobie, to a new generation of Texas writers including Rick Bass and Beverly Lowry. A book design exhibit included work by Barbara and Fred Whitehead (including Barbara's original woodcuts for *The Grands*) and fine books published by Carl Hertzog, the Encino Press, the Still Point Press, and W. Thomas Taylor.

"Gringos in Mexico," the new exhibit at SWT's Southwestern Writers Collection, follows several generations of American writers who have traveled south of the border in search of insight and inspiration.

Highlighting the archives of the Southwestern Writers Collection, "Gringos in Mexico" displays books, unpublished memoirs, raw manuscripts, journal entries and authors' personal memorabilia, showing the entire range of perceptions American writers have held about Mexico. These writings often reveal as much about the authors and their attitudes as they do about Mexico itself.

Particular emphasis is placed on Texas writers, who share a common history and border with Mexico and have been much more likely to travel through the country. The authors' experiences in Mexico are as varied as the country itself: Katherine Anne Porter wished to travel to Paris and join the literary expatriate community forming there in the 1920s. But the journey was too expensive, so she traveled to Mexico City instead. There she fell in with a group of revolutionary artists including Diego Rivera, and Mexico became the source of her first published fiction. In the 1930s, folklorist J. Frank Dobie traveled through Mexico on a mule, collecting experiences for his most personal book, *Tongues of the Monte*, while also interviewing survivors of Pancho Villa's army.

In the 1960s, Edwin "Bud" Shrake lived in a cave with the Tarahumara Indians of Chihuahua as he conducted research for his novels. In the 1990s, playwright and actor Sam Shepard went to Mexico to act in a Japanese film. Along the way he collected tales in his journal, eventually turning them into his book *Cruising Paradise*.

Other notable writers with archives in the Southwestern Writers Collection featured in the exhibit include James Crumley, John Graves, Shelby Hearon, Elithe Hamilton Kirkland, Cormac McCarthy, and Bill Wittliff.



— from the Lonesome Dove exhibit

Southwestern Writers Collection

Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography

The Southwestern Writers Collection is a major archival repository focusing on the literature, film, and music of the Southwest. The Collection is located adjacent to the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern & Mexican Photography on the campus of Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. The Collection is housed on the top floor of SWT's Albert B. Alkek Library. Hours are 8-5 Monday through Friday (til 9pm Tuesdays), 9-5 Saturday, 2-6 Sunday. Call 512-245-2313 or visit our website at: www.library.swt.edu/swwc



Special Attractions, continued from page 23C

ment suggestions made in that report was the creation of an "LBJ attraction" in San Marcos. Organizers have come a very long way in the year since the idea was advanced.

Now incorporated as the Lyndon Baines Johnson Museum of San Marcos, the Internal Revenue Service has approved their application for 501(c)(3) status. The Board of Directors was elected in October 1997.

On February 22, 1998 The Hays County Commissioners voted to approve a lease between the Museum and the County for a building on the Square. The lease is for 30 years at a nominal yearly rental. The building is in a state of serious neglect and disrepair but has considerable potential for use as a museum. There is even some associated parking for those who come as visitors!

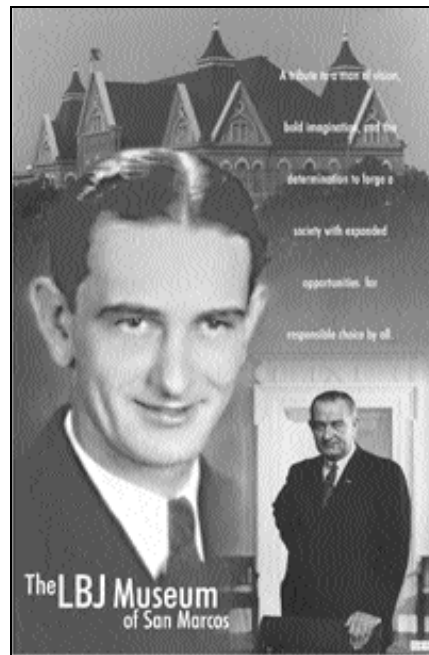
Though their assets are small, they now have the building. They have a modest checking account derived from memberships. Some basic computer resources have been donated which permit us to maintain our accounting, membership and library records. And the dream is coming true.

The group has obtained the necessary insurance, put up the "Future home of" sign, and are now undertaking the serious business of fundraising. For more information, contact LBJ Museum at San Marcos, 120 West Hopkins, Suite 200, San Marcos, Texas 78666, 512-396-3247.

Wonder Cave: It's Texas' Fault

Wonder World Park is a Texas Historical Site. The unique attractions here are entertaining and educational for the whole family. Enjoy guided

tours through the nation's only earthquake-formed cave. Exit by elevator and catch a breathtaking view of the fault line's drop-off point from atop the Tejas Observation Tower. Play in our crazy Anti-Gravity House and take a train ride through the waterfalls of



Mystery Mountain to meet and feed the friendly animals in the largest petting park in Texas!

From deep inside Texas' Fault Line cave, ride the elevator up and enter the Tejas Observation Tower, 110 feet above the dropping-off point of the Balcones Fault Line. View the beginning of the Texas Hill Country's dramatic shifting and ground surface changes that occurred during Texas' earthquake. While inside the Tejas Tower, directly above the separation point of the earthquake-formed cave, the views are spectacular! The ancient

ocean beds and the fault line are visible for miles.

Just for the fun of it, play in the topsy-turvy world of in the Anti-Gravity House where things that go up do not always come down and water runs uphill! All attractions are part of your tour at Wonder World Park

At the Mexico World Market you can visit a little piece of Mexico while you look at some of the most unique Mexican-style products around, ranging from sterling silver to rugs, wrought iron, sports cards and more.

The Greenhouse Interpretive Center

Opening windows of opportunity to environmental education, the Greenhouse Interpretive Center is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the natural resources and heritage unique to the San Marcos area.

The Greenhouse Interpretive Center would not have become a reality without several local organizations working together to make it a success. In March 1998, the Lower Colorado River Authority awarded the City of San Marcos \$25,000 for interpretive signs to be used on the nature trail system along the river.

The funds for the park land were donated by the Crook family. The land purchased became the final resting place for the historic greenhouse,



which was built in the 1940s on the Governor's mansion grounds in Austin. During a previous renovation to the mansion and grounds, the greenhouse was moved to the State Cemetery. Due to recent renovations at the State Cemetery, and the need for a visitor's center, the old Governor's Greenhouse was going to be dismantled. It had outlived its usefulness.

David Morris with Texas Parks and Wildlife just wouldn't discard such a piece of history. He contacted San Marcos River Foundation President Dianne Wassenich. The San Marcos River Foundation contacted San Marcos Parks and Recreation Director Rodney Cobb, who accepted the greenhouse. The department had been planning to build an interpretive center along the river.

With the donation of the greenhouse from Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the funds from the Crook family for park land, all the pieces fell into place and the Greenhouse Interpretive Center was established.

The center, located at 430 Riverside Drive, on the access road of Interstate 35 South, is now open to the public on Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and a variety of special programs are being scheduled there. For more information, call (512) 393-8447. u

Aquarena Center A living time capsule

continued from page 22C

Center at San Marcos Springs. The facility will be constructed on the grounds of the Aquarena Center. The first phase will involve the renovation of the Aquarena Springs Inn and restoration of the peninsula on the Aquarena property. The renovated inn will provide office space for all currently existing SWT programs housed there, including the Office of Continuing Education. Additional office space will be established for the Center for

Freshwater Policy and Research and the Center for Nature and Heritage Tourism.

Texas Parks and Wildlife functions housed in the renovated inn will include the Rivers Study Program and the Aquatic Education Program. The building will also house administrative offices, classrooms, interpretive exhibits and a gift shop.

The Texas Rivers Center at San Marcos Springs will include exhibits to

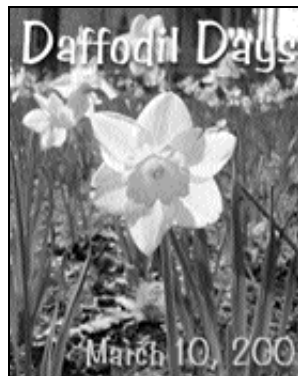
trace the path of rainwater as it falls on the Edwards Plateau, enters the limestone aquifer and eventually resurfaces through springs and flows downriver to the sea. The center will also incorporate existing endangered species exhibits and aquaria, and Aquarena's fleet of glass-bottom boats will continue to operate. u

For more information call (512)245-7583 or check the web page at www.aquarenacenter.com.

If there's anything that San Marcos residents know how to do it's celebrate! From the arrival of the Christmas season to the fine art of cooking chili and menudo, there are plenty of festivals and special events to celebrate right here in River City. As the community celebrates its 150th birthday, take a look at some of the special events that are on the horizon for the 2001.

Events and Festivals

Celebrating 150 Years of Community



Daffodil Days

Daffodil Days, the Greater San Marcos Area Seniors Association's celebration of the coming of spring, will be held Saturday, March 10 at the Price Seniors Center, 222 W. San Antonio Street.

The second annual Daffodil Days will be one of several tributes to San Marcos' sesquicentennial celebration.

Quilting, a special avocation of many senior ladies, will take center stage at the center, where daffodils are already in bloom. Several events planned at the center include a seniors crafts show and sale, refreshments in the "tea room," an exhibit

concerning the early history of ten of San Marcos' founding churches and a quilt show featuring many hand-made quilts. For information, call (512) 392-2900.

Bluebonnet Lions KiteFest

Scheduled from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 7 and 8 this year, the Bluebonnet Lions Club's KiteFest is always held the first Saturday and Sunday in April.

KiteFest takes the maxim "Go fly a kite" to a much higher level. Located at River Ridge Park off the I-35 access road by Butler Manufacturing Company, the KiteFest is a place to see special kites, fly kites, watch kite competition and much more. Contests, prizes, a candy drop, music, food and arts and crafts fill the event's 10 a.m.-5 p.m. schedule. For more information, call Judy Aswell at (512) 396-2374.



Viva! Cinco De Mayo

Billed as a celebration of culture, Viva! Cinco De Mayo will be held May 3 - 5 at the Hays County Civic Center. A project of LULAC Council #654, this festival celebrates culture and menudo.

If you love Menudo, you'll love being in San Marcos the first weekend in May.

The most prominent feature of Viva! Cinco de Mayo is the official state-wide menudo cook-off.

Menudo cooks from throughout the State of Texas venture here to prepare "their" winning versions of an age-old traditional, Mexican dish, menudo. Each team participating has hopes of being awarded the title of "Best Menudo in the

State of Texas." A title, however, is not all that is awarded. The top three bowls receive various trophy and cash prizes.

Menudo is not the only thing that gets judged at Viva! Cinco de Mayo. Menudo teams can also enter a second competition for showmanship awards. This part of the cook-off is judged solely upon a team's creativity and team spirit.

By Pat Murdock

The top team receives a trophy and a cash prize.

The downtown parade is a Viva! Cinco de Mayo favorite. Held downtown in the beautiful historical district of San Marcos, the parade features entries from around the state and the San Marcos area. Beautiful floats, marching bands and an array of decorated vehicles are just some of the entries.

Other events featured during this festive occasion are the Little Miss Cinco de Mayo pageant and the Miss Cinco de Mayo pageant. In the spirit of competition, contestants hope to win the privilege of representing LULAC and the VIVA! Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Intelligence, charisma, poise, and charm are all qualities that could make any young girl and lady a fine candidate for these competitions. Miss Cinco de Mayo and her court receive scholarships to go toward their pursuit of higher education.

The Folklorico Dancers of the San Marcos CISD perform a range of dances, from the old, traditional to modern, up-to-date.

During the evenings, the Hays County Civic Center is filled with the rich sounds of Tejano and Mariachi music. Artists as popular as El Grupo Mazz, Emilio Navaira and the late Selena have all performed at Viva! Cinco de Mayo. For more information or an application, write or call Viva! Cinco de Mayo, P.O. Box 953, San Marcos, Texas 78667-0953, (512) 353-VIVA. Cinco de Mayo is an official Sesquicentennial event.



Heritage Association of San Marcos Tours of Distinction

Held the first weekend in May for some 25 years, the Heritage Association of San Marcos' annual Tours of Distinction opens some of San Marcos' restored historical homes and buildings to the public.

The Heritage Association is a non-profit organization chartered in 1975. It has had its own identity since 1977 following the cessation of the nation's Bicentennial, and has continued the projects set in place for the celebration. San Marcos was among the first seven in the nation designated as a National Bicentennial City. It was founded to support

Continued on page 27C

Festivals, continued

the preservation of buildings and has served to perpetuate traditions which beautify and enrich the cultural and community life of the city. It also continues to host the popular luncheons at the historic Charles S. Cock House Museum each Friday, which is another local tourist draw.

Tours of Distinction departure point is the Charles S. Cock House Museum. For more information, write Tours of Distinction, P.O. Box 1806, San Marcos, Texas 78667-1806.

Texas Natural & Western Swing Festival

Sit back and relax on the banks of the San Marcos River as you enjoy the sounds of Texas Western Swing legends under the starlit Texas sky. Visit the natural marketplace overflowing with foods and crafts made from Texas' finest natural products or have a Texas Style Picnic in the park with family and friends. For more information contact Kelly Franks at 512-393-8430.

Juneteenth on the San Marcos River

30 months after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston Bay on June 19, 1865, and issued General Order No. 3 - Emancipation. This was the birth of Juneteenth, a traditional Texas celebration - and now an official state holiday. In San Marcos, the Juneteenth on the River organization and the Dunbar Heritage Association host a big celebration for the entire community featuring a Miss Juneteenth pageant, a parade, a barbecue cookoff, musical and dance entertainment, games, food-booths, cake walks, soul food, historic displays and more. For more information contact Harvey Miller at 396-4903. Juneteenth is an official Sesquicentennial event.

San Marcos Summerfest

Summerfest is the San Marcos community's Independence Day celebration. The event is planned, coordinated and conducted by a volunteer steering committee that includes community-wide representation. Committee members include representatives of the City of San Marcos Parks & Recreation Department, the San Marcos Chamber of Commerce, Southwest Texas State University and the San Marcos Noon Lions Club, as well as unaffiliated community-interested individuals.

SWT's Sewell Park provides the perfect location for this multi-focused family-oriented event. Summerfest capitalizes on this city's natural resources, particularly the San Marcos River, to attract out-of-town visitors for the Fourth of July and it provides a darn good reason for local residents - their friends and families - to stay home in San Marcos

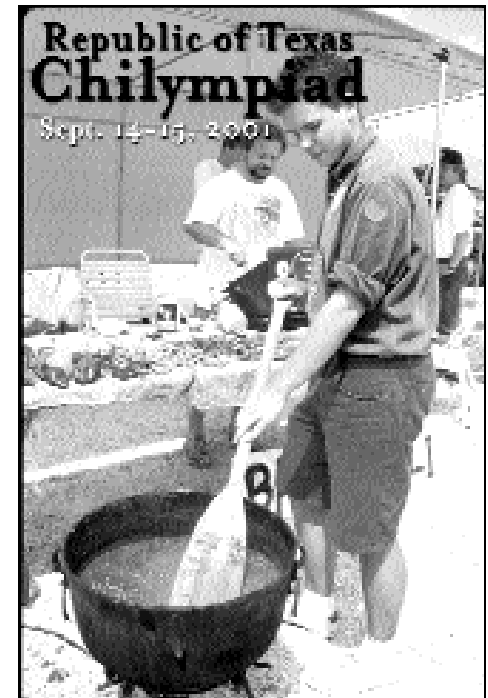


for this particular holiday.

This July, Summerfest will help celebrate the San Marcos Sesquicentennial.

Summerfest features continuous live entertainment in a beautiful setting plus a 5-K run, food and specialty booths, a patriotic program, special events for children, an illuminated river parade, a children's parade around the park and a fireworks exhibition.

Since there is no charge for admission to the Summerfest grounds and entertainment and fireworks can be expensive, organizers are 100 percent dependent upon contributions from the community. For more information on Summerfest, including how you can contribute, contact the San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department at 393-8400.



Republic of Texas Chilympiad

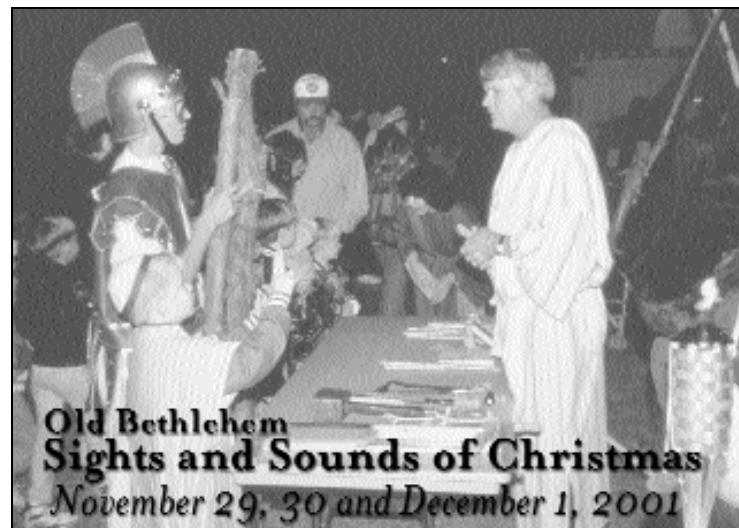
Chilympiad, the state's premiere chili cook-off and festival, has been held annually the third weekend of September since its introduction at Aquarena Springs resort in 1970.

The 32nd annual Chilympiad is scheduled Sept. 14 and 15 at the Hays County Civic Center. Chilympiad organizers, a group of volunteers called "El Jefes," will introduce a new cook-off, the CASI-sanctioned North American Open Chili Championship, which will be open to both women and men chili chefs this year.

Citing the significance of Chilympiad's own historical roots in San Marcos, the El Jefes jumped at the chance to become the first San Marcos Sesquicentennial sponsor.

Among the significance of Chilympiad's historical place in the world of competitive chili cooking is the fact that it was local chili cook-off proponents who helped get chili declared the official state dish in the 1970s and the local cook-off has remained the largest in the world.

Since its beginning, Chilympiad's focus has been on a men's only competition, but that will change this year. Announcing plans to take its cook-off co-ed, the El Jefes sent the men's state competition to north Texas beginning this year. Robert Earl Keen will make his second appearance as Chilympiad's headline entertainer on Sept. 15.



Sights & Sounds of Christmas

November 29, 30 and December 1, 2001 6-10 p.m. Free Admission During the first weekend of December in Central Texas there is only one place to be - the 15th annual Sights and Sounds of Christmas in San Marcos! Millions of twinkie lights along the San Marcos River, Santa, crafts, heritage displays, continuous musical entertainment, food booths and friends make this one of the most popular holiday traditions in Central Texas. The community-wide celebration attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year - a family atmosphere with lots to do for all ages. Free parking at SWT Strahan Coliseum with free Park-And-Ride.

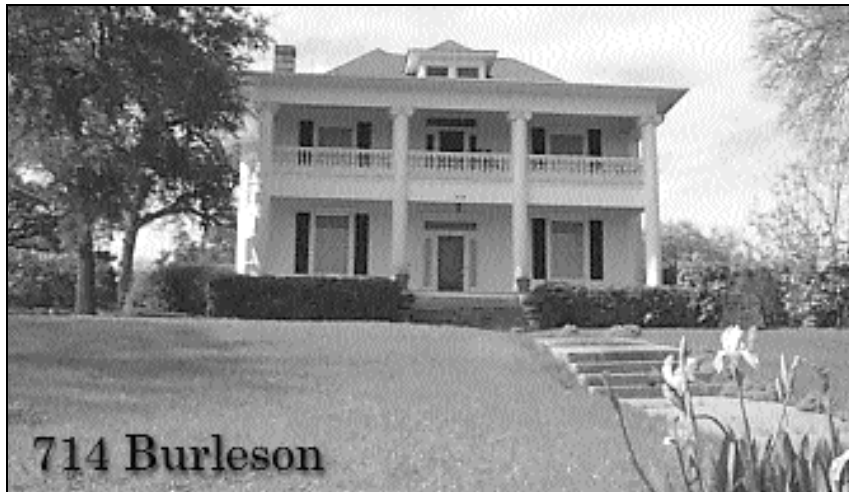
2001 Tours of Distinction

Several of San Marcos' finest historical homes will be open for tour for the Heritage Association's 27th annual "Tours of Distinction" as part of the city's Sesquicentennial year celebration.

This year's tour, which begins with three homes sitting side-by-side on top of a hill overlooking the city, takes one back to the late 1800's to see how and where the citizens of San Marcos lived just a few decades after its founders laid out the town streets around a courthouse square.

Open for tour for the first time will be the Ramsay home at 714 Burleson. Built around 1908, this Greek Revival style home has been owned by only two families. Also open will be "The Old Storey Home," built in 1890, by James Gray Storey, a veteran of the Civil War. Storey also served as District Clerk and County Judge and was a member of the State Legislature. The home, recorded as a Texas Historic Landmark in 1970, is located at 702 Burleson and is now the private residence of Dr. and Mrs. Fred Simmons.

By Ronda Reagan



Also open will be the Kone-Cliett House,

now the Judy Allen family residence, located at 724 Burleson. This elegant, Victorian style home was built in around 1890. Traditionally, the anchor of the tour will be the Charles S. Cock House Museum at 400 E. Hopkins Street which is under the care of the Heritage Association. Tour goers are invited to refresh themselves with an iced tea and sweets prepared by the Heritage Association Guild's Cookbook Committee. (The exact location in the backyard gardens of a home to be announced.)

Tour tickets are \$10.00 and may be purchased both days of the tour at any of the sites on tour. The hours are 12 noon to 6 p.m. on Saturday and 12:30 p.m. to 6 on Sunday.

Proceeds from the tour go to fund Heritage projects for the beautification and preservation of San Marcos heritage for the past, the present and the future.

For more information go to the website at:
www.sanmarcos.net/HeritageAssociationofSanMarcos.

Founder's log cabin to find new home

When Dr. Eli Merriman built his one pen log home along the southern bank of the San Marcos River, he probably had no idea it would be moved twice in the next 150 years. The historical little cypress log cabin will soon find a new, third home....one that will be permanent this time, according to Rodney Van Oudekerke, president of the Heritage Association of San Marcos (HASM).

Southwest Texas recently gifted the Merriman Cabin, one of San Marcos' oldest and most historically significant structures, to the Heritage Association under a contractual agreement providing for "relocation to a public site and preservation as an historic structure." To date, the HASM Board of Directors has earmarked \$10,000 for the Merriman Cabin preservation project. Grants and private gifts will also be sought.

A HASM site selection committee, chaired by Ronda Reagan, evaluated four possible locations for the cabin and unanimously recommended relocation of the cabin to the grounds near the Charles S. Cock House Museum, contingent upon final approval of the City Council.

"After consulting with the Texas Historical Commission architectural department, we realized we needed to pick a site that would be in keeping with the historical fabric of the cabin—meaning near older structures rather than new buildings, yet with high visibility for our community's enjoyment to see and easy for tourists to find. Our committee, which unanimously voted for this site, consisted of members representing larger interests such as tourism, the downtown merchants (Main Street), the city's Parks and Recreation department and Heritage members," says chairman Reagan. The members are Rodney Cobb, Kelly Franks, Brita Northcutt, Linda Pennington, Rebecca Ybarra Ramirez and Ellie Stewart. Oudekerke served as an ex-officio member.

"The exact location within the Juan Veramende Plaza is yet to be determined

as two sites are being reviewed at this time," adds Reagan. "We have answered the question that the possible sites are not in the flood plain nor in the railroad right-of-way. The favored site is facing C.M. Allen in an open space canopied by large shade trees."

By Ronda Reagan

Frances Stovall, historian for HASM, pointed out that the site is also very close to the cabin's original site and will put it back in the original "neighborhood" it once was. The cabin was constructed in 1846 and although the marker on the Cock House says it was built in 18__, Stovall has researched and contends it was actually built 10 years prior. Foremost to the site selection committee is that the integrity of the Nationally and State cited historical landmark, the Charles S. Cock House, is preserved. According to THC, the cabin must be positioned so as not to look like an out building of the Cock House. It should stand alone. Once the site is confirmed by City Council, a HASM committee will continue working with THC on the project. Van Oudekerke, who also serves as one of the chairs of the City's Sesquicentennial Commission, says HASM's goal is to move the cabin, restore and preserve it and open it for tour during 2001.



Sidebar: The cabin was originally constructed where the Goodyear store is today. In the early 60's, it was moved to Aquarena's Texanna Village where it has remained as a tourist attraction until the recently. Aquarena, now owned by SWT, is being developed into the Texas River Center, a \$16 million education and research center dedicated to the study and preservation of San Marcos Springs. The cabin and other structures in the village must be moved to make way for the new educational center. The Burleson Cabin, which recently received a preservation grant, will however, remain on its site which is out of the way of development.

It's showtime!

The words ring true as doors unlock and theatres waken everywhere for the daily run, just as they did in 1904 when the "Great Train Robbery" premiered across the country. Escapism for \$4.50!

That's not a bad investment considering the millions of dollars it costs to create and produce a story on film. Hollywood is an illusion- an image – the imagination of the "silver screen". Whether it's fiction, or a recreation of real life, it is still an illusion, often times so compelling, that we are lost in our own minds and emotions among all sorts of human sensibilities as we empathize with our own lives. Movie art is an expression of life and a remarkably compelling one.

"Hollywood" remains comprised of six major studios, dominating the creative illusions of film, having both the tools and the creative human resources to develop, produce, distribute and exhibit films and images throughout the world. In Hollywood's heyday - 1920-1950 - the studios and the "studio system", owned their own theatres, films, stars (contract players), and most

By Barry Warren

importantly, their powerful publicity departments. Cultivated and groomed, managed by their own keepers, movie stars were larger than life, an investment and an asset for the studio, both talent and image. The stars of yesteryear burned much brighter.

Did anyone believe that Clark Gable was Rhett Butler in "Gone With The Wind?" Clark Gable was Gable. Make no mistake about it, they were all heavyweights in those days. Spencer Tracy, Tyrone Power, Joan Crawford, Elizabeth Taylor - the list is endless. Today's biggest box office stars, Mel Gibson, Jack Nicholson, Tom Cruise and Jody Foster understand the power and the play of publicity, often hiring their own representatives, their own keepers, to manage their public image and popularity. As the saying goes, there's no such thing as bad publicity, "... it's all publicity. Just make sure the name is spelled correctly."

"The Last Temptation of Christ", a 1980's film that opened to controversy, was at risk of losing millions. If the name goes before the public frequently enough it will eventually turn into money. As controversy grew, the publicity grew, and so too did it's take. What was feared would be a significant loss, would finally break even, because of the publicity alone, both good and bad. Filmmaking is an art, but few films are made without money as the motivating factor. Studios make films to make money, sometimes its big money.

By the 1920's, film studios were raking in the

profits with now historical titles like: "Sinners in Silk," "A Shocking Night," "The Truant Husband." Spicy and enticing titles for sure, but by today's standards, wouldn't raise an eye. Clergymen, educators, and women's clubs of the day thought Hollywood was corrupting the minds and morals of the nation's youth, a familiar calling even today by some. When in 1932, Mae West, playing in "She Done Him Wrong" tells Cary Grant upon their first encounter "Why don't you come up sometime and see me," and as he stares at her, she adds confidently "Ah - you can be had," it was the last straw for Hollywood's freedom.

Censorship committees sprang up everywhere and Hollywood responded by enacting "The Code." Banning profanity, drugs, sex, childbirth, ridicule of the clergy, and willful offense to any nation, race or creed, The Code listed eleven *Don'ts* and 25 *Be Carefuls* for filmmakers. Despite the stifling creative environment, films like "The Grapes of Wrath, Citizen Kane, and Gone With The Wind" managed to pass the censorship boards.

Kisses and love scenes were literally controlled by a stopwatch. Mae West and Jean Harlow continued to give the censors fits long after the code was enacted. The blonde bombshell in "Born To Be Kissed" was re-titled "100% Pure" for a time and finally ended up as "The Girl From Missouri."

In 1952, free speech, the first amendment and the Supreme Court prevailed, freeing the studios. The code was followed voluntarily by most studios well into the 1960s. It's hard to imagine restrictions like these today when watching films like "Hannibal" and "Traffic."

By 1941, after a bitter feud between veteran actress Olivia de Havilland and her sister and fledgling actress Joan Fontaine, the studio system would come to an end. After newcomer Fontaine won an academy award for her role in "Suspicion", the more experienced sister Olivia was furious. The two sisters were fiercely competitive, ruthless and legendary. Confronting Jack Warner, head of Warner Brothers Studios, Olivia demanded better parts. Warner pointed her toward the door and she didn't work for 30 months. De Havilland sued Warner Brothers and won, releasing her long term contract. No studio today holds any actor for lengthy terms and is often limited to a single picture.

Known today as the de Havilland Decision, the 45 year feud freed countless actors, actresses and artists. Olivia returned to the screen in 1946 in "To Each His Own" and won the best actress Oscar. Following the courts ruling, studios were ordered to sell their theatre holdings. During the

administration of Ronald Reagan, a veteran actor, the movie industry was deregulated and studios returned to the practice of guaranteeing bookings.

By the 1950s, television was a reality and the movie industry had lost it's identity. By not recognizing its potential benefits as a market and medium and with a loss of direction, the industry floundered. Disney was the one studio that survived intact through the '50s and '60s.

To the movie-goer, it was a time of improvement. CinemaScope was introduced and color was implemented on a wider scale. Movies were bigger, brighter, louder and in stereo. Even the film itself was made better. Today we use 35mm safety film. This film is far different than the film used in the golden era. Up until safety film was developed, film had a nitrate acid base that was highly explosive and dangerous to handle.

If some of the old film got caught or hung up in the projector, the heat from the bulb, could cause an explosion when the film burned. To this day, if you happen to visit any of the old theatres of that era, you will find the walls of the projector booth are one or two feet thick. This was to protect patrons in the theatre from any glass or debris should an explosion occur.

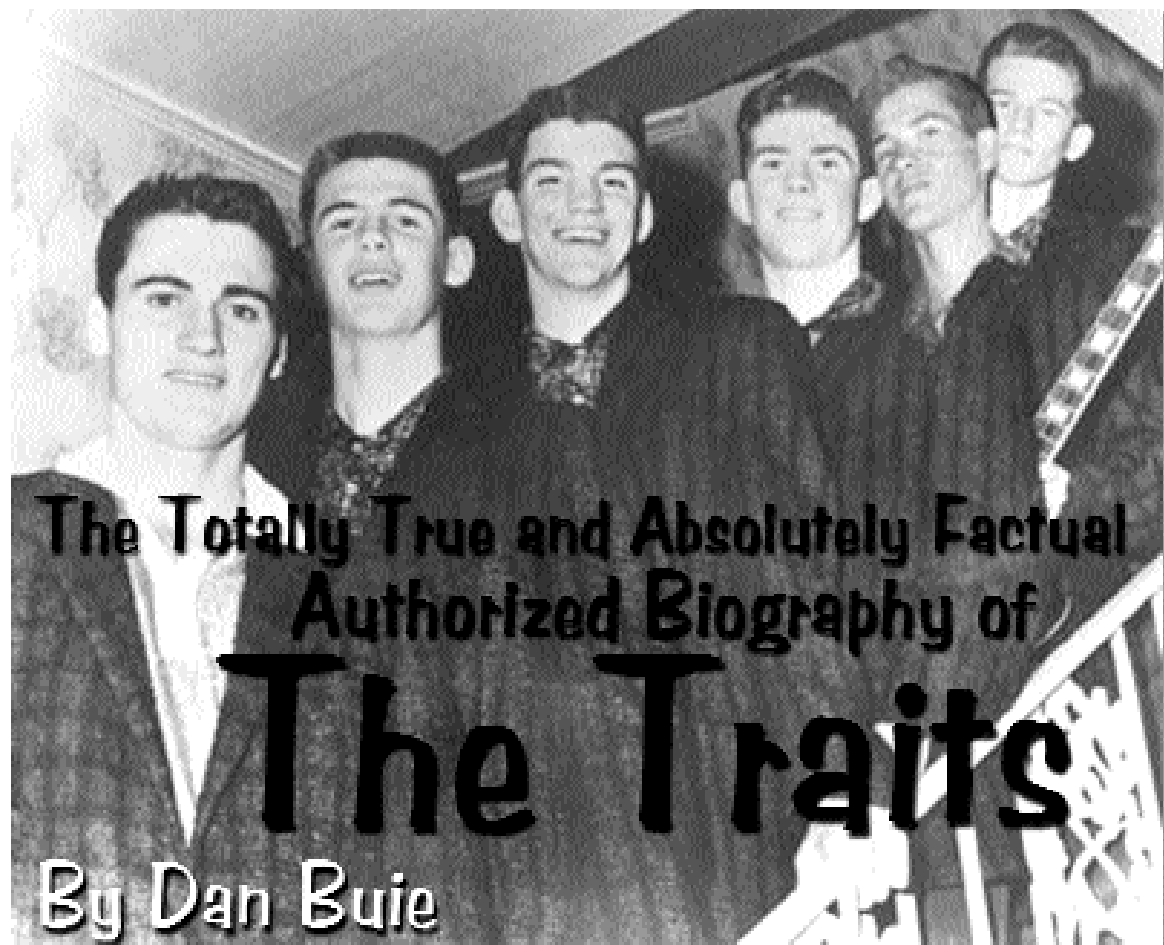
We are currently still using simple technology to show films but with modern and improved projectors that are electronically and digitally equipped with surround sound. Film cannot be run backwards. There is no way to back up part of a movie that you might have missed. Its one big continuous loop. Many patrons have the idea it's like your home VCR or DVD player, but this is not the case. Film is shipped on reels, which are all spliced together. One two hour movie consists of perhaps 15 reels of film.

The future is always our prize. Under development now in California is digital projection technologies where the movie is transferred via satellite or fiber optics cables directly to the theatre. They are working out the bugs and this technology should be widely available to theatre chains in the next five to seven years. We already have advanced sound with Dolby stereo and DTS.

As much as things change, they seem to stay the same. Its all part of the illusion that starts on the drawing board, the studio, the cutting room floor, with good stories, good directors, good actors, good popcorn, comfortable theatre seats, and a wide and silver screen. Quality does matter and its part of our world.

Barry Warren, manager of the Starplex 12 in San Marcos, has been involved in the theatre business for nearly a quarter century. His first job was in the concession stand of a drive-in theatre in Springfield Missouri. Technology has come a long way, but the excitement of a new film and a hot box of popcorn still captures his spirit.

In 1956, two sophomores at San Marcos High School (SMHS) became acquainted in the high school parking lot. While one liked music and had a talent for dancing, the other was one of the very few high school students who knew how to play a guitar. How could anyone have guessed that this inauspicious meeting between Roy Head and Tommy Bolton was the beginning of what would later result in a series of lifelong friendships, and the most successful Rock & Roll and Rhythm and Blues group to ever emerge from the San Marcos area?



Gerry Gibson, a drummer in the high school band, joined the two and the trio began to play under the name of "The Treys." One Saturday morning in 1957, while the budding musical group was playing live at the local KCNY radio station in San Marcos, the radio announcer mispronounced the name of the group, calling them "The Traits." Thus, the group acquired a name by accident that the original six Traits would later adopt as their own.

"The Traits"

Also in the spring of 1957, Roy Head, a junior at SMHS at the time, walked up to high school sophomore Dan Buie in the hallway and introduced himself. Roy had heard that Dan could play the piano. Roy asked him, "Can you play by ear?" Dan said, "Yes." A couple of days later Roy Head, Tommy Bolton, Gerry Gibson and Dan Buie gathered around the piano in the Buie's home on Hutchison Street and started working on a few rhythms and tunes.

Several days later Dan and Roy invited sophomore Bill Pennington to play the bass, though Bill knew very little about playing a bass at the time. Roy also approached SMHS Senior, Clyde Causey to become the group's lead guitar player. Thus, the original six Traits came into being: Roy Head (Vocals), Clyde Causey (Lead Guitar), Tommy Bolton (Rhythm Guitar), Dan Buie (Piano), Gerry Gibson (Drums) and Bill Pennington (Bass).

Nicknames spontaneously arose over the years, which are used to this day among the group: Roy Head (Stevo), Tommy Bolton (Reno), Gerry Gibson (Sly), Dan Buie (Huey), Clyde Causey (the Glide) and Bill Pennington (Hound Dog).

Sponsorship

The teenagers began to dream big. They talked of playing at "sock hops," concerts and large dance halls and of having a recording contract. However, they knew that in order to have any chance of doing any of this, they must obtain an adult sponsor. Someone who was respected and who knew about business was needed. So, Roy and Dan met with Edra Pennington in her living room at the Pennington home on Comanche Street next to the funeral home, and asked her to sponsor their effort.

The whole group was on "pins and needles" the entire time while Edra contacted each parent to discuss the project. Dan remembers the call to his home from Edra one evening during supper and Dan's dad spoke with her. After the telephone conversation Dan asked his dad if she was going to do it. Dr. Buie said, "I don't know. She asked me if I would help and I told her that if there was something I could do, I would but that I do not know anything about music and cannot even carry a tune."

Little did Dr. Buie know that his agreement to assist would result in him traveling with the group every Friday and Saturday night for over a year to the concert auditoriums and dance halls across Texas. Finally, Mrs. Pennington summoned Dan and Roy back to the Pennington home to inform them that she had decided to help the fledgling group.

The First Recordings

What followed is now a matter of recorded music history, the breadth and depth of which these talented young men could hardly have imagined. Both collectively and singularly, due to their own musical skills

and their openness to mentor others, the Traits were one of a very few groups who, without a mega-company like RCA or Capital Records behind them, would impact the rock music industry in significant ways in the late '50s and 1960s. Roy Head and Gerry Gibson, specifically, would continue to contribute in substantial ways to national Pop and Country and Western music through the 1980s.

In the beginning, Edra arranged bookings for the group, bought the boys outfits to wear, gave them gas money, furnished transportation and traveled with them everywhere during the first year. And Edra negotiated a recording contract with TNT Records in San Antonio, Texas. During this period Clyde Causey graduated from SMHS and decided to join the Navy. Edra even found the group a replacement lead guitar player in George Frazier of Luling, Texas. Therefore, the names listed on The Traits earliest recordings are "Head – Gibson – Bolton – Frazier – Buie – Pennington."

The A side of The Traits' first recording was "One More Time." In the summer of 1958, it became a regional hit, soaring into the top 5 on Houston's premier rock station, KILT, KTSA in San Antonio and other leading rock radio stations in North Central, Central and South Texas. Invitations began to roll in for the group and they themselves reveled in their newly found popularity.

They played with some of the biggest named rock and rollers and blues men of the day: Roy Orbison, Stevie Wonder, Jimmy Reed, Eddie Cochran, Chuck Berry, Jerry Lee Lewis, Bobby Blue Bland and BB King, to name a few. Police escorts often had to assist

Continued on page 31C

them through crowds after their concert appearances. Dance halls holding upwards of 1000 people were over-flowing for the dances at which the talented lads played and they were turning down five to ten invitations to every one they accepted.

A few months later (1959) The Traits struck again with their second regional hit, "Live It Up." It too catapulted into the top ten on all the prominent rock stations in Texas, and KONO in San Antonio designated it as the station's "Pick Of The Week," which meant it was KONO's selection to become a future #1 song. The demand for their music intensified and now The Traits began to receive out-of-state invitations including contact from the West Coast.

However, the group was pretty much limited to where they could drive on a Friday and Saturday night. After all, they were minors. Bill and Dan were still in high school. Their education-minded parents were not about to let any of them go to Las Vegas or Los Angeles to perform for extended periods. In addition, Mrs. Pennington and Dr. Buie were becoming road weary from the two years of traveling every Friday and Saturday night with the group.

"Roy Head and the Traits"

In 1960, Roy told the group that music was what he wanted to do for the rest of his life. Most of the group did not feel that way. Most wanted to either go to college or to become involved in some type of skilled vocation other than music. The Rock & Roll was great, but no one it seemed at the time really thought of it as a life's profession, except for Roy.

Roy asked if his name might be placed out front to help promote him and give him a start in the business. Except for the replacement of Clyde Causey with George Frazier, the original six Traits were still in tact. At the time the boys understood Roy's desires all too well, and started performing as "Roy Head and The Traits."

"Battle of the Bands"

These types of events were popular in the 1960s and The Traits would participate in them from time to time. The Traits and The Moods from Luling, Texas, appeared to be one of the favorite pairings of young bebop fans. It was also during this period that a young singer from Rosenberg, Texas, would make friends with The Traits.

The Traits would let him sing with them from time to time and noticed that he had a "diamond in the rough" voice. He would talk with Roy about how to get started with his own band. Once The Traits were comfortable with the sound of this new group, they began referring some of their surplus booking requests to the new band and did a couple of "Battle of the Bands" dances with them to help the budding musicians acquire additional recognition. The newcomers progressed quickly and gave themselves the name, "The Triumphs." In subsequent years the group would be known as, "BJ Thomas and the Triumphs."

Musical Influences

Elvis's country rock style, Chuck Berry's blistering guitar riffs, Ricky Nelson's crooning, Little Richard's

"bang it out" Rock & Roll and Roy Orbison's voice of velvet all had their measure of influence on The Traits. Yet it was the back street blues sound that most intrigued and attracted the teenagers: John Lee Hooker, Fat's Domino, Muddy Waters, Bo Diddle, Jimmy Reed, Bobby Blue Bland and Ray Charles.

When The Traits recorded "One More Time" and "Live It Up," they were both little more than up-tempo blues songs. The piano sound was more associated with Jerry Lee Lewis and the guitars gave off riffs and licks more akin to an Eddie Cochran or a Duane Eddie style of guitar play, and Gerry added solid drum grooves to achieve the rock beat effect of the day. But as the younger generation's music changed, so did The Traits' sound.

When Dan entered the army and left The Traits in late 1961, The Traits did not recruit another piano man but rather added a trumpet and a saxophone to their

The Traits will perform for the first time in 40 years at the San Marcos Sesquicentennial Picnic on Saturday, March 3. See page 4A for details. For more information on The Traits log onto their official website: www.traitsreunion.com

music. Tommy Bolton and George Frazier had preceded Dan in their departures from the group and both were replaced with other guitar players who had somewhat different styles of guitar play. At this point, only Roy Head, Gerry Gibson and Bill Pennington remained of the original six Traits. Their music had become closer in style to the big blues band sounds of a Bobby Blue Bland or a Ray Charles, but with a country influence which caused the sound to remain uniquely their own.

In 1963, Bill Pennington, who had become an accomplished bass man would leave the group after his marriage. He was replaced by Gene Curtis who, along with Roy Head and Gerry Gibson, would later put a chorus, lyrics and a pumping beat to a guitar riff that had been created almost four years earlier by lead guitarist George Frazier. It would be this song that would launch "Roy Head and The Traits" onto the national landscape in a most profound way.

"Treat Her Right"

Although Roy Head and Gerry Gibson were the only two remaining Traits from the original six, they continued to perform and enter into contracts under the name of "Roy Head and The Traits." They signed with the "Scepter" label in 1964, then moved on to a smaller label called "Back Beat."

It was there under the tutelage of famed Texas producer Huey P. Meaux that they would have their most success on the charts.

In 1965, "Treat Her Right" took the music nation by storm, rising quickly to the #2 position on both the Pop and Rhythm and Blues National Charts. This was during a period that has been termed, the "British Invasion." The Beatles "Hey Jude" was perched at #1 and "Hard Days Night" was headed up the chart.

The Traits felt sure their song would outlast "Hey Jude" and become #1. Instead, the Beatles "Hard Days Night" leap-frogged to #1 and "Treat Her Right" by Roy Head and the Traits hung at #2 never to reach the #1 billboard spot. "Treat Her Right" maintained at #2 for 16 weeks, longer than any other song in history. It would produce a "Gold Record" and would be the featured song several years later in the movie, "The Commitments."

Other songs which had been recorded and which subsequently reached the Top 40 on the pop charts later in 1965 and early 1966 were "Just A Little Bit" and "Apple Of My Eye."

"They Want Us To Do What!?"

– Gerry Gibson to Dan Buie, Nov., 2000

Though it is rumored that Kay Posey-Welch had something to do with it, its not completely clear how the planning committee for the SMHS Class of 1961 got it in their heads that there was even the remotest possibility that The Traits might play for their class's 40th Reunion in the summer of 2001.

The idea was conveyed to Dan Buie via email from various members of the SMHS Class of '61. Though feeling complemented that there were fans who had not forgotten their music, Dan responded that it had been so long for some of them that it simply would not be a practical undertaking.

Besides, Dan did not know where everyone lived and he had not even spoken with Clyde Causey or Gerry Gibson in at least 25 years. Later Rita Morrison-Jones of the class of '61 would earn the title, "Super Sleuth" for her role in locating Gerry.

However, there were also inherent music related skill level problems. Dan and Bill had not played their instruments of choice in decades. Nevertheless, the hinting, nudging and prodding continued and finally without making any commitment to perform, Dan agreed to try to locate the original six Traits. Finding all of them is a story unto itself, but the most amazing part of this story is that they all agreed to play the event.

"Roy Head & the Traits" 2001 Revival

Though it may sound like it, this is not fiction. After not having played together in 40 years, the original 6 Traits are reuniting for Y2001. While musical groups often reunite for reunion performances several years after disbanding, they normally do so after a time span of 3 or 5 or 8 or maybe 10 years.

A reunion performance of original band members after 4 decades is truly an unheard of event. But then, The Traits are a rather unusual group of individuals who fell together by happenstance in a small Central Texas town whose population had not yet reached 10,000, each one of whom really does love music to the soul.



photo by Carl Deal

Terri Hendrix to headline picnic celebration March 3

To know Terri Hendrix and her music is to know an artist driven by creating and the passion for motion itself. Terri is a multi-instrumentalist (acoustic guitar, harmonica, mandolin, papoose, accordion) who writes, sings and runs her own label, Wilory Records. She is an honest, independent, and determined artist. Billboard Magazine describes her sound as "music that showcases a brace of tuneful, sharply observed roots songs that cheerfully defy easy stylistic pigeonholing."

Terri unites rustic pop and roots music on an ambitious, soul-searching musical journey. Terri has developed her intriguing style with her five successful independent releases-1996's boho *Two Dollar Shoes*, 1998 and 2000's eclectic *Wilory Farm* and *Places in Between*, 1999's *Live at Cibolo Creek Country Club* and 2001's scintillating *Live At Cheatham Street Warehouse*.

Born and raised in San Antonio, TX, Terri's interests were guitar and voice. She went on to major in music on a vocal scholarship at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene, Texas. She transferred to Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos where she met a group of local songwriters who encouraged her to perform her original material at Cheatham Street's songwriter night.

Terri has confronted and conquered obstacles steering the ship of her career against the tide of music industry conformity. She has amassed both critical acclaim and a phenomenal fan base through national and international touring. Terri started her own label Wilory Records because her eclectic style was best handled with the organic help of a team and a personal grassroots

approach to selling and marketing her music through her website, and her ardent fourteen thousand strong and growing mailing list and fan club. In addition, this enables her to have far greater artistic and economic control. To this day, Terri has the final say on how often her CD's are released, what songs they contain, what the graphics and merchandise look like, and which singles and videos get released.

Terri was introduced to producer and multi-instrumentalist Lloyd Maines (acoustic guitar, dobro, steel guitar, mandolin, papoose) while he was producing at the Firestation Studios in San Marcos, TX. Terri and Lloyd became fast musical friends through their work ethic and soon merged as business partners with Wilory Records. They tour together as a duo across the country and occasionally with a band. Lloyd's celebrated career began nearly 30 years ago. Among others, he has played and or produced for a long list of talented artists including Wilco, Joe Ely, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, Terry Allen, Guy Clark, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Jerry Jeff Walker, Robert Earl Keen, Loretta Lynn, and the Dixie Chicks to name a few.

The underlying theme and common thread that ties Terri Hendrix's craft together is the hope and promise to pull through hard times. "Hit the road until it hits you back," she sings on "Good Time Van" "...and when it does cry until you laugh." With a liberal dose of humor and wit that Terri's audience has come to love and expect, Terri often uses her own experience as a starting point and writes about direction and finding one's place in the world in spite of the weeds in the garden of life--fear, doubt and uncertainty. Mojo fondly states "songs that quickly etch themselves in the brain courtesy of smart hooks and well observed slice-of-life lyrics." Terri's musical collection is both a companion for when the sun shines and for darker hours.

Terri has claimed numerous awards in Texas including Best Singer-Songwriter, Best Folk Band, and Best New Band (as well as top ten nods for Best Album, Acoustic Guitar and Song of the Year) in the 1999 and 2000 Austin Music Awards. She has also won Best Songwriter and Vocalist in the San Antonio Current Music Awards and Best Female Artist in the San Antonio chapter of the Texas Music Association. Terri is endorsed by Tacoma Guitars and her music has been featured on network television and in several nationally syndicated shows and compilations including WXPB's Philadelphia based World Café, Austin's KGSR Volume 9 and 10, Ann Arbor's Acoustic café, Lexington's Woodsongs, KLRU's "Live at Cibolo Creek Country Club" on PBS, Texas Music Café and the prime time soap opera Another World. Her music has also been used in commercials for the Pabst Brewing Company and the University of Texas in San Antonio.

" I am proud to be a resident of San Marcos and be a part of this Sesquicentennial event.

Our town has all the charm of a small town and all the convenience of a larger town.

Put that together with a beautiful river, a thriving college, a discount outlet mall, good restaurants and friendly people and living here is heaven."

- Terri Hendrix

"Visualize Sheryl Crow in overalls, or maybe Ani DiFranco with a down-home Texas perspective: that's Terri Hendrix, the singer-songwriter-entrepreneur-czarina, a walking advertisement for sunny confidence and boundless enthusiasm with bright sassy vocals and accomplished guitar playing."

– Texas Monthly

Terri Hendrix and her band will headline the San Marcos Sesquicentennial Picnic on Saturday, March 3. See page 4A for details. For more information on Terri Hendrix, log onto her official website:

www.terrihendrix.com



Office of the President

February 13, 2001

To the San Marcos Community:

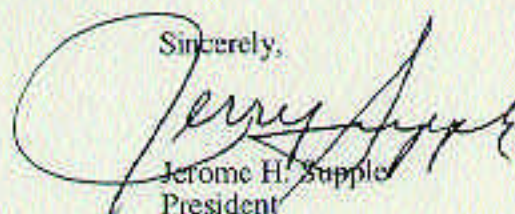
Our city's 150th birthday is a wonderful occasion to celebrate the partnership of the university and the city that has been its home for 102 years.

San Marcos was the perfect foundation on which to build a first-rate college because education has always been a top consideration in the building of the city. Local historians have identified forty schools in the San Marcos area before SWT was conceived. Early in its history, San Marcos hosted a Chautauqua that attracted visitors every summer for days or weeks at a time to hear lectures, sermons, concerts and discussion of social issues in a large wooden meeting house where Old Main now sits. When the structure collapsed, the city looked for an educational use for the eleven acres the building had occupied and petitioned the state to establish a teachers college on the site.

The marriage of the city and the university has been strong and rewarding, and like most marriages, not without growing pains. Some would say the marriage has produced too many offspring. But the partners are committed to each other and to working through problems for the benefit of both. We believe we are a better school because of our location, and we believe San Marcos is a better city because of the university. It's a good match.

And now it's time to celebrate. Have a terrific birthday, San Marcos!

Sincerely,



Jerome H. Supple
President

JHS/ter

Enclosures

Southwest Texas State University

601 University Drive San Marcos, Texas 78666-4615
Telephone: 512-245-2121 Fax: 512-245-8088



SAN MARCOS CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Dedicated to Education... Committed to Excellence

Hector Montenegro
Superintendent of Schools

February 20, 2001

To the City of San Marcos:

On behalf of the 1,000 employees and 7,000 students it is my pleasure to congratulate the City of San Marcos on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of its founding. Education has always played an important role in the growth and development of San Marcos. From the sprinkling of one room school houses throughout the county in the 1800's to the current 4-A Texas Education Agency "Recognized" school district, education has always been valued and supported by residents.

The City of San Marcos and San Marcos CISD work hard to maintain partnerships that result in beneficial outcomes for both entities. The City supports several career initiatives that provide our students with meaningful opportunities.

In recognition of the sesquicentennial, San Marcos CISD teachers are planning and implementing exciting study units that reflect the heritage of San Marcos and teach children the value of our ancestors.

City leaders and district administrators work collaboratively for the betterment of all citizens. The City provides free library cards to all San Marcos CISD students, encouraging family literacy and supporting our jobs as educators. In addition, the joint efforts of the San Marcos CISD and the City has resulted in a grant that is providing technology centers at the housing authority, public library and a dozen other area locations.

District students, staff, and parents are looking forward to participating in the March 3rd Sesquicentennial celebrations. This will highlight the community spirit that has been 150 years in the making.

Sincerely,

Hector Montenegro
Superintendent of Schools

People, places and events that have made The List...

The San Marcos 150

Here we have a compilation of 150 memorable pioneers, places and things that have greatly influenced San Marcos during the last century and a half. This list was started by Bob Barton, Jr., Juan R. Palomo, Jim Green and a handful of other folks in preparation for the Hays County Sesquicentennial. Bill Cunningham, Carl Deal, Diana Finlay, Susan Hanson, Melissa and Aart Millicam, and Harvey Miller picked through the list and added a few more names as we prepare to celebrate the city's Sesquicentennial.



ELTON ABERNATHY: The ultimate speech and debate professor at SWT, the man who grew the forensic program into a national model.

C.M. ALLEN: Mayor of San Marcos during '50s and '60s.

DR. M. L. ARNOLD: SWT history professor from 1914 through the mid 1940s, highly revered prof from the first half of the century.

SUSAN WITTIG ALBERT: novelist – has written everything

from Nancy Drew mysteries to her highly successful and best selling China Bayles mysteries. She was the first woman vice president of SWT before she became a fulltime writer.

LUNELLE ANDERSON: Served on the Texas Historical Commission, Governor's Commission for Women. Former SWT Dean of Women.

CHARLES AUSTIN: 1996 Gold Medal Winner in the High Jump in the Olympics in Atlanta. Still trains and lives in San Marcos.

BOB BARTON, JR.: Passionate Hays County native son and newspaperman who helped change the face of politics during more than 50 years of activism as San Marcos underwent dramatic social change in the last half of the 20th Century. His independence, outspokenness and adherence to principle made him the last man in Hays County to have a Ku Klux Klan cross burned on his front lawn in 1974.

LOUISE ROWE BEASLEY: The only female to ever play an instrument in Bob Wills' Texas Playboy Band. A bass player, she also played with Johnny Horton, Tommy Allsup and other touring country acts of the '50s and '60s.

DR. THOMAS BRASHER: SWT English professor. Whitman scholar, left a legacy of love and understanding for literature.

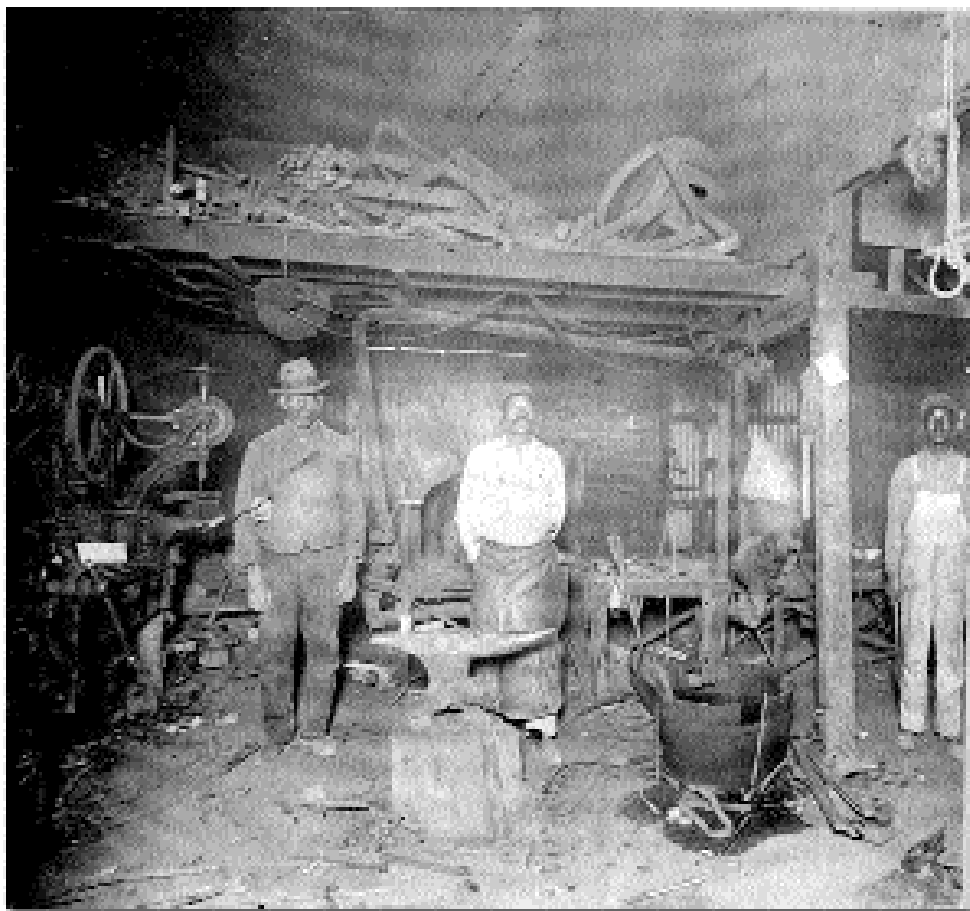
PROFESSOR REV. ROBERT BELVIN: Brought his family to San Marcos in 1870 to oversee the Coronal Institute. He saw the Institute through an era of progress and growth in the early 1870's before selling to the local Methodist Conference.

BARBARA PETERSON BACKUS: Aquarena Springs' most famous Aquamaid, appearing with Ralph the Swimming Pig on national television and in magazines around the world.

WEBB BRANNON: Unsuccessful city council candidate who posed for his campaign posters in the nude in a vacant lot – "A Man Outstanding In His Field" was his slogan.

WALTER BUCKNER: Second generation San Marcos newspaperman, built his family newspaper, The San Marcos Record, into a highly successful newspaper and had considerable statewide political influence.

Cephas's Blacksmith Shop
(Calaboose Museum of African American History)



Continued on page 2D

The San Marcos 150, continued from page 1D



Bill and Sally Wittliff and Jerry Supple

EDWARD BURLESON: While serving in the Texas Senate, this former vice president of The Republic of Texas sponsored a bill to create the new county and make San Marcos, or St. Mark's as it was called by some, the county seat. One of the regimental commanders at San Jacinto, he led many raids against Comanches and Cherokees. He built his last home on the hill overlooking present-day Aquarena.

POWERS BOOTHE: Hollywood actor and SWT graduate best known for his role as Rev. Jim Jones in the Guyana Tragedy movie.

SARAH BURLESON: This tough, self-sufficient woman ran the family household, supervised the farming operation, slaves and other employees for much of her life as the wife of Ed Burleson, who spent much of his time in warfare with either Indians or Santa Anna's soldiers. Born Sarah Owen, this frontier woman was illiterate and had to make her mark when called on to sign her name.

ED BURLESON JR: Son and namesake of county's founder. Famous in his own right as fearless Texas Ranger, Comanche Indian fighter, confidant of Sam Houston. Antebellum home still stands on Lime Kiln Road north of San Marcos. His son, Albert Sidney, grew up to be a congressman and President Wilson's postmaster general.

CHARLIE BARSOTTI: Longtime national magazine cartoonist – drew the little man who sits on the Colloquium Book Store sign. Graduate of SWT and former teacher at Brown School. Sells lots of cartoons to *Playboy*.

JOSEPH CEPHAS: Born a slave, he became one of the first teachers for Black children following the establishment of freedom on June 19, 1865. He received \$75 a month for his services to the public schools. A descendent became a well-known blacksmith in San Marcos during the 20th century.

ELIZABETH CROOK—San Marcos novelist who captured the spirit of early Texas in her books, *Raven's Bride* and

Promised Lands—the latter edited by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

COTTON: Like Elvis, it was the King, at least for much of the early years along the bottom lands of the Blanco and San Marcos and the lower part of Onion Creek. Before the Civil War labor was provided by slaves. After emancipation, many black families became sharecroppers, with others buying their own farms. By the 1870's many Mexican natives moved to the rural areas and worked the land on shares or for wages.

BILL AND ELEANOR CROOK: Long-time patrons of the San Marcos community, through the HEB Foundation Grants, local contributions to heritage organizations, and personal donations to causes in which they believe. The city's newest nature park on Riverside Drive is the most recent of the generous donations made possible by the Crook Family. Bill was the former Ambassador to Australia.

OLA LEE COLEMAN: Beloved African American educator – taught generations of local residents at Dunbar School. She was not married, but her students were her family.

DR. EMMIE CRADDOCK: Outstanding SWT history professor and Professor Emeritus who became the first woman elected as Mayor of San Marcos. She served two stints during the turbulent 1970s and 1980s and helped improve the operations of city government. Responsible for the proliferation of crepe myrtles in San Marcos.

FIRING CTHEA: City officials thought they could make some extra bucks (like \$10 million) by dissolving the Central Texas Higher Education Authority and reallocating their assets to city projects. In 1987, the City Council fired the entire 15 member board of directors—a politically foolish act that ended several political careers and created new ones. CTHEA continues in fine form today financing higher education loans.

JOHN L. CONNALLY: An early Stringtown resident by way of Alabama and the California gold country, he was a famed owner of renowned race horses. One of them, "Last Chance" never lost a race in competition with some of the state's best blooded horses. Some sold for as much as \$1,000, an almost unheard of price in early day Texas.

ED CAPE: Prominent San Marcos banker and political powerhouse. The man LBJ looked to when he wanted something in San Marcos. Ran the town until H.Y. Price came to town.

THOMAS CARTER: Distinguished Alumnus of SWT, a brilliant actor and acclaimed director.

CHARLES S. COCK: An early immigrant to Hays County with Dr. Peter Woods' group from Mississippi. He served as county commissioner, clerk and treasurer, and the small stone house where he resided still stands at the corner of Hopkins and C.M. Allen in San Marcos, restored in 1976. Incidentally, Cock's hand-writing in minutes he took as county clerk often borders on the indecipherable.

CORONAL INSTITUTE: The Institute passed for the Halls of Academia in early Hays County, as the children of those with means congregated in western San Marcos to learn about everything from Latin to chemistry. The influence of the school is credited in many early accounts with helping lift San Marcos out of its post-Civil War malaise.

DAVID CHIU: Mayor of San Marcos and first Asian-American in history to lead a Texas city. Introduced San Marcos to Chinese food with his popular Hong Kong Restaurant.

CUFF: A slave belonging to a Prairie Lea farmer, he conspired with another slave to steal the county's money to escape to freedom in Mexico. Caught, he was not prosecuted when restitution was made. Later he was accused of burning a gin and his trial was moved to Austin because several prominent San Marcans testified he couldn't get a fair trial here.



Elizabeth Crook

DR. DAVID DAILEY: Emigrated with large family in wagons from Georgia, arriving in San Marcos late in 1854. Settled on 800 acres in Stringtown where he practiced medicine and occasionally preached the gospel. Several of his sons opened a store and operated a gin. Six of his sons marched off to war wearing the Confederate gray.

ALONSO DELEON: Early Spanish explorer caused some confusion in 1689 by naming a river San Marcos. Later map makers discovered that he was referring to the Colorado. The San Marcos became the San Marcos in 1709.

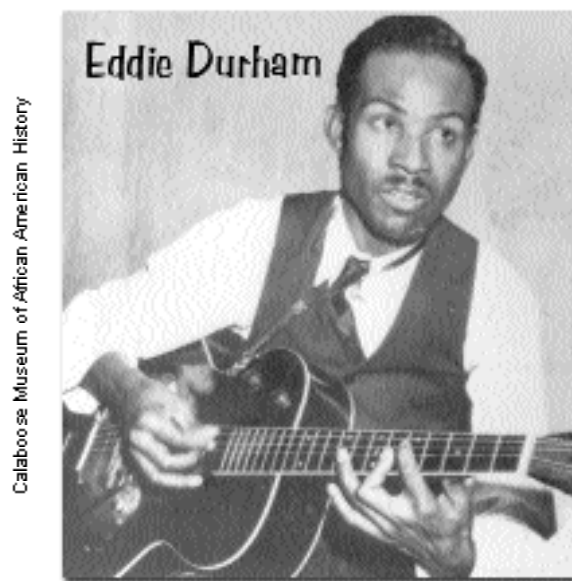
SHADRACH DIXON: Came from Louisiana before Civil War. Father of 16 children by two wives. Largest slave owner in county at outbreak of War. Early school bearing his name located near Old Stage Coach crossing on Blanco River. His friend Sam Houston once complained, "There's Shad, he has all those children and didn't name one after me." Twenty or so years later youngest son changed his name to Sam Houston Dixon and later became well known author.

EDDIE DURHAM: Famed jazz musician, innovative guitarist, and native of San Marcos.

Continued on page 3D

The San Marcos 150, continued from page 2D

THE DRESS CODE: Controversial dress code and hair-length rules adopted by the San Marcos school board in 1972 sparked a student walkout and week-long boycott. The battle appeared to be over the code, but had more to do with race relations. The district had charged more than 30 parents with violating school attendance laws—including some of the most prominent Mexican American and Black leaders in San Marcos. The charges were eventually dropped and so was the dress code.



Calaboose Museum of African American History

WAYMAN DIAL: San Marcos Chief of Police in the late '60s, was arrested in California as a member of a burglary ring. He's out of prison and lives somewhere in Texas.

DUDLEY DOBIE: Historian, museum curator and a great storyteller. A South Texas import who quickly established a connection to San Marcos pioneers and their descendants. He attempted to peddle books to a local constituency that wasn't particularly acclimated to such.

MAJOR ISRAEL B. DONALSON: Living to be almost 100 years old, he crammed a tremendous amount of exploits into his life. Included was service in the Kentucky House of Representatives, battalion commander in the Mexican war, California 49er, and U.S. marshal during the Bleeding Kansas troubles, and strangest of all, witness to the hanging of John Brown. Donalson moved to Hays County in 1865 and many members of his large family became an integral part of commercial and community life in this area.

DROUGHT OF 1857 TO 1859: Nary a drop of rain fell for months at a time during this prolonged dry spell that just preceded the Civil War. Many farmers were able to survive by raising stock, despite almost total crop failures. Some wise planters learned to diversify their crops to include more drought-resistant types than the typical corn and cotton. Except for a few deep holes, Onion and

much of the Blanco went bone dry.

BERRY DURHAM SCHOOL: The first permanent school for Black children in the Stringtown area following the Civil War was named for former slave Berry Durham, who had become a farmer in the area. He and his wife Patsy had four children. Boarding with them was the teacher, James Gilmore.

JANET ELLIS: A 1975 graduate of San Marcos High School and SWT and a renowned mezzo-soprano on opera stages around the world.

EARLY PROHIBITION: "Fill your jugs!" shouted an ad in a March, 1877 issue of the San Marcos newspaper. The next day a new law went into effect prohibiting the sale of "spirituous liquors" except for medicinal purposes. Needless to say "prescriptions" became more positive in the ensuing years.

PRESIDENT C.E. EVANS: Head of SWT for more than 30 years. Put SWT on the map Despite the fact that his brother was the national grand imperial wizard of the KKK., he was a progressive force in state educational circles.

CATON ERHARD: This native German merchant was the first Hays County Clerk and one of the most colorful and historically-minded early citizens. His recollections provide one of the few firsthand descriptions of early Hays County that survives, and even more fortunately, he is not one to mince words or gloss over the human side of history.

GREENBERRY EZELL: Deep in the heart of San Marcos lies the Ezell Cave, a valuable treasure with scads of underground creatures, eight of which are found no other place in the world. Ezell, himself was also a treasure. He came to San Marcos before 1849, but then

went to California to seek his fortune—selling everything from water to bear grease to the miners. He later came back home and legend has it that he buried some of his riches. No one has found them yet.

JUDY FORD: All-around cowgirl, bull rider and more, the stories she can tell would make a book (and has!)

LUCIANO FLORES: First Mexican American mayor of San Marcos.

FAULTY LAND TITLES: Greedy relatives of Juan Veramendi sold some of the family's immense holdings on the San Marcos River to more than one buyer. One of the reasons San Marcos remained in the doldrums during its first 30 years was because so many of the land titles were clouded by those sales. It kept local lawyers busy for a long time.

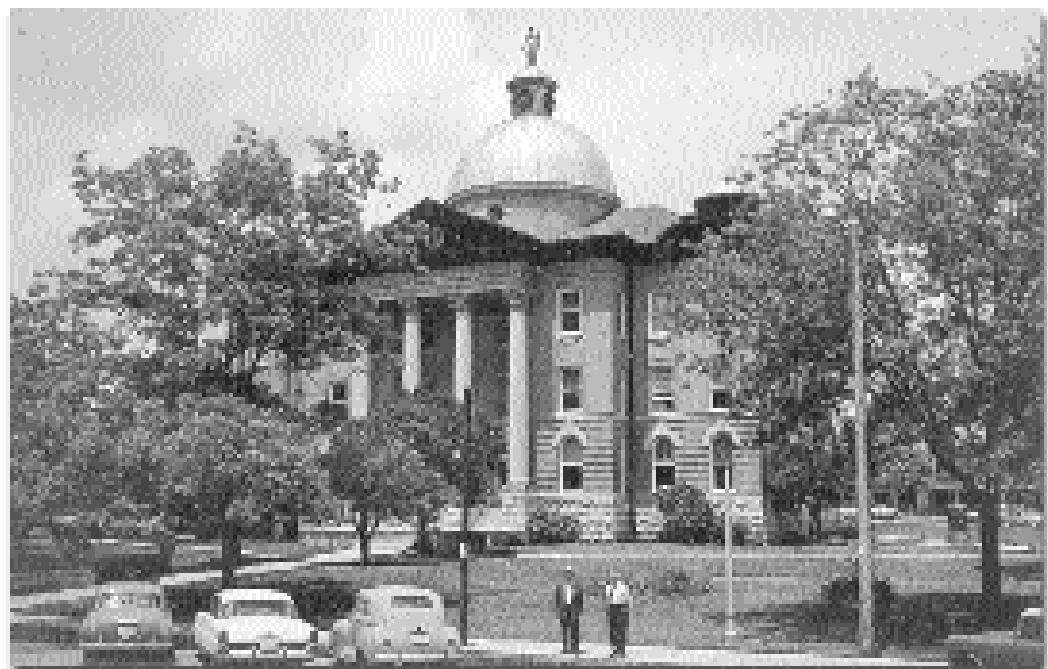
JAMES FARMER: Longtime educator and beloved principal in the San Marcos school system. Knows generations of school kids by name to this day.

FAYLOR'S TAVERN: M.D. Faylor opened the first tavern in San Marcos in 1847. A favorite early day story says that's where the phrase, "green from the States" originated. The story goes like this. A guest at the breakfast table asked to be helped to some of the gravy, whereupon a little girl whispered to someone sitting next to her, "He is green from the States. He calls sop, gravy." Faylor was also the first county treasurer.

STERLING FISHER: Lost a leg in Civil War battle, came to Hays County during Reconstruction and was serving as County Judge when someone broke in and tried to burn the county deeds and other documents. His brother was early day San Marcos Methodist minister.

Continued on page 4D

San Marcos Hays County Collection, © San Marcos Public Library



The San Marcos 150, continued from page 3D

DAVID FLEMING—novelist, *Border Crossings*, *Summertime* — an outstanding recollection of the drought of the 1950s — longtime educator — comes from great family tradition of teacher.

OWEN GOODNIGHT: San Marcos High School Athletic Director; led Rattlers to victory; has been called one of the most honorable and admirable coaches in San Marcos history. Never discriminated against any kid just because he/she wasn't athletically inclined. Died of a heart attack at an SMHS football banquet held in his honor. Junior High named in his memory.

ED J.L. GREEN: County Clerk Green was described as a "genial and popular" county official, and also had an odd marital history: after his first wife's death, he married her sister, and upon her death, he married a third sister. This must be confusing at family reunions. Green later in life became one of the county's outstanding entrepreneurs.

RALPH GONZALES: El Patron of the Barrio, controversial but extremely popular, served Mexican food to President Jimmy Carter at the White House, served as county commissioner, later served time in federal prison for income tax evasion and came back home to lead a lower profile.

PROFESSOR H.M. GREENE: Fabled mentor of LBJ and debate coach at SWT; The mold was broken when he was created. Funny, sometimes profane, with a wad of tobacco and countless stories.

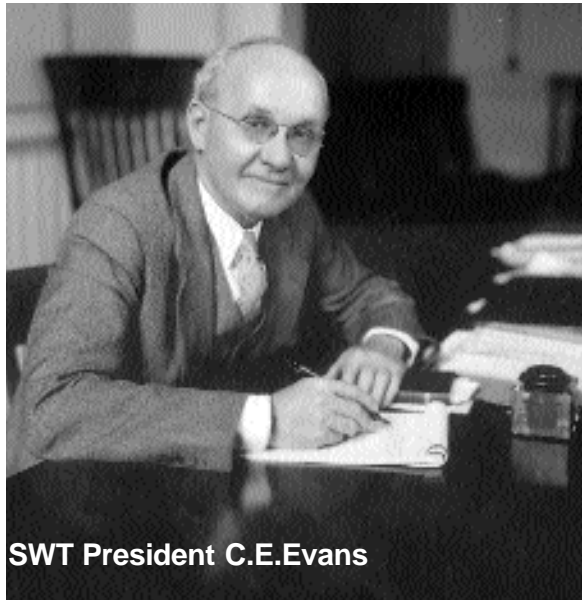
JACK C. HAYS: Famed calm and cool Texas Ranger honored by having county named for him by Senator Ed Burleson in 1848. He never lived here, having gone to California in the Gold Rush following fearless service in Mexican War. In later life he stayed on the West Coast and was sheriff of San Francisco County and helped found Oakland.

ALLIE PEARL HOWELL: Second grade teacher for nearly 50 years — genuinely loved children; everyone's early teacher in San Marcos.

O.H. HOLLINGSWORTH: County's most prominent educator in early days. Founded Coronal Institute, was State Superintendent of Education and later headed the State Board of Education, providing leadership in establishment of public schools throughout the state. Served term in legislature.

FIRING OF SWT PRESIDENT BOB HARDESTY: This was part of a triple play by the Board of Regents that partic-

ular year. Along with Bob Hardesty, historic Carroll Hall got the ax (or rather, the demolition ball) and the policy to distribute birth control pills through the university infirmary was rescinded.



SWT President C.E. Evans

DESMOND PULASKI HOPKINS: A Civil War veteran, county official and city councilman, we let Hopkins tell his own story. On coming to San Marcos: "Owing to my good looks, I soon obtained a job-eight dollars a month with board and washing. A job and board and washing always went together." And after his retirement: "I also 'blowed' in the brass band three years, but I don't blow any more."

HOUSTON KISSING TREE:

Located on the banks of the San Marcos near downtown, this tree is where Sam Houston made a legendary speech in his successful race for governor in 1859. Before it was over he kissed all the pretty girls and in the midst of a stem-winding speech shed his shirt in an effort to cool down his body if not his rhetoric.

MAJOR W.O. HUTCHISON: Probably the county's most accomplished early day lawyer. Helped keep the county seat from being moved to Cannonville. Served as Major in Wood's 32nd Cavalry during Civil War. He had a long legal career and much later was elected to the State Senate as one of the few representatives of the Populist Party.

HELOISE II: Earned her math degree from SWT and returned to her native San Antonio as heir to the throne of household hints. Her syndicated column appears in hundreds of newspapers nationwide.

TEX HUGHSON: All-Star major league fast-ball pitcher for the Boston Red Sox with a sharp curve. Going 22-6 in 1942, he led the AL in wins, complete games (22), innings (281), and strikeouts (113). He again led in complete games (20) in 1943, and his .783 winning percentage (18-5) in 1944 was the AL's best. After

spending 1945 in the military, Hughson returned in good form, going 20-11 in 1946 and playing in the World Series.

ROY HEAD: San Marcos High School's early rock star, played W. C. Carson's campaign for class office and helped him win the presidency, went on to a major record deal in the early '60s. Featured performer at the upcoming Sesquicentennial Picnic on March 3, 2001.

KATHERINE HARDEMAN: Another wonderful educator in San Marcos. Mrs. Hardeman led a generation of children, both black and white, through the integration process. A community leader, active in all facets of San Marcos life.

DR. RALPH HOUSTON: Dean of Liberal Arts and beloved professor of English, Taught Jake Pickle and Susan Hanson among others. Was a good friend of Deacon Wright.

THOMAS CHAMBLISS JOHNSON: Coming to Hays County after the War in 1869 and with other family members, young T.C. farmed a few years in the Stringtown area, then began learning merchandising and in 1875 formed a mercantile partnership with George Donalson. The store grew rapidly and soon became a highly successful joint operation between Johnson and his cousin Gideon Johnson.

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON: For obvious reasons. SWT graduate went on to be President of the United States.

LUCIOUS JACKSON: Star basketball player in NBA after starring at Pan American University. Tragically, he was not allowed to play high school ball at San Marcos because of segregation sentiments at other schools. Virtually invented the position of "power forward" in NBA with the '76ers.

MILTON JOWERS: Took San Marcos high to state basketball championship in 1940; was later a top basketball coach at SWT.

ISAAC JULIAN: Probably the best newspaperman ever to grace Hays County; this Indiana native fought off local skepticism about his politics to build his San Marcos Free Press. His paper provides the best firsthand accounts of the 1870s and '80s available in our day.

REV. A.B.F. KERR: A circuit-riding minister who organized First Methodist Church before 1850, he moved to San Marcos about 20 years later and became a merchant. He was elected as the first mayor following incorporation of the town.

H.C. KYLE JR.: State legislator as a young



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man, also county attorney; first prominent Republican of this century in this county. When the city changed the name of Austin Street to LBJ, Kyle refused to use that as his street address. Henceforth, the address of his law office on the Square was "East Side of the Square."

JOHN KIRBY: A real mystery yet unsolved. Who was John Kirby. He was elected as our first sheriff in 1848, but none of the early writers ever mentioned him. He resigned six months after the election and is not on the 1850 census. His name is not on the list of Texas Rangers stationed in San Marcos with Henry McCulloch, some of whom became permanent residents. *¿Quien Sabe?*

TROY KIMMEL: San Marcos' favorite meteorologist. He has worked for every major television station in the Austin area, among other media outlets around the state. Currently Chief Meteorologist, KEYE Television (CBS Media Group), Austin Chief Meteorologist, KVET/KASE/KFMK Radio (Clear Channel Radio), Austin, and Lecturer, Studies in Weather and Climate, Department of Geography, University of Texas at Austin.

JUDGE ED KONE: The son of early settler Sam Kone of Stringtown, he was born in 1848, the same year as Hays County, and lived to the age of 84. In between he served as County Attorney, Sheriff and County Judge, the latter for nearly 25 years. He also served a State Agriculture Commissioner and was a city judge in Austin at the time

of his death.

MILES LEATHERWOOD: An early immigrant to Hays County, Leatherwood was appointed sheriff at the conclusion of the Civil War by Governor Andrew J. Hamilton. Later in his life, he committed suicide, perhaps the first person to do so in the county's history.

WILLIAM LINDSEY: An early day surveyor in many areas of the state, he joined with Eli Merriman and Ed Burleson to lay out the town of San Marcos soon after the county was created.

AUGUSTIN LUCIO: World War II hero and fierce and hardworking San Marcos school board member for many years.

EMMIT AND MIRIAM MCCOY: Among the most generous people we've ever met. If there's a will, there's a way. The McCoys have catapulted worthwhile projects from the PAWS Animal Shelter, new San Marcos Animal Shelter to the Redwood Reading Project to fruition, along with other projects too numerous to mention, all in the name of "building family values."

JAMES & ELIZA MALONE: They moved to Stringtown in 1852, soon after their marriage. One of the areas largest farming families, they had 16 children and their home was the center of social gatherings for the next 40 years.

FRANCES AND C.D. MARSHALL: Generous benefactors of

the San Marcos community who purchased the old Dunbar School from San Marcos CISD and donated the property to the City of San Marcos for a community facility and park.

FOREST MANJANG: One of the best teachers on staff during the segregated days of Dunbar School, and on through desegregation, he worked with thousands of students.

DR. ELI T. MERRIMAN: One of the first half-dozen settlers in San Marcos, he had been a Texas Ranger with Henry McCulloch, but resigned to take the job as the fledgling community's postmaster. His original house has been reconstructed on the SWT campus at Aquarena. He was one of the three partners who officially laid out the town of San Marcos

MCCROCKLIN PLAGIARISM CHARGES and resignation, after those who exposed him had been fired: The Cliff's Notes version is that a group of profs including Dr. Charles Chandler accused the president of SWT of plagiarizing portions of his dissertation. Chandler and Bill C. Malone were among those fired for blowing the whistle. McCrocklin resigned and his PhD was withdrawn by the University of Texas. While president of SWT, James McCrocklin took a leave of absence to serve as Undersecretary of Health, Education, and Welfare for LBJ.

CELESTINO MENDEZ: Former San Marcos school board member and chief catalyst in the '70s for the reform coalition called "The Independent Party."

MILITARY ROAD: Way back in 1838 President Mirabeau Lamar set in progress construction of a series of forts along the then frontier and also ordered the construction of a military road leading to them. A company of troops was assigned to the San Marcos Springs. A small fort was built by the 53 man company, (although more than 20 deserted when they found the work unappetizing. It was soon abandoned but the road they had blazed became the normal route of travel in the area.

JERRI MARTIN: KCNY radio owner/ reporter pioneered today's tough talk shows and developed strong following by asking the hard questions. Later a longtime Austin American Statesman reporter.

MARIJUANA DECRIMINALIZATION ELECTION: The legalization/decriminalization citizenry has a voice in Joe Ptak and Zeal Steffanoff, two decriminalization supporters who spearheaded the drive to a city election, which failed.

WILLIAM WASHINGTON MOON: One of first settlers, An ex-Texas Ranger, he came to the not yet formed county in 1845 and was soon widowed, leaving him with four young daughters. His house became the stage stop and he briefly served as sheriff. He also operated a hotel



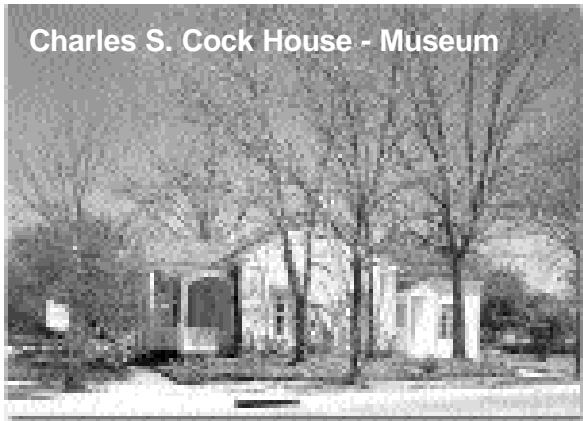
Courtesy of the John Guenzel Collection (August 1975)

Mike Daily, Ron Cable and Tom Foote - Original members of Ace in the Hole - debuting at Cheatham Street Warehouse in San Marcos

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Charles S. Cock House - Museum



and blacksmith shop. Later in life he also went up the trail to Kansas with livestock.

BILL C. MALONE SWT history prof, international authority on country music, civil rights activist and self-proclaimed troublemaker during the McCrocklin regime. Nationally renowned historian-Country Music, USA,

HENRY MCCULLOCH: Not as famous as his brother Ben, who died leading a charge early in the Civil War, Henry played an integral part in Hays County history. His Mexican War camp, followed by a Ranger camp under his control, on the banks of the San Marcos two block east of the current courthouse, resulted in the establishment of the town and the construction of the first tavern and store. He became a General in the Civil War and later served the area in the State Senate.

GEORGE MCGEHEE: A son of early settler Thomas McGehee, he lived a long and interesting life and was the subject of several sketches by Frank Dobie in his writings. He served terms in the state legislature before 1900. His ingenuity early made him a wealthy man.

Judge Max Smith



MINERVA HUNT MCGEHEE: With news that the Alamo had fallen, she gathered her two year old daughter and infant son into a cart, hitched two oxen to it and fled Bastrop as part of the Runaway Scrape, walking all the way through mud and rough terrain. She and her husband Thomas moved to Hays County ten years later.

APOLINAR MENDOZA: A true patriot in the tradition of Abraham Lincoln and Benito Juarez.

THOMAS MCGEHEE: Veteran of San Jacinto and early Bastrop settler, he settled on his land grant on the San Marcos at the old Camino Real crossing in 1846. One of his sons was the first child of European origin to be born in Hays County.

PETRA NICOLA: Hispanic educator, one of the first Mexican American teachers to become a full member of the SMCISD faculty. Served for many years, taught thousands of students.

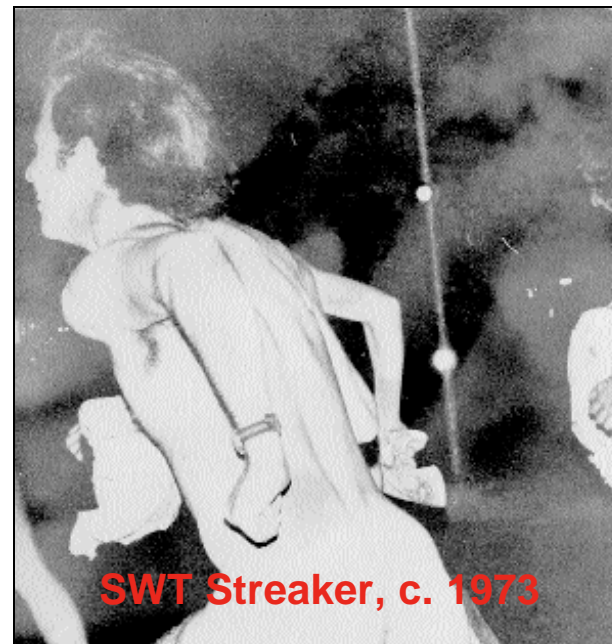
DR. ALFRED NOLLE: This SWT Dean's tenure with the university spanned almost four decades. First SWT professor with a Ph.D, joined faculty in 1919 to teach German.

EDWARD NORTHCRAFT: Although his most important architectural accomplishments came after 1880, he arrived in San Marcos in 1867 and quickly entered the construction business. Highly successful, he was the contractor for the old stone jail that a group is attempting to renovate. Northcraft later served as Superintendent of Public Buildings for the entire state and built several courthouses and many jails.

PENITENTIARY IN SAN MARCOS?: Dare the State of Texas defile the fair city and its spring with a branch of the State Penitentiary? It almost happened in 1875, as the state looked for another site to house ne'er-do-wells. Public criticism helped derail this plan. It almost happened again in 1987 when San Marcos was considered for a state prison. The privately operated prison was eventually built in Kyle.

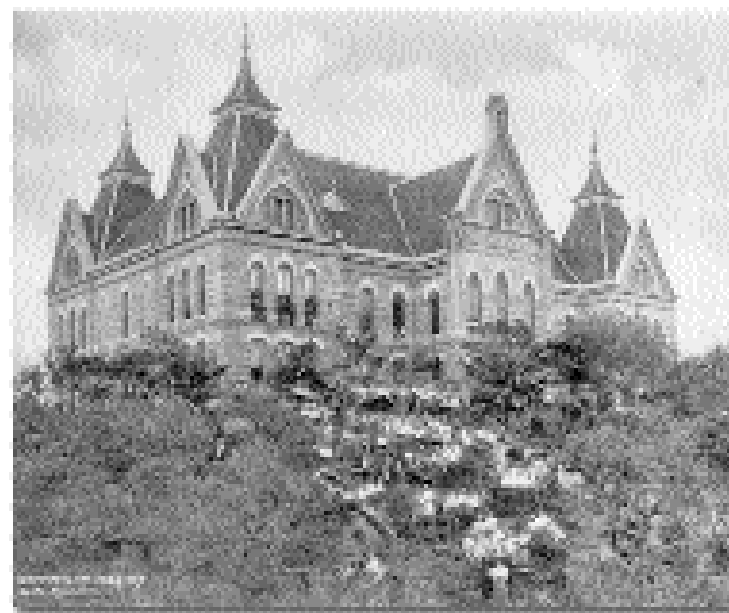
DR. BILL POOL: Texas history and JFK conspiracy expert. There are probably more stories floating around about Dr. Pool than anyone else on our list ... and they're all true.

JOHN D. PITTS: The first man to settle in Stringtown, accompanied by a large group of family members and former Georgia neighbors, he later served as adjutant general under Governor George Wood. Later in life he organized the Pittsburg Land Company and laid out the town that is now called Blanco. At the time the area was still a part of Hays County.



REED PARR: A lifelong advocate for the arts and music in San Marcos, as well as preservation and heritage. Her legacy will live on through scholarships and endowments to the university and contributions to the city.

JAKE PICKLE: Congressman. He never lived here, but he knew more people by first names than many local political leaders. Responsible for the flood control dams that



have saved San Marcos from ruin – and helped save social security in the 1980s.

PLACIDO: Tough as nails, this Tonkawa leader was Ed Burleson's trusted friend and chief scout. He fought Comanches at Plum Creek, could trot alongside a galloping Texas Ranger, and fight with great bravery. His tribe were bitter enemies of the Comanches and great friends of early Central Texas settlers. They were poorly rewarded by Texas leaders and were eventually moved

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reservation in the Indian Nation, where most were sacred by other tribes during the Civil War because Tonkawas were to friendly with Texans.

PRICE: San Marcos telephone company owner who ran for office but very influential supporter of progressive causes and school improvements. A strong mover and benefactor for the San Marcos community.

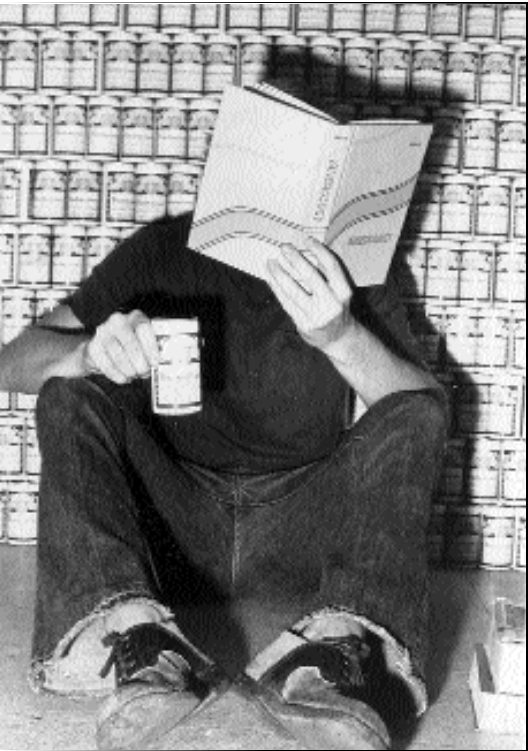
MAH PITTS RANDLE: As a very young woman this first daughter of Billy Pitts became the first school teacher in the Stringtown community. She and a cousin made the first Texas flag to be flown over San Marcos on July 1, 1847. Shortly thereafter she was the bride in the first big county wedding when she married John Randle of Seguin in 1848. She was also a founding member of the San Marcos Methodist Church.

JOHN RUIZ SR.: First Mexican-American elected official in the county; city councilman and later county commissioner. He broke down the barriers.

PHIL, THE SWIMMING PIG: Big tourist attraction before outlet malls. Entertained millions of visitors at arena Springs through the years.

ROADS: The "Iron Horse" came through Hays County in 1880 and forever changed this place. Its first fatal accident was the final death knell for the frontier and marked the beginning of "development of Hays County in modern terms.

REED: One of the most notorious outlaws to visit Hays County. Reed led a gang that robbed the San Marcos stage in April of 1874. The gang escaped with about \$3,000 in loot along with some jewelry from



San Marcos votes "Wet" in April, 1972.

Belle Starr and managed to escape various posses for awhile, but eventually died with his boots on.

SOILA RODRIGUEZ: Outstanding educator, dedicated teacher, first Hispanic school administrator in San Marcos CISD.

SAN MARCOS SPRINGS: The second largest cluster of natural springs in Texas lie a couple of miles northeast of the Hays County courthouse. Archaeological studies in recent years indicate that native Americans inhabited the area nearly 10,000 years ago. Tonkawas were the last of the Indians to occupy the valued springs, which were discovered by Spanish explorers early in the 18th Century. Gins and mills occupied the site after American settlement, but the area is now owned by Southwest Texas State University.

FIRST STREAKING AT SWT IN 70s: Yep, buck-naked youngsters frolicked right here in River City. And the fad even caught on at the high school, however briefly — or sans-briefs, as it were.

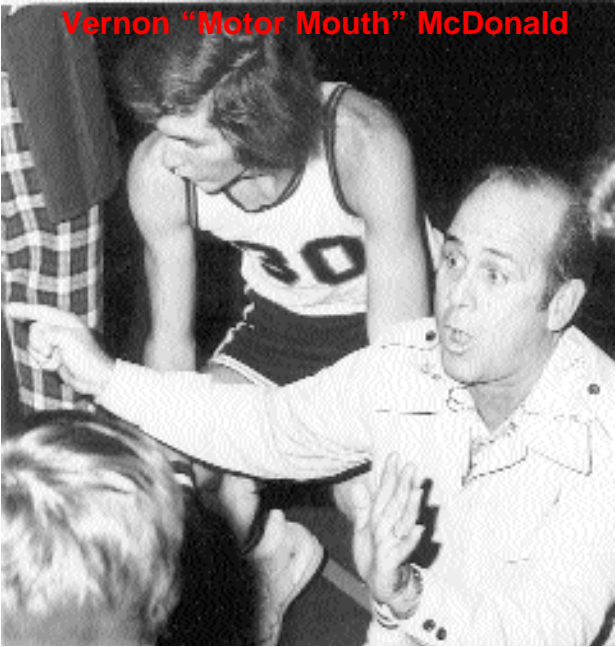
MICHAEL SESSOM: This early day settler, one of the first to arrive, was an Indian fighter and Texas Ranger who took a hankering to the San Marcos River valley. He was the community's first blacksmith and lived a long and fruitful life. His name is often misspelled on local street signs.

MAX SMITH: powerful head of the Texas House Appropriations Committee for many years and later a colorful county judge.

GEORGE SNYDER: This Georgia native founded Hays County's first newspaper, The Pioneer, shortly after the Civil War. After a move back to Georgia he returned to Hays County, flew into a rage one day and killed his wife. He was sent to state prison for life and reportedly lived there until 1927.

STAGECOACH LINES: There were a variety of stage coach lines that plied their trade on the Austin to San Antonio route through Hays County in pre-Civil War days. In 1857 the three times a week trip passed through Manchaca Springs on the Travis County line, and stopped for a change in horses, then went on through the Mountain City country, crossed the Blanco near the current low water crossing below Five Mile Dam, where there was another stop, and then went on to San Marcos to the hotel, where meals were served. The final Hays County stop was at the lower end of Stringtown, where there were accommodations for travelers who didn't want to travel at night. The straight-through trip would take 18 hours.

DR. JAMES TAYLOR: In the words of one of our favorite wordsmiths, "a substantial government professor." The Taylor Murphy Building is named after him... Chair of Social Sciences department. First permanent lecture series at SWT was named for him.



DR. ROBERT TAMPKE: Music prof at SWT for years and years, also a performing musician. Legend had it that he was reprimanded for having a saxophone in the college band. It was said to cause hormonal rages. Hmmm.

DR. GATES THOMAS: A highly acclaimed professor of English in the '20s and '30s, who inspired many to enter the field of teaching.

UNIONISTS: About 60 percent of Hays County voted to secede from the United States in 1861, but a substantial number remained loyal. Some kept their mouth shut and stayed put. Others with draft age boys, hid out in the heavily wooded hills of Hays County, enlisted in state units to fight Indians, or fled to Mexico or Union strongholds like the Fredericksburg area.

WALTER RICHTER: State Senator and conscience of that body for several terms during the '60s. Journalism professor at SWT. Established the Walter Richter School of Social Work.

LAURA RAMSAY: A leader in the Urban Renewal program, Democratic activist, wife of Mayor Charles Ramsay Sr, mother of district judge Charles Ramsay Jr.

A. B. ROGERS: Opened Aquarena Springs and Wonder Cave as two of the earliest tourist attractions in the nation. Outstanding businessman and entrepreneur who put San Marcos on the map.

DR. GWEN SMITH: May try to act like a tough old bird, but when it comes to generosity, she has been the Secret Santa on more than one occasion. A patron of the arts and civic beautification, she is a true example of compassionate conservatism.

J. EDWIN SMITH: Famed lawyer and San Marcos native who won a Supreme Court case giving African

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Americans the right to vote in Democratic party primaries.

GEORGE STRAIT: Award-winning country and western singing star, entertainer of the year, platinum-selling superstar. He signed his first autographs right here in San Marcos, where he started his career at Cheatham Street Warehouse. The original members of Ace in the Hole: Mike Dailey, Tommy Foote, Terry Hale, and, of course, George Strait.

FROGGY SEWELL: Water sports enthusiast and SWT swim coach for whom Sewell Park is named

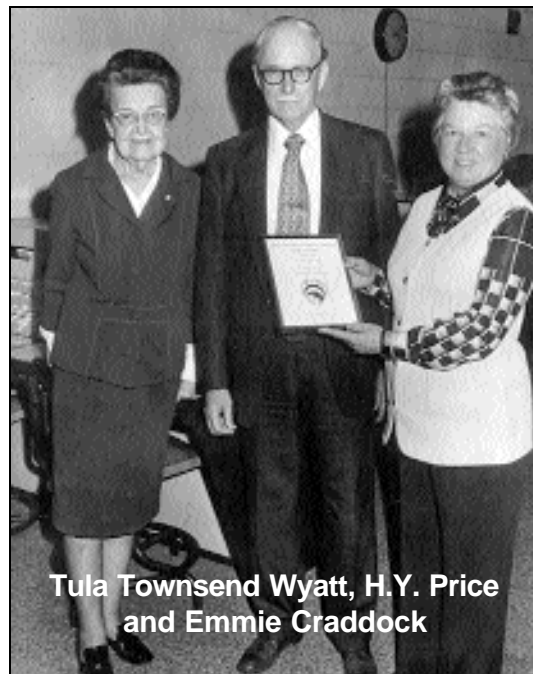
OFELIA VASQUEZ-PHILO: First Mexican American woman to serve on San Marcos school board who served both as an Hispanic and feminist leader.

TINO VILLANUEVA : Poet – raised in the San Marcos barrio, has achieved national literary reputation. Wrote “Scenes from the Movie Giant” recalling his experience of seeing that movie here.

ROY WILBERN – historian, retired school teacher – SWT – authored "The White Stars" a book about the various members of an early political fraternity of which LBJ was a prominent member. Wilbern is a LBJ scholar.

JUAN VERAMENDI: The Governor of the State of Coahuila and Texas, he was a powerful person and had powerful connections. His brother-in-law, Antonio Navarro was land commissioner for the DeWitt Colony and his son-in-law was the famed Jim Bowie. He had enough stroke to be awarded two leagues of land on the San Marcos River by the Mexican government. He never came on the property, dying in a cholera epidemic in 1833. His remaining heirs sold the San Marcos River land to the community's founders.

CATHY VILLALPANDO: Aide to Senator John Tower and



**Tula Townsend Wyatt, H.Y. Price
and Emmie Craddock**

President Lyndon Johnson signs the Higher Education Act into law in 1964 in San Marcos.



Southwest Texas State University archives

former Treasurer of the United States. Look at your next dollar bill: Did she sign it?

ALPHONSO WASHINGTON: Longtime political leader in the black community and former member of the school board. A man of conscience and courage.

WET AND DRY ELECTION: It finally happened in April of 1972. Opponents blamed it on those damned college kids, who had coincidentally gotten the right to vote at 18 only the year before. Coincidence?

DEACON WRIGHT: SWT English prof with enormous charm and charisma. He was forced out of town which is another long story that needs more space than we have here... the situation caused great turmoil throughout the English Department at SWT and beyond.

MARY ANN WILLIAMS: First African-American on San Marcos school board.

BILL AND SALLY WITTLIFF: Have given San Marcos its most priceless treasure. The Southwestern Writers Collection is an incredible gift of the past for the future. The addition of the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern and Mexican Photography has added yet another dimension to the cultural diversity of SWT and San Marcos.

GEORGIA LAWSHE WOODS: Another example of an outstanding woman whose accomplishments were overshadowed by early historians because of the fame of the husband. The wife of Col. Peter Woods, this unusual woman successfully ran the family plantation and dealt with the hardships of frontier life. Her great-granddaughter, Janice Woods Windle, used her as a central figure in the best selling book, *True Women*.

PETER C. WOODS: A medical doctor who came to Hays County from Mississippi, Peter Woods was chosen as commander of the 32nd Texas Cavalry when the Civil War broke out and was commissioned as Lieutenant Colonel Woods. He was fearless, but independent when it came to placing his men in positions that were excessively dangerous and his ideas about discipline did not always set well with the spit and polish leaders of the Confederate army.

DOROTHY WORRELL: Longtime San Marcos city secretary and very influential in city affairs. She served as acting city manager on several occasions.

TULA TOWNSEND WYATT AND FRANCES STOVALL: Two great historians who dedicated their lives to local history. All of their historical research made our job on this project a lot easier.

YANCY YARBROUGH: Principal of San Marcos High School from the late '30s to the mid-'60s. He led San Marcos through some of the most drastic changes in American youth our country has ever experienced.

THOMAS YOAKUM: He taught civics and history at San Marcos High through two generations and was teaching the grandchildren of his first pupils when he retired in 1975. While his Big Foot Wallace stories are legendary, Mr. Yoakum was the real thing — the stuff legends are made of.

DR. EMPRESS ZEDLER: A queen in the field of learning disorders at SWT and the study of dyslexia. 📖