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## Exhibit Reflects Houston Landmarks Opens March 12

Houston history comes to life with a landmark exhibit opening at the San Jacinto Museum of History on March 12, 2010. Over 80 photographs, silent movies and artifacts will highlight *Reflections of an Exhibit: Cecil Thomson Revealed*. The photographer Cecil Thomson was a well known Houston photographer in the early 20th century.

Photos and artifacts included in *Reflections of an Exhibit* shed light on the history of the upper Gulf Coast:

- **Cecil Thomson Profile:** Biographical data and new images of Cecil Thomson obtained from his descendents give more personal insight into this prolific and colorful photographer.
- **The Great Storm:** Thomson's photos from the 1920s and early silent films document how Galveston was rebuilt after the devastation of the 1900 storm.
- **Silent Film Moments:** Photos from Famous Players/Lasky Corp. (later Paramount Studios) 1924 Western movie *North of 36* reveal one of the first Westerns filmed on location in Houston.
- **Ranching:** Photos of the Marks LH7 Ranch in Harris County highlight early 20th century ranch life in and around Houston. This ranch was owned by the Marks family who were instrumental in establishing of one of our city's most enduring traditions, the Salt Grass Trail Ride that occurs each February to kick off the Houston Livestock Show.
- **Model of USS *Houston*:** One of the most impressive features of *Reflections of an Exhibit* is a large scale model of the USS *Houston*, the cruiser later called the "Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast". Reaching over six feet long, this is one of the Museum's newest and largest acquisitions. The real "Galloping Ghost" was lost in the Pacific theater of World War II at the Battle of Sunda Strait. Plans of the original ship and photos of the model's construction are also included in the display.

The San Jacinto Museum of History designed *Reflections of an Exhibit* due to the overwhelming response to its recent display of Cecil Thomson photos and early 20th century artifacts. Interest in the places and events shown in the collection spurred visiting students, teachers, locals and tourists to submit more than 300 inquiries to the Museum. Questions and comments ranged from the history of photography to the people and buildings in the photos to Thomson himself. *Reflections of an Exhibit* will answer many of these questions from the public.

*Reflections of an Exhibit: Cecil Thomson Revealed* is generously sponsored by Bank of America.

Tickets for *Reflections of an Exhibit* are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 11 and younger, \$4.50 for senior citizens 65 and older, and \$2 for school groups. Combo tickets include admission to the theater showing of *Texas Forever!!*, to the exhibit and an elevator ride to the top of the Monument. Combo ticket prices are \$12 for adults, \$8 for children, \$10.50 for seniors, and \$4 for school groups. Museum members may visit free of charge.

The San Jacinto Museum of History is located inside the San Jacinto Monument on the 1,200-acre San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site near Houston in the Pasadena/Deer Park/La Porte area. Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, call the Museum at (281) 479-2421 or visit [www.sanjacinto-museum.org](http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org).

The state park includes the historic battleground, the Monument and Museum, the marsh boardwalk and the Battleship *Texas*. Admission to the park is \$1 per adult and free for children ages 12 and under.