

San Jacinto News

Celebrating 75 Years of Preserving and Revisualizing the History of Texas

JANUARY 2014

Member Luncheon Set For February 8

J. F. De la Teja to Speak

Plan to attend the annual Member Luncheon on Saturday, February 8, with the anticipation of great food and a dynamic speaker. The event will occur at 2:00 p.m. at Taste of Texas, which is opening early specifically for this event. Founded in 1977 by owners Nina and Edd Hendee, Taste of Texas is the largest independent restaurant in the state, and has been voted Best

Steak multiple times on CitySearch and other online polling sites.

Guest speaker at the event will be Dr. Jesús F. de la Teja, Supple Professor of Southwestern Studies, Regents' and University Distinguished Professor of History, and Director of the Center for the Study of the Southwest at Texas State University. He also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the San Jacinto Museum of History. He will be discussing his most recent book, *Recollections of a Tejano*

Life: Antonio Menchaca in Texas History, released by University of Texas Press in December 2013. "My presentation will be on 'Santa Anna and Me: Antonio Menchaca Remembers San Jacinto.' The talk will focus on Menchaca's recollections of the battle and the days immediately after, when he tells the story of how he helped the Napoleon of the West in the

hours following his capture." Attending the Luncheon is a free benefit at the San Jacinto



Society, Sam Houston Society, Monument Society and Museum Circle membership levels, and costs \$35 for members at other levels. Contact the museum for more information and to make your reservation, or return the enclosed sign-up sheet.



Stretch your muscles and join the runners and walkers at the third annual San Jacinto Texas Independence 5K Fun Run/Walk and 1K Kid's Run, or support the participants at the finish line on Saturday, March 8. The 5K has grown from 180 participants in 2012 to 350 in 2013, and over 500 history-

3rd Annual Fun Run To Draw Crowd

loving athletes are expected to participate in 2014. The 5K route will start at the base of the San Jacinto Monument and will pass by the Battleship Texas, the Texian and the Mexican Camps before ending at the Monument. The course will be certified and chip timed. The 1K Kid's run, in its second year, is open to children aged 2-12, and will occur on the circular drive around the Monument.

"Everyone who participated

from Office Systems of Texas unanimously agreed, they really enjoyed the morning and are looking forward to next time" said George Peckham about the 2013 event. "We also heard the same excitement from other participants. Ya'll hosted a really nice event last year and this year was even better. All of us enjoyed the drinks and food and want to send our thanks to everyone who provided them."

Event proceeds will support the museum's educational programs. Sign up to participate using the enclosed form or at www.active.com prior to February 28 for a discount.



Fun Run photographs © 2013 Peri Photography.

Letter from the President

Dear Supporter,

A handsomely decorated and well attended event took place at the San Jacinto Museum of History on November 6th, on the occasion of our annual *Special Evening with Texas History*, where guests were treated to an exhibit containing newly acquired historical artifacts.

We were pleased to honor the H-E-B Grocery Company that evening for their support of the museum as the Presenting Sponsor of the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment for the last ten years. H-E-B president Scott McClelland accepted the highest honor the San Jacinto Museum of History bestows, the San Jacinto Star Award on behalf of his company.

We were also thankful that associates from Silver Eagle Distributors were able to attend. Their sponsorship, as well as the support received from our other attendees, resulted in the most successful fundraising event ever held at the San Jacinto Monument. Other significant contributors to the evening include Mr. James D. Pitcock, Jr; The George Strake Foundation, Vopak North America, The Port of Houston Authority, ExxonMobil, Ms. Henrietta Alexander, H-E-B Grocery Company, Kirby Corporation, Shell Oil Company, Office Systems of Texas, Dow Chemical Company and many individuals too numerous to name here.

The main purpose of this event was to raise funds for the purchase of 13 acres of land adjacent to the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site for future development of a museum annex and visitors center allowing, among other things, an expansion of exhibit space, an orientation center, and revitalization of this significant historic site in the eyes of Texans and their guests.

We are now approaching \$600,000 of the \$700,000 goal to purchase this land, complete assessments and commence long-term planning. As we close in on our financial objective, we ask all Texans who have an abiding faith and respect for Texas and its history to help successfully conclude this campaign and move forward with expansion plans that will benefit future generations.

We have all benefited from the sacrifices of those who came before us. Now is the time to honor those efforts by giving some measure of your generosity back to the place where Texas began.

As always, thank you for your support.



Larry Spasic,
President, San Jacinto Museum of History

To contribute to the land purchase fund, please send a check to

San Jacinto Museum of History

Annex and Visitors Center,

One Monument Circle

La Porte, Texas 77571-95

or make a credit card payment at http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org/Support_Us/Donate/ or by phone at 281.479.2421.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, contact ccampbell@sanjacinto-museum.org

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Save the Date

February 8, 2014	Annual Member Luncheon
March 8, 2014	Fun Run/Walk
April 12, 2014	San Jacinto Symposium
April 21, 2014	Commemorative Ceremony
April 22, 2014	San Jacinto Dinner
April 26, 2014	San Jacinto Day Festival

A Glimpse of the Special Evening With Texas History



Larry Spasic, president of the San Jacinto Museum of History, presented the San Jacinto Star Award to Scott McClelland, president of H-E-B.



Friends from Silver Eagle Distributors toured the exhibits.



Guests at the dinner enjoyed good food and great company.

75 Years Bring Changes, But Much Remains the Same

Seventy-five years ago this month, plans were underway for the opening of the San Jacinto Monument, scheduled as a two-day event on April 20 and 21, 1939. George A. Hill, Jr., as the first trustee and a major initial donor of collections, was deeply involved in organizing and raising funds for the new San Jacinto Museum of History that would be contained in the monumental structure. Hill worked with a committee of community leaders to gather funds for the new museum: exhibit cases were needed to display artifacts, and staff and supplies were needed to present those exhibits. Without a volunteer team of businessmen who personally visited their colleagues to request donations, the funds would not have been available to hire the Museum's first director, Ike Moore, who started work in January of 1939, or to purchase the exhibit cases from the Remington Rand Corp. Many of these cases, designed by Monument architect Alfred C. Finn to match the fluted sides of the Monument's tower and interior doors are still in use in the permanent exhibit gallery today.

Now as then, most of the items that are added to the museum's collections come as gifts, like the portrait of James M. Hill donated by a descendant in 2013 and the weapons seen at the Special Evening With Texas History.

As in 1939, volunteers today make a material contribution to the life of the museum, working on the San Jacinto Day Festival and Battle Reenactment, the Fun Run, the annual dinners, and in the Herzstein Library, as well as serving on the Board of Trustees. Without contributions of time, money, and artifacts, this museum would not be able to reflect on the past 75 years and plan for the future.

*We thank our
Presenting Sponsor for
A Special Evening
with Texas History*



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The San Jacinto Museum of History
Association was chartered in 1938 to preserve
and revisualize the early history of Texas.

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Changing Exhibits in Permanent Gallery

Industry and innovation transformed warfare in the nineteenth century.

Some weapons, like swords, became obsolete while modifications in firearm technology made guns lighter, quicker to load, capable of multiple discharges in a short amount of time and more accurate.

In the second half of the century, submarines, machine guns and explosives changed how and where battles would be fought. Battles using these advanced weapons encouraged commanders to

employ new strategies that frequently resulted in prolonged conflicts with high numbers of casualties. In Texas, three conflicts that saw action within our boundaries in the 19th century—the Texas Revolution, the U.S. – Mexican War of 1846-48 and the Civil War—left behind artifacts that highlight some of these innovations.

As a part of the permanent gallery reinstallation, a case of weapons from the 19th century has been installed that includes artifacts used in all three of the above listed actions as



Pepperbox percussion revolver owned by Jasper McMullen, who was brought to Hill County, Texas, from Tennessee as a slave in 1853. After the Civil War, he opened a saddle shop in Galveston.

well as singular items like a massive bowie knife owned by Henry Stevenson Brown, who fought in the War of 1812 before coming to Texas, and a powder flask owned by the legendary Kit Carson. The sword taken from Santa Anna by Sam Houston's aide-de-camp, Major John Forbes, is also on display. Enjoy this new case of weaponry when you next visit the museum and look forward to seeing many different artifacts in the permanent collection gallery in 2014.

Thank You to These Recent Grantors

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