



THE LIONS' TALE

New Braunfels Noon Lions

MARCH
2017

XXXI

NBNoonLions.org



CHARTERED MARCH 18, 1924



HAPPY 181ST BIRTHDAY, TEXAS!

MARCH 2ND, 1836

I'm guessing the vast majority of us suffered through our junior high Texas history classes bored to shreds by a droning teacher who might have been better served teaching wood shop. But I'm also aware of many immigrants among us who've most likely had no formal book-learning concerning the Lone Star State. As a public service to all, then, we offer this pocket history of Texas.

Chris Columbus tripped over the New World while searching for the Old. The adventurers who followed in his wake subdued the indigenous populations and, in some cases made them drink molten gold. [Ooh!] The Catholic Church sent missionaries to bring salvation to the heathens — and also incidentally Lent, Sunday Mass and excruciatingly long and boring homilies in a language they could not understand.

Then Mexico gained her independence from Spain. In those days, Texas was part of the northern Mexican state of Coahuila. \$2004551

Coahuila was wild country, full of hostile Indians. The Mexican government had trouble recruiting enough local talent to go settle the place, so less-informed colonists were lured in from the north with promises of free land. Moses Austin and son Stephen F. were instrumental in this colonization process.

But the *Texicans* didn't much cotton to the 1824 Mexican Constitution by which they were bound. And more than a few decided they didn't want become Roman Catholics as was required by their contracts — no doubt in part a direct reaction to the excruciatingly long and boring homilies. Mexico began tightening the screws and talk of independence began in earnest. When the

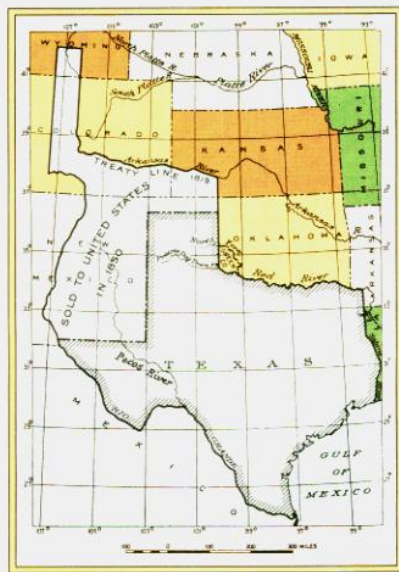
Mexican army rode into Gonzales on 2nd October, 1835, to fetch back a small cannon they had loaned the colonists to keep the Comanche at bay, they found themselves on the business end of the thing - *Come and Take It* - and the Texas Revolution was afoot.

Delegates at Washington-on-the-Brazos

signed a Declaration of Independence on 2nd March, 1836, and Texas became a republic, at least on paper — but there were a helluva lot of Mexicans around who still needed convincing. Thus, the entire garrison of the Alamo was put to the sword on 6 March while Sam Houston's army hightailed it east, recruiting as it went. There on the plains of San Jacinto (south of Houston) on 21 April, 1836, with the enemy largely at siesta, Houston's forces slaughtered Santa Ana's army in a true blood bath amid shouts of "Remember the Alamo!" and "Remember Goliad!" (an earlier massacre), and took the Mexican president prisoner. *Voila!* A six and a half month revolution, front to back, and all without the internet, the Interstate or smart phones.

We were a nation, **The Republic of Texas**, for nine years, but so awash in red ink after the war that it seemed the only attractive option was to join The Union, which would absorb our indebtedness. (This was before oil, you see.) So, in what could perhaps be described as a shotgun wedding, on 29 December, 1845, The Republic ceased to be, and **Texas** became the 28th state. It is a date which shall live in infamy. On the bright side, President Polk was so eager to get this done that the contract neglected to require us to cede all public lands and our 12-mile coastal limit to the feds, standard stuff for most other states. And lots of those acres are mighty resource-rich.

Ike, LBJ, Red Adair (please don't ask "who?"), Howard Hughes, Willie Nelson and Bob Wills are all native Texans. We have survived the War for Southern Independence, the Great Depression and 4 years of Ann Richards in the Governor's Mansion. Our economy is on a par with Canada's, and 14th largest in the world. Those of us fortunate enough to be born here salute those who had the good sense to find their way here as their means and vision led them. **HOWDY, AND WELCOME!**



Historical Boundaries of Texas
From U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 1212 (1966)

BUSINESS MEETING - 2 FEBRUARY



Groundhog Day! Identify this particular activity instigated by Tail Twister **Cameron Bradfute** and win a free copy of the April newsletter.

Trendy Sharp of the Child's Advocate Center of Comal County (CAC) delivered an unvarnished look at the magnitude of the child- and/or sex-abuse problem we have in our quaint little Hill Country enclave. In 2016 alone there were 1458 cases of child abuse in Comal County. On average, one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually molested before the age of 16. [That number seems really high for our community, but I was scribbling fast trying to keep up — it may be a national average, not a Comal County statistic—Ed.]



Trendy stressed that we are obligated by law to report suspected child abuse or neglect. If a child is in immediate danger, it's a 911 call. Otherwise, the hotline number is **800-252-5400**.

There are multiple opportunities for volunteerism in these areas, and Trendy says she wakes up every morning knowing she will make a difference in some child's life. It may even be the first time the child's story is believed. Heart rending.



From the detritus that was the Gruene Lions Club comes **Brandon Mund**, sole survivor and newest Noon Lion.

Welcome aboard, Brandon. Sorry for the crummy picture — we'll get you a better one for the directory.

BUSINESS MEETING - 16 FEBRUARY



Third VP Mark Reynolds introduces **Becky Voges** and **Tara Gray** who give an impassioned program on the local programs of the American Cancer Society. They gave a similar program a year ago. Topics included the **Survivor Celebration Dinner** March 23rd at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church (\$10/ticket now, \$15 at the door) and the **Relay for Life**, April 21st at Church Hill Middle School. *(by John Creswell)*



Craig Zgabay displays his best "possum eating a persimmon" grin as he draws the winning Joker in this month's Pay It Forward drawing. His half of the pot comes to somewhere in the neighborhood of a sixty bucks. President **Lee Ambrosino's** brainchild is starting to pay dividends for the club. Congratulations, Craig.

IN MEMORIAM



Dolores Zapalac Schumann, wife of Lion **Bill** for more than 66 years, passed away February 5th. She was a fixture in New Braunfels for more than a half century, involved in all manner of civic endeavors. She was instrumental in having a survey done of the trees in Landa Park, which number 49 in species, making it the most diverse tree rich acreage in Texas. With the late **Joyce Kolodzie** she lobbied to have a massive 300-year old live oak in the middle of the park, then being used as a "jungle gym", preserved as the Founders Oak.

As much as for her work in the community she will be remembered for her Christian spirit, and her love of life. She will be missed.

Rest in Peace, Dolores.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



WORKDAY AT THE TEXAS LIONS CAMP

Time once again to round up your work gloves and dump the dead scorpions out of your steel-toes. Your Noon Lions are scheduled for a day of fresh air and sunshine on April First in Kerrville at the Texas Lions Camp.

A contingent of Leos will be heading west with sponsors and chaperones after school on March 31st. If you're able, you can carpool up and bunk in the dorms Friday night. Otherwise,

an early departure Saturday should get you to camp in time for a hearty breakfast served up by whichever club has drawn the black bean for the weekend.

This is a chance to meet Lions from all over the state, and to do good for some really special kids.



Dr David Simmons, Mike Smetanka and **John Creswell** beaming with pride over the shelves they built last year, and which may actually still be standing..



GET YOUR CENTENNIAL COMMEMORATIVE COIN

A steal at only \$52.95. Inquire with Secretary **Tom Call**



Complimentary Ticket for the Drawing of your Choice

Find your Lion Member number after a \$ sign in the text of this newsletter and you will get one FREE ticket to be placed in the Drawing of your choice. **Show the number** at the Check-In Table to receive your ticket. There are two numbers hidden in this issue of **The Lions' Tale**.

NOTE: NEW NUMBERS WILL BE PICKED AT RANDOM FOR EACH MONTH. YOUR NUMBER IS ELIGIBLE FOR ONLY ONE DRAWING FOR THE MONTH THAT IT APPEARS IN THE NEWSLETTER.



State Stuff



State nickname — Lone Star State

State motto — Friendship

State song — “Texas, Our Texas” (sung to the tune of “Texas, Our Texas”)

State flower — bluebonnet

State tree and nut — pecan

State mammal (large) — longhorn

State mammal (small) — nine-banded armadillo

State plant — prickly pear cactus (call for free samples)

State reptile — Texas horned lizard, or “Horned Frog”

The San Jacinto Monument is the world's tallest masonry column at 567.31 feet, 23 feet taller than the Washington Monument. The limestone star at the top is 34 feet tall and weighs 220 tons. Hopefully it is well anchored.



Area — 268,601 square miles, second only to Alaska

Population — 27 million, second only to California (2014)

Capital—Austin, founded as “Waterloo” in 1837

The name Texas comes from the Caddo Indian work “tejas” meaning roughly “those who are friends”, hence the state motto

Six flags have flown over Texas: Spanish, French, Mexican, The Republic of Texas (Lone Star), Confederacy and the Stars and Stripes



Before Mirabeau Beauregard Lamar, 2nd president of The Republic, scrapped the design in favor of the flag we all now know and love, the flag of the Republic of Texas was a yellow star on a dark blue field. Hmm.

Texans fly more state flags than the next 12 states combined. There is indeed pride in the Lone Star — whether yellow or white.



New Braunfels Noon Lions Club Officers & Directors for 2016-2017

Officers

- Lee Ambrosino**, President
- Jack Morgan**, First Vice-president
- Ronnie Thompson**, Second Vice-president
- Mark Reynolds**, Third Vice-president
- Tom Call**, Secretary
- Howard Weliver**, Treasurer
- Dave Schreier**, Lion Tamer
- Dennis Heitkamp**, Chairman Membership Committee, PCC & PDG
- Mike Smetanka**, Immediate Past President
- Bill Kolodzie**, PDG

Directors

- Dan Krueger**, Two-year Director
- Fred Hanz**, Two-year Director
- Dolly Williams**, One-year Director
- David Simmons**, One-year Director

Chairs of Standing Committees

- Skip Stem**, Vision Screening
- Mike Pfeuffer**, Sight Conservation
- Dolly Williams**, Care Committee
- Tail Twister**, Cameron Bradfute
- Bert Childs**, Newsletter editor [Ink-stained Wretch]

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Chuck Teeter	13th
Brandon Mund	14th
Arno Becker	14th
Eddie Dobbin	16th
Franklin Demuth	19th

[It would appear it's just too danged hot for a lot of snuggling in June—Ed.]

Comal County Sheriff's Office



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Sheriff

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Fax: (830) 608-2082



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"We Serve"

PCC Dennis Heitkamp

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LEOS AT SEA



USS Lexington (CV-16)



Leos assemble for their annual pilgrimage to Corpus Christi to spend a night on *The Blue Ghost*, the World War II aircraft carrier USS Lexington (CV-16), who picked up the moniker after having been erroneously reported sunk so many times during her service in the Pacific. It is rumored that a grand time was had by Leos, sponsors and chaperones.

If you've not toured this vintage man-of-war, you owe it to yourself \$3241138 to do so, even you missed out on being in the Navy.



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