In Their Own Words

TEXAS HERITAGE Celebrates Oral History—Hot Off the Press!

Conducting oral histories—recording the words of those who lived through certain experiences or events—can add context and nuance to the hard facts of history.

The latest issue of the award-winning THF Texas HERITAGE magazine, which spotlights oral histories, has now arrived in mailboxes. The publication showcases the oral history collection of The History Center in Diboll, which has recorded and transcribed interviews with the people of East Texas since the 1950s. Another highlighted project, this one by the Baylor Institute for Oral History, shines a light on the recollections of World War II service members from Texas who liberated concentration camps.

Learn more by joining THF today. Every membership comes with a subscription to Texas HERITAGE magazine.

Small Towns Benefit from THF Grants

Photo credit: Austin County Museum Association

Small towns throughout Texas have been the recipients of grants from the Texas Historical Foundation. Here are two examples:

- From left to right in foreground, THF directors Bruce Elsom, Kelly Rushing, Michael Sparks, Mary Lynn Rushing, and Julie Sparks (holding the check on the left) presented a grant gift to representatives of the Austin County Museum Association in Bellville. THF funds will cover the expense of architectural drawings needed to estimate installation costs for a heating/air conditioning system in the historic jail.

- Victoria Preservation, Inc., used its THF grant to help publish volume two of a coffee table book that will document the city's many historic residences. Foundation board members Elizabeth Susser and Julie and Michael Sparks made the check presentation. Nearly $2 million in THF grant gifts have been made since 1990.

Land Surveyors Helped in Settlement of Texas

Photo credit: Texas General Land Office

You might not know that National Surveyor's Week was celebrated this year in mid-March. Members of that profession played a pivotal role in Texas history, helping in the settlement of the state. The vara chain, shown here, was an important measurement tool used by 18th- and 19th-century land surveyors.

Learn more in this article from the Texas General Land Office.

Grants Deadlines Announced

Since 1990, more than 300 historic preservation projects have received funding from the Texas Historical Foundation. Proposals are reviewed quarterly; upcoming deadlines for THF grant consideration are:

- June 1
- September 1
- December 1

Texas Historical Foundation

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