



# La Vista de la Frontera

Newsletter of the Center for Big Bend Studies

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Volume III

Summer 1990

Number 1

## **COLUMBIAN QUINCENTENARY CONFERENCE OCTOBER 12-13**

### **"Acculturation in the Rio Grande Borderlands: The Spanish Era"**

On Friday, October 12 (Columbus Day), and Saturday, October 13, the Center for Big Bend Studies and the Alpine Chamber of Commerce will host a conference on the campus of Sul Ross State University to initiate local celebration of the 500th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's first voyage to America (Columbian Quincentenary). The general public is invited to all sessions which will be in the Main Auditorium in the Morelock Building. Presentations begin at 9:00 a.m. on October 12. There is no registration fee.

The meeting is the result of two years planning in the Center focusing on the general theme of "Acculturation Processes in the Rio Grande Borderlands." The emphasis on October 12 and 13 will be on the Spanish Era along the Rio Grande from El Paso to Eagle Pass (on the Texas side) and Juarez to Piedras Negras (on the Mexican side). The public will have the opportunity to hear borderlands' scholars speak on cultural and historical developments relating to the native inhabitants, their relations with the first Europeans (Spaniards) to come to the region, and Spanish institutions that have influenced the region to the present day.

Among the scholars and topics are: Michael S. Foster (Phoenix), "A Review of North American Archeology"; J. Char-

les Kelley (Southern Illinois University), "Mesoamerican and Rio Grande Connections influencing Spanish Entradas into the Borderlands"; Robert Mallouf (Texas Historical Commission), "Archeology of the Rio Grande Borderlands"; Miriam Lowrance (Sul Ross State University), "Indian Rock Art in the Big Bend Region of Texas"; Wayne J. Sheehan (Sul Ross State University), "The European Background of Columbus's Discoveries"; and Harry P. Hewitt (Midwestern State University), "Impact of Ranching and Mining on Indians in the Borderlands during the 16th and 17th Centuries."

Also speaking will be Joseph P. Sanchez (University of New Mexico), "Spanish Explorations in the Borderlands Between El Paso and Eagle Pass During the 16th and 17th Centuries"; Elizabeth A. H. John (Austin), "Spanish-Indian Relations in the Big Bend Region During the 18th and Early 19th Centuries"; Felix D. Almaraz (University of Texas at San Antonio), "Church and State: Missions on the Rio Grande Borderland Frontier"; Oakah L. Jones (Purdue University), "Settlements and Settlers at La Junta de los Rios, 1759-1822"; Robert S. Weddle (Bonham), "San Juan Bautista: Spanish Gateway to Texas"; and W. H. Timmons (University of Texas at El Paso), "El Paso del Norte: Spanish Gateway to New Mexico."

The featured evening presentation on October 12 will be by David Weber (Southern Methodist University) on "The Spanish Legacy in the Borderlands."

A collection of illustrations by Jose Cisneros (El Paso artist) titled "Riders of the Borderlands," will be exhibited during the conference in the Museum of the Big Bend on the SRSU campus.

The conference is funded by Sul Ross State University; the Center for Big Bend Studies; and the Texas Committee for the Humanities, a state program of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

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## **JOURNAL OF BIG BEND STUDIES**

Volume 2 of **The Journal of Big Bend Studies** (January, 1990) is available by subscription for \$10. The journal is published annually. It contains topics relating to the history and culture of the American Southwest, with emphasis on the Big Bend region of Texas. Subscription orders should be sent to

**Journal of Big Bend Studies  
SRSU Box C-71  
Alpine, Texas 79832**

Volume 2 contains articles by Joe S. Graham on "Mexican-American Traditional Foodways at La Junta de los Rios"; J. Charles Kelly, "The Rio Conchos Drainage: History, Archaeology, Significance"; Robert S. Weddle, "Madera Canyon: Historic Corner of the Davis Mountains"; Judith A. Parsons, "W. B. Mitchell and the Early Days of the Trans-Pecos Cattle Industry"; Jim Fenton, "John L. Bullis: 'Farsighted and Keen' Trans-Pecos Land Speculator"; H. W. "Pat" Patterson, "Crisis at the



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through history," including Cabeza de Vaca and his companions in the 1530s. For information and the XII Travelers newsletter call 915-534-4493 or write Box 220243, El Paso, TX 79913.

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**Border: The U. S.-Mexico Line**, by Leon C. Metz (El Paso: Mangan Books, 1989). \$29.95. Metz, well-known El Paso writer, has produced what is advertised as "the definitive story" of the borderlands, covering 150 years of history along the "sometimes calm, sometimes bloody and turbulent, always fascinating" border from Brownsville, Texas to near San Diego, California.

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subscriptions to **El Paisano** write Box 68, Big Bend National Park, TX 79834 (\$4.00 annually).

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(Magazine of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, Summer, 1990) has articles on "Volcanism in the Trans-Pecos," and "World-Class Geology in the Permian Basin." **Discovery** is published semiannually and circulated to CDRI members. For membership categories write CDRI Membership, Box 1334, Alpine, Texas 79831.

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Work is in progress on the following projects:

- Big Bend Military History (Activities along the border during the era of the Mexican Revolution, 1910-1920)
- Castolon on the Rio Grande (The operations of the La Harmonia Company, 1919-1961)
- Early Schools of the Big Bend Region
- La Junta de los Rios (Presidio, Texas-Ojinaga, Chihuahua area)

- Studies of "Acculturation Processes in the Rio Grande Borderlands."

- Conference on "The Spanish Era" in the borderlands, October 12-13, 1990.
- Annual issues of **The Journal of Big Bend Studies**, 1990-1993.



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- LA VISTA DE LA FRONTERA** is the semiannual newsletter of the CENTER FOR BIG BEND STUDIES. Circulation includes members of the ex-students' association of Sul Ross State University, the membership of regional historical associations in West Texas, subscribers

**to The Journal of Big Bend Studies,** the faculty and staff of SRSU, and others in the Trans-Pecos region. Individuals who do not wish to receive future issues or who may wish to have their names added to the mailing list should write or call the Center office, SRSU Box C-71, Alpine, TX 79832, 915-837-8179.

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The Center receives no state appropriations. Its operations are dependent on grants; cooperative projects with University departments and other institutions; and income from its endowment. Contributions to the endowment may be tax free and may be sent to the Center for Big Bend Studies, SRSU Box C-71, Alpine, TX 79832.

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## "ACCUULTURATION IN THE RIO GRANDE BORDERLANDS: THE SPANISH ERA"

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