



La Vista de la Frontera

Newsletter of the Center for Big Bend Studies

Earl H. Elam, Editor

Judith Parsons, Advisory Editor

Volume VII

Spring 1994

Number 1

CENTER NEWS

This is an exciting time in the Center for Big Bend Studies as work continues on various projects, planning is underway for new ones, and procedures for handling the increasing volume of business in the Center's office are being updated.

During the Spring Semester three student assistants have been busy transcribing oral history tapes; making lists of copies of documents obtained from the National Archives and the Texas State Archives; and putting the Center's mailing list of more than 3,000 entries on a new data base program.

Preliminary planning also is underway for a move of the Center's office to a new location sometime in late 1995. The University has announced that the Center will be housed permanently in Lawrence Hall, a dormitory that has not been used in recent years and which will be renovated during the next year. Lawrence Hall is on Highway 90 fronting the eastern side of the campus, a most desirable location for public access. The Museum of the Big Bend and the Department of

Behavioral and Social Sciences also will be located in the building.

CENTER ASSOCIATES

Response to the new Center Associates program has been tremendous. More than 250 persons and institutions have become members since the announcement of the program was circulated in the November 1993 issue of *La Vista*, and more are coming in daily. More information about the program is elsewhere in this issue.

ANNUAL MEETING

Mark November 18 and 19 on your calendar for the first annual meeting of Center Associates. It will be in Alpine on the SRSU Campus on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning on those days. The meeting, to which the public will also be invited, will include the presentation of papers relating to the culture and history of the Big Bend region, featuring speakers on a variety of subjects. Details will be circulated in press releases, in the fall issue of

La Vista, and in letters to Center Associates.

Persons who are interested in participating by presenting a paper or being involved in chairing sessions are encouraged to contact the editor; call 915-837-8179.

The Journal of Big Bend Studies Volume 6 (1994)

Effective with Volume 6, the journal is circulated to persons and institutions who are Center Associates. Membership is \$15.00 per year.

Contents

"Myth America: Velleities and Realities of the American Ethos," by Felipe de Ortego y Gasca

"The Parker H. French Expedition Through Southwest Texas in 1850," by Albert B. Tucker

"Historic Ruins Along Middle Tornillo Creek, Big Bend National Park," by Teresa Weedon

"Chihuahuan Desert Candelilla: Folk Gathering of a Regional Resource," by JoAnn Pospisil

"Kickapoo Resistance and Survival Through Migrations in Mexico and Texas, 1835-1877," by Edward J. Gesick, Jr.

"La Escuela Escondida: History of the Morgan School in Alpine, Texas, 1929-1954," by Abelardo Baeza

"Shearing: La Traslquila, in the First Half of the Twentieth Century," by Anita Torres Smith

"La Sierra Madre Oriental: The Lady and the Black Bear," by Magdalena Benavides Sumpter and Michael James Ritchie

"The National Guard on the Border and One Soldier's Viewpoint," by Gerald G. Raun

"From Del Rio to Sanderson: Southern Pacific Country on the Rio Grande," by Mark H. Lamb

"El Tratado de Libre Comercio Mexico-USA," by Walter E. Greene, Gary D. Walls, et al

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NEW BOOKS

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Jeff Davis County, Texas. By Lucy Jacobson and Mildred Nored. Fort Davis, TX: Fort Davis Historical Society, 1993, illustrations, cloth. \$50.00 plus \$6.00 shipping and handling. Write Box 271, Fort Davis, TX 79734.

Traces the general history of Fort Davis and surrounding area from pre-history to the present. Includes local family histories from 1854 to 1954.

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Historic Ranches of Texas. By Lawrence Clayton, Paintings by J. U. Salvant. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993. Illustrations (24 color and 12 b&w), 2 maps, 96 pp., biblio., \$24.95 cloth.

Traces the history, traditions, and spirit—past and present—of twelve

ranches: Four Sixes, headquartered at Guthrie; Green Ranches in Shackelford County and in the Panhandle; Iron Mountain Ranch in Brewster County; King Ranch in South Texas; Lambshead Ranch north of Albany; Matador Land and Cattle Co. in North Texas and the Panhandle; Pitchfork Ranch near Guthrie; Swenson Ranches with headquarters in Stamford; Waggoner Ranch near Vernon; XIT in the Panhandle; Y.O. Ranch near Kerrville; and Yturria Ranch in Willacy County.

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Expedition to La Junta de los Rios, 1747-1748: Captain Commander Joseph de Ydoiaga's Report to the Viceroy of New Spain.

Trans. by Enrique Rede Madrid, intro. by J. Charles Kelley. Office of the State Archeologist Special Report 23. Austin: Texas Historical Commission, 1992, 138 pp., map, paper, \$5.00.

This was one of several reports which led to the establishment of the Spanish presidio at La Junta de los Rios (present Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico) in 1759. Ydoiaga did not recommend a presidio for the area but carefully described the region and its inhabitants in 1747 when he traveled down the Rio Conchos to the Rio Grande. He concluded there was no suitable site in the area for a presidio and that even if one was established, the La Junta villagers would probably flee because of fear of the soldiers.

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The Challenge of Cross-Border Environmentalism: The U.S.-Mexico Case. By Tom Barry with Beth Sims. Albuquerque: Resource Center Press, 1994, 121 pp., paper, \$9.95.

Crossing the Line: Immigrants, Economic Integration, and Drug Enforcement on the U.S.-Mexico Border. By Tom Barry with Harry Browne and Beth Sims. Alberquer-

que: Resource Center Press, 1994, 142 pp., paper, \$9.95.

These two publications in the Resource Center's U.S.-Mexico Series focus on border conditions, trends and tensions in the evolving relationships of the U.S. and Mexico, and outlooks for the future. *Environmentalism* explores diverse issues, including cross-border air and water contamination, *maquiladora* wastes, and impacts of liberalized trade. *Crossing the Line* takes a close look at the border society and economy, the tensions and divisions that exist, and the increasing interdependence of the U.S. and Mexico which is most apparent in the border region.

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War Scare on the Rio Grande: Robert Runyon's Photographs of the Border Conflict, 1913-1916.

By Frank N. Samponaro and Paul J. Vanderwood. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1993, 160 pp., 108 photographs, index, cloth, \$29.95.

Between 1911 and 1926, Robert Runyon, of Brownsville, Texas, photographed bandit raids, the buildup of U.S. military forces in the lower Rio Grande valley area, and revolutionary activities in northeastern Mexico. The photos used in this book were selected from almost 13,000 negatives and prints; they shed new light on the border region of the U.S. and Mexico.

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RESEARCH

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The theme of acculturation in the Big Bend, Rio Grande Borderlands region is the continuing focus of several projects sponsored in whole or in part by the CBBS. Albert Tucker is progressing on his study of early schools in the region, most recently gathering information about the community of San Vicente which was located in the area of the pre-

sent Big Bend National Park. Tucker's manuscript on "Ghost Schools of Brewster County" is a mine of information about early teachers, folklore, and the history of the schools. He is collecting data on Presidio County at the present.

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The influence of military activities in the region during the first two or three decades of the twentieth century is the continuing focus of studies by Gerald Raun and Earl Elam. Raun's article in volume 6 of the JBBS is an introduction to a project he expects to enlarge to cover the activities of all National Guard units that were in the region during 1916-17.

Following up work previously published in the West Texas Historical Association *Year Book* on the Big Bend Military District, 1913-1920, Elam is researching the U. S. Army's activities throughout the area from Sierra Blanca, east of El Paso, to the vicinity of Del Rio. Using records from the National Archives and other sources, he is looking at the relationships of the army to such federal and state activities in the region as the Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Secret Service, the Texas Rangers, and the Texas Adjutant General's Office. He will obtain more information about the region during the 1910-1940 period from source materials in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Washington National Records Center, and the U. S. Military Archives (Carlisle, PA), during May and June.

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The history of the flood that almost destroyed Sanderson, Texas in 1965, written by Russell Scogin as a master's thesis in 1993, is being edited for a special publication by the CBBS. An early summer circulation date was originally hoped for, but that date has now been pushed to fall because of logistical and time

concerns. Watch for more news in the fall issue of *La Vista*.

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Paul Wright is completing work involving the placing of census information for Presidio and Brewster counties for the years 1860-1910 on a data base. He presented a paper about the project at a national meeting of geographers in San Francisco during the winter. Discussions are underway as to how the CBBS may help in making the information available to persons engaged in Center projects or who may desire to use it for geneological and demographic purposes.

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The Big Bend region and northern Mexico share much in common. One thing is people who have played a significant role in both areas. Frank Daugherty, a CBBS advisory council member, is studying the life of General Alberto Guarjardo, a prominent Coahuila resident who was involved in developments on both sides of the border in the early years of this century. A general of the federal army during the Mexican revolutionary era, Guajardo's experiences attracted the interest of J. Frank Doby and other writers. Daugherty, now, has acquired microfilm of many of the documents in the extensive Guajardo collection at Yale University and is methodically going through them. He discussed Guajardo and the collection in a special presentation at the semi-annual meeting of the CBBS advisory council on April 30. Persons with information about Guajardo can contact Frank at 915-837-2640.

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The collecting of oral history has been an interest of the CBBS since its formation. During the past year a number of interviews with senior citizens who have knowledge of events in the region dating back to the end of the last century have been recorded, and more are planned. Student assistants in the Center are

transcribing the tapes. It is a slow process, but a rewarding one. The tapes and transcriptions will eventually be placed in the Archives of the Big Bend where they will be available for scholarly use. The Center has joined the Texas Oral History Association, and the director will present a paper on oral history in the Big Bend at the 1995 meeting of the association.

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The Big Bend National Park has issued a call for research proposals to be funded by the Big Bend Natural History Association. Proposals must have potential to promote greater understanding and better management of the natural or cultural resources of the park, must be for short-term projects not to exceed two years, and will be in the range of \$2,000-\$6,000.

For more information contact Dr. Keith Yarborough, Division of Science and Resource Management, BBNP, TX 79834, telephone BBNP 915-477-2251, ext. 142 (M-W); or 915-837-8247, SRSU (Th-F).

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Tom Alex, Big Bend National Park archeologist, has announced preliminary findings of an investigation of an archeological site in the Chisos Mountain Basin. Carbon 14 dating of charred material at several levels show occupancy of the site from about 170 years ago to about 8900 years ago. This find, plus the many uninvestigated sites in the Big Bend region as a whole, dramatizes the need, long neglected, for sustained, serious archeological and historical studies of early human activity in the region. Watch for an article in volume 7 of *The Journal of Big Bend Studies* by Robert Mallouf, State Archeologist, about findings at another site, outside the BBNP.

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Charles Garabedian, a teacher in the Del Rio public schools, has researched and is writing a master's

thesis on the subject of the Del Rio and San Felipe schools' consolidation, a development that was much in the news during the 1960s and was implemented by a court order in 1971. Of all the Texas school integrations, this one was unique because of the historical background of both school systems and the unique Hispanic characteristics of the San Felipe school. Charles expects to complete the project and his master's degree in history at Sul Ross this summer.

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Miscellaneous

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The Center has received a videotape from the Texas General Land Office titled "Carbon II Power Plant and Its Effect on Big Bend Area of Texas." The five minute tape is a report by Alan Berg and follows up a new release of the Land Office in October 1993 announcing that a "Clean Air Texas Coalition" will monitor Mexico's Carbon II coalburning plant under construction twenty miles south of the Texas border at Eagle Pass. Land Commissioner Gary Mauro is chairman of Clean Air Texas. Concern has been expressed that sulfur dioxide emissions that exceed U. S. standards may occur and will affect visibility at Big Bend National Park and elsewhere in the region. More information about the Clean Air project can be obtained from Soll Sussman, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, Stephen F. Austin Bldg., 1700 N. Congress Ave., Austin, TX 78701-1495, telephone 512-463-5039.

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A Trans-Pecos Rock Art Symposium will be held at SRSU on February 18-19, 1995. For more information, contact Bob Hext, Department of Fine Arts, Box C-99 SRSU, Alpine, TX 79832; call 915-837-8130.

The First Annual Texas Mountain Chuckwagon Cookoff, Bit & Spur Show, and Ranch Rodeo will be held

in Alpine on September 23-25. Vendors will display handmade items in the Alpine Civil Center on Friday and Saturday. A chuckwagon supper of stew, cornbread, cobbler, and coffee will be open to the public on Friday evening, and on Saturday chuckwagon cookoff competition will take place. A ranch rodeo will be at the Sul Ross Rodeo arena on Sunday afternoon. For information contact Terry Hester, Box 690, Graham, TX 76450, call 817-549-4477, or Karen Kimball, Box 120, Alpine, TX 79831, call 915-837-2476.

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The Archives of the Big Bend announces recent acquisitions that include historic bonds for various projects in Brewster County dating from 1901 to 1936. The bonds were acquired from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts in Austin.

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This Advisory Council of the Center for Big Bend Studies met on April 30 and heard a report from President Vic Morgan about an academic needs assessment survey that has been completed and will have potential importance for the Center if anthropology and archeology courses are added to the curriculum. That decision has not been made, but a proposal is being considered. The president also reported on the Lawrence Hall project: a contract will be let later this summer and renovation is expected to be completed within one year, at which time the Center's offices will be moved to the building. In other business, the council heard research reports from Tom Alex, Abelardo Baeza, Charles Garabedian, Gerald Raun, Al Tucker, and Paul Wright. The luncheon meeting was concluded with a presentation on General Alberto Guajardo by Frank Daugherty, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

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The director of the Center had the opportunity on May 7 to attend the eighth annual "Alpine in Austin" gathering and to present a brief history of the CBBS and to describe its current and projected activities. Approximately seventy persons in attendance also heard President Morgan discuss various projects of the University.

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The Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies at the University of California, San Diego has an extensive list of publications relating to politics, immigration, trade, finance, investment, history, sociology, border studies, U.S.-Mexican relations, agriculture, and rural development. The Center, founded in 1979, publicizes itself as "the nation's largest program devoted exclusively to the study of Mexico and U.S.-Mexican relations." It is involved in research that combines work in all the social sciences and history, continuing education, publications, public programming, and information services to the international business community. For more information about its activities and a list of publications write Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, University of California, San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093-0510, or call 619-534-1160.

THOUGHT FOR THE ISSUE:

*"The Big Bend
requires thorough
reconnaissance."*

Lt. W. H. C. Whiting, March 25,
1849, at Ft. Leaton on the Rio Grande

Believed to be the first
recorded use of the term
"Big Bend."

FILES OF THE CENTER FOR BIG BEND STUDIES

COLONEL G. T. LANGHORNE'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A U. S. ARMY TRAINING CAMP IN THE BIG BEND MILITARY DISTRICT

The U. S. Army maintained camps and posts throughout the Big Bend region for many years after the Civil War up to the turn of the twentieth century. After an absence of a few years, troops returned to the border in 1911 during the period of the Mexican Revolution. From then until the end of World War II, the Big Bend was continuously occupied in some sectors by infantry and cavalry troops. During most of that time, the commanding officer was located at Marfa. Colonel George T. Langhorne, the CO of the Big Bend Military District in 1919, was an enthusiastic booster of the region. Here is a copy of his recommendation to his superior, the Commanding Officer of the Southern Department of the Army, for a training camp site in the region. The copy is from Records of the U. S. Army Continental Commands, Record Group 393 in the National Archives.

Headquarters, Big Bend District Camp Alberts, Marfa, Texas, August 29, 1919

From: Commanding Officer.
To: Commanding General, Southern Dept., Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.
Subject: Training Camp Site.

1. For over fifty years our troops have been on this border, sometimes in large numbers, and many times there have been very few, but they have always had to return to the Border to actually guard it against the depredations of the Mexicans or drawn to some local place on reports of local people that danger was threatening, such reports made perhaps from ulterior purposes.

2. I have recommended, and in part my recommendation has been adopted, that on the river or frontier itself, shelter be provided for the troops at the different stations. The best manner of arranging such shelter would be to have it inside of adobe walls. I also recommended a policy that troops would intermittently occupy such shelter, but that there would be no regular schedule for their stay in such places, that Mexican caretakers be employed to look after the shelter while the troops are away, to leave at such places only hay and oats, and no property that would hurt the Government to lose, and that troops be concentrated at centres [sic], from which they could be sent quickly to any certain points.

3. As far as climate is concerned, the best of such centres is undoubtedly Marfa, as here is the best climate along the Mexican frontier. There is a better place even than Marfa where a large number of troops could be assembled, and that is fifteen miles East of here, Paisano Mountains. In this country, the large ranchers own approximately a hundred sections, that is one hundred square miles. Some of them have twice this amount of land, and one of the most prominent ranchmen either leases or owns a large number of sections in the Paisano Mountains. The land for grazing purposes could probably be bought for five dollars an acre. It could be leased, but if leased the rental would be kept perhaps at a much higher valuation unless the ranch owners were given the privilege of grazing their cattle.

4. One hundred sections of land in the Paisano Mountains would make an ideal training ground for a large majority of the troops kept on this Border. The climate is ideal. The mountains and hills would give the terrain necessary for training that troops should have, and which they cannot get on level ground.

5. At Alpine, a few miles to the East, the Orient Railroad joins the Southern Pacific. Should the Government build a Railroad to the Border, it would use the road planned by the Orient Railroad which comes through Paisano Pass.

6. As the Big Bend juts into Mexico, from here are the nearest routes from our boundary to the most important towns of Terreon, Cihuahua, Parral, Santa Rosalia, etc.

7. I have been very much impressed by the remarks made by visiting officers as to the magnificent physique of the soldiers of my command here in the Big Bend District. That physique seems to be largely due to the remarkably fine climatic conditions, and to the fact that they are always at work at things which appeal to the soldier and to the officer.

8. A reservation of one hundred square miles in the Paisano Mountains would add to the comfort of the troops and officers, and it could not be excelled as a training ground. *An army properly trained there would be ready at a moment's notice for duty anywhere in the world.* [editor's italics]

9. If such a policy could be adopted, an attempt should be made to secure an option to lease the land *without the owners knowing that it is for government purposes.* [editor's italics]

G. T. Langhorne

Colonel, Cavalry, U. S. A.

[NOTE: The training camp was never established, but during World War II Marfa Army Air Field was established on the open plains between Marfa and Paisano Pass. It was closed at the end of the war.]



Troop F, U.S. First Cavalry at Camp Santa Helena, area of present Castolon in the Big Bend National Park, ca. 1919.
[U.S. Army photo, copy in possession of Earl Elam]

CALL FOR PAPERS

THE JOURNAL OF BIG BEND STUDIES

Volume 7 (1995)

In addition to articles previously committed for publication in Volume 7, the editorial advisory board will consider a limited number of additional articles. Submissions for consideration must meet the following criteria:

1. The articles must deal with a subject that relates to the culture and/or history of the Big Bend, borderland region of Texas and Mexico.
2. The journal is interdisciplinary and encourages contributions that represent, but are not limited to, the following disciplines: agricultural enterprises, art, archeology, anthropology, business enterprises, economics, education, environmental sciences, geography, government (political science and public administration), history, law enforcement, literature and/or folklore, music, psychology, and sociology.

3. The length of articles may vary, but should be within the range of fifteen to thirty typed (double spaced) pages, including notes and figures. A limited number of photographs, tables, maps, and other figures are permissible.
4. It is preferred that authors contact the editor before sending manuscripts. A style sheet will be sent at that time.
5. The deadline for submission of final, publication ready, drafts of articles that are accepted is **SEPTEMBER 15, 1994.**
6. Final selection of articles is made with the assistance of an editorial advisory board.

INQUIRIES AND SUBMISSIONS:

EDITOR, JOURNAL OF BIG BEND STUDIES
Box C-71 SRSU
Alpine, TX 79832

CENTER ASSOCIATES

Center Associates are persons who make an annual membership contribution of \$15.00 to the Center for Big Bend Studies, a non-profit educational program of Sul Ross State University. The effective dates of membership are from January 1 to December 31. For 1994, fill in the form on the cover and send it with \$15.00 to the Center for Big Bend Studies, SRSU Box C-71, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, TX 79832. Telephone inquiries: call 915-837-8179. Also, use the form to order back issues of *The Journal of Big Bend Studies* that are available.

As a Center Associate for 1994 you will:

- receive Volume 6 of *The Journal of Big Bend Studies*.
- receive biannual editions of *La Vista de la Frontera*, the Newsletter of the Center for Big Bend Studies.
- receive Occasional Reports (or Papers) that are prepared from time to time under CBBS sponsorship on special projects, investigations, field trips, and research that are conducted in the Big Bend.
- be entitled to discounts on available back issues of *The Journal of Big Bend Studies* and to special publications that will be published from time to time.
- be entitled to seek advice concerning research and writing you may be doing on cultural and historical subjects relating to the Big Bend.
- actively support research, publications, and programming relating to the Southwestern Borderlands of Texas and Mexico.
- contribute to the continued development of a program that enhances the mission of Sul Ross State University as the cultural center of the Trans-Pecos region.

The membership dues of Center Associates are used to support the publication program of the Center, including materials, typographical services, printing, and postage. The publication program is a self-supporting project of the CBBS and is dependent on the dues and sales in order to be continued.

CENTER ASSOCIATES MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please enroll me as a Center Associate in the Center for Big Bend Studies for 1994. I understand that I will receive Volume 6 of *The Journal of Big Bend Studies* and other benefits of membership as described in this issue of *La Vista de la Frontera*. I have checked the blank below and enclosed my check or money order for \$15.00. (Note: Membership is required in order to receive Volume 6 of the journal; library and other institutional memberships also are \$15.00 if an earlier order has not previously been processed.)

____ MEMBERSHIP, CENTER ASSOCIATES, 1994 @ \$15.00 (Includes JBBS, Vol. 6).

Back issues of the following volumes are available. For orders, please check the appropriate blanks below and enclose your check for the total.

____ Volume III (January 1991) @ \$10.00 per copy.

____ Volume IV (January 1992) @ \$10.00 per copy.

____ Volume V (January 1993) @ \$10.00 per copy.

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