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## Interviews Feb. 11, 12

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# Nance Completes A Texas History

Texans whose knowledge of history skips from the "glorious victory" at San Jacinto in 1836 to the Mexican War miss some interesting, sometimes exciting accounts, the latest book of an A&M University history professor reveals.

Dr. J. Milton Nance is author of the newly-published "Attack and Counter-Attack, The Texas-Mexican Frontier, 1842." That year was one of the most exciting in Texas history since 1836.

"Attack and Counter-Attack" is a continuation of the story of the Texas-Mexican frontier begun in "After San Jacinto: The Texas-Mexican Frontier, 1836-1841." The earlier volume won the Friends of the Dallas Public Library Award of the Texas Institute of Letters for a book written by a Texas author in 1963 making the greatest contribution to knowledge.

Nance joined the faculty in 1941 and since 1958 has headed the Department of History and Government.

Both of Nance's books published by the University of Texas Press fill an important gap in knowledge of the Texas Republic.

"I have tried," Nance says, "to tell the full story as objectively as possible utilizing primarily original source materials, most of which are in manuscripts. I have attempted to re-create the spirit of that by-gone age in order that we may better understand on both sides of the border the feelings of the people of that era as it relates to a troubled frontier."

The new volume includes 16 pages of illustrations including pictures or drawings of many of the key figures. Also illustrating the book are four maps drawn by Mrs. Nance, who has illustrated several books.

In the years after 1836 the disputed area between the Nueces and the Rio Grande became a no man's land where "Texas cowboys" were not above taking cattle from their countrymen.

What happened in 1842 brought fear, suffering, flag-waving patriotism and boundless rumor. President Sam Houston of the Republic of Texas realized that the bankrupt nation could ill afford an expedition into Mexico. And the highest levels of government in Mexico chose other than to attempt a full-fledged reoccupation of Texas.

In March General Rafael Vasquez' army briefly occupied San Antonio while other Mexican forces captured Goliad and Refugio.

These seizures were "a warning to persons outside Texas that Mexico still considered Texas a part of the Mexican nation over which she expected to restore her authority," Dr. Nance writes.



Three Aggies receive congratulations upon completion of the Army ROTC Flight Training Program. Left to right are Jack R. McCown of Dallas, Robert R. Rice of Abilene, Brian L. Riley of San Antonio and Aggies Win Wings. Capt. D. M. Denny of the Department of Military Science. In the background is the Cessna 172, the type of aircraft used in the basic flight training program.

# Local Jaycees State's First To Back Educational Bills

The Bryan-College Station Junior Chamber of Commerce has become one of the first Jaycee organizations in Texas to support the Governor's Committee on Education Beyond the High School and pledge its support in achieving action by the 59th Legislature.

Recent announcement of a resolution favoring such action was made by B-CS Jaycee president Ridley Briggs during a press conference in the office of President Earl Rudder of A&M. Rudder is a member of the Governor's Committee.

Briggs said a referendum of all 290 Jaycee organizations in Texas, representing 14,000 members, will be made before Feb. 12. The board of directors of the Junior Chamber of Commerce unanimously approved the referendum vote.

The resolution says action by the 59th Legislature should include:

A. Creation of a strong coordinating board (15 to 18 persons) to be an effective authority for the orderly development and management of our higher education system.

B. Transfer of direction of junior colleges from the Texas Education Agency to the coordinating board expansion of the junior college system and undertaking cost of academic instruction by the state.

C. Provision of scholarship funds to raise the level of quality of education through increased salaries for instructors together with additional support for research libraries within the limitation of financing available under current state revenue sources.

President Rudder called Jaycees support of the Governor's Committee on Education Beyond the High School "the perfect program."

"The life blood of any community is its educational system," he said. "It thrills me to see the people in our community give leadership in this important program."

Briggs called the pledge of the Jaycees to work in support of the proving our educational system a rare opportunity.

"It could be the greatest place of work the Jaycees could ever do," he said.

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