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A&M professor selected to write history of U.S. ag

Texas A&M historian David E. Schob has been selected to write a 370-year history of American agriculture for the Chicago History of American Civilization Series of the University of Chicago Press.

Dr. Schob, Texas A&M faculty member since 1970, recently published his definitive study of mid-19th Century farm labor, "Hired Hands and Plowboys." Published by his alma mater, the University of Illinois, it received the Oliver Dickerson Award.

His work for the Chicago series will be on American agriculture from 1607 to the present.

Patty claims fear spurred robbery actions

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Patricia Hearst says her mind was swamped with revolutionary rhetoric and her body ravaged by rape and other physical abuse when she robbed a bank under fear of execution.

Miss Hearst wept frequently as she testified before the jury for the second time Tuesday — a day on which the trial judge issued a memorandum saying the newspaper heiress had failed to convince him she was "a prisoner whose every move was made under the watchful eye" of her Symbionese Liberation Army kidnapers.

Miss Hearst, sipping water and using tissues to wipe away her tears told her jurors that she entered a Hibernia Bank branch on April 15, 1974, certain that SLA chieftain Donald "Cinque" DeFreeze intended to gun her down in front of surveillance cameras.

She watched a replay of the bank robbery and, when asked by defense counsel F. Lee Bailey why she frequently glanced over her

shoulder at DeFreeze, replied, "I had thought that even though I would go in and do this, that he was going to kill me anyway inside the bank."

She said she reacted with disbelief when the SLA told her they were going to rob a bank and she would participate. They said they needed money, she testified, and that DeFreeze "wanted me to be wanted by the FBI."

The basis of Miss Hearst's defense is that she participated in the holdup under threat of death.

The jurors listened intently Tuesday as the defendant testified between replays of the tapes she said she recorded in blind terror.

She told them of being forced to have sexual intercourse with DeFreeze and SLA member Willie Wolfe in the cell-like closet where she was kept blindfolded.

Bailey said Miss Hearst would continue her saga today, her third day on the stand, as she moves into what he concedes is the

"stickiest point" in her defense — a shooting spree that led indirectly to the deaths of DeFreeze, Willie Wolfe and four other SLA members in a shootout.

The defendant has admitted spraying a Los Angeles sporting goods store with rifle fire in what she claimed was an SLA-induced reflex to free two SLA members from a bungled shoplifting attempt.

A pistol left on the sidewalk and a teenager taken hostage overnight plus other clues led Los Angeles police to the shootout in which the six SLA members died on May 17, 1974. The jury will see a videotaped newscast of the fiery afternoon, Bailey said.

U.S. Atty. James L. Browning Jr. won a crucial victory last Wednesday when U.S. Dist. Judge Oliver J. Carter allowed the Los Angeles activities and Miss Hearst's tape-recorded words as "Tania" to be admitted into evidence.

Browning has contended the 21-year-old newspaper heiress acted of her own free

will when she robbed the bank a month later, acting alone, with machine gun to rescue SLA members William and Emily Harris.

The jurors will not see the judgment of his decision last week in underground statements and Miss Hearst in Los Angeles to the evidence.

At a two-day special hearing presence of the jury, Miss Hearst said that she was under the SLA's thumb throughout her 19-month journey in the underground. But government witnesses testified that she boasted about her role.

Carter said in his eight-page opinion that it appeared the tape in which she willingly robbed the bank and bragging to others "were voluntary." But he said he would instruct the jury to make its own decision "beyond a reasonable doubt."

A&M retirees' benefits to be improved

At least modest improvements in insurance benefits are planned for qualified retirees of the Texas A&M University System, Board of Regents Chairman Clyde H. Wells announced at a meeting Monday of the A&M Retirees' Club.

Senate Bill 871, passed at the last session of the Legislature, provides for payment of at least a portion of group life and health insurance premiums for retired employees.

"The extent to which the coverage applies, the effective dates and related information are currently being determined," he said.

Some of the wording of the bill is unclear, he said, and the Regents' Board, Texas College and University System, has requested attorney general's opinion to clarify certain provisions of the bill.

"Rest assured that you will find a maximum benefit under the law," he said.

Texas A&M retirees, along with other Texas residents 65 years and over, are eligible to receive university courses free of charge. Approval of the instructor and department head and if space is available in the desired class, he

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