



The man and his music staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

John Sharp, a marketing senior from Farmington, New Mexico, plays his guitar and sings in front of Rudder Tower during the craft festival Tuesday.

Tribes get second chance at retaining state funding

United Press International
AUSTIN — Texas' two Indian tribes have persuaded Attorney General Jim Mattox to reconsider a recent opinion cutting the tribes' state funding. Mattox ruled March 22 that the Alabama-Coushatta reservation near Livingston was no longer considered a reservation under federal law and therefore might not be eligible to receive state funds. The opinion also could affect the Tigua reservation in El Paso.

Monday Mattox said he would reconsider whether the tribes are entitled to funding. His opinion could affect \$1 million in funding already earmarked for the tribes by the Senate Finance Committee this year. "It's my understanding they're going to maintain the status quo until this issue is resolved," said Don Miller, an attorney from the Native American Rights Fund.

Miller is representing the Alabama-Coushatta tribe located on a 4,351-acre reservation in east Texas. The Tigua reservation near El Paso encompasses 38 acres. Elna Christopher, a spokeswoman for Mattox, confirmed the attorney general's office would review the opinion. "We'll be looking at it again, including the information they supplied us with," she said.

The funding problem was exposed last week by Comptroller Bob Bullock, who said he would continue the state's 50-year practice of making payments to the Texas Indian Commission for the tribes until Mattox clarified his opinion. Alabama-Coushatta Chief Robert Fulton Battise said through an interpreter that Mattox had agreed to review his decision with the concerns and input from the tribe in mind.

Restoration plan endorsed

United Press International
AUSTIN — A long-term preservation plan to restore and improve the fire-ravaged Texas Capitol building has been endorsed by the Texas Society of Architects.

The Legislature has appropriated \$7 million to repair the damages to the east wing. The pre-dawn fire, which threatened to engulf the whole building, began in the lieutenant governor's private apartment, killing one overnight guest.

The House Cultural and Historical Resources Committee Monday night referred to a subcommittee three bills, including a Senate-passed measure, that deal with restoration of the Capitol and preserving the view of the building.

Berlanga's bill would create the Capitol Preservation Board, composed of the governor, lieutenant governor and Speaker of the House, to develop a long-term preservation plan to maintain and restore the building, its contents and its grounds.

A portion of the plan, approved Monday, would call for a fulltime architect to oversee work on Texas' "premier state building." Interest in renovating and restoring the massive pink granite building has grown since a Feb. 6 fire nearly destroyed the historic structure that is the symbol of Texas' state government.

The Legislature has appropriated \$7 million to repair the damages to the east wing. The pre-dawn fire, which threatened to engulf the whole building, began in the lieutenant governor's private apartment, killing one overnight guest. Architect Allen McCree of Austin said the language in a bill sponsored by Rep. Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, "leaves no doubt in anybody's mind" that the 95-year-old building is to be restored to its original form.

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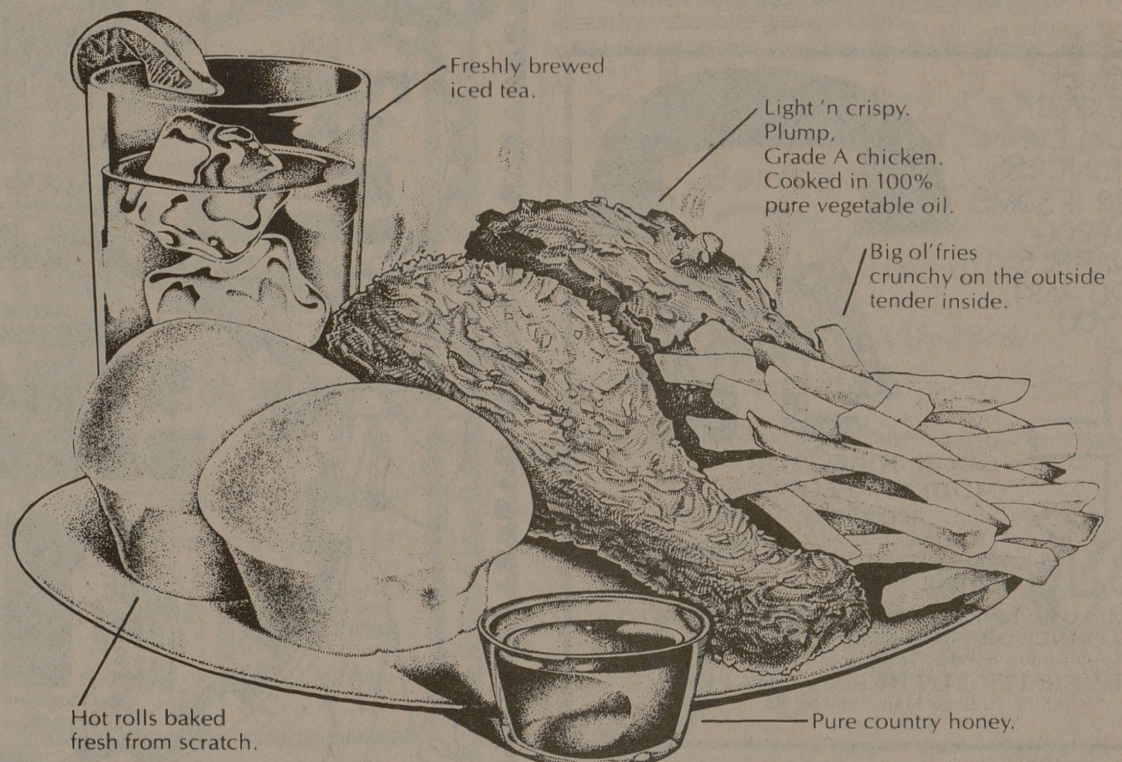
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