

Brazos County plans anniversary festivities

By JILL GOLDEN
Reporter

The Texas Sesquicentennial, marking the 150th anniversary of Texas' independence from Mexico, is still two years away, but Brazos County already has begun planning its part in the celebration.

The Texas 1986 Sesquicentennial Commission in Austin, has invited Texas cities and counties to join in the festivities. So far, 32 communities have been sanctioned to participate in the year-long commemoration.

Brazos County has yet to be officially approved, but a planning committee has been appointed to recommend a chairman and a coordinating committee of 20-30 people. Committee members must be approved by College Station Mayor Gary Halter, Bryan

Mayor Ron Blatchley and County Judge Dick Holmgreen.

Members will be recommended by the planning committee. Members of the planning committee include Phyllis Dozier, director of the Brazos Center, Dr. Carolyn Adair of Texas A&M, Margaret Ann Zipp representing The Bryan/College Station Eagle, Anne Bell representing Halter, Peggy Callihan representing Blatchley, and Clara Mounce representing the Chamber of Commerce.

Dozier expects the chairman and coordinating committee to be appointed in the next 30 days. The committee's job will be to devise a master plan of all groups taking part in the celebration and to make sure all events are appropriate.

Once the master plan has been accepted in Austin, Bra-

zos County officially can begin using stickers, logos, and other Sesquicentennial items to publicize the celebration. Dozier said at this time few people are aware of the Sesquicentennial, so the committee plans to conduct a wide-spread publicity campaign.

Adair said the main idea of the celebration is for the community to have fun.

Possible events through the year include rodeos, lecture series, and community work projects.

A major Sesquicentennial event already well under way is a state-wide wagon train trip circling 2,800 miles through Texas from January until June. To date, it is not scheduled to stop in Brazos County, but Dozier said she hopes a stop here will be added later. The closest scheduled stop for the train is Brenham, about 35 miles away.

Leader threatens Lebanon

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Druze Moslem leader Walid Jumblatt demanded Sunday that President Amin Gemayel resign or face a civil war that could mean "the complete destruction of Lebanon."

It was Jumblatt's harshest threat yet against the Christian-dominated government, already beset by fierce daily battles with Syrian-backed Moslem militiamen that last week killed 40 people and wounded more than 100.

The army exchanged rocket and shellfire with Druze militiamen around Qabr Shamoun in the mountains 8 miles southeast of Beirut, and fought Shiite Moslems in the southern suburbs, radio reports said.

The Christian Phalange Voice of Lebanon radio said one army soldier was killed and three civilians were wounded in the clashes in the suburbs.

In Washington, Secretary of State George Shultz responded to the latest threats of civil war by reaffirming U.S. allegiance to the Gemayel government and noting that Jumblatt's warning appeared to be inspired by Moscow.

"We will not stop fighting this time unless and until the Gemayel government resigns, even if that means the complete destruction of Lebanon," Jumblatt said in an interview with the Amman-based Jordan Times.

"Our position is one of all-out challenge to the Lebanese government," he said. "Until a real and acceptable political settlement to the crisis of Lebanon is found, the fighting will not stop."

Jumblatt, who in the past has demanded the resignation of the Cabinet but not the president, said Gemayel failed to abrogate the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli troop withdrawal accord

as instructed by the Moslem-Christian national reconciliation conference in November.

Jumblatt vowed his forces would fight the Lebanese army, "no matter how much arms and ammunition the United States gives," charging it is a Christian force out to annihilate the Druze.

In an interview with ABC News, Jumblatt called his move "a logical demand to avoid more killing, more destruction in Lebanon," he said. "I don't see another way out. I hope to see another way out, but I don't see it."

Shultz, also interviewed by ABC, noted that Jumblatt spoke from Damascus after returning

from talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow. "So it looks as if those influences on him are having an impact," Shultz said.

Despite Jumblatt's threat, a government delegation will go to Damascus for talks on cease-fire violations with Syrian leaders and Jumblatt, the independent Central News Agency reported.

Education Minister Issam Khoury, however announced schools will remain shut Monday if they are located in risky areas — a sign the government was taking the Druze leader's statements seriously.

GOP leaders to hold rally, southern strategy underway

United Press International

ATLANTA — Confident Republican leaders from 13 Southern states where President Reagan got 30 percent of his 1980 electoral vote will meet this week to set Southern strategy for his re-election campaign.

Officially, the Republican National Committee's "Southern leadership conference" is billed as a pep rally to organize fund-raising and voter-registration activities for the party.

Unofficially, the four-day round of seminars and social events affords the GOP an opportunity to draw attention to its strength in a region that Democratic leaders agree is the key to the 1984 election.

Recent polls indicate former vice president Walter Mondale has wide appeal among decided Democrats, and is leading Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio. The polls also show both men trailing Reagan in the South.

The president carried every Southern state in 1980 — except ex-President Carter's native Georgia — and got 147 of his 489 electoral votes from the region.

Reagan is scheduled to address the opening session of the GOP conference Thursday. More than 1,000 Republican state chairmen, RNC members and other Reagan supporters are expected to attend.

States participating in the regional conference are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

GOP leaders are confident Mondale will be Reagan's opponent.

"Anybody who's totally realistic knows that at the moment Mondale is clearly the frontrun-

ner," said Montgomery Mayor Emory Folmar, Reagan's re-election chairman for Alabama.

"It's Walter Mondale's nomination to lose at this point," said Warren Tompkins, director of the South Carolina GOP.

Other Republican leaders said Reagan would run well against any liberal and expressed little concern about Democratic candidate Jesse Jackson's southwide campaign to register 2 million new voters, especially blacks and the poor.

Marty Connors, director of the Alabama GOP, said Jackson's efforts may backfire on Democrats in the South.

"It's a two-edged sword; the more credibility Jackson gets, the more unfriendly faces he brings out to vote," said Connors.

"But his mere presence inspires many conservative Democrats to come in droves to the Republican Party," he said.

The number of unregistered, voting-age blacks in 10 of the 13 states in 1982 was far greater — as much as 10 times more — than the margin of Reagan's victory in 1980.

Jackson's standard campaign speech now includes a virtual demand that everyone in his audience be registered, and he sometimes concludes by leading a march to the registrar's office.

"I'm not overly concerned with his drive," said Tennessee GOP chairman Susan Richardson-Williams.

"Maybe Jackson's drive is a good thing, in that it has made us focus on registration — but we probably would have done it anyway," she said.

Tompkins, the South Carolina state party leader, said "we've got to work real hard" to counteract Jackson's appeal for the Democrats. Tompkins said it is important for Reagan to hold the southern vote.

Virginia GOP director Sandra Riley said, "We're going into the black community, talk to the black community and talk to them about their concerns."

Party leaders echoed the White House position that economic recovery under Reagan has improved the lot of millions of poor people, including many Southern blacks.

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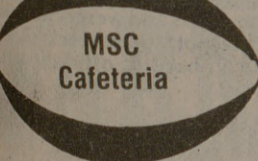
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