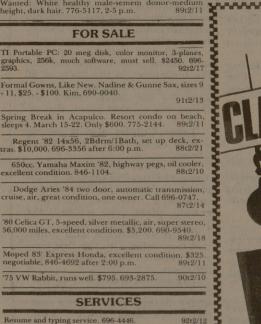
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SNELLING & SNELLING

History: Coahuila joined Texas

Associated Press

Spain's 18th-century world empire was ruled with one central princole — the word of the Crown rep-

re. ented the word of God. When Napolean invaded Spain, then toppled the royal government in 1808, the Spanish colonies floun-dered and drifted unattended. Sensing the empire's vulnerability, colonial insurgents began challenging Spanish rule. The centers of Spanish settlement in Texas by the 19th century were San Antonio de Bexar, La Bahia del Espiritu Santo (Goliad), and Nacogdoches, all far from Mexico City.

The most celebrated Mexican revolt against the Spanish arose in 1810, as Father Miguel Hidalgo or-ganized a group of Indians and "mestizos" to formulate a new government.

Although his rebellion failed and Hidalgo was executed, historian Felix Almaraz notes that by 1811 re-percussions of the insurgent movement in Mexico reached Texas, where proponents of Mexican independence collided with defenders of the Crown on several battlefields.

Ten years later, on July 19, 1821, the governor of Texas proclaimed Mexican independence. Conservative Agustin Iturbide-

signed the first permit allowing Stephen F. Austin a land grant to settle Anglo-Americans in Texas in 1823. Soon, Mexican nationalists took control in Mexico City and launched a federal experiment in govern-ment, creating provinces extending out from the aprical out from the capital.

Ironically, they combined the frontier region of Texas with Coa-huila, the province directly south of it. Regional authority shifted from San Antonio de Bexar to Saltillo in Coahuila

Except for creating this dual state of Coahuila y Texas, the presidency of Guadalupe Victoria had little effect on Texas. But succeeding administrations had enormous impact - Vincente Guerro's with the abolition of slavery; Anastacio Bustamente's with the suspension of im-migration from the U.S.; and Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's by cancelling the federalist constitution of 1824, then in 1835, instituting "Las Siete Leyes," the Seven Laws. These laws reduced the power of local councils and again centralized authority in the president and na-tional legislation. The laws also re-duced the size of the Texans' militia. Increasingly, Tejanos and Texi-ans on the northern periphery of Mexico, like Mexicans in Zacatecas, clucked with the metionel generation

clashed with the national govern-

INY ADS,

BUT REAL

HEAVYWEIGHTS

WHEN RESULTS **REALLY COUNT.** ment in Mexico City. In January 1833, the citizens of San Felipe convened a meeting of Texans. They drew up a resolution which renounced the legal injustice and military occupation they had endured under Santa Anna, and proposed that Texas be granted separate statehood from Coahuila.

Stephen F. Austin delivered the



