

# Texas becomes finalist for super collider project

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas goes head-to-head with six other states in the final lap of a nationwide competition to land the multibillion-dollar super collider, Energy Department officials and Texas politicians announced Tuesday.

So we have now come down to Texas," said Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas. "We're expecting official site selection probably in the early spring. I'll be setting up a meeting with the Texas delegation to propose a site with DOE Secretary (John) Herndon to reconfirm our commitment to the project."

Rep. Joe Barton, R-Ennis, whose district encompasses the North Texas site, said he feels Texas is positioned well to triumph over the other competitors.

Each of the finalists — Texas, Illinois, North Carolina, Tennessee, Arizona, Michigan and Colorado had been previously chosen by a scientific panel as being the best overall sites for the atom smasher.

New York, which also was recommended as a candidate state by the National Academy of Sciences and

the National Academy of Engineering last month, was not on the list.

New York Gov. Mario Cuomo earlier this month asked the DOE to drop consideration of the site as a location for the \$4.4 billion atom smasher because of opposition from local residents.

"I think that Texas has the best geology, the best geography and the best public support team," Barton said in a telephone call. "We're also the low-cost site. If given a level playing field we should do very well."

# Navy missile cruiser enters fleet

HOUSTON (AP) — Twenty-one salutes rang out over the San Jacinto Battleground Tuesday as the navy's newest and most sophisticated guided missile cruiser passed its namesake battlefield to begin ceremonies marking the vessel's official entry into the nation's fleet.

The USS San Jacinto, named after the battle that gained the Republic of Texas its independence, cruised the ship channel into the Port of Houston — a day late because of heavy fog that kept it at anchor Monday in Galveston Bay.

Although the other nine ships of its Aegis class of cruisers are named after historic American battles, the \$1 billion San Jacinto is unique in that the commissioning is taking place within sight of its namesake.

The San Jacinto is named after the 1836 battle in which the outnumbered Texas Army, commanded by Sam Houston, defeated the Mexican Army under Gen. Santa Anna. The battlefield site, about 15 miles east of downtown Houston, is now a Texas state park and home to the Battleship Texas.

Flying a Texas flag on its beam mast, the new 567-foot vessel exchanged a 21-gun salute with a four-cannon battery manned by Texas National Guardsmen onshore.

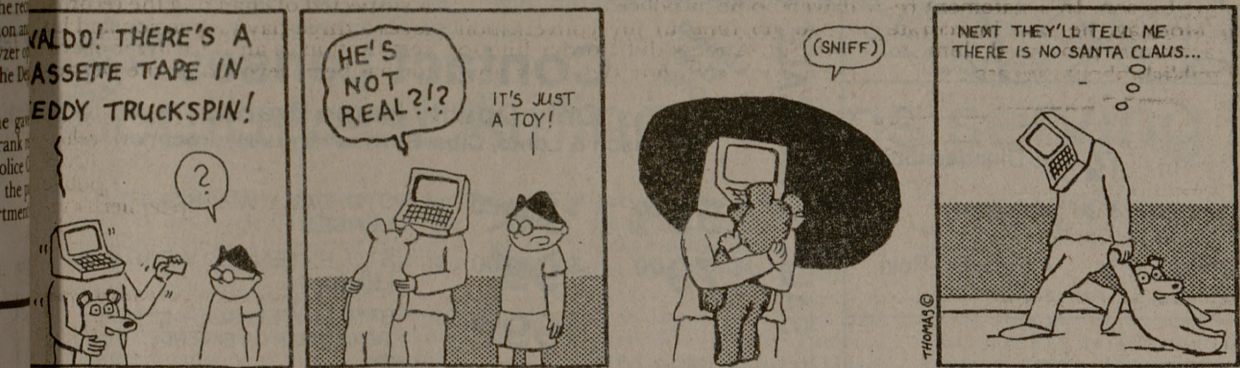
The 21-gun salute, normally reserved for foreign heads of state, was designated in honor of the Battleship Texas, the flagship of the Texas Navy.

The ship, the last of the dreadnaught class of battleships, saw action in World Wars I and II and now is undergoing restoration.

by Scott McCullar



by Kevin Thomas



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