

# Fifth-graders raise funds to save Battleship Texas

HOUSTON (AP) — A nickel campaign 40 years ago to bring the battleship USS Texas home has inspired 26 inflation-conscious fifth-graders who hope to help restore the rusting ship.

Struck by the Battleship Texas' poor condition during a field trip last fall, the pupils at Millsap Elementary School in the Cyprus-Fairbanks school system began brainstorming.

Teacher Cassie Johnson said her class of gifted and talented pupils in the school's Horizons program turned to the history books.

Johnson said her pupils learned that 5-cent contributions from youngsters were responsible for the decommissioned battleship's post-war berth at San Jacinto State Park in 1948.

Her class came up with a "Give

Two-Bits for Texas" fund-raiser in which pupils in public schools across Texas will be asked to chip in 25 cents apiece.

"Naturally, the grandchildren of those children in 1948 came up with the idea of starting a campaign to help the battleship," Johnson said. "Only inflation has made it a quarter today."

Ten-year-old Mark Simon said the ship "had lots of rust and a bunch of places were closed off" when the class toured it Oct. 24.

"We all started talking about it and then we voted for this idea — mostly because our grandparents paid to bring it here," he said. "We want to help keep it here."

Chris Moore, 10, said he was optimistic about the ship's fate. "Even if our idea doesn't work, it was a good try," he said. "Somehow we'll get it restored."

Johnson said her pupils are coping with paper cuts suffered during long hours of envelope stuffing. They're mailing nearly 1,100 letters to school officials asking them to send an "SOS" — Save Our Ship — to their estimated 6 million pupils.

The collection date is March 2 — Texas Independence Day.

"On a good day, we should be able to raise \$1.5 million, but I'm not sure how many will participate," Johnson said. "But it's too good an idea not to (work)."

Meanwhile, the 73-year-old battleship, refloated in December after an 11-week draining operation, is expected to be towed to dry dock sometime this year for major structural repairs.

The \$10 million restoration project already has received a boost from a Save the Battleship aluminum recycling drive.

## First sighting of rare bird draws crowds

PHARR (AP) — Birdwatchers from across the United States are flocking to a tiny wildlife refuge in South Texas because of the first confirmed sighting in the United States of the crane hawk, a long-legged Mexican bird with a sharp beak.

Nita Fuller, manager of the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, said the bird first showed up at the refuge along the Rio Grande on Dec. 19. Since then, she said, the orange-legged bird with sharp talons has found a ready supply of frogs, its favorite food.

The bird is common in the Mexican states of Sonora and Tamaulipas, across the border from Texas.

The 2,000-acre refuge near Pharr, winter home to about two dozen rare species, was already a popular spot for birding. Last year, about 110,000 visitors from across North America came to the refuge.

Since the crane hawk arrived, the refuge has drawn up to 900 visitors a day.

"People are flying in here from all over. The bird has created quite a stir," Fuller said.

## Residents argue over building park in embattled town

CRYSTAL BEACH, Texas (AP) — Some residents of this town, still locked in a court battle over incorporation, don't want the community to build a \$640,000 park.

More than 100 people jammed a hearing Saturday and about 30 spoke out in opposition to the proposed 15.7 acre park.

"This park is a fiasco from a previous administration," Leon Gaspar of Crystal Beach told City Council members presiding at the public hearing. "You're caught up in it, but that doesn't mean you have to continue it. When you make a mistake you should get out of it. That's why divorces were made. It's time to divorce ourselves from this park."

In 1985, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department awarded Crystal Beach a matching \$322,200 grant to build the park.

City officials purchased 4.4 acres of land for \$120,000 from Sandpiper Development Inc., owned by developer Gregory Cobb. Cobb donated the remaining 11 acres.

The wildlife department has given the city a credit of \$158,600 for remaining park construction, but state officials suspended the project

following a vote to disincorporate the town this past April.

When a visiting judge overturned the election in August, state officials asked the city to consider completing the park, even though an appeal of the decision voiding the disincorporation election is still pending before the Texas Court of Civil Appeals.

Mayor Bill Kelsey said Crystal Beach could acquire the park cost-free because its portion of the matching grant is offset by the value of the land the state would use. He estimated maintenance costs at \$10,000 per year.

Resident Hank Marsh said, "With this park you get nothing for nothing," adding that the city could not maintain the park for \$10,000.

"If government would stop spending money we don't have, we could get back to fixing roads and things that are essential," he said.

Crystal Beach resident Dottie Wells was the only citizen who addressed the council to speak in favor of the new park.

"I was involved in Little League, and Noble Park had holes and rocks in the grass that put the kids in danger," Wells said. "They need a decent place to play."

## Hospital's charity under scrutiny

HOUSTON (AP) — The last of the 10 defendants in the Hermann Hospital Trust scandal was sentenced last week, but problems for the hospital's estate may not be over.

"We suspect they may not be living up to all of the charitable agreement," Assistant Attorney General Mary Keller said.

The agreement was made to get the Texas attorney general to drop a lawsuit against the Hermann trustees to force them to provide charity hospital care. The core of the agreement calls for the Hermann Trust to create a \$100 million endowment for charity care at Hermann Hospital.

But Hermann has had problems selling its real estate assets to get endowment capital. Although it has only \$2 million in the endowment fund, Hermann officials insist they are meeting their charitable obligations.

The scandal surrounding the Hermann Trust, formerly called the Hermann Hospital Estate, first came to light three years ago.

Not only were there specific allegations of theft from the estate and hospital, but there were revelations

that the hospital, created to be a charity facility, was not being run as a charity.

Attorney General Jim Mattox filed suit in 1985 to force the trustees to provide some charity care, but the suit was dropped and Hermann trustees agreed to devote a portion of the hospital to charity.

The agreement, however, has never been approved by a court, and Hermann officials are asking the state not to seek formal approval. Keller said if the trust isn't meeting its charitable obligations, the state will likely seek judicial approval of the agreement, which was reached in October 1985.

Tom Alexander, an attorney for the Hermann trustees, said he has suggested that the attorney general not seek court approval of the charity agreement because the legal fees would be too costly.

The agreement between the trust and the attorney general calls for the trustees to create a \$100 million charity endowment by 1990 and dedicate the trust to the charitable goals of the hospital's founder, George Hermann.

But reaching the \$100 million

goal has proved difficult, according to E. Don Walker, president of the Hermann Trust.

Houston's poor real estate market has made selling the estate's properties for a fair price impossible, he said.

Walker said Hermann spent \$16.1 million on charity care in 1986 and \$17.6 million in 1987.

Another \$17 million is scheduled to be spent on charity in 1988. About \$500,000 of the money is in annual grants to community health care projects.

Former Gov. Mark White, the newest trustee on the Hermann board, said if all the trust's assets were applied to charity, the trust would have no assets left and the hospital would be penniless.

He said the major portion of Hermann's charity work involves indigent emergency patients brought to the hospital on Life Flight helicopters.

Clyde Wilson, the private investigator who worked on the estate investigation, said he doesn't think the scandal forced the Hermann trustees to change their approach to charity.

## Petal Patch Florist

707 Texas Ave.  
696-6713

All major cards accepted by telephone

## SUPERIOR Auto Service

"Auto Repair At Its Best"

Complete Auto Service, Domestic & Imports

111 Royal 846-5344 Bryan

across S. College from Tom's BBQ

## The Battalion

845-2611

WISE MOVE

Jose's  
4004 Harvey Rd.  
11-9:45  
Closed Mondays

ZARAPE  
RESTAURANT

Zarape's  
308 Main  
Downtown Bryan  
779-8702  
9:30-8:45  
Closed Mondays

**Buy one entree and get the second at 1/2 price**

Buy one entree at regular price and get a second entree of equal or less value for 1/2 regular price

**Serving the Finest Mexican Food in Bryan-College Station**

Coupon good Tuesday thru Thursday

Jose's 5-9:30 p.m.      Zarape's 5-8:30 p.m.

Expires 3/17      Must present coupon when ordering

# JITTERBUG

Please note the date changes

|   |             |                              |
|---|-------------|------------------------------|
| Sunday Feb 28, March 6, 27, April 3, 17 | 6:00-7:15pm | \$14/student \$16/nonstudent |
| Sunday Feb 28, March 6, 27, April 3, 17 | 7:30-8:45pm | \$14/student \$16/nonstudent |

Registration Begins February 1st

*University PLUS*

For further information, phone 845-1631.

## What does it take to be a member of the MSC Wiley Lecture Series?

- A genius I.Q.
- The ability to trace American foreign policy from the 1800's to the present and name every signer of The Declaration of Independence.
- A desire to have fun while educating A&M and the surrounding community by bringing international foreign policy-makers to campus.

Stop by 216 MSC and fill out an application now through February 10.

**Information Sessions**

February 2 at 7:30 pm in 305 Rudder

February 4 at 7:30 pm in 507 Rudder

# Otello

**Starring Placido Domingo**  
Directed by Franco Zeffirelli

Tuesday, February 2, 1988 7:30pm  
Rudder Theatre, \$2.50 with ID

Supported by MSC Jordan Institute for International Awareness

MSC Visual Arts cordially invites you to attend a reception for the opening of an exhibit, "Going in Style," a collection of international travel posters from the 1920's and 1930's, immediately following Otello in the MSC Gallery. This exhibit will be on display February 1-19, Monday through Friday, 9am to 8pm in the MSC Gallery.

**Welcome Back, AGGIES!**

**Contemporary Christian Concert**

featuring

## The Heritage Singers

Rudder Auditorium      Tickets \$2.00 at the door

Monday, February 1, 1988      7:30 PM