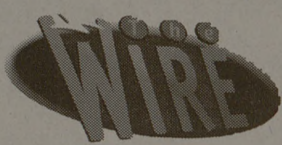


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Traditions Week

March 6th - 12th

When was the first "Fish Camp" and where was it held?

If you know the answer, place it in the box at the Traditions Week table at Rudder Fountain for a PRIZE!

Schedule of Events

M: Fish, T., & Howdy Camp W: Corps of Cadets & Yell Leaders
 T: Parent's Weekend Th: Muster & Silver Taps

Traditions Council Thanks El Chico and On The Border

Author of 'Legendary Texas' gets book series reprints

By STEPHEN WELLS
 Staff writer

There is one thing people should know before they talk to Jeff Carroll, author of the "Legendary Texas-Unsung Heritage" book series. They need to be prepared to listen to someone who has a lot of life experience. They also should keep in mind one other thing: He has so many great stories to tell, an individual is better off letting him do all the talking.

The first volume of the "Legendary Texas" series was published in 1992, and there have been four more volumes published so far. However, that first story was the result of a lifetime of experience. Carroll has, in his time, done just about everything there is to do in life.

"I'm one of those people who's done pretty much everything at one time or another in my life," Carroll said. "I'm your standard jack of all trades."

The origins of the series are a story within themselves. Carroll quit a career in government service (he was a forester) to open up a custom leather shop. Since then, he has taught history at Texas A&M and Blinn Community College. The stories he writes are the sum total of all the expertise he gained in his careers.

"It [the book series] started after I left the government and started up my own custom leather shop," Carroll said. "Some of the stories that are in the books were ones I used in advertisements for my store. After 1985 I got picked up by 22 newspapers in Texas for the sesquicentennial celebration. Then we picked it up even more and started telling the stories as a radio spot on KAMU. I think that, right now, about 62 radio stations are running those stories now."

Carroll said he always has been interested in a good story, to the point of quitting a career in forestry to pursue a doctorate of history from A&M. His love of a good tale began early in life.

"Really, my background is in the natural sciences," Carroll said. "I started out as a forester, but I've always been interested in history. I first got interested in stories about history as a child listening to my father tell me stories. I was also very interested in the authors of that time and read a lot of their books."

Unlike the authors he read as a child, Carroll said his stories are all based on actual events as close to historical accounts as any textbook. In fact, Carroll (who currently teaches history at Blinn) often uses his book series to convince students history can be as interesting as any fiction.

"All of the stories are history," Carroll said. "It's not, I'll tell you in advance. If it's a treasure story, it does have some basis in fact. Of course, it's not completely true. If it was, I'd be out digging for treasure instead of writing the story behind it for everybody to read."

The first five volumes of Carroll's series are being reprinted by Wheelock Press. The publisher has improved the quality and illustrations by Kelly Franklin to enhance the experience of reading the book.

"It was a real challenge to illustrate the series," Franklin said. "I read through every story to get an idea of what the story said to me as an artist. And, most of the pictures are pretty historically accurate. They're my versions of pictures during the writing process."

Although Carroll said he has never met many of the subjects of his stories, he still has a bond with them through his writing and, sometimes, through others who know his work.

"I can only meet them [the people I write about] in my dreams, since most of the people I write about are dead," Carroll said. "Sometimes I'll be giving a lecture or a seminar and afterwards someone will come up to me and say 'Hey, that was a pretty good story you told about so-and-so ... he was my uncle.'"

As for running out of stories to publish, Carroll said he does not think the day will come. So far, he's committed 250 stories to the series while airing over 500 on his radio show. He keeps coming to him every day.

"No, I don't think I'll ever stop writing unless I die I guess," Carroll said. "I've got a log of so many stories it would take years to write them all."

So, if you ever happen to meet Carroll, reward yourself by taking the time to listen to him. After all, he's got hundreds of stories to tell you.

Mick said, "They made my lips explode!"
 Stevie said, "They're a Wonder!"
 Bobby McFerrin said, "Don't worry, be happy, at

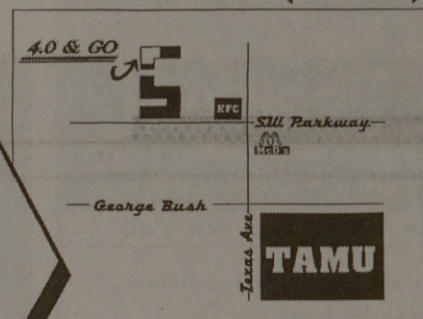
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Titanic to top Star Wars as No. 1 box-office film of all

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The only question about Titanic is where will the voyage end?

Fresh off its triumph at the Director's Guild of America awards, the blockbuster stayed at No. 1 with \$18 million in weekend ticket sales, maintaining its course to become the top-earning movie ever.

Its latest challenger, U.S. Marshals, was second with \$17 million. Titanic will soon surpass Star Wars as the all-time North America box-office champ.

Counting re-releases, Star Wars brought in \$461 million. Titanic, the No. 1 movie through its first 12 weeks, has earned \$449.6 million. "It's going to sail past \$500 million in the next couple of weeks, which no film has ever done in the U.S.," said David Davis of Houlihan, Lokey, Howard & Zukin, film industry investment bankers.

James Cameron won the prize. The winner of that award repeats at the Academy Awards, scheduled March 23.

It looks like Titanic will finally get the throne," he said Sunday. "That's one of the big stories — when is it going to get caught?"

It could take another movie with Titanic lead Leonardo DiCaprio. The Man in the Iron Mask, out next weekend, features DiCaprio in dual roles.

If Titanic stays atop the box office chart next week, it will tie Tootsie and Beverly Hills Cop for a record 13 weeks straight.

On Saturday, Titanic director James Cameron won the prize. The winner of that award repeats at the Academy Awards, scheduled March 23.

Listed below are the ticket sales for the top 10 North American theaters through Sunday. Final figures expected Monday.

1. Titanic, \$18 million.
2. U.S. Marshals, \$17 million.
3. The Wedding Singer, \$16 million.
4. (tie) Hush, \$6 million.
4. Twilight, \$6 million.
6. The Big Lebowski, \$5 million.
7. Good Will Hunting, \$5 million.
8. As Good As It Gets, \$5 million.
9. Dark City, \$2.7 million.
10. The Borrowers, \$2.7 million.

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