

Some fear battle may be forgotten

By Pam Easton
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA PORTE, Texas — There were two cries at The Battle of San Jacinto: Remember the Alamo! Remember Goliad!

On Wednesday, those who gathered at the base of the San Jacinto Monument for a San Jacinto Day celebration added another: Remember San Jacinto!

"The current movie of the day forgets to even name this battle," said Ron Stone, master of ceremonies at Wednesday's celebration, which continues through Sunday and culminates with a re-enactment of the 18-minute battle that secured Texas' independence.

Disney's film version of the Battle of the Alamo, which led up to Texas' major victory at San Jacinto, has brought in more than \$16 million since opening earlier this month, but is considered a box office flop. The much-hyped historical film, which cost as much as \$140 million to make and market, is unlikely to recoup its costs, even at the international box office and in DVD release, some analysts have said.

Those who want to make sure the Battle of San Jacinto is remembered know it wouldn't make a good film, said Kameron Searle, director of education for the Sons of the Republic of Texas. But nonetheless, Searle and others want to make sure the battle receives its due.

"If you have been to see 'The Alamo,' you will know they just call it that final battle," Stone said. "We are in danger of forgetting what this day is and what this day is about."

On April 21, 1836, Sam Houston led a weary and angry group of soldiers and Texas patriots to the military victory that secured Texas' independence following the Alamo and Goliad battles. During the battles at the Alamo and Goliad, every person fighting for the Texas military perished, Searle said.

"When they got here, it was do or die," Searle said. "It only lasted

18 minutes, but in those 18 minutes we won our independence and forever changed the history and the course of America's history."

The victory at San Jacinto paved the way for the United States to annex almost 1 million square miles of territory that included Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, California and Utah, as well as parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas and Oklahoma.

The Mexican Army was led by Antonio Lopez de Santa Ana, president of Mexico, whose troops were caught off guard during an afternoon siesta.

Only nine of the Texans were killed while 630 Mexicans died and 730 were taken prisoner. Santa Ana was later captured.

Hundreds of Mexican soldiers who died did so as they tried to flee through a nearby marsh, which effectively blocked their only escape route. Their remains are believed to still be buried there.

Sam Houston IV participated in Wednesday's celebration, reading a portion of his great grandfather's battle report. The report detailed how poorly supplied the Texas troops were.

"Amid every difficulty ... there was no murmuring," he read. "Every officer and man proved himself worthy of the cause."

The defeats at the Alamo and Goliad motivated the "tiny, ragtag army of farmers," Searle said.

"There weren't 20 people in the whole Texas army that had had military training," he said.

Texas A&M history professor H.W. Brands told those who attended the gathering, some of whom dressed in vintage clothing reflective of the period during which the battle was fought, that San Jacinto was one of the greatest battles in world history.

"It was one of those events in history that no one could have foreseen, even a week before it happened," he said. "The Battle of San Jacinto was something that took Texans, took Americans, took Mexicans, took the entire world by surprise."

Honor

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is nice to be recognized for working hard as a student and for being committed to academics," Barbier said. "I have strived to broaden my base of knowledge in many areas and (Phi Beta Kappa) recognizes that."

Besides being an outstanding student, Barbier has been a member of CARPOOL for three years, the last two years as public relations director. She also holds a leadership position in the Public Relations Student Society of America and is a member of the Student Risk Advisory Team, which teaches risk management skills to student organizations.

"I've been involved in several extracurricular activities, and I think I've tried to make the most of the other education, so it's nice to be honored for academics as well," Barbier said.

Several members of Phi Beta Kappa have gone on to achieve great fame and prestige, Carlson said.

"Six of the nine current Supreme Court Justices are Phi Beta Kappa," Carlson said. "And one of the most famous members, George H.W. Bush was Phi Beta Kappa at Yale. In fact, his Phi Beta Kappa certificate is hanging in his presidential library."

Barbier said she sees Phi Beta Kappa as a welcome addition to A&M's reputation of quality educators and academic credibility.

"I think it's definitely exciting for A&M to have a chapter," Barbier said. "It brings well-deserved prestige to our school and it shows that we have very good academics in several areas."

Muster

Continued from page 1A

as part of his Class of 1950 year reunion.

"(This is my) first (on-campus) Muster since graduation," Tipton said. "Those Musters I didn't go to I held in my backyard."

Jimmy Tyree, former yell leader and Class of 1954, said this Muster was also his first.

"I wanted this to be my first on-campus Muster," Tyree said. "The University has done a beautiful job of maintaining the concrete traditions."

Muster speaker Jon L. Hagler, Class of 1958 and board member of The Association of Former Students, addressed changes in tradition to stress his support for Vision 2020 during his speech.

"The uniqueness of A&M is its spirit," Hagler said. "Vision 2020 is our generation's response to the challenges of change."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Jackson indicted by grand jury for molestation allegations

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pop star Michael Jackson was indicted by a Santa Barbara County grand jury investigating child molestation allegations, television news organizations reported Wednesday.

The reports by ABC, CNN and MSNBC cited sources that were unidentified. They had no details about the indictment, nor was there any official confirmation or announcement.

Grand jury indictments are usually secret until a defendant is arraigned.

Jackson attorney Mark Geragos, reached by telephone, would not answer questions from The Associated Press about whether there was an indictment.

Geragos, other defense attorneys and prosecutors in the case are covered by a gag order. The district attorney's office also would not comment about the media reports.

"This probably is a court matter, to be able to give the information out, not the district attorney's office," said Susan Tellem of Tellem Worldwide, hired to handle media inquiries for

District Attorney Tom Sneddon in the case. "There's a gag order ... and that means the district attorney really can't speak."

Calls to Sneddon and others in his office were not immediately returned.

Jackson's spokeswoman, Raymone Bain, issued a statement to the AP saying the singer will plead not guilty during his scheduled April 30 arraignment — if an indictment has been issued. The statement did not confirm that an indictment has been handed down.

The singer and his attorneys "are confident that after a trial ... Jackson will be fully exonerated," the statement read. "Michael is looking forward to his day in court."

Tellem said court administrator Gary Blair would determine when the court would officially release any information about the grand jury. Messages left at Blair's office were not immediately returned.

The grand jury has spent the last three weeks hearing from witnesses, including a 14-year-old boy who claims the pop superstar sexually abused him.

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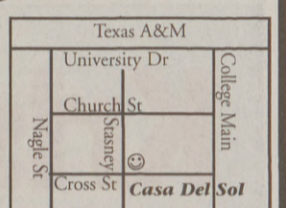


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