

FYI on Texas History by Bob Heinonen

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as Sam Houston

THE LOSS OF KNOWLEDGE

One of the major problems in our educational system is the turnover at the teacher, principal and parent levels. It is not the loss of personnel in itself that is the problem; it is the institutional loss of memory of having good programs in place.

Example: A PTA mom, who is coordinating PTA donated programs, finds a program from which the teachers get outstanding results. Hurrah! We have a program that kids not only get excited about but the students retain the knowledge presented.

The problem occurs the next school year. The PTA mom is no longer involved because her kids have gone on to the next grade level, and the teacher may go on to another position inside or outside the school. The principal may or may not have been involved in bringing the program in; the principal may or may not be there. The successful program is lost, not just forgotten.

I don't know how many times I have had a PTA mom contact me saying she just found us on the Internet when, in fact, we had performed at her school the prior year. She is excited about finding this unique learning opportunity.

I deal with schools on a year-to-year basis. The turnover of PTA moms is 100%. The turnover of teachers seems to be about 25%.

How do we stop losing this institutional knowledge...this memory? How do we remember to pass it on year-to-year? Isn't that what teaching is all about — passing knowledge on to the next generation?

LEGENDS OF TEXAS

Legend: Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves in the United States United States of America President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation effective January 1, 1863, declared all slaves to be free in areas not controlled by the Union Army, i.e. free only in the Confederate states. Slaves held in the north were kept as slaves until after the Civil War.

It wasn't until January 18, 1865, by the required two-thirds vote, the United States House of Representatives passed a bill authorizing Amendment XIII to the United States Constitution. It read:

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

Section 2. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

HISTORIC HOUSEHOLD HINTS

An 1820's ant trap. "Procure a large sponge [a real one, not a modern sponge], wash it well and press it dry, which will leave the cells quite open; then sprinkle over it some fine white sugar and place it near where the ants are most troublesome. They will soon collect upon the sponge and take up their abode in the cells. Dip sponge in scalding water. Repeat process and place in new spot." This is from *A Pinch of This and a Handful of That* published by The Daughters of the Republic of Texas District VIII in 1988.

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