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What are we?

Autobiographical actors?
Impersonators?
Re-enactors?
First person interpreters?
Storytellers?
Actors?

The answer is "Yes!".....
We teach while we entertain audiences of all ages.

Time is running short to reserve

A Cowboy's Christmas

**Austin/San Antonio
November 30 -
December 6
(by popular demand)**

**Houston area
December 7-13**

**Dallas/Fort Worth area
December 14-19**

**Austin/San Antonio
December 20-24
(sold out)**

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Hats & Things

Buy a hat, put it on and become another person. This is good advice for the classroom, a retirement community, or any event. The person can be the student, teacher, parent, attendee, resident or employee. When a person is given a costume, they are given permission to be another person. A hat is a costume. A blanket is a costume. A stick is a costume. Any inanimate object can represent someone out of history....or a modern person for current events.

Good hats need to be old and pliable. A felt hat is best because it starts out with some designer shape but you can pretty much

change it into any shape you want it to be. A pirate's hat. A cowboy's hat. Add a feather or flower and it becomes a lady's hat.

Got a felt had that is stiff? Soak it in water; get it really wet. Then dry it out. It becomes pliable and moldable.

How about a beat-up wooden cane? An old frumpy suit coat?

For the daring teacher, here is how to challenge the entire school. A teacher I once knew would come to school one day a week dressed to represent something out of Texas history. Students throughout the school would spend the day talking

about Texas history as they tried to figure it out.

One day she came to school dressed in a black sequined sheath dress with a black pillbox hat and black veil. She really had the students stumped. When the time of reckoning came, she represented Spindletop, the first successful oil well in Texas that set off the oil boom.

That was clever. I also know there are a lot of you clever people out there. Try it...you will have a blast and will have a positive impact on a lot of people. Think of it as a mystery of the day.

Miscellaneous Stuff

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN BIRTHDAY PARTY

The good folks of Brazoria County will again be celebrating Stephen F. Austin's birthday at Munson Park in Angleton. The party is on Saturday, October 31. Munson Park is the home of the 65-foot statue of Stephen F. Austin put up by the Stephen F. Austin Old 500, a local volunteer group.

I will again be portraying Stephen F. Austin at the event.



HOW DO YOU GET THROUGH THE WHOLE STORY?

It is tough teaching Texas history and getting all the way through to the cattle era by the end of the school year. There are so many things that can hold a class schedule back.

Here is some help. In one hour, Charles Goodnight (remember Lonesome Dove?) will tell a story of the cattle drives students (and teachers) will never forget. When the most revered rancher in Texas history finishes, students will understand why and how it happened. And they will probably be going "Wow!"

SPRING PERFORMANCES

It is already time to look at your calendar for next spring; spring for us starts January 1. March books up very quickly because of all the Texas history events that happened during the February-March-April timeframe.

No matter what kind of organization you are, it is time to think spring!

QUOTES:

"Government is not reason; it is not eloquent; it is force. Like fire, it is a dangerous servant and a fearful master."

George Washington

"The marvel of all history is the patience with which men and women submit to burdens unnecessarily laid upon them by their governments."

George Washington

LEGENDS OF HISTORY

Legends are topics we love and hate. Legends are those parts of history that may not be proven, but people want to believe they are true. Here is one you will want to remember:

Legend: Texas has always had the borders it has today

What We Know Now:

The first part of the response to this statement is a question: By who's definition? After Texas won independence from Mexico in 1836, Mexico claimed the border between Mexico and Texas was the Nueces River, not the Rio Grande River as the Texans claimed. When Texas joined the United States at the end of 1845, the U. S. accepted the Rio Grande River as the border. That difference of opinion is what supposedly started the Mexican-American War in 1846 which ended with the U. S. winning and the border being defined at the Rio Grande River. Almost forgotten, at one time the Spanish and the Americans disagreed on where the border was between Texas and Louisiana.

Borders can change

The second part of the response to the statement is a little more interesting. When Texas declared its independence in 1836, it not only claimed a border at the Rio Grande River on the south but also said its border followed the Rio Grande River to its source in what we know as Colorado today. Texas also said its northern border followed the Red River as it does today, but it said the Texas Panhandle extended up to the Arkansas River in Kansas, and followed that river northwest to its source in Colorado. From the source of these two rivers in Colorado, the borders were extended straight north to the 42nd parallel where they stopped. In other words, Texas claimed the Panhandle of Oklahoma, the western part of Kansas, most of eastern New Mexico, a large segment out of the center of Colorado, and a portion of southern Wyoming.

What happened to all this land? The Congressional Compromise of 1850 was between the states of the industrial north and the agricultural south; the Compromise would not let either region get a political advantage as new lands were being added to the United States. The Compromise was included five bills which involved Texas, California, Utah, New Mexico, and the District of Columbia as well as the slave trade. In the Compromise of 1850, Texas gave up its claim to the lands outside of its current borders in exchange for \$10,000,000, which just happened to be Texas' approximate debt at the time.

In 1850, Texas well known shape was fixed for eternity...unless, of course, Texas chooses to divide into five states. I wonder who would make the decision on the new borders and what the five states would be called. I don't think I want to be in the middle of that one.

October Performances

Day Organization

And the march
goes on

- 7 Elderhaven of Austin, Austin
- 10 The Continental, Austin
- 20 Greatwood Retirement Living, Sugar Land
- 21 Parkway Place, Houston
- 21 Forum at Memorial Park, Houston
- 22 Atria Collier Park, Beaumont
- 23 Angleton Intermediate School, Angleton
- 24 Stephen F. Austin Birthday Party, Angleton

This is the reservation list as of the issuance of this newsletter. For an up-to-date list, check our website calendar at:

[http://www.TexasHeroes.net/Texas Heroes calendar.htm](http://www.TexasHeroes.net/Texas_Heroes_calendar.htm)

For a list of all clients, go to <http://www.TexasHeroes.net/ThePast.html>