

Heroes Of History (830)833-0809 E-mail: Bob.Heinonen@HeroesOfHistory.net



What are we?

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

The answer is "Yes!"

We teach accurate history while we entertain people of all ages.

Now booking
for
Charles Dickens Reads A Christmas Carol
(November-December)

Contents

Legends of History 2
May performances 3

Jack Edmondson

On April 10, 2010, Jack Edmondson was inducted as a Honorary Member of the Sons Of The Republic Of Texas for outstanding service in promoting and teaching the history of Texas and its culture.

For those of you who do not know Jack's background other than as a performer for **Heroes Of History**, Jack



is also an author. He has written over 100 published articles and a book – **The Alamo Story: From Early History to Current Conflicts**.

In addition to his live performances as Sam Houston, James Bowie and John Wayne, Jack has also appeared in documentaries for the History Channel, the Discovery Channel, and an episode of *Unsolved Mysteries*.

Jack has been performing as James Bowie for 25 years and has been with **Heroes Of History** (originally **Texas Heroes**) since its inception in April, 2001.

Jack has a B.S. Degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a M.S. Degree from TCU in Fort Worth.

More of Jack's writings that you may want on your bookshelf are **Jim Bowie – Frontier Legend, Alamo Hero and Texas and Texian**.



Miscellaneous Stuff

SALT WATER CATTLE DRIVE



Spring round-up on the Matagorda...Peninsula? I saw it with my own eyes. The buildings in the background of the above photo are actually beach houses on the Gulf. We always visualize the movie versions of cattle round-ups on dusty, semi-arid land in west Texas. What we forget is that cattle are raised wherever there is vegetation for them to eat.

The Matagorda Peninsula is a narrow strip of sand dunes between the Gulf of Mexico and Matagorda Bay; it is, in effect, a barrier island. There is enough vegetation to support a small

herd of cattle. Cattle are turned loose for the winter on the Peninsula, rounded up in the spring, and taken back to the mainland ranches for the summer. There appeared to be around 200 cows and calves that were driven into the pens and then trucked back to the mainland where there are major cattle operations.

FIRST INAUGURATION

On Thursday, April 30, 1789, George Washington of Virginia was inaugurated as the first President under the Constitution of The United States Of America. He had been elected unanimously by the first electoral college. He took his oath of office before the public in New York City on a second floor balcony at Federal Hall on Wall Street. Washington's short inaugural address was then given to the two houses of Congress in the Senate Chamber in Federal Hall.

CACTUS BY THE SEA



Looking through a prickly pear cactus on a fence post at the Gulf of Mexico

"In this world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes."

Benjamin Franklin

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: There have always been personal income taxes in the United States

What We Know Now:

In 1861, Congress passed the first personal income tax law in order to pay the North's expenses in fighting the Civil War; the tax was levied at 3 percent on all personal incomes higher than \$800 a year. This tax on personal income was a new direction for a Federal tax system which had been based mainly on excise taxes and customs duties.

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln and the U. S. Congress created the position of Commissioner of Internal Revenue. An 1862 law also made important reforms to the personal income tax that show up in today's method of taxation. For example, a two-tiered rate structure was enacted, with taxable incomes up to \$10,000 taxed at a 3 percent rate and higher incomes taxed at 5 percent. A standard deduction of \$600 was enacted and a variety of deductions were permitted for such things as rental housing, repairs, losses, and other taxes paid. In addition, to assure timely collection, taxes were "withheld at the source" by employers.

The income tax was repealed in 1872 after this tax source was no longer needed. Congress brought the income tax back again in 1894, but the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional the following year.

In 1913, Wyoming became the 36th state to ratify the 16th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution, providing the three-quarter majority of states necessary to amend the Constitution. The 16th Amendment gave Congress the authority to enact an income tax. That same year, Congress levied a one percent tax on net personal incomes above \$3,000 and a six percent surtax on incomes of more than \$500,000.

In 1918, during World War I, the top rate of the income tax rose to 77 percent to help finance the war effort, however, only 5% of the people paid any income taxes. The rate dropped in the post-war years, down to 24 percent in 1929, and rose again during the Depression. During World War II, Congress introduced payroll withholding and quarterly tax payments.

The Great Depression led to passage of the Social Security Act in 1935. This law provided payments known as "unemployment compensation" to workers who lost their jobs. Other sections of the Act gave public aid to the aged, the needy, the handicapped, and to certain minors. These programs were financed by a 2 percent tax, one half of which was subtracted directly from an employee's paycheck and one half collected from employers on the employee's behalf. The tax was levied on the first \$3,000 of the employee's salary or wage.

In the 1950's, the agency was reorganized to replace a patronage system with career, professional employees. The Bureau of Internal Revenue name was changed to the Internal Revenue Service. Only the IRS commissioner and the chief counsel are selected by the president and confirmed by the Senate.

Although a large government organization, between 1995 and 2005, the total number of IRS employees shrank from 114,000 to 94,000. This last figure is, of course, now five years old.



Most of this information was taken directly from U. S. government websites.

"The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets."

Will Rogers

Heroes Of History

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May Performances

Day Organization

	3	Red Oak Elementary School, Red Oak
	5	Greenhill School, Dallas
	5	Akin Elementary School, New Caney
	7	Silberstein Elementary School, Dallas
	7	Atria Collier Park, Beaumont
	10	Cactus Ranch Elementary School, Round Rock
<i>The school year ends and summer vacation starts</i>	11	Stonegate Elementary School, Bedford
	11	Great Oaks Elementary School, Round Rock
	13	Highland Park Presbyterian School, Dallas
	14	Three Fountains, Dallas
	14	Jackson Elementary School, Dallas
	18	Temple Emanu-El, Dallas
	20	Back Elementary School, Rowlett
	20	Westminster Place, Austin
	21	Kiker Elementary School, Austin
	25	Northwest Bible Church, Dallas
26	Allen Elementary School, Dallas	
28	Red Oak Elementary School, Dallas	

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)