

The Heart of Texas

Newsletter of the Central Texas Historical Association

Fall/Winter 2017

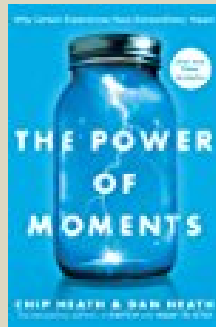
FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear CTHA Members,

As 2017 drew to a close, I reflected on the growth of CTHA and the accomplishments of this young regional history association. In just two short years, we have grown the membership of the organization to 86 members, held four successful symposia with an average registration of more than 50 attendees, co-sponsored several historical lectures, held our first annual conference with approximately 125 attendees, and published two volumes of *Central Texas Studies*. I believe that CTHA members can take great pride in their association's accomplishments. I want to express my deepest appreciation for the support of the membership. It cannot be stated enough, the efforts of the CTHA members is what makes this organization successful.

Recently, I have been reading Chip and Dan Heath's *The Power of Moments: Why Certain Experiences Have Extraordinary Impact*. The authors contend that the moments in our lives that we remember are dominated by four elements: elevation, insight, pride, and connection. In essence, the book seeks to explain why we tend to remember some experiences (moments) and forget others. It is a fascinating work because it makes one consider different ways to manufacture moments that can leave a lasting impression on individuals that we interact with on a frequent basis. I mention this work, because reading it has forced me to evaluate the ways that CTHA interacts with its members. My hope is that the association provides the membership with memorable moments. We want our members and guests, who attend CTHA events and read *Central Texas Studies*,



to have positive experiences. As such, the leadership of CTHA will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that our efforts will leave enduring, positive impacts on individuals for the remainder of their lives and professional careers. This is a lofty goal, but one that I believe we should always keep in mind.

Finally, I want to mention a slight change with the CTHA Officers. Effective last October, I assumed the duties of Managing Editor. For the past two years, Dr. Kirk Bane has served in this position, and he has done a laudable job. However, due to time constraints related directly to his teaching load at Blinn College, he felt that could not devote proper time to the labor-intensive job of editing the journal and fulfill the duties of teaching his courses. However, I am happy to announce that Dr. Bane has graciously agreed to stay on as the CTHA Book Review Editor. I hope that you will take time when you see Kirk at future events to thank him for his service to the association and his extraordinary efforts at making *Central Texas Studies* one of the premier regional history journals in print.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Howell
Executive Director

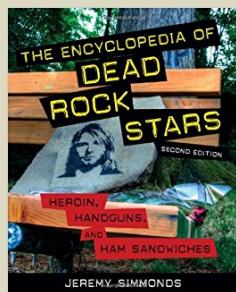
THE 2018 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Just a reminder that the 2018 Annual Conference is scheduled for April 27-28, 2018, in Round Rock, at the Williamson Conference Center. The headquarters hotel is the Wingate Hotel, which is adjacent to the Conference Center. Please make your hotel reservations by April 5th in order to receive the CTHA group rate. Featured guest speakers at the meeting will be Bill O'Neal and T. Michael Parrish. Bill is the Friday luncheon speaker, and his talk is titled, "John Chisum: Pioneer Cattle King." Mike is our Saturday luncheon speaker and his presentation is titled, "Doris Miller and Pearl Harbor: Far More than a Hero." We have 17 sessions scheduled with

topics ranging from Reconstruction to current scholarly thought on the removal of historical monuments and from the Texas Rangers to ice hockey in Texas. I want to express my appreciation for the Program Committee for their efforts in putting together an excellent event on Central Texas history. Members of the Program Committee include CTHA First Vice President Yvonne Frear (Chair), Debbie Liles, Ken Stevens, Jody Edward Ginn, Kyle Wilkison, and Chuck Parsons. For more information on the 2018 Annual Conference, please visit the CTHA website: www.centexhistassn.org.

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR'S CORNER

I recently purchased a gem at a local used bookstore: Jeremy Simmonds' completely captivating



Encyclopedia of Dead Rock Stars: Heroin, Handguns, and Ham Sandwiches (Chicago Review Press, 2012). This fascinating tome examines the careers--and fates-- of not just rock 'n' rollers, but rap, country, blues, funk, jazz, folk, and soul artists. Simmonds, of course, covers every star, including

Patsy Cline, Kurt Cobain, Jimi Hendrix, John Lennon, Elvis Presley, and Otis Redding; he also includes numerous lesser-known musicians. Fans of Lone Star music will find much to treasure in this massive publication. The author discusses many Texas-born performers, including Buddy Holly (Lubbock), Lightnin' Hopkins (Centerville), Waylon Jennings (Littlefield), Janis Joplin (Port Arthur), Roger Miller (Fort Worth), Roy Orbison (Vernon), The Big Bopper (Sabine Pass), Selena (Lake Jackson), and Stevie Ray Vaughan (Oak Cliff). Some singers died in Texas; Ricky Nelson, for instance, perished in a plane crash near De Kalb in 1985. Simmonds' volume contains some errors, not surprising considering its length. Still, I can heartily recommend it to pop culture enthusiasts.

I am also happy to report that we should have an impressive Book Review section in the forthcoming volume of *Central Texas Studies*. Approximately a

dozen new publications, covering a wide range of topics, will be reviewed, including Michael Hurd's *Thursday Night Lights: The Story of Black High School Football in Texas* (University of Texas Press), Bryce Milligan's *Literary San Antonio* (Texas Christian University Press), Chuck Parsons' *Captain Jack Helm: A Victim of Texas Reconstruction Violence* (University of North Texas Press), and *Exiled: The Last Days of Sam Houston* (Texas A&M University Press) by Ron Rozelle.

Until next time, keep on reading!

Kirk Bane

Book Review Editor

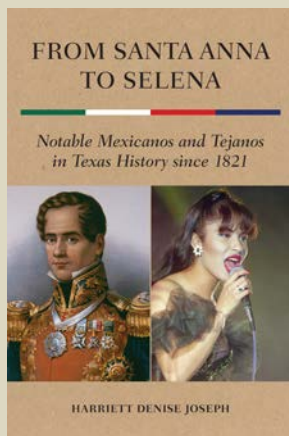
CTHA FEATURED MEMBER



Chuck Parsons is our featured CTHA member. Many of you are familiar with Chuck's publications on Texas Rangers as well as the fugitives they hunted. He has authored more than twenty books on these subjects, including his most recent publications *A Lawless Breed: John Wesley Hardin, Texas Reconstruction, and Violence in the Wild West* (2013) and *Captain Jack Helm: A Victim of Texas Reconstruction Violence* (2018). Chuck frequently reminds his friends that he is a Texan by choice. He is a native of Iowa, and lived Minnesota, before moving to Texas. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota, and earned a M.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. A retired high school principal, Chuck has served as editor for numerous publications, including the National Association for Outlaw and Lawman History and Book Review Editor for *Journal of South Texas*. He is also a former columnist for *True West*. Chuck and his wife Pat have been devoted supporters of CTHA since its inception, and have presented at, or attended, nearly all of the association's events. The Parsons currently reside in Luling, Texas.

CTHA FEATURED PUBLICATION

Harriett Denise Joseph, Professor of History at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, recently published *From Santa Anna to Selena: Notable Mexicanos and Tejanos in Texas History since 1821* with the University of North Texas Press. The following description comes from the publisher: Author Harriett Denise Joseph relates biographies of eleven notable



Mexicanos and Tejanos, beginning with Santa Anna and the impact his actions had on Texas. She discusses the myriad contributions of Erasmo and Juan Seguín to Texas history, as well as the factors that led a hero of the Texas Revolution (Juan) to be viewed later as a traitor by his fellow Texans. Admired by many but despised by others, folk hero Juan Nepomuceno Cortina is one

of the most controversial figures in the history of nineteenth-century South Texas. Preservationist and historian Adina De Zavala fought to save part of the Alamo site and other significant structures. Labor activist Emma Tenayuca's youth, passion, courage, and sacrifice merit attention for her efforts to help the working class.

Joseph reveals the individual and collective accomplishments of a powerhouse couple, bilingual educator Edmundo Mireles and folklorist-author Jovita González. She recognizes the military and personal battles of Medal of Honor recipient Raul "Roy" Benavidez. Irma Rangel, the first Latina to serve in the Texas House of Representatives, is known for the many "firsts" she achieved during her lifetime. Finally, we read about Selena's life and career, as well as her tragic death and her continuing marketability.

2017 FALL SYMPOSIUM

The 2017 Fall Symposium took place at the Museum of the American G.I. on Saturday, **September 23, 2017**. Attendees enjoyed excellent presentations on various

aspects of Texans in World War I. The following presenters spoke at event: **Gregory Ball, Jennifer Bridges, Sanders W. Marble, Paul Spellman, Emilio Zamora, John A. Adams, Jr., and Lila Rakoczy**. The staff at the Museum of the American G.I. were wonderful to work with and the museum's exhibits were extraordinary.



Sanders Marble presentation on Medical Treatment of Texans in World War I



Attendees at the 2017 Fall Symposium



**ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS
FROM THE 2017 FALL SYMPOSIUM**

