



## South Texas Researcher

October 2018

### Texana / Genealogy



#### San Antonio Public Library Texana / Genealogy

Find Texana / Genealogy online by visiting [mysapl.org/texana](http://mysapl.org/texana). Here you will find the *On this day in San Antonio* blog, past issues of *South Texas Researcher*, information about upcoming classes and guides to help you in your genealogy research.

Texana / Genealogy Department is located on the sixth floor of the Central Library, 600 Soledad 78205. The department is open to the public Tuesdays through Saturdays:

Tuesday	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Thursday	12:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Friday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm



#### Library Guides from Texana / Genealogy

The Library Guides are subject bibliographies with a current twist-databases, websites, event schedule, blogs, as well as books. The department now has the following guides on the library's website under *Resources*:

- Cemeteries
- Civil War
- Civil War in Texas
- Death
- Family History
- HeritageQuest Online
- Hispanic Genealogical Research
- Jewish Genealogy
- King James Bible
- La Meri
- Local History
- Texas History
- The Wild West
- Special Collections
- World War I





SAN ANTONIO PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES  
**HISPANIC  
HERITAGE  
MONTH**  
SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 15

## Bringing Shadows Into Light: The Latino Archive to Be

Wednesday, October 3, 6-7PM  
Central Library – Latino Collection & Resource Center  
600 Soledad Street, 78205

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month and American Archives Month, author and scholar of Chicano arts and culture Tomás Ybarra-Frausto will present a lecture highlighting the importance of documenting and preserving Latino archives.



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# My Tejano Roots Edna Campos Gravenhorst

Saturday, October 13, 2-3pm

Central Library Latino Collection & Resource Center  
600 Soledad, 78205



Author and historical researcher **Edna Campos Gravenhorst** will present "My Tejano Roots", a discussion of her family history which touches on ranching in South Texas. Her mission is "to encourage *nuestra gente*, our people, to donate information to our institutions". She will be autographing her recent publication "San Antonio's Historic Market Square" and her book, "Té de Canela, A Mexican-American in the United States". Feel free to bring a few photos, scanning will be available after the presentation.

HISPANIC  
HERITAGE  
MONTH

LATINO  
COLLECTION  
AND RESOURCE CENTER

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## Using Military Records for Genealogy Research

Military records can provide a wealth of information to family history researchers. Join us and learn how to begin finding and using muster rolls, service records and other resources to uncover interesting information. Registration is required.

Wednesday, October 16, 6:00 p.m.

Igo Library





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## New Publications

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Organize Your Genealogy: Strategies and Solutions for Every Researcher  
GENEALOGY 929.1072 SMITH 2016

History of the Bernese Anabaptists  
GENEALOGY 949.4 MULLER 2010

Survey of Coffee County, Georgia Cemeteries  
GENEALOGY 975.8 COFFEE 2004 v.1 & 2

Coffee County, Georgia, Marriage Records Index, 1864 to 1957  
GENEALOGY 975.8 COFFEE 2008

Lafayette County, Florida, Marriage Records, August 1857-October 1996  
GENEALOGY 975.9 LAFAYETTE 2012

Missions and the Frontiers of Spanish America: A Comparative Study of the Impact of  
Environmental, Economic, Political, and Socio-Cultural Variations on the Missions in the  
Rio de la Plata Region and on the Northern Frontier of New Spain  
TEXANA 266.28 JACKSON 2005

Mr. Jim: The Biography of James Smither Abercrombie  
TEXANA 338.76817 ABERCROMBIE

Death Row: The Final Minutes  
TEXANA 364.66092 LYONS 2018

Hangings and Lynchings in Dallas County, Texas, 1853 to 1920  
TEXANA 364.66097 BAKER 2016

Texas BBQ, small town to downtown  
TEXANA 641.76 MCSPADDEN 2018

Tales with a Texas Twist: Original Stories and Enduring Folklore from the Lone Star State  
TEXANA 976.4 INGHAM 2018

History and Progress of Jefferson County  
TEXANA 976.4145 EAST 1961

History of Bastrop County During Reconstruction  
TEXANA 976.432 KESSELUS 2011

San Antonio, City for a King: An Account of the Colonial History of San Antonio and Texas  
TEXANA 976.435 CASANOVA 2013

Forever Menard: The Story of Menard County, Texas and the City of Menard  
TEXANA 976.4877 FOREVER 2016





## Community Partners

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### Los Bexareños Genealogical and Historical Society

Meetings are normally held at 9:30 a.m. at the Central Library Auditorium. Visitors are welcome to attend. Membership is not required. Speakers at the meetings are people with a passion for history, professional historians, genealogists, archaeologists and researchers.

**Note: The October and November 2018 meetings will be at the Westfall Library, located at 6111 Rosedale Ct., San Antonio, TX 78201.**

The Westfall Library is located north of IH10 and east of Vance Jackson Rd.

Meeting schedule:

The Speaker will begin at 10:15 am

The Business portion of the meeting will begin at 11:20 am

The meeting will adjourn by 12:30 pm

**Date:** October 6, 2018

**Speaker:** Dr. Dell Sanchez

**Topic:** Hidden Jews Among Us

Dell F. Sanchez was born and reared in San Antonio, Texas. Against all odds, he was successful in attaining various academic degrees such as a Master of Social Work (MSW) as well as a Ph.D. in Social Work Education with emphasis in community mental health. He has served on the faculty at various colleges and universities in Texas, Arizona and California. Two of these universities include the Worden School of Social Service of Our Lady of the Lake University and ASU (Arizona State University) at Tempe. On top of his academic achievements, he is also the founding president of KHCE-TV 23, a high power educational television station in his native city. During his tenure as president, he also produced hundreds of hours of educational and inspirational teachings in English and in Spanish. Besides this, he has also produced over 100 television programs in English and over 50 in Spanish on the specific subject of Sephardic Anusim which have aired on God's Learning Channel Satellite TV in Texas with a viewership of tens of thousands. He has appeared on various nationally syndicated television programs such as Jewish Voice with Jonathan Bernis, It's Supernatural with Sid Roth, Linda Cobb's program in Santa Fe, New Mexico and many others. He has also been involved in two television documentaries including The Miracle of Israel with Jonathan Bernis and The Hidden Heritage of New Mexico with Bernadette Martinez and Annette Garcia.

Since the spring of 1996, Dr. Sanchez has devoted his life to investigation, publication and education on the Sephardic Anusim Jews among Hispanic/Latinos. He has investigated related materials in libraries, archive centers and done hundreds of hours interviewing experts as well as secret Jews/Anusim on this subject. He has traveled thousands of miles to properly document the truth about this phenomenal awakening among his own people. This awakening has reached all the way up to the halls of Israeli academia as well as government, including the Ministry of Diaspora and the Knesset.

He has published seven books in English, five of which are in Spanish and one in

German. His latest book is a masterful compilation of evidences titled, "Legacy of Secrecy-Secret Jews in the Hispanic Community." He has published four handbooks on the same subject. He and his wife, Helen, have traveled to Israel over 30 times doing research and have hosted half a dozen conferences on the campus of the Ben Gurion Heritage Institute in the Negev. His calling is to develop a community in the Negev for his people to live in community as Israeli citizens.

#### **Help for the beginning genealogists:**

The Society assists individuals in getting started with genealogical research through beginner's workshops. Beginners also receive assistance from the more experienced members of the Society.

Contact one of the following individuals by email or phone to schedule an appointment:

[Dennis Moreno](#) 210.647.5607  
[Yolanda Patiño](#) 210.434.3530



### **Canary Islands Descendants Association**

The Canary Islands Descendants Association's monthly meetings are open to the public. Association membership is not required to attend. There is a guest speaker at each meeting that shares information about historical events, facts or other related information on Texas, San Antonio or the Canary Islands.

#### **Event Details:**

- Every third Saturday between January 20, 2018 and November 17, 2018
- 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Free

#### **Venue:**

- **San Antonio Central Library**
- 600 Soledad Street
- San Antonio, TX 78205
- 210-207-2500

#### **EVENT PRESENTED BY:**

- Canary Islands Descendants Association
- [cida.satx@gmail.com](mailto:cida.satx@gmail.com)
- <http://www.cida-sa.org>



### San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society

In addition to Beginner and Intermediate Genealogy classes, the San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society is offering its Sunday afternoon *How to Find Out Who You Are* classes. Cost is \$5.00 for members, \$10 for non-members. Call 210.342.5242 or click on the "Ask Us" button on the website for reservations.

With over 16,500 volumes, 600+ maps, a large vertical file collection and internet access to several great databases, the SAG&HS Library is one of the best private repositories of genealogical and historical material in South Texas.

The San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society Library is located at 911 Melissa Drive, off Blanco Rd, outside Loop 410 and is open Monday 10am - 4pm, Wednesday 10 am -9pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm and Sunday 1 - 5pm. Members research free. Non-members may research for a \$5.00 donation per day. Tours of the library are free. For more information, visit [www.txsaghs.org](http://www.txsaghs.org)



### Viva HemisFair!

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

April 6 - December 31, 2018

Through historical photos, personal anecdotes, HemisFair memorabilia, archive film footage and more, the exhibit reveals what it took to put on the fair, and how it impacted San Antonio and the surrounding area.



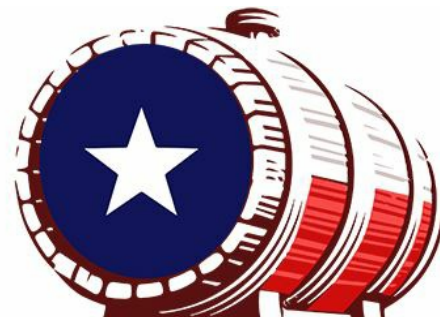
In preparation for the HemisFair exhibit, ITC graduate intern Garrett Bader generated a HemisFair Journal StoryMap. For a more comprehensive look into the HemisFair park area, the old neighborhood, the Polish Quarter, the historic homes, St. Michael's Church and more, access the journal [here](#).

### Brewing Up Texas

[The Institute of Texan Cultures](#)

October 21, 2017 - October 28, 2018

From 1840 to the modern craft beer industry, follow the story of beer, brewers and breweries and how they left their mark on Texas culture.



[The Birds and the Bees:  
Pollinators in Nature, Science  
and Culture](#)

5 October through 17 May  
2018

[Portraits of Courage: A  
Commander-in-Chief's  
Tribute to America's Warriors](#)  
now through 30 Sept. 2018

[Confluence and Culture: 300  
Years of San Antonio History](#)  
3 March 2018 through  
6 January 2019

[Spotlight: San Antonio's K-12  
Artists Embrace Georgia  
O'Keeffe](#)

21 July 2018 to 4 Nov. 2018

[Mel Casas: Human](#)  
20 Sept. 2018 to 6 Jan. 2019

[Picturing Latin America](#)  
11 Sept. 2018 to 6 Jan. 2019

[AT&T Lobby: Teresita  
Fernandez](#)  
30 August 2018 to 19 August  
2018

[Immersed: Local to Global Art  
Sensations](#)  
7 June 2018 to 2 September  
2018

[Marilyn Lanfear](#)  
24 August through  
11 November 2018

[Harry Bertoia: Sculptor and  
Modernist Designer](#)  
14 Sept. 2018 through 31  
March 2019

[Becoming John Marin:  
Modernist at Work](#)  
26 October 2018 through  
20 January 2019



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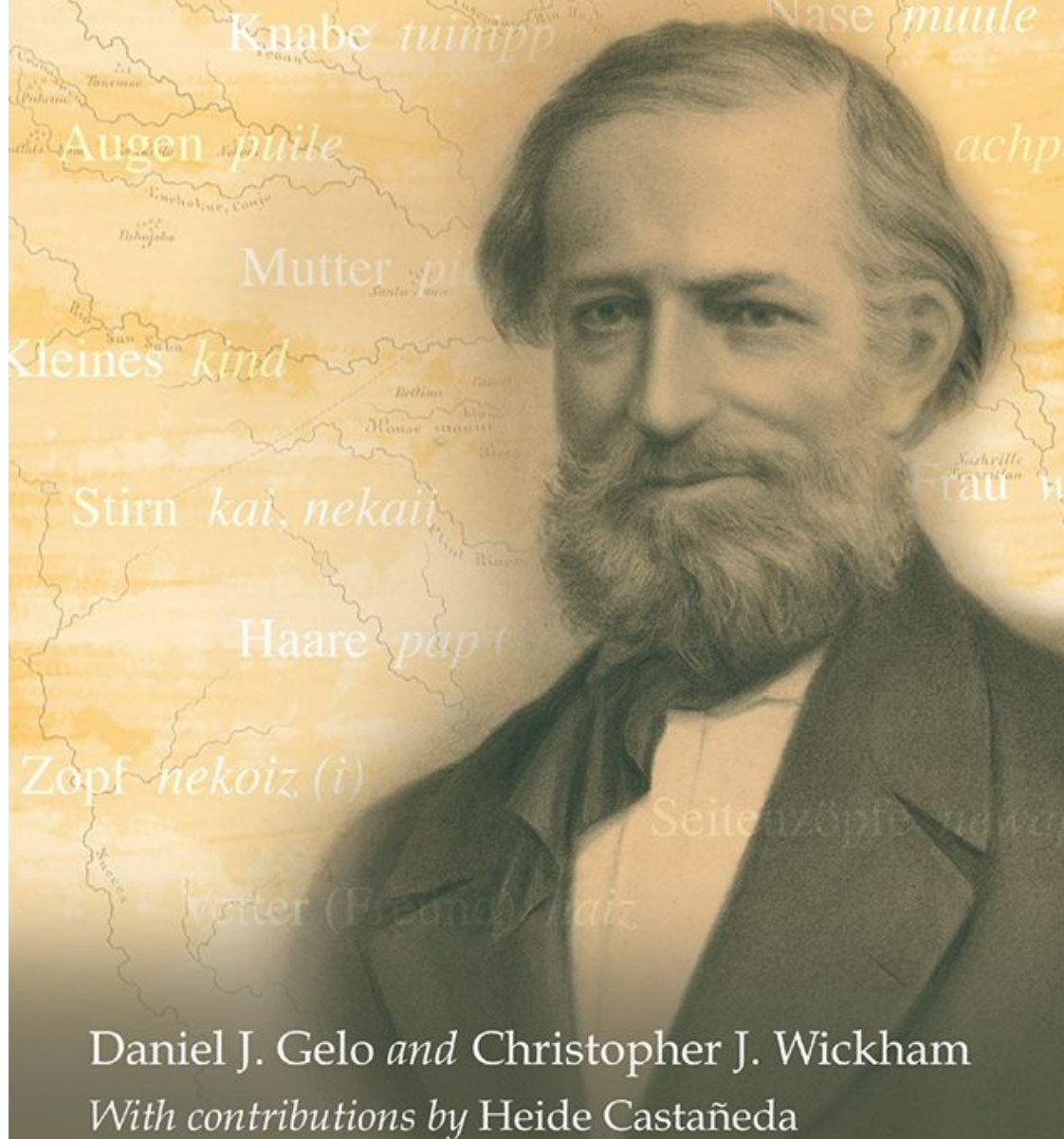
News

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# Comanches and Germans on the Texas Frontier

*The Ethnology of Heinrich Berghaus*



Daniel J. Gelo *and* Christopher J. Wickham  
*With contributions by Heide Castañeda*

A lecture from UTSA's Daniel Gelo and Christopher Wickham

Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.  
Patrick Heath Public Library  
451 N Main St  
Boerne, Texas  
(830)249-3053

A long lost study, at least to North American scholars, the notes and observations from German Geographer Heinrich Berghaus offered previously unknown insight into the interactions of German Settlers and Native Americans in the mid 1850s in Texas. Join UTSA Professor Daniel Gelo and retired UTSA German Professor Chris Wickham as they discuss the findings, the wild Texas frontier and the common languages shared by those who sought to tame it. A partnership program with the Genealogical Society of Kendall County.

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## Back Up Your Genealogy Files!

It is the first of the month. It's time to back up your genealogy files. Then test your backups!

Actually, you can make backups at any time. However, it is easier and safer if you have a specific schedule. The first day of the month is easy to remember, so I would suggest you back up your genealogy files at least on the first day of every month, if not more often. Of course, you might want to back up more than your genealogy files. Family photographs, your checkbook register, all sorts of word processing documents, email messages, and much more need to be backed up regularly. Why not do that on the first day of each month?

### How Many Backup Copies of Important Files Do You Need?

Here's the old data center 3-2-1 rule-of-thumb for backing up:

- 3 copies of anything you care about - Two isn't enough if it's important.
- 2 different formats - Example: Dropbox plus DVDs or Hard Drive plus Memory Stick or CD plus Crash Plan, or more
- 1 off-site backup - If the house burns down, how will you get your memories back?



## Links

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### Free Online Genealogy Webinars

#### October 2018

Tracing the Descendants of a Slaveholding Ancestor

- **Presenter:** Nicka Smith
- **Date:** October 24, 2018
- **Time:** 7:00 PM Central
- **Description:** Descendants of former slaveholders come from all walks of life. DNA and renewed interest in family history research continue to unearth this phenomena for thousands of people every day. In this session, learn how to confirm slaveholding ancestors and the tools needed to trace and identify living descendants of their formerly enslaved.

- Registration: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5991906651909042691>
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## Clayton Genealogy Library - Houston

**October 4, 2018 | Starting at 6:30 p.m.**

**Genealogy Tips & Tricks: finding ancestors by not searching the known information**

Having trouble finding ancestors even though you know their names and dates and have information on the places they lived? In this talk you will learn various tips and tricks for searching around the known family information to find these "tricky" ancestors.

Presented by staff member Irene B. Walters. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600.

**October 6, 2018 | Starting at 10:30 a.m.**

**Hispanic Genealogy with Guest Speaker Mary Torres**

Learn about researching your ancestors of Hispanic descent from guest speaker Mary Torres. She serves as President of the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Genealogical Society of Harlingen and as a District Representative for the Texas State Genealogical Society (TxSGS). A member of the Association for Professional Genealogists, Mary has presented at TxSGS, RootsTech, and many libraries, museums and civic organizations. Reservations required, please call 832-393-2600. Adults/Teens.

**Beginning Hispanic Genealogy | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

Are you ready to start researching your Hispanic ancestors? In this class for beginners you will learn the basic research techniques and resources needed to begin looking for Hispanic ancestors in Northern Mexico and South Texas. The session will cover the use of genealogical websites, libraries, archives, family interviews, censuses, church records, civil records, and other record types.

**A Case Study in Mexican American Genealogy | 11:45 - 1 PM**

This presentation will illustrate the application of various techniques and resources needed to research Hispanic Ancestors in Northern Mexico and South Texas. In this case study learn the methods and techniques used in tracing the Molina and related families of Revilla, Mexico, and South Texas through several generations back to the 1700s.

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Reclaim The Records Publishes the New York State Birth  
Index, 1881-1942

In September 2017, Reclaim The Records made a new FOIL request of the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH), asking for the first-ever public copy of the basic index to all births in New York State (minus New York City). In September 2018, after a year of working and waiting and e-mailing and finally receiving the records, we went public with the news that we had won, and published the records online.

This statewide birth index was previously only available to researchers who were sitting in a small number of upstate New York public libraries, as well as the Manhattan branch of the National Archives (NARA). And even then, it was only available in an old-fashioned and difficult format, scratched-up and faded microfiche sheets. And you had to hand in your driver's license to be held hostage by the librarian just so you could see a single sheet at a time. So yeah, they were technically public records, but in practice they were not public records.

Well now, thanks to our work, we can all research people in the New York State birth index whenever we want, from our own homes, for free. You can browse the images, download the images, re-post them to your own website, and even transcribe everything into your own database, if you want.

Note that this index does not contain lists of births from New York City. New York City is considered to be an entirely separate vital records jurisdiction from the rest of New York state, and consequently the city has its own birth, marriage, and death indices. However, a small number of NYC birth listings are found scattered throughout this index, either because the births happened in towns that were previously independent before the consolidation of the city in 1898 (for example, a pre-1898 birth in a place like Canarsie [Brooklyn] or Flushing [Queens] might be listed here) or because there was a late birth registration.

View the records [here](#).

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## Massive trove of centuries-old undelivered mail seized by British warships going online

Somewhere in the U.K. National Archives in London, there are 4,000 boxes containing more than 160,000 undelivered letters from ships captured by the British during the naval wars of the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

Now those letters - some of which are bundled in old mail bags and affixed with wax seals that have never been broken - are about to go online.

"You can imagine the excitement being confronted with such a treasure," said historian Dagmar Freist, director of the Prized Papers project, which aims to digitize the entire collection.

"These letters have not been filtered, they have not been censored, nothing has been thrown away. Quite a few have not been opened."

Among the discoveries is a 1765 letter from a woman named Elizabeth Sprigs, an indentured servant in Maryland writing to her father at home in England.

"She is very, very poor. She doesn't even have anything to wear," Freist said.

"She apologizes to her father that she would approach him, apologizing for whatever she might have done wrong in the past, and she's desperate and she asks him that he would send her some clothes because all she has is a blanket and the food she gets."

But, of course, her father never got the letter and it's not known what became of Sprigs.

Read more about the collection [here](#).



## From the Archives

### S. A. Bids Hemisfairwell

#### City Given Key to Grounds

By Susan Bauernfeind

HemisFair is history.

The 92.6-acre site being that name was tentatively "Fiestaland" Monday after solemn midnight ceremonies closed the first World's Fair in the history of the Southwest. Sunday's finale was capped by an attendance record - 121, 850 misty-eyed visitors. A symbolic key to the grounds was presented to Mayor McAllister 14 hours after the gates opened Sunday for the last time as a World's Fair.

In a moving two-hour retreat ceremony, beginning at 6:30 p.m., flags of participating nations and governments were lowered to the roll of snare drums and the boom of cannon and presented to the commissioners general of the pavilions.

When the gates closed, the fair attendance stood at 6,384,482. Also, 16, 901 went up the Tower of the Americas to bring the total tower attendance during the fair's six-month run to 1,948,347.

#### Mixed Emotions

HemisFair President Marshall T. Steves led off the closing day farewells by noting the day for him was one of mixed emotions. "It is a day of great satisfaction and a day of great sadness," he said. "All that we hoped would happen has indeed happened beyond our greatest expectations. For six months, San Antonio has not been a bilingual city, but a multilingual city; a city where all nationalities have felt the common bond that unites us as human beings," Steves said.

The fair president expressed gratitude to the "thousands" who worked to make the fair a success, and as emcee for the occasion, introduced the platform dignitaries.

HemisFair Chief Executive H. B. Zachry, who was scheduled to speak, announced he had elected to allot his time to the Alamo Heights High School chorus.

U. S. Rep. Gonzalez called HemisFair "a realization of San Antonio's brilliant destiny. You and I are gathered here today," he said, "to commemorate a great event. This is the turning point only of the official six-month category fair approved by the Bureau



of International Expositions. Indeed it is the beginning of a new era for San Antonio."

Gonzalez, due to a flight schedule, left the fairgrounds after his brief remarks.

### **Looking Back**

William B. Sinkin, vice-chairman of the HemisFair board and first president of the fair, looked back on his close involvement with the fair as a "happening of happiness," not only for himself, but for all of San Antonio.

McAllister, who has rarely if ever missed an important function of HemisFair, had high praise at the retreat ceremony for the economic community of San Antonio who "stood shoulder to shoulder" to insure the success of the fair. "The effects of the fair will last longer than the lives of any of us here today," the mayor said, "and the spirit of the fair doesn't stop when it closes."

Gov. Connally, commissioner general of HemisFair, who had received a standing ovation both when he arrived and after he spoke, from 2,000 distinguished guests and ceremony spectators, expressed gratitude throughout his remarks to all those who had contributed to the fair.

"Each of you has brought something to us," he told the national, state, private and industrial exhibitions. Citing enlightenment, culture, history of the past and "dreams of the future," he said, "No experience could have been more worthwhile for this city and for this state."

### **Plaque Given**

Presentation of a bronze plaque by the fair's industrial and private exhibitors at the ceremonies marked a first for HemisFair among world's fairs. Speaking for the all the exhibitors, James Rebelo, manager of corporate special projects for General Electric, told the dignitaries that for the first time in the history of world's fairs, private exhibitors had "felt compelled to immortalize" their appreciation for having participated.

The plaque will be mounted in the observation area of the Tower of the Americas. With the witty style that has characterized his talks throughout the six months of HemisFair, Ambassador Edward Clark, commissioner general of the U.S. Pavilion and retreat ceremonies representative of foreign and state pavilions called the closing day both a sad and happy occasion. Citing all the participants, he said, "The pavilions must feel great satisfaction" in what they have accomplished. He also commended the HemisFair Band, which "has marched and tooted its way into San Antonio history. Hemisfair," he then said, "is the most successful, magnificent, stupendous, fantastic world's fair."

Just before the flag lowering ceremonies began, Licenciado Augustin Salvat, special representative of the president of Mexico, brought greetings and thanks from his country.

Quiet settled on the crowd of spectators as the U.S. Air Force Band of the West intoned the retreat call, and as [sic] flags of nations and states were lowered to the arms of pavilion hostesses and Texas Military cadets. Flags were lowered in reverse of the order in which nations accepted the invitation to participate in HemisFair, with Thailand's standard coming down first and Canada's last before those of Texas and the United States. "Texas, Our Texas" and "The Star-Spangled Banner" played by the Air Force Band, concluded flag ceremonies, and spectators throughout the crowd joined in singing.

Benediction was conducted by Rabbi David Jacobson of Temple Beth El, followed by the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the Alamo Heights High School chorus.

### **Each Leads**

Many hostesses of the foreign pavilions joined arms during the musical farewell salute, as a gesture of the many new friends they had made during their stay in San Antonio. The U. S. Pavilion was the site of the next official ceremony, where Clark hosted a reception which included the reading of three separate telegrams from President Johnson and a surprise visit by U. S. Sen. Yarborough. Longtime political foes, Connally and Yarborough forgot their differences when on several occasions each led the applause during the other's talk. Reception host Clark during the ceremonies especially cited the director of the U. S. Expositions Staff of the Commerce Department, Jack Orchard, for his efforts in supporting the U. S. participation in the fair.

Punctuating his talk with introductions of dignitaries, Clark summed up his view of HemisFair: "It will last forever, and if Webster does not have the word 'HemisFair' in his next edition, I plant to do something about it."

Wires from President Johnson were address separately to the foreign exhibitors, the employes of the U. S. Pavilion and the HemisFair Corp., thanking each for contributions and assistance to HemisFair. "The generous hospitality and warm welcome you offered to hundreds of distinguished visitors from throughout the world, as well as to our fellow citizens has earned you our deepest admiration and our thanks," Johnson said.

### **Given Gifts**

During the ceremonies, commemorative gifts were presented by Clark to Gov. and Mrs. Connally, Sen. and Mrs. Yarborough, Mayor and Mrs. McAllister, Mr. and Mrs. Zachry, Mr. and Mrs. Steves, Mr. and Mrs. Sinkin and Orchard. Certificates also were presented to representatives of the foreign pavilions.

Dancing at the U. S. Pavilion to music by the Lackland Dance Band preceded the final and most auspicious of the day's events, the handing over of the HemisFair key to the city.

At exactly midnight, tower lights dimmed as McAllister, Steves and other HemisFair executive officers gathered at Gate 1 for the historic exchange. Steves, holding the symbolic key, told McAllister, "I don't believe you will ever get one that is worth more to San Antonio." McAllister, repeating his earlier statement that the spirit of the fair would long outlive any who had witnessed it, accepted the key and proceeded to open a lock that had been placed on the gate for the occasion. Spectators at the gate spontaneously broke out in "Auld Lang Syne" during the key exchange, as a final salute to HemisFair '68, San Antonio's World's Fair.

"See you at Fiestaland," said one of the last visitors.

***San Antonio Light***

October 7, 1968



The South Texas Researcher is a publication of the San Antonio Public Library Texana/Genealogy department. For more information, or to submit program information for an upcoming issue, email [genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov](mailto:genealogydesk@sanantonio.gov) by the deadline provided:

- November 2018 by October 15
- December 2018 by November 15
- January 2018 by December 15

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