

# The BATTLE REPORT

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## San Jacinto Battleground/Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site

Report for July 31, 2006 through August 6, 2006

Now on the web at [www.usstexasbb35.com](http://www.usstexasbb35.com) & [www.texianlegacy.com](http://www.texianlegacy.com)

*“The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate the site’s day-to-day natural and cultural resource management activities. Our goal is to inform and educate our staff, partners, and friends – and those we have yet to meet – Welcome!”*



### COMMANDER’S CALL:

- ❖ **Good news for San Jacinto Battleground and Galveston Island State Parks!** According to Ron Ayer, a TPWD Grant Coordinator at our Austin Headquarters, both Region 4 parks have been selected to submit formal applications for Texas Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funding. A total of nine out of twenty-eight TPWD nominations submitted for consideration have been invited to take part. A list of all of the TPWD sites and their project proposals are listed below:

- Sea Turtle Conservation near Padre Island National Seashore
- Construction of Artificial Reefs -Rockport Divisional Headquarters Bldg.
- Enhancement of Public Recreation in Galveston Island, Goose Island and Mustang Island State Parks
- Goose Island Shoreline Stabilization and Marsh Restoration, Phase II -Mustang Island State Park, Nueces County
- Goose Island State Park, Aransas County
- San Jacinto Battleground Seawall Replacement
- Central Coast Wetland Ecosystem Project Wetland Habitat Improvement

Mr. Ayer shared some background on the program provided by Sam Webb, Deputy Commissioner of Coastal Resources for the General Land Office, which includes some active web links for more info:

*The TPWD - Central Coast Wetlands Ecosystem Project Wetland Habitat Improvement project was selected to receive a grant application for the state portion of the 2007 Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) award. The number of responses to the nomination request was remarkable. The General Land Office received 349 proposed projects, totaling more than \$777 million. Copies of all submitted project nominations, as well as a list of all projects selected to receive a grant application, may be found at <http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/ciap2005.html>.*

*Please note your project identification number: Project ID #107. This identifying number is required on all application attachments. Applications can only be submitted electronically. The application and directions may be found at [www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/2005/GrantApplication2007.html](http://www.glo.state.tx.us/coastal/ciap/2005/GrantApplication2007.html).*

*Your application must be submitted to the Land Office on or before October 02, 2006.*

*Thank you for your interest in the CIAP. Please contact Kathy Smartt at 512-475-1552 or [kathy.smartt@glo.state.tx.us](mailto:kathy.smartt@glo.state.tx.us) or Sheri Land at 512-463-5058 or [sheri.land@glo.state.tx.us](mailto:sheri.land@glo.state.tx.us) if you have any questions.*



San Jacinto Battleground Seawall

- ❖ **Our next story comes by way of San Jacinto Battleground Association's David Pomeroy, who gives a little forward for a nice feature about the San Jacinto Museum from the Pasadena Citizen:**

*In Sunday's Pasadena Citizen there was a 1/2 front page article on the reopening of the San Jacinto Monument Museum of History. Larry Spasic did an excellent job. I will be available either Monday or Tuesday on the above link.*

*Congrats,*

*David Pomeroy*



08/07/2006

## **Monument reopens doors to the public**

By: JENNIFER BRANCH, Reporter

*Big things have been happening at the world's largest monument column. Last September, community leaders and other dignitaries celebrated the Elegant Evening with History gala, which served as a fundraiser and awareness-builder for those in the community who might not know the happenings at the San Jacinto Monument. Funds raised at the event went toward a \$2 million endowment, granted by the Texas Legislature, which would go to make necessary renovations to the structure.*

*"(The monument) was completed in 1939," said Interim President Larry Spasic. "Codes have changed since then." The monument needed a new sprinkler system, renovations to the theater, safety improvements throughout the building, and the elevator needed to be brought up to safety codes. To date, only the elevator renovations need to be completed, and Spasic estimates that they could possibly be finished by Labor Day weekend.*

*During the year while the monument was closed for renovations, officials decided that it was an opportune time to update other things at the monument. "We didn't want to waste that time," said Spasic, "and Dow Chemical Company graciously donated \$80,000 to the renovation of our theater which shows 'Texas Forever.'" The film explains the events leading up to and resulting from the Battle of San Jacinto. "It is the single-most valuable educational tool we have implemented," said Spasic. The donation from Dow allowed for new carpet, screen, chairs and a lighting system that Spasic said will keep the monument up to date for at least a decade. The theater is again open to the public.*



*Larry Spasic Points To Exhibit*

*Also open at the monument is the museum, which houses important artifacts pertinent to history from the late 1500s all the way up until World War I. Spasic stood in front of a case bearing Sam Houston's photo, a cane and two rings. "(Houston) was a big man, figuratively and literally," said Spasic, who said the historic figure stood between 6 feet 1 inch and 6 feet 3 inches. "His mother gave him this smaller ring and inscribed on the inside is one word: honor. I have found that people who do big things are usually told by someone in their life that their existence has meaning. That's why I think it's so important to let children know that they can shape history with their actions."*

*In addition to artifacts like a saber from Coronado's expedition into Mexico, the museum has 18,000 pieces of history, and thousands of precious documents and manuscripts for the public to view. "We only have room to display about two percent of our entire collection," Spasic said. "I would say that our collection is so extensive, that if any other museum were to put on an exhibition of Texas history, they would have to come and borrow from us to do it properly."*

*All the artifacts had to be moved during the renovations, which included a fire prevention system that does not allow smoke of fumes past the fourth floor, and a suppressive sprinkler system. "We're ready for the public to visit again," said Spasic, who said the Battle of San Jacinto played a large part in both manifest destiny and the shift of power to the United States from Europe. "This little experimental country," he said, "and that all started with the Battle of San Jacinto."*

## ON THE HORIZON:

- Sep 7-11 BB35 Veterans Reunion
- Sep 9 Commissioning of USS *TEXAS* Submarine (SSN 775)
- Oct 7-8 TPWD EXPO at Austin Headquarters
- Oct 14 Hard Hat Tour aboard BB35
- Oct 14-15 Timeline Living History at the Battleship TEXAS SHS, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Oct 21-22 Wings Over Houston Airshow at Ellington Field. Go to: [www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com)
- Nov 5-11 Battleship TEXAS Veteran's Day Art/Essay Contest Exhibit
- Dec 1-31 Yuletide TEXAS Christmas Event Aboard BB35; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Daily
- Dec 2 Pearl Harbor Ceremony By U.S. Naval Order, Texas Commandry, Aboard BB35 at 11 a.m.

## TROOP MOVEMENTS:

- ❖ We'll start this section out with media articles about Texas state parks sent in by Region 4 Director Jerry Hopkins, beginning with an editorial from the July 31, 2006 San Antonio Express-News:

### **Editorial: Remove Revenue Cap, Help Fix Texas Parks**

Web Posted: 07/31/2006 12:01 AM CDT  
San Antonio Express-News

*Texas parks are in deplorable condition despite a dedicated tax designed to keep them in shape. A tax on sporting goods, which was supposed to be a dedicated source of revenue for Texas Parks and Wildlife, brings in about \$100 million annually. But in 1993, the Legislature put a \$32 million cap on this revenue stream. The remainder flows into the state's general fund, where lawmakers can direct it toward other uses.*

*The sporting goods sales tax, like the state tax on gasoline, is a case of legislative bait-and-switch. Lawmakers used a rational argument to justify the taxes — sportsmen should pay to maintain Parks and Wildlife, drivers should pay for highways — but then applied the revenue to uses other than those for which they were originally intended.*

*And as the real value of Parks and Wildlife's \$32 million has declined during the past 13 years, so has the condition of Texas parks. "The current conditions of Texas state parks are in dire shape — close to disaster," Rep. Harvey Hilderbran, R-Kerrville, told Express-News Austin Bureau reporter Gary Scharrer. Hilderbran has long advocated lifting the revenue cap on Parks and Wildlife. But legislators have a hard time taking their hand out of the sporting-goods sales tax cookie jar.*

*Now in an election year, as the sorry state of Texas parks has become a campaign issue, Gov. Rick Perry is sounding a supportive note. And there's a good chance that when the Legislature meets next year, it will raise — or possibly eliminate — the cap and deliver adequate resources to Parks and Wildlife.*

*The more fundamental issue, however, involves truth in advertising. Dedicated taxes should be applied to dedicated purposes. And Texas voters need to hold accountable lawmakers who are dedicated to spending taxes as they please.*

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### **McNeely: Cuts Further Threaten Texas Parks**

Bryan College Station Eagle - TX, United States  
By DAVE McNEELY - Special to the Eagle

*The Texas parks system has suffered during the tenure of Republican Gov. Rick Perry, according to the director of the Texas Progress Council. Perry has told the parks department, along with other state agencies, to plan to trim 10 percent from its budget. That's on top of a hold on some funding allocated to the department over the past several years. Perry's approach is already causing Texas agencies to explore selling state land to make ends meet, charged the council's Glenn Smith at an Austin press conference last Tuesday.*

*Smith said that 12,000 acres of the Black Gap Wildlife Management adjacent to the Big Bend National Park, swapped with the General Land Office, has been offered for sale, even though it borders a section of the Rio Grande designated by the federal government as a Wild and Scenic River. Smith's group released a brief video about the area, entitled God's Country: For Sale. It can be seen on the organization's Web site at [www.txprogress.org](http://www.txprogress.org).*

*There's a question whether the Black Gap land would ever be sold, now or in the future. But Smith's central point - that the state is starving its park system on Perry's watch - is well-taken. It should be noted that Smith isn't a Perry fan to begin with. The former newspaper reporter managed Tony Sanchez' 2002 campaign for governor against Perry. Sanchez, a Democrat, is the rich Laredo banker and entrepreneur beaten quite soundly by Perry.*

*But Smith's current organization is joining a growing drumbeat by Texans concerned about the dismal status of the state's parks. Anticipated budget cuts in the face of rising costs may force 18 of the state's 120 parks to close or severely trim operations. (For a listing, go to [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/hot\\_topics/operational\\_changes/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/newsmedia/hot_topics/operational_changes/).)*

*And, despite the emotion attached to the Black Gap situation, it is different from the other parks, since wildlife management areas are financed partly by revenue from hunting and fishing licenses. Smith said the starving parks problem can easily be solved by removing the lid of \$32 million that Parks and Wildlife can receive from the sales tax on sporting goods. The tax brings in about \$100 million a year. The cap was put on in 1993, as the department was moving from a share of the declining tobacco tax to the sporting goods tax for part of its financing.*

*In recent years, as Perry chose to balance the state's budget by cutting services rather than increasing taxes, legislators didn't even give Parks and Wildlife the full \$32 million. Yet due to inflation, the \$32 million would have to be more like \$45 million today to provide the equivalent buying power. Smith said while the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has dieted, Perry has asked for more than the department's annual budget for two pet funds: The Texas Enterprise Fund and the Emerging Technology Fund.*

*George Bristol, president and executive director of The Texas Coalition for Conservation, said state parks are great economic engines. Even though Texas ranks 49th among the 50 states in per capita spending on parks, studies show Texas parks generate economic activity topping \$1 billion a year, Bristol said.*

*Maybe the heat of an increasingly disgruntled populace - and dozens of critical news media reports - have helped Perry see the light. "He has told reporters that he has been concerned about the adequacy of funding for state parks," press secretary Kathy Walt said later Tuesday. "The actual source of funding has yet to be decided, but he does think that that [sporting goods] tax should be dedicated to parks."*

*She said the Legislature sets the budget, not the governor. The ultimate source of funding has yet to be determined, she said, "but the governor wants to see a world-class park system, and the Legislature needs to provide the funding that allows them to preserve those lands for generations to come."*

*Walt said urging for state agencies to look to cut their budgets 10 percent is still valuable for finding efficiencies. Meanwhile, even as restrooms in some parks are closed and other facilities limited due to belt tightening, Texas House Speaker Tom Craddick has solicited more than \$1 million from lobby interests to spiff up the speaker's apartment in the Capitol - including two \$1,000 toilets.*

*It will benefit all Texans, Craddick says - even though the apartment is closed to the public. Just don't count on using one of those toilets any time soon.*

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## **Study: Money There to Fix Parks – Panel Says Using the Levy on Sporting Goods as Intended Would Save State System**

By Gary Scharrer, August 2, 2006, 1:28 PM  
Copyright 2006 Houston Chronicle Austin Bureau

**AUSTIN - Texas lawmakers should take quick action to fix the state's crumbling parks system by using special tax revenue long intended for parks, according to a draft report on chronic problems facing state parks. "We need to do what's necessary to give us the best state parks system in the nation," Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Chairman Joseph Fitzsimons said Tuesday.**

**All revenue from a sporting-goods tax that Texas voters approved 13 years ago should flow to state parks, according to the report by a state park advisory committee. It also recommended unused bonds from a special bond package for parks previously approved by voters should be issued to fix the state parks.**

**Texas voters approved a sporting-goods tax for state parks 13 years ago, but only \$15 million of the \$105 million created by the tax last year went to parks. Lawmakers put a \$32 million cap on the tax revenue for parks in the mid-1990s but have diverted millions of dollars from that pool for other uses.**

**As a consequence, many of the state's 114 parks are understaffed and operating with reduced hours. Maintenance has been delayed, and the department's vehicle fleet is aging. The state has been unable to buy or develop new parks despite a booming population. "The current situation of our parks is critical. They are in desperate need of capital expenditures and more personnel," said former state Sen. John Montford, who chairs the state Parks Advisory Committee.**

**Fitzsimons, a San Antonio attorney, appointed the advisory committee to recommend ways to deal both with immediate funding problems and to take care of future needs. Fitzsimons and his commission will consider a final report at an Aug. 24 hearing. The state's investment in its parks clearly has been "inadequate for many years," the report says. "We're working within the system, and we wanted to try to help the Legislature find a solution to the problem, not just be a bunch of rabble-rousers and say, 'Hey, you have a problem you need to fix,' " Montford said.**

**Using all of the sporting-goods tax, as intended, could fix current needs in addition to addressing ongoing major repair projects and future park acquisition. The report suggests using \$15 million of the sporting-goods tax revenue each year to expand existing parks and to develop new ones.**

**The report also recommends park grants for local communities be increased to \$25 million a year from \$5 million. "Local parks are on the front line of our parks system, and they've taken a disproportionate amount of the cuts in the last two legislative sessions," Fitzsimons said. The grants allow communities to build soccer and baseball fields and jogging trails, Fitzsimons said, emphasizing the payback potential from the sporting-goods tax.**

**Gov. Rick Perry favors using money from the tax for parks but doesn't want to elaborate until the final report, spokeswoman Kathy Walt said. "He believes that when Texans are told that's how their tax dollars are being used, the state has an obligation to keep its commitment," she said.**

**The condition of state parks will likely emerge as a campaign issue this fall. The consequences of neglected parks are catching up, said Chris Bell, the Democratic gubernatorial nominee, who is visiting state parks this week. "People have been told that they can have it all and that state government can meet all your wants and needs and desires and you don't have to pay for it," Bell said. "I think people are waking up to the fact that that's simply false."**

**State parks are valuable, said San Antonio retired aircraft machinist George Garner. "They are going to be mighty disappointed when these parks get run down where they are not even attractive anymore," Garner said.**

**Montford said he knows that funding pressures make it tough for state lawmakers. "I'm not going to rear up and make a series of recommendations that I don't think will be palatable for the Legislature," he said. "On the other hand, we're going to look at the facts and call it like we see it."**

**[gscharrer@express-news.net](mailto:gscharrer@express-news.net)**

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## **State Parks Funding Concerns Kolkhorst**

**By Gary Engel/Staff Reporter  
Tuesday, August 1, 2006 1:43 PM CDT**

*State Representative Lois Kolkhorst (R-Brenham) said Monday that she is "extremely concerned" about reported financial losses for the state parks, especially at one in the immediate Washington County area.*

*According to figures compiled by the Houston Chronicle and revealed in its Sunday edition, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park is the fifth least-profitable state park, when averaged over five years. The "Birthplace of Texas" site lost just more than \$403,000 starting in fiscal 2001, according to the Chronicle's figures.*

*Led by the Texas State Railroad's almost \$1.6 million, the five in-the-red performers registered more than \$3.6 million in deficits over the time frame. Kolkhorst said the only way to stop the declines before the Legislature's next session begins in January is for the Legislative Budget Board to meet and appropriate aid.*

*"I'm hopeful that we can supply funding" to sustain the parks system until the Legislature convenes, she said. In the near term, "I have spoken with the Speaker (of the House, Tom Craddick) and others about what can and can't be done," said Kolkhorst. She said there needs to be more dedicated funding directed at the parks budget, and its \$32 million appropriations cap needs to be reviewed.*

*The Chronicle noted that Texas Parks and Wildlife, despite the state cap, managed to earn enough to expend \$35 million in fiscal 2005. But that was after some \$10 million more was expended during fiscal 1990.*

*To stress how she feels about supporting the parks, Kolkhorst said that as the state becomes increasingly urbanized, there will be a growing number of citizens who don't own private, rural land, "but would pay a nominal fee to enjoy it. "It's a quality of life issue for all Texans," added Kolkhorst.*

*Related to the shrunken 1990 expenditures, she said outlays have been decreasing by the parks system "for a decade or two." Meanwhile, statewide economic impact of the Texas parks system was set at \$1.2 billion annually, according to TPWD and the Chronicle article.*

*"It is time to stop neglecting our parks," Kolkhorst declared. Kolkhorst said she was pleased to be able to help restore much of the funding that had been earmarked to be taken away from the Star of the Republic Museum at Washington-on-the-Brazos during the last Legislative session. Though the museum is operated by Blinn College, it is an asset that helps attract visitors to the park.*

*Since December 2005, no operational cutbacks at Washington-on-the-Brazos were noted by the Houston newspaper or on the TPWD's Web site. There's no entrance fee at the park, and it is open from 8 a.m. until sundown daily. The visitors service center operates from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. The Star of the Republic Museum is open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day through New Year's Day.*

*At nearby Lake Somerville, the Chronicle reported that the Nail's Creek area was posted for day use only, effective last December, while self-pay is provided for at the "iron ranger" depository.*

- ❖ **TPWD Infrastructure Inspector Carl Warren has his latest weekly report on the \$2.14 million repair project underway at the San Jacinto Monument, along with last week's "missing link." David Vice, KBR's site superintendent, provided most of the background for the week of July 31 thru August 4, as Carl was apparently conducting inspections on another project elsewhere. Thanks to both of them, and remember, Carl really will be on vacation from August 9 thru 20...lucky dawg:**

**07-24 -06 Inspector on site. Contractors on site:**

**Otis Elevator**

- **All hoist cables have been replaced. Adjusting the cables to the correct lengths.**
- **Verify the distance between the counter weight and the buffer of 18 inches of clearance.**

**CI Vicks**

- **Continuing with the taping and floating of the stairway wall.**

**07-25-06 Inspector on site. Contractors on site:**

**Otis Elevator**

- **Changed out the 1<sup>st</sup> floor hoist way door hardware.**
- **Hauled off miscellaneous trash.**

**CL Vicks**

- **Continuing with the taping and floating of the sheetrock**
- **Fire caulking pipe penetration through the wall.**

**Siemens**

- **Replaced the fuse in the power supply for the tombstones magnetic door hold open devices. Later during the day, it was notice that the magnetic hold open on the main doors into the Theater were not working. David Vice connected Herman Pillow with Siemens.**

**Switzerland Air**

- **Pipe fitter installed the piping for the steam lines to the new HVAC unit.**

**07-26-06 Inspector not on site. Contractors on site:**

**Otis Elevator**

- **Continuing to work on the lobby doors**

**Switzerland Air**

- **Completed the installation of the steam piping.**
- **David Vice reported that Wednesday afternoon Delton Branch told him that the fire pump located in the Basement was running. Upon verifying and calling Ray with Universal Sprinkler asking if the fire pump had a preprogram running cycle, one of Switzerland Air technician reported to David Vice, KBR's superintendent that he had hit and open a valve located on the first floor pre-action sprinkler riser. This valve was the manual override pressure release valve. Do to the air pressure being release, this signal the fire pump controller to start the pump and charged the piping system with water. David Vice and Delton Branch checked all to the head to verify that no water flowed out of any of the sprinkler heads. Ray with Universal Sprinkler would be on site Thursday morning to drain the system.**

**07-27-06 Inspector on site. Contractors on site:**

**Otis Elevator**

- **Continuing with installation of elevator equipment**

**Universal Sprinkler**

- **On site to drain the first floor pre-action sprinkler piping system. To drain the systems requires opening the main drain valve on the riser and opening each of the 6 auxiliary drain valves located throughout the first floor.**

**CL Vick**

- **Installed fire rated plywood strip along the edges of the HVAC mechanical room platform to cover the gap between the flooring and the walls.**
- **Continuing with miscellaneous fire caulking.**

**07-28-06 Inspector on site. Contractors on site:**

**Otis Elevator**

- **Continuing with the installation of elevator equipment**

**Switzerland Air**

- **Completed the installation of the return air ductwork and insulation for the new HVAC.**



*Handrails For New Basement Fire Pump*

**NOTE:** Since the erection of the new fire rated wall along the stairs at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (Library) it has been notice that the existing HVAC unit and the ductwork that serves the Library has started to condensate. The ductwork drips with water on the exterior side of the ducts. Staff has mopped the floor several times under the equipment and out onto the landing. This week the ductwork just inside the Library has started to drip water down the wall and onto the floor. The new fire rated door has been propped open to allow for additional air circulation which has not stopped the condensation problem. David Vice informs Inspector that he has discussed this issue with David Williams and a solution has not been determined.



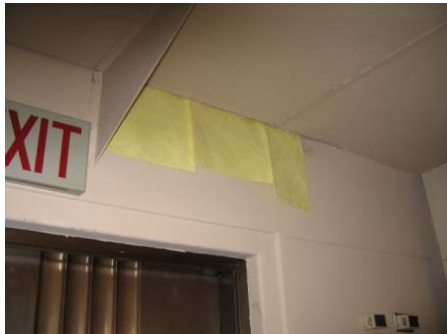
*Steam Lines Installed For New HVAC*



*Steam Lines Within Mechanical Room*



*New Step Into The Mechanical Room*



*Condensating A/C ducts In The Library*



*Drain Pan Full Of Water*



*Condensation Under Equipment Wets Floor. Carl To Ponder While On Leave*

**07-31 -06** Inspector not on site. Contractors on site:

- Install tape shive in elevator pit. The tape acts as a counter to indicate what floor the elevator car is on.
- Continuing with the taping and floating.

**Otis Elevator**

**CI Vicks**

**08-01-06** Inspector not on site. Contractors on site:

- Installed the new tape counter and display box on the wall inside the stairway.
- Sanding the walls, preparing them for the painter.

**Otis Elevator**

**CL Vicks**

08-02-06 Inspector not on site. Contractors on site:

Otis Elevator

- Installing the elevator car traveling cable.

08-03-06 Inspector not on site. Contractors on site:

Otis Elevator

- Continuing with installation of traveling cables.

Rodriguez Paint

- Painting 1<sup>st</sup> floor stairwell landing, walls and the ceiling, up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor landing. Patched and painted two small holes in the Men's Restroom ceiling and one hole in the Women's Restroom. Painted around the fireman's phone jack in the Library.

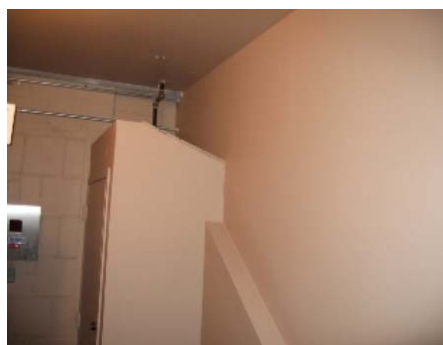
08-04-06 Inspector on site. Contractors on site:

Otis Elevator

- Installing the rope gripper under the elevator mechanical room platform at the top of the shaft.



*View Of Painted 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Stairwell Wall*



*Same wall looking at the ceiling/wall*



*Steam lines insulated.*



*One Area Within The Mechanical Room That Needs To Be Repaired*



*Steam Lines Within Mechanical Room*



*Grill Has Been Installed In Stairway*

❖ This week's reader feedback begins with some hard copy to electronic conversions of letters from the SJBA to Bay Area Volkswagen Club on July 5; and San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board July 19:



*Dear Mr. Carlile, on behalf of Russ Kuykendall and the staff at the San Jacinto State Historic Site, "thank you" for your generous donation of \$500.00 and the proceeds of the special raffle. It sounds as if your 16<sup>th</sup> Monumental Bug Bash Show was truly a "sweet 16" and a rousing success. Your kind donation will be "earmarked" to benefit the park and its staff. There are so many needs and the staff works tirelessly for the benefit of the public. This is a great way to show appreciation for the site and the people who run it. Again, thank you so much! Sincerely,*

Jan DeVault, President  
San Jacinto Battleground Assn.



To the Members of the 2006 San Jacinto Day Commemorative Ceremony Committee:

On behalf of the San Jacinto Historical Advisory Board, I am writing to thank each of you for your service on the 2006 San Jacinto Day commemorative ceremony committee and for making this year's ceremony a success. Congratulations are due to both Gina Bouchard and Al Davis for their hard work in organizing and leading this year's event. The final accounting shows that the event raised \$4,325.00 with expenses of \$4,467.50. The small shortfall was covered by surplus funds received in prior years, leaving a balance of approximately \$3,800.00 for future ceremonies. These funds are held and managed by the Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground. I am pleased to inform you that the advisory board has reappointed Al and Gina to serve as co-chairs for the 2007 ceremony. The event next year will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at the San Jacinto Monument. We are all looking forward to next year's event to ensure that this important state holiday is properly recognized and commemorated. Very truly yours,

Jeff Dunn, Chairman  
San Jacinto Historical Advisory Bd.



It may be putty; it may sound silly, but it's serious. Actually, there have been several weld patches performed, but not sure whether all taken care of in that fashion. Anyone want to put on their wetsuit and do a bit of underwater welding?



He' Not Making It Up...Wooden Cork & Putty On BB35 Hull

Don Fischer, President  
First Texas Volunteers

Editor's Note: Don's response to SJBA's Jan DeVault, when she read in the Chris Bell story that BB35 was held together with "tape and silly putty." Refer to above photo...you be the judge....



Ms. Higginbotham, I was the tour guide for your group tour of the Battleship Texas today. The kids were great. I appreciate the work that you and the other accompanying adults are doing with these youngsters. I have four grandchildren that were former foster children through CPS. My daughter was able to adopt two and her significant other adopted the other two. Now all four little rug rats are my grandkids. I am very proud of all of them and particularly pleased to help them across each developmental threshold. I enjoyed the smiles, the interaction among the kids and the adults and the apparent pleasure the little guys got from learning (and playing). Thanks to you and your group, this morning was well worth my time.

Joseph K. Whitehead,  
FTV Docent, BB35




Mr. Whitehead, There are no adequate words to express our sincerest appreciation for the special day you made possible for our group. The tour was wonderful. The group has talked about it all day. You brought the ship to life and made us all look forward to our next visit. I will share your note with the children in the morning. Thank you again.

Connie Higginbotham,  
Board Member  
Foster's Home for Children



Sylvia Garcia would like to meet with us in the Commissioner's Court Conference Room, downtown Houston--precision and directions will follow when the time gets closer--to tell us what the County has in mind for marking the historic sites around the San Jacinto Battleground. David Pomeroy and I have already had a very pleasant meeting with her. She has some interesting plans geared toward youth education in the history of this area. (Specifically, she is planning to open Burnett Park, the Lynchburg Cemetery, and make a park on the spot of the John Harris homesite.) I would like to use this opportunity to invite others who are interested in historic tourism to the meeting. I think David Pomeroy has some specific suggestions as to other potential invitees. We will want to include members of the Alliance. Any other suggestions? So, please mark your calendars. Thanks,

Jan DeVault, President  
Friends Of San Jacinto Battleground


 *Yes indeed! David Pomeroy and I heard Frank Salzhandler speak at the last Harris County Historical Commission meeting. He was representing a new commissioner, Jane Dale Owen, who is president the Citizens League for Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) and others (Bayou Preservation Association, Buffalo Bayou Partnership, etc.) who are working to have Buffalo Bayou declared a "National Heritage Area" by the National Parks Service. The scope of their effort includes the battleground. One part of this effort is to produce a film documenting Buffalo Bayou's "rich, legendary history and prospects for the future" -- Salzhandler spoke about that. Ron Stone Texas will script, direct and produce this documentary. The other part includes markers. However, if anyone knows Jane Dale Owen, she would be a worthy addition (overkill?) – as would Terry Hershey or Ann Olson, executive director of the BB Partnership.*

Barbara Eaves,  
Friends of San Jacinto Battleground

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**Editor's Note:** *Jan DeVault sent her email (bottom of page 10) to all of the SJBA board members, and Barbara followed up. TPWD Region 4 Director Jerry Hopkins and Park Manager Russ Kuykendall also plan to attend the meeting.*


 *I have been searching the net on several topics relating to San Jacinto and I always get hits to the Battle Report. Congrats, the newsletter is on the web. Question. The Executive Summary of the Master Plan states at A.4 "The small granite markers placed in locations identified by a veteran of the Battle should be left where they are, and the three that were removed in the 1930s replaced..." Help.*

David Pomeroy  
Friends of San Jacinto Battleground

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**Editor's Note:** *Thanks for the kudos. With all the kooks on the internet, I'm not sure whether to be flattered or frightened! Your editor referred Mr. Pomeroy's request to "THE Historian."*

 *Scott, the 2000 Executive Summary of the Master Plan mentions three historical markers that were removed during the 1930s battlefield redo which are to be replaced. Do you know what they are talking about? Obviously it is not the Attorney General marker since it was not done until the 1970s as I recall. You mentioned the Sherman camp marker had been moved as well as the Sherman advance marker. But there were on the battlefield when the 2000 Master Plan was developed. And, J. C. Martin said that a De Zavala was actually buried on the battlefield. I thought only the markers had been moved. Any thoughts on this? Maybe I should come out and look at some of your landscaping plans for the 1936 battlefield redo. Do you have time next week?*

David Pomeroy,  
Friends Of San Jacinto Battleground

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 *David, as I recall the three markers removed during the 1930's are the Burleson's Advance, Hockley's Advance and the Sherman's advance markers then placed close to their original locations. Looking at the 1930's landscape plan the Burleson and Hockley markers were located where the reflection pool is today. The original location of the Sherman Advance marker was on the north side of the levee near the old ranger houses. Once the reflection pool is filled in the Burleson and Hockley markers will be replaced in their original locations and the Sherman Advance marker as close to the original location as possible. I believe the Sherman camp marker was located near the bow of the ship and moved in the 1970's when the levee was constructed. I seem to remember it being in that general location. All of these markers are still on the battlefield and have been all along. J.C. Martin is correct about De Zavala's actually being buried on the battlefield; Louis Victor De Zavala in 1975 and Louis Buckner De Zavala in 1980, after the headstones had been moved to the battlefield in 1968. You are welcome to come out next week, Give me a call when you can come out. Thanks,*

Scott Triebes,  
Asst. Park Manager

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**Editor's Note:** *We know Scott wasn't here when the DRT, San Jacinto Chapter, located the 12 original historic marker sites in 1900, but we think he may have been the park ranger who pulled out the iron pipes for the granite boulders to be set down in 1912, when the park was only 5 years old. We're going to need a historian for our historian to double check this...*

 Russ, recently I was in Baton Rouge, La. I met a Mr. Tim NesSmith. He is the Administrative Assistant. He requested that you add them to your newsletter mailing list. His address would be [info@usskidd.com](mailto:info@usskidd.com). Thanks,

Terry Lamon, Office Manager  
Martin Dies, Jr. State Park

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 *Hi Terry, that's excellent. We have always had a good working relationship with the folks at the KIDD. Glad to add them to our mail list. Hope this finds you doing well sir!*

Russ Kuykendall, Park Manager  
San Jacinto Battleground SHS

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 *I found out just a few minutes ago that the crew of the new USS TEXAS, SSN-775, are planning to come out to the ship on Tuesday, September 5, for a tour of the ship and a wreath-laying ceremony. Not sure at this point what all that will entail, or how many people are coming out. This is just a heads-up. I will pass along more information as I receive it.*

John Ferguson, BB35  
Interim Ship Manager

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**Editor's Note:** *On your toes everybody, here they come!*


 *My name is Eli Goldberg. I am donating this money because being infatuated with history, would hate to see this proud symbol of our state's history deteriorated. Hope this helps.*

Eli Goldberg, Houston

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**Editor's Note:** *Mr. Goldberg donated \$250 after a recent visit to the Battleship TEXAS. Thank you sir!*


 *Dear Mr. Irwin: I am returning to you the Battleship TEXAS Foundation check number 3834 you gave to us for overpayment. We would like you to accept it as a donation and small token of our appreciation and thanks to the Battleship Foundation. We had an AWESOME time on the Battleship, Friday and Saturday, 28, 29 July. All the families would like to extend our hearts warm embrace to Ken Shuffield, J.D. Oliver and James Schank who made our experience one we will not soon forget, in fact we are already planning a return trip. Thanks to you and your staff again, we hope to see you in the near future. We will share our experience with our Pack and all the Scouts in the Circle Ten Council. God Bless!*

Mark Sligar  
Cub Master Pack 771  
Irving, Texas

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**Editor's Note:** *Jerry Irwin shared the correspondence above with us, which was actually written by Chana Sligar, Secretary of (what she called) Rat Patrol/Pack 771. Thank you ma'am!*

 *This year the City of La Porte, LPISD, CIMA and the LEPC will be partnering again to conduct a full scale exercise. Lyondell on Underwood Road will be the facility hosting the incident. I am looking for observers and potential evaluators for the schools, facility and city buildings. If any of you would like to participate and give us your thoughts I would appreciate the assistance. The date is October 11<sup>th</sup> and time is from 7:30 – 11:30. Let me know.*

Jeff Suggs, City of La Porte  
Emergency Management Coordinator  
281 471 3607 office  
281 470 8523 fax  
281 639 9258 cell

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**Editor's Note:** *What Jeff is talking about is an actual mock industrial accident drill, which La Porte and Deer Park both conduct annually. Local emergency management officials and industry do the drills to rehearse their hands-on skills for emergency response procedures. The newsletter will feature more information on both the La Porte and Deer Park exercises.*



*Step up, lawmakers! WITH the Chronicle's assistance, and Gov. Rick Perry's support, we will win the struggle of funding for our state parks, which Texans have already paid for with their sporting goods sales tax. As recent articles in the Chronicle have pointed out ("Endangered Sites/ State park funds derailed" and "Texas Parks/ Tale of two plantations is one of state's neglect," both July 30), our state parks are in peril. The wheels have come off a system that has limped along for more than a decade. This situation is unacceptable. Texans define themselves by their land and history, the very things preserved in the state park system. To be unable to walk the grounds of the San Jacinto Battleground or gaze across the Palo Duro Canyon or take your kids for a free ride on the Texas State Railroad while explaining to them how railroads industrialized Texas would make us all poorer in spirit. Ignoring state parks will leave Texas poorer economically, too. A Texas A&M study of 80 of 114 parks reported these sites generate \$800 million in sales annually and create about 12,000 jobs across the state. The State Railroad is a good example. The state invests \$2.3 million annually in its operation and receives a return of 130 jobs and \$3.9 million in sales activities in Anderson, Cherokee and Smith counties. With those numbers, why would anyone want to close the railroad? Just like your own home, our state parks suffer when small maintenance projects are neglected and turn into serious and expensive problems. In 1995 the Legislature created the sporting goods sales tax to support the parks. Yet this tax, which generates more than \$100 million annually, has been capped at \$32 million, of which only about \$21 million was given to the parks this year. Gov. Perry supports eliminating the cap and allocating the entire tax proceeds to the parks. The Legislature should get on board and fund the parks at the level they need to be.*

**John D. Parker, Lufkin**  
Texas Parks & Wildlife Commission

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*Dedicate part of tax. I HAVE what could be a partial solution to our state parks funding issue. Earlier this summer I traveled with my four grandchildren to Palestine, where we spent the night in a hotel and rode the train from Palestine to Rusk and back, which was a great adventure for my grandchildren and even myself since I've only ridden a train a couple of times. On this trip, our hotel, food, beverages, souvenirs and gasoline costs all contributed to the local economy. And had we traveled there during dogwood season, when even more activities are offered, we would have stayed longer and spent more. The train is a great tourist attraction for the Palestine/Rusk area. In our region, the Varner/Hogg plantation is an attraction for the Brazosport area. Why don't the local communities and counties contribute to the funding of these attractions? They obviously attract visitors to the area and contribute to the commercial success of the area. Perhaps matching a portion of the state funds or just designating a portion of their sales tax or hotel/motel tax would be enough to support these kinds of tourist attractions and keep them operating in good shape. I think it would be short-sighted for local governments and the citizenry to let under funding for such great historical sites cause them to close. I'm aware of the struggle the Freeport community has in bringing tourist dollars to our area. To let any of the historical attractions already established disappear would be tragic.*

**Peggy Yates, Freeport**

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*Rethink legacy, GOP. I READ about the budget cuts to the state park system and the upcoming closure of the trains at Rusk State Park with great consternation. Few experiences that we have shared with our children and grandchildren have been more memorable than riding this train. As one of the grassroots supporters who helped bring about the present Republican state government, I am disappointed in many of its actions. Surely our Republican legislators realize they will not hold this majority forever. At some point they will have to pass the baton. Do they really want their legacy to be that during a time of unparalleled prosperity they let our state park system deteriorate to such a shameful degree? I hope that before this happens, before we lose these great legacies, that our governor and legislators will restore the funding and save this great park system for ours and future generations.*

**Nelson James, Katy**

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**Editor's Note:** *The last three entries were found in the August 5 Chronicle Outlook section, and sent in by Jan DeVault of the SJBA.*



*Just sending out a reminder that this "inspector" will not be available August 9<sup>th</sup> thru August 20. At that time on August 21, I should be fully rested and ready to go to work as any good employee would. IF there is any question or problems, feel free to contact my Sr. Inspector; Dan Delleney. Thank you and in the meantime, have a great day.*

**Carl Warren, TPWD**  
Infrastructure Inspector

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**Editor's Note:** *This guy sounds like he NEEDS a vacation...so turn off the cell phone and leave the blackberry behind, Carl. Find a nice, quiet place for a little R & R – so you can think about the condensation under the equipment in the San Jacinto Monument. See ya!*

## **THIS WEEK IN HISTORY:**

- Jul 31** BB-35 arrives at Norfolk, Virginia Navy Yard for 1925 modernization (thru 23 November 1926)
- Aug 1** Zachary Taylor lands at Corpus Christi in preparation for Mexican War in 1845
- Aug 1** 1931 Paint underwater hull cost was \$852 labor & material "TEXAS Steer"
- Aug 2** The famed Chicken Ranch in La Grange, Texas ceases operations in 1973
- Aug 3** The Comanche's are moved out of Texas and into Indian territory in 1859
- Aug 3** The U.S.S. *South Carolina* fires on Galveston in 1861
- Aug 3** BB35's six, 3" AA guns installed at Bremerton Navy Yard in 1921
- Aug 3** B35 miles to date in 1923: 203,783
- Aug 4** BB35 is Area Delta 45<sup>th</sup> Division bombardment Flagship in 1944
- Aug 4** Movie segments of "The Sand Pebbles" filmed aboard BB35, but ends up on cutting room floor, in 1966
- Aug 5** BB35 stern post is erected in 1911
- Aug 5** BB35's first 5" 51-caliber gun installed in 1913
- Aug 5** Simms-Sinclair No. 11 Sweet gushes in & becomes Goose Creek Oil Field's greatest producer in 1917

## **COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE:**

**We caught this item a couple of weeks ago and wanted to get the warning out to all of our subscribers. To check the veracity of the claims made in the email, we conducted a "test run" using the name and city of Arnold Schwarzenegger of Sacramento, California – just in case it was one of those sites just collecting data to "spam" you until the end of your days – but it was all true. Protect your identity!**

### **\*IMPORTANT\***

**This is upsetting but I thought I should pass it along. Check for your driver's license.**

**Now you can see anyone's Driver's License on the Internet, including your own!**

**I just searched for mine and there it was...picture and all!!**

**Thanks Homeland Security! Where are our rights?**

**I definitely removed mine. I suggest you do the same. Go to the web site and check it out.**

**Just enter your name, city and state to see if yours is on file.**

**After your license comes on the screen, click the box marked "Please Remove".**

**This will remove it from public viewing, but not from law enforcement.**

**<http://www.license.shorturl.com/>**

**SHIP STORE SHOWCASE:**



Check out our latest new item - San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site Travel Candles! These candles are made of soy blend and have 6 mountain country scents to choose from: Lavender, Apple Harvest, Plumeria, Orange Blossom, Cucumber Melon, and Fresh Vanilla. The candles come in a choice of two sizes: 4 oz. for \$7.99 and 6 oz. for \$8.99. When you finish burning your scented candle, you can use the leftover tin for your thumb tacks, or whatever! The candles area available only at the BB35 Park Store while supplies last. Come see us today!

*San Jacinto Battleground Scented Candles For Kodak Moments*

**QUOTE OF THE WEEK:**

*We are called to be architects of the future, not its victims. - - R. Buckminster Fuller*

**PARTING SHOT:**

This week, the final photo from a batch taken by John Ferguson shortly after Memorial Day, while he was out closing the park one evening. Like they say - trash to some is treasure to another. Squirrelly!



*This Gray Squirrel Enjoys A Tasty Snack, Courtesy Of Some Park Visitor, No Doubt. John Got The Drop On Him May 31*