

TEXAS' FIRST COURT HELD AT COLUMBUS

(NOTE—Though two other Texas towns claim the first court in Texas, authorities in this Centennial year believe the State's early events, are inclined to give Columbus and Colorado County credit for the claim. "The first authorized court of Texas.")

Nacodoches is claiming the first Texas court in that town in September, 1837. Records in District Clerk W. C. Papenberg's office at Columbus are intact as to date of Columbus' first court, April 1837, the original records in a faded brown ink on pages that are yellowing are in the handwriting of the clerk who participated at the time. According to all duly kept records, this eliminates Nacodoches' claim as the records show Columbus' court to have convened six months prior to the claim of Nacodoches. Houston, also, is laying claim to the first court of Texas in March, 1837. If Houston's record is authentic, it would make Houston's court a month ahead of the first court at Columbus. But was Houston's court an authorized District Court?

The records in District Clerk Papenberg's office plainly show that Columbus' first court was a duly authorized District Court. The Republic of Texas was organized in January, 1837, and it has been generally conceded that the first authorized District Court in the Republic was the court held under a live oak tree at Columbus in April of 1837.

The following account of this first court held in the Republic of Texas, in 1837, and an account of the first court held in Colorado County at a special term of the district court in May, 1838, are taken from the court records in Mr. Papenberg's office.

Because the handwriting in this original first court volume is somewhat hard to read and that the exact wording might be fully preserved, a transcription of the book was made by J. J. Harrison, a former district clerk of Colorado County, in about the year 1896. Both volumes are preserved in the district clerk's office at Columbus.

This first court of the Republic of Texas and the first trial held in Colorado County a year following, are said to have been held under an oak tree, a tree whose branches now spread over the entire street immediately east of the Colorado County court house, in the town of Columbus. There were no houses in the neighborhood where Columbus is now located at that time.

General Sam Houston in his report to the Brazos in 1835 is credited with having been held under an oak tree in the neighborhood.

This tree, famous in historical events of Texas, one of many beautiful live oaks in Columbus, is pictured in this article. The photograph from which this print was made was taken only a few days ago by O. A. Zamwalt, from which it is having shown to the public.

A bronze tablet with the following inscription marks this historic old tree: "Here marks the spot"

to these republics and his conscience will be of no use to him. A good heart conscience is obtained through wholesome teaching and is just like one of our limbs. It can be developed and strengthened by wise exercise and use, but greatly weakened by neglect. When one feels a twinge of remorse, over something he has done he should stop and think about his mistake and soon there would be a great many more thoughtful and considerate people.

H. F. Girls to Serve Term. The Home Economics students have almost completed their undergraduate and they are planning to begin serving on school dress-suits. Friday the classes plan to serve tea to their mothers.

Agriculture Boys Get Cakes. Last Friday Mr. Denison and some of the boys went to Columbus for the purpose of getting calves. They bought four calves there and expect to go back Monday to get three more. The boys that are going to raise the calves are: Ned Stallman, Harry Lobprins, Curtis Lundquist, Harry and Herbert Engstrom, Teddy Dankels and John McGilchrist.

Miss Phillips and Miss Carey spent the week-end in Austin. Miss Taylor, Ellen Martin and Edrie Stallman spent the week-end at San Marcos.

Evelyn Krenke attended the show in Eagle Lake Friday night and G. P. Harry attended the show in Eagle Lake Friday night.

Edna Labay was in El Campo Friday afternoon.

Chas. Franks attended the show in El Campo Sunday night. Mr. Marshall spent a few days of last week in Fort Worth.

Ellen and Samuel Martin attended the show in Eagle Lake Thursday night.

Q. Ora Denison visited in Houston Saturday.

Jim Ella Kallina visited in Columbus Saturday.

This Tree Marks Spot of First Court In Republic of Texas



In the Shade of This Tree Peg-leg Willie Williamson Presided Over First Court

where the first authorized District Court in the Republic was held April 1837. Created by Trade-Expansion Dept. Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio.

The marker was placed on the tree about ten years ago, after all doubt as to the spot tree had been removed. General John Baylor, on a visit to Columbus many years ago, pointed out the tree as the identical court tree.

In copying the accounts of the first court, the county's first grand jury, organized in 1837, was held in the shade of the tree. The first trial ever held in the county, the first special term of the district court, in May, 1838, are taken from the court records in Mr. Papenberg's office.

With thanks to District Clerk Papenberg for assistance in preparing this article, the following names are given: Mitchell Putnam, Joel W. Robison, Robert D. Dwyer, Alfred Kido, Wm. Burnum, — Mumpsey, Abner Woolsey, James Cummings, William Thompson, Timothy Jones, David Williams, John Thompson, Thomas Wright.

Absent: Napoleon Breeding, John Byrne, Christopher Water, — Sheriff, Peter G. Silvey, Seymour Hyde, — Grand Jurors, David Wade, Lockhart, Robt. Smith.

By order of the Court the absent jurors were fined in the sum of Twenty dollars each and ordered to appear at the next term of Court and show cause why final judgment should not be entered against them. Stephen Townsend was allowed by the Court, fifty dollars for services as Sheriff during this term. There being no business before the Court it was ordered that the Court adjourned this day.

FIRST GRAND JURY. Colorado County, District Court, Special Term.

At a Special Term of the District Court held in the town of Columbus, in and for said County on the 17th day of May, 1838, for the trial of Wilson B. Bibbs upon his petition being in the goal of said County on a charge of Grand Larceny, Present: J. W. Robinson, Judge of the District Court, W. T. Townsend, clerk being appointed Clerk of the District Court and having taken the oath prescribed by Law and the undersigned names having been legally drawn as Grand Jurors, for said Term and taken the oath prescribed by Law viz.

raise the calves are: Ned Stallman, Harry Lobprins, Curtis Lundquist, Harry and Herbert Engstrom, Teddy Dankels and John McGilchrist.

Miss Phillips and Miss Carey spent the week-end in Austin.

Edrie Stallman was shopping in El Campo Thursday morning.

Edna Labay was in El Campo Friday afternoon.

Chas. Franks attended the show in El Campo Sunday night.

Mr. Marshall spent a few days of last week in Fort Worth.

Ellen and Samuel Martin attended the show in Eagle Lake Thursday night.

Q. Ora Denison visited in Houston Saturday.

Jim Ella Kallina visited in Columbus Saturday.

Edna Labay was shopping in Wharton Wednesday.

Lorraine Kallina was in Ganado Sunday night.

Eye-Openers. Just why is Jim Ella so worried about somebody in El Campo? Emma, how are you and that girl from Houston getting along? Is she a fit or four?

LAST TWICE AS LONG



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Safe, speediest washing—even easier than "swishing" dainty garments out by hand, in fact, you can do the entire family washing with no more effort, with this Westinghouse Washer.

High priced features on a quality, popular priced washer—extra years of service without extra cost. Save a dollar or two every week—know that your things are considerably handled, in your Westinghouse home laundry. Phone or stop in for a demonstration.

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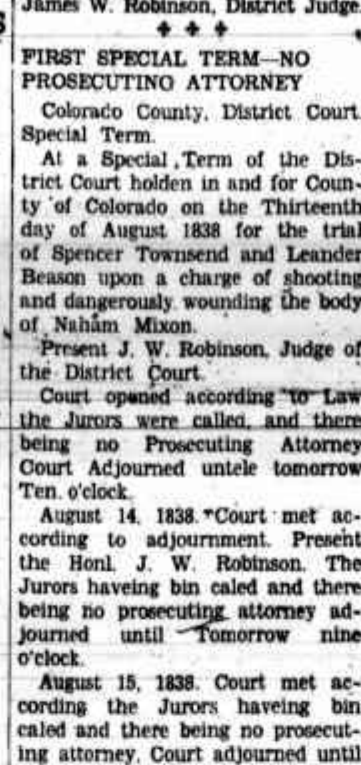
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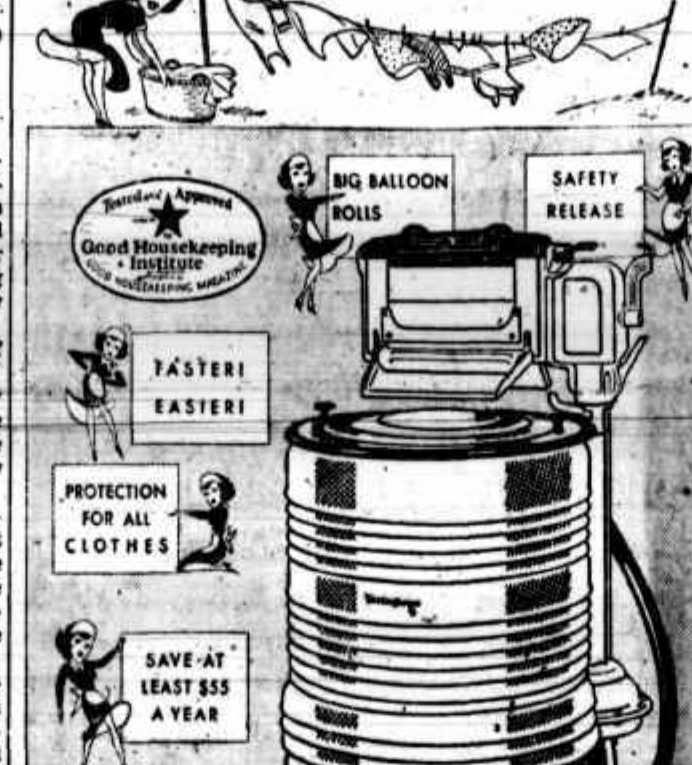
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