

Area Daughters Of The American Revolution Attend State Conference

The Smith-McMillan Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) were represented by six members of the Chapter at the 107th Texas DAR State Conference recently held at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio.

Members attending were Jeanne Schilling, Regent; Julie Elliott, State Chairman Motion Picture and TV; Shirley Pyburn, Regent-elect; Denny Fahrenthold, Vice Regent-elect; Suzanne Batchelder and Jane Pardo.

Prior to the opening of the conference, Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. Pyburn assisted with workshops and forums for chapters. The conference began with a memorial service honoring

members in Texas who died during the past year. Opening night our very special guest was national officer Mrs. Gales Jones Fixer, First Vice President General. Greetings were brought to the Conference by Mrs. Laura W. Bush, The Honorable Rick Perry, and Mayor Pro-tem of San Antonio Mr. Kevin Wolf. The conference was honored to have the University of Texas San Antonio Air Force ROTC present the colors.

The morning business meetings opened with reports from the State Executive Board. The Committee Chairman reports of all committees were presented during the morning and afternoon business sessions over the two-day period. Evening banquets

were for special presentations and honors.

It was announced that Texas DAR now had 14,600 members and 193 chapters with four new chapters being organized this year. The Smith-McMillan membership has grown to 68 members.

The TSDAR honored and recognized recipients of the Good Citizen Award, Outstanding CAR and Outstanding American History Teacher and winners of the Christopher Columbus and American History Essay contests.

The Texas Society has published a new history of the organization covering the last 25 years of their work in Texas. Mrs. Nancy Tiner, Chairman of the Committee, has done a tremendous job on this enormous project.

Jane Pardo was honored to be an Advisor on this Committee

The Society also gave \$32,400 to two of the DAR schools as a result of the money derived from the sale of timber blown down on its Jasper County forest during Hurricane Rita.

The Smith-McMillan Chapter received 23 awards and certificates of merits for Chapter Yearbook, DAR Good Citizens, Americanism, American Heritage, American History, American Indians, Conservation, Constitution Week, Community Events, Chapter Scholarship, Chapter Achievement Award, Insignia, Resolutions, Magazine Subscriptions, Women's Issues, Junior Newsletter, 1st Place Division in Number of Radio News Interviews, DAR Project Patriot, DAR Schools, Exceptional Computer Service, Excellence in Reporting to

TSDAR Registrar, and Volunteer Information Specialists.

Smith-McMillan was also awarded first place for largest percentage increase in membership for chapters with 60 to 100 members.

Each year the National Conference and the State Conferences in other states pass resolutions that stand for the patriotic beliefs of the organization. This year two resolutions were passed supporting "Our Constitution" being taught in all grades and "Eminent Domain Abuse" regarding state and local governments not using eminent domain to advantage one private property over another. This resolution supports HB340. Two previous resolutions were reaffirmed for the Texas Society DAR to commit to the Children of the American Revolution, and promote their objective of

acquiring knowledge of history; and to support efforts to establish English as the official language.

The Saturday evening General Conference Banquet featured Mrs. Julie Elliott who presented a special award to Tom Spencer, submitted by the Lost Pines Chapter, for his work in Motion Picture, Radio and TV.

The conference concluded with special recognition of the Chapter Regents of the 193 Chapters in Texas. Mrs. Nancy Reynolds Tiner, Honorary State Regent, installed the new state officers for the years 2006-2009 which concluded the 107th TSDAR State Conference. Lynn Fornay Young, Texas Chapter in Houston, will be the State Regent for TSDAR for 2006-2009 and will be installed in July at Continental Congress in Washington, D.C.

Wheeler To Play At Nesbitt Memorial Library

On Monday evening, May 8, the Nesbitt Memorial Library in Columbus will host an evening of chamber jazz, featuring guitarist Mike Wheeler and vibraphonist Tom Cummings. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. and is free to the public.

Mike Wheeler was born in Houston in 1961 and grew up listening to the western swing music that his grandfather played on guitar. When he was in his teens, he formed various pop and rock groups. Then he turned to jazz, his true calling.

Well established in the Houston music scene, Wheeler has worked in clubs, formed jazz groups, and played with most of the major orchestras in the Houston area, including the Houston Symphony Orchestra.

He has performed with jazz artists Jimmy Ford, Clark Terry, and Joe Williams, among many others. He has also backed up many pop artists, including Willie Nelson, Charlie Pride, Andy Williams, Merle Haggard, Larry Gatlin, and John Denver. His first CD entitled *Indian Summer*, was produced by Nelson and recorded at Nelson's ranch in 1994. His two most recent CDs are *The Mike Wheeler Trio* and *That Saturday Thing*.

In addition to performing and recording, he teaches private lessons in the Houston area and is currently instructor of jazz guitar at the University of St. Thomas, San Jacinto College, and the University of Houston.

Tom Cummings, vibraphonist and drummer, grew up in Kansas City, but

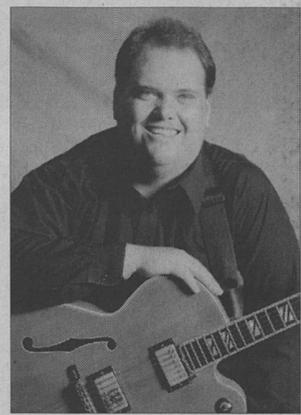
has been playing music in Houston since he moved there in 1967. He was the original drummer for the popular 1970s band Southwest Freeway.

He too has performed with many jazz stars, including Freddie Hubbard, Jimmy Ford, Rosemary Clooney, Mose Allison, Charlie Byrd, and Houston legends Arnett Cobb and Milton Larken. The roster of popular stars he has backed includes Ray Charles, Bert Bacharach, Dionne Warwick, Henry Mancini, Peggy Lee, Johnny Mathis, Andy Williams, and Engelbert Humperdinck.

He has also performed with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and Houston Grand Opera, and at jazz festivals around the world. He has taught at the University of Houston, Sam Houston State University, and other institutions of higher learning.

His first CD, *Entrance*, came out in 1996. He has played on many other recordings. He and Wheeler play together in a band called the Bopmeisters, a seven-man jazz ensemble led by saxophonist Mark Holter which has released two CDs.

Wheeler's and Cummings' session at the library was organized by Charles Ford, a local artist and music fan who has hosted jazz performances in Colorado County for years.



Mike Wheeler, Houston jazz guitarist, will appear in concert with vibraphonist Tom Cummings at the Nesbitt Memorial Library on the evening of Monday, May 8.

Engstrom Honored With Shower

Lana Engstrom, bride-elect of Douglas Wied, was honored with a miscellaneous bridal shower from 10 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, April 22, at St. Mary's Parish Hall.

The registration table held the bridal book and a picture of the engaged couple. Guest tables were decorated with candles and greenery.

Refreshments consisted of a cake inscribed with "Lana and Doug" and trimmed with white roses and a variety of cakes, punch, and coffee. Special guests included La Nelle Engstrom, mother of the bride-to-be, Jane Wied, mother of the future groom, and Mary Lou Will, Lana's grandmother.

Hostesses presented Lana with a set of Caphalon pots.

Lana and Doug's wedding is set for July 8, 2006.

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