Special Exhibit, New Book, Highlight “Images of the Southwest”

The Southwest is as much a state of mind as it is a place. Although travel to the region was fraught with perils and discomforts in the 19th century, the Southwest has become one of America’s most celebrated—and romanticized—regions since the railroads arrived a little more than a century ago. Images of the Southwest—including maps, lithographs, photographs and paintings—have shaped popular perceptions of the region for more than a century. Many of these were created by railroad companies, but newspaper and magazine editors also had an important role. More recently, film and television shape our images of the Southwest.

Those interested in how the Southwest has been popularized and promoted through the use of images will want to view an exhibit titled “19th Century Images of the Southwest” in the Center’s office on the 6th floor of UTA’s Central Library. Using illustrations from popular publications such as Harper’s Weekly, the exhibit interprets the way the places and peoples of the Southwest were depicted a century ago. These images sent messages about the region to an eager public in eastern cities and even Europe. The scenery of the Southwest was considered both sublime and terrible; its native peoples were depicted as exotic, colorful, and anachronistic as westward-moving settlers sought to stake a claim to the region. The exhibit can be seen from 8 a.m. to noon and 1-5 p.m. weekdays. Visitors to this exhibit should also plan to visit UTA’s Special Collections, a major repository of historic maps, journals, newspapers, and atlases that cover the Southwest.

Students of the region’s culture and history also will want to read Essays on the Changing Images of the Southwest, a new book now available from the Texas A&M University Press. These essays address topics that were presented at UTA in 1993 as part of the University’s nationally-known Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lecture Series. Co-edited by UTA Southwestern Studies Center Director Richard Francaviglia and Center Fellow David Narrett, this book contains an introduction by noted Southwest borderlands scholar David Weber and five essays on how the region has been viewed and promoted:

- "Elusive Land: Changing Geographic Images of the Southwest," by Richard Francaviglia
- "The Spanish Written Word: Changing Images and Neglected Legacy of the Southwest," by Oakah L. Jones
- "On Coyotes and Crosses: That Which Is Wild and Wooden of the Twentieth-Century Southwest," by Marta Weigle
- "The Tourist Gaze, Gentrification, and the Commodification of Subjectivity in Taos," by Sylvia Rodriguez
- "The American West: Conventions and Inventions in Art and Literature," by Karl Doerry

These interdisciplinary essays reveal that images are powerful tools in the promotion, marketing, settlement, and control of the region. They demonstrate that the Southwest has been what one writer calls "a land of immense expectations and immense disappointments to many people," and that images of the Southwest have become stereotypes or clichés that have drawn people to the region. As the authors show, this has been true from the time of the Coronado Expedition in the early 1540s to as recently as the popular film Thelma and Louise in the early 1990s. Essays on the Changing Images of the Southwest is available from Texas A&M Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843, phone (409) 845-1436.
Exploring Community History — A Success

Once again we have learned first-hand about the popularity of programming pertaining to the history of the region. On October 15, 1994, a symposium entitled "Exploring Community History" was held at UTA. 170 registered for the symposium by the deadline. This symposium proved to be so popular that the location on campus had to be changed, and people were still turned away! Registrants came from as far as Amarillo, San Antonio, and Houston. We hope to offer other symposia of this type in the future, and will be notifying all readers of *Frónteras* when they are next scheduled.

“Challenge of Statehood” Conference Promises New Look at Texas Annexation

Historians and scholars in the Southwest will want to mark October 20-21, 1995 on their calendars. On that Friday and Saturday, UTA will sponsor a major conference entitled “The Challenge of Statehood: A Sesquicentennial Symposium on Texas Annexation.” Texas annexation to the United States in 1845 had a major impact on the geography and history of the Southwest, for Texas entered the union as a slave-holding state. In addition to creating regional tension that later contributed to the Civil War, Texas annexation had a more immediate international impact: some historians cite it as a major cause of the U.S.-Mexican War of 1846-1848. According to Program Chair Douglas Richmond, “To our knowledge, this conference will be the only major scholarly event recognizing—and interpreting—Texas statehood.” This conference has been funded in part by the Texas Committee for the Humanities and private contributors, and promises to offer a new look at an important and often overlooked historical event in the development of our region.

Center Helps Develop UTA-SMU Connections

The recent announcement of the creation of a Southwestern Studies Program at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas under the direction of David Weber comes as good news to those of us interested in the history of the region. History-conscious former Texas Governor Bill Clements provided a major gift to establish the program. This development will further help put the Dallas/Fort Worth area “on the map” as a major center of scholarship about the region. Scholars visiting the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex have two fine academic research facilities—UTA's Special Collections and the SMU DeGolyer Library. Our Southwestern Studies Center has advised SMU on the creation of an effective Southwestern Studies program, and hopes to work closely with them. In the future, for example, you can expect to see joint programming between SMU and UTA that further enriches Southwestern Studies: A major conference on “The Railroads and the West,” scheduled for September of 1996, is one of them. Funding from the region’s railroads will help support this three-day conference, which will feature scholars from across the region who have studied the impact of the railroad on the west. Field trips to railroad facilities in the Dallas-Fort Worth area will also be featured. For more information, contact the Center at (817) 273-3997.

Society for the History of Discoveries to Meet at UTA

Readers interested in exploration and discovery should note that the 1995 annual meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries will be held at UTA on November 2-4, 1995. For more information, contact Dennis Reinhartz, Department of History, UTA, Box 19529, Arlington, TX 76019 or call (817) 273-2861.

Interdisciplinary Connections Help Southwestern Studies Program Thrive

When UTA’s Center for Greater Southwestern Studies and the History of Cartography was created four years ago, one of its goals was to establish connections within the University and with other Universities and communities in the region. The Center’s current strength is due in part to its focus on history and cartography—the art and science of map making—which permits a new understanding of the region and its peoples. Although our Center is history-based and derives much of its strength from a historical interpretation of the region’s cultures, its connections with many other departments and programs at the University enable it to flourish: currently, the Center is active in several landscape architecture research projects in Texas and Oklahoma. These emphasize the use of historic maps, and involve UTA students in conducting studies for agencies such as the National Park Service and the Texas State Parks. The goal of these projects is to ensure that the historic, cultural and natural resources of the parks are understood so that the parks can be used and developed more effectively.

UTA’s Southwestern Studies Program involves historians, geologists, biologists, anthropologists, and others who seek answers to questions about the region’s fascinating past. Techniques to determine the relationship between early peoples and environment can involve an archaeological dig (as will be described by archaeologist Jeffery Hanson in the next issue of *Frónteras*), or the use of sophisticated geological methods in the search for a "missing" outlaw (as described on the next page by Brooks Ellwood), but all have the same goal: to help shed more light as to how our region has evolved.
Searching for the Grave of Hanged Texas Gunfighter
William Preston Longley
by Brooks B. Ellwood

William Preston Longley, known as “Bill” or “Wild Bill,” was a notorious Texas outlaw who reportedly shot at least 32 men and one woman in his lifetime. As an outlaw, Bill wasn’t as famous as some desperadoes of that time because he didn’t run with a crowd or rob banks and trains. But as a deadly gunfighter, he was one of the first fast-draw, two-gun outlaws. It was said that Longley could hit a small target 6 times in quick succession from a running horse, or hit the same target 12 times firing both guns simultaneously. His temper, speed, and accuracy made him extremely dangerous. He once killed a “Yankee” soldier in Kansas in the late 1860s, when the soldier commented that all Texans were thieves and “there are no virtuous women in Texas.”

Longley was convicted and hanged on Oct. 11, 1878, in Giddings, Texas, for the murder of Wilson Anderson in 1875. His death by hanging was widely reported, but a number of individuals claimed that the hanging was rigged, and that Longley was not executed. They contend that only an empty casket, possibly weighted, was buried. Since the hanging, tales have circulated regarding Longley’s ultimate fate. One story claims he settled in Nicaragua to become a cattleman, and later booked passage on the Lusitania, dying when it was sunk by a German U-Boat in 1915. Another version describes him dying from a blow to the head by a tree limb near Giddings while escaping. Yet another story claims Longley escaped to Mexico to become a cattleman, and one of his grandsons later became a provincial governor. In still another story, he is claimed to have escaped to Iberville Parish, Louisiana, where he resided under the assumed name of Capt. John Calhoun Brown until his death in 1923. To add fuel to this speculation, a computer-based comparison of photographs of Longley and Capt. Brown (work performed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC) shows a high probability that the two are the same man. Handwriting comparisons also suggested that Brown and Longley were indeed the same individual.

To resolve this historical question, Douglas Owsley, a forensic anthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution, Patricia Mercado-Allinger with the Texas Historical Commission, and I decided to try to locate and exhume Longley’s grave. Unfortunately, the Longley grave marker had been moved, and the original location long forgotten. To locate the burial, we performed a series of geophysical surveys at sites within the Giddings, Texas, cemetery, selected on the basis of photographic evidence, historical accounts, and personal recollections. Our work included magnetic and resistivity surveys, subsurface probing and selected surface scraping in an effort to identify the Longley grave.

Pioneer graves were often marked with wood or native stone, and in many instances their locations were lost because markers were either moved or they disintegrated. The early historic burials may never have been formally recorded, or even marked. Historical accounts indicate that in the case of Longley, the grave was initially only marked by a Blackjack Oak tree. Not until the early 1920s, after the tree died (and nearly 50 years after the hanging) was a headstone erected. The headstone, a piece of petrified wood about eighteen inches tall, was moved at least twice (probably 3 times) between 1925 and 1945, and it was later stolen. Although the headstone was moved, the body was not, and the original location of the grave was lost.

We sought to locate the grave using scientific instruments that can detect variations in magnetic field and electrical resistivity. It is expected, and known from experience with other historic cemeteries in Texas, that anomalies representing graves are generally oriented east-west. Magnetic variations over graves can show unusual characteristics, called anomalies, that depend on several factors. For example, a surface anomaly should result where iron metal is buried in a shallow grave. Depending upon the amount and distribution of the iron, the anomaly might be strong and should be oriented east-west.

Electrical resistivity data can also be useful in locating graves and are produced by causing current to flow in the ground and measuring the voltages developed by this flow. Most grave anomalies arise from slightly higher current flow in the grave due, in part, to greater concentrations of ionized water occupying pore spaces in the disturbed ground. Increased moisture reduces resistance to current flow, and the anomaly will generally be characterized by a set of “low values” (2 or more), with an east-west orientation. In some cases, however, especially when the cemetery is well drained or when the weather is unusually dry for long periods, resistivity values may be high, but grave anomalies are still oriented east-west.

After making the geophysical measurements, anomalies developed were tested in a number of ways. Probe tests were performed by taking cores from the ground at anoma-
lies. In a number of instances coffin wood, nails and hardware, and in one case skull fragments were found in these cores, confirming the presence of burials. It was discovered that when cores were taken in grave shafts, within just a foot or so of the surface, the sediments were clearly disturbed. This proved to be very diagnostic of graves.

We also used a “Bobcat” (small) tractor with a 4’ blade to scrape away approximately 1’ of soil in selected areas in the Giddings Cemetery. Exposed, unmarked burial shafts were very distinctive because back-filling after burial resulted in a mottled appearance, with a red clay at the surface being penetrated by a whitish clay brought up from below as the grave was dug.

In all, the methods employed by this project were successful in locating more than 60 unmarked burial shafts, of which more than 30 contained skeletal remains that were excavated, examined, identified by the forensic anthropologist, Dr. Owsley, as to sex, age and race, and were then reinterred. Most of these burials occurred during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The skeletal remains reflected the racial makeup of the cemetery. Generally, in the northeastern portion of the cemetery, Protestant burials are located. In the southern portion of the cemetery are Jewish burials. In the northwest are located Hispanic and Catholic burials, and in the west and southwestern portions of the cemetery are located African American burials. Most of the unmarked burials that we discovered and exhumed were African American. Many of the burials were children and many were women. Very few white burials were identified, and none were young men.

Pieces of coffin hardware recovered during our excavation activities, now curated in Austin, have provided new information and supports old ideas about the burial practices in Texas. For example, a number of the coffins had glass viewing plates in the lids, thus allowing viewing even though the casket was closed.

We were unsuccessful in our overall objective of finding the grave of William Longley. No skeleton examined belonged to a white male, over 6’ tall and only approximately 28 years old. We did find an unmarked, empty burial shaft located in the area we considered to be the “right” place in the cemetery, but there was no coffin nor other artifacts. Unfortunately, because there were no remains, the possibility that this shaft may have been the site of the missing grave is untestable. Historical research into the problem of finding Longley’s grave is still in progress, and will be reported in a forthcoming issue of Fronteras.

Editor’s note: Dr. Brooks Ellwood is a professor of Geology at UTA and has a long-standing interest in the use of geophysical measurement in solving historical mysteries. He has served as a Center Fellow since 1993 and used Center funding to research this project. Dr. Ellwood’s work demonstrates the importance of careful scientific study in pursuing historical mysteries, and reminds us that such study can have unexpected outcomes such as revealing important information about burial practices in historic cemeteries.

Readers interested in Texas/Southwestern cemeteries will find Terry Jordan’s Texas Graveyards—A Cultural Legacy to be of value. It was published in 1982 by the University of Texas Press in Austin, and copies are still available.

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**Book Review**

**James A. Sandos, Rebellion in the Borderlands: Anarchism and the Plan of San Diego, 1904-1923**  
Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992

For far too long, scholars have neglected the Plan de San Diego revolt. This insurrection rivals similar twentieth century ethnic confrontations, yet it is the only one that has significant international ramifications. This revolt is a major episode in border, Texas and Mexican-American history. Although U.S. or even Texas history textbooks rarely mention it, the Plan de San Diego revolt will hopefully receive more deserving attention.

The book contains many admirable achievements. James Sandos paints a compelling portrait of Ricardo Flores Magon, a Mexican ideologue who mobilized Mexican-Americans to demand better treatment. Sandos also provides a clear analysis of anarchism, a difficult task in itself. In addition, the author sketches a helpful picture of the discontent that prevailed in south Texas from 1900 to 1920.

But Sandos is unable to outline effectively the movement’s rank and file. Even though the narrative refers occasionally to Mexican soldiers crossing into Texas, Sandos insists that the revolt was indigenous and inspired by Magon even though, as Sandos concedes, Magon did not respond once the revolt broke out in 1915. Clearly Sandos sympathizes with the rebels. Perhaps for that reason, Sandos seems surprised that President Venustiano Carranza would restrain the movement once he received de facto diplomatic recognition from the Woodrow Wilson regime.

In summary, this well-written study by Sandos provides important contributions to a significant event in southwestern history.

—review by Douglas W. Richmond  
Professor of History and Center Fellow
New Video on Frontier Forts of Texas

In recent years, many important educational materials about the Southwest have appeared in video form, ensuring a wide audience. The Frontier Forts and the American Indian Wars in Texas (1848-1888) explores a crucial time period in the state's history when westward moving Anglo-American people replaced the Native American peoples. Frontier Forts had a pivotal position in protecting the American frontier, and this well-researched 60 minute video provides a comprehensive look at the history of the military in relationship to the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache, and Kickapoo Indian tribes. It is available from Forest Glen TV Productions, Inc., P.O. Box 50238, Austin, Texas 78763.

The Power of Maps

Offers New Insights on Cartography

No understanding of any region is complete without an appreciation of its cartography, which some scholars define as "the art and science of map-making." As author Denis Wood demonstrates in this interesting book, maps serve the interests of people in power and also help individuals and groups develop a better understanding of their environment. Author Wood is especially interested in the power of maps in shaping attitudes toward places and people—and how maps can empower people. According to Wood, use of maps always carries with it important responsibilities. The Power of Maps offers interesting and exciting insights into cartography; although it focusses on many areas outside of the region, many of its lessons are applicable to the greater Southwest. For more information, contact The Guilford Press, 72 Spring Street, New York, NY 10012. Phone: (212) 431-9800.

Entrada Offers Comprehensive View of Borderlands History

Entrada: The Legacy of Spain & Mexico in the United States. Entrada offers a comprehensive view of the borderlands history. Bernard Fontana is well known for his writings and travels in the Southwest. He has taken on the challenge of writing a basic book about the region for both students and the general public. With this mission in mind, Entrada was published in cooperation with the Southwest Parks and Monuments Association in Tucson using original descriptions, lithographs, photographs, and maps. Fontana beautifully describes and interprets Spanish/Mexican history in the region. Entrada is highly recommended to anyone interested in the Southwest, as it provides an excellent overview of the region during a 400 year period. For more information, contact the University of New Mexico Press, 1720 Lomas Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131-1591. Phone: (505) 277-2346.

Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836 Confirms Importance of Hispanic Culture

The significance of Mexican heritage in Texas is becoming more appreciated as researchers interpret the period 1821-36—the tempestuous 15 year period during which the Mexican flag flew over Texas. Author Andrés Tijerina provides a comprehensive look at Mexican culture during this important period, addressing in detail subjects such as Tejano settlements and their governors, the Tejano community, Tejano justice, military organization, and politics. Tejanos & Texas Under the Mexican Flag, 1821-1836 is highly recommended for students of the borderlands. It describes and interprets the state's Hispanic cultural legacy. For more information, contact the Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843. Phone: (409) 845-1436.

19th Century Adventures in Texas Natural History

A Long Ride in Texas: The Explorations of John Leonard Riddell records the early 19th century environment of Texas, which was a scientist's paradise. The region's diverse flora, fauna, and geology came under increasing scrutiny as scientists found their way through the region and made field notes about what they saw. John Leonard Riddell was one of these observant scientists. A physician by training, Riddell sojourned in Texas in 1839, making many perceptive observations about the natural and human environment. Under the editorship of James O. Breden, the reader is treated to Riddell's observations and sketches of the countryside and its environment. A Long Ride in Texas is highly recommended for students of science, ecology, and history. For more information, contact Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, Texas 77843. Phone: (409) 845-1436.

"The Devil made them do it" Theme of New Borderlands Book

The Devil in the New World: The Impact of Diabolism in New Spain offers a unique perspective on borderlands history. When the Spanish arrived in the New World, they brought with them many traditions and beliefs, one of which was a strong belief in the power of diabolical forces influenced by the Devil or Satan. This led the Spanish to attempt purging the natives of Satanic influences, in some cases by death. Author Fernando Cervantes documents the tragic consequences of the Spanish applying their beliefs about the devil to the traits they saw in the Native Americans. This important book makes reference to many original source materials and provides a new look at the spiritual and cultural forces that helped shape the Southwest. For more information, contact Yale University Press, 92A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520. Phone: (203) 432-0940.
UTA Participates in History of Discoveries Conference

On September 22-24, 1994, the Center’s Graduate Research Assistant José A. Delgado attended the 34th Annual Meeting of the Society for the History of Discoveries at Mackinac Island, Michigan, where he presented a paper entitled “A Cartographic View of the Falkland Malvinas Islands.” This paper was selected as the winning entry for the Society’s yearly student essay contest, and was based on ongoing research being conducted by José for his doctoral dissertation. A primary source of high quality facsimiles of key historical maps and geographical documents for the research was found in UTA’s ever-growing Garrett Cartographic Collection. Center Fellow Dennis Reinhartz, who served as the President for the Society for the History of Discoveries, also attended the meeting. In addition to housing more than 6,000 historical maps and 1,500 historical atlases, UTA’s Special Collections also serves as the archive for the records of the Society for the History of Discoveries. As noted elsewhere in this issue of Fronteras, UTA will be the site of the Society’s 1995 annual meeting.

Meet the Center Faculty

Assistant Professor Sam W. Haynes has served as a Center Fellow since joining the UTA faculty in 1993. Haynes received his B.A. from Columbia University and his Ph.D. from the University of Houston. At UTA Dr. Haynes has taught courses on Early Texas, the Southwest, and Jacksonian America. Dr. Haynes is the author of Soldiers of Misfortune: The Sonorevell and Mier Expeditions (University of Texas Press, 1990), for which he received the Dobie-Paisano Prize, awarded by the Texas Institute of Letters. He has edited and annotated a new edition of A Journal of the Texian Expedition Against Mier (Thomas Taylor, 1843), a memoir written by Texan adventurer Thomas Jefferson Green in 1845. He is also the co-author of a U.S. history textbook, A Concise History of America and Its People (Harper Collins, 1995).

Dr. Haynes is finishing a book on James K. Polk for Harper Collins’ Library of American Biography series. He is also an editor of The Encyclopedia of the Mexican War, to be published by Simon and Schuster in 1996. He is currently studying anti-British sentiment in Texas and the United States, and the role Anglophobia played in shaping American continental expansionism.

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