

# The Lone Star State's 100 Years; 1836-1936



Sam Houston

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

TEXAS, who is celebrating this year her one hundredth anniversary as an American commonwealth, is unique among her sisters in the Union. In fact, she is the "big sister" of them all. Into her 265,808 square miles could be dropped all of the six New England states together with New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania, and there would still be room for Ohio and Illinois.

As a matter of fact, when she came into the sisterhood of states 90 years ago, she brought with her a much larger territory than that. Altogether there were 380,166 square miles of it. For, as the map above shows, it comprised all of the present Lone Star state, the western half of the present state of Oklahoma, the eastern half of New Mexico, an irregular but sizable chunk of Wyoming and a larger segment of Kansas.

But it is not in the matter of size alone that Texas is unique. She is the only one of the 48 states who was an independent republic before she joined the sisterhood of states. As such she had her own army and navy, she sent envoys to European courts and received ambassadors at her capital in return.

Six flags have flown over her lands. Spain first claimed sovereignty, basing her claims to Texas on the discovery of America by Columbus, the conquest of Mexico by Cortez, and the explorations by Cabeza de Vaca, Coronado and De Soto. France disputed Spain's claim because in 1684 La Salle, searching for the mouth of the Mississippi river, landed on the coast of Texas and planted the French flag there. But La Salle was assassinated by some of his men and France never made good her claim.

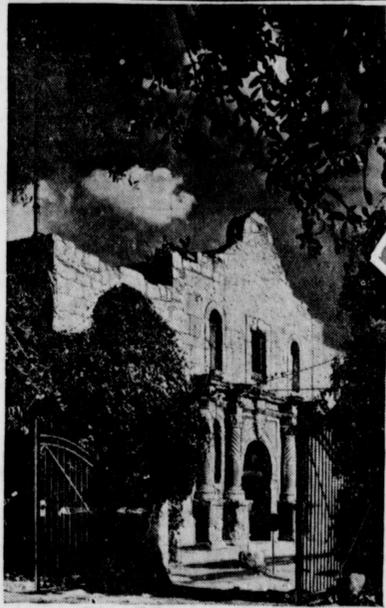
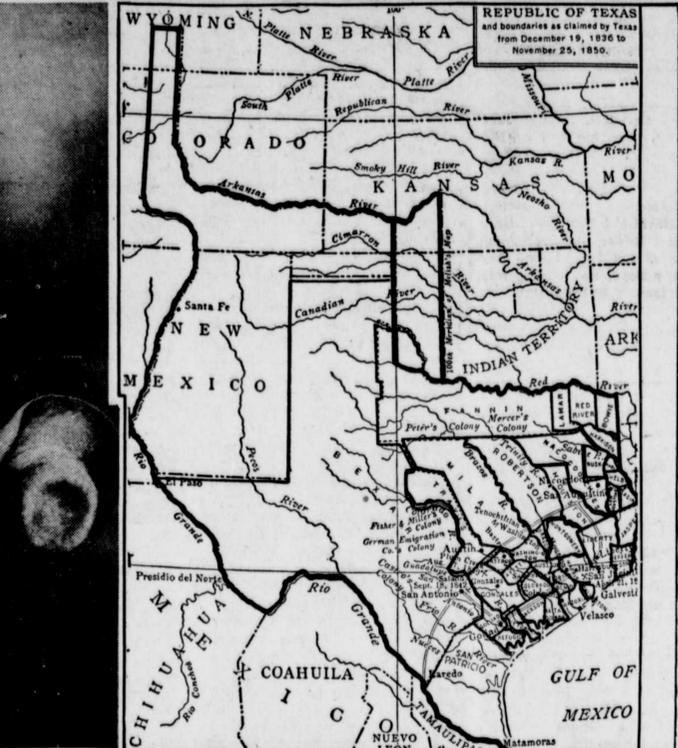
So the flag of Spain waved over Texas until 1821 when the Mexicans gained their independence from the Spaniards and for the next few years Texas was a part of the republic of Mexico.

The year before Mexico threw off the yoke of Spain Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas," left Missouri with a colony and settled in Texas. Other Americans followed and by 1827 Texas had a population of 10,000. Three years later it had grown to 20,000. Mexico began to be alarmed at this influx of settlers. On April 6, 1830, the Mexican congress passed a law forbidding further colonization.

But that did not halt the Americans. Soon there were clashes between the American settlers and the Mexican officials. By 1835 there was a state of open warfare for the Americans who had become Texans were resolved to be free from Mexico as the Mexicans had resolved to be free from Spain. President Santa Anna of Mexico came to Texas with an army of 4,000 to crush the revolt. On February 22, 1836, he besieged San Antonio, which was held by 180 Texans commanded by Col. William B. Travis. On March 6 Santa Anna's hosts swept over the walls of the historic mission, the Alamo, and slaughtered its defenders, thereby making immortal the names of Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett, the Tennessee bear-hunter.

In the meantime a group of Texas patriots had gathered at the town of Washington on the Brazos river. There on March 2 they adopted a document which began with this statement:

"When a government has ceased to protect the lives, liberty and property of the people from whom its legitimate powers are derived, and for the advancement of whose happiness it was instituted; and so far from being a guarantee for their inestimable and inalienable rights, becomes an instrument in the hands of evil rulers for their oppression—when the Federal Republican Constitution of their country, which they have sworn to support, no longer has a substantial existence, and the whole nature of their government has been forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated, central, military despotism, in which every interest is disregarded but that of the army and priesthood, both of which are the eternal enemies



The Alamo



David Crockett

of civil liberty, the ever-ready minions of power, and the usual instruments of tyrants—when, long after the spirit of the Constitution has departed, moderation is at length so far lost by those in power that even the semblance of freedom is removed, and the forms even of the Constitution discontinued, and so far from their petitions and remonstrances being regarded, the agents who bear them are thrown into dungeons, and mercenary armies set forth to force a new government upon them at the point of the bayonet—when, in consequence of such acts of malfeasance and abduction on the part of the government, anarchy prevails and civil society is dissolved into its original elements—in such a crisis, the first law of nature, the right of preservation, and the inherent and inalienable right of the people to appeal to first principles and take their political affairs into their own hands in extreme cases, enjoins it as a right toward themselves, and a sacred obligation to their posterity, to abolish such a government and create another in its stead calculated to rescue them from impending dangers and to secure their welfare and happiness."

After listing their grievances, 15 in number, they concluded their work with this statement:

"The necessity of self-preservation, therefore, decrees an eternal political separation.

"We, therefore, the delegates with plenary powers of the people of Texas, in solemn convention assembled, appealing to the judgment of a candid world as to the necessities of our condition, DO HEREBY DISSOLVE and declare that our political connection with the Mexican nation has forever ended and that the people of Texas do now constitute a FREE, SOVEREIGN and INDEPENDENT REPUBLIC, and are fully invested with all the rights and attributes which properly belong to independent nations and, conscious of the rectitude of our intentions, we confidently and fearlessly commit the issue to the decision of the supreme arbiter of the destinies of nations."

Thus the Republic of Texas came into existence. But the revolution in Texas did not end on that date any more than any earlier revolution ended on July 4, 1776. It remained for another man to finish the job that these men on the Brazos had started and back up with bullets the words which they had written just as George Washington had backed up the words of the

signers in Philadelphia 60 years before. That man was Sam Houston and he did it on the battlefield of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

So it was only natural that Houston, like George Washington, should become the first president of the new republic which he had helped to establish. The capital of that new republic was named for Stephen F. Austin, the "Father of Texas," and by act of its congress in December, 1836, a blue flag with a single golden star in the center became its official flag.

Houston also became the first governor of Texas when it entered the Union in 1845. In the addition of Texas to the Union by annexation lies another of its claims to being unique among the states. For Texas is the only one which ever had the right to subdivide itself into several states if it chose to do so.

The treaty of annexation provided "for the future formation in the said territories of at least two states, and if more than two, then four states, and if more than four then six states, to be hereafter admitted into the United States of America." The reason for this wording lay in the slavery dispute which was beginning to become acute at that time. If the new state was to be divided, there should be an even number, half slave and half free so that the balance of power would be kept even. Since the War Between the States ended forever the question of slavery it also virtually ended the possibility of Texas being subdivided, although many believe that the Lone Star state still has that right.

Not only did that war put an end to one of the factors which made Texas unique but it also added another to the number of flags which have flown over Texas. For four years the Stars and Bars of the Confederate States of America was the flag to which the Texans swore allegiance, then once more Texas was back in the Union under the Stars and Stripes.

Now, Texas, looking back over her 100 years of history, is proud of them all—the flag of Spain, the lilies of France, the banner of Mexico, her own bright Lone Star emblem, her place on the symbol of the "Lost Cause" and her star in the field of blue along with the 47 others. For they all speak of the glorious history that has been hers.

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## STAR DUST

Movie • Radio

By VIRGINIA VALE

PICTURE the delight of the huge audience at a hockey game between a New York team and one from Montreal the other evening, when Joe E. Brown threw in the puck to start the game. He looked very small and very thin—much smaller than he does on the screen—in contrast with the burly hockey players. And he clowned a bit when he hastened off the ice.

Pat O'Brien, who was with him, threw the little rubber disc down between two players at the beginning of the second period. He looked big enough to play hockey himself. In fact, friend Pat is getting a bit heavy. Brown gave the spectators a chance to see a perfectly happy human being. It was a small boy who went to him during one of the intermissions, to shake hands. Brown held his hand a long time and visited with him, and afterward the youngster lingered in the aisle, unable to tear himself away from the idol who had been so kind to him.



Joe E. Brown.

It's too bad, in a way, that "Barbary Coast" and "Frisco Kid" came along at the same time. One has Miriam Hopkins as the star, the other has James Cagney, but these two stories of early days in San Francisco are too much alike; in fact, they might be two versions of the same story.

Everyone is wondering how southerners will like "So Red the Rose." After all, they're the only ones who can really pass judgment on it. And certainly they won't make the mistake that one New York reviewer did. He said that the only authentic southern accent belonged to Walter Connolly—when, as a matter of fact, both Margaret Sullivan and Randolph Scott, the heroine and the hero, hail from Virginia.

Don't miss Lily Pons' first picture, "I Dream Too Much." RKO certainly picked a winner when Miss Pons was selected as their operatic star, after Grace Moore's success sent all the big companies scurrying around after girls with reputations as singers. Lily Pons doesn't just sing. She shows an amazing talent for comedy. She's not pretty, yet she has moments of looking very much like Lupe Velez. And she makes her love scenes with Henry Fonda very convincing. Eric Blone and his trained seal add not a little to the general hilarity, and what with one thing and another the picture's a riot.

You've read about all the precautions taken to protect the famous quintuplets during the making of their scenes in "The Country Doctor." Naturally, everybody's one thought was for the babies. So when Jenn Hersholt, who plays Dr. Dufour in the picture, went walking, slipped on the ice, and acquired a badly bruised leg, nobody was much disturbed. It looks as if we wouldn't see anyone in the roles of the father and mother of the babies. According to report, they were offered \$700 if they'd sign papers allowing themselves to be impregnated, and refused; not enough money.

Did you tune in your radio on the broadcast that opened the new NBC studio in Hollywood? There certainly were plenty of celebrities on the air—but as for me, I liked Mary Livingston's goofy poem best of anything I heard. And reflect a moment on the fact that the master of ceremonies was Al Jolson, who had such a time making a success of broadcasting. He was determined to master the new medium, and he did, but what a battle!



Al Jolson.

I doubt whether anyone ever worked harder than Jolson did in those first broadcasting days of his; watching him work, you found yourself pulling for him with all your heart. Well, that persistence of his has carried him a long way.

Gangster pictures may be a thing of the past, as we've been told over and over again, but they keep bobbing up in some form or other every little while—and they always break records at the theaters where they're shown, it seems to me. The latest is "Show Them No Mercy," based on a kidnapping case that got great publicity, and it's full of thrills.

ODDS AND ENDS . . . Shirley Temple's going to broadcast, for plenty of money. . . Charles Laughton was noted the most popular British actor by his countrymen, with George Arliss second. Leslie Howard came in sixth, and Clive Brook twelfth. . . Bette Davis sprained her ankle the other day. . . Warren William has a new game room.

## All Around the House

Ferns grow and thrive in suspended window baskets if soil is kept moist and not allowed to dry out.

Place a loaf of cake as near the center of oven as possible. If placed close to the firebox one side of cake will rise higher than the other and is likely to burn.

Strips of orange peel coated with melted dipping chocolate are delicious.

Adhesive tape may be quickly and painlessly removed from the skin if softened with benzine. Saturate a sponge with benzine and wash tape with it.

Do not keep cyclamens in too warm a room. Too much heat causes the blossoms to lose their firmness. Keep soil about the roots quite damp.

A pall of sand should always be kept near the furnace in the cellar. Should a spark from the furnace start a blaze it may be quickly extinguished with the sand.

Chilling makes rolled cookie dough firm and easy to roll without the addition of extra flour.

After removing fudge from the stove, add half a teaspoon of baking powder. It makes it fluffy.

## NO UPSETS

The proper treatment for a bilious child

THREE STEPS TO RELIEVING CONSTIPATION

ANY mother knows the reason when her child stops playing, eats little, is hard to manage, Constipation. But what a pity so few know the sensible way to set things right!

The ordinary laxatives, of even ordinary strength, must be carefully regulated as to dosage.

A liquid laxative is the answer, mothers. The answer to all your worries over constipation. A liquid can be measured. The dose can be exactly suited to any age or need. Just reduce the dose each time, until the bowels are moving of their own accord and need no help.

This treatment will succeed with any child and with any adult. The doctors use liquid laxatives. Hospitals use the liquid form. It is best for their use, it is best for home use. The liquid laxative most families use is Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. Any druggist has it.

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## CAPUDINE

Soothes AND Relieves

## SKIN IRRITATIONS

Try Cuticura—for all skin blemishes due to external causes. Ointment 25c. Soap 25c. FREE trial sizes if you write "Cuticura," Dept. 3, Malden, Mass.

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## Watch Your Kidneys!

Be Sure They Properly Cleanse the Blood

YOUR kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as nature intended—fail to remove impurities that poison the system when retained.

Don't delay? Use Doan's Pills. Doan's are especially for poorly functioning kidneys. They are recommended by grateful users the country over. Get them from any druggist.

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