

INK & QUILL

TEXAS SOCIETY SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Denton Chapter #23, TXSSAR Inc. Newsletter

"Patriotism, American History, & Education"

For several years I have read the State newsletter's grand reports of the state and various chapters' awards, contests and entertainment of dignitaries. Yet, none of these activities approach the significance of the contribution made by our chapter's John David Monroe - The Monroe Robotic Observatory. True, not many of us could afford to make such a contribution. But the value of the land given, although significant, was not the most difficult part. The land, according to UNT professor Chris Littler the most suitable in the Metroplex, had been in the Monroe family since 1835. The Observatory will open next fall and will provide astronomy students with the capability of observing the heavens without leaving the UNT campus. According to an article in the Fort Worth Telegram, students will also be able to go out to the site and use telescopes. Why is this gift so significant? Most people want their name connected with gifts of popular items - a football field, an entertainment facility. Things which have no permanence. Studies of the heavens have been the source of religious and scientific discoveries throughout history. John has also brought Dr. David Levy to UNT to generate student interest in astronomy. Dr. Levy is associated with the discovery of the Shoemaker-Levy comet collision with Jupiter in July, 1994. Monroe gave these gifts with the hope that a new generation of youth will be inspired to revive this most important of human endeavors. My hopes and wishes are with him.

Minutes of the Meeting June 6, 2001

The meeting began with the Posting the Colors as presented by the William F. Halsey Battalion NSCC. Gerald Brenholtz then let the Pledge of Allegiance and SAR Opening Pledge, as Chapter President, Jim Johnson, welcomed all in attendance. The Program the Chapter funded William F. Halsey Battalion Naval Sea Cadet Corps presented under David Nelson LCDR NSCC, gave insight into the goals and focus of the Sea Cadets organization. The Short Business meeting promptly followed, beginning at 8:00PM with David Nelson LCDR NSCC receiving the traditional Certificate of Appreciation & George III Coin in thanks of the Sea Cadets presentation and presenting the colors. The Treasurer's Report delivered by Dr. William Vaughn stated our accounts as \$522.87 in the main account, as well as \$113.01 in the Memorial account. Funds received from the State Dues, as the Chapters share was in the amount of \$190. Further Committee Reports followed Historian, James Baird had little new information to report. 3 newly approved New Member Applications were announced by Gerald Brenholtz, the newly approved members of the Chapter 23 are, George Burlage, Robert E. Richard, and William Wilkerson, others have been noted as still in the stages of processing as we await their induction into the society as well. Sam Haynes gave his report on the progress and further interests regarding Flags & Law Enforcement regarding awards and due respect to those who serve in these fields and help maintain the honor of our nation's flags, as well as the movements of the Chapter's flag program.

Old Business followed, still on the topic of the July 4th parade contribution. The original plan, Women in the Revolution, Fourth of July Parade Float was decidedly declined due to need of a vehicle to pull the float, as the previous vehicle used, was no longer capable of doing so. In the stead of the float, Pres. Johnson opted for a color guard march to join the procession in Regimental garb. Those who volunteered for the color guard were James J. Johnson, Bill Bell, Gerald Brenholtz, and Chris Casey. The proceedings followed through smoothly and the color guard was awarded second place in the category of Historical Figure.

No New Business was unveiled as the meeting drew to a close with mention of the September 6, 2001 presentation by John David Monroe entitled Fields of Dreams.

Parking Sept. 7th, 7:00PM will be on the West side of the Building

Next Meeting Will Be:

SEPT. 6, 2001 - 7:00 PM

Univ. of North Texas, Environmental Educ
& Science Bldg. - Hickory & Ave. C

The Program Will Be:

John D. Monroe's **ROBOTIC
OBSERVATORY**

TXSSAR Chapter #23

Officers

President

James J Johnson

Vice President

Samuel Haynes

Secretary

Chris Casey

Treasurer

William Vaughn

Chaplain

Tom Bailey

Historian

James Baird

Genealogist & Membership

Gerald Brenholtz

FOR THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN PRESENT FOR JAMES JOHNSON'S PRESENTATION WHEREIN HE ENTERS WEARING A JIMMY CARTER MASK SAYING, "AH HAVE HAD LUST IN MAH HART," I RECENTLY READ THE FOLLOWING FROM PRESIDENT CARTER'S BOOK, "THE VIRTUES OF AGING." "IN 1995 I WAS SIGNING MY VOLUME OF POETRY IN A BOOKSTORE NEAR HARVARD UNVERSTITY. THERE WAS A LONG LINE, AND I WAS TRYING TO SIGN THE BOOKS AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE AND STILL MAKE EYE CONTACT AND EXCHANGE A FEW POLITE WORDS WITH EACH CUSTOMER. ONE ATTRACTIVE WOMAN, PERHAPS IN HER LATE THIRTIES, SAID, "MR. PRESIDENT, I REMEMBER THAT INTERVIEW YOU HAD WITH PLAYBOY MAGAZINE." EVERYONE GOT QUIET, AND THEN SHE ADDED, "IF YOU STILL HAVE LUST IN YOUR HEART, I'M AVAILABLE." I BLUSHED BEET RED WHILE THE CROWD ROARED WITH LAUGHTER. I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT, AT MY AGE, IT'S AN ENCOUNTER I REMEMBER WITH PLEASURE."

ANYONE WILLING TO SERVE ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE - CONTACT PRES JOHNSON

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