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**1993-1994
Annual Report
Summary**

During the 1993-1994 Fiscal Year the Webb County Historical Commission has transcribed fifteen Laredo family oral histories into machine readable form, as well as hard copies. The Laredo Public Library has volunteered to catalog and house this collection so as to make it readily available to the public for research purposes. Some of the oral histories include: Ernesto Dovalina, Msnr. Kevin Dunn, Maria del Socorro Garcia de Flores, Eulelia Gutierrez, Lilia Trevino Martinez, Luciano Guajardo, Mary Cook and Lillian Salinas, Lalita Martinez Ramirez, Josefa Saenz, Carmin Sawyer, Ted Trevino and Eduardo Eyzaguirie.

After receiving bids for the fencing of the Star Fort, located on the northern end of Fort McIntosh in October, 1993 and receiving the necessary agreements from the Laredo Community College, the entire area of approximately three acres was enclosed with new cyclone fencing and old fencing donated by the College. A double gate was installed at the far west corner of the site to allow access for Texas State archaeologists and U.S. Border Patrol officials. The gate is locked so as to prevent further vandalism of the site. Keys were given to the Border Patrol and the President of Laredo Community College.

Four historical markers are in progress or are at the foundry. All research and application to the Texas Historical Commission has been completed and the WCHC is waiting for approval to set dates for their official dedication. These markers are: 1) Corrections and update for the Capitol Building of *Republic of the Rio Grande*; 2) *Colonel Santo Benavides* subject marker for the grave site in the Catholic Cemetery (sponsored by the Sons of the Confederate Army); 3) *Laredo National Bank (Plaza Hotel)* subject marker (sponsored by the Laredo National Bank); and 4) *Texas-Mexican Railway* subject marker.

Due to the unfortunate decision of the Commissioner's Court to not accept the Texas Historical Commission's \$5,000 preservation grant in mid year, the WCHC was unable to administer this grant. It is the WCHC's desire to further the restoration of the Webb County Courthouse and stands ready to assist the Court in any way.

The Webb County Historical Commission held an essay contest for school aged children: elementary, intermediate and high school levels during the month of May in honor of Founder's Day. Cash prizes were awarded to the essays on history of Laredo, Webb County or family histories, in all three age groups. There were approximately fifty entries judged by community historians and professional educators.

Submitted by,



Louis H. Weber

Chairman