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Star-Telegram

Texas history is chock-full of inspiring characters

Posted Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012

BY BOB RAY SANDERS

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James Gathings is a member of the
 Historical Preservation Committee



Last week's biannual quiz on Texas' rich history enticed many readers to hit the books. As promised, below are the correct answers from the newly released *Texas Almanac*.

Several of you did very well with the 16 questions, some of which required more than one answer.

Deducting three points for each incorrect answer, two people tied for first place with a score of 97.

Congratulations to James Gathings of Euless, "a proud 90-year-old Texan who made a living as a mechanical engineer," and California native Frank Packard, an independent sales representative who moved to Texas in 1963.

Tying for second with 94 points were fifth-generation Texan J.D. Tom and Bob Hart, the city manager of Kennedale who also is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Texas at Arlington in the School of Urban and Public Affairs. Hart grew up in the Texas Panhandle town of Farwell, which was part of the XIT Ranch.

Share these answers with family, friends and neighbors:

1 The words of the pledge to the Texas Flag, although not inspiring are: "Honor the Texas Flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible."

2 Texas delegates to a secession convention Feb. 1, 1861, voted 166-8 to secede from the Union. A state referendum was held Feb. 23 of that year, passing by a vote of 46,153 to 13,020, making Texas the seventh state to secede.

3 The siege of the Alamo by Santa Anna's army began on Feb. 23, 1836, and lasted 12 days, with the assault coming on the 13th day. (Some of you in counting days didn't remember 1836 was a leap year.)

None of the "defenders" survived.

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"Only a few women, children and black slaves survived the assault," the *Almanac* says. "Davy Crockett's fate is still debated. Mexican officer Enrique de la Pena held that Crockett was captured with a few other defenders and was executed by Santa Anna."

4 Spanish explorer Alonso de Leon in 1689 gave the Trinity River its name, calling it *La Santisima Trinidad* (the Most Holy Trinity).

5 It is *true* that Abraham Lincoln's name did not appear on the Texas ballot in 1860.

6 Two U.S. presidents were born in Texas: Dwight D. Eisenhower in Denison; Lyndon Johnson in Stonewall. George W. Bush was born in New Haven, Conn.

7 Between 70,000 and 90,000 Texans fought for the South in the Civil War. Fighting for the Union were between 2,000 and 3,000 Texans (including slaves).

8 Rockwall County (population 78,337) east of Dallas is the smallest Texas county in area with 128.79 square miles.

Based on population, Loving County in far West Texas, with a land area of 673 square miles, is the smallest with only 82 residents.

9 A black soldier, former slave Milton Holland, was the first native Texan to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor. He was fighting in the Civil War with a unit from Ohio, where his master had sent him and his two brothers to school.

10 The night of Aug. 12, 1972, when Willie Nelson played the Armadillo World Headquarters, is regarded as the starting point of the modern Austin music scene.

Many of you thought it was the South by Southwest (SXSW) Festival or the start of *Austin City Limits*.

11 The three spots most visited in the state by non-Texans are the Alamo, Six Flags Over Texas and Sea World. The region of the state most visited is Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington.

12 Based on population, Tarrant ranks third among Texas counties behind Harris and Dallas, and followed by Bexar, Travis and El Paso.

13 The official state vehicle is the chuck wagon.

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14 About 200,000 Texans volunteered for World War I, and 450 women served in the nurses corps during that war.

15 During Reconstruction, 52 African-American men served Texas in the state Legislature (42) or as delegates to the Constitutional Convention (10).

16 The three men who served as president of the Republic of Texas were Sam Houston (1836-1838 and 1841-1844); Mirabeau Lamar (1838-41) and Anson Jones (1844-46). David Burnet was "provisional president" from March 16 to Oct 22, 1836.

Bob Ray Sanders' column appears Sundays and Wednesdays.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 2/14/12 DATE OF ARTICLE 2/1/12 NEWSPAPER Dallas Bus. Journal

AMR layoffs could impact hospitality industry

The hospitality industry around the DFW area will see American job cuts effect business, said Hank Wolpert, managing director for Colliers International Hotels in Dallas.

"It could have an impact, in the short term at least, on hotels that cater to airline contract crew, out-of-town crew, vendors and **American Airlines** training," Wolpert said.

Hotels in Hurst, Euless, Bedford, Alliance, and around D/FW Airport may see a drop in business. If the company cuts back on flight schedules, hotels in other parts of the country will also take a hit, Wolpert said.

However, if the company closes its Alliance facility, Wolpert didn't seem concerned.

"With American maybe leaving, another airline might get a great maintenance hub in Dallas. With the warm weather, they might try to pick it up," Wolpert said. "The folks that own Alliance are very strong and they are going to leave no stone unturned if American walks on the contract for the center, which I guess they could do in bankruptcy court."

There could also be some changes at the 300-room American Airlines Training and Conference Center at Highway 360 and 183.

"If they are going to start cutting people, they are not going to be training new classes of employees over at their conference center as much," Wolpert said.

The exact impact is still unclear, Wolpert said.

"The bottom line is, what level of employee? What numbers will be potentially eliminated? And what specific locations are they going to cut business?" Wolpert said.

Steven covers retail, hospitality, marketing and public relations.

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Tracy Young is the daughter of Public Works and Engineering Director Ron Young.

Moving on

Tracy Young, a Euless native who has served as communications director for House Speaker **Joe Straus** since 2009, is also leaving the state Capitol to become vice president of public and government affairs for the **Texas Charter Schools Association**.

Before joining Straus, she served as Texas-based deputy regional representative for then-U.S. Education Secretary **Margaret Spellings**.

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DATE DISTRIBUTED 2/14/12 DATE OF ARTICLE 2/13/12 NEWSPAPER Examiner

Like a kid in a candy store for BBQ Rib lovers

By Richard Pollak, Dallas Wine Travel Examiner

Our hometown Boys from North Main BBQ in Euless, Texas proudly represented the Great State of Texas, as the SWEET MEAT Cooking Team, again in 2011 at the Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-off. Competing since 1997 at the Nugget in Reno, Nevada, The team name comes from their original competition team that owner Hubert Green first put together for national competitions.

It was an honor to have dinner with John Ascuaga, owner of the Nugget and host extraordinaire of the Ribfest, as he shared with the Media details on the massive amounts (240 Tons) of Ribs that would be consumed over the holiday weekend. The Nugget RIB COOKOFF is the premiere Rib competition in the world and 2nd largest BBQ Festival only to Memphis in May, Internationally.

The highlight for me was the incredible Rib Village, where you feast on a BBQ Heaven Buffet of all 22 contestant's Ribs and Special Sauces. There is also a healthy mixed Green Salad plus Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, Pasta Salad, BBQ Beans, hand cut fresh fruit and Ice Cream confections.

In the Buffet line from my numerous research expeditions, the crowd feedback definitely was behind our team from the DFW area, SWEET MEAT TEAM with the giant Armadillo cooker.

Seems that the Assom Aussie team from Pittsburgh, Pa. was a close second in the unofficial Rib Village survey while filling my plate on the Buffet line, again and again. The real challenge even for an experienced Foodie like me, was trying to line up all 22 competitors Ribs with their own special BBQ sauces from the sauce table. The North Main BBQ Ribs from the SWEET MEAT Team were by far the meatiest and juiciest as it appeared most of the other contested prepared their Ribs to a more done consistency preferring to add heavier layers of flavor to the Rib.

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I understand that over the years, the judging for the contest has differed in taste expectancy so rumors of a less spicy after burn quickly spread and was the way to go in this year's competition. Today, North Main BBQ owner Hubert Green's son, Don, a former IT executive has taken over the daily financial operations of their cooking empire. As a following to attending the competition, I arranged an interview with Don Green, back in Euless, during lunch just so that I could enjoy another Rib Feast Pig-out, as his guest, AGAIN! Hubert can still be seen everyday or should I say, Friday, Saturday and Sunday when the Restaurant is open for business, back home.

According to Don Green, "we had to dum down our sauce for this year's competition and give it less of a kick that we normally do."

Reno is a wonderful destination that exceeded my expectations. As a full four season Vacation alternative to Vegas it features a winter wonderland of sports as well as gambling and dining!

Travel | February 13, 2012



Richard Pollak

Dallas Wine Travel Examiner