



Volume X, Number 2

Fall 1995

Next Round-Up Planned for Nashville

Mark Your Calendar for Biennial Get-Together

by Harvey Willard, President

(Bradenton, FL)

The 1996 Texas Jack Association Round-up will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on July 24-27. The headquarters for the round-up will be the Embassy Suites Hotel, 10 Century Blvd.

The Round-up chairman, Dr. Richard Eugene ("Gene") Omohundro of Ft. Worth, Texas, and Yuma, Arizona, has suggested the following tentative agenda:

July 24, Wednesday: Arrival, and registration.

July 25, Thursday:

- 9 am bus tour of Nashville points of interest.
- Lunch on your own.
- 7 pm visit to Grand Ole Opry.

July 26, Friday:

- 9 am business meeting.
- 1 pm bus tour to Richard James Omohundro's home, Omohundro/Nashville Waterworks, and other points of family and historical interest.

July 27, Saturday: Free day.

- Opryland USA, riverboat cruise, or...?
- 6 pm: Round-up banquet, Celebration of Texas Jack's 150th birthday!

July 28, Sunday: Good-byes and Departures.

Round-up attendees will be able to book suites at the Embassy Suites group rate of \$99 per night plus tax. The two room suites sleep six and include a separate bedroom with one king size bed, or two double beds, and a spacious living area with a sleeper sofa.

The hotel rate includes a full complimentary, cooked-to-order breakfast each morning and a two-hour beverage reception each evening. We will have a hospitality suite and a meeting room for the Saturday morning business session.

The Hotel is conveniently located near all major attractions and furnishes complimentary transportation to and from the Nashville International Airport.

More details in the next issue of *The Scout*. ❖

From the Editor's Desk

This issue took longer to put together than I anticipated. Since the last issue, I have moved and taken a new job, and as everyone knows, such changes can be very disruptive. I was forced to put "The Scout" on the back burner again for a time.

I'm afraid that due to all the circumstances beyond my control, this year, I will only be able to produce three issues of *The Scout*. The task of putting together is proving more taxing than I can handle. I would like to appeal for help from any member who could volunteer to help gather articles and information for upcoming newsletters. Any help at all would be appreciated.

My hat goes off to past editors who have edited, produced, and distributed the newsletter. It is a significant task for one person to perform all these tasks alone. I believe it is more practical for the newsletter duties to be shared by at least two people. The duties naturally fall into three major areas: editing, production, and distribution.

Editing involves gathering and editing all the material for the newsletter; production means doing the layout, graphics, and desktop publishing work; and distribution is addressing and stamping the newsletters (and maintaining the mailing list).

While these duties could be divided among volunteers in any way, editing involves the most time and effort, so I believe that one person should be responsible for it, and the other could handle production and distribution. In the future, I suggest that The Association designate two volunteers to share these duties, rather than one. Of course, for such an arrangement to be

successful, each members tasks would have to be well-defined in advance.

I would be delighted if someone would volunteer to help in one of these capacities, and I would happily do the other.

Regardless, this newsletter needs your input: send me your articles, ideas, stories of get-togethers, and trips. The best format in which to submit your articles is in computer plain text files on a PC-compatible 3.5" disk. However, I'll take them in any form. Send your contributions to me at the address on the outside of the newsletter.

C. Rand McKinney (Santa Cruz, CA)

The Texas Jack Scout
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The Texas Jack Association, Inc.
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Texas Jack Commemorative Stamp Effort Continues

Help Preserve Texas Jack's Memory!

by C. Rand McKinney (Santa Cruz, CA)

Involved members report progress in the campaign to get the Post Office to issue a Texas Jack stamp, but your help is still needed!

Edna Nees is working with the postmaster of Scottsville, Virginia, to promote the effort with the office of the Postmaster General. Julie and Dennis Greene, of Carmel, California, compiled a bibliography of books and magazine articles that mention Texas Jack, to help promote the cause.

Now it's your turn: Sign and mail the enclosed letter to the Postmaster General!

It seems that many members have neglected to submit the letter enclosed in the previous issue of *The Scout*. Therefore, another copy of this letter is enclosed in this issue.

If you want to be able to hold your head up at the next Round-Up in Nashville, you better sign and mail this letter.

When you are asked, "Did you mail your letter to the Postmaster General?" you can proudly say you did your part to help perpetuate Texas Jack's memory.

It doesn't take very long to sign the letter, address an envelope, and mail it. A Texas Jack postage stamp **can happen** with your help! ❖



THE CURRENT "LEGENDS OF THE WEST" STAMP BLOCK ISSUED BY THE US POSTAL SERVICE

Texas Jack Highway Marker - Update

Edna Nees reports that Leadville city officials have given the go-ahead for Texas Jack highway marker. Along with Edna, Michael and Mary Margaret Omohundro presented the proposal by the Texas Jack Association to erect a marker in memory of Texas Jack on the highway leading into Leadville.

Another suggestion was made to add a marker at the Evergreen Cemetery, where Texas Jack is buried. The city council also approved this suggestion. The dedication of these markers is tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 1996. ❖

Southern California Association Members Gather

by Judy Omohundro
(Santa Ana, CA)

About thirty Texas Jack Association members, friends, and family gathered on July 15th for a picnic in a Mile Square Park, in Fountain Valley California, near Los Angeles. There were games, lots of food, and music, including "The Omohundro Song," written and sung by a colorful Omohundro character from Los Angeles in the early 1950s.



California Picnic: from left, back row: Julie Greene, O.P. Harwood, Elizabeth Harwood, Barbara Omohundro, Elmer Omohundro and sister, Edna Nees; second row: Michael King, Gloria O. Gibbs, Kenneth Omohundro.

The highlight of this gathering was a visit by Edna Nees of Virginia. Edna is the Historian/Genealogist and Secretary of the Texas Jack Association. Edna brought interesting Texas Jack memorabilia that was enjoyed by all.

Other out-of-state visitors included Elizabeth Harwood, and her son O.P., from Goochland, Virginia.

Jim Omohundro from Kentucky sent a sketch (pictured) that he made of Texas Jack's .44 Smith and Wesson revolver to give to Edna. ❖

Edna Nees Visits California

by Virginia Van Leu (Santa Barbara, CA)

In July, 1995, Edna Nees paid me a long-awaited visit. She made her headquarters with me while she was visiting the west coast.

Judy and Kenneth Omohundro had Edna down for a few days and had a picnic in her honor, and invited all Texas Jack Association members and their families in the area. She also visited Julie Green and Linda Stratz.

The time she was with me, she spent every free minute helping me in every way possible. In my spare time, I never ceased to pick Edna's brain on her background and her love for the Omohundro family, and why she spent so much time, money, and energy with no financial backing (but money she earned herself), studying the Omohundro family and publishing

a book, with no thought of recovering the cost of such a venture.

She said, "it was because of my husband's love for his family and that he lost contact with so many of them after his father's death."

It had to be a work of sheer love. She was totally devoted to her husband, John, a grandson of Arabella Omohundro, who was Texas Jack's sister. She dedicated her book to John.

Edna worked ten years collecting data on the Omohundros. When John was convinced she was serious about publishing her book, entitled "John Burwell Omohundro's Descendents," he helped finance its printing.

John Burwell Omohundro was Texas Jack's father. In Edna's research, she discovered she was related to both of John Burwell Omohundro's wives, Catherine Baker and Margaret Shores.

Edna met John through family connections. Her father was a skilled blacksmith and shipwright, and was plantation overseer for Betty Omohundro Adams, one of Texas Jack's sisters.

Edna, filled with an abundance of energy, would come in to help the Betty Omohundro Adams family with chores.

Edna is still an abundance of energy. She runs her 260-acre farm, drives a school bus, teaches commercial driving, does road-testing for the Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles, and has worked with a rescue squad for over twenty years. If you call 911 in her part of Virginia, Edna may come and rescue you! She is an instructor for the American Red Cross, has worked with the Daughters of the American Revolution, Virginia Historical Society, and museums on collecting and preserving information and artifacts. She has also helped catalogue and publish books on private and church cemeteries in Fluvanna county, Virginia.

Some of her interesting neighbors she told me about included Anastasia (long lost sister to the last Russian Czar), and celebrities Jessica Lange, Sam Shepard, and John Kluge.

Edna's book is still available for \$40.00 directly from her:

Edna Nees
Route 1, Box 250
Scottsville, VA 24590



A Leadville Burro on His Travels

The following article was published in the Lowell Sun, March 18, 1882. It was submitted by Peter Alexis of Lowell, MA.

During last July a gentleman hailing from Pennsylvania, at that time living in Leadville, purchased a burro (Americanized Spanish word for jackass), for the purpose of sending the animal back to his daughter in Monongahela county, Pennsylvania. The animal was placed in a crate which was marked quite plainly: "I

am a Leadvillian going to Miss ---, Allegheny City, Monongahela county, Pennsylvania. Please give me water and food."

The express bill was made out and the canary started toward the orient. Everything went merry as a marriage bell with the traveler as long as he was among people who knew him, or at least until he crossed the Mississippi. There his trouble commenced.

The express messenger in looking over his through bills found one for "burro." Not having confidence in the Leadville office clerk to spell some words, he took it for "bureau" and commenced to search for the missing household article. Not finding it upon his

arrival at the City of the Lakes, the following dispatch was sent back to Leadville: "Minus one bureau, plus one jackass; what shall I do?" The answer was: "Change places with the jackass." ❖

Whence Omohundro?

The following letter was received from C. Robert King of Green Valley, AZ. Can you shed any light on the origin of the Omohundro name? Send your comments to *The Scout*.

My wife is an Omohundro. We are familiar with the *Omohundro Genealogical Record*, by Malvern Hill Omohundro and the recent volume by Edna Nees on John Burwell Omohundro's descendants. Both of these texts begin with Richard (1A) Omohundro, but we would like to know more about Richard's ancestors. For example, in what country does the Omohundro name originate?

We asked a genealogical consulting service to research this question. They searched the 1995 International Genealogical Index (IGI) in the United States, Great Britain, South America, the Caribbean, and continental Europe using all possible variations of the name Omohundro. Only Richard (1A)

appeared in the United States search. The IGI contains millions of names. Why is the Omohundro name missing? Certainly Richard (1A) is not the very first one to have this family name.



Texas Jack pictured in scouting garb in 1872. It is believed that the rifle is his gun, "the widow," whose current whereabouts is unknown--another mystery...

Perhaps we are seeing the beginning of a good mystery. Does anyone out there have any verifiable information about the origin of the name? I am sure there are many Omohundros that would like to have that information.

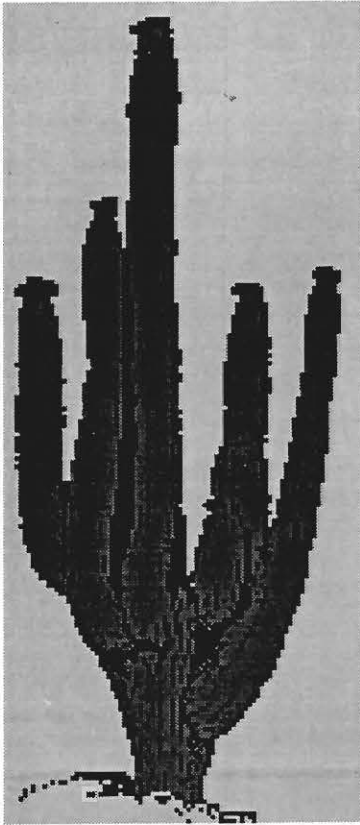
CD-ROM?

Mr. King also suggests that the Association undertake to re-print the *Omohundro Genealogical Record* on CD-ROM.

If anyone has any experience with this technology, or to volunteer to help with the

project, please contact *The Scout*. ❖

Notes from the Trail...



●. Did you catch the program on Wild Bill Hickock on the Arts and Entertainment cable TV network? In September, the A&E program *Biography* featured Wild Bill. Texas Jack was pictured and mentioned quite a few times.

●. Two recent books of interest:

The Western Reader's Guide, by James Browning is a bibliography of books and other sources of information on The West.

Violence Was No Stranger, also by James Browning, describes the gravesites of famous western characters, including Texas Jack.

Both books are available from:

Barbed Wire Press
PO Box 2107
Stillwater, OK 74046

●. Brad Willard, great-great-great grandson of Texas Jack's sister Arabella, won a gold medal at the "Odyssey of the Mind" competition at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville on May 24-27, 1995. Brad and his five teammates, representing the state of Florida, took the gold medal in the Scientific Safari Project for the middle school division. The competition involved over 4000 students in from all 50 states and fifteen foreign countries. Over 15,000 people attended the competition.

Brad's team constructed a vehicle powered by batteries and compressed gas that had to travel a prescribed course in eight minutes, tagging and retrieving animals for research on AIDS. They also developed a skit and had to pass spoken examinations.

Brad, age 13, is son of Karl and Sue Willard of Longwood Florida, and grandson of Association president Harvey Willard.

The Texas Jack Scout

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