



# Texas Navy Association

Historical Article



## DATE CHANGE VOTED

# *Navy Day Observed*

Two important decisions, both intended to enhance the prestige of the Texian Navy Day celebration, were made by those attending the fifth annual observance of the day Saturday at the Dow Hotel in Freeport.

Postponement was blamed for the small turnout of 30 at the observance. The original date of Sept. 6 was changed to Sept. 20 because of threatening weather.

This brought on the first decision. It was determined that the weather was more unpredictable during the hurricane season than during other parts of the year. Three times weather had affected the event.

Members agreed that late spring or early summer might be better. A vote taken of the members present from the sponsoring organization, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, recommended that the executive committee of the state DRT change the date.

Members also agreed that the event lacked at this time the recognition needed for attention. Therefore, they reasoned, it might be better to couple Texian Navy Day with an established event.

Consideration was given to SunFest Days which contains a varied program adaptable to other local events, and has a publicity program well established by the Brazosport Chamber of Commerce.

But some members objected to the predominant air of frivolity in SunFest Days.

An alternative appeared to be the Freeport Jaycee Fishin' Fiesta, which each year includes July 4, receives wide publicity, and draws large crowds. Particularly interesting to members in this event is the annual visit of the Houston yacht club.

Another decision by the group was to attempt to locate in this area the first station for the newly-reactivated Texas

Navy. Gov. Price Daniel re-established the Navy last April as a civil defense facility.

It was disclosed at the meeting that the principal speaker was an active admiral in this navy. The speaker was Frank Tritico of Houston, president of the San Jacinto Chapter of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

He recounted for the gathering the exploits of the old Texian Navy, which he said had helped shape the state war for independence by successful blockading of Mexican army supplies.

This reduced the army to starvation rations, he said, and caused Santa Anna to gamble on sending a small portion of the army ahead to engage Sam Houston's forces at San Jacinto.

Father Anton Frank of Houston, who gave the invocation for the group, was identified by Mrs. John Caldwell Sr., state chairman for the Texian Navy Day program, as the chaplain for the new Texas Navy.

Mrs. P. Beacroft substituted for Mrs. Catherine Bannister in bringing the group up to date on the projects of the Brazoria County Historical Survey Committee.

She was followed by Dr. Henry Hennis of Lake Jackson, who as a member of the executive committee of the Brazoria County Museum Association, outlined the progress toward securing a local museum. This included acquisition of a site.

Mrs. F. K. Smith of Angleton, president of the local DRT chapter, extended the welcome to guests. Mrs. Caldwell substituted for Mrs. J. E. Murphy of Houston in reading the Texian Navy Day proclamation from the governor. Mrs. Myrtle Munson of Angleton led in the flag salutes.

Mrs. Joe Sanderson of Dallas, state president of the DRT, was unable to attend. Her message to the gathering was relayed by Mrs. H. R. Hagen, president of the San Jacinto chapter.