

# RESUME of REPORTS

FOR

## TEXAS STATE CONVENTION OF PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLES OF TEXAS

HELD IN

AUSTIN, TEXAS - APRIL 14-15, 1955

Twenty Pan American Round Tables of the State of Texas sent written reports to the Texas Pan American Round Table Convention, held in Austin, Texas, April 14-15, 1955. Each report was read to the assembled delegates and filed with the recording Secretary. The following resume has been compiled by directive from the State Director of the Texas Tables.

These reports are "primo facto" evidence that each Table has endeavored to follow the pattern of Pan Americanism as outlined in the objective of all Tables, to wit: "to provide mutual knowledge, understanding and friendship among the women of the Western Hemisphere" and "to foster all movements leading to a higher civilization, especially those affecting the women and children of these countries." The Tables of the various cities have achieved their objectives by different lines of endeavor, sometimes, but the results have been successful in every instance.

In this resume, there has been an attempt made to separate into classifications, similar projects as undertaken in the individual Tables. In some Tables, there has been over-lapping in activities, so that the classification may not be clear cut in all instances. Names of local Tables in this resume are not ranked nor rated by their order of presentation, nor by the number of times mentioned. Names of individuals or bodies are listed only where the information might be of service for future use of other Tables.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Scholarship funds and assistance to students and student groups appear to be the outstanding endeavor and achievement of the Tables of Texas in their respective cities. The Table of Rio Grande City gave two outright awards, one of \$75 in 1954, and one of \$100 in 1955, to aid two Starr County students. Dallas Table I and the Laredo Table each gave financial assistance to a High School student of their vicinity. This is an annual event for Laredo. Also, Laredo gives one scholarship to the local Junior College each year.

One student has been assisted by the Houston Table for several years and this year Houston reported, with pride, that a Master's degree had been earned by the student, so their financial aid can now go elsewhere. Austin Table gave a scholarship to a singer from Mexico City in 1954, and a scholarship to a graduate student from Argentina for study in English and Education in 1955.

Bryan, a new Table, is sponsoring a Public Health Nursing Major, from Ecuador at TSCW, and report they are working to bridge the gap between foreign students and local citizens. San Antonio reported assistance to a Business Administration student from Honduras, and Dallas Table II has again given a Nursing Scholarship, this time to a Panamanian girl.

The Beaumont Table assisted three foreign students with their "out of State" school fees, at a local college, and also aided two junior students from Mexico. Denton Table participated in Foreign Language Field Day at TSCW, giving the money earned to the Spanish Department of TSCW, toward a scholarship fund.

Most Tables reported donations to the Griswold Scholarship Fund. Several Tables reported the continuance or establishment of local educational assistance funds. The Austin Table reported the continued operation of their Student Loan Fund, set up to assist foreign students, suffering temporary financial distress, with no interest or security requirements. In each and every instance, the loan has been repaid by the borrower.

Rio Grande City has established a Memorial Scholarship Fund, within their Table. Dallas Table I has also started a Table Scholarship Fund. Many of the Tables have assisted financially and cooperated with their local Pan American Student Forum. The San Benito Table bought and presented new flags to their local Pan American Student Forum. They also gave financial assistance to permit PASF members to attend PASF State Convention in Austin. The McAllen Table gave a cash donation to their local PASF.

Other local groups were assisted by the Tables in their area. San Benito and Eagle Pass each gave the money for school lunches for needy children. Alamo-San Juan financed the publication of a Newsletter at a local school where all students are foreign, and the letter was sent to their homes by the students. The Corsicana Table gave a cash donation to the Fund for their High School Spanish Class annual trip to Mexico. Dallas Table III reported the twice yearly collection of clothes for distribution to the needy through a local social service worker. Denton Table assisted in the local TB campaign.

**BOOKS:** Dallas Table I reported five new books contributed to the library at SMU. San Benito collected books on primary reading level and sent them to be distributed by the PART of Monterrey, Mexico, to children there. Corsicana gives the book from each book review presented at their Table to their local library, as well as cooperating in obtaining new books for the Pan American shelf at the library.

Brownsville Table I maintains a Memorial Shelf of Pan American books at the local high school for student use. Dallas Table I reported the sending of children's books and a subscription to the National Geographic Magazine to the Director of the PART in Manizales, Colombia, for distribution to rural schools. The Eagle Pass Table contributed the children's books published by the PART of Mexico City to their local library and a copy of "Pan American Children" to their local elementary school. The Bryan Table has started a Pan American shelf at the local library. The McAllen Table reported a Christmas gift of children's books and a cash fund for the library at Reynosa through the PART at Reynosa.

Brownsville Table I, Alamo-San Juan, and McAllen Tables presented copies of "Essays on Mexican History" to their local high schools, colleges and city libraries.

**PAN AMERICANISM:** The San Benito Table reported that they "Prompted, promoted, and publicized Pan Americanism." Under this heading, various activities of the Tables over the state might be listed, such as:

Dallas Table III gave a Christmas party for foreign students attending Dallas schools, and also entertained the wives of visiting graduate law students. They helped with Spanish translations of invitations and "on the spot" descriptions in Spanish of a style show. Dallas Table II also had a Christmas party for foreign students, and they have their scholarship student as honor guest in their homes on holidays and during vacation. Dallas Table I entertained twenty Latin American students from SMU at a Christmas coffee. The three Dallas Tables co-sponsor a reception for the Latin American visitors to the State Fair of Texas.

A reception honoring the international students in the Houston schools was given by the Houston Table. The Bryan Table have foreign students as guests at each meeting. San Antonio Table has a special entertainment for all foreign students each year. Denton Table entertained the foreign students with a Christmas party, and furnished transportation to neighboring cities for visits to other Tables as guests, to the State Fair, and on Christmas shopping and sight-seeing tours. They had students as guests in their homes during the holiday season, and assisted two students to travel during vacation through the northwestern part of the United States.

Corsicana Table each year honors graduates of the Spanish classes in Navarro College with a Spanish Tea. The annual foreign students' party of the Fort Worth Table took the form, this year, of a traditional North American Thanksgiving dinner. The Rio Grande City Table has as a guest each month a senior student from the local schools, with the idea of familiarizing the students with the Pan American Round Table movement. The Alamo-San Juan Table had the members of the PART of Reynosa, Mexico, as guest at a regular meeting.

The Tables at San Benito, Brownsville, McAllen, and Rio Grande City co-operated in sending a wreath to Cuba to be placed on the monument of Jose Martin as their tribute in honor of the anniversary of his birth one hundred years ago.

At the local level, each Table has cooperated with their city and school officials in private and public activities in the social and cultural fields of endeavor. Austin Table jointly sponsors the Pan American Recreation Center with the City Recreation Department, by donations and by conducting classes in Americanization. McAllen Table honored the local Consular Officers with a reception. The El Paso Table cooperated with the local groups in honoring the International Boundary Commission, at which time a portrait of Benito Juarez was presented to the Mexican Consulate.

Brownsville Table I reports their annual contribution to the Charro Days Fiesta in the form of costume reviews and a merienda for visiting tourists. Authentic costume reviews are also given by the Table (gratis) for all visiting conventions, various clubs in Brownsville and nearby cities in Texas and Mexico. Each member has one or more costumes of her own and the Table also has a collection of costumes of the Americas. The Table also helps maintain a costume center where costumes may be exchanged, bought, or sold.

Dallas Table I were co-sponsors with the State Fair Association for a Pan American Arts and Crafts Exhibit. Members of the Table acted as Hostesses and loaned objects from their private collections for the exhibit. The Corsicana Table has acquired a case at the local library in which their collection of Pan American dolls is kept on display. Brownsville Table II assisted Pan American Airways in an anniversary celebration by being special guests in authentic Pan American costumes.

Houston Table has cooperated with International House in assisting foreign visitors to their city. The three Dallas Tables worked with the State Fair Board in honoring Latin American visitors.

#### SPECIAL GUESTS:

Dallas Table I: Dr. Abel Gilbert, President of Guayaquil University  
One of the foremost surgeons of Ecuador  
Sr. Juan Muniz, Administrator of Cuba's largest sugar plantation  
Sr. Ernesto Zorrilla, Mexican Consul  
Dr. Jose A. Mora, Secretary General of OAS

El Paso Table: Col. Leland H. Hewitt, International Boundary and Water Commissioner  
Mr. Rene Mascarenas, former President Juarez Chamber of Commerce

San Antonio Table: Mr. Edgar N. Langley, Institute of American Affairs in Uruguay  
Dr. Jose A. Mora, Secretary General of OAS  
Dr. Alberto Lleras, Secretary General of OAS before Dr. Mora  
All Consuls residing in San Antonio

McAllen Table: Hon. William Price, U. S. Consul to Reynosa  
Mr. Lauro Izaguirre, Mexican Consul

Houston Table: Senora de Gonzales, wife of the Ambassador of Venezuela  
Dr. Jose A. Mora, Secretary General of OAS

PAN AMERICAN DAY: Pan American Day was celebrated by each Table. Some had renowned guest speakers, others cooperated with local or civic groups in sponsoring activities for the day. The fact that men of prominence are cognizant of the work of our Tables and willing to give of their valuable time should be of inestimable value to the future of our organization, both in the States and to the south of our border.

Houston Table, Dallas Tables I, II, and III, and San Antonio Table shared the honor of having the Secretary General of OAS, Dr. Jose A. Mora and Mrs. Mora, as guests in their respective cities for the observance of Pan American Day in 1955, Dr. Mora being the honor speaker at each Table. The former Secretary General, Dr. Alberto Lleras, spoke to these same groups in 1954.

Fort Worth Table and Houston Table reported the observance of the entire week with special Pan American activities for each day. To keep the idea of Pan Americanism before the public, Fort Worth Table had programs on the radio and television, programs in the schools, special news items and articles in the newspaper, a Pan American Day coffee with honored guests from other organizations, etc. Corsicana reported a special display at their library, time on the radio, and articles on Pan Americanism in the newspaper.

Beaumont Table honored their local teachers on Pan American Day. A special Pan American Day program was presented by the schools of Rio Grande City and Roma for the Rio Grande City Table. During the week, Denton Table presented speakers on Pan Americanism to the various service clubs, and observed Pan American Day with a buffet supper and program to which all Denton County was invited.

El Paso Table observed Pan American Day by placing a wreath at the monument of Benito Juarez in Juarez, Mexico. The Pan American Student Forum of Laredo presented the Pan American Day program for the Laredo Table, the two groups cooperated in planting Bouganvillea, naming one plant for each Pan American country. They called this a "Peace Garden of International Friendship."

ESSAY CONTESTS: Brownsville Table I continued their annual custom of having the prize winning essays from the Pan American Essay Contest read by the winners. Cash awards are presented and the winning students, with their Mothers, are special luncheon guests for the observance of Pan American Day. Brownsville Table II reported the continuance of the Pan American Day poster contest, giving awards of cash and having the winners as special guests for the Pan American Day program.

El Paso, Eagle Pass, and San Benito Tables report Pan American Essay Contests with cash awards and other honors for the winners. Bryan Table gave an award to a local high school senior in an Essay Contest. Beaumont Table sponsored a proficiency contest in their local schools, with a cash award to the winner in reading and writing Spanish.

Every Table fortunate enough to be visited by the State Director during the past two years sent glowing reports of those meetings. Her gracious and lovable manner appealed to members and guests alike, and her addresses on various phases of Pan Americanism were instructive and enlightening. Mrs. A. B. Pumphrey, State Director of Pan American Round Tables of Texas, spoke to the Tables in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, Laredo, Bryan, Brownsville, and Denton, and was entertained by McAllen, San Benito, Rio Grande City, and Brownsville with luncheons, receptions, and fiestas.

All Tables reported regular meetings with programs of interest, whether given by members, authoritative guest speakers, exchange programs from other Tables or organizations, with good attendance of members and guests. Birthday and Christmas parties to which husbands and friends were invited as special guests were reported. Laredo Table had a special program for Cinco de Mayo, and assisted their city in their annual Washington's Birthday Party. El Paso Table had a Founders Day program, honoring the woman who organized their Table. The Fort Worth Table had a special program called "South of the Border Fiesta." They also listed a program at which time the students from TCU presented for the Table a play, "Crown of Shadows," by Mexico's playwright Rodolfo Usigli. The Spanish students of the Fort Worth schools gave a Christmas program for the Table. Fort Worth also had a special day when the original works of members -- painting, writing, music, etc. -- were displayed with pride.

Conroe Table planned and presented a year's program as a drama, called "Pan Americano," in three acts, three scenes to each act, each scene being one program. A book of recipes, collected from the countries of the Americas by one member, for her scene in the drama, was distributed to the delegates at the State Convention. Several Tables stress the study of Spanish. Dallas II and III, and the new Table at Bryan report much enthusiasm in their Spanish classes for Table members.

PUBLICATIONS: To better inform their members and knit the membership into a closer group, several Tables have published monthly letters or papers for local distribution. Fort Worth calls their paper the "Panamerigraph." Houston calls their news sheet the "Tablegram," and McAllen calls their publication the "Director's Letter." Each Table reports the enthusiastic reception of these papers by their membership and think the results well worth the effort involved.

Other Tables, in particular Bryan and Conroe, have encouraged their members to correspond with friends and officials of other countries about every-day life there, their families, hobbies, and activities. And to endeavor to contact foreign students in their vicinity, from the country to which the member is assigned in the local Table. Bryan Table is making a scrap book of their local programs as source material for members, students and friends. The Brazoria Table did not send in a written report, but it was reported that they are meeting regularly and becoming stronger.

All of the Tables on the itinerary of the visiting teachers from Mexico cooperated with the Good Neighbor Commission in assisting and entertaining the teachers wherever possible. The Tables reporting this activity for the past two years are: Laredo, Brownsville I, San Antonio, and Austin. In addition, Austin entertained twenty-two visiting teachers from Guatemala. The San Antonio Table assists in sponsoring the Professors from the University of Mexico, who come to San Antonio each year to teach special courses in Spanish.

The members of the Conroe Table assisted in the organization of the new Table at Bryan. Beaumont is working on organization of a Table at Orange, and the State Director has almost completed Table groups at several other cities.

The delegates at the 1955 Convention of Pan American Round Tables of Texas in Austin would surely agree that this resume could properly conclude, as did the report from Conroe: "We can truly say that we have broadened our horizons and enriched our lives since our last meeting with your."