

# First Capitol Flag designed and made by West Columbia Girl Scouts

## Newspaper Articles

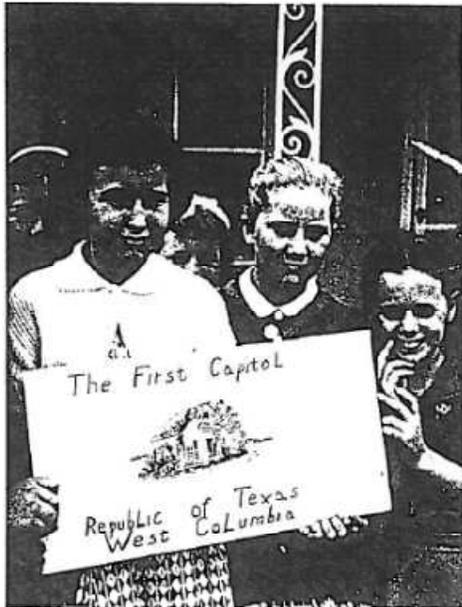
### Girl Scout News

The Brownies and Girl Scouts of West Columbia held their annual open house in the Kitty Nash Groce Little House Saturday at 3 p.m. with an unusually large crowd attending.

"America" was led by Brownie and Girl Scouts. The Rev. J. J. Stone gave the invocation.

Mrs. E. P. Sweeny introduced Mrs. Jack McCann, who gave the welcome. Mr. T. M. Smith, guest speaker and authority on the historical background of this area, gave the history of the city and county. He also presented each leader with a history book of this area.

Esther LeNorman introduced the troops and their part in the program. Girl Scout Troop 2 led by Mrs. Jack Hill, Eyes of Texas; Brownie Troop 4, led by Mrs. Lucille Morris, Girl Scouts Together; Brownie Troop 7, led by Mrs. Rod Hatch, Brownie Smile Song; Troop 8 led by Mrs. Wink Phillips and Mrs. Watts, presentation of the flags; Troop 11, led by Mrs. J. D. Mitchell, taps; Troop 8 led by Mrs. E. P. Sweeny and Mrs. Ed Williams, presented the city its first flag which they designed and was officially accepted by the council as official flag of the city. Mayor Ponds accepted the flag on behalf of the city.



### PROPOSED WEST COLUMBIA FLAG

Brownie Troop 3 has designed a flag with a replica of the First Capitol of the Republic which it has asked the West Columbia City Commission to consider for the official city flag. The capitol building was at West Columbia in 1836-37 when Sam Houston was president. Presenting the design to Mayor O. W. Pond are Troop Leader Mrs. E. P. Sweeny and Brownies Connie Hood, Kathy Sweeny, Marianne McMillian, Jo Ann Williams and Betty Sue Mercer.



GIRL SCOUT TROOP 8 OF WEST COLUMBIA They Will Present The City Its First Flag



BROWNIE TROOP 8, under the leadership of Mrs. E. P. Sweeny and Mrs. Ed Williams, will present the above flag they are responsible for, to the city on March 14th, Girl Scout Week is March 7-14.

### GIRL SCOUT WEEK CULMINATED BY OPEN HOUSE

Girl Scout Week will be culminated in West Columbia by an open house Saturday in the Kitty Nash Groce Little House with all of the Girl Scout troops in the city participating. The public is invited to join the Scouts in their observance of this national date, according to Mrs. Mary Lee McCann, neighborhood chairman. The program, which will feature the presentation of the city flag

to the city aldermen, will begin at 3 p.m.

Troop 8, led by Mrs. E. P. Sweeny and Mrs. Ed Williams, will present to the city the first flag which they designed and the council adopted as the official flag of the city. Mayor O. W. Pond will receive the flag on behalf of the city.

The flag was designed to advertise the historic background of the city and features a repli-

ca of the First Capitol of the Republic building. The troop ordered ten of the flags which they will sell to any residents or businessmen desiring the city flag.

Also on the program will be a resume of the history of the city to be given by T. M. Smith of East Columbia. Smith is an authority on the historical background of this area.



**GIRL SCOUTS GIVE WEST COLUMBIA CITY FLAG**—Mayor O. W. Pond is shown receiving West Columbia's official city flag given by Girl Scout Troop 8, marking national Girl Scout Week. The Scouts in the photo were not identified. (Photo by Charles Ogilvie).

## City Flag Presented WC By Girl Scouts Marking Birthday

Girl Scout Troop 8 presented the first official city flag to the West Columbia City Council Saturday during the open house culminating Girl Scout Week activities in that city.

Mayor O. W. Pond received the flag from the members of the troop who presented the design to city officials several months ago for adoption. The flag features a center replica of the First Capitol building. Dressed in colonial dress for the presentation and carrying flags used in the state of some time were Betty Sue Mercer, Duane Fretwell, Marianne McMillan, Jo Ann Williams, Mae Gable, Corale Hood, Kathleen Bell, Janice Marshall, Mary Jo Weems, Suzanne Borrell, Kaylin Bertram, Diana Avant and Kathryn Sweeney.

The program was attended by more than 100 Scouts and guests in the Kluge Nash Geese Little House, with Mrs. Mary Lee McCann, neighborhood chairman, welcoming guests. Mrs. E. P. Sweeney introduced the speaker for the afternoon, T. M. Smith of East Columbia, who spoke on the history of this area.

"The history of this city cannot be separated from the history of the county. Bell's Landing, now East Columbia, was laid out by Josiah H. Bell in 1821. This was the first land grant in the state from the Mexican Government.

He then laid out Austin Ave, the street from the old bridge site to Brown Ave. in this city. This street crossed prairie to Columbia, where Mr. Bell made his home. Columbia was the center of activities of this part of the state from 1822-32," he said.

"The people were aggrieved with the Mexican Government, and tried in Velasco, Brazoria and Columbia to overthrow it, a fight which was successful in 1836. In 1838 there were about 25 residents in the city. The success of sugar, cotton and corn plantations resulted in a constant flow of people into the area through the middle of the century. Bell's Landing became one of the chief ports in the state.

The area prospered up to 1860. In 1829 the Brazos overflowed in the worst flood recorded to date, followed by a storm the next year, and the invasion of the boll weevil the following year, playing havoc with the cotton crops. These were disastrous years for the farming people and the area did not fully recover until oil was discovered in 1918. This has been a source of wealth and growth for the area since that date," he concluded.