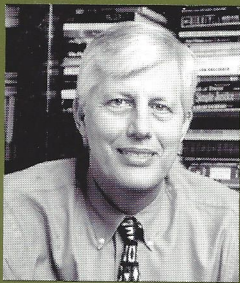


From the Editor



World War II was a pivotal time in the life of Houston. The city boomed, as workers from other sections of Texas and Louisiana poured into the region in search of

jobs in the war industries that sprang up along the ship channel. Thousands of soldiers passed through Houston-area training facilities such as the giant complex at Ellington Field. At the same time, many Houstonians joined the armed services and embarked on the deadly adventure of defeating determined enemies on battlefields around the world.

The memories of the war remain all around us sixty years after the fighting ended. Veterans from both the foreign fronts and the home front still carry vivid images of their experiences. Indeed, as veterans grow older, many come to the realization that the events of World War II remain the most vivid of their lives. Their children and grandchildren have listened to their stories of the war. Many of us have felt a combination of admiration and horror as we have watched documentaries of the war, as well as dramatic recreations such as *Saving Private Ryan* and *Band of Brothers*.

In this issue, we have sought to capture some of the memories of the war and the mobilization effort at home. We have included a mixture of historical articles, interviews, and photographs. We realize that some of the photos are not of the highest quality. Some of the photographers were using cameras without the high resolution of current cameras; others were being shot at while they took their pictures. Look at the photos, listen to the voices, and join us in remembering and honoring those who helped win the war.

ON THE COVER

Robert E. Murphy, Jr., age thirteen months, receives his father's Silver Star medal of honor, awarded posthumously, as his mother looks on.

Future Issues

In November of 2005, we will publish our next issue, "Coming to Houston," which will focus on the stories of individuals and groups who have migrated to our region in search of better lives. Most of us who live in the city today are first or second generation migrants, and Houston has been shaped by the experiences of migrants since its earliest history.

Future issues will include the law in Houston's history, the history of the arts in our region, disasters in Houston's history, and the gradual emergence of historic preservation in our region.

We welcome your ideas for articles or interviews for any of these future issues, and we encourage you to send them to us at the addresses listed below.

The Houston History Project Center for Public History at the University of Houston

For more than twenty years, the **Center for Public History** at the University of Houston has trained students to apply the skills of the professional historian outside the university. Our former students work throughout the region in jobs in government, business, historical societies, preservationist groups, archives, libraries, professional societies, museums, and public interest groups.

Many of the activities of the Center have involved the history of our region. To coordinate these various projects, we have created the **Houston History Project**. In addition to on-going research on the various aspects of the city's history, the Houston History Project houses three new initiatives:

THE HOUSTON REVIEW OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

Generous grants from Ben Love, the West Endowment, the Hamill Foundation, and the Cullen Chair in History and Business at the University of Houston have allowed us to launch this magazine, which we hope will grow into a widely read magazine of popular history for our region.

ORAL HISTORY OF HOUSTON

Using a three-year grant from the Houston Endowment, this summer we will begin to collect names, conduct background research, and interview important Houstonians from all walks of life.

HOUSTON HISTORY ARCHIVES

Using support from the Kenneth Reese Library Fund at the University of Houston, we have begun to identify, process, and collect historical information on Houston's past. The archives will also include the transcripts completed by the Oral History of Houston project.

We solicit your ideas for these projects. To foster interchanges between the Center for Public History and others interested in the region's history, we plan to hold a "Houston History Summit" in the fall of 2005. If you would like to attend the event, please let us know.

Comments...Questions...Ideas...

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