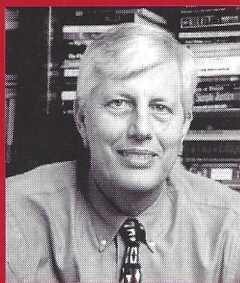


From the Editor



This is the second issue of *The Houston Review of History and Culture*, and we continue to learn by doing. We have improved the design of the magazine while including more photographs to illustrate the articles. We will continue to make adjustments needed

to produce a professionally researched and written journal on Houston's history that appeals to a broad audience.

This issue focuses on civic leadership in Houston. At a time when our city faces a variety of challenges, history provides a useful context. For more than 150 years, civic leaders in our region have grappled with the problems produced by economic growth, a growing population, geographical expansion, and racial and ethnic diversity. The demands on leaders changed dramatically as the region's population increased more than one hundred-fold during the 20th century, but the need for determined, creative leadership remained constant. This issue looks to the past to understand more fully the region's present and future.

Future issues of *The Houston Review* will continue to make ties between the past and present. The winter 2004 issue will discuss the evolution of the Texas Medical Center into a major force in the world of medicine and in the Houston economy. The summer 2005 issue will explore Houston's memory of World War II. Ideas for future issues include disasters in the region's past, the experience of migrants to Houston, and historical preservation in our city.

We invite ideas and contributions from our readers on future issues. Indeed, we welcome support of any kind, from the submission of articles, to help in building subscriptions, to donations of time, expertise, or funds. As we find our voice and our audience, we remain convinced that Houston needs a greater sense of its own history. We are committed to building *The Houston Review* into a publication that recaptures the city's past while serving as a meeting place for those interested in Houston's history.

ON THE COVER

Jesse Jones greets Clem Shaver, Chairman of the National Democratic Party, at the opening of the Democratic National Convention in Houston in June 1928.

Courtesy Houston Endowment, Inc.

The 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, preservation groups, archives, libraries, professional associations, and public interest groups. Under the direction of Martin Melosi and with the input of other faculty members, students at the Center have produced an array of studies of various aspects of Houston's history. Much of what we know about our city's past has been a result of the Center's work.

At the heart of the Center is the Houston History Project, which contains a number of projects ranging from a study of slavery in Texas to a soon to be published volume of essays on the environmental history of Houston. Current initiatives of the Center include the publication of *The Houston Review of History and Culture*, the organization of a comprehensive project on the oral history of Houston, and the expansion of efforts to identify historical records for inclusion in archives.

For more information about the Center for Public History, contact Martin Melosi at mmelosi@uh.edu or visit the website at www.class.uh.edu/publichistory.

This issue is dedicated
to the memory of
J.H. Freeman (1916-2004),
a friend who loved Houston
and its history.