

BILL NEELEY

P.O. Box 31685
Amarillo, TX 79120
October 27, 1988

Mr. Fernando Moral Iglesias
G.I.C.O.S., Inc.
P.O. Box 7589
Corpus Christi, TX 78415-0589

Dear Mr. Moral Iglesias:

Thank you very much for your kind comments regarding Songs of Andalusía. I do, indeed, plan to continue writing about the link between Texas and Spain: historically, culturally, linguistically, and in our commercial and legal systems. In fact I plan to add to Songs on my next trip to Andalusía. With God's help, I will be in Sevilla for several months doing research on Hispanic Patriots of the Texas Revolution. While I am there I plan to write poems of the Sevilla, Cádiz area to be added to the ten poems I already have. Then I will bring out a second edition in English and, hopefully, will find a publisher in Spain for my first edition in Spanish.

Yes, I realize that Corpus Christi is a very old Spanish-Mexican city. Álvarez de Piñeda will be included with Cabeza de Vaca and Vasquez de Coronado as great explorers in Texas, as will the Spaniard who colonized Nuevo Santander. So Corpus Christi is already a part of my new study (to be published in Spanish and English for distribution in Spain, Mexico and the U.S. in 1992).

With that in mind, do you think it is possible for the citizens of Corpus Christi to fund me for a six-month stay in your city (with side trips to San Antonio and México)? I am currently applying for a grant for a six-month stay in Austin. If the good people of your city will provide the funding (about \$18,000) for me to live and study there, I will gratefully acknowledge your sponsorship. Already Don Ricardo Martí-Fluxá is a sponsor, along with the Consul General of México, Don Oliver Farrés. And besides the prestige which I hope would come your way because of your sponsorship, I can tell the story of your city for tens of thousands to read in two languages. If you think there is potential support for a grant, I would be glad to send you a budget and more information. Please bear in mind that the vast majority of the Anglos in the Amarillo area are quite happy with the way Anglo historians have already recorded the history of Texas, and, while they supported my book on Comanche Chief Cuanah Parker, they have little interest in funding Hispanic Patriots of the Texas Revolution. So, like Don Quixote, I am fighting some rather large windmills.

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Under separate cover I am sending you a few complimentary copies of Songs of Andalusía, for I know you are trying to help me. And, frankly, I do not have the financial resources to complete the Hispanic Patriots Project without funding and moral support. So please be aware of how your gracious letter has touched my heart. The Spanish people whom I have met have made me feel like an honorary son of Spain. May God bless the friendship of Texas and her mother country!

Best regards,



Bill Neeley

mmb

Enclosures

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Bill Neeley was born in 1936 in a rural community in West Texas and grew up on a farm. He attended West Texas State University at Canyon, receiving the B.A. in English and Spanish, with several courses in vocal music, in 1959.

Neeley taught in small schools in the West Texas area, with a two-year stint in the Lewiston, Idaho, schools. In 1969 he completed work for the M.A. degree in English and Spanish at W.T.S.U. Shortly thereafter he became an educational consultant for schools in the Permian Basin and Trans Pecos areas of West Texas.

While teaching part-time at area colleges, Neeley continued his consultant work, helping school personnel to adjust to the transition from segregated to integrated schools. During that period of his life, the social critic began to evolve in Neeley's psyche. The roots for Quanah Parker and His People were slowly reaching into the soil of an ideologically strife-torn Texas. The first fruits of Neeley's developing social consciousness were poems about the land, followed by The Bullriders and Rodeo Clown, two novels about the land and its people. Quanah was a natural outgrowth of that interest.

Seasoning came in the form of living in El Paso and then in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Both cities are exotic and both present conflicts of cultural values. In El Paso Neeley taught English to Mexicans from Juarez and to Mexican-Americans from El Paso. In Saudi Arabia he taught English to Saudi employees of Saudi Arabian Airlines.

After returning from two years of living in the Arab world (and of traveling extensively), Neeley began his biography of the half Comanche, half Anglo chief of the Comanches, Quanah Parker. Cultural conflict and social criticism combined in Quanah, linked to historical and anthropological data.

While studying for the biography of Quanah Parker, Neeley found several inconsistencies in the way various Texas histories have slighted the Texans of Spanish descent who fought for Texas' independence from Mexico. His current project is a new history of Texas which will focus on the Hispanic Patriots of Texas.

Bill Neeley is a member of The National Writers Club of Denver, Colorado; International Authors and Writers Who's Who, Cambridge, England; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Amarillo, Texas; Randall County Historical Commission, Canyon, Texas; and the Ranching Heritage Association, Lubbock, Texas.

INVESTOR PROSPECTUS

FOR

HISPANIC PATRIOTS OF TEXAS, LTD.

Bill Neeley, author of Quannah Parker and His People, is offering 25% of royalties in Hispanic Patriots of Texas, Ltd., which will consist of three parts: the first part is a history of Texas Mexicans (Tejanos) and their alliance with the Anglo-Texans in opposing Mexican dictator, Santa Anna. The historically documented work will focus on:

1. Erasmo Seguin (and his son, Juan) supported Texas's quest for liberty from an early stage in the rebellion against Mexico. Father and son were born in San Antonio (Erasmo in 1782 and Juan in 1806). Erasmo Seguin's ranch house near present day Floresville was a stop-over for early travelers to Texas. Erasmo Seguin grew cotton on his ranch (perhaps the first Texan to do so). He organized the first municipal (public) school in Texas. In 1820 he was the first alcalde of Bexar. A year later Spanish Governor Antonio Maria Martinez sent Erasmo Seguin to Natchitoches, Louisiana to meet Moses Austin and to escort the Austin Party across Texas to San Antonio. Seguin discovered that Moses Austin was dead and that his son, Stephen, wanted to fulfill the contract for a colony that Moses Austin had worked out with Spanish authorities in San Antonio. In 1823 Erasmo Seguin represented Texas in Mexico's first congress (following freedom from Spain). Seguin obtained an exemption to the anti-slavery clause in the new Mexican Constitution. In 1833 the Texans voted for Erasmo Seguin to go to Mexico City with Austin to present the requests (demands) of the Texas colonists for change in legislation which would affect the lives and fortunes of the Texans. Illness prevented Seguin from going. When the Texas Revolution began in the fall of 1835, Erasmo Seguin was removed from his position of postmaster for San Antonio by General Cos and was forced to walk the thirty-three miles to his ranch. Thereafter the elder Seguin supplied cattle, sheep, mules, horses, blankets, food, wagons and harnesses to Texas troops. In the retreat following Santa Anna's massacre of the Alamo's defenders, Erasmo Seguin drove 3,000 sheep along the escape route to Nacogdoches to help feed the panic-stricken Texans.
2. Jose Antonio Navarro was born in San Antonio de Bexar in 1795. After studying for three years in a commercial house in Saltillo, Navarro returned in 1812 to San Antonio where, at the age of seventeen, he participated in his first rebellion against the Spanish. After hostilities had ceased, Navarro returned to San Antonio. He became friends with Stephen F. Austin in 1821 and remained close to Austin until Austin's death in 1836. Navarro served in the

legislature of Coahuila y Texas beginning in 1824. Unlike most of his countrymen, Navarro assisted the Anglo-American immigrants in seeking legislation to permit slavery in Texas. In 1824 Navarro became a large land holder as a result of grants in five counties. Besides his large ranch, he practiced law in San Antonio and ran a general store. In 1836 Navarro represented Bexar at the Convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos. He signed the Declaration of Independence and helped write Texas's first constitution. In 1838-39 Navarro represented Bexar in the Congress of Texas. He was captured by the Mexicans in 1841 and sentenced to death by Santa Anna (sentence was later changed to life imprisonment). Navarro, however, escaped in 1844 and returned to Texas. He voted for Texas's annexation to the U.S. and was a senator in the first state legislature. In 1861 Navarro sided with secessionists at a mass rally in Austin. All four of his sons fought for the Confederacy. Navarro died in 1871 and is buried at San Fernando Cemetery in San Antonio.

3. Becerra, native Texan who served as one of Stephen F. Austin's guides into Texas (Mrs. Becerra saved a few Anglo-Texan captives at Goliad from being shot down, as were the majority of the prisoners, on the orders of Santa Anna).
4. Lorenzo de Zavala, Vice President of the first government of the Republic of Texas. De Zavala, having studied in Spain and being of the same social class as Santa Anna, supported Houston's efforts to keep the dictator, after his surrender at San Jacinto, alive. In tribute to de Zavala, Santa Anna's private secretary (who was imprisoned with the fallen dictator) wrote bitterly about de Zavala's courtly, yet tenacious pursuit of Santa Anna to cede Texas to the Texans. Finally Santa Anna gave in. So the man who was soon to be elected the first vice president of the Republic had as much to do as anyone in early Texas in establishing the independence of Texas and in the forming of a government elected by the people.
5. James Bowie, Hispanicized Anglo who was one of the few bicultural men in Texas in the 1830s. Because of Bowie's marriage to a young lady from an established San Antonio family (Bowie's wife was a cousin of Santa Anna), Bowie not only spoke fluent Spanish, he lived as a Tejano. Upon learning of his army's victory at the Alamo, Santa Anna ordered that the body of the hated Bowie be brought to him. Santa Anna's fury at the rebellious Anglo-Texans was intense, but he hated with an undying passion the Hispanic Texans who turned against him. Like Juan Seguin, Mexia and Navarro, each of whom, a few years after the beginning of the Republic of Texas, was captured in Mexico and suffered from the cruelties of the resilient Santa Anna, James Bowie, too, was one of the Hispanics (not in blood, but in spirit) who angered Santa Anna.

6. Jose Antonio Mexia was born in Jalapa, Mexico (or possibly in Cuba) around 1800. His father and brother were killed in the Mexican War of Independence against the Spanish. Mexia then fled to the U.S. In 1822 Jose Felix Trespalacios, Mexican (not Spanish) governor of Texas sent Mexia to Mexico City to serve as an interpreter for a delegation of Cherokee Indians. Mexia prospered under the government of Mexico (in the beginning). He was a collector of customs, helped establish the York Rite Masonry in Mexico and rose to the rank of brigadier general of the Mexican Army in 1832. In the summer of 1832 Mexia, accompanied by Stephen F. Austin, toured Texas and was convinced of its loyalty to Mexico. In 1834 Mexia was a senator in the Mexican Congress. He led an uprising against Santa Anna, who had abolished the Constitution of 1824 and had, therefore, abrogated the power of the legislative branch. Exiled by Santa Anna, Mexia led Mexico and fought against the tyrant from bases in New Orleans and Texas. In 1839 Santa Anna's forces captured Mexia and executed the patriot of Mexico and of Texas on the plains of acajete near Puebla.

7. A few lesser known Tejanos who died in the Alamo.

To make Part One of Hispanic Patriots in Texas, Ltd., a success, the author must raise a substantial amount to hire a research team. According to Dr. Benson at the Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas, there is ample material. She encouraged the author to write the book. Research will be done in Washington, D.C., Austin, San Antonio, Texas courthouses, El Paso, Lubbock, Canyon, Mexico City, Saltillo, Seville and Madrid.

Part Two is a proposed feature film based on Bill Neeley's project Hispanic Patriots of the Texas Revolution. Bill Neeley will also write the screenplay. Henry Golas of Tomesha Corporation in Los Angeles (who is producer of Quanah, a film based on Neeley's Quanah Parker and His People) has already indicated an interest in producing a film on Hispanic Patriots of the Texas Revolution. The film will include the Battle of the Alamo, and will focus on Hispanic Texans' involvement in the events leading up to the battle, the battle itself and what happened to Hispanics after the Alamo. The barbarity of a supposedly civilized and cultured man, Santa Anna, caused untold pain to Mexicans on both sides of the Rio Grande. Prejudice against Hispanic Texans in an atmosphere charged with racism by a crowd who wanted only to possess the Tejano's property (as documented in the Memoirs of Juan Seguin) resulted in the gradual loss of most of the San Antonio River Valley by native Texas families. Once established families who had survived Comanche and Apache raids, the vagaries of the weather and lack of support from Mexico, found themselves ruined. Decent Anglo-Texans observed with horror the demise of their true and loyal friends. But the English speaking refuse that swept into San Antonio

during the days of the Republic were tenacious. So underhanded were they that they conspired to discredit Mayor Juan Seguin. Between the hatred Santa Anna still had for Seguin and the unyielding fury of the brutish white men (many of who had escaped American justice by coming to Texas) who coveted Seguin's power and possessions, the brave Seguin, hero of Texas, was forced to flee for his life. This story has never been told in its entirety. Bill Neeley wants to document Hispanic Patriots historically and then write the screenplay first, followed by the book.

Part Three is a scholarship fund. Bill Neeley will donate at least 10% of his share of projected profits (from book and film royalties) to South Plains Economic Development Corporation of Lubbock, Texas.

CAPITAL TO BE RAISED: \$50,000

Percentage of Hispanic Patriots of Texas, Ltd., to be sold: 25%
Percentage of Hispanic Patriots of Texas, Ltd., to be retained by author: 75%

\$2,000 investment buys 1% of Hispanic Patriots of Texas, Ltd. Pledges of investments in Hispanic Patriots of Texas, Ltd., will be called in when the total of \$50,000 in pledges has been reached.

Estimated Expenditures (by Categories)

Hourly wages for 10 research assistants @ 20 hours per week per research assistant in a six-month period equals 4,800 hours @ \$5 per hour (plus a portion of the author's royalties not included in Hispanic Patriots of Texas, Ltd.). 4,800 hours of research will cost Hispanic Patriots of Texas, Ltd., \$24,000.

Research (salaries)	\$24,000
Secretarial and copying expenses	3,000
Travel for author and researchers as needed	8,000
Hotel, rental cars, meals	4,000
Printing and book binding	11,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES:	<u>\$50,000</u>

INCOME POSSIBILITIES:

Revenues from book and film versions of Hispanic Patriots of the Texas Revolution. Although profits could be substantial, the prospective investor must be aware that the publishing and entertainment business is not without risk. Investing in books and films can be compared to buying into an oil or gas well. It is a gamble.

Hispanic Patriots Project -
A blend of the business and academic communities

OUTLINE OF
HISPANIC PATRIOTS OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION

BY BILL NEELEY

- SECTION I THE SPANIARDS
- Chapter 1 Columbus in the Christian Siege of Granada
 - Chapter 2 The First Voyage of Columbus to America
 - Chapter 3 Vasquez de Coronado, Cabeza de Vaca, Alvarez de Pineda, and Jose de Escandon in Texas
 - Chapter 4 Missions in Texas
 - Chapter 5 Ranching in Texas
 - Chapter 6 Colonial Government in Texas
- SECTION II THE COMANCHES
- Chapter 1 Initial contact with Spanish Texans
 - Chapter 2 Raids in Texas, New Mexico, and New Spain
 - Chapter 3 Barrier to Success of Spanish Missions in Texas
 - Chapter 4 Barrier to Extension of Spanish Agriculture and Civilization in Texas
- SECTION III THE ANGLO AMERICANS
- Chapter 1 Moses Austin at San Antonio
 - Chapter 2 Stephen F. Austin's Colony
 - Chapter 3 The Cotton Culture and Slavery
 - Chapter 4 Conflicts with Mexican Rule
 - Chapter 5 Rebellion Against Mexico
- SECTION IV THE MEXICANS IN TEXAS
- Chapter 1 Under Spanish Rule
 - Chapter 2 In Revolt Against Spain
 - Chapter 3 In Collusion with Anglo-Texans
 - Chapter 4 In Opposition to General Santa Anna's Rule in Mexico
- SECTION V HISPANIC PATRIOTS OF TEXAS' REBELLION AGAINST SANTA ANNA
- Chapter 1 Hour of Decision
 - Chapter 2 Call to Arms
 - Chapter 3 Caught Between Two Cultures
 - Chapter 4 Waning of Hispanic Influence in Texas

EPILOGUE