



THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY

March 2014 – Week 1

Air Date: March 2 – March 8 (Sunday – Saturday)

TITLE: CACTUS RISING

MARCH 1901 AND A TEXAS LEGEND BEGINS IN A FLOWER FIGHT.

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

MARCH 7, 1901. AUSTIN. ACTING UPON A REQUEST BY THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL DAMES, THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE TODAY VOTES TO NAME THE BLUEBONNET AS THE OFFICIAL STATE FLOWER.

BUT THE VOTE IS NOT WITHOUT CONTROVERSY. IN DEBATE, ONE MEMBER LOBBIED FOR THE COTTON BOLL. ANOTHER MEMBER, FROM UVALDE, PUSHED TO MAKE THE PRICKLY PEAR CACTUS THE OFFICIAL FLOWER. HIS ARGUMENTS WERE SO IMPASSIONED HE EARNED A NICKNAME THAT STUCK WITH HIM HIS ENTIRE LIFE.

JOHN NANCE – “CACTUS JACK” – GARNER WOULD RISE TO BECOME A TEXAS POLITICAL LEGEND. THIS WEEK, THIRTY-TWO YEARS LATER, HE WOULD BE SWORN IN AS VICE-PRESIDENT UNDER FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

TEXAS GAINED A FLOWER AND A LEGEND 113 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

Lionel V. Patenaude, "GARNER, JOHN NANCE," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fga24>), accessed February 20, 2014. Uploaded on June 15, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

Jean Andrews, "BLUEBONNET," *Handbook of Texas Online* (<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/trb01>), accessed February 20, 2014. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.