

# The Granite Post

By Lutie Long

A MAN parked his car beside Texas Farm Road 31, near Logansport, La., and walked rapidly north between two parallel strings of barbed-wire fence. He referred to notes scribbled on a scrap of paper crumpled in his hand. He battled on through the weeds and troublesome briars.

T. T. Broun was looking for a granite post. Seventy-five yards from his starting point he suddenly came upon a weathered, coarse block of stone, whose dull gray surface blended so completely into the landscape it was hardly discernible even from a short distance. It stood somewhat less than five feet above ground, and measured nine inches square. It had been broken and the two pieces were carefully cemented together. On its east side was "US," on its west side "RT," and its south front was inscribed "Meridian Boundary, established A.D. 1840."

Broun smoothed out the rumpled paper and reviewed the story of the old post. The line which it marks originated with the treaty of 1819, which document decided that the international boundary line between Spain and the United States should begin "on the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the

Sabine River in the sea, thence north along the west bank of the Sabine River to the 32d parallel of north latitude, thence due north to the Red River."

Twenty years passed before an actual survey was made. By that time Texas had gained her independence. In 1838, diplomatic arrangements were made between the United States and the Republic of Texas for surveying the much-disputed boundary line.

May 21, 1840, the joint commission appointed by the congresses of the respective nations began the survey on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico at the mouth of the Sabine River. They then advanced upstream.

June 1, 1840, the survey party found Logan's Ferry, now Logansport, to be near the intersection of the 32d parallel of north latitude and the west bank of the Sabine River, and the following spring they definitely established the point of intersection. Before they could plant a granite post to mark the spot spring rains came.

Terrific downpours pushed the Sabine River out of its banks and caused it to overflow land for a considerable distance on each side.



A weathered post of granite marks the original boundary between the Republic of Texas and the United States of America. Placed in 1841 near Logansport, La., it is examined here by T. T. Broun.

The commission, therefore, surveyed a line due north from the intersection point to elevated ground beyond the flooded area, and there the transit was set up.

Broun's notes from the report of the joint commission read: "On April 23, a granite block 10 feet long and nine inches square was there set up, five feet in the ground. On the south side

of this block is engraved 'Meridian Boundary, established A.D. 1840,' on the east side 'US,' and on west side 'RT' . . . to mark Meridian boundary between the United States of America and the Republic of Texas . . . two miles and 1988½ feet distant, north of 32d degree of north latitude, where it intersects the western bank of the Sabine River."

## Texas Republic-U.S. Line Marker Found

Chronicle East Texas Bureau

Logansport, La. — Louisiana historians have discovered a Republic of Texas boundary marker missing for almost 125 years.

J. A. Slawson of Mansfield, La., found the marker hidden in dense brush six miles north of here.

It was erected in 1840 to mark the border between the Republic of Texas and the United States.

Slawson said neither Texas, Louisiana or the U.S. government knew the marker existed until they were notified.

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CURRENT MISC  
INFORMATION  
"THE GRANITE  
POST" ON THE  
LOUISIANA STATE  
— LINE —

SEE MISC FILE  
NO 2 BOUNDARY  
LINE. LARGE CABT