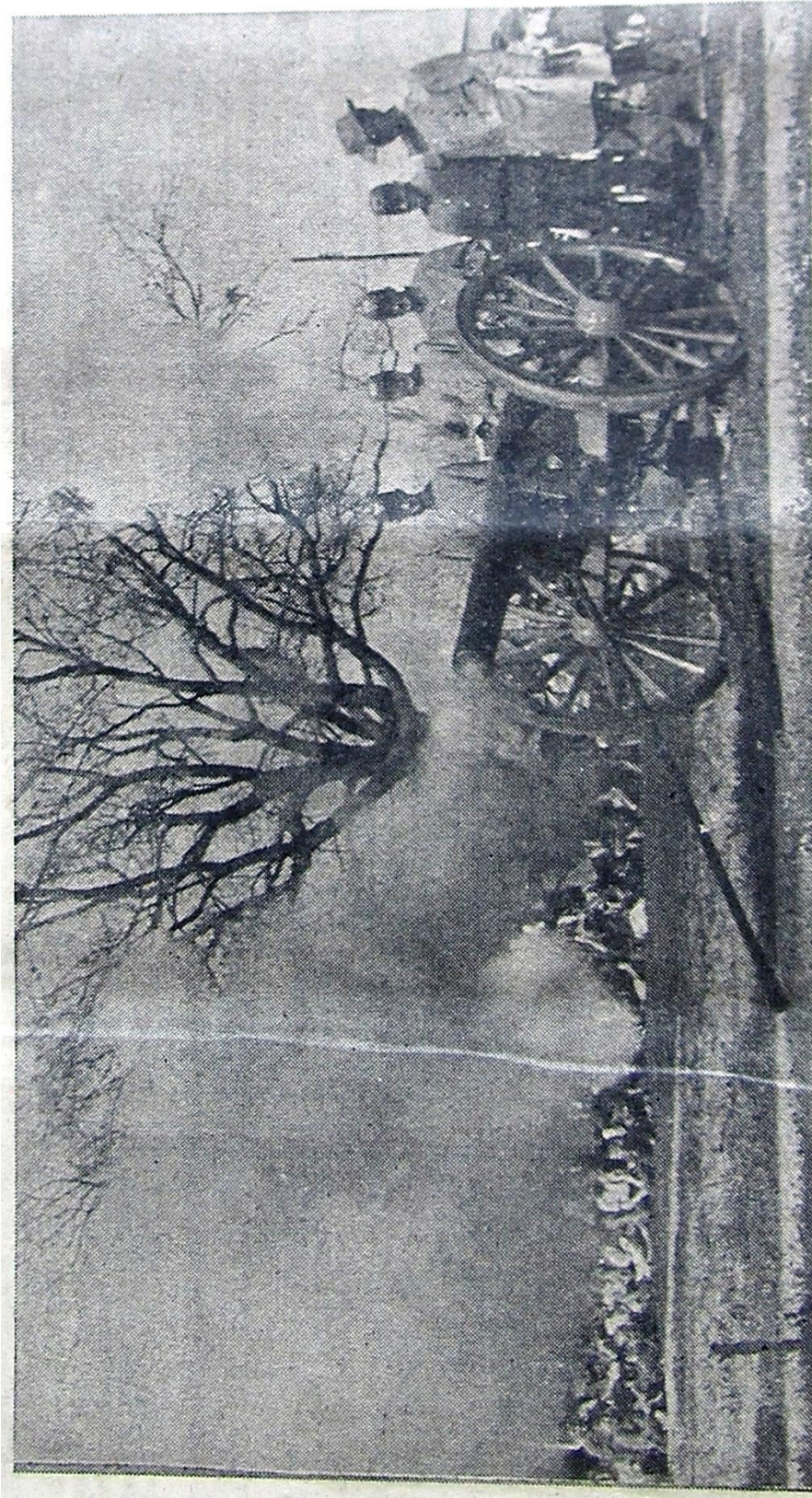


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Valverde Cannon; FHS Band to Mansfield



OLD VALVERDE ROARS AGAIN — The recently restored old Valverde Cannon made its first official appearance in Fairfield since the completion of the work, and spoke once again for local citizens in a preview of the action to take place this week end in Center and Mansfield. A slight miscue when the soldiers let their powder get wet on the first attempt, was overcome and two reverberating blasts, such as pictured above, rocked the buildings of downtown Fairfield amid yells from onlookers. The first four grades of Fairfield Elementary School, students who will not be carried on buses to the celebration, were present for the firing ceremonies, as well as many interested local citizens. The old cannon will roar once more over the Mansfield Battlefield Saturday in the centennial of this Civil War battle. —Photo by Whitaker.

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The Fairfield High School Band will participate in the centennial celebration of the Battle of Mansfield Saturday at Mansfield, La., and will have the honor of representing the entire State of Texas as official band at the proceedings. Freestone County as a whole will be one of the most prominent participants in the celebration, since a goodly number of Freestone Countians took part in the famous battle of the Civil War.

Plans for the big celebration have been completed and all direct descendants of soldiers in the battle, as well as others who will participate in the celebration are now awaiting the official start.

The centennial celebration will commemorate what has been termed one of the crucial engagements of the Civil War. This battle, part of the Red River Campaign, effectively blocked a threatened invasion of Texas by Union forces.

The event, sponsored by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee and known as the Texas Muster, will open in Center Saturday. At 10:30 a. m., the main program will shift to Mansfield, La., about 35 miles away, where a huge parade is scheduled for Saturday noon.

The old Valverde Battery cannon which has been completely restored for use in the celebration, will fire

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at 7:30 a. m. Saturday in Center to officially get the muster at Center underway, then will fire at 8:30 and 9 a. m. before preparing to move on to Mansfield for the parade and ceremonies there.

In the mile-long procession from Center to Mansfield will be descendants of the Mansfield veterans, marching bands, cavalry and artillery units, drill teams, decorated cars and floats. All of the honor guests will be in special cars.

Several groups of Sons of Confederate Veterans will set up camps on the Mansfield battlefield, using Confederate equipment to demonstrate army life a hundred years ago. On Sunday afternoon these groups will stage a simulated battle on the spot where their ancestors helped write history in 1864.

Activities in Center will start at 7:30 a. m. Saturday with a "Confederate breakfast" served by the Center Kiwanis Club. It will consist of hoe cakes, salt pork, molasses, hot dogers and parched corn.

The formal program will be opened at 9 a. m. by Frank LaRue Jr., general chairman of the Texas Muster. Byron Tunnell of Tyler, Speaker of the Texas Legislature, will be master of ceremonies.

The flag will be raised with a gun salute by the Rebel Guard of Robert E. Lee High School in Tyler. And the famous Valverde cannon, which barked defiance to the Union forces at Mansfield a hundred years ago, will be fired at intervals.

Other features of the morning pro-

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Other features of the morning program will include a Rebel Yell contest, with former Mayor Earl Cabell of Dallas, serving as judge; band selections by the official Fairfield High School Band; presentation of awards; the roll call by units conducted by O. H. Clark of Marshall; maneuvers by a uniformed cavalry unit of nearly 30 horsemen and an address by State Senator Dorsey B. Hardeman of Tom Green County.

In Mansfield, Mayor Arthur L. Green will be master of ceremonies. There will be a band concert at 2 p. m. by the Vivian, La., High School Band and at 2:15 p. m. the winner of the Texas Rebel Yell contest will meet with the winner of the Louisiana contest to determine the champion.

Starting at 2:30 p. m., there will be a band concert by the Mansfield High School Band, the presentation of colors by the Houston chapter of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, the Valverde Cannon presentation by P. D. Browne of Baylor University, an award presentation by Gov. Jimmy Davis of Louisiana and the presentation of historic markers by the Louisiana Civil War Centennial Commission. An address by Jay Taylor, president of the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, is scheduled.

Also, on the afternoon program will be the dedication of the Texas Confederate Memorial Information marker by Lieutenant Governor Preston Smith of Texas. Wreaths will

(See **CELEBRATION—Page 8**)

Celebration—

(Continued from Page 1)

be placed on the marker after it is unveiled, followed by Texas Civil War music and a gun salute.

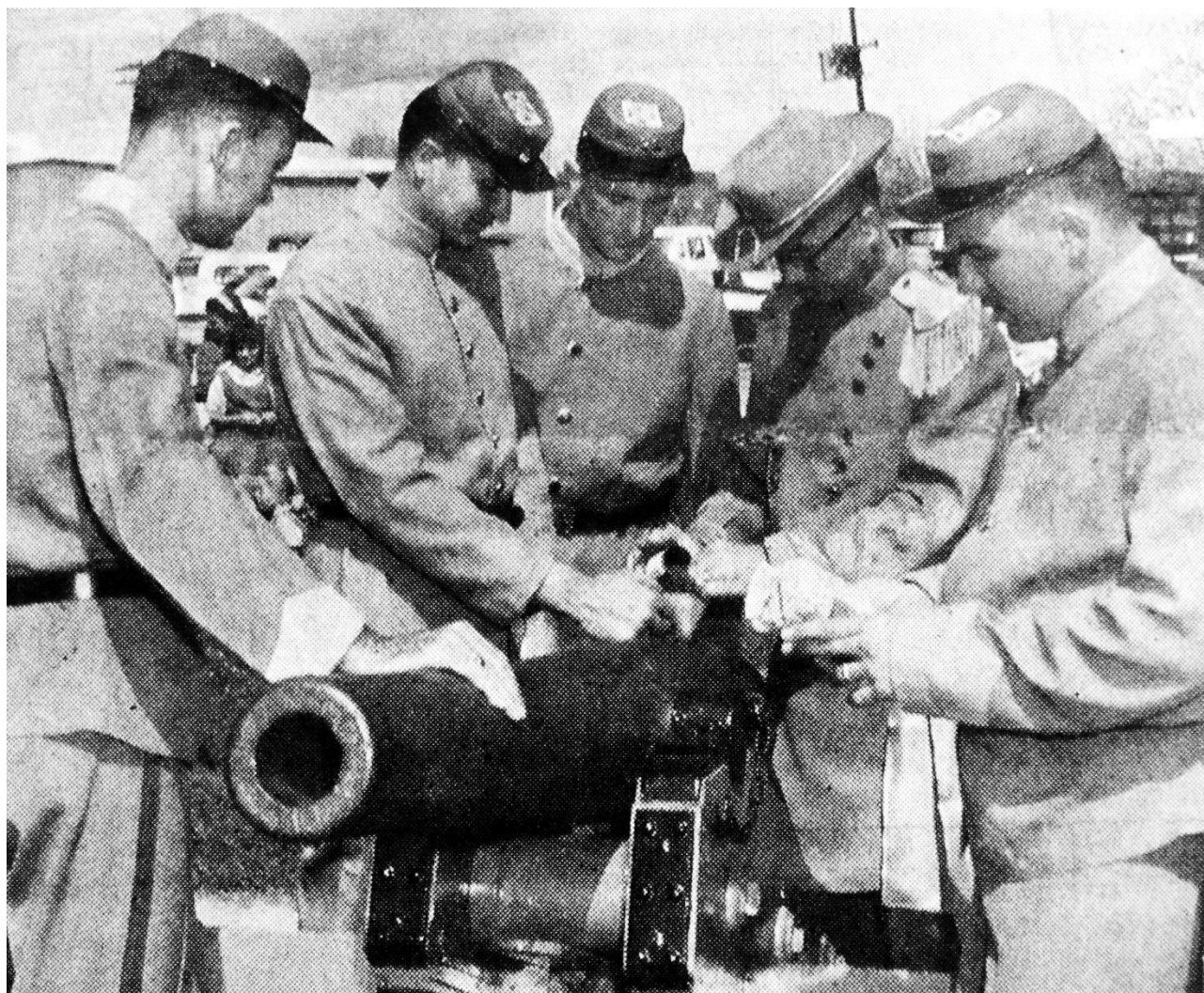
Though the celebration will dramatize the Confederate victory in what is described as the most important battle of the Civil War west of the Mississippi, the hand of welcome will be extended to descendants of Union soldiers. Invitations have gone out to patriotic groups in the North and many acceptances already have been received. Among those who will attend is Mrs. Isabell Smith, Ottumwa, Iowa, president of the Daughters of Union Veterans.

Probably the most distinguished guests will be Prince and Princess Victor Mansfield dePolignac of Monaco. Prince dePolignac is the son of J. C. dePolignac, who played a heroic role as the commander of Mouton's Division after Mouton was killed.

One of the big drawing cards in Center will be the Texas Archives collection which will be on display Saturday and Sunday. The display will include the Texas' Ordinance of Secession, brought for the first time out of Austin. It will be accompanied from Austin to Center by a Texas Highway Patrol escort and kept under round-the-clock guard while in Center.

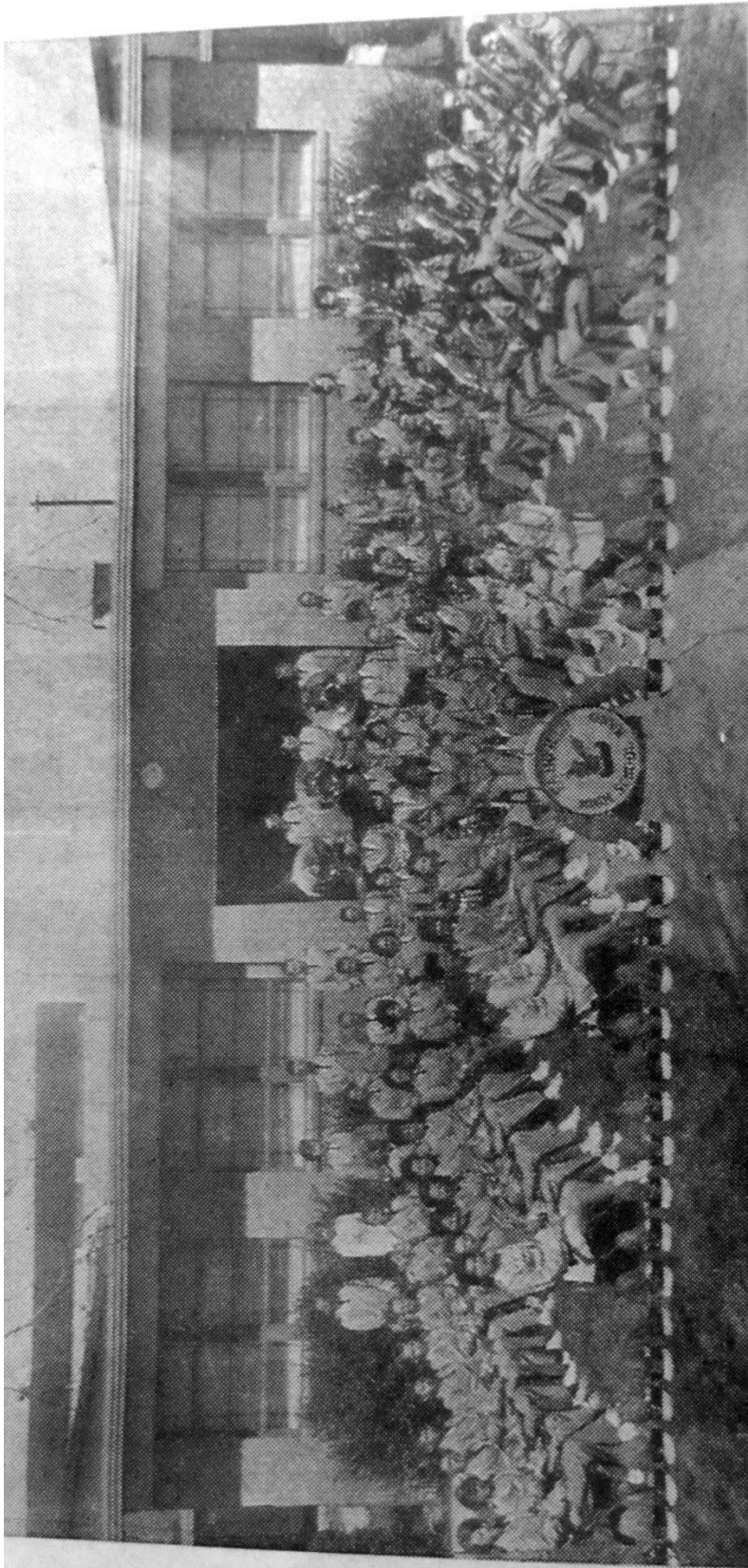
Another rare treat will be a display of Civil War photographs by Matthew Brady, famous war photographer who pioneered in his field more than a century ago.

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PRIMING OLD VALVERDE—The Confederate soldiers who will accompany the old Valverde Cannon to Center and Mansfield, La., are shown putting the priming to a charge prior to firing here Monday afternoon. Left to right are Ralph Massey, owner of The Teague Chronicle; Joe Lee Kirgan Jr., owner of The Fairfield Recorder; Clois Mullen, assistant to the postmaster; County Judge Leslie R. Bonner; and David Lott, Texas Forest Service education officer and Fairfield insurance man. So far the troops have suffered only one casualty, Mr. Massey, who fell victim to the measles, a common malady for Confederate and Union soldiers, alike, in the Civil War, we are told. —Photo by Whitaker.

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OFFICIAL STATE BAND FOR MANSFIELD CELEBRATION — Fairfield High School Band has been chosen official representative of the State of Texas during the celebration of the Battle of Mansfield which will take place Saturday in Center and Mansfield, La. The local band, under the direction of L. C. Williamson, was appointed official representative by Gov. John Connally since Fairfield and Freestone County will play such a vital role in the celebration. The band will perform in ceremonies in Center Saturday morning, then participate in the parade and ceremonies at Mansfield beginning at 12 noon. This will possibly be the only time Fairfield's band will have the opportunity to represent the state in the foreseeable future and many local citizens are planning to attend the celebration to witness "Fairfield's own" as they perform. —Photo by Whitaker.