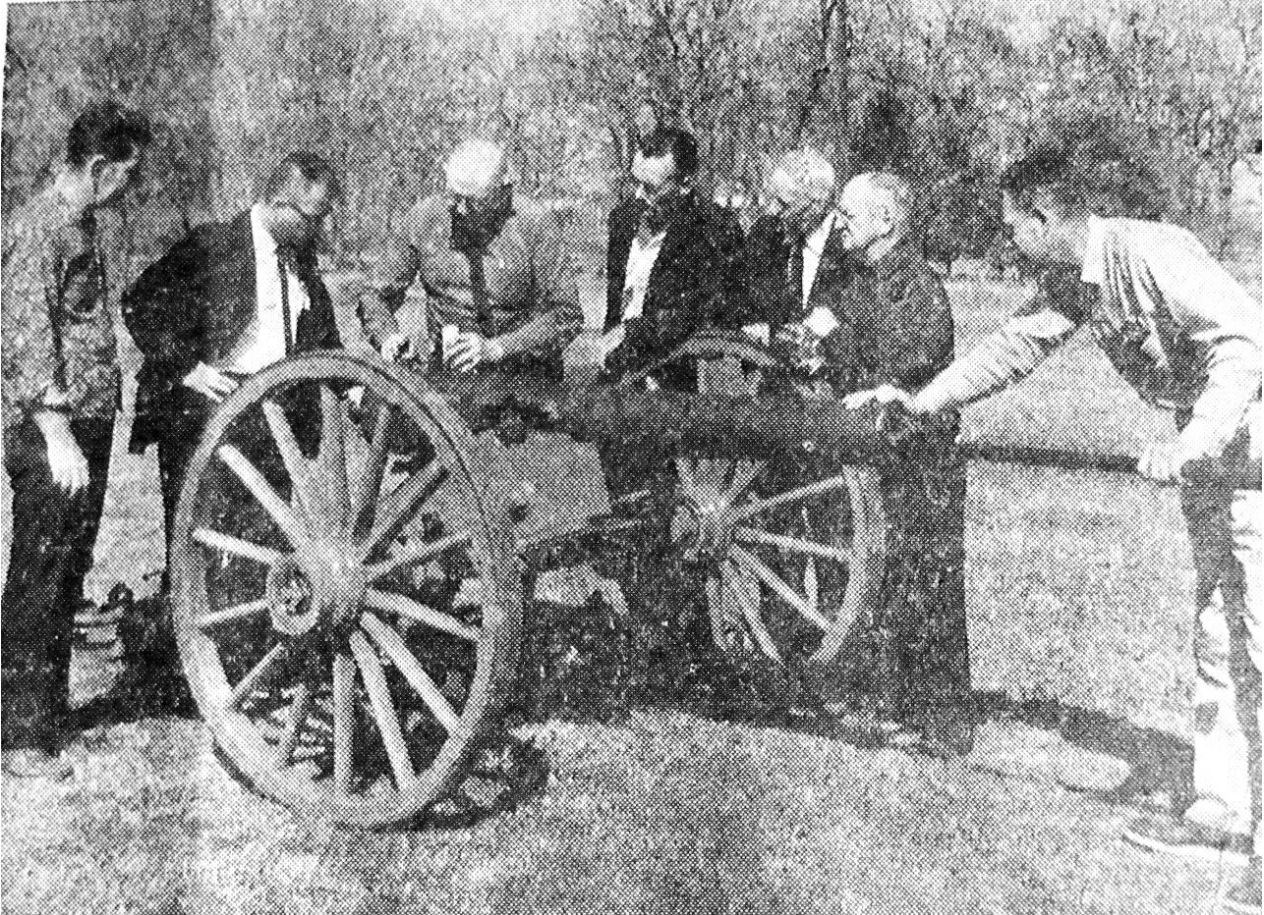


The Fairfield Recorder, March 26, 1964, p. 1
Valverde Cannon to be Shown , Fired Here Monday



OLD VALVERDE CANNON FIRES AGAIN — Joe Bates, third from left, is shown explaining the loading and priming method for the old Valverde cannon prior to firing it at Teague recently. Looking on are, left to right, Roscoe Stockton, Wortham gunsmith; County Judge Leslie R. Bonner, who will be in charge of the crew which fires the cannon at Center and Mansfield; Mr. Bates, Wortham firearm collector; Ralph Massey, publisher of the Teague Chronicle and member of the crew; L. Notley, chairman of the Freestone County Historical Survey Committee; Phil Weatherholt, Teague, the man who did most of the work of remounting the cannon; and Elmo Deffenbaugh, member of the FCHSC who aided Mr. Weatherholt in his work. The cannon will roar in Fairfield once more on Monday at 2 p. m. at

The Fairfield Recorder, March 26, 1964, p. 1
Valverde Cannon to be Shown , Fired Here Monday

The excitement is mounting as the date approaches for the celebration of the Battle of Mansfield in Mansfield, La. Texans participating will gather at Center, Texas, then

* * *

journey to Mansfield.

The biggest attraction at the celebration will probably be the old Valverde Battery cannon from Fairfield, which took part in this and

* * *

many other battles of the Civil War. The greatest honor ever to be paid the Fairfield High School Band has been the announcement that the band will represent the State of Texas at the celebration.

The significance of this battle to Texas was the fact that most of the men who took part were Texans, many of whom were from Freestone County and other towns in this area of East Central Texas.

Although interest is mounting with each day that passes, drawing us nearer the celebration date, the old Valverde cannon's return to Fairfield on its new mounting will create even more excitement. This event is scheduled for Monday at 2 p. m.

The old cannon was heard firing many times during old Confederate Veterans reunions at the old Moody Camp Grounds in Fairfield and many of the older citizens of the community remember it well. But the younger set will get their opportunity to hear it speak Monday afternoon in Fairfield. This will be the first time the old cannon has been fired here since the early to middle 1920's.

On three occasions recently, the cannon has been fired at Teague, the most recent being Wednesday afternoon for the students of the elementary school there.

The crew which will accompany the cannon to Center and Mansfield will be in charge of firing the cannon here Monday. They are L. R. Bonner, David Lott, Clois Mullen, Ralph Massey, of Teague, and Joe Lee Kirgan Jr. This crew will be in Center as the muster begins Saturday morning and will fire the cannon every 30 minutes, beginning at 7:30 a. m. and continuing through 10:30 a. m., just prior to the journey to Mansfield for the celebration there. While in Mansfield the cannon will be fired several times during ceremonies planned for the observance of the famous battle's centennial.

Phil Weatherholt of Teague has been in charge of the remounting of the cannon on an authentic duplication of the original carriage and has done a magnificent job. Many parts were made from raw material following a blueprint of the original mounting and some of the parts are original equipment. Elmo Deffenbaugh, member of the Freestone County Historical Survey Committee, also was instrumental in the remounting of the cannon, helping to locate and obtain needed materials.

For a preview of the celebration, plan to be in Fairfield Monday afternoon.