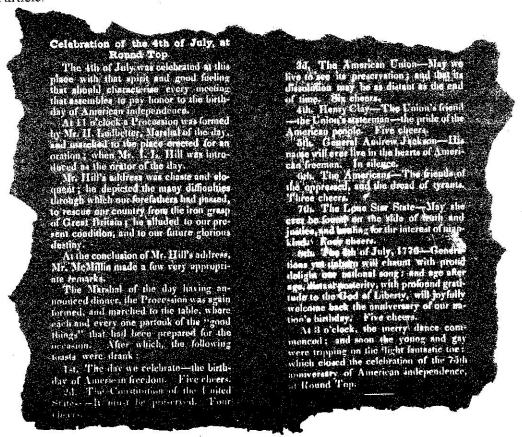
## ROUND TOP'S FOURTH OF JULY

When did the Fourth of July celebration begin in Round Top? When did the parade begin?

In 1995 it was being called the 145th. Generations of Round Top citizens must have been numbering the years as they clicked by. If 1995 were the 145th continuous year for celebrating the Fourth of July in Round Top, it must mean that the very first year was 1851. There is written proof that Round Top did celebrate the Fourth of July in 1851.

An account of it was written in the July 16, 1851, edition of the "Texas Monument," Fayette County's third and most successful of the early newspapers. This is a reproduction of that article.



If anyone knows of any other information such as old family letters, postcards or diaries that give differing dates for Round Top's first Fourth of July, the historical society wants to hear from you.

To better understand why 1851 could very well have been the first celebration of the Fourth it is necessary to review a little of Round Top's early history.

Texas was admitted to the Union on 12-29-1845 when President Polk signed the act that made it one of the United States of America.

Deed records establish the fact that 254 acres of land, of which the majority is in Round Top's town limits today, were sold by John Shultz to Melvina A.E.T. White on 5-23-1851. She and her husband, Hugh, must have been influential in having the village of Round Top surveyed into blocks and lots to establish a town because on 7-22-1851 they sold lots 1 and 4 in block 14 to Charles Bower with the deed stating, "in the town of Round Top."

All of Round Top's early history stresses how very patriotic her citizens were. From all of this information, it is possible to believe an earlier celebration of the Declaration of Independence could have occurred in Round Top, but, unfortunately, there has been no written confirmation of it uncovered to date.