

FP-048

SCULPTURE ON EAST SIDE OF CENTENNIAL HALL

Here's an interesting puzzle for you. Exactly what is this item and what is its significance to Fair Park?

When we first began to develop these cell phone tours we could not find any background information about this item, which looks like a large anchor. However, just as we were ready to record, an employee of Fair Park solved the mystery for us.

Back in 1970 the theme of the State Fair of Texas was Exposition of the Seven Seas. Among many of the fair's nautical features was a "Seven Seas" exhibit inside the Embarcadero Building that explained the mysteries of the oceans to fairgoers. The United States Navy donated this anchor so it could be a part of that exhibit.

Once the fair had come to an end, the Navy then donated the anchor to the State Fair organization. Until recently a plaque on the side of the concrete pedestal read: "Presented to the State Fair in Recognition of its continued support to the United States Navy, April 3, 1971."

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Thanks to long-time State Fair of Texas employee Bob Hilbun for solving this perplexing puzzle for us ... just in the nick of time!

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