



December 2025

Our Day at Cirque du Soleil

by Jerry Lerman (344)

Our family just had a delightful experience under the impressive Big Top standing in Oracle Park's Parking Lot A. A few weeks ago I took advantage of a "Black Friday" offer for discounted tickets (which didn't result in exactly "cheap" seats) to see Cirque du Soleil's show "Echo" with our children and grandkids. We attended a Saturday mid-afternoon performance which was absolutely stunning!

Beginning with a hilarious running routine involving two clowns that engaged with the sizable audience, the show featured tightrope acts, tumbling and acrobatics, an astounding contortionist, bungee artistry, an enormous giant marionette, and a projection system that I found mesmerizing.

As I glanced down my row, I could see the jaws of our 5- and 7- year old grandchildren agape. It was precisely the effect I had been hoping for. The performance was extremely entertaining and worth every penny! The show runs through Jan. 18th.



Aaron's Question Column



Top: The Alamo, the site of the famous battle by the same name. **Bottom:** The grave of Santa Anna, a critical figure in the Texas Revolution.

Question: Now that you reside in Dallas, can you tell us a bit about how Texas gained its independence from Mexico? (All I ever learned was "Remember the Alamo!") --Jerry

Aaron's Answer (A'sA): As somebody who spent about half a year learning the ins and outs of Texas history, from Paleo-Indians who arrived thousands of years ago, to the modern state of Texas in the 21st century, I feel obligated to take this question. In the early 1820s, the area that is now Texas was part of Mexico, which had recently gained independence from Spain. To encourage

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Solution to Last Month's Quiz

A Classic Logic Puzzle

The color of Person #3's beret was RED and he was able to answer so. He relied upon the fact that one of the first two people asked for the color of THEIR berets would have been able to answer with certainty if they'd seen that his beret had been black.

Person #1 would have been able to answer "RED" for himself if he had seen the two berets in front of him were BOTH black, since there were only two black among the five. Since #1 answered "I don't know," #3 can be certain that either his beret or #2's (or both) is RED.

Then it was up to Person #2 to answer. If he looked ahead and saw #3 was wearing a BLACK beret, he would know his own beret had to be RED. *That's because If it were BLACK, #1 would have been able to answer that his was RED.*

Because #2's answer was "I don't know" rather than "RED", #3 could deduce that #2 didn't see a BLACK beret atop his head.

Thus #3 answered "RED" – and did so correctly.

This Month's Quiz

Street Smarts

There have been numerous movie and TV series titles that include the names of streets/highways/etc. Can you fill in the blanks for these ten titles with the correct thoroughfare names? Cast members and the year of production are provided, as well as the number of letters in the name.

1. **(6 letters) BOULEVARD**, Gloria Swanson, William Holden, 1950
2. **NIGHTMARE ON (3 letters) STREET**, Robert Englund, Johnny Depp, 1984
3. **(10 letters) DRIVE**, Naomi Watts, Laura Harring, 2001
4. **21 (4 letters) STREET**, Channing Tatum, Jonah Hill, 2012
5. **(4 letters) STREET: MONEY NEVER SLEEPS**, Michael Douglas, Shia LaBeouf, 2010
6. **(13 letters) ROAD**, Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet, 2008
7. **(9 letters) ROAD**, Jeff Bridges, Tim Robbins, 1999
8. **MIRACLE ON (4 characters) STREET**, Edmund Gwenn, Maureen O'Hara, 1947
9. **(4 letters) STREET BLUES**, Daniel J. Travanti, Veronica Hamel, 1981- (seven seasons)
10. **77 (6 letters) STRIP**, Efrem Zimbalist, Jr., Edd Byrnes, 1958- (six seasons)

And ... this obscure 90 minute comedy show lasted only about 90 days!

11. **90 (7 letters) COURT**, Debbie Watson, Jack Klugman, Don Galloway, October 5, 1964, through January 5, 1965

Replace each pair (**answer #, position #**) with the corresponding letter to receive this 5 word "address" to our fellow Bowfiners:

(1,3) (10,5) (5,1) (6,13) (2,1) (3,8) (7,1)
(11,1)(9,4)(1,5)(10,1)(11,4)(6,8)(3,9)(7,6)(1,1)
(8,3) (3,5) (5,2) (9,3) (2,2) !

Aaron's Answers continued from pg. 1

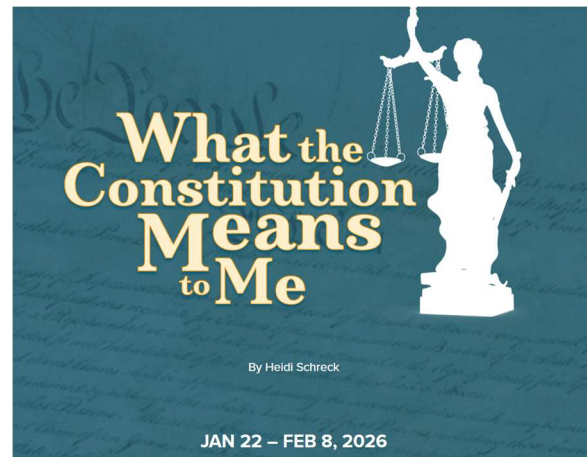
settlement in Texas, the Mexican government allowed Americans and other foreigners to move into Texas under contracts called empresario grants, which provided land assuming they adopted Mexican citizenship and converted to Catholicism. As more settlers arrived, tensions grew between the Anglo settlers and the Mexican authorities over issues like taxation, governance, competing land claims and cultural differences. These early conflicts set the stage for a broader push for autonomy. Multiple attempts were made by Anglo settlers to fight back against the Mexican government, such as the Fredonian Rebellion, but all ultimately failed, barring one.

The struggle escalated in late 1835, culminating in the Texas Revolution. One of the most famous events was the siege of the Alamo in early 1836, where a small group of Texan defenders, including William B. Travis, James Bowie and Davy Crockett, held off a much larger Mexican army led by General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Although the defenders were eventually overwhelmed and killed, the Alamo became a symbol of resistance and rallied Texans to continue fighting for independence, famously inspiring the cry: "Remember the Alamo!" to spur other revolutionary Texans to fight.

Following the Alamo, the Texan army regrouped and defeated Santa Anna's forces at the Battle of San Jacinto in April 1836, effectively ending the revolution. Texas declared itself an independent republic, known as the Republic of Texas, and remained independent for nearly a decade before joining the United States in 1845. The revolution established Texas as a self-governing entity and set it apart from most other states, with a political tradition centered around independence before statehood.

Editor's note: Aaron just completed a college course in Texas history. He got an A+ !

Coming to Hillbarn Theatre



Target Date for Next Month's Contributions:

January 15, 2026

Please reach us with your articles, news, photos,
CHILDREN'S ARTWORK or ideas at

344 Bowfin, (650 572-9153) or email us at our
email EDITOR@BOWFININQUIRER.COM or by

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