

Book Nook to host Mike Cox, folklorist

Author, Texas Ranger folklorist and DPS Chief Spokesman, Mike Cox will be hosted by the Book Nook in Smithville on Saturday, Oct. 16, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Mr. Cox will be signing copies of his latest book *Texas Ranger Tales II* as well as copies of his other three books that are still in print.

Mike Cox was the principal spokesman for the DPS during three of Texas' biggest stories of the 1990's: The Luby's massacre in Killeen in 1991, the fiery aftermath of the Branch Davidian stand-off in Waco in 1993 and the state's confrontation with the so-called Republic of Texas in 1997 in the Davis Mountains. He was also an important go-between the DPS and the news media during the destructive crisis wrought by the Jarrell tornado.

The author of seven books is currently the Chief of Media

Relations for the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas' state law-enforcement agency. He joined the DPS in

1985 after a twenty-year career as an award-winning newspaper reporter. As he notes in one of his books, *Stand-Off in Texas*, "It's...hard to believe that I'm paid not to ask questions but to answer them."

His book *Texas Rangers Tales: Stories that Need Telling* was the 1997 recipient of the Austin Writers' League Violet Crown Award. The book, a collection of fresh takes on legendary stories, was recently followed up by *Texas Ranger Tales II* published in June of this year. His love of both Texas and the telling of a "good yarn" are apparent in all three of his currently available books on Texas Rangers. In addition to the aforementioned he has also written a book for children, ages 8-12, titled

Texas Rangers: Men of Valor.

Mr. Cox is the president-elect of the National Association of Government Communicators, which in 1997 presented him with a Distinguished Service Award. He is also a member of the board of directors of the O. Henry Museum in Austin. In 1993 he was elected to receive membership in the Texas Institute of Letters, a non-profit organization whose purpose is to stimulate interest in Texas letters and to recognize distinctive literary achievement. He and his wife Linda are the parents of a five-year old daughter. Mr. Cox resides in Austin but is originally from Amarillo.

For more information about the booksigning call 237-5088 or if outside of that local calling area use the toll free number 877-900-BOOK (2665). The Book Nook is located at 202 Main Street in Smithville.