

AN ORDINANCE **79723**

AUTHORIZING THE TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF ALAMO
PLAZA EAST STREET BETWEEN CROCKETT STREET
AND HOUSTON STREET.

* * * * *

Whereas, the City Council held a public hearing on February 24, 1994 to consider whether or not to extend the temporary closure of Alamo Plaza East; and

Whereas, the City Council was presented with a number of suggestions and plans regarding Alamo Plaza East and Alamo Plaza at such hearing; and

Whereas, safety, environmental and aesthetic concerns regarding the re-opening of Alamo Plaza East Street were presented to the City Council at such hearing; NOW THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

Section 1. The Mayor shall appoint a committee, considering Council recommendations regarding membership, to assist and advise the City Council in evaluating the numerous Alamo Plaza East plans and relevant issues submitted to City Council concerning permanent closure of Alamo Plaza East Street.

Section 2. The Committee should include representatives from Alamo Plaza merchants, Menger Hotel, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, historians and cultural organizations and should act with due diligence in making recommendations.

Section 3. Pending the report of the Committee and City Council action thereon, Alamo Plaza East Street between Crockett Street and Houston Street shall remain temporarily closed to vehicular traffic.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of February, 1994.

Robert W. Waugh
M A Y O R

ATTEST: *James S. Rodriguez*
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM: *for Tom Jurley*
City Attorney

NELSON ASKS THAT YOU ADD:

BASED ON SAFETY,
ENVIRONMENT, AND
AESTHETICS

Motion to direct staff to close Alamo Plaza East temporarily so that the city can consider the best long term plans for Alamo Plaza and to consider how best to close Alamo Plaza East on a permanent basis. Furthermore I recommend that the Mayor appoint, with Council recommendations, a committee to assist the city in evaluating the numerous Alamo Plaza plans and other relevant issues. The committee should include representatives from Alamo Plaza merchants, Menger Hotel, DRT, historians and cultural organizations among others.

Shawnta moved

Peak seconded

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Department of Parks and Recreation

AGENDA ITEM NO. _____

TO: Mayor and City Council through City Manager Alexander E. Briseño
FROM: Ronald R. Darner, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
COPIES TO: File
SUBJECT: Alamo Plaza East

Date: February 22, 1994

BACKGROUND AND RECOMMENDATION: Information has recently been brought to light by local historians and others which indicates the possible existence of at least one eighteenth century cemetery in the immediate vicinity of The Alamo. Documentation indicates the possibility that Alamo Plaza East passes over at least a portion of the Campo Santo and possibly part(s) of other cemeteries.

This information, along with environmental and safety considerations discussed below, prompts staff to recommend that Alamo Plaza East be permanently closed.

JUSTIFICATION: Important factors follow which bear on staff's recommendation:

- . Respect for the possible burial ground of the earliest founders and inhabitants of San Antonio including Native Americans who preceded European expansion into the New World
- . Environmental concerns including the effects of heavy weight vehicles (vibration and exhaust fumes) on the integrity of fragile Alamo structures
- . Safety considerations as they relate to pedestrian conflicts with busses and other vehicular traffic
- . Aesthetics, from the standpoint of removing busses and other vehicles from the front of The Alamo which tend to detract from the image of an historic shrine and which inhibit viewing and photo opportunities for visitors to that shrine.

FIESTA '94 CONSIDERATIONS: In deference to the possibility that Alamo Plaza East passes over a burial ground, the Fiesta Commission and the Inter-Tribal Council of American Indians have passed a joint resolution which requests member organizations to re-route 1994 Fiesta vehicular parades to avoid burial grounds. Council

action to accommodate these route changes will be requested shortly. The resolution also states that the vehicular parade re-routing shall not affect any other Fiesta activity or prohibit pedestrian or retail activities anywhere in Alamo Plaza.

INITIAL STAFF ACTIONS: Based on City Council's guidance, staff has initiated the following actions:

- . Request for Council approval to extend the current temporary closure of Alamo Plaza East through May 1, 1994 and thereafter until such time as the State of Texas indicates its concurrence in either permanently closing or re-opening the street
- . Preliminary coordination and study of alternatives to the present use of Alamo Plaza East by busses loading and unloading visitors to The Alamo
- . Prepared correspondence to the State, as an adjacent property owner, regarding the City's proposal to permanently close Alamo Plaza East
- . Complete a legal review of applicable state and federal statutes and the 1975 agreement between the City and the DRT related to Alamo Plaza East.

OTHER PROPOSED ACTION: Subject to Council's approval, contract for a comprehensive archival research to compile historic data related to Alamo Mission cemeteries and burial records. If additional archaeological study is indicated by this research, staff will follow up with further recommendations.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: In dealing with this complex issue, the undersigned wishes to acknowledge the valuable input and cooperative spirit of representatives of the Inter-Tribal Council of American Indians, the Fiesta Commission, local historians and archivists, the City Attorney's staff, and the City's Historic Preservation Officer.



RONALD R. DARNER, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation

RRD:MG

For City Council's information and consideration.



ALEXANDER E. BRISEÑO
City Manager

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Interdepartment Correspondence Sheet

TO: City Council through the City Manager

FROM: Ronald R. Darner, Director, Department of Parks & Recreation

COPIES TO: Correspondence File

SUBJECT: An Ordinance authorizing the temporary closure of Alamo Plaza East Street between Crockett Street and Houston Street.

DATE: February 18, 1994

Detailed summary and recommendations concerning the temporary closure of Alamo Plaza East Street between Crockett Street and Houston Street will be provided prior to the City Council Meeting on February 24, 1994.

Handwritten signature of Ronald R. Darner in cursive script, followed by the initials "by SWF".

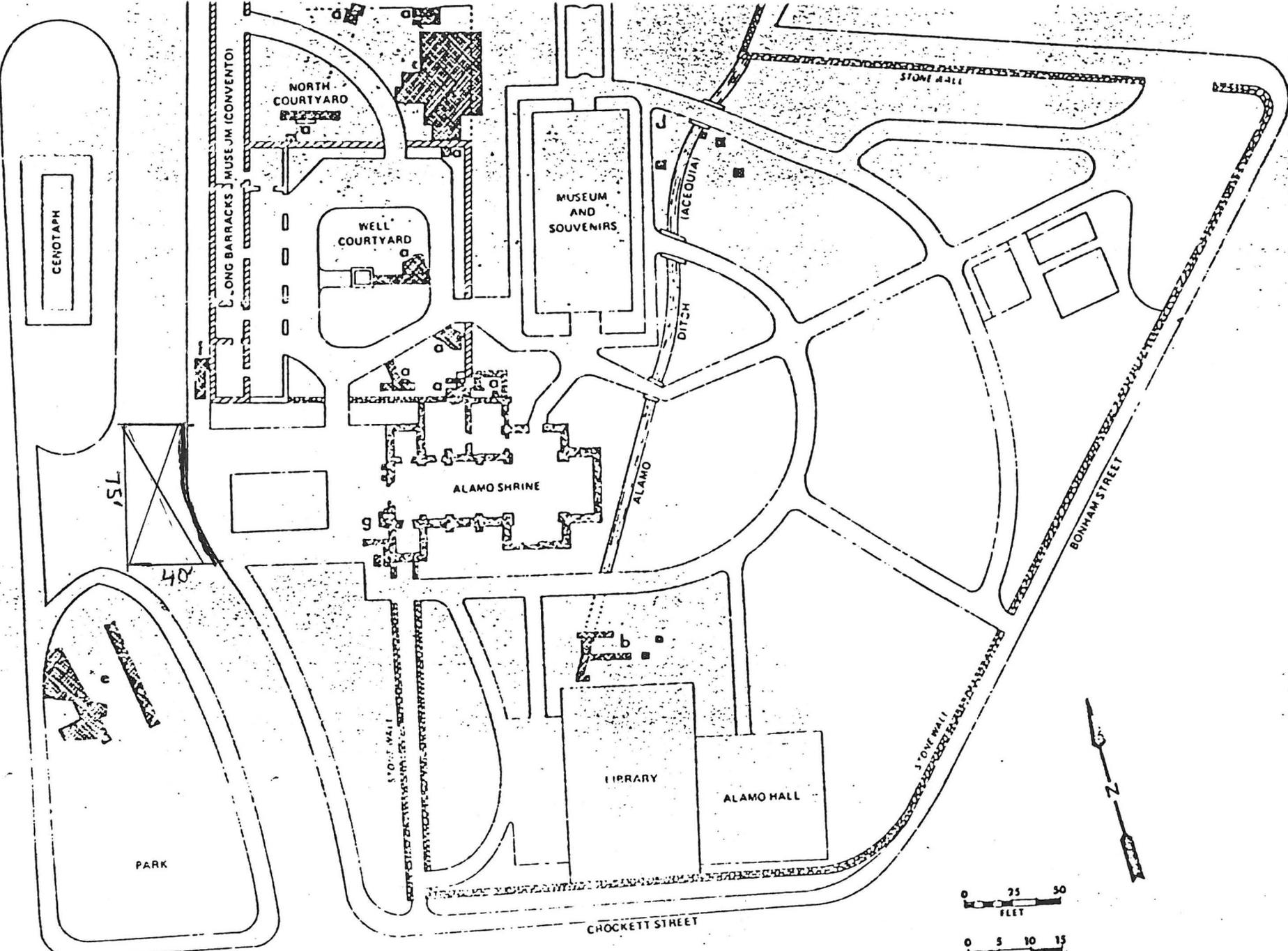
RONALD R. DARNER, Director
Department of Parks and Recreation



GROUND PENETRATING RADAR

SUBSURFACE INTERFACE RADAR

The SIR technique utilizes impulse radar technology to obtain a continuous, high-resolution profile of the subsurface. The pulse transmitted into the subsurface is produced by electrically discharging a pulse of electromagnetic energy from a special antenna. The transmitted pulse travels through the subsurface until it reaches a soil interface or an embedded object. Then, depending on the electrical characteristics at the interface or object, a portion of the transmitted pulse is reflected back to the surface, where it is picked up by a receiver section in the same antenna or a different antenna. The received signal is processed and a real-time replica of the information is displayed on the built-in graphic recorder. The received signal consists of three basic components. Immediately following the transmitted pulse is a strong surface reflection. Then, at a time equal to the pulse travel time from the surface to an interface and back to the antenna, the interface reflection appears. Depth is dependent on soil make-up.



a EXCAVATIONS BY GREER 1966
 b EXCAVATIONS BY SURROW 1970
 c EXCAVATIONS BY SCHUETZ 1973
 d EXCAVATIONS BY HESTER 1973

e EXCAVATIONS BY FOX AND BASS 1975
 f EXCAVATIONS BY FOX 1977
 g EXCAVATIONS BY EATON 1977

ORIGINAL MISSION ARCHITECTURE (CHAPEL)
 MODERN RECONSTRUCTION UPON ORIGINAL MISSION FOUNDATIONS

EXCAVATION UNITS

40' X 75'
 G.P.R. SURVEY

Site 1994
 2' space N-S Lines
 5' space E-W Lines



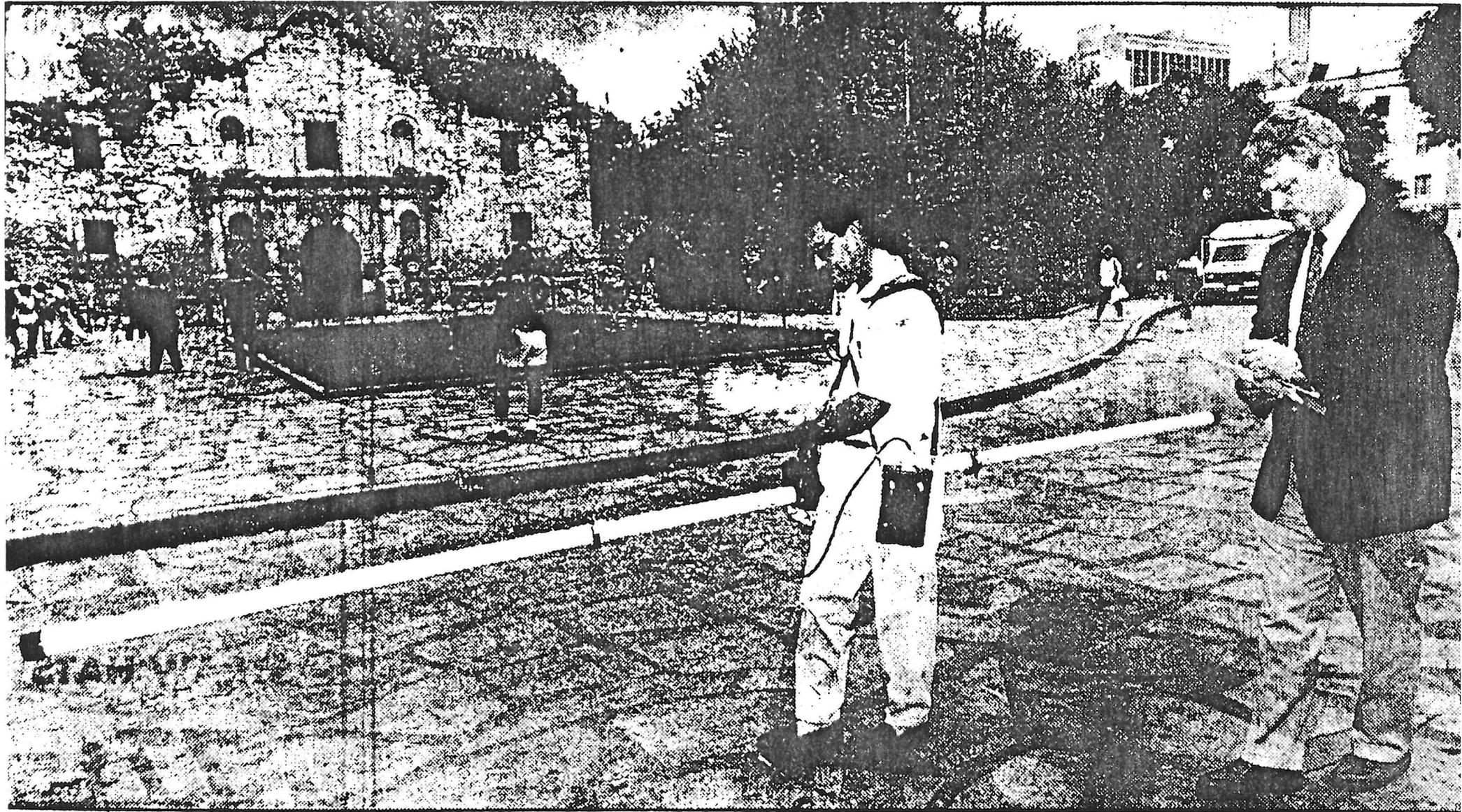


PHOTO BY DOUG SEHAR

Joe Austin (left) of Earth Measurement Corp. in Houston uses a device to measure differences in soil that could indicate an object is

buried below. Alf Hawkins of Hawkins Remote Sensing and Exploration of San Antonio records the data.

Instrument: Eki-31