

## TEXAS HIGHWAYS--CARTHAGE--WHEN...

Situated in East Texas at the crossroads of U.S. 59 and U.S. 79 in Panola County, Carthage boasts an enduring musical heritage.

Follow the career of early western star Tex Ritter at the Tex Ritter Museum, located along with the Carthage Chamber of Commerce in a historic home at 300 West Panola (Carthage 75663; phone 903/693-6634). Open 8:30 to 4:30 Monday through Friday and Saturday 1 to 4 (or by appointment anytime). Admission is \$2 adults and \$1 children 12 and under. For information on the Tex Ritter Fan Club contact Sharon Sweeting, 15326-73rd Ave. S.E., Snohomish, WA 98290 (206/485-4752).

Visit the burial place of famed country singer "Gentleman Jim" Reeves at his memorial park located three miles east of Carthage on U.S. 79.

**[note: details on whether the Tex Ritter Round-Up or a Jim Reeves Day will be held in 1995 will not be available from the chamber until Jan. or Feb.; contact Tommie Ritter Smith at 903/693-6634]**

Sample live C&W music on the square in Carthage at the Panola County Hayride, 103 East Panola. The family-oriented shows last from 7 to 10 every Saturday night except Christmas. No admission, but donations are welcomed. Write Rt. 2, Box A35, Beckville 75631 or call 903/678-3857.

Learn about local history, musical and otherwise, at two Carthage museums.

The 1891 Panola County Jail houses a county museum and the Leila Belle LaGrone Geneological Library. Located just off the downtown square at 213 North Shelby (75663), hours are Sunday 1 to 5 and Tuesday and Wednesday 10 to 3. Free admission. For details call 903/693-9928.

Located on the square at 100 East Sabine (75663) in a restored 1903 bank building, Heritage Hall Museum offers tours 11 to 1:15, Monday through Friday. Admission is \$2 adults and \$1 under 12. Check in at the Texas Tea Room, located on the ground floor of Heritage Hall, where noon meals feature salads, sandwiches, and blue-plate specials. Call 903/693-8689.

Also get downhome country cooking at Joe's Family Restaurant, 300 North St. Mary (75633), 903/693-6282. Open 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday.

For bed and breakfast accommodations, try Carthage's Best Little Horse House in Texas, housed in a former horse stable. For directions and reservations contact Bed & Breakfast Texas-Style at 4224 West Red Bird Lane, Dallas 75237 or call 800/899-4538.

The Carthage area offers several antique and collectibles shops. For a shopping guide contact the Chamber of Commerce, 300 West Panola, Carthage 75633 or call 903/693-6634.

Also contact the chamber for information on the PRC-approved Panola County Cattlemen's Association Rodeo, set for August 5-6, 1995.

For fishing, swimming, and boat launching, head to Murvaul Marina on picturesque Lake Murvaul. From the junction of U.S. 79 and Texas 315 in Carthage go south 8.5 miles, then go left on Farm Road 1970 for 4.6 miles. At Farm Road 1234 (Decker-Hill Road) go left another half mile to the marina, which also features cabins and a cafe. For information write Rt. 4, Box 240, Carthage 75633 or call 903/693-9301.

Adjacent to the marina, Murvaul RV Park (operated by Panola County) offers full hook-ups, baths, and a fish scale house. Reservations advised on holiday weekends only. Write Rt. 4, Box 242, Carthage 75633 or call 903/693-6562.