

TEXAS HIGHWAYS--RAILROAD HISTORY/"WHEN..."--MALLORY

Texas' high-balling railroad heritage toots its own horn at a number of museums across the state.

The Railroad Museum in Galveston's historic Strand District holds the Southwest's largest collection (more than 40) of restored rail cars and locomotives. Visitors browse Pullman sleepers, cabooses, mail car, and steam locomotive. Kids run an HO-gauge model train around a model of the Port of Galveston. Housed in the restored 1930s art deco Santa Fe Union Depot, the museum exhibits train memorabilia. Life-size mannequins, the "ghosts of travelers past," describe early-day train travel via taped recordings. The Dinner on the Diner restaurant serves lunch and dinner in two 1940s dining cars. (Reservations suggested.)

The museum also serves as the depot for the Texas Limited excursion train traveling weekly between Houston and Galveston Island. Outside the museum's front door, a rail trolley traverses the island past the historic business district and grand Victorian homes to the seawall.

Located at 25th and Strand Streets, the museum is open 10 to 5 daily; closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, and Mardi Gras weekends. Admission is \$5 adults, \$4.50 seniors, \$2.50 ages 4 through 12, and free under four. For details write: 123 Rosenberg St., Galveston 77550 409/765-5700 (fax 409/765-8635).

In Dallas, the Age of Steam Railroad Museum sports the nation's largest steam locomotive--engine No. 4018, weighing a million pounds. Size up other historic heavyweights like the Goliad (a Katy dining car), the Texland (a Fort Worth & Denver

business car), and a complete 1920s train. The varied collection includes vintage freight cars and cabooses, as well as Dallas' oldest train station, which houses the museum gift shop.

Located on the north side of Fair Park, the museum is open Thursday and Friday 10 to 3, and Saturday and Sunday 11 to 5. Special group tours available by appointment. Admission is \$3 adults and \$1.50 children under 17. For information write to the Southwest Railroad Historical Society at P.O. Box 153259, Dallas 75315-3259 (214/428-0101).

San Antonio's Texas Transportation Museum houses the old Southern Pacific station from Converse, Texas, filled with railroad memorabilia. Museum exhibits include a 100-foot model train, transportation toys, and technology displays. Its garden features a G-gauge model railroad. Every Sunday 1 to 3:30, a steam or diesel locomotive carries passengers in a restored caboose for a one-third mile ride on the "Longhorn & Western Railroad." The first Sunday of each month (weather permitting) the museum cranks up as much equipment as possible. Group tours by advanced reservation.

Open Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday 9 to 4, the museum is at 11731 Wetmore Road in McAllister Park, north of San Antonio International Airport. Suggested donations are \$3 adults, and \$1 children and students. Group discounts available. Write 11731 Wetmore Road, San Antonio 78247-3606 or call 210/490-3554.

In Temple, the Railroad & Pioneer Museum is housed in a restored 1907 Santa Fe depot from Moody, Texas. Its well-displayed collection covers Bell County history, focusing on railroading. Guided tour includes a Santa Fe steam locomotive. Located at 710 Jack Baskin (31st Street and Avenue H), the museum is open Tuesday through Friday 1 to 4, and Saturday 10 to 4. Group tours by appointment.

For information write P.O. Box 5126, Temple 76505 (817/778-6873). Temple is located on Interstate 35 between Austin and Waco. September 17-18 (the third

weekend of September each year), the town hosts the annual Texas Train Festival, featuring a model train show and Civil War reenactments.

In Teague, the Burlington-Rock Island (B-RI) Railroad Museum displays train and local history memorabilia in a historic depot listed on the National Register. Open Saturday and Sunday 1 to 5 (tours by appointment), admission is \$1 adults and 50 cents children. The depot is at 208 South Third Avenue. Teague is located in Freestone County on Interstate 45. For more information write Box 604, Teague 75860-0604 or call museum trustee Bill McSpadden at 817/739-2408.

In New Braunfels, the local Historical Railroad and Modelers Society operates a museum in a restored Victorian station located on an active Union Pacific main line. In addition to HO and N model train layouts, the facility displays two rooms of South Texas train memorabilia, a MOPAC caboose, and a saddle-tank steam engine. Open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday noon to 4, the museum is located next to the 1940s Brauntex Theater on San Antonio Street in downtown New Braunfels. Requested donation is \$1 per person.

April 16, the Society hosts its 7th annual New Braunfels Model Railroad Jamboree. Held at the civic center, it features 150 exhibitors, model layouts, and a modern Union Pacific diesel engine. Write the Society at Box 310475, New Braunfels 78131-0475 or call the local chamber of commerce 210/625-2385.

The new Ennis Railroad and Cultural Heritage Museum, housed in a restored 1915 Southern Pacific building, offers 3,000 square-feet of memorabilia dating from 1870 to 1950. The collection includes a 16-by-nine-foot scale model of a rail yard, roundhouse, and machine shop--plus a full scale replica of a Twenties telegraph office. Located at 105 N. E. Main St., it's open Monday through Saturday 10 to 5 and Sunday 1 to 5 from late April to mid-September. Winter hours are Saturday 10 to 5 and Sunday 1 to 5. Admission is \$1 adults, children under 12 free. Write City Manager, Box 220, Ennis 75120, (214/878-1234).

In Denison, the old Katy Depot houses the Red River Railroad Museum, which features five cabooses, a diesel locomotive, a gondola car, and two tankers--plus 1,340 square-feet of train relics. Open Monday through Saturday 10 to 1 and 2 to 4, the museum is free, with donations accepted. It is located at 101 E. Main, Room 120, Denison 75020 (903/463-6238)

At the Pate Museum of Transportation near Fort Worth, the "Sunshine Special's Ellsmere" shows the style of heyday rail travel. Built in 1914 for a former president of the Wagner Palace Car Company, the plush private rail car features mahogany paneling and intricate styling. The Pate also exhibits antique automobiles and aircraft. Located on U.S. 377 between Fort Worth and Cresson, it's open daily (except Monday) 9 to 5. Free admission. Write Box 711, Fort Worth 76101 (817/396-4305).

Innumerable other Texas towns display cabooses or steam locomotives. Look for steam locomotives on static display in Amarillo, Arlington, Baytown, Brownsville, Brownwood, Childress, Cleburne, Diboll, El Paso, Houston, Lufkin, Lubbock, Marshall, Nacogdoches, Pineland, Port Arthur, San Antonio, Slaton, Snyder, Texarkana, Victoria, and Wichita Falls.

The Northeast Texas Rural Heritage Center Museum in Pittsburg chronicles local history but also features the state's only operational railroad telegraph dispatch office. Housed in a restored 1885 Cotton Belt station, the museum hosts an annual Telegrapher's Day. Set for April 30 (the last Saturday of April each year), the event attracts telegraphers from around the region who send and receive messages in celebration of Samuel Morse's birthday. Open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 11 to 5, the museum is located where Marshall St. crosses the railroad tracks. For details write Box 462, Pittsburg 75686 (903/856-1200).

Read more about train lore in "A History of the Texas Railroad," by S.G. Reed (St. Clair, 1981 reprint) or "Texas Railroads; A Record of Construction and

Abandonment," by Charles Zlatkovich (Bureau of Business Research, University of Texas at Austin and the Texas State Historical Association, 1981).

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