

## TEXAS HIGHWAYS--COWYBOYIN' "WHERE..."--MALLORY

Lasso up the look and feel of East Texas cowboyin'--then and now--at a number of events and venues across the region.

### **Year-Round Attractions**

Mission Tejas State Historic Park in Weches is site of the first mission in East Texas, to which the Spanish brought Texas' first seed herd of cattle. Features a commemorative mission structure and Rice family log home-stagecoach inn. Located on Texas 21 southwest of Weches, 21 miles northeast of Crockett. Write: Mission Tejas Rt. 2, Box 108, Grapeland 75844 (409/687-2394).

Drive through the largest ranch in East Texas, Broseco Ranch, which straddles Titus and Morris Counties just north of Omaha. From Mount Pleasant go east on Interstate 30 approximately 15 miles, turn left on US 259 and immediately junction with Texas 71, go left and wind another 15 miles through the ranch. A working ranch, Broseco Ranch operates a hog, duck, quail, and deer hunting program and also offers a western-styled lakehouse to the public for \$125 per night); includes kitchen and access to lake and fishing. For hunting leases or lakehouse rental, contact Tom Woodard, Ranch Manager, Broseco Ranch, Rt. 2, Box 199, Omaha 75571 (903/884-2101).

Learn the ways of the Old West first-hand on The Texas Experience at Las Brisas Ranch in Woodlawn, near Marshall. Guided trail rides, chuckwagon cookouts, overnight camp-outs along the trail, and custom horseback trips take you through scenic East Texas woodlands. Sometimes includes roping demonstrations, cowboy poetry or music, and Indian horsemanship by Spanish Mustang breeder (and Mayo's partner), Vickie Speir (see accompanying story on Vickie's ranch tours and Spanish mustangs, page XX.). From Marshall, take US

59 north eight miles to Blackjack Rd., turn right, go four miles to Fuzzy Harmon Rd., and turn left to Las Brisas Ranch. For prices and information, write The Texas Experience, Box 5150, Woodlawn 75694 (903/938-8019).

### **Annual Events**

June 14-15, 1997, visit the Old West Festival in downtown Montgomery (15 miles east of Conroe on Texas 105) and recall life in the mid-1800s, complete with longhorn cattle drive, cowboy music and poetry, Indian camp, cowboy church, horse races, shootouts, and special children's activities. Admission: \$8 adults, \$4 children, including parking and wagon ride. Contact Old West Festival, Box 470, Montgomery 77356 (409/448-4285 or 597-4155). Proceeds benefit local non-profit organizations.

July 20, hear Pipp and Guy Gillette perform little-known cowboy songs in Mineola at the Piney Woods Pickin' Parlor. Or catch their singing and chuckwagon cooking Sept. 13-14 at Davy Crockett Pioneer Festival in Crockett, Sept. 21 at Dalton Days in Longview, and Oct. 18-19 at the Round Rock Cowboy Jubilee. For the Gillette Brothers' two cassettes (*Home Range* and *Cinch Up Your Riggin'* ) send \$12 (includes shipping) to: Gillette Brothers, Rt. 4, Box 131, Crockett 75835 (409/636-71645).

August 1-4, see folklorist and former cowboy Bill Brett demonstrate the rare tradition of horse hair twisting at the Texas Folklife Festival (210/558-2300), which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year (and Bill's been there every year).

Sept. 21, experience Dalton Days in downtown Longview. In front of the Gregg County Historical Museum (214 N. Fredonia), the Old West Cowboy Association of Mount Pleasant re-enacts a 1894 shootout with Bill Dalton and his gang. Continuous entertainment includes well-known cowboy poets, traveling medicine man show, trick roping, and chuckwagon cooking. Free admission to all events. A Robbery Exhibit inside the museum displays original holdup note,

historic photos, and video account of the raid. For more information, write: Gregg County Historical Museum, Box 3342, Longview 75606 or call 903/753-5840.

Oct. 18-20, join 10,000 horseback and wagon riders for the 27th annual Winnsboro Autumn Trails Trail Ride Weekend. Features daily trail rides, downtown parade, CRA rodeo, barn dance, and pancake breakfast. Winnsboro also host a similar event April 25-27, 1997. For trail ride information contact police chief Gary Lyle, 501 S. Main, Winnsboro 75494 (903/342-3620).

May 2-4, 1997, visit the Josey Ranch near Marshall for the 16th annual Josey World Champion Junior Barrel Race. No admission charge for spectators. The Joseys also hold several barrel racing clinics throughout the year at their arena. Visit the ranch's western store (open Mon.-Sat., 8-5) with western wear and horse tack (also available via mail order). Take US 59 north from Marshall to Texas 43, go right for six miles to the ranch. For events or catalog, write: Josey Ranch, Rt. 2, Box 235, Karnack 75661 (903/935-5358 or 935-9279).

May 3, 1997, Rising Sun Cowboy Church in Trinity hosts the East Texas Cowboy Jamboree. Features a ranch rodeo, chuckwagon cooking, trail ride, cowboy poets and singers, and trade show of cowboy and western items. Admission: \$7 adults, \$5, children 7-12, free for 6 and under. Chuckwagon meals extra. Proceeds benefit working cowboy crisis fund. From Trinity (located on Texas 19 between Huntsville and Crockett), take Texas 94 east one-half mile to Farm Road 356. Go right for almost one mile to the Jamboree site. Write: Rising Sun Cowboy Church, Box 2451, Trinity 75862 (409/594-8077 or 544-2334).

### **Books to Read**

Learn more about East Texas cowboyin' from Bill Brett's books "Ain't No Such Animal," and "Stolen Steers," both published by Texas A&M University Press. Dig into the Anglo herding traditions of East Texas in Terry G. Jordan's

"Trails to Texas: Southern Roots of Western Cattle Ranching," published by University of Nebraska Press.