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# TRAVEL LOG

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A NEWSLETTER FOR THE TEXAS TRAVEL INDUSTRY

MARCH 2005

## TXDOT

EXAS cookbooks abound, but the newly available *Cooking with Texas Highways* is the only one that offers a collection of more than 250 topnotch recipes that have appeared in the "Official State Travel Magazine" over a span of two decades.

"No other Texas cookbook on the market offers the range of recipe sources that ours does," says *Texas Highways* associate editor Nola McKey, who edited the cookbook. "This translates into a wide variety of dishes, which are truly representative of Texas cuisine."

Recipes are divided into eight sections, including Dutch-oven dishes.

As stated in the book's introduction, "The roundup includes Lone Star classics like chicken-fried steak and chili, as well as exotic fare like tabouli and Thai Pesto. The mixture is as diverse as Texas, and just as flavorful."

*Texas Highways* editor Jack Lowry says, "Since our first cookbook was published in 1986, we have seen a gradual move toward lighter, healthier ingredients; ethnic cuisines have multiplied in Texas and Texans are willing to try a greater variety of foods and methods of preparation. These changes are reflected throughout the pages of the cookbook."

The cookbook is further distinguished by the kind of quality photos that the magazine has been known for, as well as never-before-published recipes and information on Texas food-related topics.

To order *Cooking with Texas Highways* (University of Texas Press, \$24.95), call (800) 839-4997 or (850) 683-1394 from outside the United States, visit the online gift shop at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) or visit the *Texas Highways* gift shop in Austin at 150 E. Riverside Drive.

## TRUE TEXAS WOMEN

**B**ARRINGTON Living History Farm at Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site in Washington is celebrating Women's History Month with "True Texas Women," a program exploring the lives of women who helped tame the Texas frontier.

From March 26-27, visitors can savor the flavor of bygone days with aromas of foods cooking, vegetable gardens, lessons in tea etiquette and hands-on experience with a washboard. The fashions of the day are part of the experience, as well.

The event will enlighten guests with stories, told by costumed interpreters, about women like Mary Jones, wife of the president of the Republic of Texas Anson Jones; Rachel Fanthorp, who saw history walk through the door of her husband's inn, which operates as a state historic site today; Juana Cavasos, Indian captive and community leader; and Sylvia King, kidnapped and enslaved on a Fayette county plantation.

For more information, call (936) 878-2213 or visit [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/barrington](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/barrington).

**I**F YOU have enjoyed your free monthly subscription to *Texas TravelLog*, you'll be glad to know that not all good things have to come to an end. It can continue to be yours for the asking. Free subscription renewal requests are being accepted for this monthly newsletter that goes out to the Texas travel industry, including travel writers, chambers of commerce, convention and visitors bureaus and attractions around the state.

If you have not done so already, simply fill out the form on the back of this issue, return it to us and *TravelLog* will keep coming each month.

Additional subscriptions are welcome for multiple recipients in any one office and those not currently on the mailing list.

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## TRAVEL NEWS

EXAS Historical Commission's redesigned Texas Independence Trail Region brochure is giving travelers a hand at comprehending the fight for Texas' independence by guiding them through cultural and historic sites related to the state's struggle to become a sovereign nation.

Stops include Gonzales, where Texas soldiers prevented Mexican forces from capturing the famous "Come and Take It" cannon; the

San Jacinto Monument near Houston, memorializing the battle where Sam Houston and his troops revenged losses at the Alamo; and Goliad, where nearly 400 Texans were held prisoner and executed at Presidio La Bahia.

"The redesigned brochure includes numerous new communities and is more illustrative of the region's powerful history," says Janie Headrick, state coordinator of the THC's Texas Heritage Trails Program. "It tells the story of the men and women who fought for Texas' freedom." There also is a new section highlighting the discovery of French explorer La Salle's shipwreck, La Belle.

For more information or a free brochure, call (866) 276-6219 or visit [www.thc.state.tx.us/travel](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/travel).

**T**HOUSANDS of pages of interview notes, memos and other materials that played a key part in revealing the Watergate scandal of the 1970s are now available to the public at the University of Texas at Austin's Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

According to the former *Washington Post* journalists who broke the story, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the materials show that even President Richard Nixon's closest aides and senior Republicans on Capital Hill shared

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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- ★ Top 10 attractions unveiled
- ★ McMurtry closing up shop
- ★ Museum gets new state-of-art home

their doubts, worries and suspicions about the President — both his involvement in the criminal Watergate cover-up and his psychological frailty toward the end of his presidency.

“One of the things it shows is how we worked and how we gathered information from all types of sources. The underlying part of all this is the reporting — journalism without a political agenda,” says Woodward.

Bernstein says the papers represent “the best attainable version of the truth. I think what you will see is an attempt to get the best version of the truth and how two people went about that process.”

On view are more than 75 boxes worth of materials — acquired for \$5 million — revealing the identities of nearly 10 now-deceased sources and the information they disclosed.

**“THE UNDERLYING part of all this is the reporting — journalism without a political agenda.”**

—Bob Woodward



More revealing files, including the identity of the informant “Deep Throat,” are to be revealed after the sources die.

For more information, call (512) 471-8944 or visit [www.hrc.utexas.edu](http://www.hrc.utexas.edu).

**TEXAS** is beginning to bloom and with it comes a proliferation of **springtime events and trails**. The annual Wildflower

Days (March 14–April 25) at the Ladybird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin is one of the events that kicks off spring. The event marks the premiere of *The Ladybird Chronicles*, an outdoor exhibit that includes 30 six-foot photographic artworks featuring the bugs and beetles in Australia’s Wollongong Botanic Garden. In Australia, ladybugs are known as ladybirds.

Wildflower Days also will include an artisan festival from March 19–20, interactive children’s activity areas, a Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival April 9–10, book signings and a new Austin Gardens Tour on May 7.

For more information, call (512) 292-4200 or visit [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org). For a list of springtime happenings and trails across the state, visit

[www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) or [www.traveltexas.com](http://www.traveltexas.com).

**IMES Square** in the Big Apple might seem like an unlikely match for a herd of **Texas longhorns**, but **Fort Worth** officials were thinking out of the box when they decided to **promote their city** with a cattle drive down busy New York streets on Jan. 26.

“The goal of ‘The Big Drive of 2005: Bringing Hooves and Horsepower to the Heart of Times Square’ was primarily to promote Fort Worth as a travel destination to consumer and trade media, and to generate consumer awareness about the city. It definitely succeeded on both,” says Greg Staley, director of Marketing Communications for the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau.

An outdoor press conference drew the attention of thousands and received national television coverage.

“We were showcasing the two NASCAR NEXTEL Cup races coming to Texas Motor Speedway in April and November, plus the daily cattle drives that take place in the Historic Stockyards, among other city attractions,” Staley says.

“We hope people will learn of the many opportunities for travel to Fort Worth and plan a visit in the coming months,” says Douglas Harman, President/CEO of the Fort Worth Convention & Visitors Bureau, who was accompanied on the trip by Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief and other city officials.

**MOODY Gardens’ Aquarium** has experienced the springing of life with the onslaught of **new babies**, including penguins, Wagler-Viper snakes, baby Gaboon-Viper snakes, Bamboo sharks and a sugar glider.

“It’s a great testament to what we do around here to see the health and vitality of so many of our species, and that we continue to see such breeding success,” says Greg Whittaker, Animal Husbandry Manager at Moody Gardens.

“We are extremely pleased with the success of our breeding program and look forward to the prospect of several more healthy chicks in the coming year,” says

**MUSEUM NEWS**

**AUSTIN’s George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center** — the first neighborhood museum in Texas focusing on local and national African-American history — **moved into its new** 36,000-square-foot, \$11.5 million, state-of-the-art home in February.

The space, which will help accommodate the museum’s ever-growing permanent collection of photos, documents, videos, artwork and archival materials, features a large atrium, bamboo floors, multimedia displays, stadium seating and handcrafted colorful concrete paving.

“It’s humbling because it was the dream of so many people for so long,” Carver Museum curator Bernadette Phifer told the *Austin American-Statesman*. “One of my hopes is that all the children of Austin will be able to come here and learn about the contributions of African Americans.”

Austin architect Donna Carter, of Carter Design Associates, says, “It was important that the new building integrate with the original museum and with the newly expanded library. The whole site had to become a single campus, a single place. This building and this whole site is literally a stepping-stone.

It’s about making sure there is some place for our stories to be told.”

For more information, call (512) 472-4809 or visit [www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver).

**THE ART** Wing of the **Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum** will be chock full of cowboy equipment thanks to two exhibits opening on April 23 — **“Saddle Up”** and **“Art of the Ride: Bits, Spurs and Stirrups.”** in connection with the Maynard Dixon exhibit of Western art.

“Saddle Up,” from the museum’s collection, will include saddles owned by Charles Goodnight and Mary Ann Dyer Goodnight, JA Ranch owner Cornelia Adair, Clarendon artist Harold D. Bugbee, and others.

“The Art of the Ride: Bits, Spurs, and Stirrups” will showcase a variety of these very necessary items, and other items used by cowboys during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

For more information, call (806) 651-2244 or visit [www.panhandleplains.org](http://www.panhandleplains.org).

**FORT WORTH’s Museum of Science and History** is recalling an era of child’s play with the **March 5** opening of an **imag-**

**inative exhibit** — **“Kid Stuff: Great Toys From Our Childhood”** — with intergenerational appeal.

Based on the book by the same name, the 4,500-square-foot exhibit displays more than 40 of the most popular classic toys and games from over the past 50 years.

“Kid Stuff is about live ant farms, Colorform activities, classic editions of Easy\* Bake Ovens and running Lionel Trains,” says Sharon Blume, director of the Berkshire Museum, which created the traveling exhibit. “Many of the toys displayed are the result of an engineering or scientific endeavor gone awry; others were created by economic necessity; and some were simply produced for fun. All have become the epitome of play, regardless of age.

Toys and games in Kid Stuff — including Magic Slate, Silly Putty, and Slinky, Etch-A-Sketch, Mr. Potato Head, Spirograph, giant Woolly Willy, G.I. Joe and Barbie — are categorized according to familiar childhood expressions like “That’s Not Funny!” and “Look What I Made!”

The exhibit runs through Sept. 11. For more information, call (817) 255-9300 or go to [www.fortworthmuseum.org](http://www.fortworthmuseum.org).

Diane Olsen, assistant curator of penguins at Moody Gardens.

For more information, call (800) 582-4673 or visit [www.moodygardens.com](http://www.moodygardens.com).

**HAMIZAL National Memorial, El Paso's** National Park at 800 S. San Marcial, is giving visitors a chance to experience the nature, history and beauty of the other 387 national park sites throughout the United States without leaving the park, according to Superintendent Isabel Montes.

"Every third Wednesday, we invite the public to explore a different NPS site through our Armchair Explorer Series," she adds.

The free series kicked off with a presentation of the White House and its grounds at the park's theater.

For additional information call (915) 532-7273.

**NOTED Texas author Larry McMurtry**, who helped put his hometown **Archer City** on the map with "The Last Picture Show" and with his massive book collection at **Booked Up Inc.**, has decided to **indefinitely close** his famous **book shop** beginning Dec. 31. "The world we created that book shop for is gone. It doesn't exist anymore," he says.

Archer City Mayor Carl Harrelson told the Associated Press that many of the customers of his Onion Creek Grill are "book-loving tourists who otherwise would not have traveled the two lane highways, between cow pastures and oil fields, to Archer City."

McMurtry, who lives part time in Arizona, says he plans to continue buying and selling antiquarian books, but he needs a sabbatical.

For more information, call (940) 574-2511 or visit [www.bookedupac.com](http://www.bookedupac.com).

## FACES IN NEW PLACES

**ANCY Wiley** recently retired as senior vice president of public relations and marketing for the **State Fair of Texas** after 33 years of service.

Wiley, who has served as the voice of the fair, is also the author of *The Great State Fair*

*of Texas — An Illustrated History.*

Despite retirement, she will stay on as a consultant to share her "institutional memory," she says.

**ARGO Richards** joins the **Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism** as its **new tourism marketing specialist.**

Richards, who previously worked as the regional coordinator for the Texas Lakes Trail Region (sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission), joined EDT on Jan. 10. She will work with public relations and advertising in Texas Tourism.

**TACIA Lara** joins the **New Braunfels Chamber Convention and Visitors**

**Bureau** as the group/convention coordinator. Lara is Marriott-and Ritz Carlton-trained and has been in charge of group sales for a local conference center.

**INDA Fort** is the **new director of destination sales for the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau.**

Fort brings with her almost 20 years of experience in the hospitality industry including service as manager of corporate and group leisure sales for Morongo Casino and Resort and Spa in Cabazon, Calif.; vice president and general manager of Palm Springs Bureau of Tourism; vice president of tourism with the Denver Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau; and consultant for Destination Management of Lubbock.

## IN THE PRESS

**TEXAS Camel Corps in Valley Mills in the Big Bend Region** was mentioned in a *New York Times* article on the rare adventure of **camel trekking.**

"Whether it's a ride of one hour or several days, a camel trek in the Western deserts, under wide open skies, is an opportunity to learn about desert geology and vegetation," says Texas Camel Corps owner Doug Baum. "Camels are not just a vehicle for someone to ride on, but vehicles to true exploration to discover the desert and learn about history and the environment."

## TOPS IN TEXAS

**THE ANNUAL** study of **Travelers' Top Tourist Attractions** — gauging the response of visitors who took a leisure trip more than 50 miles from home — has been released, revealing different patterns for Texans and non-Texans.

### The Top 10 attractions for non-Texans

- The Alamo
- Paseo Del Rio (River Walk)
- Six Flags Over Texas
- Space Center Houston
- Fort Worth Stockyards
- SeaWorld San Antonio
- State Capitol
- Texas Motor Speedway
- Amerquest Field in Arlington
- Texas Stadium

### Top 10 attractions for Texans

- San Marcos Outlet Malls
- The Alamo
- Paseo Del Rio
- State Capitol
- Six Flags over Texas
- SeaWorld San Antonio
- South Padre Island
- Six Flags Fiesta Texas
- San Antonio Zoo
- Moody Gardens

For the complete list, visit [www.travel.state.tx.us/VisitorsTopAttractions.aspx](http://www.travel.state.tx.us/VisitorsTopAttractions.aspx).

**ICHELIN** Travel Publications' latest **guide — America's Patriotic Places** — has named the **Alamo** among 50 of the most significant, special places that help define our country — its hopes and dreams, its history and its future.

The Alamo is in good company, joined by other landmarks such as Valley Forge, the Liberty Bell, Pearl Harbor and the White House.

**AS FAR** as professional sandcastle competitions go, **the Travel Channel** ranks the **annual Texas SandFest sand sculpting festival in Port Aransas** among the tops in the nation. Its No. 5 ranking placed it just behind events in Quebec, Canada; Las Vegas, Nev.; British Columbia, Canada; and Myrtle Beach, S.C.

The event, held April 15-17 this year, attracts competitors from around the globe and onlookers who are also treated to live entertainment.

For more information, call (800) 452-6278 or visit [www.sandfest.com](http://www.sandfest.com).

**IT'S NO** surprise that when **USA Today** sought out the nation's **most notable food and wine festivals**, the growing Texas wine market had its share of winners. Among the selections were the upcoming Wine & Food Festival set for March 20-April 3 in Dallas and the *Savour* Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival from April 7-10 in Austin. Fredericksburg's Oct. 22 Food and Wine Fest was also noted.

*Savour* editor Colman Andrews told the publication that the thrust of the event is to be "unusual and different," not overly intellectual.

**PORTS Illustrated** touted the **25 Best Sports Bars in America** — among them **Griff's in Houston** and **Scholz Garten in Austin.**

Griff's, ranked 8th, is marked by its loyal regulars who gather to watch games there or take chartered buses to various stadiums.

Scholz Garten, ranked 18th, is noted for being the oldest continuously operating business in Texas and has also become a clubhouse for Texas politicians.

TEXAS TRIVIA

Where is the largest urban wildlife preserve in America?

www.abnmc.org

Pasadena, in Harris County, is home to the 2,500-acre Armand Bayou Nature Center — which is on one of the largest migratory bird routes in North America. The Nature Center, with its forest, marsh and prairies, features trails, an education center, nature pond, boardwalk, visitor center, Martyn Farm, greenhouse, viewing platforms, exhibits and more. For more information, call (281) 474-2551 or visit

TEXAS TRIVIA

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TRAVEL CENTER	Month Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year-to-Date Visitors	Percent Variation*
AMARILLO	6,556	-7.26	6,556	-7.26
ANTHONY	13,775	-3.48	13,775	-3.48
CAPITOL	5,202	-5.98	5,202	-5.98
DENISON	30,485	+11.59	30,485	+11.59
GAINESVILLE	25,265	+39.42	25,265	+39.42
LANGTRY	5,567	-12.05	5,567	-12.05
LAREDO	10,967	+5.36	10,967	+5.36
ORANGE	44,645	-0.13	44,645	-0.13
TEXARKANA	33,071	-14.58	33,071	-14.58
VALLEY	38,187	+10.65	38,187	+10.65
WASKOM	32,843	+1.21	32,843	+1.21
WICHITA FALLS	11,512	-1.45	11,512	-1.45
CENTER TOTALS	258,075	+2.77	258,075	+2.77

\*Compared to last year

Dial toll-free (800) 452-9292 for travel assistance from TxDOT's Texas Travel Information Centers (8 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, Central Time)

www.traveltex.com • www.texashighways.com  
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