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TEXAS TRAVEL LOG

Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas

December Division of Travel & Information, P. O. Box 5000, Austin, Texas 78763 512/467-3722 1991

A TEXAS GIANT IS GONE. Standing only a bit over five feet, Margaret Harper was nevertheless a genuine giant in the Texas travel industry. At age 80, Margaret died November 16 in Amarillo. She leaves a record of 26 annual seasons of the largest outdoor drama in the United States, the "TEXAS" production in Palo Duro Canyon. It was Margaret who conceived the idea for an outdoor drama in Palo Duro, and who persuaded Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paul Green to write the rousing, colorful production that is seen by more than 100,000 people each summer. She received abundant honors from her peers, and those fortunate enough to have known Margaret personally speak in superlatives — "enthusiastic, witty, dedicated, genuine, untiring, and always gracious." She



personally hosted dignitaries including congressmen, governors, and foreign diplomats — clambering up and down the rocks of the huge stage set. Among her favorite "dignitaries" were young travel counselors from our Texas Travel Information Centers. "They're so enthusiastic," said Margaret — the same word others always used about her.

So a Texas giant is gone, but just think what Margaret Harper will be able to do with the kind of cast and set she has to work with now.

TWO POPULAR TEXAS DESTINATIONS will be among outstanding RV vacation destinations featured on the Nashville Network's "Going Our Way," the only nationally televised RV travel show. Now in its second season, the show averages more than half a million viewers each week as it follows country music star Jim Ed Brown and his wife Becky traveling coast to coast in a variety of recreational vehicles. Featured Texas cities are San Antonio and Corpus Christi/South Padre Island. Produced by the Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA), the shows are televised each Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. Central. The two Texas cities are scheduled to be featured as follows:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| San Antonio | January 4 and 9 |
| | April 4 and 9 |
| Corpus Christi | January 18 and 23 |
| | April 18 and 23 |

TEXAS TRIVIA: Who was Corrinne Goodnight?

NEED HELP? — Travel Services has a new brochure describing its 1-800 number service. Motorists unable to stop at a Texas Travel Information Center can get trip planning assistance, travel literature, emergency road condition information, and even subscribe to *Texas Highways* Magazine by calling 1-800-452-9292. Professional travel counselors are on duty seven days a week during working hours. Those who can use a supply of folders for distribution at visitor bureaus, city info centers, and the like should write Travel Services at Box 5064, Austin, TX 78763 or call 512/483-3705.

Around the Centers



Another successful study tour, led by Bob Phillips of Classic Attractions and PR Director Bruce Neal from Six Flags, gave travel counselors and Austin headquarters employees a firsthand look at tourist attractions, state parks, and other offerings throughout Central Texas and the Hill Country. Counselors representing nine Texas Travel Information Centers were impressed by the quality of facilities and the hospitality they found along the way. Sponsored by the Texas Travel Industry Assn., these annual study tours cover a sampling of a different region of Texas each year.

David Linzey, Travel Services Administration, and Ann Dean, Manager, Texarkana TIC, are members of TxDOT '90s Transition Teams. These 15 teams of more than 100 employees, representing all levels, are the communication link between the employees and administration during the reorganization of the department.

"Texas Tourist Bureau (near by bridge over Sabine River), Beaumont, TX U.S.A." That was the address on a letter from Denmark written in German and delivered to our Orange Travel Information Center. Seems these folks are planning to drive from Florida to California and wanted to know what special insurance, driver's license, etc. would be needed when passing through Texas!

A gentleman in Holland set his alarm for a little after midnight so that he could call the Capitol Information Center in Austin for a TEXAS State Travel Guide and map.

Marion and Betty Peveto, long-time officers and boosters of the Texas Association of Campground Operators, have completed a quarter century in the tourism business at their Oak Leaf Park Campground in Orange. Our Orange TIC manager, Pam Crew, presented a plaque to the Pevetos from the Division of Travel and Information marking their 25th anniversary, along with our thanks to these very good friends of the Texas travel industry.

PETE HAIGHT, editor of this newsletter, is recuperating from a heart attack and bypass surgery. Pete is excited about his "new hoses" and expects to be back at his copy desk by January 1992.

ANSWER TO TEXAS TRIVIA: At the age of 91, pioneer cattleman and trailblazer Charles Goodnight was married for the second time. His bride, whose maiden name was Corrinne Goodnight, was 26. A telegraph operator and former nurse in Butte, Montana, she had stopped en route to Florida to visit the famous cattleman who bore the same surname. Corrinne found him seriously ill and stayed to nurse him back to health, before becoming his bride.

NEW TxDOT COMMISSIONERS. Gov. Ann Richards appointed three members to the Texas Transportation Commission created by the 72nd Legislature. Named to the Commission are David E. Bernsen of Beaumont, Henry R. Muñoz, III, of San Antonio, and Raymon C. Stoker, Jr., of Odessa. Governor Richards also designated Stoker to serve as Chairman of the Commission. Stoker will serve a two-year term expiring Feb. 1, 1993; Muñoz will serve a four-year term expiring Feb. 1, 1995, and Bernsen's six-year term will expire Feb. 1, 1997. The Texas Transportation Commission replaces the former Texas Highway and Public Transportation Commission.



FISHING AND BOATING ENTHUSIASTS are enjoying water activities at West Texas' new O. H. Ivie Reservoir. The 4,300-acre lake is about 80 miles south of Abilene. Both the Concho and Padgitt Recreation Areas provide boat ramps, but anglers shouldn't expect to land many lunkers since the lake was stocked only late last year.

A SPECTACULAR SHORT SUBJECT now playing at IMAX Rivercenter Theater in San Antonio is "Sacred Site" depicting with dazzling imagery the 1986 appearance of Haley's Comet. The comet, that only appears every 76 years, was filmed primarily at Australia's Ayers Rock, the most sacred of sites to the Aborigines; hence, the title. "Sacred Site" is presented with "Blue Planet." Phone 512/225-4629 for current show information.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU! In a move designed to help travelers on rural Interstate Highways, the department will join a number of other states in providing food, gas, lodging, and camping information logo signs at appropriate locations approaching intersections. Signs will be installed at intersections where motorists can conveniently re-enter the highway in the same direction of travel, and will be limited to counties with a population of less than 20,000. Comments on this proposal may be directed to Mr. Bob Hodge, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 East 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483.



FOR THE FIRST TIME, passenger ferry service is available between Port O'Connor and Matagorda Island State Park. Operated on weekends and holidays only, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department boat departs Port O'Connor at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. for the 11-mile trip across Espiritu Santo Bay, returning at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children; reservations recommended. Call 512/983-2215.

A MIXED BAG greets readers of the January *Texas Highways*, soon at your newsstand. Read about taste-tempting ways to prepare one of Texas' most popular sources of nutrition and flavor, catfish, or about the wool and mohair industry. Discover where Robert E. Lee earned his spurs as a cavalry officer and scan stunning photos on the textures of Texas landscape. It's all yours for \$2 a copy. Or you can get 12 copies for a mere \$12.50 subscription. Such a bargain!

A NEW RESERVATION SYSTEM for Garner State Park goes into effect January 1, according to Texas Parks and Wildlife officials. The new system will allow visitors to reserve campsites and other overnight facilities as much as a year in advance. Reservations will be accepted by telephone only during January 1992 to give everyone a fair chance during the transition period. For information and reservations call 512/232-6132.

THE DALLAS C&VB plans a mid-January tour in Mexico to tout Big D's shopping malls, restaurants, and cultural centers in an effort to lure visitors from south of the border to the Metroplex city. Dallas recently opened a tourism office in Mexico City, where Houston and San Antonio operate similar offices. Dallas' focus is on travelers from Monterrey and Guadalajara.

EIGHT NEW MIRADORES, white, octagonal structures with Spanish tile roofs, have been erected and are open to the public along Corpus Christi's Bayfront. The Devary Durrill Foundation donated the miradores to the city with the stipulation that anyone can arrange to hold a wedding in one of the structures free of charge. Each of the miradores bears a plaque honoring a different person or event in South Texas history.

Looking Ahead



Look for a new Arena Football League team to begin play in the Alamo City next May 28. One of four new Arenaball teams, the San Antonio Force will home base at HemisFair Arena, playing five home games next year. Call 512/554-7787 for more information.

The target date of May 21, 1992, for the opening of the new Hummel Museum in New Braunfels took another step toward reality November 4 with the acquisition of a substantial portion of the First Federal Savings and Loan Building. Most of the 354 original Hummels to be housed in the museum have never before been on public display.

Regular excursions of restored Southern Pacific Locomotive 786 and several passenger cars between Austin and the Hill Country are slated to begin next April. In the meantime, visitors are invited to celebrate the engine's 75th birthday commencing at 10:30 a.m. on December 14. Sponsored by Austin Steam Train Association, the party will be at West 3rd Street between Guadalupe and Nueces in downtown Austin.

Data as of November 30, 1991

Austin Office	For TxDOT This Month	For TxDOT This Year	For DOC This Month	For DOC This Year	Total Year to Date
Mail Services	5,519	79,664	14,374	776,455	856,119

Services to Travel Industry	Subscriber Inquiries This Month	Addresses Offered This Month	Addresses Transmitted This Month	Addresses Transmitted Year to Date
TxDOT TRAX System	64	29,530	15,845	436,914

Official State Travel Magazine	This Month	This Month Last Year	This Year to Date	Last Year to Date
<i>Texas Highways</i> Print Run	427,255	429,659	4,744,358	4,759,345

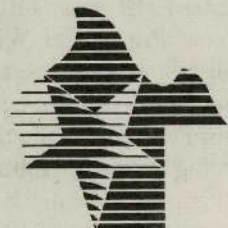
Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*
Amarillo	5,397	- 18.3	119,922	+ 3.3	Orange	34,830	+ 10.4	464,493	+ 10.6
Anthony	14,514	+ 10.3	196,032	+ 13.9	Texarkana	24,507	- 10.7	324,717	+ 4.1
Denison	Temporarily Closed				Valley	19,386	+ 5.4	242,682	- 1.0
Gainesville	25,755	- 8.8	331,335	+ 0.8	Waskom	30,936	+ 2.4	326,586	+ 2.2
Langtry	5,808	- 2.2	81,921	- 0.3	Wichita Falls	10,038	- 12.8	166,629	+ 0.4
Laredo	12,150	+ 15.0	168,240	- 7.2	Capitol	29,223	- 21.8	518,817	+ 1.4
					Center Totals	212,544	- 3.8	2,941,374	+ 1.9

*Compared to last Year

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