

T1325.6 H537  
56:09

OUR ICONIC LANDMARKS

THE ALAMO » SAN JACINTO MONUMENT » WINDMILLS



texashighways.com » September 2009

# Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF



PLUS »

Fall Festing PAGE 56 «

Abilene Street Party PAGE 50 «

\$3.95



0 9 >

0 71896 47399 5



12454. Ruins of the Historical Alamo, owned by the Daughters of the Republic, San Antonio, Texas

THE CRUMBLING ruins of the Alamo compound's Long Barracks show us what might have been.

## Fragile Memories

*Icons can be surprisingly fragile. Even when they're made of stone.*

**A**S THIS POSTCARD IMAGE illustrates, the battered ruins of the Alamo's Long Barracks languished for decades after the 1836 battle. Even today, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the organization that owns and operates the Alamo Museum, work diligently to maintain and improve the shrine. Turn to page 31 so you can learn more about the \$11 million capital campaign underway to maintain the Cradle of Texas Liberty.

One surprising twist to the Alamo saga is that the English musician and actor Phil Collins has become the ultimate amateur Alamo historian. In fact, he was quoted in the *San Antonio Express-News* saying "Basically, now I've stopped being Phil Collins the singer. This has become what I do." You can catch a glimpse of Collins in the video produced by Tim Florer inside the Alamo during a special ceremony in March. Go to the *Texas Highways* Web site, [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com), and look in the video vault under the "Departments" button. Another Web site that offers an interesting perspective on the Alamo compound as it was before the battle: [www.tamu.edu/cebn/dewitt/adp/history/1836/the\\_compound/tourframe.html](http://www.tamu.edu/cebn/dewitt/adp/history/1836/the_compound/tourframe.html).

And the restoration story also applies to the San Jacinto Monument (see page 34), where a recent multimillion-dollar renovation cleaned up the monument itself and brought the elevator and observation deck back into working condition. And *Battle-ship Texas*, docked in the Houston Ship Channel near the San Jacinto Monument, is in constant need of work to stave off rust and corrosion.

As we read about a few of our state's most important icons, we also are reminded that there's always a cost to keep them open to the public. That price is the value we place on our collective history.

### Fredericksburg is calling you!

Turn to the inside back cover and take part in the annual *Texas Highways* "Where in Texas Are You?" contest.

Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor

# Texas Highways

**Governor of Texas**  
Rick Perry

**TEXAS TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

Deirdre Delisi **Chair**  
Ted Houghton, Jr. **Commissioner**  
Ned S. Holmes **Commissioner**  
Fred Underwood **Commissioner**  
William Meadows **Commissioner**  
Arnadeo Saenz **Executive Director**

**Published monthly by the**  
Travel Information Division

**Division Director** Doris Howdeshell  
**Publisher** Kathy Murphy  
**Editor** Charles J. Lohrmann  
**Managing Editor** Jill Lawless

**Senior Editors:**

Nola McKey, Lori Moffatt

**Associate Editor** Marty Lange

**Photography Editor** J. Griffis Smith

**Web Editor** Lois M. Rodriguez

**Art Director** Jane Wu

**Associate Art Directors:**

Kirsti Harms, Jane Sharpe

**Editorial Assistant** Cindy Newsom

**Editorial Interns:**

Samantha Hyde, Brenna Burkarth

**Photography Intern** Howard Chang

**Marketing Manager** Cindy Leffingwell

**Circulation/Ancillary Products Manager**

Deborah Follien

**Business Manager** Lucia Cordova

**Administrative Assistants:**

Ana Alvarez, Lupe Valdez

**For advertising information:** AJR Media Group, 25132 Oakhurst Dr., Ste. 201, Spring, TX 77386; 800/383-7677; fax 713/942-0277.

**Subscriptions to *Texas Highways*** are \$19.95 annually (\$29.95 foreign). Call **800/839-4997**. (Call 386/597-4297 outside the U.S.) Copies of current and back issues are available. Call 512/486-5823. For subscription services, call 800/839-4997. To be removed from mailing list sales, write to *Texas Highways* Marketing, Mailing Lists, Box 141009, Austin, TX 78714-1009.

*Texas Highways* (ISSN 0040-4349) is published monthly by the Texas Department of Transportation, 150 East Riverside Drive, Austin, Texas 78704; phone 512/486-5858, fax 512/486-5879. The official travel magazine of Texas encourages travel within the state and tells the Texas story to readers around the world. [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)

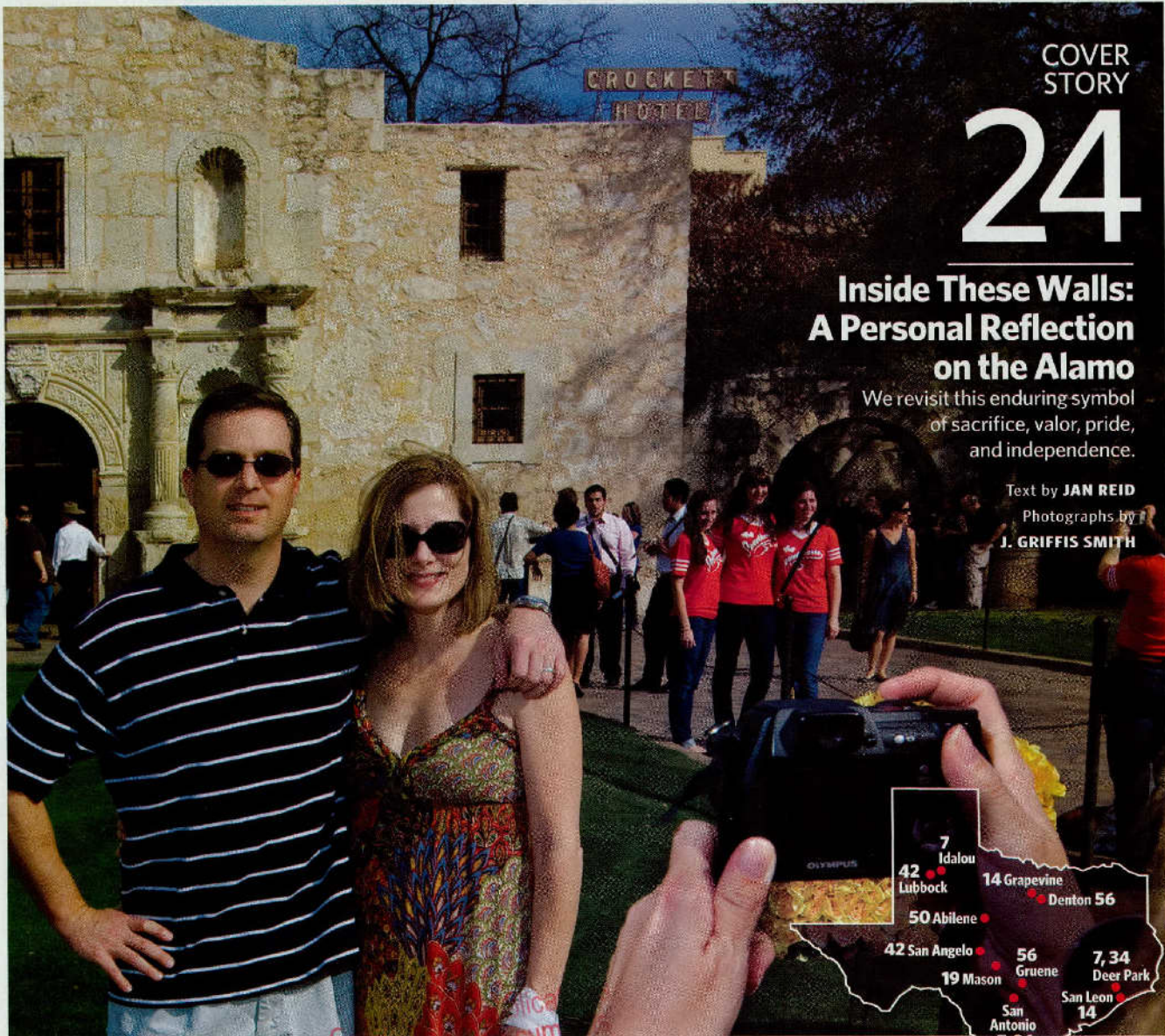
Periodicals Postage paid at Austin, Texas, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Texas Highways* Circulation, Box 51564, Boulder, CO 80322-1564.

© Texas Department of Transportation 2009. All rights reserved. [www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)



MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION





COVER STORY

# 24

## Inside These Walls: A Personal Reflection on the Alamo

We revisit this enduring symbol of sacrifice, valor, pride, and independence.

Text by **JAN REID**  
Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

## features

**34** | **Where Independence Was Won**  
Crowned by the tallest monument in the world, the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site marks hallowed ground for Texans.  
Text by **CHARLES LOHRMANN**  
Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

**42** | **Chasing Windmills**  
Conjuring water from wind, the blades that helped settle the West once topped towers throughout rural Texas. A Lubbock museum preserves their legacy.  
Text and photographs by **E. DAN KLEPPER**

**50** | **Abilene at Full Gallop**  
Downtown street parties, custom-made Western wear, contemporary art, luxurious lodging, and some of the best barbecue around—giddyup!  
Text by **LORI MOFFATT**  
Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

**56** | **Fests Up: Home-grown Celebrations from Gruene to Gilmer**  
It's that time of the year again: Small-town Texas comes alive each fall with festivals featuring blues and bluegrass, pottery and pumpkins.  
Text by **NOLA McKEY**

Check out [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) for more travel information



Gov. Rick Perry  
Texas State Document  
SEP 2009  
Depository  
Dallas Public Library

TH **Contents**

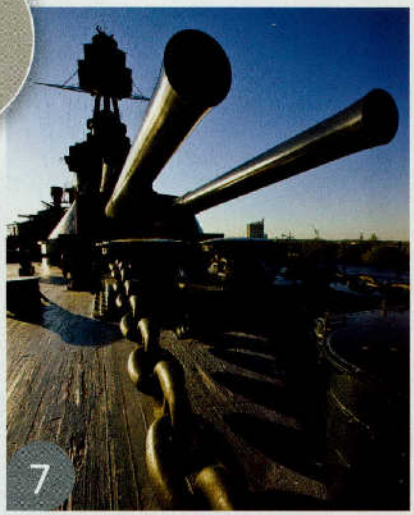
VOL. 56, NO. 9

09  
/  
09



19

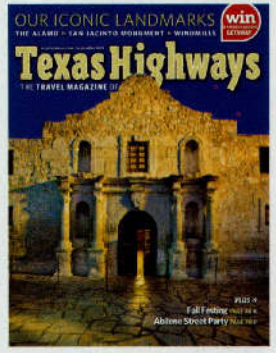
**win**  
A FREDERICKSBURG  
GETAWAY  
see page 73



7



14



**About Our Covers**

**FRONT:** The Alamo has been the heart of downtown San Antonio for centuries, its familiar façade welcoming visitors from around the world. **Photo by J. Griffis Smith**

**BACK:** The 20-foot-long *Barbadillo* greets diners at Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap. **Photo by J. Griffis Smith**

**Photographic Prints Available**

Some images in this issue, including the front and back covers, are available as prints in two distinctive formats. For more information, call toll-free 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).

departments

**4 | Talk to TH**  
**Readers sound off**  
Devils River to pineapple shakes

**7 | Postcards**  
"I've Been Everywhere"  
Touring the well-traveled Battleship *Texas*, plus music that pays homage to the Alamo, and Idalou's apple fest

**14 | TH Taste**  
The Liquid Gold of San Leon

A rum distillery in a coastal community builds on the area's sugarcane heritage, plus Grapevine's GrapeFest

**19 | Weekender**  
**Hill Country Gem**  
Must-dos in Mason include searching for topaz and strolling the courthouse square

**64 | Speaking of Texas**  
History with a travel twist

The crime-fighting zeal and prowess of a lawman known as "Lone Wolf" was legendary, even for a Texas Ranger

**67 | TH Traveler**  
**A roundup of September events**  
The State Fair of Texas, a Mount Pleasant montage, and James Taylor concerts salute the season



**Comfort Suites  
of Brenham**  
979-421-8100



**Ellison's Greenhouses**  
*Open year-round*  
979-836-6011

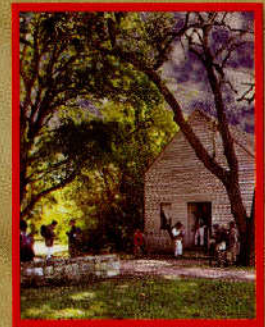


**Scarecrow Festival**  
Chappell Hill • October 10-11  
979-836-6033



**Barn Dance • October 17**  
Burton Cotton Gin  
979-289-3378

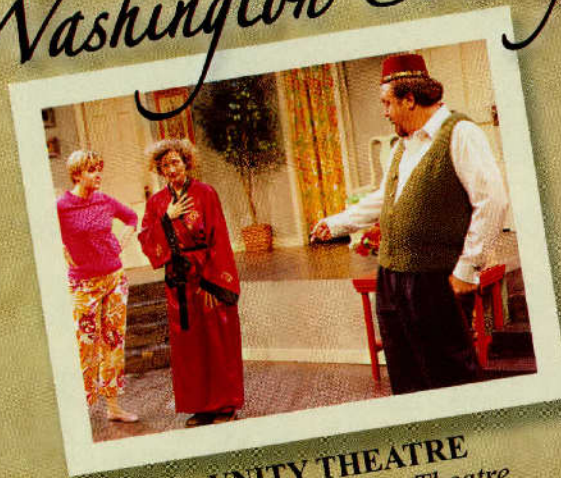
# Brenham Washington County



**Washington-on-the-Brazos  
State Historic Site**  
936-878-2214



**Knittel Homestead Inn**  
*Comfortable Country Inn*  
979-289-5102

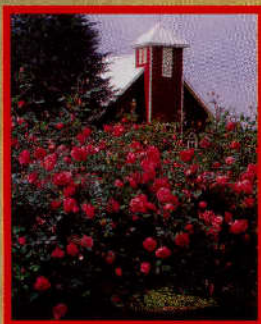


**UNITY THEATRE**  
*Professional Live Theatre*



**Windy Winery**  
*Texas Legend Finest Wines*  
979-836-3252

FOR A FREE VISITOR'S GUIDE, CALL 1-800-509-1752  
[WWW.BRENHAMTEXAS.COM](http://WWW.BRENHAMTEXAS.COM)  
BRENHAM • BURTON • CHAPPELL HILL • INDEPENDENCE • WASHINGTON  
Halfway between Houston and Austin on Hwy. 290



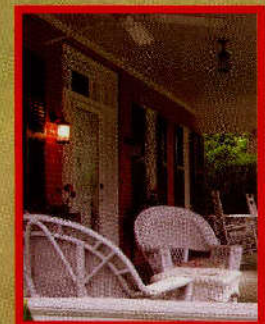
**Antique Rose Emporium**  
*Prepare to be inspired!*  
979-836-5548



**Must Be Heaven**  
*A Brenham Tradition!*  
979-830-8536



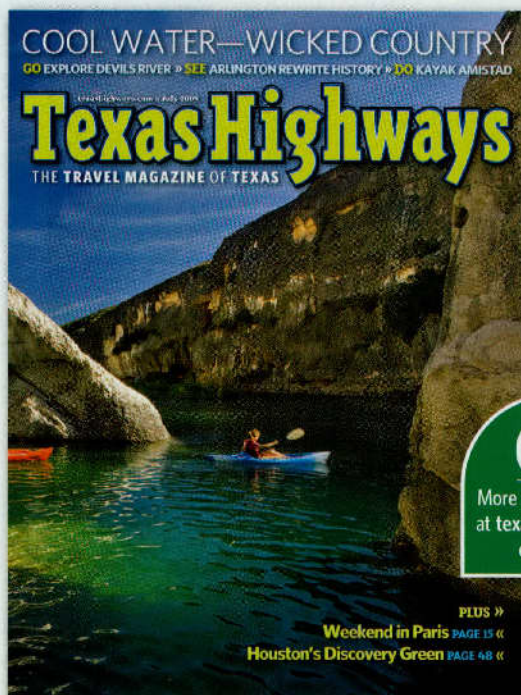
**Best Western Inn  
of Brenham**  
979-251-7791



**Ingleside Bed & Breakfast**  
*Finest Southern Hospitality*  
979-251-7707

"TH has been responsible for many vacation adventures with our horses. We love it!"

DONNA ALLEN,  
Coldspring



## What Lies Beneath

I enjoyed the July issue, especially the beautiful pictures featured in the Amistad and Devils River articles [by Laurence Parent and E. Dan Klepper, respectively]. I have been to that area only once, before the dam was built and the Devils' crystal-clear water met the Rio Grande. Do I correctly recall that there were two small lakes, Lake Walk and Devils Lake, and a CP&L power station on the river? I believe that Amistad's water level flooded them out.

JOHN NETARDUS  
Slidell, Louisiana



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *There were indeed two lakes on the Devils River, and three CP&L power plants: Devils Lake Hydro Plant, Lake Walk Hydro Plant, and the Steam Plant. According to*



*Where wilderness meets culture, there's Lufkin.  
Where will your Lufkin vacation take you?*

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Lufkin is conveniently located near major cities like Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, and Austin, making it the perfect spot for travelers looking for a drive-to-destination full of world-class opportunities for family, corporate, and group travel fun.

### SHOPPING

Get the goods on where to start your shopping adventures! Lufkin is a main street city with many shopping options, including a number of antique shops and specialty stores throughout the city. With the opening of many new retail stores, Lufkin continues to maintain its status as a regional hub for shopping and entertainment.

### ACTIVE ARTS COMMUNITY

The Angelina Arts Alliance provides a way to connect people through the arts, and its performance seasons at the Temple Theater offer diverse arrays of outstanding artists, which represent the very best in dance, theatre, and music. Every show brings the excitement and energy only a live performance can provide.

### DINING & LODGING

Dining options in the area range from fast food to family-style buffets to world-class restaurants in historic buildings. Lodging amenities for travelers run the gamut from RV parks to hotels. Visitors can stay in any number of chain hotels; enjoy the comforts of a bed and breakfast; or take advantage of our camping sites.

WWW.GO.VISITLUFKIN.COM/TX6



1615 S. CHESTNUT ST.  
LUFKIN, TEXAS 75901  
800-409-5659



the National Park Service Web site ([www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)): "Much of the development of Del Rio and the surrounding communities is owed to the vision and hard work of the engineers and employees of the Central Power and Light Company. Today, all that remains of these historic structures and associated communities lies quietly below the waters of Lake Amistad."

I thoroughly enjoyed "Friends With the Devils." The map shows Juno and you call it a ghost town. This is a very kind description of it since the rubble from a couple of buildings is all that is there. My mother, Georgie Bell Wyatt, and my father, Alva Williams, were both born in Juno [in the early 1900s]. My mother would get a twinkle in her eye and laugh when she would tell someone

**TH READER RECOMMENDATION**

**Must-See B&B**

**JUST FINISHED** our third visit to **Azalea Plantation Bed and Breakfast** in **Fort Worth**, and it just keeps getting better. Innkeepers Richard and Martha Linnartz are the most hospitable hosts you could ever wish to meet. Nothing is too much trouble for these guys, and we want the world to know that this is the place to stay in Texas. Their "Evening in Paris" cottage will make anyone think it's the real deal, and we should know—we live in France!

**GILL AND DAVID BROADHURST**  
**La Reveillere, Saint Amand le Petit France**

*Azalea Plantation Bed and Breakfast is at 1400 Robinwood Dr.; 817/838-5882; [www.azaleaplantation.com](http://www.azaleaplantation.com).*

**Destination MCKINNEY!**  
MCKINNEY TEXAS  
Unique by nature.<sup>SM</sup>

888-649-8499 VisitMcKinney.com

**The Art of Discovery**

**KERRVILLE TEXAS**

The 10th Annual Furniture Makers Show • Oct 22-Dec 5  
[KacoKerrville.com](http://KacoKerrville.com)  
830.895.2911

A scenic one hour west of San Antonio on I-10, Kerrville is an ideal base for exploring the treasures of the Texas Hill Country. Discover the 10th Annual Texas Furniture Maker's Show, along with a multitude of other fine events, museums, galleries and shops.

800-221-7958 • [kerrcvb@kfc.com](mailto:kerrcvb@kfc.com)  
[KerrvilleTexasCVB.com](http://KerrvilleTexasCVB.com)

Explore The Riverside Nature Center

→ **TH READER RECOMMENDATION**

## Delicioso!

**WHILE** in **Victoria**, we had dinner at **La Hacienda Mexican Café**. It was wonderful! Their Mexican rice was the best I've ever tasted. The restaurant appeared to have many regulars. The wait staff was excellent, the restaurant was clean and comfortable, and the food ... mmm good!

**TERRY GILLELAND**  
Wichita Falls

*La Hacienda Mexican Café is at 7702 N. Navarro St.; 361/570-6800.*

that she got even with the devil—that she was baptized in the Devils River.

**VERGENE VOGEL**  
El Paso

### El Paso Icon

I particularly enjoyed the article on El Paso del Norte [June], having lived there for more than a year. I am glad to see that Leo's is still a popular restaurant.

**HUGH J. McSPADDEN**  
Glendale, Arizona

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Leo's has several locations (the original opened in 1946); find out more at [www.leosmexican.com](http://www.leosmexican.com).*

### Beach Bash

I was so disappointed in the June "Tourist Promotional" issue that I haven't sent in my renewal card. Since I grew up in Alice, I have longed for an issue dedicated to the coast. Where was the Gulf Coast

in this issue? Where were the pictures of life along the island? The small towns that make visiting memorable? Where was evidence of a region battered by storm and tide, populated by stubborn folks of many cultures who return and rebuild, the environmentalists who treasure the sand crabs and salt ivy and collect tar lumps in trash bags ... all to preserve a coastline of life and color and history. You did a great sales job for the summer issue. Shame on you.

**KATE LACY**  
Fayetteville

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *Ms. Lacy—Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. TH staff members are often in touch with contacts on the coast, and all of those people and their communities appreciate feature articles that inspire travelers to visit. An essential goal for many towns and cities is to keep their communities vibrant—and visitors are a big* [continued on page 72]

# FALL in Love with your Weekend!

### Windshield History®

Tales of the Texas Frontier  
Audio Tour II: Abilene to Fort Worth  
Interstate 20



**Abilene to Fort Worth's Windshield History**  
Hear fun tales of the Texas Frontier Audio Tour II Abilene to Fort Worth Interstate 20: A ROADTRIP MUST HAVE... only \$6! For information on purchases, contact:  
[www.abilenevisitors.com](http://www.abilenevisitors.com)  
800.727.7704



### Crazy Days in Mineral Wells

- Kiwanis Crazy Kicker Bike Ride: Oct 17
  - 30th Annual Crazy Water Festival: Oct 10
  - Clark Gardens Botanical Park Fall Festival: Oct 3-4
- BOOtanical Park: Oct 31  
[www.mineralwellstx.com](http://www.mineralwellstx.com)  
800.252.MWTX (6989)



### Discover San Angelo

Discover a getaway that offers the perfect blend of West Texas charm, history, culture and fun.  
Celebrate National Museum Day on Sept. 26 at Fort Concho.  
[www.visitsanangelo.org](http://www.visitsanangelo.org)  
325.655.4136

Explore the Heritage of West Central Texas



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
TEXAS HERITAGE TRAILS PROGRAM

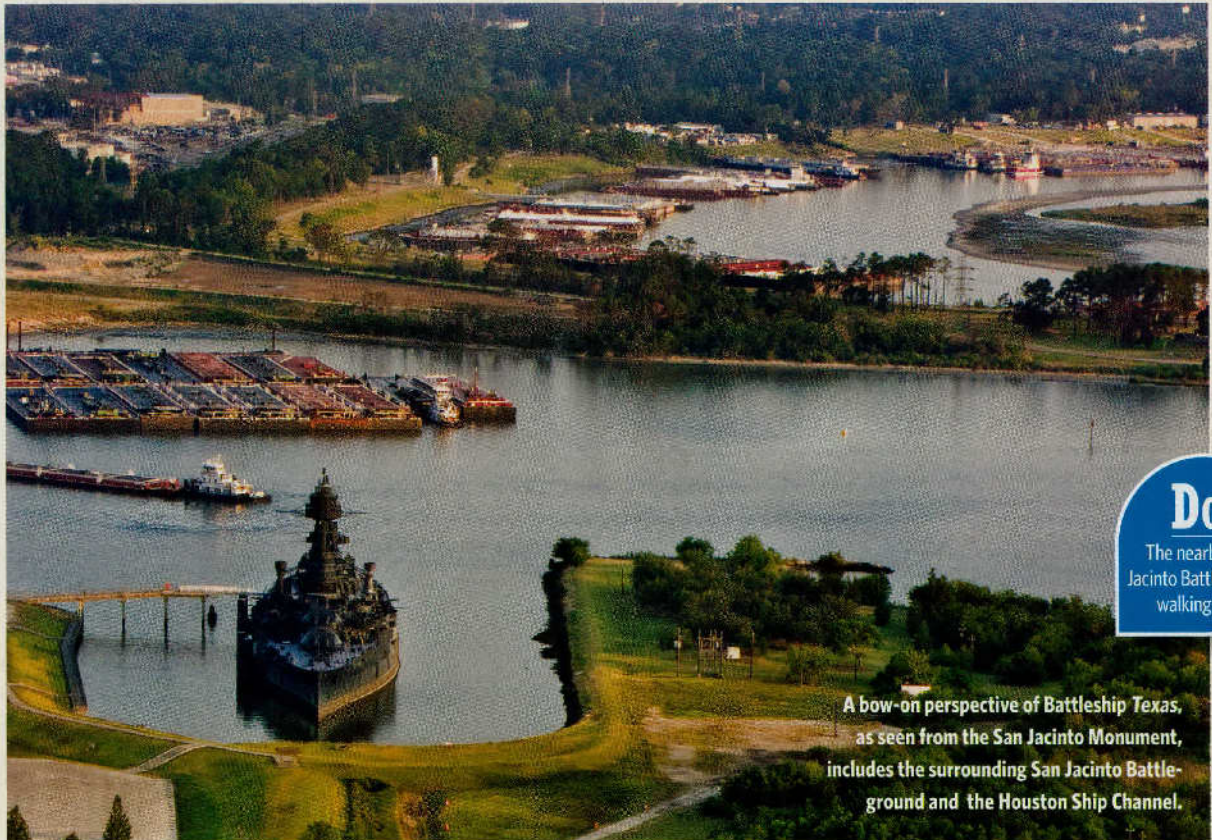
[www.texasfortstrail.com](http://www.texasfortstrail.com)



09  
09

# Postcards

➔ INSIDE: SAN LEON'S RUM-MAKING INNOVATORS...14 MASON OUTSIDE THE JAR...19



**Do!**

The nearby San Jacinto Battleground walking tour

A bow-on perspective of Battleship Texas, as seen from the San Jacinto Monument, includes the surrounding San Jacinto Battleground and the Houston Ship Channel.

## "I've Been Everywhere"

*Battleship Texas harbors near Houston* Text by SHEILA SCARBOROUGH

**D**RIVING DOWN INDEPENDENCE Parkway to the La Porte home of Battleship *Texas*, it's hard to believe that maritime and Texas history await discovery right around the bend, at the San Jacinto Battleground. After all, this is a heavily industrial area near the Houston Ship Channel, where billboards hawk companies that serve "all of your rotating equipment needs," tall spaghetti piles of metal piping support

petrochemical companies, and natural gas flames dot the horizon.

Nevertheless, the Battleship *Texas* floats quietly in her permanent berth in the waters of Buffalo Bayou, adjacent to the Texian Army camp portion of the San Jacinto Battleground. She's still and calm—it is easy to forget that this is a vessel accustomed to movement—until a little wave causes the ship to rub against her moorings with an eerie, scraping "squeeeech" sound. Smartly

turned out in dark blue paint—Camouflage Measure 21—this is how she looked while at war in the Pacific in 1945. Visitors walk the footpaths in the park setting that surrounds her; a few sit quietly on benches and admire her angular lines, hulking guns, and the thick armament that protected her hull through so many conflicts.

Launched in May 1912, just one month after the *Titanic* sank, *Texas* is the last surviving dreadnought-type battleship from

an era when big guns and triple-expansion reciprocating engines were some of the newest innovations in naval technology. Those features, plus further technological advances (and maybe a little luck), kept the ship fighting through both World War I and II.

The ship opens daily for self-guided tours led by Texas Parks and Wildlife staff and volunteers who combine a love of maritime storytelling and a wealth of

detailed naval knowledge. Ship restoration expert and volunteer tour guide Don Fischer notes that Battleship *Texas* is a treasured museum piece: "She is an intriguing artifact that reaches back to the very beginnings of the 20th Century both in design and structure ... technology, techniques and tactics [in] aviation, gunnery, navigation ... you name it, USS *Texas* was involved in it," he says. This is history



that you can walk right up and touch. Fischer adds, "She is now the only representative sample from that entire era left in the world."

**Big guns and serious chain link dominate Turret 1 on board Battleship Texas.**

Men shivered on this ship while supporting World War I mine-laying operations against the German High Seas Fleet

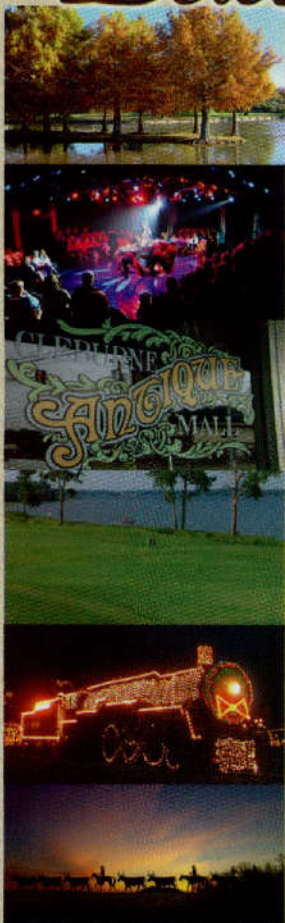
If any ship can sing the Johnny Cash song "I've Been Everywhere," it is Battleship *Texas*.

in chilly Scapa Flow near Scotland. In WWII, men sweated and heaved ammunition to feed the guns that pounded Omaha Beach before the Normandy landing, and men stood on these decks and watched the U.S. flag rise over Iwo Jima's fiercely-contested Mount Suribachi in the Pacific.

If any ship can sing the Johnny Cash song "I've Been Everywhere," it is *Texas*.

Before wandering the decks, I stopped by the gift shop and picked up a helpful \$10

# Making Holiday Memories ... *Texas Style!*



From a challenging round of golf at the new lakeside **Cleburne Golf Links** or finding hidden treasures in our local antique shops to enjoying an entertaining evening of live theater or strolling through 3 million Christmas lights starting in November at **Whistle Stop Christmas**, Cleburne is the place to come for fun filled memories throughout the holiday season.

- Layland Museum of History
- Cleburne State Park
- Lake Pat Cleburne
- Buffalo Creek Riverwalk
- Cleburne Golf Links
- Live Theatre
- Chisholm Trail Outdoor Museum
- Whistle Stop Christmas
- Cuisine For Every Taste
- Antique Shops
- Historic Homes

*and much more!*



*Branded 1867*  
re-established daily.

817-645-2455  
888-525-3287 toll free  
[www.visitcleburne.com](http://www.visitcleburne.com)  
[www.cleburnechamber.com](http://www.cleburnechamber.com)

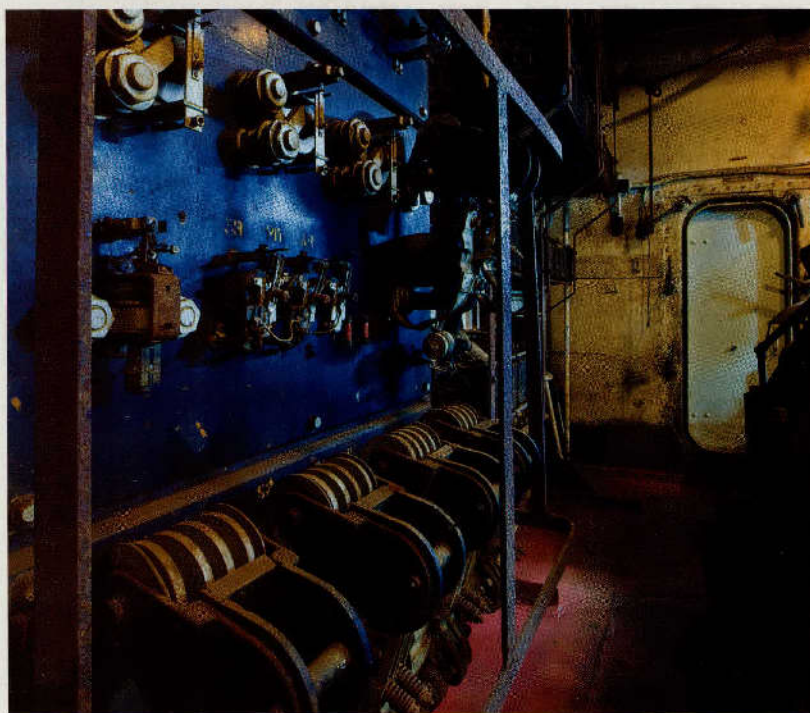


self-guided tour booklet. It took me through the public spaces in a roughly counter-clockwise path, and filled in details and background to clarify what I was seeing.

The battleship is at once very similar and also very different from the modern ships of my own 23 years of U.S. Navy service. There is a slightly shrunken feeling to many of the passageways, hatches, and crew berthing compartments; space was needed within the ship's hull for equipment to go to war, thus, creature comforts were not a priority.

I walked all around, looking at the variety of topside armament and equipment, including the giant, 14-inch guns. On the bow of the ship, I stayed well clear of the massive anchor chains that hold the two 20,000-pound anchors; many years of Navy safety training are hard to forget. We were taught to never

**The aft steering room contains Battleship Texas' electrical control board.**



## Amazing Abilene!

Plan a trip to Abilene, and immerse yourself in West Texas traditions. There are plenty of things to do. Add a dose of West Texas hospitality, and you'll find Abilene...well, pretty amazing.



Bulman Photography



- Frontier Texas!
- Abilene Zoo
- Lots of Great Restaurants
- The Grace Museum
- Paramount Theatre
- Buffalo Gap Historic Village
- Shop, shop, shop!
- The Center for Contemporary Arts
- The National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature
- 12th Armored Division Memorial Museum
- And much more!

**ABILENE**  
Convention & Visitors Bureau

[www.abilenevisitors.com](http://www.abilenevisitors.com) • 800.727.7704

## Luxurious Accommodations in Abilene



UPSCALE, UN-HOSTED,  
WHOLE HOUSE RENTALS  
Sayles Ranch Guesthouses  
325-669-6856  
[www.saylesranch.com](http://www.saylesranch.com)

**STAKE OUT  
YOUR STRETCH  
OF UNCROWDED  
SHORELINE.**



Visit Port A this Fall and enjoy balmy weather, tranquil beaches and off-season rates.

Texas Island style.™  
**Port Aransas**  
& MUSTANG ISLAND

WWW.PORTARANSAS.ORG | 800-45-COAST

step over the chains in case they suddenly “ran away” and took one of us with them down the hawsepipe.

A peek into the navigation bridge shows where *Texas* was steered through the Atlantic and Pacific oceans; there is a nautical chart of the English Channel, and the replica of a large, brass helm gleams. While in action at Cherbourg, a shell burst just below the bridge and killed the helmsman who steered this venerable vessel—the unfortunate gentleman was the sole wartime fatality aboard *Texas*, which is why she had a reputation as a “lucky ship.”

The ship speaks to visitors because she represents the wartime service of so many Texans.

Some of the most compelling spaces are the ones that show the sailors’ daily lives. I paused by the topside galley (kitchen) on the main deck, with plenty of windows propped open to provide ventilation for the cooks who prepared meals three times a day for more than 1,000 enlisted crew members. The ship’s bakery and butcher shop are nearby; can you imagine sailors cutting meat and pounding mounds of dough in such cramped spaces, while the deck (floor) moved beneath?

I stepped down the steep, narrow, metal ladders to go below deck. A typewriter stands ready for a sheet of paper in an administrative office. Clothing and sheets are piled in the ship’s laundry. The ship’s tidy dental office appears to be ready for tooth repair at a [continued on page 12]

**Keep It Shipshape**

If you would like to volunteer at Battleship Texas, please contact volunteer coordinator Beth Tragus at Beth.Tragus@tpwd.state.tx.us.

GRAPEVINE, TEXAS

23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
**GRAPEFEST**

LONE STAR GROWN,  
INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN

SEPTEMBER 17, 18, 19 & 20, 2009



**HOURS:**  
THURSDAY: 10 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY:  
10 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.  
SUNDAY: 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

**ADMISSION:**  
Adults: \$8 • Weekend Pass: \$18  
Seniors 62+ & Children 6 – 12: \$5  
Souvenir Weekend Pass: \$23  
Children 5 & Under: FREE

**FREE ADMISSION:**

ALL DAY THURSDAY AND FROM 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. FRIDAY

**\$25 UNLIMITED  
CARNIVAL RIDE PASS**

THURSDAY: 5 p.m. – Close \$25 advance online, \$30 at carnival  
\*Restrictions apply. See website for full details.

COME AND ENJOY  
THE LARGEST  
WINE FESTIVAL IN  
THE SOUTHWEST!

- People’s Choice Wine Tasting Classic
- Grapevine Winery Tasting Room Tours
- International Wine Pavilion
- Texas Wine Pavilions
- Champagne Terrace
- GrapeStomp
- Culinary Pavilion
- Draft Beer Pavilion
- Live Music on Five Stages
- Great Food and Cooking Demonstrations
- Train Mini Excursions
- 17th Annual Tennis Classic
- Carnival Rides
- GrapeFest Golf Classic
- Texas Wine Tribute Dinner
- KidZone
- Arts and Crafts
- Italian Car Fest
- Vintners’ Auction



WWW.GRAPEVINETEXASUSA.COM/GRAPEFEST • 800-457-6338

## Memorializing the Mission

**Music of the Alamo** recalls the historic battle

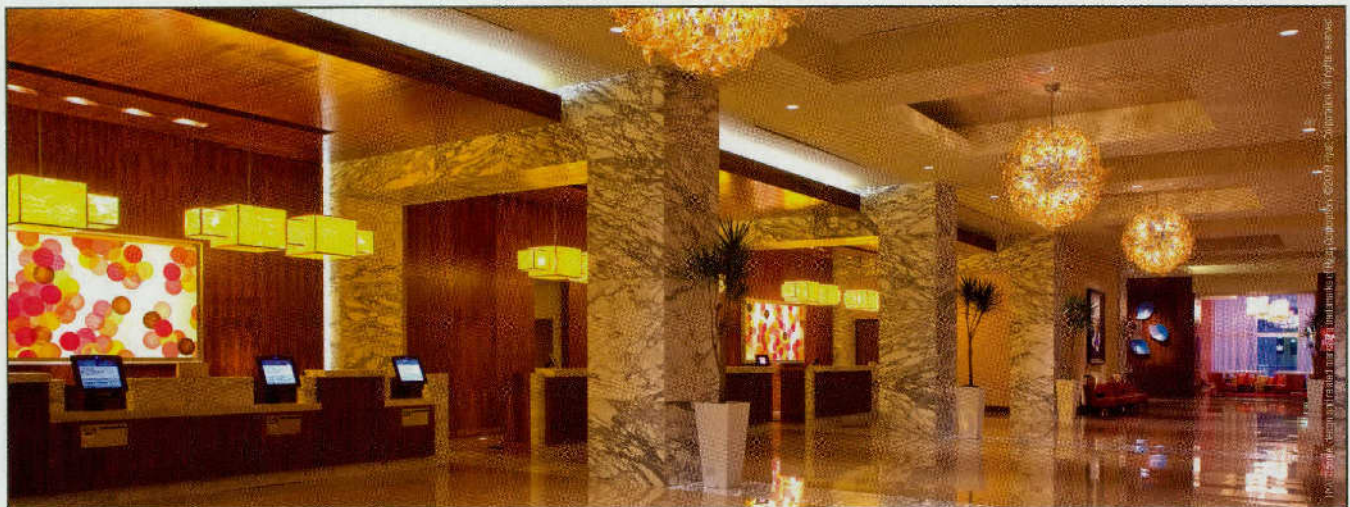
**JAN REID'S THOUGHTFUL REFLECTION ON THE ALAMO**, along with Photo Editor J. Griffis Smith's beautiful images, begins on page 24 of this issue. For another entertaining perspective on this singular San Antonio site, check your favorite bookstore for *Music of the Alamo* (Bright Sky Press, 2009, \$29.95), which comes with a CD of eight tracks, including nearly forgotten 19th-Century tunes ("Will You Come to the Bower") and more recent compositions ("A Parting Kiss") about the Alamo and its heroes. With a foreword by Fess Parker, who played Disney's iconic Davy Crockett, plus an introduction by rock star and devoted Alamo aficionado Phil Collins (who knew?), this fact-filled account of how the mission's memorable story has been told in song throughout the years provides a terrific trip through time. Authors William R. Chemerka and Allen J. Wiener have assembled an insightful edition full of anecdotes, lyrics, photos, illustrations, sheet music, a discography, and history. This fascinating compilation puts a whole new spin on "Remember the Alamo!" and respectfully honors the shrine of Texas liberty. —Marty Lange

**Alamo aficionado Phil Collins (kneeling) joins a military ceremony in front of the San Antonio landmark.**



**See!**

Both DVDs of *The Alamo* (1960 and 2004)



**DOWNTOWN JUST GOT A LITTLE MORE UPSCALE.**

**GRAND HYATT: TAKING SAN ANTONIO HOSPITALITY TO A HIGHER LEVEL.**

There's a reason we have the word "Grand" in front of Hyatt. And you'll understand it the moment you walk through our doors. Because we offer you a level of amenities that is unparalleled in San Antonio. Welcoming rooms with flat-panel LCD televisions and our ultra-comfortable signature Hyatt Grand Bed.™ WiFi everywhere. Our 24-hour Stay Fit gym with heated outdoor pool. Plus unique bars and restaurants like our Achiote River Café, with its fresh pan-Latino menu. All accompanied with a level of service that many tell us feels like a boutique hotel. Come experience the difference. Feel the Hyatt Touch.® For reservations call 800.223.1234 or visit [grandhyattsanantonio.com](http://grandhyattsanantonio.com).



# BOERNE

*Fall Festivals & Events*



Kendall County Fair~Key To The Hills Rod Run  
Second Saturday Art Experience~Market Days  
Summer Scene Concerts and Movies in the Park  
Harvest Moon Celebration~Cibolo Songs and Stories  
Key To The Hills Antique Show

*Experience the History, the Arts, the Charm...*



[www.visitboerne.org](http://www.visitboerne.org)

## Celebrate New Braunfels.

Experience Old World heritage and festivals in historic New Braunfels. No tube required. Call 800-572-2626 or visit [www.nbjumpin.com](http://www.nbjumpin.com).

New Braunfels  
TEXAS  
Jump in.

Continued from page 10] moment's notice. Everywhere I looked were places for someone to sleep—not just the standard crew berthing compartments but also foldup racks (beds) out in the passageways. Not much privacy anywhere, that's for sure. If there's any doubt about that, take a look at one of the crew bathrooms (heads) to see the open row of shipboard toilets. There's even a small movie locker where reels of film were stacked and stored; *Texas* was the first U.S. ship to show a "talkie" movie—in 1930.

Texas Parks and Wildlife staff and an active team of volunteers work tirelessly to keep things shipshape—continually restoring spaces and fighting corrosion.

The ship speaks to visitors because she represents the wartime service of so many Texans. Volunteer John Stock says, "I got involved because my Dad was in World War II, and this ship went to some of the places that he went to in the Pacific. This is that symbol of the grandfather, the father, the uncles, and the brothers who were in World War II. I've met so many people on my public tours who, when I talk about Normandy, say, 'My grandfather was at Normandy, my grandfather was at Omaha Beach. He may be here today because *Texas* was also at Omaha Beach ...'" **TH**

### Battleship Texas

is at 3523 Texas 134 in La Porte, 281/479-2431; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/battleship\\_texas](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/battleship_texas). Hours: Daily 10-5 Admission: \$10, \$5 age 65 and older, free age 12 and younger with a paying adult. There's an additional \$1 fee to enter the park itself.

Volunteer-led **Hard Hat Tours** in the spring and fall explore the ship's little-seen innards not usually open to the public. For details, see [www.usstexasbb35.com/hard-hat-tours.htm](http://www.usstexasbb35.com/hard-hat-tours.htm).

**Guided tours** (as well as the Hard Hat Tours) are by advance reservation only, at additional cost. Contact Barbara Graf several weeks in advance at [Barbara.Graf@tpwd.state.tx.us](mailto:Barbara.Graf@tpwd.state.tx.us).

## Postcards

### Idalou's Apple Fest

*A is for apples on the High Plains*

#### DRIVING NORTHEAST ON US 62/82

over the flat plains of West Texas near Idalou, a light fall breeze carries scents of nutmeg, cinnamon, clove, apple, and vanilla—the seductive aromas of German apple cake toasting in the oven. Painted in reddish-brown letters, a sandy-colored Western sign reads “Apple Country High Plains Orchards.” More than 6,000 silvery trees with emerald leaves line the road, and sport voluptuous red bulbs every September and October. And during the Apple Butter Festival (September 12-13), thousands of children pour into the orchard to gather buckets of sweet apples and tart apples, including Delicious, Ozark Gold, Johnson, Granny Smith, Fuji, and Pink Lady varieties.



**Go!**

Apple-picking schedule at [www.applecountryorchards.com](http://www.applecountryorchards.com)

Sponsored by the Metropolitan Lubbock Rotary Club, the two-day celebration features live music, a petting zoo and other children's activities, hayrides into the orchard for apple picking, and barbecue lunches that raise money for Meals on Wheels and the Lubbock Food Bank. You can also enjoy warm apple pancakes and sausage, served all day.

“It's a celebration of apple harvest,” says Susan Brints, who owns Apple Country Orchards with her husband, Cal. “We're the only orchard of this type on the High Plains, and the festival draws families of all ages, which is special.” Raised in agrarian families, the Brints bought the land in 1981, dreaming of a place where both their families could work together. Cal's father, a retired farmer, and Susan's father, a retired horticulture professor, had experience with orchards and crops. “So we thought this [an apple orchard] might be a good combination. Apples grow well in the High Plains, and that's what led us here,” Susan says.

Boasting 48 varieties of apples—22 of which can be picked—the orchard thrives in the West Texas sandy soil with drip irrigation. The sunny climate cultivates apples with a higher sugar content—apples with so much juice that it dribbles down pickers' arms. “We always tell people that they can only pick with one hand because they have to eat with the other,” says Susan.

Unlike commercial orchards, where the apples are picked before they are tree-ripened, “our apple is fully ripe,” Susan explains. “It's full of sweetness that gives you a flavor you can't match anywhere else.”

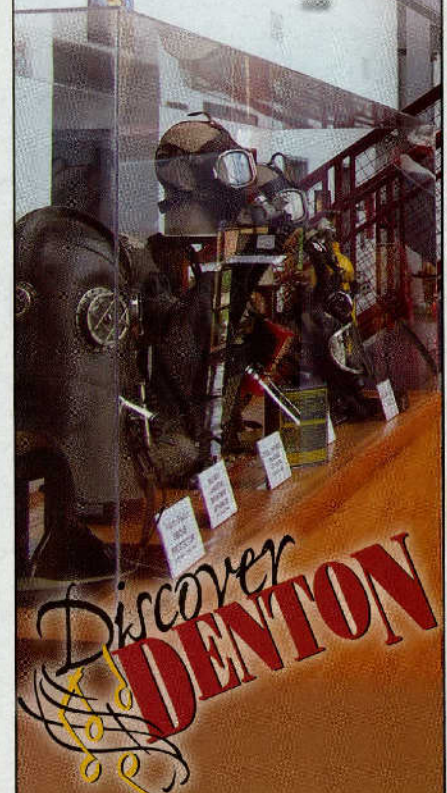
Open everyday for breakfast and lunch, the Apple Country café serves family-recipe dishes including chicken 'n' dumplings, enchiladas, red beans, and cornbread. At the bakery, apple turnovers, crisps, muffins, cakes, breads, and cookies lure sweet-toothed visitors from afar.

The most popular attraction, however, remains the Apple Butter Festival, where smiling kids and their parents roam the orchard together to hand-select the perfect apples.

“People come to the festival because they want to be with their families and have a wonderful time,” says Susan. “That's what makes this orchard what it is—a family orchard that offers a rural Texas experience.”

Apple Country Orchards is just east of Idalou on US 62/82. Call 806/781-1752 or 806/781-1753; [www.applecountryorchards.com](http://www.applecountryorchards.com). —Brenna Burkarth

### Burning memories of Denton's past.



Discover DENTON

Open to the public, the Denton Firefighter's Museum is dedicated to brave firefighters past and present, and is a must see for anyone seeking insight into the arduous job of fighting fire. Showcased is fascinating memorabilia from the 1800's to the present, including an old hose cart pulled by hand, items from a 1935 ladder truck, antique gear, and volumes of daily fire report logs.

DENTON FIREFIGHTERS' MUSEUM

332 E. Hickory

940349-8840

Free Admission

800/381-1818  
[www.discoverdenton.com](http://www.discoverdenton.com)

## The Liquid Gold of San Leon

*The Railean Rum Distillery brings Texas' sugar-growing history full circle*

Text by **SUE HASTINGS**



By the 1850s, sugarcane had replaced cotton as the dominant crop in Galveston, Brazoria, and Fort Bend counties.

**T**INY SAN LEON, HIDDEN OFF THE MAIN HIGHWAY LINKING Houston and Galveston, boasts a history replete with innovators, survivors, and swashbuckling characters like pirate Jean Lafitte. I'm skeptical of locals who claim "Lafitte's treasure is buried in my backyard," but news of San Leon's modern treasure excites me: The Railean Rum Distillery, which takes the area's sugar-making tradition to new heights. Not only is the distillery blazing a new trail in Texas, but it's winning critics' raves, too: *Austin Chronicle* critic Wes Marshall observed that Railean rums are on his "short list for the very best rums in the world." I'm eager to learn more, so I arrange a tour.

Sugarcane, which originated in Southeast Asia, came to the Americas on Columbus' second voyage. It wasn't too long before sugarcane created a thriving world market. In Mexican Tejas, Stephen F. Austin's colonists built their first sugarcane mill in 1828; within 25 years, 45 area

Rum-makers Kelly and Matt Railean offer tours of their distillery in San Leon, where they age their dark rums in oak barrels.



plantations produced millions of pounds of sugar annually. By the 1850s, sugarcane had replaced cotton as the dominant crop in Galveston, Brazoria, and Fort Bend counties.

When cane juice is reduced to sugar, you get a versatile, uncrystallized byproduct: molasses. Sixteenth-century pirates used it to make a coarse rum. On some Caribbean islands, residents mixed molasses with crushed coral for use as mortar. It's still used worldwide as a sweetener, and ranchers today use molasses to enrich feed grain. But San Leon entrepreneurs Kelly and Matt Railean use molasses to distill a fine libation.

Their venture began simply enough. Kelly was working for a wine distributor; Matt was working as a chemical engineer. But in their downtime, they experimented with winemaking. And then in the mid-1990s, a few vacation trips to the Caribbean convinced the Raileans that they loved the sea—and rum. They bought a sailboat, started a collection of rums from around the world, and began to experiment with distilling rum themselves.

Both kept watch on financial trends, and a few years ago, they noticed something interesting: Rum sales had grown significantly between 2005 and 2007. The Raileans predicted they could emulate the success of microbreweries and boutique wineries, and they decided to build a distillery at San Leon. In spring 2007, they started making rum.

Today, en route to meet Kelly, I'm driving along a rough gravel road. Just short of where it becomes a dirt trail, I see a large metal building on my left, and a modest sign confirms I'm in the right place: "Railean Distillers, LLC," with a picture of the company's mascot, the vivid green, wild Quaker parrot.

As I enter the building, I inhale a hearty aroma that reminds me of pizza

Combine Railean rum, orange juice, and grenadine to make a "Galveston Sunset."



**Do!**  
Rum recipes at [texashighways.com/thtaste](http://texashighways.com/thtaste)

crust or fresh-baked bread. The room is as warm as a bakery, too. "That's because rum doesn't like air-conditioning," Kelly says.

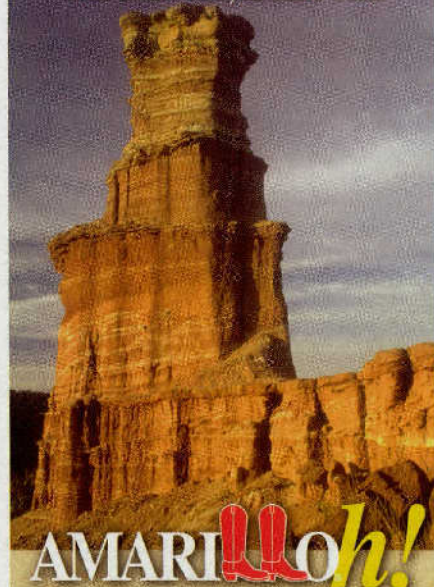
Turns out I do smell yeast. Near the back of the room stand several tall, 300- and 500-gallon stainless-steel fermenting tanks where Kelly mixes unsulphured molasses with yeast, adding cane juice to impart hints of citrus. The mixture will ferment for three to four days.

After fermentation, the resultant alcohol is ready for processing in the nearby column reflux still, a 100-gallon, copper-and-stainless-steel contraption. Kelly urges me toward the far corner of the building, where a noisy turbine fan hardly dispels some of the heat from the boiler.

I move back that way, where it's a bit cooler. In the still's tower, high above my head, I notice a series of little windows, round like portholes. Through the glass, I see bubbles, a condensation of vapor from the boiling mixture of molasses, yeast, and water.

"Distillate vapors rise from the boiler into that column," Kelly explains, "producing a variety of alcohols. When the temperature gauge reaches 78

Palo Duro Canyon State Park



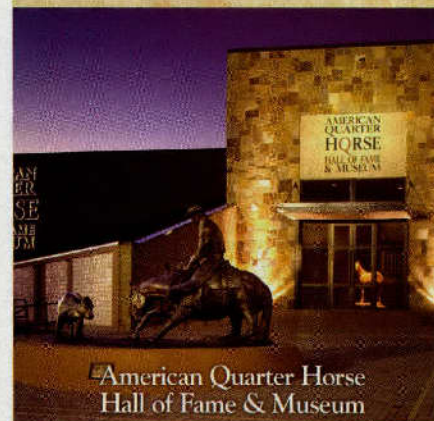
Did you know you can find America's 2nd largest canyon, an outdoor musical, museums, Route 66 and a 72 oz. steak when you visit Amarillo?

[visitamarillotx.com](http://visitamarillotx.com)

Free Visitor Guide • 800-692-1338

Fall's a great time in Amarillo.

- World Championship Ranch Rodeo
- Pirates of the Canyon Balloon Festival
- Tri-State Fair & Rodeo
- Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association Finals
- Good Times Celebration® Barbecue Cook-Off
- USTPA Team Penning National Finals



American Quarter Horse Hall of Fame & Museum

# Laredo

T E X A S

Rediscover our flavor

Come for the  
Treasures,  
Stay for the  
Sparkle



[www.visittlaredo.com](http://www.visittlaredo.com)  
Laredo Convention  
and Visitors Bureau

800.361.3360

## Taste

# GrapeFest!

Thinking outside the box in Grapevine

Go!

Wine-and-food pairings  
at [texashighways.com/thtaste](http://texashighways.com/thtaste)



### MOST WINE-AND-FOOD EVENTS IN TEXAS—

the Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival in April, the Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest in October, and the San Antonio New World Wine & Food Festival in November, for example—keep their focus, as you might expect, on the wine and the food, and how to pair them to pleasing effect.

But at Grapevine's colossal GrapeFest event, held September 17-20 this year, you'll find much to enjoy outside the box (or bottle). Along with wine-tasting events, food-and-wine presentations, and cooking demonstrations, GrapeFest also features a carnival and midway, live entertainment on five stages, a petting zoo, and performances by the Grapevine Opry. And for budding oenophiles who want to get their feet wet, so to speak, the festival's GrapeStomp pits teams of stompers against stompers in an energetic battle of barefooted juice extraction.

Another thing that sets GrapeFest apart: The fest focuses on Texas wine. "We've been participating in GrapeFest for about five years now," says winemaker Jeff Sneed, owner of Los Pinos Ranch Vineyards in Pittsburg. "We think that enjoying wine should be an unpretentious endeavor, so that's where our philosophy meshes with that of GrapeFest. For the People's Choice awards, for example, you get 20,000 people coming in to taste wines by 40 different Texas wineries. It can be a madhouse, but it's so much fun."

Call 800/457-6338; [www.grapevinetexasusa.com/grapefest](http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com/grapefest). —Lori Moffatt

Which team can extract  
the most juice from 20  
pounds of grapes?

degrees, we capture the best alcohol—the heart of the spirit.”

We move on to the aging area, where the Raileans’ two dark rums age in barrels made of American oak (the third rum, a white variety, isn’t aged). “We order our barrels burned to a crisp,” Kelly says, “like whiskey barrels. Their smaller-than-average size provides greater surface-to-volume ratio, enhancing the charred wood taste.”

As I enter the building,  
I inhale a hearty aroma  
that reminds me of pizza  
crust or fresh-baked bread.  
The room is as warm  
as a bakery, too.

Next, Kelly shows me where the rums progress through a series of filters, and then, finally, where the rums are bottled—six bottles at a time. The tour’s final stop: a simple tasting room, which the Raileans opened after the Texas Legislature legalized spirits-tasting in May.

Spirits connoisseur George Alexander, writing in *My Table* magazine, describes his first taste of Railean rum as a “wonderful surprise ... The Railean has a beguiling butterscotch nose, as tropical as any I’ve tasted, with none of the harshness of raw alcohol. It is a quite delightful tippie served neat.”

Kelly pours from three bottles into tiny tasting cups. “Our original white rum,” she says, and then, “our blended dark rum.” I taste hints of chocolate. “And now—our new Small Cask Reserve. We make it one barrel at a time, and it ages much longer than the other two.” I raise my cup and sniff, then take a sip, allowing the smooth,

# Experience Graham!



**History**      **Concerts**      **Outdoor Recreation**

Located just 90 minutes west of Fort Worth in the beautiful North Texas Hill Country, Graham is the perfect place to escape life’s hustle and bustle. Discover new trails for hiking, horse-back riding, or mountain biking. Shop America’s Largest Downtown Square or explore Texas history with a walking or driving tour. Graham has something for everyone!

**Don't Miss...**  
**September 26, 2009**  
**Western Heritage Days**

- \*Chuck Wagon Cook-Off
- \*Concert
- \*Street Dance
- \*Trade Show
- \*Bluegrass Band Competition
- \*Food & FUN!!

Come see what Graham has to offer you!

ADA/EOE/ADEA



**866.549.0401 • [www.visitgrahamtexas.com](http://www.visitgrahamtexas.com)**

# Fall is Fabulous

at the LADY BIRD JOHNSON WILDFLOWER CENTER



\$1 OFF one adult admission with this ad through Dec. 31

**FALL PLANT SALE & GARDENING FESTIVAL**  
Saturday and Sunday,  
October 10 & 11 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
4801 La Crosse Avenue, Austin



Lady Bird Johnson  
**Wildflower Center**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

512.232.0100  
[www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)



close to everything.  
far from ordinary.

PLANO



Fabulous shopping, incredible dining and an extraordinary variety of family fun adventures. Plan to visit Plano.

800-81-PLANO

planocvb.com

## Taste



oakey flavors to mellow on my tongue.

A column reflux still removes less desirable alcohols while maintaining the essence of cane molasses.

Later, to complete the day's rum education, I drop by the Green Parrot Bar & Grill in nearby Dickinson, where the bartender mixes a colorful concoction he calls the Galveston Sunset—a refreshing blend of Railean rum, orange juice, and grenadine. Outside on the willow-shaded patio, anglers, bikers, and sun-seekers in shorts and flip-flops dine on enormous burgers and shrimp platters. Musicians, preparing to take the stage, tinker with their instruments. I'm reveling in the A/C indoors, though, where several murals depict seaside scenes. I toast the day and can't help but glance over my shoulder, lest Pirate Lafitte snatch this golden treasure away from me. **TH**

### Railean Rum Distillery

To arrange a tour, call 713/545-2742; [www.railean.com](http://www.railean.com).

The Green Parrot Bar & Grill is at 2233 E. Bayshore Dr. in Dickinson; call 281/339-1392.



60 Miles North of Houston

# HUNTSVILLE

## Getaway!

Getaway to a place big on history and surrounded by the most beautiful forests and lakes in Texas.

Swim, hike, bike & relax.





SAM HOUSTON  
1793 - 1863

Home of Sam Houston



For overnight accommodations, events and activities log onto [www.huntsvilletexas.com](http://www.huntsvilletexas.com)

800.289.0389

FUN FINDS ALONG THE ROAD



## Hill Country Gem

The small town of *Mason* boasts fine wine and good food, plus rock-hunting and bat flights

Text by **DALE WEISMAN**

**A**H, THE IDYLIC GETAWAY: TASTING THE LATEST VINTAGE AT A boutique winery, lingering in antiques shops and art galleries, settling into a cozy B&B, and experiencing that German sense of comfort and congeniality—*Gemütlichkeit*—at every turn.

Fredericksburg? Could be. But I'm actually 42 miles up the road, in Mason, a smaller, quieter, German-Texan town often overlooked by tourists. Although I've driven through this Hill Country gem many times, I've neglected to explore Mason's myriad charms. This time, I opt to stop and smell the rosés (and syrahs and grenaches) at Sandstone Cellars Winery, indulge in savory gorditas at Santos Taqueria, stroll the town's postcard-perfect courthouse square, search for precious topaz, and catch a bat flight from a wild cave (one that has no trails or electricity).

I even convinced my iPod-obsessed, texting teenage daughter, Erica, to join me. We drove west from Austin through Llano and blinked past the hamlet of Art, an infinitely better name than its earlier "Plehweville." Rolling into Mason, we drove past the soaring steeple of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and arrived at the town square, Mason's own mini-Trafalgar and one of the largest courthouse squares in Texas.

Mason's epicenter is the 1910 Classical Revival county courthouse, shaded by lofty pecan trees. Extra-wide streets and century-old mercantile buildings surround the stately structure in a thriving historic district, where gift and antiques shops, restaurants, B&Bs, art galleries, and the Mason Square Museum

Sandstone Cellars winemaker Don Pullum samples a glass of red as he chats with his business partners, Manny Silerio (left) and Scott Hauptert.

## Weekender



# HOG

HARLEY OWNERS GROUP

# RALLY

## SEPTEMBER

# 24-26

## HAYS COUNTY CIVIC CENTER



## SAN MARCOS IS ALWAYS A GREAT PLACE TO STAY

**SAN MARCOS**  
A TEXAS NATURAL

**888-200-5620**

[www.toursanmarcos.com](http://www.toursanmarcos.com)



rub shoulders with a country store, Western-wear shop, pharmacy, law and real estate offices, the venerable *Mason County News*, and the austere, Romanesque 1894 county jail, still in use.

The neon-adorned Odeon Theater, another landmark on the square, has operated continuously since opening in 1928. Walt Disney's film *Old Yeller*, based on the novel by Mason's prolific native son Fred Gipson, premiered at the Odeon in 1957. Nowadays, you can watch first-run films and catch the likes of singer-songwriter Joe Ely and the Mason Country Opry.

From the square, we drove south on Post Hill Street by the public library and the heartwarming *Old Yeller* statue out front, and past the Mason County Historical Museum, housed in an 1887 schoolhouse. At the hill's summit stands Fort Mason, built in 1851 to protect settlers on the frontier. The namesake town grew up below the fort, which was abandoned in 1869. All that remains is a reconstructed officers

A Mason landmark, the Odeon Theater offers both first-run films and live performances.

quarters, offering a splendid skyline view of Mason. Settlers salvaged most of the fort's handsome red sandstone to build Mason's enduring edifices.

Another must-see is the 1880s Seaquist Home north of the square, a white-columned, three-story mansion of local sandstone, with stained-glass windows and wraparound porches. Although the beautiful building is no longer open for tours, we inched by and admired it en route to the Northside Café for lunch. Thomas and Victoria Fikes, refugees of Dallas' five-star

restaurant scene, opened the café in 2007, turning a 1915 country store into a cheery “semi-dive” serving “fresh, never frozen” fare and the best burgers in town.

You won't go hungry in Mason—especially at Santos Taqueria. Mason native Manny Silerio and his partner, Scott Hauptert, opened Santos in 1998, transforming an old gas station near the square into a lively Mexican cantina with indoor and outdoor seating. Everything on the menu—taquitos, gorditas, chalupas, salsas, *y mas*—is fresh-made by Santos Silerio, Manny's mom.

In 2004, Manny and Scott teamed with winemaker Don Pullum to open Mason's first winery, Sandstone Cellars, in the beige bungalow next to the taqueria. An Ivy League financier, Pullum planted Mason County's first vineyard 11 years ago. The Hickory Sands soil and moderate climate proved ideal for Mediterranean grapes, such as Touriga, Mourvedre, and Syrah. After his vines flourished, six more vineyards were established in Mason County, creating a singular *terroir* for what Pullum calls “fusion wines,” a complex mélange of local fruit.

These wines are winning awards and impressing oenophiles. While I swirled and sniffed several vintages—I especially enjoyed Sandstone's new 2006 vintage port—in the tasting room/art gallery, an eclectic mix of locals and tourists ebbed and flowed.



Nachos number among the tasty dishes that Santos Silerio (above) prepares for Santos Taqueria patrons.

# EL PASO.

## MORE THAN YOU IMAGINED.

### Jazz on the Rocks

Second Thursday of the month, September & October

Enjoy jazz under a gorgeous El Paso sunset at McKelligon Canyon, nestled in the Franklin Mountains.

### Toyota presents the 2009 Amigo Airsho

October 3 & 4

Biggest and best civilian and military air acts take to the sky!

### Celebration of Our Mountains

October

A monthlong festival of events, including hikes, driving tours, nature walks and bicycle rides.

### Concordia Walk Through History at Concordia Cemetery

October

Historical figures from El Paso's past come alive through talks, reenactments of famous gunfights and more.



Call 800-351-6024 or log on to [www.visitelpaso.com](http://www.visitelpaso.com) for your free 70-page adventure guide.  
El Paso Convention and Visitors Bureau

**EL PASO**

[www.getawaycapital.com](http://www.getawaycapital.com)

## Lake Whitney

### The Getaway Capital of Texas

Golf

Boat Rentals

Award Winning  
Marinas

Fine Dining

Corporate Retreats

Skiing and  
Wakeboarding  
on the Brazos

Cabins

Rental Cottages

Airboat & Canoe  
Trips on the Brazos

Full Service Resorts

Luxury B&B's

Outlet & Antique  
Shopping in  
Clifton, Hillsboro,  
Meridian, & Whitney

Reunion Facilities

[www.getawaycapital.com](http://www.getawaycapital.com)

**Do!**

Enjoy the Mason County Apple Fest on Sep. 5

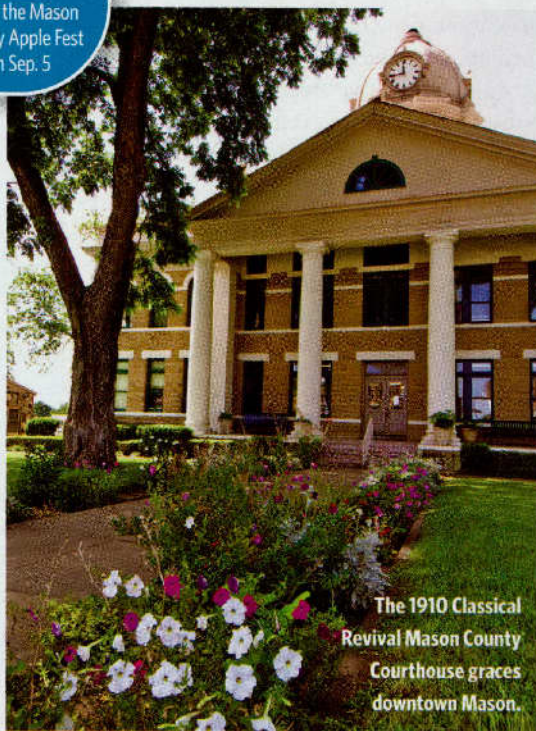
## Strolling Mason's Square

*History and commerce mingle in downtown Mason*

**SET OFF BY TOWERING PECAN TREES PLANTED IN THE 1920S**, the majestic Mason County Courthouse claims center stage in Mason, but it's not the only interesting feature of this picturesque downtown. For starters, the courthouse square is really a *rectangle* that's one block wide and two blocks long, one of only nine "two-block squares" in Texas.

More than two dozen buildings that date from the late 1800s to the early 1920s rim the square, including the Mason House—originally the Mason House Hotel—thought to date to 1870. Other venerable structures include the 1879 C&G Building, which was once a saloon and pool hall where several people died in gunfights. "A Walking Tour of Mason's Courthouse Square," a nifty brochure available from the Mason County Chamber of Commerce (325/347-5758; [www.masontxcoc.com](http://www.masontxcoc.com)), describes 46 buildings on the square and helps visitors appreciate their history and Mason's heritage as a whole.

Mason's square still bustles with activity. On September 5, the **Mason County Apple Fest** takes place on the courthouse lawn, offering a Try-Apple-On (three-legged race, bobbing for apples, and tricycle race) for children; a Topaz Treasure Hunt for adults; apple soap-making; apple carving; the Miss Apple Blossom Style Show; live entertainment; and plenty of apple-y treats. —Nola McKey



The 1910 Classical Revival Mason County Courthouse graces downtown Mason.

Spend the day at the Island.  
(South Padre Island is only minutes away)



Spend the evening in Mexico.  
(Just a short walk)

Spend the night in Brownsville.  
*Friendly - Historic - Affordable*

**Brownsville**  
*With a history as big as Texas!*

Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4697 / Brownsville, Texas 78523-4697  
(956) 546-3721 / 1-800-626-2639 / [www.brownsville.org](http://www.brownsville.org)

Mason (population 2,134) harbors an inordinate share of creative souls, including the award-winning, woodcarving caricaturist Gene Zesch and the multitalented artist Bill Worrell, who sculpts, paints, and writes at his nearby home on the Llano River. A "Worrelling Dervish" of creativity, he designed Sandstone's wine labels, and his shamanic, pictograph-inspired bronzes are available in Sandstone's gallery (as well as in other galleries throughout the Southwest).

That evening, Erica and I had a flight to catch—the emergence of some 1.6 million Mexican free-tailed bats from the Eckert James River Bat Cave Preserve, owned by the Nature Conservancy of Texas. Bat-cave steward Vicki Ritter led us on a rambling half-hour drive to the James River, a tributary of the Llano. We forded the river, parked, and hiked about a quarter-mile to the mouth of the guano-rich cave. An hour before sunset, the first bats emerged, streaming from the cave in a chattering, winged vortex that spiraled upward like a tornado. "It looks endless!" exclaimed Erica. Hawks, falcons, and owls



joined the bacchanal, swooping for prey amid the undulating river of bats.

After sunset, Erica and I returned to town and collapsed in the quietude of the Mason Square B&B, located on the second floor of a storied building that served as a saloon in the late 1800s and later as a meat market, grocery, and bakery. I arose early Sunday morning to hunt for topaz—the state gem of Texas—at the Seaquist Ranch, one of two granite-studded ranches in the area open for topaz hunting. Mason County is the only place in Texas where you can find the precious clear, smoky, or sky-blue gemstones.

After an hour of digging and sifting in alluvial gravel beds below pink granite out-

Mason County is the only place in Texas where you can find topaz—a clear, smoky, or sky-blue gemstone.

croppings, several rockhounds found a topaz that morning at the ranch. If that seems like too much work, you can buy topaz in town at Country Collectibles, Underwood Antiques Mall, and Gems of the Hill Country.

“When people pass through Mason, they just love it and want to live here,” confided Michelle Chapman, who owns Mason Square B&B with her husband, Shain. “And when they do move here, everyone wants the gates shut. They want Mason to stay right the way it is.”

So do I. Why cut and polish this lovely topaz-in-the-rough? **TH**

### Mason

is at the junction of US 87, US 377, and Texas 29. Call the Mason County Chamber of Commerce at 325/347-5758; [www.masontxcoc.com](http://www.masontxcoc.com).



## WINGS OVER HOUSTON



**Oct. 31 - Nov. 1, Ellington Airport, the U.S. Navy BLUE ANGELS including vintage aircraft and military jet demos**

Information & tickets [wingsoverhouston.com](http://wingsoverhouston.com) or call 713-266-4492



**Fun · Close · Affordable**, Bay Area Houston is minutes from the Airshow and within 30 minutes of Galveston beaches and downtown Houston.

Attractions and fun for kids of all ages!  
Kemah Boardwalk · Space Center Houston · Birding · Water Sports · Parasailing · Fishing/Sailing Charters -



Windsurfing · Unique Shopping · Fresh Seafood at beautiful waterfront restaurants.  
**Great Fall Rates for Every Budget.**

CALL 1-800-844-LAKE or CLICK ON [www.visitbayareahouston.com](http://www.visitbayareahouston.com) to book ONLINE reservations.

WOH IS A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) COMMUNITY EVENT PRODUCED BY THE GULF COAST WING & WEST HOUSTON SQUADRON OF THE COMMEMORATIVE AIR FORCE

## WURSTFEST®

New Braunfels, Texas



Join us at the 49th annual “Salute to Sausage”. Come enjoy good fun, great music, delicious food along with many special events. It’s the Texas version of Munich’s Oktoberfest!

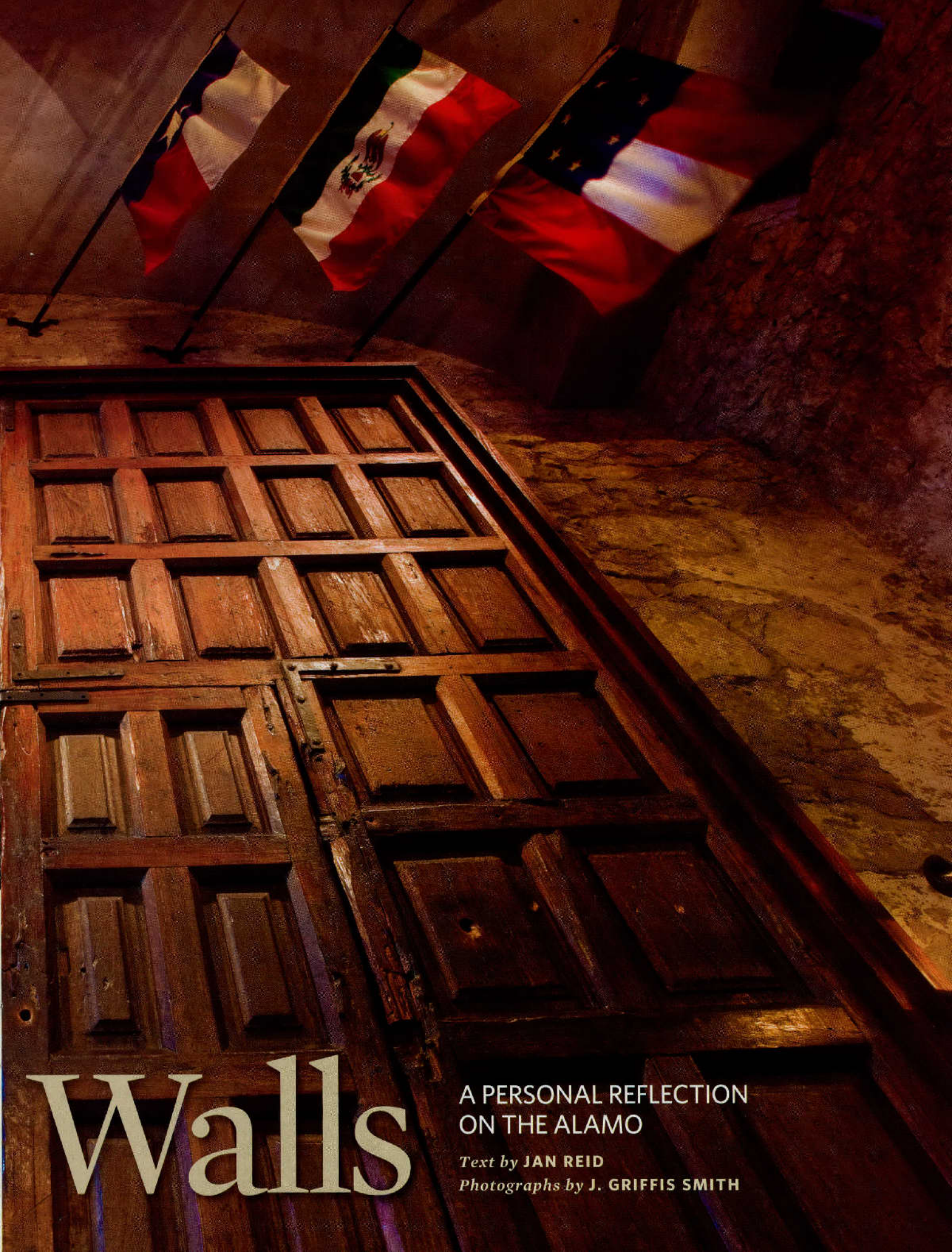
1-800-221-4369  
[www.wurstfest.com](http://www.wurstfest.com)  
[info@wurstfest.com](mailto:info@wurstfest.com)



**Oct. 30-Nov. 8, 2009**



# Inside These



# Walls

A PERSONAL REFLECTION  
ON THE ALAMO

*Text by* JAN REID

*Photographs by* J. GRIFFIS SMITH

**THE TEXAS ICON**  
THE ALAMO



To order a print of this photograph or the previous spread photo, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



THE HUMPBACKED FAÇADE OF THE ALAMO, the 18th-Century mission chapel that actually comprised just a small part of the fabled killing field of 1836, is the profile and shrine of Texas. Relentless pounding by cannonballs during the 13-day siege demolished the roof of the chapel; U.S. Army engineers introduced the distinctive arched gable while restoring the structure in the early 1850s. But that roofline symbolizes Texans' tradition of valor, pride, and independence. My dad attended a Wichita Falls grade school that was built to resemble and remember the Alamo, and children still go there. Another Alamo-look-alike school is closed and fallen almost to ruin in the hamlet of Mosheim; doubtless more of these relics are scattered throughout the state. That's because the Texas Legislature in the 1920s freed up some school-building revenue contingent on architects and brick masons aping the Alamo's silhouette.



PREVIOUS SPREAD: The six flags of Texas—banners representing Spain, France, the United States of America, the Republic of Texas, Mexico, and the Confederate States of America—hang over big wooden doors (from San Antonio's historic Veramendi House) at the back of the Alamo. LEFT: The landmark arched-gable façade of Texas' famous mission was introduced during restoration in the 1850s. ABOVE: Two of the Alamo's annual 2.5 million visitors enter through the front door for a firsthand tour of the state shrine.



*Experience Texas history  
inside the walls of the Alamo.*

## I'm reminded of this

when I take advantage of an Interstate 35 rest stop a few miles north of San Antonio. On a wall inside the facilities I encounter a large tile mosaic of the Alamo. As I continue the drive, brown signs sporting a single-line graphic of the iconic Alamo façade remind me to exit I-35 and curve around downtown on I-37. Seemingly inspired by some architect's notion of a spaceship, HemisFair Park's Tower of the Americas forever pops up around me with the happenstance of the moon. The Alamo is the only one of San Antonio's treasures that's easy for me to find. Often, I get so lost here; I believe it's because so many of the city's streets were laid out for traffic of horse carriages and donkey carts, not automobiles. But the Alamo stands just a few blocks from the freeway exit.

I choose a parking lot, realize I've still gotten a bit turned around, and follow street-corner signs pointing the way. In 1836, squat adobes and dirt streets nestled within this bend of the San Antonio River. Upon losing an election on who would command the defenders, Jim Bowie went on a drunken rampage, declaring martial law, freeing prisoners of the town jail, and looting what he wished to carry off. I'm struck now by the number of storefronts with "For Lease" signs posted in the windows. Above street level I see windows that have been left broken out and some walls defaced by graffiti. One place in particular gives me pause: Barred shut and heavily padlocked, the onetime curio shop still has the sign "Echoes of the Past."

I don't mention these indications of the area's rough edges to be catty about a city I love. But the municipality owns these blocks, and part of the Alamo's history now lies buried under the rubble of a thousand jackhammers. Badly spooked by a Comanche massacre of priests and soldiers at San Saba in 1758, Spaniards put up walls around the compound that were eight feet tall and two feet thick. They're all gone now. A federal building and post office now erases the spot in the west wall where Mexican commanders thought they had the best chance to breach the fortress. The headquarters rampart on the south wall where William B. Travis ducked musket balls and shouted orders is now patrolled by sidewalk hawkers yelling at tourists to come inside the Guinness World Records Museum and Ripley's Believe It or Not! and Louis Tussaud's Plaza Wax Museum. After the ferocious battle ended, the Mexican troops burned the vast pile of bodies under what is now the Rivercenter Mall. Just over a century ago, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas and philanthropist Clara Driscoll joined forces to

A wall within the sacristy of the Alamo displays historical graffiti.



save the old Mission San Antonio de Valero and the roofless ruin of the *convento*, or priests' residence, that became known as

This small bell at the Alamo is an original from the Mission San Antonio de Valero.

the Long Barracks. The rebels' most withering fire on the Mexicans and desperate hand-to-hand fighting took place inside the barracks, not the chapel.

But the collective rite of remembering the Alamo could not be content with preservation of these few remaining structures. In place of the lost cottonwoods (*alamos*) that gave the secularized compound its name, a live oak that was already 40 years old when it was transplanted in 1912 still sprawls with great presence in the courtyard. With federal monetary assistance,

the Texas Centennial Commission in 1936 enlisted a prolific Italian-born sculptor, Pompeo Coppini, to conceive and execute on Alamo Plaza a cenotaph (an honorary tomb for people whose remains lie elsewhere) called *The Spirit of Sacrifice*. Finished in 1939, it's a 60-foot-tall spire of gray marble that shines very white on a sunny day and rests on a base of pink granite, with a lineup of eight Texas heroes of the battle sculpted into the marble's low relief. The traditionalist author J. Frank Dobie despised the cenotaph, remarking with characteristic sourness that it looked like a grain elevator. I stand before it and



For a video illustrating preservation work in the Alamo, go to [www.texashighways.com/webextra](http://www.texashighways.com/webextra).



*To this day, the Alamo remains one of Texas' most cherished and visited sites.*



watch a woman who's innocent of the seven decades of controversy. She walks up to the historical marker with a child's teddy bear and sets the toy on the ledge precisely between the boots of Travis and Crockett, then records the image with her cell phone's camera.

**P**eril lies in making any sleight of the Alamo, at least in Texas. Ask Jim Lehrer, the sage of PBS television news and moderator of presidential debates. In 1966 Lehrer was a jaunty Dallas newspaper reporter who had just published a first novel called *Viva Max!* Three years later, Lehrer's book inspired a funny TV movie starring Peter Ustinov as a Mexican general named Maximilian who takes advantage of a neighborly invitation to a Fourth of July event and occupies the Alamo, reclaiming it for Mexico. Jonathan Winters was equally inspired as the general of the Texas National Guard. Few Daughters of the Republic of Texas were amused; requests to shoot some scenes on the Alamo grounds were huffily turned down. Erased from the film adaptation was Lehrer's character The Chief, an irreverent portrayal of then-President Lyndon Johnson. The Chief calls together

his Secretary of State and national defense team and bangs a pencil on his desk, taking on prisoners.

*"Now, my friends, we're goin' to sit here and reason together on this thing until we figure out a way of getting that funny little fella out of The Alamo. Any of you boys got any suggestions—for starters?"*

*Nobody had any. Silence prevailed.*

*"OK, first, how's the breeze blowin' for goin' in there with some troops and blasting them out?"*

Lest our reverence for the Alamo take on harsh tones of jingoism, it's useful to remember that Mexico has its own cenotaph honoring fighters who made the ultimate sacrifice trying to defend their homeland. The Monument to the Heroic Cadets is an impressive sculpture of torches that stands in front of Chapultepec Castle in Mexico City. In 1848, in the conflict we Americans call the Mexican War, Mexican cadets who'd been pressed into the conflict made a last stand and then jumped to their deaths rather than surrender to U.S. Marines. I was a tourist in the fascinating castle once when something made me look up. Artfully painted across an interior dome was an image of

## Re-remembering the Alamo

IF YOUR LAST TRIP to the State Shrine was when you were in grade school, it's time for another pilgrimage. The Alamo offers free, walk-through tours daily. For the most meaningful experience, start with one of the **History Talks** given at frequent intervals by engaging Alamo Guides in the Cavalry Courtyard, north of the church. The brief lectures cover the basics, such as which parts of the compound are original, and include interesting highlights, such as where Col. William B. Travis and other famous defenders are thought to have died. Because of the number of visitors, guided tours aren't an option, but you can rent a headset for a take-along **audio tour**.

"To really get the most out of your visit, it helps if you do your homework," says the Alamo's historian and curator, Dr. Bruce Winders. "That means visiting our Web site and links to the *Handbook of Texas Online* and other sites before you come."

Another way to enhance your Alamo

experience is to plan a visit that coincides with one of the free **First Saturday events**. These may include Alamo-related music, living-history reenactors, cooking demonstrations, and author's talks. Upcoming dates are September 5 and October 3.

**Other special events** take place throughout the year, including **Fall at the Alamo** (October 10), which features reenactors from blacksmiths to lace-makers demonstrating the daily lives of San Antonians from 1835-1846. In connection with this year's theme, "Law and Order in the Republic of Texas," mock trials will be held, with visitors asked to play roles as jurors. The Alamo also offers a number of **children's programs**, including several fast-paced **Alamo Camps** in the summer. If you want your little Texan to be properly steeped in Lone Star lore, this is the place.

Thanks to activities like these—and the Alamo's unparalleled status as a Texas icon—the site attracts



The Alamo offers many special events and programs throughout the year.

2.5 million visitors each year. But there's a catch: Our beloved Alamo is showing its age and effects of such popularity. In just the church itself, improvements are needed to the roof, exterior and interior walls, the façade, floors, and ceiling; other structures have similar needs. These aren't wish-list items; if we want **to preserve the Alamo**, we have to act soon. With this in mind, the **Daughters of the Republic of Texas** kicked off a multiphase capital

campaign in 2007. The goal of the first phase is just over \$11,000,000. While this amount will help the DRT expand educational facilities and programs, the bulk of it will fund preservation and renovation of existing buildings. If you want to contribute, send your donation to DRT, Inc. at the Alamo, P.O. Box 1401, San Antonio, TX 78295-1401. **For more about the Alamo and upcoming events, call 210/225-1391, ext. 28; www.thealamo.org.**

—Nola McKey



*When I step inside the mission, after being reminded several times that “This is a shrine,” my first thought is that it was indeed a church—and still looks and feels like one.*

a wildly staring falling boy wrapped in a Mexican flag. I flinched and cupped my hands, as I had in my boyhood's hapless attempts to field punts on a football practice field.

Admission to our counterpart Alamo is free. Chiseled in a plaque that I read as I approach the mission is an excerpt from the famous letter Travis wrote 10 days before his last sunrise.

February 24, 1836

To The People of Texas  
& All Americans In the World—  
Fellow citizens & compatriots—

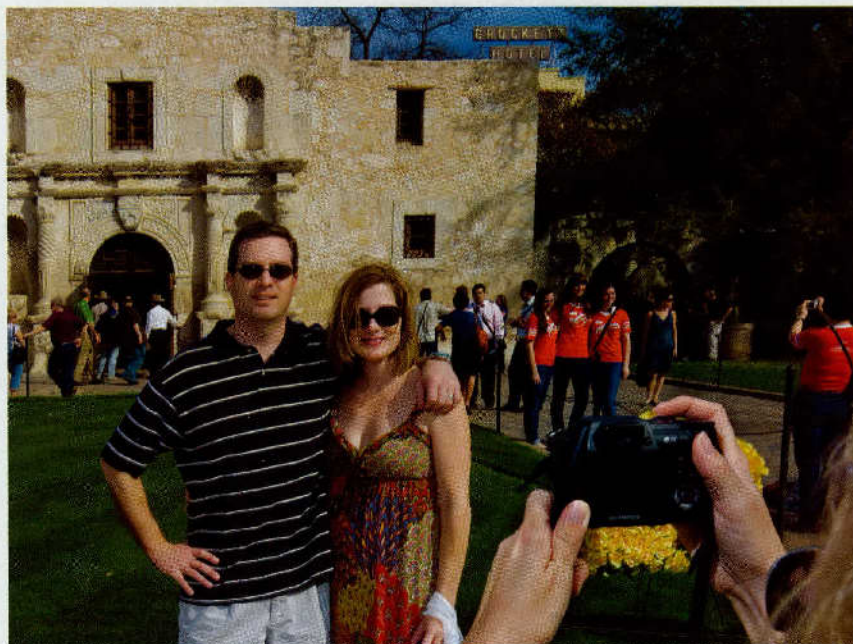
I am besieged, by a thousand or more of the Mexicans and Santa Anna—I have sustained a continual bombardment & cannonade for 24 hours & have not lost a man—The enemy has demanded a surrender at discretion, otherwise, the garrison are to be put to the sword, if the fort is taken—I have answered the demand with a cannon shot, & our flag still waves proudly from the walls—I shall never surrender or retreat. Then, I call on you in the name of Liberty, of patriotism, & everything dear to the American character to come to our aid, with all dispatch—The enemy is receiving reinforcements daily and will no doubt increase to three or four thousand in four or five days. If this call is neglected, I am determined to sustain myself as long as possible & die like a soldier who never forgets what is due to his own honor & that of his country—VICTORY OR DEATH!

Uncommon valor, absolutely (though Travis's line drawn by sword in the sand is discounted by historians as a myth). But my eyes return to the terror in the lines "come to our aid, with all dispatch ... If this call is neglected ..." He was shaken to the depths of his soul by the fix he was in. The man was 28 years old.

Before leaving, I wander over to the Long Barracks, now a museum and gift shop, and look at a display case detailing the evolution of the Bowie knife and Bowie's murderous "Sand Bar Fight," and hold back a smile at all the mementos that have been marked down. Etched Alamo ornament—was \$13.50, now \$8.99. Alamo crackers, \$1.75; a recipe for Texas guacamole, 50 cents. But when I step inside the mission, after being reminded several times by politely murmuring men amid a crowd of school-kids in red T-shirts that "This is a shrine," my first thought is that it was indeed a church—and still looks and feels like one. Then comes a claustrophobic sinking

spell and reflection of how terrifying it would have been to be trapped in black-powder smoke inside these thick, windowless walls, shuddering with each

Inside the Alamo, an historic mission bell stands next to a wooden statue of St. Anthony (San Antonio).



The entrance at Alamo Plaza is a favorite site for photographs.

thump of the Mexican cannon. Officers under Santa Anna were astonished that he ordered the assault into the Texans' own blasts of cannon instead of waiting for them to run out of food and water and surrender. The old sacristy, a tiny room on the left as you shuffle through, is where you can best fathom the awfulness and strange dignity of the fall of the Alamo. Women, small children, and a few black slaves were locked up in the room, the only enclosure in the compound that has remained as it was. Until the 90-minute assault ended, about 8:00 in the morning, the survivors couldn't see the terrible cost to both sides. But how they must have prayed and wished they couldn't hear. **TH**

JAN REID's forthcoming books include a novel, *Comanche Sun-down*, and a biography of Ann Richards. Photo Editor GRIFF SMITH enjoyed seeing rock star Phil Collins at the Alamo during this shoot.

TH ESSENTIALS

## The Alamo

THE ALAMO, 300 Alamo Plaza in downtown San Antonio, welcomes more than 2.5 million visitors every year, and is open every day except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Admission: Free. Call 210/225-1391; [www.thealamo.org](http://www.thealamo.org).







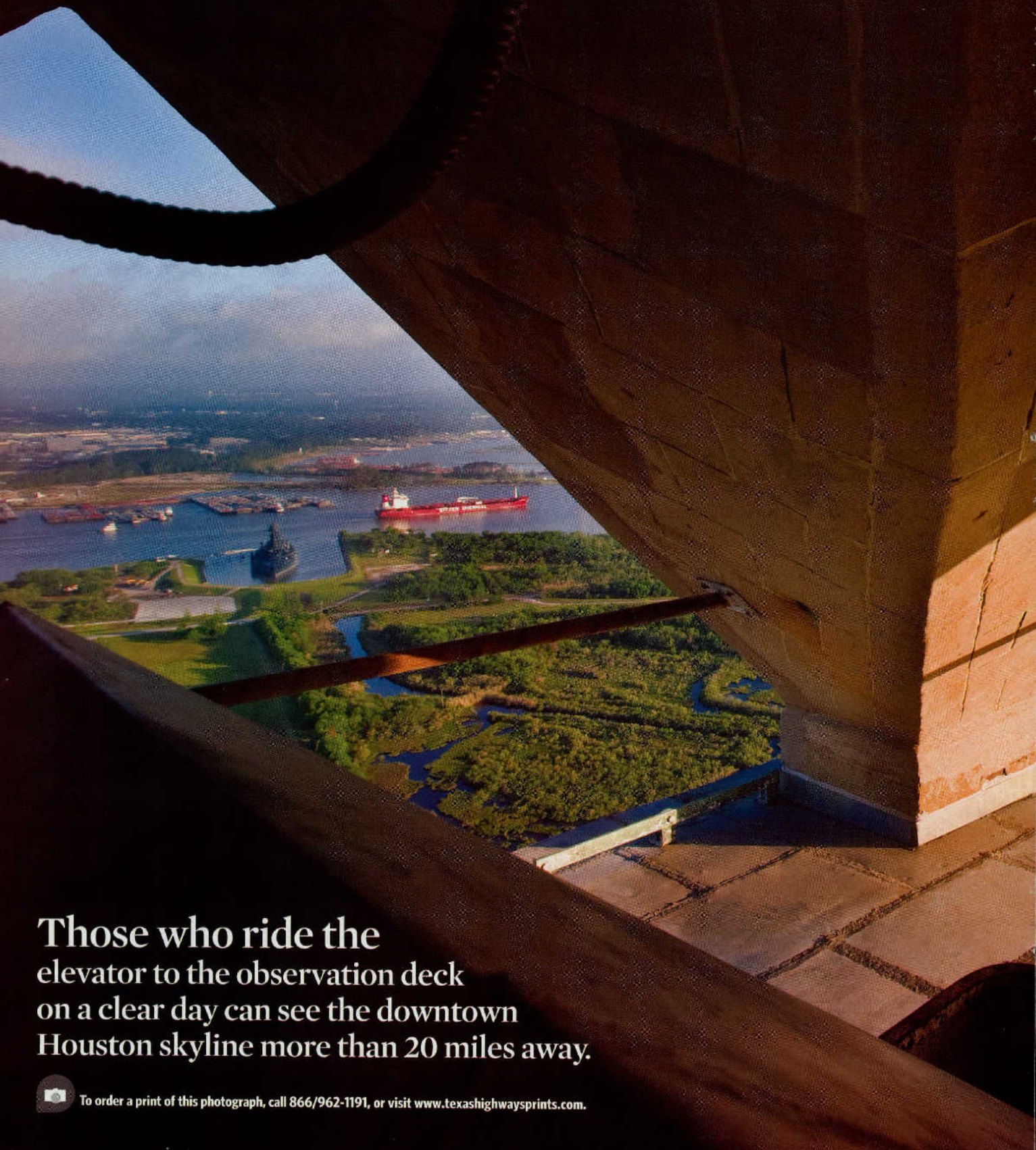
# Where Independence Was Won

THE TALLEST MONUMENT IN THE WORLD  
STANDS AS A SYMBOL OF TEXAS' ASPIRATIONS

*Text by* CHARLES LOHRMANN    *Photographs by* J. GRIFFIS SMITH

**What would Sam Houston** say if he laid eyes on the San Jacinto Monument today? The height of the tower certainly inspires, and the majesty of the soaring octagonal tower is formalized by the 1,800-foot-long, 8.4-acre reflecting pool. That image acknowledges power and creates a sense of potential. From a distance, the monument is an abstraction: It does not literally represent the battle that crowned Texas' quest for independence with Houston's decisive victory over Santa Anna's troops and the subsequent capture of the Mexican commander. Up close, you'll see that the base is incised with text and images that recount Texas' history.

**FACING PAGE:** In 1836, the area under water would have been low-lying ground and part of the battlefield. The pond was created by land subsidence in the 1950s and 1960s when groundwater was pumped from the area.  
**ABOVE:** Inscriptions adorning the monument's base describe Texas history.



Those who ride the  
elevator to the observation deck  
on a clear day can see the downtown  
Houston skyline more than 20 miles away.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).





From a distance, the monument is an abstraction: It does not literally represent the battle that crowned Texas' quest for independence.

"The monument is definitely a product of its time," explains Rusty Bloxom, site historian for the San Jacinto Battlefield State Historic Site. "It's from the 'old school' of historic monuments, which basically demands that you build the largest, most impressive structure possible. It follows the Victorian tradition established in the late 1800s, exemplified in most of the Civil War monuments around the country."

And certainly the San Jacinto Monument wins the size competition: The 570-foot, eight-sided shaft, topped by a 34-foot, three-sided, nine-point star, stands as the tallest monument tower in the world, taller than the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., by 15 feet and nine feet taller than the runner-up in Korea. The star





atop the monument, built in place, weighs 220 tons.

Inside the base of the monument, you'll find the San Jacinto Museum of History, which focuses on the history of the Battle of San Jacinto as well as Texas culture and heritage. Approximately 250,000 visitors make the trip to the 1,200-acre park and historic site each year. Those who ride the elevator to the observation deck, just

**ABOVE:** At the time of the battle, this area, where hundreds of Mexican soldiers died, was marshy ground. The land sank by as much as 8 feet due to groundwater pumping.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** The monument's base houses the San Jacinto Museum of History.



beneath the star atop the tower, can see downtown Houston's skyline more than 20 miles away on a clear day. On any day, you'll take in sweeping vistas of the surrounding battlefield, where a total of fewer than 2,000 soldiers exchanged fire more than 170 years ago. The panorama is punctuated by the adjacent Houston Ship Channel and Battleship *Texas*.

"The monument sits atop a low ridgeline that, in 1836, separated the Mexican camp from the Texian camp," says Bloxom. Because the site has not been extensively developed, it's possible to see that the landscape is similar to the way it was in 1836. You can imagine the drama of the 18-minute battle, and the deadly game of tactics that ensued, with Texian scout Deaf Smith destroying Vince's Bridge so Santa Anna's army could not escape.

The monument welcomed its first visitors in 1939. The limestone that faces the monument, known as Texas Cordova shellstone, was quarried in the Hill Country not far from Austin. After an initial 57-hour continuous concrete pour, during which 100 cubic yards of concrete was poured each minute, construction required three years, starting during the state's centennial year. The grand opening of the monument was the culmination of a more-involved process that meandered through the channels of government for more than 50 years—starting with the Texas Veterans Association first proposing a



The monument has been recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

formal monument after the Civil War, through the time the state of Texas purchased the land in the 1890s.

“The site now offers a venue for every interest,” says Larry Spasic, President of the San Jacinto Museum of History. “Some people come to picnic, others come to watch the huge vessels passing by in the Houston Ship Channel. Naturalists take advantage of the boardwalks through the restored wetlands, and still other visitors are mainly interested in architecture.”

The San Jacinto Museum of History’s collections span more than 400 years of Texas history, starting with the arrival of the Spanish and continuing through the 19th Century. The collection contains more than 100,000 objects, 250,000 documents, 10,000



visual images, as well as a 35,000-volume rare book library.

The monument has been recognized as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Spasic explains that some of the construction techniques for the monument, such as the use of special scaffolding, had to be invented on site. Even though the national award for engineering feats is impressive, most visitors recognize the San Jacinto Monument as the place where Texas' independence was won. **TH**

**ABOVE:** The 570-foot tower is the tallest monument of its kind in the world. Construction began as a Texas centennial project. **ABOVE RIGHT:** A glimpse of Battleship Texas and the Houston Ship Channel from the top of the San Jacinto Monument.



**→ TH ESSENTIALS**



## The San Jacinto Monument

THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORIC SITE sits approximately 25 miles east of downtown Houston and is maintained by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest).

The monument houses the **San Jacinto Museum of History**, which is operated by a separate nonprofit organization; [www.sanjacinto-museum.org](http://www.sanjacinto-museum.org).

**Battleship Texas** is moored in the **Houston Ship Channel** adjacent to the San Jacinto site; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/battleship\\_texas/](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/battleship_texas/).

# chasing WINDMILLS

*These familiar silhouettes, and the simple technology they embody, helped settle the rural byways of Texas*

*Text and Photographs by* **E. DAN KLEPPER**





*Travel down* any Texas highway, regardless of direction, season, or time of day, and you will pass a windmill.

Four-lane interstate or farm-to-market blacktop, it makes no difference what route you choose, because sooner or later you will see the familiar silhouette—a tower anchored to the landscape with its wheel and vane at rest in a windless lull, or turning gently in a breeze, or spinning wildly like a tilt-a-whirl.



Justin Herman cuts sheet metal into sails at the Aermotor Company in San Angelo. Most Aermotor components are manufactured at this location.

**T**he windmill is the workhorse of arid lands, independent but dependable, and ubiquitous as a fence post. Like the bluebonnet, it tends to pop up in ideal vistas, almost natural in its familiar shape, yet forged from human endeavor.

The windmill makes water from wind, a concept of mythical proportions but practical in a decidedly earthbound way. Wind provides the power, and the windmill, defying gravity, pulls water up from a subterranean source. The whirring wonder's extraordinary results catalyzed

a precipitous turn of events in the modernization of life on American prairies and deserts. Windmills made settlement possible throughout the rural byways of Texas; in fact, the entire West could not have been settled without them. Pioneers could settle in otherwise uninhabitable regions, and railroads, powered by fire and wind-conjured water, could criss-cross the country allowing the exchange of goods and ideas.

Between 1854 and 1920, more than 700 companies in the United States manufactured thousands of windmills. Today, only two of those companies remain in business, and one, Aermotor, is based here in Texas, in San Angelo.

It was a roundabout journey for Aermotor, a Chicago company that was started in 1888 by inventor LaVerne Noyes and ended up, 120 years later, in the capable hands of Bob Bracher, president of a group of West Texas ranchers who purchased Aermotor in 2006. Bracher happily provides tours of the 30,000-square-foot San Angelo factory, a machine enthusiast's dream, where almost every part of an Aermotor windmill is made. Sails are stamped from sheet metal, punch presses knock out sail ties, shaved and polished gears bathe in a waterfall of oil; main frames are threaded and drilled, hub shafts undergo refinement, and vanes and helmets are hammered and shaped. The process is a remarkable synco-pation in practice

A whimsical counterweight at Lubbock's American Wind Power Center. The weight helps to keep the wheel oriented toward the wind.



More mill history  
at [www.texas  
highways.com/  
webextra](http://www.texas<br/>highways.com/<br/>webextra).





*The windmill makes water from wind, a concept of mythical proportions but practical in a decidedly earth-bound way.*



for more than a century. The parts are stored along factory aisles—gears interlock in layers, eight-foot vanes are shelved like giant library books, and hoods nest in stacks. Occasionally, there's a special project in the works, like a large metal star built for the center of a windmill wheel. The few parts and processes not handled in San Angelo are manufactured and performed elsewhere in Texas, making the Aermotor windmill entirely American-made.

Only 45 Aermotor windmills were sold the first year the machine hit the market. But in 1892, Aermotor sold 60,000 of its “mathematical” windmills as they were called by competitors (because of extensive scientific testing of the model to maximize efficiency), first derogatorily and then with awe as Aermotor captured more and more of the market share. The Aermotor had greater lifting power and smoother pumping action, making it the favored windmill for westward settlers.

With mass production in place, Aermotor could drop its windmill prices to about one sixth of the original cost, selling eight-footers for around 25 dollars. An eight-foot windmill will typically pump 180 gallons of water in a 15 to 20 mph wind, raising the water approximately 175 feet from an underground well, features that met many of the early settlers' needs and made the eight-foot Aermotor a top seller. In fact, according to Bracher, the eight-footer is still the favorite today.

Early windmill design in America utilized wheels, vanes, and other parts made of wood with only moving, mechanical parts cast in iron and steel. A significant increase in steel manufacturing throughout the first half of the 20th Century, along with the rise of mass production, enabled Aermotor to convert the wooden windmill market to steel. Aermotor parts

are now constructed with the highest quality metals available, and each windmill is accompanied by

A crew from Concho Windmill and Pump Service mounts a wheel atop a tower on the Aermotor Company grounds.



A close-up of a colorful Eclipse, among some 150 windmills on display at the American Wind Power Center in Lubbock.

ing Aermotor windmills, some approaching the century mark, are still working across the Texas landscape, a warranty may not be all that necessary.

“Nature works for nothing,” an 1898 windmill advertisement reads. The windmill repair man, however, does not. Just ask windmill Chad Peterson, owner and operator of Concho Windmill and Pump Service. Peterson and his crew, based in San Angelo, travel throughout the country repairing old windmills and erecting new ones. Concho is a favorite whenever Bracher needs a new Aermotor windmill installed.

“Everyone loves a windmill,” says Peterson, “even a broken one. Farmers and cattle ranchers still need them fixed,

a seven-year warranty. Considering the fact that fully function-

and gentleman ranchers want new ones. We install them, maintain them, and repair them. We even custom-paint them in whatever color or design you want.”

Windmills are inherently simple. Should one need a repair, there's usually a simple solution. “If just one piece of a windmill is broken,” explains windmill restoration expert Paul Cowley, “the whole thing won't work. Find the broken piece, and you've got it fixed.” Cowley buys, sells, and trades windmills and windmill parts, a welcome service in an industry where some repair jobs require pieces decades old. At his parts yard, a literal graveyard for broken windmills along US 82 in the tiny Panhandle town of Ropesville, windmill parts are everywhere, from gear sets to blades, towers to wheels, weights to vanes—all loosely organized in a system known only to Cowley. Cowley also restores antique windmills and gives

*Tall enough to require aircraft-warning lights that pulse red throughout the night, wind turbines signal a future source of the state's electrical power.*



Energy at rainbow's end. Several wind farms spread over the plains along US 84 between Lubbock and Sweetwater.

of his superb handiwork can be seen at the American Wind Power Center in Lubbock.

**A**mong the 28 acres of spinning wheels across the American Wind Power Center's grounds, the beautifully restored wooden Axtell Standard stands out (Cowley restored the wheel and tail). The 22-and-a-half-foot,

new life to classic windmill styles that have vanished with time. Some

hand-wrought wheel, once a common sight across Texas farms of the early 1900s, sings with the voice of the wind. The pale, slender blades capture dusk light like lace curtains, holding the day's last rays before tossing them windward and into the night.

The restoration of the Axtell Standard, along with the rest of the windmill collection at the American Wind Power Center, is the culmination of efforts by the late Billie Wolfe, a faculty member of Texas Tech's then-College of Home Economics, and a dedicated windmill researcher. Wolfe spent 30 years traveling the country in search of early windmills, interviewing

farmers and ranchers, and shipping what she could acquire back to Lubbock. In 1992, she learned of an intact collection of beautifully restored windmills in Nebraska owned by a man named Don Hundley. Together with Coy Harris, a Lubbock native and CEO of Wind Engineering Corporation, Wolfe established the nonprofit National Windmill Project

Learn about The Windmill Farm B&B at Tolar at [texashighways.com/webextra](http://texashighways.com/webextra).



The Wind Power Center's Dempster No. 4, manufactured in 1900 by the Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company of Beatrice, Nebraska, is particularly stunning. Called a vaneless, sectional-wheel-style mill, the Dempster has blade sections that pivot, modifying the amount of surface exposed to the wind, opening and closing with the wind speed like an umbrella. These vaneless mills used a counterweight system to keep the wheel facing the wind. The weights themselves, cast in the shape of chickens, draft horses, squirrels, cows, bulls, footballs, and even battleships, added whimsical highlights to straightforward functionality.

The Wind Center's Southern Cross, an Australian-made steel wheel, dominates one end of the museum's interior, rotating via continuous electricity. Another popular windmill is the Dandy, a nine-foot silver wheel manufactured in 1890 by the Challenge Wind Mill and Pump Company of Batavia, Illinois.

The 165-foot-tall Vestas wind turbine, which generates the museum's electricity needs with more to spare, provides an example of the power-towers Texans can see on the state's many wind farms. The Center has also disassembled one of the behemoths for close-up inspection. Each of the turbine's three blades measures 112 feet long and weighs 12,000 pounds.

Visitors to the Center may want to conclude their windmill tour by driving US 84 from Lubbock to Sweetwater, and east on I-10 to Abilene, at dusk to view the remarkable array of turbines anchored across the miles of plowed fields. Tall enough to require aircraft-warning lights that pulse red throughout the night, wind turbines signal a future source of the state's electrical power.

Wind gives the windmill its long-lived vitality, and the windmill, human-made, gives us our purpose for the wind. Ironically, wind is often the source of a windmill's demise, collapsing towers, shearing blades, and wrapping tailbones around shafts and gear boxes. But while the force of the wind is mighty, it proves no match for the magic of the windmill. Even in its twisted, hapless shape, a windmill is a thing of beauty, somehow transcending function with form, exposing the underlying truth of another windmill ad from the 1800s that reads more like poetry than pitch. "Her forces," it assures us, "are never exhausted". **TH**

*"From Don Quixote's giants to America's western expansion, windmills have played a key role in our culture and history," says E. DAN KLEPPER. "Now, they are rising again, generating clean power for a warming world. This story is my attempt to give the windmill its due."*

➔ TH ESSENTIALS

## Windmills

THE AERMOTOR COMPANY is at 4277 Dan Hanks Ln., **San Angelo** (across from the entrance to Goodfellow Air Force Base). Tours of the manufacturing plant can be arranged by calling 800/854-1656; [www.aermotorwindmill.com](http://www.aermotorwindmill.com).



For windmill installation and repair, call Chad Peterson at **Concho Windmill and Pump Service** (in **San Angelo**) at 325/277-7364; [www.conchowindmill.com](http://www.conchowindmill.com). Concho's crew travels statewide and beyond.

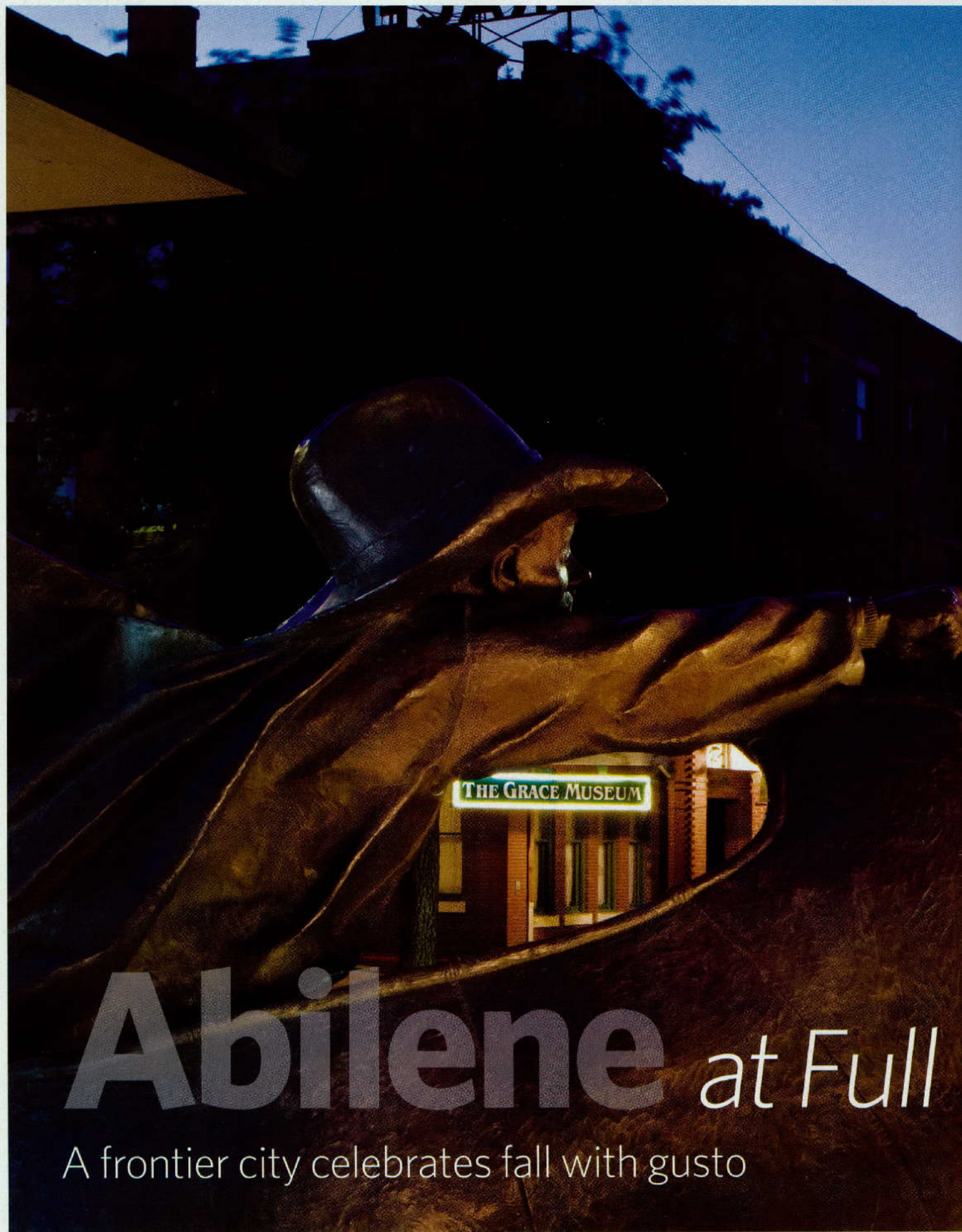
**American Wind Power Center** is at 1701 Canyon Lake Dr., **Lubbock**, 806/747-8734; [www.windmill.com](http://www.windmill.com). A stellar array of historic windmills can be seen from the road anytime. The museum houses most of the windmills, however; call for hours.

Visit Paul Cowley and his windmill parts yard at **The Old Lumberyard**, 103 S. Plains St., **Ropesville**, or call at 806/562-4418 (early morning or after dark).

A drive southeast of Lubbock along US 84 and then on I-20 (from north of Snyder to Abilene) offers views of some 20 **wind-turbine farms**.

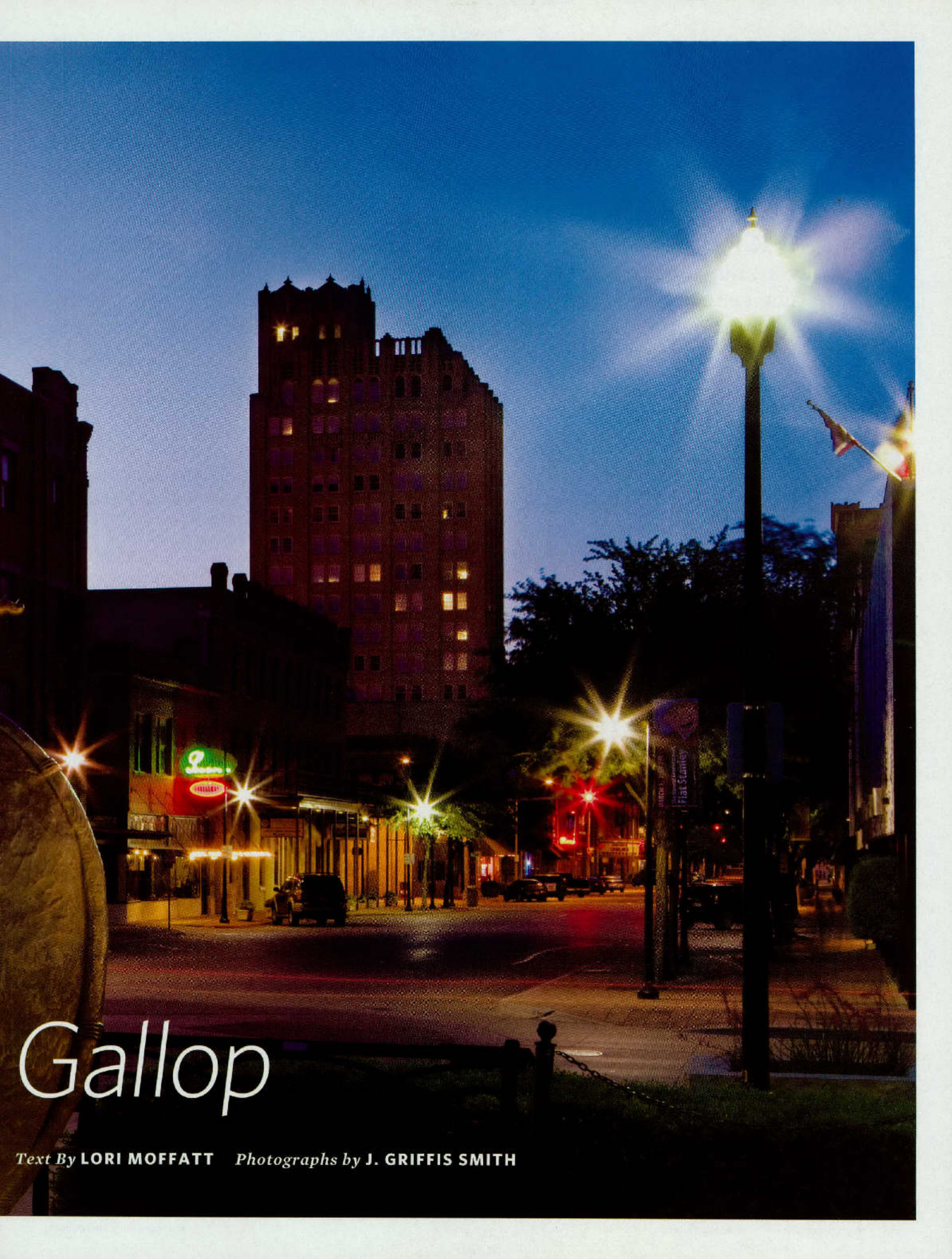
to provide a permanent home and museum for Wolfe's acquisitions, including the Hundley collection.

Wolfe passed away in 1997, but the work continued. By 1998, Harris had secured the Lubbock location and enough funds to construct the museum and establish the surrounding grounds. Today, the American Wind Power Center offers visitors a look at more than 150 wooden and metal windmills and wind turbines, spanning the history of the American windmill from the early Halladays, with their collapsing wheels and draft horse counterweights, to today's giant megawatt wind turbines.



# Abilene *at Full*

A frontier city celebrates fall with gusto



# Gallop

Text By **LORI MOFFATT** Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

**September**—when the autumnal equinox brings an official end to summer and temperatures start to cool, ever so slightly at first—is my favorite time to visit Abilene. Here, on the broad plains that once nurtured vast herds of buffalo, the shifting light bathes the urban landscape in a warm glow—the handsome brick buildings that rose downtown in the early 20th Century in the wake of the railroad’s arrival; the homes in the historic Sayles District, built by affluent merchants and bankers as wealth spread beyond the city’s core; and certainly the many restaurants, museums, and shops that now attract visitors to a destination that touted itself in 1881 as a “Future Great City of West Texas.”



ABOVE: The musical sculpture *Grace Notes*, part of Edward Weiss’ *Interactive Sound Wall* series, captivates visitors at the Grace Museum.

PREVIOUS SPREAD: Spend a few hours on a walking tour of downtown Abilene, where museums, galleries, restaurants, and displays of public art await.

Abilene residents chat about history and playing hooky at the pool hall at [texashighways.com/webextra](http://texashighways.com/webextra).

Seasonal fluctuations aside, I visited last fall to learn what other changes were afoot in Abilene.

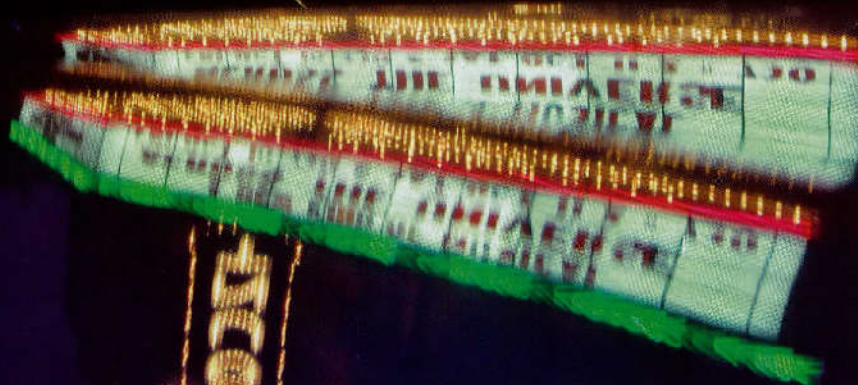
Perhaps no creatures here are as sensitive to nature’s preamble to fall than the animals that live at the Abilene Zoo. And thanks to a recent expansion here, visitors have more than 160 species to study in spacious habitats. The monkeys and lemurs pace their play throughout the day now, the black rhinos leave their cooling mud pit to show off their impressive horns, and the black bears—grunting and scratching themselves without concern for etiquette—curiously investigate their human onlookers. Even the giraffes—inquisitive year round—gallop friskily to a suspended walkway designed so that visitors can view them (and feed them) eye-to-eye. But the pair of African lions—a well-muscled male named Botswana and a female called Saba—inspired the most intrigue on my fall visit. As Saba pounced and prowled like an athletic, 450-pound housecat, Botswana—his mane lush and shaggy—staked out a high spot where he could survey his surroundings, and let out a resonating roar that sparked both fear and wonder. “We’re hoping the two will breed,” says Liz Kellerman, the zoo’s mammal supervisor. “He’s calling out to learn if there are other females in the area, and also to let it be known that this is his territory.”

The gregarious Terry Browder is also tuned into cycles of change. A former quilt dealer who got to know West Texas through his travels as a title abstractor, Browder watched area tourism increase with the 2004 opening of downtown’s Frontier Texas, a multimedia museum showcasing the 1780-1880 Texas frontier. Browder soon traded his plat books for a guest roster at the Sayles Ranch Guesthouses, a cozy compound of four rental houses he developed in the historic Sayles District. The largest guesthouse, a four-bedroom home that Browder decorated in what he calls a “John Wayne at Starbucks” aesthetic (think leather sofas and hand-wrought mesquite beds, antler chandeliers and modern art), also has a private pool. Each guesthouse has its charms, though, from a sunny screened porch to an upstairs sleeping loft contracted in the 1920s by actor Joan Crawford’s father. (Nearly all the decor and artifacts have intriguing stories, which Browder will share with minimal arm-twisting.)

Built in 1930 and restored in 1986, the Paramount now hosts movies, theater performances, and live music.

PARAMOUNT

A NEW KIND OF MUSICAL  
**ACROSS THE UNIVERSE**  
FRI OCT 10 730 & SAT OCT 11 2 + 730





The Abilene Zoo's friendly giraffes, Asha and Taylor, stand roughly 17 feet tall. Their nimble tongues are equally impressive.

of its now-restored, Mission Revival building with an exhibition called *Texas Art Seen* (Sep. 26–Jan. 14), which will focus on early 20th-Century artists. The Center for Illustrated Children's Literature hosts a groundbreaking show of oversize, Japanese pop-up books. A few blocks away, the restored Paramount Theatre, built in 1930 and on the National Register of Historic Places, continues its year-long film series with screenings of classics like 1954's Oscar-winning *Sabrina* and the independent, coming-of-age, Sundance smash *Son of Rambow*.

Bookseller Glenn Dromgoole's downtown shop, Texas Star Trading Company, offers Texas-themed gifts and a carefully edited selection of Texas books. Glenn also orchestrates the West Texas Book and Music Festival (Sep. 21–26), during which authors and musicians mingle and share stories at multiple downtown locations. And the Center for Contemporary Arts, a 20-year-old gallery and studio space that promotes regional artists, hosts its monthly Art Walk on September 10. During this convivial street party, downtown's shops, restaurants, and attractions stay open late, offer live music and refreshments, and encourage mingling and meandering.

Restaurants in the historic district range from sandwich shops

While all four Sayles properties have elegant and practical kitchens, Browder doesn't serve food, like a traditional bed-and-breakfast does. "We're not zoned for that," he told my husband, Randy, and me, "but also, I know that when I travel, I don't want to get dressed before breakfast." Browder recommended a preemptive trip to McKay's Bakery, a downtown sweet shop whose bestsellers include Italian cream cakes, poppyseed muffins, and divinely sticky, pecan-studded coffeecakes.

**A** bilene's downtown area, a compact grid of streets lined with buildings that date to the 1900s, has much to offer year round, but especially so in September. Across from the restored 1910 Texas & Pacific Depot, the Grace Museum celebrates the 100th anniversary

that cater to students at Abilene's three universities to upscale eateries like Cypress Street Station, a white-tablecloth place where salads and pastas share menu space with entrées like seafood risotto. You'll find more exotic fare—Thai, Japanese—on the West part of town, due to the international influences of Dyess Air Force Base. But thank goodness I'm not a vegetarian, as beef is king in this part of West Texas. That much *hasn't* changed.

So, after our tour of downtown, we made tracks to Joe Allen's Bar-B-Que, which for three decades has served mesquite-smoked meats to a devoted customer base of wheat farmers, oil-industry types, military personnel, university professors, and electrical engineers from the area's huge wind-power plants. Joe Allen's is not the only barbecue restaurant in town; Allen's ex-wife Sharon Riley puts her own spin on things at the nearby Lytle Land & Cattle Co., and a



place called Harold's draws fans for turnip greens and brisket.

But Joe Allen's has a heartfelt, old-school appeal that inspires loyalty. A neon sign illuminates the parking lot, which is likely jammed with 4 x 4 trucks and fragrant with wood smoke. In the dining room hang a slightly askew collection of equestrian portraits and Western scenics—windmills, Longhorns, cactus-studded vistas, and racehorse profiles. Owner Joe Allen is also an avid horse breeder, and photos of his many winning Thoroughbreds hang in the foyer and bar area, the latter dedicated to Allen's undefeated, six-year-old mare, Peppers Pride.

## Sayles Ranch owner Terry Browder decorated his guesthouses in a style he calls "John Wayne at Starbucks."

Randy and I had missed the earlier hubbub—cheering and rounds-all-around as patrons and employees tuned in to watch the horse win her record-breaking 19th consecutive North American race. Thankfully, we weren't too late for dinner—heaping plates of smoked turkey and peppery sausage, plus half-cup servings of hammy pinto beans and cabbage with bacon.

"When the trainer pilots from over at Dyess come in," says Allen, who favors a medium-rare ribeye, "about half get the steaks, half get the barbecue."

Abilene, in fact, stakes much of its economy on the base. More than 6,000 military and civilian employees work here, and hatmaker Damon Albus would like to sell each of them a hat.

Albus, who started leatherworking in college as a way to fund his "bad habit of rodeoing," later apprenticed with Lubbock hatmaker Dean Leonard and eventually returned to his hometown of Abilene to open 5-D Custom Hats and Leather. "People come in and say, 'I'd wear a hat a lot more often if they just looked good on me,'" says Albus. "And I tell 'em, 'You just haven't had a hat that's been creased right.' There's a hat person yearning to come out of everyone."

I had brought Albus my grandfather's old Stetson—a voluminous "cattleman's with a mule kick"—and asked him if he could make it suit me. "There's only so much I can do to make it smaller," he said, "but I can redo the crease and put in a snigger sweatband. And a braided hatband would give it a feminine touch."

Afterward, I couldn't help but smile at that crumpled old hat, reborn with a dash of Abilene flair. How's that for a change? **TH**

*Senior Editor LORI MOFFATT has her mind's eye on a pair of bespoke cowboy boots at Leddy's. Photography Editor GRIFF SMITH enjoys the public art throughout downtown Abilene.*



If you stay at the Falling Star Lodge, one of four guesthouses at the Sayles Ranch, you may find it hard to leave the comfortable screened porch.

### TH ESSENTIALS



## Abilene

FOR INFORMATION about events, attractions, restaurants, and lodging, call the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800/727-7704; [www.abilenevisitors.com](http://www.abilenevisitors.com). *Contact information for sites in story follows.*

### Attractions and Shops

**Abilene Zoo**, 2070 Zoo Lane in Nelson Park, 325/676-6085; [www.abilenetx.com/zoo](http://www.abilenetx.com/zoo).

**The Center for Contemporary Arts**, 220 Cypress, 325/677-8389; [www.center-arts.com](http://www.center-arts.com).

**5-D Custom Hats and Leather**, 742-A Butternut, 325/673-9000; [www.5dhats.com](http://www.5dhats.com).

**Frontier Texas**, 625 North 1st St., 325/437-2800; [www.frontiertexas.com](http://www.frontiertexas.com).

**The Grace Museum**, 102 Cypress, 325/673-4587; [www.thegracemuseum.org](http://www.thegracemuseum.org).

**National Center for Illustrated Children's Literature**, 102 Cedar, 325/673-4586; [www.nccil.org](http://www.nccil.org).

**Paramount Theatre**, 352 Cypress, 325/676-9620; [www.paramount-abilene.org](http://www.paramount-abilene.org).

**Texas Star Trading Company**, 174 Cypress, 325/672-9696; [www.texasstartrading.com](http://www.texasstartrading.com).

### Lodging

**Sayles Ranch Guesthouses**, 1001 Sayles Blvd., 325/669-6856; [www.saylesranch.com](http://www.saylesranch.com).

### Dining

**Cypress Street Station**, 158 Cypress, 325/676-3463; [www.cypress-street.com](http://www.cypress-street.com).

**Joe Allen's Bar-B-Que**, 301 S. 11th St., 325/672-6082; [www.joeallens.com](http://www.joeallens.com).

**McKay's Bakery**, 266 Cypress, 325/672-9737.



# festivals Up!



## homegrown celebrations from Gruene to Gilmer

Text by NOLA McKEY

**Fall. Small towns. Big celebrations.** It's a winning combination in Texas, where many communities still observe fall festivals that started decades ago. There's something about the first hint of autumn that gets people out and brings them together. Maybe it's a collective memory of harvest celebrations long past, or maybe it's just a yearning to enjoy the outdoors after a long, hot summer. Whatever the reason, Texas small towns offer an abundance of fall festivals, each with its share of down-home delights and discoveries.



PHOTOS, FROM LEFT: © ERICH SCHLEGEL, J. GRIFFIS SMITH, STAN WILLIAMS

**m**y personal favorite is the **Texas Clay Festival**, which takes place this year October 24-25 in **Gruene**, a picturesque hamlet about three miles north of New Braunfels proper. (Officially the Gruene Historic District, the village was incorporated into the city of New Braunfels in 1979.) Take it from me: You don't have to dabble in pottery to dig the Clay Festival. For starters, the setting—spreading live oaks in the shadow of Gruene's iconic water tower—couldn't be more welcoming. Hay bales scattered over the grounds of Buck Pottery (owners Dee and Terry Buck helped organize the juried show 16 years ago) provide impromptu seating and mark pathways that wind among white tents and multicolored umbrellas, where potters sell their wares and talk about their work.

The atmosphere is equally relaxed—what would you expect from a group of people who make their living, literally, working with the earth?—encouraging conversation among accomplished potters and mere lovers of pots. Small groups of spectators form semicircles around master potters as they demonstrate wheel-throwing, hand-building, raku-firing, and other techniques.

FROM LEFT: Bluesman Guitar Shorty hits a high note at the Blues Fest in Denton. Pottery-lovers wander the grounds of the Texas Clay Festival in Gruene, where artists display works from earthenware to porcelain. An eponymous effigy fronts the Chappell Hill Visitors Center during the community's annual Scarecrow Festival.

# festivals Up!



Volunteers cook crushed sugar cane over a wood fire during the annual Henderson Syrup Festival.

You sense that these artisans genuinely enjoy sharing their craft with the enthusiasts gathered around them. It's this "celebrate-the-medium" spirit that sets the Clay Festival apart from other art shows. Some participants have described it as "a two-day clay love-fest."

Call 830/629-7975 or 830/833-2860; [www.texasclayfestival.com](http://www.texasclayfestival.com).

**Denton's Blues Fest** (slated this year for September 19 in Quakertown Park, northeast of downtown) holds similar meaning for blues fans. The Denton Black Chamber of Commerce organized the free, one-day festival in 1998 to spotlight African-American music, and the animated event has grown steadily. CPA John Baines, the chamber's treasurer, estimates that around 4,000 people attended last year.

A one-time R&B performer, Baines says, "Blues songs have themes everyone can relate to. They're about tough times and people getting through. When you hear something like 'Every Day I Have the Blues' or 'Call It Stormy Monday (But Tuesday's Just As Bad),' the music reaches deep down into your soul and touches certain feelings that take you back to a certain place in time. You've *lived* those lyrics, and hearing those songs brings a remembering to your being. People just really respond to that."

Festivalgoers set up folding chairs and spread blankets in the spacious, tree-shaded venue. "This event is popular with all ages," says Baines. "We have acts with performers in their late 80s, like Pops Carter and the Funk Monsters, and we have a Denton Blues Idol contest that attracts a young audience. The main-stage lineup starts with the contest, followed by performances by up-and-coming bands and other professional blues acts, a special hour for amateurs with a passion for the blues, spotlight numbers by winners of the Blues Idol contest, and finally, a concert by the headliner. This year, that's blues guitarist Michael Burks, who's a W.C. Handy Award-winner, which is a big deal in the blues world."

There's also a second stage that features hip-hop and R&B artists, professional dance troupes, and area rappers. And beyond the music, there's face-painting, bounce houses, arts and crafts, and an amazing variety of food, from barbecue to burritos to beans and cornbread. A shady park, heartfelt music, and great food—the Denton Blues Fest is a beautiful thing. Call 940/382-9100; [www.dentonblackchamberonline.org](http://www.dentonblackchamberonline.org).

**Whether your passion** is blues or bluegrass, pottery or pumpkins, it's a good bet that Texas offers a small-town festival that speaks to you. If you love a parade—complete with marching bands and elaborate floats—head to Gilmer for the 72nd annual East Texas Yamboree. Enjoy sampling different ethnic foods? Check out the delectable noodles at the 21st annual Wendish Festival in Serbin. Here, we offer eight diverse events to pique your interest. Do yourself a favor and celebrate the season by joining in the fun.

## Oatmeal Festival, Bertram

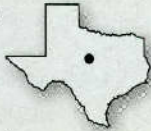
(45 miles northwest of Austin), September 4-5. What started as a spoof of Texas' many chili festivals has evolved into a full-fledged celebration. Sponsored by 3-Minute Brand Oats, the Oatmeal Festival includes a 3K run and other events that begin at three or 33 minutes past the hour; a parade, during which it "rains" oatmeal; a Miss Oatmeal Pageant; an oatmeal cookoff; and silly games for adults and children. The common denominator: zany fun. For an extra treat, make the trip to Bertram on the *Oatmeal Flyer*, boarding the train in Cedar



Park (visit [www.austinsteamtrain.org](http://www.austinsteamtrain.org) for ticket information). **For festival details, call 512/355-2197; [www.bertramtx.org](http://www.bertramtx.org).**

**Brownwood Reunion Celebration, Brownwood,**

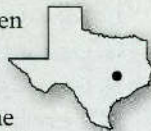
September 18-20. This three-day extravaganza in Brownwood's historic depot area includes continuous live music, nationally known entertainment (country musicians Tracy Lawrence and Brandon Rhyder, plus Johnny Dee & The Rocket 88's), and activities from a 5K run to a barbecue cookoff. Stages, tents, and booths spread over 23 city blocks. Started in 2001 to share "all the wonderful things about living in Brownwood," the event is billed as the first festival to be hosted live worldwide via strategically placed Web cams. **Call 325/998-INFO; [www.brownwoodtx.com.com/event](http://www.brownwoodtx.com.com/event).**



Horseback rides for kids are just one feature of Bertram's Oatmeal Festival. Adults get in on the fun, too.

**Wendish Fest, Serbin** (seven miles southwest of Giddings),

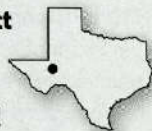
September 27. Texas Wends celebrate their heritage on the grounds of historic St. Paul Lutheran Church, beginning with services in both English and German, followed by a "picnic" that features sausage, sauerkraut, Wendish noodles, and baked goods. Events include a silent auction, coffeecake bakeoff, washer-pitching competition, *kletternpfosten* (greased-pole climbing), and stick-horse races. Wends demonstrate Wendish Easter egg-decorating, noodle-making, sausage-making, sauerkraut-making, blacksmithing, and quilting. Festivalgoers can also see ex-



hibits of old farm equipment and classic autos, visit the nearby Texas Wendish Heritage Society Museum, and enjoy live music. **Call 979/366-2441; [www.texaswendish.org](http://www.texaswendish.org).**

**Bluegrass Festival, Wickett**

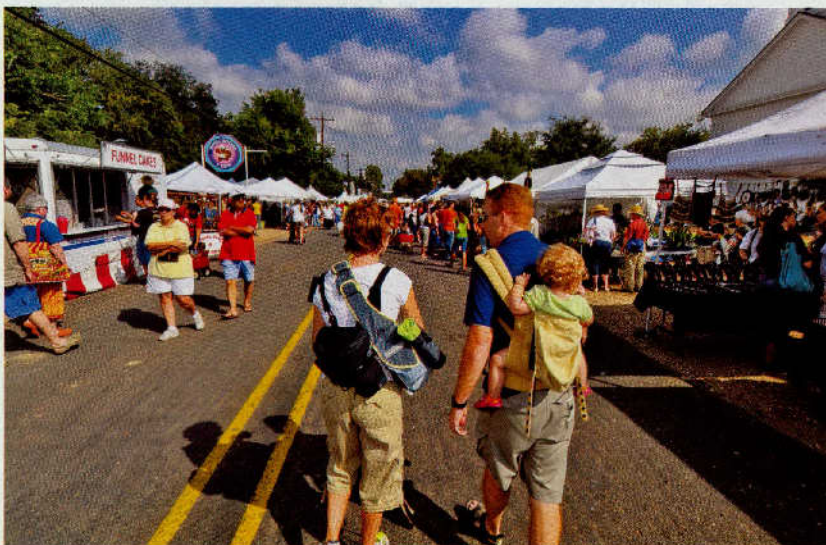
(40 miles southwest of Odessa), October 2-4. Held in the auditorium of the Old Wickett School, this festival is all about the music, with bluegrass fans coming from as far as Houston, Amarillo, and New Mexico. This year's event features Roy "the Fingerless Fiddler" Thackerson, the



Triple L Band, and other bluegrass performers. RV parking is available, and the Wickett Volunteer Fire Department takes over the former cafeteria next door, offering breakfast, hamburgers, and drinks throughout the weekend, and barbecue dinners on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon (following a gospel-music service that morning). **Call 432/943-3135 for details.**

**Scarecrow Festival, Chappell Hill**

(10 miles east of Brenham), October 10-11. Hosted by the Chappell Hill



**Fall Fest Tips**

**Call to confirm** dates before making a drive.

**Admission fees vary** (some events are free).

**Local lodging** can fill up quickly on festival weekends. Contact the chamber of commerce or CVB about accommodations; if local options are booked, ask about alternatives in nearby towns.

**TH Traveler** (page 67) offers more September festivals. For a comprehensive list, visit [www.traveltext.com](http://www.traveltext.com), click on "Events," and search for "Festivals."

Like most small-town celebrations, the Scarecrow Festival includes a midway with yummy treats.

PHOTOS: KEVIN STILLMAN (ABOVE), STAN WILLIAMS (RIGHT)

# festivals Up!

Historical Society, this colorful festival was inspired by a scarecrow-decorating contest. The event features juried exhibits offering home decor, jewelry, clothing, and more; live music; cloggers and other entertainers; and tours of the Chappell Hill Museum. Children's activities include pony rides, a petting zoo, pumpkin patch, and "barrel train." Vendors offer festival foods such as barbecue-on-a-stick and yard-long bags of kettle popcorn. **Call 979/836-6033; www.chappellhilltx.com.**

**Punkin Day, Floydada** (50 miles northeast of Lubbock), October 10. The West Texas town that bills itself as "The Pumpkin Capital, USA" has hosted Punkin Day for more than 20 years. Expect to see orange orbs on display from mini-pumpkins (eight ounces or less) to Big Macs (100 pounds and up). The fun includes cow-patty bingo, pumpkin bowling, and a pumpkin-pie-eating contest. Live entertainment, arts and crafts, food vendors, and a street dance are also part of the lineup. **Call 806/983-3434; www.floydadachamber.com/punkin.htm.**

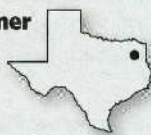
**East Texas Yamboree, Gilmer** (35 miles northeast of Tyler), Oct. 14-17. One of the state's oldest and most successful festivals, the Yamboree has it all, from a queen's coronation pageant to a Saturday-night barn dance. With a live-stock show, cooking contests, and a carnival that expands every year, it could compete with most county fairs. Throw in

several parades, a car show, art show, quilt show, fiddler's contest, photography contest, essay and poetry contests, children's activities, and an array of great eats, and it's easy to understand the Yamboree's enduring appeal. **Call 903/843-2413; www.yamboree.com.**

## Heritage Syrup Festival, Henderson, November 14.

Simultaneous activities take place at The Depot Museum and downtown Henderson, with "hayride shuttles" running between the two sites. The museum offers a daylong demonstration of old-time syrup-making, using a syrup mill fashioned from parts of two old mills. The museum grounds also feature more than 30 folk artists demonstrating basketmaking, woodcarving, knife-making, blacksmithing, spinning, weaving, and chuck-wagon cooking, as well as folk music and storytelling. Meanwhile, the downtown lineup includes antique and classic car exhibits, a melodrama performance, live music, square dancers, cloggers, line dancers, and a living-history Old West show. Both venues offer children's activities. **Call 866/650-5529, ext. 800; www.hendersontx.us.** **TH**

*Senior Editor NOLA McKEY says the best small-town festivals invariably reflect local history and culture.*



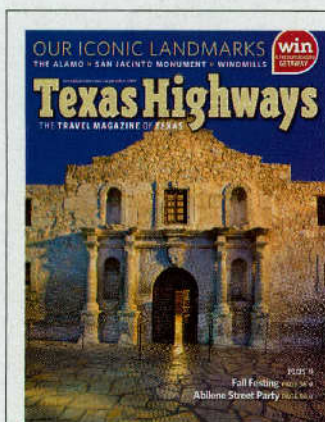
# Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

## Reader Service Guide to Advertisers

For information from our advertisers, use the forms in this issue, or go to [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com). (Reader service numbers are in bold.)

1. Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 9
2. Amarillo, Texas, pg. 15
3. Beaumont Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 65
4. Boerne Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 12
5. Brenham/Washington County, pg. 3
6. Brownsville Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 22
7. Brownwood Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 72
8. Bryan-College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 66
9. Cleburne Chamber of Commerce, pg. 8
10. Del Rio Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 67
11. Denton Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 13
12. El Paso's Amigo Air Show presented by Toyota, pg. 70
13. El Paso Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 21
14. Glen Rose Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 66
15. Graham Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 17
16. Grand Hyatt San Antonio, pg. 11
17. Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 10
18. Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 65
19. Harlingen Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 72
20. Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce & CVB, pg. 69
21. Huntsville Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 18
22. Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce, pg. 67
23. Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 5
24. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, pg. 17
25. Lake Whitney Board of Tourism, pg. 21
26. Lancaster Visitors & Tourism, pg. 68
27. Laredo Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 16
28. Lufkin Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 4
29. Matagorda County Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 71
30. McKinney Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 5
31. Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce, pg. 6
32. Greater New Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, pg. 12
33. Plano, Texas, pg. 18
34. Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce, pg. 10
35. San Angelo Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 6
36. San Marcos Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 20
37. Sayles Ranch Guesthouses, pg. 9
38. Seguin Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 68
39. Texas Forts Trail, pg. 6
40. Tyler Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 64
41. Uvalde Convention & Visitors Bureau, pg. 71
42. Visit Lubbock, pg. 69
43. Wharton Chamber of Commerce, pg. 64
44. Wings Over Houston Airshow, pg. 23
45. Wurstfest In New Braunfels, pg. 23



Be True to Texas

## Texas Highways

Just **\$19.95** for a 1-year U.S. subscription. Additional U.S. subscriptions are only \$17.95 each.

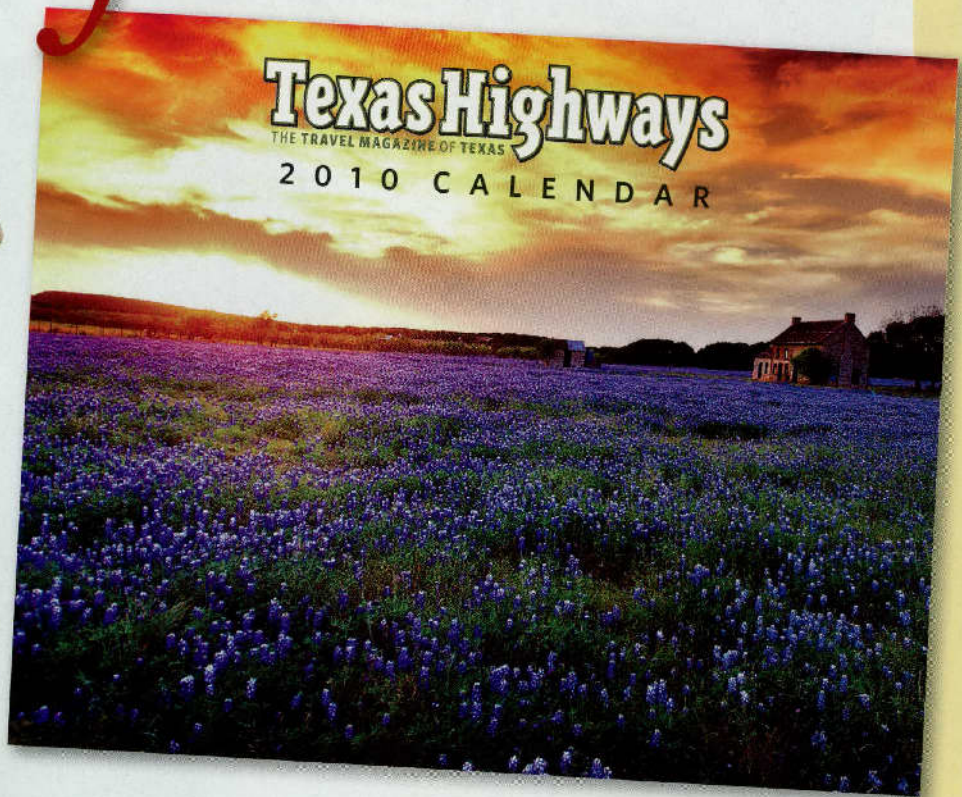
Order today by calling **1-800-839-4997** and mention source code A9JTHM.

Or order online at **www.texashighways.com**

International subscriptions are just \$29.95. Call 386-597-4297 from outside the U.S., or order online at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).

A9JTHM

# A LITTLE BIT OF Texas for EVERYONE



## Texas Bluebonnet Tote Bag

Deluxe carry-all tote bag will keep everything close at hand when you're on the move. Carefree poly-cotton blend exterior featuring our Texas bluebonnets design. Fully lined. 14" shoulder strap. 17" x 17"

Item# 37415 . . . . . \$22.95

## Ladies Embroidered Cap

Shade your face or just look great in our new ladies cap embroidered with the Texas bluebonnet. It also features a cute pocket on the other side. Adjustable buckle in back.

Item# 38721 . . . . . \$16.95

## Crystal State Seal of Texas Accessory

For the proud Texan with discriminating tastes, we present this sparkling genuine lead crystal accessory with a three-dimensional, laser-etched State Seal of Texas. Elegantly cased in a satin-lined box with a magnetic closure. Circle diameter: 3.9", depth 1"

Item# 37701 . . . . . \$24.95

## 2010 Texas Highways Wall Calendar

Enjoy the beauty of the Lone Star State throughout the year with the *Texas Highways* wall calendar. Breathtaking scenery as seen through the lenses of some of Texas' and the nation's top outdoor photographers, is showcased each month. From the Guadalupe Mountains to Caddo Lake and from Caprock Canyons to Port Aransas, the diversity of the Texas landscape offers something for everyone.

Item# 33150 . . . . . \$13.95

### Great Gift! Great Price!

- Single calendar . . . . . \$13.95
- 2-4 calendars . . . . . \$12.95
- 5-9 calendars . . . . . \$11.95
- 10-49 calendars . . . . . \$10.95
- 50-100 calendars . . . . . \$9.95

To order, call **1-800-839-4997** (386-597-4297 from outside the U.S.)

View our entire collection at **www.texashighways.com**

# FOR *true* Texans & THOSE WHO WANT TO BE



### Texas-Size Mug

Get several of these unique embossed destination mugs! Raised TEXAS with a backdrop of boots, the Alamo, a longhorn and cowboys riding horses through the bluebonnets. Texas Size: 18 oz.

Item# 37332 . . . . . \$9.95

### Leather Texas Paperweight

Stunning Texas style for your desktop. Texas-shaped paperweight is crafted of genuine leather and tooled with a design of the state seal. Approximately 4"

Item# 37702 . . . . . \$14.95

### Raw Edge Fitted T-Shirt

Splashes of brown and white accent the urban scrawl design on this black T-shirt, with Texas on the front and a heart on the sleeve of this edgy fitted T-shirt. 100% cotton with distinctive side seams. Sizes: S, M, L, XL

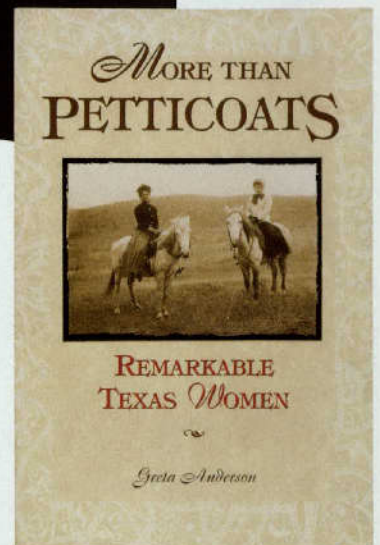
Item# 38250 . . . . . \$21.95

### More Than Petticoats

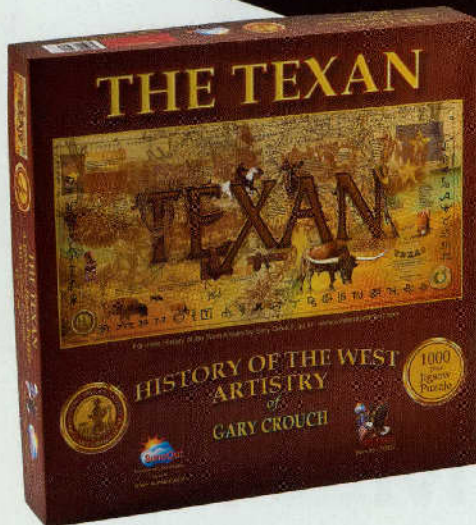
*Remarkable Texas Women*  
by Greta Anderson

Meet the trailblazing women of Texas! Explore the history of the Lone Star State through the biographies of 10 remarkable women, all born before 1900, whose courage and contributions had a profound impact on Texas. 2002, 117 pages, 6" x 9", black and white, paperback

Item# 36703 . . . . . \$12.95







View our entire collection at  
[www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)



### A Breed Apart T-shirt

Make a bold statement with this simply stated and solidly assembled T-shirt. 100% pre-shrunk, heavy-weight cotton with an embroidered design featuring the state's classic longhorn — truly a breed apart. Color: Black. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL

Item# 38240 . . . . \$19.95

### The Texan Puzzle

Learn about Texas history as you enjoy completing this puzzle titled *History of the West Artistry of Gary Crouch*. 1000 Pieces. 16" height x 34" width

Item# 37524 . . . . \$17.95

### Texas Earrings

French loop earrings, in the shape of Texas, sport the Lone Star flag design in beautiful sterling silver. Height 2.5 cm

Item# 37902 . . . . \$29.95

### Texas Seal Charm

The State seal is beautifully replicated in this high quality sterling silver. Perfect addition to a charm bracelet or as a simple drop on a necklace. Diameter: 2.0 cm

Item# 37903 . . . . \$22.95

### State Seal Key Chain

The Texas State Seal embellishes this high quality leather keychain.

Item# 37712 . . . . \$12.95



### Texas Star Key Chain

High-quality leather key chain embellished with the Texas Star.

Item# 37711 . . . . \$12.95

## Three ways to order:

**BY PHONE:** Call **1-800-839-4997**

(386-597-4297 from outside the U.S)

**BY MAIL:** Please use the **order form** inside this issue. Send completed form, along with your payment, including shipping and handling to:

Texas Highways - #748, PO Box 576, Mt. Morris, IL 61054

**ONLINE:** Go to **www.texashighways.com**

You may also visit the *Texas Highways Magazine Gift Shop* at 150 E. Riverside, Austin.

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover

**Do!**  
Visit the Texas  
Ranger Museum  
in Waco

## The Lone Wolf

*An outlaw's nemesis  
(and a snappy dresser, too)*

Text by **GENE FOWLER**



## Historic WHARTON

- Out of this world museums.
- Home of Oscar winning and Pulitzer prize winning playwright Horton Foote.
- Historic 1889 courthouse, downtown.
- Dining, shopping, antiques, the Colorado River, historic homes.
- Unique, fabulous lodging.



[whartontexas.com](http://whartontexas.com)

**"M**Y GOD, BOYS! IT'S THE Lone Wolf! Let's scam!" In the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, those words echoed from Borger to Brownsville whenever wrongdoers caught sight of fabled Texas Ranger Manuel Trazazas "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas. Born in Cádiz, Spain, on July 4, 1891, to parents who were naturalized U.S. citizens, Gonzauillas became the first Ranger Captain of Hispanic ancestry.

Manuel dreamed of wearing the star growing up in El Paso, where he was awestruck by the sight of legendary Ranger John R. Hughes, the "Border Boss," on horseback. That early desire to fight lawlessness was further inflamed as a teenager, when bandits killed his two brothers and wounded his parents. After stints in the Mexican army and the United States Treasury Department, Gonzauillas

**Astride his horse Charcoal, Manuel "Lone Wolf" Gonzauillas strikes a pose in the early 1940s.**

## Tyler!

The Thrilling East Texas Destination

For more on exciting outdoor adventures, contact the Tyler Convention & Visitors Bureau  
1-800-235-5712  
[www.VisitTyler.com](http://www.VisitTyler.com)



PHOTO: COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO

## Lone Wolf spent five years as a consultant for movies and television.

took the Ranger oath on October 1, 1920.

Assigned to clean up crime in the North Texas oil fields, it wasn't long before Gonzauillas attained his nickname. The first known printed reference to his handle appeared in the *Wichita Falls Daily Times* on December 29, 1920. "Ranger Gonzauillas," reported the paper, "who is known throughout the oil fields where he has been on duty as 'Lone Wolf,' was recognized by at least a dozen characters ...

who approached him and said they were leaving for other places immediately."

Lone Wolf's presence inspired a similar exodus from other problem areas. Cool under fire and an excellent marksman, the Ranger arrested so many bootleggers, gambling operators, thugs, and killers that he often had to improvise jail facilities. In Borger, outlaws and crooked cops alike were chained to a stout device that Lone Wolf called the "snortin' pole." In wide-open Kilgore, criminals were hooked to a massive chain called the "trotline."

In addition to patrolling the oil fields, Gonzauillas' long tenure included work on almost every headline-making case of the day. He hunted for the bank robbers—one of whom was dressed as Santa Claus—who shot up Cisco in December 1927. He was on hand for the "War of the Bridges" in 1931, when Oklahoma Governor William H.

### Rustling up the Rangers

**IN 1968, MANUEL "LONE WOLF" Gonzauillas helped found the Texas Ranger Hall of Fame and Museum in Waco,**

which today serves as the principle repository for archives and artifacts relating to the Texas Rangers, the state's oldest law-enforcement agency. The collection includes Ranger badges, 19th-Century Colt firearms and other weapons, photographs, and displays recounting nearly two centuries' worth of Ranger history. Gonzauillas, one of 30 Rangers honored in the museum's Hall of Fame, bequeathed his scrapbooks and personal papers to the museum upon his death in 1977. Call 254/750-8631; [www.texasranger.org](http://www.texasranger.org).

The **East Texas Oil Museum in Kilgore** also presents information about Lone Wolf's legacy, especially as it pertains to his role in policing the rowdy 1930s oil fields. Call 903/983-8295; [www.easttexasoilmuseum.com](http://www.easttexasoilmuseum.com).

—Lori Moffatt



**In Waco, learn about the history and popular culture of the Texas Rangers.**

## Rally 'Round Greenville

**September 18, 19, 20**

- Texas Music Weekend
- Cotton Patch Challenge Bicycle Race & Tour
- BBQ & Chili Cook-off
- RailFest at KATY Depot
- Kids Alley • Art Show
- Fun for the whole family

**While in Greenville, visit**

- Audie Murphy Museum
- Mary of Puddin' Hill (Chocolate Factory)
- Historic Downtown with antique shops, dining, special gardens, winery & more

For more information, visit The Greenville Chamber/CVB [www.greenvillechamber.com](http://www.greenvillechamber.com)

This ad paid tandem in part with City of Greenville-Hotel/Motel Tax revenues.



Register to Win A FREE Family Fun Getaway Package!

# BEAUMONT

T • E • X • A • S

St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica

McFaddin-Ward House



Spindletop, Lucas Gusher



Big Thicket Preserve, Fishing



Cajun Food & Festivities

[www.BEAUMONTCVB.com](http://www.BEAUMONTCVB.com)

**BEAUMONT CVB**  
1-866-822-0245

# Speaking of Texas

An early advocate of forensics, Lone Wolf introduced the Rangers to ballistics, paraffin tests, and other crime-fighting techniques.



“Alfalfa Bill” Murray declared martial law at a newly built free bridge intended to replace an adjacent toll bridge. In 1947, armed guards and a state-of-the-art electrical warning system that protected illegal gambling at Arlington’s Top O’ Hill Terrace casino proved no match for Lone Wolf.

When Miriam Ferguson recaptured the governor’s office in 1933, she discharged many Rangers, including Lone Wolf. The Legislature then removed the Rangers from the governor’s jurisdiction and placed the agency under the control of the newly created Department of Public Safety. Reinstated, Gonzauillas became superintendent of the DPS Bureau of Intelligence. As an

In this 1937 photo, Gonzauillas (right) and George Gambill make a face mold in the DPS crime lab.

early advocate of forensics, Lone Wolf introduced the Rangers to ballistics, paraffin tests, and other crime-fighting techniques. *El Lobo Solo* was also admired for his sartorial showmanship. In Kilgore, for instance, he kept extra boots brilliantly shined so that he’d always have a fresh pair if he stepped in the omnipresent boomtown mud. The shootin’ irons in Lone Wolf’s hand-tooled holsters were intricately inlaid with gold. It’s perhaps fitting, then, that after retiring from the Rangers in 1951, he spent five years as a consultant for Hollywood shoot-em-ups. He had a business interest in the radio and television series *Tales of the Texas Rangers*, and exercised final approval of all scripts to ensure authenticity. After all, what Los Angeles scriptwriter would dare tangle with a man called “Lone Wolf” who could honestly remark, “I went into lots of fights by myself, and I came out by myself, too!” **TH**

## Escape to Glen Rose

“Dinosaur Capital of Texas”



### The Promise

Musical drama based on the Life of Christ  
Every Friday & Saturday  
September thru October - 7:30 p.m.  
[www.thepromiseglenrose.com](http://www.thepromiseglenrose.com)

### Paluxy Pedal Bike Ride

October 3 - [www.paluxypedal.com](http://www.paluxypedal.com)

### Pumpkin Festival - October 3

Fossilmania - Oct. 30 thru Nov. 1

For More information

1-888-346-6282

[www.GlenRoseTexas.net](http://www.GlenRoseTexas.net)

## Upscale Downhome

A place where “Howdy” is more than a greeting...  
it’s a genuine spirit no one forgets!

The Museum at the George Bush Presidential Library • Fine Dining  
Historic Downtown Bryan • Texas A&M University  
Messina Hof Winery & Resort • Art Galleries • Coffee Shops  
Golf and Recreation • Unique Shopping • Easy Access



BRYAN COLLEGE STATION  
CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU

For Information Take a Trip To: [www.visitaggieland.com](http://www.visitaggieland.com) or Call: 800.777.8292



PHOTO: COURTESY TEXAS RANGER HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM, WACO

## Big Tex Message

**BRING ON THE STATE FAIR OF Texas, y'all!** "All Aboard for Food & Fun" signals the arrival of DART's Green Line at Fair Park. Visit the granddaddy of **Dallas** family events September 25-October 18, with 24 days of Big Tex, blue-ribbon favorites, the Chevrolet Main Stage, a marvelous midway, nightly fireworks, an awesome auto show, agricultural and livestock exhibits, shopping, Texas-OU football, snow cones, corny dogs, and more. For information, call 214/565-9931; [www.bigtex.com](http://www.bigtex.com).



**Go!**  
Ride the Texas Star  
Ferris Wheel

## September Events

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**ALPINE:** Big Bend Balloon Bash September 5-7. Sierra La Rana. [www.bigbendballoonbash.com](http://www.bigbendballoonbash.com) 432/837-7486

**ALPINE:** National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Rodeo September 25-26. Sul Ross State University. [www.collegerodeo.com](http://www.collegerodeo.com) 432/837-8240

**DEL RIO:** Main Street Market September 5. 525 S. Main. [www.cityofdelrio.com](http://www.cityofdelrio.com) 830/774-8790

**MARATHON:** Westfest Cabrito Cookoff & Dance September 25-26. Post Park. [www.marathontexas.net](http://www.marathontexas.net) 432/386-4516

**MARFA:** Marfa Lights Festival September 4-6. Presidio County Courthouse Square. [www.marfacc.com](http://www.marfacc.com) 432/729-4942

**MIDLAND:** SeptemberFest September 11-13. Museum of the Southwest. [www.museumsw.org](http://www.museumsw.org) 432/683-2882

**ODESSA:** Southwest Shakespeare Festival September 3-20. Features *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare, *Oh Susannah* by Robert E. Hollmann, and *Mary's Wedding* by Stephen Massicotte. Globe Theatre. [www.globesw.org](http://www.globesw.org) 432/580-3177

**ODESSA:** Permian Basin Fair & Exposition September 11-19. Ector County Coliseum. [www.permianbasinfair.com](http://www.permianbasinfair.com) 432/550-3232

**PECOS:** Diez y Seis de Septiembre Parade September 12. 432/445-2309

**SAN ELIZARIO:** Mission Trail Art Market September 20. Veterans Memorial Plaza. [www.MissionTrailArtMarket.com](http://www.MissionTrailArtMarket.com) 915/594-8424

# 2009





**Motorcycle Rally & Music Jam**  
October 3

**Mudstock**  
**Mud Creek Off Road Park**  
October

**Old Fashioned Christmas**  
2nd week of December




**JACKSONVILLE**  
T E X A S

**800.376.2217**  
[www.jacksonvilletexas.com](http://www.jacksonvilletexas.com)  
[www.myspace.com/jacksonvilletexas](http://www.myspace.com/jacksonvilletexas)

## DEL RIO

and Sister City  
**Cd. Acuña, Coahuila**



You can experience "The Best of the Border" when you visit Del Rio, Texas, serviced by Continental Airlines.

Enjoy dining and lodging in Del Rio, fishing Lake Amistad, and shopping in the charming border town of Ciudad Acuña.

We can help you plan your affordable weekend getaway or vacation today!

*The Best of the Border*  
**Del Rio Chamber of Commerce**  
1-800-889-8149 • [www.drchamber.com](http://www.drchamber.com)

Come to Lancaster for an affordable "Stay-cation" - Special Hotel Packages during these great events!

## Warbirds on Parade

Saturday, September 5, 2009



Take a ride in an R4D or BT-15!  
See rare WW II aircraft & memorabilia.

## Oktoberfest

October 9 - 10, 2009  
Great food & fun for the whole family!



[www.VisitLancaster.org](http://www.VisitLancaster.org)  
(972) 227-2579

## FALL IN LOVE WITH SEGUIN.

Come when the temperature drops and the action heats up. Stay at any of 500 hotel, inn and B&B rooms. Check out boutiques, restaurants and historic sites. And enjoy all the festivities that come with fall! Full details at our website.

### SEPTEMBER

- 11-12 Diez y Seis Celebration
- 19 Pontiac Car Club Classic Car Show
- 26 Main Street Trade Days

### OCTOBER

- 3 Senior Men's Golf Fest
- 8-11 126th Annual Guadalupe County Fair & PRCA Rodeo
- 23-25 Pecan Fest Heritage Days
- 23-25 Seguin Film & Arts Festival
- 24 Main Street Trade Days
- 24 Lion's Club Rib Eye Steak Cook-off

*Seguin*  
TEXAS

800.580.7322 | [visitseguin.com](http://visitseguin.com)

# Traveler



TH SPOTLIGHT

## Pleasant Possibilities

THERE'S PLENTY ON THE PLATE in the northeast Texas town of **Mount Pleasant** in September. The **Quake on Town Lake**, an annual drag-boat racing event, is September 11-13; **MCR Pro Bull Riding** takes place September 13 at the Mount Pleasant Rodeo Arena; the **Titus County Twin Lakes Jam Fest** is September 19-25 ([www.twinlakesjamfest.com](http://www.twinlakesjamfest.com)); and the **Titus County Fair** opens its gates September 30-October 3 ([www.tituscountyfair.com](http://www.tituscountyfair.com)). While you're here, check out Lake Bob Sandlin State Park, Tankersley Gardens, Mount Pleasant Country Club, Dellwood Park, and much more. For details, contact the Mount Pleasant/Titus County Chamber of Commerce at 903/572-8567; [www.mtleasanttx.com](http://www.mtleasanttx.com).

### GULF COAST

**ALVIN:** **All-American Festival** September 4-7. National Oak Park. [www.alvinparksandrec.blogspot.com](http://www.alvinparksandrec.blogspot.com) 281/388-4298

**ANAHUAC:** **Texas Gatorfest** September 11-13. Fort Anahuac Park. [www.texasgatorfest.com](http://www.texasgatorfest.com) 409/267-4190

**BAYTOWN:** **Grito Fest** September 12. Bicentennial Park. [www.baytown.org](http://www.baytown.org) 281/420-6597

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** **One Destiny** September 5. Cole Park Anderson Amphitheater. [www.ccparkandrec.com](http://www.ccparkandrec.com) 361/826-3410

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** **Bayfest** September 25-27. Along Shoreline Boulevard, from Kinney Street to Park Avenue. [www.bayfesttexas.com](http://www.bayfesttexas.com) 361/887-0868

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** **Conquer the Coast** September 26. 25- and 65-mile bicycle event with competitive criterium. Start at Whataburger Field. [www.conquerthecoast.org](http://www.conquerthecoast.org) 361/881-1800

**FREEPORT:** **Summertime Blues Festival** September 4-6. [www.freeportmainstreet.com](http://www.freeportmainstreet.com) 979/233-3526

**GALVESTON:** **Smokey Robinson** September 18. The Grand 1894 Opera House. [www.thegrand.com](http://www.thegrand.com) 800/821-1894

**GROVES:** **Texas Pecan Festival** September 17-20. Lions Park. 409/962-3631 or 800/876-3631

**HOUSTON:** **Grease** September 8-20. Hobby Center for the Performing Arts. [www.tuts.com](http://www.tuts.com) 713/558-TUTS

**HOUSTON:** **Manon** September 10-20. Houston Ballet. Wortham Theater Center. [www.houstonballet.org](http://www.houstonballet.org) 713/523-6300

**HOUSTON:** **Museum District Day** September 12. Museum District. [www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org](http://www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org) 713/790-1020

**HOUSTON:** **Gulf Coast Film & Video Festival** September 25-27. [www.gulfcoastfilmfest.com](http://www.gulfcoastfilmfest.com) 281/333-5804

**HOUSTON:** **Volks in the Village Volkswagen Show** September 27. Traders Village, 7979 N. Eldridge Road. [www.nhvwclub.org](http://www.nhvwclub.org) 281/890-5500

**KEMAH:** **Fall Kids Festival** September 12-13. Kemah Boardwalk. [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com) 281/334-9880

**KEMAH:** **Jazz Festival** September 25-27. Kemah Boardwalk. [www.kemahboardwalk.com](http://www.kemahboardwalk.com) 281/334-9880

**ORANGE:** **National Speed Boat Races** September 19-20. City Boat Ramp, Simmons Drive. [www.orangetexas.org](http://www.orangetexas.org) 409/883-1011

**PORT ARTHUR: Dick Dowling Days** September 12-13. Sabine Pass Battleground. [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us) 409/617-8459

**PORT ARTHUR: Mexican Fiesta** September 12. Bob Bowers Civic Center. [www.portarthur.net](http://www.portarthur.net) 409/724-6134

**PORT LAVACA: Flip Flop Festival** September 5. Bayfront Peninsula. [www.portlavacatx.org](http://www.portlavacatx.org) 361/552-1234

**PORT O'CONNOR: Centennial Celebration** September 19. Community Center, Texas 185. 361/983-2658

**ROCKPORT: Hummer/Bird Celebration** September 17-20. Rockport-Fulton High School Commons. [www.rockporthummingbird.com](http://www.rockporthummingbird.com) 361/729-6445 or 800/242-0071

**SEABROOK: Sailboat Racing on Clear Lake** September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. 2513 NASA Parkway. [www.clearlakeracing.com](http://www.clearlakeracing.com) 281/468-6909

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Labor Day Fireworks** September 5. [www.sopadre.com](http://www.sopadre.com) 956/761-6433

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: SPI Beach Volleyball Labor Day Tournament** September 5-6. Boomerang Billy's Beach at Surf Motel. 956/761-2420

**VICTORIA: Czech Heritage Festival** September 27. Community Center. [www.victoriaczechs.org](http://www.victoriaczechs.org) 361/575-0820

**WHARTON: Fiesta Hispano Americana** September 12. [www.fiestahispano-wharton.com](http://www.fiestahispano-wharton.com) 832/455-4553

**WINNIE: Texas Rice Festival** September 30-October 4. [www.texasricefestival.org](http://www.texasricefestival.org) 409/296-4404

## HILL COUNTRY

**AUSTIN: Austin Museum Day at the French Legation** September 20. [www.frenchlegationmuseum.org](http://www.frenchlegationmuseum.org) 512/472-8180

**AUSTIN: Old Pecan Street Festival** September 26-27. Downtown on East Sixth Street. [www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com](http://www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com) 512/469-6060

**BANDERA: Celebrate Bandera** September 4-6. Downtown. [www.celebratebandera.com](http://www.celebratebandera.com) 800/364-3833

**BLANCO: Blanco Ranch Roundup** September 26. Yett Memorial Park. 830/833-5245

**BOERNE: Kendall County Fair, Parade & Rodeo** September 4-6. Kendall County Fairgrounds. [www.kcfa.org](http://www.kcfa.org) 210/834-1282

**BURNET: Tri-Hard Triathlon** September 13. Inks Lake State Park. 512/756-6640

**CEDAR PARK: Bydee Festival** September 19. Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Parkway. [www.cedarparktx.us](http://www.cedarparktx.us) 512/401-5500

**CEDAR PARK: George Strait** September 25. Cedar Park Center. [www.georgestrait.com](http://www.georgestrait.com) 800/745-3000

**GEORGETOWN: Up the Chisholm Trail Drive & Chuck Wagon Cookoff** September 11-12. San Gabriel Park. [www.upthechisholmtrail.org](http://www.upthechisholmtrail.org) 512/943-1670

**GRUENE: Charlie Robison** September 5-6. Gruene Hall. [www.gruenehall.com](http://www.gruenehall.com) 830/629-5077

**GRUENE: Texas Metal Arts Festival** September 12-13. Gruene Historic District. [www.gruenetexas.com](http://www.gruenetexas.com) 903/852-3311

**HONDO: Medina County Fair** September 19-20. Medina County Fairgrounds. [www.medinacountyfair.org](http://www.medinacountyfair.org) 830/426-5406

**HONDO: South Texas Maize** September 26-November 29. Cornfield maze. 2 miles east of Hondo on US 90. [www.southtexasmaize.com](http://www.southtexasmaize.com) 830/741-3968

**LAKEHILLS: Cajun Festival & Great Gumbo Cookoff** September 26. Lakehills Civic Center. [www.cajunfestival-medinalake.com](http://www.cajunfestival-medinalake.com) 830/751-3130 or 800/364-3833

**LAKEWAY: Live at the Lake Summer Concert Series** September 13. 107.1 KGSR presents The Gourds at Lakeway Resort and Spa. [www.kgsr.com](http://www.kgsr.com) 512/261-6600

**LUBBOCK: Mike Blakely's Tex Americana Fandango** September 11-13. [www.luckenbachtexas.com](http://www.luckenbachtexas.com) 830/997-3224

**MASON: Mason County Apple Fest** September 5. 325/347-1808

**MENARD: Jim Bowie Day** September 12. [www.menardchamber.com](http://www.menardchamber.com) 325/396-2365

**UVALDE: Texas Labor Day Weekend Celebration** September 5-6. Uvalde Fairgrounds. [www.TexasLaborDayWeekend.com](http://www.TexasLaborDayWeekend.com) 830/278-5359

**WIMBERLEY: Art League Studio Tour** September 18-19. [www.wimberley.org](http://www.wimberley.org) 512/847-5272

## PANHANDLE PLAINS

**ABILENE: West Texas Fair & Rodeo** September 11-19. Taylor County Expo Center. [www.taylorcountyexpocenter.com](http://www.taylorcountyexpocenter.com) 325/677-4376

**ABILENE: West Texas Book & Music Festival** September 21-26. [www.abilenetx.com/apl](http://www.abilenetx.com/apl) 325/676-6017

**ABILENE: Big Country Balloon Fest** September 25-27. Red Bud Park. 325/795-0995

**ABILENE: U.S. Team Roping Championships** September 25-27. Taylor County Expo Center. 325/677-4376

**AMARILLO: Tri-State Fair** September 18-26. [www.tristatefair.com](http://www.tristatefair.com) 806/376-7767

**ANDREWS: Andrews Bluegrass/Barbecue Festival & Motorcycle Rally** September 3-6. Florey RV Park. [www.andrewstx.com](http://www.andrewstx.com) 432/523-2695

**BIG SPRING: Comanche Warrior Triathlon** September 12. Comanche Trail Park. [www.comanchewarriortriathlon.com](http://www.comanchewarriortriathlon.com) 432/263-8235

**BOYS RANCH: Cal Farley's Boys Ranch Rodeo** September 5-6. [www.calfarley.org](http://www.calfarley.org) 806/372-2341

**BUFFALO GAP: Chili Super Bowl** September 5-6. Old Settlers Reunion Grounds. 325/674-1224

**COLEMAN: Dove Festival** September 5. Bill Franklin Center. [www.colemantexas.org](http://www.colemantexas.org) 325/625-2163

**DALHART: Downtown Block Party** September 19. [www.dalhart.org](http://www.dalhart.org) 806/244-5646

**EDEN: Fall Fest** September 25-26. [www.edentexas.com](http://www.edentexas.com) 325/869-3336

**ELECTRA: Homecoming** September 25-26. [www.electratexas.org](http://www.electratexas.org) 940/495-3577

**GORMAN: Gorman Peanut Festival & Shin Oak Springs Barbecue Cookoff** September 12. 254/734-2317

**LEVELLAND: Texas' Last Frontier Ranch Heritage Tour** September 26. [www.ci.levelland.tx.us](http://www.ci.levelland.tx.us) 806/894-4062

**LUBBOCK: National Cowboy Symposium & Celebration** September 10-13. Lubbock Memorial Civic Center. [www.cowboy.org](http://www.cowboy.org) 806/798-7825

**LUBBOCK: Panhandle-South Plains Fair** September 25-October 3. Panhandle-South Plains Fairgrounds. [www.southplainsfair.com](http://www.southplainsfair.com) 806/763-2833

# LUBBOCK



The Texas You've Always Dreamed Of.

Home of Texas Tech,  
Buddy Holly, unique shopping,  
dining and a legendary ranching  
and music heritage.

Call or log on today to  
request your FREE Visitor Guide.

800.692.4035 | VisitLubbock.org

Let your travels take you to...

- Several National Lodging Brands, plus a Victorian Bed & Breakfast
- the Hill County Cell Block Museum
- Great Outlet Shopping
- Lakes Whitney & Aquilla, both within 15 minutes

Follow the signs to  
**HILLSBORO**

VISIT SHOP DINE

1-800-HILLSBORO  
(254) 582-2481  
[www.hillsborochamber.org](http://www.hillsborochamber.org)

# Traveler



**October 3 & 4**

GATES OPEN 10 AM

BIGGS ARMY AIRFIELD

CONVENIENT PARK & RIDE

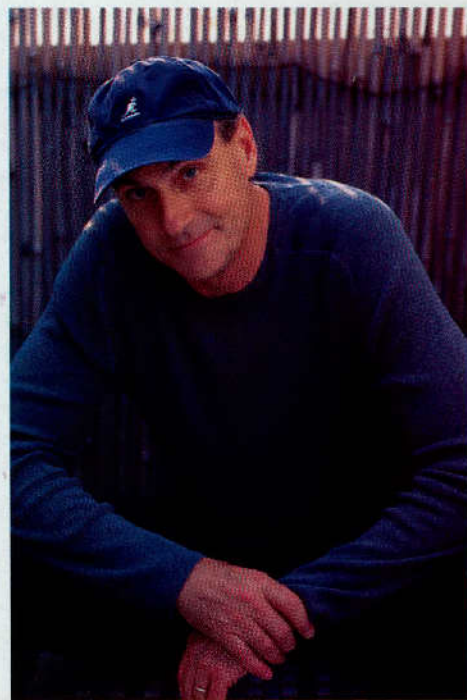


TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT  
WWW.AMIGOAIRSHO.ORG

## TH SPOTLIGHT

### Taylor Made

WITH AN EXTENSIVE CATALOG of hits and a dedicated fan base in the millions, singer/songwriter **James Taylor** brings his 2009 tour to the Majestic Theatre in **San Antonio** on September 9 (210/224-9600 or 800/745-3000; [www.majesticempire.com](http://www.majesticempire.com)), and the Plaza Theatre in **El Paso** on September 10 (915/231-1100 or 800/745-3000; [www.theplazatheatre.org](http://www.theplazatheatre.org)). Perennial favorites like "Carolina In My Mind," "Fire and Rain," "Shower the People," "Country Road," "Walking Man," and "Mexico" make for infinite set-list possibilities.



**PLAINVIEW: Cowboy Days & Down Of' Broadway Cattle Drive** September 19. Ollie Liner Center. [www.myplainview.com](http://www.myplainview.com) 806/296-1300

**QUANAH: Fall Festival** September 12. Downtown around the Hardeman County Courthouse. 940/663-2222

**FALLS: Cotton Boll Fest** September 12. Downtown. [www.cityoffalls.org](http://www.cityoffalls.org) 806/253-2342

**STAMFORD: MacKenzie Trail Festival** September 19. [www.stamfordcoc.org](http://www.stamfordcoc.org) 325/773-2411

**WICHITA FALLS: Falls Fest** September 25-26. Lucy Park. [www.fallsfest.org](http://www.fallsfest.org) 940/692-9797

**WOLFFORTH: South Plains Balloon Roundup** September 12-13. 806/863-2856

#### PINEY WOODS

**GLADEWATER: Arts & Crafts Festival** September 19-20. Broadway Elementary. [www.gladewaterartsandcrafts.com](http://www.gladewaterartsandcrafts.com) 903/845-5501 or 800/627-0315

**LONGVIEW: Gregg County Fair** September 8-12. [www.greggcountyfair.com](http://www.greggcountyfair.com) 903/753-4478

**LUFKIN: Texas State Forest Festival** September 16-20. George H. Henderson Exposition Center. [www.texasforestfestival.com](http://www.texasforestfestival.com) 936/634-6644

**MONTGOMERY: Historic Montgomery Wine & Food Trail** September 26. Downtown Historic Montgomery. [www.hmba.biz](http://www.hmba.biz) 936/597-5004

**TEXARKANA: San Jose Taiko Drummers** September 22. Historic Perot Theatre. [www.trahc.org](http://www.trahc.org) 903/792-4992

**THE WOODLANDS: Houston Symphony** September 18. Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion. [www.woodlandscenter.org](http://www.woodlandscenter.org) 281/363-3300

**TRINITY: Trinity Community Fair** September 25-26. Trinity Community Center. [www.trinitycommunityfair.com](http://www.trinitycommunityfair.com) 936/537-5219

**TYLER: Four Winds Celtic Music Festival** September 19. Four Winds Faire Grounds, 21852 CR 2178. [www.fourwindsfaire.com](http://www.fourwindsfaire.com) 903/839-5271 or 903/842-2031

**TYLER: East Texas State Fair** September 24-October 4. 2112 W. Front St. [www.etstatefair.com](http://www.etstatefair.com) 903/597-2501

#### PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**ADDISON: Oktoberfest** September 17-20. Addison Circle Park. [www.addisontexas.net](http://www.addisontexas.net) 800/233-4766

**BELTON: Central Texas State Fair** September 4-6. Bell County Expo Center. [www.centraltexasstatefair.com](http://www.centraltexasstatefair.com) 254/933-5353

**BRENHAM: Washington County Fair** September 12-19. [www.washingtoncofair.com](http://www.washingtoncofair.com) 979/836-4112

**BRYAN: ZiegenBock Music Festival** September 6. Lake Bryan. [www.ziegfest.com](http://www.ziegfest.com) 832/237-8900

**CALDWELL: Kolache Festival** September 10. Courthouse Square. [www.burlesoncountytx.com](http://www.burlesoncountytx.com) 979/567-0000

**CLARKSVILLE: Red River County Fair** September 23-26. 903/427-3867

**CLIFTON: Bosque Art Classic** September 12-27. Bosque Arts Center. [www.bosqueconservatory.com](http://www.bosqueconservatory.com) 254/386-6049

**DALLAS: The Moody Blues with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra** September 2-3. Meyerson Symphony Center. [www.dallasymphony.com](http://www.dallasymphony.com) 214/692-0203

**DALLAS: Dallas Symphony Orchestra** September 17-20. 24-26. Meyerson Symphony Center. [www.dallasymphony.com](http://www.dallasymphony.com) 214/692-0203



**DALLAS: Cool Thursdays Fall Concert Series** September 17, 24. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org) 214/515-6518

**DENISON: U.S. National Aerobic Competition** September 20-26. North Texas Regional Airport at Perrin Field. [www.denison-texas.us](http://www.denison-texas.us) 903/465-1551

**ENNIS: O'Reilly Fall Nationals Drag Racing** September 24-27. [www.texasmotorplex.com](http://www.texasmotorplex.com) 972/878-4748

**FARMERSVILLE: Chautauqua Art Festival** September 5. Downtown. [www.farmersvilletx.com](http://www.farmersvilletx.com) 972/784-6846

**FORT WORTH: Jazz by the Boulevard** September 11-13. [www.fortworthjazz.com](http://www.fortworthjazz.com) 817/737-0100

**FORT WORTH: Midori** September 18-20. Bass Performance Hall. [www.fwsymphony.org](http://www.fwsymphony.org) 817/665-6000

**GRAND PRAIRIE: National Championship Powwow** September 11-13. Traders Village. [www.tradersvillage.com](http://www.tradersvillage.com) 972/647-2331

**GRAND PRAIRIE: Elvis Costello & the Sugarcanes** September 2. [www.NOKIAtheatreDFW.com](http://www.NOKIAtheatreDFW.com) 972/854-5050

**GRAND PRAIRIE: Joe Ely** September 12. Uptown Theater. [www.uptowntheatergp.com](http://www.uptowntheatergp.com) 972/237-UPTN

**GRAPEVINE: GrapeFest** September 17-20 Historic Downtown Grapevine. [www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com](http://www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com) 817/410-3185 or 800/457-6338

**HALLETTSVILLE: Kolache Fest** September 25-26. Knights of Columbus Hall. [www.hallettsville.com](http://www.hallettsville.com) 361/798-2662

**LA GRANGE: Fayette County Fair** September 3-6. [www.fayettcountyyfair.org](http://www.fayettcountyyfair.org) 979/968-3911

**LEWISVILLE: Western Day Festival** September 26. Old Town Lewisville. [www.visitLewisville.com](http://www.visitLewisville.com) 972/219-3401

**McKINNEY: Oktoberfest** September 26. Historic Downtown Square. [www.downtownmckinney.com](http://www.downtownmckinney.com) 972/547-2660

**MOODY: Cotton Harvest Festival** September 26. Downtown. [www.moodycottonharvestfestival.org](http://www.moodycottonharvestfestival.org) 245/366-8603

**PLANO: Hot Air Balloon Festival** September 18-20. Oak Point Park. [www.planoballoonfest.org](http://www.planoballoonfest.org) 972/867-7566

**ROUND TOP: Marburger Farm Antique Show** September 29-October 3. [www.roundtop-marburger.com](http://www.roundtop-marburger.com) 800/999-2148

**ROUND TOP: Fall Antiques Fair** September 30-October 3. [www.roundtopantiquesfair.com](http://www.roundtopantiquesfair.com) 512/237-4747

**SANGER: Sanger Heritage Parade** September 12. [www.sangertexas.com](http://www.sangertexas.com) 940/458-7702

**SEGUIN: Fiestas Patrias/Diez y Seis Celebration** September 11-12. Seguin Coliseum. [www.seguinchamber.com](http://www.seguinchamber.com) 800/580-7322

**SPRINGTOWN: Wild West Festival** September 19. Downtown. [www.springtownchamber.org](http://www.springtownchamber.org) 817/220-7828

**SULPHUR SPRINGS: Hopkins County Fall Festival** September 12-19. Hopkins County Regional Civic Center. [www.HopkinsCountyFallFestival.com](http://www.HopkinsCountyFallFestival.com) 903/885-8071

**WACO: Sweet Sorghum Festival** September 7. Home-Steak Heritage/Brazos de Dios. [www.cfeeschool.com/sorghum-festival.html](http://www.cfeeschool.com/sorghum-festival.html) 254/754-9600

**WACO: Waco Wild West Century Bicycle Tour** September 26. Indian Spring Park. [www.wacowildwest.com](http://www.wacowildwest.com) 254/772-2453

**WEST: Westfest** September 4-6. Czech polka festival. [www.westfest.com](http://www.westfest.com) 254/826-5058

## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**ALICE: Hispanic Heritage Festival** September 11-12. Downtown. [www.alicetx.org](http://www.alicetx.org) 361/664-3454

**BEEVILLE: Diez y Seis Celebration** September 12. Bee County Expo Center. 361/358-9124

**EAGLE PASS: Diez y Seis de Septiembre Celebration** Plaza San Juan. 888/355-3224

**JOURDANTON: Centennial** September 11-13 830/769-3087

**KARNES CITY: Lonesome Dove Fest** September 19. Karnes County Show Barn. [www.lonesomedovefest.com](http://www.lonesomedovefest.com) 210/315-0222

**SAN ANTONIO: Fotoseptiembre USA** September 1-30. International photography festival. [www.safotofestival.com](http://www.safotofestival.com)

**SAN ANTONIO: Diez y Seis Celebration** September 16. Market Square. [www.marketsquares.com](http://www.marketsquares.com) 210/207-8600

**SAN ANTONIO: Jazz 'SAlive** September 19-20. Travis Park. [www.saparksfoundation.org](http://www.saparksfoundation.org) 210/212-8423

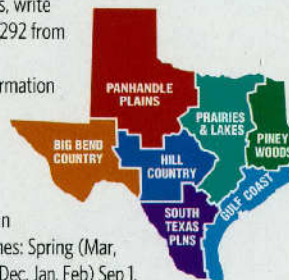
**SAN ANTONIO: Gardens by Moonlight** September 26. San Antonio Botanical Garden. [www.sabot.org](http://www.sabot.org) 210/829-5100

## Want more? Go to the Events Calendar at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).

For a free printed copy of an even more detailed, quarterly schedule of events, write to Texas Events Calendar, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249. Or, call 800/452-9292 from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8-6 Central.

For Texas travel questions, call 800/452-9292 to reach a TxDOT Travel Information Center, where a professional travel counselor will provide routing assistance, advise you of any emergency road conditions, and send brochures (including the official Texas State Travel Guide and map, accommodations guide, and quarterly Texas Events Calendar).

Send future event information to: Texas Events Calendar, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax: 512/486-5879; e-mail: [trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us). Listing deadlines: Spring (Mar, Apr, May) Dec 1; Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug) Mar 1; Fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) Jun 1; Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) Sep 1.



**Visit Matagorda County**

Beaches  
Bays  
Birds  
Business

877.Trvl.Fun  
VisitMatagordaCounty.com

**UNCOMMON.**

For info on lodging, attractions, events & tours  
[www.visitualde.com](http://www.visitualde.com)

U V A L D E  
Surround yourself with adventure.

# Sabor del Campo Fest

Sabor [sah-bor']noun  
1. relish, taste, savor

Campo [cahm'-po]noun  
1. country 2. field 3. crops, trees, plantations

Visit Harlingen for *Sabor del Campo Fest* Oct. 15-17, 2009 for three days of celebrating the gifts of food, drink and art inspired by the rich lands of South Texas.



1-800-531-7346  
sabordelcampofest.com

➔ **TH READER RECOMMENDATION**

## Shake it Up

I RECENTLY discovered **Jerry's Burgers & Shakes** in **Early**.

Located on the town's main thoroughfare, this one-of-a-kind place offers a wide variety of hamburger styles, along with onion rings and regular, seasoned, and battered fries. I chose the mushroom-and-Swiss burger, and washed it all down with a delicious pineapple shake. This is small-town food well worth special attention!

**JOHN CUMMINS**  
**Abilene**

*Jerry's Burgers & Shakes is at 1016 Early Blvd.; 325/643-6140.*



*part of achieving that goal, not only because of the money they spend, but also because of the spirit they share. What we have learned is that once travelers visit the communities featured in TH, they will take some additional time to explore the out-of-the-way places that we couldn't include.*

(Have you tried the Fall Creek Merlot?) Seeing the White Shaman and other ancient rock art at The Rock Art Foundation's White Shaman Preserve near Del Rio. The Texas-shaped gold-nugget necklace I have had around my neck for over 20 years. It is my religious symbol.

**JESSIE ONG**  
**San Antonio**

## Speaking Up

Thank you for continuing the "Speaking of Texas" section. It always provides us with a special Texas history lesson.

**SUZANNE NANCE**  
**Kingwood**

## Fun Finds at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)

I really enjoyed the *TH* staff's "35 Things We Love About Texas" on your Web site. Here are some of mine:

The American Volkssport Association's (AVA) walks through Texas towns such as Boerne, Welfare, Gonzales, and Bastrop. Watching the lightning storms while driving Interstate 10 heading toward Fort Stockton. Stopping in Pecos to pick up a few delicious cantaloupes. Breakfast outdoors with applewood bacon at the Guenther House in San Antonio. Texas wines!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Great list! We included the "35 favorites" lists on our Web site this year to celebrate the 35th anniversary of *TH*, which became the official *Travel Magazine of Texas* in 1974. Readers, to see the rest of *Jessie Ong's* favorites (and to add your own, whether it's one, or 35), go to [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) and click below the "We ♥ Texas" photo.

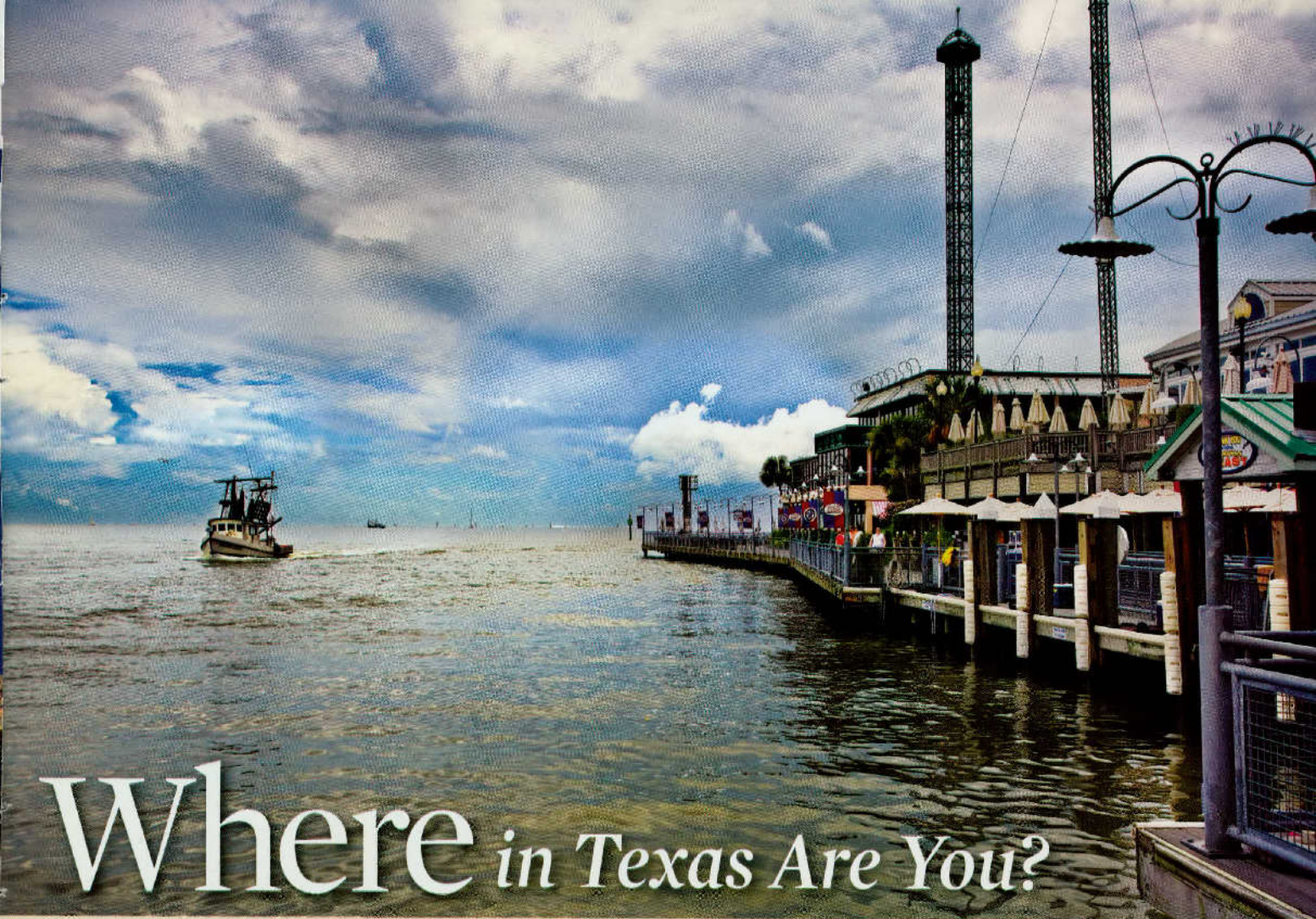
➔ **CONTACT TH**

We want to hear from you! Send feedback and recommendations to: Texas Highways, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. E-mail: [letters05@texashighways.com](mailto:letters05@texashighways.com). We reserve the right to edit items. Because we're unable to check out every recommendation, and because hours vary and details can change, please call ahead for more information.

**PLEASE PASS THIS MAGAZINE ALONG**

PRINTED IN TEXAS ON RECYCLED PAPER





# Where in Texas Are You?

**Name this Texas location** and you could win a Fredericksburg getaway! (See contest rules at right.)

The winner and a guest will receive:

**Go!** Round-trip airfare to Austin-Bergstrom International Airport from any city served by Southwest Airlines

**Stay!** Two nights plus a \$50 spa certificate at Inn On Barons Creek Spa & Conference Center

- Two weekday nights at Cotton Gin Village
- Two-night B&B stay courtesy of Gästehaus Schmidt Reservation Service

**Eat!** \$100 gift certificate to the award-winning Cabernet Grill

(courtesy of Deborah Lynn Farquhar, Inc.)

- Two \$30 gift certificates to Clear River Ice Cream, Bakery & Deli
- \$50 gift certificate to Altdorf Biergarten

**Play!** Executive tour (for four) of Chisholm Trail Winery

- Round of golf and golf cart at Lady Bird Johnson Golf Course
- Four tickets to Fredericksburg Theater Company
- Two 2010 passes to The National Museum of the

Pacific War, plus a treasure bag.

- Four three-day family passes, plus a poster and VIP tour of Oktoberfest (2009 or 2010)
- Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest (October 23-24, 2009): Two tickets to the Friday-night Celebration of Texas Food & Wine (\$150 value), plus a poster and two passes to the Saturday fest

**Get!** Gift baskets from

- Wildseed Farms
- Fredericksburg Convention & Visitor Bureau

## CONTEST RULES

(no purchase necessary)

1. Only one entry per person. Entries must be on postcards. To be eligible for the drawing, each entrant must include on the postcard the correct answer (judges' decisions are final), as well as his/her name, mailing address, and daytime phone number.
  2. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Current employees of the Texas Department of Transportation and their immediate families are not eligible.
  3. Send entries to: Texas Highways Contest, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. All entries must be postmarked by September 22, 2009. Texas Highways is not responsible for late, lost, or misdirected entries.
  4. The winning card will be drawn on September 29, 2009. We will attempt to notify the
- winner the same day. If we cannot contact the winner directly by 5 p.m. on October 1, 2009, another card will be drawn.
5. Prizes not transferable and may have an expiration date. Some additional expenses, such as taxes and tips, are not included in the package. Lodging and transportation certificates are subject to availability, and not valid during high-capacity or holiday weekends. Reservations required.
  6. Meals, unless specifically noted here, are not included.
  7. Reservations for all activities must be made at least two weeks prior to arrival.
  8. The winner is solely responsible for any income taxes incurred.
  9. By entering the contest, contestants agree to the above rules and regulations.

**FREDERICKSBURG**  
in the Texas Hill Country!  
German heritage. Texan hospitality.

  
**SOUTHWEST.COM**

Our thanks to Deborah Lynn Farquhar, Inc.—Creative Marketing ([www.tex-fest.com](http://www.tex-fest.com)) of Fredericksburg for putting together this fabulous prize package. Texas Highways readers love Fredericksburg!

For Fredericksburg travel information year round, contact the Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau at 830/997-6523 or 888/997-3600; [www.fredtexlodging.com](http://www.fredtexlodging.com).

**Texas Highways**  
THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

To order a print of this photograph by J. Griffis Smith, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.magazineprints.com](http://www.magazineprints.com).

