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**WASKOM BUREAU MANAGER MILTON MEHARG** reported the formal opening last month of a new Visitor Information Station in Marshall. Located on busy U.S. 59, the building and site were donated to the Chamber of Commerce by **Sam Page**, owner of the area attraction Red River Pottery. **Meharg** said that the Marshall station will provide travelers literature on the Marshall Pottery Old World Store and other area attractions, as well as on Red River Pottery.

**THE MARSHALL INFORMATION STATION** project was a total community effort that involved many volunteers. **Rodger Cramer**, editor of the *Marshall News Messenger*, headed up the project, donating countless hours in the remodeling of the building. The Western-style information station complements the frontier-town atmosphere of Red River Village. **Meharg** volunteered his expertise on the workings of a visitor information center. The Visitor Information Station is open daily.

**WINTER TEXANS** who migrate south will find plenty to do, see and eat while they're here. The largest number of winter happenings ever listed is found in the new October - March issue of the *Calendar of Texas Events*. Published by the Travel & Info Division, the calendar is chock-full of more than 750 festivals, cookoffs, fairs, exhibitions and frolics. A free copy can be yours at any Texas Tourist Bureau or by writing *Calendar of Texas Events*, P.O. Box 5064, Austin 78763.

**AN ODESSA TASK FORCE** is proposing donation of the Odessa Meteor Crater to the state as a part of the parks system. Dwindling financial support from the Ector County Commissioners Court helped prompt the action. County Judge **Jan Fisher** said the county can't afford to make it the first-rate tourist attraction it deserves to be, adding that the historical significance of the 20,000-year-old crater is "more in line with what the state does." Travel & Info Director **Tom Taylor**, an enthusiastic supporter and booster of the meteor crater, believes it could be one of the leading attractions of its type in the country.

**MARGARET GILLHAM**, who chairs the meteor crater task force, said the Smithsonian Institution

recently wrote a letter to the group commending their efforts. If the state declines the conveyance, **Gillham** said they would seek funding from national foundations. "But the best thing would be for the meteor crater to become part of the state Parks and Wildlife Department," said **Gillham**. "With their help, we can make it a major tourist attraction." If that department takes over the crater, it will be the first of its kind in the state parks system.

**THE STATE FAIR OF TEXAS**, opening this year on October 5, has established new safety guidelines for amusement rides that are so impressive they are being used as a national model. The program was developed by general manager **Wayne Gallagher** after last year's tragedy killed one person and injured 16 others when a car from the Swiss Skyride dropped to the midway. Rides bound for the State Fair were inspected in Maryland, Tennessee, Michigan, Ohio, and Corpus Christi and Plainview, Texas. The safety team had amusement ride operators fully dismantle equipment for inspection. **Gallagher** said, "We went to them and said, 'Please take everything apart. Take the grease off and let us look at all critical points.' We inspected everything. The rides were disassembled. The covers came off. And we checked it by the book. As far as I know, that's never been done before in the industry."

**NANCY WILEY**, State Fair representative, said **Gallagher** based the new standards on guidelines issued by the American Society of Testing and Materials. "We are trying to provide the most comprehensive safety program ever," said **Wiley**. "We have responded in every area that we can see to questions that have been raised and suggestions that have been made as a result of the accident last fall."

**TERLINGUA, TEXAS**, was sold for an undisclosed amount to area resident **Bill Ivey**. The West Texas ghost town was a booming mining town in the 1920s, with a population of 3,000. But by the 1960s, Terlingua had only a handful of residents, mostly the Ivey family in nearby Lajitas. The biggest attraction for visitors now is the annual chili cookoff. **Ivey** hopes to bring art and history programs to the area. "There is the space and there is the potential for visitors," he said. He also is planning historical renovations, but said some of the smaller stone houses will be left in ruins to preserve the ghost town atmosphere. **Curtis Tunnell**, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission, who supports **Ivey's** efforts, said he'll help secure grant money for the venture.

**PORTABLE ART**, with Texas as its theme, wheeled its way into Austin in the nation's only touring art museum, Artrain. The capital served as the first stop on a two-month, 11-city whirlwind tour of Texas. The train has taken free exhibits to 25 states, including Texas, and nearly two million people have viewed the artwork. "This is the first time we have assembled a collection of a single state's art around a central theme," said **John Hohmann**, executive director of Artrain. "Texas on my mind: Contemporary Visions of the Lone Star State," is the theme of this traveling art show. Highlighting Texas culture are paintings, drawings and sculpture from 36 homegrown artists. Three hundred and seventy-five feet of railroad siding and an able volunteer work force are all that are required to bring Artrain to your community.

**THE ISLAND CITY OF GALVESTON** has recovered from yet another environmental attack. In



the height of its tourist season, a British oil tanker ran aground and ruptured, dumping more than a million gallons of crude oil into the Gulf. The tides swept the thick goo westward toward Galveston, less than a year after Hurricane Alicia concentrated its major forces on the island. Galveston marshalled its defenses against the assault and by the time the tar balls rolled onto the beaches, men and machinery were there to meet them. Crews worked round the clock, and within a week, surfers and sunbathers dotted the coastline once more.

**GALVESTON TOURISM OFFICIALS** said the oil spill had one bright side in that visitations to the island's many historic attractions picked up. Tourists arriving during the cleanup ventured into the heart of the city to discover the "other side" of Galveston. Representatives from Ashton Villa and the 1877 sailing ship *Elissa* reported gratifying numbers of sightseers, including many first-timers.

**THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION** received a grant from Conoco Inc. and Du Pont Co. for \$105,000 to develop a two-volume set of historic and contemporary photographs of Texas. **Richard Pearce-Moses**, the foundation's photo historian, is combing collections from state museums and libraries, and private collections, searching for photos that depict the people of Texas over the past 150 years. And professional photographers have been commissioned to take photos showing the people, land and businesses of Texas today. Copies of the books will go on sale in time for the Texas Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1986.

**PEARCE-MOSES** said photographs, professional or amateur, are important historical documents. "They are windows into the past, showing us the way things were and how people lived," he said. "We are losing these records every day through neglect and deterioration." **Pearce-Moses** said because of Conoco and Dupont's sponsorship of the project, many photographs will be saved for future generations. Proceeds from the sale of the books will go toward restoration of the State Capitol and toward funding other photo history projects.

**HERE IN TEXAS** you'll always see that Western look, especially the traditional footwear – the cowboy boot. The November issue of *Texas Highways* magazine explores the history of the famous boot, and who's wearing what today. Where do you go when you've just got a new pair of boots? Why to dance the National Anthem of Texas – The Cotton-Eyed Joe. The magazine explains how to do this famous dance, along with the Texas Two-Step, not only in words, but with diagrams for the footwork.

**THE NOVEMBER ISSUE** will take you out to the Davis Mountains where the air is clean, sweet and mighty cool for a look at Fall color, and some activities that you don't usually associate with cattle country. Then *Texas Highways* will make your mouth water with some holiday foods that can be ordered by mail, including lamb, chili, pecan pies, fruit cakes, smoked turkeys and hams, cookies, candy, pecans and peanuts, and Texas coffee. They are Texas-style foods, of course. You'll love it all, so come on along for a fun time – in November.

**BOX SCORE** – Denison visitor totals are up again this month. The figures indicate a 17.1% increase over last year's total to date. Laredo also claimed a small increase for the year, up 2.3%. The year-to-date totals indicate a decrease in visitors of 3.9% below 1983. It should be remembered that 1983 was an extraordinary year for visitors, breaking all records. In comparison of 1984 totals to 1982 totals for the same period, tourism is up over 1%. A complete bureau-by-bureau tabulation follows.

Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Variation*	Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Variation*
Amarillo	18,057	+ 0.6%	107,991	- 4.7%	Orange	41,322	- 0.6%	300,129	- 0.3%
Anthony	17,427	- 20.2%	157,779	-17.0%	Texarkana	32,142	- 6.0%	205,893	- 5.6%
Denison	18,654	+ 20.9%	134,232	+ 17.1%	Valley	20,871	- 7.4%	219,522	-11.7%
Gainesville	20,340	- 4.3%	154,299	- 5.8%	Waskom	31,869	+ 17.0%	209,481	- 2.0%
Langtry	6,843	+ 8.4%	67,437	- 3.7%	Wichita Falls	17,142	- 3.2%	115,722	- 0.2%
Laredo	18,783	+ 28.1%	140,715	+ 2.3%	<b>Bureau Totals</b>	243,450	+ 1.1%	1,813,200	- 3.9%
Capitol	50,940	- 4.5%	344,301	+ 7.9%	Austin Office (mail, phone, walk-ins)	6,064	+ 12.5%	76,427	+ 1.0%

\*Compared to last year



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