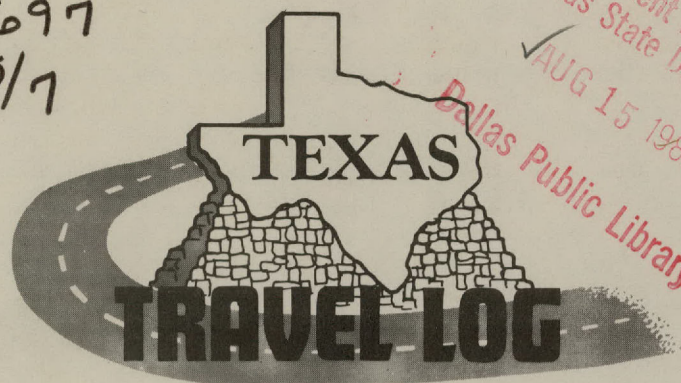


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ACCOLADES WENT TO JACK SKILES, manager of our Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, when he received the Texas Award for Historic Preservation at June ceremonies in Langtry. The presentation was in recognition of **Skiles'** efforts in preserving archeological sites at Eagle Nest Canyon near Langtry and for his contributions to archeology of the area. The population of Langtry tripled when people from surrounding areas gathered for a barbecue in **Jack's** honor, sponsored by the University of Texas at Austin. The commendation, signed by **Governor Mark White** and **Harry Golemon**, chairman of the Texas Historical Commission, was presented by **Dr. Solveg Turpin**, director of the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory in Austin.

OUR TRAVEL COUNSELORS are sometimes called on to perform duties other than tourist information. **Bill Naivar**, manager of Texas Tourist Bureau in Orange, officiated at Lufkin's 14th Annual Southern Hushpuppy Olympics held recently. Armed with paper towels and soft drinks, he happily chomped through 64 different recipes. **Bill** said he didn't realize people could be so creative with the little morsels.

A FRENCH COUPLE VISITING our Texas Tourist Bureau in Waskom were enchanted with the French fleur-de-lis flag among the six banners we fly at the bureaus. They wanted a copy of the historic French flag, unobtainable in modern France. Travel Counselor **Ann Carter** gave them the address of our supplier. The visitors told **Ann** they frequently entertained a guest whose family is descended from French nobility, and they want to surprise her with the flag as a gift. As all Texans know, the six flags represent countries that have claimed sovereignty over Texas during our colorful history.

TRAVELERS FROM FLORIDA visiting relatives in Ft. Worth wanted to see Southfork Ranch. They asked directions of a hotel clerk who indicated I-35 north would take them directly to the ranch. The couple drove north and didn't become suspicious until they saw a sign for the Oklahoma border. Fortunately, they stopped for directions at our Texas Tourist Bureau in Gainesville. **Rhonda Johnson**, travel counselor, pointed them back in the direction of Dallas and Plano. The couple said they would straighten out the desk clerk who had led them astray by 65 miles.

EVERYONE WANTS TO VISIT SOUTHFORK, including a couple who came all the way from Frankfurt, Germany. They explained to **Becky Gutierrez**, travel counselor at our Texas Tourist Bureau in Laredo, that they faithfully watch the show and wanted to see where it is filmed. **Becky** gave them directions and asked if there was anything else they

would like to visit in Texas. The visitors remarked they were also hooked on *Dynasty*, and asked where in Texas they could visit the house featured in the series. **Becky** had to advise the disappointed travelers *Dynasty* exteriors are shot in another state, not Texas.

SEVEN UNUSUAL VISITORS recently stopped for lunch at our Texas Tourist Bureau in Amarillo: rare white rhinos. An Amarillo resident was importing the beasts for his Panhandle ranch, and chose the bureau grounds as a feeding stop, which became a media event. Local newspapers and TV stations took the opportunity to snap photos and see the formidable critters up close.

TELEVISION CAMERAS recently came to our Texas Tourist Bureau in Harlingen, filming travel counselors at work, our AV show, the popular six flags courtyard, and other bureau features. Travel counselors **Elma Rodriguez** and **Roel Romero** were featured in the video, which was included in a special program produced by KGBT-TV, Channel 4 in Harlingen, demonstrating the city's progress.

OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS HAVE BEEN BUSY shooting an abundance of outdoor scenes, thanks to the great spring and early summer weather we've enjoyed this year. You'll be seeing their pictures in future tourist publications and issues of *Texas Highways*. But our staff of shutter-snappers is small, and Texas is so BIG . . . we're in the market for additional photos from free-lancers. Our "want list" of needed subjects runs to 30 pages. Write us at this newsletter address, and we'll send a copy of the photo want list.



OUR TEXAS TOURIST BUREAU in Waskom was besieged with thousands of visitors on the way to the recent Southern Baptist Convention in Dallas. According to **Milton Meharg**, bureau manager, their previous one-day high for tourist visitors was 2,172 in July of 1984. The influx of Baptist clergy amounted to 3,105 people served by three travel counselors. That total equates to almost two people per minute per travel counselor, for nine solid hours. The duty staff, **Darlene Jones**, **Tonji Busby**, and **Barry Tompkins**, earned their salaries that day.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

TRAVEL AND INFORMATION DIVISION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701



TEXAS TRIVIA: What is the *official* state flower of Texas?

THE QUEST FOR THE LARGEST CATCH begins at the 47th Texas International Fishing Tournament at Port Isabel-South Padre Island July 30. Fishermen compete for trophies and cash prizes totaling \$150,000. The top prize could be a cool \$50,000 for any angler who breaks the Texas state record for blue marlin, white marlin, or sailfish. July 31 is registration day, and family-oriented activities are scheduled for August 1. Contestants fish on August 2 and 3; awards will be presented August 4 at 4 p.m. For additional information contact **Mary Lou Campbell**, Executive Director, Queen Isabel Inn, 300 Garcia St., Port Isabel 78578; or call (512) 943-5571.

SHOTGUN FALLS, A NEW FEATURE, awaits visitors to *Wet 'n Wild* water recreation park in Arlington. The excitement begins when stout hearted sliders plunge down 70-foot, double-barrel chutes at speeds to 40 miles per hour, ending with a six-foot drop into a "deceleration" pool. *Wet 'n Wild* is also offering live entertainment six days a week at their expanded Pepsi Entertainment Pavilion. Through August 29, the park is open Monday-Thursday from 10 a.m.-9 p.m., and 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday-Sunday. Tickets are \$11.25 for adults and \$9.75 for children ages 3-12. For information call (817) 265-3013 or write *Wet 'n Wild*, 1800 East Lamar Blvd., Arlington 76011.

A NEW SUMMER SCHEDULE AND PROGRAMS have been announced by the National Park Service, Guadalupe Mountains National Park. Until Labor Day, the park's temporary visitor center near Pine Springs is

open daily from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Campfire programs are offered each evening; exact times can be obtained by checking bulletin boards in the park, or by calling (915) 828-3251. The McKittrick Canyon gate is open daily from 8 a.m.-7 p.m. through the third weekend in August. Ranger-led hikes are offered each weekend and one weekday. A new program is a morning coffee/talk session for campers and rangers, scheduled at 7 a.m. each Thursday at Pine Springs' campfire circle. Facilities in the park include almost 80 miles of hiking trails, drive-in campgrounds, and public horse corrals at Dog Canyon and Pine Springs.

TIME FOR SOME DOWN-HOME Texas subjects in your September *Texas Highways* magazine. We will take a look at traditional Texas industry and pastimes when we present a history of cattle ranching, cook up a batch of Hopkins County stew, and visit the state's oldest county fair. Visit ranches where dudes enjoy trail rides and rounding up Longhorns, and enjoy the feature on canoeing down the Brazos. Also featured is the state's newest party boat, the *Colonel*, a Mississippi-River-type paddlewheeler that just debuted in Galveston. If you don't subscribe to *Texas Highways*, send your name, address, and check for \$10 to *Texas Highways*, Box 5061, Austin, Texas 78763-5061.

TRIVIA ANSWER

Depends on how old your textbook is. In 1901 the Texas Legislature adopted the Lupinus subcarneus bluebonnet as the official state flower - an unfortunate choice because it's the scrawniest of several handsome species. The 1971 Legislature made amends, making all bluebonnets species official, even rare white ones.

JUNE BOX SCORE: The summer months are the traditional tourist season for Texas, and this summer is no exception. June visitors to our Tourist Bureau in Texarkana jumped over 21,000 compared to last month. **Ann Dean**, bureau manager, credited much of the hefty increase to three large conventions that were held in the area. The conventions alone brought more than 135,000 travelers to Texas. A complete bureau-by-bureau tabulation for June follows.

Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Variation*	Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Variation*
Amarillo	15,027	- 17.2	61,677	- 12.4	Orange	41,796	- 7.7	194,460	- 8.9
Anthony	15,735	- 17.6	109,200	- 10.4	Texarkana	49,185	+ 47.1	167,286	+ 26.5
Denison	24,252	+ 22.1	110,022	+ 16.5	Valley	17,700	+ 14.4	191,445	+ 6.5
Gainesville	23,238	- 2.0	116,349	+ 3.5	Waskom	39,366	+ 36.4	165,324	+ 16.0
Langtry	8,145	- 3.8	51,309	- 1.8	Wichita Falls	16,965	- 10.0	78,078	- 1.4
Laredo	16,707	- 15.8	93,387	- 6.7	Bureau Totals	312,117	+ 1.9	1,580,076	+ 3.2
Capitol	44,001	- 20.2	241,539	+ 3.8	Austin Office (mail, phone, walk-ins)	27,140	+ 300.3	171,054	+ 168.9

*Compared to last year



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