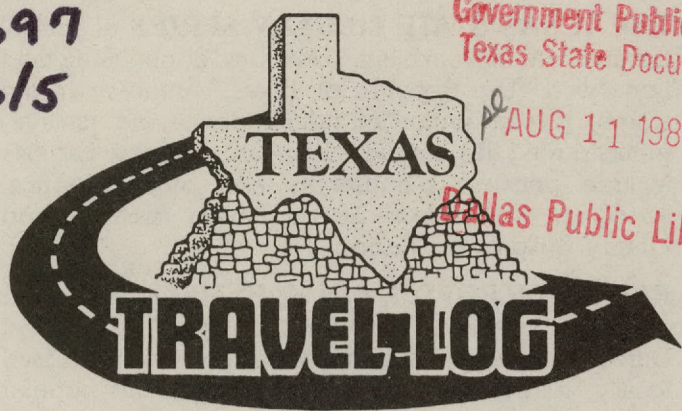


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**OUR VALLEY BUREAU** at Harlingen has been inundated with school children in recent weeks, as the school year draws to a close. The last 10 days of April saw a total of 664 students visit the bureau, with 7 classes ranging from kindergarten to the 7th grade during the last week alone. "And we have a full calendar of visiting classes scheduled ahead," said counselor **Roel Romero**. The classes are treated to audiovisual presentations of Valley attractions and a tour of the Bureau and grounds.

**LACY**, the Oklahoma lass who has a rare disease and can survive only on mother's milk, stopped at our Tourist Bureau at Denison en route to Dallas. "She's a sweet, unaffected, courageous child," said counselor **Betty Reynolds**, "and we look forward to seeing her each year when she visits Texas for her birthday." Lacy, her mother, and several of her donors planned to celebrate Lacy's fifth birthday at Six Flags Over Texas.

**SEVERAL BUREAUS REPORT** that the new "Don't Mess With Texas" litter bags are a hit with visitors to the state. And a local Amarillo television station interviewed bureau manager **Rosemary Montes** there about the antilitter campaign.

**COUNSELOR CYNTHIA WALKER** of our Tourist Bureau at Gainesville, who gained some amount of fame last fall when she consumed a 72-oz. steak, helped out at a charity booth at the recent Germanfest in nearby Muenster—serving up ice cream and cookies. "Having Cindy help at a food booth is like turning Bonnie and Clyde loose in a bank vault," laughed fellow counselor **R. J. Johnson**.

**AS PROMISED**, here are the names and Tourist/Visitor Bureaus of the 8 new Certified Professional Travel Counselors: **Darlene Jones** and **Tonji Rudd**, Waskom; **Sonda** and **Taura Landry**, Orange; **Toni Rodriguez**, Anthony; **Roel Romero**, Valley; **Mary Ulrich**, Capitol; and **Cynthia Walker**, Gainesville. Congratulations to each!

**CONGRATULATIONS ARE ALSO IN ORDER** for **Barbara P. Baxter**, assistant manager of our Tourist Bureau at Wichita Falls. Gov. **Mark White** presented Texas' highest hospitality award, "The Roadrunner Award," to the 12-year travel-counselor veteran at the annual Texas Travel Counselors Conference in Austin last month.

**NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK** will be celebrated in Austin May 20 by the Discover Texas Association with a gala reception and dinner. Included will be a special salute to our **Texas Tourist Bureaus**, now in their 50th year of service to visitors, and to Travel and Information Division Director **Tom H. Taylor**.

**OUR CAPITAL VISITOR CENTER** operates an information booth in the lobby of the D. C. Greer State Highway building, an outstanding example of the art deco architecture popular during the Great Depression. A recent visitor to the booth was **Mrs. Donald B. Miller** of Prescott, AZ, whose father was a consulting architect for the project when the building was constructed in 1932. She took a number of snapshots of the lobby and the exterior to show her son, also an architect, who had never seen the structure.

**ODDS 'N ENDS AROUND THE BUREAUS...** The first stop—right at the border!—of country-western singing star **Loretta Lynn's** 1986 Texas tour was at our Tourist Bureau at Texarkana, where counselor **Estelle Reaves** loaded her band down with maps and literature on cities and attractions along their route...**Rosemary Montes**, manager of our Bureau at Amarillo, is serving on the National Tourism Week Committee that is developing a special program to be held for area tourism folks as well as the general public...After four long years of correspondence study, TSgt **Archie (Skip) Birkner**, Texas Army National Guard, finally earned his diploma from the Command Noncommissioned Officer Academy. Skip is manager of our Bureau at Anthony.

**TEXAS TRIVIA:** What was the world's first public air-conditioned building?



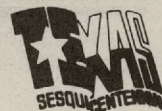
**"IS IT ILLEGAL TO PICK WILD FLOWERS?"**

That's a question often asked our Texas Travel Counselors. The answer is that while there is no specific law addressing the subject, the reckless destruction of property, which includes trees, shrubs and wild flowers on highway right-of-way and in state parks and recreation areas, is a Class C misdemeanor under Article 28.04 of The Penal Code. Violators may be fined up to \$200 for each offense. (Besides, wild flowers wilt almost immediately after picking.)



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**MORE BITS AND PIECES**... One of our most interesting tourist spots, the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center at Langtry will be featured in a *LIFE* Magazine story on the U.S.-Mexico border area, and in a WFAA-TV special on the Rio Grande. Center manager **Jack Skiles** says that reporters and photographers find the Jersey Lily Saloon and the extensive cactus garden favorite subjects... **Joe Parker**, who supervised our Tourist Bureau at Wichita Falls in 1941, stopped by our Bureau at Laredo, where he was impressed by the modern facility and the professional counseling services. "Travel counseling operations have come a long way in 45 years!" he said.

**A NEW GUIDED WALKING TOUR** of Sealy's downtown area begins June 4 and runs each Wednesday through Saturday until school starts in late August. A brochure tells all about different homes on the tour depicting American, British and European styles, including San Felipe. Call the Sealy Chamber of Commerce for further details. (409) 885-3222.

**DINING ON SAN ANTONIO RIVER BARGES** is now available for individuals or small groups. Reservations required. Guido Kelly's River Port, 135 E. Commerce (that's on the river), San Antonio. (512) 227-2787.

**THE NEW PETROLEUM WING** of the *Panhandle Plains Historical Museum* in Canyon incorporates the latest in exhibit design, and adds some 75,000 additional square feet to Texas' oldest and largest state-supported museum. Exhibits range from paleontology and geology through displays depicting the early years of oil and gas development. Artifacts, documents, photos and modern audiovisual technology bring the various sections to life. On the campus of West Texas State University. Open 9-5 weekdays, 2-6 Sunday. Free.

**THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY SERIES** of special Sesquicentennial exhibits continues during May and June with "The Republic of Texas," a survey of the stormy 10-year period of independence and achievements during this unique era of Texas history. Exhibits include priceless manuscripts and other historical treasures. At the Lorenzo de Zavala Archives and Library Building in Austin.

**RED RIVER POTTERY IN MARSHALL** has closed, according to **Milton Meharg**, manager of our Tourist Bureau at nearby Waskom. Although being discussed locally, it's currently not certain whether this popular tourist stop will reopen.

**TWO NEW THRILL RIDES** will spark *Wet 'N Wild's* 1986 summer season at Arlington. Blue Niagara, first slide of its kind, provides riders with a 300-foot-long plunge. The Hyrda-Matic, another thrill ride, will expand seating capacity by 25 percent. Open weekends at 1800 E. Lamar Blvd. until May 31; daily May 31 through Labor Day.

**OLD 500 EXCURSION TRAIN** comes chugging round the bend in the June issue of *Texas Highways*, now hitting your newsstand or mailbox. It's showtime at the Point Theatre on the Guadalupe River, drifting time down the Frio River, and time for a saunter along Galveston's historic Seawall. And there's lots more! All in the June *Texas Highways* - still only \$12 at the newsstand, or \$10 for a year's supply delivered to your door.

**TRIVIA ANSWER:** The First Presbyterian Church at Orange, Texas, completed in 1912. A separate power plant had to be installed at the church to power the building's heating, cooling and lighting system since there was not sufficient electrical power available in Orange at the time!

**APRIL BOX SCORE** - With the first third of 1986 history, our 12 Texas Tourist Bureaus surged past the 1 million visitors mark, with a respectable increase of +16 percent over April 1985. Our Valley Bureau led the pack with a burgeoning 54.4 percent jump, as each bureau registered a gain over last year. Here is a complete bureau-by-bureau tabulation for the month of April.

Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*
Amarillo	11,127	+ 8.9	36,861	+ 6.1	Orange	32,946	+ 8.5	138,087	+ 15.9
Anthony	17,868	+ 7.4	72,432	- 6.5	Texarkana	27,234	+16.9	110,322	+ 22.8
Denison	19,002	+ 0.8	73,782	+ 15.0	Valley	29,268	+54.4	219,045	+ 44.3
Gainesville	18,548	+16.0	77,676	+ 8.3	Waskom	26,955	+ 2.2	98,607	+ 6.6
Langtry	11,508	+12.3	41,394	+ 19.1	Wichita Falls	14,904	-11.5	50,880	+ 10.6
Laredo	17,487	+18.9	81,441	+ 26.5	<b>Bureau Totals</b>	283,176	+16.0	1,203,318	+ 20.0
Capitol	56,328	+25.1	202,791	+ 26.5	Austin Office (mail, phone, walk-ins)	43,306	- 4.8	115,413	+ 13.5

\* Compared to last year



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