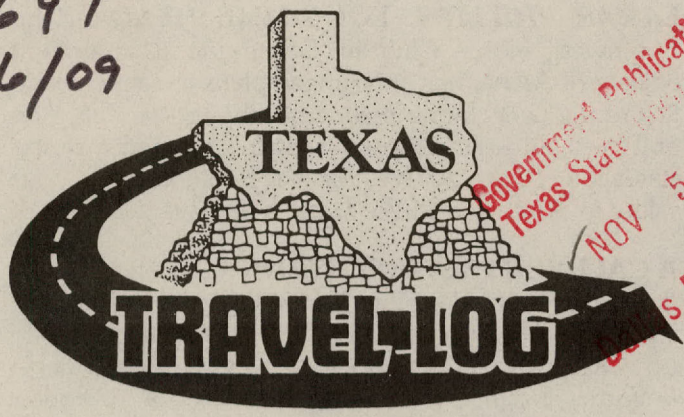


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TRAVEL COUNSELORS at our Anthony Tourist Bureau were surprised a few days ago when federal agents showed them photos of a prisoner who had just escaped from the nearby La Tuna Federal Penitentiary. "We recognized him as a man we had served just a few minutes before," said counselor **Patty Lukens**. "We had given him all kinds of maps and travel literature; and wouldn't you know, he's still at large!"

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL Committee of Grayson County called on manager **Mike Harwell** and his staff at our Tourist Bureau in Denison to perform the opening scenes of a special video production of Sesquicentennial activities. The counselors welcomed future visitors to Texas and sang "Happy Birthday" to mark the 150th year of Texas' independence from Mexico. The video production covers special events throughout the county during 1986 and will be buried at the county courthouse in Sherman in a special time capsule, along with other Texas Sesquicentennial memorabilia, to be opened in the Year 2086.

OUR VALLEY TOURIST BUREAU counselors in Harlingen are busy educating educators, according to counselor **Roel Romero**. Seems there is a large influx of new teachers from the Midwest headed for Valley schools - eager to learn all about Texas. Our counselors are happy to oblige!

DESPITE STEADY INCREASES in mail requests for travel literature and tourist information of all sorts, coupled with a major relocation to new facilities, our Austin office's Mail Operations Section has reached a point where requests are filled the same day they are received. "It's something of a milestone, considering the large volumes of mail we handle every day," said manager **David Linzey**.

MANAGER DALE SOWDER reports that our Tourist Bureau at Gainesville celebrated its 25th anniversary by serving its 3,042,938th visitor! Congratulations to **Dale** and staffers **Ronda Johnson**, **Reva Keltner**, and **Cynthia Walker**.

A RECORD-BREAKING SUMMER has been registered by our Texas Tourist Bureau at Orange, reports bureau manager **Bill Naivar**. "Our previous record for June, July and August was 140,517 visitors in 1982," he said. "This summer we hit an all-time high of 150,552 visitors during the same 3-month period."

THE TEXAS STATE LIBRARY continues its series of Sesquicentennial exhibits during September and October with "150 Years of Texas Growth." Documents, photographs, and publications trace the development of Texas cities, businesses, and family life. A summary brochure accompanies the exhibit, listing significant dates and a bibliography. At the Lorenzo de Zavala State Archives and Library Building in Austin.

ODDS 'N ENDS AROUND THE BUREAUS...

Junior Olympics competitors, returning to Houston from Arizona, stopped by our Tourist Bureau at Anthony where they proudly displayed the gold, silver, and bronze medals they won in various competitions... Some 6,815 cyclists competed in Wichita Falls' annual "Hotter 'n Hell Bicycle Ride," a large number of whom visited our Tourist Bureau there. "When they all left, it was like somebody shut off a valve," said bureau manager **Jack Conley**... German BMW test drivers, putting their autos through their paces at Uniroyal's Laredo testing grounds, have been taking weekend busmen's holidays and touring Texas. Naturally, our Texas Tourist Bureau has been supplying them with maps and tourist information... After spending 20 years keeping the grounds and facilities in tip-top shape at our Tourist Bureau at Waskom, **Harris Hinson** retired on August 31. "Thanks to Harris, our visitors' first impressions of Texas have been first class," said Bureau manager **Milton Meharg**... Meanwhile, at our Capitol Visitor Center in Austin counselor **Joe Maxwell** joined the staff just in time for an influx of visitors generated by the special session of the Legislature.

TEXAS TRIVIA: Who made the first map of Texas?



MORE BITS AND PIECES... More than a dozen representatives of area chambers of commerce and the local travel industry visited our Tourist Bureau at Amarillo for a special open house marking the 50th anniversary of the tourist bureau program. The get-together was featured in a Sunday edition of the **Amarillo Globe-News**... After the department's tourist bureau chief **Willis Albarado** briefed 65 delegates to a Mexico-Texas Tourism Committee meeting about Texas Tourist Bureau operations, a number of the delegates visited our bureau at Laredo to observe our travel counselors in action. They were impressed!... Former counselor **Sylvia Cartwright** of our Tourist Bureau at Orange completed her degree in Elementary Education at Lamar University and has accepted her first teaching job at Port Arthur...

NATIVE AMERICAN "HAUTE CUISINE?"

Perhaps not at Maxim's of Paris, but those who have experienced native cooking at the Tigua Indian Ysleta del Sur Pueblo near El Paso know it's anything but bland. Indeed, fumes from a simmering pot of green chili stew are purported to have stripped the chrome off nearby automobile bumpers. Other items featured at the reservation restaurant include adobe oven bread, albondigas, red chili, gorditos, and bread pudding. The pueblo is open daily 9-6 at 119 Old Pueblo Road.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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A ROUND-THE-WORLD TOUR is in the making for a painting from the famous collection of Wyeths at the Diamond M Foundation Museum in Snyder. **N. C. Wyeth's** "Rescue of Captain Harding," an illustration from *The Mysterious Island* by Jules Verne, will tour Moscow, Leningrad, Cambridge, Milan, and Tokyo, returning to the U.S. for a tour of five museums, including the Dallas Museum of Art. It's part of "An American Vision: Three Generations of Wyeths," and includes works by **Andrew** and **Jamie** as well as **N. C. Wyeth**. The Diamond M has 18 other Wyeth works on display at 909 25th St. in Snyder, Tues.-Fri. 10-4; Sat. and Sun. 1-4. Free.

CLEVER "800" TELEPHONE NUMBERS will get you the South Padre Island Tourist Bureau. Just dial 800-992-ISLE from Texas phones, or 800-992-SAND from other U.S. locations.

A MASSIVE "TEXAS COASTAL CLEANUP" is being planned for the morning of September 20 at selected beaches along the coast. Sponsored by the Center for Environmental Education, the activity is part of a national beach cleanup in 10 other coastal states. In addition to cleaning up litter, volunteers will provide data for a study on plastic ocean debris and entanglements that kill large numbers of sea birds and turtles each year. Call 512/477-6424 for more information.

CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES IN TEXAS, popular with many visitors, will be highlighted October 4 at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas. In addition to camping displays of all kinds, campground owners will be on hand to extend Texas hospitality to our many out-of-state visitors. The theme is "Camping - A Texas Tradition."

LAMAR PHILLIPS, LONG-TIME HEAD of the Southwest Motor Club in Dallas (an independent affiliate of AAA), has announced plans to retire on the first of the year. In the meantime, the motor club, one of Texas' oldest and most successful, merged with the statewide Texas AAA effective September 1. Our salute to Southwest Motor Club: Y'all have done good!

A CALL FOR HISTORIC ITEMS has been issued by the headquarters of the National Forest Service in Texas, headquartered in Lufkin. The effort to round up letters, brochures, photos, newspaper clippings, uniform insignia, and other items of historical significance from retired and former U.S. Forest Service personnel is under way to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of Forest Service operations in Texas during October. Items should be forwarded to **Mrs. Betty Jones**, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Building, 701 N. First St., Lufkin, TX 75901-3088.

TAKE A BRILLIANT PHOTO TOUR of colorful McKittrick Canyon in Guadalupe Mountains National Park, recall Dallas' fabulous 1936 Centennial festivities, explore Sam Houston's Woodland Home in Huntsville, and browse through Fort Stockton's Annie Riggs hotel-turned-museum. It's all in the October issue of **Texas Highways** now on your newsstand for a paltry \$2. Or you can subscribe for only \$10 a year (send to Box 5016, Austin 78763-5016).

TEXAS TRIVIA ANSWER: The first map of Texas was made by the Spanish explorer Captain Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda in 1519 on his exploration of the Texas Gulf Coast. Today, more than a million copies of the Texas Official Highway Travel Map are distributed free each year to travelers in the Lone Star State.

AUGUST BOX SCORE: With two-thirds of the year behind, our 12 Texas Tourist Bureaus have already passed the 2.5 million visitors mark, with a respectable increase of +15 percent over the same period last year. Out in front of the pack for the month was our Tourist Bureau at Denison with an impressive +64.4 percent increase over August 1985. Here is a complete bureau-by-bureau tabulation for the month of August.

| Bureau | Month Total Visitors | Percent Variation* | Year Total Visitors | Percent Variation* | Bureau | Month Total Visitors | Percent Variation* | Year Total Visitors | Percent Variation* |
|-------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Amarillo | 15,957 | +10.3 | 97,710 | + 5.4 | Orange | 47,727 | + 8.3 | 326,148 | + 13.8 |
| Anthony | 14,772 | -10.7 | 133,824 | - 5.9 | Texarkana | 33,648 | - 25.8 | 252,468 | - 4.7 |
| Denison | 37,377 | +64.4 | 213,333 | + 36.0 | Valley | 17,895 | - 7.3 | 298,797 | + 31.1 |
| Gainesville | 22,689 | + 5.9 | 171,900 | + 6.6 | Waskom | 33,795 | + 2.3 | 244,983 | + 5.9 |
| Langtry | 7,140 | + 4.8 | 75,438 | + 14.2 | Wichita Falls | 17,865 | - 0.8 | 126,057 | + 9.1 |
| Laredo | 25,248 | +26.7 | 161,613 | + 19.6 | Bureau Totals | 361,425 | +10.2 | 2,586,297 | + 15.0 |
| Capitol | 87,312 | +30.8 | 484,026 | + 31.6 | Austin Office (mail, phone, walk-ins) | 10,889 | -48.0 | 224,374 | + 0.5 |

*Compared to last year



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