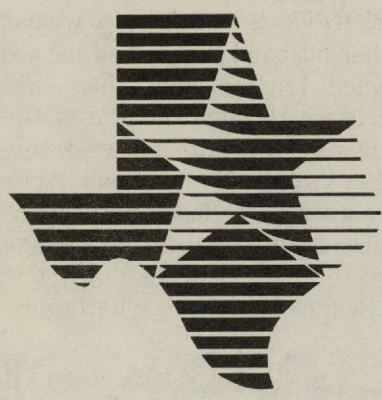


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TEXAS TRAVEL LOG

State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, Austin, Texas

June Travel & Information Division, 11th & Brazos, Austin, Texas 78701 512/463-8595 1989

SEVERAL FEET OF WATER inundated the back parking lot of our Texas Tourist Bureau at Orange as waters of the adjacent Sabine River overflowed some five feet above flood stage. Although the bureau received heavy rains during mid-May, reports counselor Sonda Landry, the Sabine flooding was the result of torrential rains upstream. "It hasn't slowed the visitors a bit, although parking has been a little tight at times," she said.

IMAGINE HER SURPRISE when counselor Virginia Luna looked up to see the familiar faces of an Iowa couple at our Capitol Visitor Information Center in Austin. The couple, Winter Texans, were regular visitors to our Valley Bureau at Harlingen, where Virginia served as a travel counselor before transferring to Austin. Disappointed not to find her at her old stand, they had driven to Austin just to say, "Hello!"

OUR TEXAS TOURIST BUREAU AT WASKOM was the site for a special "Marshall and Jefferson Welcome You to Texas Day," May 26. The Marshall and Jefferson Chambers of Commerce set up a colorful booth where they dispensed coffee, cookies and soft drinks to visitors. Also of interest to visitors was a master potter from nearby Marshall Pottery, who conducted demonstrations throughout the day to the delight of visitors.

JOINING SUCH EXOTIC SYMBOLS as the Lightning Whelk and Side Oats Gramma is the new, official State Fish, the Guadalupe bass. Adopted by a resolution of the Legislature acting on a suggestion by third grade schoolchildren from Decatur, the fish is found "only in Texas, inhabiting the clear, fast running streams and small rivers of the central part of the state."

AN UNEXPECTEDLY HIGH DEMAND for our *Texas Official Highway Travel Map* has severely, although temporarily, curtailed its availability. But help is on the way, and the new 1989 map will be rolling off the press and into our Texas Tourist Bureaus by mid-June.

IF YOUR MAY TRAVEL LOG had the answers to the crossword puzzle before the puzzle itself, we apologize. Seems that gremlins attacked our bindery and reversed the pages on about a third of the copies. Never a dull moment!

TEXAS TRIVIA: What Texas city claims to be the "Birthplace of the cowboy?"



SOME OF THE MOST COLORFUL STORIES about the legendary Judge Roy Bean, "The Law West of the Pecos," are historical fact — like Bean's promotion of the Maher-Fitzsimmons prize fight. In defiance of both federal and state authority, Bean staged the fight on a sandbar in midstream of the Rio Grande! A recent visitor to our Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center at Langtry was the great-great nephew of champion Bob Fitzsimmons. Himself an amateur boxer and visiting from his home in Ireland on a "Trek America" tour, Fitzsimmons had no inkling that his famous ancestor had ever fought in Langtry.

ODDS 'N ENDS AROUND THE BUREAUS....

Guich Kooch, character actor and former sidekick of the late Hondo Crouch, recently visited our Texas Tourist Bureau at Anthony, where he talked with manager Skip Birkner about a forthcoming television series with Suzanne Sommers.... Seven brand new Chevrolet Corvettes, along with 16 automotive engineer drivers and a chase van, on a test drive from Bowling Green, KY, to Phoenix, AZ, recently roared into our Texas Tourist Bureau at Denison, scooped up a half-dozen Texas maps, and zoomed out again, reports counselor Betty "Hot Rod" Reynolds.... A sizable number of the 700-odd rigs participating in the recent Good Sam Valley Rally stopped at our Valley Tourist Bureau at Harlingen for detailed travel information.... And counselor Becky Gutierrez of our Texas Tourist Bureau in Laredo reports that it took all three of the bureau's staff working together several days to complete last month's special *Travel Log* crossword puzzle. She points out that there was an extra blank box that threw them off for a while. Sorry 'bout that!



JUNE MARKS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY for Natural Bridge Caverns between San Antonio and New Braunfels, reports Clara Heidemann. Billed as the largest underground attraction in Texas, the caverns opened to the public in 1964. "A visit to Natural Bridge is an exciting experience for visitors of all ages," she said. The caverns were formed more than 140 million years ago, and a half-mile of the two-mile cavern system has been developed to allow visitors to view more than 10,000 living rock formations. Open daily 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on FM 3009 (Natural Bridge Caverns Road), exit 175 from I-35 between San Antonio and New Braunfels. Call 512/651-6101 for information.

THE FOURTH VISITOR CENTER to be opened by the Corpus Christi Convention and Visitors Bureau is now in operation at the city's International Airport. Open 9 - 5 Monday through Friday and staffed by Corpus Christi Sparkler volunteers, the center expects to assist an estimated quarter-million visitors at the airport each year.

TYPICAL OF THE LETTERS we get about our *Texas State Travel Guide* is one from a woman in Virginia. She and her husband telephoned for a copy before their planned trip to visit their son in Galveston. After reading through the *Travel Guide*, they extended their stay an additional week to visit the Gulf coast, the Valley, Mexico, San Antonio, Houston, and Beaumont. In fact, they were so impressed with a barbecue restaurant in Beaumont, they plan to return to Texas next year. First stop? You guessed it — Beaumont, for more barbecue!



VISITING HOURS HAVE BEEN EXPANDED to a full 12 hours, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., for the Ramses the Great exhibit at the Fair Park Automobile Building in Dallas. In addition, every Wednesday will be "Kodak Photo Day," providing visitors an opportunity to photograph the incredible exhibits within strict guidelines. For additional details, call 214/421-2500.

A NUMBER OF 100-YEAR-OLD EVENTS headline the Summer edition of the *Texas Events Calendar*, just off the press. Visitors can join in the 133rd Agriculture Society Barbecue at Cat Spring, the 117th Juneteenth Picnic and Trail Ride at St. John Colony, or the 102nd National Cow-Calling Contest at Miami, to name just a few of the older events this summer. The *Calendar* spans the months of June, July, and August, and covers everything from international art festivals and major cultural events to just plain down-home country fun, from the Deep-Sea Roundup at Port Aransas to the (sob) onion-peeling contest at Noonday's Onion Festival. It's all yours, free for the asking, at any of our 12 Texas Tourist Bureaus, or by writing *Texas Events Calendar*, P.O. Box 5064, Austin, TX 78763.

AND PLEASE NOTE: Beginning with the Fall edition (September-October-November), the *Texas Events Calendar* will be published and distributed a full month prior to the *Calendar* period. The earlier distribution is in response to many long-standing requests. Chambers and other folks are reminded to get their events in to the *Calendar* editor by June 15 in order to be included.

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! MUSEUM opens June 8 as the first phase of Classic Attractions' double-feature facility, rising from the ashes of the old Wax Museum of the Southwest in Grand Prairie. The museum features eight major theme galleries chock-full of artifacts and oddities that will astound, amuse, and entertain. The museum is the 10th of its kind in the United States and the second in Texas. The second phase, The Palace of Wax, is slated to open March 1990. In the meantime, Ripley's Believe It or Not! is open daily 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. through Labor Day.

AND JUST NEXT DOOR is the new Clown Around attraction, a 24,000-square-foot indoor family amusement park. Geared to families with children ages two and older, the park offers two game rooms with more than 20 video and skill games, two ball bounces with some 53,000 multicolored plastic balls, and nine mechanical rides. Open Sunday through Friday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. at 702 E. Safari Boulevard in Grand Prairie.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS is the common theme running, appropriately enough, through the July issue of *Texas Highways*, now on your local newsstand. Start with a stroll through the Mercer Arboretum near Houston; camp out or picnic at Mother Neff State Park, the state's oldest; learn about the apples grown in the hills near Medina and about the picturesque Spanish moss adorning many Texas trees; and immerse yourself in the bountiful waters of Texas. And if you're ready for an outstanding inside interlude, enjoy the quietude to be found among the magnificent works of American art at Fort Worth's Amon Carter Museum. Still a bargain at \$2 a copy at your newsstand; now only \$12.50 for a full year's subscription.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH not far from San Antonio is the quiet Hill Country town of Grey Forest. Typical of the small towns of this scenic region, with a number of native limestone buildings, Grey Forest is on Scenic Loop north of Helotes, once an Indian trail and later a stagecoach route. The quaint Grey Moss Inn is one of the oldest continuously operated restaurants in Central Texas.

GERONIMO! That's the cry visitors to Wet'n Wild's latest attraction will be making this summer. It's also the name of the new thrill slide that launches sliders from a height of nearly 62 feet over a precipice — like free-falling as a parachutist! Featuring nearly every kind of water park attraction known to man, Wet'n Wild is open daily at Arlington through August 31. For information on group rates and schedules, call 817/640-8000.



A TASTE OF THE OLD WEST is in store for visitors to Fort Worth as Cowtown celebrates its place as the last stop on the legendary Chisholm Trail during the Chisholm Trail Roundup, June 9 through 11. The three-day festival of music, games, and entertainment is staged in the country's largest national historic district, the Fort Worth Stockyards. For details call 817/625-7005.

MORE BITS AND PIECES.... A gaggle of grade schoolers visiting the State Capitol in Austin recently surrounded our Visitor Information Center booth and serenaded counselor Virginia Luna with a piping rendition of "The Eyes of Texas," complete with grins and appropriate gestures.... Manager Sam Martinez of our Valley Tourist Bureau manned a special visitor information booth promoting tourism at the Expo '89 Trade Show in Brownsville during National Tourism Week — while the counselors at the bureau back in Harlingen marked the occasion by serving plates of goodies to visiting travelers.... Cyclist Mark Knudsen of Des Moines, IA, stopped at our Texas Tourist Bureau at Waskom on his "round North America" motorcycle tour that will take him from Iowa to Florida, across the southern United States, up the West Coast to Alaska, across Canada, down the East Coast, and back to Des Moines. Bureau manager Melissa Heard snapped his photo in front of the Texas pylon and inside the bureau before sending him on his way, armed with a travel map and *Texas State Travel Guide*.

TEXAS TRIVIA ANSWER: Pleasanton claims to be the place where men first used the techniques of handling cattle from horseback. A bronze statue of a cowboy, in the city square, commemorates the claim.

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Data as of May 31, 1989

Austin Office	For DHT This Month	For DHT This Year	For DOC This Month	For DOC This Year	Total Year to Date
Mail Services	11,652	52,146	144,592	477,197	529,343

Services to Travel Industry	Subscriber Inquiries This Month	Addresses Offered This Month	Addresses Transmitted This Month
DHT TRAX System	227	130,656	109,839

Official State Travel Magazine	This Month	This Month Last Year	This Year to Date	Last Year to Date
Texas Highways Print Run	433,075	400,163	2,152,141	2,027,925

Tourist Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Tourist Bureau	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*
Amarillo	12,147	- 1.1	44,082	+ 2.3	Orange	39,531	+ 14.9	185,712	+ 16.5
Anthony	18,210	+ 19.9	95,451	+ 4.5	Texarkana	24,969	- 6.2	109,041	+ 6.3
Denison	21,852	+ 10.0	87,573	+ 11.1	Valley	18,336	+ 1.3	189,405	- 7.7
Gainesville	28,494	+ 52.2	128,739	+ 44.9	Waskom	32,583	+ 25.1	135,036	+ 19.7
Langtry	7,509	- 13.1	46,767	- 4.1	Wichita Falls	16,698	+ 3.0	67,581	+ 3.0
Laredo	15,954	- 24.5	118,275	+ 0.4	Capitol	49,812	- 18.6	230,052	- 0.4
					Bureau Totals	286,095	+ 2.8	1,437,714	+ 6.9

*Compared to last Year