

Texas Cancer Reporting News

Cancer Registry Division 1100 West 49th Street Austin, Texas 512-467-2239 (800-252-8059)

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From the Director

I am pleased to announce the publication of our newest report from the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR), Cancer Incidence and Mortality along the Texas-Mexico Border. This report examines cancer data for the group of 18 counties along the border in an effort to determine if border residents experience higher risks for cancer than those experienced elsewhere. These border data as a whole were compared with data from California, a population with similar racial and ethnic composition. Overall, we found that the type and magnitude of cancer cases and deaths reported from this border area are similar to or lower than those of the comparison population. One notable exception was the incidence and mortality from invasive cervical cancer, a preventable cancer and one very amenable to treatment. During the period 1990-1992, 379 border females (54 Anglo and 325 Hispanic) were diagnosed with invasive cervical cancer and the rate among Hispanic females was twice that among Anglos. A total of 160 women died from this cancer from 1990 through 1993, and again the death rate among Hispanic females was twice that of Anglo females. Compared with California women, both Border Anglo and Hispanic female residents were at 33% increased risk of dying from cervical cancer.

These data are being used to help gain additional support from our partners such as the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Texas Cancer Council and others to reduce and ultimately totally prevent the unnecessary occurrence and death from cervical cancer. This is a good example of how your reporting of cancer data can help affect the quality of life of other Texans.

Copies of this report have been sent to hospitals in Public Health Regions 8, 10, and 11, areas included in the study. If you would like a copy, please contact your Regional Office or the Central Office.

Nancy S. Weiss, PhD



HANDBOOK IMPORTANT....



The Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) handbook was recently revised. In the handbook, you can find information to help you report your cases to us, i.e., case finding proce-

dures, quality control, the reportable list, non-reportables, field specific codes and explanations, examples to help you document staging, county code tables, a list of Spanish/Hispanic surnames, and site specific surgery codes. If you need additional copies of the handbook or need clarification of an item(s) in the handbook, don't hesitate to call your Regional Office.

Congratulations New CTR'S!!!

The TCR Central Office is proud to announce that Dwenda Smith, Senior Quality Control Auditor; Leticia Vargas, Quality Control Auditor; and Shawna Waterman, Quality Control Auditor passed the CTR Exam in September 1996! With the exception of a newly hired employee, the Central Office QC Section has a full staff of CTRs.

The following TCR Regional Office staff passed the September 1996 exam. They are Kathryn Woehler, Program Manager and Michelle Tessaro, Public Health Technician II both from Public Health Region 8/11 and Patricia "Pat" Ploegsma, Program Manager Public Health Region 1/9/10.

Well done ladies! This is a great accomplishment for the Central and Regional offices because we now have 12 CTRs on board!

Congratulations to the following who also successfully wrote their CTR exam in 1996:

March

Rita Duran Arlingon, Tx Kamala Kowshik Hurst, Tx Mary Ann Skoog Victoria, Tx Kathy J. Stoppiro El Paso, Tx

September

Helen R. Chegwin Friendswood, Tx Marie Dulak West Columbia, Tx Mary Finley Terrell, Tx Jerri Ann Flanders Dallas, Tx Kelli Gana Webster, Tx Gerard A. Garza Houston, Tx Julie A. Heald Dallas, Tx Imelda Y. Lee San Antonio, Tx Donna Nicodemus Dallas, Tx Debra L. Pearson Arlington, Tx **Janet Pichette** Austin, Tx Gloria S. Washington Corpus Christi, Tx College Station, Tx Tommy Webb



- Q. What is the correct morphology code for Paget's disease with intraductal carcinoma?
- A. The correct code for Paget's disease with intraductal carcinoma is 8543/3. Even though by definition Paget's disease is an "intraductal inflammatory carcinoma of the breast involving the areola and nipple" (Dorland's Pocket Medical Dictionary), Constance Percy of the SEER Program of the National Cancer Institute states they consider this disease to be invasive.
- Q. A patient is admitted to my facility with a history of breast cancer diagnosed and treated elsewhere in 1992. She now has metastatic disease to the liver and bone. She was only admitted to our facility for supportive care. Should I report this case to the TCR?
- A. Yes, even though your facility had no involvement in the diagnosis and/or treatment at the time of diagnosis, the patient has active cancer and should be reported. This helps to ensure all cases are reported, giving a more complete picture of the cancer incidence in Texas. Please refer to "Additional guidelines for case reporting", page 7 in the revised TCR handbook.
- Q. A patient with colon cancer received 5FU and Leucovorin. Do I use code "3" (multiple agents) for chemotherapy?
- A. No, code "3" describes a combination of more than one chemotherapeutic agent. Leucovorin is an ancillary drug, so the usage is not coded. Use code "2", chemotherapy,

single agent. (ROADS, pg 228; TCR Handbook, pg 32; SEER Program Self-Instructional Manual for Tumor Registrars, Book Eight, Third Edition, pg 43).

- Q. What is the proper treatment code for Neupogen?
- A. Neupogen, G-CSF, and Epogen are used to stimulate the bone marrow to produce red blood cells. They are all ancillary drugs and are not coded in the present data set. Book Eight of the SEER Program Self-Instructional Manual for Tumor Registrars, Third Edition, did publish an errata sheet that said all of these drugs were classified as ancillary.
- Q. What is the appropriate surgery code for mediastinoscopy with a biopsy?
- A. This is coded in the non-cancer directed surgery field as an exploratory only with biopsy, code therefore, "05".
- Q. Is prostatic intraepithelial neoplasia (PIN III) reportable?
- A. No, PIN III is not a reportable entity. Furthermore, beginning with 1996 cases, CIN III, VIN III, VAIN III and carcinoma in-situ of the cervix (regardless of histology) are no longer reportable.
- Q. If I needed information regarding the cancer incidence or mortality in Texas or the city, county or area that I live in, who do I contact?
- A. Contact Barry Wilson, or David Risser at the Central Office in Austin for questions regarding specific data or for cancer cluster investigations.

New Lymphoma Terms

Please add the following codes or revised terms to your ICD-0 code book:

Term added (term added in *italics*)
96733 Malignant lymphoma, lymphocytic,

intermediate differentiation, diffuse

Mantle zone lymphoma Mantle cell lymphoma

97143 Large cell (K-1+) lymphoma Anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) CD30+

Please add the following new codes to your ICD-0 code book:

97083 Subcutaneous panniculitic T-cell lymphoma

97103 Marginal zone lymphoma, NOS

97153 Mucosal-associated lymphoid tissue (MALT) lymphoma

97163 Hepatosplenic y5 (gamma - deita) cell lymphoma

97173 Intestinal T-cell lymphoma

Revised Grading Scheme for Lymphomas and Leukemias (new code in italics):

5 T-cell, T-precursor

- 6 B-cell, Pre-B, B-Precursor
- 7 Null cell, Non T-non B
- 8 NK cell (natural killer cell)
- 9 Cell type not determined, not stated or not applicable



Back Years Data Update

The collection of the back years data from 1985-1992 for six regions of the State are complete. Extensive quality control checks of the data and data analyses are underway. The extra efforts by all hospitals in reporting these data and by our regional staff in collecting data are greatly appreciated. The final report should be forthcoming in the early part of 1997.

1/800 NUMBER

The TCR has investigated the possibility of having regional 1/800 numbers. Due to the logistics and the cost, we have decided not to pursue this endeavor. In talking with the Telecommunication Division of TDH, we would have to assign area codes to regional offices. If an area code was divided between 2 different regions, it is possible that you would get the wrong regional office. The option of calling the Central Office's 1/800 number and leaving a message for the appropriate region office is still available. Central Office staff can then contact the region and have them return your call at no cost to you. You also still have the option of calling the regional office directly.



Texas Cancer Registry on the WEB!!

Soon you will be able to surf the net for the Texas Cancer Registry's home page. Final preparations are under way to complete the home page and put it out on the Web. Once out on the Web, access can be gained through the Texas Department of Health's home page at http://www.tdh.state.tx.us which is already up and

running. Some things that will possibly be included on TCR's home page are: current and past newsletters; information on upcoming conferences; TCR publications and presentations; data submittor information; and much more.



Stay tuned for more information.



SUBMISSION BY MODEM

Although we encourage hospitals to submit data monthly by diskette, we do give the option of submitting data via modem. The following are the requirements and procedures to submit via modem:

**NOTE: Please be aware that submission via modem transmission requires long-distance charges to the hospital.

Requirements:

- Reach Out by Stac or PC Anywhere 5.0 by Symantec communications software
- A modem (preferably 28.8 or better)
- A phone line for the modem

Steps for submitting by modem:

- A. Start your communications software (must be one of the above).
- B. Call the Texas Cancer Registry (TCR) office in Austin (512) 467-2239 or 1/800-252-8059 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday to make sure the host computer is ready to be called. The TCR data management section will need to know what communications software will be used (either Reach Out or PC Anywhere) for the transmit to ensure the TCR computer is properly set up to use the correct software.
- C. Call the host computer at the Texas Cancer Registry office in Austin (512) 467-8581 and wait to be successfully connected.
- D. Once connected, transfer the data files from the hospital's computer using AWSEND in PC Anywhere or the FILE TRANSFER icon in Reach Out. The files must be transferred to your hospital's directory on the host computer in Austin. The TCR data management staff will create this directory for you or you can create it yourself once connected

- E. Make sure someone in Austin knows the file has been transmitted so they can copy the file to a diskette that will then be uploaded in Sandcrab.
- F. Disconnect from the host computer in Austin.

**Please note that your data, once copied to a diskette by TCR, will be deleted off the computer. Please all Madelyn Lock if you need additional assistance.

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!



Approximately one hundred and thirty people attended the 24th annual meeting of the Texas Tumor Registrars Association. It was conducted at the Embassy Suites in Austin during September 25-27, 1996. The theme was "Capitalizing on Cancer Registries". Actually, we "capitalized" on the knowledge of the speakers. The attendees learned about bladder and uterine cancers, sarcomas, advances in cancer treatment, tumor markers, time management and heard American College of Surgeons and State Cancer Registry updates. Next year is the 25th anniversary of TxTRA. It will be celebrated in Dallas (where it began) during October 29th to 31st. Please make plans to attend this special meeting.

Feedback Forms

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our reporting institutions. Many of you have received the feedback letters that we hope will be helpful to you in reporting cancer. Some of the more common errors in completing the reporting form are as follows:

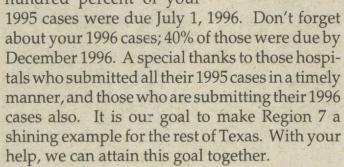
- * Lack of documentation on staging and treatment. Treatment and staging information are necessary beginning with 1995 cases. Helpful information on this is found beginning on page 23 in our new handbook.
- * Basal cell carcinomas of any site (except for genital sites) and squamous cell carcinoma of the skin are not reportable to the TCR.
- * Ethnicity field left blank. Helpful information can be found on page 13 in our new handbook.
- * Specific documentation for primary site and morphology. This information is needed for accurate quality control on data submitted. Please refer to pages 16-21 in our new handbook.
- * Patients with multiple primaries keep their original registry number. Helpful information can be found on page 8 of our new handbook.

Do not hesitate to contact the appropriate Regional Office for further assistance or to request a group or individual training session. The appropriate point of contact is in the TCR Cancer Reporting Handbook on page 5.

REGIONAL UPDATES:

REGION 7

For 1995, Region 7 is at 67% complete reporting!! If you have 1995 cases, please send them in. One hundred percent of your



Congratulations to Janet Pichette, a contract abstractor; and Tommy Webb, St Joseph's Hospital in Bryan who sat for their CTR exam in September and passed. A lot of hard work went into passing this exam. Pat yourselves on the back!!

We are looking at having another training session soon. If you feel you need further training, please let us know if you would like training in abstracting or on a specific part of the abstract, i.e. staging or treatment documentation. We want to develop curriculum to meet your needs.

If you have questions, concerns or problems, please feel free to call on the Region 7 staff, Dwenda Smith, Susan Pauda, Shawna Waterman, or myself, Deidre Davis.

REGION 8/11

Congratulations to Imelda Lee, RRA, the tumor registrar for the Baptist Memorial Hospital System, San Antonio, and Gloria Washington, tumor registrar of the Naval Hospital in Corpus Christi both successfully completed their CTR exam in September.

What are we doing with all the new registry knowledge and certification? TRAINING! Use of Sandcrab Lite and record abstracting are our two biggest requests for training in the field. We have been doing one-on-one training for hospitals in Region 8 within easy traveling distance. You call and we'll come running!

We also assisted with the training of Region 11 hospital staff in cancer reporting; but a different approach was used. During July and August, McAllen Medical Center and South Texas Community College in McAllen, Texas, hosted two courses in "Beginning Abstracting." The courses were four sessions each and held on Fridays from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Nine institutions and 26 persons participated. Michelle Tessaro, CTR, from Region 8 was the instructor.

Many thanks to the institutions represented and congratulations to participants who received continuing education credit and certificates of successful completion.

REGION 5/6

The Houston staff would like to thank the tumor registry staff at the following hospitals who worked with us this past summer and fall to reach our goal to get statewide cancer incidence data for 1992:

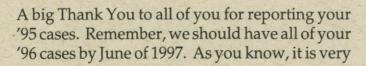


Angleton-Danbury General Hospital, Angleton Baptist Hospital, Orange Sharpstown General Hospital, Houston Brazosport Memorial Hospital, Lake Jackson Columbia Beaumont Med. Center, Beaumont Columbia Rosewood Med. Center, Houston Columbia Woman's Hospital of Texas, Houston Columbia Bellaire Medical Center, Bellaire Columbia Mainland Medical Center, Texas City Columbia Bayshore Medical Center, Pasadena Columbia North Houston Med. Center, Houston Diagnostic Center Hospital, Houston Doctor's Hospital, Groves Houston Northwest Medical Center, Houston Columbia West Houston Med. Center, Houston San Jacinto Methodist Hospital, Baytown Huntsville Memorial Hospital, Huntsville Memorial Hospital, The Woodlands Memorial Hospital - Southeast, Houston Memorial Hospital Pasadena, Pasadena Mid - Jefferson Hospital, Nederland Northwest Cancer Treatment Center, Houston Park Plaza Hospital, Houston Park Place Medical Center, Port Arthur St. Elizabeth Hospital, Beaumont The Cancer Institute, Beaumont VA Medical Center, Houston Woodland Heights Hospital, Lufkin

Without you and other cancer reporters, our first report of statewide cancer incidence data would not be possible.

REGION 2/3 and covering 4

Elaine Allgood has joined the Region 3 staff as Program Manager. Some of you may remember Elaine from her previous tenure with the Cancer Registry. Please join us in welcoming Elaine to her new position.



important that we have all hospitals report their cases for research purposes and cluster studies. If you are wanting/needing assistance in catching up on your reporting, the Central Office in Austin maintains a list of contract abstractors that are available to help you. Also, if you do your own reporting and have gotten behind, staff at the regional office are available to answer any questions you may have. If training is an issue, we can provide one-on-one training on how to report at your facility. If interested, please call to schedule a date.

Staff at the region have been very busy collecting 1992 cases so we can do our part in obtaining statewide data for this year. Please accept our thanks for assisting us with this process.

A number of facilities are using Sandcrab Lite (the Texas Cancer Registry software) to report their cases. The software allows you to keep a record of the number of cases reported and also provides a list of patients reported. This helps both of us in preventing duplicate reporting. Also, please make sure that the registry number for 1996 cases start with 960001. If you need help with SCL, please contact Madelyn Lock in the Central Office at 1/800-252-8059.

The region is currently understaffed but we hope to have all personnel onboard by March 1997 to provide services to all reporting sites. Please continue to let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you with your accurate and timely reporting of cancer data.

REGION 1/9/10

Greetings from Lubbock!

The PHR 1-9-10 staff were able to breathe a sign of relief in August, for about three days. We had finally completed all aspects of case finding and quality assurance for all three regions for the years 1985-92. We want to thank all the hospitals who worked so hard to get their data to us. We really appreciate what happens when they realize how important it is that ALL CANCER CASES are reported!!!!!

KUDOS to: **OPAL GRASS, DMR & SANDRA RAMIREZ,** Memorial Hospital, Seminole, TX, who did their own case finding review back to 1985 and found more than 100 previously unreported cases. Imagine our surprise when a BOX from them showed up at our door!!!!! We appreciate their excitement and commitment to fighting cancer by supporting the Texas Cancer Registry.

We then turned our attention to catching up on the 1995 cases. To our chagrin, we found we had few hospitals that had completed the reporting for 1995. Shelley Jordan wrote an eye-catching newsletter and distributed it to all 83 reporting facilities. Over 40 facilities were out of compliance in some fashion - either failure in reporting their 1995 reporting or beginning their 1996. Response to the letter was tremendous and we now have only 9 hospitals that are out of compliance.

Staff also have been involved in other activities: Karen has been active with the Caprock Health Information Association and participated in College Careers Night where she had an opportunity to visit with students about the Texas Cancer Registry and the cancer registry profession. Shelley has provided training in Alpine, El Paso, Lubbock and Crosbyton. Most of these were individual hospital training, but group trainings are available. Shelley also served as the Clinical Site Educator for the South Plains College students during their rotation in Cancer Registry Management. We have been privileged to have a volunteer these past couple of months, Rosa Escamilla. She is an extremely talented and bright lady who has learned many things and has been a valuable asset to us. We fully expect that when she leaves us — she will find a job in the registry field.

We hope that we will have another "KUDOS" section next newsletter. We want to acknowledge the hard work and cooperation of all the hospitals that go above and beyond what is asked of them.



Employee

of the

Ouarter

Barry Wilson, who has been with the Texas Cancer Registry Central Office since April of 1992, was the most recent recipient of our "Employee of the Quarter Award". Barry works in the Epidemiology section as an Epidemiologist II. He is the primary contact person for addressing concerns of excess cancer throughout

the state. Before coming to the Registry, Barry worked as the Claims Payment and Payrun supervisor in the Chronically Ill and Disabled Children's Bureau of the Texas Department of Health (TDH). Prior to starting his career with TDH, Barry spent twenty-six years in the U.S. Navy as a hospital corpsman. He is currently completing requirements for a B.S. degree in Social Psychology. Congratulations Barry!!!

PERSONNEL UPDATES:

Wanda Rinehart

Wanda joins the Administrative Section as a Staff Services Officer III, formerly held by Jane Yoakum. Wanda has worked for TDH for nine years. While new to TCR, she has been behind the scenes on may TCR projects in the Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Control for the last three years. Wanda brings to the position a wealth of experience as related to grant writing, budgeting, purchasing, and TDH policies and procedures.

Georgia Allen

Georgia has rejoined the Administrative Section as an Administrative Technician II. Georgia comes back to us after 4 months with the Bureau of Chronically III and Disabled Children. Georgia is very excited about being back with friends and fellow walkers.

Annette VandeWerken

Annette joins the Quality Assurance Section as a Quality Control/Consolidation Manager, recently vacated by Velma Garza. Annette comes to us from the Texas Department on Aging and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program at TDH. She is a Registered Dietitian who has previously worked in the area of hospital patient care management and consulting.

Wanda Hamilton

Wanda joins the Houston Regional Office as a Clinical Records Tech. Wanda has worked for two years at the Children's Protective Services as a Community Service Aide.

Lupe Castaneda

Lupe joins the San Antonio Regional Office as a Clinical Records Tech. Lupe comes to us from the Chronically Ill and Disabled Children's Bureau of TDH. Her background is in Medical Records, but she is eager to learn more about the TCR operations.

Jean Tooke

Jean Tooke joins the Arlington Regional Office as a Public Health Technician II. Jean has worked with the Texas Department of Health for approximately 2 years, after she moved from Florida — following hurricane Andrew.

Elaine Allgood

Elaine Allgood joins the Arlington Regional Office as Program Manager. Elaine has an extensive background in the health care field, including previously working for both the Central Office in Austin and the Regional Office in Arlington.

We welcome all of you on board and believe that you will be an asset to the TCR operations.



Farewell To Old Friends

We at the central office as well as the Arlington regional office have had to say good-bye to some of our co-workers: Jim Hall, Rosalind Nelson and Kathi Franson from the Central office; Cindy Bolton, Tahareh Soltani-Duncan, and Carol Sorich from the Arlington office. All of us at the TCR wish them the best of luck with their new endeavors.



Upward Mobility

Velma Garza, CTR

The Registry has a new hire, in a familiar face. Velma Garza has been promoted to the Program Specialist III position, previously held by Tricia Vowels. In her capacity, Velma will be coordinating and overseeing the activities of the Quality Assurance (QA) and Special Projects Program of the TCR. Keep your eyes open for great things in this program!

Jane Yoakum

Jane Yoakum also a new hire, but a familiar face to all of us, has been promoted to Director of Regional Programs. She will be coordinating and overseeing all the activities of the regional staff. Jane started her career with the TDH as a Stenographer with General Services back in April 1967. She then moved on to the Cancer and Heart Program which is now the TCR as a Secretary and has been with TCR since December 1968. WOW! Jane brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new position.

Elena Faz, CTR

Elena Faz has recently been promoted to the position of Quality Control Analyst. She will be working closely with institutions submitting cancer data electronically. Elena has been with the cancer registry for 12 years where she began as an Administrative Technician.

We've Moved

The Central Office moved recently to 1101 Camino La Costa in Austin, which is close to the IH-35 and Highway 290 intersection, near the popular restaurant Pappadeaux. We want to thank all of you for your patience with us during this time. Our new telephone number and fax are 512/467-2239 and 512/467-8507, respectively. Our toll free number will remain 1-800-252-8059. Please remember our mailing address will remain:

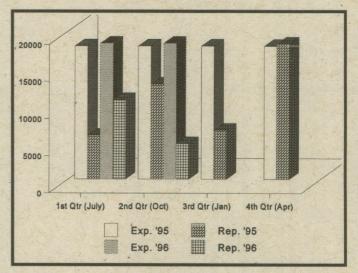
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TEXAS CANCER REGISTRY 1100 WEST 49TH ST. AUSTIN, TX 78756

Compliance Report

Quality audits on 1995 cases have begun. Do you know where your cancer cases are? If they are not at the Texas Cancer Registry, you are late!! As of December 1996, seventy-five percent of 1995 cases have been submitted. We need your cases in order to publish an annual report required by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Also, forty percent of your 1996 cases are due at the end of December 1996. As shown by the graph below, we are out to a slow start on our 1996 cases. We strongly encourage reporting institutions to get their cases sent in as soon as possible.

The TCR would like to once again thank all of the institutions in the state of Texas who have reported their cancer data. It is with your help and support that we are able to collect complete, timely and quality data.

Texas Cancer Reporting 1995 and 1996



Number of Cases Reported:

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
	(July)	(October)	(January)	(April)
1995:	5,911	12,781	6,596	18,251
1996:	10,705	4,771	0	0

Expected Cases Quarterly:

1995: 17,939 1996: 18,332



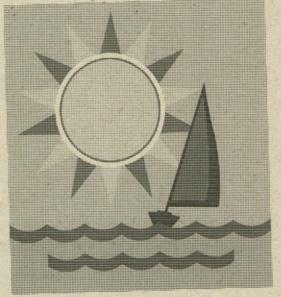
TCR Annual Conference

The TCR Annual Conference is scheduled for May 14-15, 1997 with both a basic reporting, conducted by TCR staff, and AJCC staging, conducted by Rosemary McKee, pre-conference planned for May 13th. This years conference will be held at Lago Vista Resorts which is located northwest of Austin, right on Lake Travis. Please see the enclosed tentative schedule for to get an idea of the program content. As always, there is no charge for our conference or for the planned

pre-conference work-Vista are \$38.00 a day double occupancy and cluded in the registration garding transportation to

Tentative topics for the view of Cancer Report-Association of Central Cluster Investigation; of Surgeons Update; Sumport; and Review of Leg-

The rooms at Lago Vista is a kitchen area with a



shops. The room rates for Lago single occupancy, \$55.00 \$25.00 a day for meals. Inpacket will be information reand from the airport.

conference include: an Overing by the North American Cancer Registries; Cancer TCR and American College mary of Border Health Reislative Issues.

Resorts are like suites. There sliding glass door, a murphy

bed and a sofa that folds out into a bed. There is also a bedroom area that has two double beds with a separate lockable entrance. There is an inside entrance from the kitchen area into the bedroom area, lockable from both sides. The kitchen has all the amenities, sink, full size refrigerator, stove and dishwasher. Both rooms have television and a telephone.

In the evenings at Lago Vista, there are many things to do. You can rent a boat, fish, golf on one of two golf course, set in the gazebo and watch the deer, walk along the path beside the lake, play tennis, participate in one of the activities we will have planned for the evening or just enjoy the beauty of the hill country in the spring time.

Watch your mail for registration forms and additional information about Lago Vista. Don't forget your boats, ski's, fishing poles, volley ball, bicycles, tennis racket, golf clubs, etc to enjoy all the sites at Lago Vista.

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