

10 Best Fests – save the date! | **Outlaws...** caught in the act!

texashighways.com » January 2013

Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

*We miss you
big fella ...
To see more about
the Texas State Fair,
see page 25*

Texas, to-do's

12 can't miss,
must do, can't call
yourself a Texan,
see 'em before
they're gone... **list**
see page 16



Plus:
**VINTAGE
CHARM IN
WINNSBORO**
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**DAYTRIPPIN'
TO LA GRANGE –
CZECH IT OUT!**
see page 60

Up Front

**A new year,
a new issue...**
and some great news
at *Texas Highways*!

This month, we welcome Creative Director Mark Mahorsky, whose design and publishing talents will spearhead *TH's* magazine and website redesign in 2013. Mark and our team of editors, designers, and photographers are planning not only a fresh look, but more content



Zombies in Paris (Texas)
family fun, recipes, travel products, contest giveaways, and reader recommendations)—all with our usual blend of out-of-the-way finds, scenery, history, and destinations grand and hidden. And we want to hear from

YOU, our wonderful readers: If there's something you'd like to see—or see more of—in your *TH*, drop us a line.

And mark your new 2013 calendar: This month's Trip Tip comes from Photography Editor Griff Smith, who at press time had just returned from Paris (Texas), where the annual fall Festival of Pumpkins is regularly invaded by a delightfully frightful Zombie Walk. Check out the slideshow at www.texashighways.com/upfront, and stay tuned for our scary story on this October's event, when the zombies will once again awake from their brain-starved slumber... Happy New Year, and happy travels!

Jill Lawless, Editor

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BE HEARD: READER FAVES

Have a favorite restaurant, diner, or dive? Recommend your "hot" travel spot at www.texashighways.com/upfront.

BE SEEN: THINK SPRING!

Take a drive this upcoming wildflower season and remember to bring your camera. Submit your photos to www.texashighways.com/upfront.



SNEAK PEEK: SPECIAL ISSUE BIG BEND

NEXT MONTH: A photographer's high-country hike in the Chisos Mountains, Tex Toler's local perspective on Marfa, stargazing from McDonald Observatory, and it's all Big Bend! Need we say more?

We are here!



COVER STORY

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Texas To-Do's

Learn how oil changed Texas! Revel in the blue-bonnets! See the sea turtles! Search for Marfa Lights! We bring you your 2013 travel calendar, one month at a time.

Text by HELEN BRYANT



Destinations

- Greene **5**
- Austin **10 (+61)**
- Abilene **13**
- Beaumont **16**
- Port Aransas/
Rockport
- San Antonio **(+36, 44)**
- Goliad
- La Porte
- Willow City Loop
- Odessa
- Ingram
- Padre Island
Natl. Seashore/
South Padre Island
- Palo Duro Canyon
State Park
- Dallas **(+36, 52)**
- Balmorhea
- Caddo Lake
State Park
- Fort Worth **(+52)**
- Houston
- Marfa
- Winnsboro **28**
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- Buda
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Check out www.texashighways.com for more travel information

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Text and photographs by **RANDY MALLORY**

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Text by **T. LINDSAY BAKER**

44 | Save the Date
 Shake up your routine in 2013 with festival picks ranging from the Chicken-Fried Steak Festival in Lamesa to Shamrock's St. Patrick's Day Celebration. (Guys, keep your eyes on the prize: Start growing your Donegal "chin curtain" beard on January 1.)

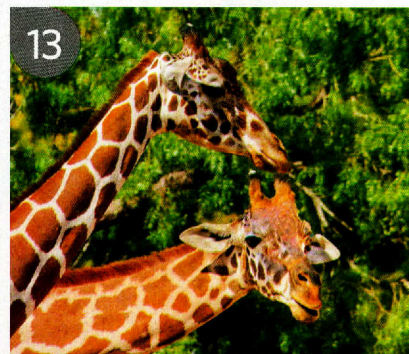
Text by **CLAIRE RONNER**



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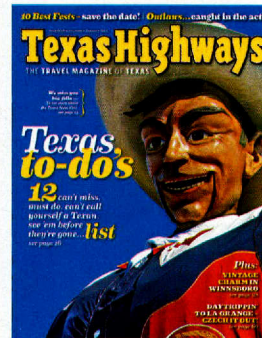
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Photographers have a slew of clever tricks to bring out the best in their images. Photo Editor Griff Smith uses a hair dryer to melt imperfections in an assortment of chocolate.



About Our Covers

FRONT: Big Tex—the 52-foot-tall, denim-clad official greeter and oft-designated meeting spot at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas—succumbed to fire during the last days of the 2012 celebration. But fest organizers promise he'll be back for the 2013 extravaganza. **Photo courtesy Kevin Brown, State Fair of Texas**

BACK: Dedicated to human-powered puppetry, members of the Austin Bike Zoo brought their kinetic creations to last February's Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest. **Photo © E. Dan Klepper**

Photographic Prints Available



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stay all night, stay a little longer

"We have found many ideas for mini-vacations in TH. Love the magazine!"

—VANESSA WEINGART HECK, TH Facebook Fan

Oak Marks the Spot

Regarding Ralph Yznaga's story on historic trees [November]: I especially enjoyed reading about the Heart O' Texas Oak in Mercury. When I was young, my parents would travel to Brady to buy and sell produce that we raised in the community of Holt. We would pass within view of the tree and a beautiful white, two-story home on the property, and I would always ask if we could turn off onto FM 1028 and look at the home, which had an American flag flying in the front yard. My parents would tell me that the tree was the true center of Texas. I still drive past it every time I go hunting

More TH Talk at www.texashighways.com/talk

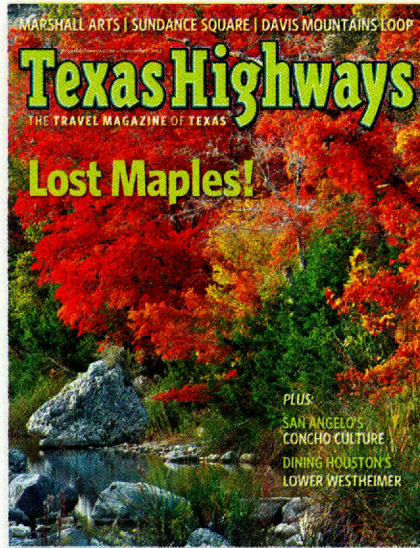
TH READER RECOMMENDATION

Sirloins and Movie Sets

CATTLEMAN'S Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch is a must-see and -eat place. Many movies have been filmed out there (tour the ranch to see the sets) and there is a lot for kids to see and do!

STEPH WAKEEM, TH Facebook Fan

Cattleman's Steakhouse at Indian Cliffs Ranch is 35 minutes east of El Paso (from I-10E, take Exit 49/Fabens and go 4.5 miles north), 915/544-3200; www.cattlemanstranch.com.



about two miles up the road. Thanks for the article—it took me home.

LEROY WARE, Brownwood

Ho, Ho, Ho—and Howdy, Folks

With the news of the burning of the State Fair's Big Tex, I happened to run across Nancy Wiley's article on him in Speaking of Texas [December 2004]. She writes that after World War II the merchants of Kerens were looking for a gimmick to encourage people to shop locally, so the chamber of commerce built the "world's largest Santa Claus" in 1949. In the next few years the novelty wore off and they sold the Santa to State Fair president R.L. Thornton for \$750, who in turn hired artist Jack Bridges to create the huge cowboy. Big Tex debuted in 1952, towering 52 feet and wearing size 70 boots, a 75-gallon hat, and jeans and a plaid shirt donated by the H.D. Lee Company. As a Santa, he wasn't very pretty, but as a cowboy, Big Tex was an icon.

SHARON STEVENS, TH Facebook Fan

CONTACT TH

We want to hear from you! Send feedback and recommendations to: *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. Email: letters05@texashighways.com. We reserve the right to edit items. Because we're unable to check out every recommendation, and because hours vary and details can change, please call ahead for more information.

Please pass this magazine along!

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IRMA MEMBER, INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL MAGAZINE ASSOCIATION



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Postcards

INSIDE: VIETNAMESE CUISINE: UPTOWN OR HOMESTYLE...10 ABILENE'S ATTRACTIONS...13



"I love traditional music—old songs that cross time and space to tell you what the people cared about," says Austin-based singer-songwriter Owen Temple.

See!

More on Gruene Hall at texashighways.com/postcards

The Scene in Gruene

Secrets of New Braunfels' Gruene Historic District Text by **LORI MOFFATT**

SEATED AT AN OAK-SHADED picnic table overlooking the Guadalupe River, I'm digging into a tenderloin-and-spinach salad at the Gristmill Restaurant in the Gruene Historic District of New Braunfels and wondering what it must have been like here at the turn of the 20th Century. No composed

salads or Herradura margaritas, I'm betting—but there would have been plenty of cotton in the area, and all of it would have been ginned right here in Henry D. Gruene's gristmill, the bones of which today form the restaurant.

Cotton was once King in Gruene, as it was in much of Texas, and cotton is what

inspired an ambitious Henry Gruene—the second son of German immigrant Ernst Gruene—to bring in dozens of families in the 1870s to sharecrop the 6,000 fertile acres his family bought along the river. Eventually, Henry Gruene built homes, a post office, a general store, a bank, and a dance hall to cater to the men and

women who provided the muscle for his cotton enterprise. By all accounts, the town thrived (and H.D. made a fortune) until the boll weevil blight made a wreck of things in the 1920s and ushered in a slow decline.

Today, though, the entire community—the 1878 dance hall and iconic Gruene water tower, dozens of shops and restaurants, a few hotels and B&Bs, a small winery, a day spa, and a serpentine, captivating stretch of the Guadalupe River—is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The entire historic district is easy to explore on foot; you can amble from one end of the district to the other in less than 15 minutes. In fact, Gruene still doesn't have (or need) a traffic light.

"We don't have a museum here in Gruene," says Dee Buck, co-owner of Buck Pottery, "so I always tell people to go over to Gruene Hall and look at the photos of all the people who have played there." Dee

Prickly-pear cactus and native cenizo brighten pathways throughout the Gruene Historic District. In the background is the Gruene Antique Company.

and his wife, Terry, arrived in Gruene in 1982 and transformed H.D. Gruene's storage barn into a pottery and retail shop. "That old dance hall is the heart and soul of this place," he says.

Dee Buck speaks the truth. Push open the squeaky screened door of Gruene Hall into the bar area, in fact, and you'll find at least 100 signed photographs of musicians who have played the hall over the years. Here is a veritable collage of country-music and rock-pop royalty, including publicity stills of Jimmie Vaughan, Lucinda Williams, Buddy Guy,



Merle Haggard, Lyle Lovett, Rosie Flores, Little Feat, Jerry Jeff Walker, Chris Isaak, and a young George Strait, who first played here with his Ace in the Hole band



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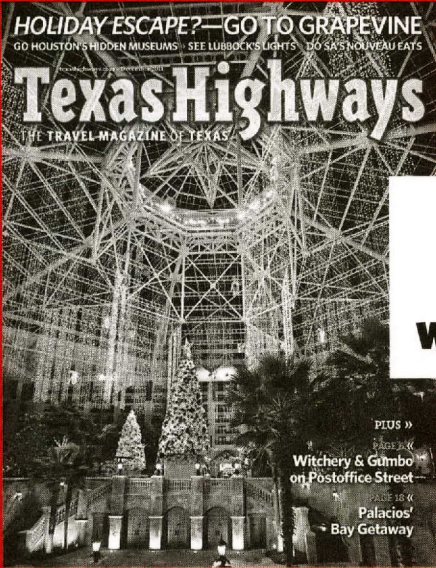
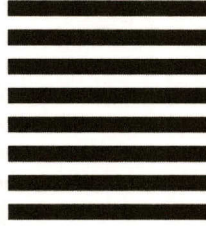
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in 1975, when the hall reopened for business after a long slumber.

Gruene visionary Pat Molak kick-started the district's recovery in the mid-1970s when he and business partner Mary Jane Nalley bought the dance hall and began to restore the surrounding buildings, including the old gristmill. "We had our big coup in the fall of 1975," Pat says.

Grab a scoop of Blue Bell ice cream at the Gruene General Store, which used to be the community's post office.



Pink feathered boas and bedazzled Harley-Davidson sun visors are as easy to come by as vintage cowboy boots and 1930s apothecary jars.

"We had been having dances for four months, and we were hearing about a band in San Marcos called the Ace in the Hole band, led by a fellow named George Strait. We hired them for 150 bucks. They played here until the early 1980s, when George got his contract in Nashville."

"That was an interesting time," says Dee Buck. "Terry and I happened to visit Gruene in 1982, and we met Pat and Mary Jane, who had been buying up buildings and starting to lease them. They had already restored the gristmill and opened the restaurant, and of course there was Gruene Hall. We eventually decided to take a look at the old barn. There's a connection to history in Gruene that mirrors why we're attracted to the craft of pottery, which speaks of how people lived their everyday lives."

There's a comforting and invigorating

4 Gruene Game Plans

1 FLOAT A STRETCH of the **Guadalupe** (arrange equipment and logistics through Rockin' R River Rides). Pick up a Gruene T-shirt or a new hat at **Gruene Trading Company**, built in the 1880s as a home for H.D. Gruene's foreman. Have a pulled-pork sandwich and a Shiner Bock at the **Gristmill Restaurant**. Then go dancing or see live music at **Gruene Hall**. Stay at downtown New Braunfels' **Faust Hotel & Brewing Company** (rates start at \$99 per night).

2 START OFF WITH an espresso and a muffin at **Gruene Coffee Haus**. Spend a few hours exploring **Gruene Antique Company** (check out the antique vault, a relic from when the building was a bank), then inspect the cool fossils and geodes at **Natural**

Selections. Chow down on Shiner Bock onion rings and a Char-King burger at **Mozie's Bar and Grill**. Stay overnight at the **Gruene River Inn**, where private decks overlook the Guadalupe (rates start at \$145 per night).

3 SHOP FOR TOYS (finger puppets! boomerangs! disco balls! Oscar Wilde action figures!) at **Got Toys**, have a scoop of Blue Bell ice cream at the **Gruene General Store** (the original town post office), take a fly-fishing lesson from the pros at **Gruene Outfitters**, enjoy a plate of nachos at **Adobe Verde** (turn the kids loose at the playground), pose for an old-West family portrait at **Smiling Eyes Photo Gallery** (prices for four people start at \$51), then play a game of **horseshoes** at

Gruene Hall. Kid-friendly hotels abound in New Braunfels proper.

4 BOOK A MASSAGE at the **Gruene Day Spa**, then shop for something sparkly next door at **Hillbilly Chic**. Admire English and French country antiques (and look for ghosts) at **Black Swan Antiques**, then pick up a sturdy, beautiful coffee mug at **Buck Pottery**. Update your wardrobe with affordably priced, women's on-trend casual wear and accessories at **Simply Detailed**. Sample a flight of wines at **The Grapevine**—a wine shop and tasting room with a heavy focus on Texas wines—then tuck into a T-bone at the **Gristmill**. Stay overnight at the **Gruene Mansion Inn** (rates start at \$190 per night).

—Lori Moffatt

Postcards



The handmade wares at Buck Pottery—made from Texas clay—create a tangible link to place and history.

juxtaposition of old and new in Gruene, where pink feathered boas and bedazzled Harley-Davidson sun visors are as easy to come by as vintage cowboy boots and 1930s apothecary jars. And despite the historic district's lack of a formal entity dedicated to telling its history, it's easy to find evidence of 19th-Century Gruene if you know where to look—and listen.

Gruene still doesn't have (or need) a traffic light.

Since most of the buildings here were built more than a century ago, wooden floors throughout the district squeak pleasantly beneath your footsteps; outside, gravel pathways trimmed with purple plumbago and lantana crunch rhythmically as you stroll from shop to shop. Inside the Gruene General Store, along with Davy Crockett coonskin caps and displays of personalized license plates, you'll find a stack of vintage mailboxes that attest to the structure's beginnings

The entire Gruene Historic District is easy to explore on foot.

black Victor Safe & Lock Co. vault that remains from the building's days as a bank. The two-story Victorian Gruene Mansion Inn—once the home of Henry Gruene and his family—boasts broad, wraparound porches and a vintage Zenith radio in the dining room.

And down the street, the restored former home of Henry Gruene's youngest daughter, now the site of Black Swan Antiques, is said to be haunted. "I've never encountered a ghost myself," says shop

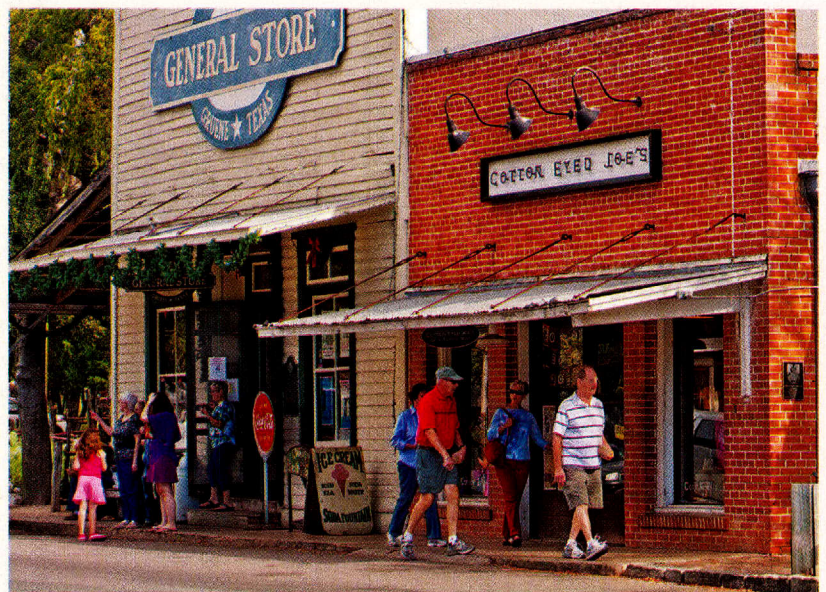
owner Jim Benson, "but we've had quite a few reports. Most recently, we had an antique English kitchen scale in the back room, and customers told us the weights started bouncing. Another time, employees told me that they heard a bang, and that a 1920s minnow bucket appeared to have been thrown across the room."

Perhaps that particular ghost simply wanted to go fishing: It's hard to imagine that Gruene's original founders would be unhappy with how things have turned out in their town. There's live music here seven days a week, plentiful dining and drinking spots, river recreation in the warm months, and shopping opportunities to reflect nearly every aesthetic.

"Gruene is about rust and dust," says Pat Molak. "Even as we expand, we use recycled and reclaimed materials, bury utility lines, landscape with native plants, and try to keep the old feel. If you sit on a bench in front of the dance hall facing the old mercantile building, you'll forget what year it is." **TH**

Gruene

For details, see www.gruenetexas.com and www.nbcham.org.



PHOTOS: MICHAEL AMADOR

Do!

Visit the LBJ Library's expanded store.



LBJ's custom-built Lincoln Continental limousine is on display in the library's lobby.

Rolling Out a New Dawn

Austin's LBJ Presidential Library launches innovative museum exhibits and a new identity

ON DECEMBER 22, THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LADY BIRD

Johnson's birthday, the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin unveils its redesigned, state-of-the-art museum exhibits after a one-year renovation. Opening-day festivities include live music and a birthday cake.

In an auditorium fitted with benches and a 180-degree, curved screen, a 12-minute film introduces guests to the President. Interactive displays and more than 30 of LBJ's taped conversations with other influential Americans convey the current and historical relevancy of the administration's initiatives.

Smart phone applications provide guided audio tours of the highlights in both Spanish and English. In a multimedia tour, Lady Bird reflects on exhibits in her own words complete with home movies and other images. Three more theater spaces show films on civil rights, legislation, and life in the White House.

At an interactive table in the Great Hall, guests are invited to comment on how Johnson's legislative legacy affects them today.

At another interactive display, equipped with the actual information provided to LBJ under the pressure of a ticking clock, visitors explore pivotal decisions about the Vietnam War.

An animatronic LBJ tells jokes and stories, and cartoon flipbooks show how editorial cartoonists captured the administration at that time. Three sections span the zeitgeist of 13 years, from the launch of Sputnik in 1957 to the end of Johnson's presidency in 1969.

A temporary exhibit in January will feature the best photojournalism from the UT Briscoe Center for American History. Call 512/721-0200; www.lbjlibrary.org.
—Elena Watts

COURTESY LBJ PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY; PHOTO BY LAUREN GERSON



South Padre Island is the place. The place where the road ends, the island life begins, and visitors are welcomed like family. Where neckties were outlawed and flip flops are considered formal wear. Where sunrises and sunsets are spectator sports. Where fun fies and it's always five o'clock. Where there is always something to do and where doing nothing is really something.



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Taking it From the Streets

A fresh look at Vietnamese cooking in Austin

Text by **LORI MOFFATT**

I love the aroma of grilled meats with fresh mint, basil, and cilantro; the acidic kick of lime and chilies; the curious saltiness of anchovy-based fish sauce.



TH tip
More on North Lamar's 'restaurant row' at texashighways.com/thtaste

Shrimp-and-sweet-potato fritters, a rice vermicelli bowl topped with barbecued pork and egg rolls, and custard-filled cream puffs at Austin's Tam Deli.

SOME OF MY FAVORITE RESTAURANTS LIE IN HOMELY NORTH AUSTIN strip malls surrounded by discount cell-phone providers, used-tire outlets, pawn shops, locksmiths, and public storage facilities. When I'm seeking culinary adventures on a budget, I traipse north of US 183, where a several-mile stretch of Lamar Boulevard harbors the most ethnically diverse assortment of restaurants in the city. Here is where you'll find vegetarian Indian *dosas* (think crunchy 18-inch crepes), Korean grilled mackerel, Indian popsicles called *kulfi*, Hong Kong-style curry buns, and grocery stores specializing in fascinating foodstuffs from throughout the world.

I'm willing to forgive the often-uninspired décor and unflattering lighting for a chance to taste something I've never had before. But recently, as foodie friends have adopted a preference for organic and locally sourced cuisine, it's harder to persuade them to make the trek. Let's face it: While I've always found the food on North Lamar's restaurant row to be delicious and fresh, these are not restaurants where the cooks have coddled their chickens.

Lately, though, I've noticed successful chefs in Austin turning ethnic street food on its ear by preparing it with organic meat and produce. And in the case of Vietnamese food in town, when I dug a little deeper, I discovered a heartening connection between one of the savviest restaurateurs in Austin and a 13-year-old Vietnamese deli known for its baguette sandwiches and cream puffs.

In late 2011, chefs and restaurateurs Larry McGuire and Tom Moorman opened a

Vietnamese-French restaurant called Elizabeth Street Café in a former coffee shop in south Austin. Not only do they use organic meats and locally sourced produce, but the décor here—inspired by 1950s Hanoi—makes the café as worthy of a date night as a quick lunch.

What I love about Vietnamese fare—whether it’s prepared at Elizabeth Street Café or at the myriad mom-and-pop joints on North Lamar—lies in its beguiling contrasts: the aroma of grilled meats with fresh mint, basil, and cilantro; the acidic kick of lime and chilies; the curious saltiness of ubiquitous, anchovy-based fish sauce. When it’s cold outside, I crave a satisfying bowl of the noodle soup called *pho*, fragrant from hours of simmering and brightened at the table with creamy-white bean sprouts, sprigs of basil and cilantro, and a liberal squeeze of lime. Sometimes I’ll order a dish called the *banh xeo*, a crispy, rice-flour crepe served with a salty-sweet-sour dipping

sauce called *nuoc cham*.

On my last visit to Elizabeth Street, I dug into a simple *banh mi*, a Vietnamese sandwich made with barbecued pork, shredded carrot and cucumber, and thin slices of jalapeños. “What’s cool about Vietnamese food is that it’s based on inexpensive cuts of meat, noodles and rice, and fresh herbs and vegetables,” Larry told me. “But the reason it works so well in Texas is that it’s a hot-climate food. It’s light and satisfying at the same time, with changes of both texture and temperature—like when you add cold bean sprouts and fresh herbs to a hot soup.”

A few days later at lunch up on North Lamar, I savored spoonfuls of rich beef broth at a little spot called Tam Deli, slurping noodles and watching sisters Tam Bui and Tran Ngoc dash from kitchen to table



with platters of soups, vermicelli bowls, and *banh mi* sandwiches. On the wall next

Elizabeth Street Café rein-
terprets Vietnamese fare
with organic meats and
locally sourced produce.

to the bakery case, which is filled with cream puffs and sticky-rice snacks, there’s a photo of Lady Bird Johnson and her family at Tam Deli, along with images of the sisters as teenagers in Vietnam.

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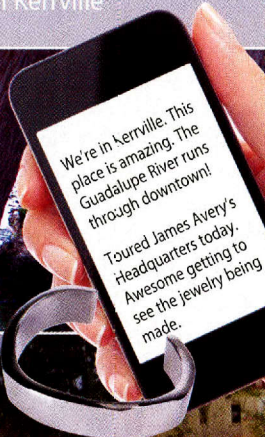
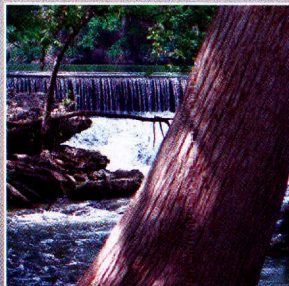
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Taste

Water trickled from a bamboo fountain near the doorway, and each time an order was ready, Tam or Tran would ring a little bell, and out came another tempting dish I'd vow to order next time.

Tran was a student at the University of Texas during the 1970s, and after the fall of Saigon in '75, her family made its way to Texas. Eventually, Tran and Tam opened a restaurant, using family recipes passed down from their mother and relatives in Vietnam.

Famous for its delicate, custard-filled cream puffs; its fabulous *banh mi*; and during the holidays, its French *bûche Noël* cake, Tam Deli nonetheless has items on the menu that don't appeal to me personally. I was unimpressed recently with a salt-and-pepper squid platter (too fried and too plain), but of course home-cooking of all genres has both bold and simple flavors. "I would say that my favorite thing on the menu is our *banh xeo*," says Tran. "It's shrimp and pork in a crepe, and we serve it with leaf lettuce and herbs, and you wrap it up and dip it in *nuoc cham*. We eat that sauce with everything."

Later, I asked Larry what he thought about some of my North Lamar favorites. "I think the *banh mi* at Tam Deli is really good," he told me. "In fact, some of the things on our menu are homages to the menu at Tam, like our shrimp-and-yam fritters. I've been eating at Tam Deli since I was in middle school. I'd go there with my mom, and it was one of my favorite places to eat."

"Vietnamese food, in general, is very light, fresh, and satisfying," says Tran. "To newcomers, I would say, just give the food a try. I think you will like it." **TH**

Vietnamese Fare, Uptown and Home-style

Elizabeth Street Café, 1501 S. 1st St., Austin. Call 512/291-2881; www.elizabethstreetcafe.com.

Tam Deli, 8222 North Lamar, Austin. Call 512/834-6458.



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FUN FINDS ALONG THE ROAD



Children delight in the hands-on exhibits in the Grace Museum, where a hidden bird's nest awaits in a two-level Texas pecan tree and a sound wall produces musical notes.

TH tip

The Abilene Round Up Pass offers a discount for six attractions

Centering on Abilene

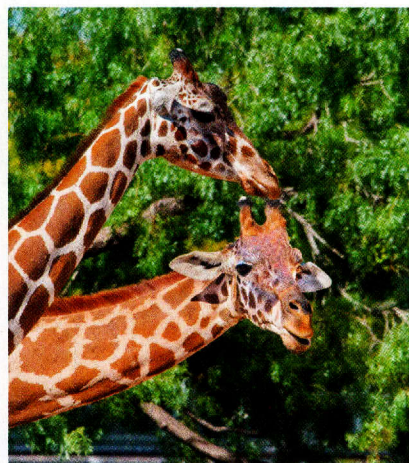
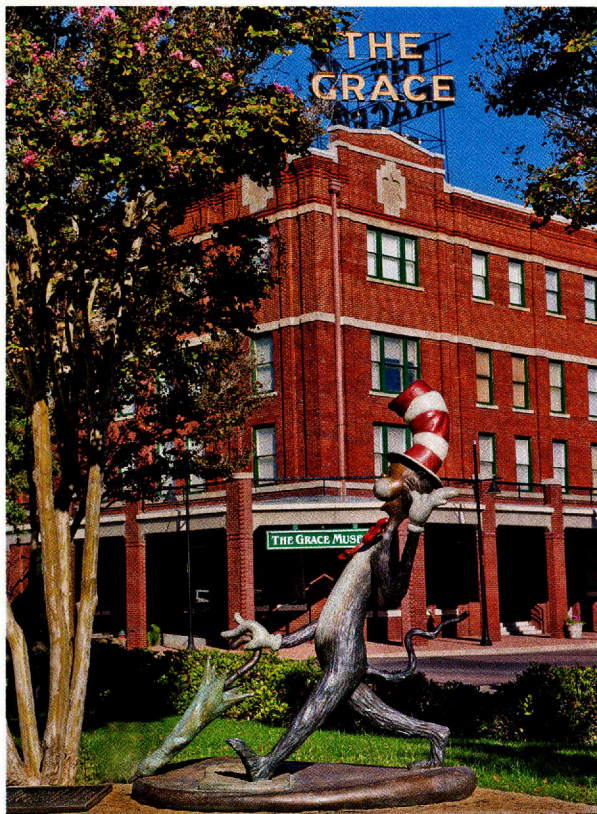
This plains city's attraction draws on its rich cultural experiences

Text by **MELISSA GASKILL**

IF YOU DRAW A BIG CIRCLE ON A MAP OF TEXAS CONNECTING the dots of San Antonio, Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Midland/Odessa, Abilene appears smack in the middle. The town's mid-Texas location didn't happen by accident, but it came about thanks to the path of the Texas and Pacific Railway, completed in 1881. Abilene's rolling landscape and mild weather account for part of the city's appeal today; its friendly, hard-working citizens deserve credit for developing a weekend-worthy list of things to do and see.

I started my exploration of Abilene at Frontier Texas, where interactive exhibits explore the century (1780-1880) when the area transformed from wide-open prairie where buffalo roamed into the community that would become modern Abilene. The frontier-fort-style facility tells stories through the voices and images of "spirit guides," including a Native American, a soldier, a buffalo hunter, a cattle driver, a former slave, and a frontier woman, as well as Cynthia Ann Parker, the mother of the last Comanche chief, Quanah Parker. You'll see 360-degree movies and life-size replicas of buffalo, tipis, soldiers, and Longhorns; listen in on period music and conversations; and witness dramatic frontier battles. Visitors can climb into a chuckwagon or stagecoach, see where trail drives went and forts were located, and watch fireflies blink overhead. Outside, kids can run on the wide-open parade ground, climb into an enormous buffalo skull sculpture, and let their inspired imaginations go wild.

Downtown contains several museums worthy of a long visit, all within walking



FROM LEFT: Five more bronze Seuss characters will join the “Cat in the Hat” in the Storybook Sculpture Garden on April 11. See giraffes up close from an elevated walkway at the Abilene Zoo.

distance of each other. The National Center for Children’s Illustrated Literature, or “the nickel” as locals call it, occupies a handsome brick building on the corner of 1st and Cedar streets. I didn’t have any children along, but I enjoyed the current exhibit, *Raúl Colón: Tall Tales and Huge Hearts*, on view through March 29. Colón illustrated more than 30 children’s books employing a combination of watercolor washes and pencil to create rich colors and texture. In addition to viewing his original illustrations, you can also buy Colón’s books, as well as those of other beloved children’s authors, in the center’s bookstore.

At the next corner along 1st Street, the four-story Grace Museum occupies the Mission Revival-style 1909 Grace Hotel. A neon sign glows on the rooftop, and the museum hosts an interesting collection of permanent and traveling exhibits. Check out the third-floor permanent history display, with an authentic 1940s-era boot shop, early-1900s kitchen, late-1800s

traveling exhibits of works by various artists. The current main exhibit on the first floor, *Wild Things* (through Jan. 26), features Texas flora and fauna painted in vivid colors by Billy Hassell and rendered in unusual sculptures by David Everett. A hands-on children’s museum on the third floor includes a sound wall, where touching different spots produces musical notes, meaning kids can make a joyful noise doing what they do best: wiggling. Kids can also explore a two-level pecan tree, watch a Texas tornado, and create an original artwork.

Catty-corner to the Grace and next to the restored Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot, Everman Park’s Storybook Sculpture Garden houses a whimsical collection, including a pig on wheels and the bronze “Childhood’s Great Adventure,” based on William Joyce’s book *Santa Calls*. A bronze “Cat in the Hat” was dedicated during last June’s inaugural Children’s Art and Literature Festival, which spotlighted the works of author and artist

Dr. Seuss. And, on April 11, Abilene will unveil five additional Seuss sculptures, including Horton, Grinch, and The Lorax, all by artist Leo Rijn.

Farther afield, the Abilene Zoo in Nelson Park houses snakes, birds, lions, tigers, rhinos, zebras, and alligators. Highlights for me included a bridge over the giraffe enclosure, where I bought crackers and fed the long-necked—

and long-tongued—creatures by hand, and the flock of pink-feathered, stilt-legged flamingoes. In 2012, the birds produced their first two chicks. Director Bill Gersonde attributes that success to the addition of 12 members to the flock (the birds prefer large groups) and perfection

Everman Park boasts a bronze “Cat in the Hat,” honoring the works of Dr. Seuss. Friendly giraffes frolick at the Abilene Zoo.

of a clay mixture for their nests. Flamingoes use their prodigious beaks to build mud towers on the ground, upon which they incubate a single egg. This requires clay hard enough to hold up to rain and web-footed traffic, but pliable enough for the birds to work with. The zoo hit on a flamingo-friendly dirt formula, Gersonde says, and he hopes to see more chicks this coming summer.

In West Texas, chowing down on a big, juicy steak is a must, and I had mine at Perini Ranch Steakhouse, a former hay barn on a family ranch 10 miles south of town near Buffalo Gap. In addition to

steaks, a Sunday lunch offers Southern-style comfort food such as fried chicken, smoked ham, and chicken-fried steak at picnic tables on the tree-shaded patio. Save room for the Perini Ranch Bread Pudding—the bread is sourdough, and the sauce includes Jack Daniels whiskey.

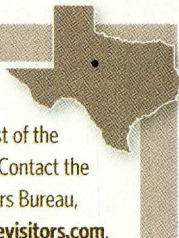
Locals also rave about the steaks at the understated yet elegant Beehive Restaurant and Saloon downtown, but a shish kebab is also a good choice; owners Ali and Nairman Esfandiary emigrated from Iran, where skewered meats are a specialty. For barbecue fans, Betty Rose's Little Brisket's two locations serve mesquite-smoked brisket and pork ribs with all the sides and all-you-can-eat catfish on Friday and Saturday nights.

When you're ready to rest for the night, interesting lodging options include the Main House at Perini Ranch, a restored 1885 farmhouse that sleeps five, or the three-person Camp House. In nearby Abilene State Park, hit the hay in a yurt, a round, Mongolian-style tent (with modern touches such as beds and electricity). Or, stay close to downtown Abilene in one of the nine upscale Sayles Ranch Guesthouses, which have one to four bedrooms and Western furnishings.

During the week, I recommend having lunch at Bogie's deli in the heart of downtown, where sandwiches named Key Largo (turkey) and The Caine Mutiny (corned beef) make ordering something almost as much fun as eating there. If you're into craft beers, Cypress Street Station and Abilene Brewing Company, a single establishment in an airy building with brick walls and high, pressed-tin ceilings, offers flights of four brews. That makes for a relaxing finale to an amazing Abilene weekend. **TH**

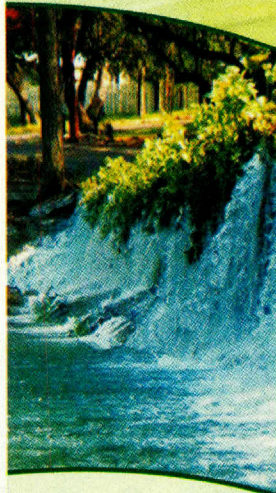
Abilene

is on I-20 about 150 miles west of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. Contact the Abilene Convention and Visitors Bureau, 800/727-7704; www.abilenevisitors.com.



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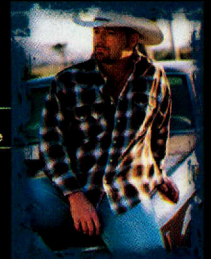
Feb.
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2013



2/8/13 - Friday
Enston Corbin



2/9/13 - Saturday
Whiskey Myers



2/9/13 - Saturday
Chris Cagle



2/9/13 - Saturday
Chubby Carrier
and the Bayou Swamp Band




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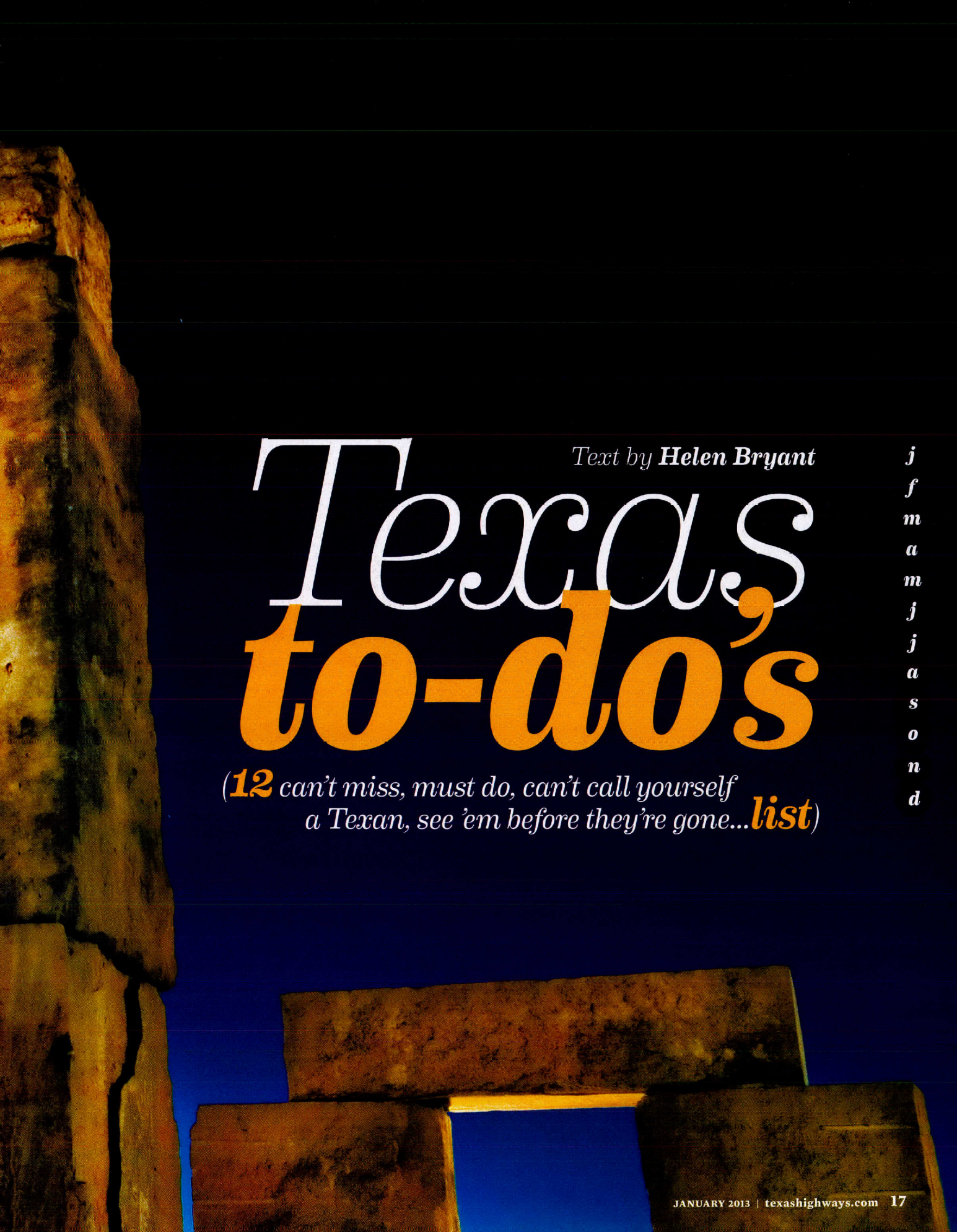
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The stones in Odessa's Stonehenge replica were placed in the same arrangement as those in the original Stonehenge west of Amesbury, England.



Text by **Helen Bryant**

Texas to-do's

(**12** can't miss, must do, can't call yourself
a Texan, see 'em before they're gone...**list**)

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Sometimes

you can spy a whooper or two in the marsh through a free telescope on the refuge's observation tower.

In a good year, you'll see bluebonnets so thick they'll look like blue rivers in your photos.

Odessa's Stonehenge has stones placed in the precise arrangement as the stones on England's Salisbury Plain.

Our vast state boasts treasures around every bend, but some speak most strongly to Texas' nature, history, and residents' sense of fun. We've selected a dozen such iconic experiences to recommend for 2013, admittedly just the tip of Texas' amazing iceberg.

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Visit these or re-experience your favorites.

(Remember, getting there is half the fun.)

East Texas *(Learn how oil changed Texas)*

On January 10, 1901, the Lucas gusher at Spindletop spewed black gold into the Texas sky, heralding a momentous and enduring shift in the Texas—and world—economy. Celebrate with a pilgrimage to Beaumont, where it all began. At the site of the Spindletop salt dome, a marker tells the gusher's story. But just a mile north, the Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum re-creates not only the oil derrick but also the boomtown that Beaumont became in 1901. Watch a film on the state's first oil strike, poke your head into a replica of a turn-of-the-20th-Century saloon, and, on special occasions, watch the re-created derrick spew a geyser of water into the air.

Then go to downtown Beaumont and learn the science behind the oil industry at the Texas Energy Museum, which explains how prehistoric life turned into oil and how oil is refined into gasoline. You can pretend you're piloting an oil tanker past Port Arthur, hear accounts of the 1901 gusher in the words of visionary Pattillo Higgins and driller Anthony Lucas, and learn about the many products—from cosmetics to household plastics—that owe their existence to petroleum.



january

The Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum, Beaumont. Call 409/880-1750; www.spindletop.org.
Texas Energy Museum, Beaumont. Call 409/833-5100; www.texasenergymuseum.org.



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MEN OF VISION

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february

The Texas coast (*Whoop it up with the cranes*)

Every year, from October through March—and sometimes into April—hundreds of endangered whooping cranes show up to spend the winter on the Texas coast after flying more than 2,500 miles from their summer homes in Canada. The best place to find them? Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, north of Rockport.

Sometimes you can spy a whooper or two in the marsh through a free telescope on the refuge's observation tower, but for a much better chance to see more than a few birds, book a boat ride out of Rockport or Port Aransas. With a boat, you can get close to watch the birds through binoculars as they hunt for blue crabs in the marshes.

For a weekend celebrating these majestic birds, attend the **Whooping Crane Festival** (www.whoopingcrane-festival.org) February 21-24 in Port Aransas, which offers field trips, an overnight nature photography workshop, guest speakers, and a nature-themed trade show. **Aransas National Wildlife Refuge**, Austwell. Call

361/286-3559; www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/aransas/. For recommendations on birding boats, contact the **Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce** (www.rockport-fulton.org; 800/242-0071) or the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce (www.portaransas.org; 361/749-5919).

San Antonio, Goliad, and La Porte

(Get in touch with Texas history)

Celebrate Texas Independence Day (March 2) by visiting the big three: the Alamo, Presidio La Bahía, and San Jacinto. More than 2.5 million visitors annually visit the Alamo in San Antonio, where Texian soldiers held out for 13 days in February and March 1836 against soldiers of the Mexican Army led by General Santa Anna. When you visit, take the time to stroll through the garden, where a live oak transplanted here a century ago evokes a sense of living history. Take note, too, of the round hole to the right of the chapel entrance; a cannonball made it.

About 90 miles east of San Antonio, one mile south of Goliad, you can see one of the world's finest examples of a Spanish frontier fort at Presidio La Bahía, where Colonel James Fannin and more than 300 troops were massacred on March 27, 1836. Now a National Historic Landmark, Presidio La Bahía includes the original chapel and carefully reconstructed fort, where you can see spurs, weapons from the Mexican army,

pottery, and coins from the period, as well as displays about the Texas Revolution. For an unusual lodging experience, stay overnight in the officer's quarters, which are said to be haunted.

Finally, visit the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site east of Houston in La Porte, where on April 21, 1836, Texian troops led by General Sam Houston vanquished Santa Anna's troops and won freedom for Texas. Tour the San Jacinto Museum of History, at the base of the San Jacinto Monument, then take the elevator 489 feet to the top for a sweeping view of the battleground, the Houston ship channel, and the Battleship *TEXAS*, a dreadnought that served in the first and second World Wars.

During Presidio La Bahía's living-history programs in March, reenactors depicting Mexican soldiers guard the doors of Our Lady of Loreto chapel, where James Fannin and his men were held before their deaths in 1836.

The Alamo, San Antonio.

Call 210/225-1391; www.thealamo.org.

Presidio La Bahía, Goliad.

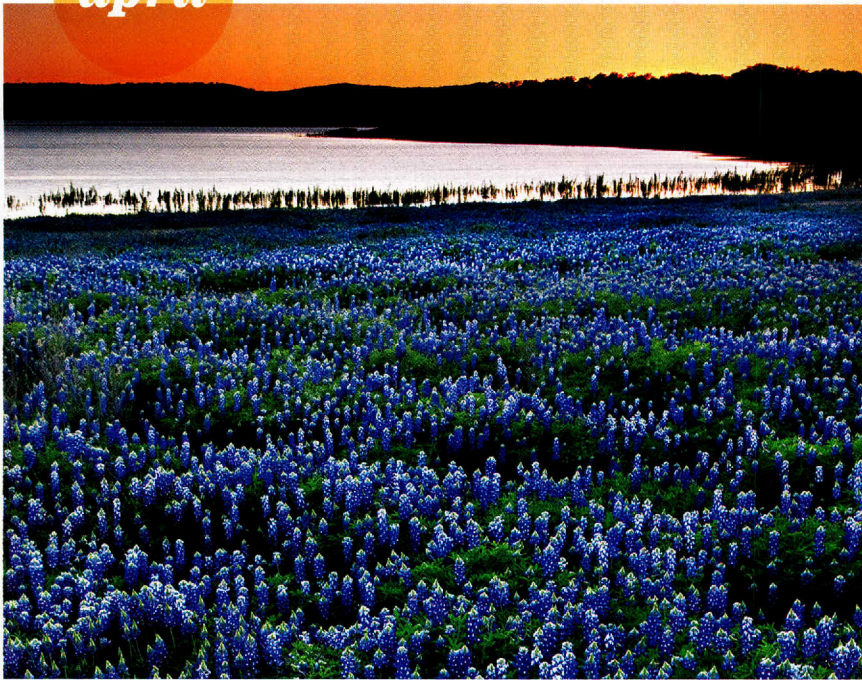
Call 361/645-3752; www.presidioabahia.org.

San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site, La Porte.

Call 281/479-2431; www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/san-jacinto-battleground.



april



© JOE LOWERY

The Hill Country (Revel in the bluebonnets)

Assuming we've had enough rain and the right combination of temperatures and other factors, blankets of wildflowers beautify the Texas Hill Country this time of the year. You'll find them flowing west toward the mountains and southeast to the coastal plains.

One of the most bluebonnet-rich drives can be found on the two-lane Willow City Loop, a 13-mile drive off Texas 16 just north of Fredericksburg. In a good year, you'll see bluebonnets so thick they'll look like blue rivers in your photos amid the mesquites, live oaks, pecans, and prickly pear. Remember: Picking bluebonnets, while not technically illegal, reflects a lack of respect for Texas' official flower. Anyway, you aren't supposed to get out of your car on this private-property road, where there's a good chance you'll have to slow down for a cow or two.

From **Fredericksburg**, take Texas 16 13.3 miles northeast to RM 1323, and turn right. Continue east 2.8 miles to Willow City, and turn left onto the Willow City Loop. See www.fredericksburgtexas-online.com/willowcityloop.

Stonehenge II, which originated in Hunt in 1989, now embellishes the grounds of Ingram's Hill Country Arts Foundation at The Point.

To order a print of the photographs on this page, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

Odessa and Ingram (Texas' Stonehenges rock)

Perhaps nothing speaks to Texas ambition as much as the fact that our state contains not one, but two copies of England's intriguing, mystifying Stonehenge.

Hunt landowner Al Shepperd and his neighbor Doug Hill built one in 1989, making good use of a chunk of limestone left over from Hill's patio project. When Shepperd sold the land years later, the Stonehenge replica—along with recreations of two Easter Island heads—were moved to Ingram, where they now sit on the campus of the Hill Country Arts Foundation at The Point (also a delightful place to see indoors and outdoors plays).

In West Texas, Odessa has a Stonehenge of its own on the campus of the University of Texas of the Permian Basin. In 2004, Associate Professor of Art Chris Stanley, whose students had been building small Stonehenge replicas as part of their coursework, teamed up with community leader Richard Gillham and the owners of TexasStone Quarries to build a Stonehenge on a larger scale. About 2/3 as large as England's, Odessa's Stonehenge has stones placed in the precise arrangement as the stones on Salisbury Plain, and it's illuminated at night.

Ingram's Stonehenge II, Ingram.

Call 830/367-5121; www.hcaf.com.

Odessa's Stonehenge, Odessa.

Call 432/552-3286; www.utpb.edu.

WILL VAN OVERBEEK



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From May through August, visitors to the Texas coast can witness the release of hundreds of baby sea turtles into the Gulf of Mexico.

J. GRIFFIS SMITH

June

Texas coast (See the sea turtles)

A magical thing happens up and down Padre Island from May through August. Kemp's ridley sea turtles emerge from the Gulf of Mexico, dig nests, lay and bury eggs, then scurry back into the waves. It's an awesome thing to watch as the mother turtle digs a hole, deposits eggs the size of ping-pong balls—more than 100 sometimes—then uses her flippers to cover the nest with sand, ignoring crowds that often gather to watch.

Because Kemp's ridleys are endangered, local turtle rescue groups stand ready to quickly retrieve the eggs, incubate them for 45-50 days, and release the hatchlings back to the Gulf. To witness these releases, check release hotlines daily (because nobody knows exactly when the turtles will hatch).

On **Corpus Christi's North Padre Island**, rangers at Padre Island National Seashore collect the eggs and release the hatchlings. Call the hotline at 361/949-7163; www.nps.gov/pais. On South Padre Island, call the hotline of Sea Turtle Inc., 956/433-5735; www.seaturtleinc.org.



july

The Panhandle (Check out Palo Duro Canyon)

It's hard to find a horned toad in Texas anymore, but you'll have a decent shot during the summer months in Palo Duro Canyon, the gem of Texas' Llano Estacado, south of Amarillo near Canyon. Here you'll find Texas' answer to the Grand Canyon—at 29,182 acres and approximately 120 miles long, Palo Duro is the second-largest canyon in the United States. Water erosion formed this canyon some 90 million years ago; today it's 800 feet deep in places and streaked with red, yellow, and purple striations of clay, mudstone, sandstone, and gypsum.

In the 18th Century, when hundreds of thousands of buffalo roamed the Panhandle grasslands, the canyons were home to the Comanche and Kiowa. The best way to explore Palo Duro is the way they did, on horseback. Bring your own horse or rent one from the stables at Palo Duro Canyon State Park, then hit 1,500 acres of trails. You'll find special camping areas for equestrians along with regular campsites—some primitive, some with electricity—and seven cabins for rent, including several that were built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

From June through August, you can also enjoy a performance of *TEXAS*, the musical drama staged outdoors in an amphitheater carved from a canyon wall.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park, Canyon. Call 806/488-2227; www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/palo-duro-canyon.

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september

Dallas (Enjoy the State Fair)

The State Fair of Texas never fails to induce a state of exhilarated exhaustion, a happy condition achieved only by stuffing yourself with corny dogs and fannel cakes, whirling on rides, sitting in a just-off-the-assembly-line car, watching pig races, and joining thousands of fellow Texans to enjoy music as the moon rises.

Start with the beautiful Art Deco setting at Dallas' Fair Park. Add a midway, farm animals, auto shows, music, cooking and crafts competitions, and this three-week festival starting in late September lives up to its more-than-a-century-old reputation. On October 19, 2012, the iconic 52-foot cowboy known as Big Tex, whose "Howdy, folks" has greeted fairgoers for decades, was destroyed by fire. At press time, plans are afoot to restore Big Tex, so the 2013 fair will be the perfect opportunity to welcome him back.

What's the best part of the fair? Maybe it's watching a toddler's face as that first-ever ride starts to turn. Maybe it's finding out what this year's vendors have decided to deep-fry (last year: jambalaya). Maybe it's seeing a 4-H kid asleep with his cow in the barn. The Fair has something for everyone.

The 2013 State Fair of Texas takes place September 27-October 20 in Dallas. See www.bigtex.com.



MICHAEL AMADOR

august

West Texas (Beat the heat at Balmorhea)

Balmorhea State Park's 1.75-acre, spring-fed pool is nature's answer to Texas' summer sun, with a constant temperature between 72 and 76 degrees. Set against the deep blue West Texas sky in the yucca-dotted foothills of the Davis Mountains, it feels a whole lot like paradise.

It takes time to drive out to this spot in little Toyahvale, about halfway between Alpine and Pecos on Texas 17, but a dip in these clear, blue-green waters, with tiny fish nipping harmlessly at you as you float, will wash away any road fatigue. The pool, open year round and fed by San Solomon Springs, thrills scuba divers with its 25-foot depth.

Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, the park offers motel-style accommodations, some of which have kitchens.

Balmorhea State Park, Toyahvale.
Call 432/375-2370; www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/balmorhea.

© ERICH SCHLEGEL





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october

East Texas (Explore spooky Caddo Lake)

Do ghosts dwell amid the murky, mysterious tentacles of Caddo Lake? Certainly Caddo offers a ghostly setting, its swamps and bayous studded with bald cypress trees shrouded with Spanish moss.

Straddling the Texas-Louisiana border in northeast Texas, Caddo, the state's only natural lake, exhibits a dark beauty that a man-made lake could never summon. You might see a great blue heron or alligator as you explore the canopy in a canoe or kayak. Consider hiring a guide to help you through this serpentine tangle of waterways, or in the town of Uncertain, book a trip aboard the *Graceful Ghost* paddle-wheeler, a replica of an 1800s steamboat.

Rumors persist that Bigfoot, whom-ever or whatever that may be, lives around Caddo Lake. No telling. But bass live here for sure, and you can fish for them (bring your own gear or borrow a pole) in Caddo Lake State Park's Big Cypress Bayou. The park also offers hiking trails, and you can spend the night in a 1930s cabin. If you dare.

A maze of sloughs and bayous on the border of Texas and Louisiana, Caddo Lake boasts a colorful history rife with steamboats, bootlegging, adventurers, and—perhaps—ghosts.

Caddo Lake State Park, Karnack. Call 903/679-3351; www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/caddo-lake.

To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.



december

Big Bend
(Search for the
Marfa lights)

november

Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston
(Art in the cities)

Nature crafted many of Texas' treasures, but humans made some, too. Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston all boast world-class museums. In Dallas, the new Perot Museum of Nature and Science fills its halls with engaging multimedia exhibits, computer animations, interactive experiences, films, and, of course, big dinosaurs. While you're in Dallas, also check out the nearby Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas Museum of Art, and the Crow Collection of Asian Art.

Then head over to Fort Worth for the Kimbell Art Museum, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, and the Amon Carter Museum of American Art, clustered on a triangle of land west of downtown. Lunch at the Modern's sleek Modern Café, with tables overlooking a placid reflection pool designed (like the museum itself) by architect Tadao Ando, is the perfect midday break.

Houston holds the state's largest museum district, where you can easily walk from the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, to more than a dozen diverse institutions such as the Children's Museum, the Houston Museum of Natural Science (with its new Morian Hall of Paleontology), and the newest entry, Asia Society Texas Center, which explores not only fine arts but also Asian politics, education, and health care.

Perot Museum of Nature and Science, Dallas. Call 214/428-5555; www.perotmuseum.org.

The Dallas Arts District, www.thedallasartsdistrict.org.

The Fort Worth Cultural District, www.fwculture.com.

The Houston Museum District, www.houstonmuseumdistrict.org.

Since 1883, the year of the first recorded sighting of the famed Marfa Lights, visitors to the Big Bend region of Texas have tried to see them—and if successful—have tried to explain them.

The lights, those who've seen them say, pulse, twinkle, and move over the desert as you face the Chinati Mountains. They've been described as white, orange, or yellow. Are they ghosts? Space travelers from afar? Native American spirits? Moonlight reflecting on veins of mica? The truth is that nobody really knows what causes them. On a clear night, park at the official viewing area on US 90 about nine miles east of Marfa, and look south toward the Chinati Mountains on the Mexico border. If you see lights of any color moving around, either near or distant, you may count yourself among those fortunate enough to claim they've seen the Marfa Lights.

No Marfa Lights? Then go with the natural kind. The stars at night shine big and bright in West Texas' two major parks: Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park. **TH**

Marfa Chamber of Commerce, Marfa. Call 800/650-9696; www.marfacc.com.

Big Bend National Park. See www.nps.gov/bibe.

Big Bend Ranch State Park. See www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/big-bend-ranch.

HELEN BRYANT has traversed Texas in many directions on many roads, but it's a big state with much more to see. She is far from done.



Winnsboro's cultural arts district, centered at Elm and Market streets, takes on the air of a 1930s film set when Model-T clubs come to town.

CROSSROADS OF CULTURE

Art, music, cuisine—and a sense of whimsy—
come together in downtown WINNSBORO

Text and photographs by RANDY MALLORY





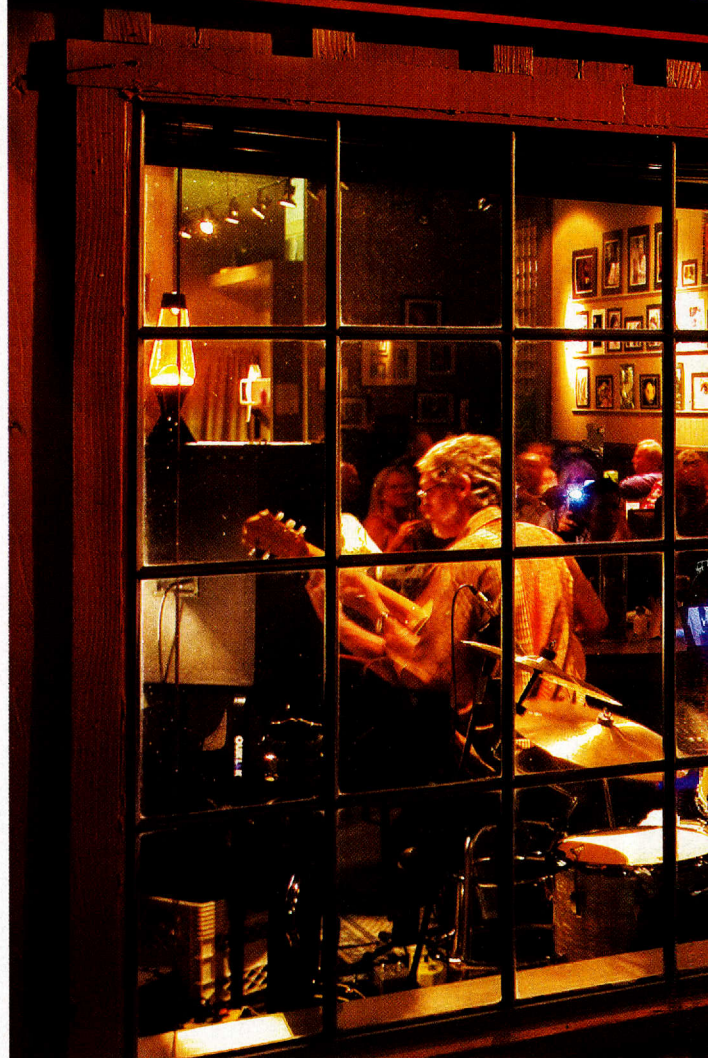
WHEN I THINK OF WINNSBORO,

I think of fall color ... or rather that's what I used to think.

For years my family made lazy drives through colorful forests during Winnsboro's Autumn Trails, still held each fall. A country café got us through the day, and Mother Nature provided the show, but the sleepy burg rolled up its sidewalks after five o'clock.

Recently a Winnsboro musician friend raved to me about his town's rising cultural scene. I learned that the Texas Commission on the Arts named Winnsboro a "Texas Cultural Arts District," the smallest (population 3,500) of 16 designated towns where creative arts and culture boost economic growth. Then I heard that Winnsboro boasts a South African bistro/winery plus an Italian eatery so popular it needs no sign. That settled it. I had to check out downtown's new penchant for art, music, and cuisine.

BREWBA

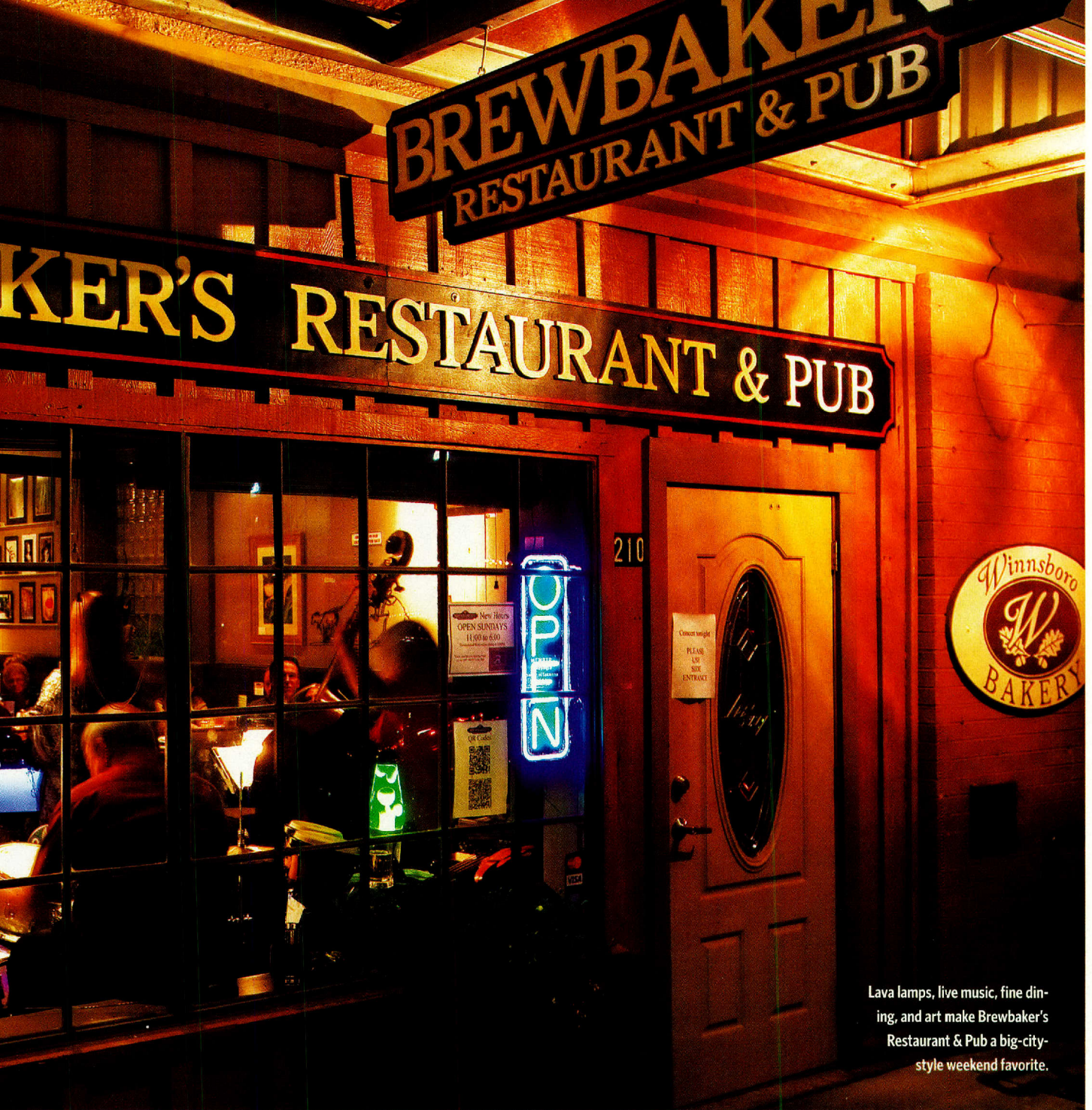


MUCH OF DOWNTOWN SPRANG UP after the Texas Southern Railroad arrived in 1904. A century later, many of those buildings got a facelift when Winnsboro became a Texas Main Street City in the Texas Historical Commission's downtown revitalization program. Some \$12 million later, downtown's spruced-up storefronts, reworked streets and sidewalks, and

replica lighting offer a fresh yet nostalgic ambiance.

Each weekend, locals and out-of-towners rub elbows in two dozen or so shopping,

ABOVE LEFT: Patty Cake Antiques co-owner Patty Moore camps it up with Renae Williams during a Fifties-themed Friday Art Walk.



Lava lamps, live music, fine dining, and art make Brewbaker's Restaurant & Pub a big-city-style weekend favorite.

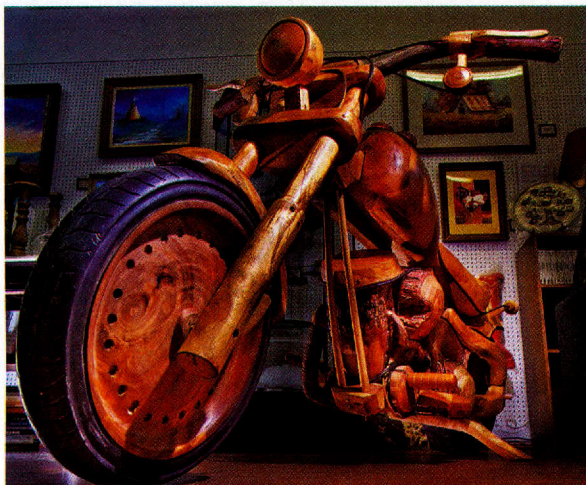
eating, and entertainment establishments in the pedestrian-friendly cultural arts district. “We’re blessed with regulars from Dallas-Fort Worth who come to our area lakes,” explains Main Street Program Manager Denise Miranda.

“That sophisticated market allows our shop owners to mix art and music with dining and shopping in creative ways.”

I begin my downtown jaunt at Market and Elm streets, the cultural arts district’s crossroads. The community, in fact, was known as Crossroads (where two frontier trails crossed) when town namesake and English immigrant John E. Wynn came in the 1850s. Market Street was called “The Bowery” by 1900 because of its saloons, brothels,

and gambling halls. During the Great Depression, Bonnie Parker got her hair coiffed here, and partner-in-crime Clyde Barrow snacked at local cafés.

A former Market Street saloon houses a listening room called Crossroads, which stages singer-songwriter acts a dozen or so times a year. Owner-musician Gus Gustafson packs the 100-seat hall when Texas artists like Jimmy LaFave, Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines, Kinky Friedman, and Ray Wylie Hubbard come to town. Winnsboro songwriters Lynn Adler and Lindy Hearne started Crossroads in 2005. Adler & Hearne tour nationally now but occasionally play Crossroads (including a December 15, 2012,





celebration of the venue's seventh anniversary).

Until Crossroads' permanent home is remodeled, concerts take place next door at the Winnsboro Center for the Arts. The center opened in 2001 to bring visual and performing arts to this rural area. Art fever spread to many downtown shops and eateries that display local art for sale. The center's informal gallery shows local paintings, sculpture, and photos, though one recent exhibit splashed into town with Surrealist works by Salvador Dali. An active theater group stages several productions a year. I catch an enjoyable Readers Theater version of Orson Welles' famous 1938 *War of the Worlds* radio drama about a Martian invasion of Earth.

Another of Market Street's former saloons is still a saloon—and restaurant—called Double C Steakhouse & Saloon, where I polish off a hand-breaded chicken-fried steak, loaded baked potato, and stout iced tea. Then I take a peek outside as Karen and Randy Cason (who co-own Double C with son Justin Cason) put the finishing touches on their open-air patio. An elevated stage on one end hosts country-music bands on weekends, as well as a quarterly Western murder-mystery dinner theater called *Murder at Rattlesnake Gulch*. (On March 14-15, 2013, a shootout reenactment at Double C is among several events, including historical tours, celebrating Main Street Winnsboro's 10th anniversary.)

A real-life shootout occurred at Market and Elm in 1907. Two lawmen battled two saloon keepers, and none were left standing. One of downtown's several historical markers pinpoints the infamous spot, located beside the pleasant patio of a bistro/wine bar called Liefie Li Vine. Owners Jackie and Phillip Strydom, natives of South Africa, opened Liefie ("sweetheart" in Afrikaans) two years ago and now offer made-on-site South African dishes with intriguing names. I chow down on "Bunny Chow," pecan-smoked chicken and wine sauce in a fresh-baked bread bowl. I'm tempted by "Pasties" (chicken or creamed spinach in a puff pastry) and "Boerie Rolls" (hotdog-like sausages drizzled with sweet-hot "Monkey Sauce"). Liefie's bar specializes in East Texas wines (soon including its own labels) along with its Liefie-Rita, a frozen wine margarita. On weekends, the patio features live music overlooking Market Street.

I **EXPLORE THE CULTURAL ARTS DISTRICT** during a 3rd Friday Art Walk, the monthly themed event when eight to 10 shops stay open late. The event offers extra live entertainment, art exhibits, and poetry readings. (It's the only time, except for special events, to view local art in a former post

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Upscale home décor at Clara Ida Frances, gourmet gadgetry at Ladles to Linens, period reproduction clothing at Silhouette Dressmaking, and an all-wood motorcycle at Winnsboro Emporium.



Fun Finds in Winnsboro

at **StarDragonfly Herb Company**, a honey bee workshop is underway, so I grab a sample cup of herbal Indian spice tea and admire owner Susan Thames' array of herbs, teas, bulk food items, syrups, and herbal lotions. At **Sayadream Studio**, owner-potter Brenda Roberts guides a dozen youngsters in a ceramics class; I browse her small ceramic art gallery, lingering at colorful glazed leaves made using real leaves from nearby forests. At **Conrad Wolfman's Winnsboro Emporium**, there's a poetry reading going on. I look through displayed artworks and used books, then pause at an amazing full-size motorcycle made entirely of exotic woods.

At an antiques mall of 23 vendors, called **Beauweevils**, I chat with mall manager Lee Sturgeon and a few patrons lounging on wicker furniture out front. "We not only sell antiques," he says with a smile, "we help solve the world's problems!"

Winnsboro's answer to Parisian upscale shopping resides in a Main Street boutique called **Clara Ida Frances**. Named for owner Janice Schma's mother, the shop tastefully displays high-end gourmet foods, luxurious lotions, and home décor. I come away with a sampler of balsamic vinegars, though I also take a fancy to a chair and swing made from vintage wine barrel staves.

Across the street at **Ladles to Linens**, Lyndi McCulloch opened her store seven years ago and began selling Dad's Chili mix, based on her late father's chili-cookoff-winning recipe. Now she also offers a staggering range of gourmet foods, cookware, and kitchen accessories. I buy some chili mix, and I just might make a return trip for that letter: "M" steak branding iron. —Randy Mallory

See Essentials for contact information.



Light-hearted anticipation mounts as Steampunkers wait for the cookies to crumble during a tea duel at Art & Espresso.



More Winnsboro events at texashighways.com/webextra



Chef-owner Rick Murray imported wood-fired ovens from Italy for baking Napoli-style pizzas at ciboVino.

office called Keyring Gallery.)

It turns out that 3rd Fridays also give shopkeepers and patrons an excuse to dress in costumes. On an elevated Elm Street sidewalk, I hap-

pen upon Patty Moore in a poodle skirt dancing to the beat of "Rock Around the Clock." It's a Fifties-themed Art Walk, and Patty's antics pull visitors into her new antiques store, Patty Cake & Friends. Vintage oil-company signs and mounted marlins

soar above antiques packed inside—ranging from a 1903 Eastlake barber chair and restored 1920s gas pumps, to an enameled wood-burning stove and 1950s drive-in movie speakers. "We're an antiquer's antiques store," says Moore. "And if an antique needs fixing, we fix it," adds partner Steve Osborne, who conserves and restores pieces on site.

Next door I wander into costume central at Silhouette Dressmaking. Proprietress Denise Marsoun is stitching not a dress, but rather a black captain's overcoat for a man just shy of seven feet tall. Denise's sewing skills attract historical reenactors and others seeking period-accurate garments. The shop looks like a clothing museum. A mannequin in Wild West duds stands next to another in a Renaissance gown beside another in a Civil War uniform. "People even bring in historical photos," she explains, "then I cut a custom pattern and make the new one-of-a-kind outfit."

Other 3rd Friday Art Walk themes include Western, Renaissance, and even Steampunk. Steampunk? On Market Street at Art & Espresso, I encounter this offbeat blend of science fiction, Age-of-Steam technology, Jules Verne fantasy, and Victorian fashion. Coffee bar owners Jim Hollowell and Marilyn Arnaud normally serve hot and iced coffees and teas, along with pastries, sandwiches, and ice cream. Some 3rd Fridays they also host tea duels. Two Steampunk-dressed competitors face off, dip biscuits into hot tea, then hold them erect as they watch their cookies crumble. The winner is the last to mouth

a whole biscuit before it breaks apart. “It’s kind of like watching paint dry,” quips a Victorian-garbed Marilyn, “but it’s really hilarious.” (Steampunk is the theme for the 3rd Friday Art Walk on January 18.)

FULLY STEAMPUNKED, I CONTINUE MY

Winnsboro weekend sampling other bustling downtown shops (see sidebar, page 33) and restaurants. At a local hangout called Brewbaker’s Restaurant & Pub, ex-Dallasite Jeff Heath, who bought and transformed the popular Winnsboro Bakery in 2004, has added a pub and beefed up the menu. The bakery still offers breads, pies, cookies, and cakes, and regulars rave about the lunch menu’s Philly Steak and French Dip sandwiches. But I go light and select a crisp, mixed-green salad with apple-almond dressing and a scoop of chicken salad. I add a cup of spicy tortilla soup, and feel so sensible I order a slice of black-bottom banana-cream pie. Brewbaker’s dinner menu trends toward the likes of tilapia with mango salsa and marinated tenderloin with horseradish butter sauce. Weekends feature jazz, blues, rock, or singer-songwriter acts. The walls bear photos and paintings by local artists, and the pub boasts a sports-friendly 100-inch TV.

Later, as I walk down the sidewalk, I almost pass the popular ciboVino Italian restaurant. Outside, there’s no sign mounted on the century-old former department store. Inside, there’s dark wood paneling, a romantic wall mural, and a 44-foot, oak bar curving by two massive wood-burning stone ovens imported

from Italy. “We let our customers spread the word that we’re here,” says proprietor Rick Murray. I see why after cozing up to the bar. Folks next to me suggest Rick’s pit-cooked prime rib or the hand-layered lasagna prepared by Rick’s wife, Sharon. But on the recommendation of the Murrays’ 12-year-old son, Brennan (himself an award-winning chef and ciboVino host), I start

STEAMPUNK—A BLEND OF AGE-OF-STEAM TECHNOLOGY, JULES VERNE FANTASY, AND VICTORIAN FASHION—IS THE 3RD FRIDAY ART WALK THEME ON JANUARY 18.

with a garlicky hummus and olive tapenade served on pita chips baked before my eyes. I follow with a creamy lobster bisque and crisp Caesar salad. My mushroom and sun-dried tomato pizza arrives bubbling hot on a tender crust Rick tossed only minutes ago. As a jazz pianist riffs in the background, I finish in fine style with a freshly flamed crème brûlée.

After a surprisingly busy Friday and Saturday in Winnsboro, I notice that downtown still pretty much rolls up its sidewalks on Sunday. But that offers me the chance, just like the old days, for a lazy, winding drive through pastoral hills outside town.

Winnsboro

FOR GENERAL INFORMATION and details on **Main Street Winnsboro’s 10th anniversary** events (March 15-16, 2013), contact the **City of Winnsboro**, 903/342-3654; www.winnsboroonlineguide.com. Find brochures at the **Winnsboro Area Chamber of Commerce** visitors center in the historic rail depot, 100 E. Broadway St., 903/342-3666; www.winnsboro.com.

Lodging

Winnsboro offers three lodgings located a few blocks from the cultural district. Two historic properties offer quaint quarters and hearty breakfasts: **Thee Hubbell House** (307 W. Elm St., 800/227-0639; www.theehubbellhouse.com) and **Oaklea Mansion** (407 S. Main St., 903/342-6051; www.oakleamansion.com). A modern alternative offers nightly rentals in condo-style apartments: **The Leaves of Winnsboro** (400 N. Beech St., 903/473-3020; www.burtonstarproperties.com/leaves).

Music

Winnsboro Center for the Arts, 200 Market St., 903/342-0686; www.winnsborocenterforthearts.com. The center also houses **Crossroads Music Co. & Listening Room**, 903/342-1854; www.crossroadsmusiccompany.com.

Restaurants

Double C Steakhouse & Saloon, 206 N. Market St., 903/342-3111; www.doublecsteakhouse.com.
Liefie Li Vine, 302 N. Main St., 903/347-1111; www.liefie.us.
Art & Espresso, 217 Market St., 903/342-3343; www.artandespresso.com.



Brewbaker’s Restaurant & Pub, 210 N. Main St., 903/342-6119; www.brewbakerspub.com.

ciboVino Restaurant, 218 N. Main St., 903/342-0028; www.cibo.us.

Shops/Galleries

Patty Cake & Friends, 111 E. Elm St., 903/241-5541 or 919/612-6860.

Silhouette Dressmaking, 113 E. Elm St., 903/347-1210; www.facebook.com/Silhouette.Dressmaking.

StarDragonfly Herb Company, 300 N. Main St., Ste. B, 903/588-4313; www.stardragonfly.com.

Sayadream Studio, 106 E. Elm St., 903/497-6136; www.sayadreamstudio.com.

Winnsboro Emporium, 316 N. Main St., 903/342-6140; www.winnsboroemporium.com.

Beauweevils, 205 N. Main St., 903/342-6800.

Keyring Gallery, 107 Locust St., 903/347-1218; www.keyringgallery.com.

Clara Ida Frances, 214 N. Main St., 903/342-6137; www.claraidafrances.com.

Ladles to Linens, 215 N. Main St., 903/342-1050; www.ladlesitolinens.com.

Besides, there’s always next weekend, when Winnsboro’s cultural arts district rolls out another lively time on the town. **TH**

Tyler native RANDY MALLORY enjoys Winnsboro now—and then, thanks to a silent 8-mm film his mother made along the Winnsboro Autumn Trails in the mid-1960s.



DALLAS
6048

DALLAS
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Maurice Seymour

confidential

U'T'LAWNS

TRACING A TRAIL THROUGH TEXAS' LAWLESS PAST

During the era of gangsters and organized crime, Texas hosted its fair share of guns and gambling, moonshine and morphine, ransom and robbery.

Imagine a Texas where air conditioning is unknown, where tiny banks operate in almost every little town, where liquor comes from bootleggers, and where the likes of Clyde Barrow and Joe Newton careen in old-time cars down unpaved roads. Welcome to a Gangster Tour of Texas.

It makes sense to begin in 1918, when the Texas Legislature voted to prohibit the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages in the Lone Star State, more than a year ahead of national prohibition. This act suddenly turned law-abiding Texans who had brewed beer or tended bar into criminals if they continued their trade on the sly. About the same time, the United States entered two decades of an epidemic of bank robbery. The crime wave grew so great that the Texas Bankers Association in 1927 offered a \$5,000 reward for *dead* bank robbers.

Even though Prohibition ended in 1933, crime did not. Texas abounded with illegal casinos, while crime bosses and gangsters roamed ... committing robberies and kidnapping the wealthy for ransom. Embezzlers secretly withdrew money from financial institutions, and some elected officials freely took bribes. In 1957, Texas Rangers closed the most famous of all the illegal Texas casinos, those in Galveston, concluding what people popularly view as the "gangster era" in Texas.

—**T. Lindsay Baker**

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Excerpted from the book *Gangster Tour of Texas*, text by T. Lindsay Baker. Reprinted with permission from Texas A&M University Press, © 2011 www.tamupress.com; 800/826-8911. T. Lindsay Baker teaches history at Tarleton State University in Stephenville and directs its W.K. Gordon Center for Industrial History at Thurber.

Bonnie & Cly

BONNIE & CLYDE

On the trail of the Barrow Gang

Among the best known of the criminal enterprises in Texas was the group known as the Barrow Gang. The only two individuals continuously associated with the group were Bonnie Parker and Clyde Chestnut Barrow. Their trail of crime covered much of Texas as well as places as distant as Minnesota and Indiana.

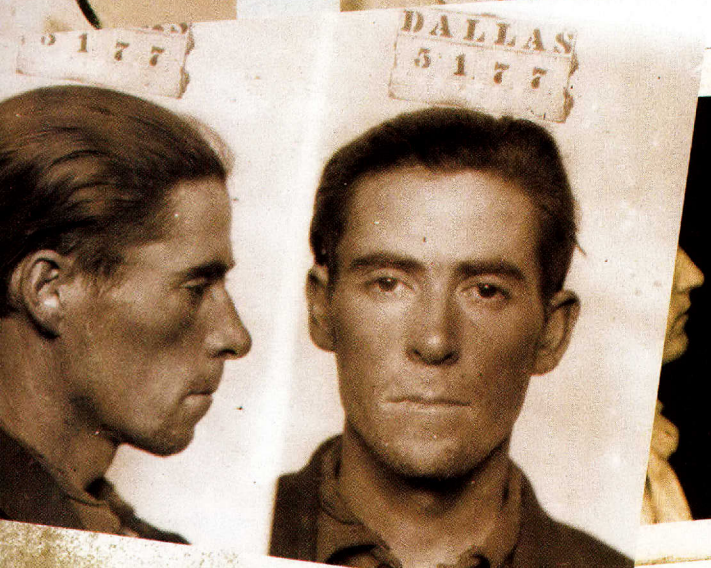
Bonnie Parker was born in 1910 at Rowena, a small farming community in West Texas. After an abusive marriage, she ended up on her own in 1928, working waitress jobs in Dallas, including at the Hargraves Café.

Clyde was born in 1909 on a farm near Telico, in Ellis County. His family moved to Dallas in 1922. He went to school for a time but then dropped out. The slight young man with boyish looks went to work for a series of businesses, and then began stealing cars and burglarizing houses to get extra money.

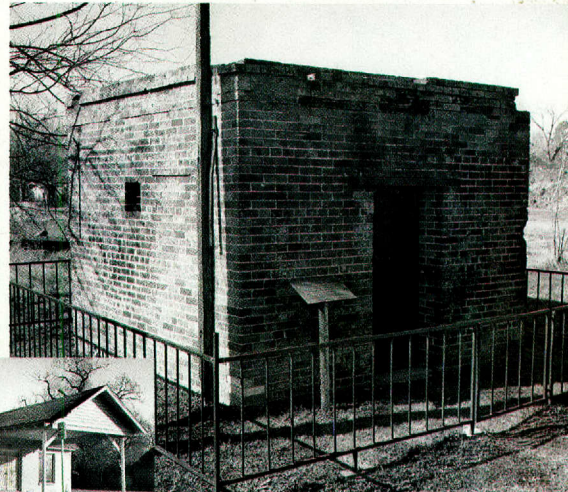
In January 1930, Clyde called at the West Dallas home of Clarence Clay, whose daughter had been in an accident. There, he met Bonnie Parker, who had come to see the friend as well. Clyde fell for the petite café waitress with blue eyes and reddish-blond hair.

In February 1930, police awakened Clyde at Bonnie's house and arrested him for a burglary in Denton. There was insufficient evidence to convict Clyde, but authorities transferred him to Waco,

FROM TOP:
Clyde Barrow (teenager),
Blanche Caldwell Barrow,
Marvin Ivan "Buck" Barrow,
and Henry Methvin.



OPPOSITE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP):
Henry T. Barrow's Star Filling Station
in West Dallas, home of the Barrow
family as it appeared in 1934 (inset
photo in 2009). One-room jailhouse
in Kemp, Texas, that housed Bonnie
Parker and Ralph Fufts on the night
of April 19, 1932. Bonnie and Clyde
circa 1934. Hargraves Café, one of
the several eating places where
Bonnie Parker worked, occupied the
storefront of 3308 Swiss Circle.



where he had been charged with burglary and auto theft. Hoping to dodge the prison term, Clyde persuaded Bonnie to smuggle a pistol to him in jail. Barrow and two other prisoners escaped, but freedom was brief; the three surrendered to police in Middletown, Ohio, a week later.

While Bonnie wrote imprisoned Clyde a steady stream of letters, his mother worked for his early release. In 1932, Governor Miriam Ferguson granted him a conditional parole. Clyde returned to his family and Bonnie in Dallas.

Soon, Clyde went back to what he knew well—burglary. Over the next two years, Clyde's crime sprees continued and progressed [with Bonnie and various other accomplices, including brother Buck and Buck's wife Blanche]. Many people up to that time had viewed them as Robin Hood-like characters who stole from the rich and shared with the poor. But after they murdered two motorcycle officers who still had their guns holstered, people

realized that the members of the Barrow Gang were cold-blooded killers. The editor of *The Dallas Morning News* declared, "The fugitive Barrow and his companions are ... like the mad dog[,] the only remedy for their ailment is extinction. They must be hunted up and disposed of."

Unknown to the public, professional man-hunters were already on their trail. Former Texas Ranger Frank Hamer was commissioned to track down Clyde Barrow. The ranger soon learned that the key to ending Barrow's career might be accomplice Henry Methvin.

Bonnie and Clyde were staying in an abandoned bungalow about 10 miles south of Gibsland, Louisiana. Methvin's family lived in the same general neighborhood, and a number of them had befriended the Texas desperadoes. Hamer

offered a pardon for Methvin's Texas crimes in exchange for a tip-off that would lead to the arrest or elimination of Bonnie and Clyde, and a deal was struck.

On the morning of May 23, 1934, Methvin's father stopped his logging truck in the middle of the road leading to the hideout. Removing a tire, he gave the vehicle a disabled appearance. Hidden in the roadside brush were four Texas lawmen and two members of the Bienville Parish sheriff's department.

At about 9:10, old man Methvin and the officers heard the distant high-pitched whine of a fast-running V-8 engine.

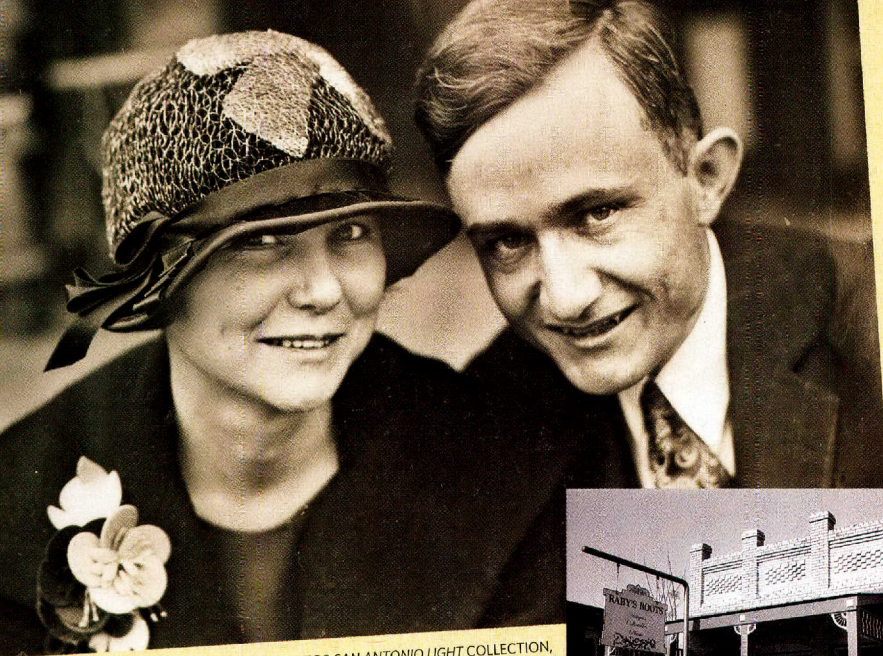
The tan-colored Ford sedan pulled into view and paused when the passengers recognized the disabled truck. Then the first of more than a

hundred gunshots began striking Bonnie and Clyde's car.

The shots killed the couple almost instantly. Inside the car the lawmen found an arsenal of firearms, clothing, a pair of purple-tinted sunshades, Clyde's saxophone, and a partially eaten sandwich in Bonnie's lap. The Barrow Gang was no more.

FOR INFORMATION on sites related to Bonnie and Clyde, see *Gangster Tour of Texas*, and contact the **Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 214/571-1000; www.visitdallas.com. Also check online for specific Bonnie and Clyde tours of the city, including one offered by the **Dallas Historical Society**; www.dallashistory.org/activities/tours.htm.

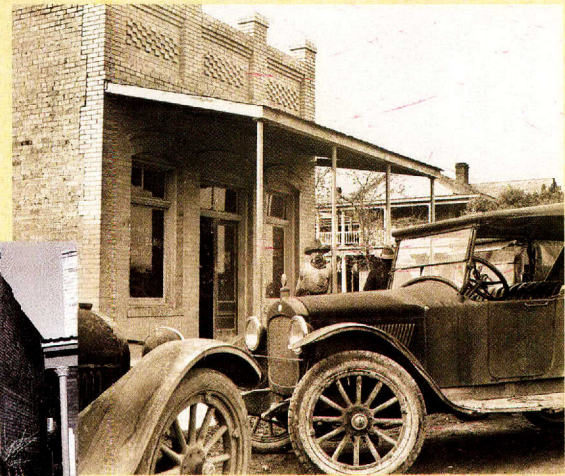




TOP PHOTOS SAN ANTONIO LIGHT COLLECTION, UTSA LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
INSET PHOTO: COURTESY T. LINDSAY BAKER



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Becky and Otis Rogers shortly before her trial. The historic Farmers' National Bank building in Buda (far right), robbed by Rebecca Rogers on December 11, 1926. Today it serves as a retail shop (inset).



The Flapper Bandit

REBECCA ROGERS

The Flapper Bandit

Bank cashier Frank Jamison thought very little about the slight young woman, looking to be only seventeen or eighteen, who came into the Farmers' National Bank in Buda in December 1926. She said that she worked as a reporter for the *Beaumont Enterprise*, and she spent the morning talking to local farmers about cotton crops and government policies, jotting down their comments in a loose-leaf binder. Politely she had asked permission to use a typewriter inside the tellers' cages. As lunchtime approached, Jamison stepped inside the walk-in vault for something. "As I came out she was standing five or six steps away with a gun pointed at me," he said. Within a week, newspapers across the nation were describing the thief, Rebecca Bradley Rogers, as the Flapper Bandit. During the 1920s, "flapper" referred to a young woman who showed disdain for conventional dress and behavior.

Rebecca was born in Texarkana, Arkansas, in 1905. She moved with her parents to Fort Worth and attended Central High School, where she met Otis Rogers. Upon graduation they both went to the University of Texas in Austin, and married secretly

at the courthouse in Georgetown in 1925.

Rebecca Bradley Rogers worked toward a bachelor's degree in history, managing to pay her tuition, fees, and living expenses. Things appeared to be going smoothly until her mother lost her job and moved to Austin to live with her, placing additional strain on her daughter's resources.

Secret husband Otis Rogers had no means with which to assist her, for he was completing his own studies and then attempting to establish a legal practice in Amarillo. The newspapers at the time were filled with reports of the epidemic of bank robbery plaguing the country, so Rebecca decided that she, too, would take some money from a bank.

After a failed attempt to rob the Farmers' State Bank in Round Rock (which included setting a nearby vacant home on fire to distract employees), Rebecca headed back to Austin, then south to Buda. She spotted the cream-colored brick Farmers' National Bank, and adopted her reporter persona.

Ordering employees Frank Jamison and J.R. Howe at gunpoint to open the safe inside the bank vault, Rebecca helped herself to about a thousand dollars. Locking

the men inside the vault, she headed into Austin. Her only problem was getting stuck on a muddy road and having to ask a farmer to pull her out.

Rebecca took her car to a local garage to have the mud washed off. It was there, at the corner of Fifth and Brazos streets, that a police officer spotted the vehicle. Three officers waited to arrest Rebecca when she returned to pick up the car.

Rebecca was tried four times for either arson or armed robbery and in the end, Williamson County authorities quashed the arson charges, while Hays County officials dismissed the robbery charges (the day before she bore her first child with Otis). Rebecca Rogers was a free woman.

Sheriff George M. Allen reported that after he and Rebecca passed through Buda on the way to the county jail in San Marcos, "She burst out laughing and said, 'I have a whole lot to live down, but not as much as those men back there who let a little girl hold them up with an empty gun.'"

THE FARMERS' NATIONAL BANK building (now a retail shop) sits on the 300 block of N. Main St. in Buda. Call the **Buda Area Chamber of Commerce**, 512/295-9999; <http://budachamber.com>.

FOUR BROTHERS IN CRIME

The Newton Boys, express-car thieves and bank robbers of Uvalde

Growing up in rural West Texas during the early twentieth century, the four sons of Jim and Janetta Newton would have been expected to grow up to be cotton farmers or cattle ranchers. Instead, they became one of the most successful teams of professional bank and express-car robbers in the United States. Resembling railway baggage cars, express cars transported high-value freight and usually had armed guards. The Newton Boys' career ended in 1924 with a spectacular express-car heist in Illinois that netted them an unbelievable three million dollars but ended with arrests and imprisonment.

Willis Newton had several early encounters with the law, and while incarcerated, he learned the fine art of blowing open safes with nitroglycerine. Once freed in 1919, he recruited his brothers Jess, Joe, and Doc to join in what became a family enterprise.

For the first two years, the gang typically undertook night burglaries of small-town banks. During the summertime, they traveled across the Great Plains and Midwest, sometimes crossing into Canada, casing potential banks. Willis claimed that it took only about five minutes to pour liquid nitro around



a safe door and blow it off, so a carefully planned nighttime burglary required only about 15 minutes.

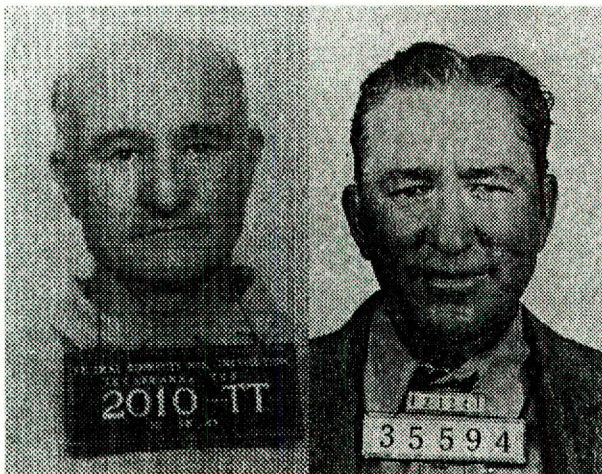
After doing their work, the four brothers typically returned to Texas to enjoy the proceeds of their efforts. After a profitable season in burglary, Willis remembered, "We come on down to San Antone for the winter, where we stayed at the St. Anthony Hotel most of the time."

Even though the Newton Boys operated mostly outside the Lone Star State, occasionally they took advantage of opportunities closer to home. The first known Texas bank that they burglarized as a group was the Boerne State Bank, 30 miles north of San Antonio. The next Texas "bank job" was in the town of Hondo, where they broke into two the same night, having discovered that they didn't have quite enough money to maintain the lifestyle they liked.

On August 25, 1921, the Newton Boys undertook the first of two unsuccessful late summer train heists in Texas, planning the first—in Grayson County—to coincide with a registered mail shipment of bank notes from the Federal Reserve Bank in Dallas. Finding only ordinary registered mail, the Newton Boys planned a follow-up job on a train between Bloomburg and Texarkana. "We want that black box containing money shipped from Shreveport," barked one of the robbers. To their dismay, the box was not there. Years later, Willis grumbled, "We got a pretty good bunch of bonds and stuff, but we missed that box."

The Newton brothers went on to rob banks in New Braunfels and San Marcos before committing the 1924 Illinois robbery that would take them to the Leavenworth federal penitentiary. On release, they eventually returned to Uvalde, where they resided for the remainder of their lives. "Robbing banks is hard work," Willis reflected late in his life. "There's no fun to it. I never done it for the excitement. I done it only for the money."

NEWTON BOYS-related sites in Texas include **Winters, San Marcos, New Braunfels, Uvalde,** and **San Antonio.** See *Gangster Tour of Texas* for information, photos, and maps.



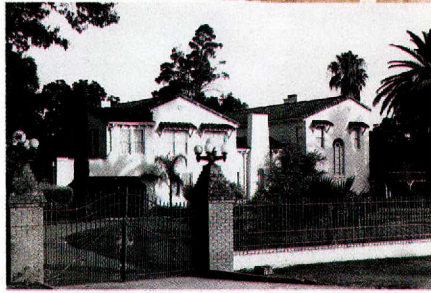
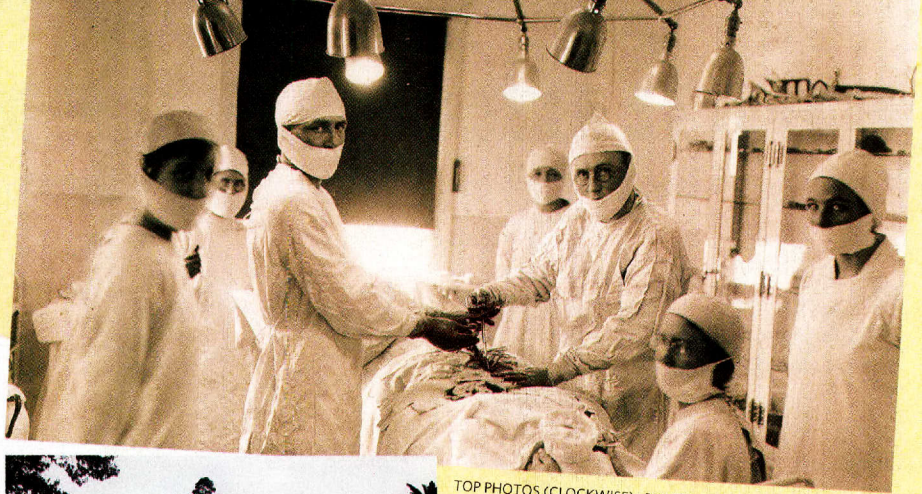
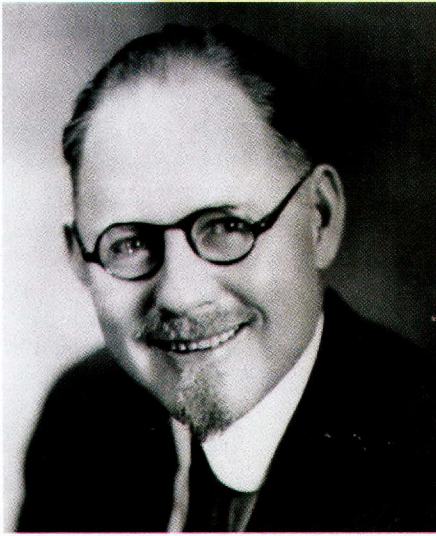
The Hondo State Bank as it appeared about the time it was robbed on March 9, 1921 (below). Willis Newton (far left) and Joe Newton (left). Above, the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio.



The Newton Boys

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): UTSA LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS; MUG SHOTS COURTESY STATE HOUSE PRESS

Dr. Brinkley below and right, standing to the right of a patient. Below right, the former Del Rio mansion of Dr. Brinkley, still a private residence. Center photo, Del Rio business district around 1931.



TOP PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE): BRINKLEY PORTRAIT COURTESY WHITEHEAD MEMORIAL MUSEUM, DEL RIO; SURGERY PHOTO COURTESY KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY; HOUSE AND DEL RIO STREET SCENE COURTESY T. LINDSAY BAKER

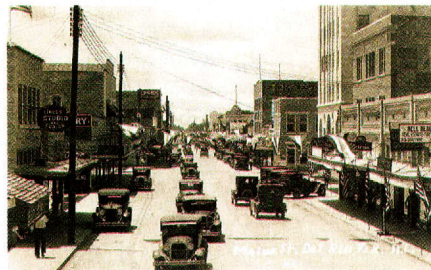
Dr. John R. Brinkley

DR. JOHN L. BRINKLEY

The greatest medical charlatan of them all and his empire of fraud in Del Rio

Born in North Carolina in 1885, Brinkley attended a legitimate medical school in Chicago before dropping out and “finishing” his degree at the Eclectic Medical School of Kansas City. In 1917, he settled in the town of Milford; after a few months, a young farmer came to Dr. Brinkley lamenting that he had been unable to father another child, then the conversation drifted to farming, rams, and buck goats. Brinkley reportedly joked to his patient that “you wouldn’t have any trouble if you had a pair of those buck glands in you.” The farmer unexpectedly responded, “Well, why don’t you put ‘em in?” A year after Brinkley implanted slivers of goat testicles in his patient’s scrotum, the farmer and his wife became parents of a healthy son.

Dr. Brinkley expanded his practice to include a hospital, behind which stood a corral filled with billy goats. He promoted his operation as curing not only male sexual dysfunction but also afflictions such as high blood pressure, epilepsy, diabetes, senility, obesity, and dementia. To reach distant audiences, Brinkley secured a license for a new AM radio station, and found avid listeners for his monologues on child care, hygiene, and procreation.



“All energy is sex energy,” he proclaimed.

As early as 1928, the American Medical Association began monitoring Brinkley’s activities. Two years later, the organization singled him out as “reeking with charlatanism of the crudest type.” The Federal Radio Commission chose in June 1930 not to renew Brinkley’s broadcasting license, then the Kansas Medical Board withdrew Brinkley’s license to practice medicine within the state. He began looking for new fields. He decided that if the U.S. government had taken away his radio license, he would move outside the country and beam his messages back. “Radio waves pay no attention to lines on a map,” he quipped.

Authorities in Del Rio and Villa Acuña, across the Rio Grande, invited the flamboyant physician to relocate, with the Mexicans offering a 10-acre site for a broadcasting station at no cost.

Dr. Brinkley made the six-story, air-conditioned Roswell Hotel his Del Rio medical headquarters. In addition to attracting patients to the hospital, Brinkley and his advertisers used the broadcasts to sell everything from tomato plants to Last Supper tablecloths.

Brinkley’s broadcasting power grew in stages until late 1935, when XERA’s strength reached an incredible 1 million watts. Brinkley’s on-air lectures on bloating, fistulae, and enlarged prostates could be heard all across the Great Plains to Canada and at times on both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

When the end came for Dr. Brinkley, it came quickly. In 1941, Brinkley declared bankruptcy, a newly elected Mexican president expropriated station XERA, and Brinkley developed a blood clot in his left leg, which led to gangrene and the removal of the limb. While he convalesced, federal marshals served Brinkley with a warrant charging him with mail fraud. He never went to trial. On May 26, 1942, the old goat gland doctor met his Maker.

FOR INFORMATION on sites related to Brinkley in Del Rio, see *Gangster Tour of Texas*, and contact the **Del Rio Chamber of Commerce**, 830/775-3551; www.drchamber.com.

GULF WATERS GAMING

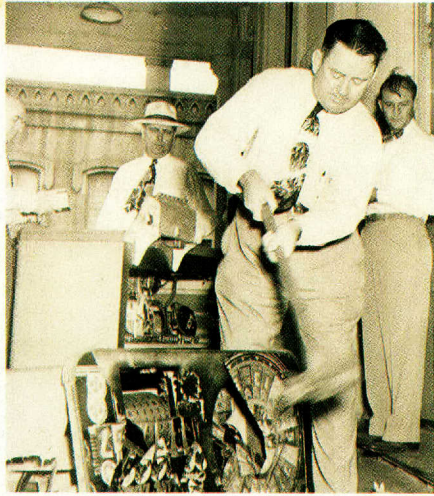
The Maceo brothers and the end of the gangster era in Texas

Galveston became the largest city in Texas between 1830 and 1860, when shippers exported more cotton from its wharves than from any other American port. Italian brothers Rosario "Rose" Maceo and Salvatore "Sam" Maceo in time brought big-time gaming to the port city.

The brothers worked as barbers upon arriving in Galveston in 1910, but after prohibition began in Texas in 1918, the Maceos entered bootlegging, eventually gaining near-complete control of the illegal alcohol trade in the city. By this time, Galveston was attracting large numbers of tourists from the mainland, and in 1926 they built the Hollywood Dinner Club, a nightclub that boasted dining rooms, a ballroom, and areas where guests could wager at craps, blackjack, roulette, and other games.

Next, at 2216 Market Street, they erected the three-story Turf Athletic Club. Guests entered through a ground-floor restaurant, then took the elevator upstairs to the casino area, as well as to private gaming chambers.

Of all the Maceo enterprises, the beachfront Balinese Room, on a pier over the waters of the Gulf of Mexico across from the Hotel Galvez, was the most famous.



The brothers' business strategy was to attract well-heeled gamblers with elaborate meals combined with lavish floor shows. Among the nationally known performers who frequented the Balinese stage were Frank Sinatra, Peggy Lee, and Bob Hope. "The atmosphere was so friendly," reminisced one former customer, "that you almost enjoyed losing your money there."

The Maceos also operated thousands of slot machines in stores and restaurants throughout the island. Mike Gaido of Gaido's seafood restaurant once quipped, "The Maceos didn't ask if you wanted their slots; they just asked how many."

From time to time, locals and outsiders encouraged officials to "clean up" the town, but then the reform spirit passed. In June 1951, Price Daniel, the Texas attorney general, used state court injunctions to end walk-in casino gambling. Slot machines disappeared from public places, while gaming houses like the Balinese Room became "private clubs."

In 1956, local attorney Jim Simpson and newly elected Texas attorney general Will Wilson recruited undercover investigators to gamble in Galveston, then prepare detailed notes about their experiences. On June 10, 1957, Simpson called for the gambling houses to cease operations. A week later, Texas Rangers began removing illegal equipment and destroying it.

Even without the court injunctions and raids, the Gulf Coast gambling operations faced doom. By then, legal high-stakes gambling in Las Vegas drew gamers from throughout the United States, and Las Vegas thus superseded Galveston as America's "Sin City." **TH**

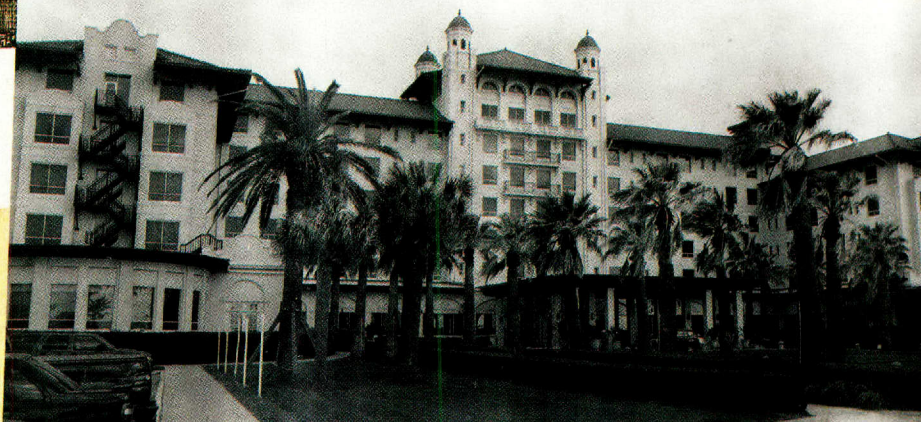
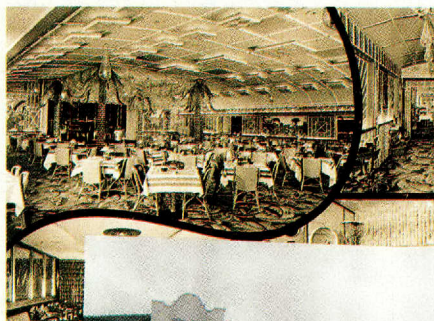
FOR INFORMATION on sites related to the Maceos in Galveston, see *Gangster Tour of Texas*, and contact the **Galveston Island Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 866/505-4456; www.galveston.com.

FROM LEFT: Salvatore "Sam" Maceo, the Balinese Room interior, the Hotel Galvez. TOP: Lawmen breaking up illegal slot machines.

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: FIRST TWO PHOTOS COURTESY ROSENBERG LIBRARY, GALVESTON; COURTESY T. LINDSAY BAKER. ABOVE, COURTESY ROSENBERG LIBRARY, GALVESTON



Rosario & Salvatore Maceo



save the date 2013

Mark your calendar with
our festival picks, from
January through August

Text by CLAIRE RONNER



Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest FEBRUARY 14-16

The zany Austin Bike Zoo rolls through the Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest with kinetic creations that include butterflies and an 80-foot rattlesnake. The event features non-competitive rides in Big Bend National Park and Big Bend Ranch State Park, and along the Lajitas Resort Trail System.



PHOTO © E. DAN KLEPPER

Another year arrives,

and we welcome 2013 with revitalized resolutions, rekindled friendships, and, of course, the promise of unparalleled adventures. Winter's chill slowly melts into warm, sunny days perfect for biking Big Bend trails and jamming to steel-drum music. And anytime is right to tuck into a colossal chicken-fried steak. So don't hesitate—another round of home-grown, off-the-wall festivals beckons.



Old-Fashioned Sweet Tooth Sugarcane Festival

NACOGDOCHES

JAN 12 Making sugarcane syrup is an agricultural pastime in East Texas, and visitors to the Old-Fashioned Sweet Tooth Sugarcane Festival get front-row seats to the process. Several years ago, staff at the Durst-Taylor Historic House and Gardens in Nacogdoches planted a small plot of sugarcane on the grounds to reflect a mid-1800s landscape. When harvest-time arrived, they were unsure of what to do with the crop, at least initially.

“One day a man pulled up, said he had an 1800s sugarcane mill, and asked if we wanted to use it,” says Brian Bray, who helped start the festival. “I just sat there with my mouth open and said, ‘Well, yeah!’”

Volunteers feed the sugarcane through a mill that's similar to a clothes wringer. The mill squeezes

the cane, drips the resulting juice into a trough, and then it's cooked over a fire to boil off the water. Once the syrup is ready, it sweetens pancakes flipped by the local Kiwanis Club.

In addition to the sugarcane syrup, the Nacogdoches Historic Sites group hosts demonstrations of meat-smoking and blacksmithing. Costumed guides provide tours of the historic Durst-Taylor house, and kids can create their own toys to take home.

The sugarcane pressing starts at 8 a.m. and lasts about an hour; the event continues until noon. **Call 936/560-4443; www.ci.nacogdoches.tx.us/departments/historicsites.php.**

Asian Festival

SAN ANTONIO

FEB 16 Chinese, Bangladeshi, Indian, Korean, Cambodian, Laotian, Pakistani, and Vietnamese are just a sampling of the cultures represented at the Institute of Texan Cultures'



annual Asian Festival, now in its 26th year.

The festival celebrates San Antonio's diverse Asian and Pacific Islander communities and highlights the rich traditions of each culture on two stages throughout the day. In the past, participants have led cooking demonstrations, martial-arts routines, and *kamishibai* (puppet storytelling), and presented myriad dance performances, craft presentations, lectures, and costume displays from India, the Koreas, and Thailand. This year, visitors can learn mahjong, the art of ikebana, and the elements of



Dancers from the Chinese Cultural Performance Association mesmerize spectators at the Institute of Texan Cultures' Asian Festival. Enjoy authentic music and foods at the fest, as well.

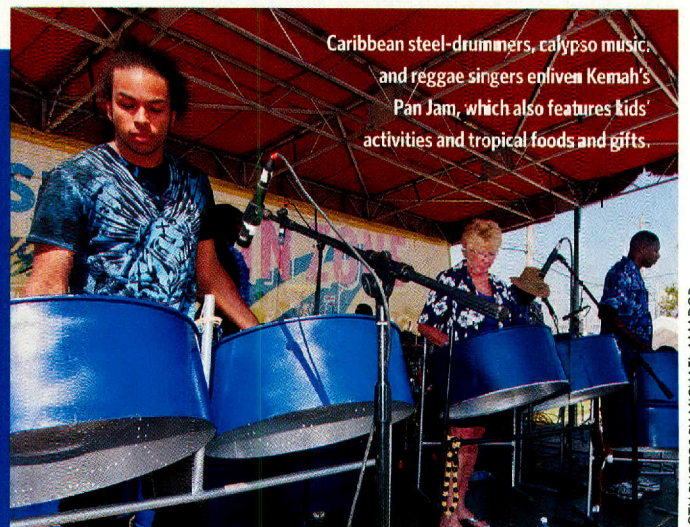
Kemah Pan Jam KEMAH

**APRIL
6-7**

Groove to the festive sounds of steel-barrel drums at the 10th annual Kemah Pan Jam. The two-day event features local amateur talent as well as pan artists from the Caribbean Islands and around the world.

In addition to the music-filled days, vendors offer a variety of art and clothing from the islands and mouthwatering Jamaican fare including jerk chicken, meat pies, and other tropical treats.

The Pan Jam raises awareness of steel-drum music in the United States, and all funds from the weekend go to the music departments at three coastal colleges. "The Pan Jam really fits the tropical feel of Kemah," says Sandra Williams, who founded the festival in 2001. "It's fast becoming one of the top steel-drum festivals in the U.S. We are making a name for ourselves throughout the pan music world." **Call 281/538-4165; www.kemahpanfest.com.**



Caribbean steel-drummers, calypso music, and reggae singers enliven Kemah's Pan Jam, which also features kids' activities and tropical foods and gifts.

BOTH PHOTOS BY MICHAEL AMADOR

Navasota Blues Fest AUGUST 10-11



J. GRIFFIS SMITH



KEVIN STILLMAN

Dewberry Festival MAY 18

acupuncture. Food vendors sell fare from the different countries, including peanut noodles with meat, samosas, pancit with vegetables, and green papaya salad.

“When you see graceful dancers—like those from the Arathi School of Indian Dance or the Jones Korean Dance Group—on stage, and there are a thousand people watching in absolute silence, you just get a sense of wonderment,” shares Jo Ann Andera, an ITC festival coordinator. “People want to learn about other cultures. It’s very inspirational.”

Sweet not only describes the cake and cobbler contests at Cameron’s Dewberry Festival, but also these young folkloric dancers.

Call 210/458-2300; www.texascultures.com/festivals_events/asian_festival_2013.

Chihuahuan Desert Bike Fest TERLINGUA/LAJITAS

FEB 14-16 Headquartered at the Lajitas Resort, the Chihuahuan Desert Bike Festival features rides for all levels around the region’s parks: Thursday in Big Bend National Park, Friday around Lajitas Resort Trail System, and Saturday in Big Bend Ranch State Park. Desert Sports, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Big Bend Ranch State Park collaborate to present the festival, and



Blind Orange Jefferson regularly takes the stage at the Navasota Blues Fest, which honors Navasota native Mance Lipscomb and raises scholarship funds for area students.

all rides are in a non-race format to encourage a fun atmosphere.

More experienced riders can challenge themselves with the International Mountain Bikers Association's "Epic" loop, a 60-mile trail that winds through Big Bend Ranch State Park. The fest offers lodging at the ranch headquarters for those who prefer to break the loop into a two-day trek.

Local businesses host events for the cyclists, from pasta dinners to evening entertainment. The Austin Bike Zoo also brings its creations to the festival. The bikes have been fashioned into kinetic butterflies, bugs, and even an 80-foot rattlesnake. On Friday and Saturday, the

festival hosts dedicated rides open to children of all ages. A word to the wise from Mike Long, owner of Desert Sports: The festival has limited bike rentals, so it's best to bring your own. **Call 432/371-2727; www.desertsportstx.com.**

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

SHAMROCK

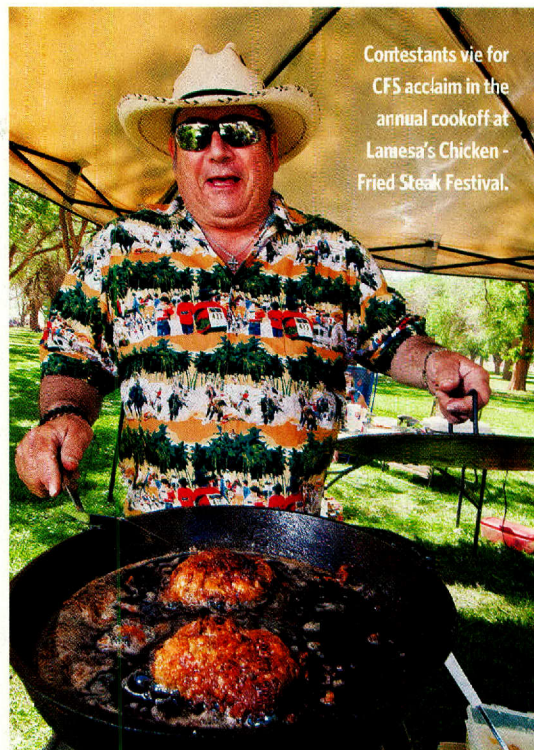
**MARCH
14-17**

In 1938, one of Shamrock's bandmasters, Glenn Truax, decided that the town should pay homage to its Irish name with a one-day event. While the annual St. Patrick's Day festival has morphed over the years, Truax would no doubt be pleased with the event's popularity.

The weekend begins with a track meet on Thursday, and a Friday-night banquet with live music. Shamrock's Irish Rose contestants are also introduced to the public on Friday; the scholarship pageant takes place on Saturday. Participants wear traditional Irish outfits for the parade Saturday morning, donning the familiar green skirt, white top, and black cummerbund.

The St. Patrick's Day Celebration features a carnival with rides and kids' games, an arts and crafts show, and festival fare that includes funnel cakes, turkey legs, and corn dogs. A dance Saturday night features music by Cooder Graw.

And may the luck of the Irish be with those entering the Donegal beard contest. (A Donegal beard sits only on the chin and jawlines and doesn't include any other facial hair.) Men cannot begin growing their beards until January 1 and are judged on length, thickness, and appearance during the St. Patrick's Day



Contestants vie for CFS acclaim in the annual cookoff at Lamesa's Chicken-Fried Steak Festival.

MICHAEL AMADOR

Chicken-Fried Steak Festival & Crossroads Balloon Rally LAMESA

**APRIL
26-28**

In April 2011, the Texas Legislature declared Lamesa the "Legendary Home of the Chicken-Fried Steak," and the town premiered a festival to honor its culinary claim to fame. The Balloon Rally joined the celebration last year.

This year's CFS celebration kicks off on Friday night with a chicken-fried-steak dinner with green beans and rolls. Saturday's festivities are held in Lamesa's Forrest Park, which has a covered plaza for live music from local bands and musicians including Jake Kellen. Enjoy a classic car show, a team-roping competition at the rodeo grounds, pony rides, bounce castles, craft and clothing vendors, wine-tasting, and food booths offering the usual fest fare and CFS.

A Saturday highlight is the Chicken-Fried Steak Cookoff. Contestants enter and receive the same meat, but have the liberty to bring all other ingredients. The winner receives a cast-iron skillet and a \$250 cash prize.

The balloon rally heats up Saturday at dark with Fire Fest, when the pilots ignite their balloon basket burners in sync with music. On Sunday morning, the balloons launch and drift over the Cowboy Church at the rodeo grounds (weather permitting). **Call 806/872-4322; www.growlamesa.com.**



Rock'n Riverfest LLANO

JULY 4-5 Llano's Rock'n Riverfest at Badu Park doubles as this Hill Country town's Fourth of July Festival. The park sits right on the Llano River; watery activities include inflatable waterslides, a duck race, and a children's fishing event.

"It's great just to sit down in the park and watch the kids' excitement for the whole festival," says festival chair Deana Kenners. "It's an absolutely family-friendly environment."

Around the park, a variety of food stands sell hamburgers, hot dogs, pulled-pork sandwiches, and other summertime favorites. A barbecue cookoff draws about 15 to 20 teams who compete in brisket, ribs, and chicken categories. There's a bean cookoff and a dessert competition, too. About 60 arts and crafts vendors offer quilts, jewelry, and clothes.

Rock'n Riverfest also features a patriotic parade for kids, a pet parade, live country music, evening fireworks, and the four-

Fireworks over the water punctuate the games, parades, and cookoffs at Llano's Rock'n Riverfest.

wheel-drive king-of-the-hill mud race. **Call 325/247-5354; www.cityofllano.com or www.llanochamber.org.**

Celebration. **Call 806/256-2501; www.shamrocktexas.net/.**

Dewberry Festival

CAMERON

MAY 18 Cameron celebrates Milam County's title as the "Dewberry Capital of Texas" at this springtime festival held in Wilson-Ledbetter Park. The day stays true to the dew with a cake and dewberry-cobbler bakeoff. The cobbler must be homemade, but the cake competition is broken into two categories: "from scratch" and "almost homemade." "We found out that some people don't make things from scratch anymore," says chamber manager PJ Jennings, laughing. "So we call it the 'almost homemade' contest."

The Dewberry Festival also hosts a classic car show, entertainment throughout the day, and activities for children that include bounce houses, face-painting, pony rides, and a dunking booth. Kids can also participate in a youth fishing tournament—the lake is stocked the day before so everyone is guaranteed to get a catch.

The festival attracts more than 100 vendors selling everything from jewelry and yard art to original caricatures and homemade jams and jellies. As for the food, visitors can sample from hamburgers, sausage wraps, fajitas, turkey legs, and snow cones. **Call 254/697-4979; www.cameron-tx.com.**

Navasota Blues Fest

NAVASOTA

AUG 10-11 Mance Lipscomb (1895-1976) left his mark on blues music across the nation and around the world, and for 18 years, the town of Navasota has honored its native son with the annual Blues Fest. Held inside the Grimes County

Expo Center, the fest attracts local, regional, and national blues acts, including David Egan and Twenty Years of Trouble, Lincoln Durham, and Patrick McLaughlin, and brings in artists from as far away as Italy. The food highlights the area's cultural influences and includes catfish and Cajun fare in addition to barbecue. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and 1 p.m. on Saturday, and the music plays until midnight each day.

The festival profits benefit a college scholarship fund for graduating seniors as well as a continuing education fund for students pursuing masters and doctoral degrees.

"Mance called himself a 'songster,' and sang a lot more than just the blues," says Jo Crawford,

festival coordinator. "But he believed in the importance of education. That's part of our goal—to not only honor Mance by giving scholarships, but to also keep blues alive and get younger people aware of it and listening to it." **Call 936/825-6600; www.navasotabluesfest.org.**

CLAIRE RONNER, who wrote last September's fall fests roundup, especially enjoys talking to small-town-event organizers and drawing inspiration from their enthusiasm.



For a comprehensive list of statewide festivals, visit www.texashighways.com (click on "Events"). Visit www.traveltexas.com for events listings and a "Trip-Planner" feature.



Shamrock's St. Patrick's Day Celebration includes a morning parade and evening dance, along with a carnival and a Donegal beard-growing contest.

KEVIN STILLMAN

Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration GRANBURY

**JULY
4-6**

Granbury rolls out the red, white, and blue carpet for its Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration, which draws more than 100,000 revelers to town. The annual parade features 80 entries, from local marching bands to regional armed forces regiments and area cheerleaders to winners of the kids' decorated bike contest.

All of the events take place around the town square, lined with vendors selling jewelry, outdoor decorations, Philly cheese-steaks, ice cream, lemonade, and corn dogs. The multi-day event includes a car show, face-painting, a kid's area, live music, and a bicycle race. The rodeo takes place during the afternoon at the reunion grounds, which puts visitors in a prime viewing

spot for the evening fireworks show over Lake Granbury.

"Last year's celebration finished with a 30-minute laser-light show projected onto the courthouse that was choreo-

Granbury's Old-Fashioned Fourth of July Celebration features a colorful parade with 80 entries.



MICHAEL AMADOR

graphed to Lee Greenwood's 'Proud to be an American,'" says Mike Scott, president of the Granbury Chamber of Commerce. "About 10,000 people were standing and belting along, and it gave me chills. We hope to do that again." **Call 817/573-1622; www.granburychamber.com.**



The Light Crust Doughboys performed recently at Dallas' Pocket Sandwich Theatre. The group has two more scheduled shows there on February 5 and April 16.

More

More on The Light Crust Doughboys at texashighways.com/more

Swinging into Texas History

The ever-evolving music of The Light Crust Doughboys has enraptured fans for more than 80 years

Text by **GENE FOWLER**

"P EOPLE SAY THAT, BACK IN THE '30S AND EARLY '40S, YOU COULD WALK down any street in Texas and not miss a beat of the Light Crust Doughboys radio program," says current Doughboys fiddler Jim Baker. Every radio set was tuned in to hear the announcer say, "The Light Crust Doughboys are on the air!" "And at every show we play," adds guitarist, pianist, and singer Art Greenhaw, "folks get teary-eyed when we break into the Doughboys theme."

Baker and Greenhaw are relative newcomers to the legendary Western Swing ensemble. They've only been members for about 20 years. The band introduced its newest member, singer-guitarist Dion Pride, son of country star Charley Pride, at a Dallas performance in June.

"We brought down the house with 'Beaumont Rag,' a song the Doughboys recorded in 1937," says Pride.

Pride took the stage with The Light Crust Doughboys this past fall in a series of shows called "Doughboys Pride: Two Great Names in American Music" at Dallas' Pocket Sandwich Theatre. "I'm thrilled to be a Doughboy," says Pride. "It felt amazing when I first put on the burgundy band shirt with the flowers and The Light Crust Doughboys lettering. I grew up knowing about the band, and I have great respect for its history."

Doughboys history begins in 1931 in Fort Worth, when a young fiddler from Turkey, Texas, named Bob Wills convinced Burrus Mill, producer of Light Crust Flour, to sponsor the Wills Fiddle Band on the radio. With Herman Arnsperger on guitar and Milton Brown on vocals, the newly named Light Crust Doughboys were on the air. At first, Burrus general manager W. Lee O'Daniel didn't care for the band's "hillbilly" sounds. Then he beheld the Doughboys' immense popularity with radio

listeners—and flour buyers. Developing a homey, cornpone radio persona, “Pappy” O’Daniel became the group’s announcer. And, by the end of the Great Depression (after forming his own company, Hillbilly Flour, with its own band, the Hillbilly Boys), O’Daniel would ride the airwaves to the governor’s mansion and a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Wills, who was fired in 1933 for drinking and playing too many dances, went on to become the fabled “King of Western Swing” with his band the Texas Playboys. Brown left the Doughboys to start his own group, Milton Brown and his Musical Brownies, which further established Fort Worth as the cradle of Western Swing.

At least 175 blue-chip Western-Swingers shuffled in and out of the Doughboys’ ranks as the years flew by. While the band cranked out the old-time fiddle tunes, its versatile repertoire also included cowboy songs, waltzes, hymns, popular ballads, and a range of Dixieland, blues, and jazz songs. After Benny Goodman launched the swing craze in 1935, the Doughboys played the hot new sounds created for horns on their string instruments.

In his 2002 book, *The Light Crust Doughboys Are On The Air*, historian John Mark Dempsey points out that the Doughboys were also heavily influenced by black musicians. A lively anecdote from Doughboys banjoist Marvin

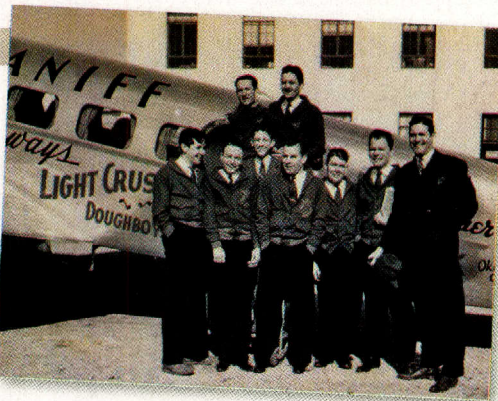
The Light Crust Doughboys

FOUNDED BY WESTERN SWING legend Bob Wills in Fort Worth in 1931, The Light Crust Doughboys were originally sponsored by Burrus Mill, the maker of Light Crust Flour. Often called the longest-running band in Texas, the Doughboys have survived not only the passage of time and generations but also changing tastes in musical styles and formats, from 78 rpm records to compact discs and digital downloads. Though the group’s best-known announcer, W. Lee “Pappy” O’Daniel, later became a Texas governor and U.S. senator, he once said that his greatest legacy would be The Light Crust Doughboys.

The current Doughboys, which include Maurice Anderson on steel guitar; Maurice’s wife, Teresa Anderson, on vocals; and Kevin Bailey on vocals and guitar, will play a Valentine’s show on February 5 and a springtime show on April 16 at **Dallas’** Pocket Sandwich Theatre. Call 214/821-1860.

To inquire about the group’s performance schedule; catalog of music including the band’s Grammy-winning gospel album, “We Called Him Mr. Gospel Music: The James Blackwood Tribute,” and their latest CD, “Spiritual Cowboys: Introducing Dion Pride, Newest Doughboy”; and collectible instruments, call 972/285-5441, or write to 105 Broad St., Mesquite 75149; www.thelightcrustdoughboys.com; www.honkytonkform.com/artgreenhaw.

A small exhibit of Light Crust Doughboys memorabilia is displayed at the Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame in **Fort Worth**. Call 817/626-7131; www.texascowboyhalloffame.org. An extensive exhibit on The Light Crust Doughboys is scheduled to open in 2013 at the Texas Heritage Museum at Hill College in **Hillsboro**. Call 254/659-7750; www.hillcollege.edu/info/texasheritagemuseum. —Gene Fowler



Since its formation in 1931, The Light Crust Doughboys lineup has included at least 175 members.



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Speaking of Texas

The band recently introduced its newest member, singer-guitarist Dion Pride, son of country star Charley Pride.

“Smokey” Montgomery illustrates that cross-cultural experience. While making the film *The Big Show* at the 1936 Texas Centennial celebration in Dallas with Gene Autry, Montgomery met Leonard Slye, who later changed his name to Roy Rogers. To harness Slye’s wild streak, Republic Pictures bosses locked the young singer in his room at the Adolphus Hotel. “But,” Dempsey recounts, “while Montgomery waited outside his door, Slye would climb over the transom, and he and Marvin would then hit the

funky clubs in Dallas’ Deep Ellum district.” Montgomery—whose fingers “smoked” the banjo frets—joined the band in 1935 and, except for during World War II and another brief hiatus or two, he remained an active Light Crust Doughboy until his death in 2001. “We’ve retired the banjo position in the band for now,” says Art Greenhaw. “Nobody could replace Smokey.”

Granbury rock-and-roller Phil Strawn, whose late father Johnny Strawn played fiddle with the Doughboys, understands Greenhaw’s feelings. “I played with them once in a while as an unofficial Light Crust Doughboy, usually on five-string banjo or bass,” he explains. “My father and I worked up a banjo and fiddle duet on ‘Ole Joe Clark’ for their album ‘150 Years of Texas Country Music.’ I had known most of the Doughboys all my life, but when Smokey called the downbeat, I was so nervous my hands were shaking. It just hit me right upside the head when I was in the studio recording for that album—I had been invited to be a part of Texas history.” **TH**

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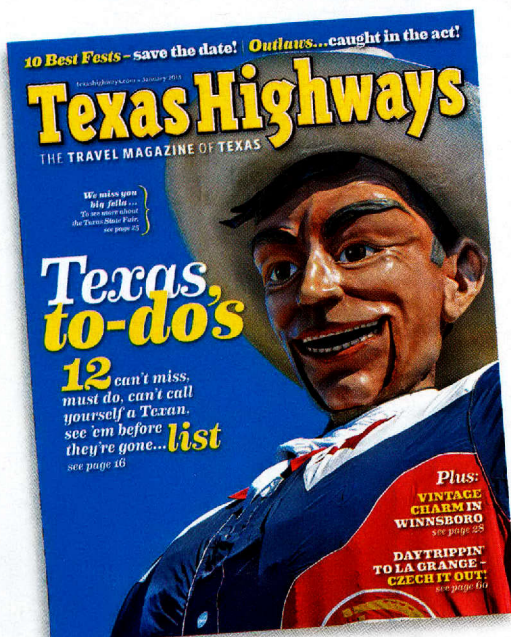
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- 3. Bullock Texas State History Museum**, pg. 11
- 4. Glen Rose Convention & Visitors Bureau**, pg. 53
- 5. Kerrville Convention & Visitors Bureau**, pg. 12
- 6. Pecos, Texas**, pg. 58
- 7. Port Arthur Convention & Visitors Bureau**, pg. 15
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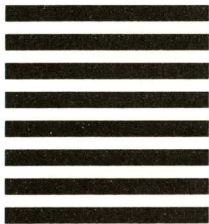
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Caption: "Wild about Texas...2012"

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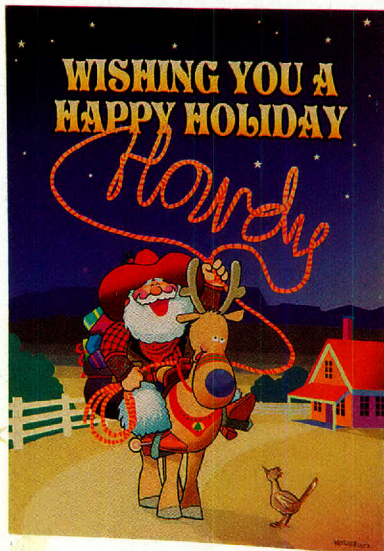
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This year's collectors' ornament celebrates Texas music. See the entire collection at www.texashighways.com.

Item 39409.....\$21.95



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"Cowboy Santa" wishes everyone a happy holiday and best wishes for the new year. 18 cards and envelopes. 5 x 7 inches.

Item 35525.....\$10.95



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Item 35524.....\$10.95

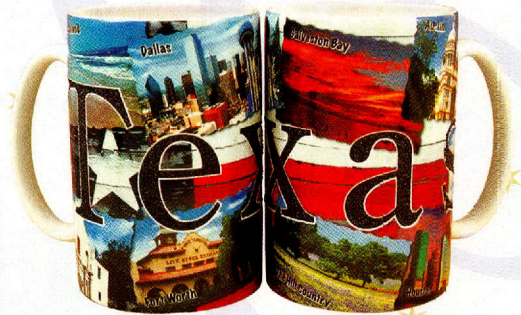
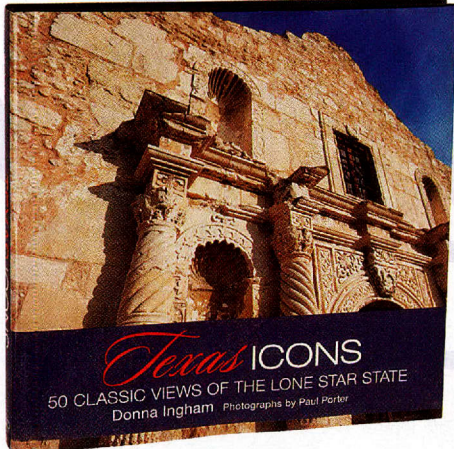
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Item 38736 \$18.95



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Item 38292..... \$14.95 Boy/Navy

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Item 38504..... \$42.95

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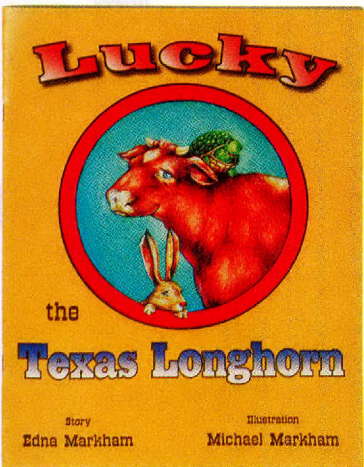
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Scrapdaddy in South Texas

THE SAYING "ONE MAN'S JUNK IS ANOTHER MAN'S TREASURE" certainly rings true for prolific art-car creator Mark David Bradford. Better known as "**Scrapdaddy**," this Houston sculptor is famed for bringing life to his giant, robotic creations made from material found in scrapyards.

South Texans will now have the opportunity to view these innovative pieces—from his motorized art cars to smaller, fixed sculptures—at a solo exhibition at the **Beeville Art Museum**. The exhibit will be on view throughout the museum, with displays both indoors and out. Many of Bradford's pieces incorporate hydraulics and movement, and visitors can interact with and manipulate the junkyard creations.

To kick off the exhibit, there will be a performance and walking demonstration by one of Scrapdaddy's wilder creations, Mr. Green (right). Made solely from recycled materials, Mr. Green stands more than 12 feet high and seven feet wide, and took some 10 months to construct.

The exhibition will be on view January 26 through May 3. Mr. Green's performance takes place opening day from noon to 2 p.m. Call 361/358-8615; www.bamtexas.org.

TH tip

Scrapdaddy's creations have been at Houston's Art Car Parade for 24 years.



January Events

BIG BEND COUNTRY

ALPINE: Removing the Shroud of History: Archaeology in the Big Bend January 1-February 3. Museum of the Big Bend. www.sulross.edu/museum 432/837-8143

EL PASO: El Paso Puzzler Endurance Weekend January 19-20. The Bowen Ranch Round House. <http://puzzlerendurance.wordpress.com>

FORT STOCKTON: Pecos County Livestock Show January 11-13. Pecos County Coliseum. 432/336-2541

MONAHANS: Ward County Livestock Show January 28-February 1. Ward County Coliseum. 432/943-4112

GULF COAST

ARANSAS PASS: Texas Winter Market January 12-13. Aransas Pass Civic Center. www.texasmarketguide.com 888/225-3427

ARANSAS PASS: Coastal Bend Woodcarvers Show and School January 31-February 7. Aransas Pass Civic Center. www.texascarvers.org

BEAUMONT: Spindletop Anniversary Celebration January 12. The Spindletop-Gladys City Boomtown Museum. www.spindletop.org 409/835-0823

BEAUMONT: Sarah Williams: Remote America January 19-April 7. Art Museum of Southeast Texas. www.amset.org

BROWNSVILLE: Taquerias of Southmost Exhibit January 1-31. Brownsville Heritage Museum. www.texasfolklife.org 512/441-9255

CORPUS CHRISTI: Contemporary Studio Glass from the Collection of the Mobile Museum of Art January 25-May 5. The Art Museum of South Texas. www.artmuseumofsouthtexas.org 361/825-3500

EDNA: Brackenridge Winter Carnival and Snow Day January 19. www.brackenridgepark.com 361/782-7272

FULTON: Texas Gourmet Food Show January 19-20. www.texasmarketguide.com 888/225-3427

GALVESTON: Yaga's Chili Quest and Beer Fest January 18-19. Historic Strand District. www.yagasresents.com/chiliquest 409/770-0999

HARLINGEN: Winter Texan Appreciation Fiesta January 21. Casa de Amistad. 956/216-5990

HOUSTON: War/Photography: Photographs of Armed Conflict and its Aftermath January 1-February 3. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. www.mfah.org

HOUSTON: Houston Cat Club Charity Cat Show January 5-6. George R. Brown Convention Center. www.houstoncatclub.com 713/688-9007 or 281/497-0790

ORANGE: National Geographic Greatest Photographs of the American West January 1-26. Stark Museum of Art. www.starkmuseum.org 409/886-2787

PORT ARANSAS: First Friday January 4. Hours are 5:30-7:30 p.m. Port Aransas Art Center. 361/749-7334

PORT ARTHUR: Krewe of Neptune 12th Night Mardi Gras Party January 12. 409/962-9860

ROCKPORT: Gospel Music Festival January 4-6. www.gospelforce.org/festival.html 361/205-2789

SAN BENITO: Market Days January 19. Plaza de San Benito. www.cityofsanbenito.com 956/399-5321

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Annual Polar Bear Dip January 1. Boomerang Billy's. 800/767-2373

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January 18-19, 2013

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place to visit!

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: SPI Market Days January 11-13. South Padre Island Convention Centre. 956/554-9899

SUGAR LAND: Sugar Land Heritage Foundation Historic Walking Tour January 12. Historic Imperial Sugar Refinery. www.slheritage.org 281/494-0261

VICTORIA: Ann Harithas: Dimensional Frontiers January 1-20. The Nave Museum. www.victoriaregionalmuseum.com 361/575-8227

HILL COUNTRY

AUSTIN: Into the Sacred City: Tibetan Buddhist Deities From the Theos Bernard Collection January 1-13. Blanton Museum of Art. www.blantonmuseum.org 512/471-7324

AUSTIN: Martin Luther King March and Festival January 21. www.mlkcelebration.com/celebration-events/march-and-festival 512/323-6773 ext. 102

BANDERA: Cowgirl Round-up and Show-deo January 1. Hill Country State Natural Area. www.tpwd.state.tx.us/state-parks/hill-country 830/796-4413

BOERNE: Second Saturday Art and Wine January 12. www.secondsaturdayartandwine.com 877/833-0621

FREDERICKSBURG: Black-Eyed Pea and Cornbread Cook-Off January 1. Torre di Pietra Vineyards. www.texas-hillcountrywine.com 830/644-2829

FREDERICKSBURG: Hill Country Gem and Mineral Show January 19-20. Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. www.fredericksburgrockhounds.org 830/990-9823

FREDERICKSBURG: Hill Country Artifact Show January 26. Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. 830/626-5561

KERRVILLE: Hill Country Cowboy Breakfast January 11. Courthouse square. www.kerrvilletx.com 830/896-1155

KINGSLAND: Winter Texan Dinner January 8. www.kingslandchamber.org 325/388-6211

LLANO: Citywide Garage Sale January 19. 325/247-5354

LUCKENBACH: Luckenbach Blues Festival January 26. www.luckenbachtexas.com 830/997-3224

NEW BRAUNFELS: Roll Call Civil War Exhibit January 1-April 30. www.sophienburg.com 830/629-1572

SAN MARCOS: Las Sombras/The Shadows: Photographs by Kate Breakey January 1-April 11. www.thewittliffcollections.txstate.edu 512/245-2313

PANHANDLE PLAINS

ABILENE: Abilene Spectacular Cutting Horse Competition January 2-12. 325/583-2785

ABILENE: World of Wheels Auto Show January 25-27. Abilene Civic Center. 325/676-6211

ALBANY: Gene Owens: Modern Vision January 1-20. www.theoldjailartcenter.org 325/762-2269

AMARILLO: The Kwahadi Dancers' Winter Night Ceremonials January 18-20, 25-26. 806/335-3175.

CANYON: Collecting Art History: Taste on the Southern Plains January 1-February 16. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. http://panhandleplains.org

EASTLAND: The Way Things Were: Texas Settlers and Their Buildings, 1860s-1930s January 3-26. Eastland County Museum. 254/631-6894

LUBBOCK: Walk of Fame II: The Crickets January 1-February 3. www.buddyhollycenter.org 806/775-3560

SAN ANGELO: Art Walk January 17. www.downtownsanangelo.com/artwalk.html 325/653-3333

SAN ANGELO: Restless Heart: Texas Regional Artists, Contemporary and Historical January 24-April 7. San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts. www.samfa.org 325/653-3333

PINEY WOODS

JEFFERSON: Quilts on the Bayou January 25-27. www.jeffersonquiltshow.com 903/755-2095

LIBERTY: Liberty Opry January 5, 12, 19, 26. At 1816 Sam Houston Ave. www.libertyopry.com 936/336-5830

LIVINGSTON: Alabama-Coushatta Children's Powwow January 26. www.alabama-coushatta.com 936/239-0771

LONGVIEW: Starving Artists Art Sale January 6. www.starvingartistsgroup.com 281/360-3420

LONGVIEW: East Texas Outdoor Expo January 25-27. www.texaslakecountryexpo.com

THE WOODLANDS: Winter Wonderland and the Woodlands Ice Rink January 1-21. www.holidayinthe-woodlands.com 877/963-2447

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

BELLVILLE: Spring Creek Bluegrass Club Show and Jam January 26. Coushatta Recreation Ranch. www.springcreekbluegrass.com 979/865-5250

BRENHAM: Brenham Winter Antiques and Decorative Arts Show January 12-13. www.ruraltexasantiquesshows.com 888/273-6426

CANTON: First Monday Trade Days January 3-6, 31-February 3. www.visitcantontx.com 877/462-7467

DALLAS: Linder Exhibition January 1-31. www.goss-michaelfoundation.org 214/696-0555

DALLAS: Rising Up: Hale Woodruff's Murals at Talladega College January 1-February 28. African American Museum of Dallas. www.aamdallas.org 214/565-9026

FARMERSVILLE: Farmers & Fleas Market January 5. Historic Onion Shed. www.farmersvilletx.com 972/782-6533

FORT WORTH: Southwestern Exposition Livestock Show and Rodeo January 18-February 9. Will Rogers Memorial Center. www.fwssr.com 817/392-7469

GARLAND: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and March January 19. www.garlandtxnaacp.org 972/381-5044

IRVING: Faces of Classical Music: Photographs by William McEwen January 1-27. Irving Arts Center. www.irvingartscenter.com 972/252-7558

McKINNEY: Dinosaurs Live! January 1-February 3. www.heardmuseum.org 972/562-5566

McKINNEY: Third Monday Trade Days January 18-20. www.tmtd.com 972/562-5466

MESQUITE: Mesquite Creative Arts Club Exhibition January 5-February 3. Mesquite Arts Center. www.mesquiteartscenter.org 972/216-6444

PLANO: Dallas-Area Model Train Show January 19-20. Plano Center. www.dfwtrainshows.com

ROUND TOP: Winter Antiques Show January 18-19. www.roundtoptexasantiques.com 512/237-4747

WACO: Texas Circuit Finals Rodeo January 3-5. Extraco Events Center. www.hotfair.com 254/776-1660

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

EAGLE PASS: Maverick County Junior Livestock Show January 22-26. 830/513-0398

MCALLEN: McAllen International Travel Show January 9-10. McAllen Convention Center. www.internationaltravelshow.com 956/682-2871

MCALLEN: The McAllen International CarFest January 25-27. www.mcallencarfest.com 956/681-3800

MISSION: Texas Citrus Fiesta January 26. www.texas-citrusfiesta.org 956/585-9724

SAN ANTONIO: Prints of the People: The Taller de Grafica Popular January 1-20. www.mcnayart.org

SAN ANTONIO: America's Finest: Recent Works by Vincent Valdez January 1-27. www.mcnayart.org

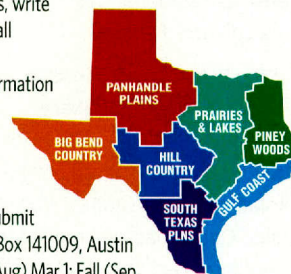
SAN ANTONIO: Martin Luther King Jr. March and Rally January 21. Pittman-Sullivan Park. www.sanantonio.gov/mlk 210/207-2213

WESLACO: Alfresco Weslaco January 17. Texas Boulevard. www.weslaconow.com 956/969-0838

Want more? Go to the Events Calendar at www.texashighways.com.

For a free printed copy of an even more detailed, quarterly schedule of events, write to Texas Events Calendar subscriptions, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249. Or, call 800/452-9292 from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8-6 Central. For Texas travel questions, call 800/452-9292 to reach a TxDOT Travel Information Center, where a professional travel counselor will provide routing assistance, advise you of any emergency road conditions, and send brochures (including the official Texas State Travel Guide and map, accommodations guide, and quarterly Texas Events Calendar).

To submit event information: www.texashighways.com and go to Events, Submit Event Listing; e-mail: texasevents@txdot.gov; or mail: Texas Events Calendar, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. Listing deadlines: Spring (Mar, Apr, May) Dec 1; Summer (Jun, Jul, Aug) Mar 1; Fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) Jun 1; Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb) Sep 1.



CHET GARNER is the host of *The Daytripper™* travel show on PBS; www.thedaytripper.com.

Vitáme Vás to La Grange



WHILE SOME may only know La Grange for its infamous “chicken ranch” or through the music of bearded rockers ZZ Top, in truth this Texas town has much more to offer. I headed to La Grange to “Czech” it all out.

9:00 a.m. I made arrangements with **Camp Lone Star** to take a two-mile canoe trip down the Colorado River. There was just enough time to soak up the Texas sunshine, drag my toes in the frigid water, and observe the local swimming cows, who seemed much more eager to wade in than I was.

11:00 a.m. I stopped at the **Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center**. In the late 1800s, an astounding 80 percent of Fayette County’s population was of Czech descent. The center tells the stories of these early settlers who ventured to Texas poor in money, but rich in culture. I walked through original Czech homes, listened to Czech music, and took time to fully appreciate the traditional Czech clothing (pictured above).

12:30 p.m. I headed to **Weikel’s Bakery**, with roots dating to 1929. Today the bakery specializes in kolaches. These gooey, fruit-filled Czech pastries make for excellent road-trip food and the perfect way to ruin any

upcoming meal. It took amazing willpower not to finish my classic prune and modern strawberry-cream-cheese kolaches, but I had to save room for my next stop.

1:00 p.m. I walked through the back entrance of **Prause Meat Market**, past the smoldering pits, and was relieved to find that they still had barbecue left for lunch, as they’ve been known to sell out quickly. This historic joint is run by a fourth generation of Prauses who still operate a full-service meat market up front and offer smoked meats from the back. I enjoyed a full plate of brisket, sausage, and their signature pork roll.

2:15 p.m. Beyond its Czech past, La Grange also holds a rich German and Texan history. To explore both, I headed to **Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site**. My first stop was Monument Hill, where

a tomb holds the remains of 52 Texas heroes killed during the days of the Texas Republic in the Dawson Massacre and Mier Expedition. Soldiers captured by Mexico during the failed Mier Expedition were forced to draw beans. A white bean meant life and a black bean meant execution, making for one of the most dramatic stories in Texas history. A short hike from the tomb led me to the ruins of the Kreische Brewery, where German immigrant Heinrich Kreische founded one of the first commercial breweries in Texas.

4:00 p.m. While the brewery has gone dry, you can still sample the traditional beverages of the motherland at the **Rohan Meadery**, where owners John and Wendy Rohan are putting a Texas twist on this ancient libation. Mead is actually honey wine, and after a lesson on the art of honey tasting, I grabbed a glass of refreshing

pomegranate mead and sipped it on the patio.

6:00 p.m. As the sun set, I followed the aroma of deep-fried deliciousness to **Gold ‘N Crisp Fried Chicken**. Since 1972, this small stand has been turning out piping-hot boxes holding some of the tastiest fried chicken in Texas. I grabbed an open picnic table, extra napkins, and proceeded to devour every piece.

7:30 p.m. To cap off the day, I stepped inside **The Bugle Boy**, an intimate listening room housed in a renovated World War II Army barracks. This place is so serious about music that they allow no talking and pour your potato chips into a bowl to limit bag noise during shows.

AS THE acoustic sounds of a Texas troubadour filled the space, my head, heart, and stomach were filled with joy from what can only be described as one of “The Best Little Day Trips in Texas.” So, whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **TH**

Contact the **La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce** at 800/524-7264; www.lagrangetx.org.



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TH video on removing
imperfections at
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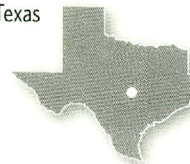
Window on Texas

Photograph by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

CONFECTION PERFECTION A few simple techniques can smooth out imperfections and make the surface of an object pop and come alive in a photograph. In his January video at www.texashighways.com, Photography Editor Griff Smith shows how to use a short blast from a hair dryer to remove scratches from a selection of chocolates at Austin's Lammes Candies. "The hair dryer heats up the chocolate and makes the imperfections melt into each other," Smith said. Similar treatments for other objects include applying oil to a rock or spraying water on a flower.

For this photograph, Smith chose slabs of solid chocolate called "break-up," a raspberry truffle, and licorice jellybeans. Lammes Candies, known for its Texas Chewie Pecan Pralines and Longhorns (chocolate, pecans, and caramel), has four locations in Austin and one in Round Rock. Call 800/252-1885; <http://lammes.com>.

Look for our story on chocolate in February's Taste.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit www.texashighwaysprints.com.

