

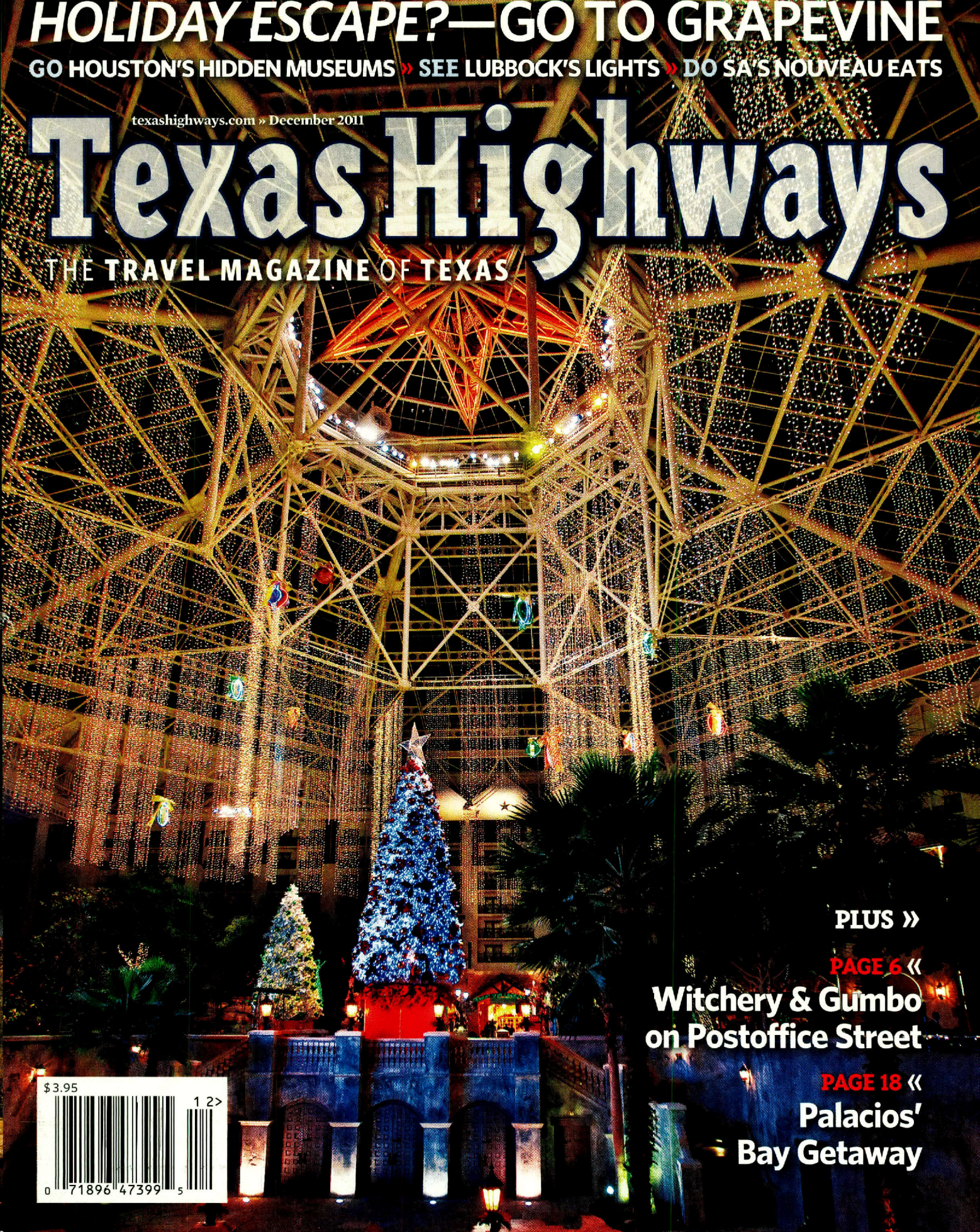
**HOLIDAY ESCAPE?—GO TO GRAPEVINE**

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texashighways.com » December 2011

# Texas Highways

THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS



**PLUS »**

**PAGE 6 «**

**Witchery & Gumbo  
on Postoffice Street**

**PAGE 18 «**

**Palacios'  
Bay Getaway**

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J. GRIFFIS SMITH

Grapevine's North Pole Express, including 1920s-era coaches pulled by a vintage locomotive, transports merrymakers among seasonal attractions, including the holiday Light Show Spectacular. Read Barbara Rodriguez's account on page 22.

## When Words Win!!

*Will this month's "de-Grinch" feature rank with  
It's a Wonderful Life? You be the judge.*

**L**AST MONTH, I started this column with the words, "it's extremely rare." Then, I was referring to photographs of the scorched remains of Bastrop State Park that brought tears to my eyes. This month, I have another "extremely rare" moment to recount. This one, dealing with circumstances much less dramatic than those related to the Bastrop fires, involves Art Director Jane Wu saying she'd rather cut a photograph than a paragraph of text as we maneuvered the *De-Grinch* in *Grapevine* feature into this issue (page 22).

Most editors will know how rare it is for an AD to make such a proclamation, but the design-world "civilians" among you might not understand the implications. First, art directors never—or at least rarely—prefer to cut photographs, either in size or quantity, over whittling text. In fact, to many art directors, the text is just the gray stuff that mortars the photographs together. Second, this incident points to an essential attribute of Jane's approach to designing the magazine: She thoroughly studies the writer's work (perhaps, in part, because she's written a few magazine pieces herself). Not surprising, you say. *Au contraire*. Art directors, often satisfied with a quick review of the text, have been known to devise a free-standing strategy for how a story should communicate graphically, with the writer's work, in that context, relegated to junior status, rather than that of equal partner.

So, Jane's reaction also is a major compliment to writer Barbara Rodriguez, a regular *Texas Highways* contributor who often writes family and friends into her stories to make them even more personal and compelling (her son, Elliott, makes frequent appearances). And, since I started this column with mention of tears, I'll do the same in relation to Babs' story. Managing Editor Jill Lawless says she couldn't read past the train ride section without a few of what she described as, "Mom tears."

You'll have to see for yourself. Read about Babs' "de-grinching" experience and see if it brings up a few emotional associations with holidays past. Those things have a way of leaving us a little misty-eyed.

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*Charles J. Lohrmann*

Charles J. Lohrmann, Editor

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COVER STORY

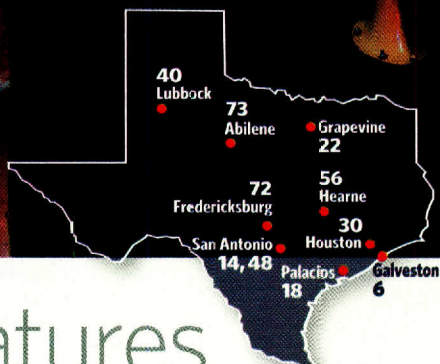
# 22

## De-Grinch in Grapevine


A trek to Grapevine—the “Christmas Capital of Texas”—revives the holidays for a teenager and his mom. The magic includes hand-carved ice sculptures, snow-tubing, and train rides.

Text by **BARBARA RODRIGUEZ**

Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**



## features

Check out [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com) for more travel information 

**30 | Houston's Hidden Museums**  
Don't overlook four intriguing sites outside Houston's Museum District: the 1940 Air Terminal Museum, the Houston Maritime Museum, the Houston Fire Museum, and the Museum of Printing History.

Text by **JENNIFER BABISAK**  
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**40 | Lubbock Lights**  
Lubbock-area holiday events include a lights-spectacular kickoff, a canyon homes tour, a Winter Wonderland with a focus on tradition, and a candlelight tour of historic ranch buildings.

Text by **NOLA McKEY**  
Photographs by **KEVIN STILLMAN**

**48 | Rock Stars**  
San Antonio's limestone quarries have created unusual settings for sites including the Japanese Tea Garden, the San Antonio Zoo, Trinity University, Alamo Quarry Market, and Six Flags Fiesta Texas.

Text by **BOB McCULLOUGH**  
Photographs by **SARAH KERVER**



Check out our  
online index at  
[www.texas  
highways.com](http://www.texas<br/>highways.com)

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Bastrop, Naples, and Kerrville

**6 | Postcards**  
**2100 Postoffice Street**  
Restaurants, galleries, an unusual bookstore, and portside ambiance form a microcosm of Galveston culture on Postoffice Street. *Plus:* An African art exhibit in Austin; Bastrop's Lost Pines Christmas.

**14 | TH Taste**  
**San Antonio's Culinary Revelation**  
Long hailed for its Tex-Mex, the Alamo City boasts new diversity, thanks to adventurous chefs who embrace global influences and ingre-

dients. *Plus:* A Latin-inspired vibe permeates a renovated hotel near the River Walk.

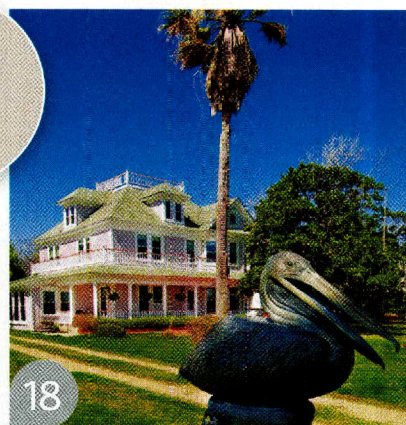
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**Flock to the Coast**  
Palacios welcomes both birds and people each winter. Besides birding, human visitors can check out a century-old hotel, a museum, and restaurants.

**56 | Speaking of Texas**  
**Camp Hearne**  
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**Big in the Burg**  
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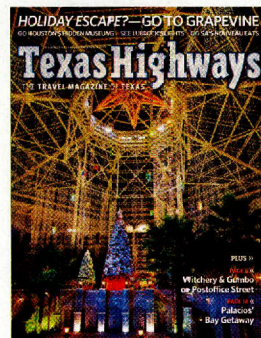
**73 | Window on Texas**  
**Nighttime Stampede**  
A bas-relief at an Abilene museum depicts the chaos that could erupt during a 19th-Century cattle drive.



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### About Our Covers

**FRONT:** The atrium of the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center sets a festive stage for family activities like tubing down a nine-lane snow hill.

**BACK:** A portion of a former quarry wall provides a screen for the laser and fireworks show that concludes each day at Six Flags Fiesta Texas in San Antonio.

Both photos by J. G. ffis Smith

### Photographic Prints Available



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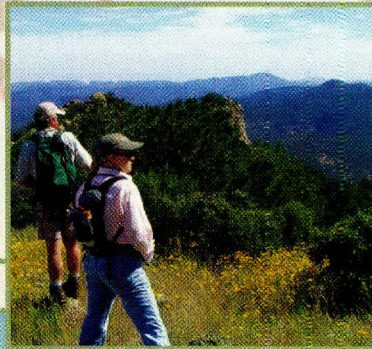


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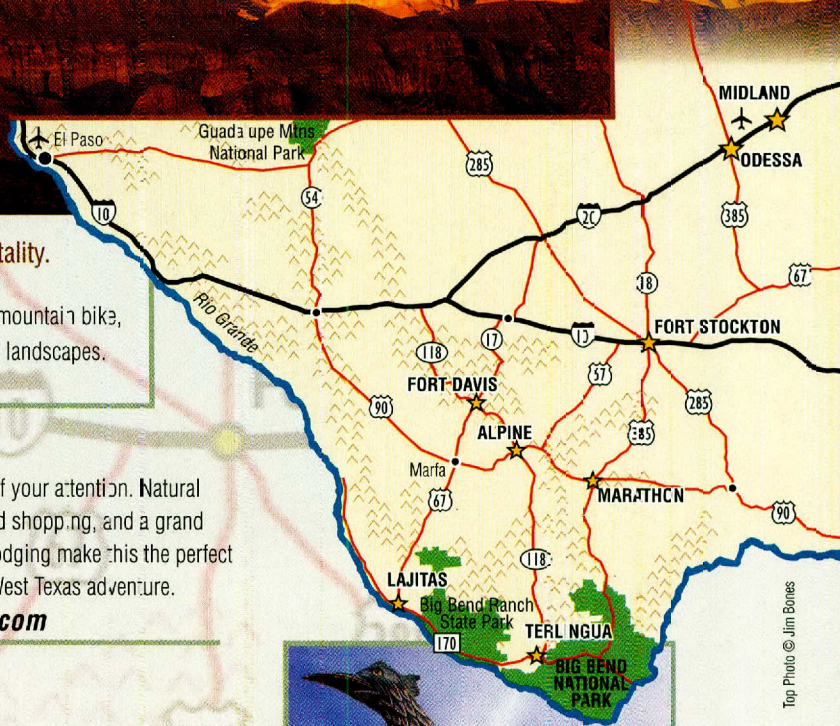
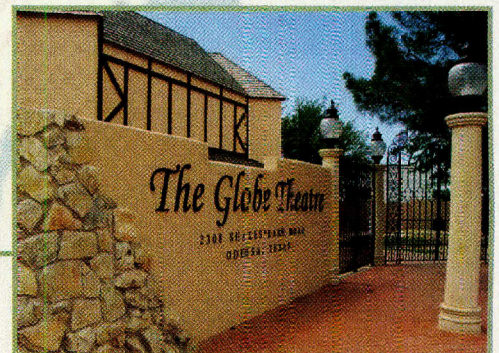
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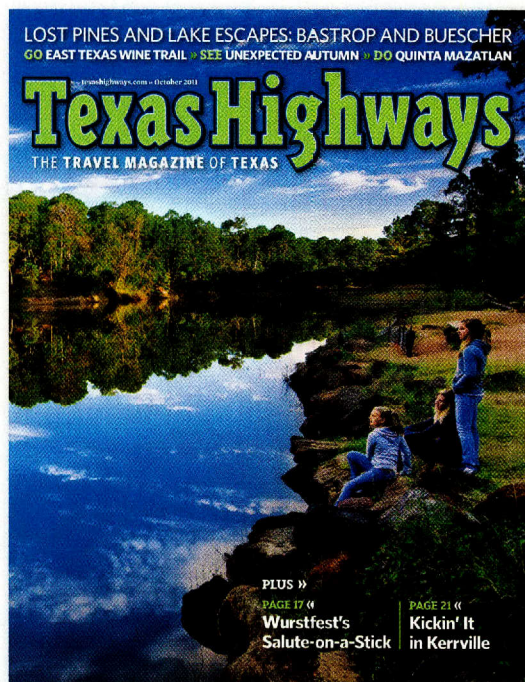
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Top Photo © Jim Bones

"I was so glad your magazine had the chance and foresight to capture the beautiful images of Bastrop State Park before the tragedy."

—CARLA JONES



## Our Best to Bastrop

Don't know what premonition Andy Ross had to do a story about the Lost Pines at Bastrop and Buescher state parks [October], but thanks! We will miss the beauty of Bastrop State Park and the ride on Park Road 1C, now changed for a generation. Our hearts go out to those impacted by all the fires that have run rampant across the state this year.

**JAY TRAINOR**  
Georgetown

I'm not usually brought to tears reading a *TH* article, but the Bastrop State Park story did it. I know that eventually the area will recover—it will take time to be close to what it was before the fires. That process of renewal is already beginning.

**NOKO MARIE THESNAKE**  
*TH Facebook Fan*

The article is both a treasure and a reminder of what Bastrop State Park was and can become again. The view from

the Space Station of the fires across the state was difficult to comprehend, but the Bastrop fire was absolutely sickening because I have a long personal connection with the area. One of the things I look forward to doing when I get home is joining the legions of volunteers who are anxious to help restore this gem of our state park system.

**MIKE FOSSUM, NASA astronaut**  
*Expedition 29 Commander*  
*International Space Station*

More  
*TH* Talk at [www.texashighways.com/talk](http://www.texashighways.com/talk)

## Room for More

In the article on Piney Woods wineries [October], you missed the Red Road Vineyard and Winery [[www.redroadvineyard.com](http://www.redroadvineyard.com)] in Naples, fairly new and housed in the old icehouse alongside the Cotton Belt Railroad. It's a wonderful place with quite a selection of wines.

**GERALD HAMPTON**  
*Marshall*

Regarding October's Weekender on Kerrville: You didn't include one of our best attractions, the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center [[www.kackerrville.com](http://www.kackerrville.com)], which always has wonderful displays of original artwork and hosts the Texas Furniture Makers Show in November and December. And River's Edge, A Tuscan Grille [[www.riversedgetuscangrille.com](http://www.riversedgetuscangrille.com)] is a bit hard to find, but the fabulous food and spectacular view of the Guadalupe River make it worth the effort.

**ELLEN CONNELLY**

## ➔ **TH** READER RECOMMENDATION

## Off into the Sunset

**WE TOOK** a trip to **Glen Rose** and found the **Sunset Ridge Bed and Breakfast**. It sits atop Chalk Mountain with a beautiful view of a valley. The rooms provide a gorgeous setting for breakfast on the patio and wildlife viewing. The hosts, Vickie and Fred Moore, will spoil you with delicious meals. The location is rural and quiet, but convenient to Glen Rose and Granbury.

**JIM AND NINA BATES, Marshall**

Sunset Ridge Bed and Breakfast is at 9971 US 67 W. (10 miles west of Glen Rose), 214/212-2146; [www.sunsetridgebedandbreakfast.com](http://www.sunsetridgebedandbreakfast.com).

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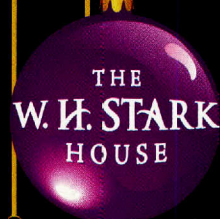
Spend a day in the decorated gardens and enjoy family-friendly activities along with an opportunity to see Santa Claus. For details, call 409.670.9113.



## **Holiday Open House at The W.H. Stark House**

December 13, 15 • 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. • [whstarkhouse.org](http://whstarkhouse.org)

Enjoy seasonal decorations during a complimentary First-Floor tour of a Texas Historic Landmark. For details, call 409.883.0871.



## **Holiday Exhibit Celebration at Stark Museum of Art**

December 13, 15 • 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. • [starkmuseum.org](http://starkmuseum.org)

Delight in holiday music and enjoy gallery spotlights in one of the most significant collections of Western American art. For details, call 409.886.ARTS.



## **Mannheim Steamroller at Lutch Theater**

December 29 • 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. • [lutcher.org](http://lutcher.org)

Celebrate the spirit of the season with this incredible holiday performance. Tickets are on sale now. For details, call 409.886.5535.



Programs of the Nelda C. and H.J. Lutch Stark Foundation.



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11

# Postcards

📍 INSIDE: DINING BEYOND TEX-MEX IN SAN ANTONIO ...14 STAY AND PLAY IN PALACIOS ...18



See!

Cruise ships docking  
or departing near  
The Strand

## 2100 Postoffice Street

*This historic Galveston block combines neighborhood ambiance with a hint of New Orleans* Text by **CHARLES LOHRMANN**

**O**NE OF THE REASONS I ENJOY sleeping in the Harbor House Hotel, a converted wharf warehouse on Galveston's touristy Pier 21, is that, when I'm able to claim a room overlooking the channel, I can watch the ships glide past at all hours. This scenario evokes a sense of the world in motion and even a glimpse of a foreign port from one vantage point. Also, at the Harbor House,

I can indulge my occasional preference for the port side of Galveston, in contrast to the beachy scenes across the island. And, even more importantly, the historic business district is just a few steps away.

One morning not too long ago, I took a few minutes to stroll from the Harbor House and Pier 21 over to the nearby cruise terminal to observe the sociological melee that unfolds as cruise returnees scramble

off the ship. I see couples clutching straw bags, corralling luggage, and making their way out to an idling cab. Nearby cluster the oddly mismatched groups, comparing notes on experiences of the past few days. And always, a

The wide sidewalks in front of the Mod Coffeehouse invite passersby and local characters to take a few minutes for a conversation, or just to enjoy the neighborhood.



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October 5, 2011 | January 15, 2012



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The Annie Laurie Swain Hearin Memorial Exhibition Series. Organized by the Mississippi Museum of Art, Jackson. Lenora and Walter F. Brown and the Elizabeth Huth Coates Charitable Foundation of 1952 are generously funding the exhibition at the McNay. Media sponsorship is provided by the *San Antonio Express-News*.

Image: Katsushika Talto, *Carp Leaping from a Stream (Detail)*, ca. 1840. Color woodcut. Collection of Lauren Rogers Museum of Art, Laurel, Mississippi. Gift of Wallace B. Rogers, 26.137.

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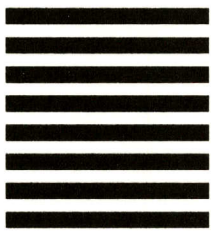
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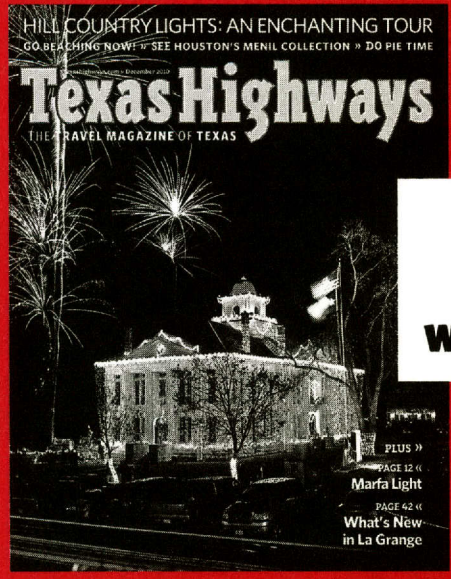


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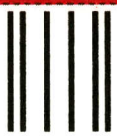
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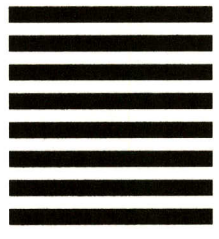
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The Gumbo Bar's rich, spicy namesake dish draws a crowd to Postoffice St.

but also because this coffeehouse anchors a block of the neighborhood that shares what's best about the venerated Strand area: good food, quirky retail operations, friendly people, and historic architecture. I determine the final mix of the experience according to my mood, but the ingredients are all here. On a sunny morning, the Mod can lure me in for a lengthy visit. Typically, preferring coffee only, I don't consider any breakfast options, but move outside where I can monitor the street's pedestrian traffic as I enjoy a latte.

I enjoy remembering the day I rediscovered the 2100 block. I was following a recommendation for a good bowl of gumbo and made a beeline for the Gumbo Bar, near the opposite end of the street from the Mod, and next to the Stork Club on the corner. The Gumbo Bar's shotgun space offers a row of tables with a banquette

steady stream of vacationers making their way across the street to the Starbucks.

After a few minutes of theorizing about the cruise customers, I decide on an alternate coffee plan that directs me away from the now-crowded Starbucks and through historic streets to the 2100

The Mod serves as a convenient starting point for any excursion to historic Galveston. Not only because the coffee's good and the setting is relaxing,

I was following a recommendation for a good bowl of gumbo and made a beeline for the Gumbo Bar.

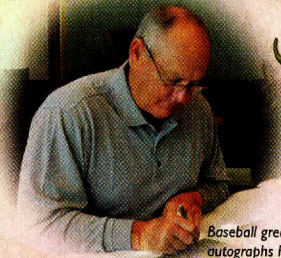
block of Postoffice. There, I chart a course for the Mod Coffeehouse, which serves a stretch of the neighborhood that's living up to its historic atmosphere, but in a neighborly way. I find more of the local characters who make their home in Galveston. And a fair number of them end up at the Mod at some point during the day. Many get their morning jolt of caffeine here, and I am glad to join them.

PHOTO: © SARAH KERVER

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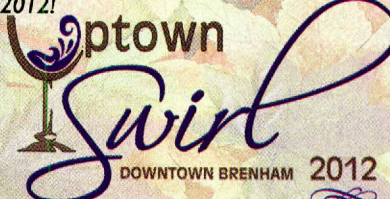
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on one side and a bar across the aisle. I made my way to a back table where I could watch the visitors.

I didn't have any place I had to be, so an icy cold ale hit the spot, in anticipation of a half-dozen oysters. No better way to make your lunch special. On this day, I chose the prime-rib gumbo, and it was extremely tasty. And note that the Gumbo Bar prides itself on its flexibility. One customer requests fish only in her gumbo and the chef obliges.

As I enjoy my gumbo lunch on this trip, a few more diners amble in. One towering, yet rotund fellow, appearing as if he might be a retired NFL lineman dressed for a

The Witchery,  
a fascinating retail  
operation right in the  
middle of the block,  
proclaims "metaphysical  
books and gifts."

business trip to the Yucatan, takes a seat and gestures to a waitress who, within a couple of minutes brings him a mega bowl of gumbo, which kind I didn't find out, and a dozen oysters. He seems like a Magazine-street character from one of James Lee Burke's Dave Robicheaux novels. Other customers mention the beer selection, the wine list, and the variety on the menu. For me, the Gumbo Bar is all about the gumbo and the people-watching.

On this afternoon, I retire to the Mod for an after-lunch latte and additional people-watching. But not before making a stop into The Witchery, a fascinating retail operation right in the middle of the block, proclaiming "metaphysical books and gifts." Browsing for a few minutes, I find a particularly [continued on page 12]

## When I Last Wrote to You About Africa

**Go!**

To the Blanton before Jan. 22

*El Anatsui brings his “flat-out ravishing” work from Nigeria to the Blanton Museum in Austin.*



El Anatsui at work on one of his large-scale tapestries made of metal wrappers from atop liquor bottles.

**FROM A STANCE 20 FEET AWAY,** the shimmering metallic reflections and deep, rich reds I see in the massive swags festooning the wall of the Blanton Museum of Art's ground floor gallery create the impression of a huge suspended tapestry. When I move a few steps closer, I realize this beautiful textile is in fact, a weaving, but the materials used are the metallic wrappers taken from atop liquor bottles, all stitched together with fine wire. The artist El Anatsui has achieved a similar effect with other sculptural woven pieces around the gallery, each in a different composition of color and material.

For a very different visual effect, I examine a cluster of what appears to be more than 80 figures, close to three feet tall, and all wrapped in shiny blankets of large coins. In this case, a closer inspection reveals that what I originally perceived as shiny coins are, in fact, the ends of metal cans cut out and sewn together.

Such use of cast-off materials is more often characteristic of folk art, but these large-scale pieces are finely executed, even if assembled in painstaking detail from found objects. And El Anatsui, who lives and works in Nigeria, is clearly a master of alloying unexpected combinations into what Annette Carlozzi, Deputy Director of the Blanton Museum of Art, calls “flat-out ravishing works.”

Even though this exhibit is fascinating on its surface, the underlying narrative adds multiple layers of meaning. Carlozzi explains another installation, an assembly of driftwood figures named *Akua's Surviving Children*. “El attended a conference about slavery in Copenhagen, which was a major port in the slave trade,” she says, “and he was invited to make something. He collected this driftwood and then learned of an historic forge where guns were made in the days of the slave trade. He had nails forged there to connect the driftwood body parts,” she explains, “and then he burned the driftwood heads as a cleansing ritual.”

Even though it's clear that the figures are driftwood, the forms clearly suggest human identity, and, according to El Anatsui's guidelines, all face the same direction, as if moving forward in unison.

There's more. This exhibit, organized by the Museum for African Art in New York, also offers small-scale drawings, conventionally presented paintings, sculpture, and installations, all of which invite appreciation and evoke discussion of Africa and its complex history.

The Blanton Museum of Art is on the southern border of the University of Texas at Austin campus, at 200 E. MLK Blvd. at Congress Ave. 512/471-7324; [www.blantonmuseum.org](http://www.blantonmuseum.org). *El Anatsui: When I Last Wrote to You About Africa* continues through January 22, 2012.

—Charles Lohrmann

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## Lost Pines Christmas

*Bastrop's holiday celebration honors area firefighters*

**AFTER SEPTEMBER'S MONTH-LONG BATTLE TO EXTINGUISH** wildfires, Bastrop County—home to Bastrop State Park and its 6,000 acres of pine trees—was left devastated. However, the City of Bastrop's annual holiday festival—Bastrop's Lost Pines Christmas—will proceed as usual the second weekend of December (December 8-10, 2011). "In fact," says Bastrop Main Street Director Nancy Wood, "we expect it to be as wonderful as ever."

See the newly renovated Mina-Bastrop Pioneers Home on Saturday's Holiday Homes Tour. Built in 1836-1837 as a stagecoach inn, it's one of five historic homes on the tour and one of more than 130 historic homes in the city. After the tour, head to Main Street to cheer on Bastrop-area firefighters as they lead the Lighted Christmas Parade, and stay long enough to see Santa Claus arrive via a Texas Country Christmas-themed float at the finale. End an evening of merriment with a stroll down the River of Lights, which takes you under candy-cane archways along the Colorado River. Other events during the four-day celebration include a Christmas-tree lighting on the courthouse lawn, a mad-rigal dinner, musical and dance productions, and a film fest. For a complete listing of events, call 512/303-0904; [www.lostpineschristmasbastrop.tx.com](http://www.lostpineschristmasbastrop.tx.com).

**Do!**

Browse the Bastrop Fine Arts Guild Winter Market

—Ian Floyd

☞ continued from page 10] compelling book titled *Spells for Men*, which I'm convinced would be extremely useful, but perhaps some other time. In one of the curtained back rooms, a psychic awaits a customer, which is not to be me. But it keeps a hint of New Orleans alive in the neighborhood.



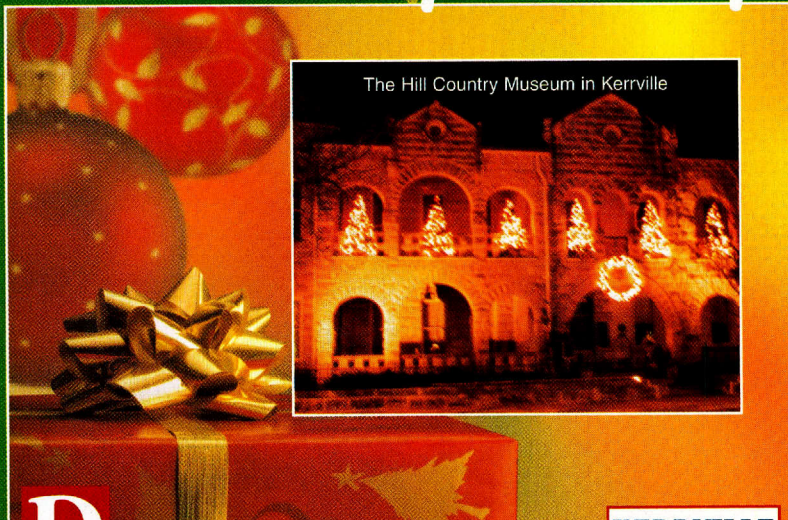
Abandoning the Mod, I take a few steps to the Rene Wiley Studio and

Step into the back room of *The Witchery* for a card reading.

Gallery next door, and enjoy the truly friendly ambiance I've come to expect on the street. I am drawn in by the bright watercolors of Galveston's local scenery, and by the watchful-but-friendly gallery dog who keeps me company as I examine the pictures. Across the street, Designworks, another easygoing and relaxed gallery, displays the work produced by members of a multi-artist cooperative, including modestly scaled sculptural pieces and jewelry.

On another evening, with the intention of returning to Postoffice, I initiate a mission to compare the gumbo at the Black Pearl, a few blocks away at 23rd and Market streets, with that of the Gumbo Bar. At about six on a weeknight, the bar and tables bustle with local folks noisily enjoying happy hour. From my seat at the bar, I order what I expect to

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be a cup of gumbo and a half-dozen oysters. As soon as the server suggests that a full dozen oysters cost only a nickel more than the half dozen, I know the gumbo taste test is off for the evening: Not only because I double the number of oysters, but also because the cup of gumbo is the size of a normal bowl.

Despite the boisterously friendly atmosphere and the surprising value presented by the Black Pearl's happy hour, I conclude that I prefer the gumbo at the Gumbo Bar, not only for the variety, but also because the Gumbo Bar's roux seems richer, darker, and spicier.

There's more that continues to draw me to the microculture of Galveston in the 2100 Block of Postoffice. The Opera House sits in the next block, only a few doors away, and always offers performances worth considering. There's the Sky Bar, next to the Gumbo Bar, with its tempting combination of steak and sushi. And the Stork Club on the corner, also recommended for its food.

I might let established habits win out and stick with the gumbo. But next time I might visit the psychic and my future will be changed. **TH**

### Galveston's 2100 Postoffice Street

**Mod Coffeehouse**, 2126 Postoffice St.,  
409/765-5659; [www.modcoffeehouse.com](http://www.modcoffeehouse.com).

**Rene Wiley Studio and Gallery**,  
2128 Postoffice St., 409/750-9077;  
[www.renewileyart.com](http://www.renewileyart.com).

**Designworks**, 2119-A Postoffice St.,  
409/766-7599; [www.designworks2.com](http://www.designworks2.com).

**The Witchery**, 2116 Postoffice St.,  
409/515-0669; [www.witcheryonline.com](http://www.witcheryonline.com).

**Gumbo Bar**, 2105 Postoffice St.,  
409/744-8626.

**Black Pearl Oyster Bar and Grille**,  
327 23rd St. 409/762-7299.

**Harbor House at Pier 21**, 800/874-3721;  
[www.harborhousepier21.com](http://www.harborhousepier21.com).



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## San Antonio's Culinary Revelation

From Tex-Mex capital to eclectic dining destination

Text by **CLAUDIA ALARCÓN**

About a decade ago, chefs here set out to expose diners to global influences and ingredients.

Chef Jason Dady's Bin 555 offers an eclectic menu of dishes designed for sharing, along with an international wine list.



**Go!**  
Explore the Museum Reach of the River Walk

**S**INCE THE LONG-AGO DAYS WHEN SAN ANTONIO'S FAMOUS CHILI QUEENS served *chile con carne* and other Mexican-American dishes in the plazas downtown, the Alamo City has held court as the world capital of Tex-Mex. Today, venerable institutions like Mi Tierra, which draws crowds to El Mercado as it has since 1941, and La Fonda on Main, which celebrates its 80th anniversary in 2012, still carry on the Tex-Mex tradition. Yet, about a decade ago, a group of adventurous chefs set out to expose residents and visitors alike to global influences and ingredients. High-end mixology is on the rise, too, as evidenced by the popular steakhouse Bohanan's recent focus on the "golden age" of New York cocktails, and the refurbishing of The Esquire, which dates to 1933 and now boasts a menu of "boutique" libations and tavern-style bar fare.

"San Antonio is now ready for a variety of concepts," says Andrew Weissman, whose

PHOTOS: KEVIN STILLMAN

seafood restaurant, Sandbar Fish House & Market, and Italian trattoria, Il Sogno Osteria, have helped revitalize the Pearl Brewery complex. His latest project is The Luxury, a restaurant built from cargo containers that will open soon across the river from the San Antonio Museum of Art. The menu presents Weissman's take on truck-stop food, with items such as Kansas City-style brisket sandwiches and fried chicken with waffles.

Then there's Jason Dady, a multi-talented, adventurous chef who has been at the forefront of San Antonio's dining scene since his first restaurant, The Lodge, opened in 2001 and quickly became a fine dining favorite. Since then, he has opened a handful of successful eateries in partnership with his wife, Crystal, and his brother Jake, including Bin 555, Tre Trattoria, and Two Bros. BBQ. Earlier this year, Dady announced he will soon close The Lodge to focus on his other properties, including



Tre, where he serves Italian comfort food like wood-fired pizzas and handmade pasta; and Bin 555, where he offers a changing menu of dishes like sweetbread

At Luke San Antonio, the first Texas outpost of Chef John Besh's New Orleans institution, a cappuccino counterbalances the rich bread pudding.

taquitos with serrano-pepper crema, Indian naan with roasted-garlic butter, and seared diver scallops with Spanish chorizo. Keeping up with the latest trend, Dady serves global fare like duck confit tacos and blue crab green curry from a mobile "food truck" eatery called the DUK (Dady's Underground Kitchen) Truck, often found at the Boardwalk on Bulverde, San Antonio's main spot for food trailers.

A new culinary wave is also taking place in Southtown, where a "New American" restaurant called The Monterey is turning heads with its locally sourced and organic fare. "Because of our name, people think we are a Mexican restaurant," says owner Chad Carey. "Boy, are they surprised when they come in." And so was I, as I enjoyed a superlative appetizer of corned

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## Taste

### Havana Nights

*Boutique lodging near the River Walk at the renovated Hotel Havana*

**ONE OF THE COOLEST PLACES TO** stay in San Antonio, the romantic Hotel Havana, is housed in a Mediterranean Revival building on a quiet section of Navarro Street near the new Museum Reach section of the River Walk. Built in 1914 by grocer Edward Franz Melcher, it was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. Entrepreneur Liz Lambert bought the hotel in 2009 and reopened it in 2010 after a careful renovation.

The hotel's 27 rooms range from studios and suites to a split-level penthouse, all decorated with a mix of antique furniture, Cuban folk art and contemporary works, vintage refrigerators, and modern amenities like WiFi, flat screen televisions, and iPod connections. Ocho Lounge, the hotel's restaurant bar, resides in a glass conservatory overlooking the river, reminiscent of a giant Art Deco birdhouse. On a sunny day, with the windows thrown open to the lush riverfront, there's no better place to enjoy a refreshing mojito.

Executive Chef Jason Garcia, a San Antonio native whose resume includes stints at Biga on the Banks, Le Rêve, and Bohanan's, does a fantastic job with the Latin-inspired menu. Highlights include a chilled shrimp and crab *campechana* served with addictive twice-baked saltines; the Cuban torta with achiote-roasted pork, and the chocolate pot de crème with candied ginger. Before retiring to your room for the night, visit the ultra-cool, dimly lit basement bar for a nightcap.

Hotel Havana is at 1015 Navarro St. Call 210/222-2008; [www.havanasanantonio.com](http://www.havanasanantonio.com).

—Claudia Alarcón



**Sugar-dusted churros with lemon curd make for an exotic breakfast (or dessert!) in the Hotel Havana's sunny Ocho Lounge.**

**Do!**

Have a nightcap at the hotel's basement bar

beef tongue with an Asian-style sweet chili glaze crowned with a tiny salad of jicama matchsticks. With its diner ambiance and plant-filled patio, The Monterey is now on my San Antonio "must visit" list.

Impressed with the support San Antonio's restaurateurs showed their New Orleans peers in the wake of 2005's Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans chef John Besh chose the River Walk as the site for his brasserie Lüke, his first restaurant outside of Louisiana. A blend of New Orleans classics like oysters on the half-shell and a pressed *cochon de lait* (suckling pig) po-boy share the menu with steaks,

Gulf Coast seafood, Hill Country cabrito, and a smattering of German dishes like *jaegerschnitzel* and bratwurst. Don't miss the "shrimp in a cup" appetizer, a pile of piping hot, juicy fried shrimp tossed in a spicy mayonnaise. And Lüke serves the best bloody mary I've had outside of the Bayou City, a 32-ounce libation garnished with pickled vegetables, a pickled quail egg, two large cocktail shrimp, and a shot of local beer on the side.

Across the street at Citrus, inside the Hotel Valencia, Chef Jeff Balfour tells me that San Antonio diners are growing more adventuresome. "Thanks to the

development at Pearl, people are willing to try new things," he says. Balfour, a native of Galveston, combines his affinity for Gulf seafood (the crab cakes with toasted pumpkin seeds and avocado are a local legend) with a preference for local and regional ingredients. The result is dishes such as his pan-roasted South Texas antelope served with honey-chipotle potato purée and mustard greens. Make sure to try the paella; Balfour took first place this year at the Pearl's Cocina de las Americas Paella Cook-Off.

My husband and I joined Balfour and his family for lunch at Mariscos El Bucanero, a no-frills, very affordable restaurant in southeast San Antonio that Balfour described as having "the best Mexican seafood in town." The owners, the Cervantes family, hail from the Mexican state of Sinaloa, where seafood is abundant. We enjoyed a platter brimming with raw oysters, boiled shrimp, tangy ceviches of shrimp, fish, and octopus, and shredded crab salad, alongside the best *aguachile* of shrimp I have had outside of Mexico. It goes to show that even San Antonio's Mexican cuisine is getting a revitalizing shot in the arm during the city's culinary revolution. **TH**

## Dine SA Now

For more information about dining in **San Antonio**, see [www.visitsanantonio.com](http://www.visitsanantonio.com).

For more about Andrew Weissman's **Sandbar Fish House & Market** and **Il Sogno Osteria**, visit [www.atpearl.com](http://www.atpearl.com).

For details about **Tre Trattoria, Bin 555, Two Bros. BBQ**, and **Jason Dady's DUK Truck**, see [www.jasondady.com](http://www.jasondady.com).

**The Monterey** is at 1127 S. St. Mary's. Call 210/745-2581; [www.themontereysa.com](http://www.themontereysa.com).

**Luke** is at 125 E. Houston St. Call 210/227-5853; [www.lukesanantonio.com](http://www.lukesanantonio.com).

**Citrus** is in the Hotel Valencia, at 150 E. Houston St. Call 210/230-8412; [www.hotelvalencia-riverwalk.com](http://www.hotelvalencia-riverwalk.com).

**Mariscos El Bucanero** is at 2818 South WW White Rd. Call 210/333-0909.

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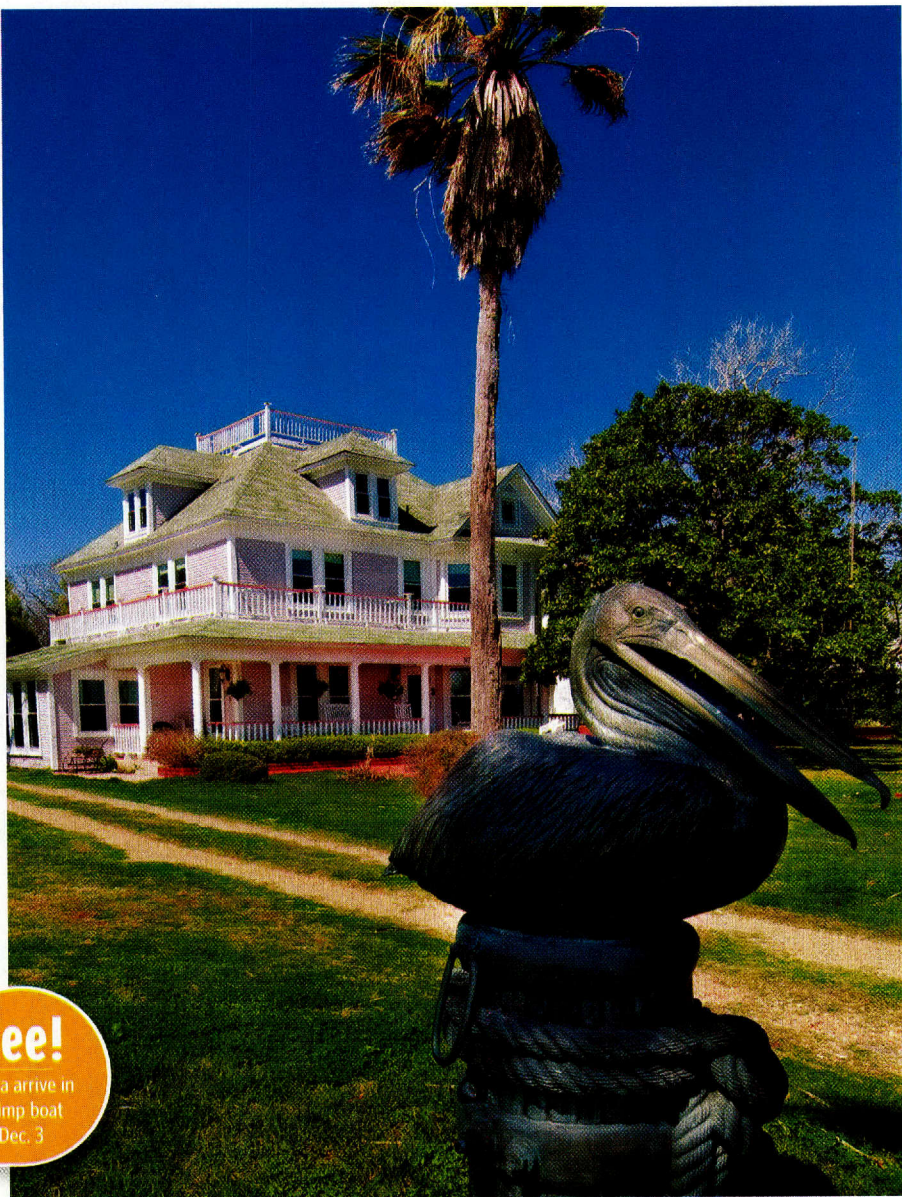
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## Flock to the Coast

*Come winter, the bayside community of Palacios beckons to travelers, both feathered and unfeathered*

Text by **KATHLEEN KASKA**



**See!**

Santa arrive in a shrimp boat on Dec. 3

Our weekend agenda includes a picnic of raw oysters and ice-cold beer.

**I**T'S DECEMBER ON THE TEXAS COAST. MY HUSBAND AND I, ALONG with 200-plus species of birds, have migrated to Matagorda County, as we often do this time of the year. The birds have come for a respite from ice and snow, some of them to enjoy abundant Gulf Coast seafood. We're here for the same reasons—plus, we like watching the birds—and we've chosen the peaceful, picturesque town of Palacios as our base for the weekend.

Driving into town on Texas 35 South, we exit on East Bay Boulevard, where we hug the coastline along the Palacios waterfront. I cross my fingers as we round the bend in front of the Texas Baptist Encampment, hoping to spot a flock of long-billed curlews feeding near the amphitheater. I've encountered them on this very spot at least once every visit, and ...

**An historic marker at the 1910 McGuire Home on East Bay Boulevard—now The Peaceful Pelican B&B—marks the site of the Palacios Preparatory School, which operated nearby.**

yes! There they are again. Watching them maneuver those spiky, eight-inch bills while they probe for tiny invertebrates in the grass is a comical sight.

Less than two miles into the city limits, we've already checked off three birding sites on the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail: East Bayshore Drive at Grassy Point, Trull Marsh, and the Palacios Waterfront/Texas Baptist Encampment. Without getting our feet wet, we've spotted white ibises, buffleheads, a long-billed dowitcher, redhead ducks, the ever-present killdeer (whose high-pitched squeak is unmistakable), and my old friends, the long-billed curlews. It's going to be a great weekend, and I haven't even slurped an oyster yet.

We check into our usual room at the charming but timeworn, 108-year-old Luther Hotel, which I discovered on another foray to the area 10 years ago. Owner Jack Findley has recently taken over the management of the hotel and lives on the premises. Findley's late wife, Claire Findley, was the daughter of Charles Luther, who bought the hotel in 1936. From the old photos in the lobby, it's clear the Luther has changed very little since the Forties, when Hollywood celebrities such as Rita Hayworth and Carole Landis stayed here during World War II while entertaining the troops at nearby Camp Hulen. A gas heater warms the lobby. On the wall behind the front desk, the original letterbox holds the room keys, and guests still use the buzzer on the wall to summon the desk clerk. The only sign of modern times are the current newspapers on the coffee table.

Before heading out for the afternoon, I step out the hotel's back door and walk about one-and-one-half blocks to Main Street to catch up on local happenings at the Old Main Street Bookstore. Along with the latest bestsellers, owner Jan Pierce serves up a variety of gourmet coffees, fresh-fruit smoothies, chocolate biscotti, and other snacks. Artworks by local artists, most of which are for sale, hang on

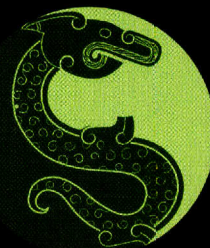


the walls. This afternoon's talk is about the possibility of a new pavilion being built near the waterfront adjacent to the fishing pier, on the same spot as the grand pavilion where Artie Shaw, Harry James, and Jack Teagarden entertained in the 1940s. Pierce sells me some clever bookmarks designed by 13-year-old Palacios resident Hayley Reynolds. Each is stamped with an animal paw print; the proceeds benefit a local animal rescue center.

With several hours of sunlight left, we drive to the Texas State Marine Education Center on the old Camp Hulen grounds. The center opened in 1988 as an interdisciplinary facility for teachers and students who want to learn about aquatic environments. Inside what once was the commanding officer's home, I meet the center's coordinator, Mary Kathryn Smith. "We worked with more than 7,000 students—from pre-K through college—at the center last year," Smith tells me. "We teach them about sea life, biodiversity, water quality, and how pollution affects Trespalacios Bay, which is part of Mata-

**The 1910 R.J. Hill Building houses the City by the Sea Museum, where an exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Carla runs through summer 2012.**

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A relaxing, bayfront park fosters Palacios' reputation as the "City by the Sea."

gorda Bay, the state's largest bay system."

Our respect for this natural area renewed, we begin exploring the 125 acres, starting with a hike along the salt-marsh habitat, where a spoonbill is wading in the shallows. Songbirds serenade us while we wind our way through the coastal prairie and estuary trails. The setting sun and hunger send us back to town.

Dinner choice that evening is a no-brainer: the Palacios Mexican Restaurant (known locally as the "PMR"). Selecting our meal, ditto. Shrimp fajitas arrive piled high, sizzling loud enough to make heads turn, and accompanied by flour tortillas, refried beans, rice, guacamole, shredded cheese, sour cream, and pico de gallo. After mountainous servings of fried ice cream, we waddle back to the hotel and turn in early.

Next morning, the day's plan shapes up during a jog along the waterfront. Our first stop is the IGA grocery store for bread, cheese, and dark beers to take to the LCRA Matagorda Bay Nature Park on FM 2031, where the Colorado River meets the Gulf of Mexico. Before driving over the new Intracoastal Waterway Bridge, we grab a pint of fresh oysters at Buddy's Seafood & Bait in Matagorda and ice them down. The salt-marsh

habitat alongside the road leading to the park draws a plethora of wading birds. Pullouts along the way and an observation stand just before the park allow us to spot blue herons, great white and snowy egrets, and white-faced ibises. We find a clapper rail hidden in the grasses. Once at the park, we hike out to the jetty that the U.S. Corps of Engineers recently constructed on the Colorado River, where jaegers, terns, and gulls dive in the calm waters. It starts to rain during our beach hike, but we're not concerned. Coastal weather is unpredictable, so you go with the flow, which in our case means windshield birdwatching—and a dashboard picnic of raw oysters and ice-cold beer.

Back in Palacios, the sun is out again, and we walk over to the City by the Sea Museum. Hearing about the town's previous pavilions at the bookstore yesterday sparked my curiosity, so I look at the historical photos that tell the story of the succession of Palacios pavilions since the town's inception in 1903. These structures, with names like Pleasure Pavilion and Roundhouse, extended out over the bay. They were the hub of social life, where folks gathered to swim, dance, and even play basketball. One of the earlier pavilions had mooring docks and a restaurant. All



were either damaged or destroyed by hurricanes. The current pavilion—a smaller, open-air structure built in 1991—lost its roof during Hurricane Claudette in 2003.

Our history lesson continues with a stroll downtown to view five murals depicting life in a small coastal town.

Early pavilions were the hub of social life, where folks gathered to swim, dance, and even play basketball.

Artist Dayton Wodrich captured the heart of Palacios with scenes that portray the area's early settlers, fishing, farming and ranching, and bird life.

On the way back to the Luther, we stop by another favorite eatery, Outrigger Grill, and pick up a menu. Back in the room, I pull up a rocker and plan my evening meal. The melodic litany from the Bubba Blue character in *Forrest Gump* replays in my head. Will it be blackened shrimp, grilled shrimp, fried shrimp, boiled shrimp, bacon-wrapped shrimp, or coconut shrimp? My mouth starts to water.

Having lots of choices is a good thing. Next time we'll stay a week. **TH**

## Palacios

is 30 miles north of Port Lavaca on Texas 35. The community's free Seaside Holiday event begins on Dec. 3 at 6:30 p.m., when Santa arrives at the waterfront in a shrimp boat. He then takes a golf cart to the Luther Hotel, where he hears children's wishes and volunteers serve hot chocolate and cookies. The Texas Fishermen's Seafood Festival takes place earlier, at noon. For details about other events, lodging, restaurants, and attractions, call **361/972-2615**; [www.palacioschamber.com](http://www.palacioschamber.com).



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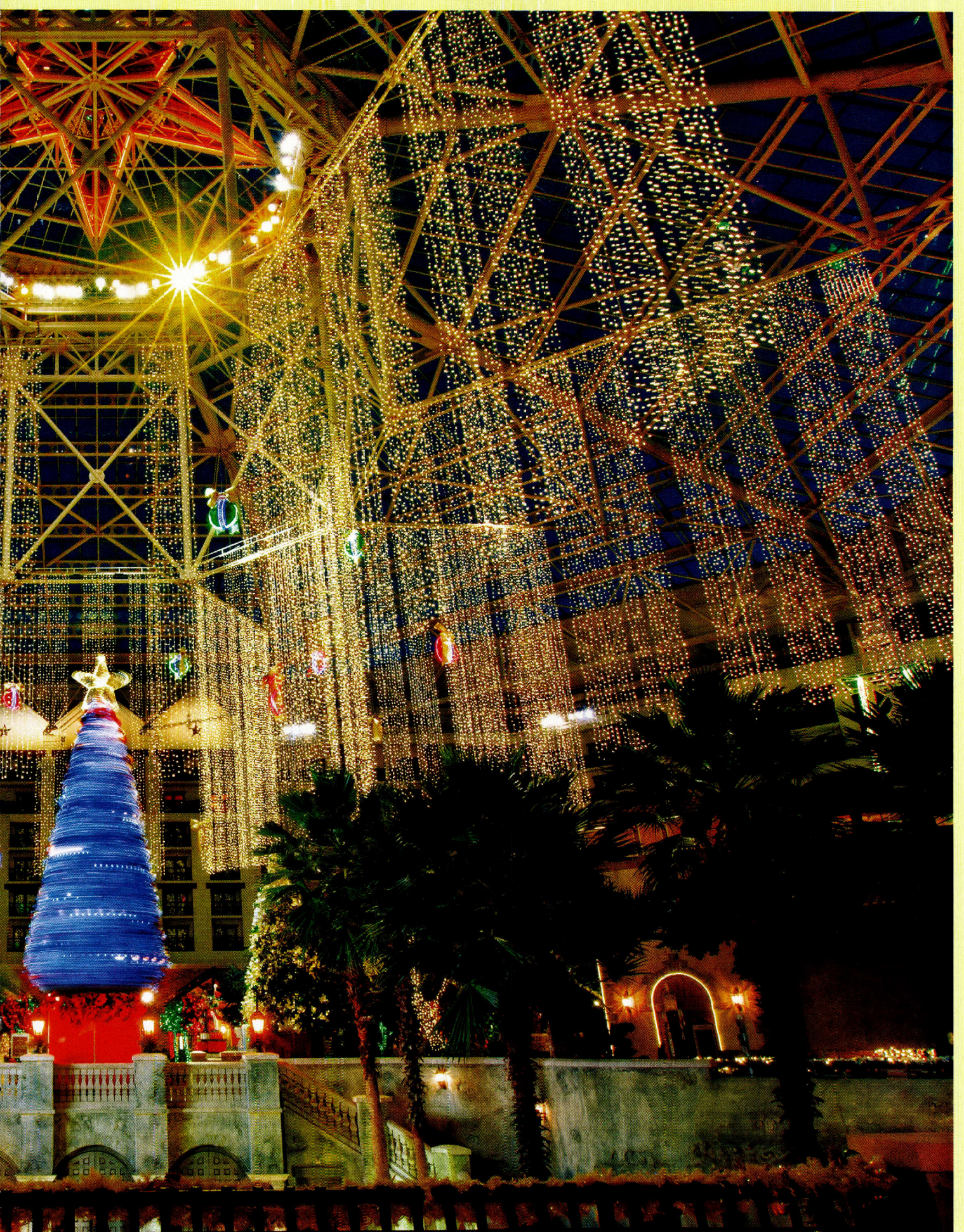


# *de-Grinch in Grapevine*

THE SEASON'S SPIRIT INFUSES THE  
CHRISTMAS CAPITAL OF TEXAS

The Gaylord Texan's atrium dazzles with a dizzying display of holiday decor, including a 52-foot, rotating Christmas tree. Ice sculptures and a life-size gingerbread house add to the resort's festive lineup.

To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



# de-Grinch in Grapevine

Text by **BARBARA RODRIGUEZ** Photographs by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

**T**HE CHRISTMAS MORNING Elliott didn't jump onto my bed at dawn to exclaim over Santa's bounty, I keenly felt a loss of the magic I'd associated with the holidays since childhood. I had always loved the season's traditions, the lights, baking, ribbons, and wrapping. More recently, having steadily downsized the celebration as my child grew into a teenager, I'd found myself scoring high on the Grinch scale. The stockings were still hung by the chimney with care, but it was increasingly difficult to convince a kid on the verge of sporting a few whiskers himself to put out cookies for Santa.



Christmas-card-photo ops abound in downtown Grapevine, where holiday figures, animated characters, and lights and garland galore create a merry wonderland.

Last year, I decided some sort of Christmas search-and-rescue was in order. I wanted to transport myself and my son back to a time when the seasonal suspension of disbelief required no effort. I decided the short trip from our home in Fort Worth to Grapevine—proclaimed by the State Senate to be the “Christmas Capital of Texas”—might lead the way to the ghosts of Christmas past.

The sharp intake of breath I hear from Elliott as he enters Great Wolf Lodge tells me I am onto something. It is snowing. In the lobby. Designed to look like a large-scale Northwoods lodge (complete with giant wolf totems), the full-service getaway hotel is a self-contained world of enchantment. The seasonal snow flurries are all the more charming for falling through the limbs of a 30-foot tree onto a flock of small children waddling by in water wings and bathing suits.

Elliott expected there would be theatrical snow and ice encounters on the trip. But the parade of little ones in flip-flops has him befuddled. His eyes follow the ducklings. Upon discovering the part of this adventure that I'd kept a secret, he exclaims, “O! M! G! They've got an indoor water park! I think my heart is going to burst out of my chest!” Then follow the words that are my best Christmas gift: “I LOVE YOU, Mom!” After check-in, the child who on school mornings takes 20 minutes to put on a single sneaker manages to change into his swimsuit before I can unzip my suitcase.

There is great delight in watching him zoom ahead, his bright swimwear a blur against a row of eccentrically decorated Christmas trees (my favorite is adorned with restaurant condiment packets). As we wind our way through a crowd of kiddos traipsing up and down the hallways madly waving wands at statues and

Along with graceful angels, this year's ICE! display at the Gaylord Texan features *Shrek the Halls*, with sculptures of the beloved ogre, Princess Fiona, Donkey, and other characters carved from two million pounds of ice.

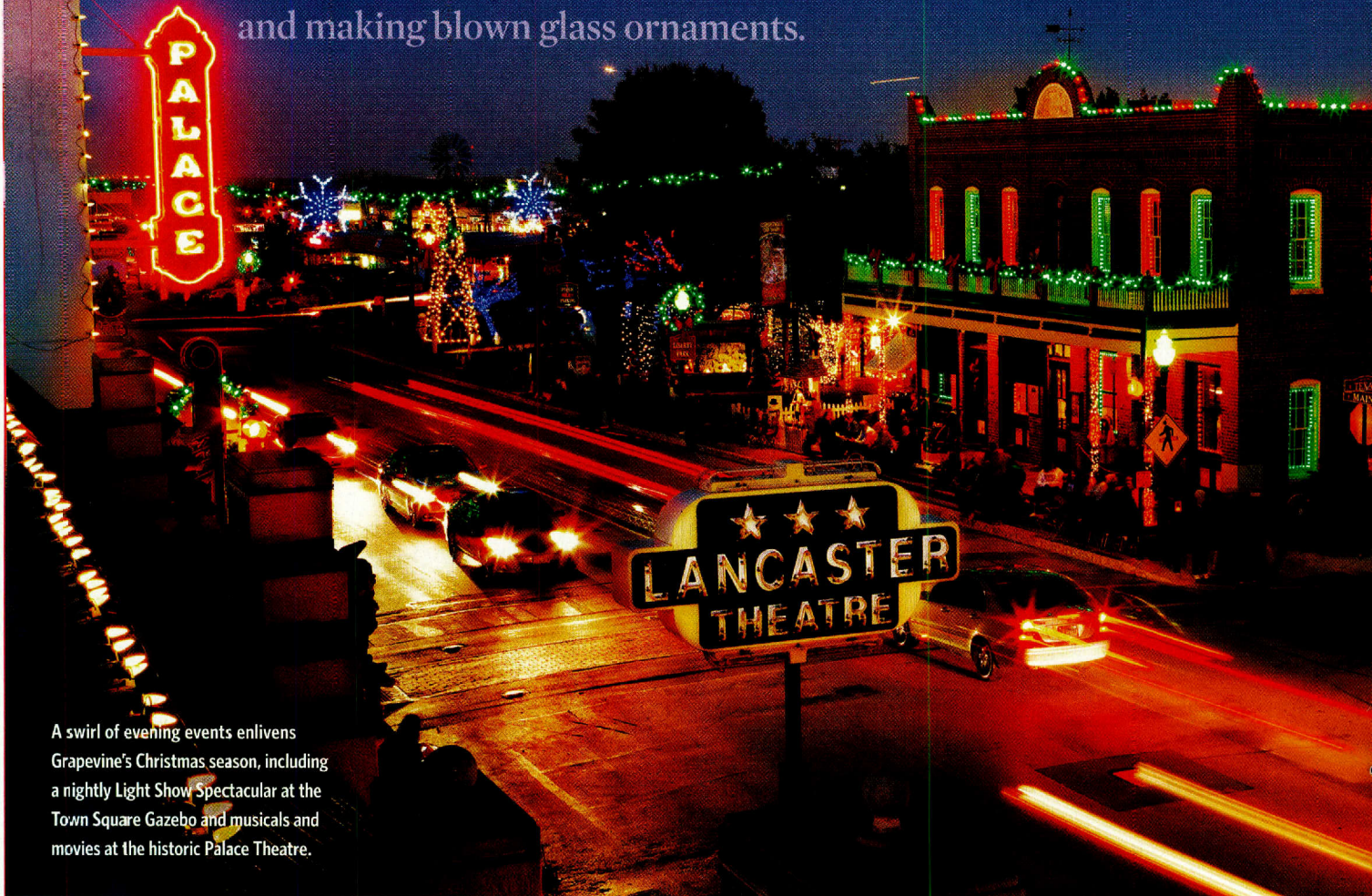
To order a print of the ICE display photograph on the right, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



## Just how cold

does an exhibit hall filled with  
2 million pounds of ice  
have to be? It seems that nine  
degrees is about right.

Through the day and into the night, Christmas on Main offers photo ops and plentiful activities, including a Santa on stilts and making blown glass ornaments.



A swirl of evening events enlivens Grapevine's Christmas season, including a nightly Light Show Spectacular at the Town Square Gazebo and musicals and movies at the historic Palace Theatre.

paintings that then light up to reveal a clue, Elliott asks if he might later join in the MagiQuest® electronic scavenger hunt played throughout the hotel. The spark in his eye suggests he has temporarily shelved all cynicism. I say, "Go for it."



Hours later, thoroughly dunked, washed, and spun by the waterpark's attractions, the red-cheeked boy reappears to ask if I will join him in the lobby. It's story time, and while he wants to be clear he's too old for this event, he thinks it's important that I witness the circle of grown men and women wearing wolf ears and fuzzy slippers cuddling pajama-clad kids beneath the snowy boughs of the lobby's giant tree. "It's funny and sweet at the same time," he says. It's a balance we savor all weekend.

**IN THE MORNING** we cross the highway to the Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center on Lake Grapevine, where the Lone Star Christmas and *ICE!* celebrations are in full swing. The mega-resort offers getaways and family fun year round (and this year opened its own water park), but in December the hotel devotes 14,000-square-feet of its exhibit space to holiday ice sculptures hand-carved by

At Vetro Glassblowing Studio & Gallery on South Main, guests can roll colored glass chips into molten glass, which artisans then transform into one-of-a-kind ornaments.

## de-Grinch in Grapevine



40 visiting artisans from Harbin, China. We've come to see tons of ice carved into frozen tableaus from *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (the theme for 2011 is "Shrek the Halls").

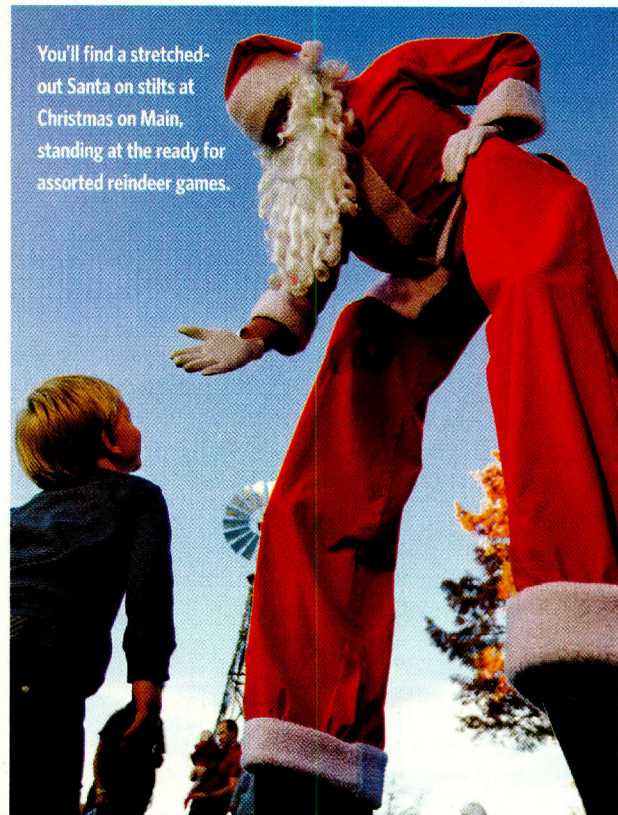
Joining a crowd as anxious for entry as a rock-and-roll concert audience, we are issued parkas worthy of a deep winter Arctic foray. For good reason. Just how cold does an exhibit hall filled with 2 million pounds of ice have to be? It seems that nine degrees is about right. The parkas are not optional, but I delay putting mine on until I've walked several feet into the hall. I see Elliott's *harrumph* burst out as a frosty cloud when I discover my fingers have so quickly grown numb that I cannot button myself into my coat. "Hey, aren't you the parent, here?" he says. But I'm so taken with the glittering, round heads of the Peanuts gang—and Snoopy's doghouse!—that I am no longer sure I qualify as the more mature party. Dramatic lighting and tinkling music, interactive opportunities to slip and slide, the smell of the hot chocolate that awaits at the end of our trek, have mother and son giggling like pre-schoolers. The cold also has our noses running. Here's the inside skinny: Put your

coat on before you enter and bring along some tissues.

At the end of the labyrinth we leave the ice behind only to find ourselves in *SNOW!*, the adjacent exhibit where adults and children alike grab tubes and slide down a nine-lane hill covered in powdery piles of the real deal. Elliott's tube spins as it bounds down the slope, his wide eyes and million-dollar grin whizzing in and out of view. Can this giddy kid, already climbing the hill for yet another slide, be the teenager who just yesterday was too cool to be seen in the same car with me? Looking around I find we are surrounded by people of all ages wearing similar sloppy grins.

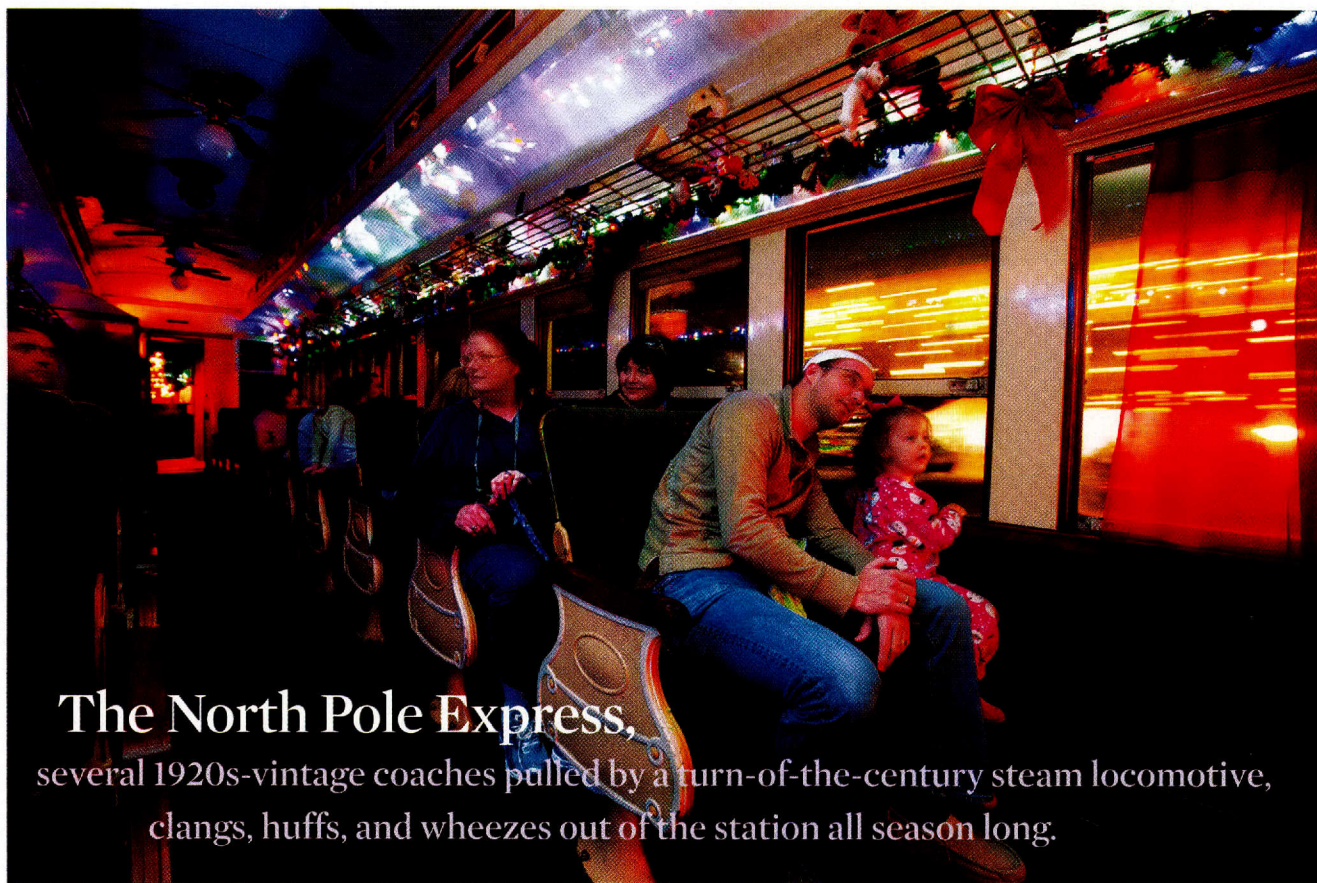
Still slightly breathless, we emerge into the bright light of the Gaylord's climate-controlled grounds, huffing and blinking as we begin our slow thaw. The glass-domed grounds of the resort feel like the interior of a snow globe filled with 1.5 million holiday lights, a 52-foot, rotating Christmas tree, 12,000 ornaments, poinsettias, and garlands (my favorite is made of illuminated shotgun shells). The scenic construction—replicas of distinctive Texas landscapes and landmarks from each of its regions—is reminiscent of a theme park, but one studded with very good restaurants.

In addition to wandering along the San Antonio River Walk or viewing Palo Duro Canyon, this time of the year you can opt to have cookies and milk with Mrs. Claus or step inside a 14-foot-tall gingerbread house (made of 800 bricks of gingerbread wrought from a ton of dough). I can



You'll find a stretched-out Santa on stilts at Christmas on Main, standing at the ready for assorted reindeer games.

# de-Grinch in Grapevine



**The North Pole Express,** several 1920s-vintage coaches pulled by a turn-of-the-century steam locomotive, clangs, huffs, and wheezes out of the station all season long.

see Elliott is tempted to nibble at the architecture; I urge him to salivate over the goodies in the candy shop inside the cottage and lose myself in a college years reverie beneath a replica of Austin's Treaty Oak. Later, I find him agape before a 52-foot TV in Texas Station, the resort's sports bar.

**HUNGRY AFTER OUR ROMP** in the cold, we head into town to stoke our furnaces at Farina's Winery and Cafe, where the Sicilian family's recipe for lasagna makes for mammoth, cheesy slabs of comfort food, which we intend to work off with a ramble through downtown. Grapevine dates to 1844, when General Sam Houston and Republic of Texas commissioners signed a peace treaty with 10 Native American nations at the Grape Vine Springs. The historic downtown (listed in the National Register of Historic Places), the epicenter of the seasonal celebration, is filled with boutiques, restaurants, and gift and antiques shops. And there's nightlife here, too. The 1940 Art Moderne-style Palace Theatre was acquired by the Grapevine Heritage Foundation in 1991 and restored as a home for the Grapevine Opry—alums include LeAnn Rimes and Miranda Lambert. In December it stages a Christmas Spectacular, performed this year by the Texas Tenors, and screens classic Christmas movies. (Next door,

the Lancaster Theatre, a restored, Mediterranean-style, '40s cinema, hosts private events.) I try to make a movie date, but Elliott is too distracted by the sight of a 1919-vintage stone calaboose, an 8x10-foot mini-Quonset that once housed the Barrow Gang and continued to serve as the town jail into the '50s. Dressed for the season in a giant bow and gift tag, it betters the traditional lump of coal for someone on the naughty list.

Through the day and into the night, Christmas on Main offers plentiful activities and photo ops—a Santa on stilts presides over a series of juggling, ball-tossing, and other "reindeer games" where kids join elves and other costumed characters in contests filled with more laughter than skill. We'd like to play, but we have reservations to make Christmas ornaments at the Vetro Glassblowing Studio.

Adjacent to the Historic Cotton Belt Railroad District's depot, glass artisan David Gappa's studio and fantastic gift shop allow us a day bracketed by fire and ice. The glass furnace roars and the blast of the 2,000-plus-degree ovens warps the air. When it's our turn, Gappa and his assistants

Along with the magical train ride, travelers on the North Pole Express can enjoy a pre-boarding stage show, an ornament-making factory, and pictures with jolly St. Nick.



dip long sticks into molten glass; our job is to lower this blob into bowls filled with various colored glass chips. Dip and turn, dip and turn. To work fast takes more coordination and concentration than you might think. The chips melt and swirl into the blobs, which are then blown out into lovely translucent globe ornaments by one of the pros—*voilà!* a hand-made gift that is gallery worthy. And while it is definitely an artful project, what teenage boy would not love the chance to whirl molten lava on a stick.

The day has been bright and brisk, but as the sun sets, Elliott, who has refused to bring a coat, is snuggled against me. We've joined a throng of visitors gathered for the explosions of joy at the Light Show Spectacular at the Town Square Gazebo. The singing and dancing lights are like a musical fireworks display—at 10 paces—and draw a crowd that lingers to watch again. We, however, have a train to catch. The North Pole Express—several 1920s-vintage coaches pulled by a turn-of-the-century steam locomotive—clangs, huffs, and wheezes out of the station all season long (as do Wine Trains for those of different tastes), but not before the crowd is suitably warmed up by a stage performance in the waiting room. The anticipatory mood is contagious among the tumble of kids and adults in lighted antlers, red long johns, and brand-new pajamas—pjs are standard dress for so many Grapevine Christmas celebrations that I begin to wonder why I packed anything else.

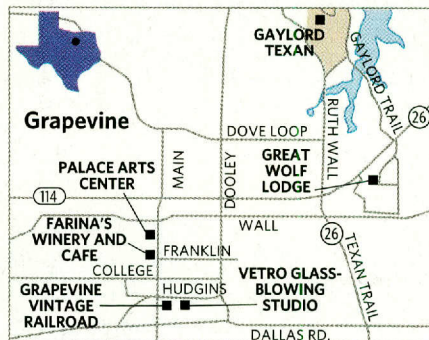
When we board, Elliott chooses to sit alone and I wonder if he's had enough merrymaking with Mom. It's dark now, and as we chuff forward into that hypnotic wobble unique to trains, I am deep into Christmas memories when Santa suddenly makes a boisterous entrance. I swear my heart trills a bit. I quickly look to my son, and see in his face, just for a second, a flash of the suspension of disbelief I had been seeking. That he joins in the Christmas caroling is just a bonus.

It isn't difficult to find something to enjoy among Grapevine's 1,400 holiday events, from wine tastings to lighted boat parades. And if you want to gain easy entrance into the inner world of an enchanted Christmas, take a child with you. The surprise for me was that in the face of so many twinkling lights, my teenager

Among the Christmas on Main events, tractor-drawn wagon rides Friday-Sunday take visitors through a nearby historic neighborhood dressed in holiday finery.



## TH ESSENTIALS



# Grapevine

GRAPEVINE is on Texas 114, 24 miles west of Dallas, and 26 miles east of Fort Worth. For information on attractions, lodging, restaurants, and events, contact the **Grapevine Convention and Visitors Bureau**, 817/410-3185 or 800/457-6338; [www.grapevinetexasusa.com/christmas](http://www.grapevinetexasusa.com/christmas). The CVB website, along with that of **Historic Downtown Grapevine** ([www.downtowngrapevinetexas.com](http://www.downtowngrapevinetexas.com)), features a lineup of holiday activities, including Christmas on Main, Parade of Lights, and the nightly Light Show Spectacular. Following is a list of sites in the story. Call ahead or check the websites for dates for holiday events.

**Great Wolf Lodge**, 100 Great Wolf Dr., 800/693-9653 (reservations), 817/488-6510 (direct); [www.greatwolf.com/grapevine](http://www.greatwolf.com/grapevine).

**Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center**, 1501 Gaylord Trail, 817/778-1000 or 866/782-7897; [www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylord-texan](http://www.gaylordhotels.com/gaylord-texan).

**Farina's Winery and Cafe**, 420 S. Main St., 817/442-9095; [www.farinaswinery.homestead.com](http://www.farinaswinery.homestead.com).

The **Palace Theatre** and **Lancaster Theatre** form part of the Palace Arts Center, 300 S. Main St., 817/410-3100; [www.palace-theatre.com](http://www.palace-theatre.com).

The **Grapevine Calaboose** is at the corner of Franklin and Main streets.

**Vetro Glassblowing Studio & Gallery**, 701 S. Main St., #103, 817/251-1668; [www.vetroartglass.com](http://www.vetroartglass.com).

For more on the **Grapevine Vintage Railroad's North Pole Express** and **Christmas Wine Trains** (and other rides), call 817/410-3385; [www.gvrr.com](http://www.gvrr.com).

proved to be neither as worldly nor as jaded as I'd imagined. But the greatest wonder discovered during my giddyup to Grapevine's Christmas extravaganza was the reconnect with a less Grinchy me. You go for the kids and end up finding the child in yourself. **TH**

**BABS RODRIGUEZ** has enjoyed Christmas in eight states, Germany, and Switzerland, but has never seen it celebrated anywhere else the way it is in Grapevine. Photography Editor **GRIFF SMITH** says his fingers nearly froze off while shooting the ICE! exhibit (kept at nine degrees) at the Gaylord Texan.



# HOUSTON'S HIDDEN MUSEUMS

**Beyond the city's Museum District,  
education and entertainment await!**



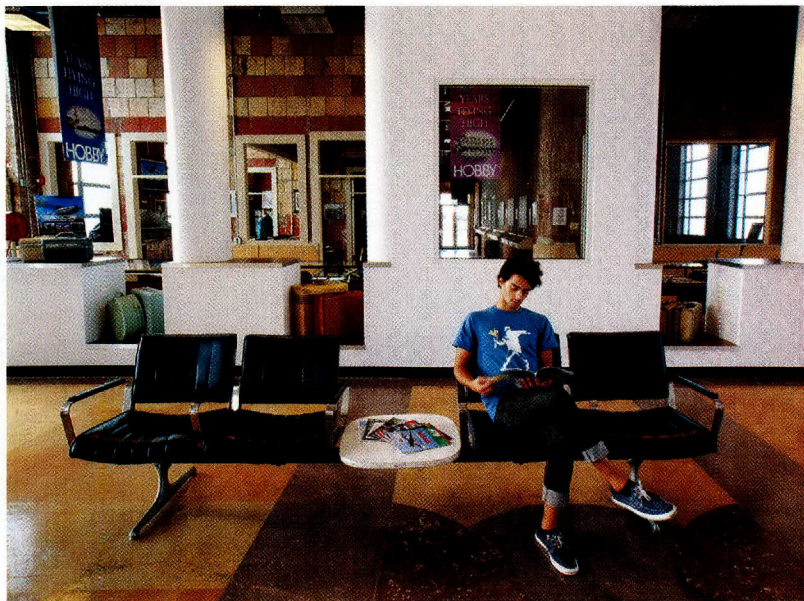
*Text by* **JENNIFER BABISAK**

*Photographs by* **ROBERT GOMEZ**

Since moving to Houston a few years ago, I've enjoyed exploring the world-class offerings of the 18 museums that comprise the city's officially designated Museum District. However, I've recently discovered some lesser-known attractions that lie outside the bounds of the Museum District proper; these hold fascinating collections and offer visitors a more personalized (and less-crowded) experience. On a recent museum-hopping spree, I visited four of these interesting sites.

LEFT: Housed in an 1899 building that served as one of the city's first fire stations, the Houston Fire Museum illustrates the history of firefighting. RIGHT: The Houston Maritime Museum features more than a hundred model ships, including this model of the HMS Victory.

# HOUSTON'S HIDDEN MUSEUMS



## 1940 Air Terminal Museum

**H**ouston's 1940 Air Terminal, which fully closed to aviation traffic in 1978, opened in 2004 as a museum with a threefold focus: preserving the historic building, displaying artifacts that illustrate the history of aviation, and promoting aviation-industry careers.

Designed by Houston architect Joseph Finger and planted amidst Hobby Airport's utilitarian landscape of concrete and machinery, the 1940 Air Terminal is one of the few surviving Art Deco air terminals in the nation. Its rounded angles, white stucco exterior, and carved friezes depicting the past, present, and future of flight hint at the Art Deco features found inside: symmetrical rooms, ornate baseboards and trim, and four white columns flanking a gorgeous, two-story atrium flooded with sunlight and accented by the original aluminum railings and brass chandelier. The historic air terminal displays memorabilia from 1910 to the present, though many of its artifacts are from the so-called "golden age of aviation"—the years between the first and second world wars, when civilian aviation became widespread.

Among the museum's many collections are menus and first-class place settings (complete with delicate china and real silver utensils), memorabilia and photos relating to the aviation

exploits of Houston businessman Howard Hughes, model planes, and flight-attendant uniforms from the 1930s to the 1980s (including a Trans-Texas Airways uniform accented with pink

**ABOVE:** The 1940 Air Terminal Museum showcases Houston's rich history of civilian aviation in one of the nation's few remaining Art Deco air terminals.

**RIGHT:** Glass cases display model planes, uniforms, menus, and other items.



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).





Planted amidst Hobby Airport's utilitarian landscape, the 1940 Air Terminal Museum is **one of the few surviving Art Deco air terminals in the nation.**

and purple stripes). Some items make me chuckle, such as a flight-attendant evaluation from 1963 that suggested "make up should be of a lighter and less pink shade" and "eyebrows should be attended to more often."

In one fascinating display, I learn about the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). This revolutionary WWII program trained more than 1,000 women as pilots to ferry planes and tow targets for artillery practice, freeing male pilots for combat roles. The WASP began their training at Hobby (then called Houston Municipal Airport) in 1942 before outgrowing the facility and moving to Sweetwater in 1943. Printed memorabilia related to the WASP include yearbooks emblazoned with WASP mascot Fifinella (a winged aviator-vixen created

by Walt Disney for a proposed film), dolls equipped with parachutes and aviator apparel, and a *Life* magazine from 1943, its cover featuring a young woman with pigtail braids and the title "Air Force Pilot." The cover made a splash because, at that time, the WASP program was the only female flight school in the world.

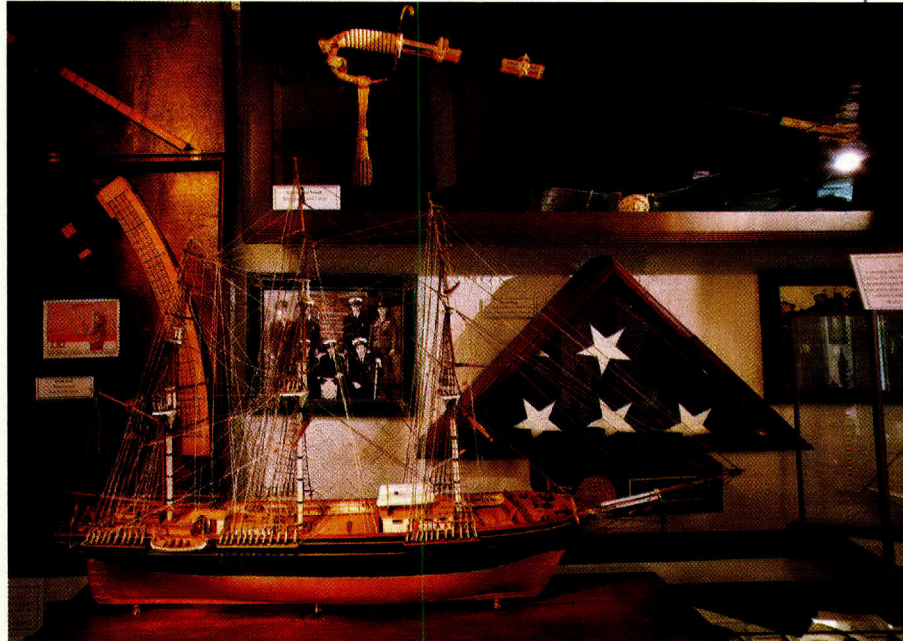
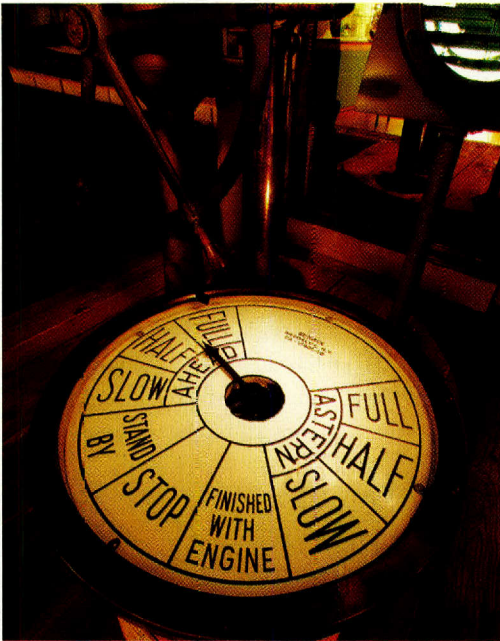
A highlight of the 1940 Air Terminal experience exists *outside* the doors of the museum. Because once I exit, I'm within view of a stream of private and commercial planes taking off and landing at Hobby Airport. I watch the air traffic for a while, fascinated that this extraordinary method of travel has become so commonplace.

Times have changed. When Houston's sleek air terminal opened in 1940, the city was served by only two passenger airlines—Braniff and Eastern.



Some of these intricately detailed model ships required **more than 6,000 hours to build.**

To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



## Houston Maritime Museum

Less than half a mile east of the Houston Medical Center, the Houston Maritime Museum—housed in a two-story, 6,500-square-foot, clapboard boarding house built in the 1940s—preserves maritime history with particular emphasis on the industry's influence on Houston and the Gulf Coast. Executive Director John Kendall, who served in the Navy for 25 years before taking the helm of the museum, leads me through the museum's collection of treasures.

One of the museum's highlights is a collection of more than 100 intricately detailed model ships, including such famous vessels as the *Mayflower*, the RMS *Titanic*, and the still-active 1877 barque *Elissa*, which is berthed at the Texas Seaport Museum in Galveston. Kendall tells me that some of these models required more than 6,000 hours to build. Some models are only a few feet long; others stretch to nine feet. Christopher Columbus' famous three ships are built to scale, with the *Santa Maria* and *Pinta* dwarfing the much smaller *Niña*, whose model measures 12 inches long.

The museum also houses a collection of glass-encapsulated miniatures (think of the classic ship-in-a-bottle). Eighteenth-Century artisans—often sailors on long voyages—first created these dioramas inside glass bottles; later

artists used many different kinds of glass containers, including light bulbs. One such work of art, crafted by famed Texas miniaturist Burton Reckles, shows the steamship *Laura* chugging up Buffalo Bayou en route to its first landing at the Port of Houston.

In another of the museum's nine galleries, I admire a display of scrimshawed buttons and other practical decorative arts. Whalers, often out to sea for years at a time, filled their spare time by using sailing needles and soot to etch intricate designs in whalebone or whale ivory. Though artifacts indicate that the Eskimos practiced scrimshaw as early as 200 B.C., the modern form of scrimshaw thrived among New England whalers (called scrimshanders) from the mid-1700s until the late 1800s.

Another gallery, called the Port of Houston room, bears a quote from the Houston Ship Channel's christening in 1914, when then-mayor Ben Campbell's daughter Sue stood at the railing of the USS *Windom* and said, "I christen thee Port of Houston; hither the boats of all nations may come and receive hearty welcome." Kendall tells me that the port is the second busiest in the nation (though it takes first place in foreign tonnage and imports, it falls behind South Louisiana in total tonnage), and traffic is expected to increase when the Panama Canal expands its capacity in 2014.

To encourage children to consider such port careers as working for the Coast Guard or as customs agents, the museum showcases current photographs of men and women working in the port, along with associated uniforms and equipment. Displays of imported items like coffee and cotton, which arrive from throughout the world, remind me of how heavily global commerce depends on the sea. I'll think about this economic impact the next time I see those twinkling Ship Channel lights in Houston's night sky.

ABOVE LEFT AND RIGHT: Navigational controls, model ships, photographs, and other treasures tell the story of the world's maritime industry. LEFT: A model of the 1778 American frigate *Confederacy*. During the American Revolution, the ship escorted merchant ships along the coast to protect them from British assault and blockades.

## Houston Fire Museum

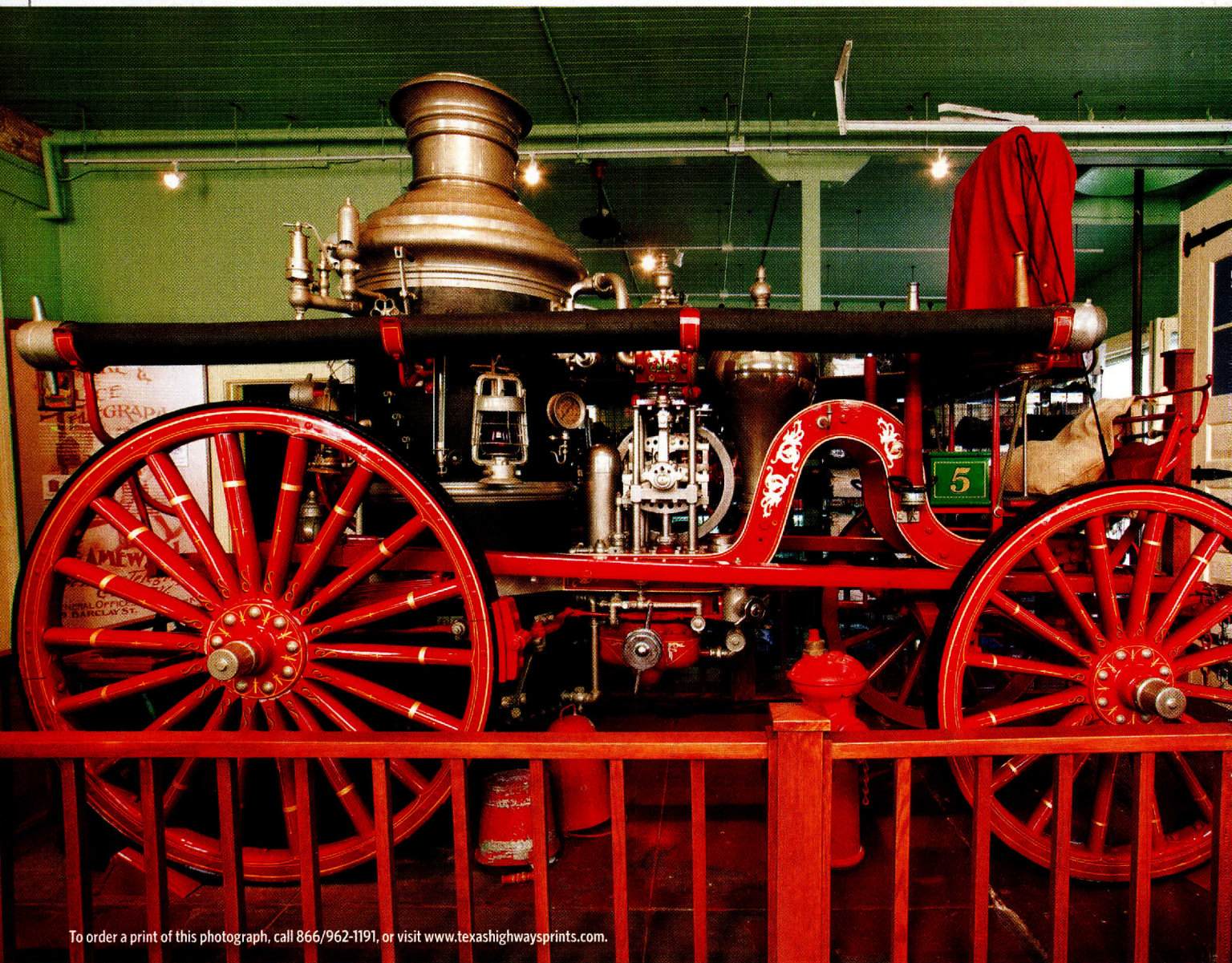
**B**etween downtown and the Texas Medical Center, in a recently revitalized Houston neighborhood known as Midtown, the Houston Fire Museum interprets the city's history through the lens of fire prevention and safety.

Housed in a brick-and-stucco building that opened in 1899 and served the city for 70 years, the Fire Museum benefits from frequent off-duty visits by today's firefighters, who talk to the public about their role in the city's growth. This station, in fact, was the city's first station to be designated for a paid firefighting squad (before then, all firefighting was done by volunteers).

The exhibits here include such treasures as a 1937 Chevrolet

pumper and a gleaming, red-and-gold 1895 Ahrens Fox horse-drawn steamer. Irma Molina, the museum's visitor services coordinator, tells me that horses were an integral part of many fire departments between 1865-1915. After 1915, horse-drawn fire "trucks" began to be replaced by motorized vehicles, allowing the city's infrastructure to expand.

A reproduction of a 1930s watch office—outfitted with a narrow iron bed topped with a gray wool blanket, a wooden side table, and a desk—provides insight into the predecessor of our current 911 emergency system. This office would have been staffed 24 hours a day by a dispatcher who received telegraphed fire alarms and then passed them on to the nearest fire station. Often the alarms came from passersby, as red fire alarm boxes



To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



After 1915, horse-drawn fire “trucks” began to be replaced by motorized vehicles, **allowing the city’s infrastructure to expand.**

were located on many city street corners. According to Executive Director Tristan Smith, these boxes were in use through the 1970s, but ultimately were discontinued because stations received so many false alarms.

In the children’s area, called Tyke Town, rambunctious tots scramble across the floor-to-ceiling model escape house. This playhouse, outfitted with fire-escape ladders, familiarizes kids with how to evacuate a house in the event of a fire. Kids can also practice sliding down a fire pole, don authentic fire-fighter gear, and play in the cab of a fire truck.

The museum’s second floor features replicas of a fire-station dorm room and locker room, with each locker containing belongings typical of different decades, creating a visual history of the past century. The 1930s locker holds items such as a Lucky Strike cigarette pack, a news story about the *Hindenburg* explosion, and a weathered baseball glove; the 1980s locker reflects the new coed nature of the force with a women’s fire uniform and a Jazzercise advertisement.

In a more somber display, a twisted, rusted hunk of steel from the World Trade Center bears an engraved memorial to those who lost their lives on 9/11. A FDNY helmet and slide show of the collapse of the World Trade Center completes the display.

As if on cue, a group of firefighters walks into the museum just as I’m leaving. Fresh from a fire, smoke still cloaking their uniforms, they take time to pose for photos with visiting children.

LEFT: Manufactured in Ohio, Ahrens Fox horse-drawn steamers such as this one were known for their reliability. RIGHT: Sound the alarm. In the museum’s reproduction of a 1930s watch office, a uniform and boots stand ready for action.



## MORE HIDDEN MUSEUMS

IN THE DOWNTOWN LOBBY of the Houston Police Department headquarters, visit the **HPD Museum and Officers’ Memorial**, which houses cars, uniforms, badges, and other police memorabilia ([www.houstontx.gov/police/museum](http://www.houstontx.gov/police/museum)).

Find hundreds of antique telephones as well as a Braille switchboard at **The Doc Porter Museum of Telephone History** (713/861-9784; [www.houstontelephonomuseum.com](http://www.houstontelephonomuseum.com)).

See art cars and other contemporary works of art at the **Art Car Museum** (713/861-5526; [www.artcar-museum.com](http://www.artcar-museum.com)).

Learn about the contributions of women and minorities to the culture of the West at the **American Cowboy Museum** (713/478-9677; [www.american-cowboymuseum.org](http://www.american-cowboymuseum.org)).

Sided with more than 50,000 beer cans and decorated with thousands more, the **Beer Can House**, now part of the Orange Show Foundation, is a nontraditional salute to recycling. Call 713/926-6368; [www.angeshow.org](http://www.angeshow.org).

The **National Museum of Funeral History** explores one of mankind’s oldest cultural traditions. Call 281/876-3063; [www.nmfh.org](http://www.nmfh.org). —Jennifer Babisak

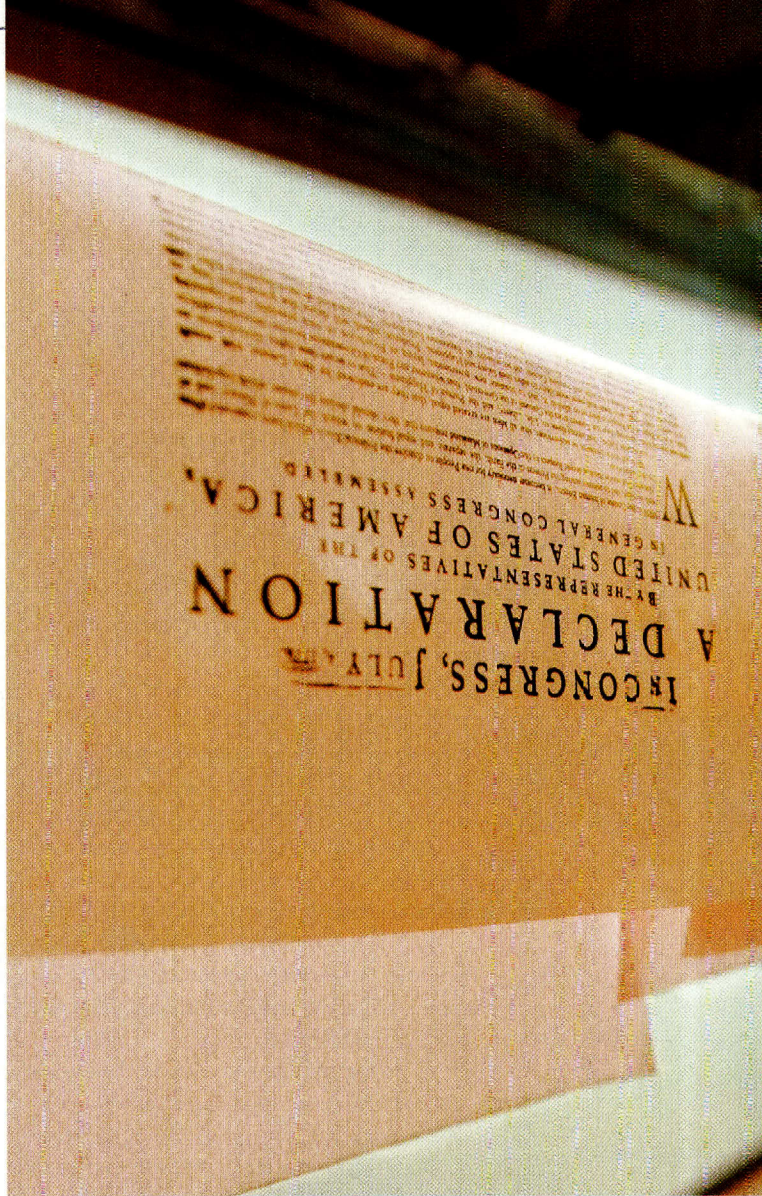
# HOUSTON'S HIDDEN MUSEUMS

## Museum of Printing History

The Museum of Printing History is one of five U.S. museums dedicated to the technology and impact of the printed page. Housed in a low, beige building near downtown, the museum tells its story with artifacts that range from Mesopotamian cylinder seals to behemoth photocopiers from the 1970s. Its softly lit galleries and busy working studios evoke a sense of creativity, vision, and invention.

In the Americana Gallery, one wall bears an elegantly printed quote from Abraham Lincoln proclaiming, "To emancipate the mind is the great task which printing came into the world to perform." This gallery contains dozens of antique newspapers, their yellowed pages and tiny type (8-point type was typically used in colonial times) bearing witness to such moments in American history as the 1765 Stamp Act Riots and the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation.

An elegant 1854 Columbian iron handpress, topped with a golden eagle, stands in the middle of the room. Using this press,



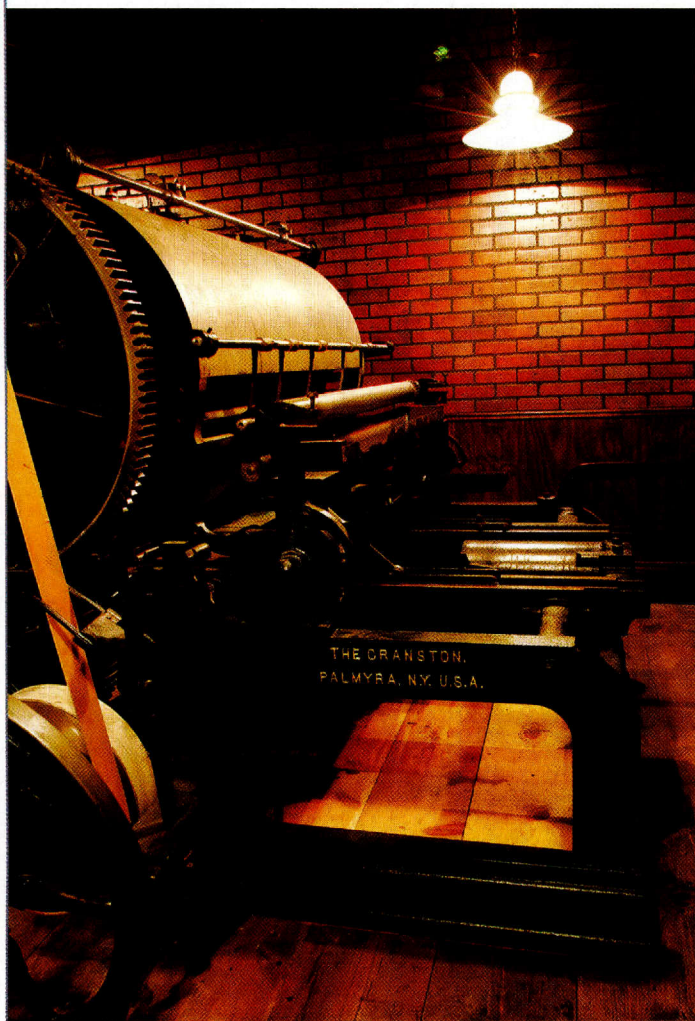
In the museum's working galleries, artists demonstrate **stone lithography, letterpress printing, papermaking, and bookbinding.**

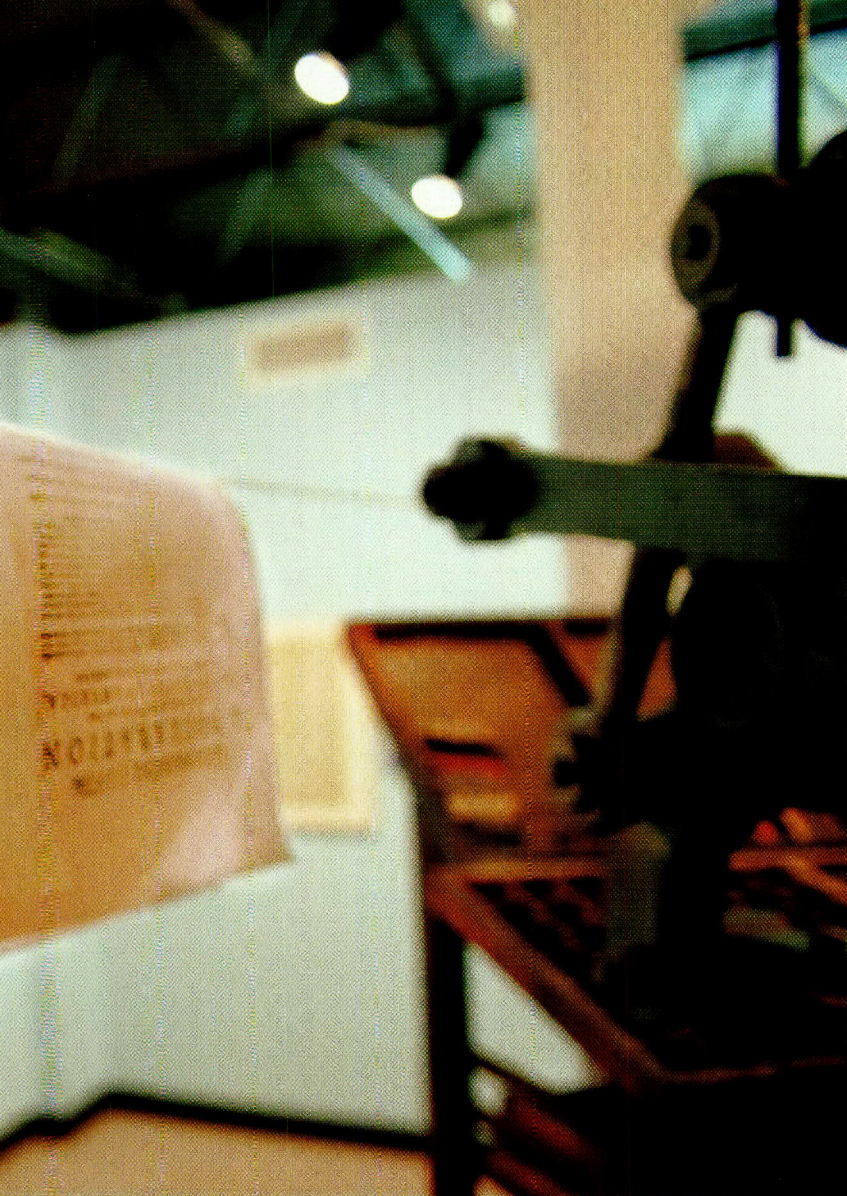
operators could produce up to 250 pages per hour. The golden eagle served more than a decorative purpose; it functioned as a counterweight to provide force for the impression. The museum also houses a replica of a Gutenberg press; tour groups are

allowed to operate both presses to create copies of the Declaration of Independence and a page from the Gutenberg Bible.

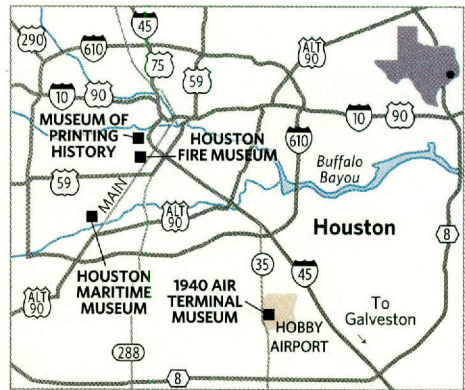
The museum's replica of the Gutenberg Bible sits

ABOVE: Using an 1854 Columbian iron handpress, visitors can print a copy of the Declaration of Independence. LEFT: Operators using the 1880s Cranston letterpress fed paper through clamps on the metal cylinder, which ran over a flat printing plate.





## TH ESSENTIALS



## Houston's Hidden Museums

The **1940 Air Terminal Museum** is at 8325 Travelair St. Call 713/454-1940; [www.1940airterminal.org](http://www.1940airterminal.org).

The **Houston Maritime Museum** is at 2204 Dorrington. Call 713/666-1910; [www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.houstonmaritimemuseum.org).

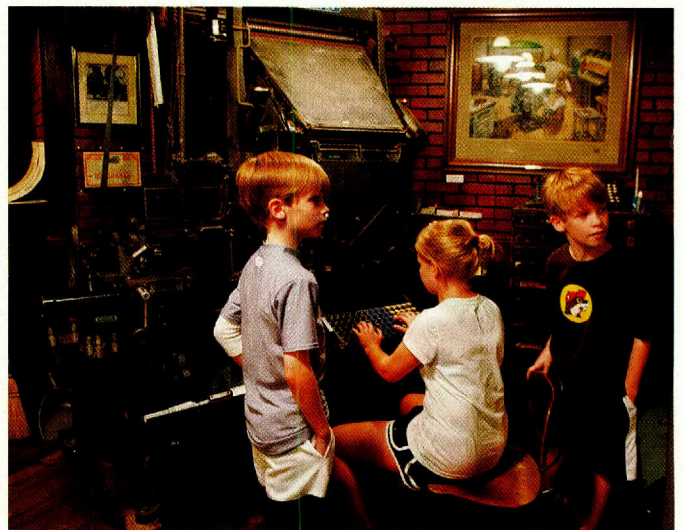
The **Houston Fire Museum** is at 2403 Milam St. Call 713/524-2526; [www.houstonfiremuseum.org](http://www.houstonfiremuseum.org).

The **Museum of Printing History** is at 1324 W. Clay St. Call 713/522-4652; [www.printingmuseum.org](http://www.printingmuseum.org).

atop an ornate gold pedestal, its black Latin text adorned with colorful illustrations and flourishes. Amanda Stevenson, the museum's curator, tells me that in the mid-1400s, Johann Gutenberg printed about 180 copies of this Bible, and that 48 of them survive today.

In the museum's working galleries, resident artists demonstrate stone lithography, letterpress printing, papermaking, and bookbinding. The architectural elements of these galleries—brick walls, wood floors, and stained glass, with iron tools hanging on the walls—create the feel of an 18th-Century print shop. I learn that the museum offers classes for children and adults alike on topics such as Coptic bookbinding, letterpress printing, and silkscreening. I'm amused to read descriptions of these printing classes online—yet another example of how printing and the exchange of information continues to evolve. **TH**

Writer **JENNIFER BABISAK** enjoys exploring her new hometown of Houston. Photographer **ROBERT GOMEZ** embraces digital technology but maintains a soft spot for old-school film cameras.

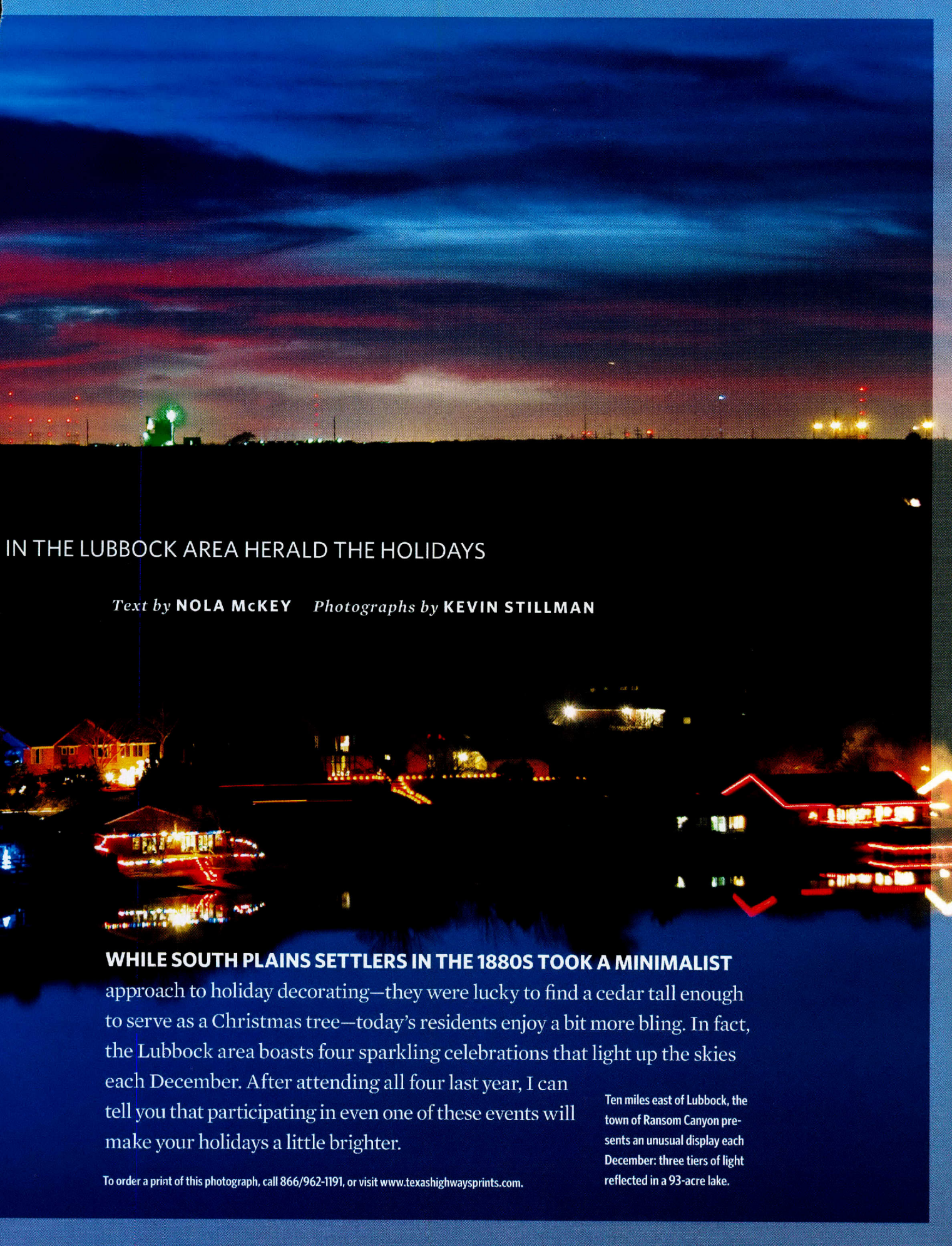


Kids who have grown up with computers marvel at the 1868 Mergenthaler Linotype press, an innovation that eliminated typesetting individual letters by hand.



# Lubbock Lights

FOUR LUMINOUS EVENTS



## IN THE LUBBOCK AREA HERALD THE HOLIDAYS

*Text by* **NOLA McKEY** *Photographs by* **KEVIN STILLMAN**

### **WHILE SOUTH PLAINS SETTLERS IN THE 1880S TOOK A MINIMALIST**

approach to holiday decorating—they were lucky to find a cedar tall enough to serve as a Christmas tree—today's residents enjoy a bit more bling. In fact, the Lubbock area boasts four sparkling celebrations that light up the skies each December. After attending all four last year, I can tell you that participating in even one of these events will make your holidays a little brighter.

Ten miles east of Lubbock, the town of Ransom Canyon presents an unusual display each December: three tiers of light reflected in a 93-acre lake.

To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).

# Lubbock Lights



One of four homes that welcomed guests during the Ransom Canyon Christmas Tour of Homes last year, this Mediterranean-style home featured elaborate woodcarvings around the fireplace and a lake view.

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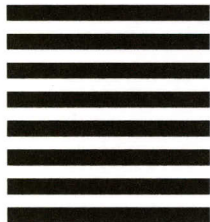
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## Sparkling lights

adorn the exterior of most homes in Ransom Canyon. The Vintage Township community hosts Winter Wonderland, which features traditional carriage rides.

**F**OR JUMP-STARTING HOLIDAY SPIRIT, I recommend the **Carol of Lights**, an evening event held on the Texas Tech University campus during the first week in December (December 3, 2011). Enjoy the camaraderie of the crowd gathered in the darkened Science Quadrangle as you listen to a stirring carillon concert. Performances by chorales and instrumental ensembles follow from the balcony of the Geosciences Building in the center. It's sometimes more than a little chilly, but the shivering is worth it, when a switch is thrown at the finale and 25,000 red, orange, and white LED lights suddenly outline the 13 buildings that surround Memorial Circle, enveloping you and your fellow celebrants in a warm glow. Moments like these spark the sense of wonder that lies at the heart of the season.

A tradition for more than a half-century, the Carol of Lights marks the beginning of the holidays for many area residents. Multiple generations turn out for the event, creating a feeling of continuity that inspires hope for the future. After the initial unveiling, the architectural silhouette glitters nightly through January 1, meaning holiday light-seekers can circle through campus and enjoy the spectacle as often as they like.

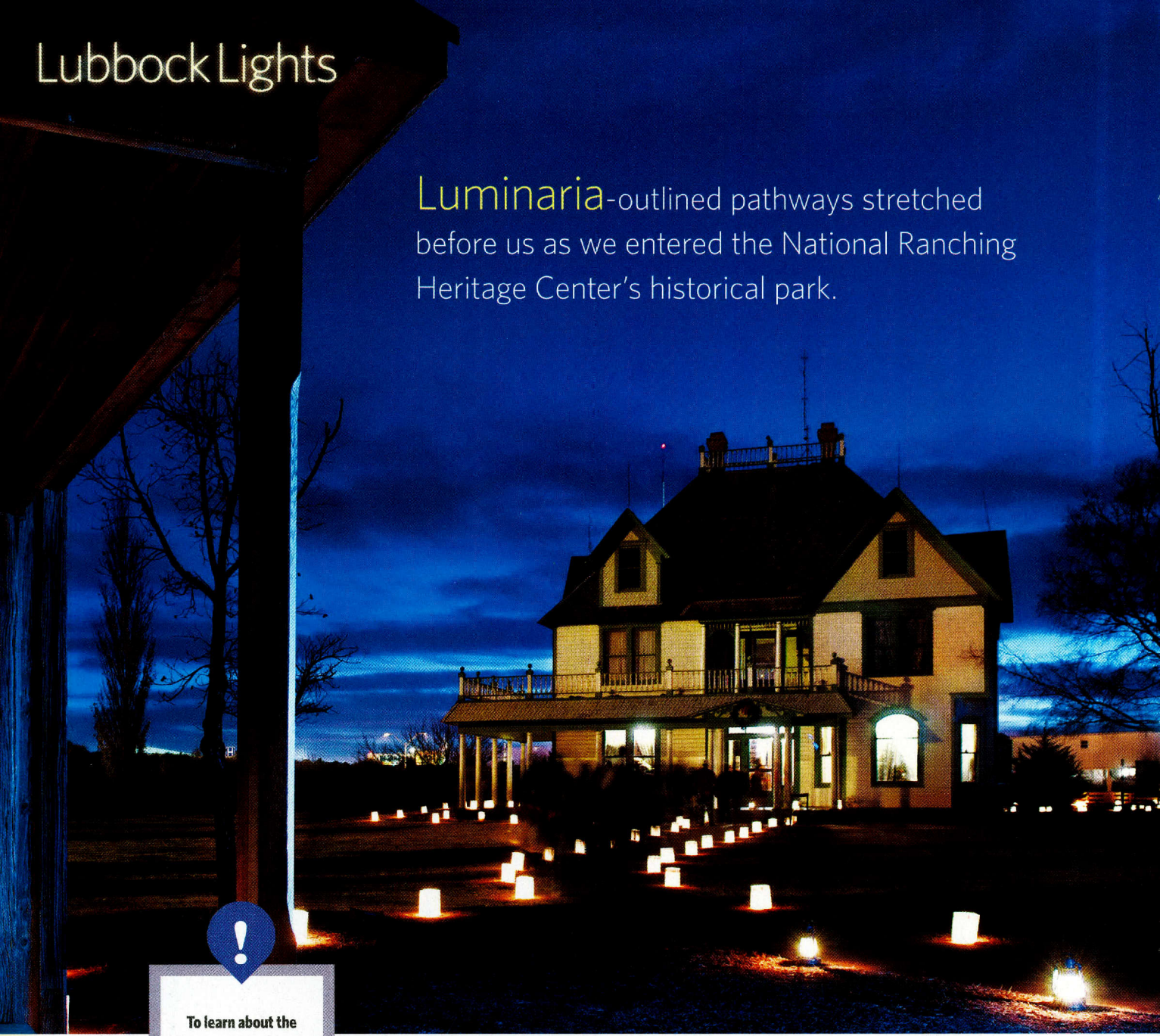
\*\*\*\*\*  
**MORE LIGHTS AWAIT** 10 miles east of Lubbock, in the town of **Ransom Canyon**. The drive from Lubbock is a treat anytime, with the landscape suddenly changing from flat to fabulous as you enter the canyonlands on the eastern edge of the Llano Estacado. In Ransom Canyon, three tiers of homes surround a 93-acre lake. And during December, homeowners here join together to present a light show like no other.


Sparkling lights adorn the exterior of most homes, resulting in three levels of illumination that encircle

ABOVE: At Vintage Township, holiday visitors can tour the picturesque neighborhood via horse-drawn carriage.  
 RIGHT: Another Ransom Canyon home on last year's open-house tour offered two stories of festive decor.



**Luminaria**-outlined pathways stretched before us as we entered the National Ranching Heritage Center's historical park.




 To learn about the mysterious Lubbock Lights of the 1950s, see [texashighways.com/webextra](http://texashighways.com/webextra).

 ABOVE: Candlelight at the Ranch features holiday scenes at 15 of the National Ranching Heritage Center's historic structures, including the 1909 Barton House, a Queen Anne-style ranch home that once sat in Hale County. While some settings portray bare-bones celebrations, the scene at the Barton House includes music, games, and elaborate holiday decorations.

the lake, which reflects the scene. People drive from Lubbock and elsewhere on the South Plains to see the sights throughout the month, but the main event is the **Christmas Tour of Homes**, held the second week of December (December 8, 2011). The tour, which benefits the Ransom Canyon Memorial Chapel, spotlights four homes decked out in their holiday best.

I met event co-chairman Carol Farris, my guide for the evening, just before dusk at the Ransom Canyon firehouse. It was a clear night with just a touch of crispness in the air. I was eager to see the first house on the tour, which Farris informed me had “one of the best views of the canyon.”

 Sure enough, the backyard of the newly remodeled home on the canyon rim offered sweeping views of the dramatic townscape. Inside the house, I counted 14 Christmas trees, including one upturned and hanging above the dining-room table. In the powder room, twinkling lights revealed a giant teddy bear that appeared to be soaking in a tub filled with bubbles and baubles.

Each homeowner on the tour took a different approach to decorating: We also saw

a contemporary home with understated holiday decor; a Southwest-style home with accents from nature; and a Mediterranean-style, lakeside home that featured a 12-foot-tall tree and European antiques. Our final stop was at the Ransom Canyon Memorial Chapel, where we sipped hot apple cider and sampled homemade cookies. A three-room, stone building nestled among willows, cottonwoods, and mesquites, the chapel offers nondenominational services on Sunday mornings.

If you miss the open-house tour, don't worry. Residents leave the lights on until 11 p.m. nightly through Christmas, and the driving tours allow you to see the real star of this holiday display—the special setting of Ransom Canyon itself.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**THE NEXT LIGHTING VENUE**—a planned community in southwest Lubbock called **Vintage Township**—began taking shape in 2006 and is still growing. It features a blend of traditional architecture, with homes built around multiple green spaces. The scenic neighborhood offers a number of annual events, including **Winter Wonderland**, which has a slate of activities throughout December. When I heard about carriage rides and an Enchanted Forest (in Lubbock!), I knew I had to check it out.

The festivities begin with the Grand Illumination of the Enchanted Forest during the first week in December (December 2, 2011). I missed last year's kickoff by a few days, but the following weekend, I caught one of the 20-minute light shows featuring the more than 50 "Christmas trees" that make up the Enchanted Forest. Formed of LED lights synchronized to music by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, the trees range in height from two feet to 10 feet and turn from red to blue to gold to green, delighting onlookers.

"I liked watching the colors dance," eight-year-old Bailey Purdon told me afterwards. "The lights were everywhere!"

The smells of hot chocolate and fresh-baked sugar cookies beckoned from an outdoor concession stand, where I met Vintage Township manager Tana Patterson. I joined her for a carriage ride, and as the horses clip-clopped along the picturesque streets, she told me about other attractions offered during the month: visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus, a "magical snow machine," carolers, musical ensembles, and a Holiday Homes Tour.

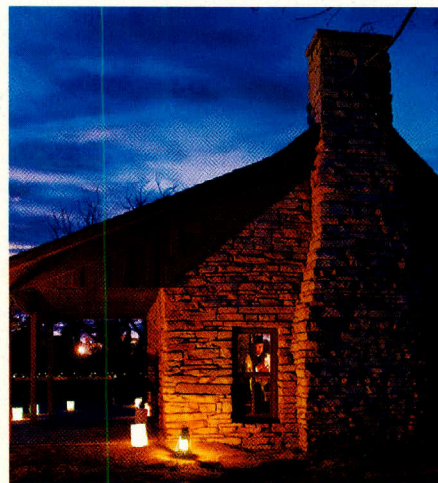
Vintage Township's version of holiday entertainment may be new on the Lubbock scene, but the traditional flavor seems right at home here.

\*\*\*\*\*  
**I'VE ATTENDED Candlelight at the Ranch** at Texas Tech's **National Ranching Heritage Center** several times, but last year I invited my Lubbock niece, Erin Braddock, along to share the experience. We joined some 8,000 visitors who turned out over the course of two evenings to catch a glimpse of Christmas past.

Luminaria-outlined pathways stretched before us as we entered the historical park, which boasts 48 authentic ranching structures dating from the 1780s through the 1950s.

During Candlelight at the Ranch, the staff decorates 15 of the buildings, each according to the era it represents. Costumed docents take their places inside, reading by lantern light, sewing

Two "pioneer women" bake cookies using a wood stove in the kitchen of Las Escarbadas, a division headquarters of the XIT Ranch. The 1886 stone building features furnishings that date from 1893 to 1904.



A window in the NRHC's 1879 Masterson JY Bunkhouse reveals a "cow-boy" carving wood, perhaps to pass the time during a lonely Christmas.



# Lubbock Lights

**Inside** the Four Sixes Barn, children can write letters to Santa and then mail them in an old-time post office.



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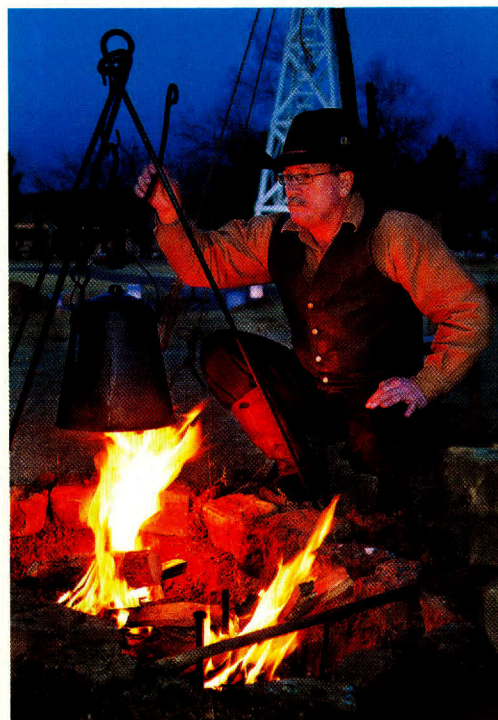
by a fireplace, strumming softly on a guitar. Visitors move from site to site, watching from outside at most places. Even on mild December nights, the cozy scenes always have made me yearn to go inside.

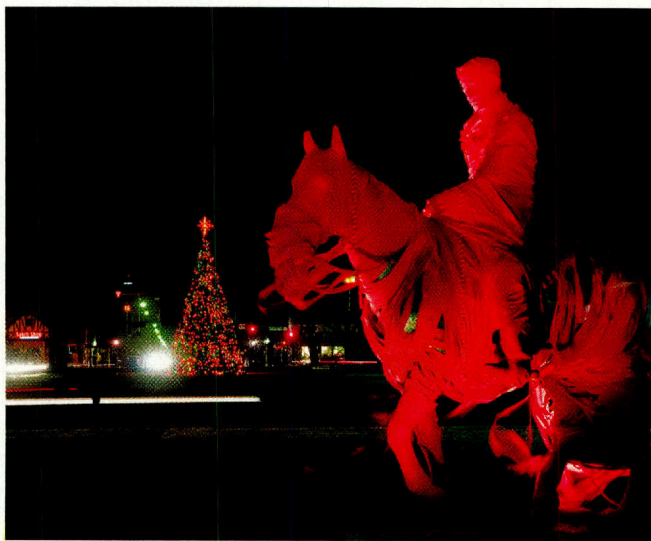
Music drew us to the 80 John Wallace House, a small, wooden structure with a tin roof built in 1900 in Mitchell County, and occupied by “80 John” Wallace, a highly respected and deeply spiritual rancher. The home was moved to the NRHC in 2009. On the porch, a tumbleweed decorated with buttons and strips of fabric sufficed for a Christmas tree, and a docent dressed in overalls sang gospel songs a cappella, his rich, bass voice captivating passersby.

Compared to this modest building, the two-and-a-half-story Barton House (1909, Hale County) that lay to the north appeared majestic. One of the few structures at the NRHC lit by electricity, the Barton House hummed with activity. In one room, a docent played a piano, accompanied by a fiddle player. In another room, several women sat at a round table, doing needlework. They kept stitching, even as we walked around the festively decorated home, admiring a six-foot Christmas tree and Victorian details from wallpaper to wainscoting.

Looking through the windows of Las Escarbas (1886, Deaf Smith County), a spacious, stone house that served as a division headquarters for the famed XIT Ranch, we watched

Frequent NRHC volunteer and chuckwagon cook Don Tumlinson warms up a pot of strong coffee at a fire near his Rafter 4T chuckwagon, which was stationed last year across from the U Lazy S Carriage House.





several pioneer couples waltzing to the sounds of three fiddles in the dining room, while a woman prepared food in the attached kitchen. Another woman sat nearby, doing needlework by lantern light. “How did they see?” I wondered aloud to Erin.

At the Pitchfork Cookhouse (c. 1900, Dickens County), a white, wooden building where cowboys on the Pitchfork Ranch ate daily meals until the structure was moved to the NRHC in 2008, a screen door revealed long tables flanked by benches. In a scene meant to reflect life here in the 1950s, a cowboy sat at one of the tables playing solitaire, while a woman—likely the ranch manager’s wife—iced cupcakes. At the far end of the building, a group gathered around a piano and sang “Frosty the Snowman.”

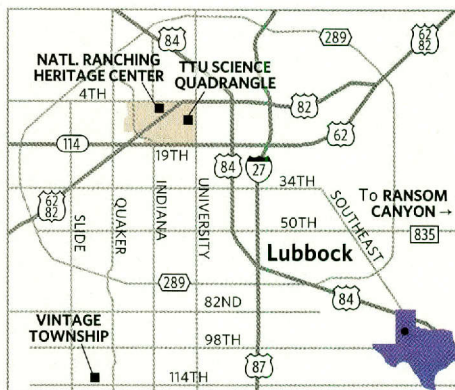
Our last stop was the Four Sixes Barn, where we warmed up with hot chocolate and compared notes on our favorite sites and sights. Erin summed it up best: “I loved seeing how they celebrated through the different time periods,” she said, “but what really stood out for me was that at each place we stopped, it was all about family.”



**THERE YOU HAVE IT**—Lubbock Lights four ways. A far cry from the first holiday celebrations on the South Plains. Let there be light! **TH**

*Senior Editor NOLA McKEY appreciated the opportunity to experience Candlelight at the Ranch with her niece Erin. Photographer KEVIN STILLMAN was impressed with the hospitality of Ransom Canyon residents and appreciated their help as he was setting up for the shoot from the canyon rim.*

Sitting just off Memorial Circle, the statue of Will Rogers and his horse Soapsuds greets visitors as they walk to and from the Carol of Lights. The red crepe paper isn’t a holiday tradition; the statue was wrapped to denote a home basketball game.



## South Plains Light Shows

The **Carol of Lights** begins at 7 p.m. on December 3 in the Science Quadrangle on the Texas Tech University campus in **Lubbock**. Admission: Free. Call **806/742-1096**; [www.housing.ttu.edu/carol.php](http://www.housing.ttu.edu/carol.php). At 5 p.m., the Texas Tech Alumni Association sponsors a Carol of Lights Pre-Lighting Festival, which involves a visit from Santa, a cookie-decorating station, a toy-donation drop, holiday music, and refreshments. For details, call 806/742-3641; [www.texastechalumni.org](http://www.texastechalumni.org).

The town of **Ransom Canyon**, 10 miles east of Lubbock, offers **free (informal) driving tours** nightly until 11 p.m. from December 1 through Christmas. The **Ransom Canyon Christmas Tour of Homes**—which spotlights four homes decorated for the season—takes place December 8, at 6:30-9:00 p.m.. Admission: \$15 (\$10 in advance). At the Ransom Canyon Memorial Chapel, volunteers serve hot apple cider and homemade cookies. For ticket information, directions, and details about both tours, call **806/829-2470**; [www.ransomcanyonchapel.com](http://www.ransomcanyonchapel.com).

**Vintage Township**, a community in southwest **Lubbock** (on 114th St., between Quaker Ave. and Slide Rd.), kicks off its month-long **Winter Wonderland** with the Grand Illumination of the Enchanted Forest at dusk on December 2. Other attractions throughout the month include synchronized light shows, a “Magical Snow Machine,” musical performances, visits with Santa, carriage rides, and a Holiday Homes Tour. An outdoor concession stand offers hot chocolate and fresh-baked sugar cookies. All activities are free except for carriage rides and the homes tour. For a schedule and details about activities, call **806/771-1117**; [www.vintagetownship.com](http://www.vintagetownship.com).

**Candlelight at the Ranch** takes place from 6-9 p.m., December 9-10, at Texas Tech University’s **National Ranching Heritage Center**, 3121 Fourth St. in **Lubbock**. Admission: Free. Besides touring the historic ranch buildings, visitors can write letters to Santa and enjoy performances by carolers, a bell choir, and other musical groups. Hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and kettle corn are available. For details, call **806/742-0498**; [www.nrhc.ttu.edu](http://www.nrhc.ttu.edu).

# rock stars

The limestone quarries that punctuate **San Antonio's** geography create unusual settings for parks, zoos, shopping, and more.

*Text by* **BOB McCULLOUGH**

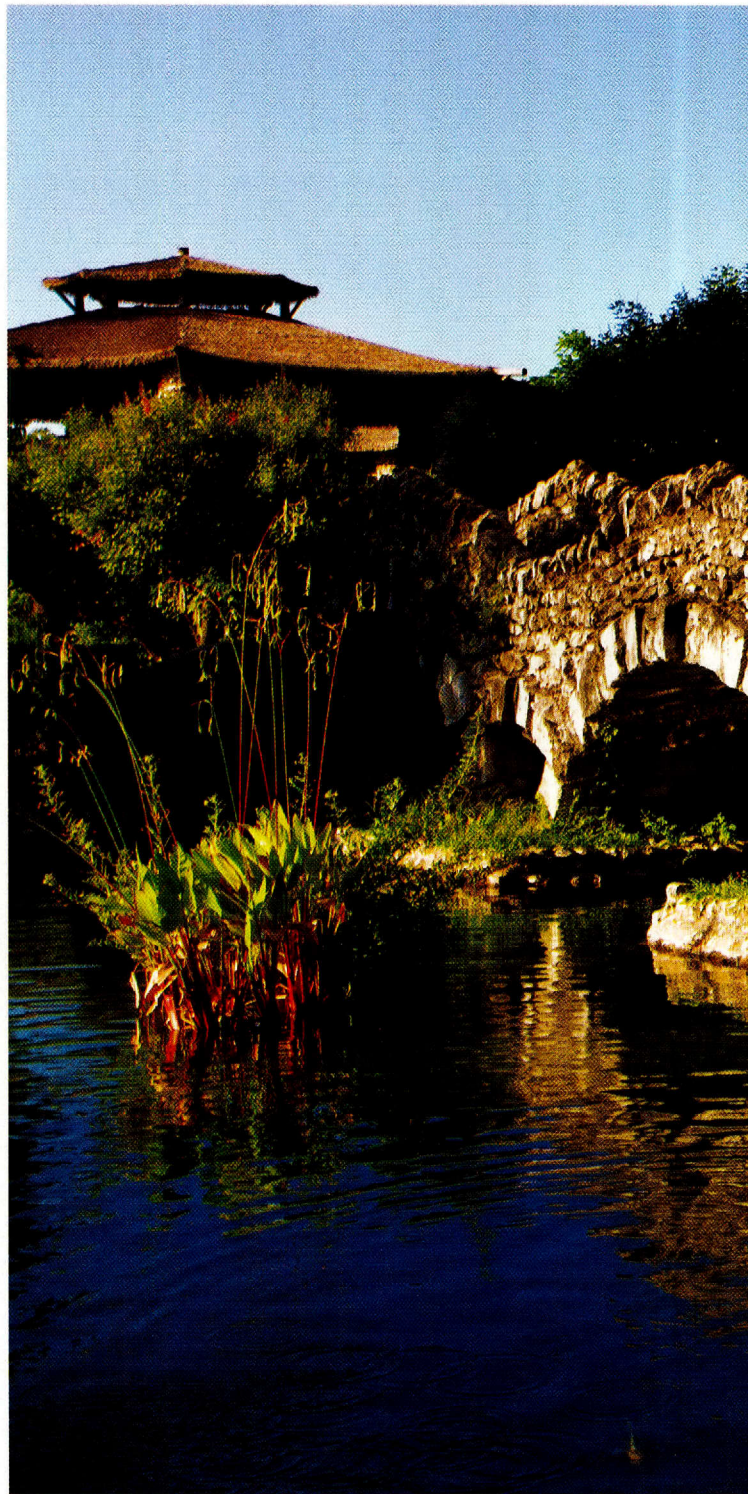
*Photographs by* **SARAH KERVER**

**SOME OF SAN ANTONIO'S FAVORITE URBAN** destinations once bristled with the industry of quarrying the region's ubiquitous limestone. Those previously ragged chunks of rocky real estate now offer space for the city's fabled zoo, theme parks, golf courses, and shopping centers, not to mention dozens of dining spots and sports arenas.

Since the late 19th Century, San Antonio's planners and builders have skillfully appropriated the steep angles and vast pits of the limestone quarries and adapted them to accommodate the city's still-growing population. That continuous and sprawling growth (San Antonio is now the seventh largest city in the U.S.) means the quarry makeovers have been essential. Otherwise, the huge craters would pock the city's neighborhoods.

As San Antonio architect and planner Chris Carson observes, "We San Antonians have an attitude about ourselves of taking what we have and making the best use of it for our community's well-being. This great spirit of civic pride," he adds, "coupled with a strong conservation ethic, have resulted in turning abandoned places into some of San Antonio's most-visited and most beautiful locations."

Over the decades of the 20th Century, San Antonio quarry recyclers learned by trial and error as they cleared sites, designed drainage systems, planted vegetation, and determined what they could fit into such massive, jagged excavations.



Starting in the mid-19th Century, limestone served as a valuable construction commodity around San Antonio. Starting about 1840, German stonemasons began extracting limestone along Rock Quarry Road (now the northernmost portion of St. Mary's Street in Brackenridge Park) to stack into the walls of landmarks such as the Menger Hotel in the plaza adjacent to the Alamo.

Quarrying accelerated in 1879 when English geologist William Lloyd discovered blue argillaceous limestone in what is now Brackenridge Park's Japanese Tea Garden. This stone contained



the proper proportions of lime and clay for producing commercial-quality cement. By 1880, the Alamo Cement Company, the first industrial operation of its kind west of the Mississippi, began quarry activity in the area. Over the next several years, approximately 5,000 barrels of cement used in the construction of the Texas Capitol building in Austin came from this site.

When the city's growth began to encroach on the Alamo Cement quarry in the early 1900s, the company moved northward to Alamo Heights, abandoning its monstrous quarries.

Parks Commissioner Ray Lambert embraced the challenge of reusing these abandoned spaces, and helped establish the San Antonio Zoo in 1914. Designers used the quarry's sheer quarry walls and other natural features to transform the area into one of the first cageless zoos. Lions and other creatures soon prowled in the shadow of craggy limestone cliffs. The zoo's denizens continue to effectively use the natural rock

The Japanese Tea Garden, with its koi ponds, arched stone bridges, and pagoda, invites visitors to enjoy a meditative stroll.



From this vantage point, it is easy to see that the Brackenridge Park's Japanese Tea Garden occupies the site of a former quarry.

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environment. In fact, the 35-acre zoological park now harbors more than 3,500 animals of 600 species, including one of the nation's largest bird populations.

Just southwest of the zoo sits the Japanese Tea Garden, another sculpted masterpiece from the early 1900s. Starting in 1917, city officials employed prison labor to transform the old quarry pit into an Oriental flower garden, importing floral specimens from Asia, and completing the project in 1919.

These days, a stroll through the Garden (which underwent extensive restoration that was completed in 2008) offers a serene escape from the nearby traffic streams of busy U. S. 281. Vegetation cascades down the quarry walls, muffling traffic sounds. Mottled-orange koi cruise shallow pools, their color contrasting with the dark green of the mossy pools. A chorus of birdcalls, along with the splashing of a 60-foot waterfall, provides the soothing background audio. The brick smokestack, a remnant of Alamo Cement's original kiln, and the uneven rock pathways offer unmistakable reminders of the place's history.

"The garden and the Alamo are requisites when you're experiencing historic San Antonio," says Teresa Cox, director of the San Antonio Parks Foundation. "Visitors really enjoy coming back to the garden since its restoration."

A more recent rehabilitation project involved the Jingu House, named for a former Japanese-American caretaker, Kimi Eizo Jingu. Similar in appearance to the tea room the Jingu family opened here in 1926, the Jingu House opened in October of this year and now welcomes guests with snacks, salads, and tea service.

The Garden now shares the 'hood with three notable neighbors—the Sunken Garden Theater, Alamo Stadium, and the hilly campus of Trinity University. The outdoor theater hosts concerts as well as year-round events, such as the Taste

The San Antonio Zoo adapts the steep, rugged walls of the original quarry to create natural barriers for its animals.

**Designers used the quarry's sheer quarry walls and other natural features to transform the area into one of the first cageless zoos.**



of New Orleans festival during Fiesta San Antonio each April. To the west, across U. S. 281, sits 23,000-seat Alamo Stadium, also known as The Rock Pile, completed in September 1940. San Antonio high school players still do battle on the field where football legends like Kyle Rote and Tommy Nobis crashed helmets.

Still farther west stands Trinity University and its two-tiered Skyline Campus, which earned that name because

of its dramatic view of the San Antonio skyline, especially at night, says Trinity historian Douglas Brackenridge.

“Building a campus on a former quarry site was a real risk,” Brackenridge notes. “But in the late 1940s, architect O’Neil Ford heeded the advice of a consultant from MIT: ‘If you want a unique campus, then follow the contours of the land; don’t do any major reshaping.’” The award-winning result

encompassing 70 acres features mainly classrooms, performance venues, and art spaces atop the old quarry’s rim and dormitories and athletics fields on the quarry floor below.

As its name suggests, San Antonio’s Quarry Market adapts the quarry site completely, including the multi-story chimneys once active in the stone mining operation, along with (below left) specialized rail cars and heavy equipment.

**I**N 1986, WHEN ALAMO CEMENT ceased operations in Alamo Heights and moved farther north, a design team planned a 475-acre multi-purpose development that introduced the Quarry Golf Club in 1993 and Alamo Quarry Market five years later.

“We had to learn about quarries really fast and then figure out what would fit into the overall redesign,” one designer remembers. “First we had to evaluate 135 existing structures that included the company town, Cementville.” Then, another team member recalls, “We determined that retaining some of that ‘stuff in the way’ such as smokestacks, quarry equipment, and buildings, would add value and atmosphere.”

It’s not difficult to find Alamo Quarry Market: Five 201-foot smokestacks still stand just off U. S. 281 north of downtown San Antonio. Joining them are other pieces of vintage heavy equipment such as a steam engine, rotary drill, and an ore car at each entrance to the shopping center. An oil-fired generator that helped power the quarry, plus historical





A huge section of the stone wall serves as a giant screen for a laser and fireworks show that concludes each day at Fiesta Texas.

To order a print of this photograph, call 866/962-1191, or visit [www.texashighwaysprints.com](http://www.texashighwaysprints.com).



It's easy to identify the Six Flags Fiesta Texas roller coaster that rumbles through this former quarry in north San Antonio, within view of the picturesque La Cantera golf course.

photos, decorate the lobby of the center's cinema.

From there, it's only a few hundred yards to the Quarry Golf Club and its 90-acre back 9 in the quarry pit, where errant golf balls regularly ricochet off stone walls. Golfers note that the quarry wall definitely comes into play on the par-5 18th hole. Residents of adjacent Lincoln Heights notice the struggle with par below their homes and apartments that overlook the cratered course.

**A** **NOTHER** quarry makeover took shape in the former Redland-Worth Quarry along the city's IH-10 West gateway and Loop 1604. Now called La Cantera, "quarry" in Spanish, the project filled a 215-acre chasm with the Fiesta Texas theme park, then a resort hotel with two golf courses and a retail center.

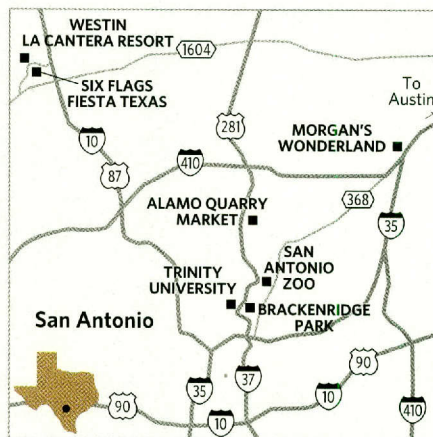
A short drive away, visitors enjoy The Rim, a 100-store complex in the former Martin Marietta Quarry.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas visitors can't help but notice the quarry's looming presence. Two rides—The Rattler wooden roller coaster and the park's railway—actually penetrate the 100-foot-quarry wall. A huge section of the stone wall serves as a giant screen for a laser and fireworks show that concludes each day at the park.

An even more recent recycling project has focused on Longhorn Quarry in Northeast San Antonio, where planners put forth reclamation schemes including a new arena for the San Antonio Spurs and a baseball stadium to lure a major-league team. Even though none of those projects proved feasible, the North East Independent School District decided to break ground on the 11,000-seat Heroes



TH ESSENTIALS



## San Antonio's Quarries

HERE IS A LIST of places to experience San Antonio's recycled quarries. For more information about San Antonio attractions, consult [www.VisitSanAntonio.com](http://www.VisitSanAntonio.com).

**Brackenridge Park**, 3700 N. St. Mary's St., just north of downtown and east of U.S. 281. For information on preservation of the park: [www.brackenridgepark.org](http://www.brackenridgepark.org).

**San Antonio Zoo**, 3903 N. St. Mary's St., 210/734-7184; [www.sazoo-aq.org](http://www.sazoo-aq.org).

**Japanese Tea Garden**, 3800 N. St. Mary's St., 210/212-4814; [www.saparksfoundation.org](http://www.saparksfoundation.org).

**Sunken Garden Theater**, 3875 N. St. Mary's St., 210/212-8423; [www.saparksfoundation.org](http://www.saparksfoundation.org).

**Alamo Stadium**, 110 Tuleta Dr., 210/735-9331; [www.saisd.net/admin/athletics/facil.shtm](http://www.saisd.net/admin/athletics/facil.shtm).

**Trinity University**, One Trinity Pl., 210/999-8406; [www.trinity.edu](http://www.trinity.edu).

**Alamo Quarry Market**, 255 E. Basse Rd., 210/824-8885; [www.quarrymarket.com](http://www.quarrymarket.com).

**Quarry Golf Club**, 444 E. Basse Rd., 210/824-4500; [www.quarrygolf.com](http://www.quarrygolf.com).

**Six Flags Fiesta Texas**, 17000 IH 10 West, 210/697-5050; [www.sixflags.com/FiestaTexas](http://www.sixflags.com/FiestaTexas).

**The Rim**, 17503 La Cantera Pkwy., 210/641-1777; [www.therimsa.net](http://www.therimsa.net).

**Westin La Cantera Resort**, 16641 La Cantera Pkwy., 210/558-6500; [www.westinlacantera.com](http://www.westinlacantera.com).

**The Shops at La Cantera**, 15900 La Cantera Pkwy., 210/582-6255; [www.theshopsatlacantera.com](http://www.theshopsatlacantera.com).

**Morgan's Wonderland**, 5223 David Edwards Dr., 210/637-3434; [www.MorgansWonderland.com](http://www.MorgansWonderland.com).

**STAR (South Texas Area Regional) Soccer Complex**, 5103 David Edwards Dr., 210/495-8686; [www.starsoccera.com](http://www.starsoccera.com).

**Heroes Stadium**, 4707 David Edwards Dr., 210/407-0040; [www.neisd.net](http://www.neisd.net).

Stadium. Area schools started playing football in the facility in August 2009. The Longhorn Quarry renaissance gained attention the following spring with the debut of the STAR Soccer Complex.

Meanwhile, quarrying continues in multiple sites on the northern fringes of San Antonio, leaving more major sites to adapt for a host of new uses and providing additional opportunities to strengthen the city's reputation as a recycling rock star. **TH**

**BOB McCULLOUGH**, although essentially retired from corporate communications, still collaborates with a quarry-based client, Morgan's Wonderland, a theme park designed for people with special needs. Photographer **SARAH KERVER** found the quarry subjects challenging because of the unexpected interplay of space and light.



**Do!**  
Tour Hearne's historic railroad depot.

## Camp Hearne

*Life in a Texas POW Camp*

Text by **MARTHA DEERING**

Paintings and other artwork produced in the 1940s by POWs at Camp Hearne provide important information about the camp's layout. A new museum at the site sheds light on this little-known piece of Texas history.

**I**N 1995, THE STORY OF A WORLD WAR II PRISONER-OF-WAR camp, hidden beneath a thick growth of weeds near Hearne, Texas, began to come to light, thanks to the research of Texas A&M anthropology professor Michael Waters. Over the next few years, with help from more than 150 students, Waters' investigation into the history of Camp Hearne wove together the threads of archeological excavation, archival evidence, and oral history to create a comprehensive picture of life at the internment camp in Hearne, one of the largest such camps in the United States. Dr. Waters' book, *Lone Star Stalag* (Texas A&M University Press, 2006), written with his core group of eight graduate students and a colleague, captures the memories of a vanishing generation. "The remnants of Camp Hearne tell of a forgotten time when men were brought together by world conflict," Waters says.

More than 425,000 Axis soldiers (mostly German and Italian) were ferried across the Atlantic to the United States as POWs during World War II. Officials in rural Hearne, a small town of 3,500 residents, saw financial opportunity in the Army's need to house these prisoners. According to most sources, there were roughly 650 POW camps operating throughout the U.S. by the end of the war, including dozens of main camps and branch camps in Texas. Camp Hearne was built in 1942 to U. S. Army standards, and it wasn't long before area residents complained that the facilities were too nice for prisoners of war. Officials explained that the Geneva Convention rules of 1929 required camps for POWs to have the same amenities provided for America's own soldiers, and the Military Police

PHOTO: CAMP HEARNE COLLECTION, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Field Manual specified that any “violation of any of such provisions is not only a violation of the laws of the United States, but may also result in retaliation by the enemy against our own prisoners of war.”

Maps of Camp Hearne from December 1942 show three compounds containing a total of 250 buildings. The barracks had wooden floors laid on brick or cement foundations, and the outside walls were made of black tarpaper over wooden studs. Seven guard towers offered visibility over the entire camp’s grounds; 10-foot fences topped with barbed wire surrounded the prisoners’ compound. Outside the main fences, the hospital complex

treated patients, and the American compound housed the 500 American servicemen and women required to guard the POWs and operate the camp.

Following the defeat of Erwin Rommel’s Afrika Korps, the first prisoners began arriving at Camp Hearne by train in June 1943, and Hearne residents came out to watch as guards marched the bedraggled men from the train station to the camp. “We didn’t know what to expect,” says Heino Erichsen, a German infantryman captured in Tunisia, now a resident of Conroe. “We understood that we would probably be in Texas for the rest of the war and felt a sense of relief after the terrible fighting in Africa, but many of us were sick, wounded, or exhausted—too worn out to be frightened.”

More than 80 percent of the prisoners at Camp Hearne were noncommissioned officers, and rules of the Geneva Convention stated that NCOs could not be required to work. While enlisted men were assigned jobs in the camp or on local farms and received a small wage, most NCOs spent their time reading, gardening, playing sports, or pursuing other hobbies.

## The new Camp Hearne Exhibit and Visitor Center interprets the site’s history.

Camp records indicate that bread, butter, cheese, marmalade, and coffee with milk were regularly served for breakfast, with meat, fruits, and vegetables available for other meals. Some prisoners puzzled over why they were being treated so well in America, but American chaplain Gustave Zoch, who was in charge of religious activities at Camp Hearne from 1943-1945, explained the reasoning: First, well-fed prisoners were more cooperative and caused less trouble than hungry ones. Second, the Americans sought to demonstrate to the world the superiority of democracy. Third, the U.S. did not want to jeopardize the fates of

American POWs in German captivity.

The POW camps on American soil were regularly inspected by such organizations as the International Red Cross, the German Red Cross, and the YMCA. In June of 1943, these organizations donated money to finance a variety of activities designed to occupy the POWs’ time. Prisoners undertook building and gardening projects, and also sought educational opportunities. At first, classes were taught by prisoners who had once been university professors, teachers, engineers, and accountants, but later, Baylor University offered coursework that earned Camp Hearne prisoners college credits.

Of course, Camp Hearne experienced its share of problems—including attempted escapes, theft, alcohol distillation, suicides, subversion of the Postal Unit, secret use of shortwave radio, and in a particularly violent turn, the murder of prisoner Hugo Kraus in 1943—one of seven murders in U.S. camps allegedly carried out by imprisoned Nazi extremists.

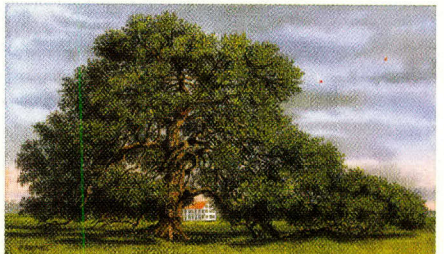
As the war progressed, the population of Camp Hearne, which had been

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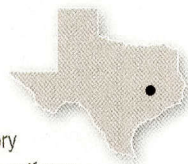
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# Speaking of Texas

## Visiting Camp Hearne

**IN THE FALL OF 2010, A REPLICA OF A 1940S PRISONER-OF-WAR**

barrack was built at the former site of Camp Hearne. The new barrack houses the Camp Hearne Exhibit and Visitor Center, which interprets the camp's history and displays photographs and artwork created by German prisoners, as well as uniforms, medals, work records, and other belongings. Most items on display were uncovered during the camp's 1995 excavation or were donated from private collections.



The Camp Hearne site (still heavily vegetated) is marked by cement building foundations that indicate the camp's original footprint. A total of 250 buildings were constructed here, divided between the prisoner compound, the hospital, and the American sector. Ruins of a prisoner-built theater and waist-high re-creations of German castles illustrate how some POWs spent their leisure time. Irises planted by POWs in the 1940s still bloom at Camp Hearne in the spring.

The Camp Hearne Exhibit and Visitor Center, at 12424 Camp Hearne 3rd St., off of FM 485, west of Texas 6, opens Wed-Sat 11-4. Call 979/314-7012; [www.camphearne.com](http://www.camphearne.com). —Martha Deeringer

After the ruins of Camp Hearne were excavated, archeologists received related items from private collections, including this canteen engraved with an image of a camp guard tower.

designed to house 3,000 prisoners, swelled to nearly 5,000. Near the end of the war, a few hundred Japanese POWs were housed at Camp Hearne, where they were isolated from German prisoners. On V-E Day, May 8, 1945, camp records indicate 3,855 prisoners at Camp Hearne; in November, two months after the Japanese surrender, the War Department set a goal to return all German POWs to Europe by spring. Once deactivated, Camp Hearne's 438 acres, barracks, and other buildings and property were eventually sold, and the land gradually succumbed to thick vegetation.

"The documents we found, and the archeological investigations we conducted, provided the facts about what happened at the camp," says Michael Waters. "But when the oral history research began, we started to hear the stories and under-

stand some of the emotions involved.

"When I first started researching the site, I placed an ad in a German veterans' newsletter for the Afrika Korps," he continues, "and I received 20 or so replies from former POWs who wanted to tell their stories, and they led me to additional sources. And when I talked to area farmers, I heard tales of Christmas cards and packages being exchanged between former POWs and their employers after the war. Even during times of high tension, people develop genuine friendships. There are always lessons to learn from history.

"The last former Hearne POW that I'm aware of visited the site a few years ago, but now the prisoners' children and grandchildren are visiting the site. They tell us that it's nice to know that the history of that time has been preserved and not forgotten." **TH**



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EVENTS » HAPPENINGS

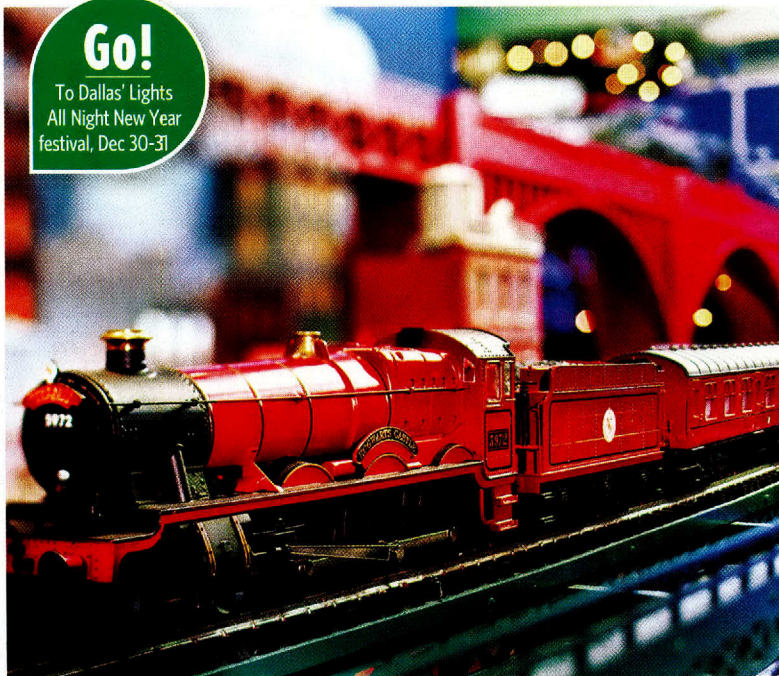
## Catch the Trains

DALLAS' NORTHPARK CENTER OFFERS MORE than a great place to buy gifts. The retail establishment was developed in the Sixties by arts benefactor Raymond D. Nasher and displays selections of his sculpture and modern art collection. And from November 19 to January 1, 2012, it also houses *The Trains at NorthPark*, an annual toy-train exhibit that takes you on a virtual journey across America. Begin your expedition on the mall's second floor near Barneys New York and watch the trains travel on nearly 1,600 feet of track past depictions of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, New York City's Grand Central Station, the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., and many other landmarks.

The exhibit raises money for the Ronald McDonald House of Dallas, which provides support to families of hospitalized children. Call 214/631-7354; [www.rmhdallas.org](http://www.rmhdallas.org).

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## December Events

### BIG BEND COUNTRY

**ALPINE: Christmas Bazaar** December 2-3. Civic Center. 432/837-2659

**FORT STOCKTON: Holiday Glitz** December 1. County Civic Center. 432/336-2264

**LAJITAS: Christmas on the Border** December 13. [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us) 432/229-4651

**MONAHANS: Christmas and Chili Market** December 3. County Convention Center. [www.monahans.org](http://www.monahans.org) 432/943-2187

**ODESSA: Heritage Holiday Starbright Village** December 2-24. McKinney Park. 432/355-4682

**VAN HORN: Lighted Christmas Parade** December 10. [www.vanhorn.texas.org](http://www.vanhorn.texas.org) 432/283-2682

### GULF COAST

**BEAUMONT: Christmas Holiday Festival** December 2-5. [www.beaumontcvb.com](http://www.beaumontcvb.com) 800/392-4401

**BROWNSVILLE: Holiday Village** December 1-January 1. Dean Porter Park. [www.holidayvillage.cob.us](http://www.holidayvillage.cob.us) 956/546-2646

**CLUTE: Christmas in the Park** December 6-9. Clute Municipal Park. 979/265-8392

**CORPUS CHRISTI: Cinematheque Film Showing** December 2. [www.facebook.com/southtexas.cinema](http://www.facebook.com/southtexas.cinema) 361/825-2296

**CORPUS CHRISTI: Harbor Lights Festival** December 3. [www.harborlightsfestival.org](http://www.harborlightsfestival.org) 361/985-1555

**CORPUS CHRISTI: Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Service** December 7. [www.ussexington.com](http://www.ussexington.com)

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**FREEPORT: Holiday on the Brazos** December 1. Municipal Park. www.freeport.tx.us 979/233-6061

**GALVESTON: Festival of Lights** December 1-31. Moody Gardens. www.moodygardens.com 800/582-4673

**GALVESTON: Dickens on The Strand** December 3-4. www.dickensonthestrand.org 409/765-7834

**HOUSTON: The Nutcracker** December 1-27. Houston Ballet. Wortham Theater Center. www.houstonballet.org

**HOUSTON: Holiday Celebration and Tree Lighting** December 2. City Hall. www.houstontx.gov 832/393-0868

**HOUSTON: Houston Heights Holiday Home Tour** December 2-3. www.houstonheights.org 713/861-4002, ext. 7

**HOUSTON: New Year's Eve Live** December 31. Discovery Green and George R. Brown Convention Center. www.newyearsevelive.com

**INGLESIDE: Renaissance Faire** December 10-11. Live Oak Park. www.inglesidetxchamber.org 888/899-2906

**KEMAH: Annual Christmas Boat Lane Parade** December 10. www.kemahboardwalk.com 281/334-9880

**KINGSVILLE: La Posada de Kingsville Parade of Lights** December 3. www.kingsvilletexas.com 361/592-8516

**LA PORTE: Pearl Harbor Ceremony** December 3. Battleship Texas State Historic Site. 281/479-2431

**ORANGE: Holiday Open House** December 13, 15. The W.H. Stark House. www.whstarkhouse.org 409/883-0871

**PEARLAND: Hometown Christmas Festival** December 2-4. Town Center. www.pearlandparks.com 281/412-8900

**PORT ARANSAS: Carolers Afloat/Boat Lighting Parade** December 3. www.portaransas.org 800/452-6278

**PORT ARTHUR: Cultural Lighted Parade** December 10. Downtown. 409/983-8105

**PORT ISABEL: Christmas Lighted Boat Parade** December 3. www.portisabel.org/boat-parade 956/943-2262

**PORT LAVACA: Festival of Lights Nighttime Christmas Parade** December 1. www.portlavacatx.org 361/552-2959

**QUINTANA: Christmas Tidings on the Gulf** December 9. Quintana Beach County Park. 979/864-1541

**RICHMOND: Campfire Christmas** December 9-10, 16-17. www.georgeranch.org/annual-events 281/343-0218

**SAN BENITO: Christmas Carnival, Parade and Bazaar** December 8-11. www.cityofsanbenito.com 956/361-3804, ext. 301

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND: Annual SPI Christmas Parade** December 16. 956/772-1974

**SPRING: Home for the Holidays in Old Town Spring** December 1-24. www.oldtownspring.com 800/653-8696

**SUGAR LAND: Christmas Tree Lighting** December 1. www.sugarlandtx.gov/parks\_recreation 281/275-2885

**TOMBALL: German Christmas Market: "Weihnachtsmarkt Texas Style"** December 9-11. www.tomballsistercity.org

**VICTORIA: Christmas in the Park** December 10. Riverside Park. www.victoriatx.org 361/485-3200

**WEST COLUMBIA: Light Up the First Capitol** December 3. www.westcolumbiachamber.com 979/345-3921

## HILL COUNTRY

**AUSTIN: Wild Ideas Holiday Shopping** December 2-4. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. www.wildflower.org 512/232-0100

**AUSTIN: German Christmas Market** December 3. Historic German Free School. www.germantexas.org 512/482-0927

**BANDERA: Cowboy Campfire Christmas** December 3. www.banderabusinessassociation.com 800/364-3833

**BOERNE: Dickens on Main** December 2-3. Downtown streets of Historic Boerne. www.dickensonmain.com

**BROWNWOOD: Christmas Under the Stars Festival** December 2-3. www.visitbrownwood.com 325/646-9535

**BUDA: Trail of Lights** December 14-21. Historic Stagecoach Park. www.ci.buda.tx.us 512/312-0084

**BURNET: Main Street Bethlehem** December 2-4, 9-11. First Baptist Church of Burnet. www.fcburnet.org/mainstreetbethlehem.htm 512/756-4481

**BURNET: Christmas at Old Fort Croghan** December 10. www.fortcroghan.org 512/756-8281

**FREDERICKSBURG: Eisbahn** December 1-January 1. Outdoor ice-skating. www.skateinfred.com 830/456-1724

**FREDERICKSBURG: Texas Hill Country Regional Christmas Lighting Trail** December 1-January 1. Includes Bandera, Blanco, Boerne, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Fredericksburg, Johnson City, Kerrville, Llano, Marble Falls, New Braunfels, and Wimberley. www.tex-fest.com 830/997-8515

**FREDERICKSBURG: Pearl Harbor Day Observance** December 7. The National Museum of the Pacific War. www.pacificwar-museum.org 830/997-8600

**GRUENE: Town Lighting and Pony Express Ride** December 3. www.gruenetexas.com 830/629-5077

**GRUENE: Photos with Cowboy Kringle and Kids' Workshop** December 3-4, 10-11, 17-18. Historic District. www.cisnewbraunfels.org 830/629-5077

**JOHNSON CITY: Lights Spectacular, Hill Country Style** December 1-January 1. Downtown. www.johnsoncitytexas.com

**JOHNSON CITY: Lamplight Tours of the Boyhood Home of President Johnson** December 3, 17. www.nps.gov/lyjo 830/868-7128, ext 244

**KERRVILLE: Texas Furniture Makers' Show** December 1-10. www.kaccckerrville.com 830/895-2911

**KINGSLAND: Kingsland Christmas** December 3. www.kingslandchamber.org 325/388-6211

**LLANO: Starry, Starry Nights** December 1-January 1. Badu Park. www.llanochamber.org

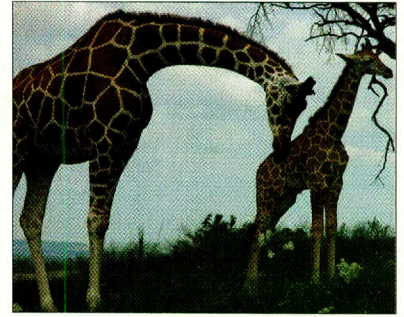
**LUCKENBACH: New Year's Eve in Luckenbach** December 31. www.luckenbachtexas.com 830/997-3224

**MARBLE FALLS: Walkway of Lights** December 1-January 1. www.marblefalls.org 800/759-8178

**SAN MARCOS: Sights and Sounds of Christmas** December 1-3. www.sights-n-sounds.org 512/393-5930

**SAN SABA: Christmas on the Square and Parade** December 10. www.sansabachamber.com 325/372-5141

**SATTLER: Canyon Lake Christmas Parade** December 10. www.canyonlakechamber.com 830/964-2461



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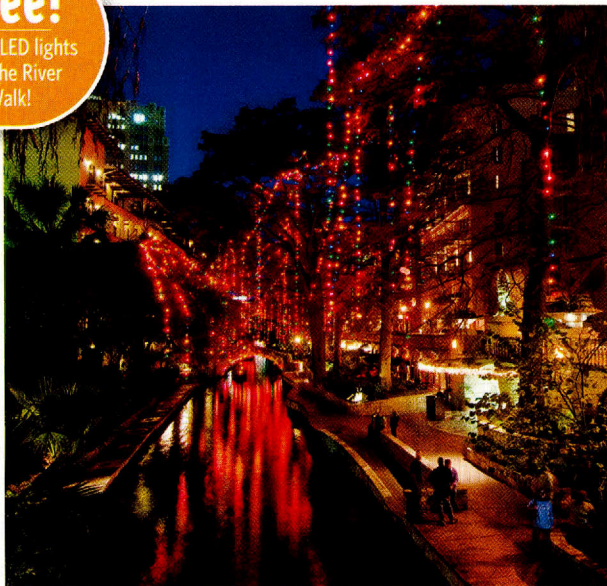
## Yuletide on the River

**HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS ON SAN ANTONIO'S RIVER WALK** include the nighttime **Ford Holiday River Parade and Lighting Ceremony** (Nov. 25, 2011), and the **Ford Fiesta de las Luminarias** (Dec. 2-18), when thousands of luminarias brighten the walkways on weekends. Find gifts at **Art.i.copia** (Dec. 10) at the Southwest School of Art, or indulge at **"Tamales! At Pearl—A Holiday Family Festival"** (Dec. 3) at the newly restored Pearl Brewery.

And at the nearby Institute of Texan Cultures, the **Timeless Texas Toys** exhibit (Nov. 19, 2011-Aug. 5, 2012) highlights handmade folk toys of the 1930s. The display features items that range from a collection of cap guns to an interactive, large-scale steam shovel to a miniature kitchen play set.

For a listing of San Antonio's holiday events, call 800/447-3372; [www.visitsanantonio.com](http://www.visitsanantonio.com). For more on *Timeless Texas Toys*, call 210/458-2300; [www.texancultures.com](http://www.texancultures.com).

**See!**  
New LED lights  
on the River  
Walk!



**STONEWALL: LBJ Tree Lighting** December 18. [www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lyndon\\_b\\_johnson](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/findadest/parks/lyndon_b_johnson) 830/644-2252, ext. 222

**TAYLOR: Parade of Lights** December 3. Main Street. [www.taylorchamber.org](http://www.taylorchamber.org) 512/365-8485

**WIMBERLEY: EmilyAnn Trail of Lights** December 1-31. [www.emilyann.org/tol\\_hours.cfm](http://www.emilyann.org/tol_hours.cfm) 512/847-2201

**WIMBERLEY: Market Day** December 3. Lions Field. [www.shopmarketdays.com](http://www.shopmarketdays.com) 512/847-2201

### PANHANDLE PLAINS

**ALBANY: Community Christmas Party** December 13. The Old Jail Art Center. [www.theoldjailartcenter.org](http://www.theoldjailartcenter.org) 325/762-2269

**AMARILLO: Farm & Ranch Show** December 1. Civic Center. [www.farmshows.com](http://www.farmshows.com) 800/827-8007

**AMARILLO: Christmas in the Gardens** December 3-10. [www.amarillobotanicalgardens.org](http://www.amarillobotanicalgardens.org) 806/352-6513

**ANSON: Texas Cowboys' Christmas Ball** December 15-17. [www.ansoncowboyschristmasball.com](http://www.ansoncowboyschristmasball.com) 325/823-2159

**BIG SPRING: Comanche Trail Festival of Lights** December 15-31. Comanche Trail Park. [www.ctfol.com](http://www.ctfol.com) 432/263-8235

**CANYON: Christmas Open House** December 2-3. Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum. [www.panhandleplains.org](http://www.panhandleplains.org) 806/651-2244

**CHILDRESS: Festival of Lights** December 1-January 1. Fair Park. [www.childresstexas.net](http://www.childresstexas.net) 940/937-2567

**GRAHAM: Christmas Parade and Stroll** December 1. [www.grahamtxchamber.com](http://www.grahamtxchamber.com) 940/549-3355

**HENRIETTA: Clay County Christmas** December 3. Courthouse square. [www.hccchamber.org](http://www.hccchamber.org) 940/538-5261

**JACKSBORO: Ghosts of Christmas Past** December 10. Fort Richardson State Park and State Historic Site. 940/567-3506

**LEVELLAND: Christmas on the Square** December 1. [www.levelland.com](http://www.levelland.com) 806/894-3157

**LUBBOCK: Candlelight at the Ranch** December 9-10. National Ranching Heritage Center. [www.nrhct.ttu.edu](http://www.nrhct.ttu.edu) 806/742-0498

**QUANAH: Christmas Festival and Lighted Parade** Downtown. [www.quanahnet.com](http://www.quanahnet.com) 940/663-2222

**SAN ANGELO: Christmas at Old Fort Concho** December 2-4. Fort Concho National Historic Landmark. [www.fortconcho.com](http://www.fortconcho.com) 325/481-2646

**SAN ANGELO: Concho Christmas Celebration** December 3-31. [www.conchochristmascelebration.com](http://www.conchochristmascelebration.com) 325/655-5000

**STRAWN: Third Saturday Jamboree** December 17. Civic Center. [www.strawntx.com](http://www.strawntx.com) 254/631-9223

**VERNON: Lighted Parade and Christmas on the Western Trail** December 10. 940/886-8133

**WICHITA FALLS: Fantasy of Lights** December 2-January 1. [www.mwsu.edu/fantasy](http://www.mwsu.edu/fantasy) 940/716-5500

### PINEY WOODS

**COLDSRING: Christmas on the Square** December 10. [www.coldspringtexas.org](http://www.coldspringtexas.org) 936/653-2184

**CONROE: Christmas Celebration** December 9-10. Heritage Place Park. [www.conroecvb.net](http://www.conroecvb.net) 936/522-3500

**DAYTON: Country Christmas** December 1. Community Center. [www.libertydaytonchamber.com](http://www.libertydaytonchamber.com) 936/336-5736

**HENDERSON: Home for the Holidays and Christmas Home Tours** December 2-3. Downtown. [www.visithendersontx.com](http://www.visithendersontx.com) 903/657-5528

**HUNTSVILLE: Journey Through Bethlehem** December 2-3. [www.journeythroughbethlehem.org](http://www.journeythroughbethlehem.org) 936/295-7459

**HUNTSVILLE: Huntsville for the Holidays** December 3-4. [www.huntsvilletx.com](http://www.huntsvilletx.com) 800/289-0389

**JEFFERSON: Candlelight Tour of Homes** December 1-3, 8-10. [www.historicjeffersonfoundation.com](http://www.historicjeffersonfoundation.com) 903/665-7064

**JEFFERSON: Rail of Lights Christmas Train** December 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, 22-24. Historic Jefferson Railway. [www.railofflights.com](http://www.railofflights.com) 866/398-2038

**KILGORE: Snow Hill Festival** December 9-10. At Kilgore and Main streets. [www.kilgorechamber.com](http://www.kilgorechamber.com) 903/984-5022

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**LIBERTY: Liberty Opry** December 3, 10, 17, 31. www.libertyopry.com 877/729-9103

**LONGVIEW: Model Train—Christmas Village Exhibit** December 3-17. www.gregghistorical.org 903/753-5840

**LUFKIN: Trail of Lights** December 3-31. www.treetexas.com 936/632-9535

**MAGNOLIA: Hometown Christmas** December 9-10. Historic Depot. www.cityofmagnolia.com 281/356-2266

**NACOGDOCHES: Nine Flags Festival** December 1-10. www.nineflagsfestival.com 888/653-3788

**NACOGDOCHES: An Old-Fashioned Christmas** December 2. www.millardscrossing.org 936/564-6631

**PITTSBURG: Christmas in Pittsburg** December 3. www.pittsburgchamber.com

**TEXARKANA: Holiday Arts Market** December 8-10. Regional Arts Center. www.trahc.org 903/792-8681

**THE WOODLANDS: Winter Wonderland and the Woodlands Ice Rink** December 1-January 16. www.the.woodlands.com/holidayinthewoodlands 877/963-2447

**WOODVILLE: Christmas in Tyler County** December 2-3. Downtown. www.tylercountychamber.com 409/283-2632

## PRAIRIES AND LAKES

**ARLINGTON: Christkindl Market** December 8-11. Road to Six Flags at Nolan Ryan Parkway. www.themagicofarlington.com 800/342-4305

**ATHENS: Dickens in the Park** December 15-17. East Texas Arboretum. 903/675-5630

**BASTROP: River of Lights** December 1-January 1. www.lostpineschristmasbastroptx.com 512/303-0558

**BASTROP: Christmas Parade** December 10. Historic Downtown. www.lostpineschristmasbastroptx.com

**BREHAM: Christmas Stroll and Lighted Parade** December 2. www.downtownbrenham.com 888/273-6426

**CALDWELL: Old-Fashioned Christmas on the Square** December 2. 979/567-0000

**CANTON: First Monday Trade Days** December 1-4, 29-1. www.visitcantontx.com 877/462-7467

**CLEBURNE: Whistle-Stop Christmas** December 1-31. Hulen Park. www.cleburnechamber.com 817/645-2455

**CLIFTON: Norwegian Country Christmas Home Tour** December 3. www.clifftontexas.org 254/675-3720

**COLLEGE STATION: Santa's Wonderland: A Texas Christmas** December 1-January 1. www.santas-wonderland.com 979/690-7212

**CUERO: Christmas in the Park Driving Tour** December 1-January 1. www.christmasincuero.com 361/275-2112

**DALLAS: The Nutcracker** December 1-4. www.texasballettheater.org/?q=showschedule 214/880-0202

**DALLAS: Christmas Celebration** December 2-18. Meyerson Symphony Center. www.dallassymphony.com 214/692-0203

**DALLAS: Children's Medical Center Holiday Parade** December 3. http://childrens.com/parade

**DALLAS: Hanukkah Menorah Lighting and Celebration** December 20-28. www.galleriadallas.com

**DENTON: Annual Holiday Lighting Festival** December 2. Downtown Square. www.dentonholidaylighting.com

**ELGIN: Holiday by the Tracks** December 3. Veterans Park. www.elgintx.com 512/281-5724

**FARMERS BRANCH: Christmas Tour of Lights** December 1-31. www.farmersbranch.info 972/919-2620

**FLATONIA: Christmas Market and Wine Walk** December 10. www.flatoniachamber.com 361/865-3920

**FORT WORTH: Caravaggio and His Circle in Rome** December 1-January 8. www.kimbellart.org 817/332-8451

**FORT WORTH: Candlelight Christmas in Ryan Place Holiday Home Tour** December 2-4. www.historicryanplace.org/CCRPTourInfo.html

**FORT WORTH: Christmas in the Stockyards** December 3. Stockyards Station. www.stockyardsstation.com 817/625-9715

**FRISCO: Christmas in the Square** December 1-January 8. www.friscosquare.com/cits 469/633-1721

**GARLAND: Christmas on the Square** December 1. www.ci.garland.tx.us/Home/Christmas+on+the+Square/ 972/205-2749

**GRANBURY: Christmas at the Movies** December 2-3, 10, 17. Granbury Opera House. 817/573-9191

**GRAND PRAIRIE: Prairie Lights Display** December 1-31. Lynn Creek Park. www.prairielights.org 972/237-GLOW

**GRAPEVINE: Parade of Lights** December 1. www.grapevinewinetrail.com 817/488-6789

**LA GRANGE: Trail of Lights** December 9. Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site. 979/968-5658

**LOCKHART: A Dickens Christmas in Lockhart** December 2-3. www.lockhartchamber.com 512/398-2818

**MCKINNEY: Third Monday Trade Days** December 16-18. www.tmttd.com 972/562-5466

**MCKINNEY: Holiday Trail of Lights** December 17-19. www.heardmuseum.org 972/562-5566

**MESQUITE: Christmas in the Park** December 1-3. Westlake Park. www.cityofmesquite.com 972/216-6260

**MOUNT VERNON: Annual Christmas Parade and Fest** December 3. www.franklincountytx.com 903/537-4365

**PARIS: Christmas in Fair Park** December 2-3. Paris-Lamar County Fairgrounds. www.rvfair.org 903/785-7971

**PLANO: Dickens in Historic Downtown** December 2. www.planoparks.org 972/941-7250

**ROUND TOP: Christmas in Winedale** December 10. www.cah.utexas.edu/museums/winedale\_school.php 979/278-3530

**SALADO: Christmas Stroll** December 2-4, 9-11. www.salado.com 254/947-5040

**SEALY: Fantasy of Lights** December 2-3. B&PW Park and Levine Park. www.sealycommunityfoundation.org

**SEGUIN: Main Street Holiday Parade and Stroll** December 1-2. www.visitseguin.com 800/580-7322

**SMITHVILLE: Festival of Lights** December 3. Main and First streets. www.smithvilletx.org 512/237-2313

**SULPHUR SPRINGS: Christmas Festival on Heritage Square** December 2. www.visitsulphurspringstx.org 888/300-6623

**THE COLONY: Christmas Spectacular** December 3-31. www.thecolonychristmasspectacular.com 877/264-4386

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**WACO:** Christmas on the Brazos Home Tours December 3-4, 10-11. [www.historicwaco.org](http://www.historicwaco.org) 254/753-5166

**WASHINGTON:** Christmas in the Republic December 1-31. [www.starmuseum.org](http://www.starmuseum.org) 936/878-2461, ext. 234

**WAXAHACHIE:** Christmas on the Square December 3, 10. At South Rogers and Madison streets. 972/937-7330

**WEATHERFORD:** Christmas on the Square and Parade December 3. [www.weatherford-chamber.com](http://www.weatherford-chamber.com) 817/596-3801

## SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

**BEEVILLE:** WinterFest December 2-3. County Expo Center. [www.beecountyexpocenter.com](http://www.beecountyexpocenter.com) 361/358-3267

**EAGLE PASS:** Christmas/Festival de Luces December 2. San Juan Plaza. 830/773-4343

**EDINBURG:** Night of Lights December 3. UT-Pan American Quad. [www.edinburg.com](http://www.edinburg.com)

**GOLIAD:** Christmas at the Mission December 3. Goliad State Park. 361/645-3406

**GOLIAD:** Las Posadas December 3. Presidio La Bahia. [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org) 361/645-3752

**MCALLEN:** Candlelight Posada December 2-3. Archer Park. [www.mcallenchamber.com](http://www.mcallenchamber.com) 956/682-2871

**SAN ANTONIO:** Mariachi Vargas Extravaganza December 1-4. [www.mariachimusic.com](http://www.mariachimusic.com)

**SAN ANTONIO:** Holiday Boat Caroling December 1-18. River Walk. 210/227-4262

**SAN ANTONIO:** First Saturdays at the Alamo December 3. [www.visitsanantonio.com](http://www.visitsanantonio.com)

**SAN ANTONIO:** Kristkindlmarkt December 3. Beethoven Maennerchor Halle and Garten. [www.beethovenmaennerchor.com](http://www.beethovenmaennerchor.com) 210/222-1521

**WESLACO:** Mid-Valley Christmas Parade December 2. [www.weslaco.com](http://www.weslaco.com) 956/968-2102

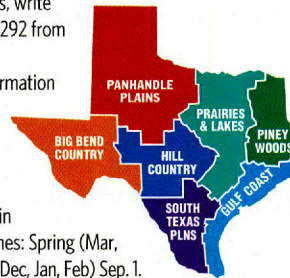
**WESLACO:** Alfresco Weslaco December 29. Jazz and art festival. [www.weslacoedc.com](http://www.weslacoedc.com) 956/969-0888

## Want more? Go to the Events Calendar at [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com).

For a free printed copy of an even more detailed, quarterly schedule of events, write to Texas Events Calendar, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249. Or, call 800/452-9292 from anywhere in the U.S. or Canada, between 8-6 Central.

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Send future event information to: Texas Events Calendar, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax: 512/486-5879; e-mail: [trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:trv-tec@dot.state.tx.us). 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.



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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete:

Signed Charles Lohrmann, Interim Publisher

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<b>Add 8.25% Sales Tax for deliveries to Texas (products + S&amp;H).</b>					
<b>TOTAL</b>					

Product order must include payment.

By state law, shipping and handling charges are taxable.

Mail with payment to:  
Texas Highways-#748  
PO Box 576  
Mt. Morris, IL  
61054-0576

4M1P

**U.S. SHIPPING & HANDLING**

(Charges do not apply to subscriptions.)

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Rates are per each address. Allow up to 2 weeks for REGULAR U.S. delivery. • For orders delivered outside the U.S., please add \$12 to the U.S. S&H prices. International shipping times vary.

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**SALES TAX** is required by state law for merchandise, shipping, and handling. For orders shipped to Texas addresses, please add 8.25% sales tax to your subtotal.



# Texas Highways

# Holidays

## GIFT GUIDE



### Keep Texas Beautiful Ornament 8th Edition, 2011

The yellow rose has been synonymous with Texas since it won its independence. It symbolizes warmth and companionship and is perfect for the friendship state.

Item 39408 ..... \$22.95

### Texas Icon Ornament

This fun ornament, featuring Texas bluebonnets and our state mockingbird, makes a wonderful stocking

stuffer or a great addition to your tree. 24K gold-flashed brass with color highlights. Width: 3.5 inches.

Item 39505 ..... \$12.95

### Texas Longhorn Globe Ornament

Our annual entry from Pattilu Bowlsby is a true collector's ornament. Hand painted in a Texas flag/longhorn design. Captions read: "Merry Christmas Ya'll and Texas 2011." Diameter: 2<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> inches.

Item 39504 ..... \$15.95

### Howdy from Texas Boxed Cards

Santa and some friendly Texas creatures send out a big holiday Howdy! Message inside: "Sending You a Great Big Howdy with Some Happy Holiday Cheer." Box includes 18 cards and envelopes. Card size: 5 x 7 inches.

Item 35522 ..... \$9.95 per box

### Happy Holidays Boxed Cards

The hearth is ready for some Texas cheer! Message inside "Season's Greeting with All Good Wishes for the New Year." Box includes 18 cards and envelopes. Card size: 5 x 7 inches.

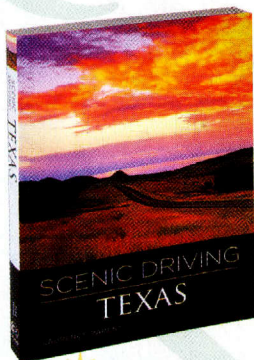
Item 35523 ..... \$9.95 per box

To order, call **1-800-839-4997** (386-597-4297 from outside the U.S.)

or visit **www.texashighways.com**

# Books

FROM OUR SHOP

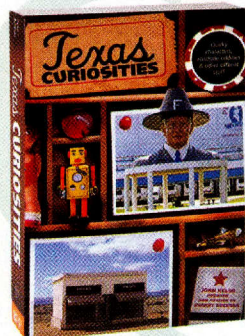


## Scenic Driving, Texas

By Laurence Parent

Enjoy 34 drives and 1,200 miles through some of the most spectacular scenery in Texas. Itineraries range from 10 to 75 miles trips, route maps, attractions, historic information and tips on accommodations. 237 pages, B&W, soft cover.

Item 36352 ..... \$15.95



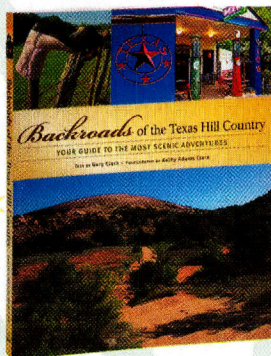
## Texas Curiosities

4th Edition

By John Kelso & Sharry Buckner  
Your round-trip ticket to the wildest, wackiest, most outrageous people, places and things the Lone Star State has to offer!

330 pages, B&W, soft cover.

Item 36711 ..... \$14.95

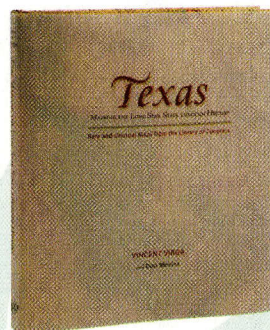


## Backroads of the Texas Hill Country

By Gary Clark

A guide to 30 scenic drives through the heart of the Lone Star State. Plan a day trip or a weekend getaway. Illustrated with beautiful color photos and intriguing historical images. 160 pages, color, soft cover.

Item 36351 ..... \$21.99

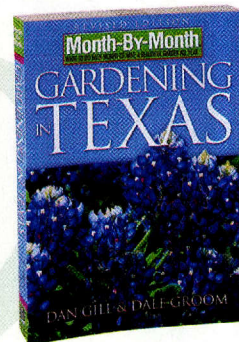


## Texas: Mapping the Lone Star State through History

By Vincent Virga and Don Blevins

A trip through Texas history via 50 color, gloriously detailed historic maps from the Library of Congress. Includes details of origins and essays on the history, culture, and sensibilities of the state. 116 pages, full-color, hard back.

Item 36710 ..... \$24.95



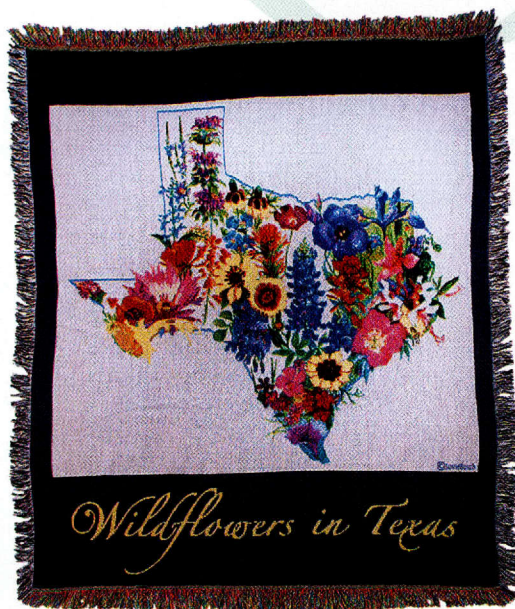
## Month-by-Month Gardening in Texas, Revised Edition

By Dan Gill and Dale Groom

A valuable resource to help you grow a successful garden. Features annuals, bulbs, houseplants, lawns, perennials, roses, shrubs, trees, vegetables & herbs, vines and ornamental grasses. 292 pages, color, soft cover.

Item 36527 ..... \$24.99

# Hearth AND HOME



## Wildflowers in Texas Throw

Beautifully crafted in the USA, this tapestry of wildflowers is sure to brighten your winter days. Designed by artist David Busch. 100% cotton, machine washable. 52 x 64 inches.

Item 37812 ..... \$49.95



## Texas Wildflower Coasters

Four beautifully decorated ceramic coasters, designed to look like tumbled marble. Each coaster showcases assorted Texas wildflowers. 4 x 4 inches. Box of four.

Item 37810 ..... \$24.95

## Texas Star Throw

This 100% cotton tapestry throw combines the sophistication of urban allure with the charm of the countryside. Large enough to snuggle under on cool Texas nights. Machine washable. 51 x 68 inches.

Item 37807 ..... \$42.95

## Three ways to order:

**BY PHONE:** Call **1-800-839-4997**  
(386-597-4297 from outside the U.S)

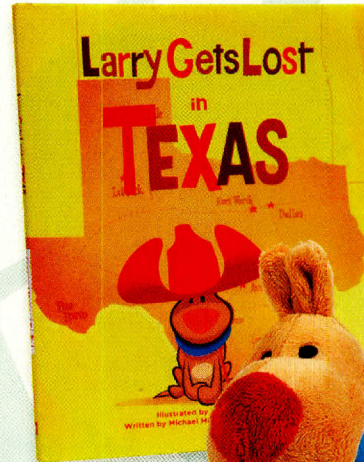
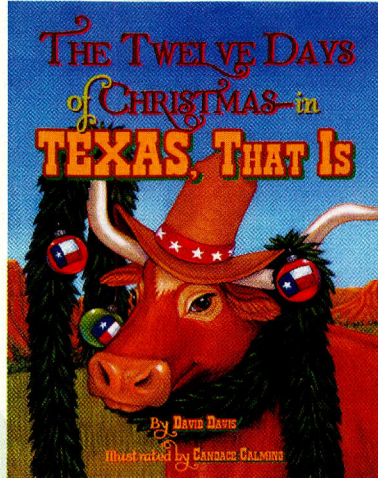
**BY MAIL:** Please use the **order form** inside this issue. Send completed form, along with your payment, including shipping and handling to: Texas Highways - #748, PO Box 576, Mt. Morris, IL 61054

**ONLINE:** Go to **www.texashighways.com**

You may also visit the **Texas Highways Magazine Gift Shop** at 150 E. Riverside, Austin.

Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover

# Little SURPRISES



### Texas Baby Crawler

Your little cowboys and girls can show their Texas spirit, too. This is the cutest onsie in Texas. It is 100% soft combec cotton with a Texas flag design and a star appliqué. Three snap button placket makes it easy to pull over little heads and the three snap bottom takes care of changing time. Sizes 6 and 12 months.

Item 38274 ..... \$14.95

### Horse Riders Tee

The perfect tee for your cowboys. A team of seven horse riders lasso Texas on our 100% cotton tee. White silkscreened on denim blue. Machine Washable. Boy's Sizes: Youth Extra Small - Large. Men's sizes: Small - 2XL.

Specify Boy's sizes: YXS, YS, YM, YL

Item 38281 ..... \$15.95

Specify Men's sizes: X, M, L, XL, XXL

Item 38281 ..... \$19.95

### Baby Texas Cap

Features the Texas Original design on the bill with "Baby Texas" embroidered on front. Velcro strap that could hold a pacifier or attach to a belt loop. 100% cotton.

Item 38722 ..... \$8.95

### The Twelve Days of Christmas - in Texas, That Is

By David Davis & Candace Calming  
From a mockingbird in a gum tree to eight boots a'scooting, this tale counts down the twelve days of Christmas using a dozen icons of the Lone Star state. Festive illustrations fill the pages. Grade Level: K-3. 28 pages, full color.

Item 36803 ..... \$16.95

### Larry Gets Lost in Texas, Book with Plush Toy

By Michael Mullin and John Skewes

Larry's people are off to explore the Lone Star State. But Larry gets separated from his best friend Pete and searches all over Texas for him. He visits some great places along the way. Each book comes with a plush Larry toy to hold and love. Ages 3-6. 30 colorful pages.

Item 36804 ..... \$28.95

### State Flower Tee

She'll look great in our soft blue tee sporting the state and Texas bluebonnets. 100% cotton, machine washable. Girls sizes: Youth Extra Small - Large. Women's sizes: Extra Small - Large.

Specify Girl's Sizes: YXS, YS, YM, YL

Item 38282 ..... \$15.95

Specify Women's Sizes: XS, S, M, L

Item 38282 ..... \$19.95



1836 The Republic of Texas Map



1845 Republic and Statehood Map

**Texas Pinstripe Tee**

Texas blazes across a stylish pinstripe design on the front. Two Lone Stars complete the design. Gray and white silkscreen on black. 100% cotton. Machine washable. Men's sizes: Small - XL

**Item 38279 ..... \$22.95**

**Texana Map Series -  
Decorative Historical Maps**

This three-map collection is perfect for the Texas history enthusiast. Three maps show various boundaries and present highlights of Texas history. Reproduced from the Fletcher-Boeselt Collection; *A Historical Series of Restored Early American Cartography*. Each map is 18 x 24 inches, printed on heavy stock.

1836 The Republic of Texas Map

**Item 32197 ..... \$19.95**

1845 Republic and Statehood Map

**Item 32198 ..... \$19.95**

1850 Texas Statehood Map

**Item 32199 ..... \$19.95**

**SAVE when you order all three.**

**Item 32220 ..... \$49.95**

**Texas Fed, Texas Bred CD, Vol. 1**

Fifteen songs redefine country music. Includes songs by Rodney Foster, Pat Green, Robert Earl Keen, Roger Creager, Kevin Fowler, Guy Clark, Bruce Robison, Kelly Willis, Jim Lauderdale, Willie Nelson, Charlie Robison, Junior Brown, Chris Knight, Deryl Dodd, and Rev. Horton Heat.

**Item 37605 ..... \$19.95**



**Texas Fed, Texas Bred CD, Vol. 2**

Fourteen tracks include: That's the Stuff, Outside the Lines, Long Way to Mexico, Amarillo Sky, Prove Me Right, What I Really Mean, Tornado Time in Texas, Amarillo by Morning, and more.

**Item 37606 ..... \$19.95**

**1845 Texas and the USA Map**

Historic map of the United States shows the Texas boundaries in 1845. Reproduced from the Fletcher-Boeselt Collection; *A Historical Series of Restored Early American Cartography*. 24 x 18 inches.

**Item 32201 ..... \$19.95**

**Vintage Bubba Tee**

Classic design for a classic man, our Vintage Bubba tee tells everyone he's "Aged to Perfection." Navy and gold silkscreen on olive green.

100% cotton, machine washable. Sizes: S - 2XL

**Item 33280 ..... \$22.95**



**Don't Mess with Texas Cap**

Our original cap sports the Texas anti-litter logo and a Lone Star flag design on the bill. Beautifully crafted; low profile, 6-panel cap with adjustable Velcro strap on back.

**Item 38728 ..... \$16.95**

**Texas Safari Shirt**

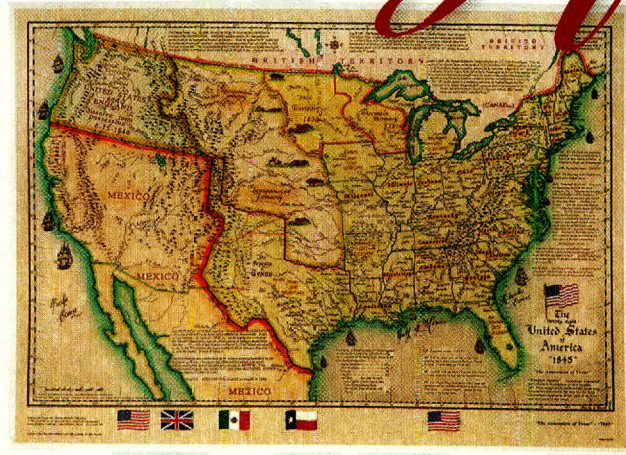
Handsomely crafted from the Nature's Own Collection, our safari shirt sports two generous double pockets with Velcro flap closures. The long sleeves come with button tabs to secure them when they are rolled up. The pleated back at yoke and button down collar give a true tailored look. A small Texas flag is embroidered over the left pocket. Sizes: S - 2XL

**Item 38277 ..... \$54.95**

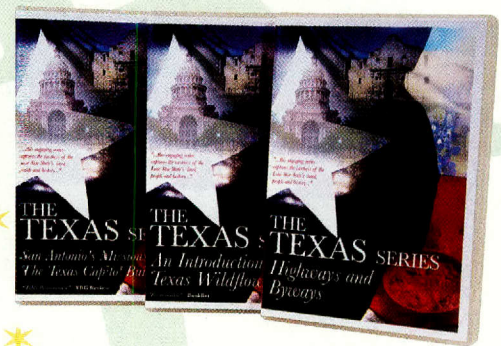
# Gifts FOR HIM



1850 Texas Statehood Map



1845 Texas and the USA Map



## The Texas Series, DVDs

Filed entirely on location, this series introduces viewers to a variety of topics about Texas. From the Alamo in downtown San Antonio to the wildflowers throughout the countryside, this engaging series captures the vastness of the Lone Star State's land, people and history.

### San Antonio Missions and the Texas Capitol

30 minutes  
Item 37607 ..... \$19.95

### An Introduction to Texas Wildflowers

20 minutes  
Item 37608 ..... \$19.95

### Texas Highways and Byways

80 minutes  
Item 37609 ..... \$29.95

### SAVE when you order all three

3 DVDs above  
Item 37610 ..... \$59.95

View our entire collection at  
[www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)

# Gifts

## SHE'LL LOVE



### Softex Bomba-Dye Tee

Layers of color give our soft tee subtle depth. "Texas" and a sidescript floral design are silkscreened over teal and black bomba dye. No two shirts are exactly alike. A scoop neck and generous cap sleeves keep this tee super comfortable. 100% cotton, machine wash separately in cold water. Missy sizes: S - XL.

Item 38278 ..... \$28.95

### Texas Star Charm

A classic sterling silver star charm by Kitty Keller Designs features a textured background with a 3-D star that adds fantastic depth. This round charm is a perfect addition to your charm bracelet or accessory for your favorite necklace. Charm measures  $\frac{13}{16}$  inch diameter x  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch thick. Loop measures  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch diameter. Made of the highest quality .925 solid sterling silver.

Item 37904 ..... \$24.95

### Texas Star Earrings

Kitty Keller Designs' French loop earrings are a beautiful addition to your jewelry collection. The textured background offsets the sparkling 3-D Texas star design. Earring measures  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch diameter x  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch thick. French loop measures 1 inch long. Made of the highest quality .925 solid sterling silver.

Item 37905 ..... \$29.95



### Ladies Texas Crest Tee

A scrolling Texas crest is double screened in gray and white on our classic women's black crew-neck tee. 100% cotton, machine washable. Women's sizes: S-2XL

Item 38275 ..... \$21.95

### Berry Texas Fleece

Snuggle in for the winter in our stylish zippered jacket. Texas designs are "branded" in the berry colored fabric. Women's sizes: S - 2XL

Item 38503 ..... \$34.95

### Texas Star Handbag Hanger

She can keep her purse off the floor, out of her lap and securely in sight while dining out. Sturdy handbag hanger with Texas Star design opens to hang her purse from the table top and magnetically closes to a handy 1.25-inch diameter for easy storage. 1.6-ounces. (Purse not included.)

Item 37724 ..... \$14.95





**Bluebonnet Earrings**

Tiny bluebonnets have been hand painted, baked on China tiles and placed in silver-tone earrings. Tiles are 1/2 x 1/2 inch. Available on French loops or clip-ons.

French Loop Item 37910 ..... \$14.95  
 Clip-On Item 37911 ..... \$14.95

**Bluebonnet Botanical Print**

One-of-a-kind pressed flower art is printed as nature designed. Each reproduction is made from an original pressed bluebonnet gathered from nature. Hand embellishments keep your botanical unique. Printed on classic linen 100% post-consumer recycled paper. Beveled 8-ply mat makes this ready to frame: 11 x 14 inches.

Item 32202 ..... \$29.95

**Botanical Note Cards**

Hand-crafted note cards feature Texas wildflowers reproduced from pressed flowers with hand embellishments on each card. Set of 5 cards and envelopes makes an artistically beautiful gift. Lovely enough to be matted and framed. Blank linen inset inside.

Item 35205 ..... \$19.95 per box

**Wildflower Garden Flag**

This cheerful flag will add a touch of color to your yard at any time of the year. Printed in the USA on weather-proof fabric. 13 x 18 inches. Flag stand not included.

Item 37752 ..... \$12.95

**Texas Rose Tee**

Ultra soft cotton tee sports a color washed design with silver Texas roses over a light gray background. V-neck, short sleeves and slightly tapered cut combine to make a flattering look. Machine washable. Missy sizes: S-XL

Item 38276 ..... \$24.95

View our entire collection at  
[www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com)

CHET GARNER is the host of *The Daytripper* travel show on PBS; [www.thedaytripper.com](http://www.thedaytripper.com).

# Big in The Burg

**SWEEPING HILLS**, giant platters of sausage and kraut, overflowing beer steins, and hefty men clad in lederhosen playing polka till their fingers turn blue—all in Fredericksburg, a town that is both remarkably German and completely Texan.



**8:00 a.m.** I started the day north of town at **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**, a must-see natural granite dome rising 425 feet above the surrounding landscape. This natural landmark is so incredible that Native Americans attributed supernatural power to it. The park offers lots of activities, but by far the most popular is hiking to the summit of the Enchanted Rock dome. So, I filled my water bottles (yes, plural) and hit the trail. Very soon the dirt beneath my feet turned to rock, and like an ant climbing a basketball, I found myself in a wide-open scramble to the top of this gigantic smooth stone.

**9:30 a.m.** After a slow and steady climb, I eventually reached the summit. And just as soon as I started to catch my breath, the views took it away again as I looked out over miles and miles of beautiful Hill Country. I shared high-fives with a few fellow climbers, and then decided to descend into the depths of the **Enchanted Rock cave**, a crevice near the top of the

dome. Guided only by my small flashlight, I squeezed in between rocks and over boulders, following a path of spray-painted arrows. Just when I thought the rock had swallowed me whole, a small ray of light pierced the darkness. I emerged thankful to be alive and began my descent.

**12:00 p.m.** On my way into town, I stopped at **Kuckuck's Nest**. Run by German-turned-Texan Paula Kager, this store imports lederhosen, bundhosen, and any other type of "hosen" a grown man can get away with wearing in public. It was the perfect way to begin my German immersion.

**1:00 p.m.** Donning my new get-up, I drove to Main Street for lunch at the **Fredericksburg Brewing Company**. I ordered a plate of Schinken Schnitzel—a fried pork cutlet topped with ham, cheese, and Dijon sauce—with

sides of hot potato salad and sauerkraut, and celebrated my successful summit expedition with a pint of house-brewed Enchanted Rock Red Ale.

**2:00 p.m.** With my new German belly bulge, I hit Main Street to spend some time browsing its blocks of local shops. I sampled countless hot sauces at **Rustlin's Rob's** and then stopped into

**Clear River** for a scoop of homemade "Amaretto, Peach, & Pecan" ice cream made from local peaches in season. I indulged in a history lesson at the **Vereins**

**Kirche museum** and even did a little pickin' and grinnin' at **Hill Country Music**.

**3:00 p.m.** I spent the rest of the afternoon at the **National Museum of the Pacific War**, which tells the story of World War II's Pacific Theater with a world-class collection of artifacts, exhibits, and interactive displays. The museum, which also preserves

the legacy of Fredericksburg native Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, who commanded U.S. forces in the Pacific Theater, brings to life the harsh reality of war and honors all the men and women who sacrificed for our country. It stands in solemn contrast to the excitement of Main Street, but only adds to the historically diverse community that is Fredericksburg.

**7:00 p.m.** For dinner, I decided to splurge at the **Navajo Grill**, a gastronomically delectable, Southwest-inspired restaurant. My grilled pork chop topped with pear chutney was absolutely delicious, and along with a side of ancho mashed potatoes, created one of the best meals I've ever had in the Hill Country. The white-chocolate bread pudding added to my belly bulge.

AS YOU SEE, there's little reason to cross the pond to the old country, when Texas' own Little Bavaria is just a day trip away. So, whether you follow my footsteps or forge your own path, I hope to see you on the road. **TH**

Contact the **Fredericksburg Convention and Visitor Bureau** at 830/997-6523 or 888/997-3600; [www.visitfredericksburgtx.com](http://www.visitfredericksburgtx.com).

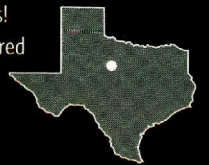




## Window on Texas

Photograph by **J. GRIFFIS SMITH**

**NIGHTTIME STAMPEDE** Seven stampeding Longhorns greet visitors as they move through a “pathway of frontier history” at Frontier Texas! in Abilene. This life-size bas-relief, along with a holographic cowboy, helps interpret the cattle-drive era, part of the 1780-1880 timeline covered in the museum’s centerpiece exhibit, *Century of Adventure*. For details, call 325/437-2800; [www.frontiertexas.com](http://www.frontiertexas.com).



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