

TEXAS TRAVEL LOG

Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas

October

Division of Travel & Information, P.O. Box 5000, Austin, Texas 78763 512/467-3721

1993

THE TEXAS TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, (TTIA) has moved to its new location to Suite 1610, First State Bank Building, 400 West 15th Street, Austin, TX 78701. The telephone number remains the same at 512/476-4472.

ONE OF TEXAS' PREMIER EVENTS, the renowned Tyler Rose Festival, gets under way October 14 with the Queen's Coronation and continues with a slew of activities through the 17th. Included are an arts and crafts fair, a parade, rose field tours, a square dance, a concert by the East Texas Symphony, and other events and activities. Call 903/597-3130.

WE'VE HAD A SPATE OF CALLS LATELY from people wanting to know where they can go to observe bats. The Old Tunnel Wildlife Management Area near Fredericksburg offers a bat emergence tour every Thursday and Saturday from one hour before sunset until the flight is over. All it takes is a Texas Conservation Passport, available at any state park or the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife headquarters in Austin. For more information about the Old Tunnel WMA bat emergence tour, call 210/868-7304.

AN EXCITING VARIETY OF PROGRAMS is in store for visitors to Columbus as the historic Stafford Opera House presents its third season of performances. Built in 1886, the Stafford is the largest flat floor opera house in Texas. The 1993-94 season includes three outstanding plays, plus musical programs that range from contemporary classical to Texas folk and swing. Performances are on the third Saturdays of October and November, and January through May. Call 409/732-5135 for a complete listing of offerings and ticket information.

ONE OF THE COAST'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS is the new million-dollar Indian Point Pier and Park area at Portland. The 280-ft. concrete pier extends into Corpus Christi Bay over some of the best saltwater fishing grounds in the Coastal Bend. Included are complete fishing facilities, restrooms, and a concession featuring fishing equipment, bait, and an expanded food menu. Call 512/643-6501 for more information.

TEXAS TRIVIA: What Texas driver holds the automobile closed-course speed record of 257 mph?



GRANBURY'S HARVEST MOON FESTIVAL promises something for everyone October 15-17. In addition to arts and crafts on Granbury Square, there's a scarecrow-making contest, pumpkin and pecan pie bakeoffs, and art demonstrations. The Texas Old-Time Fiddlers Contest will set toes tapping at the Chrysalis Cultural Center. What's more, the Historic Light Plant will be the site of the Antique Tractor and Engine Show. Call 817/573-5299.

THE 1994 CONVENTION of the Texas Association of Convention and Visitor Bureaus (TACVB) will be held at San Angelo, while Fredericksburg has been named to host the 1995 meeting.

Around the Centers



Manager Rosemary Eaves of our Travel Information Center at Amarillo reports that southbound RV traffic is on the rise a little early this year, which bodes well for Valley tourism, and that there has been an increase in European visitors in recent weeks.

Things are back to normal at our Gainesville TIC, reports counselor Rhonda Hillis. The parking lot has been repaved, and the 5-inch rains of early September have filled the beaver pond behind the center, where the furry, flat-tailed creatures are busy reinforcing their dam.

And speaking of construction, a lot of dirt has been moved in Denison where the contractor has the site improvement well under way for the new TIC, says manager Anne Newsome. And work has begun on the service road, too.

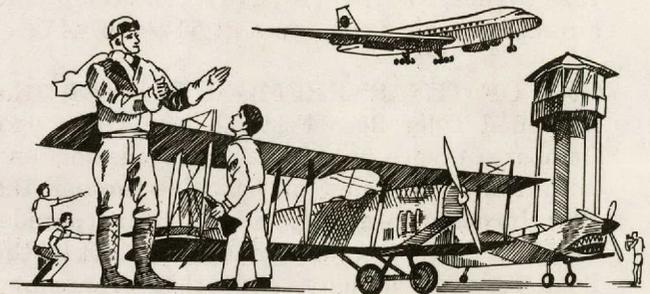
Staffers at our Texarkana TIC hosted a party for caretaker Boyd Roy, who retired September 30 after more than 25 years of service with TxDOT. The smart appearance of the center and grounds, subject of many visitors' comments, was the result of Boyd's diligence and hard work.

Gainesville TIC manager Dale Sowder and retired Wichita Falls TIC manager Jack Conley frequently rendezvous in their RVs at various parks around the state for a weekend of fun and frolic. (Well, not all that much frolic.) Retiring *Texas Travel Log* editor Pete Haight, plans to join the group of happy campers from time to time.

Managers of each of our Texas Travel Information Centers participated in the 1993 Texas Travel Summit in Houston during late September.

ANSWER TO TEXAS TRIVIA: Houstonian A. J. Foyt set the speed record in 1987 at the seven-mile GM test track at Fort Stockton driving an Oldsmobile Aerotech.

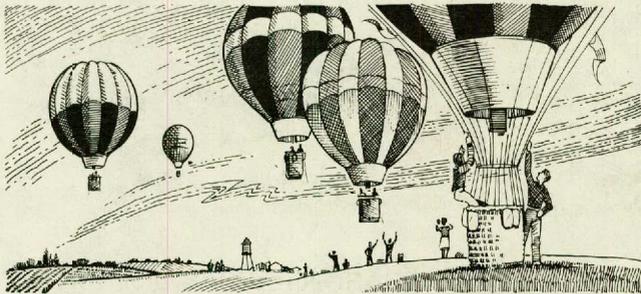
SAN ANTONIO'S VIA VISTAS Cultural Bus Routes are sporting a bright new logo to help visitors identify the routes. Initiated a year ago by the VIA Metropolitan Transit Service, two routes take visitors to the Alamo City's cultural sites and attractions. Route #7 departs Alamo Plaza and travels north to the San Antonio Zoo, the McNay Art Museum, the Witte Museum, and the San Antonio Botanical Gardens. Bus Route #40 also starts at Alamo Plaza but goes south to La Villita, HemisFair Park, Southtown, Yturri-Edmunds House and Mill, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, and the Lone Star Brewery's Buckhorn Hall of Horns Museum. The VIA Day Tripper Pass, available for \$2 at the VIA downtown information center at 112 Soledad St. and other locations, provides visitors a convenient and cost-saving way to travel on the VIA Vistas Cultural Route, offering unlimited rides for a day on any VIA bus or streetcar.



AVIATION BUFFS are sure to find a thrill a minute at the International Airshow to be held October 9 and 10 at Fort Worth's Alliance Airport. Major aerobatic demonstrations include performances by the USAF Thunderbirds, Royal Air Force Red Arrows, and the Eagles Aerobatic Team, while parachute demonstrations are performed by the US Army Golden Knights and the Misty Blues ladies' parachute team. Aircraft on hand will include both military and commercial helicopters, Fina Pitts 260, F4U Corsair, Lockheed F-16, Hawker "Fury" and several other WWII aircraft, plus exciting military flybys and an air race demonstration. Call 817/870-1515 for details.

NICK REYNA, president of the Brownsville Convention and Visitors Bureau, has been appointed chairman of the International Association of Convention & Visitor Bureaus' (IACVB) Committee on Diversity in C&VB Management, reports IACVB chairman Joseph R. McGrath. The association has more than 400 members in 25 countries.

TIME AGAIN FOR THE BEST OF THE WURST as New Braunfels puts on the dog for the ever popular Wurstfest, ten days of feasting and festing at the world-renowned celebration of German heritage and sausage-making. In addition to miles of sausage and oceans of beverages, visitors are treated to such activities as the "Wurst Side Story" melodrama at Landa Park, the Wurst 5-mile Run, an elaborate New Braunfels heritage exhibit, and a Wurstfest art show. Kiddies are invited to participate in a special Hummel figurine look-alike contest. All this and more, October 29 - November 7, on the banks of the Comal River. Call 210/625-2385 for details.



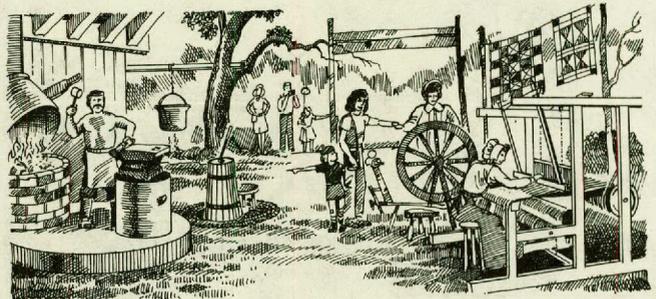
SOME 20 BALLOONS are scheduled to participate in the Permian Basin Balloon Festival scheduled October 30-31 in Midland. Activities for the two-day event will include sunrise balloon launches, barbecue, and a Saturday night balloon glow. Call 915/683-3381.

THOUSANDS OF COWBOYS, COWGIRLS, and the curious will convene at Fort Worth's famed Stockyards October 15-17 for the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering and Western Swing Festival. Among the features will be a children's cowboy poetry contest, with a trip to Disney World in store for the winner. More cowboy doggerel will be on tap, along with ranch rodeos with eight of Texas' famous working ranches competing at the Cowtown Coliseum, and a passel of Western swing music. Call 817/884-1945 for more information.

THE NATIONAL COWGIRL HALL OF FAME at Hereford will close during a three-month period for an extensive evaluation, according to the museum's board chairman Roger Eades. The museum will be closed October 1 through January 3, 1994, by which time a decision could be made to move the museum elsewhere. A few months ago, Kerrville was mentioned as a possible site. Created in 1975, the museum showcases famous cowgirls through photos, art, clothing, and other memorabilia.

WITH LASER BEAMS, carousel creatures, and music to make it all go around, "Art at Aquarena" comes to San Marcos October 8-10, promising an exciting blend of people, arts, and crafts for the multimedia event. A spectacular musical water and laser show kicks off the event after dark on October 8. Featured among a host of top-talented Central Texas artists and artisans is master carver Charles Davis of Wimberley demonstrating his wood carving techniques and displaying show pieces from his Texas theme carousel. Art show hours are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Call 512/398-8900 for more information.

A QUARTER-MILLION FOLKS are expected to attend Bayfest '93 along the Corpus Christi waterfront October 8-10. The weekend festival features live entertainment, mouth-watering foods, fireworks, a boat parade, carnival rides and an air show, plus the showcased talents of 150 artists and crafters. Don't miss the Tug Boat Challenge, pitting tug boat against tug boat. And there'll also be a Bayfest Rodeo. Call 512/882-5603 for a complete schedule of events.

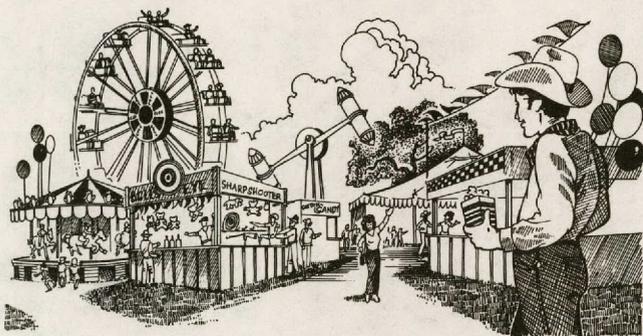


AN OLD-FASHIONED FAMILY CELEBRATION of Texas' cultural heritage is in store for visitors at the 20th Annual Fall Festival October 16-17 at the Jourdan-Bachman Pioneer Farm, a living history museum and working heritage farm in Austin. More than 200 artisans, exhibitors, and demonstrators bring the 1880s to life featuring buckskinners and mountain men, blacksmithing, boot making, quilting, chair caning, and other crafts. Hands-on activities include candle dipping, weaving, archery, and stenciling, as a variety of musical entertainment rounds out the festival. Open noon to 6 p.m. each day at 11418 Sprinkle Cut-off Road in northeast Austin, just 15 minutes from the Capitol. Call 512/219-6868 for complete details.

EXPERIENCE AN OLD-TIME East Texas Folk Life Festival at the 6th Annual Harvest Festival to be held at the Heritage Village Museum in Woodville October 16-17. Call 409/283-2272 for details.

NOW THERE ARE TWO ELEPHANTS in East Texas! Tara, a middle-aged Asian elephant from a now defunct Rhode Island zoo, has taken up residence at the Black Beauty Ranch at Murchison, near Athens, where she joins Conga, an African Elephant. The 615-acre ranch, owned and operated by the Fund for Animals, is home for some 400 other animals, including buffaloes, bobcats, burros, coyotes, chimpanzees, goats, and pigs. See the Black Beauty Ranch listing under Athens in your *Texas State Travel Guide*, or call 903/469-3811 for more information.

ARTIST GEORGIA O'KEEFFE and photographer Alfred Steiglitz shared one of the most dramatic creative relationships in the history of American Modernism. Now, nearly 90 paintings and photographs of their works vividly illustrate the shared genius of the two artists at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. *Two Lives: Georgia O'Keeffe and Alfred Steiglitz — A Conversation in Paintings and Photographs* is on display through December 5, 1993. For additional information about the exhibit or related educational programs, call 713/639-7300.



KATY'S ANNUAL RICE HARVEST FESTIVAL is slated for October 10 and 11 on Old Town Square in Katy. The weekend family-oriented festival features food and craft booths, a full-scale carnival, and daily live entertainment. Just off I-10 west of Houston, take the Katy Fort Bend or Pin Oak exit to reach the festival. For information, call 713/391-RICE or -2422.

LOVERS OF RARE BOOKS and Biblical scholars alike will want to visit the Biblical Arts Museum in Dallas where a collection of antiquarian Bibles is on display through December 31, 1993. The exhibit focuses on the theme of "Music in the Bible" and includes Bibles dating back to the Twelfth Century. Hand lettering, illumination, woodblock art, and copper-plate prints illustrating the vintage volumes are of particular interest. Call 214/691-4661 for details.

TEXAS CAVALCADE, a tourism-related holding company, has acquired Texas National Tour Company, Inc. (T.N.T.), a San Antonio based tour wholesaler and receptive ground operator. Appointed as director of T.N.T. is Art Jungwirth, former marketing director of Aquarena Springs and more recently with the IMAX Theatre in the Alamo City. Texas Cavalcade's holdings include the IMAX Theatre, San Antonio City Tours, the San Antonio Lodging Line hotel reservation service, and the Alamo Visitor Center. Call 210/225-6517 for additional information.



GET YOUR 1994 SEASON PASSES to Sea World of Texas by October 31 and receive a substantial discount, for both adult and children's ducats. Passes are good for unlimited visits throughout the park's 1994 season, plus the remainder of this season (that ends October 31), and can be purchased for \$49.95 for adults and \$34.95 for children (ages 3 to 11) and seniors (age 55 and over). Several special concerts are on tap throughout October, including The Beach Boys on October 9 and Travis Tritt, Trish Yearwood and Little Texas on the 23rd. Passes can be purchased at the front gate Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or by calling 210/523-3900.

"ANTARCTICA," A BREATHTAKING IMAX adventure film that explores the awesome vastness and mysterious beauty of the world's last wilderness, is now playing at the IMAX Theatre Rivercenter in San Antonio. Visitors may choose any of three shows daily, at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m., for a spectacular visit to the home of penguins and seals, a breathtaking helicopter ride through icy chasms and over towering peaks, a swim through crystalline caverns, and a thrilling dog sled ride over an icy desert. For complete show and ticket information call 210/225-6517.

HISTORY COMES ALIVE at Fort Stockton on November 6, commencing with a trail ride along one of the historic trails leading to the Indian Wars period military post. There, visitors will enjoy demonstrations of traditional crafts throughout the day, including broom and brush making, quilting, spinning, tatting, weaving, and whittling.

MEMBERS OF THE DEPARTMENT'S Travel and Information Division join his many friends in mourning the death of Mike Livingston in Beaumont on September 7. Outgoing, enthusiastic, and popular, Mike was untiring in his efforts to bring tourism to the Big Thicket. He passed away as a result of pulmonary complications following cardiac arrest several weeks ago.

SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS has teamed up with *Sports Illustrated* magazine to bring the world's largest traveling sports festival to the Arlington theme park. Covering a 120,000-sq.-ft. area, the festival gives kids and adults alike the chance to compete with the "pros" and test their skills through interactive and participatory games and activities representing nearly every major sport, including baseball, football, basketball, golf, hockey, soccer, and others. The event is on a national tour of the seven Six Flags theme parks, and there is no extra charge for the festival. Call 817/640-8900 for all the particulars.



HARD ON THE HEELS OF OKTOBERFEST, the Fredericksburg Food and Wine Fest, a celebration of the rich and varied tastes of Texas, returns for its third taste-tempting season October 23 from noon to 8 p.m. Admission includes a free Wine Fest glass and five wine tasting tickets, together with all the free musical, visual, and culinary delights you can handle. Goodies galore! Call 210/997-8515 for more Fest facts.

LEGENDARY BLUEGRASS PERFORMERS Kenny Baker and Josh Graves will be among the musicians featured at the Old Settler's Bluegrass Festival in Round Rock October 9 and 10. A special, free Bluegrass Showcase and dinner on October 8 will kick off the event that features such other bluegrass luminaries as the Warrior River Boys recording artists, the Tennessee Valley Authority, Austin's Hidebound Bluegrass, and Houston's Lonestar Bluegrass. Conveniently located at Old Settler's Park on US 79 in Round Rock, just 15 minutes north of Austin. Saturday 11 a.m. - 11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission. Call 512/218-5555 for additional details.

Looking Ahead



Something new is in the works at Port Isabel, where the chamber of commerce is planning construction of a replica of the lighthouse keeper's cottage at the familiar landmark. Once completed, the chamber plans to install its offices there, reports chamber secretary Margie Hepner.

Houston has been selected to host the 1994 La Cumbre de Turismo, a prestigious travel industry trade show that brings together some 1,400 U.S. travel suppliers and Latin American tour operators, travel agents, and travel press. Its mission is to stimulate inbound U.S. travel from Latin America. With headquarters at the Westin Oaks and Westin Galleria hotels, the conference will be held August 30 through September 2, 1994. Call the Greater Houston C&VB at 713/227-3100 for more information.

If renovation goes as scheduled, Abilene's Information Center will be moving in January 1994 from its present I-20 location to the old depot on North First and Cypress, directly across from the Grace Cultural Center/Museum of Abilene. In addition to the Information Center, the building will also house the Abilene C&VB and the Cultural Affairs Council.

An extraordinary display of paintings by Cezanne, Gauguin, Picasso, Van Gogh, Matisse, Renoir, and other masters of early Twentieth Century European art from the Baltimore Museum of Art's Cone Collection will be on view in a special exhibition at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. *Van Gogh to Matisse* will be on display from November 21 through January 30, 1994. Call 713/639-7300 for details.

At long last, Dallas' Museum of African-American Life and Culture will move into its new quarters at Fair Park next month. Its first effort will be four concurrent exhibitions, including American folk art and contemporary Senegalese art.

Data as of September 30, 1993

Austin Office	For TxDOT This Month	For TxDOT This Year	For DOC This Month	For DOC This Year	Total Year to Date
Mail Services	10,647	113,796	29,479	823,671	937,467

Services to Travel Industry	Subscriber Inquiries This Month	Addresses Offered This Month	Addresses Transmitted This Month	Addresses Transmitted Year to Date
DHT TRAX System	75	55,142	45,520	547,309

Official State Travel Magazine	This Month	This Month Last Year	This Year to Date	Last Year to Date
Texas Highways Print Run	452,074	436,457	4,034,089	3,972,481

Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Visitors	Percent Variation*	Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Visitors	Percent Variation*
Amarillo	13,173	+ 14.89	125,640	+ 13.60	Orange	36,447	- 3.15	419,325	+ 2.16
Anthony	17,457	+ 1.52	154,221	- 4.80	Texarkana	46,518	+ 84.73	369,606	+ 24.08
Denison	Under Construction				Valley	13,875	- 1.51	216,822	- 6.67
Gainesville	37,629	+ 15.21	373,311	+ 13.81	Waskom	43,827	+ 27.43	382,059	+ 9.46
Langtry	6,249	+ 13.95	72,123	+ 6.80	Wichita Falls	15,600	+ 3.28	148,275	+ 2.55
Laredo	9,612	+ 18.14	117,879	- 7.35	Capitol	10,362	- 78.85	275,298	- 30.06
*Compared to last Year					Center Totals	250,749	+ .17	2,654,559	+ 1.19

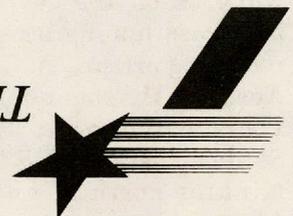
Dial toll-free 1-800-452-9292 for travel assistance from TxDOT's Texas Travel Information Centers (8 a.m. - 9 p.m. daily)



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