

TEXAS TRAVEL LOG

Texas Department of Transportation, Austin, Texas

December Travel & Information Division, P.O. Box 141009, Austin, Texas 78714-1009 512/483-3727

1993

A SPECIAL RECYCLED PAPER developed especially for *Texas Highways* magazine made its debut with the December 1993 issue. *Texas Highways* Gloss, so named by Simpson Paper Company in Pasadena, TX, is 50 percent waste paper and includes 10 percent post-consumer fiber. "We're so pleased with this paper that we're going to use it for the *Texas State Travel Guide*," said publisher Herman Kelly. "In fact, we like the paper as much as its name."



FULFILLMENT MANAGER JEAN JOHNSON announced last month that *Texas Highways* magazine now offers the convenience of a new toll-free telephone number for subscribers. "We continually look for ways to keep subscribers happy," said Jean, "implementing suggestions from readers wherever we can." The new number serves subscribers in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. For new subscriptions, renewals, bound volumes, colorful prints, or to order the new 1994 *Texas Highways* wall calendar call 1-800-TEX-HWYS (1-800-839-4997).

DAVID LINZEY, assistant director of TxDOT's Travel Services Section, was named board chairman of the Motorist Information and Services Assn. at a recent meeting in Hartford, CT. MISA brings together transportation and travel industry professionals to promote understanding, foster cooperation, and provide consistency in national trends for motorist information services. As MISA chairman, David brings the annual meeting to Arlington, TX, in October 1994.

JOE B. FRANTZ, award-winning writer and historian, died last month after a distinguished career. The native born Texan authored, coauthored, and edited some 28 books, and was a frequent contributor to *Texas Highways* magazine. His writings were almost exclusively on Texas history. Frantz taught history at the University of Texas at Austin for nearly 40 years, with short stints at Southern Methodist University, the University of Maine, the University of Colorado, and Utah State, as well as schools in Chili, Peru, Ecuador, and Mexico. A close friend of Lyndon B. Johnson, he directed the LBJ oral history project now housed in the LBJ Presidential Library in Austin.

TEXAS TRIVIA: Who was the first English speaking Texas braggart?

SCHLITTEBAHN WATERPARK in New Braunfels was voted favorite U.S. water park by *Inside Track* magazine, according to the *Dallas Morning News*. Readers of the monthly magazine, which is geared to roller coaster enthusiasts, are the same ones who, earlier this year, voted the Texas Giant at Six Flags Over Texas the top roller coaster in the world.

Around the Centers



Sam Martinez, manager of the Valley TIC, said they're seeing more and more folks who have, in the past, spent their winters in Florida. "There was some speculation this would happen," said Sam, "but no one knows for sure how many will make the switch." A Texas salute to our new winter visitors!

West Texas witches and werewolves donned their overcoats and long johns on Halloween, said Neal Billings, manager of the Roy Bean Visitor Center. The temperature dipped into the 20s that night with reports of more than a half inch of snow.

Mary Ulrich of our Capitol Complex TIC said a gentleman who travels across the country looking for ghosts stopped by to visit. He asked about ghosts in the capitol. A Capitol DPS officer happened by and related a story about the lady-in-red ghost who wanders about asking questions. Sort of spooky, laughed Mary, but everyone knows the capitol is always full of ghosts!

You never know who's calling. During a siege of icy weather in the Texas Panhandle, Waskom TIC manager Melissa Heard answered a telephone inquiry from our 1-800 number. It seems Travis Tritt's band was in Albuquerque, NM, heading to Amarillo for a concert and wanted to know what the roads were like in Texas. Melissa provided them with the information needed.

Dan Perrine, counselor from our Orange TIC, said Bob Hendrix from Tyler stopped by the center on a return trip to Texas. Who's Bob Hendrix? He's pictured in the popular *Texas State Travel Guide* at Tyler State Park. According to him, "I'm the bald-headed guy swimming in the lake."

Manager Skip Birkner of our Anthony TIC was master of ceremonies for Veterans Day activities at Concordia Cemetery. When the guest speaker didn't show, Birkner proceeded with the program, introducing two top female officers representing the military. "I don't really remember what I said, but I got several congratulations on a fine speech," laughed Skip.

STAR OF TEXAS FLAGSHIP made its premiere voyage from the Port of Galveston last month, reports the *Beaumont Enterprise*. The 1,260-passenger ship offers both day and night cruises, complete with three casinos, three entertainment areas, fine dining, and activities for the kids. The *Star of Texas* sails on 10 "cruises to nowhere" each week, including four six-hour day cruises, and six nightclub cruises with an option for an overnight stay. A two-day cruise down the Texas coast to Matamoros, Mexico, is offered once a month. Call 1-800-978-2783 for the latest scoop.



THREE CHEETAH CUBS recently made Fossil Rim Wildlife Center history when they became the first full second generation of natural bred cheetahs born there. The world population, including both captive and free ranging animals, is estimated between 9,000 and 12,000, making the cheetah one of the world's most endangered species. In the past, cheetahs have been the most difficult of the large cats to breed in captivity. Fossil Rim, however, has achieved a high success rate, both artificially and naturally, with nearly 20 percent of the nation's population derived from Fossil Rim's breeding program. Three miles west of Glen Rose, off U.S. 67; open year round. Call 817/897-2960 for more information.

THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER Authority recently established a 17-member advisory committee to work on ways to boost tourism along its Colorado River Trail. The committee includes community and business leaders from LCRA's 10-county district, extending from San Saba County to the Gulf of Mexico. "As we see it, tourism is one of the best ways to promote and improve the economic well-being of the communities in our region," said Donna Brasher, LCRA's manager of Land Resources. "From our initial meeting, it is obvious that this committee will provide invaluable ongoing assistance in carrying out that work."

HISTORIC FORT CIBOLO became the centerpiece of a new luxury guest ranch in the heart of Big Bend Country. Cibolo Creek Ranch offers lavish accommodations built in and around reconstructed adobe forts, and gourmet cuisine. An outstanding equestrian program caters to upscale cowboy wannabes, or to those who just want to experience the vastness of the beautiful West Texas outdoors. North of the ghost town of Shafter, between Marfa and Presidio; 1-800-525-4800 for reservations.

A LONG-AWAITED DREAM came true last month with the opening of the Museum of African-American Life and Culture at Fair Park in Dallas. The \$6-million, 38,000-square-foot facility features one of the largest collections of African-American folk art in the nation, with emphasis on the preservation and display of artistic, cultural, and historical materials. In addition, the museum houses a library and research center, an auditorium for performances, and a children's center equipped with 15 computers. After-school programs for children and adults will provide instruction on black history, literature, and art history. For a schedule of upcoming exhibits and special events, call 214/565-9026. At 3536 Grand Avenue.

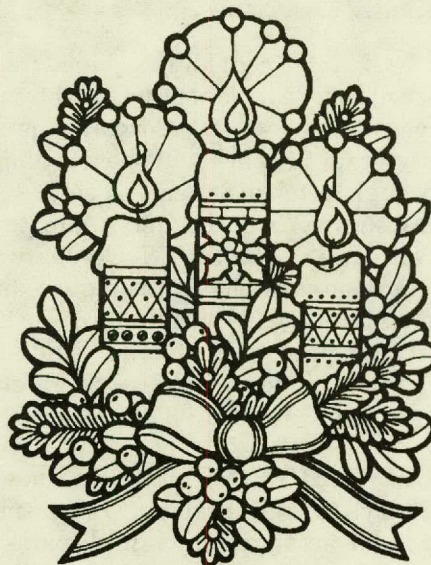
IN A POWERFUL EXHIBIT of 53 stained-glass windows, Dallas artist Jean Lacy depicts biblical history from a black perspective and tells the story of African-American history and culture. Rev. Zan Holmes Jr., minister at St. Luke Community United Methodist Church in East Dallas where the imagery is displayed, said, as a youth, he studied the imposing stained-glass windows at his father's church in Waco. "I didn't see anybody in those windows who looked like me," he remembers. "The windows should reflect the people who worship in the building." Images include likenesses of Moses, Martin Luther King Jr., and other religious and black leaders, as well as more telling figures such as a maid, stoop-shouldered, waiting at a bus stop, and the body of a man, lynching ropes slack on his shoulders.

THE INSTITUTE OF TEXAN CULTURES in San Antonio presents a dramatic, 36-panel exhibit on El Camino Real through January 2. The display invites visitors to take a fascinating journey through time with explorers, missionaries, settlers, and traders who etched one of the most important historical trails linking Mexico with the present-day United States. Call the Institute at 210/226-7651. Request TxDOT's *El Camino Real* free color brochure by calling 1-800-452-9292.

PORTRAITS OF JOHN LENNON, Ella Fitzgerald, and Whoopi Goldberg, and early black-and-white essays on the Rolling Stones and President Nixon's resignation, are among the more than 120 images in *Annie Leibovitz Photographs 1970-1990*. On view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, from December 19 through January 30, the show is the first-ever museum exhibition to cover the extraordinary career of the photographer who has created some of the most vivid, instantly known portraits of the day. For more information, call 713/639-7300.

THE ARLINGTON MUSEUM OF ART will take a holiday recess, December 25 through January 4, opening by appointment only during that time. Call 817/275-4600 if you just can't wait!

A NEW HYDE PARK HISTORICAL Walking Tour, developed by the Austin C&VB, highlights the past with a two-mile self-guided stroll through the heart of the city's oldest subdivision. The National Register Historic District is detailed in a two-color brochure that includes a brief history of the 102-year-old neighborhood, descriptions and pictures of well-known historic sites, and a listing of older homes with architectural and historical significance. Available at the city's official visitor centers, and selected hotels and motels.



IN AN EFFORT to increase holiday travel to the Houston area, the Greater Houston C&VB now offers a free coupon book with up to \$1,000 in savings. Houston Holiday Sampler includes discounts on attractions, entertainment, shopping, services, food, and lodging in both Houston and Galveston. For a copy call the C&VB at 1-800-231-7799.

SIX CENTRAL TEXAS CITIES teamed up to attract their share of visitors during the holidays. A regional Christmas brochure, produced by Austin, Bastrop, Georgetown, New Braunfels, Round Rock, and San Marcos, includes a listing of special events and shopping opportunities. Call 210/625-2385. Or pick one up at any of the participating C&VBs and chambers.

MORE THAN 80,000 LIGHTS, 5,000 feet of garland, and a 110-foot tall tree turn San Antonio's Fiesta Texas theme park into a winter wonderland for "A Lone Star Christmas," now through Dec. 30. Two premiere holiday musicals join a returning favorite, "Uncle Scrooge's Christmas Banquet," where the audience becomes part of the performance at the home of reformed Ebenezer Scrooge. The magic continues with ice skating, caroling, brass quintets, and fireworks and laser light shows. Call 1-800-473-4378 for schedules and times.



WONDER WORLD in San Marcos joined the ranks of several other Texas attractions by going from year-round to seasonal operation. Corporate president Buddy Mostyn said the park will operate daily from March 1 through October 31, and be open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. during summer months, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in spring and fall. Wonder World features an earthquake-formed cave showing a unique exhibition of the Balcones fault line. "It's the only one of its kind in the U.S. that's open to the public," said Mostyn. Other highlights include a wildlife park, observation tower, and gift shop. Call 512/392-3760 for details.

TEXAS COMMISSION ON THE ARTS now offers a new County Arts Expansion Program with opportunities for arts programs in all parts of the state. The six-year plan is designed to target underserved counties and to provide funding for communities without an arts infrastructure in place. Nonprofit organizations, government entities, and school districts in counties that have not received funding awards from TCA in fiscal years 1992 through 1994 are eligible to apply. Contact Betty Switzer, coordinator of Community Development and Rural Services; 1-800-252-9415.

HUNDREDS OF INVITED GUESTS paid tribute last month to the one-year anniversary of the *USS Lexington* as a floating museum. The November 8 "birthday" bash was highlighted by plenty of pomp and circumstance as Secretary of the Navy John Dalton delivered the keynote address. The crowd also witnessed the formal dedication of a Grumman Avenger, which joins the ship's growing fleet of vintage aircraft. The *Lexington* was the oldest working carrier in the United States Navy before modern technology removed her from service, and she set more records than any other carrier in the history of naval aviation. Open daily at 2914 N. Shoreline Boulevard, adjacent to the Texas State Aquarium in Corpus Christi.

CITING FINANCIAL SHORTFALLS, Amtrak announced reduced service on the Texas Eagle route between Texas and Chicago. Amtrak officials said the cutbacks from daily departures to three weekly departures will save more than \$6.7 million annually, and that 83.6 percent of revenue is expected to be retained. Though the 1910 depot in Temple closed last month, the train will continue to stop there and will be saved as part of a museum complex.



BE SURE TO ENCOURAGE VISITORS to stop a moment at our major rest areas (those with rest room facilities, drinking water, and picnic areas) and read the highway InfoBords posted there. InfoBords are attractive exhibits at more than 105 rest areas scattered along many routes. The displays summarize tourism features that lie just off the highway lanes, inviting folks to stop and visit instead of just driving through. Each InfoBord location includes a highway map, panels devoted to nearby attractions, and still others that feature attractions down the road.

GOVERNOR ANN RICHARDS appointed a 17-member Governor's Task Force on Nature Tourism in Texas to seek ways to promote economic development, and protect wildlife and habitat across the state. Members were selected from state and national authorities, private industry, and special interest groups. Private landowners are expected to play a key role in developing nature tourism in a state where more than 95 percent of the land is privately owned.

THE FORT WORTH MUSEUM of Science and History presents *Science in Toyland* through January 2. The hands-on exhibit allows children to explore scientific principles using favorite toys like tops, sailboats, and dominoes. Thirteen play areas invite visitors of all ages to discover science in everyday things, like rolling balls, soap bubbles, shooting stars, plants, bugs, airplanes, and balloons. Open daily at 1501 Montgomery Street in Fort Worth's Cultural District. Call the museum for tickets or information on upcoming events; 817/732-1631.

THE WORK OF 15 TEXAS ARTISTS will be showcased at Houston's Contemporary Arts Museum through February 6. *TEXAS Between Two Worlds* links the ambiguity of human existence through differing issues and perspectives, to include humankind's relationship to death, personal relationships, spirituality, and the environment. The artwork selections vary in media from paintings and sculptures to photography and installations. At 5216 Montrose Blvd. Call 713/526-0773 for details and times.

THE STARK MUSEUM OF ART in Orange announced the recent installment of three major exhibits that take visitors through the development of American art, from documentation to experimentation. The exhibitions feature more than 150 works, many of which have never been displayed before, and traces the American West through the eyes of its earliest 19th Century artists/explorers, popular turn-of-the-century illustrators, and members of important 20th Century New Mexico art colonies. Open Wednesday through Sunday at 712 Green Avenue. Call 409/883-6661 for group tour reservations.

ANSWER TO TEXAS TRIVIA: David Ingram, one of three survivors in a 114-man expedition, reported to English authorities in 1582 that in Texas he saw "great rockes (sic) of Chrystal (sic), Rubies, being four inches long, and two inches broad, a great abundance (sic) of pearls, sundry pieces of golde (sic) some as big as a man's fist and other precious minerals by the shipload."

Looking Ahead



The 59th Annual River Oaks Garden Club Azalea Trail is set for March 5-6 and 12-13, 1994, in Houston. Since 1935, this garden pilgrimage has heralded the arrival of spring in the Bayou City. A highlight of the tour will be the recently restored Bayou Bend Collection and its 14-acre gardens on the banks of Buffalo Bayou. Tickets for the garden tour are \$12 before March 5 and \$15 March 5 and after. For information, 713/523-2483.

Mineral Wells Chamber of Commerce marked the beginning of an ambitious plan to preserve West Texas heritage and history. Chamber director Nancy Ray said the \$2-million project includes construction of an amphitheater where an historical re-enactment will bring to life the Loving-Goodnight cattle drive days. "It's all part of a long-standing effort by the people of our community to preserve our heritage," said Ms. Ray. "The Loving-Goodnight production is a natural since the famous trail drive from Texas to Colorado had its beginnings just north of here." Construction of the amphitheater begins next summer, west of the city near the Brazos River. For updates, watch this space.

In a cooperative effort between the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Chamber of Commerce, Fredericksburg landed the bid for the 1994 annual convention of the Chamber of Commerce Executives Assn. of West Texas. The meeting, slated for October 23-25, is expected to utilize approximately 100 room nights.

A spectacular new attraction debuts at Sea World of Texas in San Antonio beginning March 19. Visitors will experience the world of dinosaurs at Monster Marsh, featuring 13 life-sized creatures in an acre-large, lushly landscaped prehistoric setting. General manager Robin Carson said, "At Monster March, our guests will be able to satisfy their curiosity about ancient animals, learn about their characteristics, and understand the importance of protecting the earth's creatures from an untimely demise." Open weekends in spring and fall, and daily in summer. Call 1-800-527-4757 for details.

Data as of November 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	8,614	132,423	25,808	873,953	1,006,376

Services to Travel Industry	Subscriber Inquiries This Month	Addresses Offered This Month	Addresses Transmitted This Month	Addresses Transmitted Year to Date
TxDOT TRAX System	145	45,193	18,988	605,858

Official State Travel Magazine	This Month	This Month Last Year	This Year to Date	Last Year to Date
Texas Highways Print Run	439,942	441,329	4,917,329	4,860,333

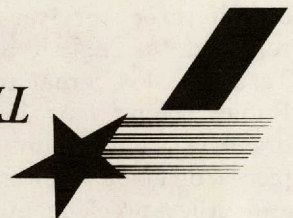
Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Visitors	Percent Variation*	Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Visitors	Percent Variation*
Amarillo	8,529	+ 25.52	146,775	+ 13.25	Orange	38,148	- .13	496,380	+ 1.70
Anthony	17,616	+ 12.10	189,717	- 3.55	Texarkana	42,465	+ 56.05	454,239	+ 26.06
Denison	Under Construction				Valley	25,587	+ 13.77	265,899	- 3.92
Gainesville	37,749	+ 12.07	455,976	+ 13.29	Waskom	44,142	+ 35.85	478,758	+ 15.04
Langtry	8,403	+ 38.46	88,380	+ 9.69	Wichita Falls	14,061	+ 29.94	178,275	+ 5.46
Laredo	11,412	+ 13.62	139,647	- 4.95	Capitol	19,095	- 48.27	308,340	- 36.02
*Compared to last Year					Center Totals	267,207	+ 11.18	3,202,386	+ 1.71

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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