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EL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

TEXAS

HIGHWAYS

OCTOBER 1999

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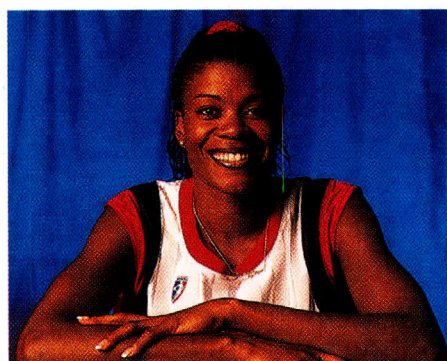


Readers, I have always appreciated your willingness to communicate with us. Last month's **25th anniversary issue** elicited a flood of (primarily positive) responses and memories, although some of you complained about the omissions and inclusions in the **celebrity section** of the issue. How could we have left out the incomparable so-and-so, and why did we include some sorry, no-account, good-for-nothing? Well, folks, we came up with a long list of well-known Texans and asked them to be part of our anniversary issue. Some declined, others accepted, and a number responded too late for publication. But we didn't judge them. The standard for inclusion was celebrity, not sainthood. Each of the individuals is well-known for exceptional accomplishments, not in every facet of life, but simply in some area that has brought fame and publicity.

Speaking of exceptional accomplishments, we'd like to share this postscript to the September celebrity feature.

Brownfield native **Sheryl Swoopes** is an all-star with the two-time WNBA champion Houston Comets, and as the 1993 College Player of the Year, she led Texas Tech to the NCAA title. When I first watched her play basketball for Tech nearly a decade ago, I was astounded by her remarkable combination of grace, agility, and skill. She is an asset to her sport and to her state. In her own words, Sheryl says:

"As a native Texan, I think the greatest thing about the state is that just like all the stories say, there are truly no limits. There's an opportunity to do what you want, become who you want



© BILL BAPTIST, NBA PHOTOS

Houston Comets star Sheryl Swoopes sees Texas as a land of opportunity.

—all you have to do is have a dream and apply yourself. I've seen my basketball dreams come true here in Texas, both at Texas Tech and with the Houston Comets. Now that I'm a mother, though, I am most excited about seeing the opportunities that will be here in the future for my son."

Judging from your letters, most of you share Sheryl's enthusiasm for the future and for the world of opportunities Texas offers. May your future be fulfilling....

By the way, we'd like to thank **Jean Andrews**, a.k.a. The Pepper Lady, for lending us a slide of a Mitchell's wendletrap for this month's **Speaking of Texas** on such short notice. Dr. Andrews has published highly praised books on peppers and Texas shells. Look for her new book, *The Pepper Trail*. We'd also like to thank **Charles Spurlin** of Victoria College for his help with the Victoria story and for providing (also on short notice) the Speaking of Texas photo of Joseph Daniel Mitchell.

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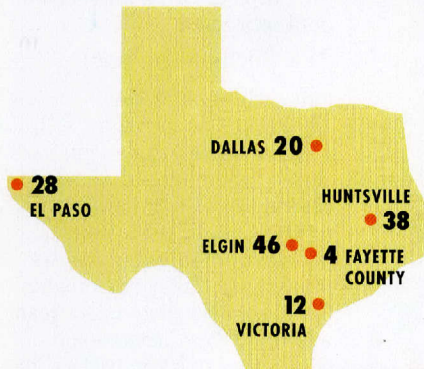
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ABOUT OUR COVERS

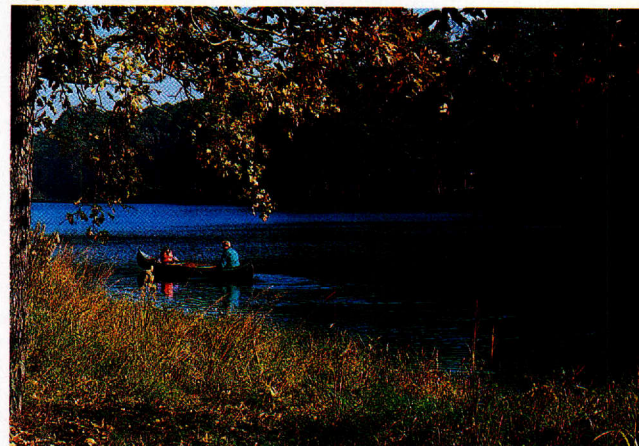
FRONT—Early-morning light bathes stalks of sotol and creates a rainbow over North Franklin Peak, in Franklin Mountains State Park. Believe it or not, the park lies within the boundaries of bustling El Paso. *Photo © Laurence Parent*

BACK—While you're getting an eyeful of Fair Park's architectural treasures, be sure to check out the Great Hall in the Tower Building. This photo hangs in an exhibit in the park's Hall of State through March 12, 2000. Turn to page 20 to see more photos from the exhibit. *Photo © Robert M. Huckabee*

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FEATURES

APR 13 2000

GILDED GLORY AND HEAVENLY HUES by Patricia Caperton Parent

Known for the elaborate religious murals that grace altars, walls, and ceilings, Fayette County's painted churches lie hidden away in the pastoral countryside surrounding Dubina, Ammannsville, High Hill, and Praha

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VIVA VICTORIA! by Gene Fowler

Victoria's 175th anniversary serves as a perfect occasion for showcasing the charms of this south-east Texas town—a wealth of tradition, natural attractions, cultural diversity, and more

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FAIR PARK by Michael A. Murphy

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1986, Fair Park offers much more than carnival rides and cotton candy. A student photography exhibit presents striking images of the park's Art Deco architecture

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EL PASO'S PEAK EXPERIENCE by Patricia Caperton Parent

A rugged, 24,000-acre park in the midst of a big city? Only in Texas, and only in El Paso. Franklin Mountains State Park offers residents and visitors alike an easy escape from urban hassles

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HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK by Howard Peacock

Encompassing more than 2,000 acres of East Texas woodlands, Huntsville State Park attracts visitors year round. The enticements include fishing, canoeing, hiking, biking, and birdwatching, but it's also a great place for just kicking back

46

ELGIN REALLY COOKS! by Larry D. Hodge

Chances are, you know Elgin for its savory barbecue, but other aspects of the town prove just as appealing. The zany Hogeeye Festival held each October allows visitors to sample the ample community spirit

Readers: The owner of Fredricksburg's Moonbeam Cottage, mentioned in August's TexCetera, is Judy Vincent, not Judy Mayo. Our apologies!

Don't Mess With CFS

July's chicken-fried steak story will probably bring more mail than any article this year, with hundreds of Texans and hundreds more "wantabes," all with their favorite CFS haunts. So why not ours? Houston's Hickory Hollow Inn has the bestest, biggest, tastiest Texan CFS we've found anywhere in the Lone Star State.

BILL CHADWICK
Dialville

Ed. Note: *You said it, Mr. Chadwick—we've heard from chicken-fried admirers from far and wide. Following are some of their favorite restaurants for a CFS fix: Arlington Steak House in Arlington, Cattle Rustlers in Sanger, Circle Grill in Dallas, Clear Springs Restaurant in Nacogdoches, Gage Hotel Restaurant in Marathon, Hennington's Texas Cafe in Granbury, Humble City Cafe in Humble, Jake and Dorothy's Cafe in Stephenville, JJ's Bar and Country Store in Cotulla, Longhorn Tavern Steak House in Bryan, Mac's Grill in Plano, T-Bone Tom's in Kemah, Tip Top Cafe in San Antonio, and the Village Grill in Euless.*

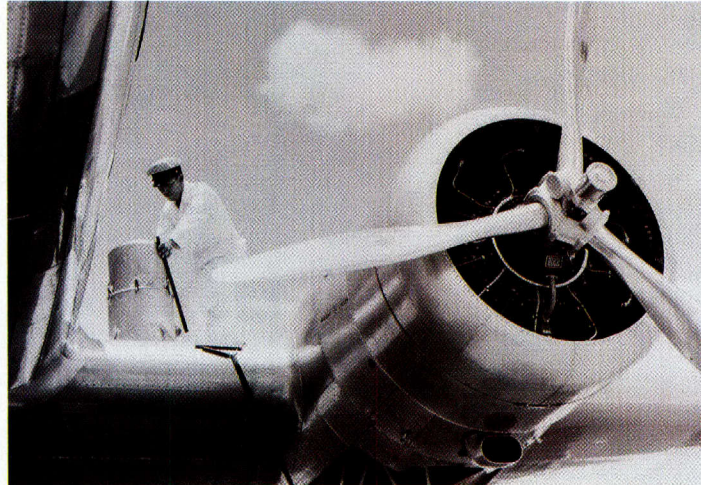
I was amazed to see the Austrian version of CFS included in your story. While admittedly, we Texans are a diverse mix of nationalities and culture, there are just some things you don't mess with. I am sure the Austrian version is quite tasty, but to place it alongside what may well be the most traditional of all Texas foods is just unpalatable.

DICK NORMAN
Conroe

Not only did I enjoy reading about chicken-fried steak, but I enjoyed cooking one that passed the inspection of my 90-year-old Texas mom.

SCOTT TALLMAN
Phillips Ranch, California, via email

PHOTO BY POLLY SMITH; COURTESY DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



In the mid-1930s, Polly Smith photographed J.V. McBride as he refueled a Pan Am DC-3.

The best CFS faux pas I've witnessed involved an uncle of mine from California who was visiting my family here in Austin. We took him to Threadgill's and told him to try the CFS. He did, but he requested that the waitress give him only white meat. We've had a good laugh over it for many years since.

JENNIFER LAVA, *via email*

Photographic Memories

There are two pictures by Polly Smith (July issue) of special interest to me. The picture of the Pan Am DC-3 being refueled (page 21) was taken at the Brownsville airport, and shows my deceased brother J.V. McBride. I also worked for Pan Am until entering the U.S. Navy at the beginning of WWII.

The dredge boat *Texas* in the Houston Ship Channel (page 25) is a sister to the dredge *Mobile*, upon which I worked prior to joining Pan Am. I thank *Texas Highways* and especially Evelyn Barker for a very fine article.

E.A. MCBRIDE
Brownwood

From Palacios to Polo

Your July article on the Luther Hotel really brought

back memories. My grandparents Vic C. and Mildred Segelquist lived in Palacios from the late '60s to the late '80s. My cousin and I would visit every summer and dream of staying in the Luther. Once, when we were about 15 and 16, my grandmother arranged for us to stay overnight. We were so thrilled to stay in that big, fancy hotel alone. We pretended to be fine southern ladies and invented fantasy names for ourselves—I was Magnolia Blossom and she was Jasmine Vine.

CINDY STEWART ALLEN
Bryan, via email

"Polo in Texas" in the August issue brought back old memories. When I was a youngster in Dallas in the early 1930s, my father would drive us to Love Field on Sundays after church so we could watch the airplanes. We soon discovered there was also excitement going on on the opposite side of the field—they were playing polo on Love Field.

This became a weekly ritual with us: watch airplanes, then watch polo. Airplanes won out in the long run. I joined the

Air Corps in WWII and stayed until retirement.

PAUL COCHRAN, *via email*

Once Upon a Texas

As you said in August's Up Front, we Texans enjoy our stories, and after six decades, I listen to and tell them with equal pride. In 1957, I was a young Army private from the Rio Grande Valley stationed in Germany. Our platoon sergeant was from West Texas—and very proud of it. He told us that it gets so hot in his part of Texas, lizards run on three feet and carry a stick with the other foot: "After they run awhile, they have to drive the stick in the ground, then crawl up on it to cool their feet."

GENE FOLLIS
Waller County

I grew up on a farm near Follett in the Panhandle. About 1927, an uncle visiting from St. Louis, when asked what he thought of Texas, said, "Well, you have more cows and less milk, more rivers and less water, and you can look farther and see less than any place I've ever been!"

DERRILL THOMPSON
Beaumont, via email

More Magazine Moments

Do we have memorable experiences from reading *Texas Highways*? Let me count the ways.

When you pictured the Honey Hush Bed & Breakfast in Gainesville in February 1995, I prepared a trip for my husband and our friends. We had a wonderful time eating at the little places mentioned in the article, shopping, and walking to see the beautiful old homes. When you pictured the Molly Cherry Bed and Breakfast in Denison, we did a repeat.

We have such fond memories and pictures of those two trips, but the fun was not over. In March 1997, you presented Godfrey's Place Inn in Denton and more places to eat and shop! So, we went again. After each trip, we would say, "This is the best."

GLENDA M. TURNER
Lawton, Oklahoma

If you would like to write to *Texas Highways*, the editors would enjoy hearing from you. Though we are unable to print every letter, we just might select yours to appear in the magazine—whether you send us kudos or criticism. We reserve the right to edit letters. Write to Letters Editor, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009, or fax 512/486-5879. Email: editors@texashighways.com.

Conchologists the world over know the name of Joseph Daniel Mitchell (1848-1922), who lived many years in Victoria. The Texas naturalist discovered two new shells on the state's coast, which were named for him: the rare Mitchell's wentletrap and the more common Mitchell's macoma.

Born at Mitchell's Point in Calhoun County, Joseph cowboied as a youth, then ranched in the area until 1887, when he moved to Victoria. His credited innovations in the area include the introduction of blooded stock and use of barbed wire and a windmill. He also conducted important early research on eradication of the cattle tick.

After retiring from ranching in 1892, Mitchell turned to full-time study of natural history. His research on malaria helped discover that the *Anopheles* mosquito spread the disease, and he helped the U.S. Bureau of Entomology in its efforts to combat the boll weevil. He sent specimens of Texas insects, mollusks, reptiles, and rocks to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Smithsonian Institution. Scientific journals published his papers, and, according to *The New Handbook of Texas*, he was considered the leading authority on Texas reptiles. As a state legislator in 1895, he helped create the Fish and Oyster Commission, which led to our current Parks and Wildlife Department.

Mitchell's name lives on in Victoria at the 1901 Mitchell School, so named to recognize his role as a founder of the local school district. Well-known southeast Texas architect Jules Leffland (see "iViva Victoria!", page 12) designed the large, handsome building at 306 East Commerce Street.

In addition to his long list of accomplishments, Mitchell evidently had a well-developed sense of humor. Visitors to his Victoria home (now a mortuary) were sometimes greeted by an alligator head, mounted on wheels and rolling toward them down the hallway.

—Gene Fowler, Austin

COURTESY VICTORIA COLLEGE LOCAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION



The rare Mitchell's wentletrap, found from Texas to Panama, was discovered by nationally known naturalist Joseph Daniel Mitchell of Victoria. "Wentletrap" means "spiral staircase" in Dutch.

SHELL COURTESY JEAN ANDREWS

As one of the oldest towns in Texas, Victoria lays claim to a number of "firsts," including the state's oldest women's literary club, the Brontë Club. Organized by Victoria Female Academy founder Viola Case in 1855 as the Victoria Literary Club, the society originally served academy students. Mrs. Case kept 11 volumes of contemporary literature in a dry goods box under her bed, which she distributed once a week to the schoolgirls—an early form of lending library and predecessor of the Victoria Public Library.

In 1880, the club expanded its membership to include young women and changed its name to the Brontë Literary Club, in honor of English novelist Charlotte Brontë, who wrote *Jane Eyre*. Though encouragement of reading remained a primary goal, the club

dropped "literary" from its name early in this century. In addition to a love of books, members sought to promote philanthropic activities, an "altruistic spirit," and their own "mental and social culture."

When the Royston Nave Memorial opened in the early 1930s, the Brontë Club—by then long past its books-under-the-bed stage—housed its growing library there, where it was available to all town residents. The books went to the public library when it opened in 1975.

One of the club's most memorable projects was the sponsorship of a local lecture by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1940. About 2,500 people attended the First Lady's talk. Mrs. Roosevelt afterwards wrote fondly in her newspaper column, entitled "My Day," about her visit to "one of the oldest women's clubs in the country."

—Gene Fowler, Austin

Dr. Robert L. Osmunson, a substitute teacher with the Garland Independent School District, has traveled nearly 50,000 miles to visit all of Texas' state parks (some 125) and to photograph the state's 254 county courthouses and 153 major lakes. So what, you ask? Well, he did it all within the last year and a half and at age 75. Dr. Osmunson says the Parks and Wildlife Department's Discovery Passport and the Department of Transportation's *Texas State Travel Guide* inspired his travels.

When Dr. Osmunson was young, his mother read him adventure tales, but as he heard the stories of Charles Lindbergh, David Livingston, Sir Francis Drake, and Christopher Columbus, he began to think "It's all been done." Eventually, he says, he realized there are always challenges to meet, adventures to grab, and discoveries to be made.

About his recent travels, Dr. Osmunson says, "It was a way to get out of the armchair and see Texas, but I also hoped to inspire young people to venture, aim, and try."

—Ann Gallaway

FAYETTE COUNTY'S PAINTED CHURCHES



GILDED GLORY



BY PATRICIA CAPERTON PARENT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURENCE PARENT

Driving the back roads of Fayette County, it's easy to leave the 20th Century behind. While Interstate 10 leads in either direction to Houston and San Antonio, and a short scoot northwest will put you in Austin, those bustling cities seem worlds away. As the roads wind through the hilly landscape, the fields dotted with hay bales and small farmhouses, you can imagine why thousands of Central European emigrants began settling here in the 1850s. Fertile soil, affordable land, and freedom from Austro-Hungarian oppression drew them here.

Farm Road 1383 connects the painted churches of Dubina and Ammannsville (shown here) as it meanders through countryside settled by Czechs, Moravians, Bohemians, and Germans in the mid-19th Century.

A N D H E A V E N L Y H U E S

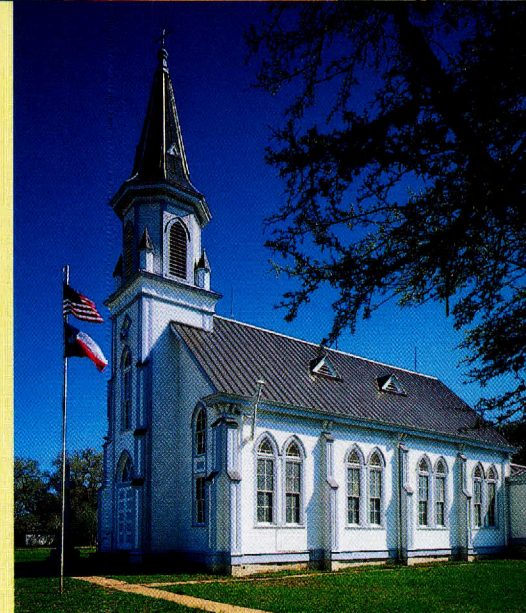


In 1856,

Dubina (the Czech word for “land of caks”) became the first Czech settlement in Texas. Soon, more Czechs, Moravians, and Germans joined the settlers, traveling by ox-cart and wagon, and established the villages of Ammannsville and High Hill nearby. In a few short years, Bohemian immigrant Mathias Novak helped transform the neighboring settlement of Hottentot into Praha, the Czech word for Prague, the capital of their homeland.

These newcomers were devout Catholics, as religious as they were hardworking. Small frame churches sprang up alongside cotton gins, saw-mills, blacksmith shops, and saloons. And as soon as they could afford it, the settlers built more-permanent houses of worship. Nostalgic for home, they fashioned pointed arches and vaulted ceilings, imported stained glass and ornate statuary from Europe, and commissioned elaborate, religious murals for walls, altars, and ceilings.

Today, a tour of Fayette County’s four painted churches, all within a few miles of one another in an area where some locals still speak Czech or German among friends, provides a vibrant reminder of these early settlers.



[ABOVE] The simplest of Fayette County’s four painted churches, Dubina’s Saints Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church displays beautiful, restored 1912 artwork. Outside, take note of the steeple; the cross on top survived a hurricane in 1909 that destroyed the original building.

N

ostalgic for home, the congregations fashioned pointed arches and vaulted ceilings, imported stained glass and ornate statuary from Europe, and commissioned elaborate religious murals for walls, altars, and ceilings.

DUBINA

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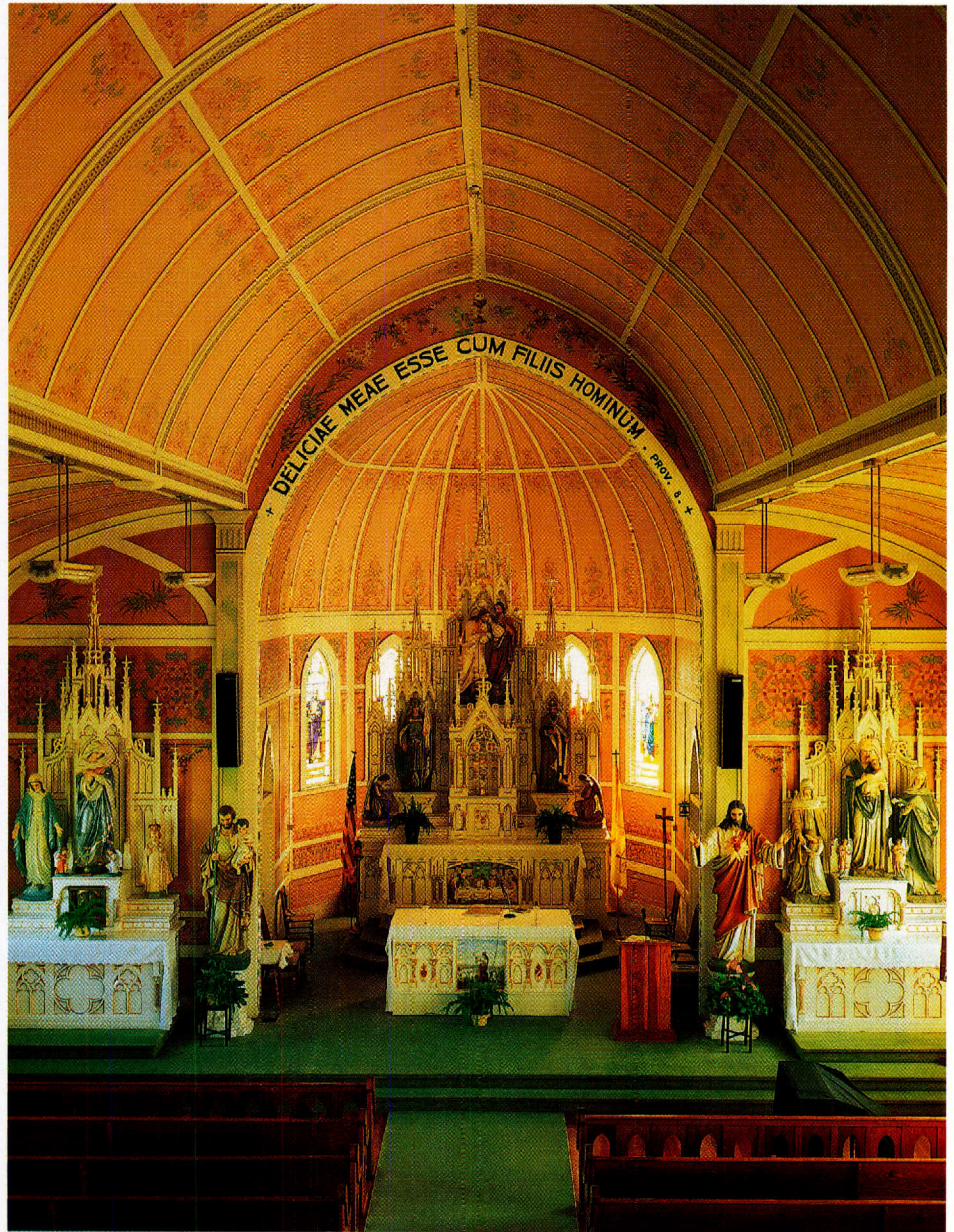
SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS Catholic Church in Dubina is perhaps the simplest of the four painted churches on tour, yet it's a grand way to start your excursion. As you approach the structure from oak-canopied County Road 480, you'll cross a beautiful 1886 bridge spanning the Navidad River. Then, beyond a bend, the white, wooden church comes into view.

Be sure to notice the wrought-iron cross topping the steeple. Forged by blacksmith Tom Lee, a former slave who stayed in Dubina after emancipation, the cross once decorated the town's original 1877 church. When the building was destroyed by a hurricane in 1909, the cross survived.

Parishioners painted over the original ceiling art in 1952. When the church needed another freshening up in the early 1980s, Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka, a descendant of early Dubina settlers, led a drive to restore the 1912 artwork. "When I was an altar boy at Dubina, when the sun hit just right, I could see the painted angels faintly coming through on the ceiling," says Ed. "People said we were crazy to try to restore it. They said it couldn't be done."

But the congregation persisted, checking historical records and re-creating stencils. Eventually, the scaffolding was up, and paint removal began. "It was like an archeological find," says Ed.

Instead of employing turn-of-the-century pastel colors, the Dubina congregation applied brighter hues. Today, a sky-blue ceiling shelters blue, green,



In Ammannsville, the 1919 painted church has an airy feel, due to the lack of support columns. When the light is right, the church's soaring pink ceiling takes on a golden hue.

and gold angels perched over supporting columns. Stenciled ivies, flowers, and trailing oak leaves outline every arch. Though the name of the original artist has long been lost, the bold Moravian designs once again beautify the church.

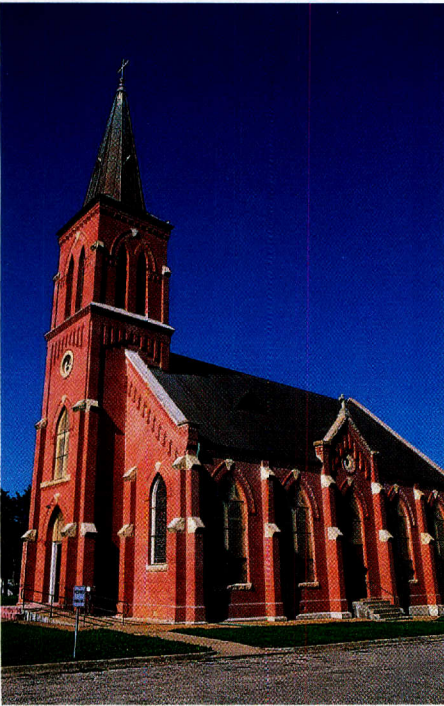
A M M A N N S V I L L E

A

AMMANNSVILLE'S SAINT JOHN the Baptist Church, built in 1919, nestles comfortably among lush fields. On a still day, a nearby stock pond reflects the building's graceful,



hen you enter the ornate, exquisite interior of St. Mary's in High Hill, which features a spectacular, stained-glass-and-wood crucifix on the high altar, you can't help imagining you're in a great European cathedral.



St. Mary's Church in High Hill, built of brick in 1906, survived the storm that destroyed the early churches of Ammannsville and Dubina.

white frame exterior, its colorful stained-glass windows, and an adjacent cemetery dotted with 19th-Century headstones. You'll want to linger to enjoy the exterior view, but a step inside reveals a treasure-trove of artwork and statuary.

Nobody knows who painted St. John's pink walls and soaring pink ceiling, murals, stenciling, and marbled columns. But the large statues of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. John the Baptist, which flank the altar, as well as the crucifix in the entryway, have their own story to tell: As the second church in Ammannsville burned to the ground (the 1909 hurricane had destroyed the first), parishioners rushed into the burning building to save the statues and crucifix.

Look closely at the brilliant windows; if you see the Czech word *darovali* inscribed beneath one, it means that a couple donated the window. *Darovala* denotes an unmarried woman donor, and *darovale*, an unmarried man. According to the Old World tradition that separated men and women during worship, the windows feature male saints on the right side of the church, where the men sat, and female saints on the left.

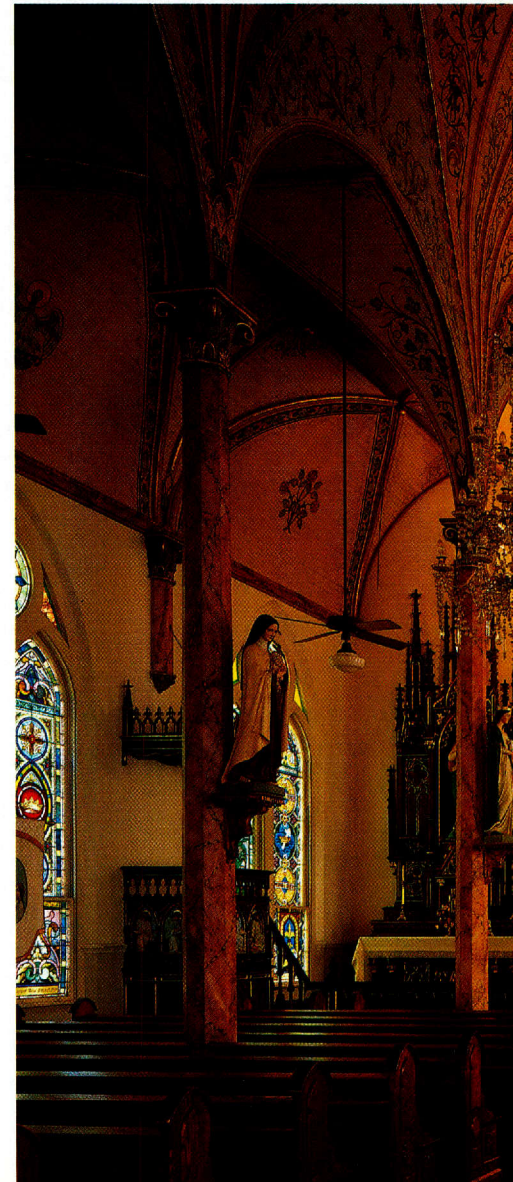
HIGH HILL



T. MARY'S IN HIGH HILL, built in 1906 by prominent San Antonio architect Leo Dielman, claims the most ornate interior of Fayette County's four painted churches. Driving through the countryside, you can't miss the 111-foot steeple pointing skyward from the red brick structure. Inside, the dark, hand-carved altar rails and confessional underscore High Hill's German influence. Statues of Mary, Jesus, and various saints gleam from the altar in hues of blue, purple, and pink. The centerpiece of the high altar, a spectacular, stained-glass-and-wood crucifix, draws your eyes to the ceiling. Here, a blue sky etched with golden ribbing spans the spacious nave, supported by faux-marble columns topped with green and gold capitals. When you enter this exquisite interior, you can't help imagining you're in a great European cathedral.

Sturdy as well as beautiful, St. Mary's survived the 1909 storm that destroyed the early churches of Ammannsville and Dubina. In 1912, San Antonio artists

Hermann Kern and Ferdinand Stockert decorated the interior, painting angels, twining vines, and other designs first on canvas, then affixing the canvas to the wooden ceiling. On one section, the artists depicted a pelican piercing its breast to feed its blood to its young—a traditional religious symbol of sacrifice. "This image really draws attention," says Armand Hollas, a tour guide and former altar boy who moved back to the area in 1992. "The pelican symbolizes the church taking care of its flock," he says.





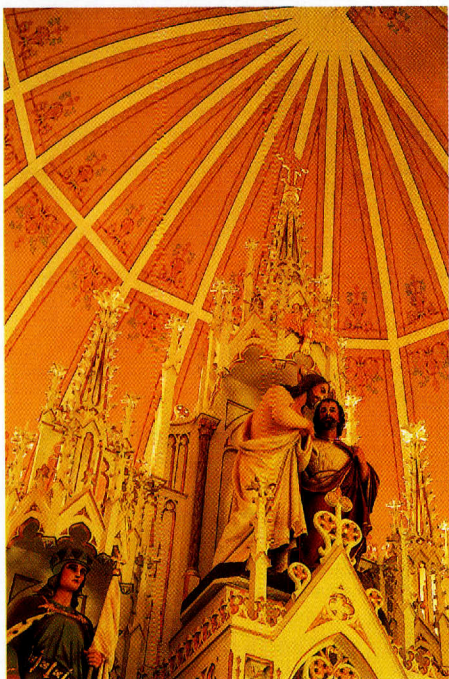
P R A H A

IN 1895, THOUSANDS SHOWED up for the dedication of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, built of stone atop an oak-studded hill in Praha. As a brass band played, more than a thousand people crowded into the church for the inaugural service. Their excitement was justified—Swiss-born artist Godfrey Flury, already well known for his painted homes and churches in nearby Moulton—had outdone himself at St. Mary’s. To glimpse an image of heaven, parishioners had only to gaze upward.

On the vaulted, wooden tongue-and-groove ceiling, Flury had painted three

[LEFT] Dark carved wood, elaborate stained-glass windows, faux-marble pillars, and intricate painted designs characterize the church at High Hill.

[ABOVE] The exterior of Praha’s painted church belies its exquisite interior. Swiss-born painter Godfrey Flury painted the walls and ceiling with ivies, flowers, and religious symbols, including a small image of a priory in Olomouc, Moravia.



soaring angels, floating in the sky around a jeweled cross. He ornamented the ceiling's lower edges with panels of painted vines, flowers, symbols (a chalice, a star, and an eye), and curving, gold scrolls. Below, just above the altar, he depicted Prague's main cathedral, St. Vitus, and an important priory in Olomouc, Moravia.

According to Ben Popelka, a church volunteer whose grandparents came to Praha in 1882, Flury painted the misty-white clouds with a paint that contained buttermilk. "He brought the dyes and mixed them on the spot, and painted

right onto the wood," says Ben. "The ceiling has 66 types of flowers, vines, and shrubs—but, believe it or not, no Texas bluebonnets!" Even after all these years, Flury's magnificent ceiling art has never needed retouching.

FEASTS AND CONGREGATIONS



IRACULOUSLY, THESE QUIET, rural parishes survive in today's fast-paced world. All four boast loyal congregations, with members traveling from as far away

[ABOVE AND LEFT] When the present St. John the Baptist Church was built in 1919, Ammannville was one of the largest towns in the area. The cemetery here reveals a clue to the community's heritage—Czech and German names abound. As in many European cemeteries, all of the headstones face a center cross. Inside, the high altar's realistic statues and delicate designs draw your eyes upward.

Fayette County's Painted Churches

as Houston to worship in the awe-inspiring surroundings. The churches welcome visitors to annual picnics, feasts, and gatherings, such as Dubina's picnic each July, which attracts some 3,000 people. Ammannsville's church holds its feast the Sunday nearest Father's Day, and High Hill celebrates on Labor Day weekend.

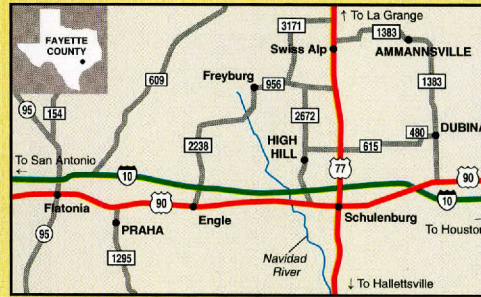
In Praha, two church events draw people from throughout Texas and beyond. *Prazka Pout*, a homecoming feast on a church holy day, celebrates the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, the church's namesake. Every August 15, Texans of Czech ancestry (and some non-Czechs as well—everyone's welcome) gather at St. Mary's for services, followed by a meal of spicy stew and fried chicken, Czech music, and dancing that lasts well into the evening. "We fried 3,000 pounds of chicken last year," says church member Ernest Chaloupka.

Praha's Veterans Day ceremony, held the Sunday before Veterans Day (November 7, 1999), also draws large crowds, not to mention national attention. After speeches and a noon meal, Confederate Air Force planes drop flower petals over the churchyard cemetery to honor the nine young Praha parishioners who died in World War II. In 1965, says Ben Popelka, a Pearl Harbor veteran named

The painted churches in Dubina,

Ammannsville, High Hill, and Praha are within a few minutes' drive of each other on quiet, farm-to-market roads near Schulenburg (see map).

Note: You can drive by the churches, but there is no guarantee you'll be able to enter them unless you're on a guided tour (see below). Schulenburg is about 100 miles east of San Antonio and 90 miles west of Houston, at the intersection of Interstate 10 and US 77.



area. Parishioners welcome visitors who want to attend Mass (call the chamber for a schedule). Because these old churches are very expensive to maintain, donations are greatly appreciated.

Events

Visitors are welcome to attend annual parish picnics, which feature Czech cooking and lots of hospitality. Dates are: Praha, *Prazka Pout*, Aug. 15 annually; Dubina, first Sun. in July; Ammannsville, Father's Day; and High Hill, Sun. on Labor Day weekend. Praha's veterans' memorial occurs in Nov. on the Sun. before Veterans Day (Nov. 7, 1999).

For more information about tours, Mass times, and events, write to the **Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce, Box 65, Schulenburg 78956; 409/743-4514**. For a good online map that also includes historic churches at Swiss Alp, Schulenburg, and Freyburg, visit www.lagrangetx.org, and click on "maps."

Tours

The Schulenburg Chamber of Commerce, at 101-B Kessler Ave. (US 77), can arrange guided tours of the churches. You must provide your own transportation. Because the churches do not have air conditioning, tours may be discontinued in July and Aug.

Remember these historic churches are houses of worship. When inside, speak quietly, and do not enter the altar

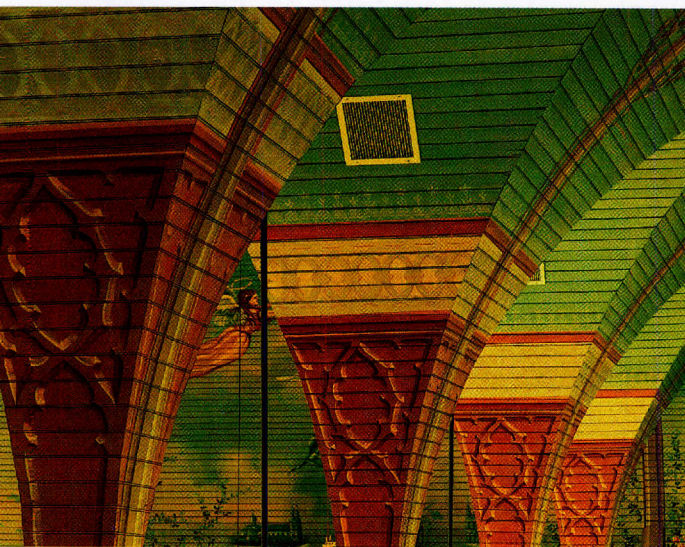
Father Marcus Valenta started the memorial event after finding himself unable to attend a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"It's worth taking the time to see," says Ben. "The flower drop is truly something beautiful."

Committed congregations like Praha's help sustain interest in

the painted churches, as do the many visitors who come here to experience the structures' powerful beauty and to connect with their history. If you traverse the peaceful countryside in search of these historical gems, keep an eye on the horizon. Soon, you'll see a lone steeple rising over green pastures. When you stop, imagine each church surrounded by shops, homes, and schools. Step inside and contemplate how hard work and enduring faith created a little bit of Europe in rural Texas. ★

The rich colors and trompe l'oeil patterns in Praha's Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church date to the 1890s. Artist Godfrey Flury's designs have never needed retouching.



Husband-and-wife team LAURENCE PARENT and PATRICIA CAPERTON PARENT frequently collaborate on topics for *Texas Highways*. Avid campers and backbackers, they like to explore the whole of the United States, as well as the back roads of Texas.

*A southeast Texas
town celebrates
175 years
on the Guadalupe*

Victoria is having a birthday party. One of the oldest communities in Texas, the coastal plains city with the majestic name turns 175 this year. Victorians have been celebrating the milestone all year long, and they invite folks to help them continue at an elaborate, county-wide Heritage Festival on October 16. The fest will commemorate a rich, dramatic past that extends back to the town's founding in 1824 as part of a Mexican colony, and even earlier to Spanish colonial days.

Of course, visitors are welcome anytime to discover Victoria's appealing mix of history, natural attractions, and thriving art scene. And for a bustling city of 60,000 people, this burg nestled on the Guadalupe River delivers an uncommon degree of small-town charm.

Old-timers may properly lament how much of the town's cultural heritage has been lost, but newcomers express delight with how much remains. If it lifts your spirit to behold glorious old buildings, Victoria will indeed be your cup of tea.

"We have more than 2,400 pre-World War II homes and buildings here," says Gary Dunnam, executive director of Victoria Preservation, Inc. (VPI), an organization that stewards the town's historical landscape with zesty expertise. "In 1986, we had 93 structures placed on the National Register of Historic Places at one time. Those are pretty high numbers for a town this size."

VPI makes it easy to view those National Register treasures. Special green-and-white street signs identify the 256 blocks in the "Old Victoria Original Townsite" platted in 1839, after Victoria became the third town to receive a charter from the Republic of Texas. Directional signs, in both the original town site and an adjacent historic addition, guide visitors on a historical driving/walking tour.

The tour begins on *La Calle de los Diez Amigos*, the Street of Ten Friends. Also known as Main Street, the thoroughfare was named for Victoria's founder, Mexican colonizer and rancher Don Martín De León, and nine of his colony's early citizens, who helped the *empresario* govern the settlement.



Victoria, once rumored to have the highest number of millionaires per capita in the state, boasts a wealth of magnificent old homes. Many of them, including the 1851 Phillips-Sale House (above), are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Originally built in Indianola in the 1850s, the Huck-Welder House (top) was reassembled in Victoria after the 1886 hurricane.

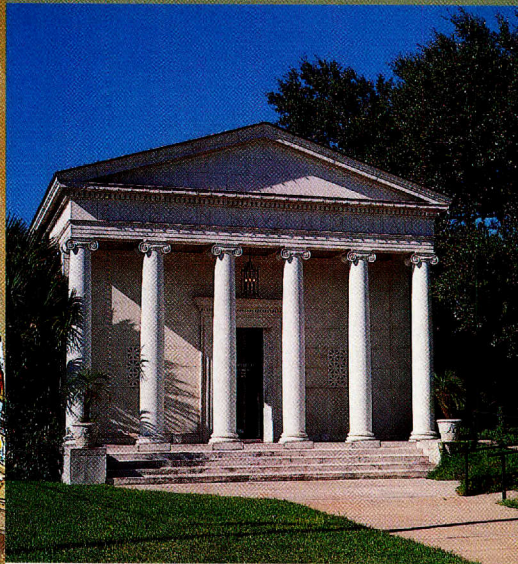
iViva V

By Gene Fowler • Photo

A native of Burgos in Nuevo Santander (now the Mexican state of Tamaulipas), De León decided to settle north of the Rio Grande after visiting La Bahía, San Antonio, and Nacogdoches in 1805. Though he established two ranches on Texas' coastal plains and became one of the earliest trail drivers by driving herds to New Orleans, Spanish authorities denied him permis-



*If it lifts
your spirit to
behold glorious
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Victoria will
be your
cup of tea.*



St. Mary's Catholic Church (left) evolved from Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, the first church in Victoria. The latest structure, built in 1904, still serves parishioners. The Nave Museum (above) showcases changing art exhibitions.

ictoria!

graphs by Michael Amador

sion to start a colony. In 1824, three years after Mexico won its independence, the provincial government at San Antonio approved his request to settle 41 Mexican families on the lower Guadalupe River.

Though a number of Anglos also joined, the De León settlement was the only colony in Texas with a Hispanic majority.

The village that became its social and trading center was named Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Jesús Victoria.

Called Guadalupe Victoria, the community's name was shortened to Victoria after Texas won its independence. But when James Kerr surveyed the town as an expanded version of De León's village, he adhered to the town site plan of an 1827 Mexican colonization statute. Based on the 1573 Spanish Colonial *Laws of the Indies*, the plan called for a main plaza in the center of town, augmented by a market square and surrounded by an orderly grid of streets. Victoria's main plaza, first known as Constitution Square and later as Public Square, was renamed De León Plaza in 1941. It still occupies the center of the 256 blocks surveyed by Kerr in the late

In 1986, Victoria had 93 structures placed on the National Register of Historic Places at one time—an impressive number for a town of 60,000 people.

1830s. A 1985 study by a California architecture and urban conservation firm concluded that “Victoria’s town plan is an important surviving example of the Spanish legacy in America’s urban settlements.”

At today’s De León Plaza—the first stop on the VPI tour—stately pecan trees shade inviting benches. On occasion, musicians fill the 19th-Century bandstand. A statue of a Confederate soldier, sculpted by Pompeo Cop-

pini in 1912, stands watch here, while the six flags of Texas wave in the breeze. The French standard flaps in the vanguard.

“We place the French flag before the Spanish because of Fort St. Louis, which was established in present Victoria County by La Salle in 1685,” explains Henry Wolff Jr., a longtime *Victoria Advocate* columnist. The short-lived fort, from which the Texas Historical Commission recently recovered eight cannons, was the first European settlement in Texas, if you don’t count Ysleta near El Paso. (Founded by the Spanish in 1681, Ysleta lay south of the Rio Grande until the river shifted course in 1829.)

The brief French incursion here prompted the Spaniards to found military and spiritual outposts north of the Rio Grande.

In 1721, Spain established Nuestra Señora de Loreto Presidio (Presidio La Bahía) at the ruins of Fort St. Louis. Mission Nuestra Señora del Espíritu Santo de Zúñiga was built across from the presidio on Garcitas Creek the following year. Later, the mission was twice relocated—in 1725, to the Guadalupe River, and in 1726, to near present Mission Valley, just north of Victoria. The presidio was relocated between the two sites in 1726. Both mission and presidio moved to Goliad in 1749.

Continuing south on *La Calle de los Diez Amigos*, the VPI tour stops at Fossati’s, the “oldest delicatessen in Texas.” Italian immigrant Frank N. Fossati opened his saloon and deli in 1882, but the current building, operated by Fossati descendants and filled with historic photos and mementos, is a spry 104. Across the street from the deli lies the old market square, now home to Victoria City Hall. Just south of the square rise the twin steeples of St. Mary’s Catholic Church. The latest incarnation of the church is a 1904 Gothic Revival beauty.

Next door stands the Old Nazareth Academy, of 1906 vintage. The highly regarded Victoria architect Jules Leffland designed the edifice in an intriguing French-Alsatian style. Leffland had emigrated from Denmark in 1886, lured to Texas by a rancher friend. Shortly after his arrival, Leffland helped salvage homes from the hurricane-ravaged port of Indianola and reconstruct them in Victoria and nearby Cuero. He designed public and private structures from Wharton to Kingsville, and many of his Victoria buildings still stand, including the architect’s own 1900 home at 302 E. Convent. Still a private home, it features a two-story, eight-bay, wraparound porch.

Four blocks north of Old Nazareth Academy, on the west side of De León Plaza, the 1892 Victoria County courthouse stands like a great stone castle, surrounded by scaffolding at press time. Dozens of workers clamber about, gently infusing the grand old temple of justice with new life. Designed by J. Riely Gordon in the Romanesque Revival style, the



COURTESY CATHY FOSSATI WEAVER



Fossati’s, the oldest delicatessen in Texas, was already more than a half-century old when the photo on the left was taken (in the 1940s). Frank Napoleon Fossati, the current owner’s great-great-grandfather, opened his saloon and deli in 1882. Now as then, Fossati’s (above) offers delicious food in a lively setting. The restaurant opens for lunch on weekdays.



Once the home of prominent Victoria businessman W.J. McNamara, the McNamara House today operates as a historical museum. The furnishings reflect the lifestyle of a successful, but not extraordinarily affluent, family of the late 19th Century. The museum also features numerous photographs of old Victoria.

civic gem almost suffered the wrecking ball after a new courthouse arose next door in 1967. But hundreds of townspeople signed a 13-foot-long petition and saved the landmark. Once it is fully gussied up, its duties will supplement those of its younger neighbor.

Other private homes on the VPI tour include the 1851 Greek Revival Phillips-Sale House, where Sam Houston attended a ball after making a gubernatorial campaign speech across town in 1857. The 1855 Callender House, a Greek Revival “raised cottage,” merits distinction as possibly the first house in Texas built of commercially milled lumber. (The pine and oak came to Texas all the way from New York.) While you can only see exteriors on most of the driving/walking tour, VPI sponsors a tour of historic homes each April that offers peeks inside some of these old-time domiciles (see When...Where...How, page 18).

Visitors are welcome year round at the 1876 McNamara House. Restored and repainted in its original “natural tone” colors, the house-museum interprets late-19th-Century life with vintage furnishings and artifacts.

A few blocks from the McNamara lies Memorial Square, another Victoria plaza, which served as the town’s first public cemetery. Here, a mid-19th-Century gristmill and a steam locomotive stand among unmarked graves of soldiers from the Texas Revolution and the Civil War.

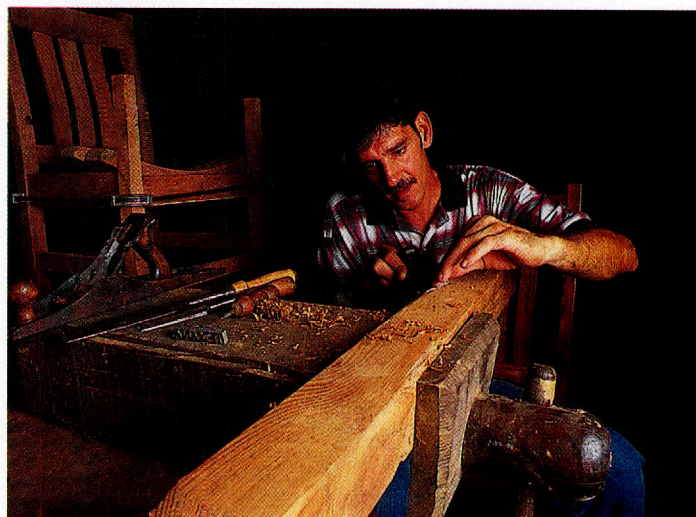
Though the Guadalupe Victoria colony had a Hispanic majority, residents—including members of Martín De León’s large family—supported the Texian revolt against Santa Anna and made many sacrifices for the cause. De León himself died of cholera in 1833 or 1834, and thus was spared the disappoint-

ment of seeing his town occupied by the Mexican troops that marched here after the fall of Goliad in 1836. After Texian forces defeated Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto, newly arrived Anglos saw the Hispanic citizens of Victoria as Mexican loyalists and drove many of them out. The empresario’s widow, Patricia de la Garza De León, and her family went to Louisiana and Mexico. Some family members later returned, and several generations of De León descendants still live in the area.

Today, Victorians take pride in the fact that virtually every major ethnic group in Texas is found in

their city. Charles Spurlin, director of local history at Victoria College and chairman of the Victoria County Historical Commission, says this cultural diversity has made Victoria the progressive town that it is.

*a*nd progressive it is. On the VPI tour, you’ll discover that the fine arts, as well as fine architecture, flourish here. The Nave Museum, another stop on the tour, presents changing exhibitions of contemporary and traditional art. The building, which resembles a



David E. Clifton, owner of the Texana Furniture Company, shapes a piece of salvaged longleaf pine. It will eventually become part of one of his hand-crafted, early-Texas-style pieces. The chair in progress is a mesquite rocker.



One of several attractions in Riverside Park, the Victoria Memorial Rose Garden offers fragrant tributes to beloved relatives and friends and a quiet place to enjoy nature's beauty. The garden, which displays more than 100 varieties of roses, blooms February through November, with peak viewing at Easter time.

Greek temple, was commissioned in the early 1930s by Emily McFaddin McCan Nave to house the work of her late husband, the Impressionist painter Royston Nave. A native of La Grange, Nave won acclaim in the New York art world of the 1910s, then returned to his home state in 1920 and painted in and around Victoria until his death in 1931. The museum's schedule includes an annual exhibition of Nave's portraits and Texas landscapes.

The Victoria Art League's Community Art Center, another stop on the VPI tour, showcases work by member artists in yet another historic structure. "Most Victorians still know the building as the Old Farmer's Co-op," says former Art League president Marie Frankson. Legend holds that businessman C.L. Thurmond modeled the 1898 brick building after a New Orleans bordello. When Victoria sculptor Harold Nichols bought the building in 1975, it had been vacant about 20 years. Harold renovated it and lived there until the Art League moved in. He now lives elsewhere on the property and hosts legendary parties and art events in the courtyard, where a life-size wood sculpture of Harold—carved by Harold—catches the eye. "It's from a huge oak tree that blew over in a storm," he explains. "Local folklore says it was a hanging tree." The artist attached a smaller mesquite carving of his parents on the sculpture's backside and named the piece *Family Tree*.

Perhaps the most curious art project in Victoria (but unfortunately not open to the public) hangs in Henry J. Hauschild's home, the oldest house in town (the A.T. Sengele House, ca. 1844). Henry, whose business card identifies him as a "Physiognomist," "Bibliopolist," and "Cognoscente di Eccellentissimo," curates a "famous, unique, extraordinary 'Nose Gallery'" of paintings, photos, and sculptures of large or unusual nasal

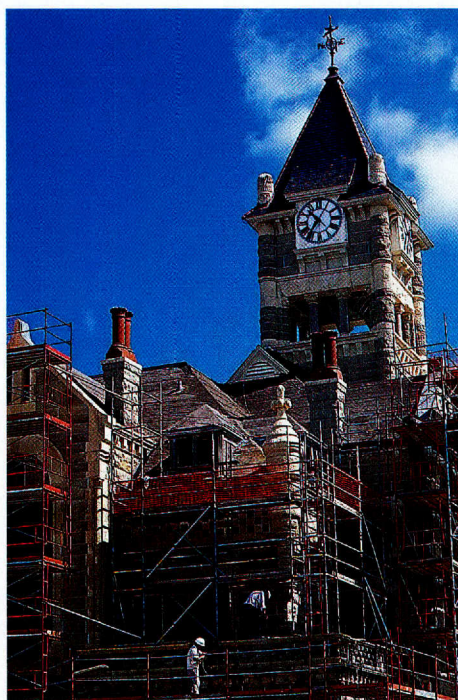
nozzles. He assembled the private collection "from 58 foreign countries." Henry says his study of human nature has led him to conclude that "a long nose and a good head are inseparable."

Next door to the Nose Gallery stands the 1893 Hauschild Opera House, built by Henry's grandfather. Though the theater area of the opera house sits empty today, a photo display in the bookstore that occupies the front end of the building chronicles the opera house's history.

Another historic entertainment parlor here still enchants audiences. Formerly the Electra Theater, this 1910 building now hosts live performances as Theatre Victoria. "We do everything from the classics to musicals and contemporary works," says Victoria Community Theatre executive director Roger H. Thomas. "Next year, we'll begin transforming the long-vacant

Dunlap's Department Store on Main into our new, 475-seat home." The new facility will also host the Victoria Ballet Theatre. The Victoria Symphony, which just celebrated its 25th season, performs in the Victoria College auditorium.

The Victoria Bach Festival will mark its silver anniversary next year. Directed by nationally acclaimed conductor Craig H. Johnson, the festival presents the baroque sounds of Bach



The scaffolding around the 1892 Victoria County courthouse will come down soon, signaling the imminent completion of an extensive restoration.

as well as modern compositions. National Public Radio, which has broadcast some of the performances, calls the festival "a Texas treasure."

Another art event that brings national attention to Victoria, *The Fabric of Our Cultures*, takes place each year on the second weekend in September. The juried show spotlights quilting, wearable art, weaving, knitting, needlepoint, hooked rugs, and fine hand-stitch-

Victoria's Evergreen Spirits

ery, among other things. Last year, entries came from 20 states and 127 Texas towns.

Artwork with a functional dimension also characterizes David E. Clifton's Texana Furniture Company. David, who turns out about 150 hand-made pieces a year, uses salvaged vintage hardwoods, such as cypress and longleaf pine, to create furniture in early-Texas style. Some of the company's cypress benches recently went to the Alamo. Most of the wood comes from folks dismantling old buildings. "Even though it's hard to lose historic structures," says David, "we feel like we're keeping the history alive by recycling the wood into early-Texas-style furniture."



Carved by artist Tom Jones, the sign designating *La Calle de los Diez Amigos* (also known as Main Street) reflects Victoria's beginnings in 1824.

As much as Victorians appreciate the works of man, they honor nature's creations, too. Riverside Park, a 560-acre greenbelt, runs alongside several miles of the Guadalupe River. Within the park, the Victoria Memorial Rose Garden offers some 100 varieties of roses on more than a thousand bushes. In the 1880s, the many gardens in town earned Victoria the nickname "City of Roses."

A short distance down Vine Street, still more roses bloom at the Victoria Botanical Garden. On the grounds, the 1870 Hiller House has been restored as an education and information center. Besides the roses, the 10-acre site includes herb gardens, a composting exhibit, beehives, a "native-scaping" area, and gardens designed to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

Even wilder wildlife thrives at The Texas Zoo in Riverside Park. "The state legislature named us the National Zoo of Texas in 1984," says education curator Debra Chronister, "because we exhibit more than 60 species of animals native to the state."

Many early Victorians chose Evergreen Cemetery (at the intersection of Vine and Red River Streets) as their final place of rest. Let's stroll among those chiseled stones and listen to a couple of their stories....

The Poet

Born in Victoria, **Victor Marion Rose** (1842-1893) left town for Laredo in the early 1880s, with rumors of a scandalous love affair blazing at his heels. But his troubles began much earlier.

Wounded, imprisoned, and nearly starved to death during the Civil War, Rose had returned home to Victoria and a different way of life, with Reconstruction forces occupying the town. In 1867, his young wife died in a yellow fever epidemic, and Rose himself barely survived the malady. That same year, Reconstruction forces confiscated the family plantation, Forest Grove. Still, Rose rallied to become co-editor of the *Victoria Advocate* from 1869 to 1873.

After his move to Laredo, Rose edited the *Laredo Times* and published several books of poetry: *Los Despenadores, A Spanish Story; Demara, the Comanche Queen & Other Rhymes; and Celeste Valcoeur: A Legend of Dixie*. Along with Elizabeth McAnulty Owens, whose memoir of Texas' revolutionary and republic eras was published posthumously in 1936, and John J. Linn (see *When...Where...How*), Rose became one of the first of Victoria's historians. His 1883 book, *Some Historical Facts in Regard to the Settlement of Victoria, Texas*, was placed in the cornerstone of the Victoria County courthouse in 1892.

Lone Star Ma

On the stump for governor in 1857, Sam Houston told Victorians that the "Mother of Texas" lived among them. While the town had been occupied by the Mexican Army during the revolution, **Margaret Wright** (1789-1878) hid, nursed, fed, and even stole a gun for Texans wounded at the Battle of Goliad.

Margaret had already been widowed twice when she came to Texas from New Orleans in the 1820s. She settled as a colonist in Mission Valley, about 10 miles north of Victoria. In an era when women's legal rights were limited, she fended off attempts by a mostly-absent third husband to seize her land grant (the husband was hiding out in the Rio Grande Valley from Mississippi debt collectors). Margaret raised cattle under her CT brand, which she registered in 1838.

After Peter Hays, her son from an earlier marriage, was killed on the border, Margaret filed for divorce. Alleging murder (her husband had killed her son, she said), cruelty, and title fraud, she took her case to the Texas Supreme Court. Some historians believe that the legal split granted Margaret Wright may have been the first divorce in Texas.

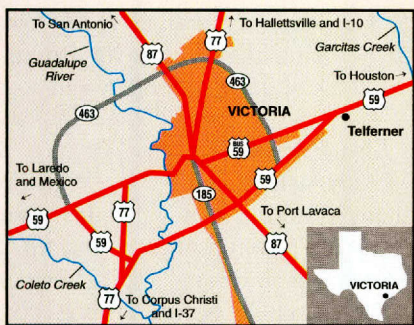
—Gene Fowler

Visitors can see all sorts of Texas critters here: badgers, bobcats, rare red wolves, bald eagles, white-nosed coatis, rattlesnakes, and roseate spoonbills. When last October's record flood inundated the zoo, about 90 animals, mostly snakes, were lost, but heroic efforts by the small staff and volunteers saved many. Closed briefly for repairs, the zoo reopened in the spring.

The Texas Zoo sponsors the South Texas Beautiful Burro Pageant, which heehaws forth on the second Saturday of

Victoria

Victoria is at the juncture of US 87, 77, and 59, about 115 miles southeast of San Antonio. For a free visitor's guide, write to the Victoria Convention & Visitors Bureau, Box 2465, Victoria 77902; 361/573-5277 or 800/926-5774. Web site: www.visitvictoria.org. **Victoria's area code is 361.** All sites wheelchair accessible unless otherwise noted.



© KELLEYGRAPHICS

Victoria Preservation, Inc., at 607 N. Bridge St., offers a brochure (\$1) detailing a walking/driving historic tour of the city. VPI also arranges guided tours of other historic residences for groups of 10 or more. Cost: \$15 per person. Write to Box 1486, Victoria 77902; 573-1878. Web site: www.viptx.net/vpi.

Heritage Festival

To celebrate the city's 175th birthday, the Victoria County Historical Commission will host the first **Victoria County Heritage Festival** on Oct. 16 at the Victoria Community Center at 2905 E. North St. To reach the Community Center from down-

town, go north on Bus. US 59, turn right on Ben Wilson St., and drive about a mile to North St. The Community Center is on the right. Hours: 11-8 (opening ceremonies at 10:30). Admission: \$3, \$1 ages 5-11, free age 4 and younger.

A tour of Victoria's historic Evergreen Cemetery (at the corner of Vine and Red River streets) concludes the event. Admission: \$5 (tickets and directions available at the Victoria C&VB and at the festival). The tour is not wheelchair accessible. For details, write to festival coordinator Patsy Hand, 417 Cottonwood, Victoria 77904. 573-5277 or 800/926-5774.

Other Events

Remaining events celebrating

Victoria's 175th birthday include an **Old-Fashioned Beard-Growing Contest** (registration Oct. 1-8), the **annual Holiday Lights at Night Parade** (Dec. 3), and the **Beard Ball** (Dec. 10). A **175th-anniversary cookbook** with recipes from area cooks will be released in mid-Nov. A New Year's Eve celebration at De León Plaza will include the **burial of a time capsule**. Call 572-2767 or 578-8867 for details.

The 15th annual **Victoria Czech Heritage Festival** will take place on Oct. 17 at the Victoria Community Center. Hours: 10:30-7:30. Admission: \$5, free age 14 and younger. Call 575-0820.

The **Reunion of the Wings**, a gathering of U.S. Air Force personnel who were stationed at Foster Field, Aloe Field, and the Matagorda Island Bombing and Gunnery Range (all closed now) in the 1940s and 1950s, will be held Oct. 22-24. A barbecue dinner, a "USO-tour" show, and a Big Band dance will be open to the public. **Air Show '99** will also be held on Oct. 24. Call Victoria CVB for details.

VPI's annual **Tour of Historic Structures** takes place each April

(April 15-16, 2000). Cost: \$12 per person (\$10 if purchased in advance). Wheelchair accessibility varies. Contact VPI for details.

The **Victoria Bach Festival** will celebrate its 25th anniversary Jul. 31-Aug. 5, 2000. For details, write to Box 3522, Victoria 77903; 572-2787.

The Cultural Council of Victoria presents **The Fabric of Our Cultures**, a juried art show, the second weekend of each Sep. (Sep. 8-10, 2000) at the Victoria Community Center. Hours: Fri-Sat 10-6, Sun noon-5. Admission: \$4. Write to the Cultural Council of Victoria, Box 1758, Victoria 77902; 572-2787. Web site: www.ccvtx.org.

For information on performances of the **Victoria Community Theatre**, write to Box 1365, Victoria 77902; 576-6277 or 800/677-5696.

For information on **Victoria Ballet Theatre** performances, write to 2508 E. Mockingbird, Victoria 77904; 575-2313.

For information on **Victoria Symphony** performances, write to 2112 N. Navarro, 77901; 576-4500. Web site: www.icsi.net/~symphony.

September. Initiated in 1983 by Henry Wolff Jr. (founder of the Better Burro Bureau), the pageant usually sports about 20 entrants. "We have categories like most obstinate, most congenial, and best-dressed burro," says Henry. "Winners receive trophies and 100 pounds of feed."

Horses, bulls, and calves grab the spotlight at rodeos held each January and February. March brings an annual parade, the kickoff event for the Victoria County Livestock Show, both sponsored by the Victoria Jaycees. Henry describes the show as "one of the state's largest county livestock shows." That's only fitting for a region many regard as the "Cradle of the Cattle Industry." In fact, Martín De León brought his brand with him when he came to Victoria, an E and J connected, which signified "Espíritu de Jesús." And the De León legacy has been continued by such ranching families as the McFaddins, O'Connors, Keerans, Koontzes, and Welders.

The Victoria area, writes historian Robert W. Shook, "justly claims some of the earliest herds, brands, and breeders, as well as the birthplace of the first managed herds to go up the trail



Visitors to The Texas Zoo can see more than 60 species native to the state. The menagerie includes everything from bald eagles to bobcats.

following the Civil War." Henry Wolff Jr. points out that the large herds of "the first great cattle ranch in Texas" were maintained even earlier by Mission Espíritu Santo—when it was on the Guadalupe River, between 1725 and 1749—and he adds that the coastal plains cattle culture spurred the evolution of that storied breed, the Texas Longhorn.

Victoria boasts a host of other annual events and activities. For a complete listing, contact Victoria CVB.

Attractions

The **McNamara House** is at 502 N. Liberty (77901). Hours: Tue-Sun 1-5. Admission: \$2, \$1 age 12 and younger, free to members of Victoria Regional Museum Assn. Wheelchair accessible, but call ahead for details. Call 575-8227.

The **Nave Museum** is at 306 W. Commercial. Hours: Tue-Sun 1-5. Admission: \$2, \$1 age 12 and younger. Write to the Victoria Regional Museum Assn., 502 N. Liberty, Victoria 77901; 575-8227.

The Victoria Art League's **Community Art Center**, in the Old Farmer's Co-op, is at 905 S. Bridge. Hours: Tue-Wed and Fri-Sat 10-2:30, Thu 12:30-5. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible, but call ahead for details. Write to Box 5011, Victoria 77903; 572-0825.

The **Texana Furniture Company** is at 103 W. Santa Rosa (77901). Hours: Usually Mon-Fri

8-5. (The owner, David Clifton, welcomes visitors but suggests they call ahead; 578-1623).

The **Victoria Memorial Rose Garden** is at 476 McCright Dr. in Riverside Park. Hours: Daily 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Admission: Free. For information about the garden or designating a memorial, write to the Victoria Parks and Recreation Dept., Box 1758, Victoria 77902-1758; 572-2767.

The **Victoria Botanical Garden** is at 3003 N. Vine (77901). Hours: Daily 6 a.m.-11 p.m. Tours by appt. Admission: Free. Call 572-2767.

The **Texas Zoo** is in Riverside Park at 110 Memorial Dr. (77901). Hours: Daily 9-5. Admission: \$2.50, \$2 age 65 and older, \$1.50 ages 3-12, free age 2 and younger. Call 573-7681. Web site: www.viptx.net/texaszoo.

Lodging

Victoria has many modern motels. Historic accommodations include the following:

Friendly Oaks, a B&B at 210 E. Juan Linn St. Call 575-0000. Web site: www.bbhost.com:8008/friendlyoaks.

Forrest Place Suites, 507 West Forrest. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 578-4260 or 888/578-4260. Web site: www.forrestplace.com.

The Inn on Main, 315 N. Main. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 580-2794.

Restaurants

Fossati's, "the oldest delicatessen in Texas," is at 302 S. Main (77901). Hours: Mon-Fri 11-2:30 (open on weekends only for private parties). Call 576-3354.

Other Victoria restaurants include **Siesta** (Mexican, 578-9927), **Maggie's Meat Market and Restaurant** (American, seafood, and steaks, 573-0428), **Treviño's El Toro** (Mexican, 575-8992), **Taquería Victoria** (Mexican and Italian, 572-8226), **The Kettle Inn-Las Cazuelas** (Mexican, seafood, and steaks, 578-3021), **Olde Victoria Restaurant** (Italian, steaks, and seafood, 572-8840), **The Lost Cajun** (573-5751), **Dragon Palace** (Chinese, 573-1342), **PJ's Seafood** (578-7302), and **The Corral** (steaks, seafood, and barbecue, 576-1277).

Resources

Look in your local library or bookstore for the following books: *Reminiscences of Fifty Years in Texas* by John J. Linn (Victoria's first mayor), an 1883 book reprinted in 1986 by State House Press; *The Handbook of Victoria County* (Texas State Historical Assn., 1990); *Our Part of Texas: Faces and Places* by Catherine McHaney and Charles D. Spurlin (D-Books Publishing, Inc., 1996); and *The Great Comanche Raid: Boldest Indian Attack of the Texas Republic* by Donaly Brice (Eakin Press, 1987).

Victoria Advocate columnist Henry Wolff Jr. recently published *Ghosts of Goliad and Other Stories of Presidio La Bahía*. For ordering information about it or his previous books, write to Henry's Journal, Box 1518, Victoria 77902; 575-3689. Email: wolffhaus@txcr.net.

Many of the books listed can be purchased through the Victoria College bookstore. Write to 2200 N. Ben Jordan, Victoria; 573-3291. Also, the Victoria College/University of Houston-Victoria Library contains an excellent selection of Victoria-related materials.

Victoria hosts more than a dozen major annual events, but this year, townsfolk have been even busier than usual, celebrating the city's 175th birthday. The largest event, the first Victoria County Heritage Festival, is set for October 16.

"We expect to have local, state, and international dignitaries on hand," says festival coordinator Patsy Hand. "One of the highlights of the festival will be a four-tier, 12-foot-high birthday cake, complete with 175 electric lights (representing candles). That cake will be wooden," explains Patsy, "but after the close of the opening ceremonies, two descendants of Martín De León will cut a real cake with the founder's sword."

Patsy notes that the lineup also includes music and food all day long from the various ethnic groups representing Victoria's past and present. The Texas Historical Commission, which will have a booth, will present a first-time-ever exhibit of small artifacts (ceramic fragments, nails, musket balls, animal bones, and other items) from Fort St. Louis. (THC will begin

major excavations of the site in January.) Living history re-enactors will demonstrate crafts like spinning and soap-making. Children can practice stilt-walking, throw washers, and play other old-time games. Genealogy buffs can research their family names, and an Author's Corral at the fest will offer book signings by area writers.

At dusk, Henry Wolff Jr. and his wife, Linda, will lead a lantern-lit tour of historic Evergreen Cemetery, where the Heritage Festival will come full circle at the resting place of many of Martín De León's descendants. If the spirit be willing, perhaps the founder of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Jesús Victoria will wish a Happy Birthday to each and every celebrant. Here's to the next 175. ¡Viva Victoria! ★

Austin writer GENE FOWLER attended a literary festival at the Victoria Public Library in the early 1980s and always remembered the city as an intriguing place. He has enjoyed learning more about its history.

A first-time visitor to Victoria this past summer, staff photographer MICHAEL AMADOR was impressed with the city's many historic buildings.

© MARIA ROSA JARAL



Stairwell, Museum of African-American Life and Culture

FINE ARCHITECTURE doesn't draw the notice of many visitors to Dallas' Fair Park. After all, the majority of the 6 million folks who tromp through the 277-acre site each year come to attend major events like the State Fair of Texas and football games in the venerable Cotton Bowl.

Little do these folks know, though, what they're missing as they scoot past Big Tex for a Fletcher's Corny Dog or holler themselves hoarse at the always-intense UT vs. OU football classic: Fine, stately, Art Deco architecture.

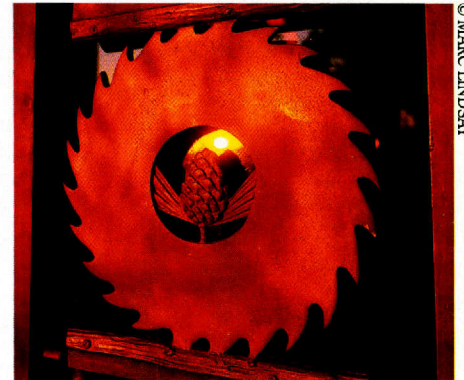
Unbeknownst to these sport and spectacle devotees, Fair Park and its 26 buildings, gardens, and grounds represent the pinnacle of achievement for the Lone Star State as it celebrated, in grandiose fashion, its 100th birthday as a republic in 1936. (See *Speaking of Texas*, September 1998.) The park's

exposition architecture, which doesn't exist anywhere else in the world on this scale, earned the site designation as a National Historic Landmark in 1986.

Against this backdrop, Dallas photographer Carolyn Brown in 1998 decided to turn her photography students loose on the park in a free-form architectural documentary project. The class, offered through Collin County Community College, consisted of 13 students. Some had previous photography experience, others didn't. Most had other jobs, ranging from driving a delivery truck to engineering. The course required each student to make at least eight images with a view camera, since it lends itself to faithful rendition of architecture.

Over the course of last fall and this past spring, the students created images meant to capture the splendor of Fair Park. As they amassed more imagery, interest in an exhibition arose, and the Dallas Historical Society ended up sponsoring one that opened at the Hall of State last spring. It will remain on view until March 12, 2000.

We asked Carolyn to send us samples of her students' work, and it proved so impressive that we decided to dedicate the next few pages of the magazine to showcasing it. Join us for a few moments to meander through the grounds of Fair Park, eyeing the nation's largest collection of Art Deco exposition buildings and art. We hope this small taste will inspire you to visit and experience the park's grandeur in person—soon!



© MARC LINDSAY

Saw-blade detail on outside door, Hall of State

—*Michael A. Murphy*

T H E A R T D E C O F L A I R O F
F A I R P A R K



Portico, Hall of State

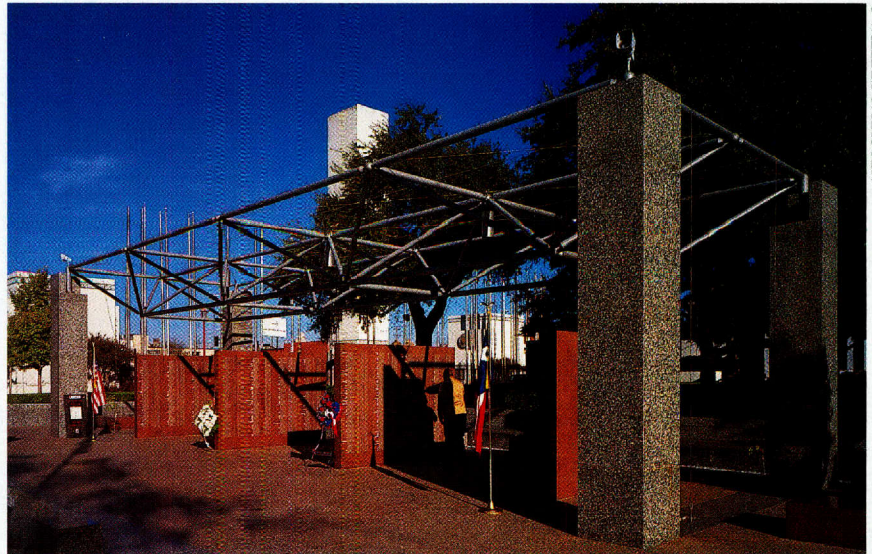


Hall of Heroes, Hall of State

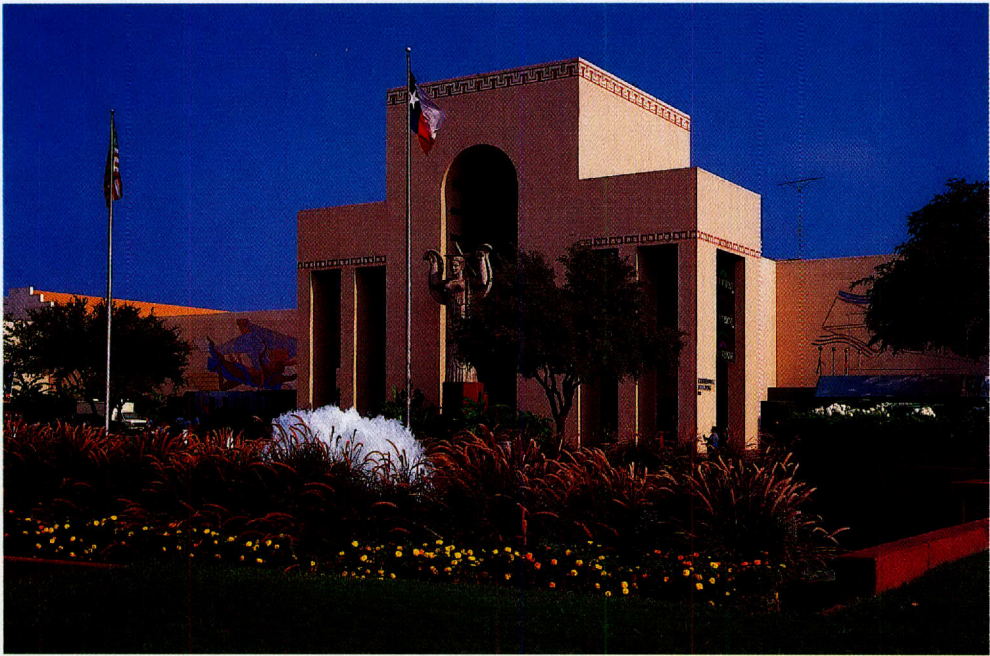
Vietnam Memorial on Veterans Day



Detail of Gulf Clouds fountain



© MARY ELLEN DEGNAN



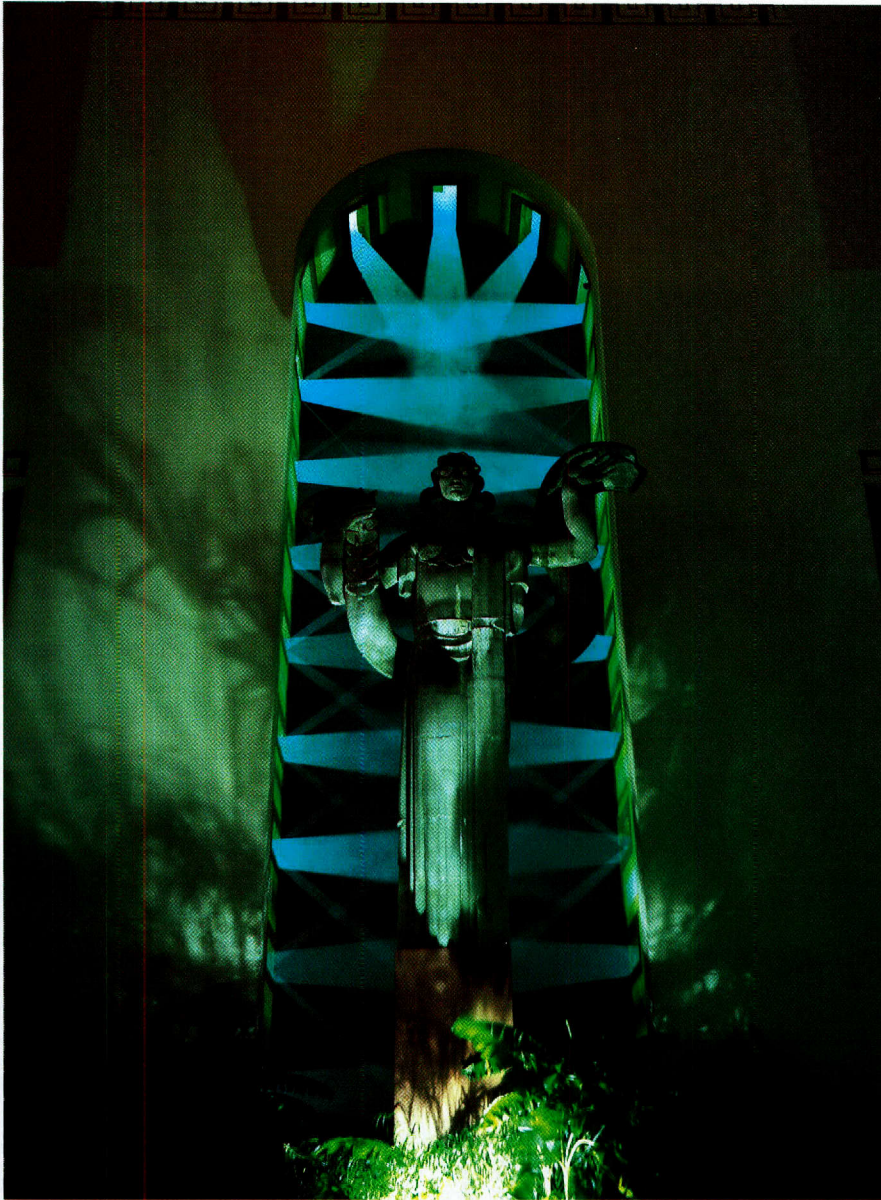
Texas statue at the Centennial Building

Dallas Horticulture Center



© JANICE DUBBERZALITE

© CAY KOLB



United States statue, Automobile Building

Cotton Bowl



© MARC LINDSAY

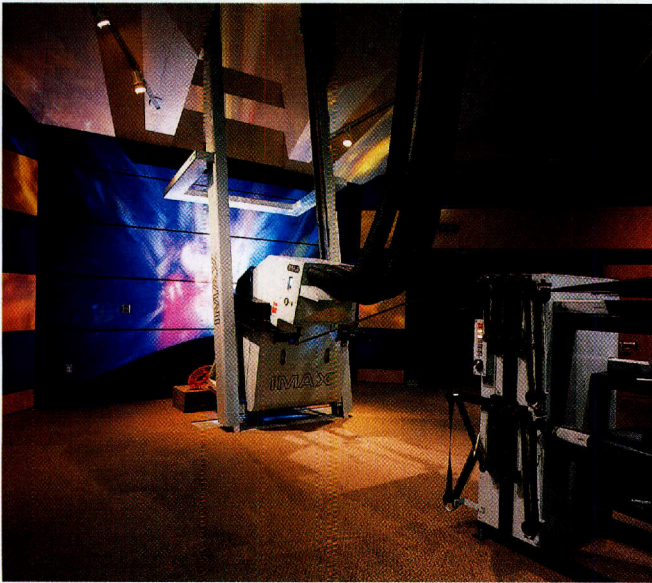
© JUDY NIX



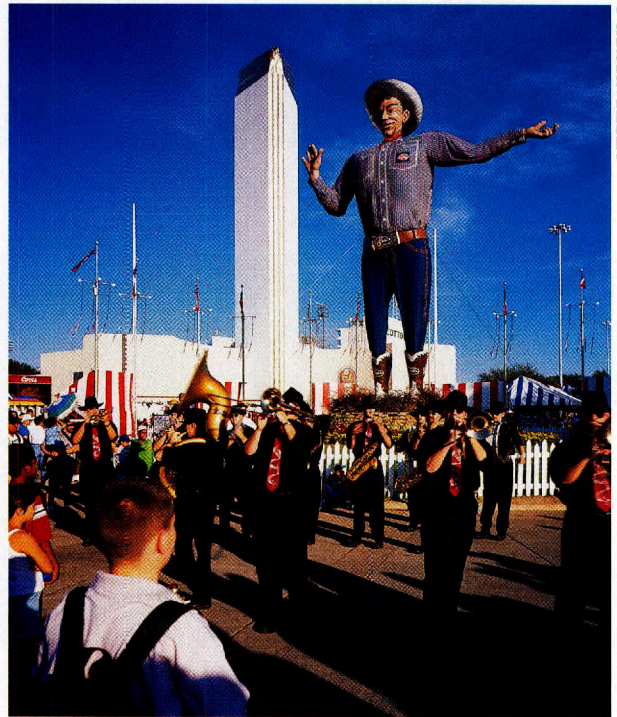
Dallas Aquarium and Texas Star Ferris wheel



Leonhardt Lagoon



IMAX® Projection Equipment, The Science Place



Big Tex, The Tower Building, and State Fair visitors

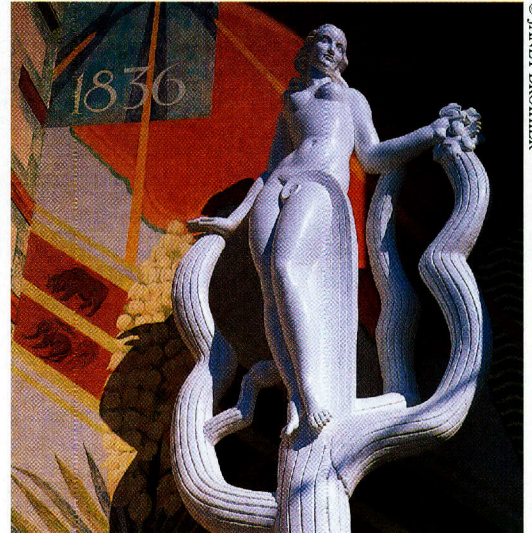


Midway at night during State Fair



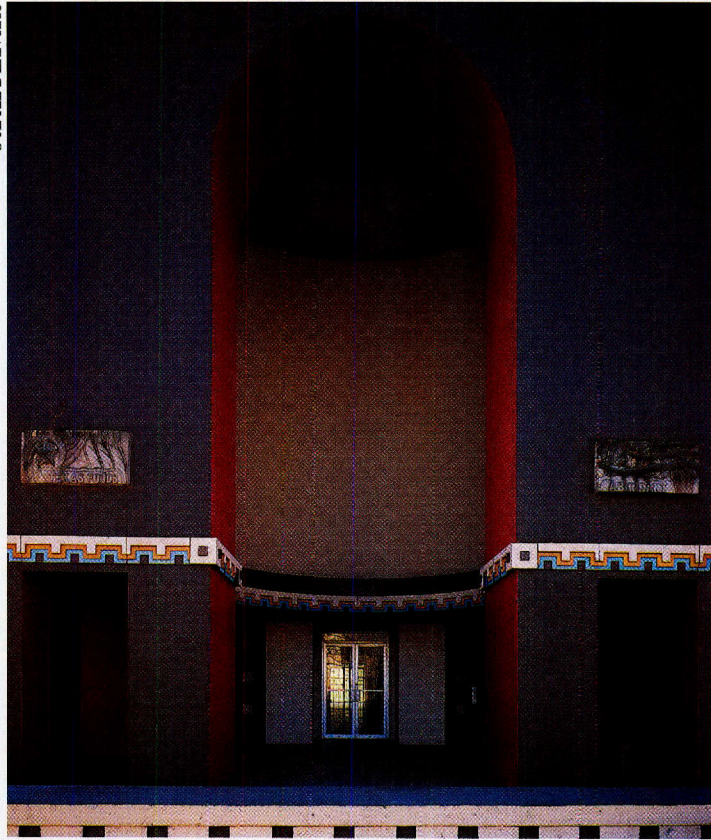
Food and Fiber Building, before 1999 renovation

Spirit of the Centennial statue





© APRIL BYLAN KAO



Entry to Creative Arts Building

Magnolia Lounge



© JANET BROHNER

FAIR PARK is 2 miles east of downtown Dallas near Interstate 30. Use any of the Fair Park exits off I-30, or take the Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. exit from I-45. For more information, write to Fair Park Administration, Box 159090, Dallas 75315, call 214/670-8400, or visit the park's Web site: www.tgimaps.com/DALLAS/fairpark. For information on the State Fair of Texas, call 214/565-9931, or visit the Fair's Web site: www.bigtex.com.



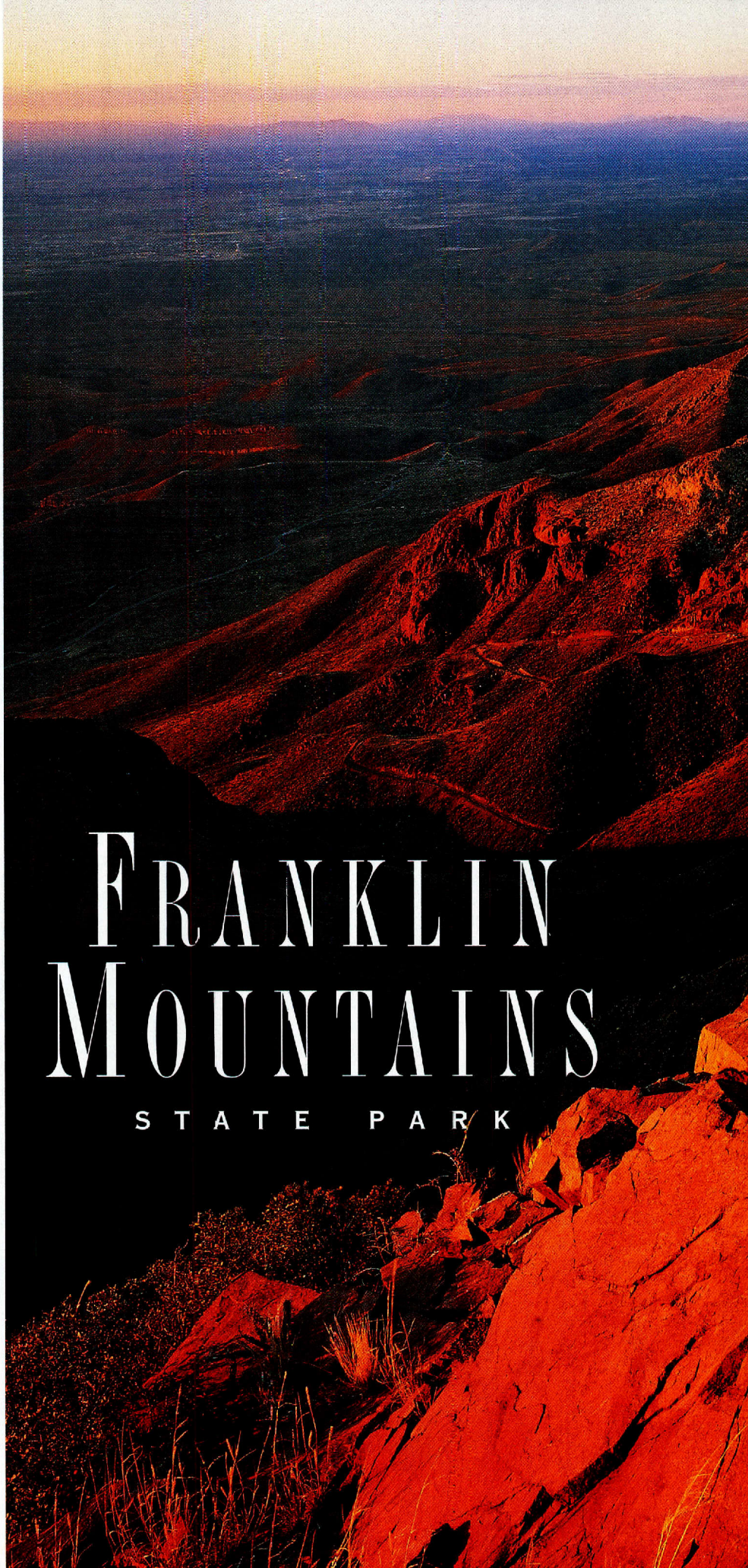
EL PASO'S
P E A K
EXPERIENCE

BY PATRICIA CAPERTON PARENT
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURENCE PARENT

Imagine a vast, protected wilderness where easily accessible trails lead to gurgling springs in quiet canyons and awe-inspiring views from rugged mountaintops. Now picture such a place in the midst of a bustling modern city, within a five-minute drive for many of its residents. Impossible? No, Franklin Mountains State Park, situated in the heart of busy El Paso, fits the bill exactly.

With approximately 24,000 acres, Franklin Mountains State Park is one of the largest parks in the world that lies entirely within a single city's limits. The New Mexico state line forms the park's northern border, and El Paso encircles the remaining three sides. Despite its urban setting, nature-lovers can easily escape city life here. Recent improvements to roads, trails, and picnic spots make this sprawling desert refuge easy to enjoy.

A spectacular vista from El Paso's Franklin Mountains State Park takes in Anthony's Nose, the park's second-highest peak, and the distant Organ Mountains of New Mexico.



FRANKLIN
MOUNTAINS
STATE PARK



TEXAS

H I G H W A Y S

Product Collection

F a l l 1 9 9 9

New Prints



SPRING WILDFLOWERS, DEWITT COUNTY © STEPHAN MYERS

A

TEXAS

NEW!

A SPRING WILDFLOWERS, DEWITT COUNTY

Stephan Myers was on assignment for the April 1996 issue when he photographed this pastoral scene near Lindenau. This is a perfect Texas image for any home.

16" width x 20" height

#32169\$11.95



TEXAS, VIEWS OF THE CADILLAC RANCH AT DUSK © MICHAEL FRYE
Cadillac Ranch. Copyright © Ant Farm (used by permission) © 1976. All Rights Reserved.

A2

TEXAS

Limited quantity—hurry!

NEW!

A2 CADILLAC RANCH AT DUSK

Add a distinctive accent to your decor. Photographer Michael Frye created this innovative shot of a truly-Texas landmark, featured in our March 1999 issue. Thanks to our friends at the Ant Farm, the masterminds behind the Cadillac Ranch sculpture, we have special permission for a limited print run for *Texas Highways* readers. *Once these are gone, there are no plans to reprint.* We recommend ordering now.

20" width x 16" height

#32171.....\$14.95



BLUEBELLS, FAYETTE COUNTY © MICHAEL BUCKNER

A1

TEXAS

NEW!

A1 BLUEBELLS, FAYETTE COUNTY

Seeing this vibrant print's lovely color in a favorite room will cheer you even on the cloudiest day. This spectacular image was our July 1997 center spread, and due to its immense popularity was seen again in the 1998 *Texas Highways* calendar. Now it can be yours as a print.

20" width x 16" height

#32170.....\$11.95



INDIAN PAINTBRUSH, PRIMROSE, AND WHEAT © JOE LOWERY

A3

TEXAS

NEW!

A3 INDIAN PAINTBRUSH, PRIMROSE, AND WHEAT, MILAM COUNTY

This country setting photographed by Joe Lowery served as the opening spread of "Once Upon a Wildflower," our April 1999 wildflower feature. Its dreamy air would be a welcome addition to any home or office.

20" width x 16" height

#32172.....\$11.95



Shop Online @ www.texashighways.com

Seasonal Signature Series

B SUMMER BY LAURENCE PARENT

Laurence Parent captured a picture-perfect moment when he snapped this sunrise at Hunter Peak in Guadalupe Mountains National Park. With this print you share the moment each time your glance meets the wall.

24" width x 20" height

#32154.....\$11.95

B1 FALL BY RICHARD REYNOLDS

Ratcliff Lake in Davy Crockett National Forest mirrors trees in their full Fall regalia. Mother Nature picked the palette, and Richard Reynolds caught it on film. This lovely print will add warmth and color to any decor.

20" width x 24" height

#32152.....\$11.95

B2 SPRING BY RICHARD REYNOLDS

An ocean of bluebonnets meets Lake Buchanan in this gorgeous print by Richard Reynolds. Bring this print home, and spread Spring's fields of blue across your wall to cheer your home and guests.

24" width x 20" height

#32153.....\$11.95

B3 WINTER BY LAURENCE PARENT

Trees gently flocked with snow, a lone rustic cabin in Guadalupe Mountains National Park . . . so captivating, you'll want to enter and warm up with a cup of tea. Winter's serenity is captured magnificently in this print by Laurence Parent.

24" width x 20" height

#32151.....\$11.95

B4 SEASONAL PRINTS, SET OF 4

Can't decide? Buy all four, and save \$10.80.

#32155.....\$37.00



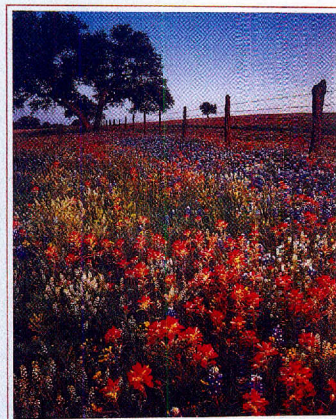
Classic Prints

B6 WILDFLOWERS & BARBED WIRE

Indian paintbrushes mix with bluebonnets along a stretch of barbed wire fence.

20" width x 24" height

#32149.....\$11.95



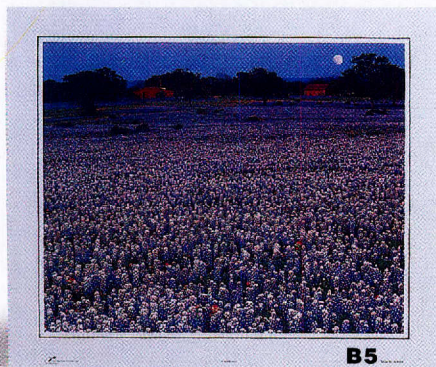
B6

B5 BLUEBONNETS & MOON

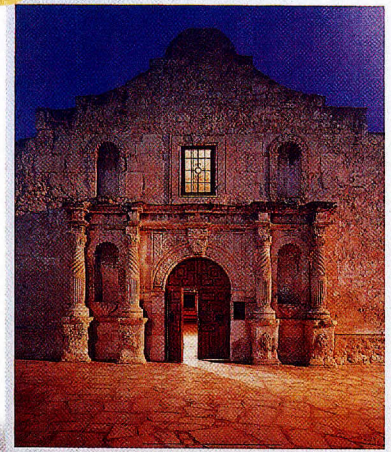
A field of bluebonnets, a pair of quaint country barns, and a full moon rising—it's a perfect Texas evening. This shot, originally featured in the *Texas Highways* 1995 wildflower issue, was so popular we made it available as a print. Enjoy!

24" width x 20" height

#32147.....\$11.95



B5



B7

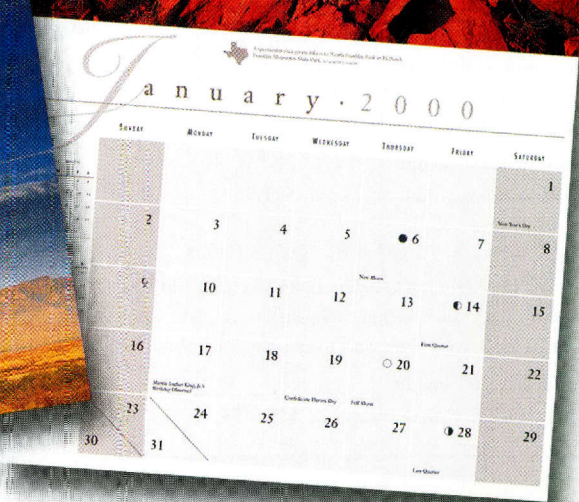
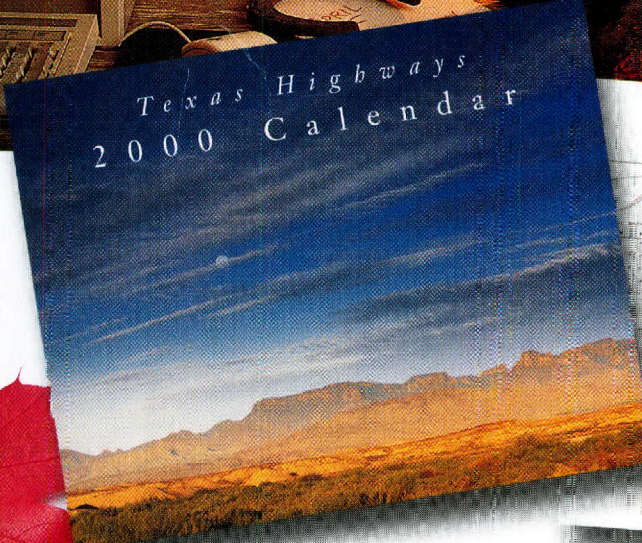
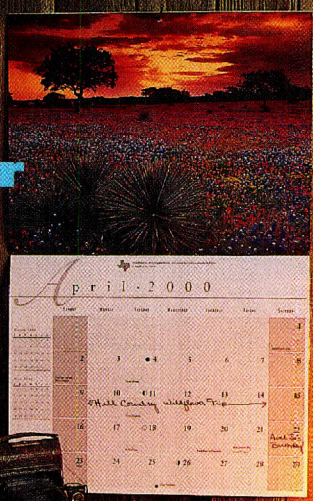
B7 ALAMO AT NIGHT

The Alamo—not just a part of Texas history, but a part of Americana. With this great shot by *Texas Highways*' J. Griffis Smith, you'll feel a new surge of pride for your Texas heritage.

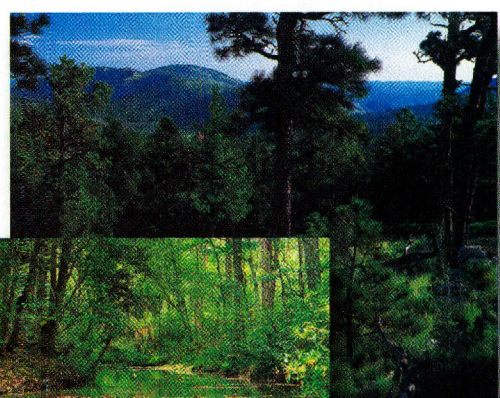
18 1/2" width x 22" height

#32133.....\$10.00

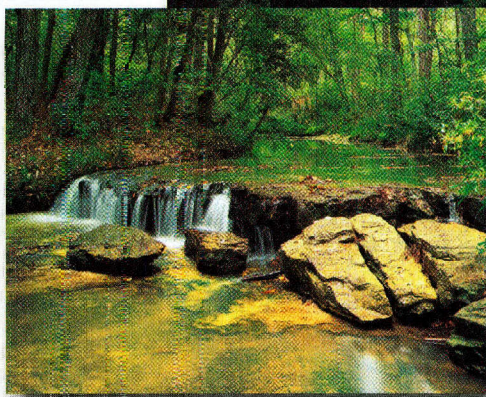
2000 Calendar



August



September



NEW!

**2000 CALENDAR—
LARGER FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM!**

Texas Highways' 2000 calendar immediately gained oohs and aahs from our staff members. We started with a brand new design, and enlarged the calendar, too. Featuring 13 stunning images from 7 of Texas' top photographers, the 2000 calendar will be a welcome gift for anyone who loves the Lone Star State.

13 1/2" width x 10 3/4" height (opens to 13 1/2" x 21 1/2")
#33131.....\$11.95



HOW TO ORDER

BY PHONE

Our staff is ready to assist you with fast, friendly service. Have your credit card ready. Call toll-free from anywhere in the U.S. or U.S. territories: 1-800-839-4997.

Remember, we'll need your credit card number, expiration date, and a daytime phone number.

BY MAIL

Please print your order on the adjacent form, remembering to complete **both** sides of the form.

Important: Please remember, whether ordering for yourself or gifts for others, to always include your own name, address, and daytime phone number. This will help us reach you if we have questions regarding your order.

Please indicate, for each address, the number of subscriptions you wish shipped to each address, then turn the page over and complete the form.

When completing the order form, simply show the number of each product you wish shipped to your address, to the 1st Gift Recipient's address, and to the 2nd Gift Recipient's address. Then, total the quantity and multiply by the price.

For example:

QUANTITY PER ADDRESS					
To Your Address	1st Gift Recipient	2nd Gift Recipient	Total Quantity	Price	Total Cost
	+	+	=	x	=
1		2	1	4	\$11.95 \$47.80

Use the handy shipping & handling chart to determine costs for product-shipping only. (Prices of Subscriptions and Gift Subscriptions already include shipping charges. See bottom of the form above the Grand Total.)

Add the product total, the shipping & handling charges, and your subscription, gift subscriptions, and Texas Gift Packages to get the Grand Total.

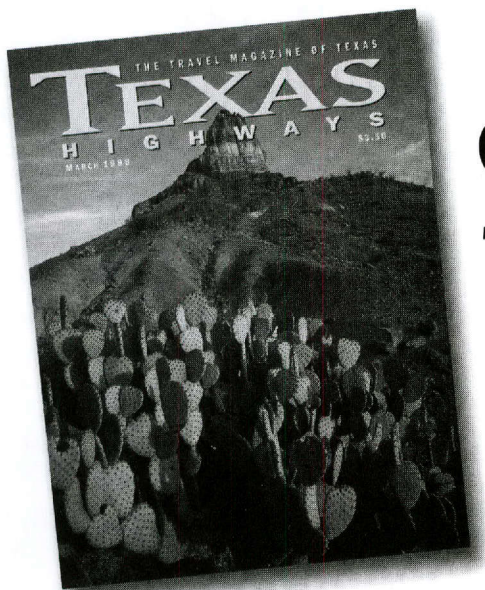
Make your check or money order payable to Texas Highways. If you prefer, you can use your VISA, MasterCard, or Discover card. Simply include your credit card number, signature (to authorize the charge), and the expiration date.

Mail the form to Texas Highways, PO Box 149233, Austin, TX 78714-9233. Tear your order form along the perforated line to use the handy, self-addressed envelope.

For any questions, call 1-800-839-4997.

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Go to www.texashighways.com. Click on Gift Shop to order online.



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☀ Our Texas-friendly staff is ready to assist you.

☀ Have your credit card and order form ready.

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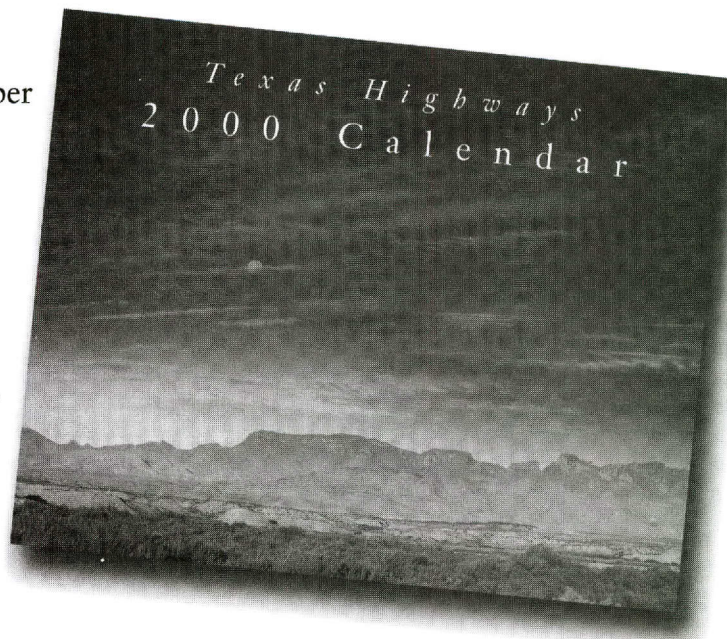
USE THIS HANDY FORM TO ORDER BY MAIL!

☀ Please print your order.

☀ Remember, we need a daytime phone number in case we have any questions.

☀ Include your address, as well as addresses for those you're sending gifts to.

☀ Include your credit card number and signature (don't forget the expiration date). If you prefer, send a check or money order made out to *Texas Highways*.



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TEXAS
HIGHWAYS

Source Code 7K9S

YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS

(Important: Please fill out for ALL orders.)

Name _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please Send: U.S. Subscription International Subscription
 Products (see reverse)

1ST GIFT RECIPIENT

Name _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please Send: U.S. Subscription International Subscription
 Products (see reverse)

2ND GIFT RECIPIENT

Name _____

Daytime Phone Number _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please Send: U.S. Subscription International Subscription
 Products (see reverse)

Method of Payment

Check Money Order
 VISA MasterCard Discover

Credit Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ Signature _____

3. A check or your credit card information (including expiration date).
4. Gift recipients' addresses.
5. Completed order form (both sides).

HAVE YOU INCLUDED:
1. Your complete name, address, and zip code.
2. Your daytime phone number (important if we have a question).

Please continue on other side



Austin, TX 78714-9233
PO Box 149233

TEXAS HIGHWAYS

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 City _____
 Street Address _____
 Name _____

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			To your address + 1st Gift Recipient + 2nd Gift Recipient = Total Quantity x					
PRINTS								
A	Spring Wildflowers, DeWitt County	#32169					\$11.95	
A1	Bluebells, Fayette County	#32170					\$11.95	
A2	Cadillac Ranch at Dusk	#32171					\$14.95	
A3	Indian Paintbrush, Primrose, and Wheat, Milam County	#32172					\$11.95	
Seasonal Signature Series								
B	Summer by Laurence Parent	#32154					\$11.95	
B1	Fall by Richard Reynolds	#32152					\$11.95	
B2	Spring by Richard Reynolds	#32153					\$11.95	
B3	Winter by Laurence Parent	#32151					\$11.95	
B4	Seasonal Prints, Set of 4	#32155					\$37.00	
Classic Prints								
B5	Bluebonnets & Moon	#32147					\$11.95	
B6	Wildflowers & Barbed Wire	#32149					\$11.95	
B7	Alamo at Night	#32133					\$10.00	
TEXAS HIGHWAYS CALENDAR								
C	2000 Calendar	#33131					\$11.95	
NOTE CARDS								
D	Holiday Card	#35122					\$13.75	
D1	Texas Wildflower Postcard Collection	#36110					\$8.95	
D2	Return to the Native—Wildflower Bouquets	#35123					\$9.95	
D3	Return to the Native—Animals	#35124					\$9.95	
D4	Cactus Blooms	#35114					\$9.25	
BOOKS								
E	Texas Sky	#36101					\$29.95	
E1	Texas Littlebooks—Texas Wildflowers	#36112					\$14.95	
E2	Texas Littlebooks—Texas Reflections	#36113					\$14.95	
E3	Texas Littlebooks—Texas Hill Country	#36114					\$14.95	
E4	Texas Highways Cookbook	#36102					\$19.95	
E5	Cooking Texas Style	#36106					\$19.95	
E6	The Nature of Texas	#36108					\$24.95	
E7	Landscapes of Texas	#36107					\$24.95	
E8	Plants for Texas	#36103					\$19.95	
E9	Perennial Gardens for Texas	#36104					\$27.95	
E10	Texas in Bloom	#36109					\$24.95	
E11	Texas Wildflowers	#36105					\$14.95	
E12	T is for Texas	#36111					\$12.95	
F	Slip-Case (Color: Hunter Green)	#34105					\$8.95	

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Add a separate shipping charge for each address shipped to.

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For special U.S. delivery, add \$10.00 to shipping & handling charges listed.
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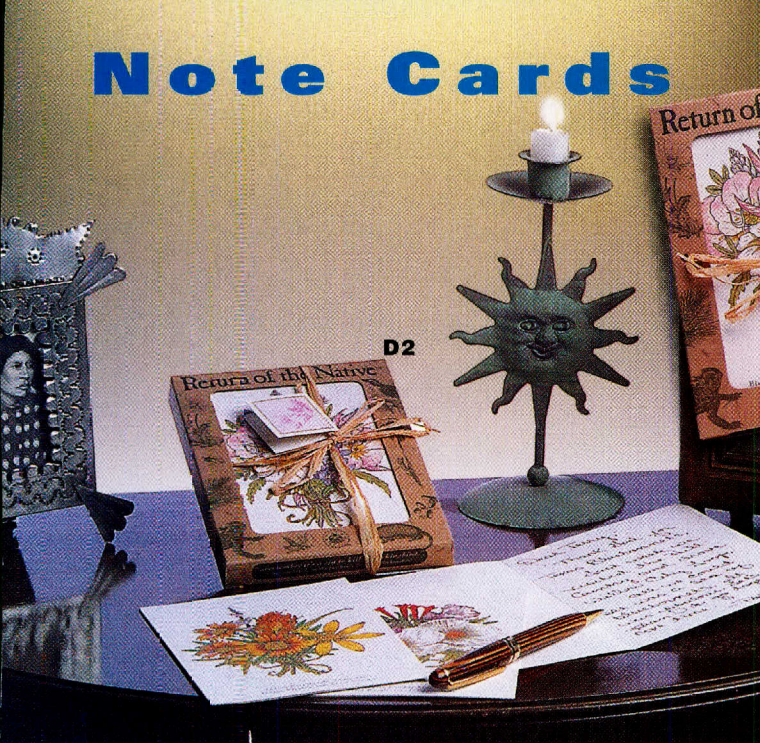
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Shipping and Handling (for products only—see chart at left)	
1st U.S. Subscription @ \$17.50	
Additional U.S. Subscriptions @ \$15.50 each	
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GRAND TOTAL	

Please include name and address on reverse side.

Regular U.S. Delivery: Allow 4 weeks • Special U.S. Delivery: 3 - 10 working days • Regular & special international delivery time varies
Subscriptions will be received within 6 - 8 weeks of order.

Source Code 7K9S

Note Cards



NEW!

RETURN TO THE NATIVE CARDS

*A Texas Highways Direct Mail Exclusive!
Can't be mail-ordered from other companies!*

Return to the Native cards feature beautiful illustrations that celebrate the wildflowers and animals of Texas. The back of each card describes the species pictured. Created and printed deep in the heart of Texas, the cards are environmentally friendly, too—printed on 100% recycled stock (80% post-consumer).

A percentage of Return to the Native profits are donated to plant and wildlife organizations.

4 1/2" x 6", 12 cards, 12 envelopes

D2 Return to the Native—Wildflower Bouquets

3 each of the following bouquets: (1) Blackfoot Daisy, Pink Evening Primrose, Texas Thistle, and Texas Bluebonnet, (2) Indian Paintbrush, Zexmenia, Indian Blanket, and Texas Vervain, and (3) White Prickly Poppy, Wild Foxglove, and Trompetilla.

#35123.....\$9.95

D3 Return to the Native—Animals

4 each of Mockingbird, Texas Horned Lizard, and Nine-banded Armadillo

#35124.....\$9.95



D4 CACTUS BLOOMS

Brilliant cactus flowers adorn this set of note cards.

6 1/4" x 4 1/2", 12 cards, 12 envelopes

#35114.....\$9.25



*Not available
in stores!*

NEW!

D TEXAS HIGHWAYS HOLIDAY CARD

This uniquely Texan holiday card of ornamental lights in the Guadalupe Mountains was created exclusively for *Texas Highways* by photographer Laurence Parent. A departure from most Texana seasonal cards, which are illustrated with artwork, this card appeals with the natural beauty of its subject—Texas.

5" x 7", 20 cards, 21 envelopes

#35122.....\$13.75



D1

NEW!

D1 TEXAS WILDFLOWER POSTCARD COLLECTION

This handy booklet of 30 full-color, ready-to-mail postcards of Texas wildflowers includes images of Texas bluebonnets, Indian blankets, morning glories, and pink evening primroses. When you want to send a quick note, just tear along the perforation. The flowers' popular and scientific names are listed on the back of each card.

5" x 7", 30 full-color postcards

#36110.....\$8.95



D4

Call 1 800 839 4997 to order



E TEXAS SKY

By Wyman Meinzer
Introduction by John Graves

Texas Highways' May 1995 story "Big Skies" showcased Wyman Meinzer's brilliant photos of the sprawling West Texas heavens. In 1998, the University of Texas Press expanded on the topic in this beautiful book. Many images from the *Texas Highways* story are included, interspersed with quotes from Texas skywatchers past and present. This is a must-have for anyone who has enjoyed Meinzer's work in *Texas Highways* and wants to see more.

1998, 10" x 11", 132 pp., 85 full-color photos, matte finish, heavy stock, hardcover

Texas Sky
#36101.....\$29.95

TEXAS LITTLEBOOKS

Photos by Richard Reynolds, with inspirational quotes by various authors.

Tuck one into a Christmas stocking, or stash one away for yourself. *Texas Littlebooks* may be small, but they more than make up for their size in the breadth of their content. Seeing these awe-inspiring photos and messages, you'll fall in love with Texas over and over again.

1996, 7" x 7", 64 pp., 33 full-color photos, heavy glossy stock, hardcover

- E1** Texas Wildflowers
#36112.....\$14.95
- E2** Texas Reflections
#36113.....\$14.95
- E3** Texas Hill Country
#36114.....\$14.95



E4 TEXAS HIGHWAYS COOKBOOK

By Joanne Smith. Foreword by Frank Lively.

"The oversize format, lovely color landscape photographs, and Smith's . . . intelligent text are consistent with the cookbook's estimable fare."

—Publishers Weekly

More than 275 recipes and 75 full-color photographs from the pages of *Texas Highways* capture some of the best of Texas cooking.

1986, 8 1/2" x 11", 128 pp., 75 full-color photos, paperback
#36102.....\$19.95



E5 COOKING TEXAS STYLE—TENTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

By Candy Wagner and Sandra Marquez

"By far the best . . . authentic book about regional cooking in Texas that I have seen." —M.F.K. Fisher

Here are more than 300 tasty recipes, including guacamole, chili, chicken-fried steak, barbecue, and cornbread hot with jalapeños. More than 60 recipes are new to this 10th anniversary edition. Many novel, exciting ways to prepare old favorites.

1993, 6 1/4" x 9 1/4", 272 pp., 28 line drawings, hardcover
#36106.....\$19.95

E6 THE NATURE OF TEXAS—A FEAST OF NATIVE BEAUTY FROM TEXAS HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE

Edited by Howard Peacock. Foreword by Frank Lively.

Filled with gorgeous photos and essays taken mostly from *Texas Highways*, this book is for anyone who has a special feeling for Texas. Crafted by some of the finest nature writers and photographers to be found, some two dozen vignettes invite readers to get up and go, to seek out and experience for themselves the state's most memorable sights and remarkable sounds.

1990, 8 1/2" x 11", 144 pp., 81 full-color photos, hardcover
#36108.....\$24.95

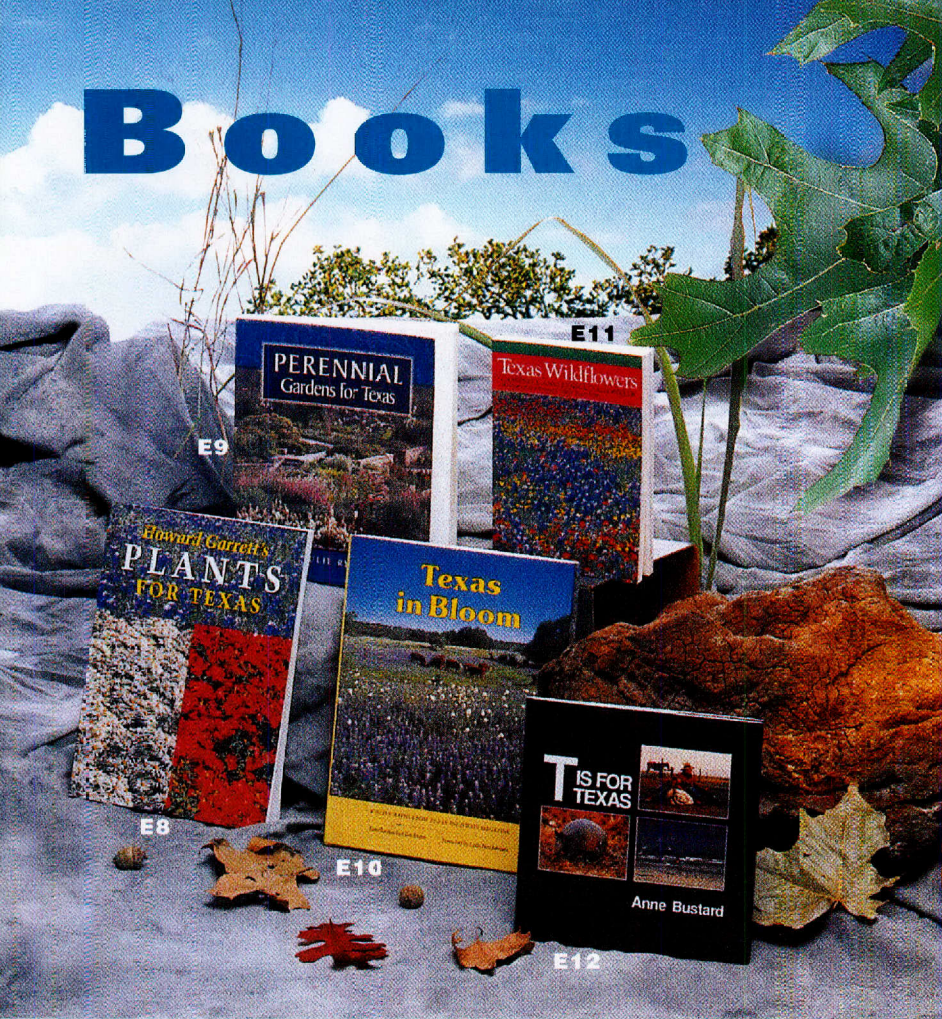
E7 LANDSCAPES OF TEXAS

Introduction by John Graves

Here, in 202 magnificently reproduced full-color photographs from *Texas Highways*, the astonishing diversity and beauty of Texas landscapes are splendidly and dramatically displayed.

1980, 8 3/4" x 11 1/4", 158 pp., 202 full-color photos, hardcover
#36107.....\$24.95

Books



E8 PLANTS FOR TEXAS

By *John Howard Garrett*

"Provides a well-organized, beautifully photographed reference for both longtime and neophyte horticulturists . . . Some 500 trees, shrubs, flowers, vines, grasses, vegetables, fruits, weeds, and ground-cover plants receive the spotlight—you'll learn Latin and common names; sun and shade requirements; details about propagation and recommended uses; what to expect in various stages of each plant's growth; and whether it will do well in your neck of the woods."

—Texas Highways, February 1997

1996, 8 1/2" x 11", 182 pp., 505 full-color photos, paperback
#36103.....\$19.95

E9 PERENNIAL GARDENS FOR TEXAS

By *Juhe Ryan*

When this beautiful book was featured in our April 1999 "For the Road" column, it so captivated editor Lori Moffatt that she was inspired to spend more time enjoying her own garden. It is likely to do the same for you. Descriptions and images of 300 perennials are interspersed with lists of companion annuals, as well as reference charts on each plant's preferred regions and cultivation requirements. The book gives specific instructions on garden design, plant selection, soil preparation, and sensible pest control, and concludes with substantial lists of resources, including mail-order suppliers of perennials, bulbs, and old roses.

1998, 8 1/4" x 9 1/2", 400 pp., 257 full-color photos, 5 maps, 16 tables, paperback
#36104.....\$27.95

**E10 TEXAS IN BLOOM—
PHOTOGRAPHS FROM TEXAS
HIGHWAYS MAGAZINE**

Introduction by *Glen Evans*
Foreword by *Lady Bird Johnson*

A classic *Texas Highways* publication, the book reveals the dramatic beauty of the state's wildflowers. Featuring photos by Jack Lewis, Jim Bones, Bob Parvin, David Muench, Randy Green, and many other *Texas Highways* photographers who set the magazine's standard of photographic excellence.

1984, 8 3/4" x 11 1/4", 145 pp., 150 full-color photos, hardcover
#36109.....\$24.95

E11 TEXAS WILDFLOWERS

By *Campbell and Lynn Loughmiller*
Foreword by *Lady Bird Johnson*

If you've ever wondered just exactly what flower you have "discovered," this book is for you. This field guide describes more than 300 Texas wildflowers, each photographed in full color and described in detail. This is a great primer for anyone wanting to learn more, and an essential for veteran wildflower enthusiasts. *The University of Texas Press* donates a portion of each sale to the *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center* to help keep Texas in bloom.

1984, 6 1/4" x 8 1/2", 287 pp., 381 full-color photos, paperback
#36105.....\$14.95

E12 T IS FOR TEXAS

By *Anne Bustard*

Introduce children to the alphabet and some of the sights and symbols of the Lone Star State in this delightful book by Austinite Anne Bustard. "A is for Armadillo" begins the book, and it concludes with "Z is for zillions and zillions of bluebonnets, matching the Texas sky." Beautiful photos from the Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Parks and Wildlife, NASA, George Miller, and Jay Godwin make this book as visually stimulating as it is educational. Appropriate for ages 3 and older.

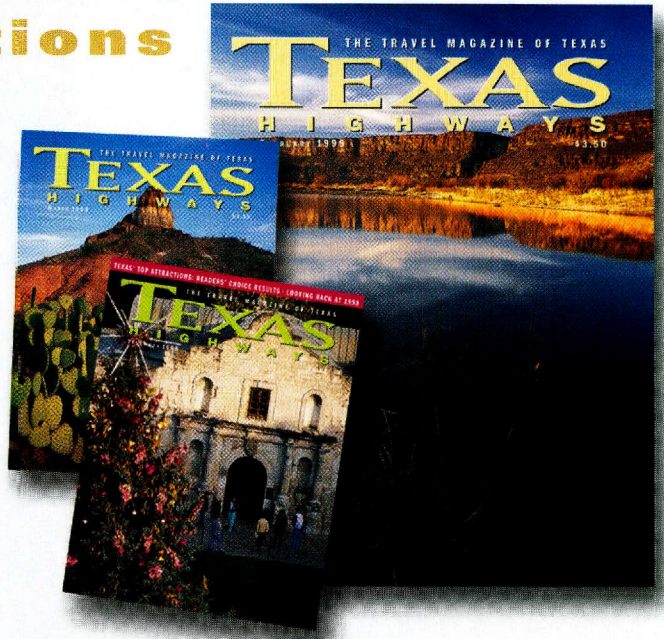
1989, 8" x 8", 32 pp., 26 full-color photos, heavy glossy stock, hardcover
#36111.....\$12.95

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MANY PEOPLE BELIEVE THAT LITTLE GROWS OR LIVES IN THE DESERT, BUT FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK TEEMS WITH LIFE.

Rising abruptly 3,500 feet from the Rio Grande Valley to the west and slightly less from the Hueco Bolson desert basin to the east, the austere, 50 million-year-old Franklin Mountain range forms a long ridge running north from downtown El Paso to the New Mexico state line. On the south side, the Rio Grande slices through the mountains, separating the Franklin range from its counterpart in Mexico.

Early inhabitants gravitated to several small, delicate springs nestled in hidden canyons. Mortar holes in the rock at Mundy's Spring, near Mundy's Gap, a high mountain pass, tell us that Indians ground mesquite beans and acacia pods there. Between A.D. 900 and 1400, the Jornada branch of the Mogollon Indians inscribed petroglyphs (showing animals such as bighorn sheep) on some of the canyon walls.

Anglo-Americans of the 19th Century saw the dry, imposing Franklins as a formidable obstacle. George Kendall, taken prisoner by the Mexicans while on a Republic of Texas expedition to Santa Fe in 1841, called the Franklins a "chain of frowning mountains." (Kendall later gained recognition as the first war correspondent and a founder of the Texas sheep industry.)

Despite the Franklins' bare, rugged appearance, the mountains seemed promising when miners discovered tin deposits on the range's eastern side in the 1890s. Though desert conditions made development of mines difficult and slow, persistent miners finally began shipping tin in 1910. But the ore deposits proved meager, and the mines operated for only five years. They reopened briefly during World War II, but the sparse veins again yielded little ore. Now, the tin mines lie abandoned, their scattered tailings, empty tunnels, and mill foundations reminders of dashed hopes.

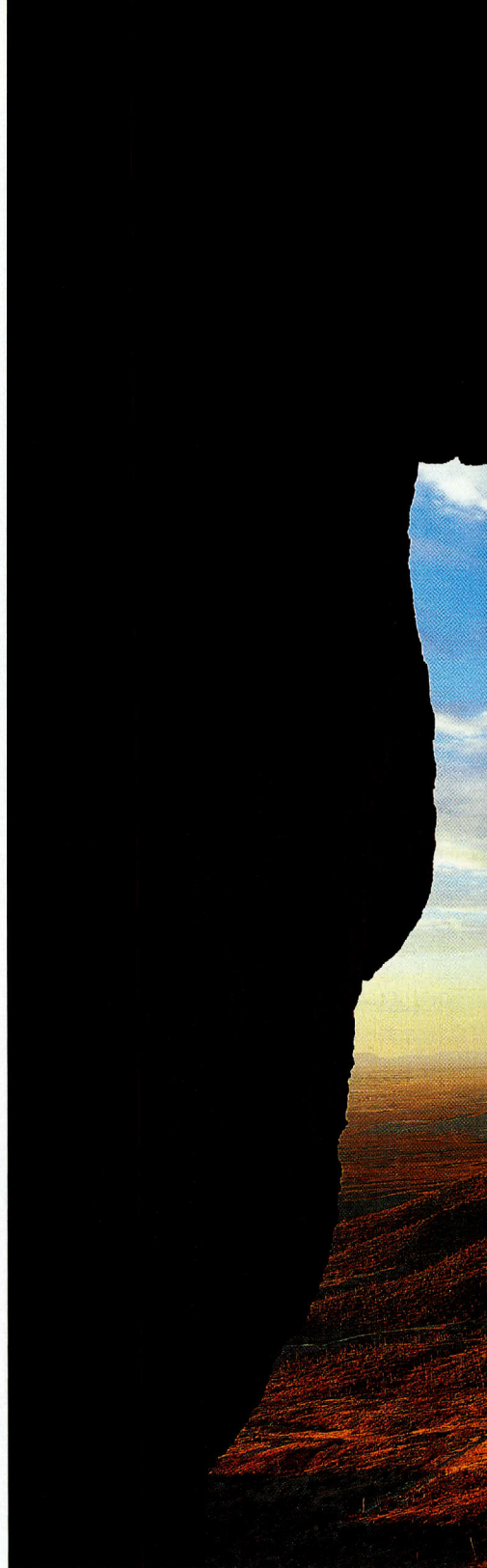
By the 1970s, El Paso's rapid suburban development threatened the mountains. When a developer, intent on building homes, carved a road up North Franklin Peak, local residents lobbied to protect the range. In 1979, the Texas Legislature created Franklin Mountains State Park. Today, the land is protected from development, and visitors enjoy picnicking, wildlife

watching, hiking, camping, rock climbing, and mountain biking in the park's Chihuahuan Desert wilderness.

Many people believe that little grows or lives in the desert, but Franklin Mountains State Park teems with life. Limited rainfall (often



A cottonwood and a yucca enliven the West Cottonwood Spring area.





less than 10 inches a year) and high evaporation rates make water a scarce commodity. To adapt, many Chihuahuan Desert plants sport small leaves, to limit transpiration; shallow root systems, to quickly absorb even the smallest amounts of precipitation; and sharp spines, to prevent foraging by animals

The sky's the limit. This window on the world looks out from the entrance to Franklin Mountains State Park's Aztec Caves.

and to provide some shade. If you visit the Franklins after a rain, look for plants with short-lived, transitory leaves, such as the ocotillo. These spiny plants' thin, straight woody stems, sometimes

topped with red flowers, rise right out of the desert floor. Tiny leaves appear after a storm, then disappear quickly in dry conditions.

Cacti, with their thick, virtually

impermeable skins to limit water loss, their large water-storage capacity, and spines for protection and shade, are well adapted to the Franklins' climate. Several varieties thrive in the park, including prickly pear, Texas rainbow, claret-cup, and the rare Sneed pincushion cactus, found nowhere else in Texas.

WITH APPROXIMATELY 24,000 ACRES, FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS STATE PARK IS ONE OF THE LARGEST PARKS IN THE WORLD THAT LIES ENTIRELY WITHIN A SINGLE CITY'S LIMITS.

Another variety, the massive southwest barrel cactus, whose single large stem can be several feet tall and two feet in diameter, is also found in Texas only in the Franklins (the mountains represent the easternmost point of the barrel cactus' range). Barrel cacti aren't common in the park, however, and cactus poachers, illegally raiding the desert for their private gardens, have seriously diminished the number even farther.

Wildlife abounds here. Walking

along the park's trails, you'll probably see colorful collared lizards scurry away. Lead Ranger Josh Santillan describes the lizards as "gorgeous, with rainbow colors, but mostly different shades of green. They're big enough—six to eight inches long—that you can't miss them," he says.

Visitors frequently also see jackrabbits, roadrunners, and, once in a while, an especially bold coyote. Herds of mule deer browse among the desert scrub. The park also has about 15 species of bats. If you visit on a summer evening, you'll probably see these voracious insect-eaters flying across the twilight sky. But you probably won't see the park's mountain lions, bobcats, and ring-tail cats. Only a few lucky visitors spy these elusive carnivores, whose impor-

[FACING PAGE] Need a reason to check out El Paso? How about sotols at sunrise?

tant role in the ecosystem is to keep the deer and rodent populations in check.

Protecting the park's wildlife ranks as a high priority for assistant park manager Ron Hillin and his staff. Park personnel encourage environmental stewardship through the local media, community organizations, and schools, in an effort to forge stronger ties with El Pasoans.

Josh Santillan says the park's educational tours take a hands-on approach. "We take students out and show them footprints of mule deer and casts of paw prints from mountain lions and bobcats. When we find owl regurgitations, we dissect the contents, showing the kids the bones of mice and other prey," he says.

Former park interpreter Wanda Olszewski, who now works at Hueco Tanks State Historical Park, says that presenting interpretive programs to schoolchildren was one of the most important things she did. "It's really satisfying to lead tours for kids, who will make future decisions about the environment," Wanda says. "We often got thank-you notes from them, telling us how excited they were about learning what's out here."

Educational efforts extend to adults as well. "Right now, the greatest detriment to our wildlife is the road," says Ron Hillin, referring to Woodrow Bean Transmountain Road (Texas 375). Because the road bisects the park and is unfenced, the many animals here often wander onto it. Motorists speeding along this major thoroughfare can hit unwary wildlife. Moreover, says Josh Santillan, warm asphalt attracts lizards and snakes on cool nights, so they run risks, too. Mule deer can also cause accidents. When he speaks to community groups, Ron encourages drivers to slow down.

Relaxing the pace actually gives visitors better opportunities to enjoy the park. New roads, picnic facilities,



Amy LeMaitre and Steven Smith enjoy one of the park's newly developed, well-designed mountain-bike trails.







campsites, and trails have made visiting easier. You'll find most amenities centered in the Tom Mays Unit, an area on the park's west side accessible from Transmountain Road. Several picnic tables boast shady new ramadas. Don't forget to bring plenty of drinking water—there is none in the park. For the first time since the park opened, overnight visitors can camp at primitive campsites. Hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians can already choose from miles of well-marked trails, and the park is developing more.

For hikers, several trails yield spectacular views. If you like a challenge, take the South Franklin Peak Trail, accessible from Transmountain Road. Atop the 6,764-foot peak, you'll see El Paso and Juárez stretching out for miles below, with the Rio Grande shimmering between them. Even though you're in the middle of a large city, you'll have a feeling of solitude. A hundred miles to the northeast, New Mexico's often-snowcapped Sierra Blanca Peak rises majestically.

Another path, the North Franklin Peak Trail, also leads to wondrous views. This trail follows an abandoned road from the Tom Mays Unit up to rugged Mundy's Gap. From there, it switchbacks its way to the summit. Greater elevation gains make this route more strenuous than the South Franklin Peak Trail. At 7,192 feet, North Franklin Peak, the highest point in the range, offers views even more impressive than those from South Franklin Peak. From here, hikers looking north see the northern part of the Franklins, including Anthony's Nose, the park's second-highest peak. Farther on, the craggy granite spires of New Mexico's Organ Mountains break the horizon.

To visit the abandoned tin mines (the open shafts and tunnels have been covered with steel grates), hikers follow the North Franklin Peak Trail to Mundy's Gap, then follow a different route down

Snow gives contrast and relief to prickly pear cacti nestled below North Franklin Peak.

to the mines, on the mountains' eastern slopes. Looking at the ruins, you can imagine how the miners struggled to make a living in this hot, dry climate.

For an easier hike, consider visiting the hidden oasis of West Cottonwood Spring. Again, you'll follow the North Franklin Peak Trail through a desert canyon toward Mundy's Gap, then take a spur (a sign points the way) that leads to the spring. On the way, you'll pass an old metal stock tank once filled by the spring's flow and used to water livestock. After a short, steep ascent, the

One of Texas' most beautiful drives: Woodrow Bean Transmountain Road, which bisects the park from east to west.

EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A LARGE CITY, YOU'LL HAVE A FEELING OF SOLITUDE.

rustling of cottonwood leaves and the faint tinkle of trickling water greet you at the shallow spring. A lush canopy of cottonwoods and hackberries offers welcome shade, especially on hot summer days.

Some hikers like visiting Aztec Caves, two large rock shelters on the slopes above the Tom Mays campground and picnic area. After scrambling up a steep trail through a stretch of loose rock, hikers can explore the shelters' dark, cool recesses. Wanda Olszewski

says this is her favorite spot. "I get a real sense of isolation and quiet in the cathedral-like rooms," she says. Perhaps early people sought refuge here, too. The caves, sculpted from dark volcanic rock, offer shade and protection from the weather, but they don't extend deep enough into the mountain to require flashlights.

If you prefer biking to hiking, you can find plenty of challenges here. Several newly developed, well-designed mountain-bike trails reflect the park's effort



to provide outdoor recreation with minimal environmental impact. Local mountain-bike organizations such as the Borderland Mountain Bike Association (BMBA) helped build the trails, which follow old cattle paths and Jeep roads to minimize human impact.

El Paso mountain biker and BMBA member Amy LeMaitre loves biking in the Franklins. "Nowhere else in Texas has mountains like this," says Amy. "The land is so vast and beautiful, and you can see forever. I experience an incredible outdoor epiphany when I ride out here." Amy's husband and fellow BMBA member, Eric LeMaitre, agrees. "It's difficult to find solitude in the city," he says, "but here it's just so easy."

For intermediate mountain bikers, the Rattlesnake Trail offers nine miles of narrow, single-track, rigorous elevation gains and thrilling drop-offs. According to Ron Hillin, "It's impossible to get bored on it."

Rather watch than ride? Bring a lawn chair, and check out the mountain-bike races. The park hosts several races, including a "dusk to dawn" night race and the annual lead race in the challenging New Mexico Point Series. The New Mexico Point Series features several mountain-bike races held throughout New Mexico over a year's time. Even though El Paso sits in Texas, the well-maintained Franklin Mountains trails and El Paso's proximity to New Mexico make the park a natural for this race. Ron hopes to eventually host a Texas Point Series race as well. For now, the park's most popular race is the Coyote Classic, a part of the New Mexico Point Series. Held in March, the two-day race features more than 250 mountain bikers and 50 super-conditioned trail runners. This year, about 250 spectators cheered on the participants as they cruised the Franklin Mountains trails, competing in various categories of races, including downhill and cross-country.

The park also offers rock climbing, for those in pursuit of vertical recreation. Sneed's Cory, a sheer rock face in the Tom Mays Unit, provides a num-

El Paso surrounds Franklin Mountains State Park on three sides; the New Mexico state line forms its northern border. Woodrow Bean Transmountain Rd. (Texas 375) bisects the park from east to west.

Most visitors enter the park at the Tom Mays Unit, just off Transmountain Rd. on the park's western edge. Admission: \$2, free age 12 and younger. Hours: Winter, daily 8-5; summer, Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat-Sun 8-7. New picnic facilities provide plenty of shade for day-users. Tent campers can set up on raised wooden platforms (no hookups). Many of the park's hiking and mountain-biking trails originate here. The park's northern sections are remote and not easily accessible; back-country users usually enter from the Tom Mays Unit, but hikers can walk in from dirt roads off I-10 north of El Paso. *Note: Don't forget to bring drinking water; there is none in the park.*

You can also enter the park through the city of El Paso's McKelligon Canyon Park (picnic facilities, but no camping), on the southeast side of the state park, off Alabama St. The state park's Visitor

Center is on McKelligon Canyon Rd. (call for directions).

The Franklin Mountains State Park Aerial Tramway, a panoramic gondola ride to the top of Ranger Peak, will reopen in the summer of 2000.

Fall and spring are the best seasons to visit. Winters, usually cool and sunny, are also a good time to visit, but snowstorms can bring high winds and bitter cold. Summer visitors can expect hot, dry days. Low humidity, clear skies, and high elevation (even the lowest spots in the park are close to a mile high) ensure strong sunlight in any season.

Remember to respect the fragile desert environment. *Removing anything, including barrel cacti, is illegal.* Although many believe that barrel cacti store water, and sometimes injure or kill them in search of it, in reality, the cactus contains only a thick, bitter sap of little use to humans.

For more information, write to Franklin Mountains State Park, 1331 McKelligon Canyon Rd., El Paso 79930; 915/566-6441. Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/franklin/franklin.htm.



ber of climbing routes. On weekends, climbers clad in bright colors draw your eyes as they determinedly scale the cliff.


For the less active, Franklin Mountains State Park has plenty to offer. A leisurely drive on Transmountain Road offers pullouts with dramatic views. At the Tom Mays Unit, a picnic lunch beneath a shady ramada also offers enjoyable vistas. Several hiking trails beginning in this area have gentle grades before they start to climb. Take a short stroll on one, and listen to the desert quiet and look for wildlife. A pair of binoculars will give you a better look at Franklin Mountains' birds—you may spot an aggressive ash-throated flycatcher chasing a red-tailed hawk. Or you

might spy a hungry roadrunner as it hunts for dinner. This is better than cartoons, much better.

You won't regret taking the time to investigate this urban wilderness park, where the rugged Franklins form a timeless backdrop to the state's fourth-largest city. You'll likely find yourself hiking, biking, climbing, or, perhaps, quietly contemplating a colorful desert sunset. And all of it right in the middle of big, busy El Paso. ★

PATRICIA CAPERTON PARENT also wrote this month's feature on Fayette County's painted churches.

LAURENCE PARENT is well known for his many distinguished landscape photographs of the Southwest.



BY HOWARD PEACOCK
PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHAN MYERS

a hiking, biking, boating, birding

HUNTSVILLE S



favorite

T A T E P A R K

Moonrise greets sunset over
Lake Raven, the recreational
heart of Huntsville State Park.

SAY THE WORD "HUNTSVILLE" to some Texans, and a picture of a set-jawed Sam Houston, the town's eternal and ubiquitous First Citizen, pops into their minds. To others, the word calls up images of the storied red-brick walls of the Texas Prison System, or the hilly, hoary campus of the 1879-vintage Sam Houston State University.

But to thousands of Texas families, just mention Huntsville, and the flashbacks begin—memories of fishing, canoeing, hiking, biking, birdwatching, firelight talks, and other laid-back good times at their favorite state park.

STRETCHING across 2,000-plus acres of luxuriant East Texas woodlands and meadows, Huntsville State Park attracts about 450,000 visitors a year, making it the seventh most-visited spot in the state's 126-park system. Each weekend from February to December, several thousand people enjoy its tree-canopied campsites and sparkling 210-acre lake.

Family reunions now account for a growing percentage of the visitors, say park officials. One Texas clan of Butlers, for example, celebrates reunions every third year at the park, with kith and kin of all ages arriving from scattered towns in Texas and U.S. locales as distant as Twentynine Palms, California.

"It's a great place for family members who live far apart to get together again, talk over old times and new, and see how much the kids have grown," says Dwayne Butler of Odessa.

Dwayne and his wife, Yolanda, and their four children especially enjoy fishing and canoeing in Lake Raven, pitching horseshoes, playing volleyball, and studying the park's exceptional bird life. Games and nature walks welcome all Butlers from various branches of the clan who want to participate. About 60 members of the Butler family attend the reunions, sleeping in tents, pickup shells, screened shelters, pop-up campers, and RVs. Great-grandmother Tillie Butler of Houston strolls the shady paths with a walking stick, managing to keep up with the younger amblers.

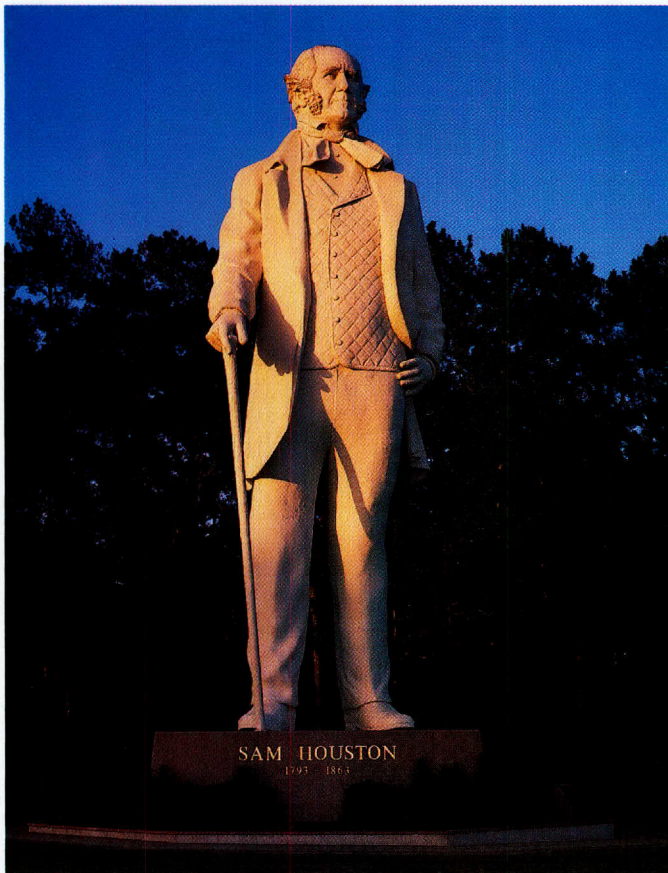
By contrast, the LaVista family of Spring heads for the park "mostly to lie back and forget the hectic work week," says Tony LaVista. He's a hairdresser, and his wife, Cindy, works as a dental hy-

At the park's piers, folks can peer into Lake Raven or cast a line for black bass, catfish, and crappie.

gienist. They whisk their two daughters, 14-year-old Dominique and 12-year-old Danielle, here for fishing and nature study. On one trip, Danielle, who likes to fish Lake Raven with her dad, landed a 14-inch black bass. When spurts of energy strike, family members rent canoes and paddle around the lake.

"What we like most," muses Cindy, "is sitting around the campfire at night and talking about the day's happenings and what we want to do tomorrow."

Most park visitors, and virtually all children, admit to being wowed by their first glimpse of the giant statue of Sam Houston that rises beside Interstate 45 near the park. Towering 70 feet tall against a background of sky-needling native pines, the 30-ton sculpture by noted American artist David Adickes stands higher than any other statue of a real-life American hero anywhere. Many folks also enjoy side trips into nearby Huntsville, a virtual city shrine of Texas history, for its museums, antique shops, seasonal festivals, and remarkable paintings and sculptures in public settings (see "Huntsville—Haunts and History," April 1995).



North of the park entrance, on Interstate 45, a statue of Sam Houston befitting the hero's persona soars to 70 feet.

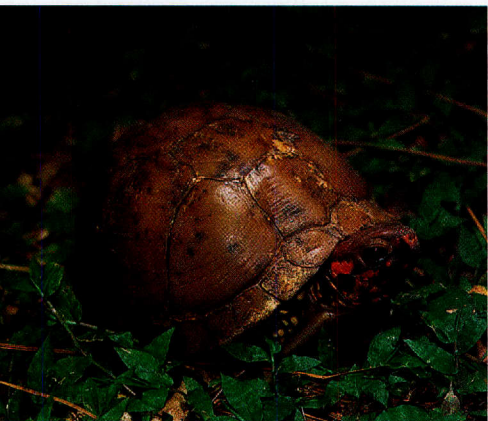
Road-roaming older folks find the park as appealing as do young families. In fact, retired couples serve as many of the park's Volunteer Hosts, assisting the regular staff in maintaining the grounds, making repairs, and helping visitors find their way around Lake Raven and its environs.

LAKE RAVEN represents the heart of the park, both geographically and socially. At least half of the tent sites here provide views of the lake and easy access to its shoreline. It takes its name from the appellation given Sam Houston by the Cherokee tribe that adopted him in Tennessee. Four creeks flow into the basin—Big Chinquapin, Little Chinquapin, Prairie Branch, and Alligator Branch.

A superb nature trail, about seven miles in length, circles the lake and provides a generous sampling of the park's rare plant and wildlife endowments.

"This park and the surrounding area reveal the last outpost of the immense forest that covers most of the eastern United States," observes Dr. Guy Nesom, a nationally recognized authority who, as a biologist for the Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies at Sam Houston State University, spent three years studying the area's natural diversity. "Fossil records tell us that the genera of plants typifying the Great American Southern Forest, as it's sometimes called, began forming 40 to 70 million years ago."

An East Texas tortoise lumbers through the undergrowth along one of the park's nature trails.



*H*UNTSVILLE STATE PARK ATTRACTS ABOUT 450,000 VISITORS A YEAR, MAKING IT ONE OF THE MOST-VISITED SPOTS IN THE STATE'S 126-PARK SYSTEM.

This huge explosion of certain kinds of trees, shrubs, wildflowers, herbs, and microscopic species begins in Maryland or thereabouts, grows westward into Indiana, then undulates down through much of the Deep South and into East Texas. Here it stops, its species coming up against those of different climates and ecosystems.

The land that became Huntsville State Park was chosen by local folks in the 1930s because it contained a natural swale where the inflowing creeks could be dammed to create a recreational lake in a picturesque setting. But disaster struck early on. After the purchase of 2,083 acres from private owners in 1937, the legendary Civilian Conservation

[ABOVE] Late afternoon at Lake Raven. Campers can choose from 127 tent sites, half of which offer lovely views of, and easy access to, the lake. And some folks call this roughing it...



THE ECOLOGICAL SOUL OF HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK LIES IN ITS STATELY TREES AND UNDERSTORY PLANTS.



Corps began building the dam for Lake Raven. The park opened in 1938, but late in November 1940, torrents of rain—12 inches in only two days—deluged the area and overwhelmed the dam. It collapsed on Sunday, November 24. Costs ran far too high for repairs in those Great Depression times. A year later,

[ABOVE] Sweetgum trees recede into a foggy forest morning. In fall, the turning leaves of sweetgums, maples, sassafrasses, dogwoods, and other tree species here create a dazzling display.

[LEFT] Fern fans can find 18 kinds—including the chain fern shown here—flourishing among the park's understory plants.

the nation entered World War II, and the park lay still, except for nature's noises and dynamics, for almost 10 years.

In 1950, an idea for financing the dam took hold of state officials. The Texas Legislature authorized the State Parks Board to invite bids for selective cutting of timber from the park outlands to finance the rebuilding of the dam and outfitting facilities for public use. A proviso warned against cutting timber in a way that would spoil the beauty or ecology of the park.

"Trees were so well selected for the cutting that park visitors were hard put to tell where the harvested trees [had] stood," a report of the operation said. (Foresters took no trees from public-use areas and the 200 acres along the entrance road.) Funds thus generated from the sale of pine, hardwood, and pulpwood timber financed a clay-paved bottom for Lake Raven and a sturdy, well-baffled spillway. Aquatic experts stocked the new lake with black bass, bream, and crappie. Highway Department crews hard-topped the roads into and through the park, and inmates of the Huntsville State Prison cleared underbrush from the lake's shores. On May 18, 1956, officials of the Huntsville-Walker County Chamber of Commerce, the organization that had conceived and incubated the park's existence, held dedication ceremonies and opened the gates to the public.

BIRDWATCHING became an early favorite pastime for visitors, and its popularity continues to increase today. The 200-plus species found in the park typify the fabulous bird life of the southern and southeastern United States. Colorful wood warblers on spring migration lure throngs of watchers, and summer "brings the forest alive with song from numerous species that breed in the park," according to the official checklist compiled by the Texas Parks

and Wildlife Department. "The beaver pond area is an especially good place to check during the summer period," says the checklist's compiler, Brian Kelly. He points to a pond engineered by beavers in the northwest part of the park.

About 65 bird species nest here, including the brilliant red summer tanager, indigo bunting, eastern bluebird, ruby-throated hummingbird, five kinds of woodpeckers (three more species migrate to the park), the wood duck (plus 15 other migratory species of duck), and a dozen breeds of warblers. All in all, 33 species of warblers—just about everybody's favorites—show up in the woods and fields and along the shoreline.

Patient wildlife-watchers spot white-tailed deer, raccoons, opossums, armadillos, squirrels, and, in remote areas along the lake, an occasional alligator. At times, hikers find beaver marks on saplings by the creeks.

Besides the seven-mile hiking trail around Lake Raven, the park also offers a short trail (about three-fourths of a mile), an Interpretive Center, and horse-back riding.

Gentle steeds take riders on "equestrian only" paths of about three-and-a-half miles. On the short hiking trail, which begins at the Interpretive Center, markers identify the major species of trees and plants along the way.



© KATHY ADAMS CLARK

Canoers ply the quiet waters of Lake Raven. Every October, paddlers en masse descend on the park for demonstrations and clinics at the Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous (October 8-10, 1999).

"Give credit for these helpful markers to a hardworking and enterprising Boy Scout of Walker County," says park manager Hakeem Elahi. "Gary T. Allred earned his Eagle Scout rank by researching the very complex botany here and by writing the descriptions of the plants."

The park's easygoing atmosphere revs up to a festive level for a long weekend in October, usually the Friday-to-Sunday nearest Columbus Day (Oct. 8-10, 1999), when canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts from points throughout the United States and Canada gather for the annual Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous.

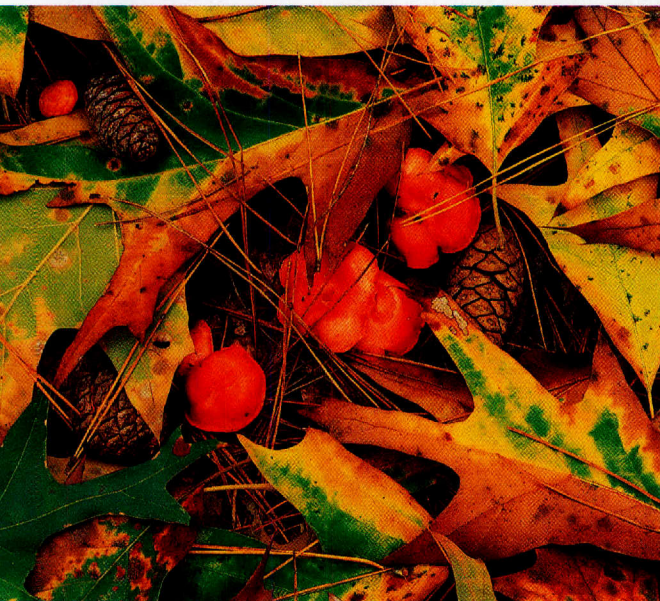
"It's the largest on-water canoe show in the country," says Bob Arthur, commodore of the 300-member Houston Canoe

Club, which hosts the event. "We'll have anywhere from 1,500 to 2,000 paddlers on hand for our clinics and the big show on Saturday night."

Twice that number of people, sitting on the banks of Lake Raven, will view the spectacular Saturday-night performance by world-class experts on the lighted waters. The program, which lasts for about two hours, features demonstrations of a particular technique: skilled, quiet-water paddling.

"Some people say the show is similar to ice dancing or a ballet," Bob says. "The performers on the lake display their talents to music. One year, we even performed the play *Peter and the Wolf* on the water.

"Our national experts in these disciplines include housewives, professional people...you name it," Bob says. "A couple of years ago, we had a policeman, a Maine wilderness guide, several schoolteachers, and a rocket scientist from NASA. One of our most popular demonstrators is a grandmother in her sixties who works as a rural mail carrier in the Chicago area. She even stands on her head in the moving canoe. Talk about applause! She really gets it!"



On the forest floor in fall, mushrooms mix with pine cones and the colorful leaves of southern red oak.



Daylight fades on stately hardwoods and pines. Huntsville State Park lies in the Sam Houston National Forest, the largest and southernmost of Texas' four national forests.

For two days before the Saturday night show, experts conduct 60 clinics on canoeing and kayaking for the general public (see When...Where...How).

IF LAKE RAVEN represents the recreational heart of Huntsville State Park, look for its ecological soul in the trees and understory plants. Amateur and professional naturalists exploring the area over the seasons find more than 600 kinds of flowering plants, says Dr. Nesom, who is currently with the North Carolina Botanical Garden in Chapel Hill.

Three species of wild orchids—the crippled cranefly and two varieties of ladies' tresses—bloom in the park, along with several types of canes and other grasses. Fern-fanciers have identified 18 kinds, including that primeval jewel, the royal fern, plus southern lady fern, ebony spleenwort, and bulbous adder's tongue.

However lush the understory growth, trees dominate the character and moods of Huntsville State Park. *The Trees of Huntsville and Walker County, & Big Tree Register*, a 78-page booklet (currently out of print) by Guy Nesom, records

his tribute to more than 100 species of sylvan giants and smaller “nurse trees” of the area.

“A number of native Eastern American tree species reach the absolute western boundary of their [national] geographical range in Walker County,” he points out. That fact alone indicates a major ecological frontier. He mentions the cherry laurel and fringetree (“grancy graybeard”) among the native breeds hugging the boundary.

Conversely, “three species occur in Walker County as outliers of a western or southwestern distribution—mesquite, acacia, and soapberry,” Nesom notes. Tree-spotters delight in finding such margins of nature where “east meets west.” One reason for the presence here of trees from semidesert environments may be found in Nesom’s observation that “the hot season in southeast Texas is hotter longer than anywhere else in the U.S.”

When you peel off Interstate 45 to the Park Road, leaving behind the roar and echo of traffic (which totals almost 50,000 cars and trucks on a normal day), you enter quiet lanes sheltered by some of the park’s oldest trees. Stately native pines and hardwoods line your route to



Palmettos thrive in the park's damp, low-lying areas. Such areas hasten the decomposition of dead trees.

Huntsville State Park

Huntsville State Park covers 2,083 acres in the western portion of Sam Houston National Forest, in Walker County, 6 miles southwest of downtown Huntsville. Driving south from Huntsville on I-45, take exit 109.

Hours: Daily 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Admission: \$3, free age 12 and younger. Write to Box 508, Huntsville 77342-0508; 409/295-5644. Wheelchair-accessible areas include the headquarters building, fishing piers, picnic grounds, and restrooms.

Maps, information, and restrooms are available at headquarters (on Park Rd. 40), as are T-shirts, caps, gifts, and books. Headquarters hours: Daily 8-5 (Fri 8 a.m.-10 p.m.). The Interpretive Center (south of headquarters, on Park Rd. 40) contains nature exhibits (open daily 8-5).

Picnicking, Camping, and Watersports

Day-use facilities include 105 picnic sites, playgrounds, fishing piers, a boat ramp, and designated swimming areas on Lake Raven. (Visitors swim at their own risk; no lifeguard on duty.) Canoes and paddleboats are available for rent. No motorboat wakes allowed (maximum speed limit is 5 mph). A park store is stocked with picnic supplies, souvenirs, and snacks (open daily 8-6 Mar-Aug; open on weekends only Sep-Feb). You can play miniature golf here, too.

Campers can choose from 127 tent sites with picnic tables, cooking grills, and water (\$9 per night); 26 RV pull-throughs that furnish water, electricity, and sanitary dump stations (\$12 per night); and 28 back-in campsites with water, electricity, picnic tables, and cooking grills (\$12 per night). Other facilities include 30 screened shelters (\$18 per night); group shelters (\$30 per day); and a group recreational hall (\$100 per day). For reservations, call 512/389-8900 (Mon-Fri 9-6). Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

Note: The park stays fully booked Fri. and Sat. during the busy season (Feb. 1-Dec. 1). During this period, make reservations far in advance, even for weekdays.

Horseback Riding

The park offers guided trail rides to visitors of all ages and riding abilities. Reservations are suggested for the 1-hour excursion (\$13 per person). With 24-hour advance notice, groups of 6 or more may schedule a breakfast ride (\$18 per person) or a

steak-dinner ride (\$24 per person). For a schedule, write to Lake Raven Stables, Box 1555, Huntsville 77342; 409/295-1985.



Hiking and Biking

The 7.7-mile hiking trail around Lake Raven requires several hours to complete, so pack a lunch, take drinking water, and wear comfortable walking shoes. Bicyclists share part of the trail.

Dogs on leashes are allowed.

A 1/4-mile self-guided Nature Trail begins at the Interpretive Center. Native plants are identified along this scenic loop.

The park offers 11 miles of mountain-bike trails.

Canoeing and Kayaking Clinics

Canoeing and kayaking clinics are conducted by experts during the annual Southwestern Canoe Rendezvous, held in Oct. (Oct. 8-10, 1999). To register, write to the Houston Canoe Club, which sponsors the 3-day event, at Box 980572, Houston 77098-0572; 713/467-8857. Web site: www.houstoncanooclub.org. Special clinics are provided for youngsters and seniors.

Nearby Attractions

Saturated with Sam Houston's persona and legacy to Texas, plus the energies of a 12,000-student state university and an outstanding civic dedication to preserving the cultural heritage of the community, Huntsville (pop. 34,600) welcomes visitors with a broad menu of enticements. Attractions include four museums (including the innovative Texas Prison Museum), numerous folk and seasonal festivals, historical driving and walking tours in the city and outlying areas, outstanding public art in painting and sculpture, and a delightful town square dotted with antique vendors.

South of town, the stupendous statue of Sam Houston, unlike any other anywhere, towers over this historic area. A Visitor Center (409/291-9726) includes a serene sylvan trail and a gift shop. Wheelchair accessible. Visitors can also buy a "Stand With Sam" memorial brick (\$100-\$5,000, depending on size), with the contributor's name or inscription, to be placed at the base around Sam's Volkswagen-size feet.

For information on attractions, accommodations, and events, write to the Huntsville-Walker Co. Chamber of Commerce, Box 538, Huntsville 77342; 409/295-8113 or 800/289-0389. Web site: www.chamber.huntsville.tx.us.

Lake Raven through sandy upland terraces that shift into low-lying palmetto sloughs. And if you arrive at a special time in fall, the old trees, and young ones, too, treat you to a scene worthy of future flashbacks in memory. The leaves of maples, sweetgums, sassafras, dogwoods, and a half-dozen other deciduous species will be turning from green to gold, scarlet, yellow, and purple, all shimmering in autumn sunlight and composing one of the

prettiest welcomes among all the state parks of Texas. ★

Longtime contributor HOWARD PEACOCK of Woodville spends much of his time these days helping novice writers and family historians hurdle problems of authorship. For researching this article, he was aided by Keith Ozmore, a former Houston newsman and environmental assistant to Congressman Bob Eckhardt.

Look for more inspiring STEPHAN MYERS photographs in next year's stories on the Big Thicket and Enchanted Rock.



Holy anole! This creature of camouflage has just begun to blend into the bark.

Brickmakers, barbecuers, blacksmiths, and festival-goers agree:

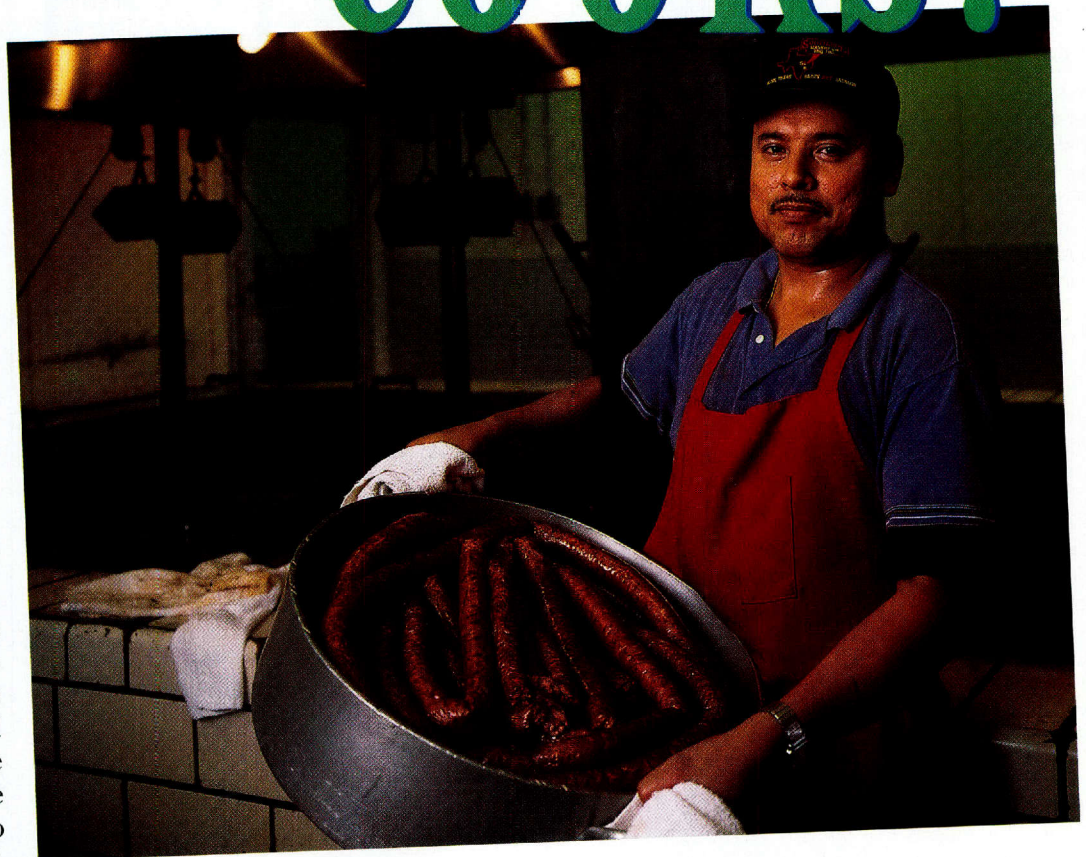
Elgin *really* COOKS!

By Larry D. Hodge · Photographs by Kirk Tuck

LONG KNOWN FOR ITS bricks and barbecue, Elgin now bubbles with added energy from artisans, business owners, and residents who love living, working, and playing in a small town just a score of miles from the state capital. “It’s a neat feeling to walk down the street and know everybody,” says Jan DeFoy, who moved to Elgin in 1997 and bought the City Cafe, the town’s gathering place since 1910. “It’s hard to break into a lot of small-town communities, but that’s not true here. I feel like I’ve lived here all my life.”

The Texas Legislature honored the town by naming it the “Sausage Capital of Texas” in 1995. Three local restaurants each have their own version—made, cooked, and served on the spot.

Elgin bricks enjoy equal fame: With three local plants, one of which offers guided tours, Elgin probably produces more bricks than any other Texas town. Historic buildings whose bricks came from those plants line the town’s Main Street. In recent years, artists and



craftspeople have transformed the buildings—former haberdasheries, feed mills, and the like—into working studios that turn out a variety of beautiful and useful objects.

When not making bricks, barbecue, or objets d’art (or craft), folks in Elgin like to play. Western Days in July recalls the town’s agricultural heritage, and Crystal Christmas delights the eye with lighted displays in Elgin Memorial Park. But the hallmark blowout is the Hogeys Festival in late October (October 23, 1999). Named for a small nearby com-

Pedro Valle of Southside Market shows off the pride of Elgin—sausage, also known as hot-guts. The town boasts some of the state’s best.

munity that no longer exists, the festival carries out its theme with events such as a greased-pig contest, a sausage cookoff, a juried art show (“Pearls Before Swine”), and the coronation of a King Hog or a Queen Sow-Preme. Voting by townsfolk, which everyone freely admits is subject to ballot-box stuffing, determines the winner of the latter contest.



Nature-taking-its-course determines the winner of the Hogeye Festival's grand finale, cow-patty bingo. Painted lines divide part of a city street into 1,500 numbered one-foot squares. Watchers buy tickets numbered to match the squares. Then, four well-fed bovine "volunteers" walk around until the, er, chips fall where they may. The holder of the ticket matching the square where the main plop drops wins \$1,500; adjoining squares are worth \$50 each. "Splatter matters," deadpans festival co-chair Linda Mogonye.

The 1891 downtown building that now houses the popular City Cafe once held an opera house upstairs.

FOR A TOWN WITH THIS MUCH going on, Elgin almost didn't happen. It lay north of the route selected just after the Civil War by the Houston and Texas Central Railroad for its line between Brenham and Austin. But a massive flood on the Colorado River in 1869 inundated the surveyed route, prompting a shift. The new route passed through what is now



The folks at Crosstown Bar-B-Que include (left to right) Donell Vincent, Melissa Grady, Tracy Fowler, and Carol Grady.

Elgin, named for Robert Morris Elgin, the railroad's land commissioner and surveyor. (In keeping with the Scottish pronunciation of his name, the town's name is pronounced with a hard g, the same ending sound as in "begin.") For many years, Elgin prospered as a railroad town, as a trade center for surrounding farmlands, and as a brickmaking center. (The area's high-quality clay deposits gave rise to the brick industry.) During World War II, nearby Camp Swift fueled a boom (see *Speaking of Texas*, November 1996), but from the 1950s through the 1970s, Elgin just treaded water.

Hard times hit town during the 1970s, a fact noted by Nancy Lou Webster on her first visit in 1971. She came to town with her husband, Bill, and was immediately struck by the rundown brick buildings lining downtown. "I watched the pigeons flying in and out of the second stories of buildings and thought, 'This is the jumping-off place,'" Nancy Lou recalls. "Elgin had gone pretty far downhill."

But one person's economic decline is another person's opportunity. The growth of nearby Austin and the availability of fine old buildings at reasonable prices proved to be tempting incentives in bringing the Websters and other modern



**“It’s hard to break into
but that’s not true here**

plant offers tours of the entire process. Clay squeezed through a die into brick shape flows endlessly from an extruder; wires affixed to a rotating framework traveling at the same speed slice the shaped clay into individual bricks. Kiln-inspection ports allow you to look inside at bricks glowing yellowish-white.

In contrast to the mass production practiced at the brick plants and the sausage factories, artisans create one object at a time. Nancy Lou Webster practices her craft, making treenware, in the former Joe’s Toggery building on Main Street. (“Treen,” kin to the word “tree,” refers to objects made of wood.) Some would label as art the wooden spoons, backscratchers, fly swatters, garbage-disposal pushers,

The 1906 Nofsinger home is now Elgin’s City Hall. The wife of local physician I.B. Nofsinger designed the home, which was built of brick made by the Elgin Press Brick Company.

pioneers to town. Along with some longtime residents, they’ve sparked a downtown revival through an extremely successful Main Street Program,



A few miles east of Elgin, Ragtime Ranch Inn offers a country getaway complete with swimming pool, stocked pond, stabling for horses, and nature trails on 37 acres.

which emphasizes economic redevelopment through adaptive reuse of historic structures. Formerly empty buildings now house shops catering to a clientele whose pocketbooks reflect the economic rebirth.



Blacksmiths Erin McNeal and Tiger Flores combine utilitarian and artistic skills. At Earthen Metals, they’ll sharpen a plow or forge a wine rack graced by vines and leaves.

ELGIN IS, IN EVERY SENSE, A brick of a town. A brick and tile plant once operated inside the city itself, and some buildings on the south side of town—just across the railroad tracks from the public square—are made of red hand-pressed bricks fired no more than half a mile away. Many of the town’s principal businesses operate in brick buildings nearly a century old. Those bricks came from companies still in operation a few miles east of town. The Acme Brick

pickle-gitters (forked sticks made for the purpose their name implies), and other useful things she makes, but not Nancy Lou. “You’ve got to know your place,” she says with a laugh. “If it’s made to go in a gallery, it’s art. If it’s utilitarian, it’s craft.” Nancy Lou’s work blurs that distinction, which is why she has been invited to demonstrate her skills at the Texas Folklife Festival in years past.

a lot of small-town communities,
I feel like I've lived here all my life."

Nancy Lou's interest in woodworking began in childhood in her native Mississippi. "I started using a knife and whittling when I was nine," she says. "I lived in a neighborhood where all the other children were boys. As I grew up and they discovered I wasn't a boy, I lost all my friends and was very lonely. My dad took me out hunting, and while we were sitting on a stump waiting for game, he would tell me about different woods. After a while he said, 'Let me show you how to make a slingshot.' I started whittling slingshots and learned how to make them shoot very accurately. As I was out pinging cans, boys would come by and watch. Then one asked me to make him a slingshot, and I became the arms manufacturer of my neighbor-

hood—and got all my friends back!"

At the Earthen Metals shop just around the corner from Nancy Lou, Erin McNeal and Tiger Flores play with fire. The two practice the ancient craft of blacksmithing—but with a twist. Slender Erin belies the traditional image of a blacksmith as a brawny brute with bulging biceps—though that's a fair description of her helper, Tiger. New customers are often confused. "Everybody walks into the shop and looks at Tiger. They think I am the little secretary," she says with a laugh.



A longtime crafter of treenware—useful objects carved from wood—Nancy Lou Webster got her inspiration from whittling slingshots as a child.

While a fair portion of their business depends on welding tractors, sharpening plows, and forging branding irons, Erin and Tiger pay the bills by creating, like Nancy Lou Webster, objects that are utilitarian in the hand but art to the eye.

No better example of their work exists than the wine rack hanging in a corner of their office. Cone-shaped spirals of steel cradle wine bottles amid hand-hammered clusters of grapes, leaves, and twining tendrils.

JUST WATCHING SOMEONE work that hard can build an appetite, and Elgin has a number of ways to satisfy your hunger. Most famous are the three barbecue restaurants that specialize in Elgin hot sausage: Southside Market, Meyer's Smokehouse, and Crosstown Bar-B-Que. So well known is the town for its hot links (called hot-guts by old-timers) that they encircle the city seal.

As much as people love Elgin barbecue, however, few choose to have it for breakfast. Those with a sweet tooth use a visit to the post office as an excuse to drop by Cathy's Coffee Cup, which is across the



Once called the "Brick Capital of the Southwest," Elgin has been producing brick since the 1880s and even today has three brick plants. Characteristic downtown buildings showcase the area's abundant high-quality clay.

Elgin

Elgin is at the intersection of US 290 and Texas 95 in Bastrop County, about 20 miles east of Austin. For area information, write to the Greater Elgin Chamber of Commerce, 15 N. Main St., Elgin 78621; 512/285-4515; email: gcoc@flash.net. Web site: www.elgintx.com. **Elgin's area code is 512; the zip code is 78621.** Locations are wheelchair accessible unless noted otherwise.

Attractions

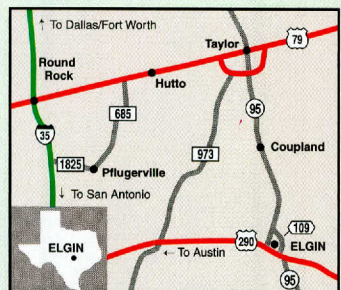
Elgin dates from 1873, and many of its downtown buildings were constructed between that time and the 1920s. A free brochure for a **walking tour** of the downtown National Register Historic District is available from the Chamber of Commerce at the address above.

Acme Brick conducts plant tours (Mon-Fri only) for groups by reservation only. Not wheelchair accessible. The plant is 5 miles east of Elgin on Old McDade Rd. Write to Rt. 2, Box 89; 281-5744.

Festivals

For details on the following events, contact the Chamber of Commerce (address and phone number given above).

The **Hogeye Festival** takes place downtown each 4th weekend



in Oct. (Oct. 23, 1999). It offers a juried art show and sale, food, a pet parade, and other events (including cow patty bingo). Live music this year includes The Studebakers and South by Southwest favorite Malford Milligan.

Crystal Christmas takes over Elgin Memorial Park (at the intersection of Texas 95 and North Main St.) the month of Dec. Lighted signs guide the way to the brilliantly lit displays in the park.

The **Firemen's Extravaganza**, which takes place the first weekend in Apr., includes a barbecue cookoff and pumper races.

Western Days, held the 4th weekend in July, recalls Elgin's agricultural past with a parade, rodeo, and street dances.

Dining

Local barbecue restaurants are:

Southside Market and BBQ, Inc., 1212 US 290 West, 281-4650 or 285-3407, open Mon-Thu 8-8, Fri-Sat 8 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun 9-7; **Crosstown Bar-B-Que**, 211 Central Ave., 281-5594, open Thu 10-8, Fri 10 a.m.-11 p.m., Sat 10-10, Sun 10-8; and **Meyer's Smokehouse**, 188 US 290, 281-3331 or 800/MRS OINK, open Sun-Thu 10-7, Fri-Sat 10-8.

Cathy's Coffee Cup, 34 N. Ave. C, serves gourmet coffees, doughnuts, kolaches, breakfast tacos, and sandwiches. Hours: Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 285-9508.

City Cafe, 19 N. Main St., emphasizes generous portions at reasonable prices. The menu includes salads, stuffed potatoes, sandwiches and burgers, steaks, chicken, fish, and Tex-Mex. Hours: Mon-Sat 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Sun 7 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 281-3663.

Accommodations

Ragtime Ranch Inn Bed and Breakfast caters to people and their pets—from canine to equine—on 37 acres east of Elgin. Guests and their animals are free to roam the pastures and wooded nature trails. Each room includes a private screened porch, deck, and fireplace. Stables, tack room, and dog-

wash area are available. Rate: \$95 single or double. From Main St. in Elgin, go east on FM 3000 for 3.2 miles to Mundine Rd. (Co. Rd. 96). Turn right, go 1.3 miles to Ragtime Ranch Rd., turn left, and continue 0.6 mile to the B&B. Write to Box 575; 285-9599 or 800/800-9743. Web site: bestinns.net/usa/tx/ragtimeranch.html.

The Bigger Inn Bed and Breakfast offers 4 rooms in the historic A. Christian Saloon building. Rates: \$65-\$75. Not wheelchair accessible. No pets; no smoking; will consider children. Write to 16 Depot Ave.; 281-3931.

Shopping

W W Treenware Co., 106 Main St., showcases the treenware of Nancy Lou Webster as well as the work of other artists and craftspeople. Call 285-3502.

Erin McNeal and Tiger Flores at **Earthen Metals**, 202 E. First, welcome visitors Mon-Sat 9-6. Well-behaved dogs are also welcome. Samples of their blacksmithing are on display. Not wheelchair accessible. Call 281-2801.

Jan's Hallmark Shop, 108 N. Main St., carries flowers, gifts, collectibles, and an extensive selection of greeting cards. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-6, Sat 9-3. Call 285-3388.

street. Owner Cathy Jones starts making kolaches at three in the morning and is still smiling when lunch customers arrive for a sandwich served on the croissants she also bakes. For a heavier dose of morning food—and Elgin tradition—stop by the City Cafe on Main Street. Breakfast features “Elgian” waffles and Elgin sausage, and the lunch menu includes an Elgin sausage sandwich as well as standard Texas fare—chicken-fried steak, hamburgers, and Mexican food.

Former mayor Jan Schroeder, owner of Jan's Hallmark Shop on Main Street, is a hometown girl who was one of the



At the Hogeye Festival each October (October 23, 1999), visitors enjoy a hog-heaven of hilarious happenings.

first to start a boutique-type business in a storefront that once sold groceries and hardware to farmers who came to town on Saturday afternoons. “There are some changes, but on the other hand, the town's core hasn't changed,” she

says. “There's been a tremendous amount of growth in the countryside around Elgin, but in the city, it's still very much a small town. There's a lot to be said for being someplace where you can always ask for help, because you know the people who can help you.”

City Cafe's Jan DeFoy says it this way: “Elgin's an exciting place to be.” ★

Elgin native LARRY D. HODGE (EHS Class of '62) credits his high school English teacher, Mrs. Dorothy Fitzpatrick, with encouraging him to pursue a career in writing.

Freelancer KIRK TUCK of Austin has spent 15 years as a photographer. His corporate clients include IBM, Dell, and *Fortune* magazine.

November 1999						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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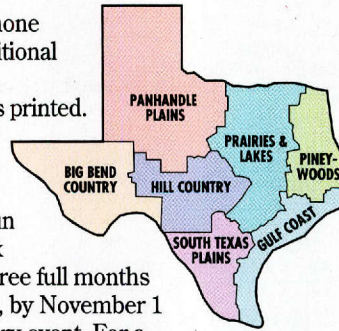
In Fun Forecast, we provide events and telephone numbers for next month, so that you'll have additional time to plan your outings.

Sometimes dates change after the magazine is printed. Before you drive miles to an event, confirm the date by calling the number listed next to the festivity or by contacting the local chamber of commerce. If you wish to submit an event for Fun

Forecast, please send the information to Fun Forecast, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax 512/486-5879. Submit information at least three full months before the first of the month in which the event will take place (for example, by November 1 for February festivities). Space is limited, so we may not be able to print every event. For a quarterly, more detailed schedule of events, write for a free *Texas Events Calendar*, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249, or fax 512/486-5944.

Texas Highways' Web site (www.texashighways.com) includes an expanded Fun Forecast that gives descriptions of the events.

For free routing assistance or details on any destination in Texas, call 800/452-9292 toll-free from anywhere in the United States and Canada, any day between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central Time. A travel counselor at one of the state's travel information centers will be on the line to provide travel information, send brochures, and advise you of any emergency road conditions.



11-Dec 11 RICHARDSON "A Radioland Christmas Musical" 972/699-1130	14 CLEBURNE Doll & Toy Show 817/641-8600
11-Jan 2 FORT HOOD Nature in Lights 254/287-2007	16 LOCKHART Country Music Jamboree 512/376-3430
12-13 RICHARDSON Holiday Bazaar 972/231-4798	SHERMAN Preservation League Lecture Series 903/893-4067
12-14 SALADO Gathering of the Scottish Clans 254/947-5232	17 DENTON UNT Symphony 940/565-3703
13 COLUMBUS Stafford Opera House Dinner Theater 409/732-2917 or 877/444-7339	18-20 SEGUIN Pecan Festival 830/379-6382
COMANCHE Trade Day 915/356-3233	SULPHUR SPRINGS Rodeo 903/885-8071
CORSICANA Arts & Crafts Fair 903/872-5411	19-20 ARLINGTON Country Peddler Craft Show 817/459-5000
DENTON Auction for the Arts 940/382-2787	20 BASTROP Holiday Bazaar 512/303-3472
EDGEWOOD Log Cabin Christmas Bazaar 903/896-1940	BONHAM Lake Bonham Bluegrass 903/583-4731
FORT WORTH Rodeo 817/625-1025	CLIFTON Trades Day 254/675-3720
LANCASTER Second Saturday on the Square 972/227-6714	DALLAS North Texas Feria: Consumer Show & International Expo 214/523-3403
NAVASOTA Craft Fair 409/825-3342	DECATUR Arts & Crafts Bazaar 940/627-3107
ROUND TOP Festival-Institute Piano Concert 409/249-3129	DENISON Texoma Fine Art Tour 903/465-1551
WALNUT SPRINGS Trade Day 254/797-2176	ENNIS Arts & Crafts Festival 972/876-7529
WAXAHACHIE Second Saturday 972/938-9617	KILLEEN Turkey Trot 254/526-0550
13-14 BELTON Antique & Collectible Fair 877/840-3829	SALADO Family Fun Run/Walk 254/947-5482

Panhandle Plains

1-Jan 3 ABILENE Celebration Park 915/691-1034
5-6 LUBBOCK Symphony 806/762-1688
6 SILVERTON Caprock Jamboree 806/823-2524
VERNON Cultural Fiesta 940/552-2895
6-7 SAN ANGELO Bit & Spur Show 915/653-7785
Roping Fiesta 915/653-7785
8 GRAHAM Jim Cullum Jazz Band 940/549-2296
11-14 AMARILLO World Championship Ranch Rodeo 806/467-9722
13 MEADOW Meadow Musical 806/539-2266
WINTERS Best Taste of West Texas Cookoff 915/754-5210

13-14 JACKSBORO Fort Richardson Days 940/567-3506
18 ANSON First UMC Bazaar 915/823-3215
19 JACKSBORO Arts & Crafts Fair 940/567-5811
19-Dec 31 PAMPA Celebration of Lights 806/669-3241
20 AMARILLO Cattle Barons Ball 806/376-7767
SAN ANGELO Fort Concho Living History 915/657-4444
WICHITA FALLS Story Patch Players 940/692-5005
20-21 COLORADO CITY Railhead Trade Days 915/728-3403
PERRYTON Arts & Crafts Festival 806/435-4970
SPUR Downtown Trade Days 806/271-3466

25-28 AMARILLO World Jr Team Roping Competition 806/376-7767
25-Dec 31 AMARILLO Nights of Lights 806/378-9337
26-27 DUMAS Kandy Kane Lane 806/953-2593
26-Dec 2 SAN ANGELO West End Collectibles Art Show 915/942-6484
27 ASPERMONT Christmas Lights & Santa 940/989-3197
BALLINGER Christmas in Olde Ballinger 915/365-2333
SWEETWATER Lighted Christmas Parade 800/658-6757
27-28 ABILENE Arts & Crafts Festival 915/263-7690

27-28 JACKSBORO Trade Days 940/567-2602
WICHITA FALLS Arts & Crafts Show 972/772-3816
28 SPEARMAN Christmas on Courthouse Lawn 806/659-5555
29 BRECKENRIDGE Twilight Christmas Parade 254/559-2301
30 ABILENE Christmas City Sidewalks 915/677-2281
30-Dec 2 AMARILLO Farm & Ranch Show 806/378-4297
30-Dec 5 LUBBOCK A Tuna Christmas 806/770-2000

Prairies and Lakes

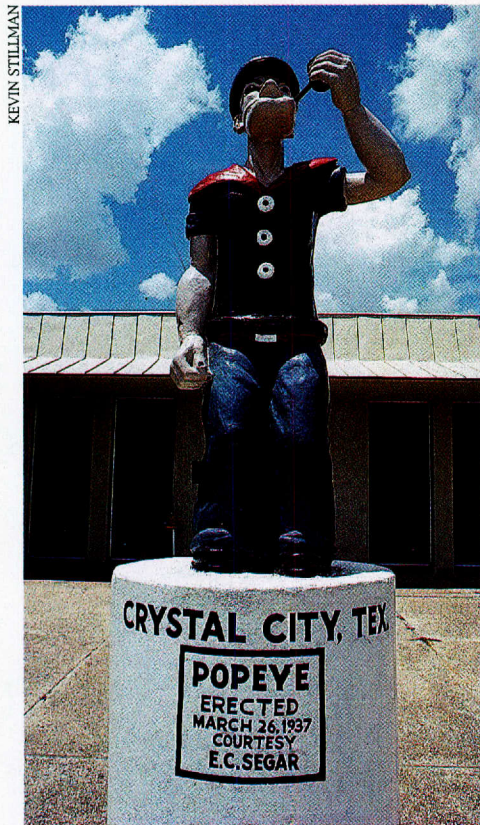
1-2 SULPHUR SPRINGS Moscow Ballet 903/885-8071
1-14 PLANTERSVILLE Texas Renaissance Festival 800/458-3435

2, 6 DALLAS La Clemenza di Tito 214/565-1116
3 KELLER Chili Cookoff 817/431-2169
3-6 DALLAS Chi Omega Christmas Market 214/890-8131
3, 6, 18, 21, 23, 27 DALLAS Die Walkure 214/565-1116
4 RICHARDSON Taste of Richardson 972/680-9567
4-7 RICHARDSON Arts & Crafts Show 972/783-0118
5, 7 DALLAS Bach Society Harpsichord Concert 214/320-8700
5-7 BRENNHAM Fall Festival of Roses 409/836-5548
1-14 FORT WORTH Antiques Show 817/884-2222

5-7 FORT WORTH Lucia di Lammermoor 888/597-7827
Women's National Finals Rodeo 817/625-1025
PLANO 'Neath the Wreath Holiday Gift Market 972/517-6689
ROUND TOP Arts Festival 409/249-5888
6 BELLEVILLE Market Day 409/865-3407
BELTON Country Opry 512/301-4173
HALTOM CITY Fall Festival/Arts & Crafts Fair 817/838-5421
SEALY Novemberfest 409/885-4121
WOODWAY Woodfest Celtic Cultural Festival 254/399-9204
6-7 DENISON Arts & Crafts Show 903/893-1184
FORT WORTH Train Show 817/249-4965

6-7 LEWISVILLE Arts & Crafts Fair 972/219-3550
ROUND TOP Festival Hill Theater Forum 409/249-3129
6, 13 DECATUR Wise Co Fall Out 940/627-5586
7 PRAHA Veterans Memorial Service 512/596-7431
8-9 DALLAS James Taylor with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra 214/692-0203
10 ROUND TOP Festival Hill Herb Day 409/249-5283
10-11 CLIFTON Norse Smorgasbord 254/675-3720 or 675-2732
11-14 ARLINGTON "Holiday Magic" Market 817/459-5000
11-20 FORT WORTH Shrine Circus 817/871-8150

20-21 BRENHAM Poinsettia Celebration 409/836-0084 HILLSBORO Bond's Alley Holiday Bazaar 254/582-2481 MESQUITE Gem & Mineral Show 972/495-1789 TEMPLE Merry Mistletoe Marketplace 888/441-7133 21 CANTON Antique & Classic Auto Swap Meet 972/276-1790 22 LOCKHART Opry 512/601-2154 22-Jan 10 COMMERCE Celebration of Lights 903/886-3950 23 DENTON UNT One O'Clock Lab Band 940/565-3743 25 DALLAS Turkey Trot 214/954-0500 26 DALLAS Galleria Tree Lighting & Fireworks 214/702-7100 West End Holiday Tree Lighting Festival 214/748-4801 FORT WORTH Parade of Lights 817/336-2787 GRANBURY Country Christmas Celebration 800/950-2212 26-27 BASTROP Arts & Crafts Fair 512/303-6283 McKINNEY Dickens of a Christmas 972/562-6880 26-28 ARLINGTON Holiday in the Park 817/530-6000	26-28 ELM MOTT Homestead Heritage Crafts & Children's Fair 254/829-2981 FORT WORTH <i>The Nutcracker</i> 817/428-8232 GRAND PRAIRIE Holiday Market 972/647-2331 RICHARDSON Craft Show 972/238-4190 WAXAHACHIE Candlelight Homes Tour 972/937-2390 26-Dec 12 FORT WORTH Cutting Horse Futurity 817/871-8150 26-Dec 18 ARLINGTON Johnnie High's Country Christmas Revue 817/226-4400 26-Dec 31 DALLAS Holiday at the Arboretum 214/327-4901 26-Jan 1 GRANBURY Lone Star Lights 817/573-5548 or 800/950-2212 27 ARLINGTON Young Country Christmas Fireworks 214/855-1881 CLIFTON German Heritage Sausage Supper 254/675-8195 FORT WORTH Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show 817/625-1025 Stockyards Christmas Parade 817/626-7921 GONZALES Pioneer Village Fall Festival 830/672-6532 GRANBURY The Enchanted Forest 817/573-5548 HICO Arts & Crafts Market 800/361-HICO LEXINGTON Christmas Bazaar 512/273-2551	27 LULING Arts & Crafts Show 830/875-3214 27-28 CLEBURNE Arts & Crafts Show 817/558-7741 DALLAS Buchanan's Antique/Collector Market 405/478-4050 HALLETTSVILLE Festival of Lights 512/798-2662 NAVASOTA Trade Day 409/825-8490 28 GIDDINGS Arts & Crafts Fair 409/542-3455 MOULTON Christmas Program 512/596-7205 29-30 DALLAS Light Crust Doughboys 214/821-1860 30 BEDFORD Quarterly Notes Jazz Concert 817/952-2290 Pineywoods 1-Jan 3 TYLER Wonderland by Night 903/963-8828 1-Jan 4 TYLER Santa Land 903/882-1518 6 BLOOMBURG Cullen Baker Country Fair 903/728-5343 or 796-3687 CONROE B.J. Thomas Concert 409/321-3080 MONTGOMERY Craft Show/ Bake Sale 409/449-6042 117 Lake Estates Fall Festival 409/449-6042 or 281/292-7545 11 KIRBYVILLE Veterans Day Program 409/423-4668	11-13 NACOGDOCHES SFA Rodeo 409/564-0849 12-13 TYLER Woodcarving Show 903/839-7042 12-14 LIVINGSTON Trade Days 409/327-3656 13 HENDERSON Heritage Syrup Festival 903/657-5528 KIRBYVILLE Country Music Show 409/423-5744 LIVINGSTON Bluegrass 409/327-3381 MARSHALL Texas & Pacific Depot Railroad Museum Grand Opening 903/935-7868 TEXARKANA <i>Dream, Dream, Dream</i> 903/792-8681 TYLER Art Auction 903/581-7333 17-19 TYLER Trade Days 903/595-2223 18 CROCKETT Illuminated Christmas Parade 409/544-2359 19-20 NACOGDOCHES Holiday in the Pines Market 409/564-1234 19-21 NACOGDOCHES Trade Days 409/564-2150 20 CROCKETT Christmas in Crockett 409/544-2359 MILAM Settlers Day 409/625-3155 THE WOODLANDS Cattle Barons Ball 409/539-5139 25-Dec 30 MARSHALL Wonderland of Lights 903/935-7868	25-Dec 31 LONGVIEW Light Up Longview 903/753-3281 or 753-5840 26-28 GLADEWATER Christmas Tyme in Gusherville 903/845-5501 27 COLDSPRING Christmas Lighting 409/653-2184 HEMPHILL Holiday Lighting Festivities 409/787-2732 KIRBYVILLE Christmas in the Park 409/423-5193 MOUNT PLEASANT Christmas Bazaar 903/572-8567 WOODYVILLE Lighting of the Square 409/283-2632 30 KILGORE Christmas Parade 903/984-5022 Gulf Coast 2 BEAUMONT St Mark's Chili Supper 409/832-3405 2, 4-5, 7, 11, 13 HOUSTON <i>Aida</i> 713/546-0246 or 800/346-4462 2-24 PORT ARTHUR Photo Show 409/983-4881 3 HARLINGEN <i>The King and I</i> 956/430-6699 3-5 HOUSTON NASA Johnson Space Center Inspection '99 281/244-1316 3, 6, 9, 12, 14 HOUSTON <i>Don Giovanni</i> 713/546-0246 or 800/346-4462 4-7 BROWNSVILLE Rio Grande Valley Arts & Crafts Exposition 956/542-0941	5-7 WINNIE Trade Days 409/892-4000 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 MANVEL Opry 281/459-1716 or 331-1786 6 CLEAR LAKE SHORES Wooden Boat Festival 281/334-3101 CORPUS CHRISTI Sweet Adelines Barbershop Harmony Show 361/991-7819 GALVESTON <i>The King and I</i> 409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894 HARLINGEN U.S. Marines Birthday Parade 956/423-6006 HOUSTON Taste Fest 281/807-8760 TEXAS CITY Birding Tour 281/445-1187 6-7 CORPUS CHRISTI Doll & Bear Show 361/776-3028 HARLINGEN Arts & Crafts Market 956/423-1243 PORT LAVACA Festival by the Bay 361/552-9330 7 PORT ISABEL World's Championship Shrimp Cookoff 956/943-2262 11 BAY CITY Veterans Day Remembrance 409/245-8333 HARLINGEN Veterans Day Parade 956/423-6006 11-14 HARLINGEN Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival 956/423-5440 or 800/531-7346 HOUSTON Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market 713/523-6300 PORT ARANSAS Honor Veterans Fishin' & Beachin' 800/452-6278	12-13 BAY CITY Bazaar 409/245-4100 12-14 KINGSVILLE College Rodeo 800/333-5032 13 BROWNSVILLE Gladys Porter Zoo Lower Valley Appreciation Day 956/546-7187 Martha Felcman Piano Concert 956/541-7782 EDNA Arts & Crafts Show 512/782-7146 Bicycle Tour/ Volksmarch 512/782-7146 GALVESTON <i>The Pirates of Penzance</i> 409/765-1894 or 800/812-1894 MANVEL Arts & Crafts Show 281/489-7596 RIO HONDO Fly-In Waffle Breakfast 956/748-2112 13-14 BEAUMONT Craft Show 800/782-3081 CLEAR LAKE AREA Armand Bayou Martyn Farm Festival 281/474-2511 CORPUS CHRISTI Family Festival & Chili Cookoff 361/882-1686 VICTORIA Arts & Crafts Show 512/797-9333 14 HOUSTON Lowrider Car Show 281/890-5500 PORT ARTHUR Second Sunday at Texas Artists Museum 409/983-4881 TEXAS CITY Taste of the Town 409/935-1408 16 HARLINGEN Dance Tribute to a Century 956/399-7699 16-17 BROWNSVILLE Arts & Crafts Show 956/982-1820	19 CORPUS CHRISTI Moscow Boys Choir 361/888-7444 VICTORIA Country Opry 361/552-9347 19-20 HOUSTON OrchestraX Mozart Tribute 713/225-6729 LAKE JACKSON Craft Show 409/297-2329 19-Dec 5 KINGSVILLE La Posada de Kingsville 800/333-5032 19-Dec 30 KINGSVILLE Celebration of Lights/ Christmas Tree Forest 361/595-8151 or 800/333-5032 20 BAY CITY Market Day 409/245-8333 BROWNSVILLE Curious Kids History Clinic 956/548-1313 GALVESTON <i>1776</i> 409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894 KINGSVILLE Ranch Hand Breakfast 512/592-8516 or 800/333-5032 LEAGUE CITY Bluegrass Show 713/990-5171 TOMBALL Holiday Parade 281/351-7222 20-21 BEAUMONT Interfaith Choir 409/898-1634 HOUSTON Firehouse Art Show 713/880-4902 or 869-0441 PORT ARTHUR Trade Days 409/982-4950 TEXAS CITY Trade Days 409/949-9273 21 GROVES Christmas Tree Trail 800/876-3631	23 KINGSVILLE Jazz Bash 361/593-2803 25 HOUSTON Reliant Energy Uptown Holiday Lighting 713/621-2011 or 621-2405 26 SOUTH PADRE ISLAND Lighting of the Island 956/761-3000 or 761-6433 26-27 GALVESTON <i>Camelot</i> 409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894 26-28 HOUSTON Holiday Market 281/890-5500 27 GALVESTON Harbor Parade of Lights 409/763-7080 or 888/425-4753 McFADDIN Arts & Crafts Show 361/573-0301 ROSENBERG Christmas Magic 281/342-6969 27-28 HARLINGEN Holiday Art Show 956/423-3367 NURSERY Trader Days 512/578-8484 ODEM Market Days 361/368-9044 South Texas Plains 1-14 SAN ANTONIO (began Oct 31) Jewish Book Fair 210/344-3453 2 LAREDO Día de los Muertos 956/795-2080 SAN ANTONIO Día de los Muertos 210/432-1896 5-6 GEORGE WEST Storyfest 361/449-2481 or 888/600-3121
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Popeye! What a guy. He's the man at Crystal City's Spinach Festival, November 12-14.

KEVIN STILLMAN

26 SAN ANTONIO River Parade & Lighting Ceremony 210/224-9600
26-28 SAN ANTONIO <i>The Nutcracker</i> 210/554-1010
26-Dec 19 SAN ANTONIO Feria de Santa Cecilia & Fiestas Navideñas 210/207-8600
27 SAN ANTONIO Los Pastores 210/357-1900
27-Dec 19 SAN ANTONIO Holiday Boat Caroling 210/227-4262

Hill Country

1 WALBURG Wurstbraten 512/863-3056
1-7 NEW BRAUNFELS (began Oct 29) Heritage Exhibit 830/629-6504 (began Oct 29) Wurstfest 830/625-9167 or 800/221-4369
4 AUSTIN Cedar Walton Jazz Concert 512/471-1444
5 AUSTIN Money & Power Conference: Texas Women of the Century 512/476-4140 or 406-3050
5-6 BRACKETTVILLE Fort Clark Days 830/563-2024
5-7 AUSTIN Arts & Crafts Show 512/258-2787
FREDERICKSBURG Die Kunstler von Fredericksburg 940/997-4589
QUIVALDE Quilt Show 830/278-3018

6 AUSTIN Gourd Art & Craft Show 817/685-7027 Guadalupe St Fair 512/441-9015
BOERNE Craft & Gift Bazaar 830/249-2565
GEORGETOWN Arts & Crafts Bazaar 512/863-6160
GOLDTHWAITE Arts & Crafts Festival 915/648-3619
KENDALIA VFD Mexican Supper 830/336-2500
SAN SABA Country Peddlers Day 915/372-5294
WIMBERLEY Market Day 512/847-2201
6-7 GEORGETOWN Wesley Fest 512/863-2528
GRUENE Tour de Gruene 830/625-2385
12-13 WIMBERLEY Homes Tour 512/847-2191
12-14 AUSTIN Gem & Mineral Show 512/458-9546
JOHNSON CITY Kid 'n Ewe & Llamas, Too 512/858-7920
12-Jan 2 NEW BRAUNFELS Holiday River of Lights 830/608-2100
13 BERTRAM Market Day 512/355-2532
CASTROVILLE Market Trail Day 830/741-3841
DEVINE Market Trail Day 830/665-5901
GEORGETOWN Market Day 512/930-5302
HONDO Wild Game Dinner 830/426-3037
RIOMEDINA Market Trail Day 210/598-2441

13 SISTERDALE VFD Dinner 830/324-6742 WIMBERLEY Homes Tour 512/847-3561
13-14 BOERNE Market Days 830/249-8095
LLANO Arts & Crafts Show 915/247-5354
14 GRUENE Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist 210/606-1601
18 NEW BRAUNFELS Comal Country Music Show 830/629-4547
19 AUSTIN Los Folkloristas 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010
NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Tree Lighting 830/625-2385
19-21 NEW BRAUNFELS Weihnachtsmarkt 830/629-1572
19-22 AUSTIN <i>Don Giovanni</i> 512/472-5927
19-Jan 2 MARBLE FALLS Walkway of Lights 830/693-4449
20 BURNET Storytelling Festival 512/756-4297
DEVINE Top Brass Quintet 830/665-4310
HONDO Christmas in God's Country 830/426-3037
KERRVILLE Wild Game Dinner 830/367-4700
20-21 GRUENE Market Days 830/629-6441
21-22 TAYLOR Garden Club Christmas Bazaar 512/352-2104

21-23 AUSTIN Chamber Music Program 512/454-0026
26 BLANCO Courthouse & Square Lighting 830/833-2201
LLANO Santa's Big Night 915/247-5354
WIMBERLEY Christmas on the Square 512/847-2237
26-27 FREDERICKSBURG Nimitz Museum Living History 830/997-4379
26-28 AUSTIN Sami Arts & Crafts Thanksgiving Affaire 512/441-7133
FREDERICKSBURG Country Peddler Show 830/997-1013
26-Jan 1 HILL COUNTRY Regional Lighting Trail 830/997-8515
26-Jan 2 JOHNSON CITY Lights Spectacular, Hill Country Style 830/868-7684
27 AUSTIN Steam Train Tour of Lights 512/477-8468
BIG LAKE Wild Game Supper 915/884-2382
CAMP WOOD Hunters Feast 830/597-6241
JOHNSON CITY Lighted Hooves & Wheels Parade 830/868-7684
JUNCTION Wild Game Dinner 915/446-3190
LUCKENBACH Turkey Trot 830/997-3224
MASON Arts & Crafts Show 915/347-6472
Light Up Our Town 915/347-5758
27-28 NEW BRAUNFELS Arts & Crafts Show 210/698-0811

28 SABINAL Country Jam Session 830/988-2761
30-Dec 12 AUSTIN <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470
Big Bend Country
5-6 EL PASO Group de Danza Folklorica Raramuri 915/857-8928
TERLINGUA International Tolbert/Fowler Chili Cookoff 915/646-8564
5-7, 12-13 ODESSA <i>Two From Galilee</i> 915/332-1586
5-20 MIDLAND <i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i> 915/682-4111 or 570-4011
6 ODESSA Brand New Opree 915/332-1586
TERLINGUA CASI International Chili Championship 281/362-7167 or 806/352-8783
7 MARATHON Cowboy Social & Silent Auction 915/386-4370
11 MIDLAND Veterans Day Ceremony 915/563-1000
12-14 LAJITAS Rio Grande Gourmet Raft Trip 210/821-5600
13 EL PASO Barbershop Harmony Show 915/778-7503
PECOS Craft Bazaar 915/445-2406
18 DEL RIO <i>A Winter's Evening</i> 830/775-0888

18 EL PASO Archeological Meet 915/755-4332
18, 20 EL PASO Adele Anthony Violin Concert 915/532-3776
19-21 EL PASO <i>Revolución</i> 915/591-5006
MIDLAND Ranch Rodeo & Western Heritage Celebration 915/687-1351
19-Jan 2 EL PASO Christmas on the Border Chili Cookoff 915/532-7273
20-21 EL PASO Las Artistas Show 915/533-2580
21 ODESSA Lowrider Tejano Show 915/337-2189
22-23 EL PASO Savane College All-America Golf Classic 915/533-4416
MONAHANS Pecan Perfection Show 915/943-4112
25-26 MIDLAND Arts & Crafts Show/Vehicle Auction 915/699-4172
25-27 LAJITAS Rockhound Rendezvous 817/453-4468 or 800/944-9907
26-28 EL PASO Ballet Folklórico 915/857-0415
27 MARATHON Hallie Stillwell Commemorative Get Together 915/376-2244
27-28 ODESSA Ye Olde Christmas Fair 915/366-3541

Nordic Noshing

Long before the 75th Legislature made Clifton's claim to the title "Norwegian Capital of Texas" official in 1997, descendants of the region's original settlers celebrated their heritage with yearly feasting. Ticket sales begin this month for two ethnic spreads set for November and December, when, as suddenly as the blare of a Viking's horn, the first blast of cool weather bids Bosque County to revelry.

First up is Smorgasbord, held on two consecutive evenings each November (Nov. 10-11, 1999) at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 10 miles west of Clifton at Norse. Hosts and hostesses in traditional attire (black and red costumes that originated in the Hardanger region of Norway) greet guests and usher them into a banquet fit for a Viking. The buffet promises a mouth-watering assortment of savory meats and

cheeses, salads, flatbreads, and delicate Norwegian cookies.

On the first Saturday of December (Dec. 4, 1999), the Cranfills Gap Booster Club hosts an authentic Norwegian Lutefisk Dinner at the school cafeteria, with 45-minute sittings beginning at 4:30. The "lye fish" is served, according to tradition, swimming in butter and white sauce on a bed of boiled potatoes. Turkey and dressing, green beans, and delicious homemade pies and breads round out the menu. While guests wait to be ushered into the cafeteria, students adorned in colorful costumes perform Norwegian folk dances.

To get tickets to Smorgasbord (\$12 each), you must enter a drawing, requesting no more than 10 tickets on an entry post-marked between Oct. 8 and Oct. 15, 1999. Tickets for the Lutefisk Dinner (available through Nov. 20) cost \$12, \$6 age 12 and younger. To enter the drawing for Smorgasbord or to order tickets for the Lutefisk, write to the Clifton Chamber of Commerce, 115 N. Ave. D, Clifton 76634, or call 254/675-3720 or 675-2732.

Home-Run Reading

With the Houston Astros charging toward a possible National League pennant and World Series berth, it's fun to recollect the team's fascinating beginnings as a Major League Baseball expansion franchise. Robert Reed's beautiful new book, *A Six-Gun Salute: An Illustrated History of the Houston Colt .45s*, covers the first three years of play at Colt Stadium before the groundbreaking Astrodome (opened in 1965 at the same site) made baseball history.

Filled with history, quotes, anecdotes, photos of players, interviews, and shots of memorabilia, *A Six-Gun Salute* paints a vivid picture of baseball in 1960s Houston. For example, plagued by mosquitoes, Colt Stadium sold repellent at the concession stand. The stadium

boasted extra-long dugouts (a concept that would carry over to the Astrodome), because, according to team owner Judge Roy Hofheinz, "Everybody wants to sit behind the dugout, so why not make more [fans] happy?" And, significantly, Houston's acquisition of a major-league team led directly to the end of racial segregation in the city's hotels: With black players like Willie Mays visiting Houston to play (and needing a place to stay), the city's major hotels quietly dropped their whites-only policies.

Colt fans, Astros fans, those intrigued by Houston's spectacular growth, and anyone with a passion for baseball will love this historical account of a memorable era in Texas sports. Throughout the book, the emergence of the team parallels the city's coming of age as a preeminent American metropolis.

Look for *A Six-Gun Salute* at your library or bookstore (\$34.95 hardback), or to order from the publisher, write to Gulf Publishing Co., Box 2608, Houston 77252; 800/231-6275. Web site: www.gulfpub.com/books.html.

Rogues and Roses

A quarter-century ago, creative-anachronism fan George Coulam built a small, 16th Century-style village on a few wooded acres north of Houston, envisioning a spot where folks could eat, drink, and be merry—all in the spirit of an old English harvest fair. Twenty-five years later, today's Texas Renaissance Festival bears about as much resemblance to its 1975 predecessor as a turkey leg does to a buffalo wing. It's bigger (more than 50 acres now), wilder (the world's only chariot racetrack

is here), and zanier than you ever dreamed.

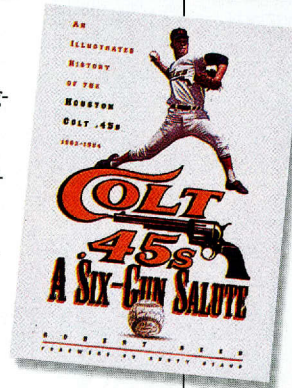
On weekends beginning October 2 and running through November 14, the Texas Renaissance Festival celebrates its silver anniversary with over-the-top entertainment galore. Some 22 stages host perform-

ers ranging from jousters, belly dancers, and contortionists to puppeteers and Celtic guitarists. Hundreds of food merchants serve everything from shrimp étouffée to peasant pork sandwiches, goulash soup, "fried ice cream," and apple dumplings. Hundreds of craftspeople from across the nation

sell such wares as wineskins, harem outfits, bonsai trees, and kaleidoscopes. Roguish entertainers—the men often sport laced-up leather moccasins and the women spill from their bustiers—tell tales of damsels and dragons, speak in an "Olde English" tongue, trade Shakespearean insults ("I never knew so young a body with so old a head"), and incite revelry. It's an autumn bacchanalia, with enough fun and games to please kids of every age.

The grounds themselves are gorgeous. More than 300 permanent structures sport lush vines and ivies, and the horticultural displays dazzle flower-fans. A huge water garden with 19 fountains and statues features more than 100 aquatic plants and shimmering koi. Take a breather in the rose garden, where 600-plus bushes perfume the air. New this year, a 4,500-square-foot English garden boasts some 3,000 plants, plus 35 urns and statues.

Tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival cost \$17.95, \$8.95 ages 5-12, free age 4 and younger. Write to Rt. 2, Box 650, Plantersville 77363, or call 409/894-2516, 281/356-2178, or 800/458-3435. Web site: www.texrenfest.com.



Fair thee well. The Texas Renaissance Festival, a seven-weekend-long bacchanalia held on 50 wooded acres near Plantersville, celebrates its 25th birthday this year.

© LESLIE BALDWIN

By the Way...

October's a great time to get your lawn and garden ready for next spring. **Great Garden Sources for Texans** (\$17.95) by Nan Booth Simpson and Patricia Scott McHargue provides hundreds of Texas sources for top-quality plants and seeds, furniture and lawn art, building materials, and even parks and botanical gardens to visit for inspiration. A nice history of gardening and a primer on landscaping styles kicks off the first chapter.... call 800/880-8642.

Woodville's Heritage Village Museum comprises some 30 historic buildings on 27 acres, a pleasant hiking trail through Big Thicket woodlands, and a circus-themed home-style restaurant dubbed the Pickett House, where the name of the game is chicken-and-dumplings, and lots of it.

COURTESY JACK S. BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART

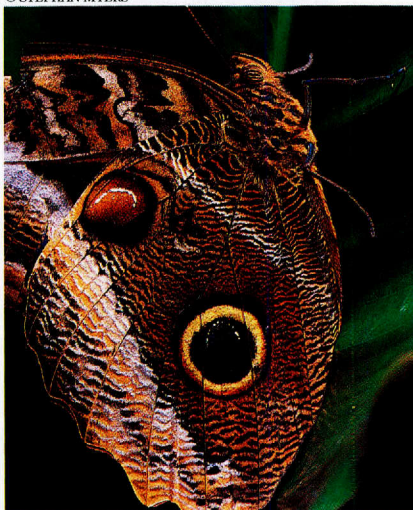


For the first time, you can view 100 of the finest drawings in the Suida-Manning Collection, including 18th-Century Italian artist Gaetano Gandolfi's *Studies of Five Heads*.

On October 16 and 17, the museum hosts the **12th Annual Harvest Festival**, a celebration of East Texas folklife that showcases talent on six stages (see story, Oct. 1996). Music, dancing, and eating win applause here—where else but at Harvest Fest can you watch a Russian folk dance ensemble while you sample bread made from foxtail grass?...call 409/283-2272.

On October 16 and 17, look to the skies during the **15th Annual Wings Over**

©STEPHAN MYERS



Butterflies abound this month in the Blachly Conservatory at the Dallas Horticulture Center in Fair Park.

Houston Airshow Festival, one of the three largest air shows in the country. You'll see flying demonstrations of elite military aircraft; an explosive re-creation of the Pearl Harbor bombing, featuring more than 50 vintage planes; and stunt-flying and jump-team exhibitions. The fest also features ride simulators, a kids' carnival, and booths stocked with aviation souvenirs.... call 713/266-4492. Web site: www.wingsoverhouston.com.

Through October 17, the Dallas Horticulture Center in Fair Park hosts **Butterflies in the Blachly Conservatory**, a "butterfly immersion" exhibit in the first public conservatory in Texas. Guests can walk along plant-lined pathways as hundreds of butterflies navigate the conservatory's air currents. Be sure to spend some time observing the "emergence chamber," where, if your timing's right, you can witness the tail end of a caterpillar's metamorphosis into a butterfly. With its Butterfly Habitat Certification program, the center supports butterfly gardens throughout the region. If you'd like to visit a few of the Dallas area's 24 certified habitats, ask at the conservatory.... call 214/428-7476.

In 1998, the Jack S. Blanton Museum of Art in Austin acquired the Suida-Manning Collection, one of the nation's finest collections of Old Master drawings and paintings. Through October 24, 100 of the collection's finest drawings will be shown publicly for the first time. **Old Master Drawings from the Suida-Manning Collection** will complement the permanent exhibit, **Masterpieces of European Painting from the Suida-Manning**

Collection, on view at the nearby Harry Ransom Center.... call 512/471-7324.

The Master Gardeners Association of Fort Bend County presents its **Second Annual Fall Garden Tour** on October 9. Eight sites, including six private homes, demonstrate styles ranging from bog gardening to xeriscaping. The Master Gardeners responsible for planting and maintaining each site will be on hand to answer questions and offer tips. And, by the way, did you know that wherever you live in Texas, you can call your county extension office for advice from a local Master Gardener? (Check your phone book's County pages under "agriculture extension agents.") To be properly certified, Master Gardeners must fulfill 60 volunteer hours as well as 60 hours of study.... call 281/342-3034.

At **Fort Davis National Historic Site** on October 9, turn your clock back to the year 1880 for the annual **Fort Festival**. Dozens of historical reenactors will demonstrate skills and crafts of the period, San Angelo's Fort Concho troops will challenge the Fort Davis troops to an 1880s-style baseball game, and a group of Buffalo Soldiers will demonstrate cavalry drills. Children's games and period music help set the scene, and

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you can tour the Commanding Officer's Quarters, the barracks, the commissary, and an officer's kitchen—all staffed by interpreters in period costume.... call 915/426-3225, ext. 20.

From October 22 through October 31 in San Antonio, 22 performing arts companies from around the globe bring their talents to San Antonio's theaters, public streets, and parks as part of the first annual **International Theater Festival**. Fans of theater, dance, music, and comedy will thrill to cabaret from Croatia, interactive theater from Germany, African ballet, a tango ensemble from Argentina, a children's orchestra from Mexico, a comedy-drama from Italy, and more.... call 210/212-6771 or 227-0123.

At the Galveston Art Center from October 9 through November 21, Houston photojournalist Lydia Lum's solo exhibition, **Angel Island: Immigrant Journeys of Chinese Americans**, takes a look at the experiences of some 30 Chinese immigrants when they arrived at San Francisco Bay's Angel Island in the days before the Second World War. At Angel Island, many were detained for weeks.... call 409/763-2403.

©LYDIA LUM



Boy's Swing, a photo illustration by Lydia Lum, tells one of many stories of Chinese immigration. See more of Lydia's work at the Galveston Art Center.

TEXCETERA brings you readers' tips and timely travel tidbits. Because we're unable to check out every item in "Readers Recommend," and because details can change, we encourage you to call ahead for more information. When we mention new places, products, or publications, we try to include only those with promise; keep in mind, however, that problems can occur with start-up businesses.

If you run across a noteworthy Lone Star attraction, restaurant, event, or product, we'd love to hear about it. Write to Readers Recommend, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009. Email: editors@texashighways.com. Remember that space constraints prevent us from running every suggestion we receive. We reserve the right to edit items.

READERS RECOMMEND...

If you want to know what great down-home cooking is all about, stop by **Gloria's Kitchen in Hamlin**. Gloria Hunter bakes the best fried pies and cinnamon rolls you've ever tasted, guaranteed. And her daily luncheon specials will make you forget Mama's meals.

Tom Avant, via email
Gloria's Kitchen is at 28 S. Central Ave.; 915/576-3111.

Enjoyed delicious seafood in a casual, charming Gulf Coast atmosphere at **Clark's Restaurant & Marina in Port O'Connor**.

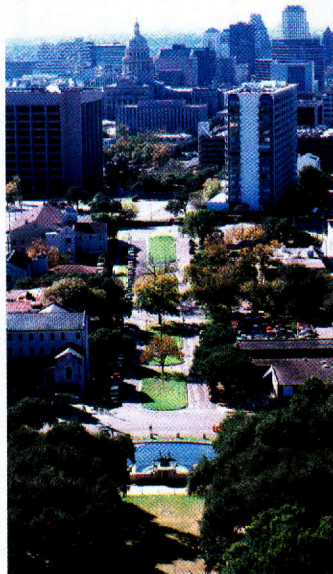
Sterling McGuire, Austin, via email
Clark's Restaurant & Marina is at 7th St. and the Intracoastal Waterway; 361/983-4388.

On a return trip from the coast, I had to fill up at one of our favorites, **Black's Barbecue in Lockhart**. Juicy ribs and brisket, excellent beans, potato salad, and slaw, and tasty cobbler and pie.

Nolan Powers, Austin
Black's Barbecue is at 215 N. Main; 512/398-2712.

MY FAIR LADY

Fronted by a statue of a woman rising from a cactus (see photo, page 26), the former coliseum and administration building at **Dallas' Fair Park** is undergoing a transformation into **The Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future**. Scheduled for completion late next year, the \$25 million renovation of the 1910 structure will



The newly reopened UT-Austin Tower affords breathtaking bird's-eye views of the Capital City.

COURTESY MANSIA MILLER/UT OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

result in a 70,000-square-foot museum and cultural and education center. According to the Dallas CVB, interactive exhibits will "chronicle the contributions of [U.S.] women throughout history, explore the similarities and differences among women's lives across time, and inspire pride and hope for millions of visitors." Other exhibits will address women's roles in the 21st Century. Call executive director Candace O'Keefe at 888/337-1167. Web site: www.thewomensmuseum.org.

EYE ON THE SKY

As part of its 116th birthday celebration on September 15, the **University of Texas at Austin** formally reopened the

UT Tower to the public for the first time since 1974. Folks can once again go to the top of the 307-foot tower—on guided tours, not individually—and take in fabulous views of the campus and the Capital City. Twilight tours take place Mon-Fri at 6 p.m., 7 p.m., and 8 p.m. (Sep. 16-Oct. 1, 1999) and Mon-Fri at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. (Oct. 2-29, 1999). Weekend tours (which began Sep. 18) occur year round, every Sat-Sun on the hour from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., except on holidays and during other university closings. Wheelchair accessible. You can purchase tour tickets (\$3 per person) at the Information Center in the Texas Union (24th and Guadalupe), or call 512/475-6633 or 877/475-6633.

Heads up, bird-lovers: The **Upper Texas Coast** portion of the **Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail** (GTCBT) is ready for trekking. With 125 sites and 15 birding loops, the new section begins at Tony Houseman State Park (near the Texas-Louisiana border) and extends to the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge near Brazosport. But don't take wing without an info-packed **Upper Texas Coast map**, now available (for free) at TxDOT Travel Information Centers, state parks, CVBs, chambers of commerce, and refuges in the region. You can also request the map (as well as a map of the Central section of the trail, the first section completed) by calling 888/TXBIRDS or emailing mark.klym@tpwd.state.tx.us. The GTCBT's third and final project (the Lower Coast) is nearing completion; a map should be available this fall.

CULTURE ON THE CONCHO

As of September 26, **San Angelo** has a brand-spanking-new, 30,000-square-foot **Museum of Fine Arts & Education Center** (One Love St.) that fea-

tures three galleries, a library, an education wing (with ceramics and art studios), a rooftop sculpture garden, and an atrium lobby. Opening exhibits (on view through January 2000) include a showing of Old Master paintings, recent landscape and still-life paintings by Cuban-born Texas artist Lilian Garcia-Roig, and a collection of contemporary American ceramics. Call 915/653-3333. Web site: web2.airmail.net/samfa.

SUPER MODELS

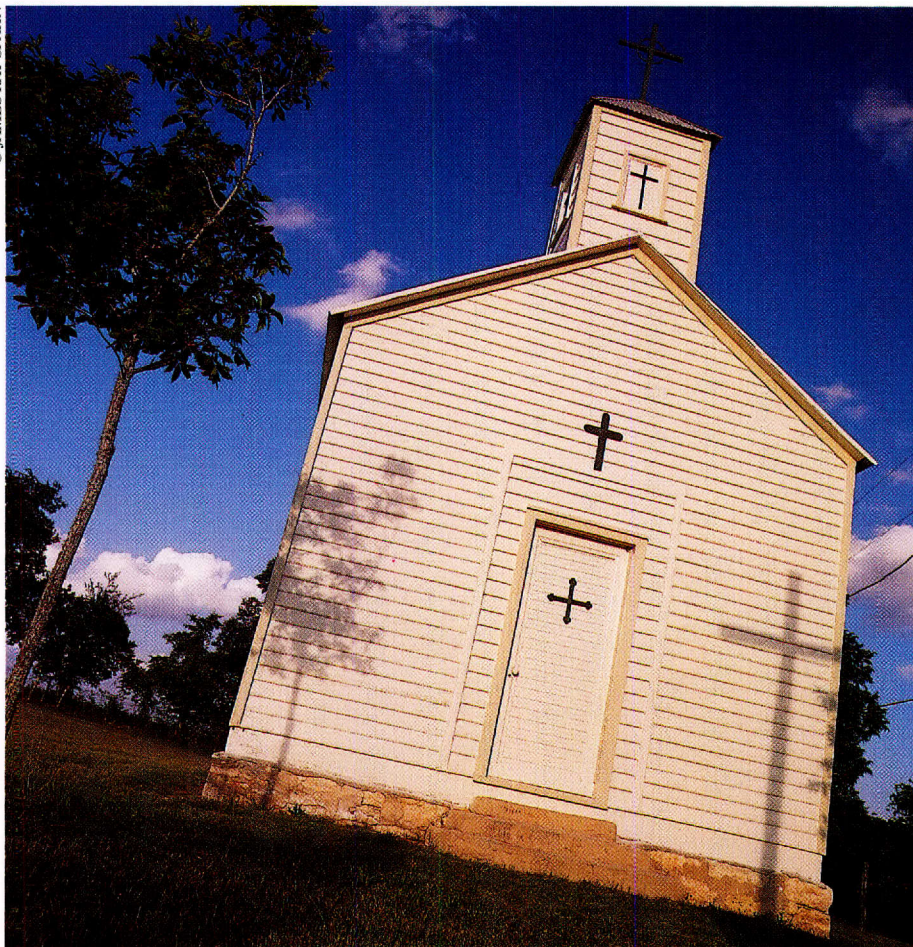
While in Fayette County on a painted churches excursion (see page 4), fans of flight will want to stop by **Schulenburg's new Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum** (311 Baumgarten St.), which pays tribute to the lifework of local brothers Victor (1910-1997) and Joe (1916-1990) Stanzel. The hobbyists-turned-entrepreneurs revolutionized the toy-airplane world and secured some 25 patents, including one for a single-line control device. (Stanzel planes are still made in Schulenburg today.) Among the restored planes on display, you'll see the original 1939 Tiger Shark, the first-ever single-line-control model. Through interactive exhibits, the young uns can learn how air pressure lifts planes, and find out how a propeller makes an engine work. Open Wed-Sun; call for hours (409/743-6559). Web site: www.airstanzel.com.

Down the Road

Next month, we'll make your ranch-style dreams come true at two West Texas spreads (Cibolo Creek and Alazan), and get the holidays hoppin' at Ellison's Greenhouses (a.k.a. "poinsettia central"). We even have something in store for Leonid-lovers....

WINDOW ON TEXAS

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Catholic families in the community of Twin Sisters helped build Saint Mary's Help of Christian Catholic Church, dedicated in 1889. Stone quarried a mile from the site went into the foundation; other materials had to be hauled by wagon over 30 miles of rough roads. The church is on FM 473 in Blanco County, six miles south of Blanco via US 281.

