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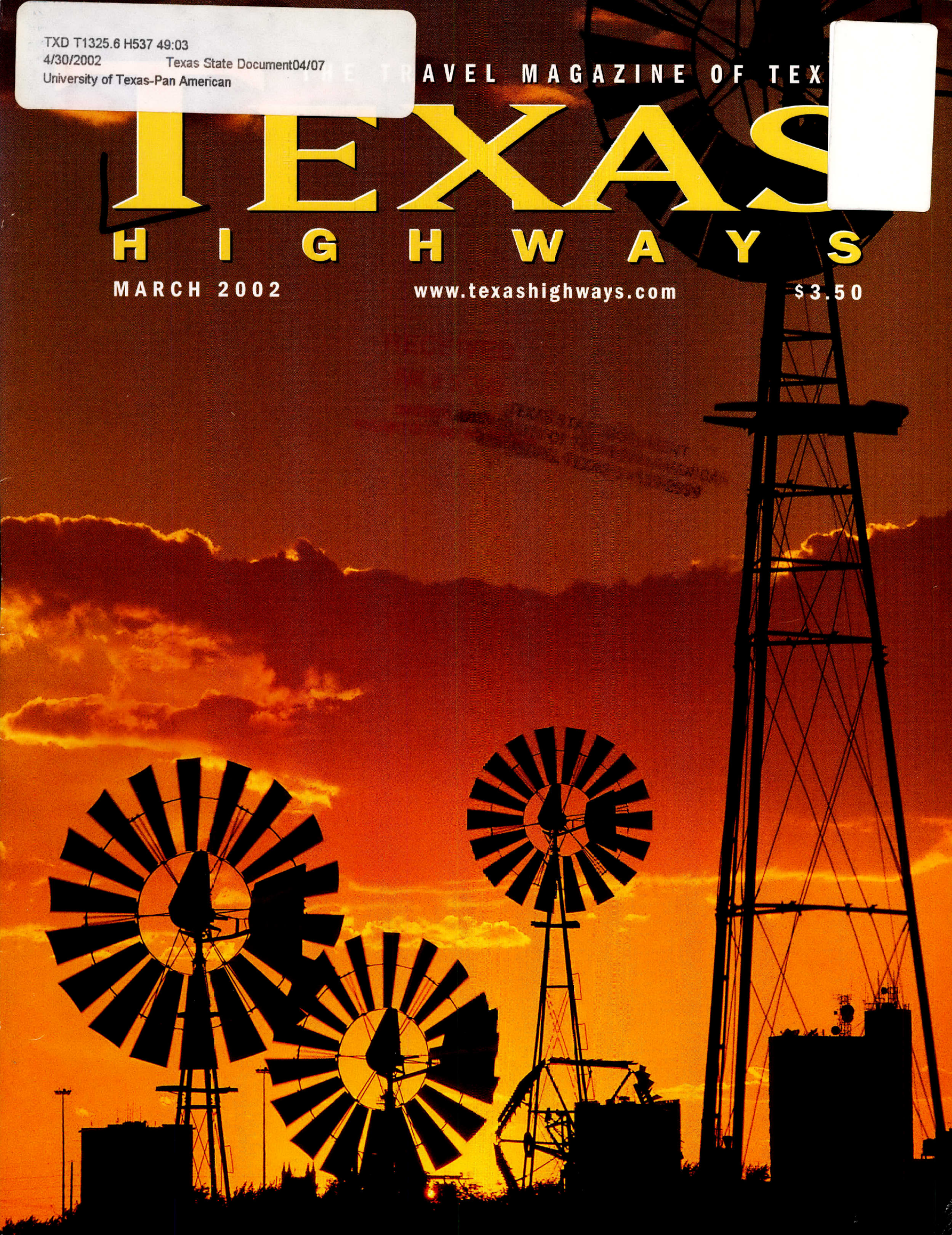
TEXAS

HIGHWAYS

MARCH 2002

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Texas may be known for windmills, Davy Crockett, and its Presidential Corridor—all of which we cover this month—but we're also famous for hearty fare like steak and enchiladas.

We asked **John Lumpkin**, the Associated Press Bureau Chief for Texas, to search the Lone Star State for great steaks. John's finds begin on page 44.

Lists of favorite Texas steakhouses abound. One notable roster, **Tom Horan's Texas' Top Ten Steakhouses for 2002**, goes like this: 1) A tie between Al Biernat's, Dallas, and Vallone's, Houston; 2) Morton's of Chicago, Houston; 3) The Steakhouse at the San Luis Hotel, Galveston; 4) Nick & Sam's, Dallas; 5) III Forks, Dallas; 6) Sullivan's Steakhouse, Houston; 7) Taste of Texas, Houston; 8) Silver Fox, Grapevine; 9) The Little Rhein Steakhouse, San Antonio; and 10) Brenner's, Houston. Entering Tom Horan's Steakhouse Hall of Fame for 2002 is Bob's Steak & Chop House, Dallas. Bob's joins the Palm of Houston on that prestigious list....

In January's Up Front I mentioned that we would like to hear from you if you had any thoughts on why Wednesday was **Enchilada Day** in **San Antonio's** schools. From the responses, a lot of you remember Enchilada Day fondly; some of your memories drifted to other South Texas districts and to school meals in general. **Bill McCalister** of San Antonio recalls Enchilada Day in Corpus Christi, at Sundeen Junior High and Mary Carroll High schools. He adds, "Those schools always served fish on Friday. This was fish sticks alternated with those wretched salmon croquettes."

Jim Broaddus of Austin remembers Enchilada Day from the 1950s and '60s in the Alamo Heights schools in San Antonio: "The memory that won't go away is the sequel to Enchilada Day—Tamale Pie Day, which occurred every Thursday. The infamous tamale pie was a combination of the leftover enchiladas, beans, corn, and rice from Wednesday, and was offered as an alternative to the regular Thursday menu item. Often it was the better of the two alternatives. No wonder our lunch was only 50 cents!"

A note from **Richard Havel** and some tips from **Kathy Jones**, both of San Antonio, led us to think we had tracked down the origins of

Enchilada Day. Kathy's grandfather **Bob Jones** ran a restaurant on Flores Street in San Antonio in the early 1940s. Because of rationing during World War II, Bob wasn't able to open his restaurant during the day. After a new school without cafeteria facilities opened in San Antonio's Harlandale School District, the teachers brought the kids across the street to the Bob Jones Cafe, where Bob fed them hamburgers for 10 cents, free milk, and, on Wednesdays, enchiladas.

According to Bob's son **Bud Jones**, cheese deliveries came once a week—on Tuesday. Bob used red corn tortillas, made his own chili sauce, and started rolling enchiladas early Wednesday morning, filling big sheet pans with them.

Bud opened Bud Jones Meal-A-Minute Restaurant at 1440 SW Military Drive in 1954, and he's still the owner. The restaurant serves the same enchiladas that Bob made for students six decades ago....

Then we heard from **Houston Maddox** of Dallas, who remembers that all the Alamo Heights schools shared the same campus in 1933. "I was in the second grade at the time, and had helped a teacher put away some equipment and was late getting to eat with the elementary students," he recalls. "It was a Wednesday, and the cafeteria staff had already put enchiladas on the serving line for the older students. When I asked for some, I was told they could not serve elementary students enchiladas.

"My mother, Mary Liles Loftis, an English teacher in the high school at the time, was surprised, because she thought everyone had the same selections," Houston says. "The next Wednesday, I was told to contact the cafeteria supervisor and she would get me enchiladas from the kitchen. This arrangement lasted only a short time, as other students probably reported to their parents that they were not getting enchiladas either, and the parents must have gotten in touch with the school."

So the Enchilada Day mystery continues....

Happy eating—and reading.



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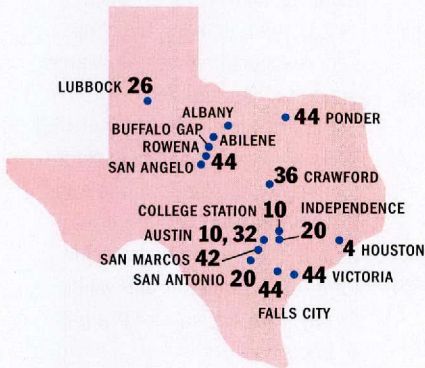
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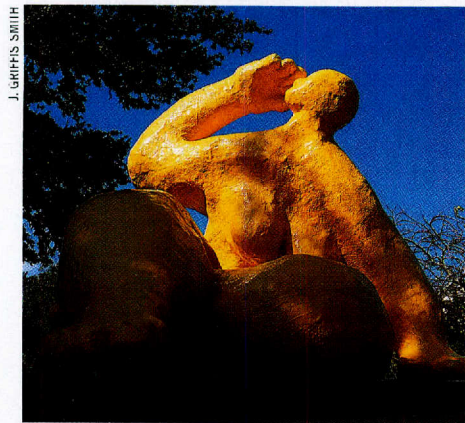


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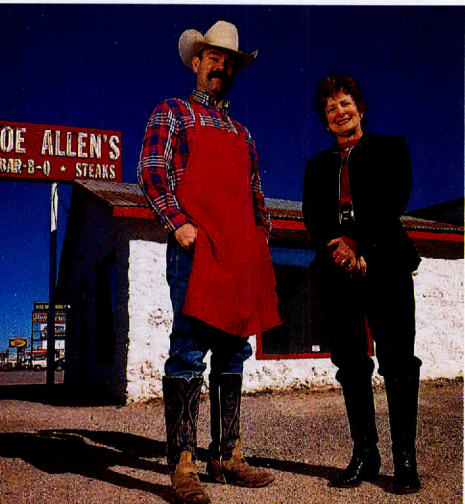
© JIM CROW

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J. GRIFFIS SMITH

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FEATURES

4 Texas Flags Unfurled

A spectacular exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, showcases 32 historic Texas flags, physical symbols of a proud heritage. Among the banners—some threadbare and battle-worn—hangs the flag borne by Texians at San Jacinto.

STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY RANDY MALLORY



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COURTESY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

10 Winner By a Landslide: The Presidential Corridor

Defined by an impressive library and museum at each end, the Presidential Corridor covers an inviting chunk of Central Texas. Join a seasoned traveler on a leisurely meander between Austin and College Station.

BY ROSEMARY WILLIAMS, PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

20 Roses and More

Sweet scents, an abundance of blooms and butterflies, and a heady mixture of plants distinguish The Antique Rose Emporium, in Independence and San Antonio. Both settings offer walks in the proverbial rose garden.

BY DIANE MOREY SITTON, PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN VANDIVIER

26 Cherishing the Winds of Change

At the American Wind Power Center in Lubbock, sights and sounds remind visitors of a nearly-bygone era. The museum displays more than 100 authentically restored windmills, along with related windmill artifacts.

BY DOMINIQUE INGE, PHOTOGRAPHS BY WYMAN MEINZER

32 In Search of Davy

Tennessean-turned-Texan David Crockett was as famous in his day as he is now in popular culture. A new exhibit at Austin's Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum examines some of the icon's many faces.

BY GENE FOWLER

36 Gone to the Dogs

At sheepdog trials across the state, you can watch magnificent canines in action. Fans of these hardworking dogs look forward to a competition that takes place near Crawford next month.

BY DIANE DICKINSON, PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM CROW

42 Adventure Tour: Canoeing the San Marcos River

A six-mile trip down one of the prettiest rivers in Texas involves some fast water and a few tight turns, but also placid stretches where going with the flow means simply floating.

BY PATRICIA CAPERTON PARENT, PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURENCE PARENT

44 Texas Steak-Out!

Year in, year out, revered steakhouses from Albany to Victoria offer discerning customers the same enticement—good beef cooked to perfection. Where are these Texas institutions?

Follow the hot and sizzling trail. BY JOHN O. LUMPKIN, PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

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About Our Covers

[FRONT] A trademark West Texas sunset silhouettes windmills at the American Wind Power Center in Lubbock. For more striking images of these Plains icons, turn to page 26. Photo © Sean Meyers

[BACK] Visitors find some of the structures at The Antique Rose Emporium in Independence as intriguing as the heirloom roses. The stone building formed part of the old Hairston-McKnight homestead. Emporium staff constructed the greenhouse from recycled doors and windows. Photo © Kevin Vandivier

WAR STORY

On behalf of myself and my Confederate ancestors, I congratulate you on Gene Fowler's article, "Texas in the War Between the States" [January issue]. I also thank you for using the correct terminology, "The War Between the States," not "Civil War." Again, I thank you for the two articles in Speaking of Texas on Confederate General John B. "Prince" Magruder and Confederate Colonel Santos Benavides, who won the battles of Galveston and Laredo, respectively, to keep Texas free of Union troops. Both of my great-grandfathers were Confederate veterans and fought for what they believed was right in that period of Texas history.

BILLY I. DIPPEL, D.D.S.
Brownwood

You have long been the best magazine about Texas and Texans (one of the best magazines in any category). Gene Fowler's article on Texas in the War Between the States is the best written on that subject in a long while. Thanks for the great pictures and information.

GARY P. WHITFIELD
Fort Worth

You Asked for It...

I'm looking for the words and music to the song "Bluebonnets." I believe it became the Texas Official State Flower Song in 1933. I learned the song in elementary school in Houston—do you know where I can find the sheet music?

MARION BROWN

Ed Note: Yes, the editors can name that tune (but you really don't want to hear us sing it). According to a May 1998 Speaking of Texas item written by Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, "Bluebonnets," with lyrics by Chappell Hill native Julia D. Booth and tune by Lora C. Crockett (a local piano teacher at the time), was adopted as the official flower song by the 43rd Legislature in 1933. An original copy of the sheet music is on file in the museum archives of the Chappell Hill Historical Society (call 979/836-6033 Wed-Fri); you can find the Speaking item and the lyrics at www.texashighways.com. The first stanza begins, "When the pastures are green in the springtime, And the birds are singing their sonnets, You may look to the hills and the valleys, And they're covered with lovely bluebonnets." Happy spring!



Ed and Cornelia Gates of Aloe Tile Works in Corpus Christi created several art-tile murals for the TxDOT rest stop on US 77, 20 miles south of Kingsville.

SCOUT IT OUT

Inspired by the article in the August issue on the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, our Boy Scout Troop 285 journeyed to Austin in November for a visit. The museum is bodacious in all senses. I consider it above the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The Texas Spirit Theater show should be mandatory for all Texans.

BILL McCALISTER
San Antonio

Ed. Note: *Bill, you and the Scouts will have to plan a return trip to check out the Davy Crockett exhibit; see the story on page 32. A new show in the Texas Spirit Theater will feature surprising special effects and a live actor portraying Davy.*

ONE TILE AT A TIME

We are tile artisans in South Texas. Recently, we completed four large art-tile murals for the TxDOT rest stop on US 77, 20 miles south of Kingsville. In designing these murals, we used TH as one of our encyclopedias for correctness of image. Your photographs inspired our repeat wildflower assemblages, our Dutch-oven and campfire drawings, and our repeat cactus design. The images you publish have been inspirational to us in our attempt to contribute to the making of a more beautiful world one tile at a time.

ED AND CORNELIA GATES,
ALOE TILE WORKS
Corpus Christi

BOOT-IFUL MEMORIES

Your December story on Texas bootmakers made me recall my first pair of cowboy boots, purchased from Leddy Boot Store at Main and Exchange in the Fort Worth Stockyards. The famous flood of 1942 had inundated the store, and water-damaged boots sold at the bargain price of \$5 a pair. Incidentally, that five bucks was my total week's wages at 25 cents per hour at the Burrus Mill & Elevator Company. Well worth the price—I wore them for years.

TRAVIS TRAYNHAM
Fort Worth

Recently, my wife and I spent the night in San Angelo. Driving around "Old Town" the next morn-

ing, I noticed a sidewalk sign that read "J.L. Mercer Boots, Since 1923." Upon entering the shop, I got reacquainted with Mr. Mercer, the son of the founder.

Our first encounter was in 1946, when he was a young man returning from World War II and learning the bootmaking trade from his dad. I was a young boy working for a road contractor and willing to pay a week's wages for a pair of boots.

Today, the shop is in the same location and probably in about the same condition. The big differences are in ages and dollars. Mr. Mercer is 82 and I am 72, and we agreed that I paid about \$35 for my first pair of custom-made boots. That was a very emotional experience for this sentimental old Texan.

JIM TURNER
Hawkins

CORRECTIONS: Contributor Randy Mallory of Tyler wrote to set us straight on February's back cover: "The star-like patterns created on the backwater pond were not pine needles, as noted in the caption; it was simply the way the ice froze in ray-like patterns, emanating at the water line from objects such as galls on branches and dirt collected around briars." Thankfully, Randy's not giving us the cold shoulder over this one....

And the Talk to TH editor put her foot in her mouth in February's "You Asked for It," when she said that there's a visitor center at the base of the Sam Houston statue near Huntsville ("beneath Sam's Volkswagen-size feet"). Reader Sam Findley of Mount Vernon points out, "The visitor center is behind the statue. A footpath connects the center with the statue."

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 Talk to TH, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009, or fax 512/486-5879. Email: editors@texashighways.com. Web site: www.texashighways.com.

Enterprising Woman

Modern-day tycoons might envy the industry and business acumen of Texas pioneer Sarah Cockrell. Married in 1847 to Alexander Cockrell, who couldn't read or write, the former Sarah Horton kept all the books and records for her husband's ranch, freighting company, and other ventures.

In 1852, after Alexander bought John Neely Bryan's interest in the young town of Dallas for \$7,000, Sarah packed up the family and moved them to a new house in town. When Alexander's death in 1858 (in a shootout with a town marshal) left Sarah a widow with four young children to raise, she took over all of her late husband's business projects and expanded them to suit her own interests.

After the Cockrells' toll bridge over the Trinity River washed out in 1859, Sarah renewed a franchise to operate a ferry. She chartered the Dallas Iron and Bridge Company, intending to build an iron toll bridge to replace the one washed away. Though a number of citizens petitioned the Texas government to allow construction of a free bridge, Mrs. Cockrell's personal appearance before the state legislature apparently swayed the lawmakers her way, and they granted the charter. With construction slowed by the Civil War, the bridge didn't open until 1872. According to a 1942 article in *The Dallas Morning News*, the ferry played a significant role in the development of early Dallas, "since it was essential that livestock and vehicles be able to cross the river."

Sarah Cockrell also built the first

steam flour mill in Dallas, ran the town's first sawmill, erected the three-story St. Nicholas Hotel on the corner of Broadway and Commerce streets, and donated land for the First Methodist Church. When she died in 1892, she owned about one quarter of downtown Dallas and was the town's richest citizen. Her will was so long that it had to be printed in pamphlet form.

—Cindi Myers, *Bailey, Colorado*

Rose of Honor

While the facts surrounding the Yellow Rose of Texas legend remain elusive (see sidebar, page 24), no one disputes the esteem in which "the heroine of the Battle of San Jacinto" is held in Texas culture. For more than four decades, that

esteem has taken the form of a special Governor's award given only to Texas women.

In the late 1950s, the administration of Governor Allan Shivers created the Yellow Rose of Texas Award "to honor Emily Morgan's important role in the battle for our state's independence." The award, given only through the Office of the Governor, recognizes outstanding Texas women for their "significant contributions to their communities and to Texas in the preservation of our history, the accomplishments of our present and the building of our future."

Notable recipients have included the late Big Bend rancher, schoolteacher, author, and justice of the peace Hallie Stillwell, and Kingsville native Laura Canales, called the

"Queen of Tejano Music." However, thousands of lesser-known Texans, ranging from university professors to public-health nurses, have also received the award. Many of the recipients have been full-time civic volunteers.

To nominate someone for the award, write to the Office of the Governor (Box 12428, Austin 78711), and fully describe her service to the community and state, listing specific examples of her efforts. If the nomination is approved (allow three to four weeks for a reply), you'll receive a handsome proclamation bearing the recipient's name, the governor's signature, and the State Seal. Nominators often present the proclamation to the honoree along with—what else?—a bouquet of yellow roses.

—Nola McKay

COURTESY DALLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY



For National Women's History Month, we salute Dallas pioneer and entrepreneur Sarah Horton Cockrell (at left; 1819-1892), Big Bend icon Hallie Crawford Stillwell (1898-1997), and all recipients of the Yellow Rose of Texas Award.

© JAMES EVANS



Texas Flags 1836-1945

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Battle Flag of the Battleship TEXAS, WWII

Rare Flag from Spanish American War

127 Texans Served with Roosevelt's Rough Riders

Texas Lone Star at the Center of Confederate Battle Flag

The Women Who Sewed This Flag Show Their Texas Loyalties

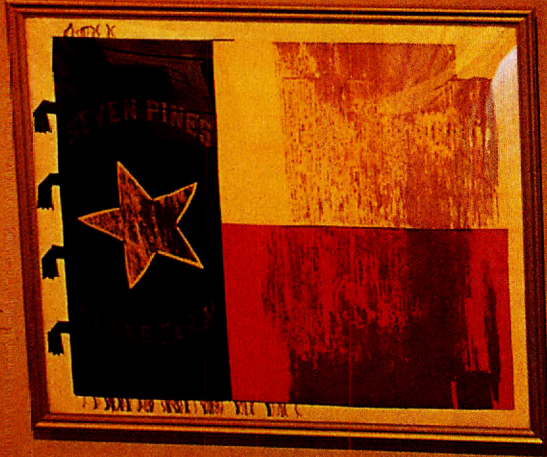
Units under Robert E. Lee Carried This Battle Flag



Flag Made by Houston Educator Led Texans in B...



8 Texans Fell Carrying This Flag at the Battle of Antietam



The Texian Army Led by Sam Houston Flew This Flag at the Battle of San Jacinto



ART AND ICON IN A LANDMARK FLAG EXHIBIT AT THE

TEXAS FLAGS



THROUGHOUT HISTORY, flags have played a life-or-death military role. Flying high above the field of battle, they marked who was “us” and who was “them.” Then *and* now, flags also serve an emotional purpose—as a rallying point for politicians, of course, but also as icons of a people ...symbols of where they’ve been and where they’re headed.

A new book on Texas flags by Fort Worth historian Robert Maberry Jr. begins with an enigmatic quote from an 1836 newspaper article: “The whole flag is historic,” the writer declared. This statement echoed the patriotic fervor common during the Texas Revolution for the “Texian flag,” predecessor of today’s state flag.

The quote also captures the essence of a landmark exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (MFAH), which the book accompanies. Cosponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, *Texas Flags: 1836-1945* opened in January and continues through April 28, 2002.

Indeed, the exhibit and book are historic in their own rights.

The exhibit is the first to document Texas history through its flags, says Peter C. Marzio, MFAH director and former curator at the Smithsonian Institution. “To me, this exhibit is a colorful, patriotic parade of flags, which weaves together the inspiring story of Texas.”

The exhibit unfurls 32 historic flags, more than half of all existing historic Texas flags, according to Robert Maberry. The lion’s share of the flags have recently been conserved (stabilized to prevent further deterioration) using new scientific techniques. Most are on public view for the first time in 50 to 100 years.

Displayed are flags from Mexico, Texas, the Confederacy, and the United States—four of the six nations (Spain and France are the other two) whose banners comprise the “Six Flags of Texas.” These are the actual flags borne by Texas troops during the Texas Revolution, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and World Wars I and II.

The largest group of flags (14) is from the Civil War; only in that era did Texans seriously begin saving their battle flags. The exhibit brings together for the first time all six existing banners of Hood’s Texas Brigade, perhaps the most famous of Texas’ Confederate units.

The 32 Texas flags currently on view at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, stir feelings of pride in heritage-loving Texans. The exhibit brings together more than half of all existing historic Texas flags, most of which haven’t been displayed in public for 50 to 100 years.



Co-curator Robert Maberry, shown here with the 20th Texas Infantry Stars and Bars flag, wrote the book *Texas Flags*, which accompanies the exhibit. A dentist in Fort Worth, Robert also holds a doctorate in American history.

The U.S. Army's famed Buffalo Soldiers carried three of the rare banners shown here. These African Americans, many of them freed slaves, guarded the Texas frontier for two decades after the Civil War, despite discrimination by the citizenry they protected.

The touchstone of the exhibit is the San Jacinto battle flag. It led General Sam Houston's army against General Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto. That pivotal victory resulted in Texas' independence from Mexico. Like many early historic flags, the San Jacinto flag survives only in fragments. These are sandwiched between a special padded backing and a piece of Plexiglas. Only about 40 percent of the painted image remains, along with only 10 percent of the original cloth around it, the result of aging and a destructive restoration in the 1930s. Yet its aura is undeniable.

In the center of a field of scattered silk fragments—probably once blue but now faded to gold—sits the female representation of Liberty holding a streamer declaring "Liberty or Death."

[FACING PAGE] Today's Lone Star flag was known as the Texian Flag in the days of the Republic. This example, which possibly dates to 1839, was made from commercially produced wool. The sections were tinted with vegetable dyes and handsewn with linen thread. The five-pointed star on each side was chainstitched with red silk thread.

At San Jacinto, Texian troops took three Mexican battalion colors as spoils of war. The exhibit reunites the three with the San Jacinto flag for the first time since they were on the same battlefield, on April 21, 1836. (During the revolutionary era, Mexican *soldados* also captured Texian flags as war prizes: Three Lone Star flags and three other flags from the 1830s-'40s are now in Mexican museums.)

Most of the flags in the MFAH exhibit have been loaned by eight Texas repositories (most notably the Texas State Library and Archives Commission; the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division; and the Texas Military Forces Museum). Three banners came from out-of-state federal repositories.

Texas Flags, the 198-page book accompanying the show, provides the first scholarly examination of the history of Texas flags. Replete with more than 140 illustrations (mostly color), Robert Maberry's tome focuses on what he calls Texas' formative "heroic age"—from the prerevolutionary 1820s until 1833. In 1833, the legislature reestablished the Lone Star flag as the official state banner. (Through legal vagaries, it had served only as the de facto state flag between 1879 and 1833.)

Both the exhibit and the book come at a compelling time. Since September 11 and the ensuing war on terrorism, interest in the U.S. flag has soared to unprecedented levels. In addition, March 2 is both Texas Independence Day (celebrating the March 2, 1836, signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence) and, since 1915, Texas Flag Day.



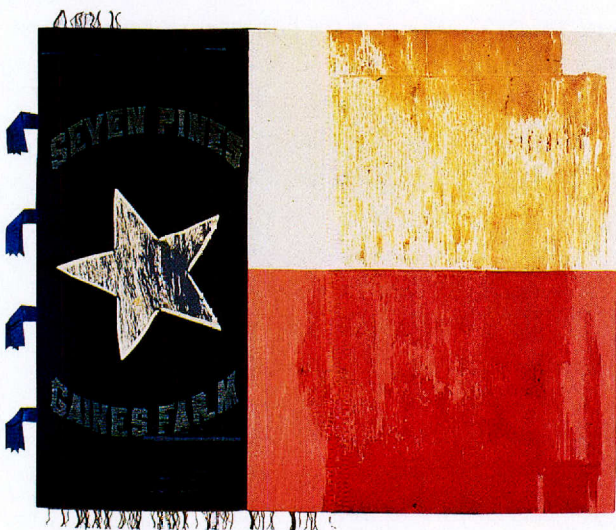
[LEFT] The fragile remains of the flag that Texians carried at the Battle of San Jacinto takes center stage at the exhibit. Handmade by the women of Newport, Kentucky, the silk banner was presented to Sidney Sherman's volunteer company as it departed for Texas to help in the fight for Texas independence.

[RIGHT] One of three Mexican flags captured at the Battle of San Jacinto, this tricolor battle flag displays an embroidered eagle with outspread wings, holding a snake in its beak. The exhibit includes this flag, as well as the other two captured Mexican flags, and reunites them with the San Jacinto flag for the first time since 1836.





THE EXHIBIT SHOWCASES 32 HISTORIC FLAGS. THESE ARE THE ACTUAL FLAGS BORNE BY TEXAS TROOPS DURING THE TEXAS REVOLUTION, THE CIVIL WAR, THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, AND WORLD WARS I AND II.



[LEFT] Originally at least six feet long, this variant of the Texian flag was handmade by Fannie Wigfall (possibly from her wedding dress) and presented to the 1st Texas Infantry Regiment of Hood's Texas Brigade in July 1861. The blue area of the banner was assembled with two layers of silk; a white silk star adorns each side.

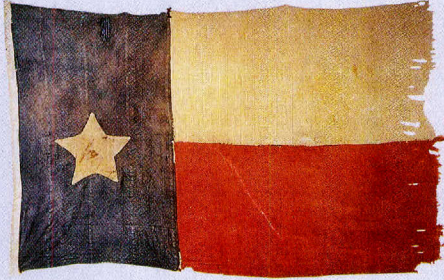
[RIGHT] The 24th U.S. Infantry, a regiment of Buffalo Soldiers that was formed after the Civil War ended, flew this surplus Stars and Stripes, manufactured originally for Union regiments. The unit's designation, painted in gold, appears on the seventh stripe.



INDIVIDUAL FLAG PHOTOS COURTESY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

FLAGS ON PARADE

If the landmark exhibit on historic Texas flags at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, doesn't quench your flag fever, visit the following locations to see more inspiring banners.



One of the state's most notable flags—a rare Lone Star flag of the Republic of Texas, possibly from 1839—draws history buffs to **Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site** near Brenham, where it's displayed at the **Star of the Republic Museum** (936/878-2461; www.birthplaceoftexas.com). The museum also displays a historic 28-star U.S. flag.

At least through April, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division, has 13 flags from its Texas Confederate Museum Collection on view at the **Museum of Southern History in Sugar Land** (14070 Southwest Frwy., behind Southern National Bank; 281/269-7171). One featured banner, known as the Magnolia Rangers flag, is one of the oldest Confederate flags in existence.

The **Texas Heritage Museum** at Hill College in **Hillsboro** (112 Lamar Dr.; 254/582-2555, ext. 256) exhibits three Confederate-era flags with Texas connections: the first Confederate national flag carried by the 6th Texas Infantry; a Trans-Mississippi-style Army of Northern Virginia battle flag of the 12th Texas Cavalry Regiment; and an ornate Sibley's Brigade flag never used in battle.

Austin's Texas Military Forces Museum (Building 6 at Camp Mabry, 2200 W. 35th St.; call before visiting; 512/782-6967 or 782-5659) has more than 40 historic flags, exhibited on a rotating basis. Dating from the

The **Star of the Republic Museum** displays this rare **Republic of Texas-era flag**. COURTESY STAR OF THE REPUBLIC MUSEUM, GIFT OF L. CLETUS BROWN JR.

Civil War to World War II, key flags include those of Troop E, 10th Texas Cavalry (Civil War), plus regimental colors of the 142nd Infantry Regiment (World War I) and the 112th and 124th Cavalry Regiments (World War II).

After the MFAH exhibit ends, three flags on display there will return to their repositories and continue on public display:

At the **State Capitol in Austin**, the San Jacinto flag will hang behind the Speaker's desk in the House of Representatives chamber when the legislature is in session. (The 78th legislature—the next regular session—will run January 14 to June 2, 2003.) When the legislature is not in session, the original flag is stored to limit its exposure to damaging light, and a reproduction hangs in its place.

At the **Fort Davis National Historic Site in Fort Davis** (915/426-3224), a circa-1885 guidon of the Tenth U.S. Cavalry, Company G (one of two cavalry regiments in Texas manned by Buffalo Soldiers), will be back on display in the museum.

At the **Heritage Society in Houston** (1100 Bagby in Sam Houston Park; 713/861-8279), a Republic-era Texian flag will go up at the organization's museum.

—Randy Mallory



Long identified with blue silk flags, U.S. Army Cavalry troops began carrying yellow flags in the 1890s. This regimental color of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders, formed in the spring of 1898, bears the unit's official designation.

But why show historic flags in one of the nation's top art museums?

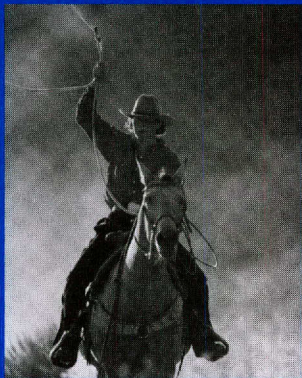
Robert Maberry, who also guest-curated the show with MFAH curator Michael Brown, explains: "Until well after the Civil War, most flags were handstitched by local seamstresses from whatever cloth was on hand. Then they presented the colors to military units on behalf of the community. As such, the flags constitute genuine objects of folk art."

Strolling through the museum's Caroline Wiess Law Building, I see why the flags, most of them suspended dramatically from the hall's 32-foot-high ceiling, are as much art as icon. What grabs me first is the size of the mostly red-white-and-blue flags—ranging from the roughly two-by-four-foot guidon carried by the Tenth U.S. Cavalry, Company G (a regiment of Buffalo Soldiers) to the nine-by-16-foot ensign of the battleship U.S.S. *Texas*, a flag that flew offshore near Omaha Beach on D-Day, June 6, 1944.

When the 20th Texas Infantry Stars and Bars flag catches my eye, I see why Robert calls it "the most spectacular surviving flag of Confederate Texas." A variant of the first national flag of the Confederacy, it resembles the Stars and Stripes, but has three stripes (two red and one white) instead of 13. The canton (the blue field in the corner) boasts 13 appliquéd silk stars encircling the words "Our Homes and Our Rights" painted in gold. Gold letters saying "Texas Volunteers" and "20th Regiment" undulate across the red stripes, surrounded by fancy gold scrollwork.

A more homely Stars and Bars (10th Texas Cavalry) provides a historical footnote. In the faded canton, a circle of white stars bears abbreviations, stitched in red thread, of the names of 11 Confederate states. Flanking them are four red stars with abbreviations stitched in white thread. The latter abbreviations represent Indian nations—Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, and Chickasaw—that were allied by treaty with the South.

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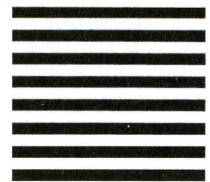
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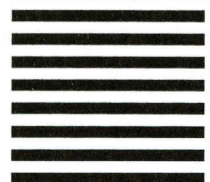
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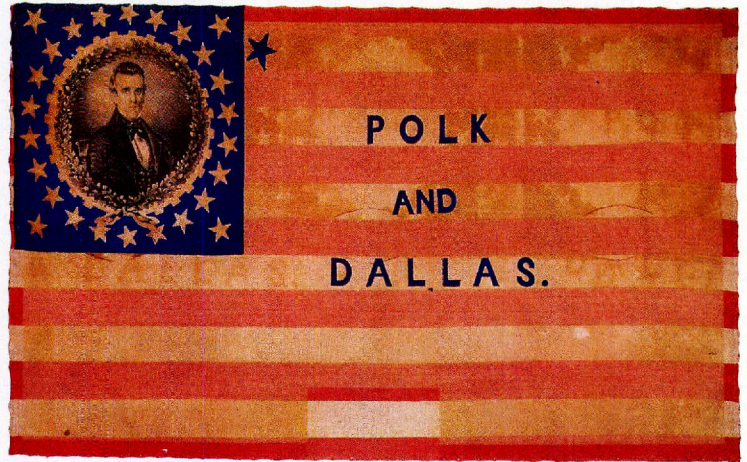
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[LEFT TO RIGHT] This World War I flag represents the regimental colors of the 143rd Infantry of the 36th Division (composed of members of the Texas National Guard). The eagle in the center was rendered in embroidery, not paint. An 1844 cotton campaign flag bears a portrait of Democratic presidential candidate James K. Polk encircled by 26 stars representing the states of the Union. Polk's running mate was George M. Dallas.

Standing before these historic flags, I wonder what the people felt when they made and displayed them.

I wonder about the skilled seamstress Fannie Wigfall, who made a variant of the Texian flag for Hood's Texas Brigade. Fannie, the wife of Colonel Trezevant Wigfall, who was famous for his heroism at Fort Sumter (see "Texas in the War Between the States," January 2002), used fine dress material, possibly even from her wedding dress. Eight Texas standard-bearers died carrying the flag during the Battle of Antietam, the Civil War's bloodiest confrontation.

I also wonder about the family members of Austin physician William Stiles, who cut up cotton and wool dress fabric to make a simple U.S. flag in 1865. Secretly Unionists, the Stileses were the first to fly the Stars and Stripes over Austin at the end of the Civil War.

IN 1997, three Houstonians—former U.S. Congressman Mike Andrews, Texas Historical Commission chairman John Nau, and MFAH director Marzio—led a project to restore nine of 23 historic flags that had been tucked away in boxes in the Texas State Library and Archives Commission repository for as long as a century.

"When I saw the flags in those boxes, a rush of emotion flooded over me, because I knew what they stood for," John Nau recalls. "I was also shocked at their condition and knew something had to be done."

Those nine flags, along with those also recently conserved by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Texas Division, comprise the core of the unprecedented MFAH exhibit.

Says John: "Art and history are united here. These flags are emblems of the thoughts, difficulties, and glories of those who came before us. They are the gateway to understanding what it took to become a Texan and an American."

Remembering the opening line of Robert Maberry's book on Texas flags, I wonder if that wasn't what the 1836 San Felipe newspaper writer had in mind when he wrote: "The whole flag is historic." ★

Photojournalist RANDY MALLORY says he was surprised at the number of different flags that tell the story of Texas. He was also struck by how much more he could appreciate the banners once he knew something about the history that surrounds them.

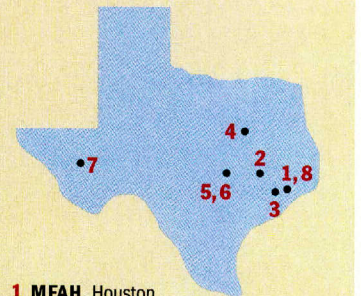
Essentials Texas Flags

THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON (MFAH), presents *Texas Flags: 1836-1945* through Apr. 28, 2002, in the Caroline Wiess Law Bldg., 1001 Bissonnet (713/639-7300; www.mfah.org). Hours: Tue-Wed 10-5, Thu 10-9, Fri-Sat 10-7, Sun 12:15-7. Admission: \$5, \$2.50 ages 6-18, age 65 and older, and students; free age 5 and younger (free to everyone on Thu.). Museum staff have planned special activities for March 2, Texas Independence Day; call for details.

TEXAS FLAGS by Robert Maberry Jr. (2001) is available at bookstores or through Texas A&M Univ. Press for \$50, plus shipping and handling (800/826-8911; www.tamu.edu/upress).

Check out historic flags at the Texas State Library's online archives (www.tsl.state.tx.us/treasures/flagsandmaps/index.html), and learn about the state flag code, pledge, and "Six Flags" at the Vexillological Assn. of the State of Texas' Web site (www.texflags.org).

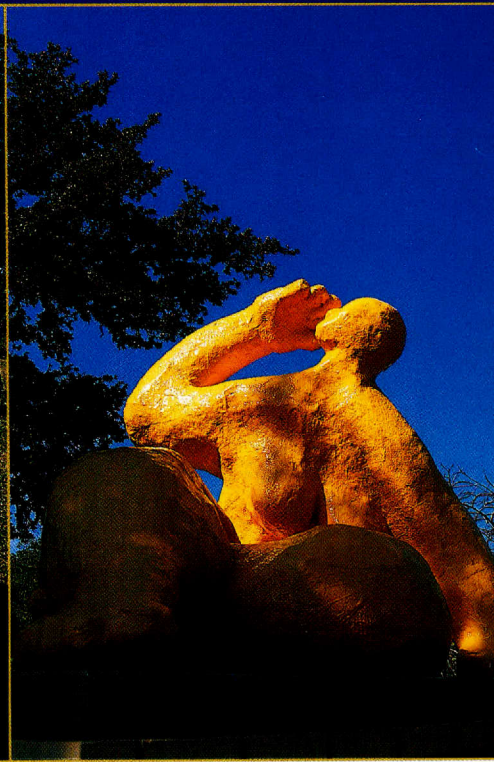
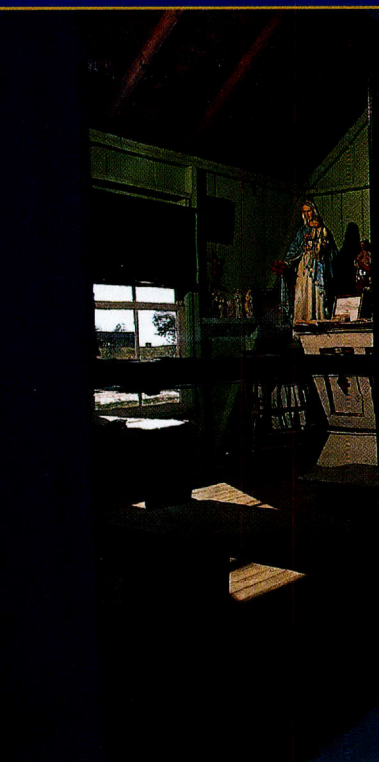
Replica historic flags are available from several Texas manufacturers, including Dixie Flag Co. of San Antonio (800/356-4085; www.dixieflag.com).



- 1 MFAH, Houston
- 2 Star of the Republic Museum, Washington
- 3 Museum of Southern History, Sugar Land
- 4 Texas Heritage Museum, Hillsboro
- 5 Texas Military Forces Museum, Austin
- 6 State Capitol, Austin
- 7 Fort Davis National Historic Site, Fort Davis
- 8 Heritage Society, Houston



T H E P R E S I D E N T I A



WINNER
BY A
LANDSLIDE

Do you get the winter blahs? Me, too. But, here's my vote for a great cure: a meandering trip along the "Presidential Corridor" in Central Texas. It's a wonderful way to dispel the mulligrubs and celebrate the oncoming spring as well.

The journey I took recently offered all the elements I seek in a truly satisfying excursion: challenges for the mind, balm for the spirit, and lots of good food for the body. Oh, yes, and I mustn't forget shopping—a major component of any fun trip! Dotted with inviting small towns, interesting sites, and historical treasures, the corridor extends from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum in Austin to the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station. Intrigued by the possibilities, I loosely plotted a route that would wander the countryside, with stops at several communities along the way.

[CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT ABOVE] The LBJ Presidential Library and Museum in Austin; Main Street, Bastrop; Dr. Joe C. Smith's *Mother Earth* sculpture in Caldwell; tiny St. Martin's Catholic Church in Warrenton.

[FACING PAGE] The rotunda of the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station.



L C O R R I D O R

BY ROSEMARY WILLIAMS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

GEORGE BUSH LIBRARY



Large wall plaque containing text, likely a dedication or list of names, associated with the George Bush Library.

On a hazy winter's morning, my friend Bobby Adcock and I set out from Austin to sample the sites and sights and the nooks and crannies of the area associated with the Presidential Corridor. (Although we stretched our travel time over four days and set out from Austin each time, you can make the trip any length, with stays at any of numerous excellent lodgings.) Serendipity would be our guide.

The sun had begun to burn off the mists graying the surrounding farmlands as we made our first stop—Elgin. Since it was breakfast time and shops had yet to open,

hunger led us to join the steady stream of customers into downtown's City Cafe. Our "Elgin Deluxe" breakfast tacos arrived steaming hot—large flour tortillas wrapped around scrambled eggs, potatoes, onions, bell peppers, cheese, and savory Elgin sausage (this is the official Sausage Capital of Texas, after all). We added a dollop of tongue-tingling salsa and polished off the tacos with zest.

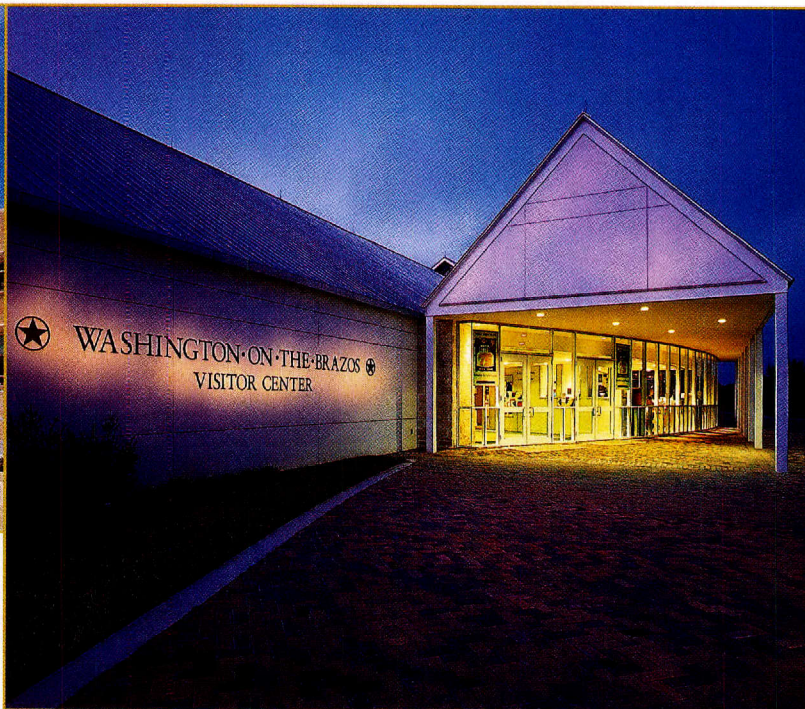
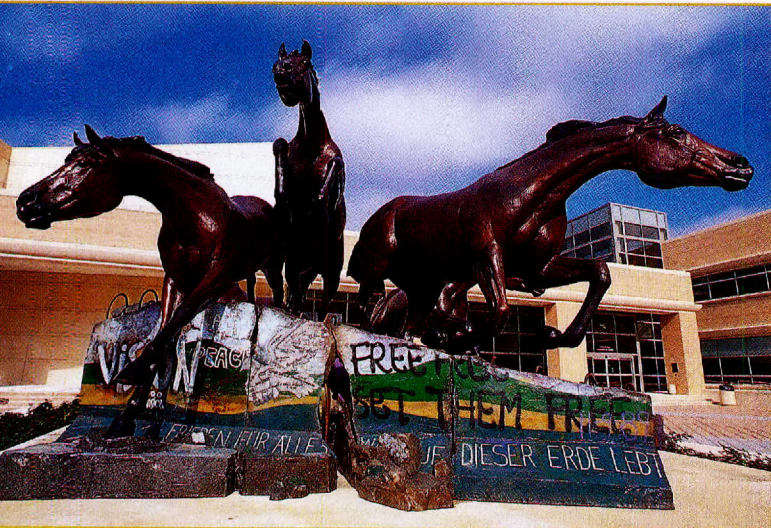
When the shops opened, we chose to explore WW Treenware Co., where Bill Webster, his wife, Nancy Lou, and Keli Møgonye welcomed us with warm Elgin hospitality. We oohed at interesting pot-



AS I SANK MY TEETH INTO THE FIRST KOLACHE, I KNEW IMMEDIATELY WHY CALDWELL'S KOLACHE FESTIVAL EACH SEPTEMBER DRAWS HORDES OF VISITORS WHO EAT THOUSANDS OF THESE DELICIOUS PASTRIES.



[CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP RIGHT] Nancy Lou Webster crafts native-wood utensils at Elgin's WW Treenware Co. The Gulf War exhibit at the Bush Library in College Station details the Iraq-Kuwait conflict of 1990-91. Elgin's red brick 1906 Nofsinger house is the town's City Hall.



THE PRESIDENTIAL CONNECTION

In 1995, as the result of a campaign begun by community leader Honey Dowdy of Caldwell, the Texas Legislature designated “The Presidential Corridor,” extending from Austin to College Station.

Stretching along US 29C from I-35 in Austin east to Paige, then along Texas 21 to College Station, the corridor links the presidential libraries/museums honoring Lyndon B. Johnson (in Austin) and George Bush (in College Station), and features towns and attractions between those sites. Although the official route cuts across Travis, Bastrop, Lee, Burleson, and Brazos counties, the corridor also affects several counties to the north and south.

“The corridor is like a spinal cord,” says Eric Carlson, president of the Presidential Corridor Association and the mayor of Elgin. “That cord branches out to include the many interesting towns, parks, sights, and sites in neighboring counties, as well.”

The other counties include Williamson, Milam, and Robertson on the north and Fayette and Washington on the south. Altogether, the corridor embraces a hefty chunk of Central Texas and offers an amazing variety of things to see and do.

tery and other colorful gift items (each of us bought red, white, and blue welcome mats), ahhed at the distinctive wooden ware, and cooed at the burbling (real, live) mourning doves ensconced in a large cage.

Along one wall sat a workbench, a stool, carving tools, and wooden branches piled in helter-skelter stacks. Household implements such as spoons, ladles, honey dippers, and mayonnaise spreaders beautifully carved from walnut, Texas red cedar, and bois d’arc signified the domain where these creations spring from Nancy Lou’s talented hands.

a nice tie-in to the Presidential Corridor, doesn’t it?” Nancy Lou remarked. Yep, and it’s mighty comfortable, too.

From Elgin we headed toward Caldwell and a look at the work of another amazing artist, Dr. Joe C. Smith. His sculptures—sometimes amusing (a human-headed bird figure titled *Impossible Dream*), sometimes stirring (the self-explanatory *Crucifix*, Dr. Smith’s favorite), always thought-provoking (notably the immense yellow *Mother Earth*)—form an eye-catch-

Her “treenware” (small utensils carved from native woods) artistry brings customers from all over.

WW Treenware Co. also sells the broad-seated, wooden rocking chair (made by P&P Chair Company of Asheville, North Carolina) identical to the one favored by President John F. Kennedy. “The presidential rocker makes

ing gallery in the yard of the Smith home, at the corner of Stone Street and Texas 21 West.

Dr. Smith, a retired family practitioner, creates his artworks from a multitude of materials, including metal, stone, wood, and fiberglass. One of his most colorful works, *Assortment B*, enlivens the front of the local McDonald’s restaurant. His sculptures also sit on the grounds of Texas A&M University (including 10 at the university’s Horticultural Gardens). Dr. Smith encourages folks to walk through his yard gallery and its marvelous display of some 80 sculptures. Don’t miss exploring this outdoor treasury of art!

Bobby and I next stopped at Caldwell’s Kolache Capital Bake Shop for a special treat. Amidst the tempting array, we selected fresh, soft, yeasty Czech kolaches with scrumptious toppings such as raspberry-cream cheese, peach, blueberry, and poppy seed. We bought a dozen. As I sank my teeth into the first one, I knew immediately why Caldwell’s Kolache Festival each September draws hordes of visitors who eat thousands of these delicious pastries. My taste buds never lie when it comes to kolaches.

[ABOVE, LEFT AND RIGHT] At the Bush Library on the campus of Texas A&M, sculptor Veryl Goodnight’s *The Day the Wall Came Down* commemorates the fall of the Berlin Wall. Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site includes this beautiful visitor center, with much to share regarding Texas history.



Onward to **College Station!** Here lies the George Bush Presidential Library and Museum, the eastern anchor of the Presidential Corridor. The museum, which sits on beautifully landscaped grounds along the southern edge of the Texas A&M University campus, portrays with films, photographs, artifacts, and memorabilia the public-spirited life and career of the nation's 41st president.

As we entered, volunteer Wayne Steelman graciously greeted us and recommended that we view a short film about the former president and his family—a tip we appreciated; the film is excellent. Wayne also encouraged us to “look up” in the various exhibit rooms so we wouldn't miss such displays as the 1944 TBM Avenger plane (like the one flown by Navy pilot Bush in the Pacific during World War II). Re-creations of President Bush's office at Camp David, Maryland, and of the desk area of *Air Force One* provide reminders that the duties and responsibilities of a president fill every waking hour.

While the exhibits impressively portray George Bush's distinguished public career, they also interestingly chronicle his family life and that of his wife, former first lady

Barbara Bush. Family mementos and photographs paint an intimate portrait of the Bushes in an informative, yet personable way. Even the Bush dogs, Ranger and Millie, add their “commentary” to one of the displays. The former first couple's delightful, shared sense of humor shines forth in video clips from various television shows, including *Saturday Night Live* and the *David Letterman Show*.

As we neared the end of the exhibits, we took advantage of a clever souvenir opportunity. A computer allowed us to choose, personalize, and print out a letter signed by either President or Mrs. Bush—a really nice farewell touch in this engaging and enlightening museum.

Before leaving the Bryan-College Station area, we visited lovely Messina Hof Winery and Resort. Although the winery offers daily tours and the lure of international cuisine at their Vintage House restaurant (open Wed-Sun), on this trip we had time only to browse the attractive tasting room and gift shop. From among the abundance of pretty and practical gifts for the wine-lover and for the gourmet, I selected two of my favorite Messina Hof wines (the 1999

Chardonnay Barrel Reserve and the 2000 Chenin Blanc), as well as a bottle of the winery's Gewürztraminer Raspberry Chipotle Sauce. Next time, we decided, we would stay at the elegant lodging here, The Villa at Messina Hof.

On the way south to Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site—one of my favorite state parks—we detoured westward to **Snook** for lunch at Sodolak's Original Country Inn (see “Texas Steak-Out!” page 44). The special of the day at this popular local diner consisted of a generous cut of sirloin, grilled to order and served with a tasty fresh salad, piping hot french fries, and a slice of Texas toast. With such stick-to-the-ribs fare (reasonably priced at \$6.25), it's easy to see why the tables soon filled with outdoor types, local workers, and business folks from nearby Bryan and College Station.

After we finally eased out of our chairs at Sodolak's and hit the road again, we noted the undulating beauty of the farmlands that stretch southward through Burleson and Washington counties. Cattle grazed the pastures, and horses loped lazily

[TOP, LEFT AND RIGHT] Cookies and cream. The Blue Bell Creamery in Brenham welcomes visitors on weekdays for tours and a dip of your favorite flavor. Train yourself to stop in Burton and see the town's historic railroad depot and famous old cotton gin.

across the fields. The scenic tableau takes on vibrant color in the spring when roadsides burst with wildflowers.

At the invitingly serene Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site, we wandered the pleasant pathways to historical gems such as the Barrington Living History Farm, the home of Anson Jones (last president of the Republic), and a replica of Independence Hall, where Texian revolutionaries signed the Declaration of Independence in March 1836.

The visitor center's gift shop here brims with intriguing items such as old map reproductions, flags, books, and Texas souvenirs. And, of course, we toured the Star of the Republic Museum, where excellent exhibits interpret the history of Texas as a

so we could gaze upon a half dozen or so of the tiny horses cavorting in the corral. (Animal lovers, be warned! These endearing creatures tug seriously at your heart.) Sister Angela, the monastery's vicar, says the little mares give birth in early spring, so chances for seeing a baby are good in March, April, and May. Be sure to check out the convent's gift shop, too, where the sisters' handmade ceramics and homemade breads take center stage.

Continuing south, we "homed in" on the gustatory delights offered at Brenham's Blue Bell Creamery. (Yes, my travel style is pretty predictable: Eat; explore. Snack; stroll. Ogle; nibble. Shop; dine. And so it goes....) After admiring the prettily packaged foods, clothing, toys, and other fun

From Brenham, we traveled west and south to the picturesque community of Round Top. Here, the restored 19th-Century buildings at Henkel Square and at the Winedale Historical Center (four miles northeast of Round Top) provide interesting fodder for the history buff, while antique stores and crafts shops lure the shopper for hours of browsing. (Although many of the area's stores open only on weekends, some do open daily.)

Ever in tune with the best in food fare, we stopped by Royers Round Top Cafe on the square and purchased a pecan pie—for the road. Topped with crunchy, toasted Texas pecans and filled with gooey goodness, the pie proved one of the best I've ever eaten. The cafe serves all kinds of pies

OF COURSE, WE COULDN'T DRIVE THROUGH WASHINGTON COUNTY WITHOUT A SHORT CALL AT THE MONASTERY OF ST. CLARE'S MINIATURE HORSE FARM. THE LITTLE MARES GIVE BIRTH IN EARLY SPRING.



republic. Clothing, tools, weapons, murals, and descriptions of the era provide insights into the lives of those who struggled for Texas' independence from Mexico and who guided Texas through its early years.

From the historic site, we headed for Brenham. Of course, we couldn't drive through Washington County without a short call at the Monastery of St. Clare's Miniature Horse Farm. We timed our trip to arrive during visiting hours (2-4 p.m.)

stuff displayed in the gift shop, we sauntered to the fountain area and ordered dishes of Blue Bell's excellent ice cream. Bobby chose Caramel Pecan Fudge, while I opted for Homemade Vanilla, my all-time first choice. Delicious!

Although we didn't visit the town of Burton this trip, we penciled it in for a future excursion and promised ourselves a tour of the historic Cotton Gin and Museum (979/289-3378), as well as lunch at the heralded Burton Cafe (979/289-3849).

and ships several, including pecan, butter-milk, chocolate chip, and coconut-lemon chess. Royers' eclectic lunch and dinner menu looked appetizing as well, but, for us, mealtime was hours away. A return trip seems inevitable.

Round Top is also home to the International Festival-Institute, the world-renowned musical institute founded by pianist James Dick that presents a summer classical music series, as well as monthly concerts throughout the year. And, in

[ABOVE, LEFT AND RIGHT] Warrenton's Sterling McCall Old Car Museum has quite a collection of antique automobiles and memorabilia. Round Top's Henkel Square maintains the pioneer feel of 19th-Century Texas.

spring and fall, Round Top and neighboring Warrenton host a gigantic antiques fair, attended by thousands.

Three miles south of Round Top, on the outskirts of Warrenton, we stopped along Texas 237 at St. Martin's Church and cemetery, where the tiny white steeple-topped church sports a sign that identifies St. Martin's as the "World's Smallest Catholic Church." Whatever its distinc-

gleaming cars include jewels such as a burnt orange 1936 La Salle Opera Coupe, a royal blue 1925 Cadillac, and a white-over-black 1956 Ford Fairlane. They stand in superbly restored splendor amid intriguing auto memorabilia and huge, eye-catching photographs of Houston streets in the 1920s and 1930s.

At La Grange, we admired the stately limestone 1891 Fayette County court-



IN THE CITY OF BASTROP, WE STROLLED THE LOVELY RIVER WALK, ADMIRING GRAPEVINE-DRAPED TREES AND LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS SUCH AS SALVIA AND LANTANA. AFTERWARDS, WE SIPPED A CREAMY LATTE AT MEMORY LANE CAFE.



tion, the diminutive building (about 12 feet by 16 feet), its altar flanked by statues of Mary and Joseph, provides an ideal spot for quiet reflection.

A short drive away, in Warrenton, stands the Sterling McCall Car Museum. If, like me, you're a sucker for vintage cars, don't miss this place! What a dazzling lineup of chrome- and leather-clad metal beauties reside here. Some 80



[CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP RIGHT] An old Star Biscuit sign in Smithville; St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Serbin; Monument Hill State Historic Site outside La Grange.

house and noted the abundance of specialty shops in the downtown area. We then spent a rewarding hour or so just south of town, strolling the paths of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Sites.

Monument Hill commemorates the men who died in two encounters with Mexican troops, the Battle of Salado Creek in 1842 and the infamous Black Bean Episode in

Our next stop was some six miles south, in the small community of **Hostyn**, where Holy Rosary Catholic Church boasts a captivating spot for a quiet, contemplative walk. The church grounds, ringed with rose bushes, offer several handsome rock shrines, including a particularly beautiful one constructed in 1925 that represents the famous grotto in Lourdes, France. At the base of the Hostyn grotto, a tiny pond com-

We then wandered northward to wee **Serbin**, where St. Paul's Lutheran Church and the Texas Wendish Heritage Museum provided more than an hour of pleasant exploration. St. Paul's, built in 1871, features a stunning interior capped by a sky-blue ceiling and embellished with columns painted with feathers to resemble marble. A pipe organ, second-floor pulpit, and wrap-around balcony provide other distinctions.

Years ago, the men of the congregation occupied the balcony, while the women and children sat in pews on the main floor. The Old World custom lost favor in the mid-20th Century.

The Texas Wendish Heritage Museum chronicles the lives of the Wends (also called Sorbs) who immigrated to Central Texas in 1854 from Lusatia, now part of eastern Germany. Three buildings, connected by covered walkways, form the museum complex. The central building houses exhibits that highlight the history of the Wendish people, as well as a colorful arrangement of intricately decorated Easter eggs (a celebrated Wendish tradition). In the adjacent St. Paul Building, period furnishings and clothing illustrate the Wends' everyday life in Texas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

A display of bridal wear and century-old photographs of brides and grooms caught my eye. One of the bridal gowns on view and many of those in the photographs are black! "Why black?" I asked Eleanor Schulze, our friendly and knowledgeable museum host. "The brides chose that somber color as a reminder of life's hardships," she says. A reminder that causes pause, even today.

On the road again, we aimed south and west toward **Bastrop**. Just north of Smithville, we took a short sidetrack to Rocky Hill Ranch, haven for mountain



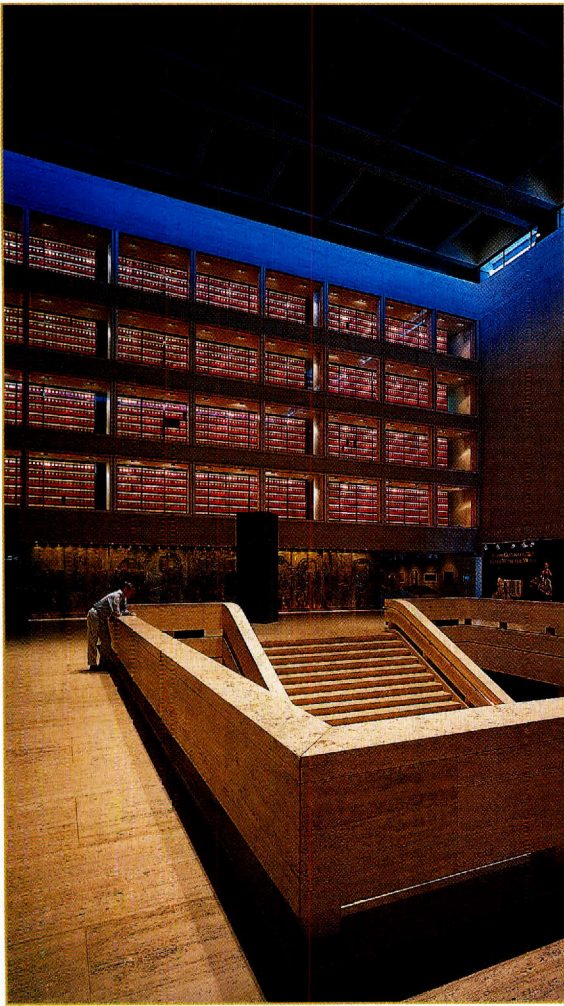
1843 after the failed Mier Expedition. A 48-foot-tall limestone and bronze shaft rises near the edge of the hilltop and the mass grave's stone vault tomb. A few feet away, we stood at an overlook above La Grange and the scenic Colorado River Valley and watched the lazy river meander along tree-laden banks some 200 feet below. This view alone makes a visit to the sites a special treat.

From the monument, we ambled toward the nearby 1855 home built by Heinrich Kreische, whose brewery was among the first such enterprises in Texas. The handsome, three-story stone house remains much as it was when Kreische died in 1882. Ruins of the brewery also stand at the site.

plete with goldfish adds a charming touch.

Within the churchyard, two Civil War cannons form unusual memoria's: One is dedicated to Joseph Lidiak, a Union soldier, the other to John Lidiak, a Confederate. The men, father and son, survived the war and are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church grounds. Attractive markers, fashioned both from stone and from decorative metal, drew me to this impressive cemetery, which lies on the crest of a hill and affords yet another panoramic view of the Colorado River Valley.

[ABOVE, LEFT AND RIGHT] Patriotic bunting colors Bastrop's Citizens State Bank building. Diane Uhl at Rocky Hill Ranch Mountain Bike Park, north of Smithville.



Your Presidential Corridor tour can begin or end at the LBJ Library on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin.

bikers and seekers of good hamburgers. The “ranch” offers biking trails that challenge the expert as well as the beginner, plus campsites, live music on Thursdays and some weekends, and a cafe. Photographer Griff Smith vouches for Rocky Hill’s veggie burger. “Tasty, really tasty,” says Griff, a man who takes his veggie burgers seriously.

For scenic variety, we decided to drive Park Road 1C from Buescher State Park westward about 12 miles to Bastrop State Park (\$1 per vehicle occupant). If you enjoy forests and sparse traffic, this is the road for you. Pines interlace with oaks and other trees to form a graceful canopy over the highway, while pine needles carpet the shoulders. At the other end, beautiful Bastrop State Park tempts sojourners with campsites and a few rustic cabins beneath the lonesome pines (see “A Real Find: The Lost Pines of Bastrop County,” February

2001). The park even sports a popular 18-hole golf course.

In the city of Bastrop, we strolled the lovely River Walk, admiring grapevine-draped trees and landscape plantings such as salvia and lantana. Afterwards, we sipped a creamy latte at Memory Lane Cafe, which sits on a cliff above the rippling Colorado River. Attention, shoppers! Both Bastrop and nearby Smithville abound with interesting shops.

Some 30 miles west of Bastrop, Austin beckoned us home. Before touring the LBJ Library and Museum (the final stop on our Presidential Corridor odyssey), we treated ourselves to a visit to Central Market Cafe. Here, you can dine on delicious food, then shop the labyrinthine aisles of Central Market for exotic edibles and potables from throughout the world. The cafe’s “Jerked Yard Bird Burger” (chicken breast with jerk seasoning and mango-kiwi pico de gallo on ciabatta bread) and refreshing Mango Ceylon iced tea proved delicious!

When out-of-town guests visit Austin for the first time, I usually take them to four of my favorite sites in the Capital City: Central Market, the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library and Museum. The LBJ Museum marks the western terminus of the Presidential Corridor, and I welcomed the opportunity to tour it again.

Located on the eastern edge of the University of Texas at Austin campus, the museum promised an added treat: We could also view *From Gutenberg to Gone With The Wind: Treasures from the Ransom Center*, which remains on display at the museum until May 3. A Gutenberg Bible, an original letter signed by George Washington, Edgar Allen Poe’s writing desk, the world’s first photograph, paintings by Frida Kahlo

and Diego Rivera, and artifacts (including film clips) from the production of the film *Gone With The Wind* number among some 175 items in this special exhibit.

The LBJ museum, like the Bush museum on the eastern end of the corridor, captures a slice of 20th-Century history that touches all our lives. Be sure to watch the 23-minute film that provides an overview of the life of Lyndon B. Johnson, the 36th president of the United States. Exhibits throughout the museum illustrate highlights of LBJ’s long political career.

Audio and video clips, as well as meaningful mementos, lend a sense of presence to several displays. Listen to Lady Bird Johnson describe the horrifying events of the day President Kennedy was assassinated. See a piece of moon rock brought to Earth by U.S. astronauts in the Sixties. View a salute to military troops engaged in the Vietnam War. And visit a seven-eighths-scale version of the White House Oval Office as it looked during President Johnson’s tenure.

Engaging photographs, such as those of LBJ as a boy and a young politician, and portraits of the Johnson family and of the president’s beloved Hill Country ranch, help capture other important aspects of LBJ’s life. A special gallery spotlights the many contributions of Lady Bird Johnson, especially her beautification projects.

Of all the artifacts, mementos, and displays that so brilliantly portray LBJ, the one I like most is titled “The Humor of L.B.J.” The exhibit features a life-size robotic figure of LBJ in western garb leaning on a fence railing and drawling—in LBJ’s recorded voice—a few of the pithy homespun tales the president so loved.

On this visit, Bobby and I stood alongside a dozen or so other folks and listened, enthralled, as the Stetson-wearing “LBJ” related a short story about an elderly man and the evils of drink. At the punch line, we all guffawed.

I could swear I saw LBJ wink. ★

Austin’s ROSEMARY WILLIAMS wrote the December 2001 story about Hispanic holiday celebrations and traditions in San Antonio.

J. GRIFFIS SMITH photographed last month’s feature on Fort Worth’s Amon Carter Museum. His father is Caldwell artist Dr. Joe C. Smith, mentioned in this story.

ESSENTIALS Along the Presidential Corridor



PLEASE REMEMBER that the cities, towns, parks, restaurants, and sites visited in this story form only a small segment of the Presidential Corridor. Numerous other communities, attractions, and sites lie within the counties along and on either side of this designated Central Texas roadway.

Before you explore the corridor, obtain these helpful guides: the *Presidential Corridor Travel Guide* (call the Austin or College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau as listed below, or pick up the guide at any of the towns along the corridor), a good map of Texas such as the *Official Travel Map*, and the 264-page *Texas State Travel Guide*. (To get map and guide, both free, call 800/8888-TEX; visit the Web site www.TravelTex.com; or stop by one of the 12 Travel Information Centers operated by the Texas Dept. of Transportation). Also visit the Presidential Corridor Web site: www.rtis.com/corridor.

AUSTIN (Austin C&VB, 201 E. 2nd; 512/478-0098 or 800/926-2282; www.austintexas.org): **Central Market (& Central Market Cafe)**, 4001 N. Lamar; 800/360-2552 or 512/206-1000 (also 4477 S. Lamar; 512/358-1909; and locations in Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio); www.centralmarket.com.

Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library and Museum, 2313 Red River St.; free; 512/916-5137; www.lbjlib.utexas.edu.

BASTROP (Bastrop C of C, 927 Main St.; 512/321-2419; www.bastropchamber.com):

Bastrop State Park, 1 mi. east on Texas 21; fee; 512/321-2101; www.tpwd.state.tx.us. **Memory Lane Cafe**, 601 Chestnut St.; 512/321-2660.

BRENHAM (Brenham & Washington Co. C&VB, 314 S. Austin St.; 979/836-3695 or 800/225-3695; www.brenhamtexas.com): **Blue Bell Creamery**, on FM 577 2 mi. north of US 290; tours on weekdays (fee; call for reservations during spring break); 979/830-2197 or 800/327-8135; www.bluebell.com. **Monastery of St. Clare Miniature Horse Farm**, 9 mi. northeast of Brenham on Texas 105; open 2-4 p.m. daily except Holy Week and Christmas; 979/836-9652; www.monasteryminiaturehorses.com.

BRYAN (see College Station): **Messina Hof Winery & Resort**, 4545 Old Reliance Rd. (6 mi. northeast of Bryan); 979/778-9463 or 800/736-9463; www.messinahof.com.

CALDWELL **Dr. Joe Smith's sculpture gallery** decorates the yard of his home at 501 N. Stone St. (the corner of Stone St. and Texas 21 West); free. **Kolache Capital Bake Shop**, 203 Texas 21 East; 979/567-7584.

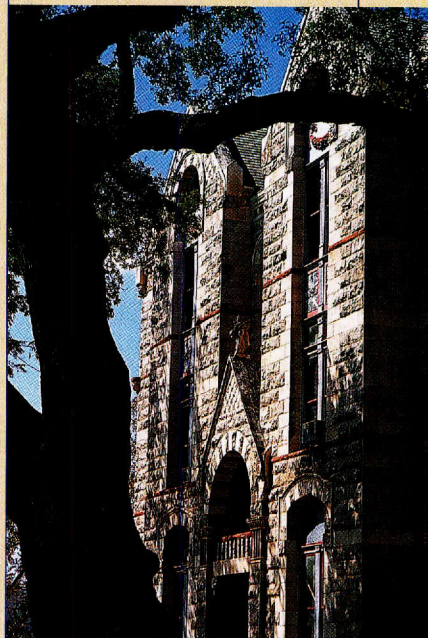
COLLEGE STATION (Bryan-College Station C&VB, 715 University Dr. East, College Station; 800/777-8292 or 979/260-9898; <http://bryan-collegestation.org>): **George Bush Presidential Library and Museum**, 1000 George Bush Dr. West; fee; 979/260-9552 (TTY 979/260-3770); <http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu>. From Mar. 11-Jul. 31, 2002, the exhibit

Fathers and Sons will trace the lives and careers of U.S. presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams, and George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. An original copy of the U.S. Declaration of Independence will be on view at the museum Aug. 14, 2002-Jan. 5, 2003.

ELGIN (Greater Elgin C of C, 15 N. Main; 512/285-4515; www.elgintx.com): **City Cafe**, 19 N. Main; 512/281-3663. **WW Treenware Co.**, 106 Main St.; 512/285-3502 or 281-4580.

HOSTYN From La Grange, take US 77 south 5 mi. to FM 2436, then northwest 1 mi. to the Hostyn community and **Holy Rosary Catholic Church**.

LA GRANGE (La Grange Area C of C, 171 S. Main St.; 800/LAGRANG or 979/968-5756; www.lagrangetx.org): **Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery State Historic**



The stately limestone 1891 Fayette County courthouse in La Grange.

Sites, 414 Loop 92; day-use only; fee; call about tours; 979/968-5658; www.tpwd.state.tx.us.

ROUND TOP (Round Top C of C, 979/249-4042; www.roundtop.org): **Henkel Square**, on town square,

open Thu-Sat 12-5; fee; 979/249-3308. **Winedale Historical Center**, 4 mi. east; open Sat-Sun; Winedale Spring Symposium on "Texas Folk Art" occurs Mar. 9, 2002; the Wine-dale Festival & Texas Crafts Exhibition takes place Mar. 23-24, 2002; 979/278-3530. The Round Top/Warrenton Antique and Crafts fairs begin in early Apr. **Royers Round Top Cafe**, on town square, open Thu-Sun (also open Wed in Mar-Apr); 877/866-PIES; www.royersroundtopcafe.com.

SERBIN **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** and the **Texas Wendish Heritage Museum** are in Serbin, 7 mi. south of Giddings via US 77, FM 448, and FM 2239. Museum opens Tue-Sun 1-5; fee; 979/366-2441.

SMITHVILLE (Smithville C of C, 100 1st St.; 512/237-2313; www.smithvilletx.org): **Buescher State Park**, north of Smithville off FM 153; fee; 512/237-2241. **Rocky Hill**

Ranch Mountain Bike Park, 2 mi. east of TX 71 on FM 153; cafe opens Thu evening-Sun; 512/237-3112; www.rockyhillranch.com.

SNOOK **Sodolak's Original Country Inn**, on FM 60; 979/272-6002.

WARRENTON **Sterling McCall Old Car Museum**, 4212 TX 237, open Thu-Sun; fee; 979/249-5089; www.oldcarcountry.com.

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS STATE HISTORIC SITE

Day-use only; entrance on FM 1155 (about 18 mi. northeast of Brenham on TX 105);

free; Barrington Living History Farm tours, fee; 936/878-2214; www.tpwd.state.tx.us. **Star of the Republic Museum**, in the park; fee; 936/878-2461; www.star-museum.com; www.birthplaceof-texas.com.



A romantic courtyard at The Antique Rose Emporium in San Antonio showcases a mixture of heirloom roses and various drought-tolerant species. The stucco-covered walls throughout the compound feature straw-bale construction.

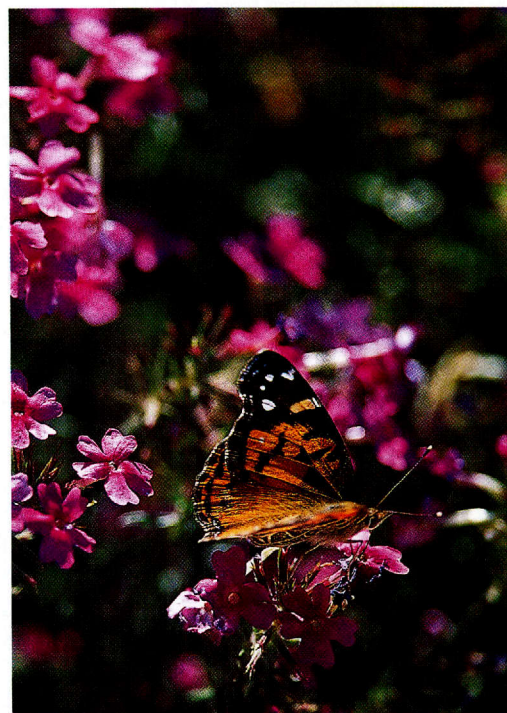
At THE ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM IN INDEPENDENCE AND SAN ANTONIO, hundreds of old-fashioned roses adorn

arbors, clamber up pillars, and tumble from trellises. The dime- to saucer-size blooms emit pungent perfumes ranging from sweet rose to tangy citrus. Some petals resemble red velvet, others, pink satin.

But the “Queen of Flowers” isn’t the only floral attraction beckoning more than 100,000 visitors annually to the Emporium’s showplace landscapes. At both sites, theme gardens overflow with native plants, exotic grasses, perennials, and herbs growing among the heirloom roses.

“Our gardens are not rose gardens, but gardens that have roses in them,” says Antique Rose Emporium owner Mike Shoup.

Each weekend this April, flower-lovers will immerse themselves in the flush of blooms during Spring Open House at the nursery’s original location in Independence. The eight-acre “florascape” occupies the site of the 1855 Hairston-McKnight homestead, some 12 miles northeast of Brenham.



By DIANE MOREY SITTON • Photographs by KEVIN VANDIVIER

*W*ITH TWO LOCATIONS AND A PLETHORA OF PLANTS, THE ANTIQUE ROSE EMPORIUM PROMISES MORE THAN A ROSE GARDEN

[ABOVE AND FACING PAGE] With a wealth of blooms at their disposal, colorful butterflies abound at both Emporium sites. Visitors touring the greenhouse in Independence catch a glimpse of the restored 1850s Hairston Kitchen, a remnant of the Hairston-McKnight homestead, on which the Emporium is located. Other old buildings, including an early-1900s house and an 1870s salt-box house, have been moved onto the property.



Roses AND *More*



In THE AREAS SET ASIDE FOR PLANT SALES,

VISITORS CAN SELECT FROM POTS OF HERBS, ORNAMENTAL GRASSES, ANNUALS, PERENNIALS, THAN 300 VARIETIES OF ANTIQUE ROSES PROPAGATED FROM CUTTINGS BY THE EMPORIUM

© WILLIAM D. ADAMS



Besides exploring the gardens and several historic buildings, visitors can savor free ice cream and sodas, munch on barbecue, and inspect books, birdbaths, and other garden-related items inside the gift shop. A quarter-mile north of the garden, tours of the Emporium's 24 acres of growing fields also number among Open House diversions. (Events vary each weekend.)

In the areas set aside for plant sales,

visitors select from pots of herbs, ornamental grasses, annuals, and perennials, not to mention more than 300 varieties of antique roses propagated from cuttings by the Emporium staff. The assortment includes such well-knowns as Cecile Brunner, an antique rose dubbed the "Sweetheart Rose" for its exquisite pink buds; Old Blush, a genuine "old rose," introduced in 1752; and Katy Road Pink,

An arch of terra-cotta pots, designed and built by retail manager Lynn Smith, creates a dramatic focal point in the sales area at the Independence location. Laden with blooms, a Katy Road Pink (above, left) offers an example of a "found" rose. This species was discovered in Katy near what is now Interstate 10.

a “found” rose with vibrant pink blooms.

For most rose-aficionados, the criteria differentiating “old,” “antique,” and “found” roses only heighten the plants’ appeal. “Officially, old roses belong to the classes of roses that flourished before 1867, the year Frenchman J.B. Guillot introduced the first hybrid tea rose,” says Mike. The term “antique” is used to describe both old roses and roses that originated in the late 1800s and early 1900s. “Found” roses are survivors of unknown lineage. Names such as “Highway 290 Pink Buttons” link them to the road or town they came from or to the gardener who found them.

One such “found” rose—later identified as Mermaid, an English variety from 1918—sparked Mike’s interest in these older varieties of roses. “Mermaid opened my eyes to the resilient, self-reliant nature of old garden roses,” says the plantsman, who first saw the feisty variety blooming profusely beside a country road near Marble Falls in 1982.

Excursions into old neighborhoods and treks to abandoned homesites and

forgotten cemeteries with the Texas Rose Rustlers, a gang of old-rose enthusiasts, yielded cuttings of other enduring varieties.

In 1983, Mike opened The Antique Rose Emporium in Independence. Since then, articles about his floriferous collection and ever-expanding display gardens have graced the pages of *National Geographic* and *The New York Times*, among other publications. Last spring, Martha Stewart sang the Emporium’s praises on her TV show *Martha Stewart Living*. Today, the Emporium sells more than 200,000 rose



Antique Rose Emporium owner Mike Shoup (top) became interested in old garden roses in 1982 and established the business in Independence the following year. His staff constructed the picturesque greenhouse from salvaged doors and windows. South of the display gardens, Mike added a nondenominational chapel (above), which looks out over a wildflower field and is available for weddings.

bushes annually, which decorate gardens from the Caribbean to Alaska.

Folks touring the Independence gardens usually begin at Grandma’s Garden, just inside the main entrance off the parking lot. Right away they see a profusion of roses, such as Yellow Lady Banksia, Seven Sisters, and Russell’s Cottage Rose. One old-fashioned selection, Green Rose, fascinates onlookers with its hard-to-detect flowers,

which consist of sepals instead of petals.

Yet roses aren’t the only charmers here. “Visits to the Emporium remind me of my grandmother,” says Joan Rogers of Houston. “She grew old-timey plants like these *Crinum* lilies.” Youngsters often favor the velvety-leaved lamb’s ears, the star-shaped blooms of borage, and the *Peter Rabbit* statuettes that enliven the Beatrix Potter Storybook Garden.

Blooms of the fragrant Swamp Rose lure strollers to Terry's Pond, a small water garden. "Nature, not man, created this native American rose," says Henry Flowers, the aptly named display-garden manager. Napoleon's wife, Josephine, grew the imported pink-blossomed beauty at the Château de Malmaison, the couple's home near Paris.

Across the footbridge spanning the pond, salvia, verbena, and French hollyhocks decorate the Butterfly Garden, which surrounds an 1870s salt-box house. Farther on, German irises, native penstemons, Byzantine gladioli, and Republic of Texas-era (1836-45) roses fill the Texas Cottage Garden, which encircles the 1850s Hairston Kitchen.

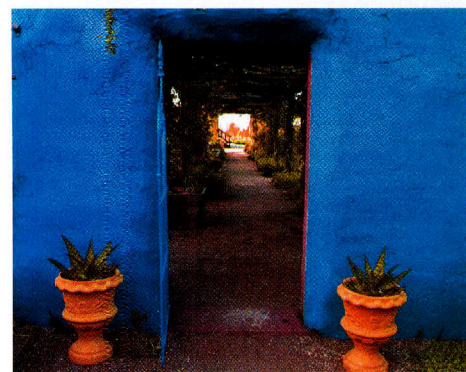
"In the Cottage Garden, look for the Mutabilis Rose, or Butterfly Rose," says Henry. "Each bloom starts out sulphur yellow, but as it matures, the color gradually changes to a dark red, so roses of different colors adorn the same bush. Its yellow, pink, and crimson blooms resemble butterflies."



Past the adjoining Kitchen Garden, sweeping festoons of roses adorn Queen

Mary's Garden, which was named for Queen Mary's Rose Garden in London. Nearby, Victorian ambiance invites brides to Champneys' Green, an early-1900s house and period garden named to honor South Carolinian John Champneys (1743-1820), creator of the first American-bred rose. In spring, the setting blushes with hollyhocks, larkspur, and Teddy Roosevelt's beloved boutonniere rose, Duchesse de Brabant. To some observers, the cabbage-shaped flowers smell like raspberries.

After pausing at a meadow blazing with bluebonnets and Indian paintbrush, spring visitors circle back past scrumptiously scented tea roses and a display of Texas sage, Hinkley's columbine, and other native plants.



Cats play on the porch of the San Antonio sales office (top). In keeping with the Alamo City's more arid climate, this site features Southwestern and Mediterranean decor. Beyond the blue walls (above) lies a graceful walkway covered with climbing roses.

SAN ANTONIO SITE

At the Antique Rose Emporium's San Antonio location (some 150 miles southwest of Brenham), the focus shifts to the eye-catching alliance of historic roses and drought-tolerant species—agave, yucca, and cacti, to name a few.

Mike and his wife, Jean, both of whom had lived in San Antonio while attending Trinity University, established this second site in 1997 to show examples of roses and companion plants compatible with a drier environment. "When you compare the

IN SEARCH OF THE YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS

"*Now*, that's Texas!" exclaimed Bonnie Spangenberg, an Antique Rose Emporium visitor from California, upon seeing a bright yellow rose radiant against the San Antonio sky.

For many, Texas and yellow roses are synonymous. "The Yellow Rose of Texas," an 1850s song about a soldier who longs to return to his sweetheart, kindled the association. Folklore says that the famed yellow rose of Texas isn't a rose, but Emily Morgan, a beautiful mulatto servant.

According to the legend, Emily played a crucial role in Sam Houston's victory at the Battle of San Jacinto, on April 21, 1836, by keeping Santa Anna occupied and letting the Texian army know the Mexican general's whereabouts. Recent research indicates that Emily Morgan was really Emily D. West and that such an incident was unlikely. Despite this—and a lack of evidence that the song has any relationship to either Emily or the famous battle—the romantic legend will likely survive.

For folks determined to link the song's lyrics to a rose, Harison's Yellow (*Rosa x harisonii*) would seem a likely candidate. The species, bred on Long Island in 1830, was carried west into Texas some years later. Many growers believe Harison's Yellow doesn't deserve to hold the place of honor, because the species grows well only in the northern parts of Texas (zones 4-6) and doesn't take well to heat and high humidity. Nevertheless, rosarians often refer to this resilient old rose as the "Yellow Rose of Texas" or the "pioneer rose."

—Diane Morey Sitton

Independence location with this one,” says Mike, “you see the transition in plants from east to west.”

One of the best times to tour the gardens is during Spring Celebration Days, special-event weekends that take place February through May. This year’s activities include seminars on rose propagation and pruning and on herb gardening.

But according to site manager Robbi Will, you don’t have to wait for a special weekend—or even a special month—to enjoy the fragrant gardens. “The roses are at their prettiest in April and October, but there’s so much variety in the gardens that something is always in bloom,” says Robbi.

A self-guided tour begins along the 200-foot promenade that links a century-old cabin (housing the office/gift shop) and Spanish-style courtyards. Antique roses, salvia, skullcap, and other bloom-laden species intermingle here with yucca and cacti. “Who says water-thrifty gardens can’t glow with color?” exclaims Emporium employee LaVerne Parker.

Just ahead to the left, the Santa Fe Courtyard beckons sightseers with datura, sotol, native grasses, and Fortune’s Double Yellow Rose. On the right, blue walls, blue arbors, and big blue pots—not to mention Mexican flame vine, bulbine, and other yellow, orange, and lavender bloomers—distinguish the Mediterranean Courtyard.

From the courtyards, a loop takes you back to the theme gardens that fringe the promenade. Mexican oregano, mint marigold, and lemongrass number among more than four dozen varieties in the Herb Garden. In the adjoining Butterfly Garden, throngs of Viceroy butterflies sometimes form halos above the fringy bloom clusters of mistflower. In fall, the Basey’s Blueberry Rose here attracts wildlife—and some human foragers—with its apple-shaped hips. “Tasty and high in vitamin C,” notes LaVerne, explaining her hankering for the orange orbs.

The Eclectic Garden fascinates visitors with its many offerings, especially in the spring and summer, when they can see the bat-like countenances of bat-face cuphea’s red-and-purple blooms. The nearby Purple Garden also charms browsers, not to mention bees and butterflies, with



Children find the whimsical Beatrix Potter Story-book Garden inviting.

butterfly bush, love-in-a-mist, and mealy blue sage.

As much as Mike Shoup enjoys his antique roses and other floral offerings, he relishes the response of

visitors even more. “Hearing the sentiments expressed by visitors as they stroll through the grounds is one of my greatest joys,” he says. “They chat about family and friends. They share memories...perhaps the fragrance of a rose or the sight of a hummingbird triggers their recollections.”

In a setting rich with wildflowers and old-fashioned plants, where butterflies congregate and antique roses bloom in profusion, perhaps it’s only natural that visitors seem to bloom, too. ★

Writer DIANE MOREY SITTON grows heirloom roses in her own garden. She says her favorite is the Chestnut Rose, which is pink with mossy-looking buds, but the Mutabilis, or Butterfly, Rose runs a close second.

Austin photographer KEVIN VANDIVIER has shot news stories for *Life* and *Newsweek*.

ESSENTIALS Run for the Roses

THE ANTIQUE ROSE

EMPORIUM has display gardens in **Independence** and **San Antonio**. The Independence location is at 10000 FM 50 (about ½ mile south of the intersection of FM 50 and FM 390). The San Antonio location is on the city’s northeastern edge, at 7561-A E. Evans Rd. (north of Loop 1604 behind Rolling Oaks Mall, 1 mi. northwest of the intersection of Nacogdoches and Evans).

The Emporium’s mail-order 2-gal. roses sell for \$15.95, plus shipping and handling. Free catalog available. *The Guide to Old Roses*, a 100-page reference on the history, training, and culture of the Emporium’s 300 rose varieties, sells for \$10 (no shipping and handling within the U.S.). To sign up for *Potpourri*, the Emporium’s free, semiannual newsletter, visit the Web site at www.wearerose.com.

For information on special events, to schedule group tours or weddings, or to obtain a catalog, write to 9300 Lueckemeyer Rd., Brenham 77833-6453 (979/836-9051 or 800/441-



0002), or to 7561-A E. Evans Rd., San Antonio 78266-4569 (210/651-4565).

RESOURCES Texas Rose

Rustlers (9730 Harrowgate, Houston 77031; www.texas-rose-rustlers.com) offers a guide to buying and planting roses, rose-rustling etiquette, an online exchange service, a rustlers’ connection, and news and events.

The **Dallas Area Historical Rose Society** (Box 831448, Richardson 75083; 817/473-3542; <http://community.dallasnews.com/dmn/theyellowrose>) publishes a newsletter and offers garden tours and plant exchanges.

The **Heritage Rose Group** is a national organization whose members receive a quarterly newsletter. For details, write

to Bev Dobson, 916 Union St., #302, Alameda, CA 94501.

BOOKS Look in your local library or bookstore for *Roses in the Southern Garden* by G. Michael Shoup (The Antique Rose Emporium, 2000; available at both Emporium locations); *Landscaping with Antique Roses* by Liz Druitt and G. Michael Shoup (Taunton Press, 1992; out of print); and *Antique Roses for the South* by William C. Welch (Taylor Publishing, 1990).

The Antique Rose Emporium does a thriving mail-order business, with customers throughout the nation and beyond.



Cherishing the

Winds of Change

at the

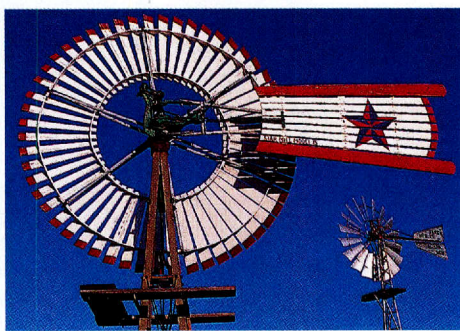
American Wind Power Center

BY DOMINIQUE INGE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WYMAN MEINZER

FIRST THING every morning, Coy Harris wants to know what the wind did during the night. He pulls in to work about 7:30, and gives a quick look up at the windmills rising above him on the hill. He rolls down the window of his pickup, listening, he says, “for that distinctive sound a windmill makes when it complains.”

As executive director of the American Wind Power Center (AWPC) in Lubbock, Coy oversees the largest public museum collection of American-style, water-pumping windmills in the world. Located on 28 acres of rolling land in Lubbock’s scenic Yellowhouse Canyon, the museum exhibits more than 100 authentically restored windmills. About 30 of them, erected on full-size towers, are displayed outdoors, in the Tom and Evelyn Linebery Windmill Park, which makes up the main part of the museum grounds. Some of these machines date to the 19th Century, stalwart testimonials to the role they played in helping to open the West. Glinting in the sun, these wind giants look like colossal pinwheels creaking, chirring, and whirling against the sky. Indoors, more than 70 windmills



The American Wind Power Center in Lubbock preserves more than 100 windmills of different shapes and designs. The designer of the Twin Wheel windmill (facing page) hoped to double the pumping power, but the machine proved very hard to maintain.

(some of the rarest represent sole surviving examples of their manufacture) are displayed in the 28,000-square-foot museum building, which soars 40 feet along its ridge.

Continuing his morning rounds, Coy passes through the pair of heavy, 20-foot-wide, ornamental-iron entrance gates; through the museum’s main entry paved with a brick inlay of a windmill; past scores of windmill photographs, trade literature, and postcards; past collections of vintage hand pumps, salesmen’s models, and some

135 windmill weights. He turns on the computers to check the AWPC’s Web site and email, and then feeds Perkins, the museum cat. Jan Hayes, the AWPC’s education coordinator arrives, and Coy speaks briefly with her as she prepares the museum for the day’s tour groups. He goes outside to turn on the outdoor mills (by means of a lever at each mill’s base) and on his way back inside turns on the indoor machines.

The phone rings. It’s Rick Nidey, the AWPC’s curator, asking Coy for help hauling a windmill tower out for display. As he leaves, Coy props open the front door, easing into place an antique, black-and-white, iron windmill counterweight shaped like a winking half-moon (its brand name: Eclipse). Out on the display field, among the towers, the two men dig a set of four-foot holes, later cementing cedar poles into place and tamping the soil. As it’s not yet lunchtime, they decide to make an inspection, from ground level, of the working parts of all the outdoor windmills. One or two of the wooden mills might have to be lubricated, which will mean climbing the 40- or 50-foot towers wearing belts heavy with tools, oil, and grease.



*"I continue to marvel
that one small piece
of machinery could be
responsible for settling
more than half
of this country."*

For Coy and Rick, every working day links the past to the present, keeping an important legacy alive. "We would like for people to realize the importance of windmills in general, and to have a better appreciation of what the windmill has done for us just to exist here in West Texas," says Rick.

THE STORY of the windmill as the indispensable and legendary tool of survival for Texas farmers and ranchers began with Daniel Halladay, a machinist from Vermont, who patented the first commercially successful "self-governing" American windmill in 1854. Self-governing windmills could automatically control their speeds and turn themselves into proper alignment to catch the wind. Halladay's design, originally made of wood, was later modified by other inventors and fabricated in steel beginning in the 1880s. These self-governing mills came into widespread use in the western United States, and eventually throughout the world, because they were affordable and reliable and didn't demand constant human attention.

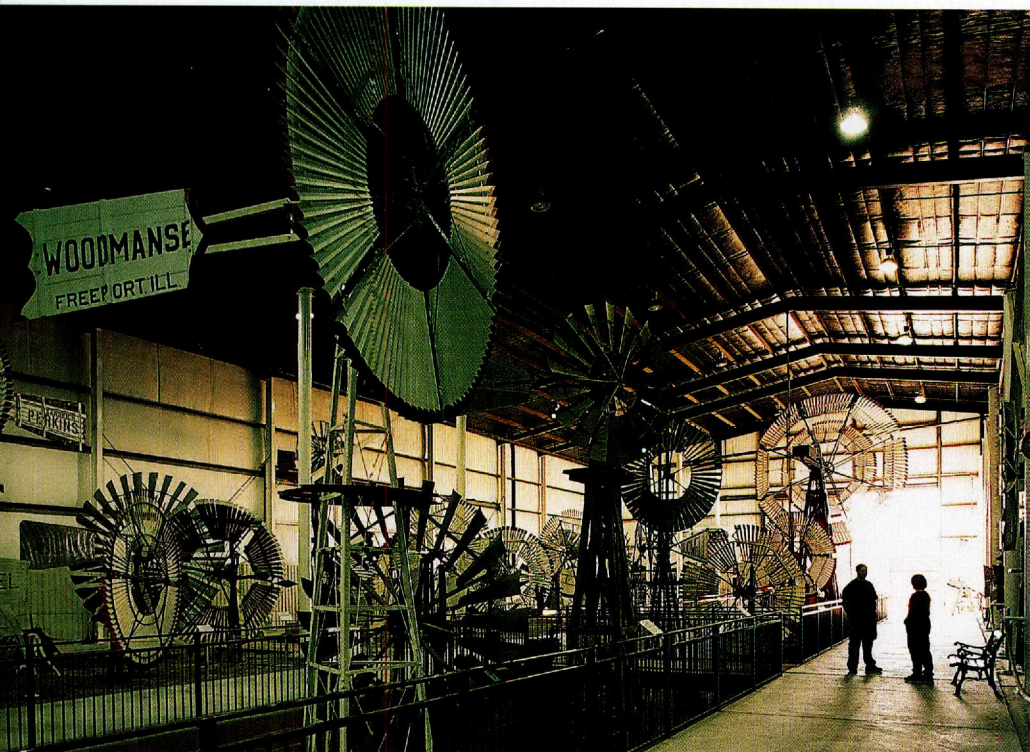
Windmills required no fossil fuels, using the free power of the wind to bring water to otherwise harsh environments, thus making vast areas available for settlement. "I continue to marvel that one small piece of machinery could be responsible for settling more than half of this country," says Jan Hayes. "Walter Prescott Webb, the well-known Texas historian, said it was

The blades of this sectional mill start out flat. As the wind picks up, centrifugal force spins the wheel's sections open, which in turn causes the wheel to slow down to a safe speed.





Windmills seem made for sunset shots, and the AWPC's medley of mills provides ample opportunity for that perfect end-of-day image. The tower of the huge Southern Cross windmill (above, left; exhibit hall in background) stands at 55 feet, topped by a 25-foot wheel. Windmills are classified according to the diameter of their wheels, which at the AWPC range from two feet to 25 feet across.



The AWPC museum building holds more than 70 windmills, some extremely rare. The machines didn't just pump water. So-called power mills were designed to grind feed, saw wood, shell corn, pound wool cloth into felt, process hides and bones to make glue, and perform other tasks.

the windmill that settled the West, and not the gun. I think he was correct." The interpretive exhibits at the AWPC confirm that opinion and tell the story of the windmill and the West.

THE ORIGINAL VISION for the American Wind Power Center began with a remarkable woman, the late Billie Wolfe (1913-1997) of Stephenville. Like many early Texas families, hers relied on a windmill for its water supply. She remembered the familiar creaking sounds of the mill in warm afternoon breezes, and how it became the family's lifeline.

After rural electrification and the pumps it powered began replacing windmills, Billie became determined to preserve them. She traveled the Texas countryside and the Great Plains states photographing windmills and collecting windmill artifacts. She also set about collecting windmills and soliciting the interest of other collectors, all the while dreaming of a permanent museum that would preserve the best examples of American windmills and explain their history. In large measure, the American Wind Power Center owes its

existence today to Billie Wolfe's foresight and determination.

Coy Harris motions in the direction of the great exhibit hall with its 30-foot-high walls and big steel columns. Here, every imaginable kind of windmill reveals a world of creative invention and, sometimes, mechanical whimsy: windmills with wooden tail vanes, windmills with flat wheels made of steel blades, windmills with wooden sectional wheels that open and close like an umbrella, tilting windmills, windmills on full towers, grain-grinding windmills... windmills, windmills...and more windmills.

Coy walks over to the churning, metal colossus that stands to the left of the great hall's entry. He identifies the mill as a Southern Cross from the 1970s, a more-contemporary machine than many others here (another Southern Cross sits outside). Donated to the museum by the Navajo Nation, it is the largest

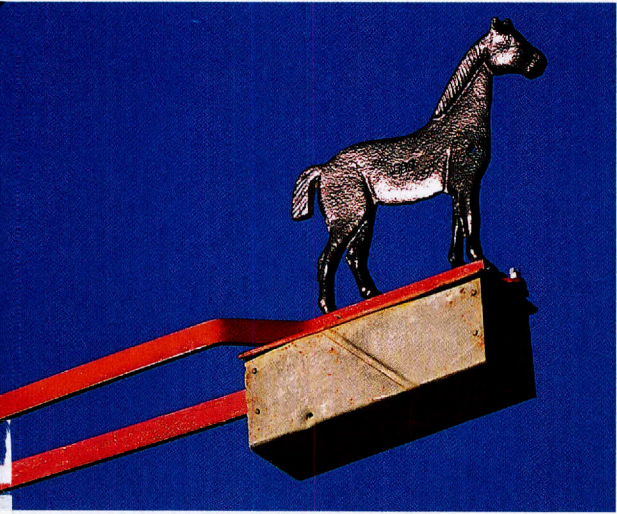
windmill of its type in North America, and one of the largest in the world. This machine, on a 20-foot, three-legged tower (shortened from 55 feet to fit in the building), has a 25-foot-diameter wheel with steel blades. Operating on a direct stroke with no gears, the windmill can pump 350 gallons of water per hour from a depth of 300 feet.

The Southern Cross looks out over the concrete floor of the exhibit hall, part of which descends into a large pit with a swept-earth floor. A rare, 20-foot, circa-1890 Nichols-Murphy power mill (which could drive tools such as grinders and saws) dominates the exhibit area here. Coy explains that this double-sectional-wheel wooden mill (two sections of thin blades are mounted to slotted rims to form a single wheel) is the only one of its size remaining in the world. "What most people don't know is that the wooden box, which is mounted on the mill to serve as a counter-balance to the weight of the wheel, contains 500 pounds of rock and metal," he chuckles. For a touch of realism, a raven's nest, woven from wire and found between the blades of the old mill when Rick Nidey discovered it near Lamar, Colorado, completes the display.

"When people repair their mills, they often leave scraps of wire around," Rick explains. "Ravens sometimes build their nests from bits and pieces of wire found scattered around the base of windmills. I've seen them use all kinds of wire—



Many people remember drawing water into a bucket using a hand pump like one of these.



An iron horse and a box filled with rocks counterbalance the weight of the wheel on a sectional mill. Billie Wolfe (1913-1997) founded the AWPC from her collection of windmills and mill memorabilia, gathered during driving trips across Texas and the Great Plains.



barbed wire, electrical wire, even old speedometer cables.”

Nearby, another mill draws attention, an Aermotor Tilting Tower windmill made in Chicago in the 1890s. The label reads: *The Aermotor Tilting Tower was also known as the woman's windmill. Built with a boom that could lower the windmill to ground level, the wheel could be greased without climbing a tower. Trade literature boasted it was so easy to use a small child [or a woman] could lower the tower. Produced for about 10 years.*

Beyond this exhibit, huge metal doors open to the outdoor display of windmills on the south side of the property. Through another set of doors, visitors can see a dazzling view of the windmills on the west side. On this side of the building, a semi-enclosed patio with a brick floor and other amenities serves as a popular spot for weddings, large company meetings, and tour groups. Sue Winton-Duhan, the AWPC's events coordinator, supervises the preparations for an upcoming museum fund-raiser. She recalls the time in 2000 when the AWPC hosted the International Windmillers' Trade Fair for three days. "We had 369 people from 38 states and two foreign countries," she says.

These guests also enjoyed the Windmill's Art and Sculpture Gallery, with its displays of windmill photographs, windmill memorabilia, and amusing stories relating to windmills.

Perkins, the cat (named for the Perkins Solid Wheel wooden windmill, patented in the mid-19th Century), pads past, as though leading the way back to her favorite spot in The Windsmith Museum Store. Although occasionally admonished not to lie down on the slot in the donation box, often she can be found purring beneath the canopy of a 22-foot metal wheel from a 1940s Challenge windmill. With feline self-assurance and inscrutability, she supervises sales of windmill models, T-shirts, books, prints, necklaces, belt buckles and such, sold in the store.

WINDMILLS exert a special hold on many people. AWPC board member Mark Durham, who gained his love of the machines growing up on family farms and ranches around Lubbock, always watches for windmills while traveling the highways. He says he likes thinking about the role they played in rural Texas, and enjoys recalling the mills' slow, rhythmic sounds as they pumped the precious water. "This is more than a collection," Mark says of the AWPC. "This is a rare collection. It's a grand thing."

Glendon and Bobbie Stokes of Granbury agree. They delight in taking friends and family to the windmill museum, and say they always look forward to the surprising effect it has on their guests. "We'll tell them what a great place it is," says Glendon, an amateur windmill photographer, "but when they get there, they get so excited about what they're seeing. They almost always say, 'Wow! We didn't expect this. This is really a sight to behold!'" ★

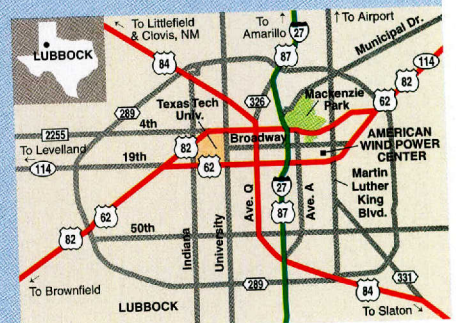
Granbury freelance writer DOMINIQUE INGE says her perspective on life has changed since she got to climb a 55-foot windmill tower last year. Her story about the Botanical Research Institute of Texas in Fort Worth appeared in the August 2001 issue.

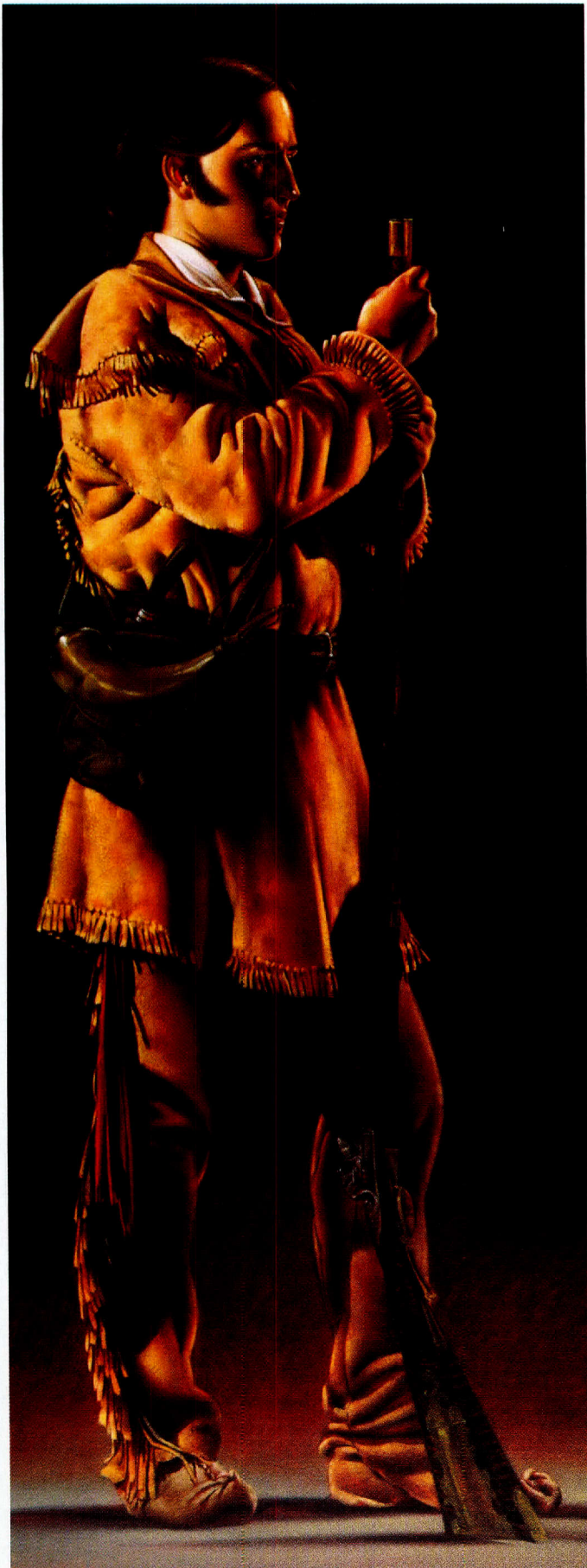
Well-known Texas photographer WYMAN MEINZER shot the September 2001 article on the history of the Panhandle Plains.

ESSENTIALS American Wind Power Center

THE AMERICAN WIND POWER CENTER is at 1701 Canyon Lake Dr. (79403), about 1½ miles east of downtown Lubbock. If you time it right, you just might see the windmills in the late-afternoon sunlight as you approach the museum from the west—truly a breathtaking sight! Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5; May-Sep, also open Sun 2-5. Admission: Free; \$2 donation per person requested. Call 806/747-8734; www.windmill.com.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WINDMILLS, check your local library or bookstore for the following publications by T. Lindsay Baker, Texas' leading windmill historian: *A Field Guide to American Windmills* (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1985); *Blades in the Sky: Windmilling through the Eyes of B.H. "Tex" Burdick* (Texas Tech Univ. Press, 1992); *North American Windmill Manufacturers' Trade Literature: A Descriptive Guide* (Univ. of Oklahoma Press, 1998); *The 702 Model Windmill: Its Assembly, Installation and Use* (AWPC, 1999). To subscribe to, or request a sample copy of, the *Windmillers' Gazette* ("A Journal for the Preservation of America's Wind Power History & Heritage"), write to T. Lindsay Baker, Editor, *Windmillers' Gazette*, Box 507, Rio Vista 76093.





"I MUST SAY AS TO WHAT I HAVE SEEN OF TEXAS," David Crockett wrote from San Augustine on January 9, 1836, "it is the garden spot of the world."

Months shy of his 50th birthday, the restless Tennessean had ventured west in search of opportunity on a new frontier. Despite his three terms in the U.S. Congress, and his status as a national celebrity, prosperity had eluded Crockett. Defeated in his bid for a fourth term in 1835, David told his constituents, "You may all go to hell, and I will go to Texas."

In that foreign land, as historian Walter Blair phrased it in a 1940 issue of *Southwest Review*, the "backwoods demigod...wafted to immortality in the rifle smoke of the Alamo."

In Search of

Years before his dramatic demise, two Crocketts strode the American landscape. In the real world, David struggled to feed his family with hunting and farming—and stood up for the common man in Congress. In the parallel world of legend and lore,

Some of the many faces of Davy: At left, *David Crockett, 1810*, a 1990 painting by John Nava from the David Zucker collection, included in the *Sunrise in His Pocket* exhibit at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. Below, possibly the best-known Davy in modern times, six-foot five-inch Texan and actor Fess Parker greeted young fans at New York's Idlewild Airport in 1955.



COLOR IMAGES ON BOTH PAGES COURTESY BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

Davy, the ring-tailed roarer, captured the public imagination with wild-man wit and rustic charm.

Rare was the Texian unfamiliar with the story of the “Coonskin Congressman” when Crockett crossed the Red River in December 1835. Many had heard of his magical prowess at bear hunting, and they knew by heart his trusty motto, “Be sure you’re right, then go ahead.”

BY GENE FOWLER

Davy

Some knew about his service in the Creek War with Andrew Jackson in 1813, and his later split with President Jackson over Jackson’s Indian Removal Bill, which led to the tragic “Trail of Tears” migration. Folks from western Tennessee recalled his unsuccessful fight for poor homesteaders’ land rights. Some Texians probably toted Crockett books.

“I’m that same David Crockett,” fibbed the anonymous author (not Crockett) of the 1833 volume *Sketches and Eccentricities of Colonel David Crockett of West Tennessee*, “fresh from the backwoods, half-horse, half-alligator, a little touched with the snapping turtle; can wade the Mississippi, leap the Ohio... whip my weight in wildcats...”

Though Crockett played the bumpkin braggart to political advantage, *Sketches* compelled him to polish his image. In 1834, he published his autobiography, *A Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee*.



At the height of Davy-mania (the first time), the clipper ship *David Crockett* set a record for rounding the Horn in 1845. The ad card can be seen in the Bullock Museum exhibit.



Sunrise in His Pocket

John Wayne’s Crockett costume from the 1960 film *The Alamo*, a figurehead of Crockett from an 1853 clipper ship, and an 1836 letter recounting the “You can go to hell” story are just a few of the intriguing items included in the exhibition *Sunrise in His Pocket: The Life, Legend and Legacy of Davy Crockett*, guest-curated by Paul A. Hutton and on view at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum from March 2 to June 30, 2002.

A re-created 1955 child’s bedroom showcases a Crockett bedspread, toys, and clothing, and Fess Parker dons the coonskin in continuous black-and-white replays of the 1950s TV series. A diverse array of artifacts, portraits, documents, and multimedia gizmos tells the Crockett story almost as entertainingly as Davy his own self.

The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum is at the corner of Congress Ave. and Martin Luther King Blvd. in Austin. Call 512/936-8746; www.TheStoryofTexas.com.

—Gene Fowler



Two of many Davy memorabilia items in the Bullock Museum’s exhibit: at top, an illustration from a 1955 comic book; above, John Wayne sporting one of 20 hats he wore as Davy Crockett in the 1960 film *The Alamo*, which was filmed at Alamo Village near Brackettville.

Other publications took the legend to new heights. In the “Davy Crockett Almanacs,” which first appeared in 1835 (and which Crockett had nothing to do with), a Paul Bunyan-like Davy gulped down the Gulf of Mexico, rode a lightning bolt to outrun a tornado, killed a rattler by biting the snake, and sent other fearsome

critters into “total terrifications” with his mesmerizing grin.

Some Texians may have seen “Davy” on the stage back east. Dramatist James Kirk Paulding modeled Colonel Nimrod Wildfire, the hero of his popular 1831 play, *The Lion of the West*, on the “Coonskin Congressman.” Crockett himself attended

the play in Washington, D.C. When actor James Hackett strode onstage in buckskin, he bowed deeply to Crockett, who stood and bowed in return as the crowd went wild. “For a cosmic moment,” says historian Paul Andrew Hutton, “reality and legend melded into one.”

No wonder folks in San Augustine fired their cannon to celebrate his arrival. Both Nacogoches and San Augustine threw banquetts for their famous guest and pressed him into speechifying. After taking an oath of allegiance to the provisional government of Texas, he set out in mid-January with a small party of other volunteers.

The charismatic Colonel Crockett was probably the last man in North America the Alamo defenders expected to ride into San Antonio de Béxar. After delivering the obligatory speech and telling his “You can go to hell, and I’ll go to Texas” story, Crockett settled into

the variegated ranks as a sort of high private. During a fandango held in his honor on February 10, word arrived that Santa Anna’s army had reached the Rio Grande.

Alamo survivor Susanna Dickinson later wrote that Crockett kept spirits up with yarn-spinning and fiddle-playing as the defenders shored up the old mission’s walls. After the large Mexican force arrived, they were repelled by the Texians in initial sallies. When a courier brought the news to Goliad, a Texian there joked that Davy probably “grinned” the Mexicans into retreat.

One of Travis’ dispatches noted that the former Congressman “was seen at all points, animating the men to do their duty.” Tejanos who remained in Béxar later stated that

What Did He Look Like?

Señora Villanueva, also known as Madame Candelaria (see Speaking of Texas, March 1997), who claimed to have nursed Bowie inside the Alamo when he was dying, described Crockett as “one of the strangest men I ever saw. He had the face of a woman, and his manner was that of a girl. I could never regard him as a hero until I

saw him die. He looked grand and terrible, shouting at the front door and fighting a whole column of Mexican infantry.” Historians dispute whether Madame Candelaria was actually present during the Alamo siege, but the Texas Legislature years later awarded her an annual pension of \$150 on the basis of her claim of Alamo service.

Another describer of Crockett’s appearance, Helen Chapman, wrote to her mother on May 1, 1834, after seeing Crockett in New York City. The letter is included in the volume *Letters from Brownsville*, published by the Texas State Historical Association in 1992. About Crockett’s appearance, Helen wrote: “I went to Peale’s Museum [the American Museum of Natural History] last evening and saw many wonderful things of course.... But what will interest you most of all probably...is that I have seen a great man. No less of one than Col. Crockett. I...sat close by him so I had a good opportunity of observing his physiognomy.... He is wholly different from what I thought him. Tall in stature and large in frame, but quite thin, with black hair combed straight over the forehead, parted from the middle and his shirt collar turned negligently back over his coat. He has rather an indolent and careless appearance and looks not like a ‘go ahead’ man....”

—Gene Fowler



One of the most well-known images of Davy is this 1839 engraving, based on a painting by John Gadsby Chapman and also in the Bullock Museum exhibit.

COURTESY BOB BULLOCK, TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM



Crockett nearly plugged Santa Anna with a 200-yard musket shot. The dictator had thought him-

self out of range, and according to some, the close call sent him into such a rage that he ordered the final all-out assault for the next day.

If fate had dealt his cards a little differently, David Crockett might have been in Washington that day, preparing to run for the White House. In 1834, the Whig party had measured him as presidential timber for 1836. Instead, he stood in a ragged bulwark on the uncertain frontier between two nations, awaiting an unfathomable end.

Debate still rages about the manner of Crockett’s death. The traditional image has Davy swinging his musket as *soldados* overrun him. But in the 1975 book *With*

Santa Anna in Texas, Carmen Perry's translation of the purported diary of eyewitness José Enrique de la Peña presented another death scene. The Mexican officer stated that a handful of defenders, including "the naturalist David Crockett, well known in America for his unusual adventures," surrendered after the battle and were executed at Santa Anna's order.

Dan Kilgore's 1978 book, *How Did Davy Die?* further agitated proponents of the "went down swinging" school. New York City firefighter Bill Groneman countered

Hundreds of publications have featured Davy, including (from far left) *Davy Crockett Almanack* of 1837; a 1956 issue of

Saga, a men's adventure magazine based on Western history; an Italian hardback comic book from the 1980s, *The Son of Davy Crockett*.

COURTESY BOB BULLOCK TEXAS STATE HISTORY MUSEUM

The Different Stages of Davy

Not too long after Crockett's death in 1836, a play came out titled *The National Drama of the Fall of the Alamo, or the Death of Col. Crockett*. In 1875, Alamo survivor Susanna Dickinson Hannig attended a performance in Austin of a melodrama titled *Davy Crockett; Or, Be Sure You're Right, Then Go Ahead* (the play ran for 30 years). Theatrical Davys continued to stride the boards in the 20th Century. In 1996, Austin high-school teacher Steve Warren wrote and staged a play titled *The Confessions of David Crockett*. Steve almost didn't write the play—or anything else. In January 1986, he was a finalist to travel as one of the teachers on the space shuttle *Challenger*, which exploded 73 seconds after liftoff.

—Gene Fowler



In 1955, three descendants of Davy, all likewise named Davy Crockett, posed for a photo. The three are Crockett's great-grandson, great-great-grandson, and great-great-great-grandson.

with his own book, *Defense of a Legend*, in 1994. However it happened, Alamo martyrdom inspired an enduring tribute to Crockett's exuberant spirit, as plays, books, and films have told the Crockett story continually. But in 1955, Davy-mania conquered America.

The popular TV show *Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier*, starring Texan Fess Parker, spurred a marketing phenomenon. On his "Crockett Craze" Web site (www.geocities.com/TelevisionCity/Set/1486), Davy-abilia collector Howard Bender reports that 3,000 toys and other items—from toothbrushes to underwear—bore the Crockett image and name. The price of raccoon fur jumped from 25 cents a pound to \$8. Some 41 artists—including Mitch Miller, Eddy Arnold, Steve Allen, and Tennessee Ernie Ford—recorded the TV show's bouncy theme song, "The Ballad of Davy Crockett."

Writer Clara Sneed recalls belting out the song as she rode her rocking horse as a child in Austin. "When we played Alamo, I insisted on being Davy Crockett," she says. "My sister was Jim Bowie. I made a deal with my parents to quit sucking my thumb if they'd take me to the Alamo." Crocketteer Paul Andrew Hutton, a University of New Mexico history professor who has been working on a Crockett biography for 10 years, played backyard Alamo as a boy in San Angelo. "Our teenage sisters may have swooned for Elvis, but we were transfixed by Fess," says Paul. In New Jersey, William Chemerka,

In Search of More Davy...

Look in your bookstore or library for the following books: *The Davy Crockett Almanac and Book of Lists* by William R. Chemerka (Eakin Press, 2000), *Davy Crockett, A Handbook* by Richard Boyd Hauck (Univ. of Nebraska Press, 1982), *Three Roads to the Alamo* by William C. Davis (HarperCollins, 1998), *The Tall Tales of Davy Crockett*, intro. by Michael Lofaro (Univ. of Tennessee Press, 1987), *The Davy Crockett Craze* by Paul F. Anderson (R&G Productions, 1996), *Defense of a Legend* by Bill Groneman (Republic of Texas Press, 1994), *How Did Davy Die?* by Dan Kilgore (Texas A&M Univ. Press, 1978), *Crockett at Two Hundred: New Perspectives on the Man and the Myth*, edited by Michael A. Lofaro and Joe Cummings (Univ. of Tennessee Press, 1989), *David Crockett: The Man and the Legend* by James Shackford (Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1956), *Duel of Eagles* by Jeff Long (William Morrow, 1990), and *The Gates of the Alamo* by Stephen Harrigan (Knopf, 2000). Paul Hutton's *Sunrise in His Pocket: The Life, Legend and Legacy of Davy Crockett*, a companion volume to the Texas State History Museum exhibit, will be published by the University of Oklahoma Press this summer.

author of *The Davy Crockett Almanac and Book of Lists*, which came out in 2000, became a student of history after seeing *Davy Crockett at the Alamo* on TV. "I've taught history for 30 years," says Bill, "and I always include lessons on Davy Crockett."

For years after the fall of the Alamo, reported Crockett sightings fueled rumors that Davy had survived the battle. In a way, of course, he has done just that. For those who value freedom, self-reliance, and the exploration of new frontiers, both the myth and the man will never die. Americans—and many other folks around the world—will always love a "go-ahead" man with "sunrise in my pocket." ★

GENE FOWLER laments the recent passing in San Antonio of "Red River Dave" McEnery, composer of the 1950s tune "When Davy Crockett Met the San Antonio Rose."



BY DIANE DICKINSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM CROW

GONE TO THE DOGS

AT TRIALS
AROUND THE STATE,
BORDER COLLIES
AND OTHER BREEDS
MAKE SHORT WORK
OF SHEPHERDING

A cool breeze blows through Francis Raley's hair as she stands in a green field with her Border Collie Brock at her side. She nods to Brock, saying, "Come by." Brock leaps forward with lightning speed, sprinting 350 yards out of sight. Within seconds, a flock of sheep appears, running pell-mell with Brock close behind. Francis blows a whistle, and Brock crouches, head lowered, watching intently for any sign of a sheep revolt as he edges the flock through a set of gates. The sheep's eyes dart about looking for a way to escape, but Brock commands obedience with his mesmerizing stare.

Seated by the field at the Bluebonnet Sheepdog Trial near Crawford, the audience watches as Brock silently herds the sheep toward a fenced pen. More whistles from Francis, and Brock cuts two sheep from the tightly knit group, all the while controlling the others with his so-called "collie eye." Another whistle, and Brock reunites the two sheep with the herd and guides them all into the pen. Francis pulls the gate shut, and Brock dashes off the field to appreciative applause and Francis' smile.

All in a day's work for Brock and hundreds of other Border Collies, who amaze and delight spectators at sheepdog trials, held at ranches, rodeos, and fairs across Texas. "These dogs never tire," says Francis. "They seem to delight in showing off their herding skills."

[FACING PAGE] Doggone attentive. Owned by Kirt Truax of Waco, Rip intently awaits his next command during a demonstration at the annual Homestead Heritage Craft and Children's Fair, held Thanksgiving weekend in Elm Mott, near Waco (call 254/829-0417).

[TOP] Eleno Montemayor of San Antonio and his Border Collie Mary compete at the Bluebonnet Sheepdog Trial, held at the Lynch Ranch northwest of Crawford.



SHEEPDOG SPEAK

OUTRUN To gather the sheep or goats, the dog runs out, either right or left, and moves in a pear shape.

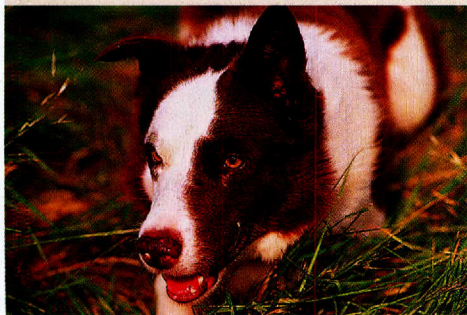
LIFT The dog's first contact with sheep at the top of the outrun. Dog's approach should be smooth and steady, and the sheep controlled in a quiet, firm manner.

FETCH The dog brings the sheep to the handler in a straight line through gates.

DRIVE The dog drives the sheep away from the handler in a straight line through two gates.

SHEDDING The dog separates two unmarked sheep from the others within the so-called shedding ring. The dog must be in control of the shed sheep.

PENNING The dog reunites the sheep and herds them into the pen.



[TOP TO BOTTOM] Border Collies like Paint (owned by Jo Woodbury of Cranfills Gap) and Del (owned by Eddie Smith of Texarkana) may look different, but they're all born to work. We don't have a name for the other hardworking herding dog (owner, speak!).

B egun in 1975, the Bluebonnet Sheepdog Trial, held in late April (April 27-28, 2002) at the Keith Lynch Ranch on the picturesque Middle Bosque River near Crawford, is the oldest continual sheepherding event in Texas.

Sheepdog trials originated in Bala, Wales, more than 100 years ago, and even today the majority of judges who come to Texas hail from Wales or Scotland. Colin Gordon, who owns a sheep farm near Swansea, Wales, often judges the Bluebonnet Trial. In his rich Celtic accent, he explains how judges assess both a dog's ability to handle the sheep and the handler's ability to control the dog. Each dog begins with a set number of points (90 points for dogs 30 months and younger, 100 points for older dogs). Points are deducted for each fault, such as failing to separate the sheep. Points from the various trials are totaled at the end of the year, and the dog with the most points is named "Dog of the Year," a title that carries major bragging rights.

In Texas, this canine bravado led to the formation of the Texas Sheep Dog Association in 1963 by a group of 10 San Saba County ranchers and businessmen who had been meeting every weekend to show off their dogs' herding skills. "Somebody just mentioned how we needed an association to organize trials, and we were off and running," says Harold Hail, one of the founders. Today, the association, which sanctions trials and clinics in the state, is one of the largest such associations in the nation.

The Bluebonnet Trial and all other trials are open to any breed—many handlers have won with Australian Shepherds and Kelpies—but because of their innate herding abilities and desire to please, Border Collies, generally considered the Einsteins of the canine world, are the dogs of choice.

During a trial, the dogs wait their turn off field either seated or lying unleashed beside their handlers, watching every move their competitors make and not uttering a sound (barking dogs make sheep nervous and are therefore useless as sheepdogs). Anyway, no self-respecting Border Collie would take its eyes off the action to join in "common" canine pursuits.

Border Collie enthusiasts, who come from all walks of life, readily admit they are addicted to these trials. Lamesa cotton farmer Joe Raines says, "This is my golf game. Some folks go fishin', some ropin', but I go doggin'. I love my dogs, and they



have to love you when they get out there and work for you.” Joe competes in trials with his 10-year-old Border Collie, Okie.

Border Collies are named for the Border country between Scotland and England where they developed. British shepherds hired to escort flocks of sheep on ships brought the breed to America. The breed was not AKC approved until 1995, and even then most breeders did not want them recognized, because in the sheepherding business, looks simply don't count; per-

formance and hard work do. Even so, these are handsome, sleek animals, weighing 25 to 55 pounds, with rough or smooth coats in mixtures of black, white, and red. “The old racetrack saying that there ain't no ugly horses in the winner's circle is true for these dogs,” says Bud Boudreau, one of the top handlers in the nation and head of the sheepdog training program at Hayre Ranch in Sheffield. “Watching these dogs work sheep is almost like watching a ballet. All we have

Have you herd? Texas produces more wool annually than any other state. Here, Sweep, owned by Angie Coker of Poteau, Oklahoma, gathers a flock at Berry Raley's ranch near Crawford.



“WATCHING THESE

DOGS WORK SHEEP

IS ALMOST LIKE

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SHEEPDOG TRIALS

ORIGINATED IN

BALA, WALES,

MORE THAN 100

YEARS AGO, AND

EVEN TODAY

THE MAJORITY OF

JUDGES WHO COME

TO TEXAS HAIL FROM

WALES OR SCOTLAND.



Kirt Truax and Rip demonstrate the way they move sheep in various directions, at the Homestead Heritage Craft and Children's Fair.

to do is make the right moves, and then their instincts take over.”

Today, the Border Collie's value to sheep ranchers in Texas cannot be underestimated: Texas' approximately 1.1 million sheep produce 7.5 million pounds of fine wool annually, the most of any state in the nation. When shearing time nears, a rancher needs only a dog and a whistle to herd the flock out of canyons and crevices no horse could maneuver.

At the trials, courses are designed to simulate ranch work. Most handlers prefer to communicate with their dogs by using a hand-held whistle, the way shepherds do on a ranch. (Whistle commands save a handler from shouting and are easier for the dogs to hear.)

Gail Macdonald, a nurse from Royse City, has been competing with her dog Dan for four years. She explains that it's the degree of emphasis on the whistled commands that makes a difference. “If I want Dan to hurry up, I quickly whistle *tweet, tweet, tweet*, which means *hurry, hurry, hurry*,” says Gail, who adds that a long, flat whistle

TAKING COMMAND

Border Collie pups are first trained with verbal commands, and once they will obey those, trainers incorporate a series of whistles with the command. During competitions, many handlers use both verbal and whistle commands. Following are verbal commands:

LOOK Look for the sheep.

AWAY TO ME Sheep in sight, now move to the right.

COME BY Sheep in sight, now move to the left.

LIE DOWN Crouch low or stop.

STAND Stop/stand.

TIME Move slowly and take your time.

STEADY Too close to sheep. Move slower.

WALK Walk toward sheep.

LOOK BACK Stop, turn around, and look back for more sheep.

GET BACK Turn and move farther away from sheep.

TAKE HOLD If sheep challenge dog, then nip sheep on the face.

THAT'LL DO Finished working; return to handler.

means to walk up slowly. "It's easier for him to hear the whistle, and less emotional."

As owners know, Border Collies will herd just about anything that moves. In 1993, Keith Lynch, who hosts the Bluebonnet Trial, was conducting sheep-herding clinics at the University of Alaska when a group of Eskimos asked him if his dogs could work reindeer. Keith felt it was worth a try.

"We traveled by sled during a major snowstorm trying to find the reindeer herds," he says. "The first herd we found had about 3,000 head in it. They looked like little dots in the distance, and I sent one of my dogs out. He went so far out that I thought he had lost the herd. But pretty soon, here came the reindeer so fast the dog couldn't hear my whistles on account of the noise of the hooves on the



Eleno Montemayor and his Border Collie Josh (top) and Angie Coker and Border Collie Sam pause—or, should we say, paws?—to watch the action at the Bluebonnet Trial.

ESSENTIALS Sheepdog Trials

THE BLUEBONNET SHEEPDOG TRIAL

(Apr. 27-28, 2002) is held annually at the Lynch Ranch, about 4 miles northwest of Crawford and 25 miles west of Waco. From the intersection of Texas 317 and FM 185 in Crawford, go west on FM 185 4-5 blocks, turn right at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Prairie Chapel Rd., and continue for 3-4 miles. Look for signs at the ranch entrance. Admission: Free. Bring your own lawn chairs. Call Francis Raley at 254/486-2500 or Jerry Lynch at 254/486-2532.

OTHER EVENTS Sheepdog trials, held statewide throughout the year, are open to the public; following are a few 2002 events. On Mar. 16-17 and Oct. 12-13, the **End Gate Sheep Dog Trial** is held in Ferris (call Eunice Gerloff at 972/842-3697). **Indoor sheepdog trials** can be seen this month (Mar. 8) at the **Star of Texas Fair and Rodeo** in Austin (call Francis Raley; number listed above), and every Feb. at the **Fort Worth, San Antonio, and Houston Livestock Shows and Rodeos**.

In Oct., E.B. and Francis Raley give **sheep-herding demonstrations** in the 3,000-seat **Pan American Arena** at the **State Fair of Texas** in Dallas. The Raleys use 4 or 5 sheep and dogs to demonstrate ranch work and trial competition.

For information on events in your area, check the **Texas Sheep Dog Assn. (TSDA)** Web site (www.texassheepdogassoc.org), or write to Francis Raley, Secretary/Treasurer TSDA, 2915 Anderson Lane, Crawford 76638; 254/486-2500; email: f.raleys@worldnet.att.net.

snow and ice. I had to send another dog out, and the two of them started circling the reindeer and got them under control. Those Eskimos were really tickled to find another way to work reindeer."

Keith pushes his weathered Stetson off his forehead and shakes his head. "These dogs do amazing things. It's beautiful to behold." ★

DIANE DICKINSON of Houston has two pampered dogs of her own (a Westie and a Cock-a-poo), whose only work is jumping from the couch and running to the kitchen for dinner.

JIM CROW of Mount Calm enjoyed visiting the ranches and meeting the dedicated handlers and their hardworking dogs.

72° (water temp.) at 30° (north latitude)... With a Paddle...Ahhhhh!



BY PATRICIA CAPERTON PARENT • PHOTOGRAPHS BY LAURENCE PARENT

I stand on the bank of the San Marcos River, watching clear, rapidly moving water rush by. This sunny morning seems ideal, as my husband Laurence, myself, and two friends prepare to canoe the river below Martindale. Although I've tubed the river within the San Marcos city limits countless times, I've never explored this particular section. Before embarking, canoe outfitter and guide Mike Spencer explains our six-mile route, providing safety tips and vividly describing the three sets of tricky water we'll encounter.

Eager to head out, we climb down the bank, pile into our craft, and shove off. The current quickly catches our canoes, zipping us past lush stands of deep green elephant ears. With the river's many twists and turns, it takes quick thinking and good reflexes to stay inside the bends and avoid colliding into the far bank.

When the river widens and slows a bit, we pull in our paddles and just float, awed by the large cypress, pecan, and Texas ash trees lining both banks and shading our passage. Houses on the right bank indicate we've not quite left civilization, though soon the current speeds up once again.

Don't escape from your reality. Just change it. A canoe trip on the San Marcos River will put you in the flow.





Duane Te Grotenhuis of TG Canoe Livery calls the San Marcos River “the pearl of Texas.” He says, “We are blessed to have such a wonderful piece of creation.”

For 45 minutes, we see no other boaters and hear nothing but the sound of our paddles splashing in the water.

Up ahead we see rocks and a small drop-off. Following Mike’s instructions, we stay right and sail through the rapids without a mishap.

Below the rapids, the river slows again. We wave as we pass fishermen patiently sitting in their canoes, hoping for a bite from a bass or catfish.

I glance upstream and notice a pair of kayakers gaining on us. Soon their sleek kayaks pull abreast of our slower canoes. Loaded with camping gear, our fellow floaters say they’re headed all the way to Luling, with an overnight stop at a Fentress campground. Their journey sounds intriguing. A future adventure, perhaps?

As the kayakers head downstream, the current quickens. Ahead, we see a tall cypress tree and a strange, kiva-like concrete structure on the right bank, signaling the “strainer” Mike had told us about. This is the trickiest spot on our route. Here, the current undercuts several trees along the left bank. An unwary canoeist can easily follow the flow and become trapped in the tangled roots and branches. We stay to the extreme right and pull our canoes up onto a gravel bar, glad for the pre-trip warning.

After raiding our coolers, we push off past the strainer and continue downstream. Houses yield to rural pastures dotted with grazing cows. We encounter more fast water and tight turns as the river courses between high sandy banks. Despite constant erosion

and periodic powerful floods, tenacious cypresses cling to the soft banks, held by strong roots. Occasionally, though, we see that the current has won, and we must navigate around a fallen tree.

To break for lunch, we haul our canoes onto a wide gravel bar. Although nobody else is around, and the land seems open, we’re careful to stay in the riverbed and not trespass on private property. By now, the Texas sun hangs high in the sky, and we can’t resist a dip in the cool, clean river. Fed by Edwards Aquifer springs beneath Spring Lake in San Marcos, the river stays 72 degrees year round. It feels great!

Paddling on, we notice the river widening and the countryside flattening out. Swift currents a thing of the past, the river now acquires a placid quality. For 45 minutes, we see no other boaters and hear nothing but the sound of our paddles splashing in the water. Then, the whine of a passing automobile breaks the silence, and we know we’re approaching our take-out at the FM 1977 bridge above Staples Dam. After we drag our canoes onto the bank, I take a look at the river below the dam. Heading swiftly toward the Gulf, the rippling waters still entice me. But this trip is over. I’ll have to answer the river’s call another day. ★



Outfitters give helpful instructions on negotiating rapids of the San Marcos.

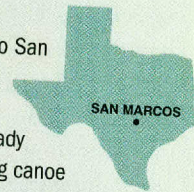
ESSENTIALS

San Marcos Canoe Outfitters

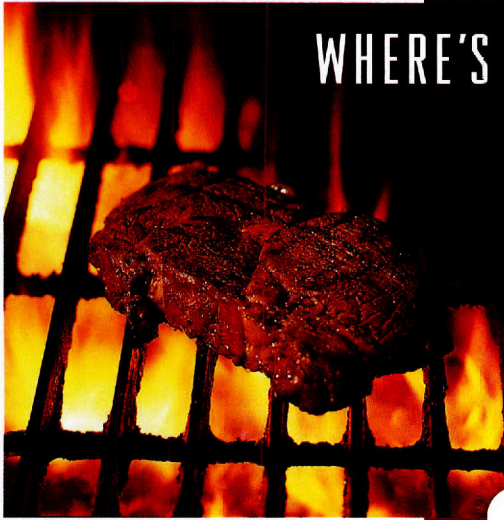
TWO OUTFITTERS, Spencer Canoes and TG Canoe Livery, provide canoes and shuttles on the San Marcos River.

To reach **Spencer Canoes/Shady Grove Campground** from Austin, take I-35 south to San Marcos. Turn south on Texas 80, then south again on FM 1979 in Martindale. Cross the San Marcos River, and Spencer Canoes/Shady Grove Campground is on your left. A day-long canoe rental and shuttle costs \$30. Spencer’s rents canoes for two 6-mile routes: from Shady Grove to Staples, and from San Marcos to Pecan Park. The San Marcos-to-Pecan Park run has little whitewater but does require portage at several dams. Boat shuttle fee. Hours: Sat 8-6, Sun 9-5. Weekday rentals by appt. Call 512/357-6113; email: shadygrv@texas.net.

TG Canoe Livery is 1½ miles east of San Marcos, a half-mile south of Texas 80, at 402 Pecan Park Dr. Canoe rentals cost \$35 a day including shuttle service. TG’s offers routes of 2, 5, and 7 miles from San Marcos to Pecan Park, and the 5½-mile stretch from Martindale to Staples. *Reservations required.* Boat shuttle fees start at \$15. Flexible hours. Call 512/353-3946; www.cypac.com/euro; email: t.g.canoe.livery@centurytel.net.



PATRICIA CAPERTON PARENT believes canoeing Texas’ rivers is good for the soul. Photographer LAURENCE PARENT traversed Big Bend National Park’s Ore Terminal Trail in the January issue.



WHERE'S THE BEEF? A DEDICATED CARNIVORE HITS THE TRAIL

ON A TEXAS STEAK-OUT!

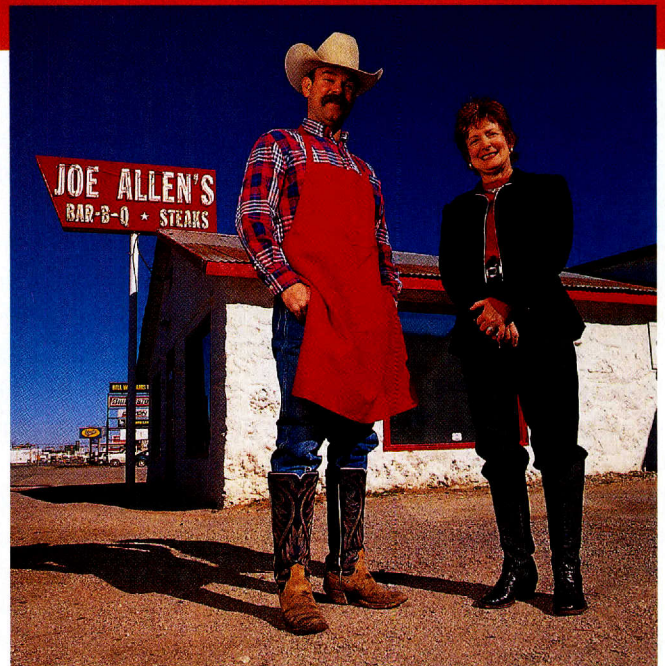
JOE ALLEN'S BAR-B-Q ABILENE

They light the fire in the steel-lined grill at Joe Allen's in Abilene about 10:30 a.m., seven days a week. It won't cool down until well after 10 p.m., when the last steak sizzles to perfection over blazing mesquite. In between, as many as 300 custom-cut rib eyes and T-bones will move from flame to plate to fork and knife. On Joe and Sharon Allen's ranch outside of town, there is no shortage of mesquite trees to fuel the fire. "We cut only the dead wood, and you sure want to have a sharp chain," notes the Allens' son Josh.

And so, here and at steakhouses all over Texas, the fiery ballet begins. The temperature may reach 130 degrees in Joe Allen's grilling room, where the cooks wear heavy working boots, dungarees, ball caps, long-sleeved shirts, and cooking gloves. Each customer requests a desired thickness, then a cook slices the whole loin or rib eye and weighs the cut to calculate the price. The rub is simple: equal parts of salt, garlic, and pepper. Since 30 or 40 orders at a time go on the fire, it requires a colossal memory to match doneness with time of delivery. The outcome: a moist, slightly charred steak, cooked to perfection.

Joe Allen was an agricultural extension agent with a dream of owning a ranch when he and Sharon began organizing cookouts for area 4-H chapters. Inspired by the compliments on their barbecue, the couple opened Joe Allen's Bar-B-Q in 1980 in a former used-furniture store. Soon, they added T-bones, cooked over the barbecue pit's firebox. Even though the sign outside the one-story building still says barbecue, the real business is steak, such good business that Joe now runs not only this restaurant and the ranch, but also two other Abilene restaurants and a catering business.

BY JOHN D. LUMPKIN PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH



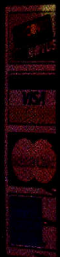
Josh Allen and his mother, Sharon Allen, serve mesquite-grilled T-bones and rib eyes daily at Joe Allen's Bar-B-Q in Abilene.

[FACING PAGE] The Corral in Victoria has catered to South Texans since 1952. These days, charbroiled steaks lead the menu.



CHOICE STEAKS
SEA FOOD

EST. 1958
THE CORRAL
STEAKS • COCKTAILS • BAR-B-Q





You might say that Ali and Nariman Esfandiary got into the steak business thanks to the Ayatollah Khomeini. The former Iranian Air Force pilots opened the Fort Griffin General Merchandise Co. in Albany after the Shah's ouster in 1979 stranded them in Texas.

The Allens took a page from other culinary entrepreneurs, whose small, family-owned steakhouses dot the Texas landscape from the Red River to the Rio Grande. Cooks at a joint called Shorty's bring T-bones to delectable perfection on a flat griddle near Falls City. At Sodolak's Original Country Inn in Snook, customers

munch on chicken-fried bacon strips before chowing down on Texas-size steaks. Perini's in Buffalo Gap serves a spicy sirloin accompanied by green-chili hominy, while the Twin Mountain outside San Angelo offers a dish called "Scraps" that has proved more popular than any other beef entrée on the menu.



**"Go outside, build a fire,
and broil me a steak. Build it
under my window, close to the house,
so I can smell it cooking."**

*Cattleman Walter Cochran of Midland, critically ill,
to his friend, historian J. Evetts Haley, quoted in
Haley's biography of Charles Goodnight.*

FORT GRIFFIN GENERAL MERCHANDISE CO.

ALBANY

Nariman and Ali Esfandiary became Texas restaurateurs because they couldn't go home. Pilots for the Iranian Air Force when the Shah was ousted in 1979, the two men were stranded in Abilene after a tour at Dyess Air Force Base. They decided to move to Albany, and, with a loan, they opened the Fort Griffin General Merchandise Co., appropriating the name of the once-rowdy frontier military post nearby. In 1997, *Texas Monthly* called it the "best small-town steakhouse" in the state. Since then, the Fort Griffin has added oysters, mesquite-grilled red snapper, and rack of lamb to the menu.

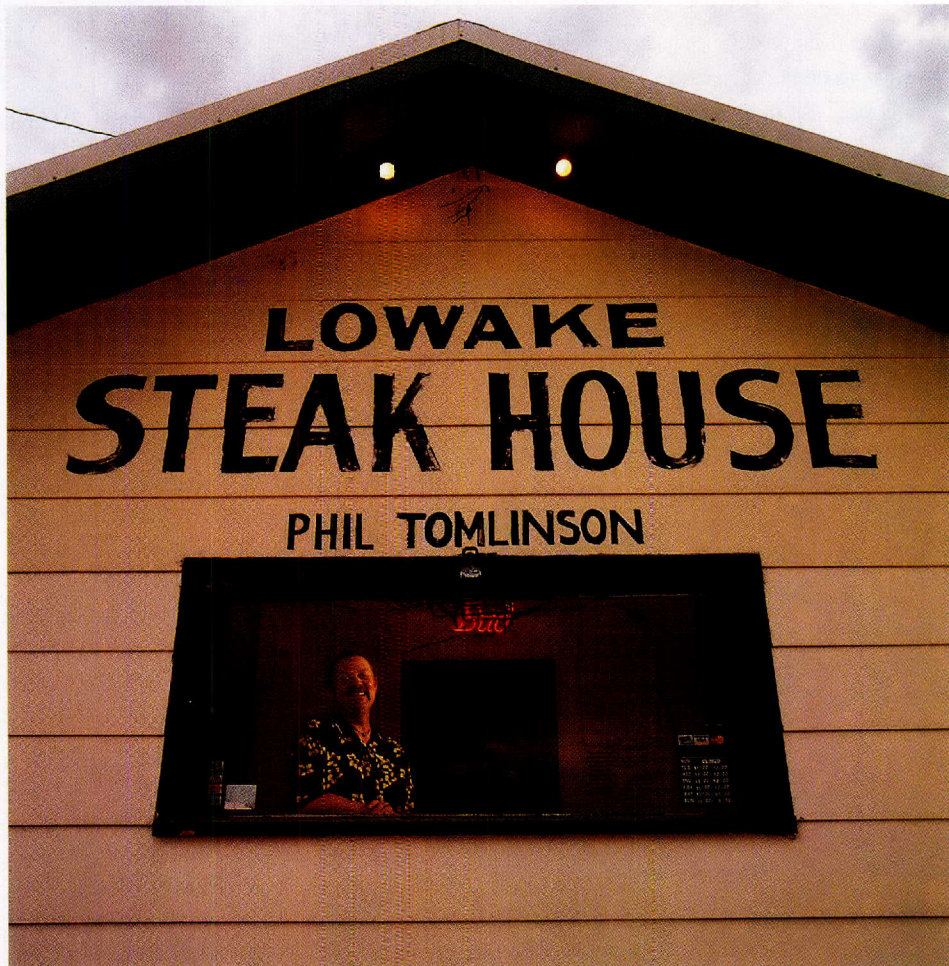
PERINI RANCH STEAKHOUSE

BUFFALO GAP

Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap forms the third member of a nifty Big Country trio of laid-back, rustic dining



Tom Perini worked as a chuck-wagon cook before he opened his Perini Ranch Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap in 1983.



Phil Tomlinson, owner of the Lowake Steak House, serves up rib eyes, T-bones, filet mignons, sirloins, clubs, and other steaks to hungry customers in Rowena.

spots dedicated mainly to red meat. Tom Perini, a one-man cartel of cowboy cooking, has appeared on national TV, and he once took an entire grilling operation to Japan (see *Texas Highways*, June 1997). His cookbook, *Texas Cowboy Cooking*, remains a steady seller. He has grilled for movie stars and for politicians, including the Texan who now occupies the White House.

At Perini's, where a pump jack chugs away in the parking lot, the strip sirloin has to make room for vegetables like black-eyed peas and zucchini Perini.

LOWAKE STEAK HOUSE

ROWENA

After World War II, most jurisdictions in West Texas prohibited the sale of alcohol or restricted it to bars, a condition that helped create a steak legend in the midst of cotton fields between Ballinger

and San Angelo. The German descendants who settled in Lowake "voted a different kind of wet" in their tiny village by allowing not only bars but any restaurant to serve alcohol, says manager Bob Waller of the Lowake Steak House. The beneficiaries of the vote were the original Lowake Inn, which had its own dirt airstrip before it closed, and now the Lowake Steak House down the road.

At dusk, pickup trucks and Cadillacs share the gravel parking lot off a blacktop road that extends from US 67 in Rowena, the closest town. Rock stars like Ted Nugent and ZZ Top, along with high school football teams and ex-Dallas Cowboys, have made the trek for T-bone steak that falls over the edge of the plate. Cooks hand-cut the beef daily, rub it with granulated garlic, and cook it on a gas-fired steel slab. Owner Phil Tomlinson guarantees fresh coffee.

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

For good steak and a chance to ogle a menagerie of goats, sheep, and rattlesnakes, visit **Cattleman's Steakhouse** at Indian Cliffs Ranch, off I-10 near Fabens, east of El Paso (915/544-3200). **The Big Texan Steak Ranch**, on I-40 in east Amarillo (806/372-7000), serves pure Texas kitsch and the legendary 72-ounce sirloin. On old Route 66 in the Panhandle community of McLean is the **Red River Steakhouse** (806/779-8940), owned by Gabe Parson, the founder of the K-Bob's chain.

After football games, Texas Aggies who stand in line at the ramshackle **Country Inn** in Somerville (979/596-1222) say the too-large-for-the-plate sirloin is worth the trip. **Sodolak's Original Country Inn**, in Snook (979/272-6002), is famous for its porterhouse steaks, charbroiled pork chops, and chicken-fried bacon appetizers. The best beef in the region may be the tenderloin at **Royers Round Top Cafe**, in Round Top (877/866-7437), but Bud and Karen Royer also cook seafood, game, and pasta.

Big-city steak doesn't have to come with imperious waiters, designer martinis, and \$100 bottles of Bordeaux. **Brenner's**, at 11901 Katy Freeway in west Houston (713/465-2901), has a garden view, a bartender full of mirth, and more than six decades of steak experience. The **Little Rhein Steak House** sits on the River Walk in downtown San Antonio (210/225-2111); the tree-shaded **Grey Moss Inn** (210/695-8301) is 30 minutes away in Helotes.

Cattlemen's Steakhouse, in the Fort Worth Stockyards (817/624-3945), takes the blue ribbon in Cowtown, as did the grand-champion steers of bygone days whose photographs line the walls. The "Rose o' Texas," a fist-size heart of tenderloin, leads the menu.

[ABOVE] Frank Sodolak, of Sodolak's Original Country Inn in Snook, makes a tasty porterhouse steak, but is famous for his heart-stopping chicken-fried bacon strips.



TWIN MOUNTAIN STEAK HOUSE SAN ANGELO

Guy Gary was better known as a barkeep than a cook, but his signature steak dish called "Scraps" now leads the menu at the Twin Mountain Steak House outside San Angelo. How'd the dish get its name? Frank Smith, the current Twin Mountain owner, explains. As Gary sliced the short loin into T-bones, the tenderloin portion on one side of the bone became smaller and smaller. Finally, says Frank, "There would be a little piece an inch wide, and he would cut that off and throw it in a pile. When he had enough, he would cook it and sell it as 'Scraps.'"

Frank and his wife, Gloria, took over the Twin Mountain in 1990, competing with West Texas steak heavyweights like Zentner's and Zentner's Daughter (both in San Angelo). Scraps remains the biggest draw, but these days, Frank buys 60-pound boxes of boneless beef tenderloin to make the scraps. If he still tried to use T-bones, he couldn't keep up with demand. The savory nuggets are served in their own juices, with an optional side of sautéed mushrooms. So popular is Scraps that, on one occasion, executives visiting the local Ethicon plant wouldn't let the corpo-



"Lunch included thick slabs of sirloin steak cooked as a pot roast with onions, large chunks of deep-fried potatoes, green beans seasoned with bacon drippings, lettuce and tomatoes, and a marvelous cherry cobbler."

Biographer Lawrence Clayton's description of a meal hosted by legendary rancher Watt Matthews of Albany.

rate jet leave San Angelo until they had several orders for the return trip to their New Jersey headquarters.

THE CORRAL VICTORIA

West Texas doesn't have a corner on steakhouses, though. In 1956, Albert and Gwen Totah invested the substantial sum of \$8,000 in a sign to draw customers to their four-year-old drive-in, The Corral, which sits on US 59 on the edge of Victoria. Albert's first plan was to put up a huge cutout of a cowboy with a lasso in hand. Somehow, a neon "rope" would extend from the cowboy sign to a calf on the restaurant's roof. "They just couldn't do that spiraling rope," recalls Albert, so he settled for a kneeling Indian brave shooting an arrow across the parking lot.

Years later, when the 30-foot-high sign was dismantled for repairs, city inspectors claimed it could not be reinstalled because of a new ordinance. "But tradition won out," says Albert, "because so many people were coming back to show their kids where they had sat in their cars when we had curb service." Today, the massive sign remains, and Albert, now in his seventies, still presides.

The 1970s saw changes at the Corral. The carhops and soda fountain disappeared; Austin stone replaced cedar posts on the exterior; and, most important, charbroiled steaks, sometimes served by candlelight, began to lead the menu. (The laminated, full-color menu still offers barbecue plates and other reminders of the drive-in era when Albert kept a watchful eye on cruising teenagers.) These days, Albert and Gwen's daughter Stephanie greets customers and brings fresh cuts of sirloin strip, rib eye, and tenderloin to their tables so they can choose a favorite.

RANCHMAN'S CAFE PONDER

Folks have been making the pilgrimage to the Ranchman's Cafe in Ponder for more than five decades. The current proprietor, David Ross, used to ride a bicycle to the cafe (*continued on page 50*)

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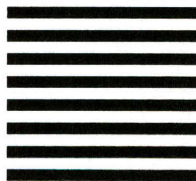
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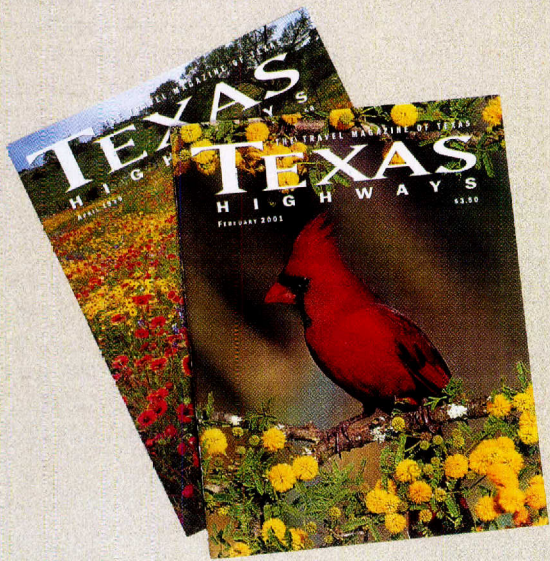
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from nearby Denton when he was a student at North Texas State University (now the University of North Texas) in the early 1970s. His order: a slice of Evelyn Stack's pie and a quart-size glass of iced tea.

Back then the tiny storefront cafe had a screen door and no indoor plumbing. In 1978, Dave helped build an addition and the first bathrooms for owner Grace "Pete" Jackson and then bought the place himself in 1992. "When it was time for this place to change hands, I made sure I was in the right place at the right time to come back home," he says.

On a tepid August evening, Dave's brother Dan trims the last of the T-bones in the cramped kitchen. He stacks the cuts according to size, throwing leftover meat in one bucket for hamburger, and fat in another for the Rosses' soap business. Outside, early arrivals pounce on prime parking spots and form a line for the Ranchman's 95 seats. Dave and his wife, Norma, work at the cash register, and a daughter, Pauline, acts as hostess. Two sons, Ben and David, not yet teenagers, wash dishes or play with other musicians here on weekends.

No spices touch the steaks until they are cooked; salt, pepper, and a dollop of margarine are added just before they reach the table. For dessert, you can't go wrong with one of "Granny" Stack's pies or cobblers—or a whole pie to go. Ranchman's is BYOB. "That way," says Dave, "you get your own flavor at your own price, and I don't have to build a cooler a city-block wide in Ponder."



"I wouldn't know a Hereford from a heifer."

Statement by Amarillo tycoon Stanley Marsh, who was included in a gag order in the business-disparagement libel suit filed against Oprah Winfrey by Panhandle feedlot operators.

SHORTY'S FALLS CITY

Carl "Cotton" Beam's family is no longer under one roof at the original Shorty's near Falls City, but they are still in the steak business. One offspring operates "Shorty's 2" in Beeville, and another runs "Shorty's 3" on Texas 97 between Pleasan-



David Ross has owned the Ranchman's Cafe in Ponder for a decade, but his association with the steakhouse dates to the early 1970s.

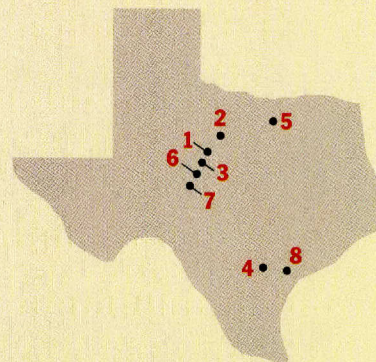
ton and Jourdanton. Cotton's domain, on US 181, requires a departure from Interstate 37 between San Antonio and Corpus Christi—and an empty stomach. The reward? A steaming sirloin grilled in butter, with black-eyed peas, fresh tomatoes, and cucumbers on the side, topped with Texas toast and hand-cut French fries.

From Abilene to Victoria, from San Angelo to Falls City, feasts like these prove there are no detours on the trail of great Texas steaks. ★

JOHN LUMPKIN is coauthor, with Mike Cochran, of *West Texas: A Portrait of Its People and Their Raw and Wondrous Land* (Texas Tech University Press). He travels extensively as Associated Press bureau chief for Texas.

J. GRIFFIS SMITH, a vegetarian, was surprised at how good Sodalak's Original Country Inn's chicken-fried bacon strips looked.

ESSENTIALS Prime Cuts



1 ABILENE Joe Allen's Bar-B-Q, 1233 S. Treadaway Ave.; 915/672-6082. Opens daily for lunch and dinner. 1-inch-thick rib eye, approximately \$15. Also serves chicken, halibut, and trout.

2 ALBANY Fort Griffin General Merchandise Co., on US 180; 915/762-3034. Tue-Fri, lunch and dinner; Sat, dinner only. 14-oz. New York strip, \$15.95. Also serves scampi, red snapper, and chicken.

3 BUFFALO GAP Perini Ranch Steakhouse, on FM 89; 915/572-3339. Wed-Thu, dinner only; Fri-Sun, lunch and dinner. 16-oz. prime rib (Fri-Sat only), \$17.95 (extra sides, \$1.95).

4 FALLS CITY Shorty's, on US 181 South; 830/254-3322. Tue-Sun, lunch and dinner. 20-oz. T-bone, \$11.95.

5 PONDER Ranchman's Cafe, 110 W. Bailey, near intersection with Texas 156. 817/479-2221. Opens daily for lunch and dinner. 24-oz. T-bone, \$24.95. Call ahead to reserve a baked potato. Also serves fried chicken, ham steak, and quail.

6 ROWENA Lowake Steak House, on FM 381 near intersection with FM 1929; 915/442-3201. Tue-Sun, lunch and dinner. Kansas City-style sirloin for 7 people, \$87.50. Also serves catfish, fried chicken, and shrimp.

7 SAN ANGELO Twin Mountain Steak House, 6534 US 67 South; 915/949-4239. Mon-Sat, dinner only. Half-order Scraps (8 oz.), \$15.25. Full menu, including seafood and Italian dishes.

8 VICTORIA The Corral, 3502 Houston Hwy.; 361/576-1277. Opens daily for lunch and dinner. 7-oz. bacon-wrapped filet, \$10.45. Also serves chicken, barbecue, and Fisher-man's Platter (shrimp, catfish, oysters, stuffed crab, scallops).

APRIL 2002						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

BIG BEND COUNTRY

- 3-7**
EL PASO
Betty's Summer Vacation
915/747-5881
- 6**
ODESSA
Brand New Opree
915/580-3177
- Midland/Odessa Symphony
915/563-0921
- 6-7**
EL PASO
Ballet Folklórico Querreque
915/857-2284
- 6-8**
EL PASO
Generation 2000 Festival
915/584-6394
- 12-14**
FORT DAVIS
Becoming an Outdoors Woman
800/792-1112
- 12-13, 19-20**
ODESSA
Paint Your Wagon
915/550-5456
- 12-MAY 5**
EL PASO
The King and I
915/747-6060
- 13-20**
ODESSA
City of Odessa's 75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee
915/335-4682
- 16**
MIDLAND
Love Letters
915/685-4526
- 19-20**
EL PASO
El Paso Symphony
915/532-3776
- 19-21, 26-27**
ODESSA
Macbeth
915/580-3177
- 19-21, 26-28**
EL PASO
Barefoot in the Park
915/747-5881
- 20**
MIDLAND
Tribute to Gershwin
915/563-0921
- ODESSA
MS Walk
915/522-2077

- 25**
MIDLAND
Petroleum Museum
Mad Scientist Party
Family Night
915/683-4403
- 27**
MIDLAND
Lindsayan String Quartet
915/563-0921
- 27-MAY 5**
EL PASO
Heritage Week Festival/
Cinco de Mayo
915/533-2656
- 28**
ODESSA
Lindsayan String Quartet
915/563-0921
- 30-MAY 5**
EL PASO
Les Misérables
888/255-2200

GULF COAST

- 1**
EL CAMPO
Carson & Barnes Circus
979/543-2713
- 1-MAY 5**
CORPUS CHRISTI
Buccaneer Days
361/882-3242 or 884-8331
- 4-5**
HARLINGEN
Relay for Life
956/389-1913
- 4-6**
KINGSVILLE
International Young Performers Musical Competition
800/333-5032
- 5-14**
HOUSTON
International Film Festival
713/965-9955
- 6**
ANGLETON
The Nifty Fifties
979/864-1208
- CLEAR LAKE AREA
Crawfish Festival
281/488-7676 or 800/844-5253
- CORPUS CHRISTI
Spring Wildflowers of South Texas
361/852-2100
- GALVESTON
Grand Kids Festival
409/765-1894
- HOCKLEY
Texas Twin Roundup
713/659-5251
- 6-7**
HARLINGEN
Garden Club Flower Show
956/797-2754
- HOUSTON
Bayou City Cajun Festival
281/890-5500
- Japan Festival
713/863-9994

- 7**
GALVESTON
Doug Baum, Storyteller
Texas Camel Corps
409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894
- 7-MAY 7**
VICTORIA
Spring Art Show
361/572-0825
- 8**
EL CAMPO
Crawfish Boil
979/543-2713
- 9-14**
GALVESTON
ODESSA
Greater Tuna
409/765-1894 or 800/821-1894
- 11-13**
CORPUS CHRISTI
Del Mar College
Drama Showcase
361/698-1509
- 12-14**
PORT ARANSAS
Sand Sculpting Festival
361/749-2500 or 800/452-6278
- 13**
ALVIN
Rice & Crawfish Boil
281/331-7087
- BELLAIRE
Arts & Crafts Festival
713/666-1521
- PORT ARTHUR
Cajun Celebration
409/962-7308
- 13-14**
VICTORIA
Historic Homes Tour
361/573-1878
- 14**
HARLINGEN
Chopin Society Piano Recital
956/361-0476
- 15**
CORPUS CHRISTI
Annie Get Your Gun
361/883-8543
- 18**
CORPUS CHRISTI
South Texas Opry
361/241-5353
- 18-21**
PORTLAND
Windfest
361/643-2475
- 18-27**
EL CAMPO
Wharton County Youth Fair
979/677-3350
- 19-20**
DEER PARK
Totally Texas Festival
281/478-2050
- 19-21**
HARLINGEN
Riofest
956/425-2705
- MAURICEVILLE
Crawfish Festival
409/745-1202

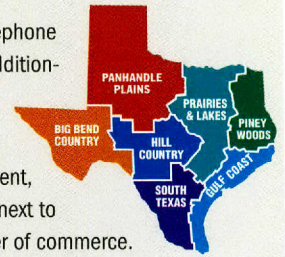
IN FUN FORECAST, we provide events and telephone numbers for next month, so that you'll have additional time to plan your outings.

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.

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.

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 April 1 for July 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.

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



- 19-28**
HOUSTON
iFest 2002: France
The Houston International Festival
713/654-8808
- 19, 21, 24, 27, 30**
HOUSTON
The Makropoulos Case
713/227-ARTS or 800/828-ARTS
- 20**
CORPUS CHRISTI
Spring Garden Festival
361/852-2100
- DEER PARK
Texas Trot 5-K Run
281/478-2050
- HOUSTON
Earth Day Celebration
281/474-2551 or 332-5157
- LA PORTE
Battle of San Jacinto Reenactment
281/479-2421
- 20-21**
BEAUMONT
The French Road Show
Antiques
409/898-0348
- 24-26**
PORT ARANSAS
Great Texas Birding Classic
800/452-6278
- 25-28**
VIDOR
Texas Barbecue Festival
409/769-6339

- 26-28**
HARLINGEN
Cactus Flower
956/412-7529
- 26, 28**
HOUSTON
Samson and Delilah
713/227-ARTS or 800/828-ARTS
- 27**
ALVIN
Frontier Day
281/331-5296
- ANAHUAC
HarborFest
409/267-3541
- EDNA
Texana Outback Day
361/782-7146
- HOUSTON
Art Car Parade
713/926-6368
- LA PORTE
Sylvan Beach Festival & Crawfish Jam
281/471-1123
- VICTORIA
Symphony
361/576-4500
- 27-28**
GALVESTON
Spirit of Flight Air Show
409/740-7722
- HOUSTON
Houston Pod Chili Cookoff
281/890-5500
- ORANGE
St. Mary's Spring Festival
409/883-0430

- 27-MAY 4**
BEAUMONT
Neches River Festival
409/835-2443
- 28**
CORPUS CHRISTI
Garden Tour
361/853-0063
- ORANGE
Ragtime
409/745-5535 or 800/828-5535
- 28-29**
ODEM
Market Days
361/368-7388

HILL COUNTRY

- 1-7**
AUSTIN
Spring Gardening Festival
512/583-7235
- 3-6**
AUSTIN
Texas Relays
512/471-3333
- 3-7**
AUSTIN
Texas Hill Country Wine & Food Festival
512/583-7235 or 329-0770
- 4-14**
MARBLE FALLS
Over the River and Through the Woods
830/798-8944

Fun Forecast

A roundup of next month's events

6
KERRVILLE
 Downtown Art Festival
 830/792-8343
 Wild Game Dinner
 830/257-7611
LAMPASAS
 Bloomin' Fest
 512/556-5172
STONEWALL
 LBJ Ranch Roundup
 830/868-7128

6-7
GEORGETOWN
 Red Poppy Festival
 512/930-3545
KINGSLAND
 CASI Chili Cookoff
 915/388-6211
NEW BRAUNFELS
 Folkfest
 830/629-1572
SAN MARCOS
 Bluebonnet Kite Festival
 888/200-5620

6-9
BURNET
 Highland Lakes Arts & Crafts
 Spring Show
 915/247-3778

6-7, 13-14
KINGSLAND
 Bluebonnet Festival
 915/388-6211

7
AUSTIN
 Australian Chamber Orchestra
 512/471-1444
 Capital 10,000 Road Race
 512/472-3254
 Nina Kotova
 512/329-6753
 or 469-7469
NEW BRAUNFELS
 Chili Cookoff
 830/625-0179
ROCKSPRINGS
 Devil's Sinkhole Bat Run
 10-Mile Trail/5-K Walk
 210/805-0845

8-21
FREDERICKSBURG
 Pedernales Valley
 Wildflower Celebration
 830/990-1393

11
WIMBERLEY
 SWT Centennial Singers
 512/842-2648

12-13
OZONA
 Square Dance Festival
 915/392-2912
 or 392-2726

12-14
AUSTIN
 Ride for the Roses
 512/236-8820
BURNET
 Bluebonnet Festival
 512/756-4297

12-27
INGRAM
 Twelfth Night
 830/367-5121 or
 800/459-HCAF

13
BOERNE
 Cibola Wilderness Trail
 Plant Sale
 830/249-4616
BURNET
 CAF Fly-In
 512/756-2226
LLANO
 Open Fiddle Contest
 915/247-3680
OZONA
 Annual Book Sale
 915/392-3565
WIMBERLEY
 EmilyAnn Theatre
 Butterfly Release
 512/847-6909
 Pie Social & Fair
 512/847-2201

13-14
AUSTIN
 Fine Arts Festival
 512/458-6073
BOERNE
 Market Days
 830/249-5530
BUCHANAN DAM
 Wildflower Show
 915/379-1515
FREDERICKSBURG
 Easter Fires Pageant
 830/997-2359

18
OZONA
 Flower Show
 915/392-2382

18-MAY 11
KERRVILLE
The Night Hank Williams Died
 830/896-9393

19-21
DRIFTWOOD
 Old Settlers Music Festival
 512/370-4630
FREDERICKSBURG
 Herb Fest
 830/997-8615
WIMBERLEY
 Community Chorus Concert
 512/847-2201

19-21, 25-28
ROUND ROCK
*The Importance of
 Being Earnest*
 512/244-0440

19-MAY 5
KERRVILLE
 Art Stampede
 830/896-2553

20
BOERNE
 Antique Tractor & Engine Show
 830/537-4526
 or 249-2814
KERRVILLE
 Earth Day Celebration
 830/257-4837
NEW BRAUNFELS
 Model Railroad Jamboree
 830/625-2656

20-21
FREDERICKSBURG
 Wine & Wildflower Trail
 830/868-2321

20-24
GOLDTHWAITE
 Texas Friendship Wagon Train
 915/648-3356
 or 648-2583

25-27
KERRVILLE
 Senior Games
 830/896-4263

26-27
ROUND ROCK
 Community Choir with
 Chamber Orchestra
 512/251-4545
 Relay for Life
 512/255-2255

26-28
SAN MARCOS
 Central Texas Golf Fest
 888/200-5620

27
AUSTIN
 Barsana Dham Mela
 Authentic India Fair
 512/288-7180
 Paquito D'Rivera
 512/329-6753
 or 469-7469
BOERNE
 Benedictine SpringFest
 830/816-8504
GOLDTHWAITE
 Barbecue/Goat Cookoff
 915/648-3619
TAYLOR
 Cotn' Pickn' Festival
 512/352-5448
WIMBERLEY
 Garden Club Tour
 512/847-2201

27-28
BOERNE
 Spring Art Tour Walk
 830/249-8678
GEORGETOWN
 Heritage Garden Party
 512/869-8597
 or 863-8382
 Viking Fest
 281/655-0329

28
FREDERICKSBURG
 Blaskapellen Fest
 (Brass Band Festival)
 830/990-4314

PANHANDLE PLAINS

3
SAN ANGELO
 Cactus Jazz Series
 915/653-6793

6
COLORADO CITY
 Car Show/Fun Run
 915/728-3403
WICHITA FALLS
The Little Red Hen
 940/692-5005

6-7
BIG SPRING
 Arts & Crafts Show
 915/263-7690

6-7
MINERAL WELLS
 Sheriff's Posse
 Ranch Rodeo/
 Chuckwagon Cookoff
 940/328-1201 or
 800/252-6989
SWEETWATER
 Cutting Horse Show
 915/235-3484

8
SWEETWATER
 Taste of Sweetwater
 915/235-6344

12-13
ABILENE
 Relay for Life
 915/692-6446
SAN ANGELO
 Texas Wine & Food Festival
 915/653-6793

12-14
ABILENE
 Celebrate Abilene
 915/676-3775
 or 673-4587
 TMRA State Motorcycle Rally
 915/550-4107

13
AMARILLO
 Lone Star Ballet
 806/372-2463
VERNON
 Fish Fry
 940/552-2961

13-14
CHILDRESS
 Arts & Crafts Show
 940/937-2567
STANTON
 Old Sorehead Trade Days
 915/756-2006
WICHITA FALLS
 Arts & Crafts Show
 940/691-2738

19-21
CLARENDON
 Donley County
 Spring Turkey Strut
 806/874-2421
 or 874-3889

20
AMARILLO
 Haydn's *The Creation*
 806/376-8782
BIG SPRING
 5-K/10-K Fun Run
 915/268-4564
 or 263-4931
EASTLAND
 Polo on the Prairie
 254/629-1598
GRAHAM
 Car, RV, & Boat Show
 940/549-3434
SAN ANGELO
 San Angelo Symphony
 Performs
 Beatles Classics
 915/658-5877

21
ABILENE
Annie Get Your Gun
 915/676-6361

22
AMARILLO
Annie Get Your Gun
 806/378-3096

25-28
MINERAL WELLS
 Clark Gardens
 Spring Peak Weekend
 940/682-4856

25-MAY 1
SAN ANGELO
A Midsummer Night's Dream
 915/942-2146

26-27
CLAUDE
 Steel Magnolias
 806/226-5409
POST
I Remember Mama
 806/495-4005

27
GRAHAM
 Antique Engine & Tractor
 Show & Pull
 940/549-7154
WICHITA FALLS
 KFDX Kidsfest
 940/691-0003

27-28
BALLINGER
 Texas State
 Festival of Ethnic Cultures/
 Arts & Crafts Show
 915/365-2333
CISCO
 Folklife Festival
 254/442-3827

PINEY WOODS

2
MOUNT PLEASANT
Big River
 903/572-3644

5
CONROE
 Montgomery County
 Choral Society
 Concert
 936/539-1441

6
WOODVILLE
 (began Mar 23)
 Tyler County Dogwood Festival
 409/283-2632

9
CONROE
 Symphony Orchestra
 936/760-2144

11-14, 18-21
CONROE
Little Shop of Horrors
 936/273-7021

13
ARP
 Strawberry Festival
 903/859-1642
LINDALE
 Square Dance
 903/881-0130

15-MAY 31
HENDERSON
 East Texas Wildflower Trail
 903/657-5528

19-20
HENDERSON
 Antique Tractor & Engine Show
 903/889-2246
LONGVIEW
 PRCA Rodeo
 903/242-4830

19-21
HUNTSVILLE
 General Sam Houston
 Folk Festival
 936/294-1832

20
CONROE
 Sounds of Texas
 Music Series
 936/539-4167
LUFKIN
 Downtown Hoedown
 936/633-0205
MAGNOLIA
 Depot Day
 281/356-1488
MONTGOMERY
 Montgomery Trek Homes Tour
 936/597-4899
WHITE OAK
 Roughneck Day
 903/297-7154

20-21
KILGORE
 Celtic Heritage Festival
 903/759-9017
 or 297-8383

22-24
NEWTON
 Wild Azalea Days
 409/379-5527

24-27
LUFKIN
 PRCA Rodeo
 936/634-6644

25-28
HUGHES SPRINGS
 Wildflower Trails/
 Tex-Scape Trails
 903/639-7519
KOUNTZE
 Birding in the Big Thicket
 409/246-3413

26-28
HENDERSON
Greater Tuna
 903/657-2968

27
GLADEWATER
 East Texas Gusher Days
 903/845-5501
HUNTSVILLE
 Herb Festival/
 Children's Art Festival
 936/291-7090
NEW CANEY
 Crawfish Festival
 281/348-1531

27-28
MOUNT PLEASANT
 Quake on Town Lake
 Boat Racing
 903/577-1510
NACOGDOCHES
 East Texas Air Show
 888/564-7351

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

- 1-2**
DENTON
Grease
940/565-2428
- 1-30**
ENNIS
Bluebonnet Trails
972/878-4748
- 2-6**
ROUND TOP
Marburger Farm Antique Show
800/947-5799
- 2-7**
ADDISON
Jazz Festival
972/450-6237 or
800/223-4766
- WARRENTON**
Antique Show
979/249-3141
- 3-6**
SHELBY
Antique Show
281/373-9977
- 4-6**
FAYETTEVILLE
Antique Show
512/267-4836
- 4-7**
FORT WORTH
Texas Motor Speedway
Race Week
817/215-8500
- 4-7, 11-13**
DENTON
Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
940/565-2428
- 4-21**
FORT WORTH
Nat'l Cutting Horse Assn
Super Stakes
817/871-8150
- 5-6**
HICO
Billy the Kid Festival
800/361-HICO
- 5-7**
ANDERSON
Texas Trek
936/873-2260
- GRANBURY**
Great Race Texas
Vintage Car Rally
817/573-7223
- PALESTINE**
(began Mar 22)
Dogwood Trails Festival
903/723-3014 or
800/659-3484
- 5-13**
FORT WORTH
TCU Latin American Arts Festival
817/257-7810
- 5, 12, 19, 26**
GRAND PRAIRIE
Concert in the Park Series
972/642-2787
- 5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-30**
MESQUITE
Championship Rodeo
972/285-8777

- 6**
GRAND PRAIRIE
Cajun Fest & Crawfish Boil
972/237-1127
- LULING**
Roughneck
Chili & Barbecue Cookoff
830/875-2224
- SNOOK**
Chilifest
979/695-2998
- 6-7**
GRAND PRAIRIE
Prairie Dog Chili Cookoff
972/647-2331
- WACO**
Pioneer Heritage Days
254/710-1160
- Quilt Show
254/750-5810 or
800/321-9226
- 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28**
WASHINGTON
Weekends at
Barrington Living History Farm
936/878-2214
- 7**
FORT WORTH
Texas 500
817/215-8500
- 8**
DALLAS
JPMorgan Chase
Corporate Challenge
3.5-Mile Race
214/340-2456
- 9**
WACO
Doc Severinsen Pops Concert
254/754-0851
- 10-MAY 5**
DALLAS
Our Town
214/522-8499
- 11-14**
DENISON
Texoma LakeFest Regatta
903/465-1551
- 12-13**
MOUNT VERNON
Pottery Show
903/537-4760
- WEST**
Old West Trade Days
254/826-3188 or
866/826-3189
- 12-14**
KAUFMAN
Civil War Battle Reenactment/
Living History Weekend
972/932-3118
- 12-14, 18-21, 25-27**
SHERMAN
The Crucible
903/892-8818
- 13**
BRYAN
Run Through the Vines
979/778-9463
- Wine, Wildflowers,
and Roses Festival
979/778-9463

- 13**
DALLAS
Earth Day at
SMU's Meadows Museum
214/768-2516
- ENNIS**
Arts & Crafts Show
972/878-4748
- WEATHERFORD**
Shaw-Kemp Log Cabin
Open House Celebration
817/594-6837
- 13-14**
CHAPPELL HILL
Bluebonnet Festival of Texas
979/836-6033 or
800/225-3695
- FORT WORTH**
Japanese Spring Festival
817/871-7686
- 13-JUN 2**
WAXAHACHIE
Scarborough Faire
Renaissance Festival
972/938-3247
- 16**
FORT WORTH
Krystian Zimmerman
Cliburn Piano Concert
817/335-9000
- 18-21**
FORT WORTH
Main St. Fort Worth Arts Festival
817/336-2767
- Nanci Griffith &
Fort Worth Symphony Pops
817/665-6000
- 19**
LEWISVILLE
Lewisville Lake Symphony
972/874-9087
- SEGUIN**
Moonlight & Roses
830/401-2448 or
800/580-7322
- 19-21**
BURTON
Cotton Gin Festival
979/289-3378
- CLEBURNE**
Antique Alley
817/641-0183
- ENNIS**
Bluebonnet Trails Festival
972/878-4748
- TERRELL**
Heritage Jubilee
972/563-5703
- 19-MAY 4**
IRVING
Sundown
972/252-2787
- 20**
CLEBURNE
Iris/Dailyly Show
817/295-7105
- FAIRFIELD**
Show of Wheels
903/389-8669
- FLATONIA**
Market Day
361/865-3920

- 20**
FORT WORTH
Zoo Run
817/871-7050
- MALAKOFF**
Cornbread Festival
903/489-1518
- SHINER**
Trade Fair
361/594-4180
- 20-21**
SALADO
Wildflower Art Show
254/947-5040
- SHERMAN**
Tour of Historic Homes
903/893-4067
- 25-27**
ATHENS
PRCA Stampede Rodeo
903/677-6345
- 26**
DALLAS
Shake Russell & Dana Cooper
214/363-0044
- WACO**
Cotton Palace Pageant
254/752-8728
- 26-28**
FORT WORTH
Texas Frontier Forts Muster
817/336-8791
- MUENSTER**
Germanfest
800/942-8037
- 27**
CAMERON
Dewberry Festival
254/697-4979
- CLEBURNE**
Springfest
817/645-2455
- GONZALES**
Pioneer Village
Dutch Oven Cookoff
830/672-6532
- GRANBURY**
Nature Center/Wildlife Refuge
Grand Opening
817/573-1622
- IRVING**
Las Colinas
Symphony Orchestra
972/580-1566
- SEGUIN**
Tres Vidas
830/372-8020
- Chili Cookoff
800/580-7322
- 27-28**
GONZALES
Springfest
Tour of Historic Homes
830/672-6532
- WACO**
Brazos River Festival
254/753-5166
- Gem & Mineral Show
254/776-1660
- 28**
CALDWELL
VFD Barbecue
979/567-3036

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

- 2-7**
SAN ANTONIO
"Swing!"
210/226-3333
- 3**
SAN ANTONIO
The Alamo in Literature and Film
210/999-8404
- 5**
BEEVILLE
Ranch Heritage Days
361/645-8577
- 6**
PETTUS
Ranch Heritage Days
661/645-8577
- SAN ANTONIO**
Komen Race for the Cure
210/222-9009
- San Antonio College Bookfair
210/733-2147
- Sleeping Beauty*
210/226-2891
or 224-9600
- THREE RIVERS**
Salsa Festival
888/600-3115
- 6-7**
SAN ANTONIO
Highland Games/Celtic Festival
210/436-4364
- Little Church of La Villita
Art Show
210/226-3593
- Viva Botanica
210/829-5100
- 7**
CATARINA
El Camino Real Festival
830/999-3350
- SAN ANTONIO**
Lowrider Festival
210/432-1896
- 7-14**
SAN ANTONIO
Senior Games
210/302-6820
- 10**
SAN ANTONIO
Rennie Harris Pure Movement
Modern Dance Company
210/207-7211
- 12**
SAN ANTONIO
Tejano Music Awards Fanfair
800/500-8470
- 12-13**
SAN ANTONIO
National Cowboys of Color
Rodeo
210/698-3300
- San Antonio Symphony
210/554-1010
- 12-14**
POTEET
Strawberry Festival
830/276-3323
- 12-MAY 11**
SAN ANTONIO
Titanic
210/733-7258

- 13**
SAN ANTONIO
Tejano Music Awards
800/500-8470
- WESLACO**
Rio Grande Valley
Union Festival
956/968-2102
- 13-14**
SAN ANTONIO
La Feria
210/207-8600
- 17**
SAN ANTONIO
Lech Walesa
210/999-8406
- 19-20**
SAN ANTONIO
Fiesta Oyster Bake
210/436-3324
or 436-3547
- Vikki Carr with
San Antonio Symphony
Fiesta Pops
210/554-1010
- 19-21**
KENEDY
Bluebonnet Days
830/583-3223
- 19-28**
SAN ANTONIO
Fiesta del Mercado
210/207-8600
- Fiesta San Antonio
210/227-5191 or
877/723-4378
- 20**
SAN ANTONIO
Rose Show
210/227-3003
- 21, 28**
SAN ANTONIO
A Day in Old Mexico/
Mexican Charreada
210/554-4575
- 22-24**
SAN ANTONIO
UTSA Opera Favorites
210/458-5685
- 23-26**
SAN ANTONIO
A Night in Old San Antonio
210/226-5188
- Fiesta Mariachi
210/227-4262
- 25-28**
SAN ANTONIO
Fiesta San Fernando
210/227-1297
- 27**
SAN ANTONIO
King William Fair
210/271-3247
- 28**
SAN ANTONIO
Bowie Street Blues Festival
210/458-2300
- Dance Kaleidoscope
210/408-6970
or 656-1334



© RAY BIEBER

Birders Jane and Darold Elbert of Mason City, Iowa, take part in a Rio Grande excursion sponsored by The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor.

CANOEING THE RIO GRANDE

The last 275 miles of the Rio Grande, from Falcon Dam to the Gulf of Mexico, snake leisurely through the borderlands of Mexico and the United States. Yes, the river has its problems. It's over-worked, polluted in places, and endowed with such symbolism that lots of people overlook its serene, lush beauty. **The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor**, a nonprofit group that works to protect the river and some 130,000 contiguous acres along its banks, wants to change that.

The **Valley** is host and home to some 484 species of birds that breed in or migrate to the United States, as well as some 1,000 species of plants and 265 species of butterflies. To see more of this amazing flora and fauna than you've ever imagined, sign up for a canoe trip with the Friends, and open your eyes.

This isn't usually a strenuous outing; the river here has no rapids, and paddling progresses at a relaxing pace. (You'll even stop for an in-canoe picnic when stomachs start to growl.) Because most participants and guides are avid birders, you'll be able to identify

dozens of species, including such beauties as zone-tailed hawks, black-crowned night herons, and Audubon's orioles. Native ebony trees, black willows, Rio Grande ashes, and retamas create a thick, mysterious forest along the banks and cast their reflections upon the green, green water. Don't forget to bring your binoculars.

The Friends of the Wildlife Corridor offers two trips, one a half-day trip from Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge (\$15 for Friends members, \$20 for nonmembers), the other a full-day excursion from Chapeño, a community below Falcon Dam (\$45 for members, \$65 for nonmembers). Both trips include guides, orientation, snacks, equipment, and transportation. To learn more, call 956/783-6117; www.corridorfriends.org.

PERKS IN THE PARKS

When spring arrives, it's hard to resist the urge to explore the great outdoors. Whether your interests lean toward birdwatching, rock-climbing, hiking, learning about history, caving, bicycling, or even picnicking with llamas, Texas offers adventures aplenty—many of which take place in our **more than 120 state parks**.

March's offerings include such diversions as a nature hike in **Kerrville-Schreiner State Park**, guided tours of **Hueco Tanks State Historic Site** at El Paso, birdwatching in **Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park** near Mission, an introduction to Texas mountain lions at **Martin Dies, Jr. State Park** at Jasper, beachcombing outings at **Matagorda Island State Park**, and dozens of other fun itineraries. While touring a park on your own is a great thing, seeing it with the help of an expert—naturalist, wildlife biologist, historian—can reveal aspects you might never have noticed.

You can see a full list of events at the Texas Parks and Wildlife Web site: www.tpwd.state.tx.us. Check the site, too, to purchase a Texas

Conservation Passport (\$50 annually), which includes free entry into the parks that charge admission, a discount on park activities, and a subscription to the quarterly *Texas Conservation Passport Journal*. For more information, call 800/895-4248.

DESERTS FIRST

Neal Billings, who manages TxDOT's **Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center** in Langtry, says he likes springtime in Big Bend best, "before it gets too hot." This being March, there's no time like the present to visit. Before you sally forth, peruse the pages of Roland H. Wauer and Carl M. Fleming's revised and updated *Naturalist's Big Bend* (Texas A&M University Press), a lively and comprehensive "introduction to the trees and shrubs, wildflowers, cacti, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, fish, and insects" of the area. Color photos, line drawings, a nicely done index, and an exhaustive bibliography make this book a great resource.

En route to Big Bend, make a point to swing through the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, where

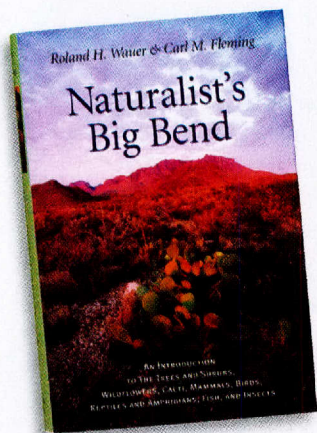
Charro Days

Since 1937, the cities of **Brownsville** and **Matamoros, Mexico**, have thrown a springtime fiesta known as **Charro Days** to recognize the border's distinct bicultural heritage. While preliminary events started February 24, Charro Days' biggest crowd-pleasers take place February 28 and March 1-2, with elaborate parades, folkloric dancers, regional food, street dances, carnivals, and mariachi and other musical performances....call 956/542-4245, 546-3721, or 800/626-2639; www.brownsville.org.

Charro Days takes place through March 2 in Brownsville and Matamoros, Mexico.



© BRAD DOHERTY



you can pick up maps and other travel information to help you enjoy your trip. If you're a plant-lover, spend some time touring the center's 1½-acre xeriscape garden, where more than 100 species of cacti, yucca, agave, and other plants thrive in the desert landscape. The center's well-done brochure *Plants at the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center* provides common and scientific names for the many plants here, as well as brief explanations of their varied uses. You'll also enjoy the garden's wide walking trails and appreciate the clearly marked plant labels.

At the time the Judge Roy Bean garden was established in 1968, it was the only garden in Texas dedicated to showcasing the plants of the Chihuahuan Desert. Today, the **Interpretive Center and Desert Garden** at the Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center in **Terlingua** (915/424-3327; www.tpwd.state.tx.us) and the **Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute** near Fort Davis (915/364-2499; www.cdri.org) also highlight desert flora.

Find *Naturalist's Big Bend* at libraries and bookstores (\$29.95 hardcover, \$15.95 paperback), or to order, call 800/826-8911; www.tamu.edu/upress. To reach the Judge Roy Bean Visitor Center, just off US 90 West on Loop 25 in Langtry, call 915/291-3340.

By the Way...

Viewing art can be exhilarating, inspiring, moving, uplifting. Reading about art, however...well, let's just say the argot is sometimes enough to make you go "aargh." Not so at www.glasstire.com, a Web site dedicated to visual art in Texas. If you admire contemporary art and like punchy paragraphs written with a sense of humor, log on to learn about exhibitions and happenings in your neck of the woods, read art-world news and recommendations, and then follow the links to specific galleries, shows, museums, and artist profiles. Do your research first, then get out there!

At the **Allen Public Library** through April 14, an exhibit called *Listening to the Prairie: Farming in Nature's Image* highlights the diverse ecosystem of the North American prairies and the progressive farming methods used to preserve the environment. Cosponsored by the Smithsonian Institution, the exhibit features a working windmill replica, a panorama of murals and photographs, video interviews of farmers and their families, and interactive displays. A corresponding lecture series begins March 12, with programs related to both the history and the future of the prairie....972/727-0122; www.allenlibrary.org.

Based in Austin, the **Texas Travel Industry Association** works hard to promote Texas tourism. For the organization's first cookbook, *Texas Cooking: It's A Whole Other Cuisine*, TTIA members statewide submitted recipes and travel-oriented anecdotes to represent the state's seven designated regions. Readers will find the mix refreshingly varied. How about fried catfish with collard greens? Tamale pie? Lobster tacos? Beef stew? Find *Texas Cooking* at bookstores (\$29.95), or to order, call 512/476-4472; www.tourtexas.com/ttia.

Lubbock's Science Spectrum, a three-story museum full of interactive science and technology exhibits, hosts an event called **BUBBLEFEST** March 15-16.

Why bubbles? Well, it seems that a bubble—a series of soap molecules elongated by pressure and suspended by surface tension—is a great way to demonstrate principles of physics, geometry, and mathematics. Highlights of the festival include performances by bubble-artist Tom Noddy (a fave of Johnny Carson), bubble demonstrations (learn which shapes and materials make the best bubbles), and experiments. Did you know you can freeze a bubble with liquid nitrogen?...call 806/745-2525; www.sciencespectrum.com.

Houston's Orange Show Foundation, which recently announced its plans to restore the city's Beer Can House as gallery space, kicks off another season of folk art in March. Almost every weekend brings something new: art-car parade festivities, an Easter-orange hunt, art workshops, and tours of the madcap Orange Show headquarters itself. The Orange Show's Eyeopener Tour series, which introduces participants to Houston's most unusual landmarks and art environments, starts March 10, with a tour of art-car artists' studios....call 713/926-6368; www.orangeshow.org.

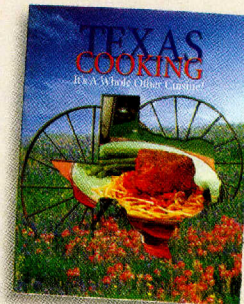
© HARLINGEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Harlingen's monthly Market Days brings vendors, demonstrations, and other festivities to downtown Jackson Street.

visitors to the Rio Grande Valley often head to **Harlingen's** Jackson Street District for some of the most eclectic shopping in South Texas. The dozens of shops here—most occupying buildings that date to the 1930s, '40s, and '50s—carry treasures as diverse as travel guides dating to the 1950s, vintage jewelry, handmade trinkets, and 19th-Century furniture. On the first Saturday of every month (March 2, 2002), Jackson Street fills with shoppers during the city's **Market Days**. Some 25 vendors display wares ranging from handmade soap to pottery and fresh produce....call 956/423-5440 or 800/531-7346; www.harlingen.com.

The **Meadows Museum** at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, which houses the most comprehensive collection of Spanish art outside Spain, presents an exhibition of first-edition prints by Francisco de Goya (1746-1828) through April 1. *Goya's Mastery in Prints: "La Tauromaquia" and "Los Disparates"* includes 33 prints that illustrate the art of bullfighting and 22 dream-like works that reveal the artist's world of fantasy. Public events at the museum take place throughout March, with topics ranging from demonstrations of printmaking to expert-led gallery talks focusing on Goya's life, influences, and methods. ...call 214/768-2516; www2.smu.edu/meadowsmuseum.



For information on emergency road conditions in Texas, call 800/452-9292.

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT www.texashighways.com

GOOD GRACIOUS, IT'S CRETACEOUS!

Beginning March 30, you can catch glimpses of the distant past—the very distant past—at the impressive new **Hartman Prehistoric Garden** in Austin's **Zilker Botanical Garden** (2220 Barton Springs Rd.). The unusual garden boasts as its centerpiece a 12-foot-long, eight-foot-tall bronze sculpture of an *Ornithomimid*-type dinosaur, a huge, ostrich-like creature that roamed the area some 99 million years ago.

The Hartman Prehistoric Garden took root in 1992, when amateur paleontologists uncovered tracks of a species of *Ornithomimid* in Zilker Botanical Garden's Old Quarry. Since that time, scientists and volunteers have studied and made casts of the tracks and have reburied the original tracks to preserve them for future research. The casts now form an interesting display in the garden, which also encompasses a lagoon, man-made waterfalls, small caves, and a collection of petrified wood, as well as ferns, ginkgoes, magnolias, and other plants typical of the Early Cretaceous period. Call 512/477-8672; www.zilker-garden.org/dinop.html.

ARCHEOLOGY LAB CLOSES TO PUBLIC

The Fort St. Louis Public Archeology Laboratory in downtown Victoria is no longer open to the public. The lab exhibited artifacts—

DOWN THE ROAD

In next month's *all-wildflower special issue*, we'll treat you to a photo portfolio of beautiful blossoms and show you plants that'll lure birds and butterflies to your garden. We'll also visit wildflower fests, the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin, and Wildseed Farms in Fredericksburg.

Readers Recommend...



KEVIN B. STILLMAN

At Forbidden Gardens in Katy, a sea of 6,000, one-third-scale, terra-cotta soldiers represents those buried in the 3rd Century B.C. at Emperor Qin's tomb.

Last fall, my son and I visited **Forbidden Gardens in Katy**. What a wonderful "trip" to China! We know that readers would be interested in seeing the splendid miniatures of the Forbidden City in Beijing and the terra-cotta warriors of Emperor Qin's tomb.

ROSIE WILSON, *Bastrop*

Forbidden Gardens is at 23500 Franz Rd.; 281/347-8000; www.forbidden-gardens.com.

Subscribers who show their Texas Highways Travel Passport here receive \$2 off general admission.

On our last trip to the Hill Country, we stayed at **Wimberley Lodge at Lone Man Creek**. The rustic three-suite lodge, with its fantastic views, tennis courts, pool, and hot tubs, made a perfect base for our winery tours. Closer to our home, in the Piney Woods of East Texas,

including cannons brought to the New World in 1685 by French explorer René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle—from excavations by the Texas Historical Commission at the nearby site of Fort St. Louis and from one of La Salle's ships, the *Belle*.

Many of the artifacts eventually will be on view in Victoria's new **Museum of the Coastal Bend**, which is scheduled to open this summer. Several other Texas museums also plan to exhibit artifacts from the excavation site and from the *Belle*. Currently, the **Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum** in **Austin** displays items from the site,

such as a brass cannon, glass bottles, trade beads, and eating utensils.

Excavations at Fort St. Louis will continue until June. For more information, call the Texas Historical Commission, Archeology Division, 512/463-6096; www.thc.state.tx.us.

GRIMES COUNTY CELEBRATES

You're invited to help the folks in Grimes County rededicate their classic 1894 Edwardian-Victorian eclectic-style **courthouse** (sometimes described as Italianate), at 100 Main St. in **Anderson**. The cer-

we found great hamburgers at **Fugler's Grocery and Market** near **Lake O' the Pines**. They're known as "Bubba Burgers," and they're the real deal!
JAMES AND CATHY TABB, *Karnack*
Wimberley Lodge at Lone Man Creek is on FM 3237 near Wimberley; 512/847-0544; www.wimberleylodge.com. Fugler's Grocery and Market is on TX 154, about eight miles west of Marshall; 903/935-5967.

In **De Leon**, John and Helen Adcock have transformed the old Higginbotham building into a great new eating place, the **Blue Moon Cafe**. The food is good, the menu varied, and the atmosphere fun. Most of the interesting fixtures, murals, and furnishings were made and installed by talented local craftsmen and artists.
BETTY SADBERRY, *Fort Worth*
Blue Moon Cafe, 100 N. Texas St., opens Thu-Sun; 254/893-2455.

emonies celebrate the completion of a restoration project begun in January 2001 under the auspices of the Texas Historical Commission. In addition to repairing structural components in the building, the work has restored the courtroom's original pressed-metal vaulted ceiling and uncovered historic tiles that have been moved to doorway thresholds so that visitors and residents alike can enjoy their beauty.

Join the open-house festivities on the courthouse square, March 2, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The rededication program takes place at 1. Call 936/873-3135.

Because we're unable to check out every item in "Readers Recommend," and because details can change, please call ahead for more information. When we mention new places, products, or publications, we include only those with promise; keep in mind, however, that problems can occur with start-up businesses. For more TexCetera items, see "Travel News" on our Web site: www.texashighways.com.

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 publishing every suggestion we receive. We reserve the right to edit items.



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Window on Texas

PHOTOGRAPHER Charles Edmiston and his four-year-old daughter, Chloe, savor an early spring day fishing the inviting waters at Spring Creek Country Club, 10 miles northwest of Crockett.

