

March

Division of Travel & Information, P. O. Box 5000, Austin, Texas 78763

512/467-3722

1993

PLANS ARE FIRMING UP for the 1993 edition of the Texas Travel Counselors Conference to be held at the Westin Paso del Norte Hotel in El Paso, April 5-8. Following a reception and dinner on the 5th, TTCC gets under way with TxDOT, AAA, Texas Parks & Wildlife, and city representatives' administrative meetings during the morning of the 6th, followed by a study tour of El Paso in the afternoon.

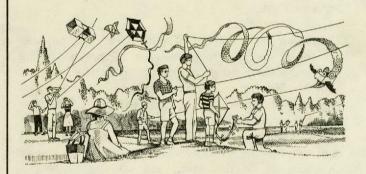
TELECOMMUNICATION/CUSTOMER SERVICE training is featured Wednesday morning, with a study tour of El Paso attractions and sites in the afternoon. The joint session with TTIA April 8 includes a tourism panel discussion, an address by El Paso historian Leon Metz, the traditional awards luncheon, and an afternoon stress management session. The conference winds up Thursday with the TTIA Travel Fair and evening festivities.

POPULAR EAST TEXAS TOURISM ASSN. executive director Howard Rosser suffered a fall in Galveston while on an ETTA study tour. He was reported to have broken six ribs and his shoulder, and was recuperating at St. Mary's Hospital in Galveston as *Travel Log* went to press.

THE APRIL EDITION of Southern Living magazine will be a special "Texas edition." A multipage section will be devoted to Texas stories and will include a special version of our brand new Texas highway map. Southern Living is also producing a "Texas Coupon Book" in conjunction with the April edition, copies of which will be available for distribution in our Texas Travel Information Centers. The "Texas Edition" will reach the newsstands the third week of March.

THE ANNUAL TEXAS INDIAN MARKET returns to Arlington March 19-21 when some 300 artists and crafters from 20 states and five foreign countries display their crafts at the Arlington Convention Center. Live entertainment includes Indian and Spanish dancers, Southwest singers, Indian flute players, and live animals. Call 817/459-5000 for additional information.

TEXAS TRIVIA: What is Texas' largest independent school district in terms of square miles?



FRESH OFF THE PRESS AND READY for distribution later this month is our brand new Texas Official Highway Travel Map. "How can a map be new when it has the same old roads?" you may ask. Well, we've moved the Panhandle back to its proper position, for one thing. And we've added three new area maps on the back side, for another, as well as a listing of Texas public transportation systems. We've done a lot of rearranging, and have made the city index easier to read with larger type. To do this we've added slightly more than six inches to the vertical dimension and devised a new fold. And, for the first time, we've accepted advertising as a revenue-increasing measure. All in all, it's a useful and handsome map. We think you'll like it.



Connie Fluker of College Station, a skeet shooter at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, recently took refuge from a snowstorm at our Texas Travel Information Center in Amarillo. She is in training for the 1996 Olympics.

Not long after, a motor home caught fire as it left the center's parking lot. Counselor Margie Faulkner and maintenance supervisor Janie Gay helped remove valuables from the burning vehicle, while other visitors employed fire extinguishers to keep the blaze under control until the arrival of local fire fighters.

Retired manager of our TIC at Orange, Bill Naivar, has returned home from the hospital and is recuperating from injuries received recently in an auto accident.

Counselor Darlene Jones of our TIC at Waskom was one of a special group selected to preview "The Tropical Rain Forest" at the Omni Theater at Fort Worth's Museum of Science. While there, she also explored the new "Antarctica" exhibit. "They are both fabulous productions," she reported, "and alone are well worth a trip to Fort Worth." She also noted that two new hands-on exhibits are slated to open at the museum in mid-April, one offering visitors a chance to become amateur paleontologists and the other exploring the mysteries of space. (More on these in a future $Travel\ Log$.)

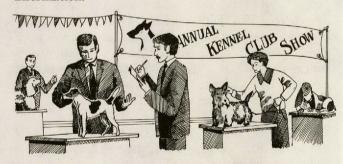
Leo Garza, manager of our TIC at Laredo, served as a judge at the regional competition sponsored by the Texas Business Professionals of America, held at Laredo Junior College. High school juniors and seniors from the South Texas area competed in several fields ranging from accounting to computer graphics. Leo helped judge the oral presentation competitions. Winners go on to the state finals and then to the national competition, he said.

The big news at our TIC in Wichita Falls is that counselor Lisa Stephens quit smoking and bought a new van. Not necessarily in that order.

THE FASCINATING HISTORY of Austrian culture during the period of Hapsburg rule is on display at The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, through the exhibit Imperial Austria: Treasure of Art, Arms and Armor from the State of Styria. Imperial Austria showcases a wide range of objects, including field, tournament, parade, and horse armor; rare paintings and sculpture; and meticulously crafted firearms.

AN ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITION, The Cutting Edge: 200 Years of Cut Crystal, features 15 exquisite cut crystal objects, including decanters, bowls, and goblets from the 18th Century to the present. A must for the history buff and lover of fine crystal, both exhibits are on view March 14 through June 27 at 1001 Bissonnet in Houston. For more information, call 713/639-7300.

LIP-SMACKIN' RIBS AND BEANS prepared by top-notch contestants are the feature at General Granbury's Birthday Celebration and Beans & Rib Cookoff to be held at Granbury March 13 and 14. More than 50 chefs turn out before the sun rises to light up their fires and start 'em cookin'. And there's entertainment galore, too, including an outrageous outhouse race around the town square, a fiddlers contest, arts and crafts, and various contests for young, old, and foolhardy. Call 817/573-5299 for information.

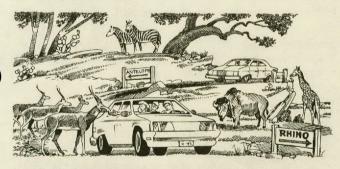


CIVIL WAR SEWING MACHINES and other Civil War memorabilia will be on display at the Antique Sewing Machine Museum in Arlington. In addition to the 28 Civil War and prewar machines, the display includes period magazines, buttons, and garments. Call 817/275-0971 for details.

EAST TEXAS TRAVEL INDUSTRY FOLKS have just a few days to sign up for the 30th anniversary of the renowned East Texas Tourist Conference. It's to be held March 23-25 at the Ramada Inn, Shreveport, LA. (Yes, Shreveport is an enthusiastic supporter of East Texas tourism!) Executive director Howard Rosser promises outstanding seminars, great speakers, top drawer entertainment, and an exciting Travel Show-off. Time's running out, so give Howard a call at 903/757-4444 for all the particulars.

THE LONG-AWAITED GRAND OPENING of Moody Gardens' 40,000 square-ft. glass pyramid housing tropical rain forests of Asia, Africa, and South America and the 3-D IMAX Theater is slated for the Moody Gardens Islandfest March 27 and 28 on Galveston Island. The family-oriented celebration will also feature tours of existing facilities, entertainment, exhibits and presentations, water activities, kids' activities, an Island Feast Food Court, and fireworks, as well as an art show and sale. Featured at the IMAX Theater, one of only three capable of showing large format 3-dimensional films, will be "The Last Buffalo." Call 713/863-9994 for all the particulars.

ANSWER TO TEXAS TRIVIA: The Culberson County ISD is Texas' largest, covering some 3,822 square miles. That's larger than the combined areas of the states of Delaware and Rhode Island — by some 551 square miles! Next largest is the Fort Stockton ISD with 2,994 sq. mi. and Marfa ISD with 2,962.



FOSSIL RIM WILDLIFE CENTER at Glen Rose has expanded its overnight accommodations with the addition of The Lodge, a bed and breakfast facility. Situated in a secluded area of the popular wildlife attraction, The Lodge offers rooms filled with unusual and antique furnishings, a stream-fed pool, a deck, and a great room with a massive stone fireplace. Some rooms offer private fireplaces, patios, and Jacuzzis. For information or reservations call 817/897-7452.

THE TEXAS GIANT, Six Flags Over Texas' towering roller coaster, has been named the top coaster in the world by readers of *Inside Track* magazine. Ranked number three for the first two years of its existence, the honor came at the end of the third season of the coaster's operation. "This is the Super Bowl for roller coasters," said Six Flags Over Texas president Bob Bennett, "and we couldn't be more proud of the win." Fiesta Texas' Rattler roller coaster, in its first season of operation in 1992, placed 10th.

THE SOUTHWEST'S LARGEST SHOWCASE of fragrant gardens and brilliant spring colors come to life again as the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden celebrates spring during the floral spectacular, "Dallas Blooms," March 6 through April 11. Featured are horticultural demonstrations, including flower arranging, beekeeping, fire ant control, and more, plus children's events and an exhibit of art works by artist Fran di Giacomo at the DeGolyer House. For details call 214/327-8263.



CHEER THE HERO, HISS THE VILLAIN, and swoon over the heroine at the Galley Theatre in Jefferson, where there's mellerdrammer theatuh each Friday and Saturday evening at 8 p.m. For example, now playing through April 3 is *The Reluctant Daughter*: or, *Lips that Touch Wine*. Groups rates available for parties of 15 or more. Call 903/665-8928 for reservations and play dates.

SEA WORLD OF TEXAS begins its 1993 season March 13.

SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS opens weekends beginning March 6, then again March 12-21 for "Spring Breakout." Included are a real snow hill for skiers, beach volleyball, the latest electronic games, a rock climb, and more. Call 817/640-8900 for details.

JUDY SUMMERS, popular president of the Greater East Dallas Chamber of Commerce, resigned her post March 1 and moved to Rogers, Arkansas, where she will marry Raymond Burns, president of the Rogers chamber.

HAPPY CAMPERS may soon be able to make advance campsite reservations at some 21 Texas lakes where the Corps of Engineers' Fort Worth District operates parks and some 3,000 campsites. Beginning May 1, campers may call toll-free 1-800-284-CAMP for confirmed campsite reservations for a \$6 registration fee, in addition to the overnight campsite rental charge. For a free brochure and mail-in camping reservation application, call 817/334-2150.

FUND-RAISING IS UNDER WAY for the restoration of the 110-year-old Sisters of Mercy Convent in Stanton, just off IH-20 in West Texas. The two-story adobe building was first used as a monastery and became a convent school in 1897, the only parochial school between El Paso and Fort Worth. It has been abandoned since 1974 when it was bought by the Martin County Jaycees.

SEVERAL ARTIFACTS HAVE BEEN ADDED to the exhibits at the American Quarter Horse Heritage Center and Museum in Amarillo as the staff continues to add to its racing collection. Included is a bronze sculpture commemorating Dash for Speed, the 1990 World Champion Racing American Quarter Horse. Various items of tack, racing silks, posters, sketches, and other items are also on display. Call 806/376-5181 for more information on the exhibits.



THE POPULAR MUSICAL GROUP Up With People makes a rare Texas appearance March 12 at the Bell County Exposition Center in Killeen. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Call 817/690-0898 for details.

TWO NEW FAMILY AMUSEMENT CENTERS are in the mill for the Alamo City area. The \$10 million Pear-Apple County Fair attraction covering 14.2 acres in northwest San Antonio will feature an upscale go-cart track, two 18-hole miniature golf courses, an amusement center, and several major park rides. The park will open later this year. The second family fun park is being developed by Celebration Station and will be one of 11 such parks throughout the country. It is still in the site selection stage and will feature a variety of activities.

AND DENTON'S FIRST B&B, The Redbud Inn, has opened at 815 North Locust with three guest rooms and two suites, all with private baths. Built about 1910, the building has gone through extensive renovations. Breakfasts feature typical Texas fare, including homemade breads. Call 817/565-6414 for information or reservations.

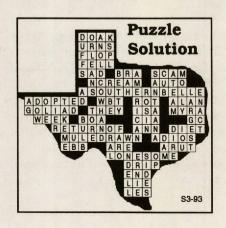
DID YOU KNOW THAT ANTARCTICA, with only five inches of snow per year average, is drier than the Sahara, yet it records ice 12,000 feet deep! Visitors to Antarctica have the opportunity to explore the mysterious continent through a variety of programs now on display at Fort Worth's Museum of Science and History through April 18. A series of rolling mini-museums containing items from the museum's collections provide visitors with a unique hands-on approach to artifacts and specimens. Call 817/732-1631, Ext. 309, for further details.

AEORMAR, A MEXICO CITY-BASED AIRLINE, has begun direct flights between San Antonio and San Luis Potosi in central Mexico. Five flights run each week, using French-Italian built ATR-42 aircraft. Call 210/829-7482 for more information.

WILLIE NELSON WILL HOLD a benefit concert in Hillsboro March 28 to help raise funds to restore the old courthouse that burned New Year's eve. The concert will be held at the downtown courthouse ruins. Plans call for 500 seats at \$100 each; 5,000 at \$20 each. Rainbow Ticketmaster will handle the \$20 tickets, while the premium \$100 tickets may be purchased through the Hillsboro Historical Society. For show time and other information, call 817/582-2481.



A COLORFUL NEW FOLDER that tells all about the places to go, things to do and see in the historic Central Texas town of Comanche is now available from the chamber of commerce there. For a copy, give 'em a call at 915/356-3233.

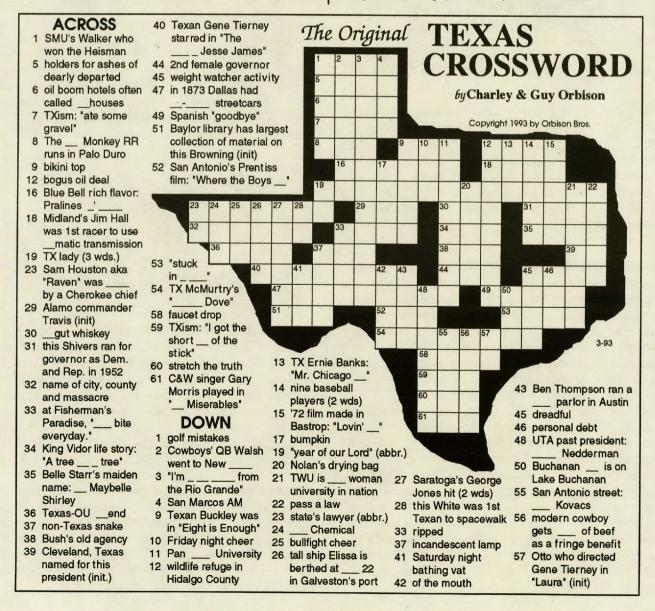


A NEW PROP SHOP ATTRACTION has been added to the Palace of Wax and "Ripley's Believe it Or Not!" in Grand Prairie. Prop Shop showcases behind-the-scenes work to the public and is chock-full of color graphics, and original exhibits, such as costumes donated by Roy Rogers and Charlie Chaplin. Additional renovations and expansions are planned over the next two years. Call 214/263-5371. (Also see "Looking Ahead".)

TWO NEW MOUNTAIN SLED RUNS, as well as snow skiing on the extended ski slope will still be available through March 31 at Lookout Mountain, some 4 miles north of Jacksonville on US 69 near Love's Lookout. Boots and skis are furnished for those who need them. Call 903/586-2644 for details concerning these and other activities.

EVER BEEN TO A ROUGHNECK RODEO? It's a featured competition in Corsicana's Derrick Days, April 17, and it's just around the corner. A series of competitions for oil field workers, or anyone else with a bit of craziness, includes a hard-hat toss, heaving a drill casing, throwing a sucker rod, and walking a casing pipe. All this and more, including a parade, tours of Pioneer Village and other Corsicana points of more-than-routine interest, continuous music and stage entertainment, fun runs, bicycle races and tours, and ...well, you name it. Mark your calendar now, and call 903/874-4731 for complete details. Yahoo!

MAKE PLANS NOW to attend the 1993 Tyler Azalea and Spring Flower Trail, to be held March 20 through April 4, featuring seven miles of beautiful home gardens abloom with colorful azaleas, dogwoods, tulips, wisteria, and redbuds.



FINISHING TOUCHES are under way at the new Texas Sports Hall of Fame, expected to open in its new home at Waco in April. One wing of the 11,520-sq.-ft. premier museum will feature the collection from the Sports Hall of Fame formerly from the Dallas area, with some 900 honorees representing the best from Texas in baseball, football, basketball, boxing, auto racing, bowling, golf, horse racing, tennis, track and field, swimming, diving, marksmanship, and polo. Another wing will house the Texas High School Hall of Fame and the Texas Tennis Museum and Hall of Fame. For further information call 817/750-5669.



BED 'N' BREAKFAST DEVOTEES visiting East Texas may want to try the McKay House B&B in Jefferson. Built in 1851, the historic Greek Revival inn with Victorian cottage offers a unique touch — an assortment of turn-of-the-century nightclothes for its patrons. The bill of fare features a full plantation breakfast. Call 903/665-7322 for more information or reservations.

CONSTRUCTION HAS BEGUN on two park units at Cooper Lake in Northeast Texas, a Corps of Engineers lake. When completed in January 1994, the units will include 15 cabins, the first built in some time. The north area is Doctor's Creek, while the south area is currently known as South Sulphur. Two boat ramps were opened last November. Call 903/595-2938 for additional details.

NESTLED IN THE HILLS west of Austin, Good Day Ranch offers children a unique opportunity for hands-on encounters with a host of different animals, together with facilities for picnics and family outings. In addition to the petting corral, the ranch is populated by animals ranging from a ball python to a pygmy hedgehog, from potbellied pigs to Australian Wallabys. And there are pony rides and a walk-through aviary. Open Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. at 10807 Rawhide Trail. Call 512/288-1490 for more information and complete directions.

THE LONE STAR VISION SERIES featuring regional artists continues at the Art Museum of Southeast Texas in Beaumont with an exhibit of works by Louisiana artist Clyde Connell. In her 90s, Connell creates sculptures inspired by the earth and swamps surrounding her rural home in Lake Bistineau, LA. The current exhibition, on display through March 14, includes sculpture, free-standing sculpture, and works on paper. At 500 Main Street. For more details on this and other museum activities, call 409/832-3432.

JUST A REMINDER: The 18th Annual Prairie Dog Chili Cookoff & World Championship of Pickled Quail Eating is still slated to be held at Traders Village in Grand Prairie April 3-4. Billed as the oldest and largest chili cookoff in the Metroplex, it features two days of zany contests, chili cooking, and showmanship. Call 214/647-2331 if you want to learn more about the events.

FOUR — COUNT 'EM — FOUR new, color-coded travel folders have been produced by the Mount Pleasant/Titus County Chamber of Commerce. Each covers an aspect of the area of interest to tourists: attractions and shopping, dining, lodging, and area lakes. Call 903/572-8567 for copies.



THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION of the East Texas Vacation Guide is now available for distribution, according to East Texas Tourism Association executive director Howard Rosser. Sixteen pages larger than the 1992 version, with extra maps promoting the region's byways, the booklet is chock-full of information about virtually every nook and cranny in the East Texas area. Call the association at 903/757-4444 for a copy.

A DIFFERENT SORT OF RESORT is the Tropical Hideaway on Lake LBJ near Granite Shoals in the heart of the Central Texas Hill Country. Open less than a year, the Hideaway offers Hawaiian luaus, all kinds of water activities from boating to fishing, golf, and evening activities. For a colorful brochure or more information, call 1-800-662-4431 toll-free.

"GATES OF MYSTERY: The Art of Holy Russia," a natural follow-up to the highly successful "Catherine the Great" exhibit, is now on display through April 18 at the Dallas Museum of Art. Visitors get a first look at some 100 works of medieval art from the 13th to 17th Century, including panel paintings, textiles, illuminated manuscripts, gilt and silver liturgical vessels, icons, and more. Call 214/922-1200 for details.

PEOPLE WITH A POLKA PENCHANT, especially visiting campers, will want to poke around Jerry Pachol's Red Top Bait House and RV Park on the shores of Hubbard Creek Lake near Breckenridge. Pachol puts on a powerful polka performance, playing his accordion and dancing to the lively tunes. He's performed from Alaska to Florida and once made a guest appearance on *The Lawrence Welk Show*. His accordion playing draws a crowd of campers 'most every Sunday afternoon during spring and summer, and many camper-musicians grab their instruments and join in the fun.



PATTY BRYANT, former publicist for the "TEXAS" outdoor pageant, has replaced retired Raymond Raillard as general manager and executive vice president of the popular Palo Duro Canyon production. She has eight years of experience with the show, including a full year as assistant manager. Raillard's association with the pageant spanned nearly three decades. More than 100,000 people saw the show during its 1992 run.

A NATIONALLY ACCLAIMED EXHIBITION, focusing on the vibrant, colorful folk art of Latin America and the communities that create it, goes on display March 13 at the San Antonio Museum of Art. "Visiones del Pueblo: The Folk Art of Latin America," the most comprehensive such display ever to tour the country, features more than 250 objects from 17 different Latin American countries. In addition, it chronicles Latin American artistic expression from the 16th Century to the present with a selection of objects made for ceremonial, utilitarian, recreational, and decorative purposes. This major exhibition remains on display through May 2, 1993. Call 210/978-8117 for more detailed information.



Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is expected to enter into an agreement with the Friends of Jones Farm in northern Denton County to maintain the 150-year-old farm until the year 2000. The agreement would give local historians and interested groups an opportunity to come up with a finance and restoration plan to develop the deserted farmstead into a living history park.

Now is a good time to circle June 4-6 on your calendar for the 7th annual Texas Scottish Festival and Highland Games to be held at Maverick Stadium on the campus of the University of Texas at Arlington. Alex Beaton, premier Scottish entertainer of North America, and Alasdair Fraser, foremost Scottish fiddler, will highlight the event. Included will be highland dance, athletic, drumming, and piping contests. Call 817/654-2293 for details.

Classic Attractions, Inc. will add a third attraction to its Ripley's Believe It or Not! and Plaza Theatre of Wax complex in San Antonio. Called "American Celebration," the \$4 million, 14,000-sq.-ft. exhibit will feature a number of lifelike, animated historical figures such as Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, and several heroes of the Alamo. "American Celebration" is set to open early next year. Call 214/263-2391 for more information.

The Dallas Museum of Art (DMA) plans to open its new 14,000-sq.-ft. addition in September to serve as the centerpiece of DMA's integrated complex of four "museums" and to house the Museum of the Americas, surveying the art of the Western Hemisphere. It will focus on the art of the Americas from pre-Colombian times to the mid-20th Century, represented by more than 6,000 objects. More information may be obtained by calling DMA at 214/922-1200

Hydroplane racing fans will want to circle Memorial Day weekend on their calendars. That's when the recently sanctioned "Sneaky Pete's Texas Hydrofest" will be held on Lake Lewisville.

Austin Office	For TxDOT This Month	For TxDOT This Year	For DOC This Month	For DOC This Year	Total Year to Date
Mail Services	11,006	17,840	48,000	65,065	82,905

Services to Travel Industry	Subscriber Inquiries This Month	Addresses Offered This Month	Addresses Transmitted This Month	Addresses Transmitted Year to Date	
TxDOT TRAX System	67	72,674	33,060	50,939	

Official State Travel Magazine	This Month	This Month Last Year	This Year to Date	Last Year to Date
Texas Highways Print Run	446,703	437,371	888,198	888,621

Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Travel Center	Month Total Visitors	Percent Variation*	Year Total Visitors	Pero Varia	cent tion*
Amarillo	7,596	+ 10.7	15,153	+ 8.3	Orange	35,763	+ 3.6	77,781	+	4.7
Anthony	18,306	+ 0.4	36,315	+ 2.0	Texarkana	24,297	4 20.9	55,719	+	17.9
Denison		Temporari	ly Closed		Valley	43,140	- 10.7	75,888	-	20.6
Gainesville	29,682	+ 7.4	59,685	+ 13.3	Waskom	27,591	+ 4.3	55,458	+	1.9
Langtry	7,584	+ 4.0	13,434	- 1.3	Wichita Falls	11,523	+ 6.8	21,270	-	1.9
Laredo	10,431	- 19.9	21,234	- 19.9	Capitol	38,814	+ 18.2	81,543	+ :	32.1
ompared to last Y	ear				Center Totals	254,727	+ 3.5	513,480	+	3.2

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