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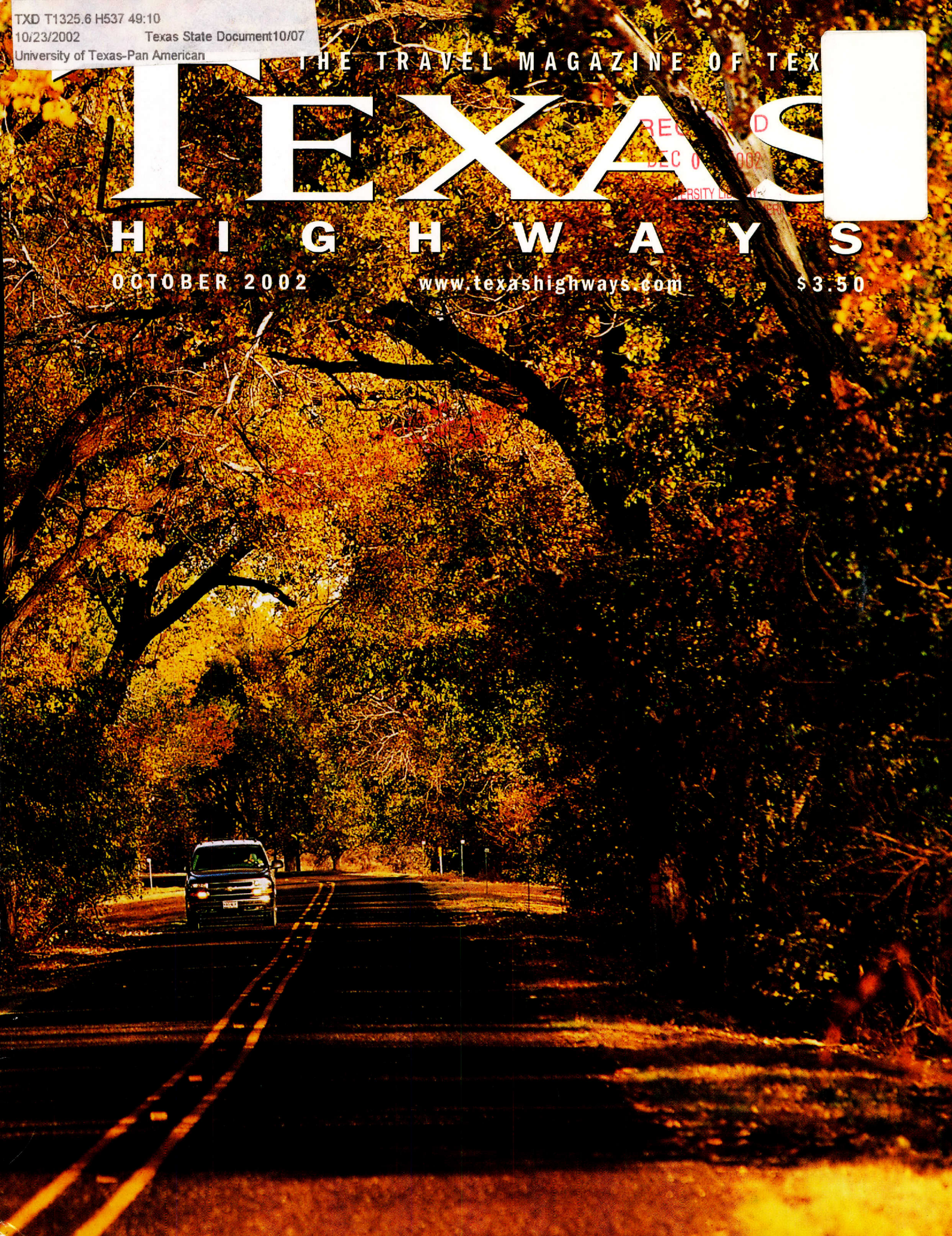
THE TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

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OCTOBER 2002

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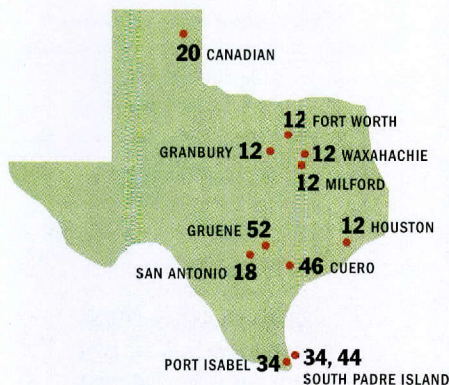


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SITES IN THIS ISSUE



FEATURES

**12 Texas Haunts: Apparitions and Ghostly Visions**

Scare up a group of friends, and gather around a flickering campfire. Whether you take these ghost stories seriously or not, there's a whole lot of spookin' going on. BY DON PATTERSON, PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

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**20 Canadian: Panhandle Prize**

Yes, there really is a Canadian, Texas. And what's more, the town holds a Fall Foliage Festival each October. Besides bounteous autumn color, visitors enjoy attractions ranging from rodeos to historical museums. BY CANDACE LESLIE, PHOTOGRAPHS BY WYMAN MEINZER

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Autumn brings an abundance of colorful wildflowers to Texas, and while their range of hues is more limited, they're just as delightful as their spring counterparts. INTRODUCTION BY STEPHAN MYERS AND JANET R. EDWARDS

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Saddle up, and tour South Padre Island's beautiful beach on a horse. The equestrian experience is something the whole family can enjoy. BY DAN MORRISON

**46 Cuero**

With a slew of events and attractions, not to mention potential shopping adventures, this small town is no turkey. Nonetheless, the folks here honor the goofy gobbler this month in a celebration that dates to 1912. BY GENE FOWLER, PHOTOGRAPHS BY KEVIN B. STILLMAN

**52 A Celebration of Earth, Hand, and Fire**

If you like pottery and outdoor arts festivals, you owe it to yourself to go to the 10th annual Texas Clay Festival in Gruene. You can shop for earthy treasures under shady oaks and learn a lot in the bargain. BY NOLA MCKEY, PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

DEPARTMENTS

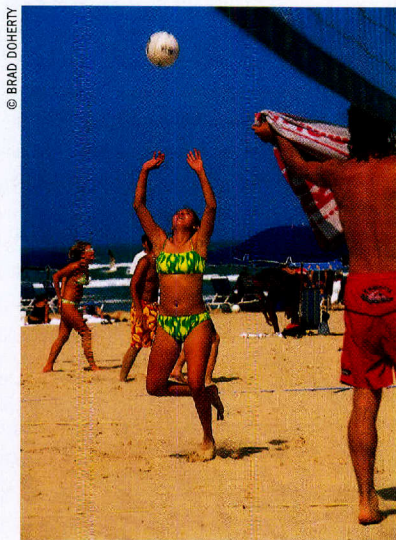
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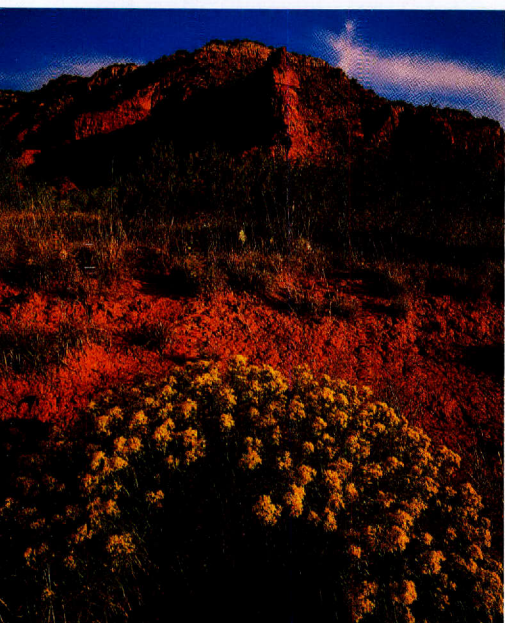
On a glorious fall day, cottonwoods form a golden canopy over a winding Texas blacktop, about five miles east of Canadian. To learn more about this Panhandle oasis, turn to page 20. Photo © Wyman Meinzer



Texas Haunts, page 12



Let's Padre!, page 34



Cool Blooms, page 26

© BRAD DOHERTY

© RICHARD RENOLDS

J. GRIFFIS SMITH



This month, in **Gene Fowler's** story on **Cuero**, we don't ever tell you how the town got its name. According to *The New Handbook of Texas*, an excellent resource on things Texan, early Europeans noticed that the Indians skinned hides—buffalo, deer, and smaller mammals—by the nearby creek. Hence, the creek and the town were given the name “cuero,” which means “leather” or “hide” in Spanish. But maybe the town should have been called “guajolote” (“turkey” in Mexico, from the Nahuatl), “pavo” (Spanish), or “turkey” (but then, what would our Panhandle town go by?). For more on this appealing town, turn to page 46.

**Don Patterson** found some **haunting destinations** around the state for this issue. He also discovered a firm that investigates the paranormal. In *For the Road* we also list another ghost-investigating firm, as well as tours of other haunted sites you might enjoy. If you do a Web search, you'll no doubt turn up still other groups that investigate the spirit world in various Texas locales. Investigators delve into history, psychology, electromagnetic fields, unusual temperature changes (so-called “cold spots”), light waves, and sound waves. Do any of you have some hair-raising tales to tell? Or have you had a ghostly experience? If so, let us hear from you....

We rely on a lot of people to research each issue of the magazine. In addition to our writers and photographers and the folks mentioned in the stories, **Karen Clary** and **Carla Kartman** of the Environmental Affairs Division at the Texas Department of Transportation deserve a special thanks. They both helped us fact-check the **Fall Blooms** story on page 26, and were invaluable in identifying plants in the photographs.

If you can, try to make it to the **Texas Clay Festival** in historic Gruene this month (Oct. 26-27). Beginning on page 52, associate editor **Nola McKey** covers the event, which unfolds across from Gruene Hall. Also in Gruene this month, the **Gruene Music & Wine Fest** (Oct. 11-13) will benefit the New Braunfels Hope

Hospice and United Way with Texas foods and award-winning wines.

A catered dinner with a performance by Asleep at the Wheel's **Ray Benson** kicks off the weekend's events Friday night, with wine tastings and The Great Guitar Auction, which includes signed guitars from the likes of **Willie Nelson, George Strait, and Robert Earl Keen**. The auction will be followed by a limited-seating concert featuring **Radney Foster**.

Saturday offers music, festival foods, and wine tastings at The Grapevine, across from Gruene Hall. Simultaneously, a group of singer/songwriters will entertain folks at Gruene Hall. That evening, **Aaron Neville** will perform a special concert.

Sunday includes a gospel brunch with entertainment by **The Bells of Joy, Brett Graham, and Selina Afrim**, with inspiration by **Rev. Buckner Fanning**. For more information, call 830/606-1281, or visit [www.gruenehall.com](http://www.gruenehall.com).

We were disappointed to receive a number of negative responses to our September special issue on Texas' Hispanic heritage. After all, we were celebrating a culture with more than 450 years of history in Texas. The timing coincided with **National Hispanic Heritage Month** (Sep. 15-Oct. 15), which **President Ronald Reagan** first proclaimed in 1988. (Congress had originally approved an annual Hispanic Heritage Week in September 1968.)

Fortuitously, postcards—many more than we have received for past contests—are pouring in for this year's **Where In Texas Are You? contest**. By the time you read this issue, the lucky winner of the six-night Lower Rio Grande Valley stay will have been chosen. I'll let you know who won in an upcoming issue.

Now that October is here, it's time to get out and enjoy the colors and feel of fall. Autumn is one of the finest seasons to travel in Texas. Make the most of it.



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Managing Editor JILL LAWLESS  
Senior Editor ANN GALLAWAY  
Associate Editor NOLA McKEY  
Associate Editor LORI MOFFATT  
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© LARRY DITTO



In September's story on Los Caminos del Rio, we failed to credit Larry Ditto for this photograph of the ruins at Guerrero Viejo.

## HARLEY THE SHOWMAN

You not only made my day, you made my week with the article about Harley Sadler (August issue). I have wondered so many times about him and his troupe. I remember so well, as a small boy growing up in Canyon, the fall shows of this great showman. I still have visions of his tent on the vacant lot in our town and of his character, Toby. He brought many laughs during the Depression years.

HAROLD PRICHARD

I enjoyed seeing the "Josephus and Bohunkus" song in print. My husband, John, and his family were the Pickering Family Quartet—Mom, Pop, Bill, and John—during the late 1930s, '40s, and early '50s. They performed on radio stations and in personal appearances across Texas, Louisiana, and eastern New Mexico. The Pickering Family sang a lot of gospel songs, but this song, which was part of a skit, was included in the comedy section of their programs. They messed up their hair and clothing and sang the verses you wrote about, as well as several additional verses.

Pop Pickering, with glasses on his nose, added an all-day-singing-convention type of introduction and mock-serious running commentary, as though the four were actually a rather goofy local gospel group. Bill Pickering was the real comedian, adding funny "lyrics" at the end of

each verse. "Josephus and Bohunkus" was on-the-edge humor at the time, but always got more laughs than anything else the Pickerings did.

John and Bill Pickering went on to sing harmonies behind Buddy Holly as voices of The Crickets on Holly's original album, *The Chirping Crickets* (1957), considered by some critics to be one of the five greatest rock-'n'-roll LPs of the '50s. Bill and John also recorded as The Pickering Brothers in country music in the '60s and '70s. Do you suppose it could have all started for the Pickering Brothers with "Josephus and Bohunkus"?

VICKY PICKERING  
Houston

## CHAMIZAL CONNECTION

I was very pleased to see that you mentioned the story behind the Chamizal National Memorial in August's story on El Paso. I feel very connected to that place because my family was an intricate part of the 30-year celebration of the signing of the Chamizal Convention. My step-grandfather was Ambassador Thomas Mann, who negotiated the terms of the agreement with the Mexican Ambassador, Manuel Tello. My stepfather, the Reverend Clifton Aynesworth Mann, spoke at the 30-year celebration, because Papa, as I called my step-grandfather, was ill at the time and could not travel to El Paso. Papa's ring, which he had used to seal the agreement, is on loan to the Chamizal National Memorial. His picture with Ambassador Tello is also there. You wrote of the "peaceful settlement of a boundary dispute," and I am proud to say my Papa was part of that peacemaking process!

CAROLINE B. BENNETT  
Hewitt

## KEMAH DREAMIN'

Regarding the Kemah story in July: In the early 1980s, Ben R. Blackledge was the mayor of Kemah and I was city attorney. The area of today's Kemah yacht basin was hardly more than a putrid mud flat with a few cafes and a boat-repair shop along the Clear Creek channel into Galveston Bay. One day, while looking at that wasteland, Ben said to me, "Sailboat masts are getting taller, there's too much congestion in the channel getting under the bridge to the Bay. People need a place to put their boats so they can get into

*(continued on next page)*

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the bay without all that aggravation. This place could be a nice yacht basin and another San Francisco Fisherman's Wharf." And I thought, "Dream on, Ben."

Ben set out to make his vision a reality. He worked like a hunting hound. He explored every trail, begged, pleaded, cajoled, persuaded, and traveled. Ben carried his idea to bankers, the congressman, the Texas Attorney General, HUD, and wherever else he thought there might be help. Without Ben Blackledge's vision and work, *TH* might not have had a subject for this outstanding article.

GEORGE CASON

*Eagle Lake*

### TRIED AND TRUE

**T**hanks for the wonderful ideas for traveling in Texas. We have just returned from the Panhandle. We not only enjoyed the *TEXAS* musical production in Palo Duro Canyon for the fourth time, but we enjoyed the two-year-old musical drama *Lone Star Rising*, overlooking Lake Meredith, which we read about in July's *TexCetera*.

LESTER AND ELEANOR HEINZMAN

*Mesilla Park, New Mexico*

Ed. Note: *Readers, both TEXAS (806/655-2181; www.texasmusicaldrama.com) and Lone Star Rising (806/274-9050; www.lonestarrising.com) are summertime productions.*

**T**hank you for featuring Red Rock Ranch at Van Horn (February 2002). We have been to Colorado and Utah to see beautiful rock formations, but did not know this magnificent place existed. We just returned from a tour that was awesome. We visited the talc mine, saw where Indians ground their corn in the rocks, and received a souvenir photograph taken in front of the Western movie set. We urge everyone to tour this gorgeous desert ranch and meet [part-owner] Darice McVay. That is a treat in itself.

MARINELL AND GLENN MARTIN

*Rockwall*

### UP, UP, AND AWAY!

**T**hank you, thank you! We are the big orange, red, and white balloon on your August cover, "Orange Delight." What a surprise! We are thrilled! We live in Clear Lake and fly in the Ballunar Liffoff Festival each year. How great to have chosen a photo

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with a Texas pilot and an actual balloon from Clear Lake/NASA.

JOHN & DIANE LITTLE  
Clear Lake

#### SETTING THINGS STRAIGHT

June's Speaking of Texas item on Pate Boone, while very interesting, piqued my curiosity. It states that "From 1915 to 1924, Pate's show included variety acts, like Quanah Parker and his Native American friends 'robbing' a stage-coach." I know that many stories about Parker have been told, and many books written about him with so-called "facts" that differ wildly. However, I'm sure most agree that the date of death, February 23, 1911, on his headstone at Fort Sill, is correct.

I have had a great interest in his story for many years and have never heard, or read, of him appearing in anything that might be called a variety act (especially after he was dead and buried). He did ride in a number of parades around the country. In 1908, Quanah Parker and Chief Geronimo led a parade through downtown Fort Worth and made an appearance at the Fort Worth Fat Stock Show.

H.W. BUTTS  
Fort Worth

In June's article on Texas beaches, and again in August Talk to *TH*, you ran a photo of a young man running with his surfboard on the beach, which you identified as South Padre Island. Any Texas surfer worth his salt knows there are no piers at South Padre, only a pair of stone jetties. The pier in the background appears to be Bob Hall Pier on North Padre Island.

RICK THOMSEN  
Austin

In the Harley Sadler story (August issue), the photo of the young man at the marimba (page 55) is Paul Kalmbacher, not Harley. Paul grew up on the tent-show circuit with his father, who was a contortionist.

CLIFF ASHBY  
CO-AUTHOR, *TROUPING THROUGH TEXAS*,  
*HARLEY SADLER AND HIS TENT SHOW*

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.



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COURTESY CHAMIZAL NATIONAL MEMORIAL



Los Angeles-based artist Pedro Ríos Martínez created this year's Chamizal Festival poster, titled *Mi Chamizal*. The event takes place October 11-13.

## CHAMIZAL, Y'ALL

In El Paso, the 55-acre Chamizal National Memorial commemorates the Chamizal Treaty of 1963, which peacefully settled a 99-year boundary dispute between Mexico and the United States. With year-round arts performances, exhibits film screenings, and other programs, the memorial brings together artists, dancers, authors, speakers, and other cultural bellwethers from both countries.

The 29th annual **Chamizal Festival**—an unabashed celebration of the border region and its people—takes place October 11-13 throughout the memorial's grounds. A Friday-night reception honoring poster artist Pedro Ríos Martínez kicks off the event, and Saturday and Sunday unfold with nonstop musical performances, flamenco and folklorico dancers, and demonstrations.

Among the artisans demonstrating and showing their works are woodcarvers and tinworkers from Oaxaca, sculptors, muralists, flint-knappers, piñata-makers, potters from Mata Ortiz, straw-inlay artists, leatherworkers, and many more.

The memorial is at 800 S. San Marcial, overlooking the Río Grande in El Paso. Admission is free. Call 915/532-7273; [www.nps.gov/cham](http://www.nps.gov/cham).

Red River regions of Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma by A.D. 800, with producing some of the finest aboriginal pottery in North America. "Among the many Indian groups in Texas," says *The New Handbook of Texas*, "the Caddos may have been the most aesthetically developed in the potter's art." At the **Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site** museum, near Alto, you can see dozens of examples of Caddoan clay work, including pieces found at the site's burial and temple mounds, and three examples excavated near Caddo Lake.

Although the vessels were usually shades of black or brown, their makers often embedded the engraved areas—typically simple patterns of circles, scrolls, and swirls—with red or white pigment. As a final touch, they polished their wares until they gleamed, leaving no doubt that these early potters had an eye for beauty as well as function.

Caddoan Mounds State Historic Site is on Texas 21, six miles southwest of Alto. The site offers exhibits, interpretive trails, and reconstructed ceremonial grounds. On October 19-20, as part of the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department's annual Lone Star Legacy Weekend, admission is free

to more than 120 parks and heritage sites statewide, including Caddoan Mounds. Many parks will host special events, guided tours, and living-history demonstrations. For more details about Caddoan Mounds or Lone Star Legacy Weekend, call 800/792-1112; [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

## AUTUMN IN EAST TEXAS

Plentiful moisture in forested East Texas usually leads to fantastic fall color, and this has been a banner year for rain. For about six weeks beginning mid-October, you'll find there's no better time to explore the tree-shaded backroads and tourist-friendly towns of East Texas.

To help you plan your visit, the **East Texas Tourism Association** sponsors an annual **fall foliage report**—posted on the Internet and also partially available by phone—complete with suggested routes and itineraries, current conditions and photos, events and attractions, and even eyewitness foliage reports.

Interested in a leisurely drive? Shopping for antiques? Spending the night in a century-old B&B? Chowing down on fried catfish and cornbread? Exploring the trail of historical markers on Texas 21, the old King's Highway (El Camino Real)? Searching for carnivorous plants in the Big Thicket? Attending festivals dedicated to roses and cane syrup? Hiking through one of the area's four national forests? You'll find all of this in East Texas, plus much more.

For information about vacationing in East Texas, and for details about fall foliage, call 903/757-4444; [www.easttexasguide.com](http://www.easttexasguide.com). The Texas Department of Transportation also offers a fall foliage report; call 800/452-9292. For details about fall color in Guadalupe Mountains National Park (another great spot), call 915/828-3251, and listen for the prompt.

## CELEBRATING AMERICA

Fort Worth's newly revamped and expanded **Amon Carter Museum** boasts more than 250,000 artworks in its expansive collection of American art, a quarter of which you can view at any one time. And if that's not enough, the curators bring in traveling shows, too. Through November 14, the Carter brings us *Celebrating America: Masterworks from Texas Collections*, an exhibition of 59 masterpieces that speak to the regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity of American life. (continued on page 8)



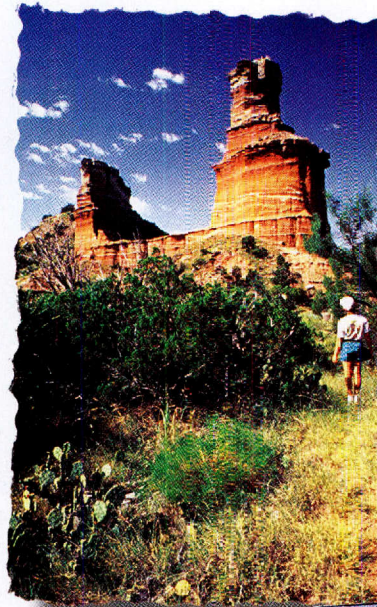
## By the Way...

The Dallas Museum of Art offers a full menu of exhibitions this fall. Through February 2003, the DMA presents the third installment in its series highlighting 20th-Century design, **Boomerangs and Baby Boomers: Design 1945-2000**. The show features more than 100 items, from molded plastic radios and chromed steel furniture to enameled ceramic dishes and paper lamps....call 214/922-1200; [www.dm-art.org](http://www.dm-art.org).

October's a great time to visit Granbury. Search for the legendary Old One-Eye at Lake Granbury (see story, page 12), check out a play at the restored Granbury Opera House, then, on October 19-20, take in the fun at the annual **Harvest Moon Festival**, held on the courthouse square. The event features lots of handmade arts and crafts items, plus games, a pumpkin-decorating contest, hayrides, an antique-engine and tractor show, and food booths....call 817/573-1622 or 800/950-2212; [www.granburychamber.com](http://www.granburychamber.com).

There are many ways to see the starkly beautiful Chihuahuan desert and the Big Bend Country, but none provides quite the same experience as you'll have on the back of a camel. Former zookeeper Doug Baum, whose **Texas Camel Corps** offers one-, two-, and three-day excursions in Big Bend Ranch State Park, not only teaches people about camels and their military importance here in the 1850s, but he also searches out *tinajas* (canyon water holes) and Indian pictographs, and discusses the flora and fauna of the area. Doug books treks each March and October, but he'll schedule trips any time on request. Two-day treks cost \$690 per adult....call 866/6CAMELS; [www.texascamelcorps.com](http://www.texascamelcorps.com).

During the **State Fair of Texas** (Sep. 27-Oct. 20, 2002) in Dallas, many Fair Park museums and attractions host special events. Through October 20, **Texas Discovery Gardens** will transform its conservatory into a butterfly haven with more than 2,000 nectar-rich plants; visitors can observe courtship behavior and flight patterns, and come eye-to-eye with these beautiful creatures. Thanks to last (continued on page 9)

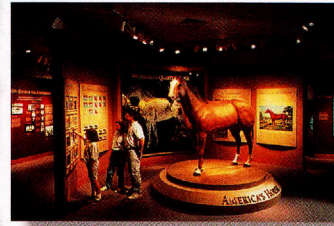


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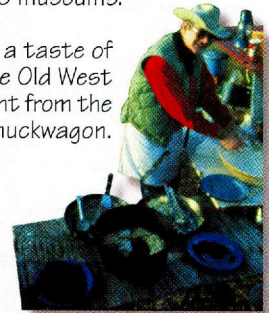
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Take, for example, O. Winston Link's black-and-white image of a 1956 Illinois drive-in, Winold Reiss' noble portrait of a tribal elder in Montana, George Bellows' 1920 depiction of a Newport tennis match, Russell Lee's 1930s photographs of Illinois tenant farmers, Alfred Stieglitz's image of early-20th-Century immigrants arriving in New York, and Thomas Hart Benton's painting of young cotton-workers strolling hand-in-hand. Works come from private, public, and corporate collections throughout the state, including the San Antonio Museum of Art, the Old Jail Art Center in Albany, the Wittliff Gallery of Southwestern and Mexican Photography in San Marcos, and the Harry Ransom Research Center in Austin.

The Amon Carter is at 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth. Call 817/738-1933; [www.cartermuseum.org](http://www.cartermuseum.org).

#### CALLING ALL GHOSTS

According to historian Dash Beardsley of Galveston, who has led ghost-searching treks of the island's Strand National Historic District for nearly three years, "There's a ghost story in nearly every building." His one-and-a-half-hour **Ghost Tour of the Strand**, one of several spirit-sleuthing treks statewide, offers an on-foot introduction to the island's paranormal world, taking visitors to such sites as Luigi's Ristorante Italiano, said to be haunted by the ghost of a survivor of the 1900 storm. Dash and his crew will take you to many other haunted spots on Galveston Island; adult tickets cost \$10. Call 409/949-2027 or 281/339-0204.

Over in San Antonio, Martin Leal's **Alamo City Paranormal**, a team that has investigated the spirit world for almost six years, leads similar walking tours of that city's haunted sites. "We show you some basic equipment, present the history of some of San Antonio's oldest buildings, and help you develop your ability to see, and sense, the presence of ghosts," says Martin. On the nightly **Hauntings History of San Antonio Ghost Hunt** through downtown (\$10 adults), you'll explore such sites as the Alamo and the Menger Hotel, which Martin calls "the most haunted hotel west of the Mississippi." Call 210/227-3286 or 436-5417; <http://go.to/ghosts>. (If you'd rather see the spirits

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How's your game, dahling? George Bellows painted *Tennis at Newport* in 1920.

in the comfort of a vehicle, he'll refer you to author **Docia Williams'** bus tours of the Alamo City.)

Houston, too, is haunted, according to paranormal specialist Sandy Webb, who, with partner Scott Arthur, leads the **High Spirits Haunted Tour of Houston** every weekend. The three-hour, bus-and-foot tours, which typically visit such sites as an abandoned charity hospital (built in 1924 over a cemetery) and several haunted downtown pubs (La Carafe, anyone?), cost \$34.95 for adults, and include use of electromagnetic field meters and a brief primer on paranormal photography. "Nothing is staged," says Sandy. Sandy and Scott also offer an all-day bus tour of haunted spots in Galveston, and if you're interested in a tailored excursion to haunted mansions, churches, or restaurants, they'll happily oblige. Call 713/22-HAUNT; [www.highspiritstours.com](http://www.highspiritstours.com).

Austin's Sixth Street and Congress Avenue boast a "lively past," says true believer Jeanine Plumer, whose popular Saturday-night **Ghosts, Murder, & Mayhem** walking tours offer the chance to see the city in a new—and old—light. New this year: a **Haunted Pub Crawl**, which makes the rounds of such haunted watering holes as Sixth Street's Casino el Camino. Call 512/695-7297; [www.austinghosttours.com](http://www.austinghosttours.com).

#### FROM PLATE TO PALATE

So, you can't make it to the San Antonio New World Wine & Food Festival this month? Read the story on page 18 (try not to drool), mark your calendar for next year, and settle in with a good book—a cookbook, no less: Shearer Publishing's magnificent **Texas on the Plate**, by chef and author Terry Thompson-Anderson. (continued on page 10)



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## By the Way...

(continued from page 7) year's Monarch-tagging project here (several were found months later in El Rosario, a winter migration site in Mexico), butterfly-watchers have additional data to help explain the distribution of Monarchs in North America....call 214/428-7476; www.texasdiscoverygardens.org.

In 1993, Disney producer Don Frantz and maze designer Adrian Fisher broke a world record with a 126,000-square-foot **cornfield maze** in Pennsylvania. Now, 100 or so corn mazes are planted across the globe. Why corn? It grows fast, grows tall, and the fields can be carved into intricate patterns. See for yourself in **Missouri City**, near Houston, September 28 through November 2, when the 12-acre corn maze **Cornfused** opens to the public. In one section (Cornfused is comprised of four different mazes), you'll pass by 11 stations depicting milestones in Texas history; another section presents a challenging multitude of narrow paths and dead ends. ...call 281/778-6293; www.siennaplantation.com.

In 2001, **Austin's** Mayor Kirk Watson proclaimed October **Visual Arts Month** for the city. To celebrate this year, galleries and museums across town will host special activities throughout the month, including artist appearances, lectures, and demonstrations. At Texas Folklife Resources, check out Mitch Baranowski and Rachel Newton's **Honky Tonkin': A Journey Through Dim Lights, Thick Smoke and Loud, Loud Music**, an exhibit of photography and prose focusing on Central Texas dance halls....call 512/441-9255; www.main.org/tfr. For details about independent galleries citywide, see the Web site of The VisualArts United of Austin, www.VUAustin.org.

What is it about Canadians and over-the-top, awe-inspiring performance art? First, Cirque du Soleil and Superdogs, and now: **Cheval**, an equestrian extravaganza featuring an ensemble of more than 30 horses and 30 acrobats from around the world. In **Dallas** beginning October 9, **Cheval** begins a limited engagement beneath a big top painted to look like a French castle. If the show's dramatic lighting, costumes, and music recall those of Cirque du Soleil productions, it's no wonder: **Cheval** creator Gilles Ste-Croix developed some of Cirque's most popular spectacles....call 877/528-0777 or 800/361-4595; www.chevaltheatre.com.

From October 6 through January 5, 2003, the **San Antonio Museum of Art** hosts the national debut of **Maestros de Plata: William Spratling and Mexico's Silver Renaissance**, a blockbuster exhibition that sheds light on Mexico's silver-crafting history. When William Spratling and other silver designers moved to Taxco, Mexico, in the late 1920s, they revolutionized the country's dormant silversmithing industry.

From Spratling's second studio, called Taller de las Delicias, emerged talented designers who began their own workshops, many of which continue to fashion objects and jewelry to this day. You'll see more than 400 pieces that date from the 1920s to the present, along with photographs of designers, their work environments, and their creations. ...call 210/978-8100; www.sa-museum.org.

**Dragonfly- and butterfly-adorned jewelry** proves timeless. These pieces from Mexico date to the 1930s and 1940s.

1920s to the present, along with photographs of designers, their work environments, and their creations. ...call 210/978-8100; www.sa-museum.org.

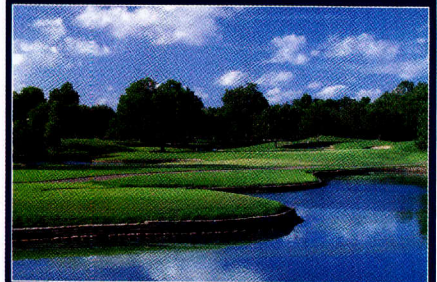
Movie fans, mark your calendars for October 10-17, and get yourself on over to the state capital, where the 9th annual **Austin Film Festival and Heart of Film Screenwriters Conference** unveils more than 80 films and provides an opportunity to schmooze with famous actors and screenwriters. Of primary interest to the general public: the movies, which cast their spells at theaters citywide. You'll see dramas, comedies, foreign films, shorts, and documentaries...just remember to leave the theater every once in a while, as October in Central Texas usually ushers in some fine weather....call 800/310-FEST; www.austinfilmfestival.com.

Also in **Austin**, on October 25-27, **Chile Pepper** magazine's **International Zesty Foods Show** brings more meaning to Elvis Presley's oft-used refrain "hunk-a-hunk-a-burnin' love." Some 250 vendors, armed with spicy foods from around the world, will do their best to please the thousands of people who turn to peppers—and to this annual event—for their natural endorphin high. In addition to tasting new flavors, you can witness cooking demonstrations (continued on next page)

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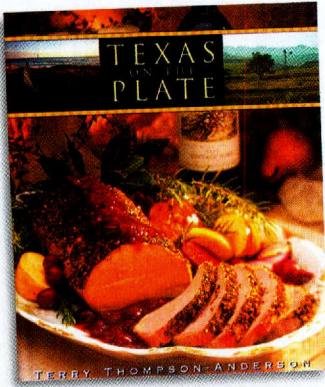
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Terry's love of good food and wine, intriguing history, and Texas' diverse landscapes, cultures, and influences rings true in this stylish cookbook. Historical anecdotes, self-assured cooking tips, and impressive photos appear throughout. The recipes, like the design, shine: Terlingua Tortilla Soup, Wild Mushroom Nachos, White Chocolate Bread Pudding, and 150 others cry out for an impromptu dinner party. This is food fancy enough to call gourmet but still Texan enough to serve with your boots on.

Find *Texas on the Plate* at bookstores (\$34.95), or order from Shearer Publishing (800/458-3808).

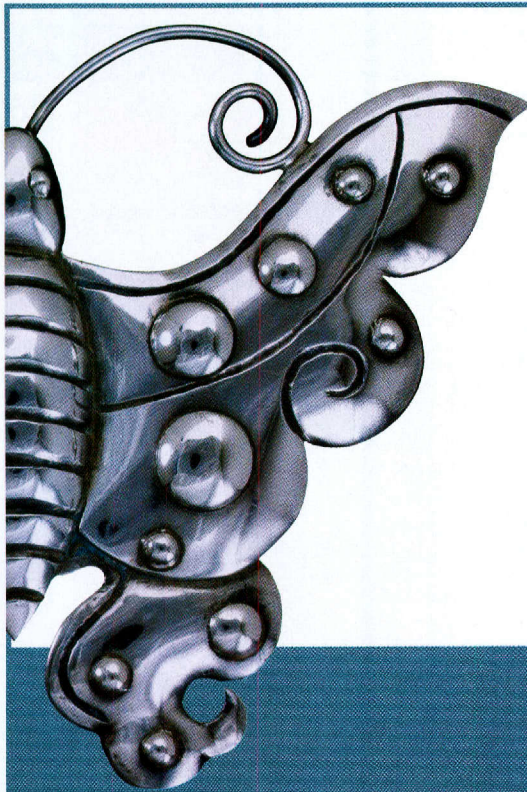
## By the Way...

(continued from page 9) and check out such nonedible products as clothing, books, original art, and kitchenware....call 888/SPICYHOT; [www.izfs.com](http://www.izfs.com).

**F**rom October 5 through November 10, with more than 20,000 chrysanthemums exploding into bloom, the 66-acre **Dallas Arboretum** hosts the five-week festival **Dallas Blooms Autumn: A Harvest of Cultures**. Throughout the festival's run, you can explore a giant hay-bale maze, purchase a pumpkin from a huge pumpkin patch, and partake of horse-drawn wagon rides. Weekends prove especially vibrant, with horticultural displays, musical and dance performances, and even corn-shucking presentations and crafts demonstrations for kids....214/327-8263; [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).

**F**or seven years, the **Daughters of the Republic of Texas** have sponsored seminars on Texas history in **San Antonio**. This fall's forum, **Tejanos and Texas: An Evolution of Culture**, takes place on October 18. Topics include "Canary Islanders, Soldiers, and Franciscans" by Dr. Félix D. Almaráz, Jr., former president of the Texas State Historical Association; "The Ranch Origins of Tejano Culture" by Dr. Andrés Tijerina, a professor of history at Austin Community College; "José de la Luz Saenz and his World War I Diary" by Dr. Emilio Zamora, a historian at the University of Texas at Austin; and "Pastores, Corridos, and Cantantes: The Origins of Tejano Music" by John Wheat, the sound archivist at UT's Center for American History. The half-day forum costs \$10....call 210/225-1071; [www.drft.org](http://www.drft.org).

**T**he Texas Historical Commission (THC), along with the Council of Texas Archeologists and the Texas Archeological Society, celebrates **Texas Archeology Awareness Month** in October. Dozens of statewide events include archeology fairs, presentations, festivals, markets, tours of important sites, excavations, meetings, and genealogical seminars. You can request a free brochure detailing all October activities by calling the THC at 512/463-6096; [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us).



Frederick Davis, Butterfly Brooch, c. 1935-40, silver

## Maestros DE PLATA

William Spratling and  
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## Palm Reading

For decades, botanists believed Texas had only one native palm tree, *Sabal mexicana* (also called *Sabal texana*) and that it was native only to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. But in 1941, Houston botanist Robert Vines discovered a small stand of palms, up to 27 feet tall, in a Brazoria County forest.

Although plainly trees, because they were 240 miles northeast of the Rio Grande they were assumed to be specimens of the rare trunked form of *Sabal minor*, the common dwarf palmetto. For verification, in the late 1980s, I sent a specimen to palm specialist Robert Read of the Smithsonian Institution. Read suspected the Brazoria palms were an “aberrant” stand of *S. mexicana*, and that the species was native much farther north than believed. At his urging to look further, I soon found another wild population, some 60 miles southwest of the Brazoria palms.

It turns out that these new-found palms had been there at least since 1685: In his journal, Henri Joutel, historian for the French explorer La Salle, described palms as part of the Texas coastal flora. Noted botanists George Engelmann and Ferdinand Lindheimer 160 years later also reported the trees along rivers draining into the central coast. In an 1845 letter, Lindheimer told of palms with trunks 20 to 40 feet tall somewhere near Port Lavaca. As if to confirm this report, my wife, Carol, and I found and measured a 37-foot-high *S. mexicana* near Port Lavaca in 1989.

History also tells us what became of the majority of these central-coast trees: Because palm trunks were in demand as pilings for wharves, and the palms themselves as ornamentals, the northerly populations of *S. mexicana* were almost totally removed, then forgotten.

Yet a mystery remains: When Robert Read visited the Brazoria palms, he concluded they were not the “aberrant” *S. mexicana* he had suspected, but something much rarer: hybrids of *S. mexicana* and *S. minor*. If so, they are the only *Sabal* hybrids known, and the only nat-



Contrary to long-held belief, native palm trees grow wild in Texas north of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. At 27 feet, this tree is the tallest of a group in Brazoria County. Genetic tests are being conducted to verify the species.

urally occurring and reproducing palm hybrids in the continental United States.

—Landon Lockett, Austin

## Glowing with the Flow

Renewable energy is thriving in Texas, thanks in part to Small Hydro of Texas, Inc. The hydroelectric plant, the only one in the state generating wholesale energy that is not owned by a municipality, utility, or river authority, has been on the Guadalupe River for more than 100 years. Small Hydro, also one of some dozen century-old, still-operating such plants in North America, sells electricity (enough for about 1,500 homes) to Austin Energy.

In 1893, at the World’s Columbian Exposition in Chicago, Otto and August Buchel of Cuero met with George West-

inghouse to discuss generation of electricity. (The fair itself was a grand celebration of the energy source that would soon outstrip gas.) A few years later, the Buchels built a dam on the Guadalupe River. Their hydroelectric plant, dedicated in 1898, supplied electricity to Cuero, and the dam provided irrigation for some 2,000 acres of surrounding farmland.

Over the years, “at least six other owners have operated the plant, including Central Power & Light, which abandoned it after a damaging flood in the 1960s,” says Linda Parker. Linda and her husband, Jimmy, bought the plant in 1989. The Parkers themselves have faced the ravages of flooding. In 1998, four days after Small Hydro’s Centennial Celebration, the Guadalupe swelled to three miles in width and wreaked havoc up and down the river. After serious deliberation, the Parkers decided to clean up, fix up, and get back to business as usual.

Jimmy Parker has been interested in electricity since childhood. In the 1980s, he bought and restored generation at several abandoned dams on the San Marcos River. The Parkers had “retired” to northeast Texas to raise cattle and promote wind turbines when they heard the Cuero plant was for sale. They began the large project of restoring the severely damaged dam, but when commuting from North Texas got old, they sold their land and cattle and moved to the job site.

For the “live wires” who understand such things: Small Hydro has a nameplate rating of 1.8 megawatts and a state-of-the-art control system, designed by Jimmy, for the plant’s three 450-kilowatt, 2,400-volt generators. Linda points out that “even a bad efficiency rate of 70% for a hydro plant is twice the efficiency of any fossil fuel.” And, she adds, “With the most modern improvements, hydro can reach near 100% efficiency, without heating the river or polluting either air or water.”

—Ann Galloway



# Texas Haunts

BY DON PATTERSON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

**AUTUMN CAN BRING A CHILL** to the air that has little to do with the weather. While resident Texas ghosts, ghouls, and goblins make appearances year round, October often inspires the spirits to doubly celebrate the season. So, as we visit some of the mysterious beings that haunt the Lone Star State, gather your spirit-chasing gear and a sweater, not to mention your wits about you....



Visitors to the inn report other sightings and sounds, including visions of the rooms' previous occupants, not to mention footsteps in the hallways and on the veranda and stairways. Milford resident Marcia Cheatham remembers being awakened during an overnight stay by the sound of children playing and laughing in the main hallway. "Children never stay at the inn," Marcia recalls, "yet I heard them right outside my door."

"My guests often tell me that they've seen the Baroness, a well-dressed woman we think was the wife of a wealthy English cotton baron, who lived here in the 1870s," says Evelyn Williams. "The story goes that he went away on a business trip, having told his wife he'd return soon. He never did, though, and it was discovered he had been killed not far from here."

Evelyn honors the Baron, Baroness, and other occupant spirits by hosting frequent murder-mystery weekends, complete with costumes, a scavenger hunt, and scripts that will make your spine tingle. "With its history of hauntings," she says, "what better setting than this old inn?"

## THE BENEVOLENT BARONESS

The sleepy town of Milford is home to a bed-and-breakfast inn that places a capital H on the word *Haunting*. Originally built as a dormitory, the building later became a hotel, boardinghouse, antique shop, halfway house for recuperating mental patients, and finally, in 2000, after several years of restoration, the Baroness Inn. Tales tell of long-gone, unnamed lodgers who persist in maintaining residency.

Owner and host Evelyn Williams graciously shares her property with the tenant spirits, who, she says, appear friendly and frolicsome. Some are downright whimsical

and delight in "spooking" visitors just for the fun of it. One ghost has demonstrated an aversion to modern country music and an appetite for fresh air and classical composers. Sharron Looney, Evelyn's sister and manager of the restored property, tells of the specter's peculiar habits. "At the end of each day while restoring the building," says Sharron, "workers would lock all the doors and windows to guard against vandalism. To give the appearance that the building was occupied, they'd leave the radios on, tuned to a local station playing country music. In the morning, we would invariably find one window open, with the radios tuned to a classical station."

[ABOVE AND FACING PAGE] Overnight guests at Milford's Baroness Inn, built in 1850 as a girls' dormitory, often tell owner Evelyn Williams that they've seen or felt the presence of ghosts. Spirits or none, you'll enjoy sumptuously appointed rooms, delicious meals, and gracious hospitality. Photographer Griff Smith captured these haunting images with a flash and a long exposure time.





*Apparitions*

A N D

*Ghostly Visions*



**SOMETIMES**, staff members hear doors slamming, whispers emanating from unoccupied rooms, and, oddest of all, the sound of the elevator moving by itself from one floor to another late at night.



## THE UNDYING HOTEL

Old lodging houses can take on the personalities of their owners, builders, or patrons. Such is the case with the Rogers Hotel, which sits across from the courthouse on Waxahachie's town square. Twice burned to the ground, the hotel, like the mythical phoenix, has each time risen from the ashes.

The Rogers began as a log cabin, constructed in 1847 by town founder Emory W. Rogers. Built at a crossroads as a home for his family, it quickly became a way station for weary travelers. The hospitable Rogers family cheerfully welcomed everyone. Over the years, the cabin evolved into the four-story, grand hotel it is today.

Recently restored to its ornate 1913 appearance, the Rogers plays host to new generations of patrons, who frequent the hotel as much for its history as for its antiques-filled suites and elegant dining room. Indeed, the hotel won't let go of its

past. Staff member Tammy Strickland, who manages the hotel and restaurant, explains: "The hotel sat vacant for 50 years, and the current owner, Anthony Cimino, and his wife, Janice, bought it about three-and-a-half years ago. When





Named for Waxahachie town founder Emory W. Rogers, the Rogers Hotel dates to 1847, though the current structure was built in 1913. The hotel's mosaic lobby floor, timeworn marble staircase, and century-old elevator recall the past—as do ghosts, which, some say, still stroll these historic halls.

sound of the elevator moving by itself from one floor to another late at night. “The son of the hotel’s second owner committed suicide. We think it’s his ghost that lurks near the elevator,” says Tammy.

Whether or not the Rogers is hosting apparitions from its past remains open to conjecture. Yet it’s hard to visit this grand old hotel and not feel a kinship with the spirits of those who lodged here long ago.

### THE LEGEND OF ONE-EYE

Scotland may boast of its Loch Ness monster, but Texas can brag about a mythical beast of its own: the Lake Granbury Serpent, a.k.a. Old One-Eye, a longtime legend among Granbury

residents. The creature reportedly surfaces periodically from the deep, displaying its one great eye to fearful onlookers.

Is One-Eye for real? Some local researchers think so. From the air, the 30-mile-long lake, heralded as a fisherman’s delight, resembles a serpent coiling about itself and the nearby town that gave it its name. Home to several varieties of bass, catfish, crappie, and sunfish, it could easily provide food for large aquatic animals. And, like Loch Ness itself, its many dark crevices, some several hundred feet deep, could easily hide such a creature.

Local resident Ryan Cox had always been skeptical of the serpent’s existence until he and his friend Dan Anderson saw something while night-fishing not long

### Who Ya Gonna Call?

Have you got a ghost that has just got to go? Or would you like to make friends with it once and for all? If so, help is readily available from Lone Star Spirits, a Houston firm that investigates the paranormal. Lone Star’s ghostbusters have been visiting and quieting noisy spirits statewide since 1999. Within driving distance of Houston, services are free; the Lone Star crew will investigate hauntings, confirm the ghosts’ existence, speak with the spooks, and even cleanse haunted areas.

The company’s chief investigator, Pete Haviland, explains their methods: “We employ both scientific and metaphysical tools to investigate residential and commercial sites all over Texas. We use high-tech surveillance equipment, including infrared cameras, audio recorders, motion detectors, electromagnetic field (EMF) meters, and sophisticated thermal gauges. When we’re stumped, we don’t hesitate to call in other paranormal professionals or consult with scientific experts in a variety of fields.”

The team stands ready to identify and expose a hoax, but they’re also open to giving credence to the unexplained. Pete and his ghostbusters have investigated and documented apparitions, ghost tales, and haunted sites in cities and small towns all over Texas. As you’d expect, they have collected reports on many famed Texas ghosts, including “Maggie,” the forlorn Houston Ale House spirit; the ghostly friar that haunts Presidio La Bahía, near Goliad; the ghost of pirate Jean Lafitte, who has been reported roaming up and down Galveston Bay; and the spirits of Civil War soldiers who haunt various sites on Galveston Island.

Lone Star Spirits’ experts have contributed to several books and television shows on Texas ghosts and haunted sites, and the group’s team of scientists, psychics, and mediums has conducted research for network television’s *America’s Scariest Places* and MTV’s *Fear*. The group is currently plying its talents in support of two television specials on the supernatural, working with Peter James of *Sightings* fame.

You can get a closer look at Lone Star’s quest for the uncanny and unnatural on the company’s Web site, [www.lonestarspirits.org](http://www.lonestarspirits.org).

For information about ghost tours of Austin, Galveston, Houston, and San Antonio, plus details about another ghost-investigating team, Alamo City Paranormal, see *For the Road*, page 8.

—Don Patterson

Janice’s aunt explored the hotel, she said she definitely felt the presence of two friendly apparitions downstairs.”

Sometimes, too, staff members hear doors slamming, whispers emanating from unoccupied rooms, and, oddest of all, the





Aboard the *Granbury Rose*, a 97-foot paddlewheeler that plies the waters of Lake Granbury, you can search for evidence of Old One-Eye, a legendary creature that some locals liken to the Loch Ness monster.

ago. "It was about 2:45 in the morning," says Ryan. "We were fishing in a cove not too far from my parents' home. The night was calm, and the water's flat surface reflected a moon that was almost full. Suddenly, we both saw a large, dark mass moving slowly in the water. The 'thing' made its way across the cove not far from where we were drifting. I aimed a spotlight at it, but it quickly submerged. We were frightened, but we continued to scour the cove with the spotlight. Whatever it was, it didn't reappear. Could it have been the serpent? I don't know."

Another local fisherman, an elderly Granbury resident who didn't want to give his name for fear of being kidded by his unbelieving fishing buddies, claims to have seen the serpent by daylight. "I was casting from the shore at a favorite spot where I know there is a deep hole," he says. "The lake was calm with barely a hint of a



Authentic Italian fare lures loyal diners to Mancuso's Italian Ristorante, an intimate eatery in Fort Worth. Some customers say they share the cozy ambiance with protective spirits.





Shortly after opening her popular restaurant, Cathy Mancuso severely injured herself in a kitchen accident. A light—emanating from the back door—helped her find the front door and get to the hospital.

breeze. Something took my bait with one grab, and when I tried to set the hook, my line went limp. When I reeled in, the heavy leader was missing, hook, sinker, and all. When I looked up, the water's surface parted about 30 feet offshore. Something big and gray crested for just a moment. It was at least eight feet long, and I felt like it was looking at me. Then it slid beneath the surface leaving a wake like that of a motorboat. It scared the daylight out of me. I don't know what it was, but I suspect it was Old One-Eye. Anyway, I quit fishing for the rest of the day, and I don't wet a line near that place anymore."

Some years ago, Japanese television took an interest in Granbury's spooky serpent. Moto Yoho, a noted TV journalist, dedicated an entire TV special to the elusive creature. Is the serpent an urban legend or a scientific possibility? You be the judge. As with Scotland's Nessie, physical proof is lacking. Be that as it may, resourceful local fishermen have learned to wink and use the fish-eating One-Eye as a logical excuse for a poor day's catch.

## ANGELS IN THE KITCHEN

Some Texas spirits have more in common with angels than ghouls. Cathy Mancuso, owner/chef of Mancuso's Italian Ristorante thinks celestial spirits may haunt her popular Fort Worth eatery.

Mancuso's is housed in a building that was once the first Primitive Baptist Church in the community of White Settlement, a suburb of Fort Worth. After the congregation relocated and the building was turned into a restaurant, the aged clapboard structure miraculously survived a fire. These days, the restaurant's spirits turn mischievous on occasion. "Lights dim and brighten out of the blue, and strange noises sometimes come from the kitchen after we close for the night," says Cathy. "We hear the clatter of pots and pans, as if someone was straightening up the kitchen again."

Cathy believes her ghosts are guardian angels looking after the restaurant and its patrons. She says she knows who to thank for her restaurant's success when her patrons compliment her Italian food as "heavenly."

## GHOST TRAILS

Whether a believer or not, you can't go very far down a Texas road without bumping into a ghostly tale or two. You can scoff and laugh or look them in the eye. You can call the tales absurd or explain them away with science and sensibility. But whatever you do, don't look over your shoulder. What you've chosen to ignore may still be there.... ★

Fort Worth writer DON PATTERSON has contributed stories to such publications as *Chile Pepper*, *Family Handyman*, and *Consumer's Digest*.

*Texas Highways* photographer J. GRIFFIS SMITH stayed at the Baroness Inn while shooting this story. Late at night, he says he had the eerie sensation that someone—or some thing—was rocking him back and forth.

## ESSENTIALS Calling All Texas Ghosts

**MOST SITES** are wheelchair accessible, but please call ahead regarding hours and prices.

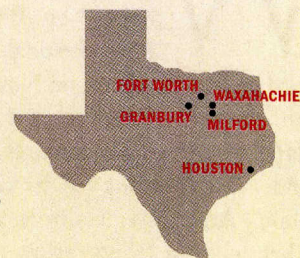
**MILFORD** The **Baroness Inn** is at 206 S. Main St. (972/493-9393 or 877/993-4924; [www.baronessinn.com](http://www.baronessinn.com)). Murder Mystery events take place throughout the year. Owner Evelyn Williams will also take guests on tours of the nearby Milford Cemetery, which dates to 1840.

**WAXAHACHIE** The **Rogers Hotel** is at 100 N. College St. (972/938-3688 or 800/556-4192; [www.rogershotel.com](http://www.rogershotel.com)). The popular Halloween Screams event, held at the nearby Scarborough Faire grounds Oct. 4-27, 2002 (Fri-Sun), features haunted houses, a lounge featuring classic horror movies, and a hayride with ghostly surprises around every bend. Call 972/938-3247 or 888/3-SCREAM; [www.screamspark.com](http://www.screamspark.com).

**GRANBURY** Look for **Old One-Eye**, a.k.a. the **Granbury Lake Serpent**, from shoreline marinas and parks in Granbury off US 377. Or cruise the lake on the 97-foot **Granbury Rose** paddlewheel or 16-person **Stargazer** excursion boat, priced from \$15-\$47. Trips depart from Bridge Harbor Marina, at the intersection of US 377 and TX 144 in Granbury (817/279-0204; [granburyroseonline.com](http://granburyroseonline.com)).

**FORT WORTH** Check out celestial spirits at **Mancuso's Italian Ristorante**, 9500 White Settlement Rd. (817/246-7041). Hours: Lunch Tue-Fri 11-1:30; dinner Tue-Thu 5-9 and Fri-Sat 5-10.

**FUTURE READINGS** Ghost stories and legends abound in Texas. Look for these volumes in your library or bookstore: *Spirits of San Antonio and South Texas* by Docia Schultz Williams and Reneta Byrne (Republic of Texas Press, 1992), *Ghosts Along the Texas Coast* by Docia Schultz Williams (Wordware Publishing Co., 1994), *Phantoms of the Plains: Tales of West Texas Ghosts* by Docia Schultz Williams (Republic of Texas Press, 1995), *When Darkness Falls* by Docia Schultz Williams (Wordware Publishing Co., 1997), *Transparent Tales: An Attic Full of Texas Ghosts* by Allan Turner and Richard Stewart (Best of East Texas Publishing Co., 1998), *Haunted Texas Vacations: The Complete Ghostly Guide* by Lisa Farwell (Westcliffe Publishers, 2000), and *Ghosts in the Graveyard: Texas Cemetery Tales* by Olyve Hallmark Abbott (Republic of Texas Press, 2001).





HEMISPHERIC FARE

# San Antonio New World Wine & Food Festival

BY RON BECHTOL

WITH a Latin beat and a Texas twang, the San Antonio New World Wine & Food Festival kicks off its third year with a bang on November 1 and runs through November 3. The grub-and-grape extravaganza features winemakers from Texas, along with vintners from Chile, Argentina, California, and other climes; chefs from Texas, Mexico, and other sovereign states; and a combination of enticements both exotic and everyday—all in settings that showcase San Antonio as a city equally at home in well-worn Wranglers and well-pressed tuxes.

A luncheon at Fredericksburg's Becker Vineyards inaugurates the festival at noon on Friday, November 1, with dishes based on Texas-grown products and wines to be sipped in the shade of a sheltering porch. Later that day, back in San Antonio, the Omni Hotel hosts a pair of wine tastings, and the Tequila Trials take place in the atmospheric bar of the legendary Mi Tierra Café. In the evening, get ready for a *pachanga* (party) at HemisFare 2002, an event pairing meringues and *merengues*, at least figuratively.

HemisFare, one of the festival's show-

case events, teems with celebrity chefs, including Florida's Mark Militello, and offers flavors from throughout the New World. Dozens of *puestos* (food carts), brimming with dishes from the interior of Mexico, the *playas* (beaches) of the Caribbean, and the heart of South Texas, overflow the ballroom of the Westin

THIS ANNUAL EXTRAVAGANZA  
SHOWCASES  
SAN ANTONIO AS A CITY  
EQUALLY AT HOME  
IN WELL-WORN WRANGLERS  
AND WELL-PRESSED TUXES.

Riverwalk Hotel for this all-out event, made even more *allegre* (joyful) by the presence of myriad wines from both New World and Old. (An auction of fine and rare wines takes place during the evening.)

If Saturday starts out more sedately with cooking classes at H-E-B's Central Market and a series of seminars and tastings hosted by featured wineries (among them, California's Joseph Phelps, Markham, and Swanson; France's Domaine Beaucastel; and Italy's Castello Banfi), it

begins to unwind with winemaker luncheons at restaurants along San Antonio's fabled River Walk. The afternoon sees more cooking classes, another tasting or two, and a "bean-to-bar" chocolate session exploring both the production and consumption of America's favorite indulgence. Texas in Tuxes, a duded-up do featuring the state's star chefs (including San Antonio's Bruce Auden, Mark Bliss, Scott Cohen, Andrew Weissman, and Don Strange; Dallas' Richard Chamberlain; Houston's Tim Keating; and Austin's David Garrido), caps the day in an environment that will spawn tall tales for days to come: the irrepressible Buckhorn Saloon and Museum, with its world-class collection of horns, heads, and other treasures of taxidermy.

Sunday afternoon's Totally *Tejas* event, to be held at historic La Villita, features a smorgasbord of food and fun designed to delight families and foodies alike. There will be cooking demonstrations by the likes of Lynne Rossetto Kasper of National Public Radio's *The Splendid Table*, and nearly every Texas wine imaginable will be offered in the company of the best bottles from around the world. Texas foods, from apple pies and *cabrito* to Gulf oysters





Blanca Aldaco, owner of Paloma Blanca and Aldaco's Mexican Restaurant in San Antonio, served chilled cream of avocado soup at last year's HemisFare, one of the festival's showcase events.

## CREMA FRIA DE AGUACATE

(Chilled Cream of Avocado Soup)

*Rich and lush, with an underlying zing, this colorful soup suggests guacamole you're actually allowed to eat with a spoon. Look for it on the menu at San Antonio's Paloma Blanca.*

- 1½ T. chicken base
- 1 qt. cold water
- 8 oz. heavy cream
- ¼ c. freshly squeezed lime juice
- 4 plump, ripe avocados
- ½ bunch cilantro
- 2 large jalapeños, stemmed and seeded
- Salt to taste

### GARNISHES:

- small dollop or swirl of heavy cream
- red, yellow, and blue corn tortilla strips, fried until crisp
- avocado cubes
- watermelon cubes (in summer)

Combine chicken base and water, stirring well; strain. In a blender, combine HALF of strained liquid with HALF of the next 5 ingredients, and blend until smooth. Pour into a large container, and set aside. Repeat with other half of strained liquid and other half of same 5 ingredients, and stir into first mixture. Add salt, if desired, stirring well, and pour into chilled bowls. Add garnishes as desired. Yield: 8½ cups (16-18 appetizer servings or 8-12 full-size servings).

J. GRIFFIS SMITH

and sultry salsas, will be available for tasting, and local restaurants will vie for attention with tastes of their own. Celebrated authors will also be on hand to inscribe tomes with themes that range from food-focused who-done-its to traditional Texas "Q."

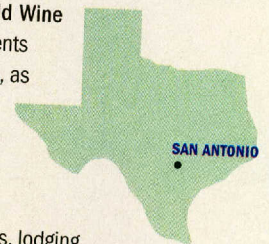
Encouraged by accolades from the likes of Teresa Byrne-Dodge of Houston's *My Table* magazine (she calls the event "mighty impressive"), festival organizers set their sights high. This year's co-chairman Pat Mozersky says simply, "The San Antonio New World Wine & Food Festival's eventual, immodest goal is the culinary conquest of two continents, from Texas to Tierra del Fuego." ★

San Antonio writer RON BECHTOL, who has been involved in the New World Wine & Food Festival since it began, wrote the story on Tejano food in last month's special issue on Hispanic culture.

## ESSENTIALS

### New World Wine & Food Festival

**THE 3RD ANNUAL** San Antonio New World Wine & Food Festival takes place Nov. 1-3, with events scheduled at numerous locations around town, as well as a kickoff luncheon in Fredericksburg. Prices for events range from \$20 to \$100, with weekend-package tickets available. Call 210/930-3232; [www.newworldwinefood.org](http://www.newworldwinefood.org).



For information about San Antonio attractions, lodging, and other events, write to the San Antonio Convention & Visitors Bureau, Box 2277, San Antonio 78298; 210/207-6700 or 800/447-3372; [www.sanantoniovisit.com](http://www.sanantoniovisit.com).





Autumn sunlight brightens prairie grasses, shrubs, and cottonwoods in the countryside around Canadian.





# CANADIAN

## *Panhandle Prize*

BY CANDACE LESLIE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WYMAN MEINZER

**C**ALL IT AN OASIS. Or a surprise. With tall trees shading its broad, hilly streets and mint-condition historic homes surrounded by green lawns, Canadian, population 2,300, defies the stereotype of little town on the prairie. Its curious name comes from the river that meanders north of town. Some say early explorers thought the once-untamed waterway ended up in Canada. Others attribute the name to *cañada*, a Spanish word for ravine or cattle path. Local folks take the name for granted.

Railroads and ranching created this town in the northeast Texas Panhandle. Rodeos and fall foliage, a topnotch weekly newspaper, and Fourth of July reunions gave it an enviable reputation. Several generations of resident benefactors have endowed the town with distinctive gifts, and, for a while, the transitory oil boom brought outsiders and quick money. Above all, nature surrounded Canadian with beauty and abundant wildlife. Sunsets turn red and pink and gold. Stars have little competition for their celestial brilliance on moonless nights.



Among other seasonal blushers, sumac (above) and thicket creeper (top) give Canadian's Fall Foliage Festival uncommon color.





[CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE] Canadian celebrated its first rodeo on July 4, 1888. Today, the tradition continues with rodeo events sprinkled throughout the year, including during October's Fall Foliage Festival. Amy Winton teaches art and displays works at her Winton Academy of Art. Richard Murray fashions unusual lamps from auto and motorcycle parts, and sells them at his Al-Rite Supply Company.

ONLY A FEW towns dot this corner of the Texas map or interrupt the vistas of magnificent rolling land with church steeples and solid old courthouses. Lately, progress has been passing by many of these far-flung communities, even once-thriving Canadian. With the Santa Fe Rail-

road's roundhouse long gone, oil and ranching less profitable, and young people leaving for the cities, times are definitely tough. But Canadian has been bucking the downward trend as fiercely as broncos once challenged the early rodeo riders on Main Street. A bakery, an art gallery, a flower

shop, an antique store, an old-time soda fountain, and other businesses have purged the ghosts that recently inhabited cavernous empty buildings. The sparkling facade of the newly renovated Palace Theatre lights up the prairie night with announcements of its first-run movies. New restaurants offer fare ranging from enchiladas to catfish to brisket, and, at last count, nine bed and breakfasts provide homey lodging. Canadian puts on an annual Fall Foliage Festival, celebrating one of the best places in the state for a brilliant autumn show. Held the third weekend in October



(October 19-20, 2002), the fest—with arts and crafts, historical reenactments, home tours, and musical and rodeo performances—adds to the delights of leaf-looker. For some of the finest foliage, take a leisurely, unescorted tour down Farm-to-Market Road 2266 (Formby Road) to Lake Marvin, and you'll spot myriad types of trees, shrubs, vines, and grasses.

Other events include an annual Fourth of July Celebration, which draws visitors seeking an old-time Western patriotic experience. On July 4, 1888, a year after the town's founding, Canadian hosted one of Texas' first rodeos. The reputation as a rodeo town remains, with events held throughout the year. By 1900, saloons outnumbered churches, so the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) organized and went to work to turn things around. Turkey dinners and bazaars funded their building, believed to be the only one in the United States that was constructed, owned, and maintained by the WCTU. Local women's groups still hold turkey dinners the first weekend in December to raise funds to support the charming, two-story brick structure, now the town's public library.



**C**ANADIAN prospered well into the 20th Century. Grand old homes, beautifully cared for, recall the days of thriving bankers and highly successful businessmen. Ranchers, too, built some of these fine houses for sojourns in town. Building materials ranged from bricks, brought in by wagon from Coffeyville, Kansas, to cast stones produced, one at a time, in small block-making forms. (One doctor even built a private hospital that boasted a "fish pond room" designed to soothe new mothers. Today, it is on Canadian's driving and walking tours.)

Artifacts chronicling Canadian's rich heritage have been gathered together at the River Valley Pioneer Museum. Like a grandmother's attic, it presents the past through items treasured by local families and individuals, many displayed in room-like settings: a kitchen, parlor, bedroom, a general store.

In 1938, Nahim Abraham began restoring an early dormitory originally built for

Canadian's short-lived Baptist Academy. An immigrant from Lebanon, Nahim had discovered Canadian as a traveling salesman. He settled here in 1913, set up a successful mercantile business, and began a family tradition of community support that continues to this day. The dormitory became the Abraham homeplace for four generations. Nahim's grandson Malouf Abraham Jr. converted an abandoned 1910 church into a magnificent home he named "The Citadel." Great-grandson Salem recently restored downtown's three-story Moody Building, locating his international futures-trading business on the top floors and turning the street level over to the popular Cattle Exchange restaurant, which serves up chicken-fried rib eye, huge hamburgers, mesquite-grilled catfish, and other hearty Panhandle fare.

Salem's spectacular restoration of the Palace Theatre on Main Street played an important role in Canadian's turnaround, because it encouraged new ventures. For example, a delightful eatery, Our Fillin' Station, has capitalized on its former life as a gas station by using genuine auto and tire decor. At her Winton Academy of Art, Amy Winton offers studio instruction, along with frequently changing exhibits of works by local and regional artists in her two galleries. The old-fashioned City Drug Soda Fountain serves ice cream and shakes next door to a roomful of antiques and gift items. With both a bakery and a donut shop, Main Street offers mornings that can begin with plenty of home-style goodies.

Even if you have no need for auto parts, don't miss Richard Murray's Al-Rite Supply Company. Capturing the beauty of



The Citadel, built in 1910 as the First Baptist Church, was restored as the family home by Dr. and Mrs. Malouf Abraham Jr. The Abrahams frequently open their house to visitors during the Fall Foliage Festival homes tour.





porch to deliver his Federal Express parcel in the 2000 movie *Cast Away*. Inside the house, photos and a fat scrapbook chronicle the cinematic moment.

Outside the B&B, more than six miles of hiking trails meander across the shortgrass prairie, home to whitetail and mule deer, prairie dogs, coyotes, bats, dove, quail, ducks, and the many migratory birds that pass through annually. Visiting families

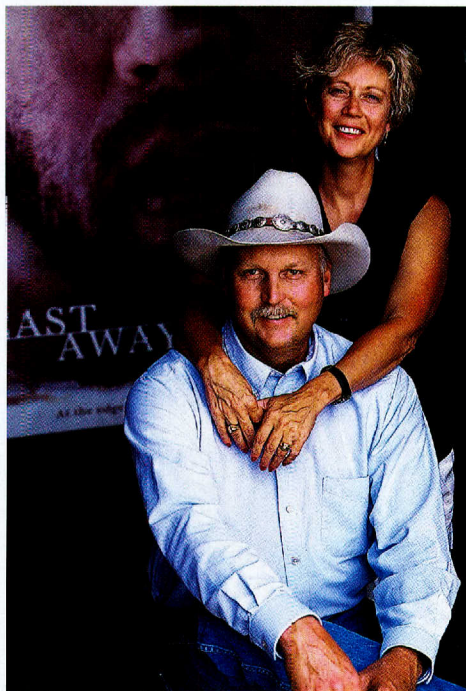
may share in ranch chores, swim and fish in the spring-fed ponds, or simply enjoy the wide vistas and star-filled nights.

Six miles east of Canadian, the Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area offers some of the most fascinating wildlife-viewing in the Panhandle. Exuding contagious enthusiasm, wildlife technician Bob Rogers, one of the tour leaders here, names the plants, imitates bird calls, points out the best prairie-dog-viewing places, and shares his knowledge of and love for Canadian and its environs.

No place reveals the region's diversity better than land along Formby Road between Canadian and the wildlife management area. South of the road, the lush Canadian River bottom abounds in century-old cottonwoods, brilliant sumac, sand sage, Indian grass, wild grapevines, and chickasaw plums, among scores of other native species. Blue mesas rise in the distance. To the north, rolling sand hills and shortgrass prairie stretch as far as the eye can see. Bob knows these contrasting habitats like the back of his hand and eagerly shares his knowledge with any visitor.

"Plants and animals are here that are rare to the area," Bob says, listing a number of both eastern and western species, "things like marsh mallow, which the locals call swamp hibiscus, which occurs commonly in southeastern states like

Mike and Debbie Arrington have restored the 1919 frame home built by Mike's great-grandfather Texas Ranger Captain G.W. Arrington. The house, today a bed and breakfast (806/323-6924), appeared in the hit movie *Cast Away*, as did the intersection pictured above.



region. The world's only stable population of Lesser Prairie Chickens attracts bird enthusiasts from across the country and beyond to witness their noisy, colorful springtime mating rituals. Prairie dogs, once nearly eradicated by ranchers, now attract tourists with their comical antics. The newly developed High Plains Loop of the Great Texas Wildlife Trail lists exact locations and ideal seasons for observing birds and other animals.

Mike and Debbie Arrington, for example, have opened their historic ranch to the public. Striving to save their beloved family ranch for their descendants, the Arringtons participate in incentive programs designed to reestablish natural habitats and encourage wildlife. At the same time, they have restored the old homeplace built by Mike's great-grandfather Texas Ranger Captain George Washington Arrington. The 1919 frame home, ordered from a catalog and delivered by train and wagon, has a new life as a bed and breakfast. A touch of Hollywood came to the old house when film star Tom Hanks stood on the wide front

chrome and air filters, Richard creates lamps from auto and motorcycle parts. He also transforms old license plates into Christmas ornaments and birdhouses.



**U**NDER THE UMBRELLA of the recently organized Texas Prairie Rivers Country, landowners here now work together to promote nature tourism, and many welcome visitors to their property. Flyways for both east-west and north-south migratory birds pass through the



Florida, Alabama, and Louisiana, but that you can still see here in Canadian. We have big, very old mulberry groves where you can find band-tailed pigeons, mostly in the fall and winter, from New Mexico. And we get scrub jays and piñon jays, as well as eastern and western kingbirds.” A few miles past the wildlife management area, 63-acre Lake Marvin, which lies within the Black Kettle National Grassland, offers camping, fishing, hiking, and more wildlife-viewing.

Back on the north edge of town, two bridges cross the Canadian River. A functional modern structure takes care of the traffic on US 83. Parallel to it, almost hidden by trees, the Old Canadian River Wagon Bridge has been restored for hikers and bikers. The 1916 span stretches over more than half a mile of wetlands and river bottom. To walk its wooden planks, listen to the creaks of its metal trusses, and view the plants and creatures that reside in its shadows stirs the imagination.

The bridge’s survival mirrors that of the town itself. Sturdy, inviting, and a bit romantic, it links past with present, human being with nature. A fitting symbol for the Panhandle Plains, and its surprising oasis, Canadian. ★



Northeast of town, an old barn and autumn grasses exude a sense of rural Panhandle serenity.

## ESSENTIALS Canadian

**CANADIAN**, seat of Hemphill County, sits south of the Canadian River on US 83/US 60 in the northeast corner of the Texas Panhandle. For information on accommodations, events, and attractions, write to the Canadian-Hemphill County Chamber of Commerce, 216 S. Second St., Canadian 79014; 323-6234 or 323-5397; fax: 323-9243; email: [canadian@yft.net](mailto:canadian@yft.net); [www.canadiantx.com](http://www.canadiantx.com). The area code is 806, the zip code is 79014.

The 2002 Fall Foliage Festival will be held Oct. 19-20. Next year’s Fourth of July Celebration takes place July 3-5.

The River Valley Pioneer Museum is at 118 S. Second St. Hours: Tue-Fri 10-12 and 1-4, Sun 2-4.

The Cattle Exchange restaurant is at Second and Main; 323-9176. Our Fillin’ Station is at 217 S. Second St.; 323-6504. City Drug Soda Fountain is at 224 Main St.; 323-6095.

The Palace Theatre is at 210 Main St.; 323-5133. Winton Academy of Art is at 216 Main St.; 323-5812.

Richard Murray’s Al-Rite Supply Company is at 211 N. Second St.; 323-5812.

The Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area is



about 6 miles east of Canadian on Farm-to-Market Rd. 2265. Driving tours: Free. If you plan to get out and walk in the area, purchase an Annual Public Hunting Permit (\$40) or a Limited Public Use Permit (\$10). For information, call 323-8642 or 323-6234.

Lake Marvin is east of Canadian in the Black Kettle National Grassland. Drive 2 miles north of town, turn right on FM 2266, and go 10 miles to the lake. On the way, you will pass through the Gene Howe WMA. The lake area offers fishing, picnicking, camping, hiking, and wildlife-viewing. A rustic lodge may be rented for events through the Chamber of Commerce.



Bob Rogers, who leads tours at the Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area, enthusiastically shares his knowledge of and love for the Canadian region’s land, plants, and animals.



# Autumn has arrived.

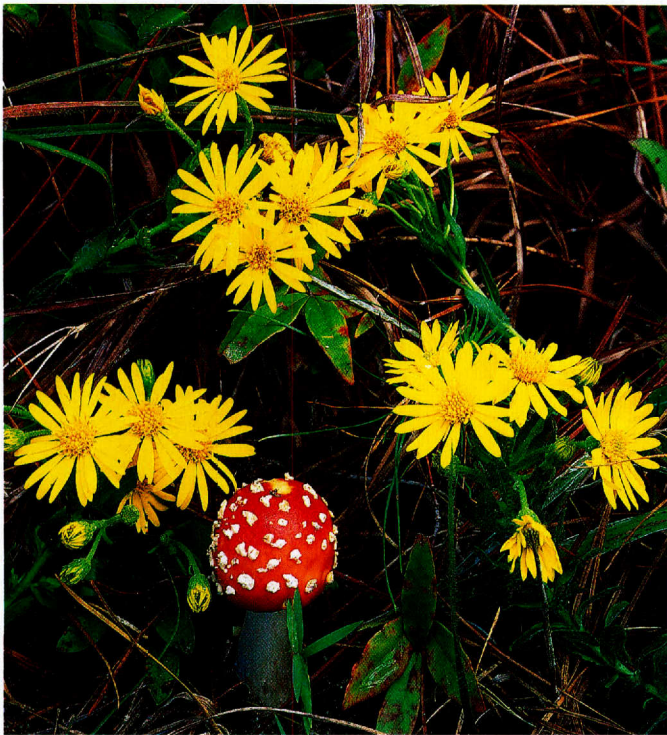
By mid-September, the sun—whose summer rays have charred tender, spring grasses to hay-like clumps of brown—mellows its fiery gaze upon a parched Texas landscape. The Northern Hemisphere is orbiting slowly into autumn. Late-spring and summer wildflowers, now in their “golden weeks” of life, spread the seeds of a new generation across the land. But as their tiny progeny ripen and fall or blow away, a new crop of fresh green shoots sprouts around them. Look closely, for these newcomers herald the cooler season’s vibrant wildflowers, sundry species soon to sprinkle meadows and roadsides with shades of ivory, purple, red, and yellow. Sprouting in mid- to late summer, these plants grow and bloom by a different timetable from that of most plants. Their vivid hues come as a welcome change for those with a watchful eye.

During October, when fall’s first cool fronts send chilly air sifting across our state, autumn-blooming wildflowers reach their peak, a harbinger for the carpets of crimson, orange, and yellow leaves soon to fall from deciduous trees. On sunny pastures and byways, dense fronds of graceful goldenrod—growing chest-high in moist hollows, each slender plant topped with a feathery cone of bright yellow—blanket the land. In many regions, numerous varieties of sunflowers border fence lines or punctuate disturbed soils, each golden face brightly pointing skyward.

In central and eastern parts of the state, delicate, multibranching asters bloom in the dappled shadows of taller plants. One inch or smaller across, these blossoms range from white to deep purple, with all the lovely lavender shades in between. Sunny, well-drained fields may appear flocked in white with the frosty-hued petals of snow-on-the-prairie, a waist-high plant topped by white-and-green bracts (modified leaves). Near the ground, the dense, tiny blooms of broomweed commingle with tufts of yellow bitterweed. Purple morning glory, a wild vine whose flowers look like small, flattened trumpets, intertwines with autumn’s golden grasses, which nod in the cool breezes.

If autumn’s wildflowers do not possess the same grandeur and variety of color as spring’s bouquet, for many Texans they still bring their own kind of delight. And although most folks think of them as the last wildflowers of the year, some prefer to view them as a welcome prelude to next spring’s vibrant sequel.

—Stephan Myers and Janet R. Edwards



© STEPHAN MYERS

Groundsel and fly mushroom (beautiful, but deadly poisonous), Jasper County



© RICHARD REYNOLDS

Cinnabar ladies tresses, Big Bend National Park

[FACING PAGE] Tickseed sunflower, water hyacinth, and bald cypress, Martin Dies, Jr. State Park

C O O I





blooms







© RICHARD REYNOLDS



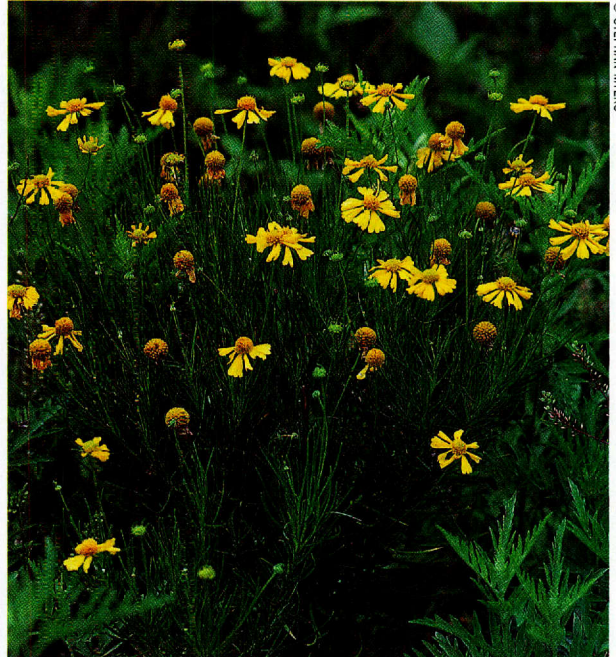
Velvet pod mimosa, Davis Mountains, Jeff Davis County

© FRED HIRSCHMANN



Crack star, or living rock, Big Bend Ranch State Natural Area

© STEPHAN MYERS



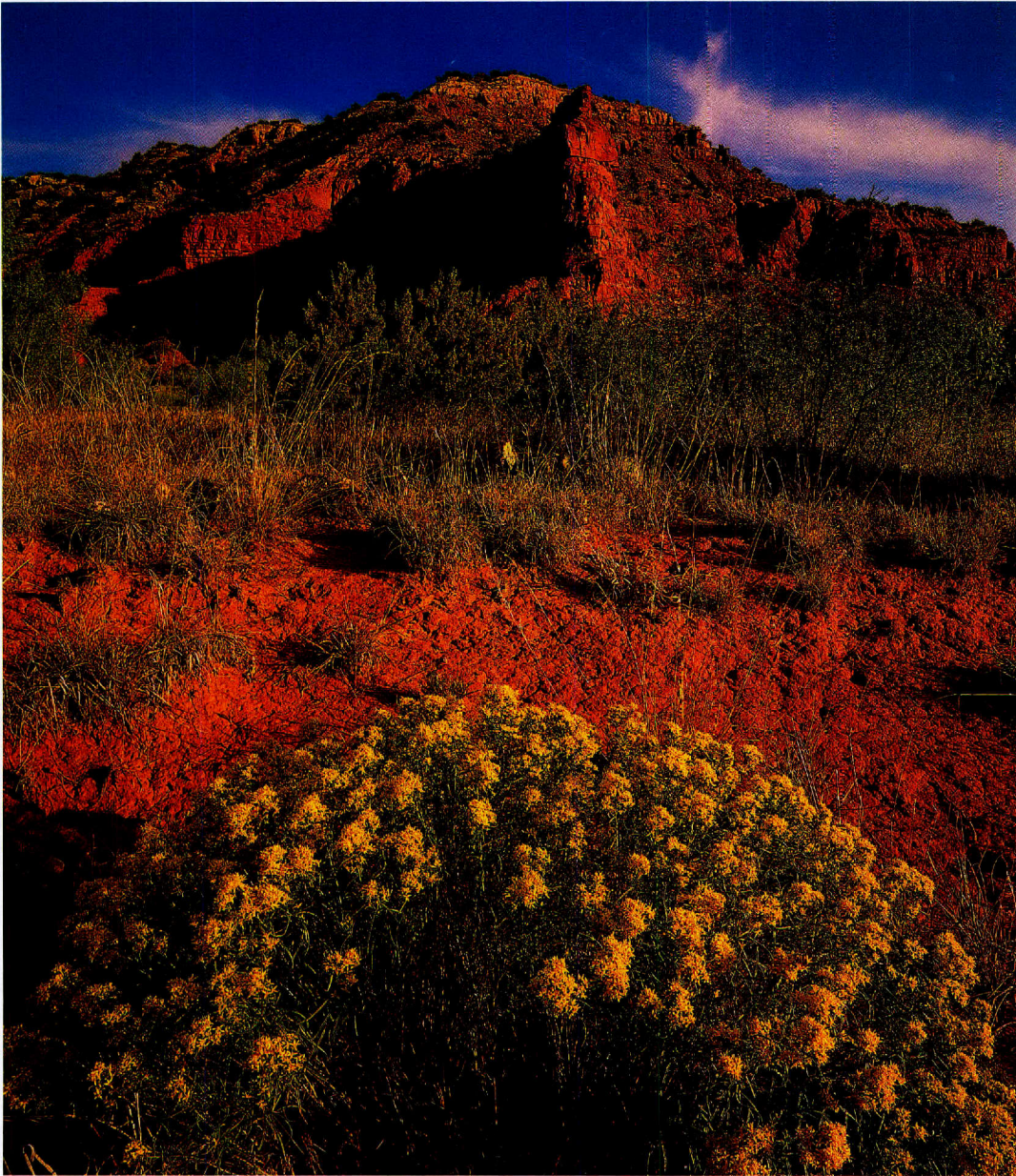
Bitte-weed, Wal er County

[FACING PAGE] Goldenrod, Chambers County



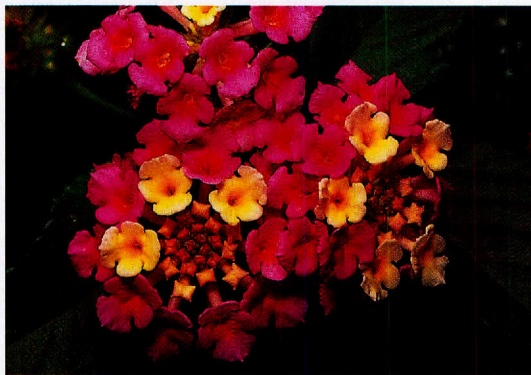






[ABOVE] Broomweed,  
Caprock Canyons State Park

Dynamic duo JAN EDWARDS and  
STEPHAN MYERS will provide next  
month's feature on East Texas  
cypress swamps.



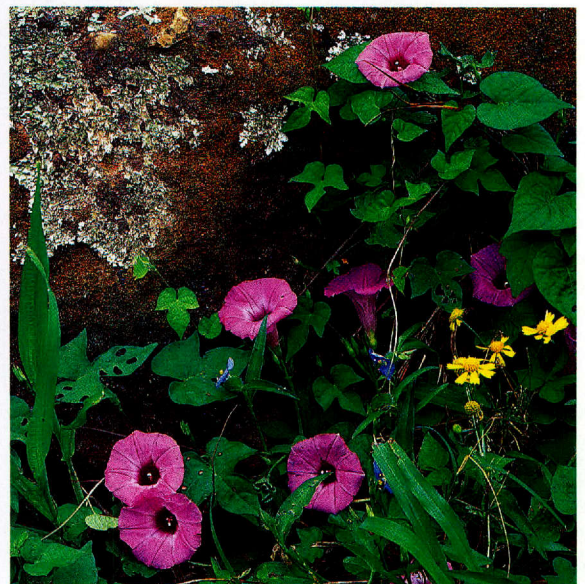
© STEPHAN MYERS

[ABOVE] Lantana, Jasper County

[FACING PAGE] Camphor daisies and sea oats,  
Boca Chica State Park

[OVERLEAF] Small desert sunflowers and ocotillo,  
Bofecillos Mountains, Big Bend Ranch State Park

Purple morning glories,  
cowpen daisies, and Jayflower,  
Bastrop State Park



© RICHARD REYNOLDS









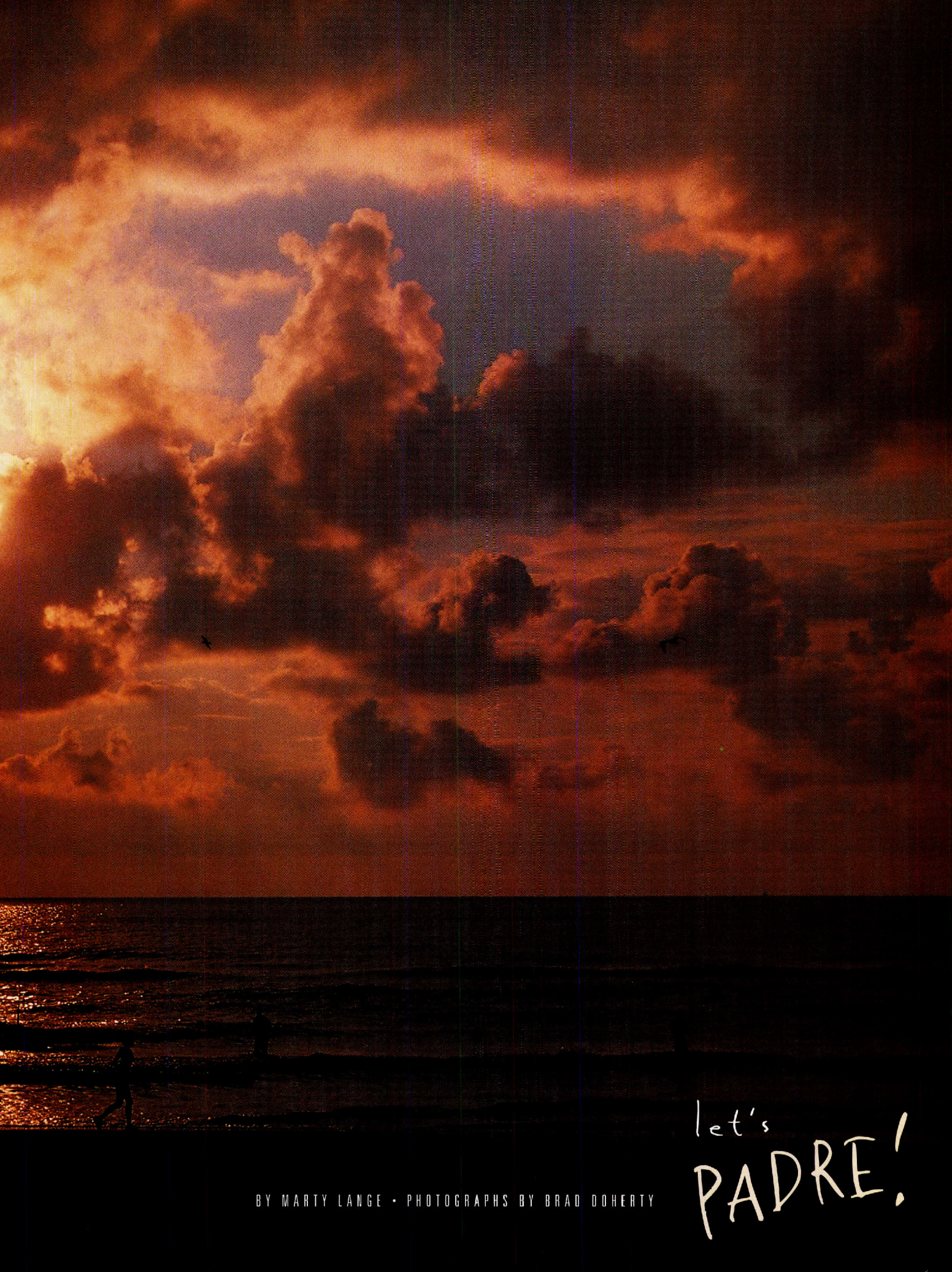


life's a beach year round on SOUTH PADRE ISLAND



Another day in paradise. Early-morning sun shines on beautiful South Padre Island.





BY MARTY LANGE • PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRAD DOHERTY

let's  
**PADRE!**



let's  
**PADRE!**

Could there be a more apropos call to have fun in Texas?

Don't think so.

Tell someone you're goin' to

South Padre Island, and they get this happy-jealous "gee, you're really livin'" look that says, "you lucky son of a gun." And you know what? They're right! This long, narrow, aircraft carrier-cum-Love Boat of an island offers the perfect escape for the ocean-beach-sun-watersports person in search of that accessible sub-tropical Texas getaway.

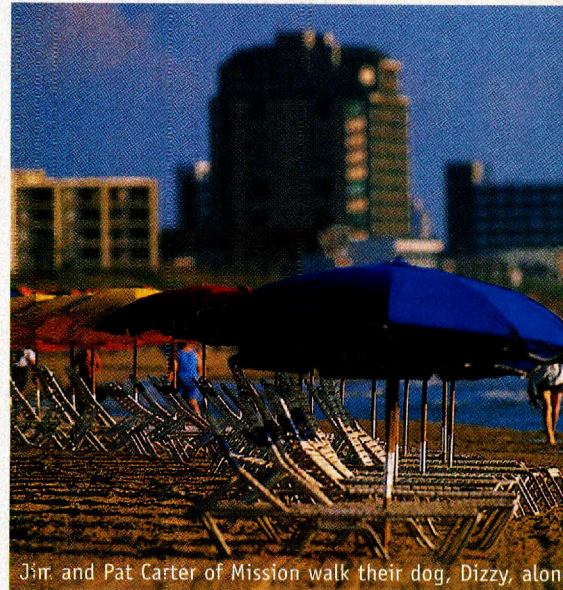
With its rolling Gulf waves of surf, beautiful "Morning Has Broken" sunrises, gorgeous Laguna Madre sunsets, palm trees, long sandy beach, and laid-back atmosphere, what's not to like? If this place were any more romantic, it would be a novel, movie, or TV series.

**Can't say that after 50 years** I got here as soon as I could. What took so long? I don't really know. But I'll be back soon. This nifty, tip-of-Texas treasure makes for a sweet, sun-kissed, sea-side vacation that doesn't require winning the lottery. Cheap Southwest Airlines flights to Valley International Airport in Harlingen make the island's sizable list of options for merriment readily available. Airport to island is just a brief 50-minute drive east.

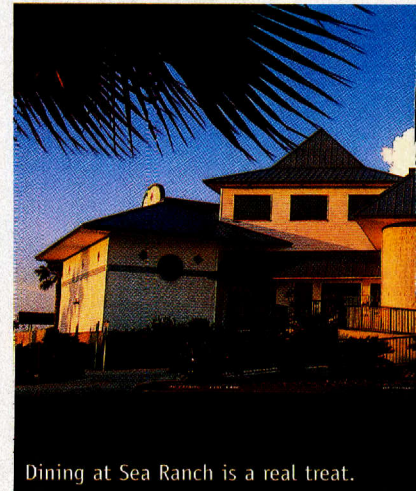
After passing small orange groves and cane fields, and getting a whiff of salt air in Laguna Vista, the historic Point Isabel Lighthouse means you're almost there. Viewing the graceful, ribbon-like span of the Queen Isabella Causeway, connecting the mainland with South Padre Island, will stick in your memory bank, as will the drive over Laguna Madre to reach the island. It's quite exhilarating!

Once on this famous, 34-mile-long idyllic isle, stop for a look at the Padre Ballí (the island's namesake) statue. Soon, you'll feel the pressures and wear-and-tear of everyday life wash away almost instantly. How? Well, that's part of SPT's allure.

You can do a lot here—boat, surf, fish, golf, shell, hang glide, parasail, play tennis, bicycle, ride horses, chute down water slides

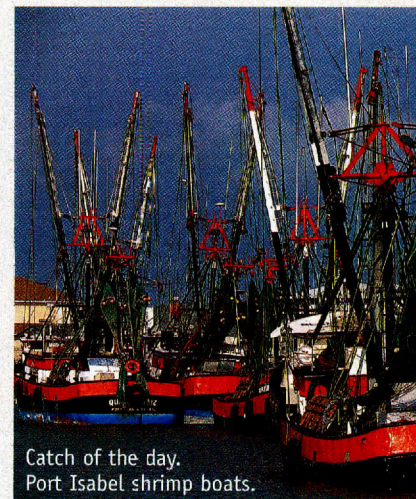


Jim and Pat Carter of Mission walk their dog, Dizzy, along



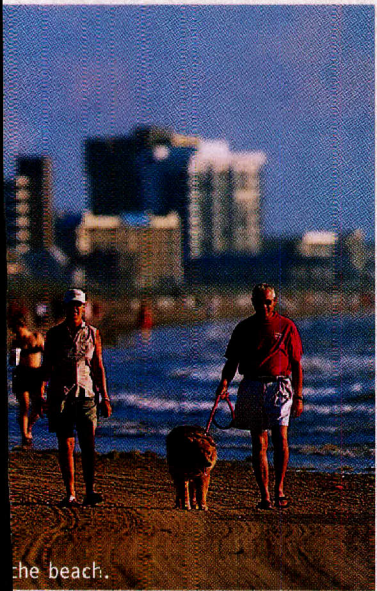
Dining at Sea Ranch is a real treat.

South Padre Island offers  
search of that accessible, sub

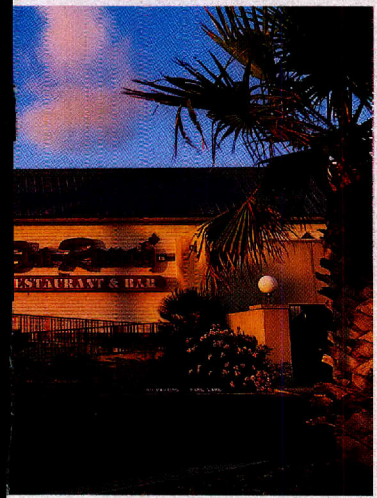


Catch of the day.  
Port Isabel shrimp boats.

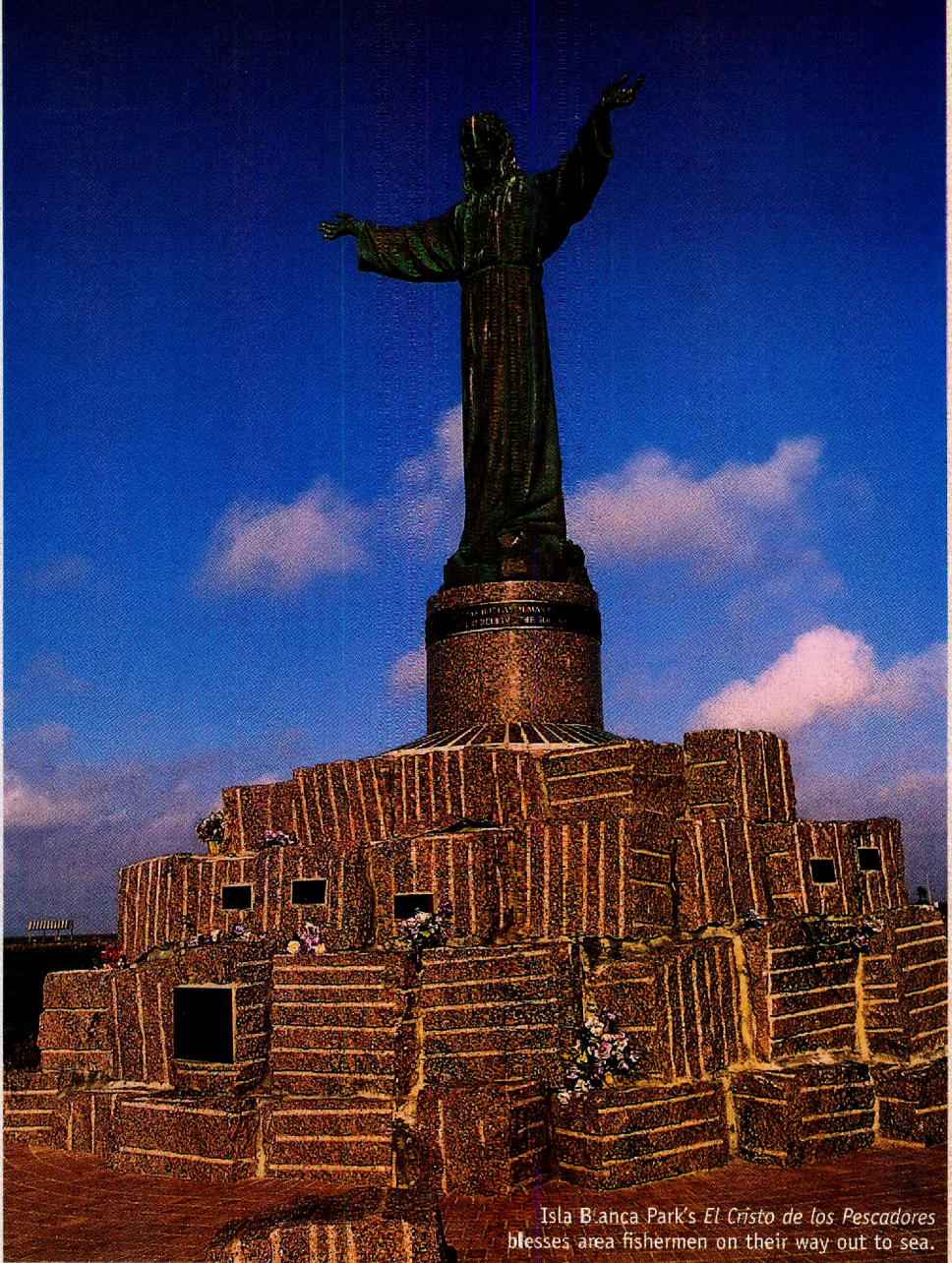




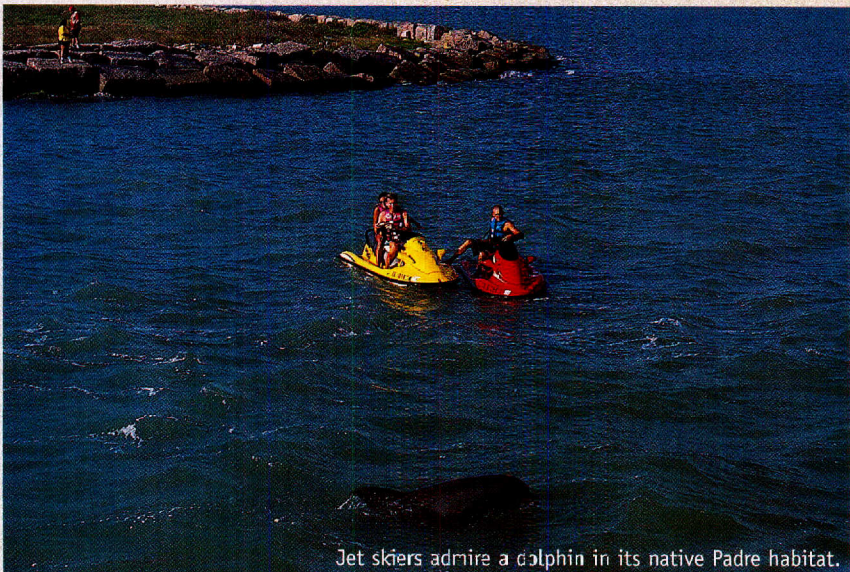
the beach.



the perfect escape for the ocean-beach-sun-watersports person in tropical Texas getaway.



Isla Blanca Park's *El Cristo de los Pescadores* blesses area fishermen on their way out to sea.



Jet skiers admire a dolphin in its native Padre habitat.

© FRED LABOUNTY

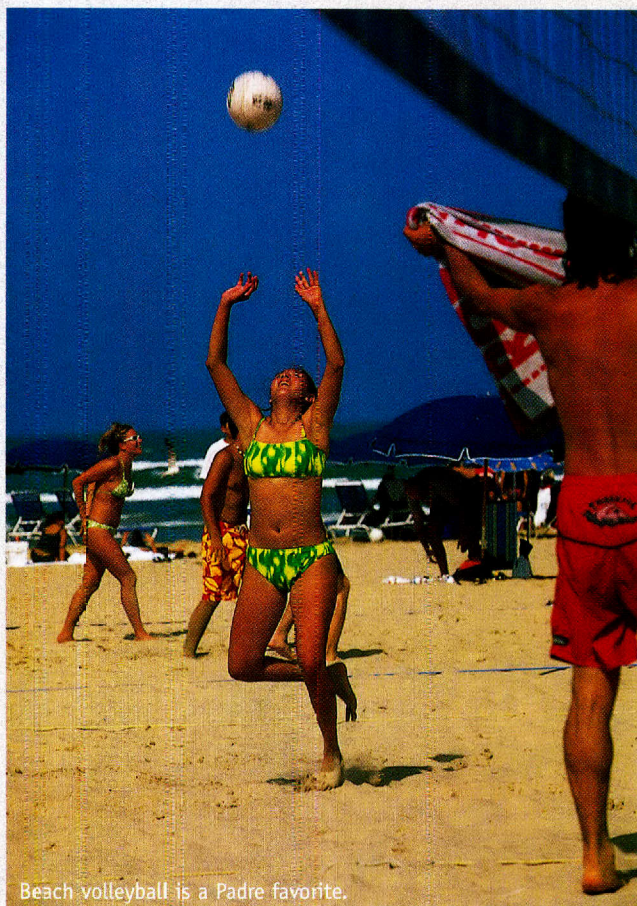


at Schlitterbahn, see dolphins, pet turtles, view pelicans (and gulls, sandpipers, and hundreds of other bird species), rent a dune buggy, be captivated by little crabs (I was), jet ski, snorkle, bungee jump, hear live music, cruise around in a little electric car, shoot hoops at the water tower basketball court, walk on the beach, jog, swim, eat, shop—or do next-to-nothing. Whatever you choose, it's all within the context of the island's three S's: sun, sand, and the soothing sound of salty surf. And, when you're on the beach facing east toward the Gulf, or facing west toward Laguna Madre, the trio produce a golden trifecta.

**Good breakfasts** (a priority with this sea dog wannabe) comfort at Ted's and The Grapevine Cafe. My blissful experience at Ted's combined a Western omelette, chillin' with the islanders, and reading the local *Valley Morning News*. Does it get any better? Meanwhile, the nearby Grapevine serves huge, tasty breakfast tacos and offers good, inexpensive lunch specials.

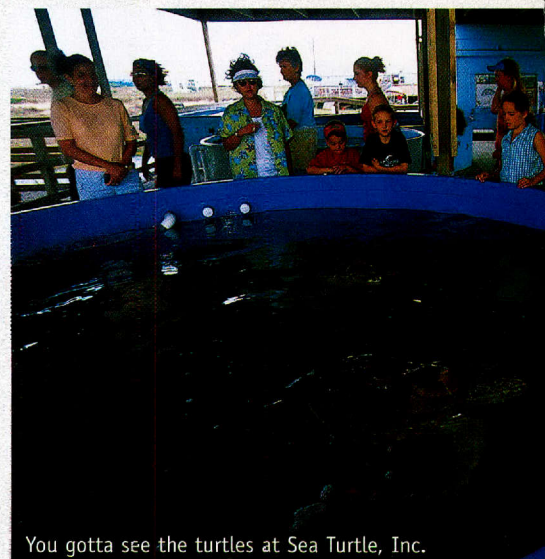
Food on the island exceeded my expectations. A Pirate Dan's broiled seafood platter at Sea Ranch was excellent. Fresh fruit smoothies at Naturally's were a daily pleasure, and gave me energy for the day. Pizza and salad at Pizza X-Press passed the test. And, I enjoyed the funky vibe, bay view, good food, and attentive, friendly wait-staff at Louie's Backyard, a local legend. Fine dining choices are plentiful, with Brisa Latina, Joseph's, The Lantern Grill, Scampi's, and more.

You must make time to walk a stretch of the island's long, lovely Gulf beach. It's a Prozac-ian picture of peace and tranquility. A tour of the community by bicycle (I got one from Island Fun Rentals, and there are several additional vendors) proved to be a satisfying way to cover the whole town, which is almost a perfect, flat grid of three north-south thoroughfares (Laguna, Padre, and Gulf boulevards) and approximately 50 or so short east-west streets that run Gulf-to-Bay. You don't have to be Lance Armstrong. If you're reasonably fit, you can cover the town of South Padre in a day from the southernmost tip at Isla Blanca County Park to the northern dunes of Andy Bowie County Park.



Beach volleyball is a Padre favorite.

You can do a lot here—or do  
three S's: sun, sand, and the sooth



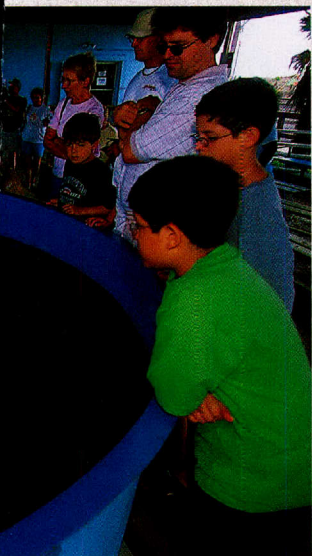
You gotta see the turtles at Sea Turtle, Inc.





Smooth sailing in warm Gulf waters.

Next-to-nothing. Whatever you choose, it's all within the context of the island's  
ring sound of salty surf.



A cyclist pedals past the South Padre Island Convention Centre.





© LANCE VARNELL

Scenic dunes just north of town make for a peaceful escape.

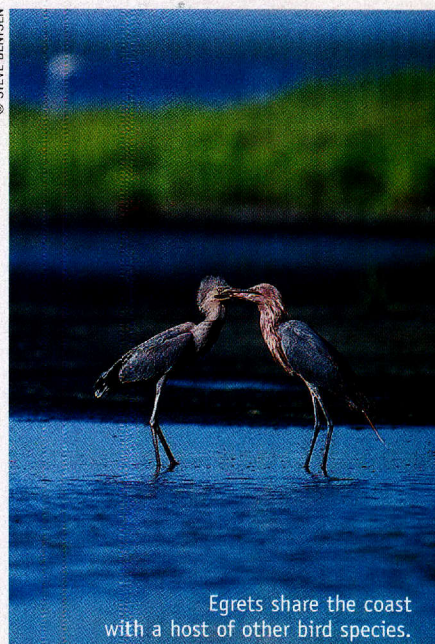
Make time to walk a stretch of the island's long, lovely Gulf beach.

© LARRY DITTO



Cast away. Surf fishing provides a popular pastime here.

© STEVE BENTSEN



Egrets share the coast with a host of other bird species.



## Get to the Point! Historic PORT ISABEL

Along the way, you'll find the *El Cristo de los Pescadores* statue, which faces the ship channel between gulf and bay at Isla Blanca Park, and blesses the area's fishermen on their way out to sea. (However, more than a couple of islanders told me that it was Jesus sharing a fish tale, as in, "I caught one this big.") On the north side of town, the Laguna Madre Nature Trail's bay-side boardwalk and adjacent, colorfully mod SPI Convention Centre (the latter of which has not only noteworthy whaling wall murals, but also a huge glazed sandcastle promoting the island's October festival) nicely mix the natural landscape with civilization. Nearby, Sea Turtle, Inc., on Padre Boulevard (the late Ila Loetscher's growing, ongoing "save the turtle" legacy) boasts worldwide acclaim. You must stop and say hi to director Jeff George, his staff, and these lovable amphibious creatures. It'll change your life.

**A**mong later activities of note during my island visit were a stop at popular Isla and Rica, Vern and Dainty Lewis' eye-catching beachwear boutiques on Padre Boulevard. The SPI life according to Vern: "I love to fish, surf, boat, and hoop. I can do all that right here." Farther south on the boulevard, at Sunchase Mall, Richard Stockton Photography shares the photographer's passion for the area. Richard enthusiastically observes, "There's so much beauty here!" At his shop, you'll find a variety of island images, from panoramic art prints to cards and refrigerator magnets. The UT Pan American Coastal Studies Lab, in Isla Blanca Park, contains interesting samples (crab, seahorse, starfish, etc.) of area marine biology.

Colley's Dolphin Cruise in Laguna Madre Bay is a must! The waters surrounding South Padre Island are home to significant numbers of dolphins, and to see these most-human of oceanic inhabitants in their native environment is an unforgettable thrill. George and Scarlet Colley's extensive knowledge and experience make the tour fun and educational. The dolphins make the tour heartwarming and breathtaking. Watching several bottle-nose dolphins playfully race an H-E-B shrimp boat through the channel and out to sea is an image I'll savor forever.



**Y**ou can't get to South Padre Island by car without going through this charming coastal community. And that's a good thing because Port Isabel is one of Texas' most inviting little towns, overflowing with a funky, relaxed, *mañana*, seaside, southern-latitude, Gulf-of-Mexico persona. The trump card is the historic Point Isabel Lighthouse (above), and if at all possible, you've gotta climb the circular stairwell to the top. The 360° view is grand. Stop in and chat with Port Isabel Chamber staff at their office near the base of the lighthouse. They're keen on passing along helpful information regarding Port Isabel and South Padre Island's restaurants, accommodations, history, and attractions.

For such a small place, a batch of divine discoveries awaits. Queen Isabella herself would enjoy the way-cool 1926 Yacht Club Hotel & Restaurant; good breakfasts at Manuel's Mexican Restaurant; the absolutely-do-not-miss Marchan's White Sands Seafood Restaurant; the shrimp boats docked just off Port Road; the most excellent pizza and pasta at Marcello's Italian Restaurant; the informative Port Isabel Historical Museum and adjacent Treasures of the Gulf Museum; the very long pier and waterfront seafood restaurant at Pirate's Landing, with its giant fish sculpture hooked to the world's largest rod and reel; pleasure boats at Southpoint Marina; various specialty shops around the quaint, cozy lighthouse square; and much more.

So, slow down and give yourself some time to appreciate some of Port Isabel's pleasures on your way to South Padre Island. In fact, make it a point.

—Marty Lange



If you simply want to ride like the wind, Southern Wave Sailing Charters traverse the bay daily, and it's a mighty relaxing trip. Wanna saddle up? The Island Equestrian Center provides the opportunity to ride a horse on the beach (see Adventure Tour, page 44). You don't have to possess the cowboy skills of Ty Murray. Children and first-timers are welcome, and the center's staff is topnotch and highly professional.

My accommodations were split among a new Travelodge, the Casa de Siesta B&B, and the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. All three were very nice. The sublime Casa de Siesta combines deluxe Mexican and New Mexican details of intricate tile patterns, colorful weavings, antique Southwest furniture, custom-crafted stained-glass windows, a central patio/plaza/pool with beautiful plants and flowers, and a great breakfast. I hope to stay at the Brown Pelican Inn on a return trip. It's a lovely New England-style inn that offers a splendid view of the bay.



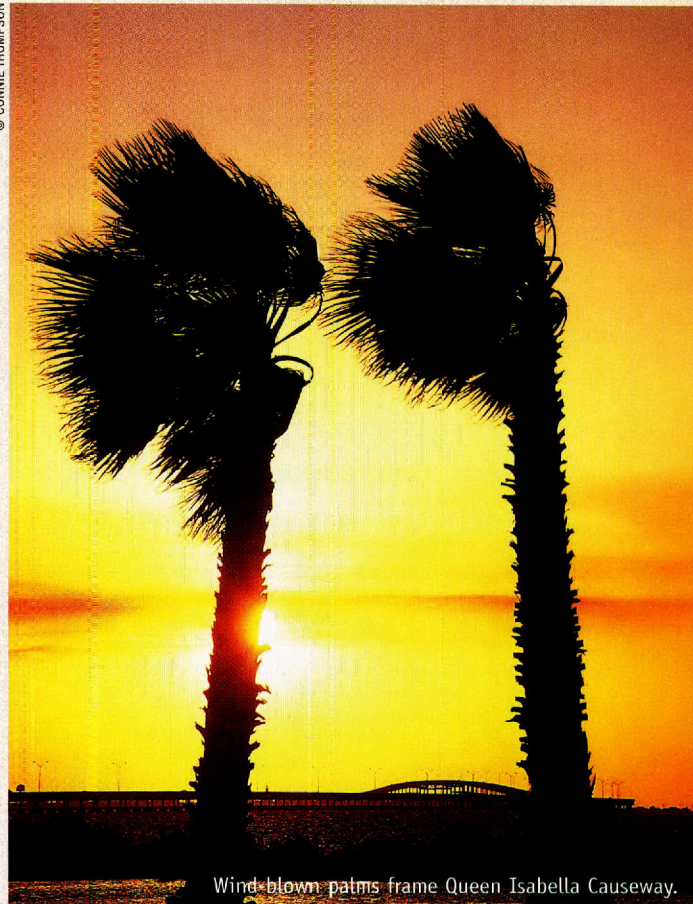
Casa de Siesta B&B comforts with Southwestern flair.

**and in my shoes.** Oh, yeah. Standing on Padre Boulevard in the middle of the island, looking east down a side street, seeing the Gulf's blue waters, and quickly turning 180° west and catching the sun's glint off Laguna Madre, reminded me that I was surrounded by water. Of course. It's an island! But not just any island. South Padre Island. And, thank goodness, it's not going anywhere anytime soon. The question remains: When are *you* going to South Padre? ★

With his trip to South Padre, assistant editor MARTY LANGE unleashed a whole new personal fixation on Hawaiian shirts.

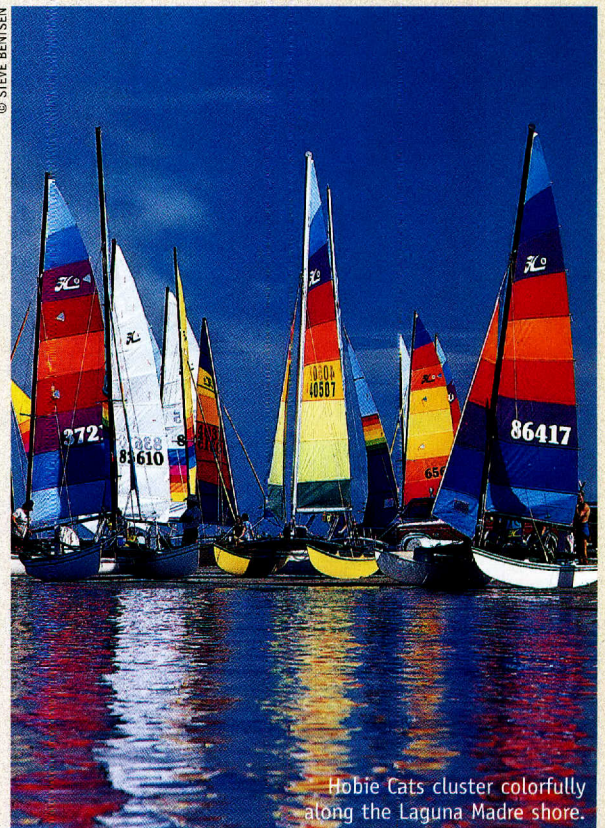
When Brownsville photographer BRAD DOHERTY is not shooting with his Leica camera, he likes exploring the beaches and surf of South Padre Island with Leica, his two-year-old Weimaraner.

© CONNIE THOMPSON



Wind-blown palms frame Queen Isabella Causeway.

© STEVE BENTSEN

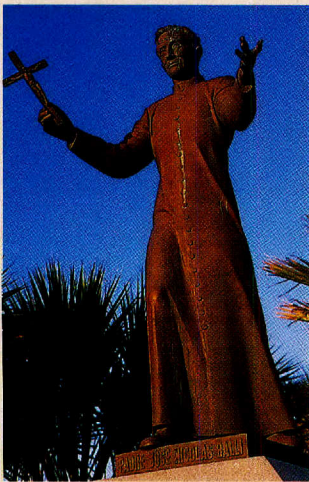


Hobie Cats cluster colorfully along the Laguna Madre shore.



## ESSENTIALS South Padre Island: Way Better than Gilligan's!

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND** is a 35-mile-long barrier island on the Gulf of Mexico in South Texas' Cameron County. The 3,500-resident community of South Padre Island occupies the island's southern tip. It's 40 miles southeast of Harlingen via US 77/83 and Texas 100, and 30 miles northeast of Brownsville via Texas 48 and Texas 100. The first-rate South Padre Island Convention & Visitors Bureau (600 Padre Blvd., 78597; 761-6433 or 800/767-2373; [www.sopadre.com](http://www.sopadre.com)) can answer most of your questions concerning the island. All area codes are 956; the SPI zip code is 78597.



Padre Ballí is the first South Padre welcome you encounter as you drive in on the causeway.

### ATTRACTIONS & SHOPS

**Padre J. Nicolas Ballí statue**, just east of Queen Isabella Causeway, in State Historic Marker turnaround.

**Island Fun Rentals**, 1800 Padre Blvd.; 761-8441.

**Schlitterbahn Beach Waterpark**, 90 Park Rd. 100; 772-SURF; [www.schlitterbahn.com](http://www.schlitterbahn.com).

**South Padre Island Convention Centre/Laguna Madre Nature Trail**, 7355 Padre Blvd.; 800/SO-PADRE.

**Island Equestrian Center**, north of town on Park Rd. 100; 761-HOSS.

**Isla Blanca Park**, 1 Padre Blvd.; 761-5493.

**El Cristo de los Pescadores statue**, Isla Blanca Park.

**UT Pan American Coastal Studies Lab, Isla Blanca Park**; 761-2644.

**Sea Turtle, Inc.**, 6617 Padre Blvd.; 761-1720; [www.seaturtleinc.com](http://www.seaturtleinc.com).

**Richard Stockton Photography/Richard's One Hour Photo**, Sunchase Mall, 1004 Padre Blvd., Ste. A-1, Box 3893; 761-1355; [www.stocktonphotography.com](http://www.stocktonphotography.com).

**Isla & Rica**, 2805 Padre Blvd.; 761-4090.

**Colley's Fin2Feather.com Tours**, Sea Ranch Marina; 739-2473.

**Southern Wave Sailing Charters**, 201 W. Pike at Laguna Blvd.; 772-SAIL.

### LODGING & RESTAURANTS

**Travelodge**, 6200 Padre Blvd.; 761-4744 or 800/578-7878.

© LARRY DITTO



A proud pelican perched on a piling ponders its next seaborne snack.

**Casa de Siesta B&B**, 4610 Padre Blvd.; 761-5656; [www.casadesiesta.com](http://www.casadesiesta.com).

**Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort**, 100 Padre Blvd.; 761-5401 or 800/HOLIDAY.

**Sea Ranch Restaurant**, 1 Padre Blvd.; 761-1314.

**Ted's**, 5717 Padre Blvd.; 761-5327.

**The Grapevine Cafe**, 100 E. Swordfish; 761-VINE.



**Louie's Backyard**, 2305 Laguna Blvd.; 761-6406.

**Naturally's Health Food Store, Cafe & Juice Bar**, 5712 Padre Blvd., Ste. 3; 761-5332; [www.naturallysouthpadre.com](http://www.naturallysouthpadre.com).

**Pizza X-Press**, 3112 Padre Blvd.; 761-7273.

**PORT ISABEL**, southeast of Harlingen and northeast of Brownsville, on picturesque Laguna Madre, is the gateway to the Queen Isabella Causeway and South Padre Island. The Port Isabel Chamber (Lighthouse Square, 421 Queen Isabella Blvd., 78578; 943-2262; [www.portisabel.org](http://www.portisabel.org)) is quick to provide helpful information regarding the community and surrounding Gulf Coast attractions. Port I's area code is 956; the zip is 78578.

### ATTRACTIONS & SHOPS

**Historic Point Isabel Lighthouse State Historic Site, Lighthouse Square**; 943-2262.

**Museums of Port Isabel**, 317 E. Railroad; 943-7602.

**Pirate's Landing Fishing Pier**, N. Garcia; 943-PIER.

**Southpoint Marina**, 500 Southpoint Dr.; 943-7926.

### LODGING & RESTAURANTS

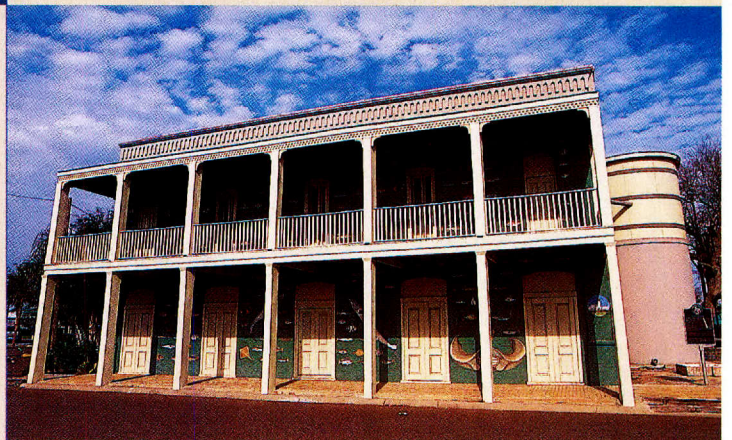
**Marchan's White Sands Seafood Restaurant, Motor Lodge & Marina**, 418 W. Texas 100; 943-2414; [www.the-white-sands-com](http://www.the-white-sands-com).

**Yacht Club Hotel & Restaurant**, 700 Yturria St.; 943-1301.

**Manuel's**, 313 Maxan; 943-1655.

**Marcello's Italian Restaurant & Lighthouse Pub**, 110 N. Tamava St.; 943-7611.

**Pirate's Landing Restaurant**, 110 N. Garcia; 943-FOOD.



Port Isabel's Yacht Club Hotel and Restaurant (top) dates to the Twenties. The 1899 Champion Building (above) houses the Port Isabel Historical Museum.





## Just Say Neigh! South Padre by Horseback

BY DAN MORRISON

**M**ost visitors to South Padre Island see only the first few miles of it, the heart of the beachfront city. Some of the best parts of the island, however, lie beyond the five miles of paved road, out at the edge of the surf, on the north side of town, and in the quiet, grassy tidal flats on Laguna Madre, along the island's western side. Perhaps the best way to visit those parts of the island is on horseback.

The Island Equestrian Center, owned by Doyle Wells, has been offering guided group rides on the beach for more than a decade, and Hank Martin has worked at the center for most of that time. "We have about 120 horses here," says Hank, "and that allows us to rotate the stock and keep fresh horses available at all times."

It was midweek last year when my 12-year-old son, Alex, and I signed up for a morning ride that began at 10:30. Although Alex had never been on a horse before, Hank soon had him astride a large but appropriately gentle animal. "We try to accommodate everyone," says Hank. "We had a woman here last week who was 77 years old and had never been on a horse. We have 11- and 12-year-olds who are very accomplished riders. We make the effort to match the rider and the horse."

No clip-clop here. Riders on South Padre enjoy coastal breezes and the sounds of the surf.





© RICHARD STOCKTON

Joining us on our ride was a group of high school girls visiting South Padre for a cheerleader competition, which put Alex in heaven, except that, because of his age, he was the only one required to wear a riding helmet.

After we had all settled onto our mounts, Hank explained the drill: "A typical hour-and-a-half ride is to go out, go up the beach, do some cantering for those who want to, and return home at a walk."

Hank led us out of the stable area and quickly onto the beach on the island's Gulf side. He encouraged us to ride in the surf, and we were soon spread out in a long, meandering line.

After several minutes, he gathered us together and said he was going to break us up into two groups, one for those who wanted to canter and



© DAN MORRISON

Alex Morrison (center) heads out on one of the morning rides offered by the Island Equestrian Center. This was his first time on a horse.

**"To ride on South Padre Island is an unusual opportunity," says our guide, Hank Martin. "There are very few places left in the world where you can lope along miles of open beach."**

gallop, and the other for those happy just to mosey. Alex and I chose the former, and although it was his first time on a horse, Alex was soon loping down the beach, having the time of his life. "This is like flying!" he shouted as we raced along.

Hank eventually gathered us together again and led us across to the western, bay side

(Laguna Madre) of the island. "To ride on South Padre Island is an unusual opportunity," Hank told me as we eventually headed back to the stables. "There are very few places left in the world where you can lope along miles of open beach."

And, of course, Hank knows South Padre intimately. "My favorite time of year is probably the fall," he said. "October is a great month to be on the island. It's much quieter, and the water is warm enough that you can play in it. The temperature and the humidity have moderated just enough to make it pleasant."

Once we arrived back at the stables, the staff helped each of us safely dismount. "That was great, Dad!" Alex exclaimed, still flushed from the excitement of galloping through the ocean spray. "I want to be an outlaw someday!" As that isn't exactly part of the career path my wife and I see for our son, another trip to South Padre, and perhaps an evening ride, will have to do. ★

### ESSENTIALS Giddy-Up, Padre

**ISLAND EQUESTRIAN CENTER, INC.**, is on South Padre Island, 1 mile north of the Convention Center, on Padre Blvd. (see map, page 43); 956/761-4677 or 800/761-HOSS (4677); [www.horsesonthebeach.com](http://www.horsesonthebeach.com). Open year round, weather permitting. Rates and schedules for rides change seasonally, so call ahead or check the Web site. Groups and riders of all skill levels welcome. Age 6 and older allowed on beach rides (pony rides available for age 5 and younger). Helmets available for everyone and required for age 12 and younger. Call for reservations or more information.

In next month's Adventure Tour, DAN MORRISON and his son Sam will hike the 4-C Trail in Davy Crockett National Forest.



*Yippee ti yi yo, git along  
little.....* TURKEYS?

**T**hat's right, pardner, turkeys. That was the version sung in DeWitt County decades ago, when farmers herded gobblers to the county seat of Cuero for a celebration called the Turkey Trot.

You might still hear the song today at the town's annual Turkeyfest, held the second weekend of October. Folks also frequent Cuero for its vintage downtown, filled with entrepreneurial *joie de vivre*. And come spring, thousands of wildflower lovers gambol down DeWitt County lanes, enchanted by the "Wildflower Capital of Texas."

Turkeyfest (October 11-13, 2002) offers more fun than a barrel of giggling gobblers. Events include street dances, BBQ cookoffs, arts and crafts, a carnival, a kiddie parade, a petting zoo, an antique-tractor show, a Living History camp, and a PRCA Rodeo. There'll be burning rubber in the lawnmower race, and the Turk Olympics will feature the Four Man Frozen Turkey Toss and the Turkey Egg on a Spoon Relay.

In 1960 (below) and decades earlier (right), more poultry than people gathered in the streets of Cuero, called the "Turkey Capital of the World." The Turkey Trot, which began in 1912, changed names, to Turkeyfest, in 1973.



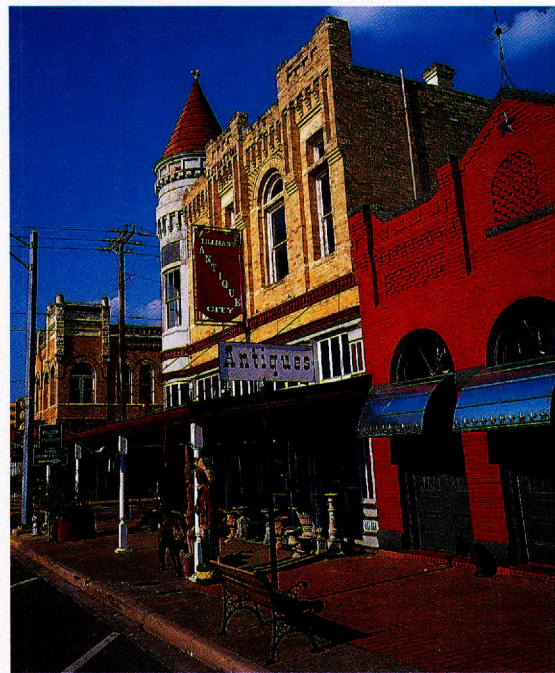
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During TURKEYFEST's 30th celebration this month, Ruby Begonia, Cuero's turkey speedster



# ERO



For the first third of the 20th Century, Texas led the nation in turkey production, and most of those gobblers came from DeWitt County. By 1968, a year after the Turkey Trot pictured at top, Texas turkey numbers had fallen to fifth place. Today, on Esplanade (above) and other streets, shoppers can gobble up antiques and other neat stuff.

COLOR PHOTOS ON PAGE 46 AND TOP COURTESY CUERO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE  
HISTORICAL PHOTO COURTESY LENZ COLLECTION, CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY, UT-AUSTIN

...races a Minnesota gobbler named Paycheck.

By Gene Fowler · Photographs by Kevin B. Stillman





Inspired by Moses Austin, Kentuckian Green C. DeWitt obtained a grant from the Mexican government in 1825 to establish a colony in Texas. DeWitt County (courthouse shown above) was organized in 1846. The DeWitt County Historical Museum (right), housed in the 19th-Century Bates-Sheppard home from Indianola, chronicles the area's history and serves as "Wildflower Central" during the county's annual wildflower celebration.

"But the main event of Turkeyfest," says fest president Stacey Cordes, "is the Great Gobbler Gallop." The race pits Cuero's own turkey speedster, Ruby Begonia, against Paycheck, a fleet-of-foot feathered foe from Worthington, Minnesota. "Both towns have claimed the title of Turkey Capital of the World," explains Stacey, "so we settle the issue each September with a race in Worthington and a second heat in October in Cuero. The winner takes home the Traveling Turkey Trophy of Tumultuous Triumph, and the loser gets the Circulating Consolation Cup of Consummate Commiseration."

Though turkey farming is no longer a staple in DeWitt County, this year's gobbler gala marks the 30th anniversary of Turkeyfest. A permanent exhibit at the Cuero Heritage Museum, *Cuero Talks Turkey*, provides an entertaining look at the event's predecessor, the famed Turkey Trot, which took its name from a popular song and dance. Blowups of color postcards show thousands of turkeys parading through Cuero during the 15 Trots held between 1912 and 1972. National press called it "the largest display of turkeys in the universe." News clips on view even cover discussion of the Trot in Congress.



Locals have been gathering at the Doll House Cafe for 70 years. When the cafe opened in the 1930s, the original owner held a contest to name it. At the time, it was a tiny building. In 1956, three buildings were joined to enlarge the place. Bowtie Brown (foreground) joins other regulars here for coffee every morning.





Gerald Zengerle, owner of the Reuss Pharmacy Museum, on Esplanade Street, has artifacts covering more than a century and a half of apothecarial history. German immigrant Dr. Joseph Martin Reuss moved his pharmacy to Cuero from Indianola in the early 1870s.

Seems the Cuero Post Office had applied for a Turkey Trot cancellation stamp, and the national lawmakers—before capitulating—fretted that the Turkey Trot dance was too “suggestive” to adorn the town’s outbound mail.

Photographs and exotic costumes depict the Trot’s Turkish theme, in which locals were crowned Sultan Yekrat (read it backwards) and Sultana Oreuc (ditto). In time, the exhibit text relates, the Trot featured “a cast of thousands, including handmaidens, goddesses, delegations from the galaxies, astrologers, explorers, and even Romeo and Juliet and Adam and Eve.”

The museum occupies the handsome 1915 former post office (as does the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture). Other venerable buildings offer healthy doses of whimsy as well. On Main Street, Jo Mills describes her store, called Beyond Beyond—part of which once held a saloon where notorious outlaw John Wesley Hardin is said to have guzzled rye—as “heavenly situated” and “earthly priced.” An “interior stylist,” Jo combines antiques and accessories in designs that induce “inspiration, ideas, smiles, sighs, oohs and aahs in abundance.”

Formerly based in Fredericksburg and Horseshoe Bay, Jo shelved a planned retirement to open Beyond Beyond. “I visited 50 towns and chose Cuero,” she explains, “where amazing people, fabulous stores, and incredible happenings prevail.” Throughout the store, subtly crafted signs contain wise sayings: “In all things of nature, there is something of the marvelous,” reads the handle of a shovel.

In another old brick building across the street, Miss Lucy’s Resale Shop buys and sells furniture, antiques, primitives, collectibles, and “Lots of Nik-Naks!” But there is no human Miss Lucy. “I named the shop after my long-haired dachshund,” con-

fesses proprietor Michelle Taylor Huck.

Around the corner, on Esplanade Street, Kleider-Shranks specializes in antique dolls and toys. Just down the street, a wooden Indian, an elephant statue, and a vintage sleigh stand on the sidewalk outside the Gallery of Memories. Also called Tillman’s Antique City, the shop fills the former Hotel Texas, a distinctive 1894 brick building accented by a turret.

Across the street, the 100-plus-year-old Wagner Hardware thrives in an era of cookie-cutter retail. Built with bricks made in Cuero, the building still has its original wood floors and ironwork. Store artifacts, such as a Winchester Repeating Arms bullet board (an advertising poster showing various types of actual ammunition), line the upper shelves. “We had all that mess up there when it wasn’t cool to have all that mess up there,” says Beverly Wagner, tongue-in-cheek.

Echoing other local merchants, Bob Wagner, Beverly’s father-in-law, says many customers make the hour-and-a-half drive from Austin or San Antonio to shop in Cuero. “They enjoy walking from store to store,” adds Bob. “It makes for a neat little experience.”

## Sons, Daughters, Artists, Heroes

A fair share of Cuero natives and residents gained renown far beyond her fair outskirts. Noted Shakespearean scholar Kate Harrison Friend lived in Cuero for a time before moving to Waco in 1885. Rancher and wildlife advocate Caesar Kleberg was born in the Turkey Capital, as were the artists Edward Muegge (Buck) Schiwetz; Buck’s brother, sculptor Berthold (Tex) Schiwetz; Thomas Matthew Stell Jr., one of the Dallas Nine, a group of regional artists prominent in the 1930s and ’40s; and modernist Charles Schorre. Pole vaulter Fred Hansen, a star athlete at Rice University in the early 1960s, brought home the Gold from the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. Novelist Donald Joseph modeled the characters of his 1946 novel, *Straw in the South Wind*, on some of his hometown’s residents. A story of “social injustice in the South,” the book was praised by *The Dallas Morning News* as “deeply sensitive and significant.”

Serving aboard the U.S.S. *San Francisco* in 1942 during the battle of Guadalcanal, Cuero’s Leonard Roy Harmon was killed while rescuing fellow sailors hit by enemy gunfire. Posthumously, he was awarded the Navy Cross for “extraordinary heroism,” and in 1943, the U.S.S. *Harmon* became the first Navy ship named for an African American. A Texas Historical Commission marker in Cuero Municipal Park pays further tribute to the brave Cuero native.

—Gene Fowler





Above, Patrick Regan brings a wee bit o' the old country to folks at the Cuero Heritage Museum. At right above, Mariachi Tradición Jalisciense from Victoria lit up the local scene in June during Cuero's annual Shakespeare in the Country festival.



Trail doin's begins at 8 a.m. with a cowboy breakfast in an open area next to Wells Fargo on Esplanade. Cowboy storyteller Grady Lee will uncork a yarn or two at 9:30, and at 10, Cuero dignitaries will host Texas Historical Commission folks for the local unveiling of the THC's Chisholm Trail heritage-tourism brochure.

Come 4 o'clock that afternoon, eight or nine chuck wagons will start smokin' at Taste of the Trail, a museum fund-raiser on the Oliver Ranch near Cheapside (15 miles north of Cuero). Cowboy poet and songwriter Red Steagall will entertain trail tasters and toasters.

By all accounts, Cuero's Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum, set to open in 2006, promises to be a humdinger. "When it opens," says Sara Post, "we'll be a town with four museums and one grocery store." Sara is director of the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

The Reuss Pharmacy Museum, on Esplanade, displays artifacts from 157 years of Texas drugstore history (see "Historic Texas Pharmacies," September 1997), and, over on Broadway Street, the DeWitt County Historical Museum's treasures include two fine portraits of Texas governors Pendleton Murrah and Fletcher Stockdale. "I found one of the

**N**ear Wagner's, a banner spanning the 1903 Knights of Pythias building announces the future Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum. "This was a big procurement area for the trail drives," says Robert Oliver, chairman of the museum board. A monument at the 1896 DeWitt County Courthouse recounts a drive of

1,800 Longhorns that headed 'em up and moved 'em out from Cardwell Flats, a site near Cuero, on April 1, 1866. Storekeeper Crockett Cardwell hired Thornton Chisholm as trail boss, and the route that Thornton blazed became a tributary to the "official" Chisholm Trail, named for Jesse Chisholm (no known relation to Thornton).

On November 9, a full day of Chisholm





paintings stored in the courthouse tower,” says museum board member Patsy Goebel.

The front part of the museum, known as the Bates-Sheppard House, was moved from Indianola and reassembled after a second hurricane destroyed the pioneer seaport in 1886. Seven or eight other such homes still stand in Cuero, and furniture in the museum also came from Indianola. A temporary exhibit of photographs, letters, and other Indianola artifacts is on view through December 1. An annual April show features fresh specimens of some of the 1,000 wildflowers native to the county (see “DeWitt County’s Wildflower Bounty,” April 1995).

In a log cabin on the museum grounds, Patsy points to the wooden tombstones of Mace Arnold and G.J. Hendrix, both of whom died in their boots on December 27, 1875, victims of DeWitt County’s bloody and complicated Sutton-Taylor Feud, which lasted for a decade following the Civil War. In his 1880 book, *The Texas Vendetta*, Victor Rose attributed the “ghastly Saturnalia” to “the irregular manner in which nomadic stock-raisers conducted their business.” In the 1950s, historian C.L. Sonnichsen noted that no other Texas spat “covered so much ground, lasted so long, caused so many deaths, or left such a brand on the lives of so many people.”

Needless to say, folks are a lot friendlier around Cuero these days. You’ll notice it at the Brown Bag Concerts, presented in the downtown gazebo by the Cuero Cultural & Heritage Foundation and the Chamber of Commerce. A Dixieland band makes sweet music on October 4, and local talent entertains on December 6. “In June, we’ll sponsor another weekend of Shakespeare in the Country,” adds foundation chairman Tempy McLeod. “Last year, we had per-

formances by Shakespeare-at-Winedale, the Victoria Symphony, and other groups.”

With so much going for a community of 6,500, it’s easy to see how Sara Post manages to keep it fresh each time she recites the town motto: “Cuero...the way life ought to be.” ★

GENE FOWLER wrote about Los Caminos del Rio in last month’s issue on Hispanic heritage.

KEVIN STILLMAN enjoyed photographing Cuero. He especially liked 180-acre Municipal Park and the folks at the Doll House Cafe.

## ESSENTIALS Cuero

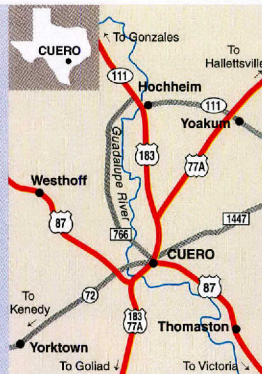
**CUERO**, seat of DeWitt County, is about 75 miles southeast of San Antonio, where Texas 72, US 183, and US 87 meet. Write to the Cuero Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, 124 E. Church; 361/275-2112; [www.cuero.org](http://www.cuero.org). In town, stop by for a driver’s guide to historic homes (\$3). The area code is 361; the zip code is 77954.

Cuero is on the Guadalupe Loop of the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail.

**MUSEUMS** Cuero Heritage Museum, 124 E. Church; 275-2112. DeWitt County Historical Museum, 312 E. Broadway; 275-6322. Reuss Pharmacy Museum, 515 N. Esplanade; 275-3411. The Chisholm Trail Heritage Museum (Box 866; 830/236-5533; [www.chisholmtrailmuseum.org](http://www.chisholmtrailmuseum.org)) will open in 2006.

**A MERE SAMPLER OF CUERO SHOPPING** Beyond Beyond, 118 E. Main; 275-0999. Miss Lucy’s Resale Shop, 127 E. Main; 275-2217. Kleider-Shranks, 113 N. Esplanade; 275-6621 or 275-2059. Gallery of Memories (Tillman’s Antique City), 121 N. Esplanade; 275-9226 or 800/864-3502. Wagner Hardware, 110 N. Esplanade; 275-5134. Red Miller Custom Woodworks, 122 E. Main; 275-WOOD. Farmhouse (“farm fresh linens,” etc.), 115 E. Main; 277-3276.

**VITTLES AND PILLOWS** In small towns, I keep my eyes peeled for the classic diner or cafe on the square, the type of place that’s fast disappearing. For a basic plate lunch, don’t miss the Doll House Cafe, a Cuero mini-landmark since the 1930s; 206 E. Broadway, 275-2627. Lunch is also served at The Secret Garden (Tea Room and Watergarden Nursery); 703 N. Hunt, 277-6637. Downtown, grab a sandwich at Main



Street Books and Coffee (and peruse books by regional writers, such as Cuero native Annette Sanford), 104 E. Main, 275-6890, or at Hamp’s Market (sandwiches, salads, gourmet coffees and teas, antiques, junk-tiques), 115 N. Esplanade, 275-0160. Cuero also boasts 3 BBQ places, 4 Tex-Mex eateries, various fast-food joints, and the Landmark (breakfast, lunch, dinner), 604 N. Esplanade, 275-2166.

Cuero has several nice motels and 3 historic bed and breakfasts: Wildflower Inn, 407 E. Broadway, 275-0250; Broadway House, 402 E. Broadway, 275-3088; and Clayton Street Guest House, 206 W. Clayton, 275-3232.

**EVENTS** The annual Turkeyfest takes place in City Park, just east of downtown, Oct. 11-13, 2002. Contact the C of C; [www.turkeyfest.org](http://www.turkeyfest.org).

Brown Bag Concerts, Oct. 4 and Dec. 6, 11:30-1:30, at the gazebo on Main.

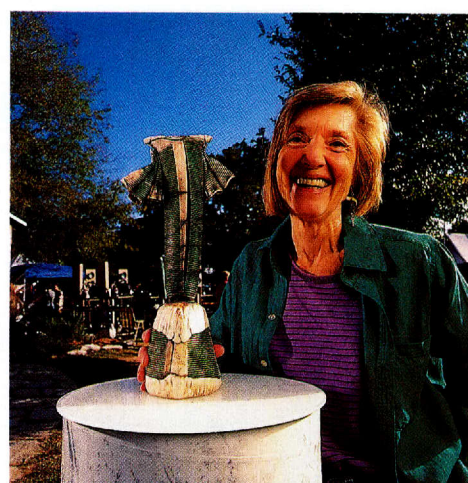
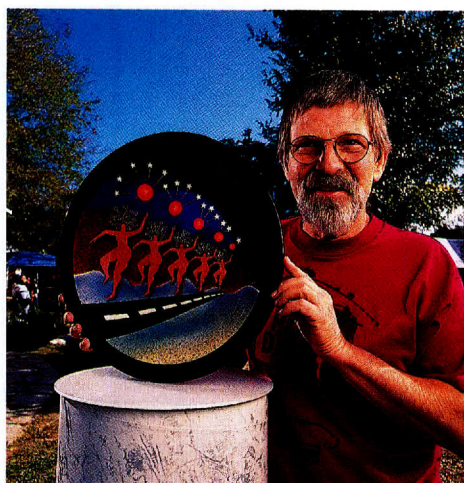
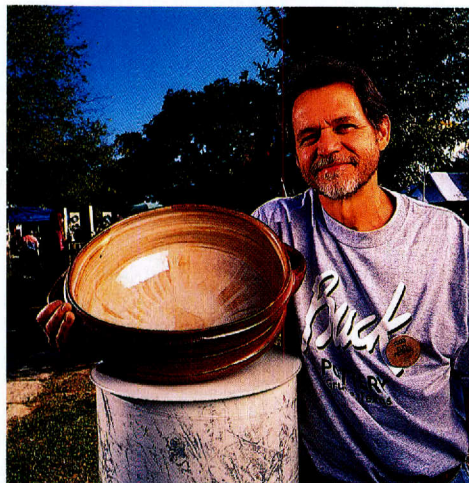
Shakespeare in the Country returns in June. Write to the Cuero Cultural & Heritage Foundation, c/o the C of C; email: [tempy.mcleod@att.net](mailto:tempy.mcleod@att.net).

Cowboy Breakfast, Storytelling, Chisholm Trail Brochure Unveiling, and Taste of the Trail Museum Fundraiser (\$75 per head for the latter) takes place Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. ‘til the cows come home. Contact the C of C; [www.tasteofthetrail.com](http://www.tasteofthetrail.com).

Dance ‘Round DeWitt. In April, each of DeWitt County’s five 100-year-old German dance halls will host a weekend dance. “Most of the halls are constructed in a polygon supported by a center pole, which in May serves as a Maypole,” explains Sara Post. Contact the C of C.

DeWitt Co. Lanes and Byways, a wildflower celebration, takes place each April. Contact the C of C; [www.dewittwildflowers.org](http://www.dewittwildflowers.org).





## 10TH ANNUAL TEXAS CLAY FESTIVAL

BY NOLA MCKEY • PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

# A Celebration

Each fall, potters from across Texas gather under spreading oaks in the Hill Country hamlet of Gruene to purvey their wares and share knowledge of their craft at the Texas Clay Festival. This year's event (October 26-27), on the spacious grounds of Buck Pottery, marks the 10th anniversary of the festival with more than 40 potters showing their work, continual demonstrations at five stations, and a kids' pottery area.

Blanco potter Jon Brieger says many of his fellow Texas potters consider the Gruene show their favorite, not only statewide, but also nationally. They like the picturesque quality of this historic community, set on the banks of the Guadalupe River, as well as the laid-back ambiance of the festival itself. San Marcos potter Billy Ray Mangham agrees. He says, "I do about 20 shows a year all over the country, and this one is definitely the most fun."

Festival-goers share their enthusiasm. An atmosphere of delight and discovery prevails as people wander among the huge old live oaks, watching demonstrations, checking out the pottery on display, and comparing their finds with those of other

shoppers. Although admission is free, you won't find any elbow-to-elbow scenes here—just an amiable mix of casually dressed folks milling about, many with children or a pampered pup in tow. Hay bales scattered around the grounds serve as handy resting spots. On a typical late-fall day, a gentle breeze blows, birds chirp pleasantly overhead, and for pottery-lovers, life is good.

Its picture-postcard setting aside, the Texas Clay Festival gets high marks from visitors for the number and variety of demonstrations it offers. Unless you work very hard at it, you can't attend this festival and *not* learn something. With demos offered continually at five sites throughout the weekend (most potters demonstrate at least once), engaging educational opportunities abound.

For example, Billy Ray and Dallas-area potter Randy Broadnax demonstrate raku-firing hourly (with much fanfare) in a large circle in the middle of the grounds. Raku-firing, a quick-firing technique originated by the Japanese in the 16th Century, involves placing a pot in a hot kiln for a few minutes,

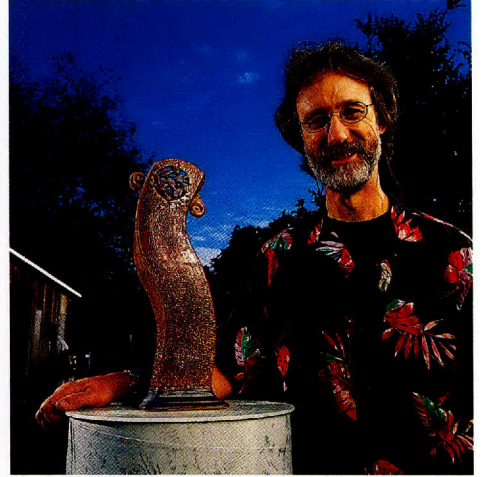
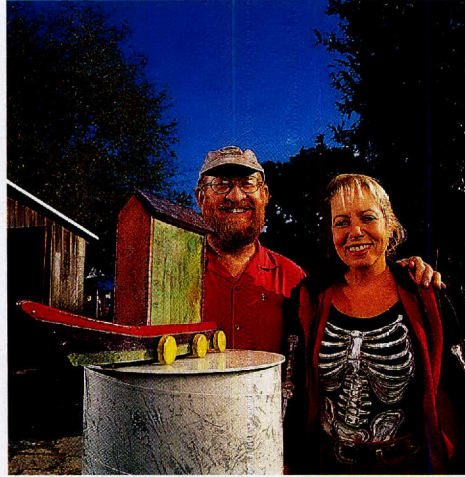
then pulling it out while hot and smoking it in a metal container filled with newspaper, leaves, or brush. Between the noise of the kiln and the potters' booming narrative, the demonstrations prove quite a spectacle.

Not surprisingly, the potters who demonstrate wheel-throwing also draw a lot of attention. There's just something magical about watching a blob of wet clay suddenly take shape as a perfectly symmetrical bowl or vase before your very eyes.

Sitting behind a potter's wheel, David Hendley, a potter from the East Texas town of Maydelle, "throws" a pot, spinning the clay on the wheel and forming it with his hands as he talks about the different stages of pottery. He explains that wet pots (the first stage) get lighter in color as they dry out. He says, "When you've made the pot and need to pick it up to work on it, you want it to be leather-hard [the second stage], which means that the clay is still somewhat wet, but dry enough so that you can attach more clay. The next stage is greenware, which means it's ready to be fired. After the first firing, it's called bisque-ware. Then you usually apply a glaze and fire the pot again."

[TOP, BOTH PAGES] Pottery-lovers find a range of earthy works at the Texas Clay Festival—functional and sculptural, wheel-thrown and hand-built. Potters include (from left) Dee Buck, Roger Allen, Rebecca Roberts, Mary Fischer, Billy Ray Mangham (and his wife, Beverly), and David Hendley.





# of Earth, Hand, and Fire



Spectators gather around Austin potter Michael Biechlin as he throws a vase. Michael's high-fired porcelain pieces feature multiple glazes and decorative brushwork. Demonstrators rotate among four stations throughout the two-day festival; raku-firing takes place hourly.



A few of the onlookers watch the demonstrators intently, soaking up practical tips and taking notes. Gail Burrier of Port Aransas, a retiree and beginning potter, falls into this category. "I've spent most of the morning just watching the demonstrations on the wheel," she says, "but I want to watch the others, too. I'm so impressed with the demonstrators; they're extremely helpful. The gentleman over there said, 'That's the way with potters—they tell everything they know.'"

Children comprise another group of interested spectators. Demonstrating at a low table under what must be the oldest tree on the property, San Antonio potter Katie Pell finds herself surrounded by youngsters, from toddlers to preteens. She invites the children to help her make "clay roses," which she attaches to already formed pots. As she teaches the group how to roll the clay, she asks, "Does anyone know where clay comes from?"

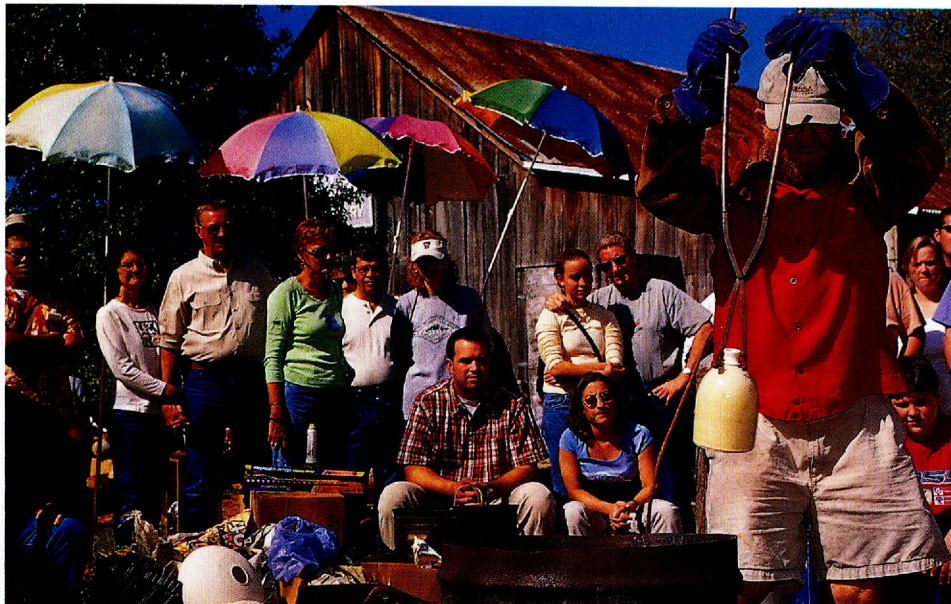
"The backyard...the ground...the dirt!" the children respond.

## FROM CLAY TO POT

It doesn't get more basic than this: Clay taken from the ground, formed by the human hand, and hardened by heat becomes pottery. But within those parameters, potters unearth a world of possibilities. They use varied clays, usually in combination with other materials. Some build pots (or other clay wares) entirely by hand, coiling rope-like lengths of clay or assembling slabs rolled for that purpose. Others use a potter's wheel and "throw" their pots. Still others cast their creations, using liquid clay and molds. Consider also the infinite number of recipes for glazes and ways of applying them, the various techniques of decoration or embellishment, and the different methods of firing (wood and other fuels are still used, though electric kilns are more predictable), and you begin to understand—and appreciate—the range of results.

A word about terms. Most potters use the words *ceramics* and *pottery* interchangeably, and some refer to themselves as *ceramicists*. The trade classifies finished clay works as *earthenware*, *stoneware*, or *porcelain*, depending on the density of the clay and the temperature at which it's fired, with porcelain being the densest. The degree of density determines the strength and durability of a piece, but each type of pottery has its attributes. For example, earthenware has a low-shrink factor that makes it ideal for some projects, and stoneware has a characteristically grainy texture considered desirable by many potters.

While scientific knowledge and experience play their roles in this ancient craft, most potters will tell you that no matter how skillful they are, or how well they know the material they're working with, they're never completely sure how something they've created will turn out once it's fired. This unpredictability delights and challenges them as artists, and it adds another dimension to our enjoyment of their work.



Raku artist Billy Ray Mangham lifts a still-hot pot from a kiln before placing it in a barrel filled with newspaper. The finished piece will have the smoky exterior characteristic of raku-fired pots.

"That's right," says Katie. "It's just a special kind of mud. There's a lot of clay in Texas. Now, here's another thing you can do..."

Watching this exchange, you don't have to be an educator to appreciate the value of "teachable moments." While kids don't always participate in the demonstrations, there's a special hands-on area for them, where they can play with clay, use simple tools to add texture, and make their own creations.

On a more academic note, Charley Pritchard of Luling Icehouse Pottery teams up with Richard Kinz of the Wilson Pottery Foundation to present a pottery-history lesson twice on Saturday. Trained in the North Carolina pottery tradition, Charley will

demonstrate aspects of that area's pottery and explain how it relates to early Texas stoneware. Richard will talk about the history and stoneware of the Wilson Potteries (see facing page), which operated near Seguin between 1857 and 1903.

With all the enlightenment taking place here, you might wonder if festival-goers find time to buy any pottery. More than a few serious collectors and repeat buyers attend the show each year, so the answer is yes. And the competition for certain potters' works can be stiff.

One of the hottest artists for the last several years is Seabrook potter Vorakit Chinookoswong (known as V. Chin). Born in Thailand, V. Chin worked under master potters in Japan, then moved to Seabrook in 1980. His elegant porcelain and stoneware pottery usually includes a depiction of a frog.

Austin remodeling contractor and furniture builder Curtis Gravatt says he's delighted with his purchase of a small, blue-green bowl from V. Chin. "I've always wanted to have a piece of Mr. Chin's pottery, and I usually get here too late to buy it. His stuff goes very fast."

For his part, V. Chin says he likes coming to this festival because "most of the customers already know about clay." He continues, "Also, when (continued on page 56)



## THE WILSON POTTERIES

In the days before stainless steel canisters and plastic milk jugs—and easy access to ice—our ancestors relied on stoneware for food storage, as well as for many other household needs. The



Vessels from the Hiram Wilson Pottery (left), the J.M. Wilson Pottery (center), and the Durham-Chandler-Wilson Pottery (right).

demand for this strong, high-fired, nonporous pottery, along with the expense of importing it from other areas of the country, prompted the opening of numerous Texas potteries in the last half of the 19th Century. Many of these enterprises opened along the Wilcox Formation, a band of clay that stretches northeast across the eastern half of the state.

Three of these sites, known collectively as the Wilson Potteries, operated in Guadalupe County, near Capote, southeast of Seguin. Today, their history has inspired an archeological dig, a museum exhibit, and a family's mission.

The story begins with John McCamey Wilson Jr., a Presbyterian minister from North Carolina who brought his family to the Seguin area in the winter of 1856-57. He established a pottery, known as the J.M. Wilson

Pottery, on Salt Creek in 1857.

"John McCamey Wilson never threw a pot in his life," notes Wilson Potteries expert Richard Kinz, a surveyor and former archeological steward with the Texas Historical Commission in Guadalupe County. "But he had his slaves trained by some experienced potters who came through the region. They taught the slaves how to throw pots and apply glazes. Of course, not long after this, the slaves became free."

Accounts differ as to details, but around 1869, the potters at the original site relocated to two nearby sites. Most authorities say that one site was run by Marion J. Durham (a white man) and John Chandler (a black man), both of whom had come to Texas from South Carolina, where their families were well known in the stoneware industry. (Durham and Chandler may have been employed by Reverend Wilson earlier.) The other site was run by former slaves—Hiram, James, and Wallace Wilson. (Hiram, the oldest, was the owner.) Although all three men took the Wilson name after Emancipation, it's not known whether they were closely related or only slave-brothers.

Their business, known as the Hiram Wilson Pottery—the first recorded African-American enterprise in Texas—produced utilitarian stoneware with distinctive designs. For example, the handles on some of the storage jars were horseshoe-shaped and smaller than those on jars produced at the original Salt Creek site. Another distinctive feature was that the vessels were always stamped "H. Wilson & Co." (an unusual practice at the time). "Today," says Richard Kinz, "stoneware with that mark is highly collectible and sells for hundreds—sometimes thousands—of dollars."

The Hiram Wilson Pottery thrived until shortly after Hiram's death, in 1884. An article in the Fall 1999 issue of *Heritage* states that James and Wallace Wilson then went to work at the Durham-Chandler site, which remained in business until 1903. The article's authors, Marie Blake, Steve Johnson, and Richard Kinz, sum up the significance of the Wilson Potteries: "These sites provided vessels such as crocks, jars, and jugs for food storage and preservation in South Central Texas for 56 years. The men who worked these sites were white and black, and were bound together in a tradition that survived slavery and the Civil War."

Abandoned for decades, the Wilson Potteries were formally recorded as archeological sites in 1971. The story might have ended there, except for Richard Kinz's interest. While doing a survey for a local landowner several years ago, he became intrigued with the potteries when he found some pottery shards.

By digging in county records, Richard discovered a partition deed that showed Wilson descendants still had a claim on the Durham-Chandler-Wilson Pottery site. He contacted some family members, and in 1998, some of the descendants formed the Wilson Pottery Foundation, which now holds the deed to the five-acre site.

Interest among family members is high: More than 600 attended last June's Wilson family reunion in Seguin, some having come from as far away as Germany and Japan. The foundation plans to restore the pottery as a living museum so people can learn about the family legacy and see how the pots were made.

In October 2002, with a small grant from the Texas Historical

Commission for fencing, Richard (who likes to call himself "Keeper of the Kilns") began the physically demanding work of excavating the overgrown site. In his spare time, he's also digging for volunteers and donors to the foundation. (Richard will speak at the Texas Clay Festival; see Essentials, page 58.) For details, or to arrange a site tour, call 830/372-1001, or email Richard at rokinz@axs4u.net. To join the Wilson Pottery Foundation (\$25; members receive a quarterly newsletter), write to La Verne Britt at 8811 Timber Cross, San Antonio 78250, or email her at lbritt8811@aol.

**T**he *Wilson Potteries: An African-American Enterprise in 19th-Century Texas*, an exhibit at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, begins November 3 and continues through March 3, 2003. It focuses on the establishment of a pottery industry in 19th-Century Texas, and will include nine pieces of H. Wilson & Co. pottery, as well as pieces from other early Texas potteries. The display, which traces the origin of the Southern pottery tradition from the Edgefield District of South Carolina, will also include works by two Edgefield potters. After the exhibit, the pottery will reside in the museum's Bayou Bend Collection. For details, call 713/639-7300.

Other examples of Wilson pottery are on display in San Antonio, at the Institute of Texan Cultures (210/458-2300; pieces on loan from the Witte Museum collection), and in Seguin, at the Heritage Museum (call 830/372-0965). You may also view a collection in Richard Kinz's office in Seguin (Tri-County Land Surveying, Inc., 114 N. Austin St.; 830/372-1001) during normal business hours.





The festival's laid-back setting on the grounds of Buck Pottery contributes to the mellow mood. When visitors need a break, they can take advantage of Gruene's ample supply of restaurants and watering holes, including the Gristmill River Restaurant and Gruene Hall, both across the street.

you go to another type of arts festival, pottery is mixed in with other media.”

V. Chin notes that his trademark symbol began by accident in 1985, when one of his customers, who collected frog-themed objects, asked him to include a frog in a design. “Then he introduced me to another collector and then another,” says V. Chin. “I had no idea so many people collected frogs. It became my signature.”

San Angelo potter Roger Allen’s work

depicts a different symbol—that of the StarKeeper, a concept Roger says evolved during a time of immense changes in his life. Based on the shaman, or medicine man, of Southwestern Native American traditions, the elongated figure graces Roger’s large plates, bowls, and other works.

Austin potter Rebecca Roberts creates “kimono sculptures” that she says are inspired by her general interest in Asian culture. “There are (continued on page 58)

## TEXAS HIGHWAYS

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[www.sopadre.com](http://www.sopadre.com)
15. TEXAS HILL COUNTRY RIVER REGION, pg. 3  
800/210-0380  
[www.thcrr.com](http://www.thcrr.com)
16. TYLER CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU, pg. 8  
800/235-5712  
[www.tylertexas.com](http://www.tylertexas.com)
17. WURSTFEST, pg. 7  
800/221-4369  
[www.wurstfest.com](http://www.wurstfest.com)



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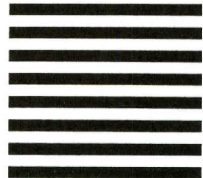
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All New!

# Texas Highways Products

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### ★ 2003 Texas Highways Calendar

13 1/2" x 10 3/4"  
Opens to 13 1/2" x 21 1/2"  
#33137 .....\$11.95



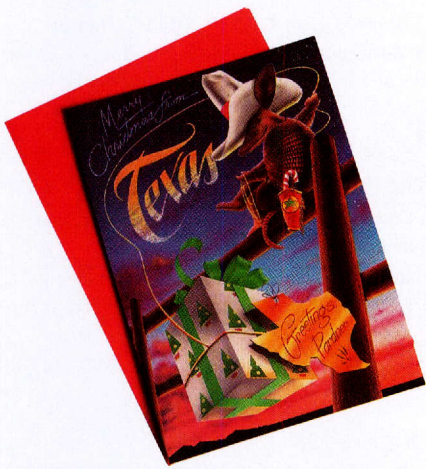
### ★ Have a Texas Christmas Y'all Ornament

Inscription: "Have a Texas Christmas Y'all!"  
Hand-painted glass  
2 5/8" diameter  
#39102 .....\$13.25



### A Magical Texas Night Holiday Cards

Message: "Wishing you the magic and wonder of the holiday season."  
15 cards, 15 red envelopes  
Approximately: 5" x 7"  
#35130 .....\$13.50



### A Holiday Howdy, Texas Style Christmas Cards

Message: "Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."  
15 cards, 15 red envelopes  
Approximately 5" x 7"  
#35129 .....\$13.50



### Big Texas Coffee Mug

Generous-sized, 15-ounce coffee mug  
Microwave and dishwasher safe  
#37108 .....\$9.75



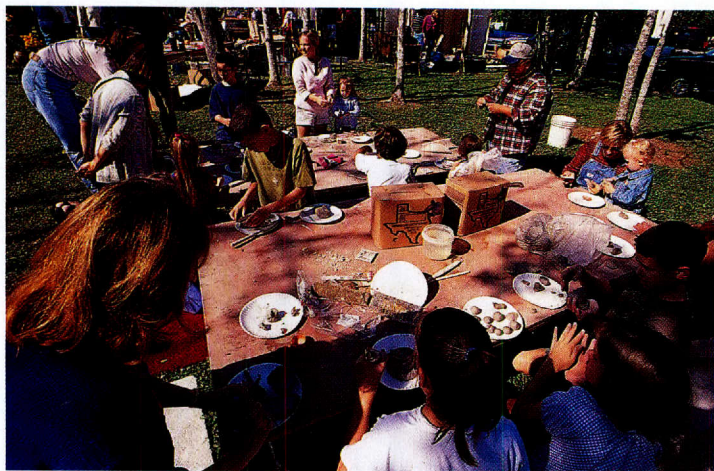
### ★ Bluebonnet Ornament

Hand-painted ceramic  
Approximate y 4" x 2 1/2"  
#39300 .....\$15.75

★ A Texas Highways exclusive item

5K21





The festival always has a special hands-on area for kids (above, left), where they can create with clay to their hearts' content. However, that doesn't stop them from enjoying the all-ages demonstrations. At last year's event, potter Katie Pell (above, right) spontaneously invited the children gathered around to participate.

'mud potters' and 'fire potters,'" she says, motioning toward the raku-firing demonstration going on nearby. "I'm a mud potter. I do hand-built work only—it's all created from slabs and coils." She adds, "My work is about texture. I leave a lot of clay unglazed."

Darlene Williams, who, along with her husband, John, owns a large ceramic supply company in Dallas, says they have come to the festival since it began. "It's really exciting to see how it has grown over the years and to see how many more people are coming now," she says. "In our business, we see a lot of pots, and there are no bad pots here. They're all very well crafted."

Considering the remarkable success of the Texas Clay Festival, it comes as a surprise to learn that the event is run entirely by volunteers. "The same core group of some 10 potter-friends who started it a decade ago still puts it on," says Jon Brieger. "No one's really in charge; we all have an equal vote. What makes the festival work is that this group works together so well. Our families have all been friends for a long time, and we all love pottery and clay."

"After our initial success," continues Jon, "we decided to grow the event slowly. We invite potters to come whose work we admire, and we usually add two to four new spaces a year. Although we limit participation to Texas potters, we've always tried to include a wide variety of pottery styles. We have both functional and scul-

tural potters, and prices range from a couple of dollars to \$400 or \$500. I'd say most pieces are in the \$35 to \$100 range."

According to Dee Buck, who, along with his wife, Terry, owns Buck Pottery, camaraderie has always been an important aspect of the festival. He says, "As much as anything, we just wanted to get together with other potters. Even now, with more than 40 potters invited, we always have a [private] dinner with everyone—families included—on the Saturday night of the festival."

"Potters are the type of people who can get together and not have any competition," notes Billy Ray Mangham. "We're all

learning from each other constantly. There's also a certain energy about clay that's really good. At a regular arts festival, you've got jewelers and weavers and wood-carvers, and the energy is shifting around constantly. So it's really cool that all of the people here—our customers, too—are also interested in that same energy. It makes for a festival that's unlike any other." ★

Associate editor NOLA McKEY thinks there may be a pottery class in her future. Although she has never worked with clay, she does have a 16-year-old son named Clay, who's not nearly as malleable.

Staff photographer GRIFF SMITH, a fan of three-dimensional art, says he found many of the works at the Texas Clay Festival inspiring.

## ESSENTIALS Texas Clay Festival

**THE 10TH ANNUAL TEXAS CLAY FESTIVAL** will be held Oct. 26-27 on the grounds of Buck Pottery in the Gruene Historic District of New Braunfels. From I-35, take exit 191 (Canyon Lake/FM 306 exit), and drive west about 1.5 miles to Hunter Rd., then turn left and drive about a half-mile. The road dead-ends in the Gruene Historic District, in front of Gruene Hall, which is across the street from Buck Pottery. Admission: Free. Hours: Sat 10-6, Sun 10-5. Most areas wheelchair accessible. For details, call Buck Pottery at 830/629-7975; [www.texasclayfestival.org](http://www.texasclayfestival.org).



Continual demonstrations take place at 5 stations, including one that features hourly raku-firing. On Sat., at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., a demonstration/lecture will be presented on North Carolina pottery and its relationship to early Texas stoneware, especially Wilson pottery.

**WHILE IN GRUENE**, be sure to check out **Gruene Hall**, the "oldest dance hall in Texas" (live music throughout the weekend; some shows free). Call 830/606-1281; [www.gruenehall.com](http://www.gruenehall.com). Enjoy a meal at the historic **Gristmill River Restaurant** (beneath the water tower, next door to Gruene Hall), or try one of a handful of other eateries in town, which range from Mexican food to classic Texas barbecue. Shop 'til you drop at Gruene's many **antique and specialty stores**. Depending on river conditions, you can also **take a trip down the scenic Guadalupe**; several outfitters offer whitewater, raft, tube, and canoe outings that begin and end in Gruene. For more information about Gruene Historic District, events, and lodging, or to check river conditions, call 830/629-5077; [www.gruenehall.com](http://www.gruenehall.com).



NOVEMBER 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

**1**

**DEL RIO**  
Wine Tasting  
830/775-8626

**1-3, 8-9**

**EL PASO**  
*The Student Prince*  
915/592-1515

**2**

**TERLINGUA**  
International  
Chilli Championship  
817/975-2200

**2-3**

**MIDLAND**  
Gem & Mineral Show  
915/697-7668

**MONAHANS**  
Sand Art & Craft Show  
915/943-2225

**3**

**MARATHON**  
Cowboy Social/  
Silent Auction  
915/386-4516

**ODESSA**  
Strings of the West Concert  
915/563-0921

**7-10**

**ODESSA**  
Merry Marketplace  
915/550-6434

**8-10, 15-17**

**ODESSA**  
*A Time for Christmas*  
915/580-3177

**9**

**MIDLAND**  
*The Berlin Airlift*  
915/563-1000

**12**

**ODESSA**  
Taste of the  
Permian Basin  
915/333-7871

**15-17**

**LAJITAS**  
Big Bend Gourmet  
Raft Trip  
210/821-5600

**16**

**ODESSA**  
Midland-Odesa  
Symphony & Chorale  
915/563-0921

**16-17**

**ODESSA**  
Tejano Super Car Show  
915/337-2189

**22-23**

**ALPINE**  
Gallery Night  
800/561-3735

**23**

**EL PASO**  
Sweet Adelines  
915/584-9382

**ODESSA**  
Thanksgiving Oprea  
915/580-3177

**28**

**EL PASO**  
Las Palmas del Sol  
Sun Bowl Parade  
915/533-4416

**28-DEC 1**

**FORT DAVIS**  
Family Thanksgiving  
915/426-3202

**29-30**

**EL PASO**  
Ballet Folklórico  
Paso del Norte  
915/593-6680

**29-JAN 2**

**MIDLAND**  
Christmas at the Mansion  
915/683-2882

**30-DEC 1**

**ODESSA**  
Ye Olde Christmas Fair  
915/362-7140

## GULF COAST

**1**

**HOUSTON**  
OrchestraX  
713/225-6729

**1-2**

**GALVESTON**  
*The Presidents*  
409/765-1894 or  
800/821-1894

**1-3**

**CORPUS CHRISTI**  
Greek Festival  
361/992-3338

**GALVESTON**  
Greek Festival  
409/762-3930

**1-3, 8-10**

**BROWNSVILLE**  
*The Miracle Worker*  
956/542-8900

**1, 3, 9, 12, 15, 17**

**HOUSTON**  
*Ariodante*  
713/546-0246 or  
800/828-2787

**1-23**

**HOUSTON**  
Four Great Playwrights  
713/661-9505

**2**

**KINGSVILLE**  
Sportsman Expo &  
Wild Game Dinner  
361/592-6438

**MATAGORDA**

Birding Tour  
281/445-1187

**ORANGE**

Holiday in the Park  
409/883-3468

**ROCKPORT**

Learn Your History Day  
361/729-0386

**2**

**WEST COLUMBIA**  
First Capitol Market Day  
979/345-3921

**2-3**

**HOUSTON**  
Antique Show  
713/861-7750

**PORT LAVACA**  
Arts-Crafts-Antiques  
Festival by the Bay  
361/552-2565  
or 552-9330

Quilt Show  
361/552-7901

**2, 5, 8, 10, 16**

**HOUSTON**  
*La Bohème*  
713/546-0246 or  
800/828-2787

**3**

**PORT ISABEL**  
World Championship  
Shrimp Cookoff  
956/943-2262

**5**

**ORANGE**  
*The Scarlet Pimpernel*  
409/745-5535 or  
800/828-5535

**6-10**

**HARLINGEN**  
Rio Grande Valley  
Birding Festival  
956/423-5440 or  
800/531-7346

**7**

**SWEENEY**  
Chicken Spaghetti Dinner  
& Bazaar  
979/548-2192

**7-9**

**SAN BENITO**  
Antique Farm Equipment  
Show  
956/831-4066

**7-DEC 15**

**HOUSTON**  
*Over the River &  
Through the Woods*  
713/524-6706

**9**

**BEAUMONT**  
Bazaar  
409/769-1359

**EDNA**  
Arts & Crafts Show  
361/782-7146

Texana Music Festival  
& Chili Cookoff  
361/782-5456

**EL CAMPO**

Community Craft  
& Trade Day  
979/543-7486

**HARLINGEN**

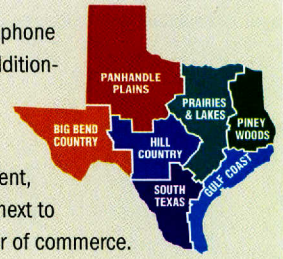
Bazaar  
956/428-4726

**RIO HONDO**  
Honoring America's Veterans  
Fly-In/Waffle Breakfast  
956/748-2112

**WEST COLUMBIA**  
Bluegrass Concert  
979/265-4757

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 November 1 for February festivities). Space is limited, so we may not be able to print every event. For a quarterly, more detailed schedule of events, write for a free *Texas Events Calendar*, Box 149249, Austin 78714-9249.

*Texas Highways'* Web site, [www.texashighways.com](http://www.texashighways.com), includes an expanded Fun Forecast that gives descriptions of the events.

**9-10**

**HOUSTON**  
Texas Championship Powwow  
281/890-5500

**KEMAH**

Veterans Weekend  
281/334-9880 or  
877/285-3624

**PORT ARTHUR**  
Arts & Crafts Show  
409/832-3304

**VICTORIA**  
Macaroni Fest  
361/573-5277

**9-DEC 25**

**SPRING**  
Home for the Holidays  
281/353-9310

**10**

**ALVIN**  
Veterans Day Parade & Festival  
281/331-1013

**11**

**HARLINGEN**  
Veterans Day Parade  
956/423-6006

**13**

**EL CAMPO**  
Harvest Retrospective Breakfast  
979/543-2713

**15**

**BROWNSVILLE**  
Valley Symphony Orchestra  
956/983-7945

**15-16**

**LAKE JACKSON**  
Craft Show  
979/299-3145

**15-17**

**HOUSTON**  
Firehouse  
Art Show  
713/869-0441

**KINGSVILLE**  
South Texas  
Wildlife &  
Birding Festival  
800/333-5032

**16**

**BAY CITY**  
Market Day  
979/245-8333

**GALVESTON**  
Gregory Hines  
409/765-1894 or  
800/821-1894

**KEMAH**  
Classic Car Show  
281/334-9880 or  
877/285-3624

**VICTORIA**  
Market Day  
361/572-2767

**16-17**

**HOUSTON**  
Japan Festival  
713/963-0121

**22-23**

**GALVESTON**  
Cabaret  
409/765-1894 or  
800/821-1894

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND**  
College Basketball  
Tournament  
800/SO-PADRE

**23**

**GALVESTON**  
Lighted Boat Parade  
409/763-7080

**KINGSVILLE**  
Ranch Hand  
Breakfast  
800/333-5032

**TOMBALL**  
Holiday Parade  
281/351-7222

**VICTORIA**  
Salute to Satchmo  
361/572-ARTS

**24**

**EL CAMPO**  
Polka Expo  
979/543-3303

**HOUSTON**  
Holiday Home Tour  
281/376-7998

**26**

**WHARTON**  
Lighted  
Holiday Parade  
979/532-1862

**26-DEC 29**

**HOUSTON**  
*Jacob Marley's  
Christmas Carol*  
713/527-0123

**28**

**HOUSTON**  
Bank United  
Thanksgiving Day  
Parade  
713/654-8900

Uptown Holiday Lighting  
713/621-2011



**29**  
**GALVESTON**  
 Grease  
 409/765-1894 or  
 800/821-1894

**29-DEC 1**  
**HOUSTON**  
 Holiday Market  
 281/890-5500

*The Nutcracker*  
 713/227-2787 or  
 800/828-2787

**30**  
**ORANGE**  
 Cabaret  
 409/745-5535 or  
 800/828-5535

**WOODSBORO**  
 Christmas  
 on the Square  
 361/526-2835

**30-DEC 1**  
**NURSERY**  
 Antique & Craft Show  
 361/578-8484

**HILL COUNTRY**

**1-2**  
**BANDERA**  
 Outdoor Expo  
 800/364-3833

**1-10**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Wurstfest  
 830/625-9167 or  
 800/221-4369

**2**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Gourd Show  
 800/357-0467 Ext 6777

**BOERNE**  
 First United Methodist Church  
 Bazaar  
 830/249-2565

**HARPER**  
 Fish Fry & Dance  
 830/864-5656

**HUNT**  
 Hunters' Barbecue  
 830/367-4322

**KENDALIA**  
 VFD Mexican Supper  
 830/336-2403

**MASON**  
 Country Opry  
 915/347-5407

**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Collectors Show  
 830/629-2943

**UTOPIA**  
 Arts & Crafts Fair  
 830/966-2364

**WIMBERLEY**  
 Market Day  
 512/847-2201

**2-3**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Men's Garden Club Show  
 512/477-8672

**3**  
**KERRVILLE**  
 Chestnut Brass Company  
 830/896-5636

**3-30**  
**INGRAM**  
 Art Expo  
 830/367-5120

**7-23**  
**KERRVILLE**  
 Piece of My Heart  
 830/896-9393

**8-10**  
**ROUND ROCK**  
 Fossil Fest  
 512/453-9686

**9**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Orchid Society Symposium  
 512/477-8672

*The Presidents*  
 512/472-5470

**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Johnny Nicholas'  
 Texas All-Star Big Band  
 Bash  
 830/997-9242

**HONDO**  
 Wild Game Dinner  
 830/426-3037

**KERRVILLE**  
 Second Saturday Art Trail  
 830/896-5530

**MASON**  
 Wild Game Dinner  
 915/347-5758

**SAN MARCOS**  
 Gathering of Memories  
 Airshow  
 888/200-5620

**SONORA**  
 Wild Game Dinner  
 915/387-2880

**9-10**  
**BURNET**  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 915/247-3778

**KINGSLAND**  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 915/388-6159

**SPICEWOOD**  
 Fine Art & Wine Trail  
 830/798-2020

**TAYLOR**  
 Garden Club  
 Christmas Bazaar  
 512/365-2955

**10**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Porcelain Art Show  
 512/477-8672

**11**  
**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Veterans Day Program  
 830/997-4379

**SAN MARCOS**  
 Veterans Day Celebration  
 888/200-5620

**13**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Comal Country Music Show  
 830/629-4547

**13-14**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Porgy & Bess  
 512/472-5470

**14**  
**WIMBERLEY**  
 Joey Martin & Vocalibre  
 512/842-2648

**14-15**  
**WIMBERLEY**  
 Holiday Homes Tour  
 512/847-2201

**15-17**  
**KERRVILLE**  
 Quiet Jazz Festival  
 830/792-9830

**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Bonsai Convention  
 512/261-0430

**16**  
**BLANCO**  
 Market Day  
 830/833-0260

**GOLDTHWAITE**  
 Mills County  
 Historical Museum  
 Chili Supper  
 915/648-3619  
 or 648-3151

**HONDO**  
 5-K/10-K Volksmarch  
 830/426-3037 or  
 210/659-9519

**SAN SABA**  
 Pecan Fest  
 915/372-5141

**VANDERPOOL**  
 St. Mary's Catholic Church  
 Fall Festival  
 830/966-2165

**16-17**  
**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Antiques Show  
 830/995-3670

**GRUENE**  
 Old Gruene  
 Market Days  
 830/629-6441

**17**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Moscow Boys Choir  
 512/472-5470

**21**  
**LLANO**  
 Country Opry  
 915/247-5354

**22**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Downtown  
 Christmas Tree Lighting  
 830/625-2385 or  
 800/572-2626

**22-23**  
**AUSTIN**  
 International  
 Holiday Market  
 512/252-7287

**22-24**  
**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Weihnachtsmarkt  
 830/629-1572

**22-DEC 31**  
**MARBLE FALLS**  
 Walkway of Lights  
 830/693-4449 or  
 800/759-8178

**23**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Chuy's Christmas Parade  
 888/439-2489

**KERRVILLE**  
 Wild Game Dinner  
 830/895-8955

**29**  
**BLANCO**  
 Lighting of Old Blanco County  
 Courthouse & Square  
 830/833-5101

**WIMBERLEY**  
 Santa on the Square  
 512/847-2237

**29-30**  
**BOERNE**  
 Dickens on Main  
 888/842-8080

**29-DEC 1**  
**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Country Peddler Show  
 830/997-6523 or  
 800/997-3600

**29-JAN 1**  
**FREDERICKSBURG**  
 Hill Country Lighting Trail  
 830/997-8515 or  
 866/839-3378

**JOHNSON CITY**  
 Lights Spectacular  
 830/868-7684

**WIMBERLEY**  
 Creekside Christmas  
 512/847-2201

**30**  
**BANDERA**  
 Country Christmas Ball  
 830/589-2276

**COMFORT**  
 Christmas in Comfort  
 830/995-3131

Turkey Run  
 830/995-3131

**JUNCTION**  
 Wild Game Dinner  
 915/446-3190

**MASON**  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 915/265-4302

**UVALDE**  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 830/278-3361

**30-DEC 1**  
**AUSTIN**  
 Victorian Christmas  
 on Sixth Street  
 512/441-9015

**NEW BRAUNFELS**  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 210/698-0811

**30-JAN 1**  
**WIMBERLEY**  
 EmilyAnn Theatre  
 Tree Lighting & Trail of Lights  
 512/847-6969

**PANHANDLE PLAINS**

**1-3, 29-DEC 1**  
**POST**  
 Old Mill Trade Days  
 806/495-3529

**2-3**  
**ABILENE**  
 Barrel Racing  
 915/677-4376

**2-3**  
**SAN ANGELO**  
 Cowboy Roping Fiesta  
 915/653-5622

**SWEETWATER**  
 Pro Senior Bull Riding  
 915/235-5488

**8**  
**SAN ANGELO**  
 Museum of Fine Arts  
 Country Fair  
 915/653-5622

**8-9**  
**ANSON**  
 Bit & Spur Show/  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 915/823-3761

**SWEETWATER**  
 Cutting Horse Show  
 915/235-3484

**9**  
**ABILENE**  
 Veterans Day  
 Parade  
 915/674-1328

**ANSON**  
 Larry Chittenden  
 Cowboy Celebration  
 915/823-3761

**JACKSBORO**  
 Fort Richardson Day  
 Reenactment  
 940/567-3506

Veterans Day Ceremony  
 940/567-3184

**TUSCOLA**  
 Veterans Day  
 Celebration  
 915/572-3204

**9-10**  
**COLORADO CITY**  
 Railroad Trade Days  
 915/728-3403

**13-19**  
**SAN ANGELO**  
 God's Favorite  
 915/942-2342

**14-17**  
**AMARILLO**  
 World Championship  
 Ranch Rodeo  
 806/374-9722

**15**  
**SAN ANGELO**  
 Cactus Hotel Jazz Series  
 915/653-6793

**16**  
**ABERNATHY**  
 Country Jamboree  
 806/298-2397

**ABILENE**  
 Cosmic Jazz  
 915/677-6710 or  
 800/460-0610

**16-17**  
**BRECKENRIDGE**  
 Craft Guild Show  
 254/559-5372

**21-24**  
**ABILENE**  
 Ring Around the Moon  
 915/670-1405

**22**  
**JACKSBORO**  
 Arts & Crafts Fair  
 940/567-6150

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22-23

**AMARILLO**  
National Finals Steer Roping  
806/378-3096

23

**BALLINGER**  
Christmas in Olde Ballinger  
915/365-2333

23-24

**CISCO**  
Holiday Market at the Hilton  
254/442-4446

24

**SAN ANGELO**  
Feast of Sharing  
915/653-5622

27

**STRATFORD**  
Christmas Parade  
806/366-2260

29

**CHILDRESS**  
Treasure Hunt &  
Arrival of Santa  
940/937-2567

30-DEC 1

**ABILENE**  
Arts & Crafts Festival  
915/676-6211

30-DEC 3

**SAN ANGELO**  
Madrigal Dinner  
915/942-2342

**PINEY WOODS**

1-2

**COLMESNEIL**  
Craft Fair  
409/283-2021

**CONROE**  
Philadelphia Story  
936/441-SHOW

1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23

**SHENANDOAH**  
Fine Arts Series  
281/292-5953

2-3

**HUNTSVILLE**  
St. Thomas Catholic Church  
Bazaar  
936/435-0221  
or 291-3080

6-7

**TYLER**  
*African Tales of Earth and Sky*  
903/595-5426

8-9

**GILMER**  
Upshur County  
Art & Cultural Market  
903/843-2413

TYLER

Woodcarving Show  
903/839-7042

9

**HENDERSON**  
Heritage Syrup Festival  
903/657-5528  
or 657-4303

TYLER

Art Auction  
903/561-1103  
East Texas Symphony Orchestra  
903/526-ETSO

9

**TYLER**  
Heart Walk  
903/324-1452

14-16

**TYLER**  
Mistletoe & Magic  
Holiday Market  
903/593-1080

15-17

**LIVINGSTON**  
Trade Days  
936/327-3656

**NACOGDOCHES**  
Trade Days  
936/564-2150

16

**LIVINGSTON**  
Indian Springs VFD  
Chili Cookoff/Craft Show  
936/327-3544

MARSHALL

Quintet of the Americas  
903/938-3372

MINEOLA

Chili Challenge  
903/569-2087

18

**MARSHALL**  
Symphony Orchestra  
903/935-2357

22-23

**MILAM**  
Settlers Day  
409/787-1421

**NACOGDOCHES**  
Holiday in the Pines  
936/560-3111

22-23, 29-DEC 1

**CONROE**  
*Miracle on 34th Street*  
936/441-SHOW

23

**NACOGDOCHES**  
Christmas Lighting Ceremony  
936/564-7351

23-DEC 24

**GLADEWATER**  
Christmas Tyme in Gusherville  
903/845-5501

26

**SAN AUGUSTINE**  
Christmas Lighting of  
Historic Courthouse Square  
936/275-3610

27-DEC 30

**MARSHALL**  
Wonderland of Lights  
903/935-7868

28

**HENDERSON**  
Christmas Parade  
903/657-5528

29

**JASPER**  
Cowboy Campfire Stories,  
Poetry & Songs  
409/384-5231

29-30

**HUGHES SPRINGS**  
East Texas Santa's Village  
903/639-2351

NEWTON

Market Days  
409/379-4646

30

**HEMPHILL**  
Lighting of the Square  
409/787-1421

MOUNT PLEASANT

Deck the Halls Extravaganza  
903/572-8567

NACOGDOCHES

Tour of Homes  
936/564-7351

Wassail Fest  
936/559-2573

30

**NEWTON**  
Christmas  
on the Square  
409/379-E527

**PRAIRIES AND LAKES**

1-2

**SAN FELIPE**  
Father of Texas  
Birthday Celebration  
979/885-6613

1-3

**CANTON**  
First Monday  
Trade Days  
903/567-2991

DALLAS

Arturo Sandoval  
214/692-0203

Lakewood Home Festival  
214/762-0762

Proton Road Arts Festival  
214/707-8806

1-3

**FORT WORTH**  
Women's National Finals Rodeo  
817/625-1025

INDEPENDENCE

Fall Festival of Roses  
979/836-5548

LYONS

Arts & Crafts Show  
979/535-8122

Christmas Cottage  
979/596-1974

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# Fun Forecast

A roundup of next month's events

**1-3**  
**ROUND TOP**  
 Theatre Forum:  
 The Italian Renaissance  
 979/249-3129

**1-24**  
**GRANBURY**  
*Breath of Spring*  
 817/573-9191 or  
 866/572-0881

**1-JAN 1**  
**VAN**  
 Wonderland by Night  
 Drive-Through Christmas Park  
 903/963-8828

**2**  
**BELLVILLE**  
 Market Day on the Square  
 979/865-3407

**ELGIN**  
 Book Fair  
 512/285-2132

**FORT HOOD**  
 Holiday Bazaar  
 254/286-0957

**SAN FELIPE**  
 Novemberfest  
 979/885-4121

**WAXAHACHIE**  
 Texas Country Reporter Festival  
 972/937-2390

**2-3**  
**LEWISVILLE**  
 Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair  
 972/219-3550

**2, 9, 16, 23, 30**  
**STEPHENVILLE**  
 Cross Timbers Country Opry  
 254/965-4132

**3**  
**CLEBURNE**  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 817/641-8318

**4**  
**GIDDINGS**  
 Country Music Monday  
 979/542-2932

**7**  
**DENTON**  
 Trumpet Solo Competition  
 940/369-7802

**8-10**  
**FORT WORTH**  
 St. Demetrius Greek Festival  
 817/626-5578

**SALADO**  
 Scottish Games &  
 Gathering of the Clans  
 254/947-5232

**8-10, 22-24**  
**STEPHENVILLE**  
 Chicken House Flea Market  
 254/968-0888

**8-JAN 5**  
**FORT HOOD**  
 Nature in Lights  
 254/287-2523

**9**  
**COMANCHE**  
 Old Cora  
 Trade Day on the Square  
 915/356-3233

**CORSICANA**  
 Arts & Crafts Fair  
 903/872-5411

**9**  
**CUERO**  
 Chisholm Round Up  
 361/275-2112

**DALLAS**  
 Cowboys of Color  
 Invitational Rodeo Finals  
 817/922-9999

**EDGEWOOD**  
 Log Cabin Christmas Bazaar  
 903/896-1423  
 or 896-1940

**FORT WORTH**  
 Veterans Day Celebration  
 817/625-9715

**GLEN ROSE**  
 Dale McPherson Memorial  
 Fiddle Contest  
 254/897-3414  
 or 897-4509

**LANCASTER**  
 Second Saturday on the Square  
 972/227-2579

**SHERMAN**  
 Asleep at the Wheel  
 903/813-2251

**WAXAHACHIE**  
 Domino Kings  
 972/938-1390

Ellis County  
 Veterans Appreciation Day  
 972/938-3434

**9-10**  
**DALLAS**  
 International Festival  
 Bazaar  
 972/661-5145

**EGYPT**  
 Historic Egypt Festival  
 979/677-3232

**10**  
**CLEBURNE**  
 Doll & Toy Show  
 817/645-2455

**MOULTON**  
 Veterans Day Memorial  
 361/596-4064

**PRAHA**  
 Veterans Day Service  
 361/865-3920

**10-11**  
**BRENHAM**  
 Brahms' *Requiem*  
 979/830-4015

**11**  
**GAINESVILLE**  
 Veterans Day Celebration  
 940/668-4551

**13-14**  
**CLIFTON**  
 Norwegian Smorgasbord  
 800/344-3720

**13-23**  
**FORT WORTH**  
 Shrine Circus  
 817/871-8150

**14-16**  
**DALLAS**  
 Chi Omega  
 Christmas Market  
 214/890-8131

**14-17**  
**WACO**  
 Waco-McLennan County Library  
 Book Sale  
 254/750-8419

**14-DEC 8**  
**GRAND PRAIRIE**  
 Radio City  
 Christmas Spectacular  
 972/854-5059

**15-17**  
**DALLAS**  
 SnowFest  
 818/349-5231

**15-DEC 23**  
**GRANBURY**  
 Home for the Holidays  
 817/573-0303

**16**  
**LA GRANGE**  
 Main Street  
 Market Days  
 979/968-8701

**SEGUIN**  
 Pecan Fest  
 830/379-6382

**16-17**  
**ENNIS**  
 Super 10  
 Drag Racing  
 Championship  
 972/878-4748

**FORT WORTH**  
 Grapevine  
 Craft Fair  
 & Marketplace  
 817/329-0121

Train Show  
 817/249-4965

**17**  
**GRANBURY**  
 Marika Kyriakos  
 817/279-1164

**PARIS**  
*The Nutcracker*  
 800/727-4789

**19**  
**TEMPLE**  
 Moscow Boys Choir  
 254/773-9926

**20**  
**WACO**  
*Cabaret*  
 254/752-9797

**21**  
**DALLAS**  
 Architecture Forum  
 214/740-0644

**21-23, 29-30**  
**DENTON**  
*A Christmas Carol*  
 940/565-2428

**22-24**  
**FORT WORTH**  
 Symphony  
 817/665-6000

**GRAPEVINE**  
 Coin Show  
 817/410-3459

**22, 24, 26, 30**  
**DALLAS**  
*Fidelio*  
 214/443-1000

**23**  
**ATHENS**  
 Holiday Parade  
 903/675-5181

**GRANBURY**  
 Car Show  
 817/579-8377

**23-24**  
**BRENHAM**  
 Poinsettia Celebration  
 979/836-0084

**HALLETTSVILLE**  
 Festival of Lights  
 361/798-3283

**HEMPSTEAD**  
 Liendo Plantation  
 Civil War Weekend  
 979/826-4371

**25**  
**LOCKHART**  
 Country Music Opry  
 512/601-2154

**28**  
**ATHENS**  
 Turkey Trot Fun Run  
 903/677-2000

**DALLAS**  
 Turkey Trot  
 214/954-0500

**28-DEC 16**  
**FORT WORTH**  
 Natl Cutting Horse Assn  
 World Championship Futurity  
 817/871-8150

**29**  
**DALLAS**  
 Galleria Holiday Kickoff  
 & Grand Tree Lighting  
 972/702-7100

**FORT WORTH**  
 Verizon Wireless  
 Parade of Lights  
 817/870-1692

**GRANBURY**  
 Country Christmas  
 Celebration  
 & Lighted Christmas Parade  
 817/573-5299

**29-30**  
**McKINNEY**  
 Dickens of a Christmas  
 972/562-6880

**29-DEC 1**  
**EVANT**  
 Evant's Biggest Event  
 512/918-0871

**GLEN ROSE**  
 Team Roping  
 888/346-6CVB

**GRANBURY**  
 The Enchanted Forest  
 817/573-5299

**GRAND PRAIRIE**  
 Thanksgiving  
 Holiday Market  
 972/647-2331

**McKINNEY**  
 Heard-Craig  
 Victorian Christmas  
 972/569-6909  
 or 542-5340

**WACO**  
 Homestead Heritage  
 Craft & Children's Fair  
 254/829-2981

**WEATHERFORD**  
 First Monday Trade Days  
 817/598-4124

**29-DEC 22**  
**GRANBURY**  
*A Granbury Christmas Carol*  
 817/573-9191 or  
 866/572-0881

**29-DEC 29**  
**DALLAS**  
*A Christmas Carol*  
 214/522-8499

**29-DEC 31**  
**ARLINGTON**  
 Holiday  
 in the Park  
 817/530-6000

**DALLAS**  
 Holiday  
 at the Arboretum  
 214/327-4901

**FORT WORTH**  
*The Christmas Star*  
 817/255-9300

**30**  
**ANDERSON**  
 Fanthorp Inn  
 Twilight & Firelight  
 936/873-2633

**BASTROP**  
 Harvest Art Fest  
 512/321-2419

**FORT WORTH**  
 Jingle Bell Run  
 817/820-0635

**GONZALES**  
 Fall Fest  
 830/672-2157

**LEXINGTON**  
 Christmas Bazaar  
 512/273-2551

**LULING**  
 Arts & Crafts Show  
 830/875-3214

**McKINNEY**  
 Candlelight Tour  
 of Chestnut Square  
 972/562-8790

Symphony Orchestra  
 972/562-9276

**PALESTINE**  
 Art Journey  
 800/659-3484

**SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS**

**1**  
**GEORGE WEST**  
 Storyfest  
 Chuck Wagon Dinner  
 & Show  
 888/600-3121

**1-3**  
**LIVE OAK**  
 Antique Show  
 210/342-8121

**SAN ANTONIO**  
 New World  
 Wine & Food Festival  
 210/930-3232

**2**  
**GEORGE WEST**  
 Storyfest  
 888/600-3121

**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Día de los Muertos  
 210/423-1896

Día del los Muertos  
 Family Day  
 210/357-1900

Walk & Run for Life  
 210/225-4715

**TULETA**  
 Artisan Fair  
 361/375-2558

**3**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Dance Theatre of Harlem  
 210/207-7211

**7-10**  
**MERCEDES**  
 Antique Farm Equipment  
 Show  
 956/968-2479

**9**  
**EAGLE PASS**  
 Veterans Day Parade  
 830/773-2528

**GOLIAD**  
 Market Day  
 361/645-3563

**10**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 San Antonio Marathon  
 830/246-9652

**11**  
**EAGLE PASS**  
 Veterans Day Celebration  
 830/773-4528

**PEARSALL**  
 Veterans Day Ceremony  
 830/466-5499

**16**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Tennessee Valley Authority  
 Bluegrass Concert  
 210/357-1900

**22-24**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Mariachi Vargas  
 Extravaganza  
 210/225-3353

**22-DEC 8**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Las Nuevas Tamaleras  
 210/223-2009

**24**  
**EAGLE PASS**  
 Feast of Sharing  
 Thanksgiving Dinner  
 830/773-0345

**27**  
**BEEVILLE**  
 Downtown  
 & Courthouse  
 Christmas Lighting  
 361/358-3267

**29**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 River Parade &  
 Lighting Ceremony  
 210/227-4262

**29-30**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Peace Market  
 210/228-0000

**29-DEC 1**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Feria de Santa Cecilia  
 210/207-8600

**30-DEC 22**  
**SAN ANTONIO**  
 Holiday Boat Caroling  
 210/227-4262

**30-JAN 5**  
**McALLEN**  
 Christmas Tree  
 Forest  
 956/682-1564



**Readers Recommend...**

**GAINESVILLE GAINS**

**R**iders of Amtrak's *Heartland Flyer* train who alight in Gainesville now do so at the town's beautifully restored 1902 Santa Fe Depot. The renovated facility, which opened early this year, houses the **Gainesville Santa Fe Depot and Museum** and offers displays that highlight local railroad and community history.

Visitors to the museum (at 605 E. California; open Wed-Sun 11-2) can learn about the Harvey House Restaurant that once graced the depot. And they can view memorabilia from Gainesville's old Coca-Cola bottling company and the town's community circus, formed in 1930 and active for some 25 years. Call 940/668-8900 or 668-4579.

For information about Amtrak's *Heartland Flyer* service between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth, call 800/872-7245; [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com).

**HUNTSVILLE GOES TO TOWN**

**H**untsville boosters invite you to take a new look at their old Town—the old **Town Theatre**, that is. After a million-dollar renovation by the nonprofit group Friends of the Old Town Theatre, the movie theater (at 1023 12th St.) enjoys revitalization as the **Town Theatre—J. Philip Gibbs, Jr. Centre for the Performing Arts**. Restoration work included rebuilding and expanding the gutted 1940s interior, enhancing the art deco-style façade, and adding first-class sound and lighting systems.

Today's 350-seat center provides a home for productions by the Huntsville Community Theatre and offers other stage and musical presentations. The Ogden Family Jubilee, a country-western gospel group, performs at the theater on

Ed. Note: *For Texans, barbecue smokes! And many of us savor our brisket, ribs, and sausage at special, revered barbecue spots. The June article "Legends of Texas Barbecue" elicited lots of reader response. Many of you preached the merits of your own juiciest joints. Here are some of your favorites:*

**MORE BBQ PICKS**

**L**isa Bush of Fort Worth singles out **Longoria's BBQ in Everman** (100 S. Christopher St.; 817/568-9494). "If you like barbecue, you'll be in the right place!" says Lisa.

**A**n email message from Laura Boles proclaims, "The best barbecue in Texas has to be at the **Salt Lick at Driftwood** near Austin" (18300 FM 1826; 512/858-4959; [www.saltlickbbq.com](http://www.saltlickbbq.com)). "The restaurant is famous for its great-tasting barbecue and sauce that's to die for."

**L**ou Murdock of Wichita Falls recommends the "best barbecue my husband and I have ever eaten"—at the **Branding Iron** in

the third Saturday night of each month. On October 5, during Huntsville's annual Fair on the Square, the Town offers free showings of *He Was Houston*, a 40-minute documentary, narrated by

**Wichita Falls** (104 E. Scott St.; 940/723-0338), a cafeteria-style restaurant.

**C**laudette Anderson of Canton praises **Angelo's in Fort Worth** (2533 White Settlement Rd.; 817/332-0357; [www.angelosbbq.com](http://www.angelosbbq.com)). "Angelo's has the best barbecue ribs," Claudette says.

**H**arry Dhans of **San Angelo** cites three hometown spots that "rank with the best": **Old Time Pit Bar-B-Que** (1805 S. Bryant Blvd.; 915/655-2771), **Mule Creek Bar-B-Q** (1207 W. Beau regard Ave.; 658-2740), and **Packsaddle Bar-B-Que** (6007 Knickerbocker Rd.; 949-0616).

**A**nd Murrell Foster of Three Rivers chooses **McBee's Barbeque in Pleasanton** (309 2nd St.; 830/569-2602).

Dan Rather, that chronicles the life of Sam Houston. And, on November 6-10, Huntsville Community Theatre presents the musical *The Fantasticks*. To learn more, call 936/293-8681.



Any way you slice it, Texans love barbecue. The lip-smacking spread above is from John Mueller's B-B-Q, at 1917 Manor Road in Austin (512/236-0283).

**O**n a recent weekend trip to Waxahachie [see *Texas Highways*, Oct. 2001], we stayed at the **Rogers Hotel**. We enjoyed an excellent breakfast at the **1879 Restaurant**.

HUGH HALL, Huntsville

The restored 1912 Rogers Hotel is at 100 N. College (see "Texas Haunts," page 12); 972/938-3688. The 1879 Townhouse Restaurant & Bakery is at 111 S. College; 972/937-7261.

**H**ere are two West Texas fall events that I recommend:

The annual **Prickly Pear Pachanga** (Oct. 5-6, 2002) in Sanderson, the "Cactus Capital of Texas," and the **2nd Annual Archaeology Fair** at the **Whitehead Museum in Del Rio** (Oct. 26, 2002). The Whitehead Museum also offers overnight camping during Kid's Kamp (Oct. 18 and Nov. 18, 2002).

BARBARA BARTON, Knickerbocker

For more information about Sanderson's Prickly Pear Pachanga ("pachanga" is Spanish for "party"), call 915/345-2275 or 345-2324; [www.sandersontx.org](http://www.sandersontx.org). The 2nd Annual Archaeology Fair and the year-round Kid's Kamps take place at the Whitehead Memorial Museum, 1308 S. Main St., Del Rio; 830/774-7568; [www.whitehead-museum.com](http://www.whitehead-museum.com).

**DOWN THE ROAD**

**I**n the November issue, we'll go leaf-lookin' at **Tyler State Park**, take a **Rio Grande Valley** road trip, learn the soaring story of the **Women Airforce Service Pilots**, and read up on the **Texas Book Festival**. We'll also tempt you with some top **Houston restaurants**. Join us!

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 try to 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](http://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](mailto: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

---

A PANHANDLE VISTA of broomweed and cirrus clouds typifies the scenery visitors to the Rita Blanca National Grassland, in Dallam County, may find.



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