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TRAVEL MAGAZINE OF TEXAS

TEXAS

HIGHWAYS

MAY 1998

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Stephan Myers, who has been publishing photographs in *Texas Highways* since the early 1980s, makes a significant contribution to this issue. He and his wife, **Jan Edwards**, prepared the **Corpus Christi** story that begins on page 4. Jan lived in the coastal city for more than 20 years, and Stephan, a native Houstonian, has photographed in the area for more than a decade. Jan and Stephan do an outstanding job of showing us the sites and activities Corpus Christi offers visitors and residents alike.

In addition, Corpus Christi-based writer **Melissa Maupin** contributes a piece on Coastal Bend sculptor **Kent Ullberg**, whose art can be seen in numerous Corpus Christi sites, Port Aransas, Aransas Pass, and in galleries throughout the United States.

Stephan also provided the photographs for **Casey Kelly Barton's** story on **Fulton Mansion State Historical Park**, north of Corpus Christi on Aransas Bay. The eclectic George Fulton, a newspaperman, structural engineer (he lent his services to J. A. Roebing, who designed the Brooklyn Bridge), and cattle rancher, built the magnificent mansion he called Oakhurst in the 1870s. Fulton erected Oakhurst on Live Oak Peninsula, from where he could watch ships taking his company's cattle to New Orleans. The innovative Fulton received U.S. patents related to shipping artificially-cooled beef and for a steam-engine modification. His mansion included all kinds of modern conveniences—gravity-fed running water, flush toilets, central heat, a gas plant that powered the indoor lighting, and a dumbwaiter that carried food from the basement kitchen to the dining room. George Fulton lived at the mansion for 16 years, until his death in 1893. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department acquired the 29-room mansion in 1976 and opened it to the public in 1983.

We also include a portfolio of Stephan Myers' work with text by photography editor **Michael A. Murphy**. The last time we published a Stephan Myers portfolio, in February 1987, we concentrated on his first love—nature photography. This time, we decided to emphasize Stephan's versatility. Most of his work that we published in the Eighties focused on plants, animals, and landscapes. This time we show you the breadth of Stephan's horizons—he can

work underwater, in the studio, with people, and in large-, medium-, and 35 mm-formats. We hope you like his images....

The **Texas State Cemetery** honors Texas' famous and heroic dead, and, as Austin writer **Michael D. Brockway** explains, provides a special welcome to the living. The cemetery, which was rededicated last year following an extensive restoration, provides both a fitting burial ground for Texas luminaries and an inviting place for young and old to learn about Texas history. The cemetery is the final resting place for government officials and military leaders, as well as an assortment of Texas notables—naturalist Gideon Lincecum, folklorist J. Frank Dobie, historian Walter Prescott Webb, *Old Yeller* author Fred Gipson, early Texas flag designer Joanna Troutman, and teacher and surveyor Josiah Wilbarger, who was scalped by Comanches in 1833, but survived until an unfortunate blow to the head killed him in 1844....

Chèvre—goat cheese—is coming of age in Texas. As **Rebecca Chastenet de Géry** writes, the flavorful dairy product has found its way from the Mediterranean to Texas thanks to a number of enterprising Texas farmers, cheese-makers, and chefs. Now you can find farm-fresh chèvre at your local grocery and at innovative restaurants statewide....

Associate editor **Nola McKey** wrote the text for this month's photo feature on Texas' remarkable **plains wildflowers**. Photographer **Wyman Meinzer** of Benjamin photographed most of the flowers and provided information on prime wildflower-viewing drives in the Panhandle. Nola wants to thank **Dr. Charlie Werth**, professor of biological sciences at Texas Tech University; **Dr. Billie L. Turner**, director of the Plant Resources Center at the University of Texas at Austin; **Justin Williams**, a UT-Austin Ph.D. candidate in botany; and **David Dunlap**, a botanist with the Texas Department of Transportation Environmental Affairs Division, for their help in identifying some of the wildflowers that Wyman shot for the story.

Enjoy this issue!



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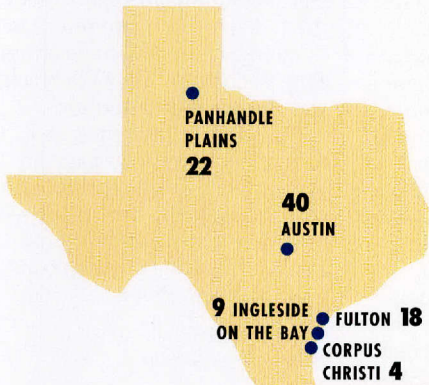
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page 18

ABOUT OUR COVERS

FRONT—Sand dollars glisten along Padre Island National Seashore, Texas' longest playground. Nearby Corpus Christi features myriad attractions. Our story on the lively seaside city begins on page 4. *Photo by Richard Reynolds, TxDOT*

BACK—Stephan Myers captures a young swimmer's determination as he tries to stay submerged in the junior-size Olympic pool at Goliad State Park. To see more images by this talented artist, turn to page 32. *Photo © Stephan Myers*

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CORPUS CHRISTI: A COASTAL CLASSIC *by Janet R. Edwards*

Whether you want to cycle along the seawall or just cruise the stately mansions along Ocean Drive, you can't beat Corpus Christi for waterfront fun. Visitors savor the abundant seafood, shopping, and cultural attractions, too

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FRIENDLY FLIPPERS *by Janet R. Edwards*

The Dolphin Connection at Ingleside on the Bay, near Corpus Christi, offers a chance to meet marine mammals with playful manners

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KENT ULLBERG'S SEA-BORN SCULPTURE *by Melissa Maupin*

A nationally-known artist casts lasting tributes to the wildlife of Texas' Coastal Bend

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SPLendor BY THE SEA *by Casey Kelly Barton*

An exquisitely restored 1877 mansion in Fulton gives visitors a glimpse of another era. The seaside home-turned-state historical park features French Second Empire styling and period furnishings

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WILDFLOWERS OF THE TEXAS PLAINS *by Nola McKey*

They may be late-bloomers, but when they make their appearance on the Panhandle's sweeping vistas, plains wildflowers produce vivid impressions

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STEPHAN MYERS: VERSATILE PHOTOGRAPHER *by Michael A. Murphy*

From utterly beautiful landscapes to unusual underwater images, Stephan Myers delivers the photographic goods. A generalist who pays attention to details, he "does it all," with stunning results

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THE TEXAS FAMILY PLOT *by Michael D. Brockway*

Featuring headstones and monuments honoring many famous Texans, a tour of the newly refurbished Texas State Cemetery provides an outdoor history lesson and inspiration for the living

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FOR A CHANGE, TRY GOAT CHEESE *by Rebecca W. Chastenet de G ry*

If you don't know ch vre from cabrito, you probably don't know that Texas has produced goat cheese since the late 1980s. Here's a look at the industry and a few recipes to inspire you

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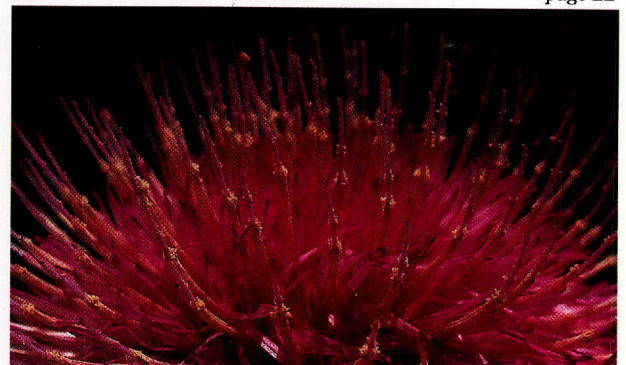
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page 40

A HemisFair to Remember

Your article on HemisFair '68 in the March issue really perked up my memories. I had just graduated high school and spent almost every day that summer at HemisFair. I was so glad to see that your pictures included the "Daisy," on page 15, which can still be seen from the observation deck of the Tower. My dad, Charles Kneese of San Antonio, painted the original daisy, and I have always been proud to show it off. Thanks for the "trip."

LAURIE CRITTENDEN
Round Rock

My class at Talpa-Centennial High School went to HemisFair '68 on our senior trip, and some of my classmates and I had the distinction of walking down the tower because the elevator quit working.

PHILLIP J. DECKER, *via email*

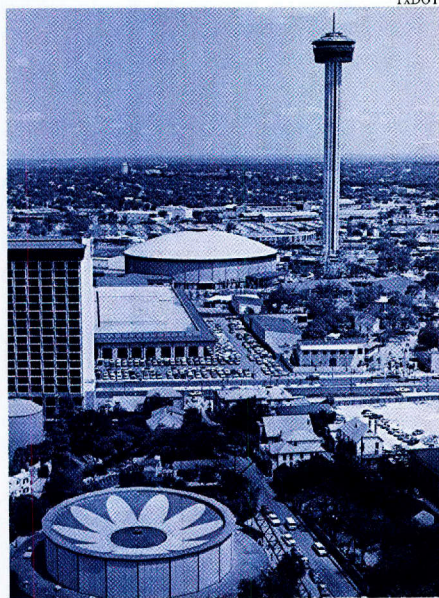
Subscription Stowaway

I mailed my subscription renewal on February 1, 1998, with the complete faith that it would arrive in Austin in a few days. My renewal had other ideas. In the Arlington (Texas) postal clearinghouse, my envelope slipped into a letter, destined for Germany, that had not been sealed properly. The two envelopes made it safely to Germany. The wonderful people who received the letters mailed the subscription renewal back to me along with a note describing its adventures. It isn't often that I have globe-trotting mail, I just wish it would have invited me along.

DOTTY HARMAN, *via email*

Brazos Bend Boosters

Your article in the March issue about Brazos Bend State Park was excellent. I and others appreciate the details you wrote about the park. How-



Several readers wrote in to share fun memories of HemisFair '68.

ever, you neglected to mention the volunteer organization that works there. The volunteers at BBSP have contributed many hours toward the upkeep of the park and helping to educate visitors. In 1997, they donated 19,703 hours of their time to the park. These hours were directed toward trail maintenance, interpretive and outreach programs, and keeping the visitor center open. Without this dedicated group of approximately 100 people, many programs and projects would not be accomplished.

JERRY D. RAINBOLT, *via email*

Mineral Water Magic

Gene Fowler's article in your February issue, "There's Somethin' In The Water," took me back to a summer day in the early '20s when our parents, with four sub-teen boys, took off in our brand new Model T Ford touring car for Marlin, some 45 miles (over gravel roads) and an hour and a half from our hometown in Central

Texas. Our parents wanted to experience a few glasses of that miraculous mineral water, even though they were in good health, but we boys had something entirely different in mind.

We each took along an ordinary drinking glass. When we arrived, we placed our glasses under the running water in the basin of the fountain, pictured on page 9, and about 45 minutes later, when we retrieved them, they had turned beautiful shades of every color in the rainbow. Where and how we had learned of that magical property of the mineral water I do not recall, and even though those colors eventually faded—they were only surface colors—I still recall the feeling that there truly was magic in that water.

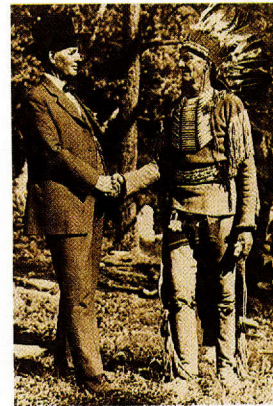
HAL WALLIS
Dallas

Mystery Man and Lehmann

In the April issue on page 3, you have a picture of Herman Lehmann. The other man is J.B. Gillett. You could learn about his first encounter with Herman Lehmann by reading his book, *Six Years With the Texas Rangers*. He was born in Austin on November 4, 1856. I wonder every time I go to Austin what he would think if he could [see the city] today.

J.K. COLQUITT
via email

I am a native of Mason County and...am familiar with the Herman Lehmann story. In fact, in A.C. Greene's *The Last Captive*, which is the story of



Herman Lehmann spent almost a decade in the 1870s living with the Indians. Captain James B. Gillett (left), a Texas Ranger, once shot Lehmann's horse out from under him in battle.

Herman Lehmann's life with the Indians, Lehmann refers to "stealing a few good mules from Fritz Ellebracht." Fritz Ellebracht was my great grandfather.

The Ellebracht homestead to which you refer on page 45 is very close to where the Lehmann kidnapping took place—on Squaw Creek, which runs into Beaver Creek, which runs into the Llano River.

PAT ELLEBRACHT
Kirksville, Missouri

Barking Up the Wrong Tree

Two of the best things to ever happen to Nacogdoches were beautifully highlighted in your March issue: The Stephen F. Austin State University Arboretum and the LaNana Creek Trail. One special favorite of visitors to the arboretum is in the central, square bed (pictured on page

18), immediately south of the Agriculture Building. Described (on page 20) as a "rare, 10-foot monkey puzzle tree from Chile," [this tree] may be rare, and 10-feet tall, but it is neither a monkey puzzle tree, nor is it from Chile. It is commonly called a "candelabra tree," or "Parana pine," or even "Brazilian pine," and its scientific name is *Araucaria angustifolia* (the Chilean

monkey puzzle tree is *Araucaria araucana*). It is a native of the southern Brazilian state of Parana, where the climate and soil are very similar to that of East Texas. The specimen at the arboretum was started by my father, who was a native of that same area in Brazil, and Dr. Creech and I planted it in that central bed in 1986.

STEVEN DASILVA
Nacogdoches, *via email*

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 we print. Write to Letters Editor, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009, or fax 512/483-3672. Email: editors@texashighways.com

MICHAEL A. MURPHY



Our Town, an elaborately stitched, nine-by-five-foot wall hanging, created by the late Carletta Gydeson Broun, graces a wall in Fredericksburg's Pioneer Memorial Library.

sketch, she arranged and rearranged the work's various elements before tracing them onto burlap. She explained at the time that she had exercised artistic license in placing well-known town landmarks to create the most-pleasing effect.

Whimsical touches include a miniature pair of spectacles resting in the seat of a red rocker, a tiny authentic Bible on the grass nearby, and a pair of minuscule scissors attached to a young woman's apron.

—Janet W. Harris, Fredericksburg

Since 1901, Texans have called the bluebonnet their official state flower. And "Texas, Our Texas" became the state song in 1929. But did you know Texas also has an official state flower song?

Julia D. Booth, a native of Chappell Hill, in Washington County, wrote the lyrics for the song, which her friend, local piano teacher Lora C. Crockett, composed. An original copy of the obscure sheet music, with the title "Bluebonnets," is in the museum archives of the Chappell Hill Historical Society.

On February 8, 1933, Julia, Lora, and a third woman, Alice C. Routt, traveled to the State Capitol in Austin. That day, Representative R.A. Fuchs of Brenham, the Washington County seat, introduced a resolution calling for adoption of a state flower song. Alice then sang the "beautiful song" for the assembly. According to the *General Laws of The State of Texas*, House Concurrent Resolution No. 24 was passed by the Forty-third Legislature in 1933. The lyrics follow:

*When the pastures are green in the
springtime
And the birds are singing their
sonnets,
You may look to the hills and the
valleys
And they're covered with lovely
Bluebonnets.
Blue is the emblem of loyalty,
They're as blue as the deep, deep sea,
Their smiling faces bring gladness,
For they bloom for you and for me.*

*Bluebonnets, so gorgeous and stately,
In your mantle of blue and of green,
In the spring when you're in your
full glory,
You're the loveliest sight ever seen.
You're beautiful when you sway in
the sunshine,
You look like waves of the sea,
Ah, Texas was wise in her choice of
a flow'r,
So we offer our homage to thee.*

CHORUS:

*Bluebonnets, blue lovely Bluebonnets,
More beautiful than all the rest.
Texas chose you for her flower,
And we love you best, Bluebonnets.*

—Sheryl Smith-Rodgers, Blanco

For 72 years, residents of Seymour, in far North Texas, have enjoyed one of Texas' most unusual annual holidays. Fish Day got its start in the mid-1920s, after Lake Kemp was built eight miles north of town. When fishing season officially opened on May 1, the event emptied out the town. Local businessmen soon realized they might as well close up shop for the day, and before long, May 1 became an official town holiday. In the late 1970s, to help out local proprietors (May 1 sometimes fell on a Saturday, the week's heaviest shopping day), Fish Day was moved to the first Monday of the month.

Now a three-day event that includes the preceding weekend (May 2-4, 1998), Fish Day boasts other festivities besides fishing, such as beauty pageants, washer-and horseshoe-pitching, musical entertainment, a bass tournament, and a fish fry. The celebration customarily begins with the mayor's signing an official proclamation, which declares that "each and every citizen of Seymour shall lay aside his daily pursuits and gird and arm himself with a fishing pole, line, hooks and bait." Thus outfitted, every would-be angler is urged to go to Lake Kemp to "test his skill, strength, wit and patience against the wily fish in the time-honored fashion and manner."

On May's first Monday, a few businesses in Seymour remain open, but most of the town goes fishing.

—Jonathan Burnett, Austin

A "painting with needle and thread" has delighted visitors to the Hill Country town of Fredericksburg since 1967. The late Carletta Gydeson Broun, a noted fiber artist from Ingram, created the large wall hanging, titled *Our Town*, for the local library.

Mrs. Broun combined hooking, weaving, appliqué, collage, and a variety of stitches in crewel embroidery to depict Fredericksburg as it appeared in the mid-1800s. Working from a cartoon-like



A COASTAL CLASSIC

C o r p u s

BY JANET R. EDWARDS

PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEPHAN MYERS



C h r i s t i

Another day dawns over the Gulf of Mexico in the Corpus Christi area. Mornings are a favorite time to walk the sands and search for seashells and solitude.

A long the seawall of Corpus Christi's Shoreline Drive,

trim, bipedal figures walk or jog in the early-morning coolness, their silhouettes outlined against the broad expanse of Corpus Christi Bay. Spring clouds skim low on the far horizon, frosting the receding darkness in hues of orange, yellow, and salmon pink. Within an hour, throngs of cyclers, Rollerbladers, and skateboarders join the parade, zipping back and forth, exhilarated by the sounds of their spinning wheels and the sun-drenched, waterfront vista.

Relished afloat or afoot, day or night, the palm-studded view along the Corpus Christi bayfront affords residents and visitors alike a visual spectacle. And when you weigh anchor in this subtropical retreat, you'll find a fleet of attractions salty enough to please the adventurous and soothing enough to pamper the weary.

For starters, meander along the waterfront marinas, called T-Heads and L-Heads. Here, seagulls, hoping for a handout, squawk and swoop among curtains of green netting hung out over shrimp boat decks to dry. Nearby, shrimpers hawk the day's fresh catches from rows of overflowing ice chests.

As you pass along the wooden piers and floating docks farther on, an ongoing tide tugs at the moorings of a menagerie of streamlined pleasurecraft. A few hundred yards away, wind-powered boats of all sizes, their multicolored sails billowing in the breeze, tack to and fro in the calm waters of the marina, while others venture out beyond the rock jetties to the white-capped swells of the bay. Multidecked powerboats, bristling with fishing gear and high-tech gadgetry, soon join them,

charting their course for the nearby Intracoastal Waterway and on to the Gulf of Mexico.

Strolling back toward the intersection of Shoreline Drive and the People's Street T-Head, stop by the Selena Memorial. Here, a larger-than-life bronze statue of the slain Tejano singer, accented by a painted white rose, attracts crowds of adoring fans from around the world. People of all ages take turns scrawling messages of devotion on wooden planks provided for the purpose and bow their heads in quiet mourning.

As midday approaches and the sun grows fierce, seek a circle of shade within one of the Miradores del Mar, eight

attractions, the *Flagship* often cruises close enough to sailboats for you to hear their canvas flap.

As you gaze out across the bay's aquamarine waters, you might begin to wonder what kinds of sea creatures prowl below the surface.

"All you need is a fishin' pole to find out," says Clarence Clark (no relation to Nathan), owner of the *Captain Clark* party fishing boat, a 100-passenger, 65-foot vessel also berthed at the People's Street T-Head. "Depending on the season and the weather," says Clarence, "we catch black drum, gaff-top, whiting, sand trout, and even small sharks."

Lingering along the T-Heads, you can hear

snow-white, gazebo-like structures poised in architectural perfection along the seawall's steps. Trimmed with pink granite and multiple, arched windows of Old-World design, they evoke images of Alonso Alvarez de Pineda and other Spanish sailors who explored the region in the early 1500s.

To feel the bay's refreshing waters move beneath your feet, climb aboard the triple-decker, 400-passenger *Capt. Clark's Flagship*. With its spacious outdoor and indoor (air-conditioned) observation platforms, this sturdy paddle-wheeler, owned by Nathan Clark, provides the ideal vehicle for such a voyage. Taking passengers on tours of the Port of Corpus Christi and most of the city's major bayfront

Local jetties, wharfs, and piers—such as Bob Hall Pier, a spacious, sea-front walkway in Padre Balli County Park near Padre Island National Seashore—also boast seasonal catches of redfish, sheepshead, and shark. Vying for a more visceral experience? Test your luck surf-fishing along Padre Island's—or nearby Mustang Island's—miles of sandy beaches.

But if you'd rather watch or photograph these Texas coastal creatures than catch and carry them home, venture over to Corpus Christi's North Beach. Here, just across the imposing Harbor Bridge, which spans the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, lies the Texas State Aquarium. Home to more than 250 species of marine animals indigenous to Texas' inshore and offshore gulf waters, the aquarium offers

[FACING PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM] The Corpus Christi skyline rises above a fleet of pleasure boats tugging at their moorings at a bayside marina. One of the eight Miradores del Mar stands in architectural splendor along the seawall's steps. The miradores serve as windows to the bay and house plaques with historical information about the city.



the sailboats sing to the night as their halyards clank in the wind.



© LAURENCE PARENT



© ERICH SCHLEGEL



Mark Dulaney takes advantage of the sea breezes and surf as he maneuvers his sailboard in Corpus Christi Bay. Annual sailboarding competitions occur at Cole Park, which borders Ocean Drive.

powerful tarpon, whose dark eyes seem to watch your every move. Don't be startled if a 350-pound jewfish (who likes to lounge near the exhibit's floor) emits a loud "boom." Adapted for life at ocean depths of some 300 feet, this monstrous creature, scientists surmise, may use the sound to stun its prey.

An outdoor exhibit on the ground floor features a "touchable" open tank of rays—several species of stingrays and cow-nosed rays whose barbs have been removed—as well as juvenile sharks. An adjacent wetland exhibit adds natural drama to the setting. The wetland provides a home, at various times of year, for flocks of migratory and resident waterfowl, and it also serves as a home for injured birds that are unable to return to the wild.

On the third floor, an open-air observatory provides a wonderful view of Corpus Christi Bay, the ship channel, the USS *Lexington*, and the Harbor Bridge—all vivid reminders of the reasons why so many visitors return here year after year.

While you're on North Beach, don't miss an opportunity to visit the USS *Lexington* Museum on the Bay, the city's most celebrated attraction.

(continued on page 13)

Children enjoy the soothing waters at Corpus Christi's many area beaches. The sands also provide a pliant spot on which to rest or frolic, and the ideal material for sea sculptures.

exhibits ranging from fiddler crabs and flower-like sea anemones to long-legged shorebirds and river otters.

The *Flower Gardens* exhibit, which replicates a Texas offshore coral reef, garners gasps of amazement for its six-foot-long green moray eels, its yellow-tail

snapper, and its platter-size Queen angel fish marked with iridescent blue.

Ooohs and ahhs echo through the corridors yet again at the *Islands of Steel* exhibit, a simulated underwater oil-rig, where lemon sharks swim alongside schools of amberjack, barracuda, and

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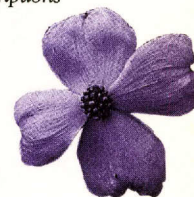


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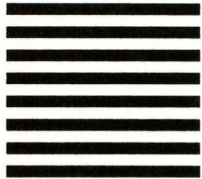
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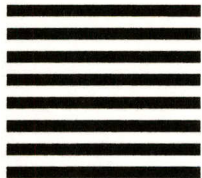
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The Travel Magazine of Texas

FRIENDLY Flippers

Without warning, the glistening, gray dorsal fin of a marine mammal emerges from the blue-green waters of Corpus Christi Bay.

Soon after, a burst of vapor blasts from the blowhole of an Atlantic bottlenose dolphin. Guests of the Dolphin Connection, a marine-mammal ecotour company operating out of nearby Ingleside on the Bay, rush to the edge of the shallow-draft boat for a closer look. Squeals of unbridled joy ring out from children and adults alike. The visitors are privileged to witness a pod (family) of dolphins, as they splash, dive, roll, and float. The privilege becomes a gift when the cetaceans swim close enough to the boat to beg a gentle touch on their smooth, wet skin.

With their pink bellies showing (a coloration seen only in wild dolphins) and their snouts gleaming in what appears to be a permanent smile, the dolphins playfully open their mouths as if to speak, displaying muscular tongues and rows of ivory teeth.

"Notice their torpedo-shaped body design, the ideal profile for speed, agility, and strength in the water," says Erv Strong, who co-owns and operates the Dolphin Connection with his wife, Sonja. "This enables them to easily capture prey, as well as to migrate over hundreds of miles of ocean."

As Sonja recites the names she and Erv have given each

member of the pod and points out their identifying marks, Erv describes the dolphins' feeding, reproductive, and other behavioral habits.

"The female bears one calf about every three to eight years and nurses it for about a year and a half," says Erv. "Female [offspring] stay with their mothers their whole lives, but males usually hook up with a male buddy or group of juvenile males. Both male and female dolphins keep in lifetime contact with their family pods."

Mature coastal dolphins may reach a length of eight feet, weigh between 300 and 400 pounds, and eat up to 50 pounds of fish a day. Because they are mammals, dolphins must surface to breathe, but they hold their breath for eight to 10 minutes and can dive to depths of 1,000 feet.

Of course, dolphins are perhaps best known for their remarkable intelligence. There are many accounts, though only one or two are verifiable, about dolphins rescuing stranded U.S. servicemen during World War II. But no one can argue their phenomenal sonar capabilities. Using clicks, squeaks, and whistles, then measuring the speed and pattern of the



An Atlantic bottlenose dolphin swims up to the Dolphin Connection's boat to greet visitors touring Corpus Christi Bay.

returning echo waves, dolphins can determine precisely how far away an object is and its visual profile. Studies have shown they can observe, among other things, the internal organs of people or other animals swimming in the water with them—just like a sonogram could. In fact, dolphins may be able to "see" more detail using sonar than we can by using our eyes.

The Strongs know that for many of their guests, an excursion with the Dolphin Connection is a dream made reality.

"It's not every day that you get the chance to meet a wild marine mammal," says Sonja. "But we believe these animals should have a chance to interact with people according to their own terms and free will, not in a man-made tank.

"Only in this way can we begin to understand the dolphins' complex social behavior," continues Sonja. "Most importantly, we must find ways to protect and help them survive in their natural habitat."

Within a quarter-hour, the pod decides to move on, signaling good-bye with a final splash. Chances are, another dolphin family will soon take its place alongside the boat.

Meanwhile, at the pier in Ingleside on the Bay, the day's second gathering of guests awaits a chance for a close encounter with wild dolphins. For some, it will be a life-changing experience. For all, a memorable one.

—Janet R. Edwards

KENT ULLBERG'S Sea-Born Sculpture

BY MELISSA MAUPIN

Texas artist Kent Ullberg maintains a close and constant relationship with the outdoor world.

He hunts and fishes, supports wildlife conservation, and makes his living capturing the beauty and majesty of animals in his wildlife sculptures. Of his 45 works permanently installed in countries around the world, ten are in Texas' Coastal Bend region and four are elsewhere in the state.

Ullberg sculpts a variety of wildlife, from bears to birds, but most of his works in this coastal region depict the animals that make their homes in and around local waters.

For example, *Spring Plumage* captures the beauty of the state-ly blue heron. The sculpture sits on the patio at the Texas State Aquarium in front of the aquarium's bird marsh, an outdoor rehabilitation wetland for birds. While pelicans, seagulls, and herons fly over the nearby marsh, Corpus Christi Bay shimmers in the distance.

Ullberg often chooses billfish as his subjects, sculpting them in his trademark style, frozen in motion as they leap into the air. A landmark on the Corpus Christi bayfront, *Wind in the Sails* depicts two leaping sailfish, gracefully arched with their dorsal fins spread in the breeze. The *Corpus Christi Caller-Times* commissioned the piece to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1983. "I think this sculpture is my favorite locally," Kent says of the 23.5-

foot bronze. "I really had fun making it, because I had a free hand with the subject matter."

Ullberg used two smaller sailfish to create *Double-Header* for Aransas Pass, across Corpus Christi Bay. The 12-foot sculpture, which graces the entrance to the city on Texas 35, was commissioned in 1995 by the city as part of a beautification campaign.

Another work, *Leaping Marlin*, greets motorists as they cross the Intracoastal Bridge from Corpus Christi onto Padre Island. The 24-foot-tall sculpture sits before an entry wall carved and painted to represent a wave breaking in front of a setting sun. Palm trees frame the bronze, and visitors often use the tropical setting as a backdrop for photos. *American Marlin*, one of Ullberg's most recent sculptures in the area, also depicts a blue marlin. The American Bank in Port Aransas purchased the work as a gift to the community. The bank owners chose a marlin, the city's symbol, because, like many of the town's residents and visitors, they often fish offshore for the coveted deep-sea sport fish.

Watermusic, Ullberg's first work in the Coastal Bend (dedicated in 1981), depicts three dolphins swimming playfully. Kent initially approached M-Bank (now NationsBank) about installing the proposed sculpture



Spring Plumage, Kent Ullberg's graceful bronze sculpture of a preening heron, overlooks a wetland at the rear of the Texas State Aquarium.

nature. "I'm a naturalist and conservationist," he says. "I hope people will see beauty in nature and understand the importance of preserving it." He also wants his sculptures "to make interesting, abstract shapes." He points to *Wind in the Sails* as an example. Not only did he want the sailfish to look appealing, he strove to make the work's sweeping "S" formation esthetically pleasing, as well.

outside the bank building. When the bank began planning an atrium, however, designers chose to showcase the stainless-steel sculpture dramatically against black granite walls, white marble tile floors, and stainless accents.

Ullberg pioneered the difficult process of stainless-steel casting when he created *Lincoln Centre Eagle*, a 10-foot sculpture unveiled in 1981 at Lincoln Centre Plaza in Dallas. "Although the process is done quite a bit now, I wasn't aware of anyone doing cast sculpture from stainless steel at that time," Kent says. "It's very hard to work in the medium—it's normally outside the scope of equipment used by most art foundries. I was very fortunate that my foundry man came from an industrial background."

When working, one of Ullberg's goals is to celebrate

"I never sculpt any animal I haven't really known or studied," says Kent. "That's part of my philosophy." To observe the animals he sculpts, he spends a good deal of time birding, fishing offshore all over the world, and diving. At times, he even shares a swim with the marlins by luring them with bait but no hooks. "I get in the water with marlin and billfish," he says. "They get all excited by the bait and come up behind the boat. I dive in, and the mates on the deck keep throwing out bait so I can get pictures of the fish."

Ullberg has earned numerous honors and awards for his work through the years, including designation by the Texas Legislature in 1991 as Texas State Artist. He expresses particular pride, though, in his lifetime membership in the National Academy, offered to only a limited number of artists.

Ullberg's love for both wild- life and art came naturally. Born in Sweden, he grew up in a little fishing village, watching his mother weave and his father paint. He often accompanied his father to paint landscapes, but found he spent most of the time simply observing nature. As a young man he worked on his grandfather's trawler in the North Sea. After formal art training in Stockholm, he lived in Africa for seven years.

In 1972, while employed as the curator of the National Museum of Botswana, he hosted a group from the Denver Museum of Natural History collecting specimens for their new African Hall. They offered him a trip to the United States, and once he arrived in Colorado, he decided to stay. He supervised the creation of the museum's African Hall, but left after one year to devote all of his time to his art.

Although Ullberg loved the Rocky Mountains, he yearned to be close to the sea again. In 1978, while exhibiting his art in San Antonio, he and his wife, Veerle, made a side trip to the Texas coast. They decided to make their home there and bought the first house they looked at on Padre Island. "We thought this must be destiny," he says. "We had been in Corpus Christi two hours and had already bought a house. It was the best thing we have ever done."

Corpus has benefited from Ullberg's decision, as well. The Coastal Bend gained a resident artist who continues to create works that both liven the local landscapes and remind everyone who sees them of the beauty of our natural surroundings and the wildlife that lives there.

Freelancer MELISSA MAUPIN lives in Corpus Christi. Her latest book, *Texas Outdoor Adventures for Kids*, will be out this fall.



[ABOVE] Author Jan Edwards examines a sea cucumber at 7 ½ Fathom Reef, 40 miles south of Corpus Christi off Padre Island National Seashore. Many Coastal Bend dive shops offer trips to offshore oil platforms and Gulf Coast reefs.

[LEFT] Hibiscus and myriad other cultivated tropical plants add color to the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens, which are flanked by undisturbed South Texas brush country and the banks of Oso Creek.



Corpus Christi, the sixth-largest U.S. port in tonnage, has



"People are often surprised at the colorful history of this World War II aircraft carrier and the important role it played as flagship for the Navy," says Judith Whipple, the ship's historian. "It survived a kamikaze hit on November 5, 1945, that killed 50 U.S. Navy servicemen. The vessel had 32 captains during its 49 years of service. And it posted the first woman aboard any U.S. naval carrier."

The "Lady Lex," which attracts some 300,000 visitors each year (see "The Blue Ghost," May 1993), proudly displays many original uniforms and personal artifacts donated by men and women who served on her decks. Self-guided tours allow access to areas such as the captain's cabin, hangar deck, ready rooms, navigational center, and flight deck—complete with vintage U.S.

ernment of Spain in 1989 to mark the upcoming 500th anniversary of the voyages. Since the *Pinta* and *Santa María* are currently being repaired in dry dock, visitors can inspect the ships' exteriors both above and below the water line, as well as below deck inside the *Santa María*. (The *Niña*, temporarily moored along the Lawrence Street T-Head, will be moved to the Shipyard at a later date.)

Inside the museum, don't miss the *Seeds of Change* exhibit, which explains the profound impact of Columbus' voyages. The five "seeds" included the introduction of the horse and the cultivation of sugarcane in the New World, the introduction of potatoes and corn to the Old World, and the transmission of European diseases, which

an interactive children's wharf (designed for three- to seven-year-olds), where kids can "fish" over the side of an indoor shrimp boat.

The South Texas Institute for the Arts, situated a few steps east of the museum, holds an impressive collection of contemporary and traditional art displayed in a setting whose natural light and open spaces evoke a sense of being afloat at sea. Recent exhibits include the *Gilman Collection*, a select group of evocative photographs assembled by New Yorker Sondra Gilman, and the *Oso Bay Biennial X Sculpture*, a display of bronze castings from foundries in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Crowley, Texas.

In front of the Art Institute, a circular sculpture of fountains, known as the Watergardens, features comfortable benches where you can relax and contemplate the bayfront. The adjacent Harbor Playhouse and Selena Auditorium at the Bayfront Plaza Convention Center complement these cultural offerings with a variety of dramatic and musical performances.

Historical treasures await about a block south at Heritage Park, a collection of nine restored, turn-of-the-century homes that call to mind the city's early settlers. Most notable of these was Henry L. Kinney, who founded Corpus Christi. A Pennsylvania entrepreneur, Henry set up the region's first trading post in 1839.

In the years following the Texas revolution of 1836, acreage between the Rio Grande and the Nueces River fell into dispute. Anticipating armed conflict with Mexico, General Zachary Taylor brought U.S. troops to the area in 1845. During the ensuing Mexican

attracted seafarers for nearly 500 years.

Navy planes. Many who tour this vessel anticipate the chance to vicariously experience life aboard ship, and, as a bonus, rekindle a sense of gratitude toward those who sailed the high seas in our nation's defense.

As you travel back toward downtown across the 235-foot-high Harbor Bridge, take note of the tankers, freighters, and warehouses along the ship channel's turning basin and docking area below and to the west. This center of global commerce—site for the worldwide exchange of grain, ores, chemicals, and petroleum—is the sixth-largest U.S. port in tonnage.

At the nearby Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History, visitors marvel at full-size replicas of Christopher Columbus' fleet, built by the gov-

ernment of Spain in 1989 to mark the upcoming 500th anniversary of the voyages.

"Visitors also enjoy our *Shipwreck!* exhibit," says Rick Stryker, the museum's director. "In it, you'll find artifacts recovered from Spanish ships that sank in the waters off Padre Island in 1554. A large anchor on display is remarkable because it's still in one piece. Back then, Spanish anchors were so weak that ships often carried spares. Sailors of the 16th Century described anything flimsy by saying it was 'meager as a Spanish anchor.'"

The exhibit boasts the world's oldest known mariner's astrolabe (an astronomical navigational device), as well as rough discs of silver bullion that weigh up to 20 pounds.

The museum also offers touchable artifacts, dioramas, a live alligator, and

[FACING PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM] A replica of Christopher Columbus' flagship, the *Santa María*, can be viewed at the rear of the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History. The three Columbus fleet vessels were built in Spain and now reside in Corpus Christi. A tugboat nudges a tanker under the Harbor Bridge, which spans the Corpus Christi Ship Channel.

War (1846-48), Taylor resupplied his men at Kinney's post.

Following the war, Kinney began promoting Corpus Christi as a resort, calling the town the "Naples of the Gulf" and the "Italy of America." Few took notice until after the Civil War, when settlers began to recognize the region's vacation potential.

Touted these days as the "Sparkling City By the Sea" and more recently as "Texas with a Tropical Twist," Corpus, as it is often called, shines by day and night, hugging the bayfront like the moon's gleaming crescent. As the hub of maritime merriment in the Coastal Bend, the city hosts Buccaneer Days (April), Power Boat Races (June), Bayfest (September), the Texas Jazz Festival (October), Harbor Lights (December), and a shipload of other fiestas, art festivals, and seaborne sporting events.

In September, the searing South Texas sun loosens its grip somewhat, and the air seems to lighten its touch upon the skin. Soon, rows of colorful tents, elevated performance stages, and food vendors begin to appear along the grassy medians of North Shoreline Drive, signaling the beginning of Bayfest, the city's grand, community-wide fund-raising effort.

Invigorated by music of every description, including the melody of the bayfront breeze, visitors nibble roasted turkey legs and cinnamon-crisp funnel cakes as they sit along the steps of the seawall. Others shop for jewelry, pottery, baked goods, and other hand-crafted items. Youngsters enjoy the children's tent, where the "treasure-hunters" can search for buried seashells and other natural delights in a giant sandbox.

In October, just as the first hint of autumn tempers the city with cooler weather, the Jazz Festival heats up the bayfront once again. Beneath an evening sky embroidered with brilliant stars, complex rhythms and harmonies fill the air. Composed by musicians of both local and national fame, the music seems more poignant alongside the bay's shimmering waters. But regardless of the time of day or season, the city's certain charms seem more than the sum of its nautical nuances.

"Our beautiful bayfront, beaches, fishing, and mild winters will grab you," says Carole Lawson, director of tourism for the Greater Corpus Christi Business Alliance. "We're within a rea-

curtains, and fresh flowers create a quaint, yet stylish setting for a delicious assortment of salads, soups, sandwiches, and sumptuous quiches.

Nearby, the malls and strip centers along S.P.I.D. offer a sea of additional shopping destinations. Padre Staples Mall is a particular favorite of folks with children, who love to giggle and "gallop" on the hand-painted horses encircling the mall's brilliantly lit, 25-foot-high, double-decker carousel.

No visit to Corpus Christi is complete without a leisurely auto cruise down Ocean Drive, which snakes along the bayfront. The wide thoroughfare boasts elegant

Corpus Christi sparkles by day and by

sonable drive for most regions of the state, and we have lots of things to do. Corpus Christi is a great place for a weekend getaway."

When the noon hour approaches and the hungries begin to growl, here you can't help thinking both seafood and Tex-Mex. Head over to the downtown area, where you can treat your taste buds to a tempting variety of food, including fresh seafood, mouth-watering Mexican entrées, and Cajun crawfish. After lunch, spend a bit of time browsing for that special gift or souvenir among a nearby selection of stores selling novelties, antiques, handicrafts, and clothing.

An especially savory site for lunch is Jeron's Tea Room and Cafe, near South Padre Island Drive (S.P.I.D.) off Airline Road. Antique furnishings, lace

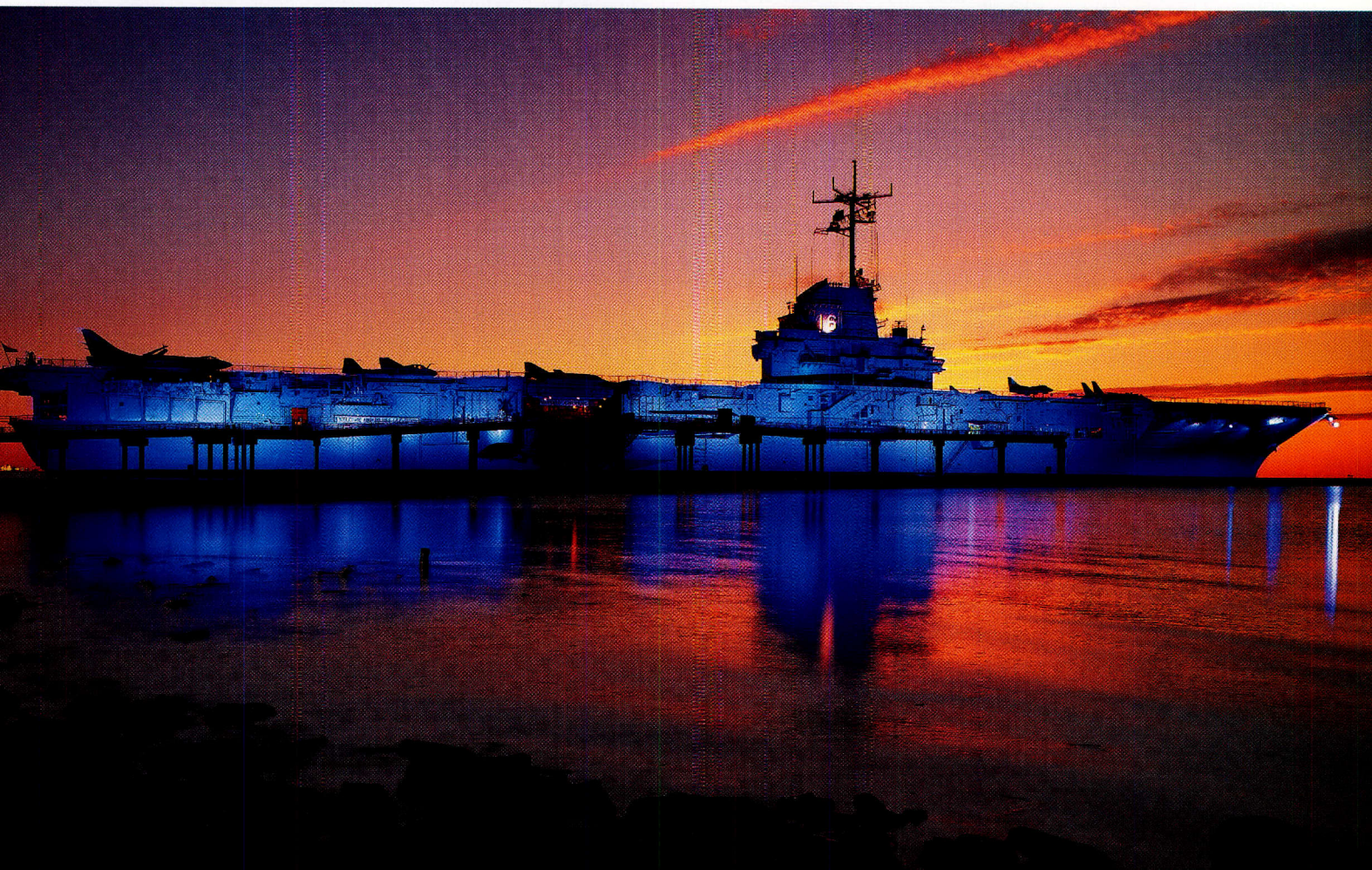
mansions, towering subtropical palms, beds of blooming plants, and the gleaming waves of Corpus Christi Bay. When the wind is up, find a parking spot alongside one of the waterfront parks, and watch for windsurfers, whose streamlined boards slice across the water's surface at breathtaking speed.

If more time spent in a natural setting sounds appealing, travel south on Staples from S.P.I.D. to the Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens, where acres of pristine, protected mesquite thickets intermingle with undisturbed wetlands. A recent expansion has added shaded rest and picnic areas, greenhouses with displays of orchids and exotic plumeria, and a sensory garden. You can also enjoy birdwatching on Gator Lake. The

[FACING PAGE, TOP TO BOTTOM] Day breaks beyond a silhouette of towering palms, long a symbol of Corpus Christi. At sunrise, the USS *Lexington* lives up to its nickname, the "Blue Ghost." Upon its second decommissioning, in 1991, the carrier boasted more than 300,000 aircraft launches.



night, hugging the bayfront like the moon's gleaming crescent.



Corpus Christi

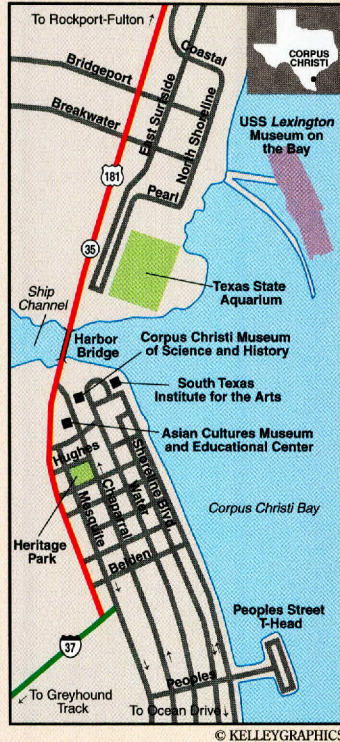
Whether you want to sail the bay, savor the seafood, or shop the bargains, Corpus Christi is a great place for a well-deserved getaway. All attractions mentioned in the main article offer wheelchair access.

The **Greater Corpus Christi Business Alliance** provides oodles of visitor information. Drop by the downtown office, at 1201 N. Shoreline Blvd., one block north of Interstate 37. Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30-5, Sat 9-3. Write to Box 2664, Corpus Christi 78403; 881-1888 or 800/678-6232. **Corpus Christi's area code is 512.**

Visitor information is also available at the Nueces River exit (exit 16 on I-37; open daily 9-5; 241-1464) and on South Padre Island Dr. at the Padre Island National Seashore office (open daily 9-5; 949-8743).

If you want to fish, the 65-foot **Captain Clark party fishing boat**, equipped with lounge, snack bar, and sun deck, is at the Peoples St. T-Head. Cost: \$19, \$14 age 11 and younger (price includes tackle and bait). For fishing schedule (subject to change) and reservations, call 884-4369.

The **Star Trek fishing charter boat** also departs from the Peoples St. T-Head. Call 883-5031 for hours and prices. The waterfront features a selection of other bay fishing vessels, while nearby coastal communities offer larger boats that venture out into the Gulf of Mexico. For more information,



contact the Greater Corpus Christi Business Alliance.

For narrated day and evening **boat tours** of the USS *Lexington*, the Texas State Aquarium, the Columbus Fleet, the Port of Corpus Christi, and other attractions around Corpus Christi Bay and harbor, contact the **Flagship**, also on the Peoples St. T-Head, slip 49. Cost: \$7-\$10, \$4-\$5 ages 4-11, free age 3 and younger. Hours vary; call for schedule. All tours are wheelchair accessible. Call Capt. Clark's Deep Sea Boats, Inc., at 884-8306; email: CaptClarks

Flagship@worldnet.att.net. Group rates and charters available.

Children of all ages take a shine to the **paddleboats** available for rent during the summer along the Peoples St. T-Head. The colorful craft dance a slow-motion waltz along the marina's piers and jetties. For information, contact the Greater Corpus Christi Business Alliance.

For information on captained and bareboat **sailing charters** (including sunset/supper cruises), write to the Sailing Center, Inc., 200 S. Shoreline, 78401; 881-8503.

Plan to spend at least a half-day at the **Texas State Aquarium**, on Corpus Christi's North Beach, next to the USS *Lexington*. The aquarium offers special programs and workshops, a concession area, and a gift shop. A new, temporary exhibit of living jellyfish is scheduled to open on Memorial Day Weekend. Hours: Open daily (closed Christmas Day), but hours vary. Admission: \$8; \$6.75 ages 12-17, age 60 and older, and military with ID; \$4.50 ages 4-12; free age 3 and younger. Write to 2710 N. Shoreline Blvd., 78401; 881-1200 or 800/477-GULF.

The nearby **USS Lexington Museum on the Bay** deserves a half-day, as well. Wear tennis shoes and comfortable clothes if you plan to tour the various decks (the stairs are steep). Only the main deck is wheelchair accessible. A concession and gift shop provide creature

comforts. Hours: Daily 9-5; closed Christmas Day. Admission: \$9; \$7 age 60 and older and active military; \$4 ages 4-12; free age 3 and younger and members. On July 4, the 3rd annual "Stars and Stripes" celebration will feature the Corpus Christi Symphony playing on the flight deck, with fireworks provided by H-E-B Grocery. Write to Box 23076, 78403; 800/LADY-LEX.

To get in touch with the region's past, visit the **Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History**, 1900 N. Chaparral, near the Selena Auditorium. Full enjoyment of the museum requires several hours. Columbus' ships, the Spanish shipwrecks, interactive exhibits, and the gift shop make this museum a "must-see." Summer hours: Daily 10-6. After Labor Day: Mon-Sat 10-5, Sun noon-5. Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days. Admission: \$8; \$7 ages 13-17, age 60 and older, and military with ID; \$4 ages 5-12; free age 4 and younger. Write to 1900 N. Chaparral, 78401; 883-2862.

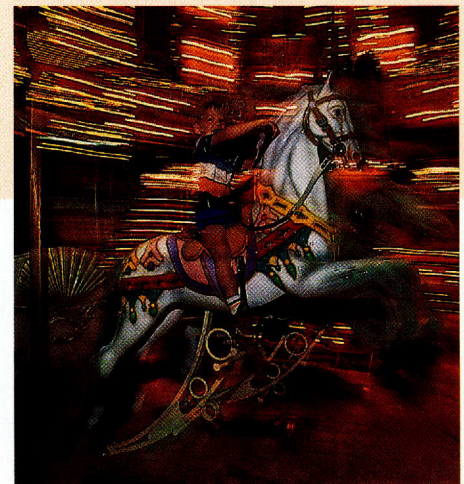
Another destination for a historical tour is **Heritage Park**, whose recently restored, early 19th-Century homes on N. Chaparral provide a nostalgic look at the past. Tearoom and gift shop. Hours: Mon-Thu 10-5, Fri-Sat 9-2. Admission: Free; guided tours

gift shop features handmade gifts and decorative items.

As nightfall approaches, venture back to the downtown area, where the pleasing and comfortably simple Mamma Mia's restaurant serves a variety of authentic Italian entrées, pastas, fresh salads, and fine wines. And for dessert, try the tiramisu—ladyfingers soaked in hazelnut liqueur and espresso sauce,

then topped with mascarpone cheese and melted chocolate.

Equally satisfying is a meal at Water Street Oyster Bar, which specializes in fresh, delectable seafood. Framed by a setting of tropical plants and weathered-brick walls, patrons feast upon hors d'oeuvres—fragrant bowls of seafood gumbo or shrimp and oysters wrapped in bacon. Others relish golden-fried



A double-decker carousel entertains children at Padre Staples Mall. The elaborate Italian merry-go-round features horses with real horsehair tails.

cost \$3-\$1. Write to 1581 N. Chaparral, 78401; 883-0639.

The **South Texas Institute for the Arts** (formerly the Art Museum of South Texas), 1902 N. Shoreline, features a variety of watercolors, oil paintings, sculpture, and other art forms in both traveling and permanent collections. Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5 (Thu 10-9). Admission: \$3; \$2 age 60 and older, students with ID, and military; \$1 ages 2-12; free admission on Thu. Write to 1902 N. Shoreline, 78401; 884-3844.

The **Corpus Christi Botanical Gardens**, 8545 S. Staples, is 4½ miles south of S.P.I.D., on the south bank of Oso Creek. Hours: Tue-Sun 9-5 (Thu until 8 p.m., June-Sep). Admission: \$2, \$1.50 age 65 and older, \$1 ages 5-12, free for members and age 4 and younger. Parking is free, with room for buses and RVs. Dogs allowed, if leashed. Write to 8545 S. Staples, 78413; 852-2100.

Other Sites

The **Asian Cultures Museum and Educational Center**, 1809 N. Chaparral, which is scheduled to reopen in early May, contains more than 8,000 artifacts from Asian countries, including Japan, China, Korea, India, and the Philippines. Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5. Admission: \$4, \$3.50 seniors and military, \$2.50 ages 6-15, free age 5 and younger. Write to 1809 N. Chaparral, 78401; 882-2641.

The **Corpus Christi Greyhound Race Track** offers pari-

mutel betting, with a clubhouse, grandstand, and food court. Clubhouse admission: \$2. Grandstand admission: \$1. Write to 5302 Leopard St., 78408; 289-9333 or 800/580-RACE.

Restaurants

Jeron's Tea Room and Cafe, at 5830 McArdle, opens Tue-Sat 11-3. Call 980-1939.

Mamma Mia's Restaurant, at 128 N. Mesquite, opens for lunch (Tue-Fri 11-2) and for dinner (Tue-Sat 5 p.m. until the last customer leaves). Call 883-3773.

Water Street Oyster Bar, at 309 N. Water, opens Sun-Thu 11-11, Fri-Sat 11 a.m.-midnight. Call 881-9448.

Dolphin Connection

The **Dolphin Connection** operates daily year round, weather permitting. Tours last approximately 1 hour. *Reservations required*. Cost: \$17, \$12 age 12 and younger. Write to Erv and Sonja Strong, Rt. 1, Box 185, Ingleside on the Bay 78362; 776-2887. Web site: www.expresspages.com/d/dolphinconnection.

For those unable to take the tour, a dolphin music video, "Dolphins Unplugged, Loose in the U.S.A.," is available only through the Dolphin Connection for \$21.95 (includes shipping and tax).

Kent Ullberg's Art in the Coastal Bend

To see Kent Ullberg's art in the Coastal Bend, take this day-trip around Corpus Christi Bay, starting in downtown Corpus Christi,

looping around through Port Aransas and Aransas Pass, and ending at the Texas State Aquarium on Corpus Christi Beach.

- *Wind in the Sails* (bronze sailfish), on the grassy median of N. Shoreline at Schatzell St. (just south of the People's St. T-Head), Corpus Christi.

- *Watermusic* (stainless-steel dolphins), in the lobby of Nations-Bank, at 500 N. Shoreline, Corpus Christi.

- *It is I* (bronze of Christ), on the grounds of First United Methodist Church, 900 S. Shoreline, Corpus Christi.

- *Eagle Rock* (bronze American eagle), Whataburger Plaza, 4600 Parkdale Dr. (near corner of Everhart and Staples), Corpus Christi.

- *Evolution* (monumental bas-relief triptych of a heron), on loan to Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Dr.

- *Leaping Marlin* (bronze), Park Rd. 22, North Padre Island, Corpus Christi.

- *American Marlin* (bronze), in front of American Bank, Alister St. at Ave. C., Port Aransas.

- *Double-Header* (bronze sailfish), across from City Hall, Texas 35 (Wheeler Ave.), Aransas Pass.

- *Spring Plumage* (bronze preening heron) and new *Ring of Bright Water* (bronze river otters), both at Texas State Aquarium, 2710 N. Shoreline, Corpus Christi.

Ullberg shows at galleries across the country. In the Coastal Bend, his art can be found at the Corpus Christi Art Connection, 3636 S. Alameda, Taylor Center, Ste. C, Corpus Christi 78411 (854-1057 or 800/772-1717); and at Gary Osborne Fine Arts, 345 N. Alister St., Port Aransas 78373 (749-6982 or 800/867-2248).

Books & Videos

Look in your local library or bookstore for copies of *Seeds of Change: 500 Years Since Columbus* by Herman J. Viola and Carolyn Margolis (Smithsonian Institution Press, 1991), which recounts Columbus' impact on the region's cultural development. Also look for *Corpus Christi: History of a Texas Sea Port* (American Historical Press, 1997) and *Gift of the Wind: The Corpus Christi Bayfront* (Javelina Press, 1997), both by Bill Walraven, which describe the building of the Port of Corpus Christi and the city's seawall.

For a video account of the city's past, look for *Remembering Corpus Christi: A Nostalgic Look at Corpus Christi in the 1920's, 30's and 40's* (KEDT Television Station, 1997; available for \$24 from KEDT, 512/855-2213).

Birders visiting the area will appreciate *Birds of the Texas Coastal Bend: Abundance and Distribution* by John H. Rappole and Gene W. Blacklock (Texas A&M Univ. Press, 1985); available for \$19.50, plus shipping and tax, from Texas A&M Univ. Press, 800/826-8911.

shrimp, Mahi-Mahi Veracruz, blackened redfish, or mesquite-grilled amberjack topped with Crawfish Nueces, the restaurant's own special sauce.

After dinner, you can dance the night away to the beat of live music at a number of downtown clubs, including Tom Foolery or the Yucatan. If you'd rather sip suds and relax a while, try the Executive Surf Club,

Doctor Rokit's Blues Bar, or Buck-et's Sports Bar and Grill.

Before you head back home, take one last tour of the Corpus Christi bayfront by evening. Linger along the T-Heads, you can hear the sailboats sing to the night as their halcyons clank in the wind. Inhale the scent of air washed clean across an ocean of salt, and let your mind grow

calm at the sight of lights mirrored by the bay as vertical, undulating ribbons. For here lies a magical blend of water, land, and sky—a glistening city by the sea. ★

Freelance writer JAN EDWARDS called Corpus Christi her home for more than 20 years.

Photographer STEPHAN MYERS, Jan's husband, lived in Corpus Christi for three years, and has been documenting the area for a decade.

Plenty of old Texas homes were built with cattle money, but in the 1870s, not many boasted indoor plumbing, central heat, and gaslight chandeliers fueled by a gasoline-powered generator on the property. That's why Oakhurst, the innovative, 29-room mansion built by jack-of-all-trades and Fulton town-founder George Fulton, became a state historical park. The home offers a view of the way George's upper-middle-class family lived at a time when Texas, for the most part, remained untamed.

WITH PLENTIFUL AMENITIES,
INCLUDING CENTRAL HEAT AND INDOOR
PLUMBING, THE 1870s FULTON MANSION
WAS A BAY-SIDE TRAILBLAZER.

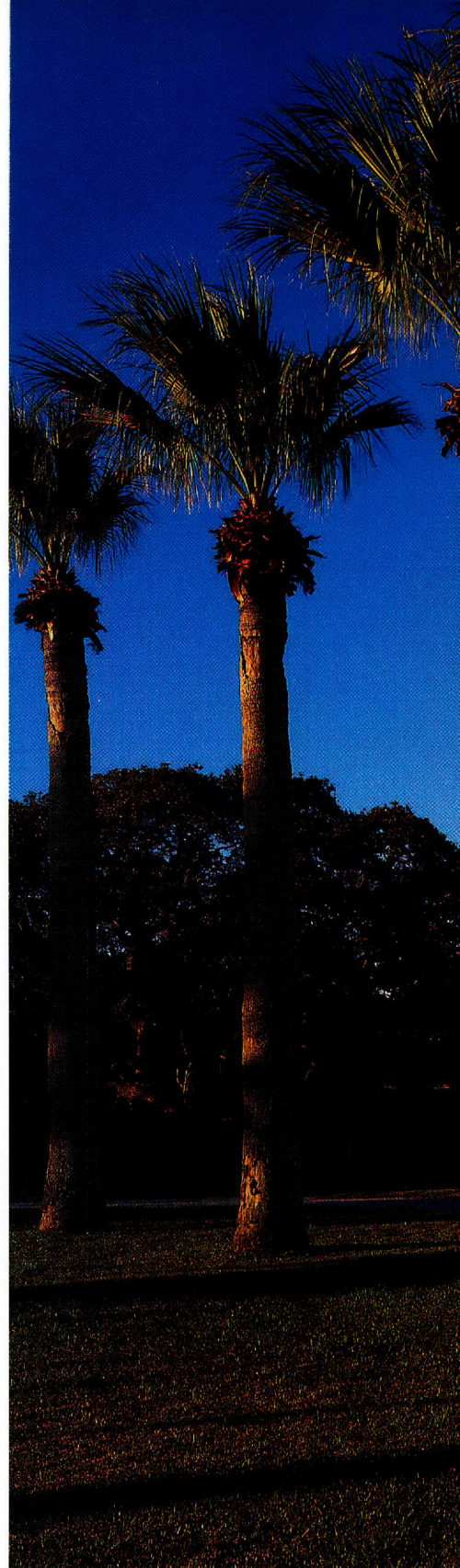
Fulton, a Philadelphian who had hoped to help Texians fight their revolution, did not arrive in Texas until late in 1836, after the war had ended. Nevertheless, he joined the Texas army and received a captain's commission and payment in land scrip. For cash, he found work at the General Land Office in Houston. There, he made the acquaintance of Henry Smith, the former provisional colonial governor of Texas. After a failed town-founding venture with Smith, Fulton taught school in Brazoria, married one of his students (Smith's daughter, Harriet), then in 1846 moved to Baltimore, where he worked for his brother at the *Baltimore Sun*. Later, in Ohio, Fulton learned and plied his trade as an engineer, working for more than 25 years on rail and bridge projects.

In 1867, after Harriet inherited land—most of it near Rockport, on Live Oak Point—the couple moved back to Texas with their four children. To increase the property's value, George tried to develop the area by establishing meat-packing and cattle-ranching operations and by working to get railroads into the region so he could move his products to market quickly.

Upon their return to Texas, George and Harriet lived in a beach house they called "The Long House." But in 1874, the couple began building what would become Oakhurst. Using lumber and supplies shipped from New Orleans, the East Coast, and Europe, they completed their seaside home in 1877. Its French Second Empire styling featured a steeply pitched mansard roof with dormers and slate shingles. With running water, English tile, and fine imported fixtures, the house definitely stood out. It even boasted a rudimentary clothes dryer—a large wooden rack for wet laundry that slid into the wall next to the basement furnace to heat-dry.

The Fultons spent 16 years at Oakhurst, and their children, grandchildren, friends,

From 1874 to 1877, George and Harriet Fulton oversaw the construction of the 29-room home they called Oakhurst. With its French Second Empire-style exterior and fine interior furnishings, the coastal home, now known as Fulton Mansion, has served as a state historical park since 1983.



S P L E N D O R



BY THE SEA



Showy English tile, original to the home, surrounds a cast-iron heat register in the vestibule.

FROM the vestibule, with its original, brightly patterned English tile floor and ornate plaster ceiling-medallion, volunteer docents escort visitors into an era when details received their due.

and business associates stayed with them so often that the couple considered it unusual *not* to have houseguests. They had plenty of elbow room, as the house had three stories and a full basement, plus a tower room, known architecturally as a “Growlery,” where George could retreat to rest.

In 1896, three years after George’s death at age 83, Harriet left Oakhurst to live with a daughter in Cincinnati and died there in 1910. The family sold the house—at a loss—in 1907, and it eventually fell into disrepair. A mobile-home park occupied the grounds before the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department bought the property in 1976. The agency spent more than a million dollars restoring the house and furnishing it with items from the late 19th Century. Fulton Mansion opened for public tours in December 1983.

The fruit of all the painstaking labor is revealed during tours of the home. From the vestibule, with its original, brightly patterned English tile floor and ornate plaster ceiling-medallion, volunteer docents escort visitors into an era when details received their due. Formal and elaborately upholstered furniture appropriate to the period and its popular Renaissance Revival style furnish the home. Numerous windows allow plenty of light to shine in during the day.

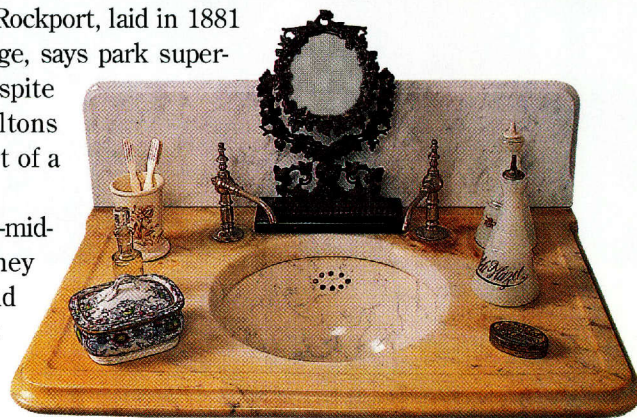
The conservatory, off the vestibule, filled with windows and houseplants, catches the eye first. Growing plants was a hobby of Harriet’s, but the original house plan, according to docent Beth Wilson, did not include this room. Historians believe that while the house was under construction, the Fultons attended the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and saw a large, indoor-garden conservatory on display. “What we think happened,” says Beth with a smile, “is that Harriet said, ‘Oh, George, I’ve just got to have one in my house!’” However it happened, the couple

closed in part of the porch, and Harriet got her conservatory.

From the conservatory, you enter the library, where the shelves of the Fultons’ glass-front bookcase still hold some of their books. The room also features one of the home’s many faux fireplaces, which served as central-heating ducts fed by the furnace—evidence of George’s engineering skill at work during design and construction. The carpet, with its abstract pattern in gold and rust, matches the original one, which came from Alex T. Stewart & Co. of New York.

In the parlor, portraits of George and Harriet hang on either side of a bay window. The photographs may have been taken to celebrate the couple’s 50th wedding anniversary in 1890, an event that proceeded with some fanfare (and coverage by the *San Antonio Express*). Invited guests could easily make the trip, because of a railroad spur from Corpus Christi to Rockport, laid in 1881 under pressure from George, says park superintendent Diana Kirby. Despite George’s influence, the Fultons were not rich, but rather part of a new, growing social class.

“The Fultons were upper-middle-class,” says Diana. “They were very comfortable, and they lived better than most people did. But they were not wealthy people.” And like many modern middle-class families, the couple



A marble lavatory countertop displays health and beauty aids of the day, including witch hazel.

relied to some extent on borrowed money to cover their expenses. According to financial receipts now in the University of Texas' archives, George was \$10,000 in debt to one of his cattle-ranching partners in 1886, and Harriet could not afford to maintain the house for very long after he died.

The tour continues with a look at the large dining room, a distinctive feature of which is a high-chair that can convert to a rocker or a stroller.

Upstairs, visitors see the bedrooms, sitting room, and a bathroom fitted out with the very latest (1870s) plumbing, a deep copper tub,

and a commode whose seat resembles that of an outhouse. The master bedroom features Harriet's opera cape, a lady's writing desk, and the Fultons' black walnut half-tester bed. According to Beth Wilson, in those days, many people thought it unhealthy to sleep lying stretched out and preferred sitting up in bed.

Such a large house required plenty of upkeep, and Harriet oversaw up to 12 servants at any given time. Though labor was cheap, she often talked of the problems of finding and keeping good help. She herself had plenty to do in addition to directing the servants, gardening, and socializing with neighbors. "Harriet didn't have the luxury of not having to work," says Diana Kirby. "She did a great deal of supervising and running the household. And there were certain tasks thought appropriate to the lady of the house, such as washing the crystal and baking the bread."

One upstairs room of the home has purposely remained unrestored, to demonstrate the difference renovation made. Photos and diagrams of the restoration work, along with cutaway sections, reveal the stacked-plank wall construction and shellcrete (oyster shell-based concrete) floors. The unusually sturdy construction allowed the home to withstand the powerful 1919 hurricane, which caused more than \$20 million in damage along the Texas Gulf Coast and killed almost 300 people. Such construction would be prohibitively expensive now, Diana notes. Fortunately for lovers of old homes and Texana, Fulton Mansion's innovations and decorative details remain for all to enjoy. ★

Round Rock writer CASEY KELLY BARTON is currently working on a children's book about wildflowers. This is her first story for *Texas Highways*.

A portfolio by frequent contributor STEPHAN MYERS begins on page 32.

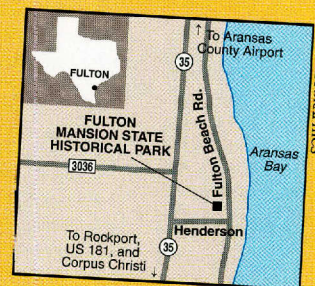


[CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP LEFT] The Fultons may have created their indoor-garden conservatory after seeing one at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. The couple's half-tester bed dominates the master bedroom upstairs. Another room features a cutaway that shows the home's sturdy, stacked-plank wall construction.

WHEN...WHERE...HOW

Fulton Mansion State Historical Park

Fulton Mansion State Historical Park is at 317 Fulton Beach Rd. in Fulton, off Texas 35. Hours: Wed-Sun 9-4; closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days. Guided tours begin on the hour. Admission: \$4, \$2 ages 6-18 and college students with valid ID, free age 5 and younger. Groups of 10 or more should make reservations at least a month in advance. The grounds are available for special events; call for details. Only the first floor is wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 1859, Fulton 78358; 512/729-0386.





WILDFLOWERS

BY NOLA MCKEY • PHOTOGRAPHS BY WYMAN MEINZER

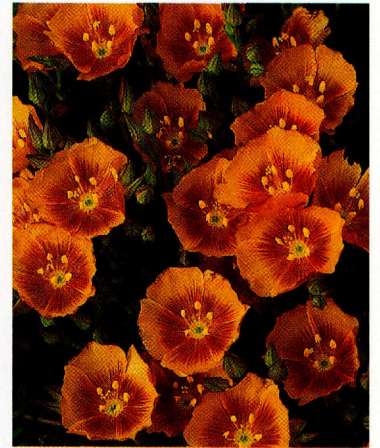
SPRING comes to most parts of Texas in March, rejuvenating roadsides and pastures with patches of bright green leaves and colorful blossoms. But in the northern part of the state, the same month often brings fresh snow, bone-chilling winds, and nary a sign of wildflowers.

Take it from someone who knows. When you move from southeast Texas to the Panhandle, as I did in the 1980s, you notice these things. So you wait, and, of course, anticipate, which heightens your appreciation of the season when it finally arrives. The payoff usually comes sometime in late April or early May, when myriad wildflowers erupt into bloom and enliven the majestic landscapes of the Texas plains.

Naturally, the farther north you go, the later the blooming period. In the Amarillo area, wildflowers may not appear until June. Besides latitude, other factors affect the premiere: the amount of daylight, soil temperature, and, of course, rain—always rain. Freelance photographer Wyman Meinzer, a native of Benjamin, in Knox County, cites the common wisdom: “The peak time for wildflowers in West Texas is right after a significant rainfall.”

Dr. Charlie Werth, a professor of botany at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, says the Panhandle, because much of it is prairie land, has an abundance of native herbaceous plants that produce large, showy displays. “Typically, there’s an incredible flush of wildflowers in April and May,” he says. “It’s sort of a natural roadside-beautification program. You don’t see this phenomenon in forested areas.”

By all accounts, last spring’s wildflower pageant was one of the region’s most spectacular ever. Wyman predicts this year’s will prove just as impressive. But if you can’t make it to the Panhandle to see the show, revel in these photos of the 1997 extravaganza. We think you’ll agree that plains wildflowers are worth waiting for.



[FACING PAGE] Far different from the pastoral settings often associated with wildflowers, the Panhandle’s High Plains and Rolling Plains provide dramatic backdrops for Texas’ late-bloomers. Here, false broomweed adds a splash of spring color to the rugged terrain of Palo Duro Canyon.

[ABOVE, RIGHT] Like many plains wildflowers, yellow flax (or stiff-stem flax) is less than a foot tall and therefore best appreciated up close. Look for these beauties in flat, open areas, such as grasslands and pastures.

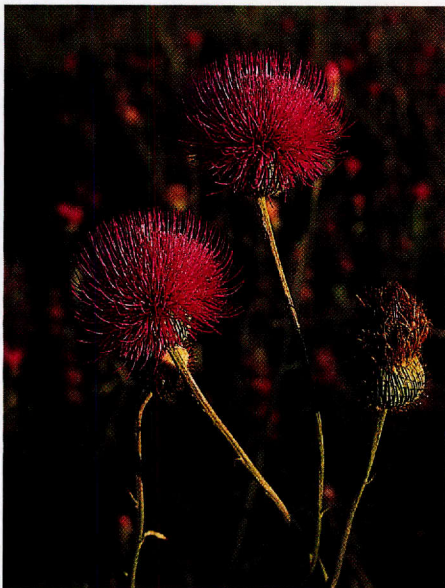
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TEXAS PLAINS

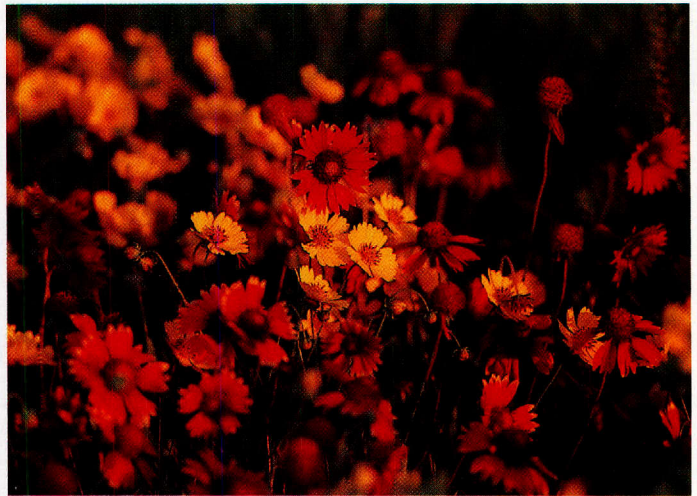




Travelers should have no trouble spotting sweet clover (facing page), a common roadside plant that sports either yellow or white flowers and stands about two feet tall. Botanists say it's an "introduced," or nonnative, plant. The twining purple-flowered plant is pea-vine. Look for goatsbeard (above), another introduced plant, in the morning, because its blooms close around midday—hence another of its common names, noonflower. The pinkish-purple flower heads of Texas thistle (below, both shots) attract butterflies and bumblebees.

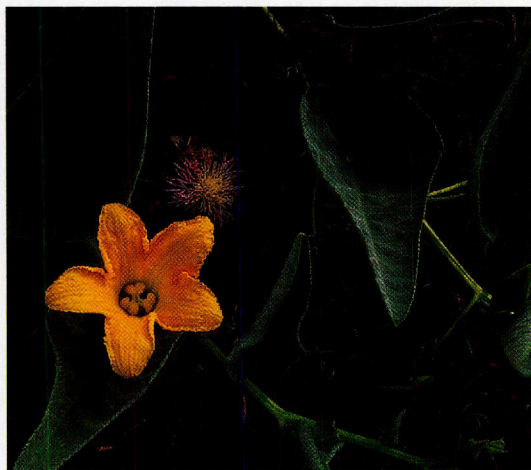






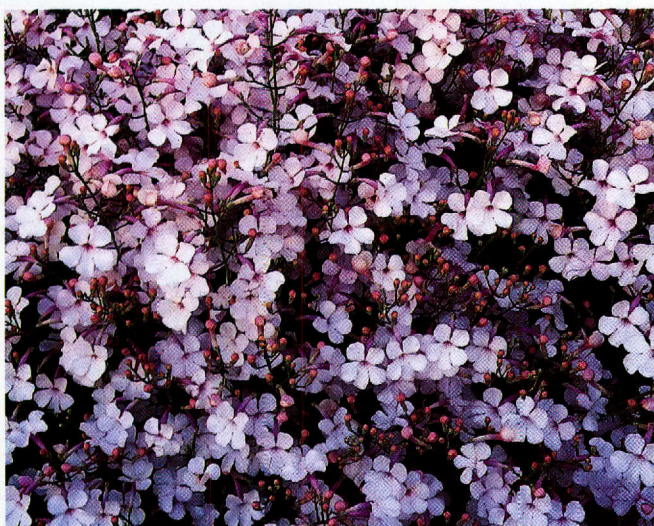
Though often called sand lily, the plant shown at left doesn't belong to the lily family. Its other name, stick-leaf, is more logical. The leaves adhere stubbornly to any fabric they touch, as any Panhandle nature-lover can testify. Look for sand lilies along Texas 6 between Benjamin and Crowell. Indian blankets and common thelesperma (above), two of the plains' most abundant wildflowers, paint a pretty picture north of Post. Buffalo gourd (below) produces a small round fruit that turns tan as it dries. The plant's species name, *foetidissima*, means "most foul-smelling." If you step on the leaves, you'll understand why.

[OVERLEAF] The purple plumes of horsemint dominate this springtime scene in Palo Duro Canyon. Indian blankets and paperflowers add contrast.









Purple coneflower (above) accents a roadside view between Pampa and Miami along US 60. Newly popular with modern Americans as the source of the herb echinacea, the root of this plant was once used by Native Americans for medicinal purposes. One of the region's showiest wildflowers, plains penstemon (left) thrives in sandy soils. This display was photographed along FM 651 between Post and Crosbyton, on a sandhill near the Salt Fork of the Brazos River. The species name of exotic-looking feather dalea (facing page, top), *formosa*, means "beautifully formed"—who says science can't be romantic? The colorful wildflower mix at right brightens the steep slope of a bar ditch just outside the city limits of Guthrie. It features lazy daisy, verbena, and members of the genus *Thelesperma*.

Petals on the Plains



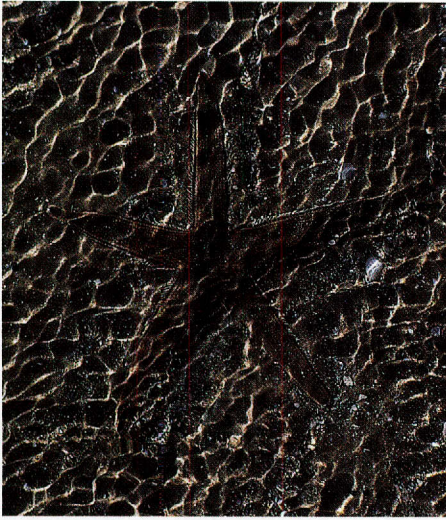
Associate editor NOLA McKEY moved from Lubbock to Austin in 1994, when she joined the *Texas Highways* staff. She has fond memories of the Panhandle's springtime vistas.

Freelance photographer WYMAN MEINZER traveled some 3,000 miles last spring on Texas' High Plains and Rolling Plains to shoot the images for this feature.

The Texas Panhandle is comprised of two geographic regions, the High Plains and the Rolling Plains, which meet at the Caprock Escarpment. Prime wildflower viewing spots include Palo Duro Canyon, southeast of Amarillo; Caprock Canyons State Park, north of Quitaque; Copper Breaks State Park, south of Quanah; and Silver Falls Park, a rest area 4 miles east of Crosbyton on US 82.

In addition, photographer Wyman Meinzer says there's usually an abundance of spring wildflowers on the following drives, which are ordered from southernmost to northernmost. (Refer to *The Roads of Texas*, available in bookstores and from Shearer Publishing [800/458-3808], for roads not on the state map.)

- From Childress, take US 62/83 north to Wellington.
 - From Alanreed, take FM 291 north, and go left on Texas 273 to Pampa.
 - From Canadian, take US 60 north, and go right on FM 2266, following it through the Gene Howe Wildlife Mgt. Area to the Black Kettle Natl. Grasslands. (Flowers in this area tend to bloom later, in late May or June.)
- For updates on wildflower conditions, call the Texas Dept. of Transportation at 800/452-9292; choose option 2. The staff of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (512/832-4059) also provides advice through May 30 on prime viewing spots. Before you head to the Panhandle or drive a long distance to see wildflowers anywhere, it's wise to call one of these numbers first.
- Books**
- Dr. Charlie Werth recommends *Wildflowers of the Western Plains*, written and photographed by Zoe Merriam Kirkpatrick (Univ. of Texas Press, 1992), for identifying Panhandle wildflowers. The 240-page field guide includes numerous color photos, as well as a wealth of wildflower legends and lore.
- Other guides include *Roadside Wildflowers of the Southern Great Plains* by Craig C. Freeman and Eileen Schofield (Univ. Press of Kansas, 1991) and *Wildflowers of the Llano Estacado* by Francis L. Rose and Russell W. Strandtmann (Taylor Publishing Co., 1986). The latter is out of print.
- Caprock Canyonlands: Journeys into the Heart of the Southern Plains*, written and photographed by Dan Flores (Univ. of Texas Press, 1990), contains many references to wildflowers and provides a fascinating look at the High Plains.
- From Post, take US 84 south to Justiceburg, and go left on Farm-to-Market Rd. 2458 to Lake Alan Henry (a City of Lubbock reservoir).
 - From Post, take FM 651 north to Crosbyton.
 - From Post, take Texas 207 north to Ralls.
 - From Spur, take FM 2794 west to White River Lake.
 - From Dickens, take Texas 70 north to Turkey.
 - From Dickens, take Texas 114 east to Guthrie.
 - From Benjamin, take Texas 6 north to Copper Breaks State Park.
 - From Benjamin, take Texas 6 south to Knox City, go west on Texas 222, turn left on FM 2279, follow the loop, and go left on FM 617 to Rochester.



A starfish emerged from its sandy lair as Stephan roamed a tidal pool on Mustang Island several summers ago. Right, this sunset over Davis Mountains State Park presented a high-contrast scene that Stephan softened with the help of filters.

FAITHFUL SUBSCRIBERS to *Texas Highways* have enjoyed the photography of Stephan Myers since we first published his images in the April 1983 spring wildflower story. Those striking pictures of bluebonnets and other spring bloomers captivated readers then, just as Stephan's view of Corpus Christi (beginning on page 4 of this issue) enchants us today.

A photographic "generalist," Stephan captures compelling photographs of everything from insects and closeups of flowers to expansive views of the Texas landscape. His love for diving allows him to bring up irresistible underwater shots, too. In fact, Stephan's photographic adventures began beneath the ocean, rather than topside.

After leaving Houston's Bellaire High School in 1969, Stephan worked as a commercial artist in Houston in the 1970s. He took up photography to record his scuba-diving escapades in the Caribbean. Success with this difficult subject emboldened him to begin photographing wildflowers, closeups of nature, and landscapes. Within a few years, he started his own photographic business, which covered all manner of editorial topics for newspapers and magazines, and also supplied commercial work to advertising agencies.

Today, his work includes studio, location, underwater, and aerial photography using 35mm, medium-, and large-format equipment. "I always go the extra mile," says Stephan, "to supply strong imagery, on time, and with a style that meets my client's needs.

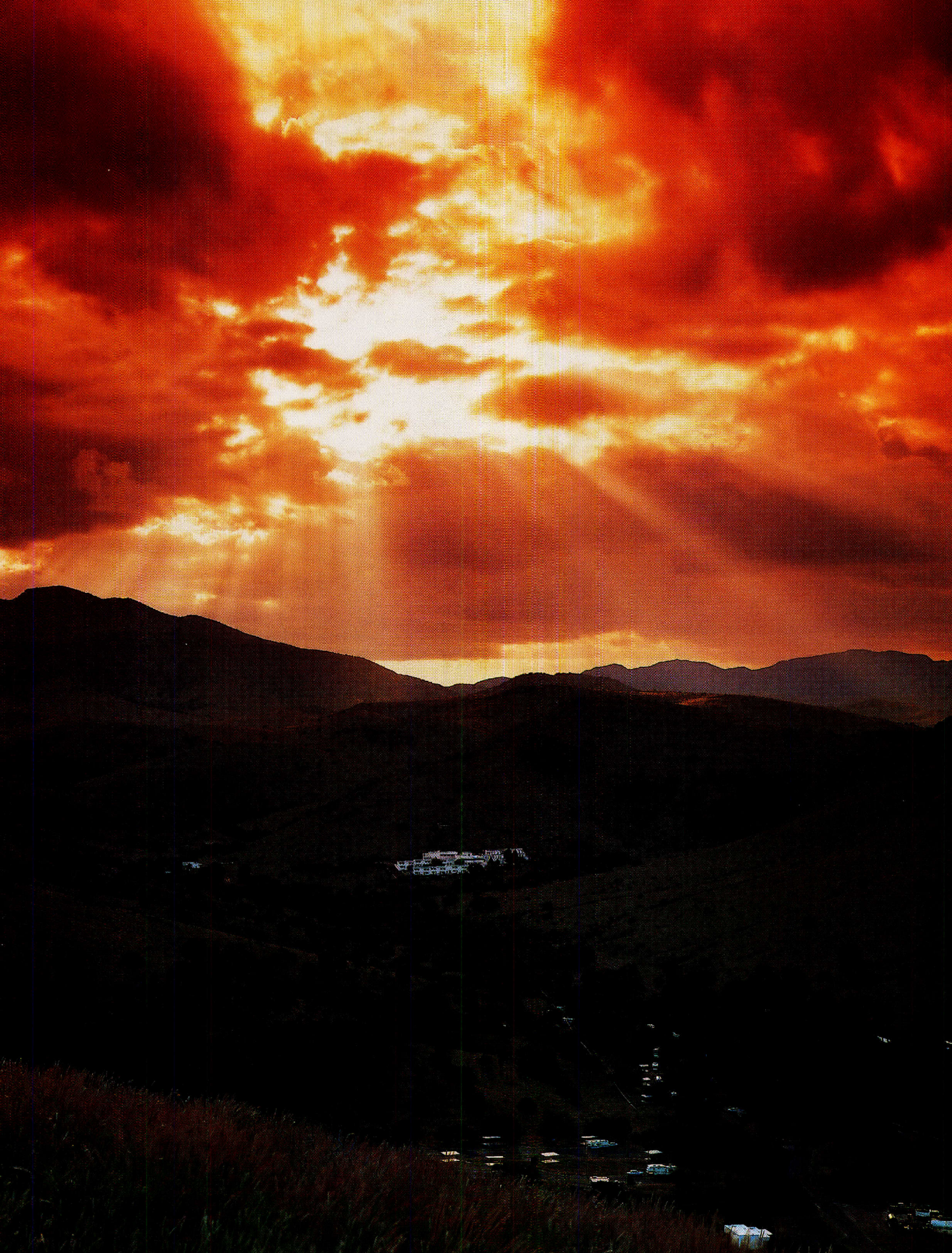
"Editorially, I view myself as a visual author, telling the story with photographs," Stephan continues. "I prefer to work closely with writers, in hopes of producing the best product possible." He says it doesn't hurt, either, that his wife, Jan Edwards, frequently contributes stories to *Texas Highways*. "We both benefit from the team approach."

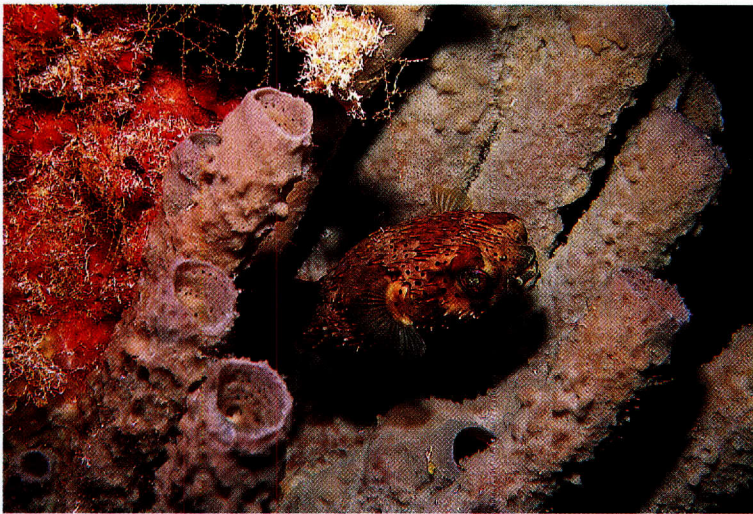
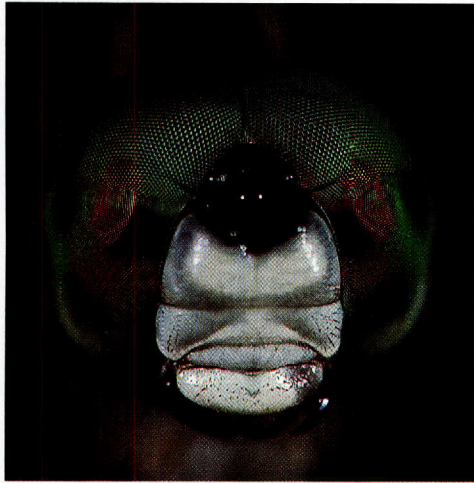
The editors believe that everyone benefits from Stephan's way of doing things. We invite you to spend a few moments savoring the images on the next few pages, as Stephan shows us how photographic variety has become his "spice of life."

—Michael A. Murphy

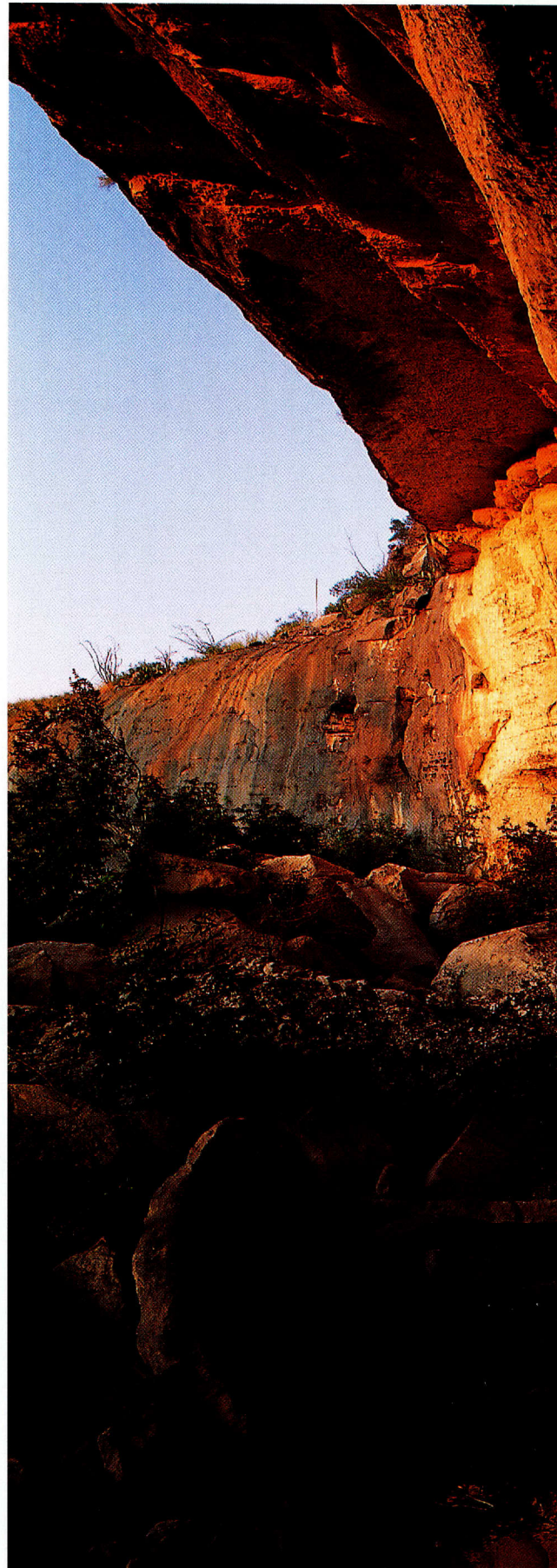
Stephan Myers

versatile photographer





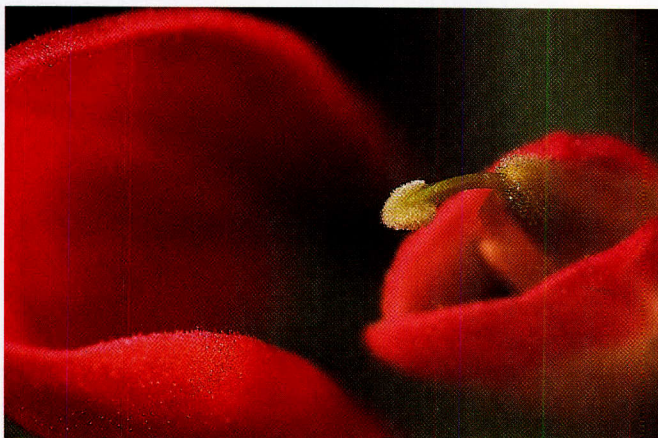
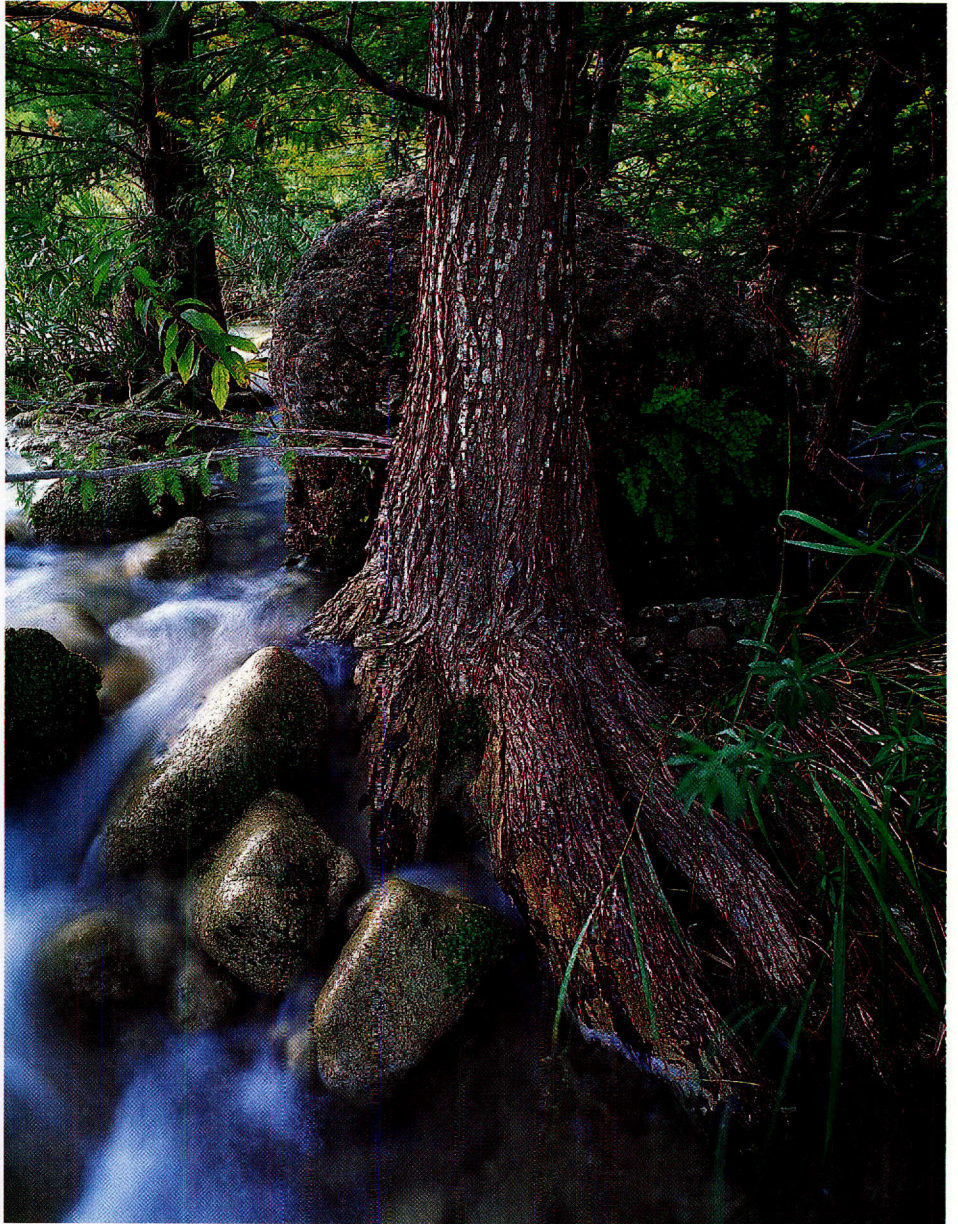
Using a home-built closeup lens system, Stephan captured the luminous detail of a dragonfly's head. A porcupine fish observes its surroundings near the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary. For a story on primitive rock shelters, Stephan and the writer camped out for several days at an unnamed shelter in Seminole Canyon State Historical Park.

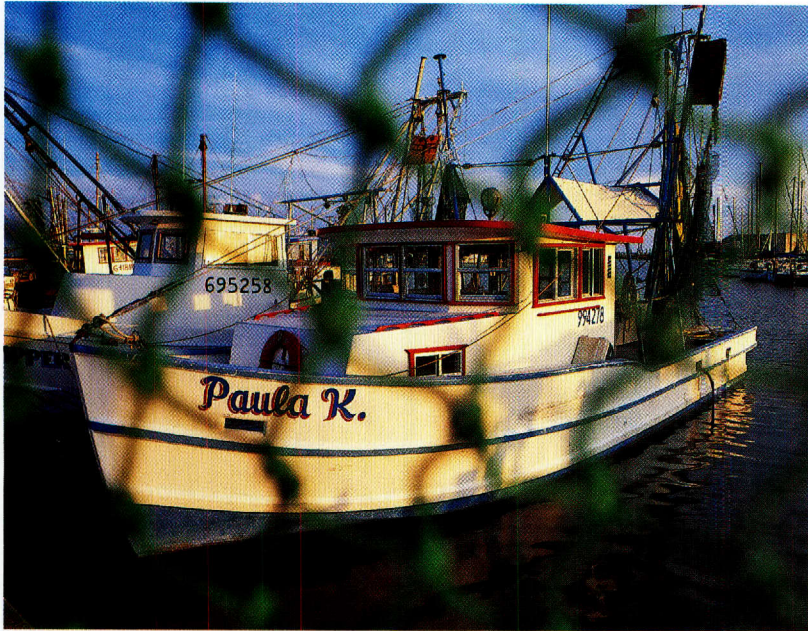




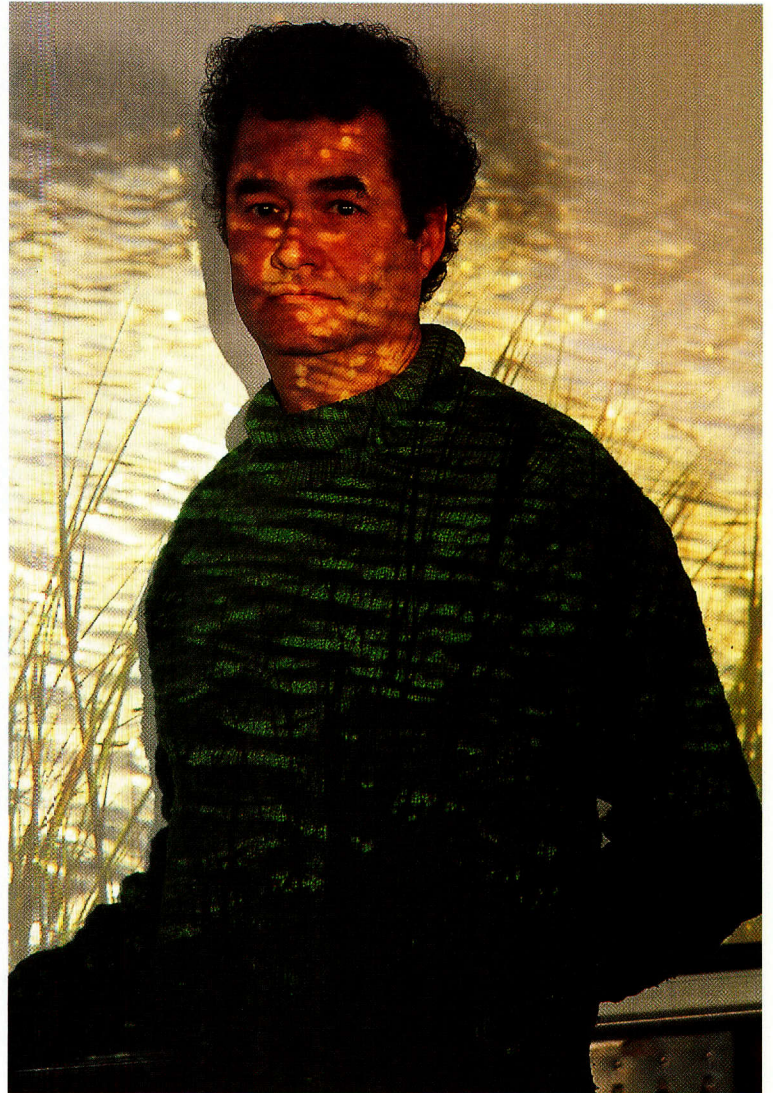


Last year, Stephan encountered this vibrant wheat field near Italy, south of Waxahachie on Interstate 35. While tracing the Guadalupe River from its source in the Hill Country to the coast, Stephan photographed a gnarly, but stalwart cypress along the stream. Below, he used his closeup system to get this bee's-eye view of an Indian paintbrush.





For a story on Rockport, Stephan decided to picture a shrimp boat through its most essential tool, a net. To give readers a visual clue about University of Texas marine biologist George H. Ward Jr., Stephan projected a slide of a spartina-grass marsh onto his subject. In 1995, Stephan began working with a 4x5 camera, which is nettlesome to use but capable of yielding exquisite results. This photo of a cypress swamp at Martin Dies, Jr. State Park demonstrates his success.





THE TEXAS FAMILY

BY MICHAEL D. BROCKWAY

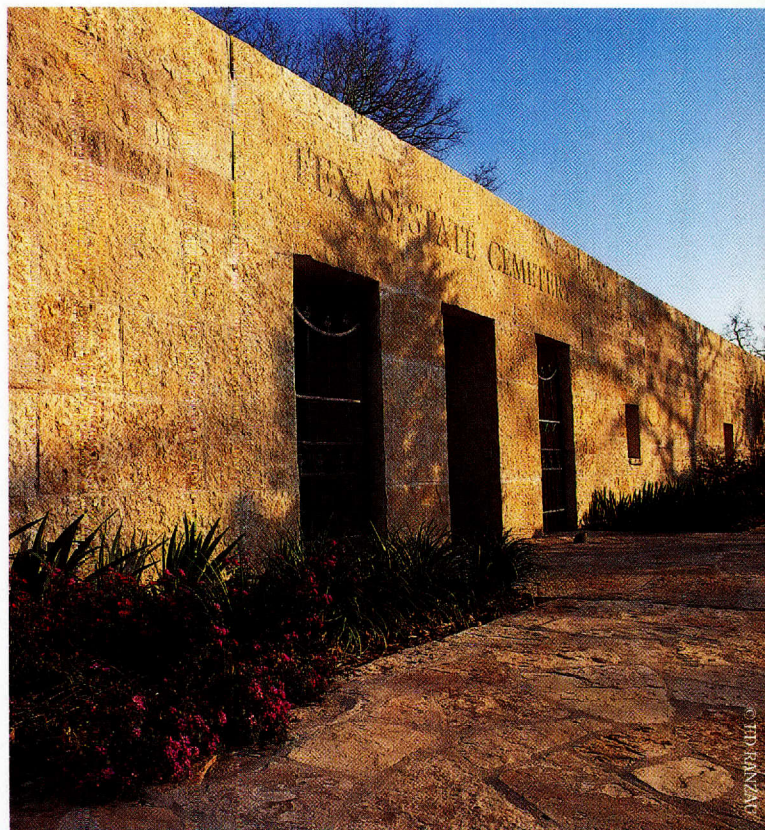


FROM STEPHEN FULLER AUSTIN, THE “FATHER OF TEXAS,” TO WILLIAM PHYSICK ZUBER, A MEMBER OF THE REAR GUARD AT THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO, THE NAMES INSCRIBED ON THE MARKERS AND MONUMENTS IN THE TEXAS STATE CEMETERY IN EAST AUSTIN EVOKE VIVID IMAGES.

Even a brief stroll on a sunny afternoon brings encounters with representatives of every period in Texas’ remarkable past. “It’s like walking through a history book,” says Christine Anderson, director of administration of the Texas State Cemetery and an employee with the General Services Commission (GSC). “Each headstone and monument sums up a list of the contributions these great Texans made to the state.” The GSC is the state agency responsible for maintaining the 17.3-acre burial ground, which has recently undergone an extensive rejuvenation.

Andrew Jackson Hamilton, the provisional governor of Texas after the Civil War, originally owned this hilly expanse. In 1851, when General Burleson died, Hamilton offered the land to the state for the burial of the famed Texas revolutionary hero and former vice president of the Republic of Texas. A joint committee of the 4th Legislature arranged for Burleson’s burial on a grassy knoll known today as Republic Hill. Three years later, the state finally appropriated funds for acquiring the land from Hamilton and buying a monument for Burleson’s grave.

[CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT] The recently refurbished Texas State Cemetery’s handsome new Visitor Center was modeled after the Long Barracks at the Alamo. The white Gothic-style tomb of Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston was designed by renowned German sculptor Elisabet Ney. The new Plaza de los Recuerdos, or Park of Remembrance, honors noteworthy Texans not buried in the State Cemetery.



PLOT

IT'S LIKE WALKING THROUGH A HISTORY BOOK. EACH HEADSTONE AND MONUMENT SUMS UP A LIST OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS THESE GREAT TEXANS MADE TO THE STATE.





For five years, the general maintained a lone vigil on his hill. In 1856, Abner S. Lipscomb, an associate justice of the Texas Supreme Court, joined him. Forbes Britton, a state senator from Corpus Christi, claimed a spot in 1861. Then, during the Civil War, state senator John Hemphill and Confederate generals Hugh McLeod, Ben McCulloch, and William Scurry made their final journeys to the hallowed spot, raising the number of graves to seven and focusing attention on the need for taking care of the burial ground.

In 1866, the state hired a sexton, who would maintain the grounds and supervise interments for a salary of \$400 a year. That same year, the state legislature approved an appropriation for building a cedar picket fence around the eight-square-block piece of land. A joint legislative resolution the same year authorized the first of many reinterments, and approved \$2,000 for relocating to Texas from Louisiana the remains of famed Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston.

Johnston had moved to the Republic of Texas in 1836 from his native state of Kentucky and enlisted in the cavalry under General Thomas J. Rusk. Within three years, talent and fate catapulted him to the position of Secretary of War under President Mirabeau B. Lamar. When the Civil War began in 1861, Johnston cast his lot with Texas and the South.

Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, commissioned Johnston a full general in September 1861. Only seven months later, the gallant soldier died of a Minié bullet wound during a fierce battle with Union troops near a small church named Shiloh in southwestern Tennessee. Members of Johnston's staff escorted his body to New Orleans for temporary burial until the family could decide on a final resting place. After New Orleans mayor John T. Monroe offered his own family tomb, interment took place on April 11.

Johnston's family, however, knew the general had wanted to be buried in Texas. He had once commented to his brother-in-law, Colonel William Preston, "When I die, I want a handful of Texas on my breast."

Federal occupation of New Orleans delayed transfer of Johnston's body until after the war. In early 1867, only a few months after the Texas Legislature approved reinterment, an honor guard of former Confederate generals removed Johnston's body from New Orleans' St. Louis Cemetery No. 1. Reburial in the Texas State Cemetery took place on February 2.

Thirty-four years later, with a \$10,000 commission from the 27th Legislature to create a fitting memorial to Johnston, renowned German sculptor Elisabet Ney, who had moved to Texas in 1872, began three years of labor on what critics consider one of her finest works. The result, a magnif-

SELECT COMPANY

State law limits eligibility for burial in the Texas State Cemetery to the following:

- Present and former members of the Texas Legislature
- Present and former elected state officials
- Persons specified by gubernatorial proclamation or concurrent resolution of the legislature with approval by the Texas State Cemetery Committee
- Officials appointed by the governor who served at least 12 years in their appointed office
- Persons who have made a significant contribution to the culture and history of Texas with approval by the Texas State Cemetery Committee
- Spouses of those eligible for burial



icent marble statue of the fallen general, depicts him reclining, the Confederate flag draped over his body and his head cushioned by a folded Texas flag. The work occupies an elaborate wrought-iron enclosure beneath a Gothic chapel cover (also designed by Ney), near the cemetery's south end.

On Republic Hill, another imposing statue, that of Stephen F. Austin, attracts its own share of attention. Italian-born artist Pompeo Coppini fashioned the larger-than-life bronze after receiving a \$10,000 commission from the 32nd Legislature in 1911. From atop a massive chunk of red Texas granite, Austin gazes forever eastward. His left hand holds a map of the first colonies of Texas, while his outstretched right hand, palm down in eternal benediction, salutes his adopted homeland.

In 1910, acting on orders from the State of Texas, V.O. Weed, a longtime undertaker in Austin, had traveled to Brazoria County to bring Stephen F. Austin back to his namesake city. When he opened the original 1836 grave site, Weed found no trace of a coffin, but Austin's skeletal remains were completely intact and in perfect condition.

After lying in state for a time at the Capitol, Austin's earthly remains made one last journey, to the Texas State Cemetery, on October 18, 1910.

AUSTIN'S PROMINENT GRAVE SITE SERVES AS A FOCAL POINT FOR TODAY'S VISITORS, WHO INCLUDE numerous groups of local students. For 20 years now, students and faculty from Stephen F. Austin High School have laid

a wreath at the monument on November 3 in observance of the Texas leader's birthday. Two Austin High teachers, Brian Schenk and Rosemary Morrow, have hosted the annual pilgrimage. "A school's name is often an abstraction to students," says Brian. "We've tried over the last 20 years to give students a sense of who Austin really was—someone they can really think about."

"It's quite a little gathering," Rosemary adds. "And we have always taken time to look around, so they'll be aware of who else is buried here."

The classes come across legendary Texas Ranger William Alexander "Big Foot" Wallace's polished granite tombstone, which guards the eastern approach to Austin's monument. A true frontiersman, Wallace lived on the outskirts of civilization for most of his life. After surviving the ill-fated Mier Expedition of 1842-43, he drove the mail through 700 miles of Indian territory between San Antonio and El Paso, and he led his own Texas Rangers company during the 1850s. He died in 1899 of natural causes at the ripe old age of 81.

Towering above all other monuments on Republic Hill, a 30-foot gray granite monument to Governor Edmund Jackson Davis pays unlikely tribute to one of the most universally disliked figures in Texas history.

When the Civil War started, Davis permanently tarnished his reputation in Texas by crossing into Mexico and joining the Union army. Then, during the bitter Reconstruction era that followed the war, he served as the state's first Republican governor. His four-year tenure earned him undying enmity for such actions as organizing an oppressive state police force, proclaim-

[ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT] Stephen F. Austin was reinterred in his namesake city 74 years after his death in 1836. Felled by a bullet during the Battle of Shiloh, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston didn't get his wish to have "a handful of Texas" on his breast until six years after his death. Former Texas state senator and U.S. Representative Barbara Jordan was laid to rest in January 1996. A statue by an unknown European sculptor marks the grave site of Governor John Connally, one of 11 Texas heads of state buried in the cemetery.



MICHAEL AMADOR © ED RANZAU

ing martial law at the slightest provocation, and advocating a lenient policy with Indians. After Davis lost his bid for reelection in 1873 to Democrat Richard Coke, no Republican was elected as Texas governor for more than 100 years. When Davis died in 1883, his brother arranged for his burial on the prestigious hill.

Not only heads of state and political figures rest here, however. J. Frank Dobie, the renowned folklorist, rancher, reporter, and University of Texas professor, was interred on Republic Hill in 1964. Dobie's sharp wit and outspoken criticism of political, social, and religious restraints on individual liberty earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civil award. Known as "The Storyteller of the Southwest," he penned his own epitaph: "I have come to value liberated minds as the supreme good of life on earth."

In January 1996, former Texas state senator and U.S. Representative Barbara Jordan was also buried here. An eloquent champion of ethics and constitutional rights, Jordan held the endowed Lyndon B. Johnson Centennial Chair in National Policy at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin at the time of her death. She chaired the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, founded and participated as a member of the board of directors of People for the American Way, and served as ethics advisor to Governor Ann Richards. Jordan aroused national attention for her stirring speech on the integrity of the Constitution during the hearings in 1974 on impeachment of President Richard Nixon. In 1976, she became the first African American to deliver the keynote address at the Democratic National Convention.

In 1993, this native Texan added to a list of prestigious honors the first Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights. Other honors included the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Sandra Day O'Connor Medal of Honor, the Bess Wallace Truman Award, and the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Award.

President Bill Clinton paid tribute to Jordan's accomplishments during a memorial service conducted in her hometown of Houston three days after her death. "Barbara Jordan made every one of us stand a little straighter, speak a little clearer, and be a little stronger," he said. "Barbara, we the people will miss you."

Many Texas pioneers and patriots originally buried in graves elsewhere in the state and across the nation also lie here. During the years leading up to and including the 1936 Texas Centennial, Louis Wiltz Kemp, a historian from Houston and a longtime member of the Texas State Library Commission, led a crusade that resulted in the reburial in Austin of almost 200 prominent Texans.

Kemp's efforts brought home James P. Henderson, Peter H. Bell, and Hardin R. Runnels, three of the 11 Texas governors buried here. Also reinterred through Kemp's work were James Austin Sylvester and Joel W. Robinson, both heroes of the Battle of San Jacinto. The two men, along with five other Texans, captured Mexican General Santa Anna on April 22, 1836, during his attempted escape the day after the battle.

Kemp also lobbied for improved access to all parts of the cemetery. When the Texas Highway Department (now the Texas Department of Transportation) constructed State Highway 165 in 1930, the state dedicated the new road to Kemp. Dubbed "the shortest highway in Texas," the drive covers eight tenths of a mile (from Seventh to Eleventh streets) within the cemetery, passing Kemp's own final resting place.

The cemetery is also the final resting place for many Civil War veterans and their family members, who lie in Confederate Field, the gently sloping hillside at the cemetery's southeast corner. Like soldiers in rigid formation, the white marble tombstones of approximately 1,800 rebels and their kin fan out in precise intervals to the north and south of General Johnston's monument. "That's why the cemetery is called 'the Arlington of Texas,'" explains Martin L. Allday, chairman of the three-mem-

[ABOVE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT] Confederate Field's rows of white markers have prompted many people to liken the burial ground in Austin to Arlington National Cemetery. On August 14, 1997, state troopers fired a salute at the funeral of Texas Ranger Captain James L. "Skippy" Rundell of Austin. Life-giving waters in the new Crescent Pond provide a peaceful setting for contemplating the important questions of life and death that cemeteries can inspire.

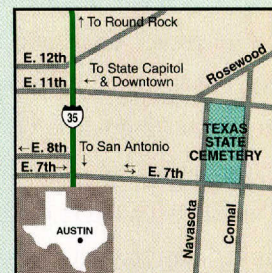
Texas State Cemetery

The Texas State Cemetery, which is administered by the General Services Commission, lies between 7th and 11th streets in Austin, 6 blocks east of Interstate 35. The main public entrance is in the 900 block of Navasota St., on the cemetery's west side. Visitor Center hours: Mon-Sat 8-5; closed Sun and Christmas and Thanksgiving days.

Cemetery grounds hours: Daily 8-5 year round. Admission: Free. Thirty-minute individual and group guided tours are available; maximum group size is 40. If possible, arrange for group tours at least 2 weeks in advance. Wheelchair accessible, but the approach to some monuments may prove difficult. No food or drinks allowed. Except for seeing-eye dogs, pets are not allowed on the grounds. No rubbings of monuments are allowed. Write to 909 Navasota St., Austin 78702; 512/463-0605. Web site: <http://www.gsc.state.tx.us/statecemetery>.

The Austin Visitor Information Center offers a free brochure for a walking tour of the State Cemetery. (Note: The brochure still shows the main entrance on Comal St., rather than Navasota.) To obtain a copy, drop by the center, or write to 201 E. 2nd St., Austin 78701; 512/478-0098 or 800/926-2282.

The Texas Historical Commission offers a free booklet containing guidelines for the protection and restoration of historic Texas cemeteries. The booklet includes tips on cleaning, repairing, and maintaining gravestones and cemetery grounds. To receive a copy of *Texas Preservation Guidelines—Preserving Historic Cemeteries*, write to the THC, History Programs Division, Box 12276, Austin 78711-2276; 512/463-6100 or 463-6427.



© KELLYGRAHNS

ber State Cemetery Committee, which the 75th Legislature created to oversee the cemetery. "The small white Confederate markers lined up in rows make it look like Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia."

LAST YEAR, THE STATE CONCLUDED A \$4.7 MILLION RE-FURBISHMENT OF THE CEMETERY UNDER THE COOR-dinated efforts of numerous agencies, including the General Services Commission, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Texas Historical Commission, and the Texas Department of Transportation. The project, originally inspired by Lieutenant Governor Bob Bullock in 1994 and preceded by a series of extensive archeological investigations in 1995, included cleaning and repairing of headstones and monuments and sprucing up the landscaping.

Limestone from Sisterdale was used to construct the Visitor Center, which is modeled after the long barracks of the Alamo; the center is at the main public entrance on Navasota Street. The bases of monuments salvaged from 49 damaged Confederate grave sites line the interior walls of the center's gallery. Rubbings taken from headstones in other historic Texas cemeteries have been etched into pieces of frosted glass that hang from the ceiling. Displays with photographs tell the history of the cemetery and describe other historic cemeteries in the state. In the research center adjacent, a computer terminal offers online access for learning more about the history of the cemetery and the famous Texans buried here, as well as information on the recent archeological survey and restoration project.

The cemetery's superintendent, Harry Bradley, credits Lieutenant Governor Bullock for one of the most striking additions, a massive 29-by-40-foot Texas flag that flies 24 hours a day from atop a 150-foot flagpole near the Visitor Center. "It's the tallest flagpole in Travis County," says Bradley. "The Lieutenant Governor wanted a flag that was illuminated at night and could be seen from Interstate 35."

Another new feature, Crescent Pond, a placid pool built out of San Saba limestone, bubbles up outside the Visitor Center and

feeds a stream that flows through the grounds. This serene vantage point offers a panoramic view of the entire cemetery.

On each side of the Rose Gate, the ceremonial entrance for state funerals on the north side of the grounds, workers erected the 150-foot-long granite Columbarium Wall, which contains 240 niches for burial urns. Antique yellow climbing roses on the trellis-like gate give the entryway its name.

On the south side of the cemetery, the Plaza de los Recuerdos (Plaza of Remembrance) features a curving limestone wall surrounding a central fountain. The 31 stone tablets that make up the wall represent the senatorial districts of Texas. Limestone benches here bear quotes from famous Texans not buried at the cemetery.

During the rededication ceremonies for the refurbished cemetery on March 6, 1997, Governor George W. Bush referred to the State Cemetery as the "Texas family plot." And he added, "This is more than a resting place for the dead. It is an inspiration for the living." ★

Austin freelancer MICHAEL BROCKWAY wrote about Brownsville's Gladys Porter Zoo in the January issue.

BEHIND THE SCENES AT JEAN-LUC'S FRENCH BISTRO IN AUSTIN, chef Jean-Luc Salles busies himself layering potatoes with a savory mixture of cream, eggs, and a soft, snow-white cheese made from goat's milk. Jean-Luc has enjoyed goat cheese since his childhood in southwestern France, and he uses it in his cooking whenever possible. In Texas, he says, goat cheese has become a lot easier to find of late. The creamy stuff he uses in his popular Warm Goat Cheese-Potato Cakes didn't cross the Atlantic to reach his restaurant—it came from one of Texas' nearby goat dairies.

resulting chèvre, cheesemakers can make aged versions of goat cheese (which may have different names) by letting it harden and mature during months of cold storage. It's a process that author Clifton Fadiman once described as "milk's leap toward immortality."

In the rugged Texas Hill Country near Blanco, Bud Larsen and his son, Nick, operate one of the state's oldest goat-cheesemaking ventures. They turn out between 4,000 and 5,000 pounds

F O R A C H A N G E , T R Y

Goat cheese

Although Texans have raised goats for meat and wool for generations, dairy goats arrived on the scene only recently: The first commercial goat cheese operations sprang up in the Hill Country in the late 1980s. Today in Texas, goat cheese takes shape inside small dairies statewide, and the cheese, once the exclusive indulgence of in-the-know gourmets, has found its way into restaurants and home kitchens everywhere.

The most widely produced goat cheese in the Lone Star State is a smooth, soft variety known as chèvre, the French word for both "goat" and "goat cheese." A mild, spreadable cheese with a slightly salty kick, chèvre (pronounced SHEV-ruh) re-

DELICATELY
FLAVORED AND
OFTEN SPIKED
WITH HERBS,
TEXAS CHÈVRE
ADDS A TANGY
ZING TO EVERY-
THING FROM
PIZZA TO
TEX-MEX.

sembles cream cheese but has fewer calories and less fat.

To make chèvre, cheesemakers add milk culture and rennet (both of which help coagulate the milk solids) to goat's

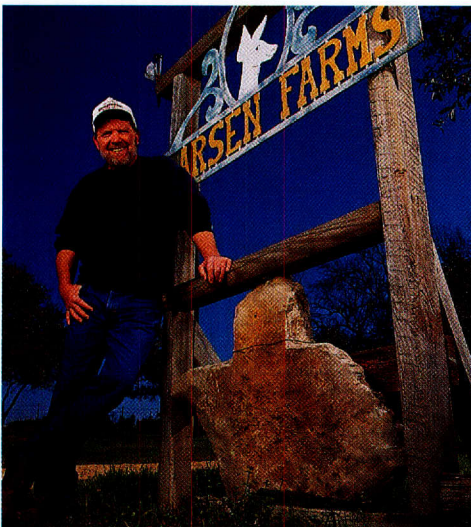
of hand-rolled chèvre each month for some 200 eateries and groceries around the state. Though the Larsens used to raise their own goats for milk, they now rely on the herd of longtime breeder Ann DeFord, who calls her spread in Bulverde Noah's Ark.

Serendipity had much to do with Bud Larsen's becoming a cheesemaker. The oil business was Bud's first love. "But when the oil company I was working for in South America went bust, they tore up my contract," he says. "I got into goat cheese after that, because my then-wife was a goat-lover. She made cheese in our kitchen. I thought, 'I have this property in the Hill Country that I can't sell or pay for. I can't find a job in oil, and my wife likes to make cheese.' So I wrote up a business plan, and the rest...well, you're standing in it."

Like fine wine, every batch of cheese possesses its own character. Cheesemakers put their individual stamps on flavor by adding herbs and spices, but other factors, such as the goats' diet, also influence taste. "As a rule," says Bud, "our cheese is smooth, only slight-

milk. Then, they pump or pour the mixture into vats or molds, where it separates into curds (cheese solids) and whey (a liquid). Over a period of days or weeks, they'll drain the whey off the curds, and the latter are deemed ready, or young cheese, when they are creamy. Producers then salt the young cheese (and often refrigerate it) to let it absorb additional moisture before they roll it into rounds, logs, or balls. From the

Bud Larsen, together with his son, Nick, oversees one of Texas' oldest goat-cheesemaking operations. Call ahead to take a tour.



BY REBECCA W. CHASTENET DE GÉRY • PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH



FOOD STYLING BY FRANK DEBOUX GERLING; PHOTOS COURTESY CLARISSE LEE POTTERY OF AUSTIN

Goat cheese—whether it’s chèvre (creamy and tangy), feta (crumbly and a bit salty), or one of the more exotic, aged variations—lends zing to just about any dish. Clockwise from top, feta adorns a simple green salad, and chèvre stars in Goat Cheese Kisses and Warm Goat Cheese-Potato Cakes (recipes on page 48).

ly sharp, with no strong ‘goaty’ taste.” His favorite way to eat it? “In a hurry, standing up. Seems I don’t have much time for anything else.”

Time often eludes Lee Dexter, too. Lee produces an unpasteurized chèvre in the Old World tradition at her White Egret Farm near Austin. Hard to come by in the United States,

where rigid health and sanitation standards favor pasteurization, unpasteurized cheese “keeps all of milk’s good stuff, like enzymes and antibodies,” says Lee. To the uninitiated, White Egret’s cheeses will likely taste much the same as pasteurized versions, but practiced palates may distinguish a pleasingly “green” or “grassy” flavor.

Lee is no stranger to the world of cheesemaking. In 1991, after nearly 20 years of raising goats in her native Illinois, she moved to Texas with her goats in tow. “I grew tired of the three-way commute between my technical job in Minnesota, our farm in Illinois, and my husband, who was working in Texas,” she says. “So, I loaded the animals into semi-trucks and set off across the country.”

White Egret produced its first Texas goat cheese that same year. Today, fans of White Egret cheeses can find them at Austin restaurants like Eastside Cafe, as well as at groceries such as Sun Harvest. White Egret also sells its cheeses and milk from the farm, where visitors can pet the goats and sample the company’s products.

At Pure Luck Organic Farm in Dripping Springs, Sara Bolton also does things as naturally as possible. “We do everything here on the farm,” she says. “We raise the goats and milk them by hand, and we control the quality and flavor of the cheese by paying close attention to the goats’ diet and health.”

Pure Luck’s small herd feeds on alfalfa, sunflower seeds, and whole grains such as corn and oats. Sara also feeds the whey from the cheesemaking process back to her goats and recycles all the water used.

Sara has tended dairy goats for 17 years, but until 1995, when she decided to make it a full-time career, cheesemaking was strictly a hobby for her. “Back in ’79,” she says, “having goats was a way to get back to nature. But it stuck. I’ve had goats ever since.” Today, the farm, which also grows organic produce and flowers, sells its chèvre—large, semisoft rounds in plain,

peppered, and herbed flavors—to a number of Austin eateries. Sara recently expanded her production to include a ripened, Camembert-style goat cheese and a goat cheese feta.

Feta, a Greek cheese made from either goat's or sheep's milk, may soon rival chèvre as the cheese of choice of Texas producers. In a refrigerated storage room in Dallas' Deep Ellum district, Paula Lambert of the Mozzarella Company nimbly lifts a block of goat feta from its briny vat and samples a morsel of her newest product. "Mmmmm," she concludes. Paula recently returned from Greece, where, as she tells it, she spent time "up in the mountains with a bunch of shepherds learning how they make cheese." Greece offers only recent inspiration, however; Italy actually started Paula's wheels turning.

In 1982, after missing for too long the fresh mozzarella she had grown to love during the five years she had lived in Italy, Paula founded the Mozzarella Company and began turning out a single product—fresh, cow's milk mozzarella. Over time, she expanded the operation to include goat's milk cheeses, among them a smooth goat's milk mozzarella, two aged goat cheeses, and the popular chèvre, which she offers plain, spiked with herbs and spices, and wrapped in hoja santa, a saffron-flavored leaf indigenous to Texas.

But the Mozzarella Company's most unusual goat cheese is arguably its goat's

milk ricotta, made according to Italian tradition. Paula explains that authentic ricotta (which means "recooked" in Italian) originates from whey rather than from curds. Paula's ricotta boasts a delicate flavor and a mousse-like texture perfect for preparing hearty Italian dishes such as lasagna and manicotti.

The Mozzarella's Company's goat cheeses have earned top honors at competitions, and they star on menus across the nation. Customers from as far away as Japan order from the company's catalog, and local cheese-lovers can take advantage of the company's factory storefront.

A hundred miles southwest of Dallas, Keith Brown of Yellow Rose Dairy in Dublin oversees the state's largest dairy-goat herd (about 600 goats). Keith and his business partner, David Quisenberry, established Yellow Rose several years ago after Keith

In recipes that call for chèvre, try using spiced-up versions for variety. Here, chèvre wrapped in hoja santa lends the flavor of saffron.



GOAT CHEESE KISSES

These elegant hors d'oeuvres take time to make. You can prepare them ahead and freeze them until you need them.

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. olive oil

1 T. dried herbs (any kind you like)

1 clove garlic, crushed

8 sheets phyllo dough

6 oz. chèvre

Heat olive oil with herbs and garlic until warm (don't boil). Remove from heat, and let steep 15 minutes. Strain and cool. Stack 4 phyllo sheets, and cut into a 12-inch square. (You can freeze the remainder for another use.) Cut square into 9 four-inch squares. For each kiss, place one square (one layer) of phyllo on a flat surface. (Cover the rest of the phyllo with a damp cloth as you work.) Brush with oil, then add three more phyllo layers, brushing each layer with oil. Place 1 teaspoon of cheese in the center, and pull all corners together, pinching to enclose cheese. Bake on an oiled cookie sheet or in oiled mini-muffin pans at 400° for 10-12 minutes (frozen kisses take slightly longer). Yield: About 3 dozen kisses.

WARM GOAT CHEESE - POTATO CAKES

This recipe was adapted from one created by chef Jean-Luc Salles of Jean-Luc's French Bistro in Austin. We made the cakes in 12 three-inch ramekins, but a muffin pan would work just as well.

2 russet potatoes,
peeled and sliced thinly

18 oz. chèvre

3 eggs

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. heavy cream

$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt

$\frac{1}{8}$ tsp. white pepper

4 T. olive oil, divided

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. black olives, pitted and sliced

Boil potatoes until tender; drain and set aside. Blend cheese, eggs, cream, salt, and pepper. Grease each ramekin with 1 tsp. oil, add 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ T. cheese mixture, 3 or 4 potato slices, then another 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ T. cheese mixture. Place ramekins on a cookie sheet, and bake at 350° for about 25 minutes. Cool 10 minutes, then invert each ramekin onto a plate. Top each cake with black olives. Yield: 12 cakes.

VINAIGRETTE FOR MIXED GREENS - FETA SALAD

At The Bitter End in Austin, Executive Chef Emmett Fox serves this vinaigrette on a salad of mixed greens, pecans, sliced red onions, and goat cheese feta.

1 shallot (or several green onions), chopped

1 clove garlic, minced

1 T. coarse-ground mustard

1 tsp. fresh basil, chopped

1 tsp. parsley, chopped

$\frac{1}{2}$ c. balsamic vinegar

2 T. lemon juice

salt and pepper to taste

1 c. olive oil (extra-virgin is best)

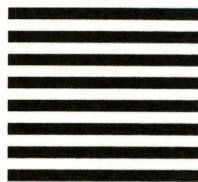
Whisk together all ingredients except oil.

Add oil slowly, whisking until blended.

Yield: About 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups.



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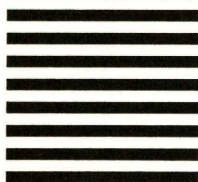
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The Travel Magazine of Texas

Texas Goat Cheese

You can get a firsthand look at goat cheese in-the-making at these small farms, dairies, and cheese production facilities across the state. None of the locations calls itself "wheelchair accessible," so some parts of the tours may prove difficult; call ahead. For information about where to find a particular dairy's cheeses, call the dairy directly, or ask your grocer.

Larsen Farms is in the Hill Country, near Blanco, off Texas 165, approximately ¼-mile south of its intersection with Texas 2325 (opposite a scenic rest stop). Call ahead to arrange a free tour. Write to Larsen Farms, HC01, Box 98B, Dripping Springs 78620; 830/833-5192.

White Egret Farm is just east of Austin on FM 969 (Martin Luther King Blvd.), 2 miles east of its intersection with FM 973. Look for a purple-and-white sign. Call ahead to arrange a free tour. Write to 15704 Webberville Rd. (FM 969), Austin 78724; 512/276-7605 or 276-7408. For Austin-area deliveries, call 276-7505. Web site: www.whiteegretfarm.com.

Pure Luck Organic Farm is in Dripping Springs. From town, take US 290 west for 3 miles, turn right on Hays Co. Rd. 187, and continue 2 miles. Turn left on Co. Rd. 188 (Martin Rd.), and drive ½ mile. The farm will be on your left. Call in advance to arrange a free tour. On most Saturdays from 10-5, Pure Luck hosts a farmer's market, where you can buy cheese, flowers, produce, and other regional products. Write to 101 Twin Oaks Trail, Dripping Springs 78620 (email: pureluck@iamerica.net); 512/858-7034 or 800/256-8268.

The Mozzarella Company is in Dallas' Deep Ellum district, at 2944 Elm St. The company doesn't offer tours, but visitors can watch cheesemaking in progress through a window in the plant's retail store. Write to 2944 Elm St., Dallas 75226; 214/741-4072 or 800/798-2954.

Yellow Rose Dairy is in Dublin, 12 miles southwest of Stephenville on US 377. Call ahead to arrange a free tour. Write to Rt 4, Box 125A, Dublin 76446; 254/445-4441.



[ABOVE] Lee Dexter produces unpasteurized chèvre at her White Egret Farm near Austin.

[RIGHT] Sara Bolton started raising goats 17 years ago as a hobby. Her Pure Luck Organic Farm in Dripping Springs produces flowers and vegetables as well as goat cheese.

left a career as an agricultural equipment salesman. Shortly after that, they teamed up with Teun Sleurink, a Dutch immigrant and now the farm's cheesemaker, whom Keith credits with "really getting things going."

Each morning at six o'clock, the first 15 goats arrive at the automated milking machine from the company's 75-acre pasture. Typically, some 100 goats pass through each hour, and the farm produces anywhere from 8,500 to 16,000 pounds of cheese each month. Yellow Rose's chèvre has captured the attention of gourmets from as far away as California, where renowned chef Wolfgang Puck uses it in his line of frozen specialty pizzas. "We want to get goat cheese out of the gourmet section forever," declares Keith. "You can use it in so many things, and we'd like to see it enter the mainstream."



"Texas has all the makings of a goat-cheese industry to rival California's," he continues. "It's just a matter of time." ★

Austin freelance writer REBECCA CHASTENET DE GÉRY contributes food-related stories to *The Austin Chronicle* and other publications.

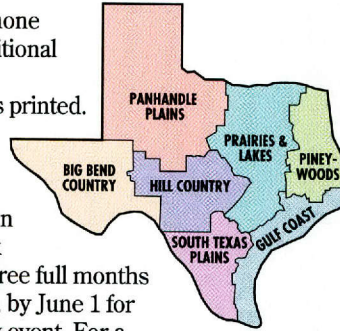
"I had a blast photographing the goats," says staff photographer GRIFF SMITH. "They'd come right up and nudge me. They kept trying to eat my pager."

Fun Forecast

June 1998						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

In Fun Forecast, we provide events and telephone numbers for next month, so that you'll have additional time to plan your outings.

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



Forecast, please send the information to Fun Forecast, *Texas Highways*, Box 141009, Austin 78714-1009; fax 512/483-3672. Submit information at least three full months before the first of the month in which the event will take place (for example, by June 1 for September 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 5064, Austin 78763-5064, or fax 512/483-3672.

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

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

Panhandle Plains

1	WICHITA FALLS Youth Fishing Contest 940/528-2211
2, 9, 16, 23, 30	WICHITA FALLS Outdoor Concert 940/761-7490
3-6	DUMAS Dogie Days 806/935-2020
4-6	JACKSBORO Jack Co Sheriff's Posse Rodeo 940/567-2422
4-7, 11-13	SAN ANGELO <i>Dearly Departed</i> 915/949-4400
5-6	MIAMI Natl Cow Calling Championship 806/868-4791
	WICHITA FALLS Youth Rodeo 940/455-7300
5-7	BROWNWOOD Championship Washer Pitching 915/643-5592
	Heart of Texas Rod Run & Classic Car Show 915/643-4646

5-7	HAMLIN Back to Rath's Trail 915/576-3501
	HASKELL Wild Horse Prairie Days 940/864-2477
5-6, 12-14, 24-25	POST <i>Saintly Hypocrites & Honest Sinners</i> 806/495-4005
5-6, 11-13, 18-20, 25-27	WICHITA FALLS <i>Right Bed, Wrong Husband</i> 940/322-5000
6	ABILENE Pioneer Day 915/572-3204
	BAIRD Trades Festival 915/854-2003
	BIG SPRING Model Aircraft Show 915/399-4792
	JACKSBORO Natl Trails Day: Lost Creek Reservoir Trail Grand Opening 940/567-3506
	LIPSCOMB Campfire Cooking & Downtown Dance 806/862-2900
	MINERAL WELLS State Railway Trail Grand Opening 940/328-1171

6	QUANAH Spring Garage Sale Extravaganza 940/663-2222
	QUITAEQUE Natl Trails Day 800/455-1700
	RANGER Old Time Country Festival 254/647-3340
	SILVERTON Caprock Jamboree 806/823-2524
	VERNON City-Wide Garage Sale 800/687-3137
	WICHITA FALLS Fishing Contest 940/528-2211
6-7	ABILENE 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament 915/793-3510
	WICHITA FALLS Arts & Crafts Show 915/263-7690
	Championship Master Tennis Tournament 940/767-6321
6, 13, 20, 27	BIG SPRING Nature Walk & Sunset Tales 915/263-4931
	ROPEVILLE Cowboy Music at Bevers' Crossing 806/562-4412

6, 20, 27	WICHITA FALLS Texas Gold Country Music Show 940/723-9037
7	ABILENE Car Show 915/676-6211
7-12	ABILENE Texas Women's Golf Assn Tournament 915/692-0213
7-13	ABILENE Texas High School Rodeo Finals 915/676-2556
9-14	PAMPA High School Band Carnival 806/665-3878
10-13	WICHITA FALLS Red River Rodeo 940/322-4411
10-Aug 22	CANYON Texas 806/655-2181
11	ABILENE Artwalk 915/677-8389
	WICHITA FALLS <i>The Three Bears</i> 940/692-5005

11-13, 18-20, 26-27	ABILENE <i>Moon Over Buffalo</i> 915/673-6271
12	SAN ANGELO Western Dance 915/657-4441
12-14	AMARILLO Ranch Rodeo/Cowboy Roundup 806/376-7767
	BENJAMIN Homecoming 940/454-2191
13	CHILDRESS Greenbelt Bowl 940/937-6187
	CLARENDON Saints' Roost Jamboree 806/874-3942
	COLORADO CITY Bass Fishing Tournament 915/728-3403
	CROSS PLAINS Robert E. Howard Day 254/725-7351
	SLATON Women's Art Show 806/828-5300
13-14	BIG SPRING Fly-In 915/399-4792
	LUBBOCK Wine & Clay Festival 806/745-2258

13-14	OLNEY Trade Days 940/564-5445
	STANTON Old Sorehead Trade Days 915/756-2006
17-20	BIG SPRING Cowboy Reunion & Rodeo 915/267-7466
	SNYDER Legends of Western Swing Music Festival 405/376-4939
18	WICHITA FALLS Oil Bowl Basketball Classic 940/761-2000
18-20	VERNON 4-H Horse Show 940/552-5474
18-21	PLAINVIEW Livestock Show 806/296-7431
18-22	LUBBOCK Juneteenth Celebration 806/747-5232
18-20, 25-27	ALBANY Fort Griffin Fandangle 915/762-3642

19-20	AMARILLO Historic Route 66 Summer Festival 806/372-US66
	SWEETWATER Lions Club Ranch Rodeo 915/235-5488 or 800/658-6757
19-21	SAN ANGELO Fiesta del Concho 915/655-4136
	VERNON Texas/Oklahoma High School Baseball Series 940/552-6291
20	PAMPA Trade Day 806/669-1093
	SAN ANGELO Campfire Concert 915/949-6870
	Fort Concho Frontier Days 915/481-2646
	WICHITA FALLS Oil Bowl High School All-Star Football Classic 940/766-4511
20-21	ABILENE Arts & Crafts Festival 915/676-6211
	WICHITA FALLS Cutting Horse Competition 940/736-2356

21	ABILENE Ballroom Concert Series 915/673-4587
	VERNON Father's Day Car Show & Swap Meet 940/553-1092
22-27	WICHITA FALLS Texas-Oklahoma Golf Tournament 940/723-4433
24-28	ABILENE Cutting Horse Competition 915/677-4376
25	OLNEY Country Music at the Gazebo 940/564-5445
25-27	COLEMAN PRCA Rodeo 915/625-3623
26-27	DUMAS West Texas Cowboy Classic Rodeo 806/935-2123
26-28	ABILENE <i>The Music Man</i> 915/676-9620
27	BALLINGER Fireworks 915/365-2333
	SEYMOUR Festival in the Park 940/888-2921
	SLATON Opry 806/828-6238
27-28	ABILENE Boat Show 915/676-6211
	Sunburn Grand Prix 915/698-2176
	BALLINGER Depot Daze 915/365-2333
29-July 5	ABILENE Team Roping 915/677-4376

Prairies and Lakes	
1	McKINNEY Sesquicentennial Celebration 972/562-5566
1-6	IRVING <i>Inherit the Wind</i> 972/255-1453
1-14	FORT WORTH <i>A Soldier's Play</i> 817/338-4411
	WAXAHACHIE Scarborough Faire 214/938-1888
2	FORT WORTH MasterWorks Series 817/283-3406
2-4	DALLAS Dallas Symphony Outdoor Concert 214/692-0203
3-5	WEATHERFORD Trade Days 817/594-3801
4-7	NOCONA Western Swing Weekend 940/825-4425
4, 11, 18	WACO Summer Sounds Concerts 800/922-2638
4, 11, 18, 25	LANCASTER Musicfest Concerts 972/227-1112
4-July 5	GRANBURY <i>Annie</i> 817/573-9191
5	DALLAS Dallas Symphony 214/871-4000
	FORT WORTH Craftsman Truck 400 817/215-8500
	GRAPEVINE Concert at the Palace 817/481-0454

<p>5-6</p> <p>BRYAN Bluegrass Festival 409/279-3963</p> <p>CLEBURNE Mustang Scooter Nat'l Convention 817/645-3478</p> <p>GATESVILLE Riding Club Rodeo 254/865-6338</p> <p>MUENSTER Relay for Life 940/759-2271</p> <p>SNOOK SnookFest 409/272-3021</p> <p>5-7</p> <p>ARLINGTON Texas Scottish Festival & Highland Games 817/654-2293</p> <p>BONHAM Trade Days 903/583-2367</p> <p>BOWIE Trade Days 817/872-1680</p> <p>DALLAS Antique Show 214/826-2584</p> <p>DENISON Freewheel Bike Ride 903/465-1551</p> <p>PALESTINE <i>Murder at the Museum</i> 800/659-3484</p> <p>WAXAHACHIE Gingerbread Trail 972/937-0681</p> <p>5, 12, 19, 26</p> <p>CEDAR HILL Musicfest 972/291-5130</p> <p>5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27</p> <p>WACO Brazos Nights 800/922-6386</p> <p>6</p> <p>BELLVILLE Market Day 409/865-3407</p> <p>BONHAM Fishing Day 903/583-5022</p> <p>CLEBURNE Cleburne State Park Night Hike 817/645-4215</p> <p>DENISON Eisenhower State Park Fishing/Angler School 903/465-1956</p>	<p>6</p> <p>EUSTACE Kids' Fish & Play Day at Purtis Creek State Park 903/425-2332</p> <p>FARMERS BRANCH Folklore Festival & Orchestra Concert 972/919-2620</p> <p>FAYETTEVILLE Classic Bike Ride 409/249-5422</p> <p>"In the Good Ol' Summertime" Festival 409/378-2222</p> <p>FORT WORTH Texas Motor Speedway IRL 500 Auto Race 817/215-8500</p> <p>Don Edwards Cowboy Gathering 817/625-1025</p> <p>GATESVILLE Shivaree 254/865-2617</p> <p>GODLEY Fun Fest 817/309-3601</p> <p>HICO Car Show & Cruise 800/361-HICO</p> <p>LEDBETTER Lake Somerville State Park Nails Creek Unit 75th Anniversary & Open House 409/289-2392</p> <p>McKINNEY Flower Walk 972/562-5566</p> <p>MERIDIAN Chiggerfest 254/435-2966</p> <p>SALADO Tablerock Craft Show 512/939-8560</p> <p>SOMERVILLE State Park 75th Anniversary Celebration 409/535-7763</p> <p>TERRELL Heritage Tour 972/524-1234</p> <p>WHITNEY Youth Fishing Tournament 254/694-3793</p> <p>YOAKUM Tom-Tom Festival 512/293-2309</p> <p>6-7</p> <p>DALLAS Whistle Fair 214/428-0101</p> <p>FORT WORTH Miniature Horse Show 817/871-8150</p>	<p>6-7</p> <p>FORT WORTH Landscaping for Nature 817/478-7220</p> <p>HALLETTSVILLE Golf Tournament 512/798-2662</p> <p>MEXIA Confederate Reunion Living History Days 254/562-5751</p> <p>YORKTOWN Sesquicentennial Celebration 512/564-2661</p> <p>6-14</p> <p>NAVASOTA Grimes Co Fair 409/825-2508</p> <p>6, 13, 16, 19-20, 26-27</p> <p>ROUND TOP Festival Hill Orchestral & Chamber Music 409/249-3129</p> <p>6, 13, 20, 27</p> <p>ARLINGTON Nature Hike 817/860-6752</p> <p>COLUMBUS Opry 409/732-9210</p> <p>FORT WORTH Wild West Celebrations 817/625-9715</p> <p>HICO Saturday Night Music & Carriage Rides 800/361-HICO</p> <p>STEPHENVILLE Cross Timbers Country Opry 254/965-4132</p> <p>6, 13, 27</p> <p>FORT WORTH Pawnee Bill's Wild West Show 817/625-1025</p> <p>7</p> <p>BRYAN Tomato Picking Contest 409/778-8130</p> <p>ROCKWALL Historical Foundation Homes Tour & Afternoon Tea 972/771-1196</p> <p>SOUTHLAKE Masterworks Series 817/289-3406</p> <p>7-8</p> <p>MESQUITE Antique Tractor & Engine Show/ Farm Festival 214/670-7866</p>	<p>7-8</p> <p>OAKLAND Firemen's Festival 409/263-5959</p> <p>7, 21</p> <p>RICHARDSON Community Band Concert 972/851-9784</p> <p>7, 14, 21, 28</p> <p>SEGUIN Central Park Concert Series 830/379-6382</p> <p>8-13</p> <p>MABANK Western Week 903/887-2211</p> <p>9-13</p> <p>GRAND SALINE Salt Festival & Rodeo 903/962-4939</p> <p>10-12, 24-26</p> <p>PARIS Jr Ranger Program 903/785-5716</p> <p>10-Aug 16</p> <p>FORT WORTH <i>God's Trombones</i> 817/338-4411</p> <p>11-13</p> <p>ROCKDALE Jubilee Days 512/466-2030</p> <p>11-14</p> <p>LOCKHART Chisholm Trail Roundup 512/376-2632</p> <p>12</p> <p>DALLAS Dallas Symphony 214/871-4000</p> <p>HILLSBORO Starlight Sounds Concert 254/582-2481</p> <p>STEPHENVILLE Gospel Show 254/965-4132</p> <p>12-13</p> <p>DUBLIN Reunion Weekend 254/445-3422</p> <p>12-14</p> <p>CANTON Motorcycle Rally 972/771-8610</p> <p>FORT WORTH Chisholm Trail Roundup 817/625-7005</p> <p>GRAND PRAIRIE Traders Village Antique Auto Swap Meet 972/647-2331</p>	<p>12-14</p> <p>HILLSBORO Bond's Alley Summer Festival 254/582-7337</p> <p>McKINNEY Trade Days 972/542-7174</p> <p>NAVASOTA Trade Days 409/825-8490</p> <p>WEIMAR Gedenke 125 409/725-9511</p> <p>12-15</p> <p>GREENVILLE Plea Market 903/455-6109</p> <p>Trade Days 903/450-0551</p> <p>12-20</p> <p>FAIRFIELD Freestone Co Fair 903/389-5795</p> <p>12-21</p> <p>GARLAND <i>My Fair Lady</i> 972/205-2790</p> <p>12-13, 26-27</p> <p>FORT WORTH Stockyards Championship Rodeo 817/625-1025</p> <p>13</p> <p>ANDERSON Stagecoach Rides 409/873-2633</p> <p>BASTROP Main St Market Day 512/303-7843</p> <p>BREMOND Polski Dzień (Polish Day) 254/746-7421</p> <p>CALDWELL 4-H Little Wrangler Rodeo 409/567-3255</p> <p>Market Day 409/567-3218</p> <p>CARROLLTON Chamber Music 972/417-0745</p> <p>CLEBURNE Festival in the Park 817/558-2121</p> <p>COLUMBUS Shelly Lee Alley Tribute 409/732-8385</p> <p>DECATUR Fishing Derby 940/627-3107</p> <p>GATESVILLE Fire Ant 100 Bicycle Tour 254/865-8050</p>	<p>13</p> <p>GONZALES Texas Water Safari 830/672-3266</p> <p>HALTOM CITY Denim & Diamonds 817/281-9376</p> <p>HAMILTON Riding Club Playday 254/386-3216</p> <p>IRVING Heritage Festival 972/252-7476</p> <p>Volksmarch 972/986-5086</p> <p>LA GRANGE Flag Day Ceremonies 409/968-5877</p> <p>LANCASTER Drive-In Movie Series 972/227-1112</p> <p>Second Saturday on the Square 972/218-1101</p> <p>McKINNEY Collin Co Classic Bicycle Ride 972/422-1050</p> <p>Picnic in the Park Concert 972/461-7250</p> <p>PLANO Doll Show 214/437-2835</p> <p>13-14</p> <p>DALLAS Zoo Family Fun Weekend 214/942-3678</p> <p>WACO Gator Classic Horseshoe Pitching 254/750-5980</p> <p>Texas Air Fiesta '98 Wings Over the Brazos 254/756-5456</p> <p>13-30</p> <p>DALLAS Muppets: Jim Henson's Vision 214/428-5555</p> <p>14</p> <p>FORT WORTH Accordion Kings 817/921-2676</p> <p>IRVING Heritage Festival Historic Homes Tour 972/252-3338</p> <p>MILLHEIM Father's Day Celebration 409/865-2583</p>	<p>14</p> <p>SAN FELIPE VFD Celebration 409/885-2586</p> <p>SCHULENBURG KC Picnic 409/743-4514</p> <p>16-17</p> <p>GRANBURY Doll & Quilt Seminar 817/574-3800</p> <p><i>Mama Plays with Dolls</i> 817/573-3800</p> <p>16-18</p> <p>COMANCHE Rodeo & Dance 915/356-3233</p> <p>16-July 5</p> <p>FORT WORTH <i>Red, White & Tuna</i> 817/332-CASA</p> <p>16-July 30</p> <p>DALLAS Shakespeare Festival 214/559-2778</p> <p>17-20</p> <p>CLEBURNE Johnson Co Sheriff's Posse PRCA Rodeo 817/373-2382</p> <p>SULPHUR SPRINGS Hopkins Co Dairy Festival 903/945-3436</p> <p>18</p> <p>IRVING Chorale Concert 972/790-4456</p> <p>18-20</p> <p>WACO Juneteenth Celebration 254/756-0933</p> <p>18-July 25</p> <p>RICHARDSON <i>The Unexpected Guest</i> 972/699-1130</p> <p>19</p> <p>BASTROP Juneteenth Celebration 512/303-7342</p> <p>FORT WORTH Juneteenth Celebration 817/335-9605</p> <p>19-20</p> <p>DENTON Juneteenth Celebration 940/349-7575</p> <p>NOCONA Rodeo 940/825-3526</p>	<p>19-20</p> <p>THORNDALE Barbecue Cookoff & Softball Tournament 512/898-5352</p> <p>WEATHERFORD Greenwood Farm Horse Trials 405/329-7474</p> <p>19-21</p> <p>DENISON USTA Tennis Tournament 903/465-7157</p> <p>GROESBECK Trade Days 254/729-3616</p> <p>RICHARDSON <i>Hansel & Gretel</i> 972/690-5029</p> <p>WHITEWRIGHT Trade Days 903/364-2994</p> <p>19-20, 26-27</p> <p>DALLAS Dallas Symphony 214/871-4000</p> <p>20</p> <p>BRENHAM Juneteenth Celebration 409/836-2874 or 888/273-6426</p> <p>GRANBURY Great Race Car Corral 817/573-5200</p> <p>HOLLAND Corn Festival 254/657-2368</p> <p>LANCASTER Juneteenth Celebration 972/227-1658</p> <p>McKINNEY Juneteenth Celebration 972/461-7250</p> <p>20-21</p> <p>DALLAS Antique & Collectors Market 405/478-4050</p> <p>DALLAS Father's Day at The Age of Steam Museum 214/428-0101</p> <p>Flea Market 405/390-1330</p> <p>Hoop-It-Up 972/392-5750</p> <p>21</p> <p>FORT WORTH <i>Texas Country Roots</i> 817/921-2676</p> <p>SCHULENBURG St John the Baptist Church Picnic 409/743-4514</p>	<p>22</p> <p>LOCKHART Opry 512/601-2154</p> <p>23-27</p> <p>CANTON Bluegrass Festival 903/885-7063</p> <p>24-28</p> <p>FORT WORTH Quarter Horse Show 817/871-8150</p> <p>25</p> <p>HURST MasterWorks Series 817/283-3406</p> <p>WACO Golf Tournament 254/754-7111</p> <p>Symphony Pops Concert 254/754-1035</p> <p>25-27</p> <p>LULING Watermelon Thump 830/875-3214</p> <p>25-28</p> <p>RICHARDSON <i>Alice in Wonderland</i> 972/690-5029</p> <p>26-27</p> <p>MESQUITE Quilt Show 972/216-7790</p> <p>26-28</p> <p>ARLINGTON <i>Star-Telegram</i> Feast Fest 817/390-7197</p> <p>27</p> <p>ARLINGTON Autofest 817/465-6661</p> <p>CLIFTON Freedomfest 800/344-3720</p> <p>GONZALES Trade Days 830/672-6532</p> <p>Barbecue 830/672-6532</p> <p>WHITEWRIGHT Opry 903/364-2539</p> <p>27-28</p> <p>DALLAS Weekend at the Park 214/942-3678</p> <p>ROWLETT Festival of Freedom 972/412-6148</p> <p>SEALY Polka Fest 409/885-6786</p>
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28 FORT WORTH Sonidos del Sur 817/921-2676	10-13 GLADEWATER Roundup Rodeo 903/845-5501 or 800/627-0315	27 COLDSRING Trades Day 409/663-2009	5 PORT ARANSAS Music in the Park 512/749-4158	6-7 HOUSTON All-British Motor Vehicle Expo 281/444-1679	13 EAST BERNARD Kolache-Klobase Festival 409/335-7907	19-20 RICHMOND Juneteenth Celebration 281/343-0218	29-July 24 HOUSTON "Say It With Flowers" Watercolor Exhibit 713/942-9966	6-7 SAN ANTONIO Tejano Fest 210/246-9622
30-July 5 ARLINGTON Show Biz Talent Competition 817/459-5000	12-13 NACOGDOCHES Quilt Festival 409/560-5533	OMAHA Prelude to the Fourth 903/897-5668	5-6 BRAZORIA No-Name Festival 409/798-6100	6-8 GALVESTON <i>Bye-Bye Birdie</i> 409/762-8644	KATY Birding in West Harris Co 281/445-1187	19-21 TEXAS CITY Trade Days 409/643-5902	South Texas Plains	7 SAN ANTONIO Sonidos del Sur 210/987-8183
Pineywoods	12-14 Texas Blueberry Festival 409/560-5533	TYLER Collectibles Show 903/595-2223	PORT ARANSAS Kids' Fishing Tournament 512/749-5252	6-13 CROSBY Fair & Rodeo 281/828-6984	LA PORTE Bay Day Festival 713/863-9993	20 BAY CITY Market Days 409/245-8333	1 EAGLE PASS Border Golf Tournament 830/773-0469	10-14 SAN ANTONIO CineFestival 210/271-3151
3-6 NACOGDOCHES Heritage Festival 409/568-3289	12-14 LONGVIEW Juneteenth Celebration & Rodeo 903/237-1276	1 CLEAR LAKE Kids' Eco Camp 281/474-2511	5-7 CORPUS CHRISTI Powerboat Races 512/985-1555	6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 GALVESTON Party in the Park 409/763-7080	PORT O'CONNOR O' Connor History Tour 512/983-2215	BEAUMONT Charlie Pruitt's Country Music Show 409/832-6649	1-27 SAN ANTONIO <i>Postmortem</i> 210/221-5953	11-13 SAN ANTONIO Latino Laugh Festival
5-6 EASTON Heritage Turnip Green Festival 903/643-7819	MONTGOMERY Old West Festival 409/449-MOWF	1-5 FREEPORT Fishin' Fiesta 409/233-4434	HOUSTON Antique Show 713/869-6329	7 BRAZORIA St. Joseph Picnic & Bazaar 409/798-2288	13-14 ALVIN Outdoor Adventure Expo 281/331-6101	FREEPORT Birding at Brazos River Co Park 281/445-1187	1-28 SAN ANTONIO <i>Eyes of Zapata</i> 210/227-5867	11-July 12 SAN ANTONIO International Artists-in- Residence 210/212-4900
LIVINGSTON Alabama- Coushatta Indian Pow-Wow 409/563-4391	NACOGDOCHES Flea Market 409/564-4490	1-7 HOUSTON <i>Noises Off</i> 713/228-8421	RICHMOND George Ranch Cowboy Celebration 281/343-0218	PORT O'CONNOR Marine Ecosystems Tour 512/983-2215	SEABROOK Back Bay Market 713/474-3869	GALVESTON Volleyball Tournament 281/482-1376	Williams Home Herb Fair 409/765-7834	12 LAREDO Symphony 956/721-5330
5-7 LONGVIEW Alleyfest 903/237-4040	13 JACKSONVILLE Tomato Fest 903/586-2217	1-12 CORPUS CHRISTI "My Kid Can Do That!" Youth Art 512/884-3844	5, 12, 19, 26 CYPRESS CyFair Rodeo 281/890-1690	7-July 3 HOUSTON Texas Music Festival 713/743-3167	13, 16, 20, 24, 27 GALVESTON Luñch with Cinderella & Prince Charming 800/475-9386	LEAGUE CITY Bluegrass Show 281/893-9541	2 THREE RIVERS Brush Country Jamboree 512/449-1349	13-July 25 SAN ANTONIO Encanto en la Misión 210/822-2453
5, 7, 11, 13 LONGVIEW <i>Don Pasquale</i> 903/234-1300	LIVINGSTON Bluegrass 409/327-3381	2, 9, 16, 23, 30 GALVESTON Beach Band Concerts 409/744-2174	6 BAY CITY Birding in Matagorda Co 281/445-1187	9-13 VICTORIA Bach Festival 512/575-1375	15-26 BEAUMONT Texas Energy Museum's Summer Science for Kids 409/833-5100	PORT ARTHUR Gulf Coast Jam 409/722-3699	2-7 SAN ANTONIO <i>Tap Dogs</i> 210/226-3333	16-July 25 SAN ANTONIO <i>The Phantom of the Alamo</i> 210/227-2751
5-6, 12-14 CONROE <i>Of Thee I Sing</i> 409/756-1226	NOONDAY Onion Festival 903/825-3584	3 QUINTANA BEACH Discover Nature's Wonders 409/848-0674	GALVESTON AIA Sandcastle Competition 409/762-3278	10-27 GALVESTON <i>Cinderella</i> 409/765-1894 or 800/547-4697	16-21 HOUSTON <i>Tap Dogs</i> 713/227-1911	20-21 PORT ARTHUR Trade Days 409/982-4950	4-21 SAN ANTONIO <i>Little Shop of Horrors</i> 210/533-3807	17-18 SAN ANTONIO <i>Anansi the Spider</i> 210/340-4060
5-6, 12-13, 19-20, 26-27 LIBERTY Opry on the Square 800/248-8918	18-14 NACOGDOCHES Quarter Horse Show 409/564-0849	3, 10, 17, 24 PORT ARANSAS Birding on the Boardwalk 512/749-4158	ArtWalk 409/763-2403	12-18 HOUSTON Plant Symposium 281/443-8731	17-20 PORT LAVACA Bay Days 512/552-2959	20-July 4 HOUSTON Houston Symphony 713/520-3290	5 SAN ANTONIO First Friday in Southtown 210/224-2448	18 BEEVILLE Bicycle Race 512/358-3267
6 JASPER Kids' Fish Flop 409/384-5231	19-21 NACOGDOCHES Trade Days 409/564-2150	4-5 PORT ARTHUR Business Expo 409/963-1107	HOUSTON "A Tiger's Tale" Storytelling Contest 713/455-1707	12-14 GALVESTON Caribbean Carnival Fest 409/643-7944	18-20 HOUSTON Juneteenth Festival 713/466-4414	25-26 PORT ARANSAS Fishing Tournament 512/749-5252	5-6 SAN ANTONIO <i>Out of the Mist ... a Dragon</i> 210/340-4060	19 SAN ANTONIO Gartenkonzerte 210/222-1521
LIVINGSTON Sport Fishing Day 409/356-2201	TYLER Trade Days 903/595-2223	4-6 BEAUMONT <i>Annie</i> 409/832-4775	Children's Fishing Tournament 281/456-9350	PORT LAVACA <i>Don't Dress for Dinner</i> 512/552-4082	18-21 LA MARQUE Funfest 409/935-1408	25-28 HARLINGEN Summer Youth Carnival 956/412-7529	5-7 SAN ANTONIO Musica San Antonio: A Festival Celebration 210/434-6711	Juneteenth Celebration 210/270-8700
OVERTON Classic Car Show & Barbecue Challenge Cookoff 903/834-3542	20 PITTSBURG Peach/Berry Festival 903/856-2253	PORT O'CONNOR Nat'l Fishing Day 512/983-2215	HOUSTON "A Tiger's Tale" Storytelling Contest 713/455-1707	12-July 10 HOUSTON <i>The Phantom of the Opera</i> 713/622-7469	18-July 18 HOUSTON <i>A Few Good Men</i> 281/397-9067	26 PORT ARANSAS Beachwalk Adventure 512/749-4158	6 EAGLE PASS Children's Summer Theater Workshop 830/773-8570	Juneteenth Freedom Parade 210/533-4383
PITTSBURG Lake Bob Sandlin 10th Anniversary Family Fishing/ Antique Car Show 903/836-4336	24 LONGVIEW Trade Show 903/237-4000	4-14 HOUSTON <i>Manon</i> 713/523-6300	HOUSTON Children's Fishing Tournament 281/456-9350	12-July 18 HOUSTON <i>Aladdin</i> 713/527-8243	19 GALVESTON Juneteenth Celebration 409/762-5498	ROSENBERG Fort Bend Co Antique & Collectible Fair 512/441-2828	Juneteenth Cultural/Film Festival 210/551-3200	
TATUM Pre-Juneteenth Celebration 903/836-4336	25-July 26 KILGORE Texas Shakespeare Festival 903/983-8601	5 CORPUS CHRISTI Cathedral Symphony Concert 512/888-7444	6-7 GALVESTON Bob Marley Festival 713/688-3900	13 CORPUS CHRISTI Sand Sculpture Contests 512/289-0111	VICTORIA Coletto Creek Kids' Fishing Tournament 512/575-6366			
7-13 LONGVIEW Chairnring Challenge Bicycle Race 800/374-2453	26-27 LIBERTY Jubilee Festival 409/336-3684		Garden Tour 409/763-3363					
	Liberty Co Zydeco & Crawfish Festival 713/788-9378							

19-20 SAN ANTONIO Juneteenth Show 210/207-2234	Hill Country	5 AUSTIN <i>River City Flyer</i> Steam Train 512/477-8468	6-7 UVALDE Heartland Fun Fest 830/278-3448	13 GEORGETOWN Saddle Series 512/259-4161	19-20 OZONA World Championship Goat Roping 915/392-3737	20, 27 SONORA Covered Wagon Dinner Theater 915/387-2880	7 EL PASO Voices of Native America 915/541-4481	18-21, 25-28 EL PASO <i>The Sorcerer</i> 915/532-7703
20 CHINA GROVE Craft Fair 210/648-0505	1-6 ROUND ROCK (began May 29) <i>Marvin's Room</i> 512/244-0440	5-7 GEORGETOWN Williamson Co Sheriff's Posse Rodeo 512/863-5983	6-13 ROUND ROCK Williamson Co Old Settlers Reunion 512/388-1733	ROOSEVELT Centennial 915/446-4439	STONEWALL Peach JAMBoree & Rodeo 830/997-6523	26-27 SAN SABA Rodeo 915/372-5181	11 EL PASO Seniors Variety Show 915/599-4701	19-21 EL PASO Intl Mariachi Festival 915/566-4066
EAGLE PASS Seniors Dance 830/773-3640	1-7 KERRVILLE (began May 21) Folk Festival 830/257-3600	6 BARTLETT Market Day 254/527-3933	6, 13, 20, 27 CEDAR PARK <i>Hill Country Flyer</i> Steam Train 512/477-8468	SAN MARCOS Texas Water Safari 512/393-5900	19-21 BOERNE Berges Fest 830/249-8173	26-28 BURNET Burnet Co Fair & Rodeo 512/756-4279	11-13, 19-20 ODESSA <i>No Uncertain Honor</i> 915/332-1586	19-July 5 EL PASO <i>A Southern Belle Primer</i> 915/532-3799
20-21 SAN ANTONIO Horse Show 210/698-3300	1-14 AUSTIN (began May 31) Chamber Music Festival 512/454-7562	6 DEVINE Golf Tournament 830/665-9943	7-14 AUSTIN Clarksville West End Jazz & Arts Festival 512/477-9438	13-14 AUSTIN City-Wide Garage Sale 512/441-2828	19-21 GEDAR PARK Cedar Chopper Festival 512/258-8007	STONEWALL Antique Machinery Exhibition 830/644-2735	13 EL PASO Tigua St Anthony Day 915/859-7913	20 FORT STOCKTON Fiesta de San Juan 915/336-8525
21 EAGLE PASS Pathfinder Fun Run 830/757-1823	1-July 4 INGRAM Watercolor Exhibit 830/367-5121	6 GEORGETOWN <i>Murder in Margaritaville</i> 512/863-8979	12-13 AUSTIN Zilker Park Pops Concert 512/404-4563	Guitar Show 817/473-6059	FREDERICKSBURG Volksport Festival 830/997-6523	MENARD Jim Bowie Days 915/396-2519	27-28 AUSTIN Governor's Cup Centerboard Regatta 512/266-1336	21 EL PASO Triangulo 915/541-4481
25-27 LAREDO Mozart Festival 956/727-8886 or 800/361-3360	2, 16, 30 BOERNE Abendkonzerte 830/249-8000	HONDO Hootenanny 830/426-3438	12-13 AUSTIN Jazz & Arts Festival 512/477-9438	FREDERICKSBURG Sulphur Creek Car Cruise 512/556-5172	LAMPASAS Sulphur Creek Car Cruise 512/556-5172	DRIFTWOOD Camp Ben McCulloch Confederate Reunion 512/858-2084	NEW BRAUNFELS Arts & Crafts Show 830/698-0811	25-27 FORT STOCKTON Pecos Co Rodeo 915/336-6261
SAN ANTONIO Juneteenth Freedom Fair 210/533-4333	3-July 3 INGRAM <i>The Sound of Music</i> 830/367-5121	JONESTOWN Festival of Music on the Water 512/267-3439	12-14 FREDERICKSBURG Country Peddler Show 940/997-2774	14 FREDERICKSBURG Adam Holzman Concert 830/997-6523	LA COSTE Our Lady of Grace Festival 830/985-3346	19-21, 26-28 BOERNE <i>Luv</i> 830/249-9166	Big Bend Country	EL PASO Ranch Rodeo/ Western Heritage Celebration 915/682-5785
26-July 31 SAN ANTONIO Contemporary Art Month 210/227-6960	4-7 GEORGETOWN <i>Steel Magnolias</i> 512/869-7469	STONEMALL Fishing Clinic 830/644-2252	13 BLANCO Valley Jamboree 830/833-5101	LA COSTE Our Lady of Grace Festival 830/985-3346	14, 28 NEW BRAUNFELS Gospel Brunch on the Guadalupe 830/625-0684	BOERNE Johnny Bush Concert 915/392-3737	3-7 PECOS Santa Rosa Catholic Church Carnival 915/445-2406	WINK Roy Orbison Festival 915/527-3441
27 BEEVILLE Murder Mystery Dinner Theater 512/358-2432	Model A Convention/Tour 512/930-5289	UVALDE Bull Riding 830/278-9147	BURNET Market Day 512/756-6074	LA COSTE Our Lady of Grace Festival 830/985-3346	NEW BRAUNFELS Gospel Brunch on the Guadalupe 830/625-0684	OZONA Cypress Day 830/988-2730	4-Aug 29 EL PASO <i>Viva! El Paso</i> 915/565-6900	14 EL PASO Acoustic World Ensemble 915/541-4481
BIGFOOT Reunion 830/665-5054	4, 11, 18, 25 BURNET Sunset Bat Watch 512/793-2223	WIMBERLEY Market Day at Lions Field 512/847-2201	CANYON LAKE Barbecue Cookoff 800/923-2378	SABINAL Juneteenth Celebration 512/393-5900	MENARD <i>Song of Silver</i> 915/396-2185	SAN MARCOS Juneteenth Celebration 512/393-5900	6 MIDLAND <i>Sophie's Saloon</i> 915/684-4101	14, 21, 28 MIDLAND Museum of the Southwest Summer Sunday Lawn Concert 915/683-2882
SAN ANTONIO Quilt Auction 210/684-4730	GEORGETOWN Farmers Market 512/863-8706	6-7 BOERNE Natl Dodge Charger Meet 210/493-0750	CASTROVILLE Market Trail Day 830/931-2331	WIMBERLEY Celebration of the Arts 512/847-2201	19 GEORGETOWN Juneteenth Celebration & Barbecue 512/863-5781	WIMBERLEY Juneteenth Celebration 512/847-2201	ODESSA Brand New Opre 915/332-1586	15-17 FORT STOCKTON 4-H Horse Show 915/336-6261
28-July 26 SAN ANTONIO <i>Ward C</i> 210/733-5447	SAN MARCOS Summer in the Park Concert Series 512/396-2325	FREDERICKSBURG Artists Invitational Show 830/997-6523	GEORGETOWN Grand Ole Opry 512/869-7469	NEW BRAUNFELS Old Gruene Market Days 210/629-6441				EL PASO Pandemonium Steel Drum Concert 915/541-4481

Travel Texas Highways on the Web.

<http://www.texashighways.com>

COURTESY SAN ANTONIO C&VE/AL RENDON



The popular group La Tropa F plays Sunday night at the 17th Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival, which takes place May 12-17 at San Antonio's Guadalupe Theater and in Rosedale Park.

The World Accordion to Conjunto

What's nicer come springtime than lolling around in a shady park, listening to live music with a crowd of happy people? Not much, say the folks at San Antonio's Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center, which hosts the 17th Annual Tejano Conjunto Festival May 12-17.

A musical style created in the late 1800s when Mexican musicians in South Texas and northern Mexico combined their *bajo sextos* (12-string bass guitars) with German button accordions, conjunto continues to evolve. Today, conjunto's traditional four-piece ensemble (accordion, *bajo sexto*, bass, and drums) merely provides a jumping-off point for bands that also feature guitars, horns, and synthesizers.

Beginning May 13 in Rosedale Park (the opening-night mixer takes place May 12 at the Guadalupe Theater), you can listen to dozens of conjunto acts from as far away as Japan, as well as enjoy a poster contest, the popular students' accordion recital, food and beverage booths, and plenty of dancing and games.

Tickets to the opening-night event cost \$20 and include food, drinks, and a CD of last year's

performances; admission to the Rosedale Park festivities costs \$7, free age 12 and younger. Write to the Tejano Conjunto Festival, 1300 Guadalupe Street, San Antonio 78207, or call 210/271-3151.

Kidding Around

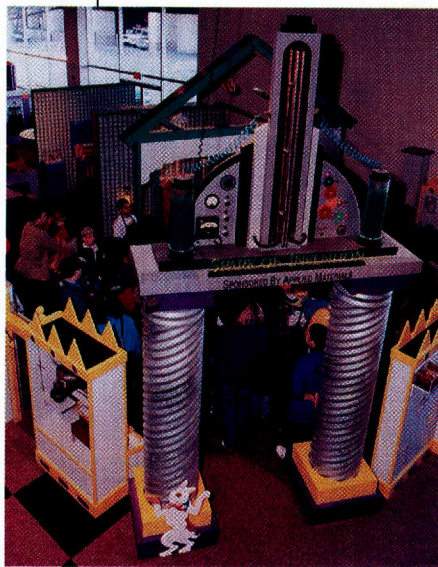
When most folks think of downtown Austin's warehouse district, they think of the many restaurants, nightclubs, and trendy galleries that have popped up in recent months. Now kids can have a heyday in the area, too, thanks to the new Austin Children's Museum, which recently moved from its old digs on 5th Street to its airy quarters at 2nd and Colorado. From the entryway, where a spiraling, colorful mobile sets a playful mood and the adjacent gift shop overflows with toys, kids and adults alike know they're in for a fun time.

Through September, the new Austin Children's Museum hosts the traveling exhibit *Spark of Invention*, which includes dozens of hands-on stations designed to get kids' creative wheels spinning.

The museum's current feature exhibit, *Spark of Invention*, gives kids the opportunity to learn about inventions of the present and past (an "illuminating device for frightening rats and mice," for example), try their hand at inventions of their own, print out patents, and even "advertise" their inventions on television. When *Spark* closes in September, the museum will open another large-scale show.

In the permanent galleries, dozens of other hands-on stations offer lessons in weather, the makings of a city, the world of music, Austin's history, and the workings of a theater. Kids can touch a miniature, wind-generated tornado, explore a mock mini-city, play musical instruments, crawl through a Mesozoic-era landscape replete with dinosaurs, and even put on a performance (or watch one) at the state-of-the-art Theatre Gallery.

The Austin Children's Museum, at the Dell Discovery Center, 201 Colorado, opens Tue-Sat 10-5 (Wed until 8) and Sun noon-5. Call for holiday hours. Admission: \$3.50, free age 2 and younger (free for all ages Wed. after 5). Wheelchair accessible. Write to 201 Colorado, Austin 78701, or call 512/472-2499. Web site: www.austinkids.org.



AUSTIN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM/JIM LINCOLN

By George(town)!

Now a burgeoning city in one of the fastest growing counties in the country, Georgetown straddles that line between sleepy small town and cosmopolitan burg-on-the-move, especially as it celebrates its sesquicentennial. For visitors, that juxtaposition of history and growth means plenty of interesting places to shop and eat, more than 180 homes and buildings on the National Register of Historic Places (check out the downtown square's 1925 art-deco Palace Theater and 1892 fire station, for example), and festivals and events galore.

One of the town's most festive events, Mayfair, kicks off May 2-3 with an all-out preview of summer on the banks of the San Gabriel River in San Gabriel Park. Dozens of arts and crafts vendors; a large children's carnival; singers, dancers, and musicians of every ilk; an antique and hot-rod car show; a Saturday-evening dance; a display of U.S. Army vehicles; an art show on the courthouse rotunda; and the largest airshow in Central Texas provide a dizzying array of things to do.

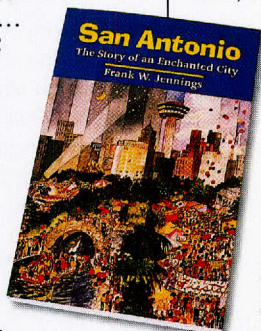
And if you need a break from all the laughter and shouting, you could simply dangle your toes in the cool river for awhile. For more information about Mayfair or other events celebrating Georgetown's 150th birthday, write to Box 409, Georgetown 78627, or call 512/930-3545 or 800/436-8696. Web site: www.georgetown.org.

By the Way...

When Hunt County native Audie L. Murphy died in a plane crash in 1971, he was the most decorated combat soldier in United States history, as well as a popular movie actor, top-10 songwriter, best-selling author, and respected poet. In Greenville on May 23, you can celebrate Audie's contributions (and those of other Hunt County veterans) during

Audie Murphy Day. A flag-raising, a booksigning by biographer Sue Gossett, a dance, and the dedication of the American Cotton Museum's **Audie L. Murphy Memorial Hunt County Veteran's Exhibit** (which includes Audie's movie posters, report cards, magazine covers, and replicas of his many medals) promise to draw big crowds.... call 903/450-4502 or 454-1990.

We think that historian Frank Jennings' latest book on his beloved hometown, **San Antonio: The Story of an Enchanted City**, nicely fits the



pre-summertime reading bill. Full of history and details that only a local would know, it provides the lowdown on San Antonio highlights ranging from the historic acequias (the gravity-operated, man-made waterways that sustained the missions and early settlers) to the *very* bizarre Buckhorn Hall of Horns, Fins, and Feathers. Look for the book, published by the *San Antonio Express-News*, in your library or bookstore (\$16.95 paperback, \$24.95 hardcover), or call 800/880-8642 to order a copy.

The Orange Show, Houston's madcap homage to creativity and the city's premier wild-and-wacky attraction, opens its whirligig-strewn, multi-leveled fantasyland to visitors each spring. Through December, the Orange Show also offers a bevy of workshops, lectures, performances, films, and events, including its **Eyeopeners Classics Tours**, which kick off on May 3 with a guided bus tour to a half-dozen of the city's folk-art environments. The Orange Show's second tour takes place in August, when it explores the world of Houston's murals.... call 713/926-6368. Web site: www.insync.net/~orange.

When it hosts the second annual **Rockport Festival of Wines** on May 23, the Texas Maritime Museum *guarantees* you'll have a merry time. For a mere \$12 per person, you can sample wines from throughout the Americas, learn about winemaking and cooking with wine at seminars and informal talks, dance or relax to live music, and try specialty foods from the area's many popular restaurants.... call 512/729-1271 or 800/242-0071.

One minute, you're in the food court. The next, you're tête-à-tête with a roaring Tyrannosaurus rex. Chalk it up to another day at Corpus Christi's Sunrise Mall. In a joint program of the Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History and the mall, **Dinosaurs at Sunrise**—nine lifelike robotic dinosaurs (seven huge adults and two babies, plus a nestful of hatching eggs)—takes observers back to the Mesozoic Era. A sandbox with paleontology tools, realistic backdrops, and information boards offer more fun.... call 512/883-2862.

Born in 1895 in Navasota, the late legendary blues singer Mance Lipscomb is often called the "last of the great Texas country bluesmen." A sharecropper and tenant farmer for much of his life, Mance was first recorded in the early Sixties; since then, his mastery of blues, ballads, spirituals, and children's songs have won him fans the world over. On May 15 and 16, the 3rd **Annual Navasota Blues Festival** honors Mance's legacy with performances by dozens of blues and country bands—and barbecue galore.... call 409/825-3527 or 800/252-6642.

When Emmy Award-winning filmmaker David Breashears accepted the challenge of making an IMAX movie about climbing Nepal's Mount Everest, he encountered a weighty obstacle. The standard

IMAX camera weighs 80 pounds—far too heavy for even the fittest climber to carry into Everest's thin air. Engineers assisted in designing lighter, state-of-the-art cameras, and in 1996—just days after the infamous tragedy in which eight climbers died—the crew began their ascent. The resulting film, **Everest**, complete with breathtaking footage and gripping interviews, shows at the Houston Museum of Natural Science through Sep. 25.... call 713/639-4629.

In the mid-1800s, the bayou town of Jefferson was one of Texas' busiest steamboating ports. During this period, wealthy traders and businessmen built dozens of elegant, mostly Greek Revival-style homes throughout town, many of which open for tours May 1-3 during the 51st **Annual Jefferson Pilgrimage of Homes**.

The event also includes a parade, garden tours, arts and crafts, and musical performances.... call 903/665-2203 or 800/299-1593.

To honor the city of Columbus' 175th birthday, its citizens will throw a **Terquasquicentennial Celebration** May 14-17. Founded in 1823 by members of Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred," Columbus was, like Jefferson and other towns along Texas rivers, a busy commercial center in pre-Civil War days. The birthday fete includes the annual **Magnolia Homes Tour**, art and auto shows, historic reenactments, lots of food and craft booths, a 100-mile bike ride, live music, and more.... call 409/732-5135.

On May 2, Fredericksburg salutes John O. Meusebach and other Gillespie County founding fathers at the annual **Founders' Festival**. Festgoers can tour the octagonal Vereins Kirsche Museum;

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<http://www.texashighways.com>

observe such pioneer crafts demonstrations as sheep-shearing and leather-working at the Pioneer Museum; purchase homemade cakes, pies, and canned goods; enjoy live music; and even try German-style folk dancing.... call 830/997-2835.

At the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston May 31-Aug 23, **Intimate Encounters: Love and Domesticity in Eighteenth-Century France** presents some 45 paintings depicting scenes of everyday life during the reign of Louis XV. Here's proof that the day's great thinkers pondered more than lofty literature.... call 713/639-7300.



Houston Museum of Natural Science

Following in the footsteps of his father, **Tenzing Norgay**, who reached the summit of Mount Everest with Sir **Edmund Hillary** in 1953, crewmember **Jamling Norgay** stands at the mountain's peak—29,028 feet above sea level.

Now celebrating its 23rd year, the **Fort Bend County Czech Fest** pulls out all the stops for this year's event, May 1-3. You can enjoy live music by dozens of Czech and country-western bands, sample foods like kolaches and goulash, browse for antiques, take a language lesson, search the on-line genealogy database, and watch cooking and dancing demonstrations. For kids, the fest offers a carnival and petting zoo.... call 281/344-0014, ext. 956.

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

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

READERS RECOMMEND...

Recently, we visited the **Yellow Rose Guest Ranch in Tarpley** and would recommend it enthusiastically. The beauty of the landscape, the delightful activities, and the warm hospitality of the owner-operators, John and Silvia Roncagalli (Swiss-born Texans), make the Yellow Rose a marvelous antidote to big-city living.

Boyd Burkholder, San Antonio
The Yellow Rose Guest Ranch is off FM 470, 5.5 miles west of Tarpley. Reservations required; 830/562-3456.

Corpus Christi is home to the unusual **Barker's Dozen** dog-biscuit bakery. All treats are made fresh daily with no preservatives, salt, or sugar added, so they are healthy for man's best friend. There is a variety of flavors such as chicken-cheddar, peanut butter, and apple-cinnamon. Birthday cakes are also available. The owner is Jennifer Coté, and she is quite impressive. Take a

look at their Web site: www.barkersdozen.com.

Sheila Beach, via email
A Barker's Dozen is at 2033 Airline Road, Suite B-4, in Corpus Christi; 512/993-4747 or 888/993-4747.

Surprisingly, the best "small town" cafe in Texas is within shouting distance of downtown **Houston**. You will be delighted to discover the joys of the **Triple-A Restaurant**. There are always several choices...you can choose an entrée and three side dishes for around \$6. To avoid the crowds, come for supper in the evening. Just don't come too late—they close around 8 p.m. You will think you have stepped back in time. It's no accident the veggies are good—the Triple-A is right next door to the vast Farmers Market.

Robert Stutes, Silsbee, via email
The Triple-A Restaurant is at 2526 Airline Drive in Houston; 713/861-3422.

TAKE A BOW

Fort Worth has a new gem in its treasure chest of attractions. On May 1, supporters raise the curtain on the \$65 million **Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall**. The 183,000-square-foot hall, at 4th and Calhoun streets, will serve as home base for the Fort Worth Symphony, the Fort Worth Dallas Ballet, the Fort Worth Opera, the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition (and the Cliburn Concert series), and special productions of Casa Mañana musicals.

Designed by David Schwarz (the Washington, D.C., architect who also created The Ballpark at Arlington), the limestone structure features two tiered-dome roofs clad in copper sheeting. A pair of 48-foot-tall angels, carved by Hungarian-born sculptor Márton Váró, adorn the building's facade.

Inside, the horseshoe-shaped auditorium features five seating levels to accommodate 2,056 performance-goers. The "Great Dome," which hovers some 82 feet above the orchestra level, is graced by a mural, designed by Fort Worth artists Scott and Stuart Gentling. The painting depicts a wreath of white-feathered wings. For information on the dedication ceremony or for a list of upcoming performances, write to Performing Arts Fort Worth, Maddox-Muse Administration Hall, 330 East 4th Street, Fort Worth 76102; 817/348-2400. Web site: www.basshall.com.

Through May 31, Fort Worth's **Kimbell Art Museum** will exhibit **The Art of Ornament: The Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall**, a collection of 40 proposed designs for the hall's decoration by Márton Váró and Scott and Stuart Gentling. Write to 3333 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth 76107-2792; 817/332-8451.

CREATURE COMFORTS

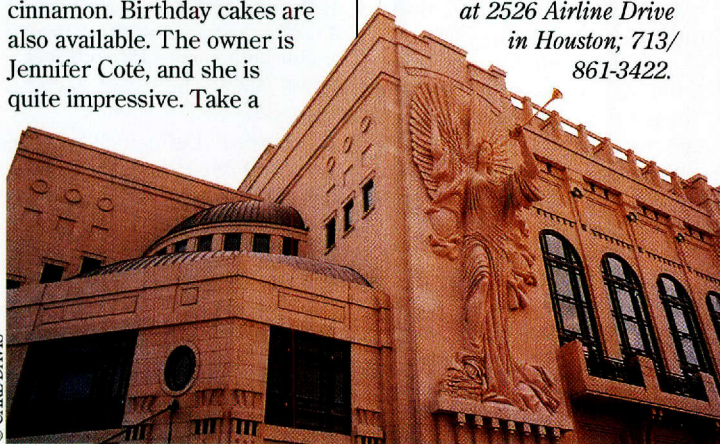
For a real puppy treat, take your pooch to **Hutto's** new 70,000-square-foot **Triple Crown Dog Academy**, billed as the nation's largest, most comprehensive dog training and event center. The facility features a 32,000-square-foot indoor event center, a lighted sports field, and ponds for training retrievers, as well as a clubhouse, barbecue area, and parking for RVs. If you add in the center's complete boarding and grooming facilities and training—from agility to obedience—Fido may never want to go home. Write to 200 County Road 197, Hutto 78634; 512/759-BARK (2275).

WHERE THE ARTS ARE

Late this spring, the **El Paso Museum of Art** will move to a 104,000-square-foot building, at the corner of Main and Santa Fe streets. This tripling of space means you'll see more of the museum's permanent collection, including the *Kress Collection of European Art* and art of the Americas, as well as 19th- and 20th-Century paintings by American artists and an assortment of contemporary works. The museum also hosts some 15 traveling exhibits annually, and offers bilingual docent tours, children's activities, concerts, and a film series. Contact the museum for the opening date. Write to One Arts Festival Plaza, El Paso 79901; 915/532-1707.

Down the Road

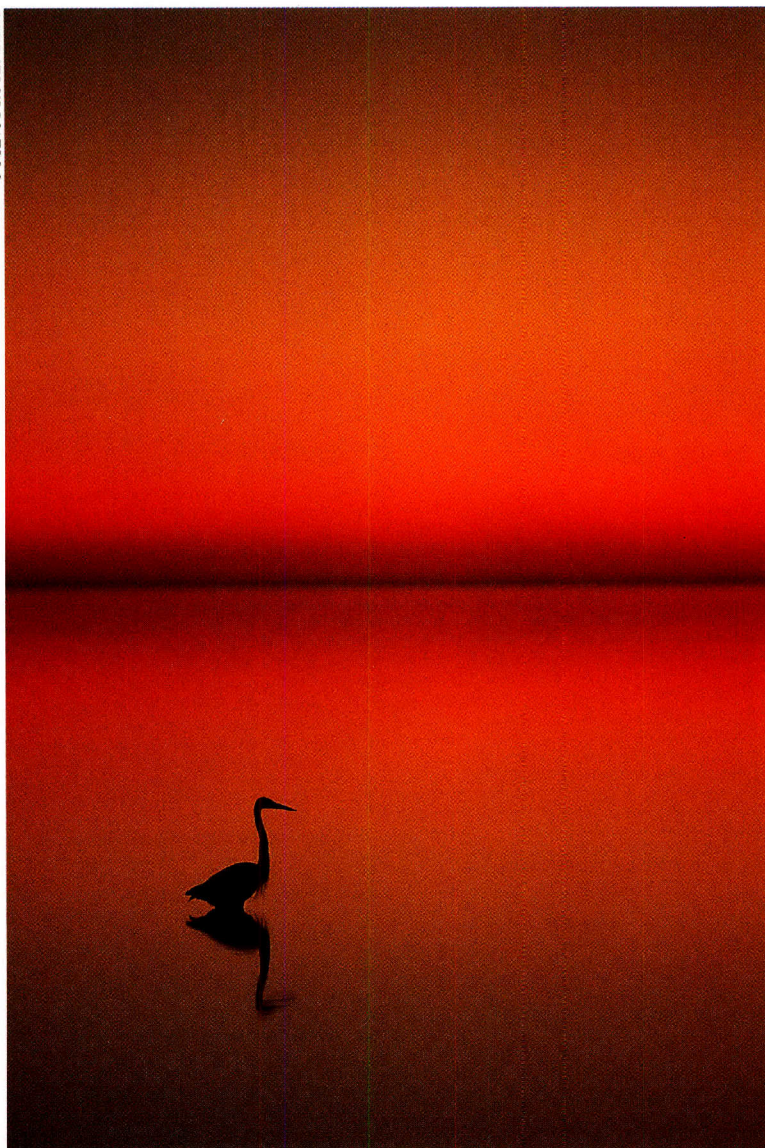
In June, we'll soak in Lone Star springs, boot-scoot to music in Gruene, and skim the marshlands at Sea Rim State Park. Then, it's off to Big D for a glimpse at those luxurious "Golden Girl" hotels. Take us to Pecos, you say? Okay!



Sculpted by Hungarian artist Márton Váró, two 48-foot limestone angels (one of which is shown above) grace the facade of Fort Worth's new Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall.

W I N D O W O N T E X A S

© NANCY ROTENBERG



Calm waters along Padre Island National Seashore mirror a great blue heron and various hues of sunset.



POOL RULES

1. NO RUNNING OR JUMPING ON THE POOL DECK.
2. NO DIVING FROM THE POOL DECK OR FROM ANY OBJECTS IN THE POOL AREA.
3. NO SWIMMING UNDER THE POOL DECK.
4. NO SWIMMING IN THE POOL AREA IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER OF THE POOL CLUB.
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