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HIGHWAYS

NOVEMBER 1999

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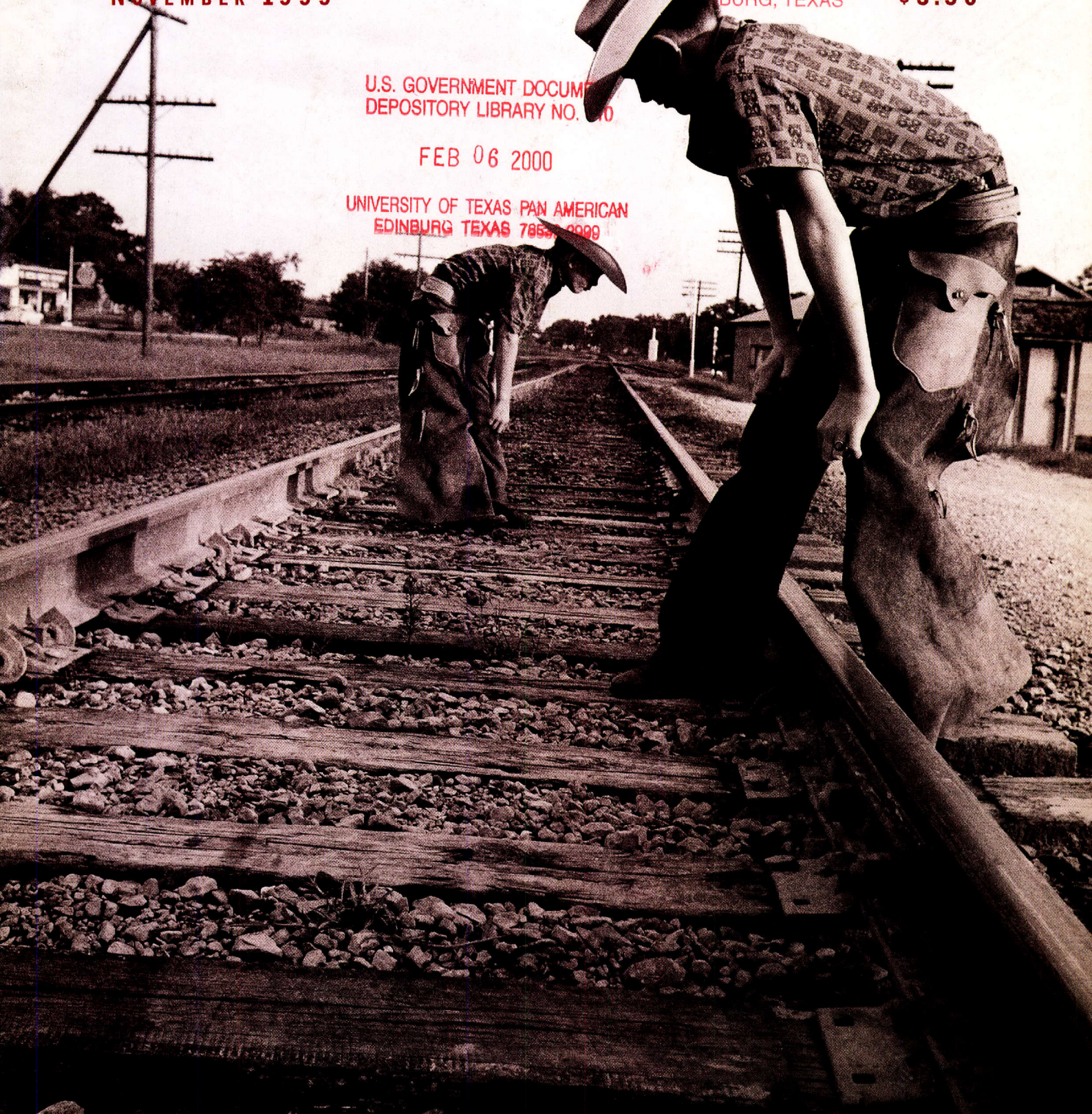
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© WYMAN MEINZER

Texas Highways contributing photographer Wyman Meinzer (left) shares a laugh with friend and pilot Knut Mjølhus on a hilltop at Alazan Ranch.



COURTESY GUY GILLETTE

Photographer Guy Gillette, who has documented the Lovelady area of East Texas for half a century, is captured in a particularly jaunty mood.

For more than a century, Texas has been known in the popular imagination as a ranching state. So it seems only fitting that we highlight a few ranches now and then.

Our cover shot and the story beginning on page 24 feature images of **East Texas ranch life** by renowned photographer **Guy Gillette**. Guy, whose work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Life*, *The New York Times*, art books, and New York galleries for some five decades, married Doris Porter, the daughter of an East Texas rancher, in the mid-1940s. Before he married into the Porter clan—and into the life of Lovelady, Texas—Guy, who was an aspiring actor in New York, spent a brief stint as an Army medic.

"They made a lot of actors into medics," Guy recalls. "I guess they figured we

were tender-hearted." Ironically, after a few months, the Army discharged Guy because of inadequate eyesight. The military obviously wasn't measuring photographic perception. Guy's pictures of the **Porter ranch** provide a clear-eyed view of rural East Texas in the Fifties and Sixties.

We also visit two West Texas working ranches that welcome guests. At **Old Alazan Ranch**, you can rough it nicely, whereas at **Cibolo Creek Ranch**, well, you would hardly call it roughing it.... But read the stories to see what we mean. We think you'll agree that the ranching tradition and the custom of West Texas hospitality live on at both spreads.

Enjoy the rest of the issue, as well. You'll find a celebration of poinsettias at **Ellison's Greenhouses** in Brenham, a remarkable array of **Texas artisans, meteor showers**—which might provide a once-in-a-lifetime extravaganza this month—in the Texas sky, and a pocket of the **Norseland** in the hills of Bosque County.

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FEATURES

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ROUGHING IT NICELY: OLD ALAZAN RANCH

by Lana Robinson

A working ranch southeast of Marfa offers guests comfy quarters, hearty meals, and panoramic views of rugged West Texas. It's not a resort, but if you're looking for the quintessential Western setting, Old Alazan Ranch fills the bill.

10

HANDMADE TEXAS by Randy Mallory

What do mesquite rocking horses, hand-marbled silks, customized hats, handblown glass, intricately tooled saddles, chromed couches, and handsewn baseball gloves have in common? They're all made by Texans who blur the line between art and craft.

16

LUXURY IN THE WILD: CIBOLO CREEK RANCH by Dan Morrison

Once the homestead of 19th-Century cattle baron Milton Faver, Cibolo Creek Ranch, southwest of Marfa, today thrives as a desert getaway. Its secluded pleasures include gourmet dining and a host of other upscale amenities.

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TENDER-HEARTED: A GUY GILLETTE PORTFOLIO by Randy Mallory

Photographer Guy Gillette's images of rural East Texas during the Fifties and Sixties reveal scenes from a familiar but bygone era. His photographs of family members prove particularly compelling.

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THE LEONID METEORS: SHOWERS OF LIGHT by Laurie E. Jasinski and Donald W. Olson

If scientists are right, Texans may very well witness a rare astronomical phenomenon around the middle of this month—a marvelous meteor shower. Mark your calendars, and scout out a spot in the dark.

38

NORSE, OF COURSE! by Lana Robinson

If you're curious about *lutefisk* and other facets of Norwegian-Texan culture, make plans to attend one of the holiday celebrations held in Bosque County each December.

44

RED AND GREEN SET THE SCENE by Diane Morey Sitton

Each November, Ellison's Greenhouses in Brenham ushers in the holiday season with a Poinsettia Celebration. You don't have to know a bract from a bud to enjoy the spectacular show.

DEPARTMENTS

2 LETTERS

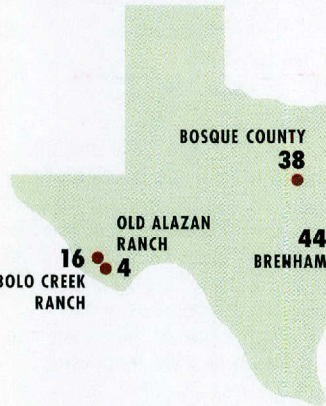
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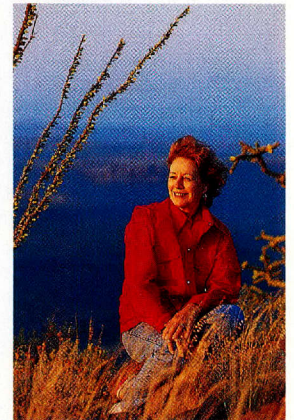
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ABOUT OUR COVERS

FRONT—In the late Fifties, photographer Guy Gillette captured this image of his sons, Guy (in the foreground) and Pipp, looking for their flattened pennies on the railroad track near the Lovelady depot. For more slice-of-life photos from this era, see Guy Gillette's portfolio, beginning on page 24. Photo © Guy Gillette

BACK—A walkway beside a 140-foot-long stone corral leads to the entrance of El Fortín del Cibolo, once the residence of 19th-Century rancher Milton Faver and today the centerpiece of luxurious Cibolo Creek Ranch. For more views of this West Texas treasure, turn to page 16. Photo by J. Griffis Smith



page 4

page 10



Readers: We were wowed by the gracious response to September's 25th-Anniversary Special. A few of your letters follow; we wish we had room to publish them all.

Silver-Tongued

In this, my 80th year, I have moved to upstate New York to be with my daughter and her family, but my *Texas Highways* still reaches me monthly as it has for at least 25 years. I have to say that with your Silver-Anniversary Issue, you have outdone yourselves. The photographs; the history of the magazine; the reminiscences of your writers and of the Texas "notables"—all are superb. But did you have to make me so homesick?

MRS. ARNEY M. DAVIS
Schoharie, New York

Joel Salcido's stunning sunset photo on pages 26 and 27 brought back a myriad of pleasant memories to this native El Pasoan: chasing lizards and quail around creosote bushes, endless rows of cotton fields and pecan groves in the valley near Clint, Sunday lunches at Leo's Mexican Restaurant after church, numerous Sun Bowl games, tamales from La Tapatia...the list goes on and on. As Roger Clemens said, no matter where you reside, "Texas is Home." When my time on earth is through, I pray God takes me to Heaven through an El Paso sunset over the Franklins! Viva Texas!

MARK MCCOY
Clinton, Mississippi, via email

Your September issue made me think of the last words I heard my mother speak. They came via telephone long distance in February 1992. She said, "I've just seen the most beautiful sight of my life. It was at sunset, where the Pecos meets the Rio Grande!" She died suddenly that April, but since then, I've tried each February to [visit the spot and] personally verify that my mother was indeed correct.

One word comes through your beautiful magazine. That word is "Love." All of us subscribers love it, too, through



© JOEL SALCIDO

Joel Salcido shot this fiery photo in El Paso.

you, especially those of us who are transplanted Texans!

PHIL SPRING
Tulsa, Oklahoma, via email

I believe it is very common, when a publication celebrates an anniversary for itself, that the result is typically a very glitzy, self-absorbed, and self-praising edition. In this respect, I feel that the staff of *Texas Highways* failed completely in producing the 25th-Anniversary Issue. And I am totally overcome with gratitude and pleasure. Thanks for the very best of the best of *TH*, and for presenting your glory in such a humble way, praising the support from others.

BOB GLASSCOCK
Lubbock, via email

TH Haven

I wanted to share one small anecdote with all of you—a way, perhaps, of showing you how your magazine impacts people's lives.

Back in August of 1982, I was in Houston, where my five-year-old son, Jason, was about to have his second heart catheterization. That was a very stressful time. One month later, Jason had open-heart surgery in Boston. Thank God, he's fine now: He stands six-feet-three and graduated cum laude last December from Texas A&M.

I remember that I had found

a copy of *TH* that belonged to my mother, and I took it with me to Houston. It's the same August 1982 issue that's pictured on page 11 of the September 1999 issue. On the day that Jason was having his heart cath, I recall staring at the peaceful picture on the cover—the man sitting placidly on his horse and looking at the Rio Grande. This may sound odd, but that picture helped me calm down that day. I would look at it and dream. I would place myself on that horse and gaze down into the canyon—and for a moment, I'd be there.

I have kept that issue all these many years. In fact, I just took it out to look at it again. Of all the issues (and that includes the ones I published articles in), the August 1982 *Texas Highways* will always be, for me, the most special.

ARTURO LONGORIA
McAllen, via email

Meenakshi Kudos

I have been reading *Texas Highways* since 1984. The July issue is very special to me. Thank you for the beautiful photos and essay on the Sri Meenakshi Temple near Houston. This article will go a long way in developing deeper understanding of and respect for India and her culture. As more Indians make Texas our home, I do look forward to seeing the growing community contributing

to the culture, beauty, and diversity of Texas.

R. SIVASANKAR
Austin, via email

Burleson Bungle

A bio on page 20 of the September issue contains an error. Edward Burleson was not the first vice president of the Republic of Texas. He was the third "elected" one, and the fourth, if Lorenzo de Zavala, the "ad interim" vice president during the revolution in 1836, is counted.

RODNEY J. WALTER
Farmers Branch

Nine-Pin Shenanigans

August's story on nine-pin bowling brought back vivid memories of my childhood in a small community near Heidelberg, Germany. I was about 10 years old when I was hired by the only Kegel Klub in town to set up pins on Wednesday nights. The only income for the pin-boy came from gutterballs, from strikes, and when the kingpin remained standing, which was seldom the case.

There was a blackboard on which I marked my earnings: five pfennig for a gutter-ball (about one cent in U.S. currency of 1937), 10 pfennig for a strike (2.5 cents), and 20 pfennig for a standing kingpin (5 cents). Sometimes I went home after four hours of sweating with 50 or 60 cents in my pocket.

Living standards were good in 1937 in Germany. Everybody had a job, and the bowlers had plenty of money to buy beer and a sandwich. Thinking of how I could improve my take-home pay...I went to my mother's sewing machine and got a yard of thread. The next Wednesday, after my employers had imbibed plenty of beer, I stretched the thread over the center of the platform and set the three pins on top of it. When the next ball approached the platform, I pulled my ripcord. It worked like a charm. It made the bowlers happy, it made the innkeepers happy (because the boys bought more beer), and it made me happy.

ROLAND G. DORNES
San Antonio

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

© JIM CROW

Jerry Long can't see the horse he's riding or the steer he's roping. His only guide is a bell tied to the steer's tail. Blinded years ago by diabetes, Jerry gave up rodeoing—until a joke and a challenge got him back in the saddle again.

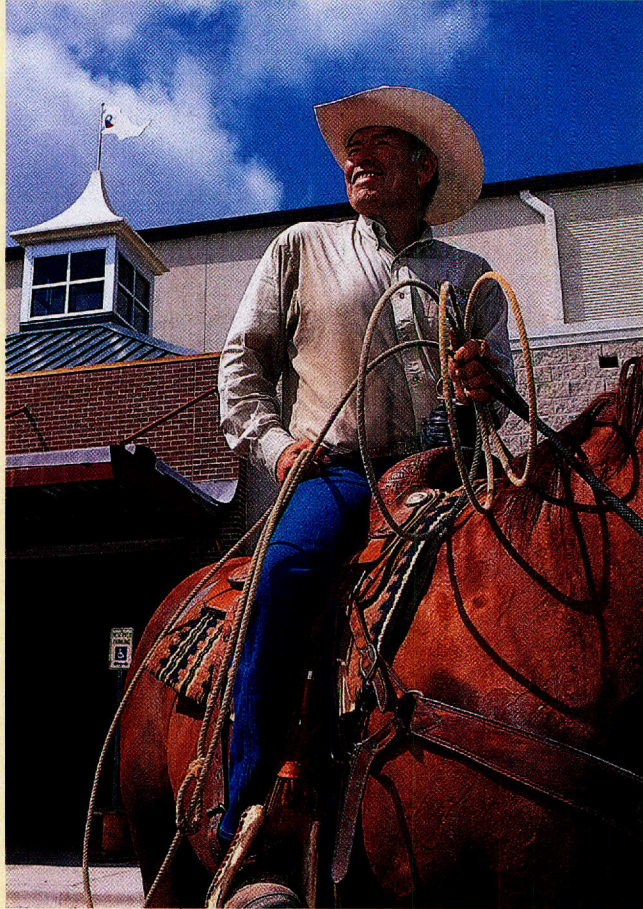
After Jerry's health problems caused him to lose both kidneys, all of the vision in one eye, and most of the vision in the other, he figured his riding and roping days had ended. But when his friend Debo McKenzie missed a steer he was trying to rope, Jerry made the mistake of teasing him.

"I told Debo that a fat, old, bald-headed, blind guy like me could rope that steer if it had a bell on its tail," says

Jerry, who lives in Georgetown. "It was just a joke, but a few days later, he invited my wife and me over for hamburgers. After dinner, he saddled up to do some roping, then walked over and handed me some bells. He said, 'There's a horse, there are the cattle, and here are your bells.' It was still a joke, but I knew I was going to have to mount up or have him harass me forever.

"It had been at least 15 years since I'd been on a horse," Jerry continues. "My heart was pounding, and I was hanging onto the saddle horn. Debo sent the steers out, and I listened for the bells. I managed to rope two out of seven, and after that I was hooked." In June 1993, Jerry entered a Texas Senior Pro Rodeo Association event; by October, he had qualified for the finals.

Retired this past May from a career in education and now working as a motivational speaker, Jerry plans to keep on roping. "I'm going to enjoy it as long as I can," he says. "I'm having fun doing



What's wrong with this picture? Not a thing. But it might surprise you to learn that roper Jerry Long of Georgetown, shown here at a team-roping contest in Waco last month, has been blind for years.

something I love, something I thought I'd lost forever."

—Lyn Kidder, *Ruidoso, New Mexico*

Captain Decimus et Ultimus Barziza of Hood's Texas Brigade wrote *The Adventures of a Prisoner of War 1863-1864*. According to historian R. Henderson Schuffler's preface to the 1964 edition of the book, it is "the only known published memoir of a Texan who wrote of his experiences as a prisoner during the Civil War and one of the few such accounts published on either side before the end of the conflict."

Barziza was wounded and captured by Union soldiers at the Battle of Gettysburg, then spent months in Yankee prisons. In February 1864, while being transferred by train from the notorious

Johnson's Island prison in Sandusky Bay, Ohio, to yet another prison, Barziza escaped by throwing himself out an open window of the train. Scrambling for cover, he found that he had landed near Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

With only five dollars in the pocket of his civilian clothes, Barziza boldly entered the town, pretended to be a discharged Union soldier, and bluffed and charmed his way north to Canada. Southern sympathizers in Montreal sent him on by sleigh to Halifax, Nova Scotia, via a newly formed escape route for Confederates. From Halifax, he sailed to Bermuda, then to Fort Fisher, North Carolina. From there, this courageous Virginia-born Texan made his way home, arriving in Houston in June 1864. Barziza wrote his memoirs while recuperating from his war injuries and the ordeal of his escape.

After his recovery, "Bar," as his friends and associates called him, established a law practice in Houston and in 1869 married Patricia Nicholas of Virginia. The couple had no children, but adopted an orphaned nephew in 1872.

Adamantly opposed to Reconstruction, Barziza helped remove scalawag Texas Governor Edmund Davis from office in 1873. (Davis, denying his sound defeat by Richard Coke, surrounded himself with troops and refused to leave his Capitol office until President U.S. Grant rejected Davis' request for federal troops.) Barziza served in the 14th and 15th Texas Legislatures (1873-1876) and figured prominently in many political movements of the day.

Barziza bore with pride the unusual name given to him as the "tenth and last" (*decimus et ultimus* in Latin) child of a distinguished family. His forebears included members of the Italian nobility; a great-grandfather, John Paradise, who was a scholar in 18th-Century England; and the Ludwell family, prominent landholders in colonial Virginia.

Plagued by a lingering illness, Barziza died in 1882 at age 43. He is buried in Glenwood Cemetery in Houston.

—Elizabeth W. Lewis, *Houston*

BY LANA ROBINSON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY WYMAN MEINZER



ROUGHING IT NICELY

OLD ALAZAN

Making folks feel at home on the range comes easy for West Texan Waynelle Strachan,

co-owner with her husband, J.H. “Red” Strachan, of the historic Old Alazan Ranch in Presidio County. The rancher, acting as gracious tour guide, takes pride in showing off part of her cherished Big Bend playground to guests. The ranch’s rugged acreage spreads out 65 miles southeast of Marfa.

Whether clip-clopping on horseback through a familiar canyon or urging her mount to scale one of Alazan’s timeworn mesas or ancient peaks, Waynelle is never in a hurry to end a day’s excursion. She and her camera-clicking companions drift from one stunning vista to another, savoring the view from on high. Lest anyone overlook the beauty closer at hand, Waynelle frequently directs her guests’ attention to a prickly plant or desert creature common to this corner of the Trans-Pecos.

[ABOVE] Big Bend’s bountiful mountains and spacious skies dwarf Old Alazan Ranch headquarters in the foreground. Spend some time exploring the expansive landscape at this Trans-Pecos ranch, and your troubles may too seem small.



elevations of 4,000 to 5,000 feet does wonders for the perspective.

“It’s a feeling of being on top of the world,” he says. “I am more at home here than anywhere else.”



OLD ALAZAN (*alazán* is Spanish for “sorrel”) is not a dude ranch or a public resort, but a genuine working ranch that doubles as a setting for adult retreats, corporate meetings, and seminars. It also opens its doors to artists, photographers, naturalists, geologists, couples, and individuals. From September through May, some 20,000 acres are available for guests to roam on horseback, tour by Jeep, or explore on foot. The ranch’s scenic rims and wandering trails offer challenges for hikers of virtually every level of skill and ambition, with captivating views to boot. Rare mineral and fossil formations and numerous Indian ruins await geology and history buffs. Hard-core adventurers may opt for the Strachans’ special tour package, which includes day trips to the adjoining Big Bend Ranch State Park.

Up to a half-dozen intrepid guests can participate in a real cattle roundup at Alazan each spring and fall, when days are cool and humidity is low. Winters in this Chihuahuan Desert wilderness—home to mule deer, javelinas, wild turkeys, quail, roadrunners, jackrabbits, coyotes, gray foxes, mountain lions, cliff swallows, and the rare golden eagle—are also mild. In fact, it is often a pleasant 80 degrees here when the Rocky Mountains are locked in deep snow.

The moon saturates this part of the world with so much light that guests often take late-night strolls. Early risers like to sit on the lodge’s big porch, sip coffee, and witness the subtle unveiling of the region’s distinctive botanical bounty—cacti, ocotillo, yucca, catclaw acacia, creosote bush, and, in February and March, the stunning long-stem

THE IDEA is for people to come here and relax and let the splendor of this country work its magic,” says Waynelle. “I tell people to take their watches off. We measure time here by the length of shadows.”

Waynelle and Red bought the secluded ranch as a speculative venture in 1980, but dismissed all thoughts of ever selling it after a few weekends here. The couple’s permanent residence is 245

miles away, at Clint, near El Paso, where Red farms and Waynelle runs a long-stem-bluebonnet business. Waynelle typically schedules her trips to the ranch to coincide with guests’ visits. Red, on the other hand, escapes to the quiet Big Bend haven every chance he gets. When he’s here, he punches cattle, putters around in his pickup, and ponders life far away from civilization. According to Red, viewing things from



Late afternoon finds businessman/pilot Knut Mjølhus of Amarillo in one of the hammocks behind the main house. Such simple pleasures abound at Alazan.

bluebonnet—against a watercolor backdrop of desert hues.

“We have found that many people enjoy a taste of the Old West, and the

which was built in the 1920s using elements close at hand (for example, rough-hewn cottonwood beams, adobe, and the like).

sky at night. I enjoy the profound quiet and the solitude. You can look for miles and miles and not see a soul.”

Alazan’s rustic ranch headquarters and comfortable bunkhouse can accommodate 20 people at a time. The main lodge is a meandering, tin-roofed complex, the hub of

the homey atmosphere. Stretching across one end of the room, near Waynelle’s kitchen and just a step away from a big covered porch, sits a massive 19th-Century dining table with worlds of elbow room.

Sleeping quarters are cozy and modestly furnished. Decor is primitive and practical. Ropes, spurs, saddle blankets, and other cowboy necessities adorn bedroom and bunkhouse walls. Guests share quaint, neat bathrooms.

“Bear in mind this is a working ranch, not a resort,” says Waynelle. “We like to say, ‘At the Alazan, we rough it nicely.’”

“Roughing it nicely” includes hearty, made-from-scratch meals. For breakfast, there are tasty casseroles, homemade muffins, and fresh fruit, or bacon,

From September through May, some 20,000 of Old Alazan’s 60,000 acres are available for guests to roam on horseback, tour by jeep, or explore on foot.

isolation out here really clears the mind and gets the creative juices flowing. Since we host just a handful of folks at a time, we get a chance to know our guests,” says Waynelle, who aptly bills Old Alazan as “the essence of frontier Texas.”

Getting to the remote retreat is not exactly easy. Some guests fly in by private plane, but those traveling to the ranch by car or truck must take the last 32 miles of the trip slow and easy on a dusty gravel road that snakes across the desert.

Many guests welcome the drive. “It’s pure relaxation and well worth the effort to get to Alazan,” says Charles Napier, a C.P.A. from El Paso. “There’s no television, no Nintendo, and it’s a gorgeous place to be. The terrain is so varied—there are waterfalls [during the occasional rainy seasons], soaring mountains, canyons, fiery sunsets, and a big

When Red and Waynelle added a den in 1990, they, too, drew from nature’s resources. The room’s handsome fireplace—complemented by earth-toned, Mexican tile floors and rich woodwork—boasts smooth, gray stones collected from nearby Fresno Canyon. The couple brought fossils, Indian relics, and dried plants indoors and scattered them about to give the space a sense of harmony with its surroundings. Casual couches and chairs, French doors and large windows curtained by Indian blankets, a game table, a stereo system, and a smattering of coffee-table books enhance

eggs, sausage, and homemade biscuits. For lunch and dinner, choices include dishes like enchiladas, tacos, caldillo (Mexican stew), chili, fajitas, and steaks. Food is served family-style in the lodge or from the chuck wagon.



With five bedrooms, the bunkhouse’s cozy accommodations make folks feel at home on the range. The main house has two guest rooms, as well as a newly added sleeping porch.

“Don’t come expecting a gourmet meal,” adds Waynelle. “We serve ranch fare—good wholesome food and plenty of it!”

At the close of each day, guests gather at the customary bonfire to sip cocktails, sing songs, gaze at the stars, and munch on chips and *chile con queso*, or some of Red’s spicy buffalo wings. Sometimes the group shares stories of long ago.



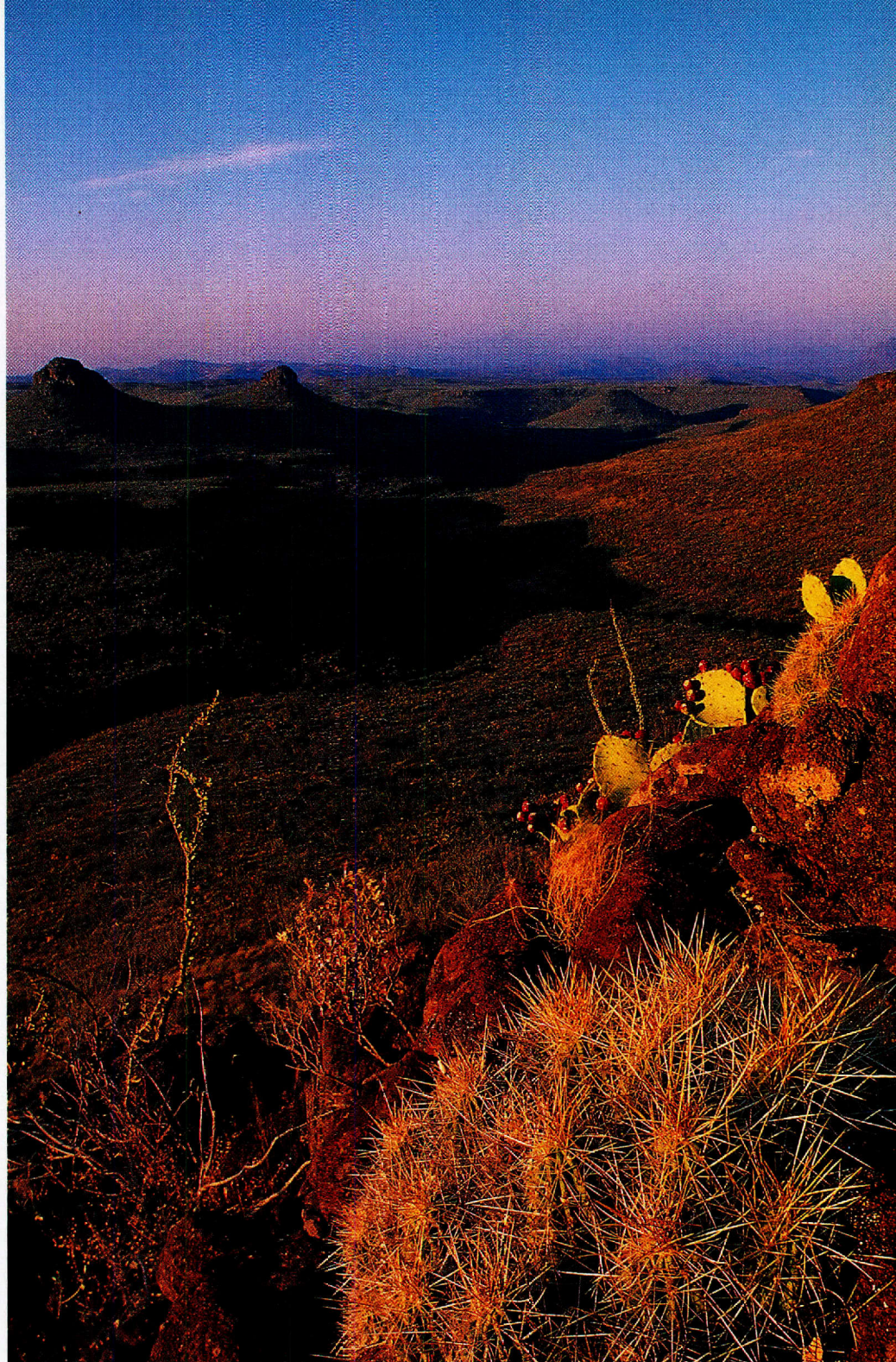
IN ANCIENT TIMES, Alazan and the country surrounding it served as a sanctuary for generations of nomadic Native Americans and the Puebloan cultures that followed. Though peoples have come and gone—from Spanish conquerors to Comanche and Apache marauders, Mexican bandits, and early Texas settlers—this vast frontier remains largely untamed.

When pioneer Thomas Henry “Papa Tom” Rawls and his wife, Dollie, put their stakes down at Alazan Ranch in the late 1800s, they claimed title to hundreds of thousands of acres near San Jacinto Mountain. In addition to raising cattle, Papa Tom ran a stagecoach from Marfa through Fresno Canyon to Lajitas. The gritty land baron is best remembered for his courage in a showdown with Pancho Villa over the theft of horses Tom had planned to sell to the U.S. Cavalry at Marfa.

“Papa Tom strapped on his six-shooters and rode right into Villa’s camp in Chihuahua [Mexico]. He told them, ‘I want money or my horses back,’” claims Joy Rawls of Casa Piedra, whose late husband, Jack Rawls Jr., was Tom Rawls’ grandson.

Local legend says Pancho Villa sent an emissary to meet Papa Tom with peace offerings: cash, a fancy gold ring, and three sets of silver dice. The incident marked the beginning of a long business relationship between the men.

Lee Bennett, an adjunct instructor in



Alazan's vistas mask a fascinating past. Geologists have theorized that some 450 million years ago, a stretch of Texas that includes Old Alazan Ranch was connected to the Precordillera region of western Argentina.

the history and education departments at Sul Ross University in Alpine, owns the neighboring Bandera Ranch, part of 23 sections of land her stepfather, Pearl Jackson, purchased from Papa Tom in 1901. Lee’s intimate knowledge

of the region’s history and her vivid memories of childhood visits at the Rawls home have helped Red and Waynelle piece together parts of Alazan’s colorful past. But its geology still proves puzzling.

A LAZAN SITS in the middle of the Tascotal Fault zone of the Rio Grande rift, a major tectonic feature extending from (at least) northern Colorado into Chihuahua and Coahuila, Mexico. Over the past decade, Red and Waynelle's ranch has served as a base for geological research that suggests that what is now the Precordillera region of western Argentina was actually part of Texas some 450 million years ago. The theory has been advanced by Houston geologist Dr. Pat Dickerson since 1991, when tests on rocks she collected from El Solitario, a gigantic crater in Big Bend Ranch State Park, pointed to a connection.

"The folded and faulted ancient strata within the Solitario, which became exposed some 30 million years ago, include strata and fossils related to those found in western Argentina," the geologist explains.

Pat's premise gained more credibility when, in the spring of 1995, an international group of scientists, which included Argentines involved in corresponding research in their country, converged at Alazan to visit El Solitario's furrowed perimeter. Among those present was Dr. Bill Muehlberger, professor emeritus of geology at the University of Texas at Austin. Bill, who is also one of Pat's colleagues at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, thinks she is onto something. He claims that a big chunk of country that once spanned the region starting at Tyler and extending southward to Victoria, then west to Del Rio and the Big Bend, now forms the Precordillera region of western Argentina.

"When continents collide and break apart again, they trade pieces. It's possible that Argentina and Texas were ripped apart when South America came drifting by during the Middle Ordovician Period," says Bill. "I feel certain that is what happened here."



Waynelle Strachan, who owns Old Alazan with her husband, Red, calls their West Texas getaway "the essence of frontier Texas." The region's lovely lupines inspired her to start a long-stem-bluebonnet business in Clint, the Strachans' permanent residence.

The possibility that Alazan shares common ground with Argentina adds to the mystique of Red and Waynelle's beloved home on the range. Even if the notion regarding the long-ago loss of land holds up, the Big Bend ranchers insist they won't feel one bit slighted.

Says Waynelle, "We could search high and low and not find another place on Earth quite like ours!"

From any perspective, Old Alazan Ranch, with its rugged vistas and roomy skies, is a haven for weary workaholics, a pristine playground for nature-lovers, and, for the poet, history buff, or cowboy wannabe, a romantic remnant of the Old West: the essence of frontier Texas. ★

Writer LANA ROBINSON of Waco says that while working on this feature, she and her husband, Mel, "roughed it nicely" with the Strachans and enjoyed every minute of it.

Photographer WYMAN MEINZER of Benjamin has been shooting roller coasters for a story next year on the wild rides.

Back at the Ranch

Old Alazan Ranch, some 65 miles southeast of Marfa in Presidio County, hosts retreats; corporate meetings; groups of artists, naturalists, photographers, and geologists; and couples and individuals. Rates: \$200/night per person, 2-night minimum; \$225/night per couple, 2-night minimum; \$150/night per person for groups of 5 or more, no minimum stay; and \$130/night per person for groups of 10-15, no minimum stay. Guests must be 18 or older.



The main house has 2 bedrooms available for guests, and, after recent renovations, a sleeping porch. The bunkhouse has 5 bedrooms. Rates include meals (with advance notice, Waynelle is happy to accommodate special diet requirements), a bonfire every evening with appetizers and cocktails, daily horseback rides, and a tour of the ranch with wonderful opportunities to see and photograph Big Bend vistas. Red and Waynelle say, "Bring your paints and canvas, camera, good book, and sunscreen, and leave your cares and cell phone behind!"

Special access to Big Bend Ranch State Park (a self-guided excursion in your own vehicle) is available (\$6 park permit required; packed lunch provided). For a taste of the Old West, up to a half-dozen guests have two separate opportunities—once in the spring and once in the fall (call ahead for dates)—to participate in a real cattle roundup at Alazan (\$350/night per person, no minimum stay).

The ranch has a small airstrip and a hangar for private planes. The ranch can arrange air transportation from Alpine or Lajitas for an additional charge. You can rent vehicles in Alpine, which is 2½ hours away, or in El Paso (5½ hours).

To get to the ranch by car, take US 67 south from Marfa 7 miles, then go southeast on FM 169 for 25 miles to end of pavement. Continue 32 miles on a county-maintained gravel road to the ranch. Write to the Old Alazan Company, Box 356, Clint 79836; 915/851-1238 or 851-2966. Web site: www.oldalazan.com.

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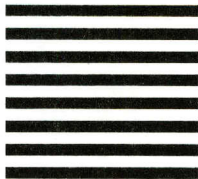
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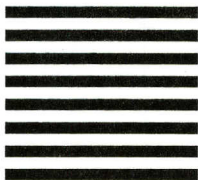
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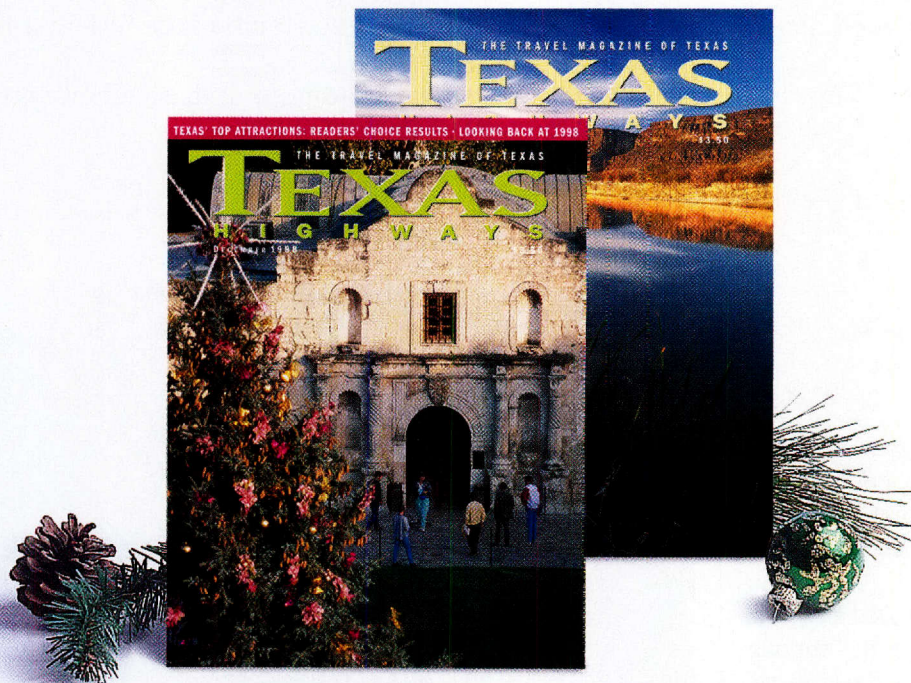
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SINCE TOOL
first touched
hand, it seems,

Handmade TEXAS

BY RANDY MALLORY • PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

Texans have transformed available materials into handcrafted items made one at a time... and they've done so with style. ★ They've shaped and molded, ground and pounded, stitched and polished, dabbed

Lone Star artisans use hands—as well as hearts and souls—to

GIDDYUP, MESQUITE!

Al Carr, Fredericksburg

Al Carr thinks the gnarled grain, tight burls, and wormholes of mesquite testify to the wood's strong character, resilience, and endurance—all traditional Texas traits.

So in 1993, mesquite proved a natural choice when the lifelong woodworking hobbyist made his two daughters' Christmas gifts—sculpted horses, one a glider and one a rocker. He considered making English carousel horses for them, but then he remembered his grandfather's saddles.

In the 1890s, Al's grandfather Rob Andrew owned the Concho Saddle Shop in San Angelo. To stir up orders, Rob made scale-models of his work and showed them off at rodeos and ranches. Al decided that a miniature saddle made from Rob's pattern would be perfect for his kids' wooden horses.

When TV reporter Bob Phillips heard about the horses in 1994, he wanted to film Al making one in his Hill Country workshop for *Texas Country Reporter*. "Even before the show was over, people were calling wanting a horse," remembers Al, a retired Navy pilot. He promptly embarked on a new career, creating his "Native Texan" heirlooms—ridable 48-inch-high gliders and 32-inch-high rockers.

Using 200 pounds of mesquite per horse, Al spends about 300 hours cutting, gluing, sculpting, rasping, and sanding the exact shape and musculature



Lifelong woodworker Al Carr sometimes adds ivory inlays—from the tusks of prehistoric mammoths found in Russia—to his carefully crafted rocking horses and gliders. Many of Al's horses are made of mesquite, but he also uses other woods, such as maple and walnut.

of the desired breed. He has made Quarter Horses, Arabians, Peruvian Pasos, and Tennessee Walkers, among others, turning out only four horses a year. Each one-third-scale horse (\$4,500 to \$8,500) has glass eyes, a

horse-hair mane and tail, and a miniature Concho saddle.

"I love seeing kids bond with my horses," Al says. "And I like knowing that these works, when properly cared for, should last forever."

and decorated. Their products fill museums and collections with historic artifacts ranging from intricate Indian beadwork to finely finished furniture. ★ Today, Lone Star artisans still produce from need...the need to craft useful things, but also the need to work skillfully, even artfully. You find them all across Texas. And, more often than not, their stories—why and how they do what they do—are as interesting as the handiworks themselves. Here are seven such stories.

meld craft into art.

SILKEN SWIRLS

Cosette Russell, Austin

Cosette Russell works hard to give her silks a bath.

To do so, she employs an ancient Turkish technique called “Ebru.” This art of hand-marbling has traditionally lent colorful swirling patterns to the endpapers of books. Cosette is one of a very few artisans who hand-marble silk for clothing. Her stunningly patterned and colored creations include blouses, caftans, and tunics, as well as fashion accessories like scarves, ties, and suspenders.

A batik artist since 1972, Cosette began experimenting with marbling 11 years ago as a new way to get color on cloth.

The process begins with a viscous blend of seaweed and water poured three inches deep into a five- by nine-foot metal tray. Next, she uses a brush to dollop drops of acrylic paints and earth pigments onto the thick liquid. The drops of color remain suspended on top. She’ll add as many as 16 tints side by side, eventually covering the surface with intense colors like dark umber, cobalt blue, yellow, burnt sienna, red, and white.

To create the marbling patterns, she uses long, wooden sticks spiked with metal pins and drapery hooks to make “combs.” Several sweeps of these combs create patterns in the liquid with names like “peacock” and “feather.” Cosette and an assistant carefully lay the silk, imported from China, onto the surface of the bath to soak up the colors. Finally, they rinse and air-dry the fabric. Cosette



Cosette Russell employs an ancient Turkish technique for marbling paper to create kaleidoscopic designs on silk. News of her work travels far: Her lavishly colored ties appear regularly in the Smithsonian gift catalog.

also marbles leather for purses, wallets, and bags. Prices for her silk and leather creations range from \$25 to \$400.

“Marbling is like a signature. You can tell one artist’s work from another by the use of color,” Cosette notes. “I tend to use a lot of color. I put a lot of care into my work, because I want the materials to come out as beautiful as possible.”



HATTER TO THE STARS

Paris Hatters, San Antonio

Hats have fallen in and out of fashion. Paris Hatters has held on. Other shops fled downtown for the suburbs. Paris Hatters stayed put... right around the corner from the Alamo.

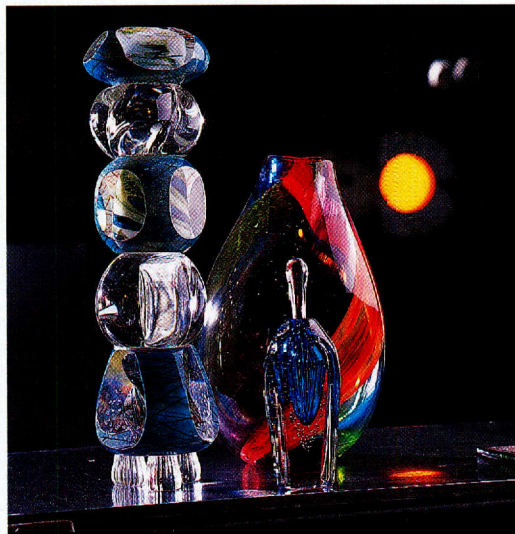
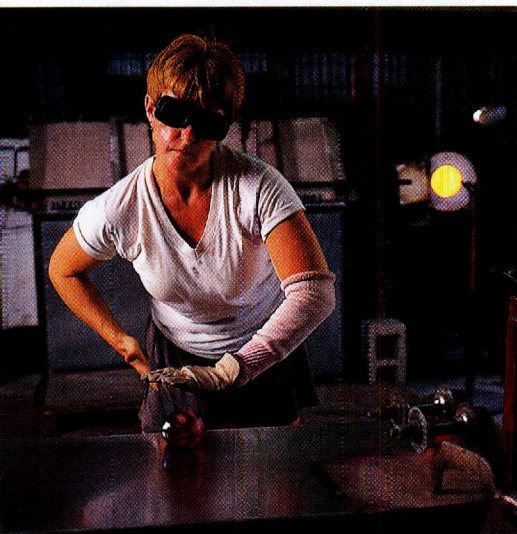
Tip your hat to the tenacious Cortez family, who maintained faith in the business they established in 1917 and named for the fashionable French capital. "Then and now, service is everything," says owner Abe Cortez Jr. "We fit the hat to the customer." And what customers!

Hundreds of celebrities, by Abe's count, wear Paris Hatters' hats—from musicians like Dwight Yoakam and B.B. King to actors such as Matt Damon and Tommy Lee Jones; from politicians like Ronald Reagan and George Bush to such notables as Pope John Paul II and King Juan Carlos I of Spain.

Kings or commoners, Abe's clients have plenty to choose from. The shop is filled to the brim with hats of all kinds—fedoras, bowlers, homburgs, panamas, golf hats, and cowboy hats both straw and felt. Paris Hatters carries a hat for every size, look, and pocketbook. Abe stocks a dozen brands of hats—he keeps 3,500 on hand (sizes 6½ to 8), in 27 colors, and priced from \$15



Abe Cortez Jr. would like you to put a lid on it. At Paris Hatters in San Antonio, Abe can make you the hat of your dreams, using the same equipment his father used when he founded the shop in 1917.



Working with molten glass is not for the faint of heart, but according to Teresa Ueltschey and her husband, Matthew La Barbera, it gets into your blood. The couple owns Fire Island Hot Glass Studio in Austin, where, on Saturdays, you can watch them create objects like paperweights, barware, and perfume bottles.

to \$2,500. He customizes fully 80 percent of the hats he sells to fit individual customers.

First, he sizes up the head shape and overall stature of the buyer and decides on a particular look. Then he uses antique wooden hat blocks and a steam hat-press to shape the crown, create the crease, and bend the brim. Abe also specializes in restoring vintage felt hats, a lost art that has returned many classic styles to the heads of their owners.

Only 14 or 15 American hatters still exist, says Abe, who sells some 9,000 hats a year. But with his wife, Myrna, working in the shop, and his 13-year-old daughter, Alexandra, learning the trade, chances are good the Cortez tradition will endure.

MOLTEN MAGIC

*Fire Island Hot Glass
Studio, Austin*

Alchemy—the transformation of something common into something precious—permeates the “hot shop” at Fire Island Glass. It’s the state’s oldest glass-blowing studio, established in 1981. Here, 2,350-degree heat performs magic for Fire Island’s owners, Matthew La Barbera and Teresa Ueltschey, as it changes mixtures of silica sand, soda ash, potash, and lime into molten glass.

The husband-and-wife team then uses steel tools, their breath, and years of experience to make objects both useful and artful—perfume bottles, paperweights, vases, oil lamps, ornaments, bowls, and tumblers. Each reflects their combined tastes. “I love the fluidity of glass,” says Matthew, formerly a stained-glass artist, “so I love transparency.” A former quilt-maker, Teresa likes strong colors: “Our style mixes clear glass with transparent jewel-tone colors and black accents.”

In the studio, once glass inside the furnace reaches a honey-like consistency, Teresa takes a “gather.” That is, she sticks a five-foot-long steel blowpipe into a ceramic crucible full of red-hot glass and gathers a racquetball-size glob of



Saddle-maker Wendy Allen lounges in her studio, surrounded by examples of her intricately-tooled leatherworks. Wendy has sold saddles to equestrians ranging from actor Robert Redford to cutting-horse champ Lindy Burch.

glass onto the end. Puffing on the other end, she blows a bubble the size of a quarter into the colorless glob. With Teresa rotating the pipe to keep the glass centered, Matthew forms the design using various tools and molds. Each piece may require three to five gathers, each gather adding another layer of color or texture.

A simple ornament takes two minutes to make, but complex pieces can take up to 20 hours—including painstaking cutting, grinding, and polishing.

After 18 years of blowing glass, the process still fascinates Matthew. That’s why he does public demonstrations in the studio each Saturday. “It lets visitors see our work, but it also educates them about an art that’s been around for 3,000 years.”

SADDLE QUEEN

Wendy Allen, Dublin

“People picture saddle-makers as tough old men,” says petite Wendy Allen, one of the state’s top saddle-makers. “They don’t expect me.”

But this pixieish saddle queen knows how to hang tough. Over her 20-year career, she has made more than 8,000 saddles (\$2,000 to \$23,000 each) and, in the process, has tooled her way to the top of a male-dominated profession. Personal hardships—including a saw accident that threatened her very livelihood—steeled her resolve to be among the best.

Cutting-horse champions such as the legendary Buster Welch and Lindy Burch ride Wendy Allen saddles. So do

sports celebrities Joe Montana and Bum Phillips, country singers Tanya Tucker and Gary P. Nunn, and movie stars Robert Redford and Sissy Spacek. Last year, Wendy became the only saddle-maker nominated to the Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Fort Worth.

Work begins with a wooden saddletree (the flexible inner skeleton of the saddle), which she covers with tough rawhide to fit like a glove. Next, she adds the outer leather parts—such as the swell (which covers the saddle horn), the ground seat (where the rider sits), and the skirts and fenders (which rest on the horse's back).

Wielding mallet and metal tools, Wendy cuts and stamps delicate patterns into the leather. These innovative designs—from basket weaves to barbed wire, from maple leaves to kangaroos—serve as her saddle-making trademarks.

To stay on top, Wendy combines leather artistry with an uncommon intuition about horse and rider. "I usually know my customers' needs better than they do. They learn to trust me and give me free rein with the saddles. In the end, it's all about making the rider one with the horse, and that's what I do best."

CHROMED COUCHES

Dooley & Sons, Levelland

One day in 1973, "Dooley" Cameron leaned a rear quarter-panel from a 1957 Chevrolet sedan against a couch in his



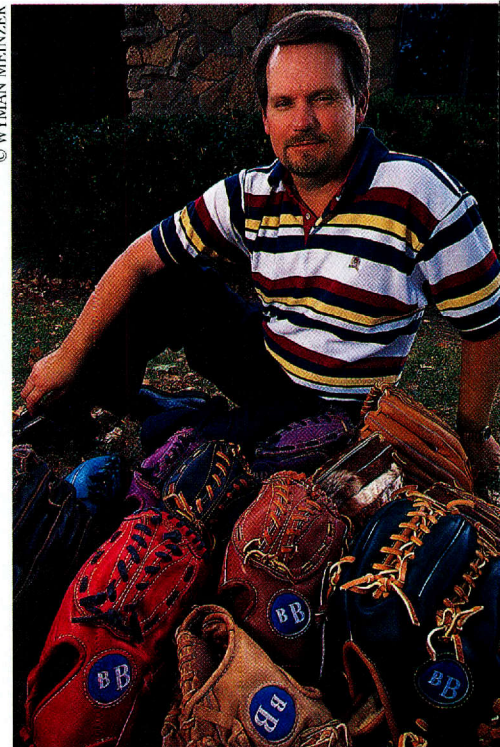
A consummate collector of vintage cars and signs, Dooley Cameron of Levelland poses in his game room with his son Tom. As a sideline to their car-restoration business, Dooley, Tom, and another son, Jeff, make fabulous furniture from classic cars. Shown here are a '59 Cadillac sofa and a '59 Chevy stereo (you lift the trunk to play the tunes).

West Texas upholstery and auto-restoration shop. The chromed, fanned fender looked so striking beside the couch that his wife, Rita, remarked, "How 'bout making a couch out of that '57 Chevy?"

Dooley made one and then another, marrying his lifelong love of cars with his knack for leather upholstery. He took the second couch to a classic-car show and sold it on the spot. Among the ever-widening circle of classic-car aficionados, the word was out.

To date, Dooley—along with sons Jeff, 33, and Tom, 15—has made more than 100 pieces of classic-car furniture, working up to 300 hours on each. Besides couches, the Camerons also turn fanned beauties like '59 Cadillacs and '61 Chrysler Imperials into bars, stereo cabinets (with components tucked inside pop-up trunks), and desks (you sit where the driver sits). Working lights and glossy factory-match colors add pizzazz to the pieces, which have found homes in many states and seven foreign countries. An average price

© WYMAN MEINZER



Brad Bailey has the bases covered. A tax consultant by day, Brad makes leather baseball gloves—in colors as wild as purple and red—in his spare time.

Handmade in Texas

is \$7,500, with delivery usually two months after ordering.

Dooley & Sons' mainstay remains their meticulous restoration of street rods and show cars, delivered to them from customers across the continent. But making fanciful furniture has opened new doors for this close-knit family business.

"It's been good for my family," Dooley says. "We've met people from all over the world. Customers send us letters and snapshots of our work in their homes. We're like friends, even with folks we've never met. That's something special."

GOING, GOING,
GLOVES

Brad Bailey, Abilene

By day, consultant Brad Bailey helps companies cut their property taxes. By night, he cuts leather on his dining room table for ball gloves made from scratch.

After years playing church-league softball, Brad realized in 1989 that he could snag some extra income repairing gloves. To learn more about gloves, he took one apart and made a pattern. On a whim, he sewed a new one and showed it off during practice. A teammate ordered a glove, and, during the next few years, so did other Abilene players. In the mid-1990s, news reports on his unusual sideline business drove in scores of orders from athletes across Texas and several other states. Brad had hit a homer.

One of only a handful of U.S. glove-makers, Brad just completed glove number 150. Each of his all-leather gloves (\$200) requires 20 hours of hand-stitching and hand-lacing. The gloves come in several shades of brown—plus black and even purple and red. Each is numbered and stamped "Custom Made—Brad Bailey."

Baseball and softball gloves come from the same basic 20-piece pattern. Then Brad customizes each one for a particular customer and field position. For instance, catchers crave padding to han-

Al Carr makes mesquite rocking horses and gliders at his studio at 178 Horseshoe Bend, Fredericksburg 78624 (830/997-1886). See his work at the Cottonwood Arts Festival (May 6-7 and Oct. 7-8, 2000) in Richardson and the Mesquite Art Festival (Oct. 13-15, 2000) in Fredericksburg.

For baseball and softball gloves from **Bailey Gloves**, contact Brad or Sandy Bailey, 901 Kenwood, Abilene 79601 (915/672-5247), for a brochure and order form. Allow six months for delivery.

Cosette Marbled Silk is available by mail-order from Cosette Russell, 2502 Inwood Place, Austin 78703 (512/472-4227). Write or email (cosette7@jump.net) for a brochure. Find her silks at Clarksville Pottery (512/454-9079) in Austin, Escape (512/930-0052) in Georgetown, or Hanson Galleries (713/552-1242) in Houston. See Cosette's work at the International Quilt Festival (Oct. 21-24, 1999), Houston; the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar (Dec. 11-24, 1999) in Austin; and the Fiesta Arts Fair (Apr. 22-23, 2000) in San Antonio.

The classic-car furniture showrooms of **Dooley & Sons Rods and Customs** are at 1311 Houston St. and 610 Houston

St. in Levelland. Write to Box 689, Levelland 79336; 806/894-3321. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-6. Web site: www.dooleyandsons.com.

Fire Island Hot Glass Studio is at 3401 E. 4th St., Austin 78702 (512/389-1100). Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-noon (glassblowing demonstrations Sep-Jan and Mar-May). Closed Feb. Shops selling Fire Island glass include: Surprises, Inc. (713/877-1900) in Houston; Gregory's (254/947-5703) in Salado; Clarksville Pottery (512/454-9079) in Austin; and Escape (512/930-0052) in Georgetown. See Fire Island glass at the Armadillo Christmas Bazaar (Dec. 11-24, 1999) and Laguna Gloria's Fiesta (Apr. 8-9, 2000), both in Austin, as well as at San Antonio's Fiesta Arts Fair (Apr. 22-23, 2000).

Paris Hatters, 119 N. Broadway, San Antonio 78205 (210/223-3453), custom-shapes straw and felt hats. Hours: Mon-Sat 9:30-6:30, Sun 10:30-5. Write or call for a brochure and mail-order form.

Wendy Allen Saddlery, Inc. (Rt. 4, Box 7, Dublin 76446; 254/445-3172) is one-half mile northeast of Dublin on US 377. Hours: Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat by appt. Email: saddles@erath.net.

dle fastballs. Infielders like short gloves so they can get the ball out quickly. Outfielders demand large gloves to cradle fly balls. Some prefer closed-back gloves, with leather covering the entire hand. Others opt for open backs (knuckles exposed), which let in cool air.

Whatever the choice, Brad loves watching Little League, high school, and college players pull off double plays or tag out runners wearing his durable creations. Only one thing makes him prouder—watching his own three daughters play softball in Bailey Gloves.

These days, there's a move away from the mass-market mindset, says Paula Owen, director of the Southwest School of Art and Craft in San Antonio. "Consumers are drawn to functional pieces that provide meaningful experiences.

They enjoy meeting the craftsperson and value the distinctiveness of handmade items. They also appreciate the time-honored know-how and technical skills they require."

That's good news for artisans across the state who handcraft quality products with character. That's good news for shoppers who seek them out and listen to their stories. And, in a world dominated by cookie-cutter, mass-produced merchandise, that's good news for a Texas tradition: working with your hands... making things one at a time. ★

Freelance writer RANDY MALLORY of Tyler was impressed with how hard these artisans work to produce items that give them a sense of pride.

Staff photographer J. GRIFFIS SMITH also dabbles in mixed-media sculpture. He enjoyed visiting with the artisans while taking the photos.

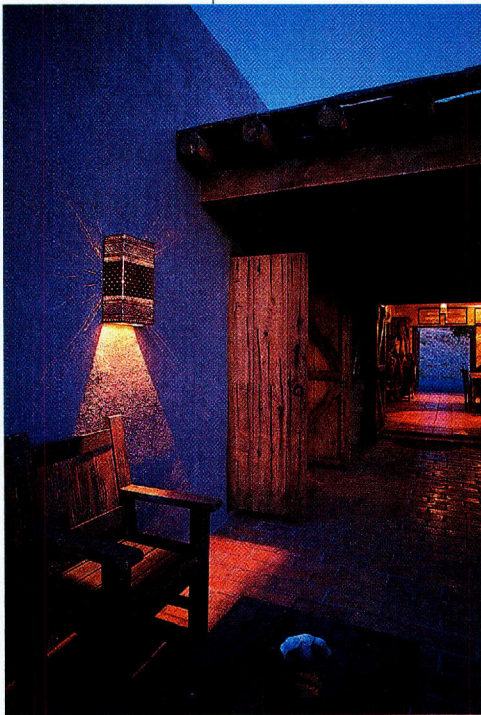
LUXURY IN THE WILD

IF I hadn't had detailed directions on how to find Cibolo Creek Ranch, I would have driven right by it. The unassuming entrance gives no inkling of the historic treasure that lies within the gates.

Hidden away in the foothills of the Chinati Mountains just west of US 67, the property has been called the crown jewel of Texas. The ranch, once the homestead of Milton Faver, one of the earliest cattle barons west of the Pecos, has been meticulously restored to its late-19th-Century splendor by Texas entrepreneur John Poindexter. Lying some 33

miles south of Marfa (a trip that took four days' hard ride in Faver's time), Cibolo Creek since 1993 has offered guests luxurious amenities in three restored forts.

J. GRIFFIS SMITH



Serene walkways with hand-hewn Mexican furnishings front the rooms at El Fortín del Cibolo.

Cibolo

All modern conveniences such as air conditioning equipment and electrical wiring have been cleverly hidden within or behind structural features genuine to the late 1880s, when Faver was at the height of his power. Nineteenth-Century lamps conceal electric lights; the bathrooms are hidden and must be entered through faux armoires; air-conditioning units sit out of sight in the rafters. John Poindexter's four-year restoration of Cibolo is so spectacular that Faver himself—who rests in a mausoleum on a

high hill overlooking the main fort—would certainly be pleased.

Faver was an enigma. Hard facts about the man's personal life prove difficult to uncover. Born sometime around 1822, he was said to hail from England, France, and a handful of U.S. states stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River. Circumstantial evidence points most strongly to origins in Virginia or Missouri. While still a teenager, he fought a gun duel with a man and left the fellow for dead (Faver later learned he had only seriously wounded the man).

When Texas entrepreneur John Poindexter reconstructed and enhanced rancher Milton Faver's homestead/fort, he added modern amenities that remain faithful to the original 19th-Century structure.

BY DAN MORRISON



A backdrop of thick adobe sets off the authentic Spanish and Mexican decor found at Cibolo Creek Ranch.

Creek Ranch





The screened veranda at El Fortín del Cibolo provides a bright, naturally air-conditioned area for sitting and dining on savory meals prepared by executive chef Lisa Ahler.

Fearing revenge from the man's relatives, Faver fled south, probably following the Santa Fe Trail, which stretched from Independence, Missouri, to Santa Fe, New Mexico. One extension of the trail followed the Rio Grande southward to El Paso and on to the silver-mining center of Chihuahua, Mexico. Records indicate that Faver worked for a Francisco De León at a flour mill in Meoqui, southeast of Chihuahua, in 1840.

Although the record is again vague, Faver evidently married Francisca Ramírez while in his late teens and soon afterward established a freighting business, operating first from Meoqui, then from the Rio Grande at Ojinaga, then called Presidio del Norte. His business began modestly: His first sale of goods was a single cart of "sweet potatoes, sugar cane" and a few other items. With his profit, he bought American goods, which he sold on his return trip to Mexico.

Soon, Milton Faver (known as "Don Melitón") had established a regular freighting business with Fort Davis, the U.S. Army post founded in 1854. Faver eventually sold this business and established a general merchandise store on the Rio Grande between Presidio del Norte and the fort. Recognizing the business opportunities that Fort Davis offered—the infantry troops needed a dependable supply of some 5,000 pounds of beef each month, which at the time sold for 15 cents per pound—Faver began acquiring land near Cibolo Creek in the 7,700-foot-high Chinati Mountains, which stretch for 30 miles along the north bank of the Rio Grande southwest of the fort.

IN spring 1857, Faver built the first of three forts on his property for protection from Apaches and Comanches. At the height of his success, the ranch covered some 2,880 acres, with each of the three forts strategically located at the edge of a perennial spring: Cibolo, Ciénega, and La Morita. His cattle empire was said to have stretched over tens of thousands of acres; his herds numbered well over 10,000 head.

El Fortín del Cibolo ("the fort of the buffalo"), the stronghold where Faver lived, originally covered some 90-by-160 feet, with an attached 140-foot-long stone corral outside the fort walls. Faver operated a sizable agricultural enterprise at Cibolo. Sixteen miles



The interior of the unfinished fort of La Morita provides a stark, yet inviting atmosphere for those who take their solitude seriously.

away by horseback, Faver built El Fortín de la Ciénega (“the fort of the marshy place”), a smaller structure and the center of his cattle operation. Four miles farther off, he built the single-dwelling fort of La Morita (“little mulberry tree”), where he based his sheep and goat operations.

By 1880, Faver had at least 67 people (16 families) living and working at Cíbolo and 20 others at La Ciénega and La Morita. He kept a cottonwood whipping post in his courtyard to enforce his considerable power. The cattle baron trailed Texas Longhorns to the Kansas railheads at Abilene, Hays, and Dodge. In addition to beef, Faver supplied Fort Davis with corn, squash, chilies, melons, and beans. Like other area ranchers, he distilled peach brandy—which he also sold to the troops—in a 50-gallon copper still.

Faver died on December 23, 1889, leaving half his estate to Francisca, and the remainder to his 38-year-old son, Juan, his only child, who, according to court proceedings, was “of unsound mind” and lacked “the mental capacity or ability to manage and control his own affairs and business.” Juan died in 1913, his mother soon after. Cibolo Creek Ranch, sold to various interests over the years, fell into complete disrepair.

WHEN John Poindexter purchased the property in 1990, he set out to refurbish the old forts using original materials whenever possible. He examined historical archives, located old photographs, interviewed individuals who had lived on the ranch years before, and, in many cases, took into account descriptions of Cibolo Creek handed down through families.

Poindexter enlisted the services of Ford, Powell, & Carson of San Antonio to design the project, which included rebuilding adobe walls throughout. Besides concealing many of the modern conveniences, workers reproduced the gate, door, window, and

Cascading water in front of the hacienda at Cibolo Creek serves as a reminder of why Milton Faver settled here in the 1850s. Managing director Artie Ahier says that six springs on the ranch flow year round, even during drought conditions.

THE RANCH, ONCE THE
HOMESTEAD OF MILTON
FAVER, ONE OF THE
EARLIEST CATTLE BARONS
WEST OF THE PECOS,
HAS BEEN METICULOUSLY
RESTORED TO ITS
LATE-19TH-CENTURY
SPLENDOR.





Wrangler and musician Michael Stevens and Glen Perkins of Alpine take in the scenery above El Fortín del Cibolo. The reservoir below offers a refreshing spot for contemplation or recreation.

CIBOLO CREEK
RANCH HAS BEEN
RECOGNIZED WITH FIVE
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL
MARKERS AND THREE
LISTINGS IN THE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES.

trim fixtures to match those shown in the old photographs, and sanded them to give the impression of age. Artisans hand-tied ocotillo stalks with natural cactus fibers for the courtyard porch roofs. Ceilings were built with traditional *vigas*, or exposed beams, hewn from cottonwood. Earth-toned Saltillo tiles were chosen to cover some of the floors; hand-painted, glazed Mexican Talavera tiles accent bathrooms and kitchens. Most of the rooms were fitted with Southwestern stucco fireplaces. Poindexter scoured antique shops and corresponded with noted dealers to locate Spanish and Mexican furniture, thus completing the effect of an 1880s border dwelling.

In the end, with the exception of the electricity and indoor plumbing, it is fair to say that if Milton Faver rose up from his hilltop mausoleum, he would feel right at home. He might be taken aback by the heated swimming pools and the recreation room with its pool table, sound system, and TV/VCR, but I think he would learn to love them, too. And in any case, as managing director Artie Ahier notes, "We put in the swimming pools for hospitality. If you go too far with historical authenticity, you'll have the guest eating gruel and cold potatoes and sleeping on straw."

THE authentic design and remote setting have made Cibolo Creek Ranch a favorite hideaway for the rich and famous, whose privacy is closely guarded by Artie and his wife, executive chef Lisa Ahier, who together run the ranch. Actor Larry Hagman has been a regular guest. Musician Emily Erwin of the Dixie Chicks held her wedding to Charlie Robison here in May. And in years past, British rocker Mick Jagger and his family spent a lot of time at the ranch.

DESERT SOLITAIRE

But, as Artie notes, "Although we do have celebrities here, people don't come here to star-watch; everyone comes to be a star." Most clientele aren't the star-struck type in any case. "I have seen people walk right past Mr. Jagger sitting on the veranda and not even take notice," says Artie.

My visit to Cibolo Creek earlier this year wasn't to rub elbows with celebrities, either. I had been on the road and looked forward to some peace and quiet; the ranch offers both in abundance. Lisa Ahier put me in the Cabana guest room just off the swimming pool when I checked in during the early afternoon, and I was left blissfully undisturbed for several hours, enough to catch a quick nap to refresh myself.

In the cool of the evening, I joined Lisa for dinner in the main dining room. An honors graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, Lisa, a Fort Worth native, is no slouch in the kitchen. She will serve any meal requested by a guest, and she makes it clear that she welcomes a challenge. Many of the vegetables and herbs she uses in preparing meals she grows in her garden on the grounds. Earlier, she had asked what I wanted for dinner. That was a pleasant surprise, since I assumed I had no choice in the matter.

When I said I loved Asian food, Lisa smiled, as though I were asking for nothing more difficult than a peanut butter sandwich.

For dinner, she produced Asian wontons filled with Gulf crabmeat and fresh sheep cheese, with a dipping sauce made from cilantro, serrano chilies, and yogurt, and served on a bed of baby bok choy with a soy-ginger vinaigrette. The main course was steamed fresh Chilean sea bass with scalions and sticky rice. The bass came wrapped in banana leaves, topped with jicama, red pepper, and julienned purple kale, and swimming in a ginger and Kaffir lime-infused carrot broth. For dessert, a mango-and-lime tart in an almond crust. Here, where the Chihuahuan Desert meets the vast West Texas sky, this was wholly unexpected—and exquisite!

In the morning, I toured the grounds of the main complex. To serve as the main guest-house, John Poindexter added a hacienda with 11 rooms that face the main courtyard outside the fort; the fort itself now serves as a museum. La Ciénega, which also has a museum, now has four double rooms within the fort walls. And La Morita, a mere 540 square feet of space, is perhaps truest to its era, lacking even electricity (see "Desert Solitaire," above). Poindexter's restoration of Cibolo Creek proved so successful that the ranch has been recognized with five Texas State Historical Markers and three listings in the National Register of Historic Places.

Comfort and privacy are two of the main draws to Cibolo Creek Ranch, but I wanted even more privacy than most guests request. I wanted to spend the night at La Morita, a request granted only by special permission. "I usually won't rent La Morita to someone unless they have been to the ranch before," says Artie Ahier. "But people love it. We have the same people rent it for a full week each Christmas and another group that rents it each year for New Year's."

Lisa packed a cooler full of food for me, and off we drove to La Morita. When we reached the small dwelling, she unlocked it and made sure I knew how to operate the two-way radio in case I needed to contact headquarters. After she retrieved the ice chest from the Suburban, she stowed it in the foyer, made sure the batteries in the flashlight at the house were fresh, and bid me good evening. As she was about to drive off, she warned me to bring all food items into the house, and to make sure I locked the door before I turned in for the night. I assumed she was worried about raccoons. "No," she said with a smile, "black bears." Then she drove off.

A tingle of excitement surfaces when you first realize

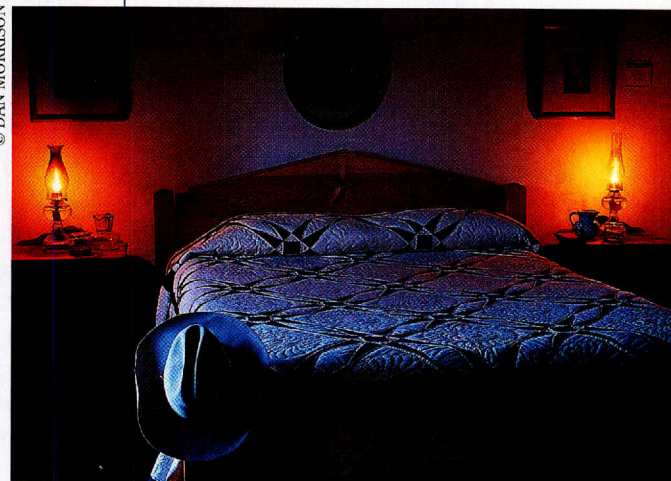
you are alone in the wilderness. Then, a bit of nervous anxiety. Eventually, the fear subsides, and a state of utter calm sweeps over you like a pleasant breeze.

I began to take in my surroundings. In the courtyard sat a buckboard, as though waiting to be hitched to a team of horses. A ladder built of two sturdy tree trunks and wood-plank steps led to a lookout tower next to the cottage. Oil-filled hurricane lamps would provide my light. A wood-burning stove supplied heat, even though a thick quilt covered the sturdy wood bed. A claw-foot tub dominated the bathroom.

When the sun dropped below the mountains and darkness crept across the fields, I lit the kerosene lamps, kicked off my boots, and silently watched the sun slip behind the red hills. I perused the stack of books left on a table in the cottage, and then spent a couple of hours reading by lamplight. Most of the books described the myth of the frontier and the resolute men who conquered the land. It seemed a bit of a redundant exercise. A visit to Cibolo Creek allows you to live the history. The books paled by comparison.

—Dan Morrison

© DAN MORRISON



The author spent the night in the comfortable oil-lamp-lit quarters at La Morita. Over the quilted bedcover hang 19th-Century portraits of "Don Melitón" Faver and his family.



J. GRIFFIS SMITH

The Guard Room of the museum at El Cibolo displays some of the weapons—including rifles and a replica of an 1863 cannon—that Faver and his coterie would have used to defend the property.

IN THE END, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE ELECTRICITY AND INDOOR PLUMBING, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT IF MILTON FAVER ROSE UP FROM HIS HILLTOP MAUSOLEUM, HE WOULD FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.

life-size painting of Milton Faver himself, looking stern and formidable. From the South Gallery, you pass through a doorway into the library, filled with well-stocked bookcases. On one wall hangs Faver's original deed of property, dated January 1858.

"The library was the only room that originally had a stone floor," explains Artie, "so it was probably the Favere's residence. Most of the workers probably slept outside the fort walls in a nearby settlement."

After passing briefly into the courtyard, you reenter the fort building at a re-creation of what living quarters for Faver's family would have been like, with a small fireplace, a bed, and a crib blanketed with sheepskin. The next room contains artifacts of the working cattleman: tack, canteens, and spurs. Three puma hides decorate the walls.

Local Indians, who were not pleased with the loss of their land to Faver, often attacked the ranch, and, during a raid at La Morita in July 1875, killed

Poindexter also expanded the ranch lands, to more than 25,000 acres, on which graze a large herd of purebred Longhorn cattle. Although Cibolo Creek is a working cattle ranch, it is emphatically *not* a dude ranch, according to Artie. "This is not a true cowboy experience," he says. "If you want a cowboy experience, don't come to Cibolo. We never allow the guests to work with the cattle, or brand cattle, or any of that, although, of course, that is done here."

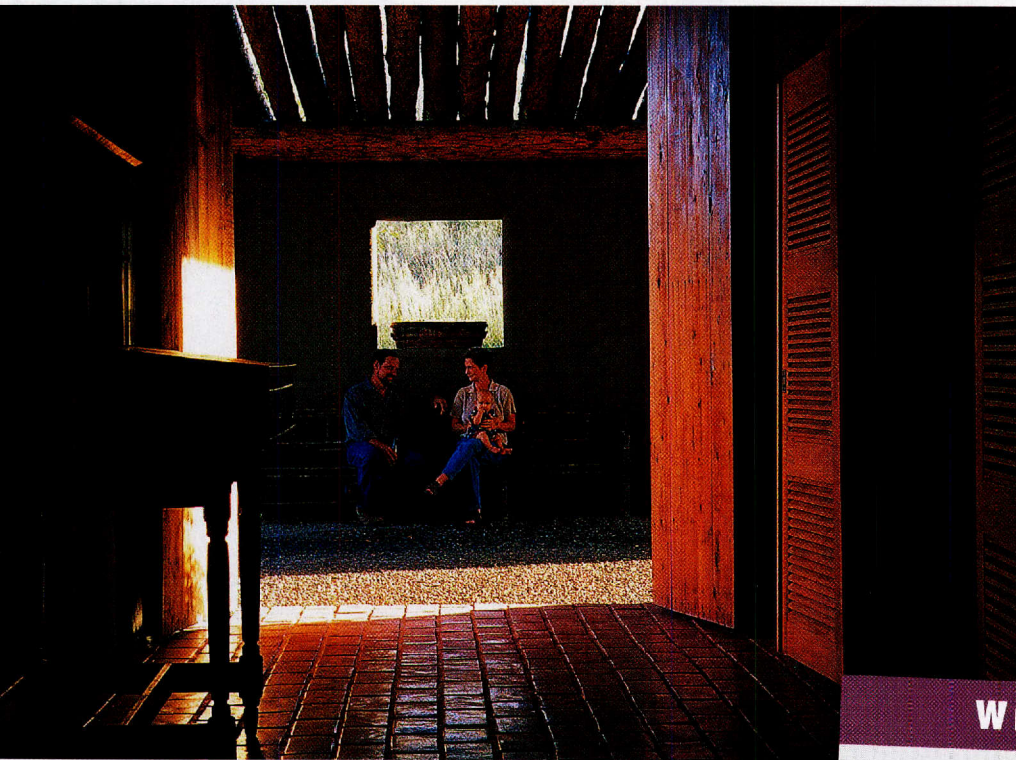
Artie, an amateur ornithologist who leads early-morning hikes for birdwatchers, points out the abundance of wildlife on the premises. Poindexter reintroduced native elk and buffalo, in addition to the ranch's cows, horses, a few burros, and even a camel. Deer, mountain lions, coyotes, javelinas, and foxes roam the hills. "My passion is nature," Artie says. "On a two-hour nature walk, you can reasonably expect to see 30 different species of birds, from the vermilion flycatcher to the golden eagle and everything in between."

AS part of his plan, Poindexter turned El Fortín del Cibolo into a museum complex. In it, you feel like you have stepped back a century in time. In the South Gallery, you confront a

J. GRIFFIS SMITH



The master suite at the main fort provides modern creature comforts in a setting Milton Faver might find eerily familiar.



© WYMAN MEINZER

Glen and Dee Perkins and their son Sam enjoy some family time together, much as the Favere might have with their only child, Juan.

WHEN... WHERE... HOW

Faver's sister-in-law, her husband, and their two children. The Guard Room of the museum at El Cibolo displays weapons Faver and his clan used to defend the fort, including 17 rifles (from .22-calibre all the way up to a .50-calibre Remington), U.S. Army Model 1829 flintlock muskets, Model 1863 Springfield U.S. Army rifles, and even a cannon: "It's a replica of an 1863 cannon," Artie explains. "We know that Fort Davis gave Milton Faver a cannon because the ranch was so important to the troops."

Hundreds of arrowheads and other Native American artifacts adorn the walls of the Northwest Tower; souvenirs from the 3rd, 9th, 10th, and 11th Cavalry Regiments create a military aura upstairs. A chapel hides in the corner of the courtyard, so small it can probably seat no more than half a dozen faithful (although, according to Lisa, small weddings have been held there).

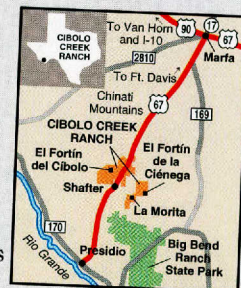
Exploring the museum is only one of the undemanding activities you can indulge in here (lolling and lounging prove tempting, too). However, if you prefer to get out and about, activities are limited only by your imagination. During the day, you can hike the canyons; scale the cliffs; explore old Indian caves; ride the desert on horseback; take a four-wheeled tour of the mountain ranges; join a birdwatching expedition; photograph the bountiful wildlife; or paddle across the spring-fed reservoir. Perhaps later you'll delve into the museum; nap in a shaded hammock; treat yourself to a massage; and enjoy a moonlight swim under the clear desert sky.

Though I didn't have time to savor it all, it's clear that whatever your pleasure, Cibolo Creek will more than satisfy your need for rejuvenation. This hideaway in the heart of West Texas is balm for the soul. ★

DAN MORRISON of Austin specializes in travel and adventure writing for regional and national publications.

Cibolo Creek Ranch

The entrance to Cibolo Creek Ranch is 33.4 miles south of Marfa and 25 miles north of Presidio on US 67. The closest commercial airports with scheduled service are Midland-Odessa and El Paso, each about 225 miles away. The ranch has a private, fully lit, 5,300-foot asphalt airstrip with Jet A fuel available.



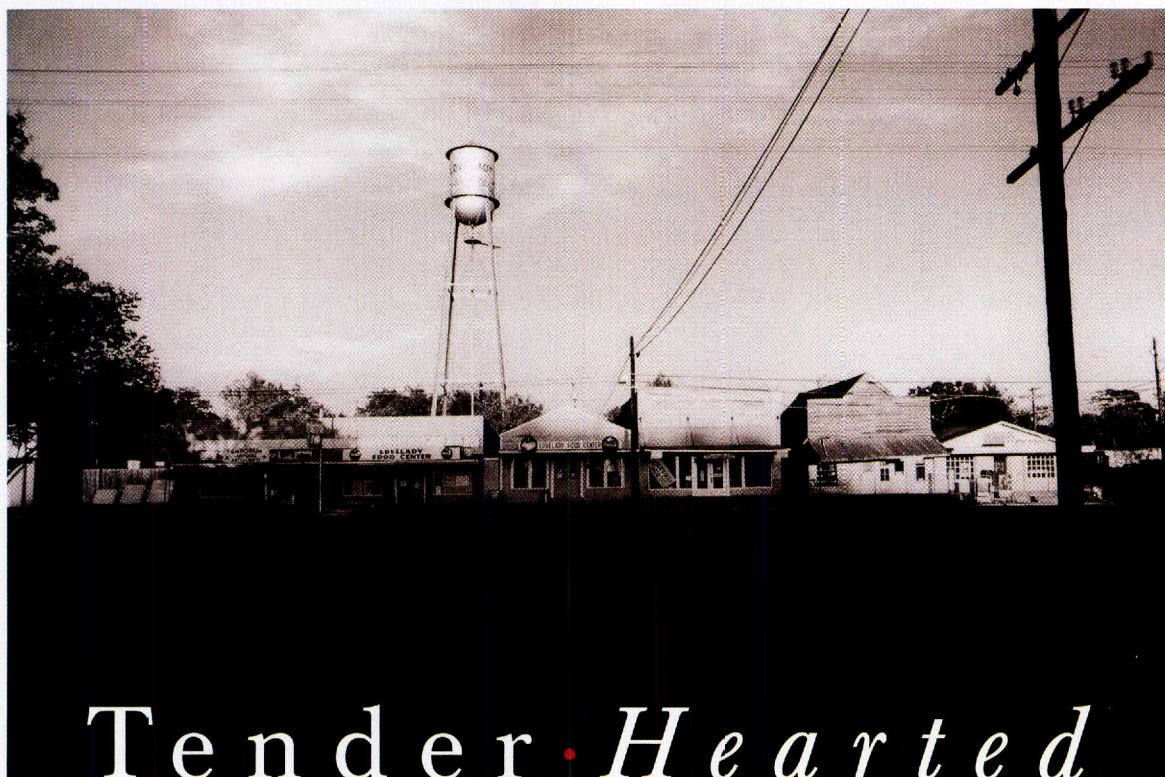
Guests may reserve individual rooms, an entire fort, or the entire ranch. **El Fortin del Cibolo** has 11 rooms, a heated pool, Jacuzzi, recreation room, and museum, among other amenities. Room rates at El Cibolo: \$290 (low-season rate, Jun-Sep) to \$360 (high-season rate). Rates are for double occupancy and include all meals and nonalcoholic beverages. **El Fortin de la Ciénega**, which also has a museum, has 4 deluxe guest rooms, a heated pool, kitchen, dining room, and living area, and includes an on-site cook and server. Room rates at La Ciénega: \$250-\$290 per night. The entire fort rents for \$1,100 per day for up to 8 people. **La Morita**, which has no electricity, has a sitting room and one bedroom. Rate at La Morita: \$345 per night (single or double occupancy only). Meals are taken at El Cibolo or delivered daily.

Smoking is not permitted indoors at any of the three forts. Call regarding wheelchair accessibility.

Write to Cibolo Creek Ranch, Box 44, Shafter 79850; 915/229-3737 or 229-3430. Web site: www.cibolocreekranch.com. Email: cibolo@brooksdata.net.



GUY GILLETTE'S PORTRAIT OF RURAL EAST TEXAS DURING THE FIFTIES AND SIXTIES



Tender Hearted

TEXT BY RANDY MALLORY

DURING WORLD WAR II, struggling stage performers in New York City sometimes found jobs at a vegetarian eatery on West 56th Street called the Three-Fold. Among them was Guy Gillette, an aspiring 19-year-old actor who signed on as a busboy, replacing fellow thespian and friend Yul Brynner. Guy found more than work. He met a waitress named Doris Porter, a young fashion-design student whose family farmed and ranched near Lovelady, Texas. Shortly after that, Guy got a job in a hit play on Broadway, and he married Doris. A year later, the young couple made their first trip to Texas to see her family—the first of Guy's many eventful trips to Texas.

After working in summer theater and two Broadway plays, and making a tour of Eastern cities, Guy turned from the insecurity of the theater to the "secure" life of a freelance magazine photographer.

Years before, in 1936, when the first issue of *Life* magazine premiered, the quality of its photographs fascinated Guy, then 12 years old. "This is what I want to do," he told himself. Guy's chance came after the war, in 1947. For two years, he took classes in New York from well-known photographer Sid Grossman. After building a portfolio of theater photos and portraits of businessmen, he showed it to *Fortune* magazine. The editors liked what they saw and in 1950 began giving him freelance assignments. Dan Weiner, a well-known photojournalist, helped Guy sign with his New York photo agent, and jobs began coming in from *Colliers*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Esquire*, and *The New York Times*. Guy also worked for ad agencies, graphic designers, and corporations. While some photographers still lugged around bulky 4x5 Speed Graphic cameras, Guy realized the potential of 35mm photography for capturing candid slices of life.

[FACING PAGE] *Beneath hanging Spanish moss, three caballeros—Guy Gillette's sons, Pipp and Guy, and ranch hand Dayton Owens—cross the wooden bridge over Gail Creek, near Lovelady.*

[ABOVE] *Sunrise spreads over the town of Lovelady, where Gillette's mother-in-law, Lucy Porter, operated a general store for nearly 40 years.*

IN 1952, Guy landed a choice assignment from the American Red Cross and spent three months in Korea documenting the organization's role in that theater of war. His photos from the front line, and of Mobile Army Surgical Hospital (M.A.S.H.) units, ran in national magazines and won him a "Best Picture Story of the Year" award from the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

Guy's penchant for poignant moments led to other picture stories. He documented the plight of the elderly and of urban ghetto youth in New York City. He photographed people at work—a neurosurgeon in training, a South Carolina produce-truck driver, a traveling salesman in Missouri, laborers at a Kentucky bourbon factory and cooperage.

During the Fifties and Sixties, Guy put together his most personal "picture story," as he began photographing life at the family ranch in Texas. After the birth of their first son, also named Guy, in 1945 (their second son, Pipp, came along in 1950), the Gillettes traveled to Texas every summer for family visits.

Sometimes they'd take the train, boarding at New York's bustling Penn Station and getting off, seemingly a world away, at the Lilliputian depot in Lovelady. Other times, they'd trek by car.

Guy's father-in-law, V.H. "Hoyt" Porter, had begun farming cotton at Lovelady in 1912. As cotton markets changed, he moved into cattle ranching. (His wife, Lucy, ran a general merchandise store in town.) At six-foot-four and 240 pounds, Hoyt proved an imposing figure, a tough man of strong will. But he had a soft spot for his grandsons, who called him "Big Daddy," and Guy considered him a fascinating subject.

So Guy, with two Leica cameras strapped around his neck, photographed whatever caught his eye. He photographed Pipp and Guy helping Big Daddy feed a bull from the back of a pickup. He shot them learning camp cooking. He photographed the boys working cattle with longtime ranch hand Dayton Owens. He caught them marveling at pennies flattened by a passing passenger train.



A country girl on her front porch overlooks wide farm fields—a quintessential view of rural East Texas.

Back in New York, Guy showed some of his Texas images to famed photographer Edward Steichen, then the director of photography for the Museum of Modern Art. One shot—an image of Gillette's son Guy, forlorn with an injured dog at the vet's—brought tears to Steichen's eyes. Steichen included two of Guy's Texas photos in his legendary exhibit at the museum and in his book *Family of Man*, published in 1955.

Guy spent most of his Texas visits on the ranch. In 1957, however, he produced a picture story that depicted another aspect of life in East Texas. The community of Antioch, near Lovelady, was getting a new minister, sent to revitalize the local Baptist church. Guy documented church members tearing down an abandoned sawmill worker's house in Trinity for lumber to fix up the church. When the minister and his wife left for Sunday dinner at a member's farm, Guy tagged along. His photographs of this series of events, which culminated in a homecoming at the rebuilt Antioch Baptist Church, offer a compelling view of a community at its best.

"I really loved doing those pictures," Guy says. "The people were friendly and open. It was one of my most heartwarming experiences in Texas."

During a long and successful career, Guy Gillette produced a body of "tender-hearted" work that casts a penetrating glimpse at the human condition. His East Texas photos portray not only one family's story, but also the essence of a way of life in the middle of this century.

Hoyt and Lucy Porter died in the 1970s. In the mid-1980s, the Gillettes' sons, Guy and Pipp, returned to the ranch, restored its neglected structures, and revived its cattle operation. They still live there, combining a love of ranching, learned through 20 summers in Texas, with a love of Western music and lore. (See their story in *For the Road*, page 54.)

Guy and Doris Gillette live near New York City, where Guy's timeless photos still pique interest. And, as they've done so many times before, the couple still makes an annual pilgrimage to Texas to spend time with family. ★



Grandsons in tow, "Big Daddy" Porter saddles up to the lunch counter at Arnold's Cafe in Lovelady.



During two decades of summer visits to East Texas, Gillette's sons learned that ranch work proceeds, come rain or come shine.

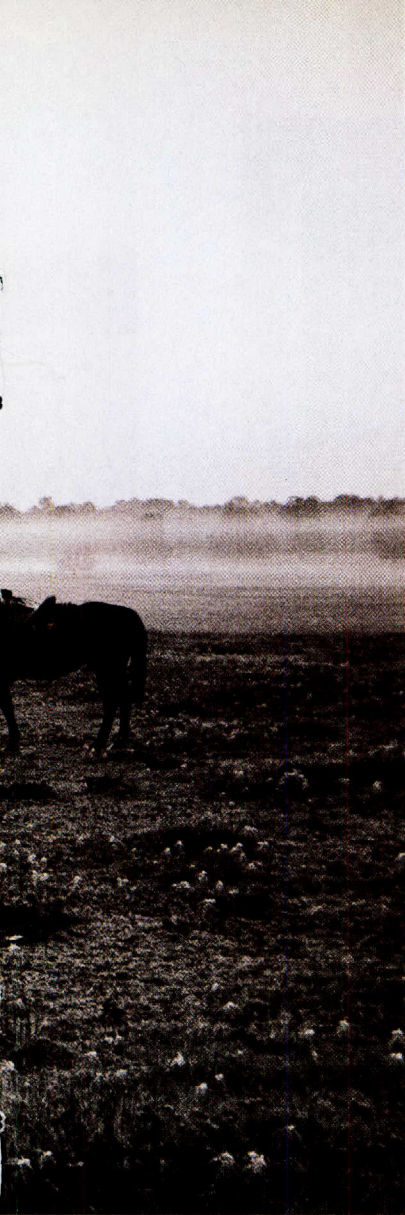


A farm wife shows off her flock of chickens to the young minister's wife near the community of Antioch.



As adults, Gillette's sons have returned to the ranch, restored its neglected structures, and revived its cattle operation.





Leaders of the Pledge of Allegiance at summer Bible School seem to have other things on their minds.



[FACING PAGE, FAR LEFT] At Trinity, volunteers from the church in Antioch tear down an old house to use the wood for rebuilding their church.

[FACING PAGE, LEFT] Son Guy and longtime ranch hand Dayton Owens water their horses along a creek at the forest's edge.

Farm wives lay out a sumptuous "dinner on the grounds" after homecoming services at Antioch Baptist Church.



[ABOVE, LEFT] *This photo, showing Gillette's son Guy with an injured cow-dog at the vet's, ran in the national publication This Week.*

[ABOVE, RIGHT] *This shot, which Gillette calls Texas Homesteaders, depicts son Guy and his wife, Cathi, after they settled on the old family ranch near Lovelady.*

[RIGHT] *Twirling in summer skirts is fun (and cool) during a break from Bible study at the Antioch Baptist Church.*





[ABOVE] *Big Daddy Porter shows his grandsons how to fix breakfast and make "coffee in a can" the way he did it in the old days.*



[LEFT] *The family on the porch—Lucy and Hoyt Porter with grandsons Guy and Pipp and their mother, Doris. The photo appeared in Edward Steichen's legendary 1954 exhibit at the Museum of Modern Art and in Steichen's book, *Family of Man*.*

RANDY MALLORY, who comes from a rural background and grew up during the 1950s and '60s in East Texas, says Guy's photos ring true.

GUY GILLETTE still photographs in Texas. Together with Gig Davis, his representative and editor, he is working on a book—a retrospective of his photography.

This month, Texans may witness a rare astronomical phenomenon

THE LEONID METEORS

SHOWERS OF LIGHT

“WHEN I OPENED THE DOOR, I was startled by streaks of fire flying in every direction. It looked like millions of stars were shooting down to the ground.” Julia Palmer Roberts recalled her fear and wonder on a night in November 1833 when the stars fell on Shelby County in East Texas. The brilliant fireballs did not herald the end of the world, as her father believed, but a dramatic display of the Leonid meteors. This month, Texas skies may again dazzle observers with another meteor storm.

BY LAURIE E. JASINSKI AND DONALD W. OLSON

METEORS, popularly known as “shooting stars” or “falling stars” that appear as streaks of light, are caused by fragments of rocks and dust that burn when they plunge into the earth’s atmosphere. Meteor showers illuminate the night sky when the earth passes through the orbit of a comet and encounters the river of particles in the comet’s wake.

Some falling stars gleam as feathery wisps woven against the fabric of the night—gone as soon as they appear. Others boldly announce their arrival as magnificent fireballs with bright heads and glowing trains painted in colors of green, yellow, red, blue, or white. Exploding fireballs, called bolides (pronounced BO-lydes), have produced flashes as bright as lightning. Each meteor shower (and there are several good ones visible in Texas) takes place about the same date every year, and all meteors in the shower appear to radiate from a single region in the heavens. The name “Leonids” (pronounced LEE-o-nids), for example, indicates that the meteors seem to issue from the constellation Leo, the Lion.

Texans enjoy several major meteor showers throughout the year. The Perseids of mid-August are probably the most dependable and well-known shower. Viewers may see from 50 to 75 meteors per hour between midnight and dawn around August 12 each year.

The Orionids, in October, display 15 to 20 meteors per hour, radiating from the mighty upraised arm of the hunter, Orion.

December’s Geminids, around mid-month, are actually frag-

ments of an asteroid, not a comet, but the icy skies may reveal 50 to 75 meteors an hour to dedicated observers.

The Leonids of November normally display timid activity, with fewer than 10 meteors per hour. But in certain special years, when the Earth passes through an unusually dense particle stream, fortunate sky-watchers enjoy a bonanza. Astronomers have established that these spectacular displays—with *thousands* of meteors per hour—can recur every 33 or 34 years, because the thickest clouds of particles travel close to Comet Tempel-Tuttle, which returns to the inner solar system at these intervals.

Records of Leonid storms date from as early as A.D. 902, when observers described how “an infinite number of stars scattered themselves like rain” in the skies above Italy. Throughout the centuries, viewers in Europe and the Orient have chronicled these periodic star showers. In Texas, observations may go back to the 1700s: On November 12, 1799, sailors reported a significant meteor storm above the Gulf of Mexico. Almost certainly, Native Americans, explorers, missionaries, and settlers in the area of Texas would have seen the falling stars wherever skies were clear that night. Perhaps a fleeting reference lies hidden in a Spanish report somewhere.

But many records exist for the great Leonid shower that occurred in the early morning hours of November 13, 1833, and forever changed the perspective of scientists. In fact, this event marked the beginning of the field of meteor astronomy. That memorable night, old and young, rich and poor alike marveled at the spectacle when as many as 150,000 meteors fell per hour.

[FACING PAGE] A Leonid fireball descends toward the Milky Way during the November 1998 meteor shower over Texas skies.



The raining fire sparked tales of divine wonder and fears of Armageddon. Although eyewitnesses in the eastern United States provided the vast majority of reports of the 1833 Leonids, the following accounts prove that the storm also appeared in the skies of the Southwest, and that Texans indeed documented this heavenly historic event.

JULIA PALMER ROBERTS, a teenager in 1833, beheld the November meteors from her family's lonely homestead deep in the East Texas Piney Woods of Shelby County. As she stepped outside to get water, she stared awestruck at the falling stars. Years later, she recalled the remarkable show in the sky for the *Hearne Democrat*:

Several yards from the side of the house, we had a hog pen, and it seemed like most of the stars were falling right in on top of our hogs.

I screamed to father. The whole family came rushing out. For a moment, father gazed at the scene of falling fire. I could see his face as the flashes lit up everything and it had a look I shall never forget.... [Father said that the] 'world is coming to an end. We had better have a little prayer meeting.' Together we knelt and father asked the Lord to help us. We were all scared to death, and every minute as the stars showered down, we expected to see the flames leaping out of the tall pines and burning up the world and us, too. We did not sleep that night, but morning still saw the world standing. There was no trace anywhere that any of the falling stars hit the ground.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT originates from Texas historian William Zuber. In 1833, Zuber was a boy of 13 living on Lake Creek in eastern Grimes County. He wrote, years later:

My mother was the only one of our family who saw it. She was suffering with an affection of the eyes, and had got up to give them attention. Her attention was attracted



The East Texas Piney Woods firmament might have looked like this to early Texan settlers on the morning of November 13, 1833. This illustration first appeared in *The Aerial World*, a book published in 1875.

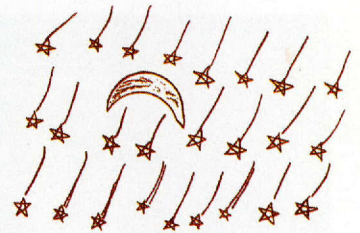
to the wonderful display in the heavens, but curiously enough she took it to be an optical illusion due to the condition of her eyes.

Next day father happened to be at the house of our nearest neighbor,

four miles distant, and was told that Mrs. So-and-So had been greatly frightened at the stars falling the night before. When he told mother what he had heard, she knew that she had witnessed the same phenomenon.



The Kiowa Indians recorded the great Leonid storm of 1833 in pictorial calendars. The pictograph at left shows a Kiowa child named Set-t'an, who was less than a year old at the time.



JEPHTHA CHOICE, a slave born in October 1835 near present-day Henderson, recalled listening to the womenfolks' stories of how the "stars fell," and their fear that the world was coming to an end.

TEXAS FRONTIERSMAN Adam Lawrence, camped on the coastal prairie near the Brazos River, saw the 1833 Leonids and remembered "a timber wolf uttered a doleful howl, then the heavens seemed to be on fire and the stars fell in showers."

PLAINS INDIANS portrayed the display on the pictorial calendars that recorded their tribal histories. The Kiowas in southwestern Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle in the 19th Century produced calendars describing the cold season of 1833-1834 as the "winter the stars fell." In a report entitled "Calendar History of the Kiowa Indians," published in 1898, ethnologist James Mooney recorded the story of that night:

The whole camp was asleep, when they were wakened by a sudden light; running out from the tipis, they found the night as bright as day, with myriads of meteors darting about in the sky. The parents aroused the children, saying, 'Get up, get up, there is something awful going on!' They had never before known such an occurrence, and regarded it as something ominous or dangerous, and sat watching it with dread and apprehension until daylight.

THE 1833 METEOR STORM led scientists to investigate previous historical accounts, and they deduced that the storms occurred every 33 or 34 years. Waiting to test their discovery, astronomers eagerly anticipated the return of the Leonids. Caleb Forshey, an engineer and scientist in Galveston, in-

spired by his vivid memories of "the grandest spectacle of a lifetime" (he viewed the 1833 meteors as a cadet at West Point), predicted the return of the storm for November 1866 and possibly 1867. He wrote in the *Galveston News*:

Those who would not miss a natural phenomenon, so extraordinary and rare in its recurrence, so stupendous in its grandeur, will not grudge half a night of slumber in observation for the two years, both of which may be expected to repay observation.

IN NOVEMBER 1866, scientists in Great Britain did observe a storm with

up to 5,000 meteors an hour. However, the activity died down before the constellation Leo rose in American skies. The *Southern Intelligencer*, an Austin newspaper, pronounced Forshey's prediction a failure. They imagined Forshey with "opera glass in hand, on somebody's house in Galveston," and mocked his efforts:

We see him in our mind's eye on the top of that house, his brass buttons shining in the star-light, watching impatiently for the old Lion to wink over the horizon; but nary a spark from Leo's eyes that night.

SKIES WIDE OPEN: HOW TO WATCH METEORS

The wide-open Texas skies provide the perfect venue for meteor watching, and it's easy. You don't need binoculars or a telescope—just your eyes. Leonid-observing should begin after midnight, so that the shower's radiant (that is, apparent point of origin) in the constellation Leo will have risen into the eastern sky. But it's not necessary to look toward the radiant. Meteor showers can appear all over the sky, so watch anywhere well up from the horizon.

Meteor vigils under a clear sky can get surprisingly chilly, so it's wise to dress warmly. Bring a reclining lawn chair so you can lie back comfortably, or use sleeping bags to cushion a pickup bed. For a lengthy watch, bring along a thermos and some snacks to help ward off the effects of the cold.

Find a dark site with an open view of the sky. Your eyes will take at least 15 minutes to adapt fully to the darkness. If the sky cooperates by remaining free of clouds, a meteor should catch your eye from time to time.

Keep in mind that 1999 may bring a

repeat of the disappointing experiences of 1866, 1899, and 1933, with meteor activity visible only from the other side of the globe or not at all. But a repeat of the celestial spectacles of 1799, 1833, and 1966 is always possible.

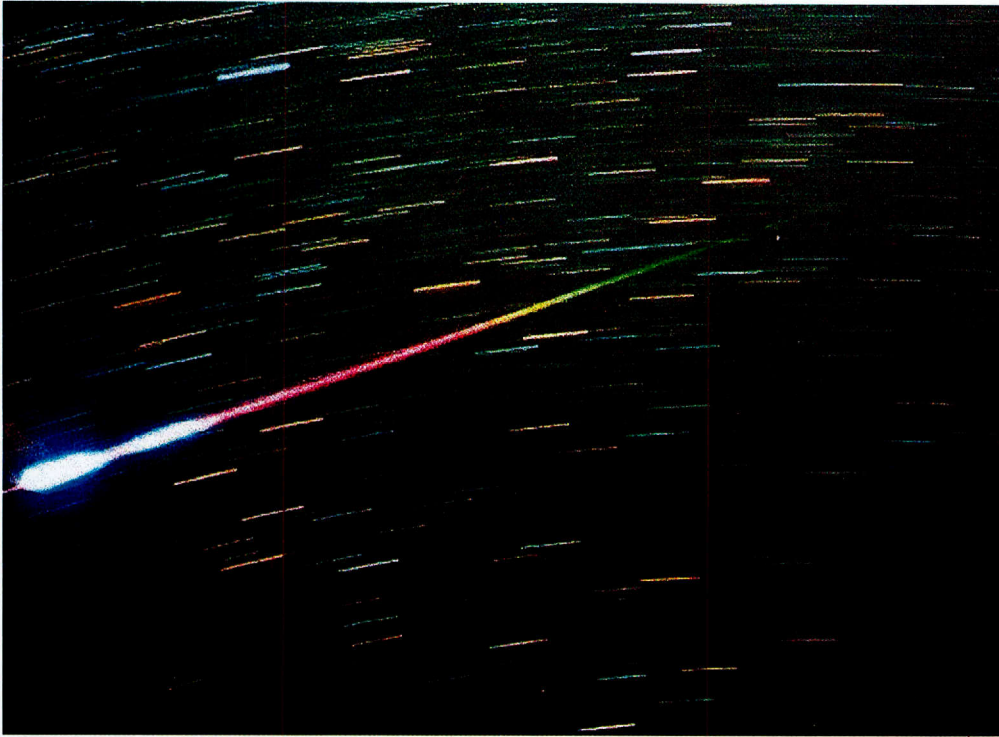
Two dates should offer the best prospects this year:

- **Early morning of Nov. 17, 1999, from midnight until dawn**
- **Early morning of Nov. 18, 1999, from midnight until dawn**

The moon, about two-thirds lit on these dates, will set near midnight, and thus will not interfere with viewing. As Leo rises higher, meteors may appear all over the sky. The hour or two before dawn can offer the best show.

The McDonald Observatory's W.L. Moody, Jr. Visitors' Information Center near Fort Davis offers a special Leonid star party on the evening of Nov. 17-18, 1999, at midnight (see When...Where...How, page 37, for Web site and phone).

The same general advice for Leonid-viewing applies to all of the other regular meteor showers (see When...Where...How).



In the Hill Country at 4:30 a.m. on November 17, 1998, San Antonio photographer Robert Reeves captured this "rainbow Leonid," which changed colors as it streaked across the sky. Robert said it "seemed to be frozen in space like a neon sign because the train glowed for so long."

VIGILANT STARGAZERS waited for Leo to make his mighty return, but the Lion slept for the next century. Disappointed observers saw no storms in 1899, 1900, 1933 or 1934.

Then, in the early morning of November 17, 1966, Leo roared again. Newspaper headlines heralded the event: "Shooting Stars Galore" (*Abilene Reporter-News*), "Texas Skies Light Up Like A 'Roman Candle'" (*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*), and "Texans View Spectacular Shooting Stars Display" (*Midland Reporter-Telegram*).

Nathan Fain, the night assistant at McDonald Observatory in the Davis Mountains of West Texas, estimated that the meteors had fallen at a rate of "at least 10,000, and perhaps 50,000, an hour. They were coming down from directly overhead. Some were small; some were large; some were fireballs; some left trails like skyrockets. It was spectacular. There is no other way to describe it."

All over Texas wherever skies were clear, from the Panhandle to West Texas, from the Piney Woods south to

the Gulf Coast, early-rising Texans marveled at the heavens.

ONE VICTORIA COLLEGE student anxiously watched the sky from his home at Yoakum on the night of November 16th. By midnight, frustrated and tired, he gave up. Shortly before daylight, his father's excited yells startled him, and William F. Kruse awoke to a most amazing sight:

When I got outside I couldn't believe my eyes. Everywhere I looked there were meteors. There was no way anyone could count [them]. At any instant there must have been hundreds or thousands. When I looked at the horizon it was like looking at a light rain shower with meteors everywhere you looked. When I looked up it was even more spectacular with the meteors radiating from a single point. I lay down on the ground so I could look straight up. It felt like I was moving with the Earth through the cloud of meteors.

DAVID SWANN, an experienced meteor observer, filed perhaps the most thor-

ough report of the 1966 Leonids in the Lone Star State when he was a student at Texas A&M University. To this day, after more than three decades of observing, he still ranks that "awe-inspiring night" as his "very best display." That early morning, watching from the A&M campus golf course, he saw the fabulous display of meteors just before 3 a.m.

"Immediately, I saw Leonids. Within 20 minutes," he remembers, "I recorded [on scientific forms] a Leonid that was as bright as the planet Venus and left a glowing trail seen for 81 seconds." As the night progressed, David saw more and more meteors. "Many of the Leonids left glowing trails that lasted up to five or six seconds," he recalls. At one point, he returned to his dorm and tried in vain to awaken one of his dorm mates, but by 5 a.m., he was back at the golf course. His persistence paid off:

The Leonids had increased a lot in the 15 minutes that I was gone. They seemed to be coming in increasing numbers, and it was at this time that I started thinking of a possible meteor storm. During the 50 minutes that I observed I recorded 154 Leonids but missed many more than I had observed.... I then sat back in my lounge chair and just enjoyed the view in a sky that was beginning to see the blush of dawn. The view was sensational, as I could look anywhere in the sky and see Leonids.... My final recollections are of seeing bright Leonids barely visible in the beautiful dawn sky.

After producing the spectacle in 1966, Comet Tempel-Tuttle receded from the inner solar system and spent much of the next three decades traveling out as far as the orbit of Uranus. But the comet returned to the vicinity of the sun during 1998, bringing a fresh supply of debris with it and fueling hopes that Leonid meteor storms might return in 1998 or 1999. Last November, stargazers camped out under Texas skies, and the shower reward-

Meteor Showers

ed viewers with some glowing fireballs.

On November 17, 1998, Valerie and David Clark led a group of 85 science students from Austin's Anderson High School on an expedition to Pace Bend Recreation Area at nearby Lake Travis. The students learned careful observing techniques and recorded counts as high as 103 meteors per hour near 2 a.m.

That same morning, Barbara Wilson of the Houston Astronomical Society watched the shower from an isolated site in the Davis Mountains. Blessed by the dark, clear skies for which West Texas is famed, Wilson recorded 586 meteors in 5 hours and 9 minutes. During a one-hour period at the shower's peak, no fewer than 165 shooting stars poured down from the head of the Lion.

A hopeful group of meteor-watchers from San Antonio looked skyward at the Hill Country's Limber Observatory near Pipe Creek. At 4:30 a.m. on November 17, photographer Robert Reeves captured on film what he dubbed his "rainbow Leonid," which changed colors as it streaked across the sky. "It seemed to be frozen in space like a neon sign because the train glowed for so long," he said later.

Will a great Leonid meteor storm return to Texas this month? Perhaps. Or heavenly fireworks may grace the skies of another part of the world. But we plan to bundle up and head out in the dark, just in case. Meteor-watching provides a quiet time to stretch out and ponder nature's celestial show, and the reward, especially this year, may be a cascade of shooting stars like nothing you've ever imagined. ★

Laurie E. Jasinski of San Marcos has written for *Texas Gardener* and the *Journal of South Texas*. She worked as senior research assistant on *The New Handbook of Texas*.

Donald W. Olson, a professor of physics and astronomy at Southwest Texas State University since 1981, is a frequent contributor to *Sky & Telescope* magazine on topics involving the history of astronomy. *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* carried his study of "Early Astronomy in Texas" in its April 1990 issue.

The authors are grateful to T. Lindsay Baker and Robert J. Duncan for their assistance in locating historical accounts of meteor storms.

Dates of the showers		Best time to observe
Nov. 17-18	Leonids	midnight to dawn
Dec. 13-14	Geminids	10 p.m. to dawn
Apr. 21-22	Lyrids	midnight to dawn
Aug. 11-12	Perseids	midnight to dawn
Oct. 21-22	Orionids	1 a.m. to dawn

Meteorite Exhibits

In rare instances, pieces of rock or iron (likely fragments of asteroids) survive the trip through the atmosphere and reach the surface of the earth as meteorites. Where can you go in Texas to see a fallen shooting star?

"Big Iron" is not just a Ranger's six-gun in a Marty Robbins song—you can see a genuine chunk from space at McDonald Observatory's **W. L. Moody, Jr. Visitors' Information Center**. The meteorite exhibit features a 1,530-pound iron, discovered by 7-year-old George Duncan in 1903 in the Davis Mountains. The celestial visitor served as a tourist attraction in Texas for a decade, before the Field Museum of Chicago acquired the fragment in 1913. In 1987, the Davis Mountains iron returned to the Lone Star State to become the centerpiece of the McDonald Observatory display. Visitor's Center hours: Daily 9-5 (closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's days). Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Web site: vc.as.utexas.edu. Write to Box 1337, Fort Davis 79734; 915/426-3640.

The **Texas Memorial Museum**, on the campus of the University of Texas at Austin, offers a permanent display of meteorites. Hours: Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5 (closed major holidays). Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Web site: www.utexas.edu/depts/tmm. Write to 2400 Trinity St., Austin 78705; 512/471-1605.

Burke Baker Planetarium, at the Houston Museum of Natural Science,

exhibits four meteorites in the main lobby, including a 500-pound iron. Hours: Mon-Thu 9-8, Fri-Sat 9 a.m.-11 p.m., Sun 11-8. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Web site: www.hmns.org. Write to One Hermann Circle Dr., Houston 77030; 713/639-4629. The newly renovated **George Observatory**, a satellite facility of HMNS at Brazos Bend State Park in Richmond, also houses an exhibit fea-

turing Texas meteorites. Open Saturdays; 409/553-3400.

Insights El Paso Science Museum

has a sizable meteorite display. Hours: Tue-Fri 9-5, Sat-Sun noon-5, Mon 9-1 (school groups only), closed major holidays. Admission: \$5, \$4 military, age 65 and

older, and students with ID, \$3 ages 3-5. Wheelchair accessible. Write to 505 N. Santa Fe St., El Paso 79901; 915/534-0000.

The Department of Geology at Texas Christian University is home to the extensive **Oscar E. Monnig Meteorite Collection**, which contains more than 700 specimens. For more information, write to the Dept. of Geology, Texas Christian University, Box 298830, Fort Worth 76129; 817/257-7270. Web site: geowww.geo.tcu.edu/faculty/monig.html.

Web Sites

Web pages devoted to meteors and the upcoming Leonid shower include those of *Sky & Telescope* magazine (www.skypub.com/sights/meteors/meteors.shtml), meteor expert Gary Kronk (medicine. wustl.edu/~kronkg/leonids.html), and the NASA Ames Research Center (web99.arc.nasa.gov/~leonid). All three include links to other sites.

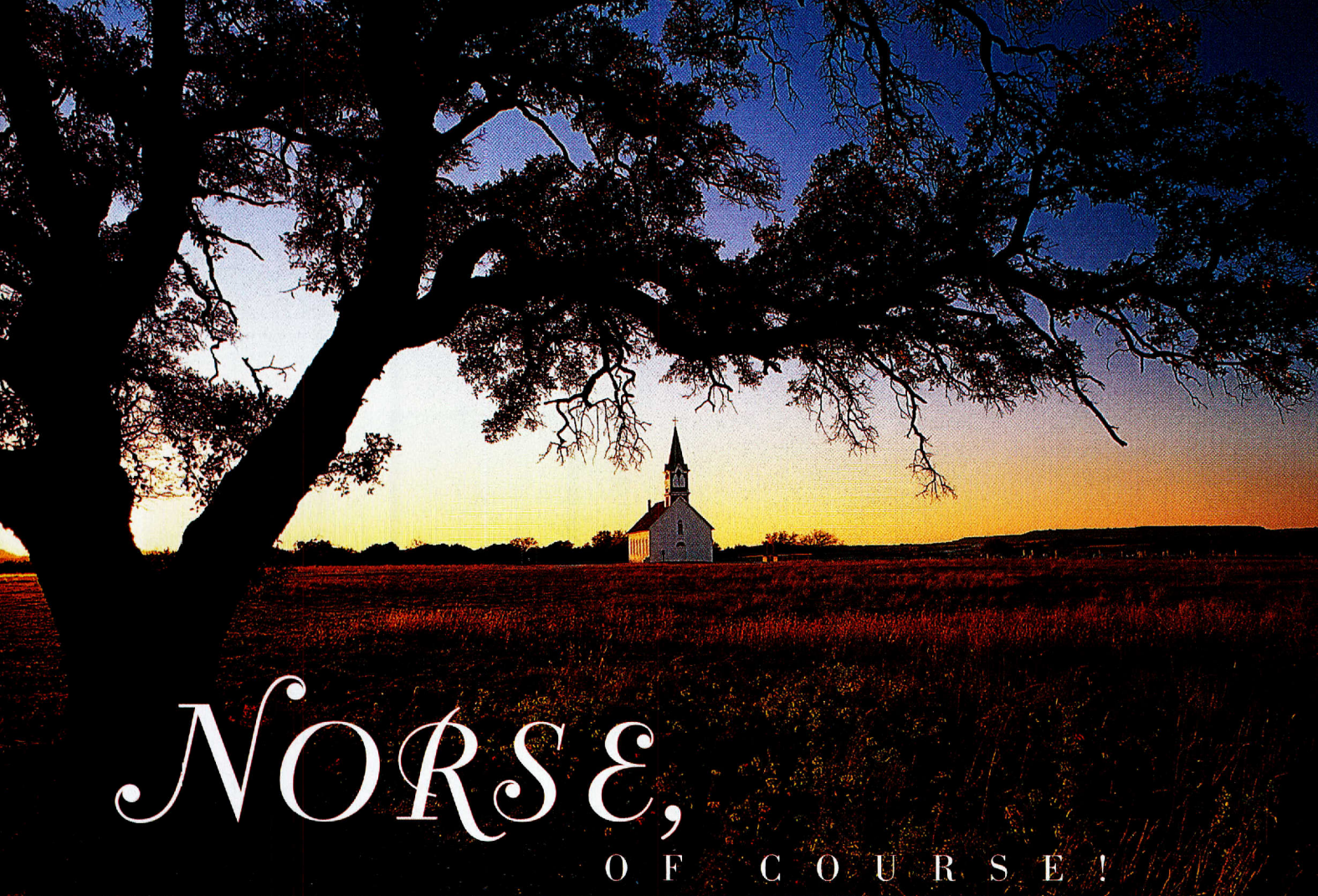
Books

To learn more about observing meteors, look for the following books in your library or bookstore: *The Heavens on Fire: The Great Leonid Meteor Storms* by Mark Littmann (Cambridge Univ. Press, 1998) and *Meteors* by Neil Bone (Sky Publishing Corp., 1993).



JAN GOODWIN, AUSTIN/AMERICAN-STATESMAN

A Leonid lights up the sky above Creedmoor, south of Austin, in November 1998. These speeding meteors travel up to 160,000 miles per hour and appear as streaking spears.



NORSE, OF COURSE!

IN BOSQUE COUNTY, TWO COLORFUL CELEBRATIONS

BY LANA ROBINSON
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM CROW

TO WEARY NORWEGIAN immigrants scouting Central Texas in the 1850s, the limestone hills, wooded glens, and meandering creeks west of the Bosque River looked a lot like home. And it was theirs for the taking: The State of Texas offered 320 acres to each family, or 160 acres to any individual, brave enough to occupy this untamed region. Consequently, according to historical records, at least eight Norwegian families numbered among the pioneers who began homesteading some 30,000 acres within a two-year period after Bosque County was created in 1854.

These Scandinavian settlers, who came here from troubled colonies in Henderson and Kaufman counties in East Texas, put down roots about 10 miles west of Clifton (known then as “Cliff Town”) at a place they called Norse. The village soon boasted a post office, two churches, a general store, a blacksmith shop, a fiddle factory, and a gold-mining company. Over the next decade, the settlement grew, with new colonists coming directly from Norway and others migrating here from northern states. By 1880, Norwegian-Texans in the area numbered 1,000, the largest concentration of

Norwegian immigrants in the Southwest.

Today, the area around Norse, Clifton, and Cranfills Gap, along with a stretch of Texas 219 called the Cleng Peerson Memorial Highway, is known as the Norse Historical District. The Old World language has all but vanished, but descendants of those bold pilgrims here in “Norse Country” still carry on many of their forebears’ customs. Two celebrations touting the area’s heritage—Clifton’s Norwegian Country Christmas Tour and Cranfills Gap’s Norwegian Lutefisk Dinner—coincide here each first Saturday in December (December 4, 1999). Norwegian ancestry

[ABOVE] This pastoral scene of St. Olaf Kirke (the old Rock Church) near Cranfills Gap underscores Bosque County’s rich Norwegian heritage. Today, the 1886 church is used mostly for weddings.

[FACING PAGE, TOP] A stop on the Norwegian Country Christmas Tour last year, the Goodnight Station B&B (254/675-2337) features a farmhouse setting with panoramic views of the Hill Country.



SET THE STAGE FOR A NORWEGIAN CHRISTMAS

is not a requirement for joining in, and organizers extend a cheery *velkommen* to all.

“The Norwegian Country Christmas Tour is our special time to showcase the works of our local artists, flaunt our historic treasures, and share our unusual Christmas traditions,” says Trudy Sheffield, executive vice president of the Clifton Chamber of Commerce. Country Christmas is advertised as “A Tour of Homes, Art, & History.”

The emphasis is Norse, of course. During the day-long event, artisans and craftspeople demonstrate various skills, such as glassblowing, candle-making, woodcarving, and cookie-making. Starting at 10 a.m., gracious tour guides direct visitors to buildings and low stone fences fashioned by early Norwegian-Texan stonemasons. Vignettes present-



The Norwegian Country Christmas Tour includes demonstrations of woodcarving (note *rosemaling*) and other Norwegian crafts.

ed at the Bosque Memorial Museum and at other stops tell the immigrants’ stories. At 5 p.m., members of the Norwegian Society of Texas’ *Leikarringen* (“play ring,” a group that cultivates folk dancing) inspire hand-clapping and finger-snapping with their lively folk dances. Ethnic pride is reflected in the exquisite, embroidered detail of the dancers’ colorful *bunader* (costumes), which blend Texas images—bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush, the Lone Star, oil derricks, and mockingbirds—with an adaptation of the distinctive *rosemaling* art form of Norway. (Rosemaling is an intricate style of floral painting or carving that decorates furniture, woodwork, and wooden objects.)

“We will once again have our very popular Gallery of Trees at the Bosque

County Conservatory,” says Joann Gloff, the local Chamber of Commerce president. She refers to an extensive exhibit of lavishly adorned Christmas trees that local citizens, businesses, and civic groups present for display and auction each year.

While at the Conservatory, which occupies the old Clifton College building, visitors may also view the works of several nationally known artists, including Melvin Warren and Jim Boren, both members of the prestigious Cowboy Artists of America. The two friends enjoyed their last years in the heart of Norse Country. Fellow CAA inductees Bruce Greene and Martin Grelle, the latter a native of Clifton, continue to paint and sculpt here. (An interesting footnote to the Conservatory’s history is that it was donated to the community by Clifton native C.E. “Pat” Olsen, who at 97 is the only living member of the original 38-man New York Yankees baseball team.)

“Artist George Boutwell, who is also one of our very own, designed our 1999 Country Christmas souvenir

ornament,” says Joann proudly.

By late afternoon, many folks have begun to make their way from Clifton to Cranfills Gap, some 19 miles west, for a hearty Norwegian *lutefisk* (“lye fish”) meal (reservations required). The longstanding tradition of preparing the unusual entree, kept alive by the women of St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Cranfills Gap, was given new energy when it was taken up by the Cranfills Gap Boosters Club in 1965. From 4:30 on, students clad in colorful, hometown versions of Norwegian folk-dancing costumes, usher “lutefiskers” into the school cafeteria for a family-style meal of fish, potatoes, green beans, turkey and dressing, and yummy breads and desserts.



Dressed in colorful Norwegian costumes, women from Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at Norse attend to guests at the church’s Smorgasbord each November.

“Making *lutefisk* is a lot of work,” says Barbara Epley, the longtime coordinator of ticket sales for “the Gap’s” cultural event of the year. “The codfish comes to us from Norway in dried form, and then must be soaked in several solutions [including a lye-water bath that is rinsed out thoroughly before cooking] over a period of at least seven days leading up to our dinner. We use this time to teach our young people the art of preparing the fish.”

Though both Clifton and Cranfills Gap could lay claim to the title “Norwegian Capital of Texas,” Clifton—the county’s largest center of commerce, with a population of 3,500—received that official designation by a proclamation of the 75th Legislature in 1997.

Central to the 1999 Norwegian Country Christmas Tour is Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at Norse, founded by Norwegian-Texans in 1869. The present brick building encompasses the original wooden sanctuary built in the 1880s. In 1949, to preserve the customs of the past, parishioners began hosting an annual Smorgasbord here. On each of two consecutive nights in November (November 10-11, 1999), 500 lucky people, selected from a lottery-style drawing in October (see For the Road, October 1999) get to participate in the Viking feast.



Belinda Prince displays a dried codfish, the starting point for the tasty entree served with boiled potatoes, white sauce, and melted butter, at the annual Norwegian Lutefisk Dinner at Cranfills Gap.

THIS YEAR, VENTURE INTO NORSE COUNTRY.



Members of the Norwegian Society of Texas' folk-dancing group perform in downtown Clifton during last year's Country Christmas. Pete Becker's Viking-style hat adds a playful touch to his otherwise authentic costume.



Performing traditional dances, schoolchildren entertain "Lutefiskers" waiting to be seated at Cranfills Gap's annual Norwegian dinner.

Kjøttboller (meatballs), *rullepølse* (rolled meat), and a large selection of cheeses whet appetites at the start of the Scandinavian buffet. The main course consists of ham, turkey, and salmon, flanked by

“America,” is buried in the church cemetery at Norse, a fact that has given the church recognition both at home and abroad. In 1975, the Norwegian-American Sesquicentennial Memorial Service was

Norwegian-style vegetables, salads, soups, and breads. Desserts are as beautiful as they are delicious—dainty *sandbakkels* (“sand tarts”), *berlinerkranser* (pretzel-shaped shortbread), *krumkake* (cone-shaped cookies or wafers), *fattigmannsbakkels* (“poor man’s tarts”), and *rosetter* (rosettes).

Clegg Peerson (1782-1865), hailed as the “Father of Norwegian Immigration to Amer-

ica,” is buried in the church cemetery at Norse, a fact that has given the church recognition both at home and abroad. In 1975, the Norwegian-American Sesquicentennial Memorial Service was held at Peerson’s grave. King Olav V of Norway visited here in 1982, in recognition of the 200th birthday of the famed immigrant. During this year’s Norwegian Country Christmas Tour, Bryan Davis of Clifton will return to Peerson’s grave site to offer bits of local history. All ears will be turned toward Bryan as he shares the story of Clegg Peerson’s life and how he came to Bosque County.

Participants will also hear a vivid account of Ole Nystel, who tangled with the Indians when he was only 14. Says Bryan, “In 1867, on one of the last raids through Bosque County, the Comanches came through Norse, stole a number

of horses, and captured young Nystel. They carried him to Smoky Hills, Kansas, where he was ransomed by a fur trader three months later. He returned to Texas, and, as an adult, described the incident in his book, *Three Months with the Wild Indians*, published in 1888.”

Though his ancestry is Irish, Bryan claims he is “Norwegian by choice” and shares the same pride of heritage as his wife, Julie Bertelsen Davis. Julie is the great-great-granddaughter of Jens Ringness, who, with Ole Canuteson, Ole Pierson, Hendrik Dahl, Berge Rogstad, Canute Canuteson, Jens Jenson, Carl Questad, and their wives, plus two single men, Andrias Bretta and Ole Ween, is credited with establishing the Norse settlement in 1854. Though the aging Clegg Peerson accompanied them, he had already passed the mantle of leadership to Ole Canuteson. (Canuteson homesteaded



During last year's Country Christmas, docent Carolyn Flanagan told Traci (left) and Katie Bekkelund about items in the "Children's Trunk" at the Bosque Memorial Museum. The items are similar to those used by the region's early Norwegian settlers.

land a few miles west of Norse that later became Norman Hill.)

About six miles south of Norse lies Norway Mills, another destination on the 1999 Norwegian Country Christmas Tour. All that remains of the small township—built in the post-Civil War period by the Norse frontiersmen—is an old gristmill and the lovely old Reeder-Omenson house (ca. 1867). In 1968, this two-story, 11-room rock dwelling was the first in Bosque County to receive a Texas Historic Landmark designation. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.

Derwood Johnson of Waco, a third-generation Norwegian-Texan and a regular at the Norwegian Country Christmas Tour, Lutefisk, and Smorgasbord festivities each year, has spent the last 50 years exploring the factors that prompted his forefathers' departure from Norway, and discovering the routes they traveled upon arrival in the New World.

"A few left for political and religious reasons," says Derwood, a retired state district judge who was born in Cranfills Gap, "but for the vast majority, it was an economic decision. Most of them were tenant farmers in Norway. That is why land ownership was a matter of great pride with the early immigrants."

Derwood is the coauthor, with Odd Magnor Syversen of Norway, of the 1982 book *Norway in Texas (Norge i Texas)*, which suggests that the first Norwegians to enter Texas settled in Henderson County in 1845. Derwood's maternal great-great-grandfather, Salve Knudson, lived in Henderson and in Van Zandt counties before coming to Bosque County in 1868. (The East Texas Norwegian colonies declined around this time.) Derwood's paternal

grandfather, Matt Johnson, came to Norse straight from his homeland in 1889. Derwood has traveled to Norway twice to locate relatives.

Larry Huse of Clifton, who has also visited Norway, says, "You can go to a church in Norway, and, if it hasn't had a fire, it will have all the baptismal records from day one. My sister, Lottie Brown, went to Huse, Norway, in the 1960s, and she found many relatives there and traced our family lineage back to 1200 A.D."

Huse Mountain, just west of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, in Norse, is named for Larry's grandparents Lemmik and Taalina Huse, who came to Texas in 1872. (Larry called his grandmother *bestemor*—grandmother or "best mother" in Norwegian.) Larry is founder of the Bosque County chapter of the Norwegian Society of Texas. The NST observes four major events in the course of the year (all celebrated on the weekend nearest the date): *Syttende Mai* (17th of May), Norway's Constitution Day; summer solstice, or *Sankthansaften*, in late June; Leif Eiriksson's birthday, October 9; and *juletrefest*, Christmas/winter solstice, in late December.

Newcomers to Bosque County today quickly develop a sense of pride in the area's special heritage and, like the early



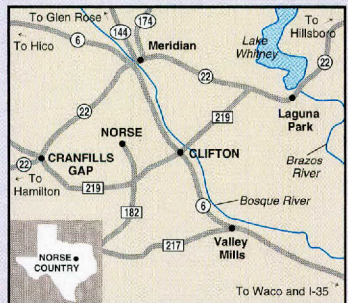
Cleng Peerson, known as the "Father of Norwegian Immigration to America," is buried in the cemetery of Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Norse.

Norwegian Christmas Celebrations

Clifton is 40 miles northwest of Waco on Texas 6. From Dallas or Fort Worth, take Interstate 35 south to Hillsboro. Turn right on Texas 22, and drive approximately 25 miles (past Whitney and Laguna Park) to the FM 219 intersection. Turn left on FM 219, and proceed 8 miles. For information on area restaurants, lodging, and events, write to the Clifton Chamber of Commerce, 115 N. Ave. D, Clifton 76634; 254/675-3720 or 675-2732. Web site: clifton.centraltx.com. Email: clifton.chamber@htcomp.net. **Clifton's area code is 254.**

Norwegian Country Christmas Tour

Come early and stay late for the **Norwegian Country Christmas Tour**, which kicks off at 10 a.m. on Sat., Dec. 4, 1999, in downtown Clifton, "the Norwegian Capital of Texas." Enjoy Norwegian folk dancing, Norwegian arts and crafts, and other activities extolling the region's heritage. View specimens of early Norse masonry during the tour of historic homes and churches (tour hours: 10-4). Take your choice of tasty foods from vendors and local restaurants. Santa arrives downtown at 6 p.m.



Advance tickets for the Country Christmas Tour cost \$6 each, \$8 the day of the event. For tickets to this event, as well as ticket information about next November's **Smorgasbord**, contact the Clifton Chamber of Commerce (address and phone number listed at left).

The **Bosque Memorial Museum** is at 301 S. Ave. Q in Clifton. Hours: Tue-Sat 10-5. Admission: \$1, 50¢ age 12 and younger, free age 4 and younger with adult. School groups 25¢ per student. Wheelchair accessible. The museum houses the largest collection of Norwegian memorabilia and artifacts in the South and Southwest. An 1859 log cabin is on the grounds. The museum offers a map of the Norse Historical Dist. for 25¢. Write to the Bosque Me-

morial Museum, Box 345, Clifton 76634; 675-3845.

The **Bosque County Conservatory**, at 1701 W. 9th St. in Clifton, houses an art gallery, theater, and cultural center. Hours: Mon-Fri Noon-5. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 373, Clifton 76634; 675-3724.

The **Nordic Nook**, at 102 N. Ave. D in Clifton, opens Tue-Sat 8:30-5. Wheelchair accessible.

The shop offers gourmet coffees, baked goods, domestic and imported gifts, and specializes in rosemaled items. Call 675-2667.

Norwegian Lutefisk Dinner

The Norwegian Lutefisk Dinner (*advance tickets required*) takes place Dec. 4, 1999, in the Cranfills Gap ISD cafeteria. To get to Cranfills Gap, take FM 219 west from Clifton 19 miles to its intersection with Texas 22. Turn right, go 2 blocks, and take another right to the cafeteria. The dinner is served family-style from 4:30-8 p.m. Seasoned "lutefiskers" prefer the fish swimming in drawn butter and white sauce on a bed of boiled potatoes, with lots of salt and pepper. For "landlubbers," there are also turkey and dressing, green beans, and delicious homemade breads

and pies. Young folk dancers entertain guests as they're waiting to be served by hosts and hostesses arrayed in Norwegian finery.

Tickets: \$12, \$6 age 12 and younger. *Orders must be postmarked by Nov. 20. Seating is limited (first-come, first-served).* Make checks payable to the Cranfills Gap Booster Club, c/o Barbara Epley, Box 69, Clifton 76634. Call 675-2265.

Resources

To contact the Norwegian Society of Texas, write to the president, Lila Grossinger, 1713 Dean Martin Dr., El Paso 79936-4905. Web site: www.thebunches.org.

Look for the following books in your local library: *Norway in Texas (Norge i Texas)* by Odd Magnor Syversen and Derwood Johnson (Stange Historielag, 1982) and *The Norwegian Texans* (Institute of Texan Cultures, 1985).

Books for sale at the Bosque Memorial Museum include *Three Months with the Wild Indians* by Ole T. Nystel (1994); *Norwegian Settlements in Bosque County, Texas* by Oris E. Pierson (1979); *The True Saga of Cleng Peerson* by Norwegian author Alfred Hauge (1982); and *The Heritage Collection*, a museum-produced regional cookbook.



Now owned by Rick and Sally Douglas, the late-1800s Magnus Bakke House, between Clifton and Cranfills Gap, was built by Norwegian immigrant Christian Magnus Bakke.

settlers, soon feel at home. For Tommy and Nancy Malone, the new owners of Flint Ridge Ranch—54 acres carved from the old Pete Bryn homestead near Cranfills Gap—it was love at first sight.

Their front porch offers a captivating view of "the old Rock Church" (St. Olaf Kirke), built in 1886 by brothers Andrew and Christian Mickelson.

Tommy, who gladly opened his cherished home to guests during the 1998 tour, says, "We like the Hill Country 'feel,' and we like the

history. The people here take pride in these old homes and maintain them."

From the land of the midnight sun to where the West was won, the traditions of the pioneer Vikings endure here.

The invitation to visit this enchanting area of Texas is always open, but the upcoming events are rare opportunities to take part in Norwegian holiday rituals. For a one-of-a-kind Christmas experience this year, gather up your family and friends, and venture into Norse Country. But be careful, or you, too, may become a Norwegian by choice. ★

LANA ROBINSON lived on a ranch in the Norse Historical District from 1980 to 1997. She and her husband, Mel—who helps make the dressing for the annual Norwegian Lutefisk Dinner—moved to Waco in 1997.

Mount Calm photographer JIM CROW found the folk dancing, as well as the food, at the Lutefisk Dinner fascinating. His favorite was the comical *Snus* (Sneeze) Dance.

red &

Step into the greenhouses during the annual Poinsettia Celebration at Ellison's Greenhouses in Brenham, and get ready to be dazzled. Poinsettias—some 50,000 plants representing about 25 varieties—fill the benches and tumble from hanging baskets in waves of gorgeous color.

Looking around, it's easy to see why the poinsettia is America's biggest-selling flowering potted plant. Vibrant specimens welcome the holidays in bright red, pale pink, muted coral, and creamy ivory. Close inspection reveals poinsettias with marbled bracts in combinations of crimson-and-white and pink-and-cream. Other discoveries include poinsettias with "petals" shaped like oak leaves or curling in clusters like some roses. To the delight of visitors, other plants enrich the breathtaking scene. Chrysanthemums—numbering thousands—boast pompon blooms in lavender, lilac, gold, and white. Christmas cacti catch the eye with flowering cascades in coral and pink. Azaleas, too, are memory-makers, especially tabletop varieties with red-and-white-speckled blooms. "These flowers look like peppermint candy," says Marge Harris, a watercolor artist from Houston.

But for the 5,000 or more visitors who attend the two-day Poinsettia Celebration (November 20-21, 1999), exploring the

BY DIANE MOREY SITTON

PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. GRIFFIS SMITH

greenhouses on the self-guided strolls is only part of the fun. In the indoor promenade connecting the greenhouses, browsers inspect candles, chimes, Christmas ornaments, and other gift items. At a display of exquisite new poinsettia varieties, visitors chat with plant breeders from California and other states before casting ballots for their favorite introductions. Just ahead, in an area set aside for plant sales, shoppers select from an array of hanging baskets, dish gardens, and potted poinsettias ranging from three inches tall to Texas-size beauties towering to six feet.

If you are looking for Santa, meander toward the poinsettia tree, a 15-foot-tall marvel made from more than 450 poinsettia plants. There, you'll find Saint Nick listening to kids and posing for pictures. Nearby, you can savor a wedge of homemade pie, nibble Christmas cookies, or devour lip-smackin'-good barbecue while enjoying performances of Christmas music. Lectures by horticulturists on plant-related topics provide opportunities for learning.

Ellison's information booth is the place to glean poinsettia facts and fancy during the weekend festivities. Look for a display of poinsettia-growers' paraphernalia and for Cathy Ganske, an experienced greenhouse technician known to Celebration-goers as "the lady with the answers."

Cathy usually brandishes a ruby-red beauty while explaining poinsettia physiology. "The colorful parts of the poinsettia are modified leaves called bracts," she says. "The true flowers are the little yellow bud-like berries in the center." Cathy also shows bystanders the steps Ellison's follows to coax three-inch cuttings into glorious holiday plants.

"We begin in March when the starter stock arrives from plant breeders," she says. Once these patented cuttings form roots, onlookers learn, growers start a regimen of pinching, cutting, transplanting, watering, and fertilizing. In fall, workers shroud the greenhouse roofs with black plastic. Turning day into night prompts poinsettias to blush with color in time for holiday markets.

[FACING PAGE] Known in Mexico as Flores de Nochebuena, or Flowers of the Holy Night, poinsettias grow wild south of the Rio Grande. Tamer versions of this wildly popular plant lure visitors to Brenham each year for the Poinsettia Celebration at Ellison's Greenhouses.



green

SET THE SCENE





PJ Ellison Kalil perambulates through the poinsettias (in February, she'll tiptoe through the tulips). PJ heads the business her parents started in the 1960s.

Although Ellison's ships the majority of poinsettias by mid-December, the color in the greenhouses only momentarily wanes. Daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, and miniature roses welcome flower-lovers in February. Easter lilies unfurl in March. Hydrangeas announce May. Azaleas, kalanchoes, gloxinias, African violets, chrysanthemums, and foliage plants create a sensation with tourists nearly every month of the year. In all, the dedicated team at Ellison's grows 135 species

Ellison's information booth is the place to glean poinsettia facts and fancy during the weekend festivities. Look for a display of poinsettia-growers' paraphernalia, and for greenhouse technician Cathy Ganske, known to Celebration-goers as "the lady with the answers."

of flowering and foliage plants that develop and bloom at just the right times.

The ongoing bouquet beckons families, garden clubs, and schoolkids, who inspect the flower-filled greenhouses on guided tours given year round. The 45-minute

As the poinsettias' hues intensify in November, Ellison's begins shipping them to wholesalers for distribution to florists, supermarkets, and nurseries in Austin, San Antonio, Bryan-College Station, Dallas, Fort Worth, and Houston. Some plants will flaunt their beauty at the Governor's Mansion and the State Capitol; others will decorate the George Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University in College Station.



Besides poinsettias, Ellison's offers a veritable bouquet of other flowers, including chrysanthemums (above). Visitors can buy plants at the greenhouses during the Poinsettia Celebration, and at the gift shop year round.

treks begin and end at Ellison's Garden and Tourism Center, a shoppers' haven filled with gift items as well as plants. (The only time shoppers can purchase gift items and plants at the greenhouses is during the November Celebration.)

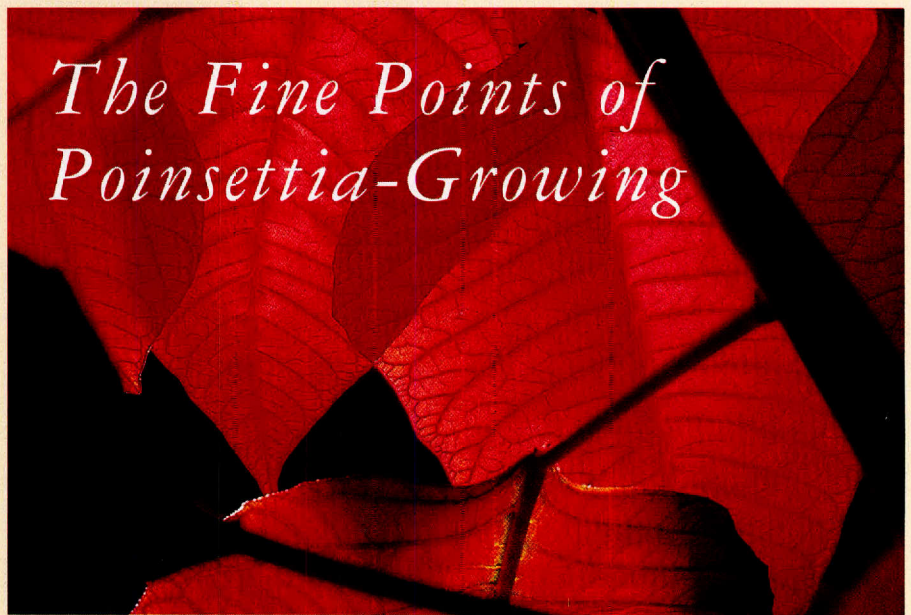
The program for visitors evolved after Ellison's 20th-anniversary open house in 1990. The event created a milestone in the Texas wholesale greenhouse industry, according to PJ Ellison Kalil, who heads the business started by her parents. "When we opened our doors to tourists, people in the industry thought we were crazy," she says. "Now, they call us innovative and progressive. Educating the public about the plants we grow and how we grow them is one way we differ from other wholesalers."

PJ oversees 40 employees, five acres of greenhouses (including a branch operation east of town where 50,000 more poinsettias are being groomed for future markets), and the Garden and Tourism Center. Jim and Ellen Ellison, cofounders of the business, serve as advisors.

In the 1960s, shortly before Jim and Ellen started their mom-and-pop enterprise, genetic botanists developed long-lasting poinsettia varieties. Until then, poinsettias were almost impossible to ship, because their color faded quickly. The breakthrough opened the doors for the plants' burgeoning popularity. In 1998, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Americans bought about 70 million poinsettias to adorn their houses, churches, and offices. The same year, Texans spent a whopping \$13 million or so on the showy plants.

Although the poinsettia is a relatively new holiday symbol in this country, in Mexico and Central America, where the plants grow wild, folklore has long linked the *Flores de Nochebuena* (Flowers of the Holy Night) with Christmas. One story says that when a poor peasant girl offered the Christ child a bouquet of roadside weeds, the barren stalks miraculously burst into luminous red poinsettias.

Joel Roberts Poinsett, an amateur botanist, probably knew the legend.



You don't have to be an expert to grow poinsettias year round, but it helps if you follow the experts' advice.

Shopping savvy: Select poinsettias with fully colored, expanded bracts whose dense, dark green foliage extends to the stem's base. Tightly clustered, yellow "buds" (in the center) indicate freshness. Never buy poinsettias with overly dry or waterlogged soil.

Maintenance tips: Poinsettias thrive on at least 6 hours of indirect, natural light each day. Room temperatures should not exceed 72 degrees during the day or fall below 65 degrees at night. Don't display poinsettias in drafty locations or near heat sources like fireplaces, appliances, and electronics (including television sets).

Water poinsettias thoroughly when the soil's surface feels dry to the touch. Poinsettias perish in boggy soils, so drain water that collects in saucers under the plants.

With the right care, you can coax poinsettias to bloom year after year. The experts at Ellison's suggest the schedule below.

New Year's Day: Continue to water. Begin applying all-purpose fertilizer, such as

Schultz 10:5:10, at 2- to 3-week intervals. Follow label directions.

Valentine's Day: Prune leggy stalks 5 inches from the soil.

St. Patrick's Day: Remove stems and bracts that are faded or dried. Add potting soil, if needed.

Memorial Day: Prune 2-3 inches from each branch to promote fullness, then repot the plant in a larger container. Place the plant outdoors, for 2 weeks in shade, then in bright (but not direct) sunlight.

Fourth of July: Trim again. (Root the cuttings in floral foam, if desired.) Make sure the plant has full sunlight. Continue to water and fertilize.

Labor Day: The plant may be 5 feet tall. Bring indoors to a location that receives 6 hours of direct light daily. Continue to water and fertilize.

First day of autumn: About September 21, begin giving the plant 13 hours of uninterrupted darkness and 11 hours of bright light daily. Maintain temperatures in the low 70s at night. Continue to water and fertilize. Rotate the plant every day, to produce balanced color.

Thanksgiving: Discontinue the day-night schedule. Put the plant in a sunny area.

Christmas: Display the plant for everyone to enjoy.

Ellison's Greenhouses

Ellison's Greenhouses are on Loop 577 between Texas 105 and US 290 (1808 S. Horton St.), on the eastern edge of Brenham, seat of Washington County. All facilities are wheelchair accessible.

The **9th Annual Poinsettia Celebration**, Nov. 20-21, 1999, features self-guided tours of greenhouses filled with poinsettias and other holiday plants, gift sales, entertainment, refreshments, educational booths, and Santa, as well as sales of poinsettias (prices start at \$2.95 for a mini-plant and go to \$500) and other species. (The Celebration is the only time plants may be purchased at the greenhouses themselves.) Enter the greenhouses from Stone St., on the south side of the Ellison complex. Free parking along Stone St. and in the gift shop parking lot. Valet parking, \$2. Admission: \$2, \$1 age 12 and younger. (A portion of the proceeds benefits local charities.) Hours: Nov. 20, 10-4; Nov. 21, noon-4.

Tours

Guided tours of the greenhouses (not available during the Poinsettia Celebration) begin at Ellison's Garden and Tourism Center on Loop 577. On the 45-minute walk, guides talk about greenhouse technology and plant production. Temperatures inside the green-

houses are most comfortable in spring and fall; they are hot in summer (especially Aug-Sep). Optimum time for poinsettia viewing is Nov. through Dec. 7. Tours are available by appt. year round Mon-Thu from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Walk-in tours on Fri-Sat at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., and 2 p.m. Call ahead to book group tours. Admission: \$2, \$1 age 12 and younger.

Gift Shop

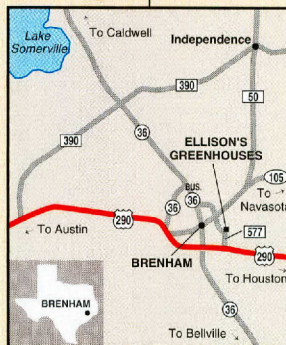
Birdhouses, antiques, primitive garden art, flags, jewelry, seasonal items, and plants from the greenhouses are available at Ellison's Garden and Tourism Center, a newly remodeled facility with decorative, hand-painted floors. Specialty items include terra-cotta pots embellished with poinsettias painted by Ellison's own artist, Lisa Coufal. Hours: Mon-Fri 10-6, Sat 10-3:30.

For information on the Poinsettia Celebration, tours, or gift shop, write to 1808 S. Horton, Brenham 77833; 409/836-0084.

Nearby Attractions

Blue Bell Creameries, ½ mile north of Ellison's Greenhouses

on Loop 577, offers tours year round on weekdays Mar-Aug (call for times Sep-Feb). Admission: \$2.50, \$2 ages 6-14 and age 55 and older, free age 5 and younger. Wheelchair accessible. Visitors are encouraged to contact Blue Bell Creameries in advance. Reservations required for groups of 15 or more, and for all visitors during Spring Break.



Write to Box 1807, Brenham 77834; 800/327-8135.

The **Blue Bell Country Store** specializes in Blue Bell logo items and country-style gifts. Country Store hours (closed Jan-Feb): Mon-Fri 8-5, Sat 9-3.

The **Brenham Heritage Museum**, at 105 S. Market St. (corner of Main and Market), occupies a Classical Revival-style building constructed by the Federal Government in 1915. Exhibits illustrate the diverse history of Brenham and Washington County. A Silsby Steam Fire Engine, purchased by the City of Brenham in 1879, is adjacent to the museum. Admission: \$1, free age 17 and

younger. Hours: Wed 1-4, Thu-Sat 10-4. Group tours by appt. Wheelchair accessible. Write to Box 1122, Brenham 77834-1122; 409/830-8445.

A **downtown Brenham map**, compiled by the Downtown Brenham Assn., lists 41 sites, including historic buildings, shops, and restaurants. For a free map, write to Box 2294, Brenham 77834; 409/830-9100.

Famous for its vast selection of antique rose varieties, **The Antique Rose Emporium**, about 12 miles north of Brenham on FM 50 in Independence, has fine display gardens and historic buildings on its 8-acre site. Newsletter and mail-order catalogues are available. Hours: Mon-Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5:30. Admission: Free. Wheelchair accessible. Reservations requested for groups and tour buses. Write to 9300 Lueckemeyer Rd., Brenham 77833-6453; 409/836-5548 or 800/441-0002. Web site: www.antiqueroseemporium.com.

For general information on the Brenham area or a free visitors' guide, write to the Washington County Chamber of Commerce, 314 S. Austin, Brenham 77833; 409/836-3695 or 888-BRENHAM. Web sites: www.brenhamtx.org and www.brenham.com.



Jim and Ellen Ellison get into the holiday spirit. When the couple began opening their greenhouses for tours in 1990, others in the wholesale-plant industry thought they were crazy.

When his five-year tour as America's first ambassador to Mexico ended in 1829, he returned to his South Carolina plantation with poinsettias he had spotted growing near Taxco. Word of the brilliant red "Poinsett plants" quickly spread through horticultural circles. Although a German taxonomist tagged the species *Euphorbia pulcherrima* in 1833, "poinsettia" has remained the common name in English-speaking countries.

But whatever name you call it, no other plant announces the holidays like the poinsettia. Red poinsettias enliven a gala; pink poinsettias brighten a room; white selections seem to simu-

late freshly fallen snow. And what could ignite the holiday spirit faster than strolling through greenhouse after greenhouse aglow with this flamboyant holiday herbage.

"Most wholesale growers just produce plants," says PJ. "Ellison's, though, is in the business of beauty. At the Poinsettia Celebration and throughout the year, our goal is to create a memory." ★

DIANE MOREY SITTON of Colmesneil says she was smitten by the red-and-white-flecked poinsettias she discovered at Ellison's.

GRIFF SMITH photographed the Umlauf Sculpture Garden & Museum in Austin for the August issue.

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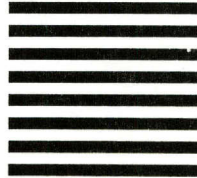
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31	2	3	4
24	9	10	11
17	16	17	18
10	23	24	25
3	30	31	1

December 1999
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

February 2000
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

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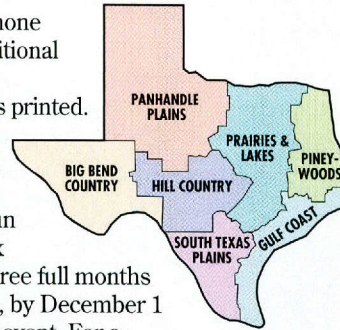
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Fun Forecast

December 1999						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

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

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



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

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

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

Panhandle Plains

1	CROWELL Christmas in Crowell 940/684-1202
DENVER CITY Christmas Parade 806/592-5424	1-5
LUBBOCK (began Nov 30) <i>A Tuna Christmas</i> 806/770-2000	1-7
WICHITA FALLS Christmas at Kell House 940/723-0623	1-31
PAMPA (began Nov 19) Celebration of Lights 806/669-3241	SWEETWATER Trail of Lights 915/235-5488
1-Jan 1	AMARILLO (began Nov 24) Nights of Lights 806/355-3757
2	ASPERMONT Tour of Homes 940/989-3197
GRAHAM Christmas Stroll 840/549-3355	

2	HAMLIN Big Green Christmas 915/576-3501
PAMPA Christmas Parade 806/669-3241	2-5
ANDREWS Holly Jolly Weekend 915/523-2695	WICHITA FALLS <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> 940/397-4352
2, 9	LEVELLAND Festival of Lights 806/894-3157
2-4, 9-11, 16-18	WICHITA FALLS <i>Greetings</i> 940/322-5000
2, 9, 16, 23	CLARENDON Festival of Lights 806/874-2421
3	BIG SPRING Festival of Lights 915/263-4607
JACKSBORO Christmas Parade 940/567-2602	2
LUBBOCK Lights on Broadway/ Texas Tech 806/749-2929	

3	RANGER Christmas Parade/ Tree Lighting 254/647-3091
3-4	COLORADO CITY Festival of Trees 915/728-3403
3-5	CANYON Panhandle-Plains Museum Victorian Christmas 806/651-2244
3-19	SAN ANGELO Christmas at Old Fort Concho 915/657-4441
SAN ANGELO Santa's Santa Fe Christmas 915/944-2504	3-31
SAN ANGELO Concho Christmas 915/653-1206	4
ABILENE Philharmonic Christmas Concert 915/677-6710	AMARILLO Christmas in the City 915/373-7800
ANSON Tour of Homes 915/823-3259	BANGS Christmas Parade & Park Lighting 915/752-8012

4	BIG SPRING Lighted Christmas Parade 915/263-7331
BROWNWOOD Christmas Parade 915/646-9535	CLARENDON Christmas Ball 806/874-2421
COLORADO CITY Christmas Parade 915/728-5221	ELECTRA Santa Claus & Parade of Lights 940/495-3577
GRAHAM Christmas Parade 940/549-7802	MERKEL Windmill City Christmas Bazaar & Parade 915/928-5722
PAMPA <i>The Nutcracker</i> 806/669-3241	POST Cowboy Christmas Ball 806/894-3552
SILVERTON Caprock Jamboree 806/823-2524	WICHITA FALLS Midwestern State University Concert 940/397-4352
WINTERS Christmas Parade 915/754-5210	

4	WYLIE Christmas Parade/ Tour of Homes 972/442-2804
4-5	BIG SPRING Living Christmas Tree 915/267-6394
PAMPA Festival of Trees 806/665-9750	SAN ANGELO Craft Guild Show 915/949-5421
WICHITA FALLS Firefighter Rodeo 817/481-9089	<i>The Nutcracker</i> 940/322-5538
4, 11, 18	WICHITA FALLS Texas Gold Hometown Christmas 940/723-9037
4-31	BIG SPRING Comanche Trail Festival of Lights 915/263-4607
5	JACKSBORO Tour of Homes 940/567-5845
PAMPA Tour of Homes 806/665-3500	SLATON Tour of Homes 806/828-6238

7	WICHITA FALLS Santa's Discoveryland 940/761-7496
7-8	WICHITA FALLS Tour of Homes 940/766-3347
8	GRAHAM Tour of Homes 940/549-2735
THROCKMORTON Cow Country Christmas 940/849-3076	9
SEYMOUR Christmas Parade 940/888-2921	9-11
ABILENE <i>A West Texas Christmas Carol</i> 915/676-9620	9-12
BIG SPRING Drive-Through Nativity 915/267-7015	GRAHAM The Living Christmas Tree 940/549-2360
9-24	ABILENE Christmas Lane 915/692-4053
10-11	LUBBOCK Candlelight at the Ranch 806/742-2490

10-12	POST Old Mill Trade Days 806/495-3529
11	ANSON Lights of Christmas 915/823-3259
CANYON Christmas in the Canyon 806/488-2227	CLYDE Christmas Parade 915/893-4221
WICHITA FALLS Holiday Concert 940/692-2255	11-12
SAN ANGELO Christmas Concert/ Lighting Ceremony 915/949-7732	11-19
MEMPHIS Christmas Tree Forest 806/259-3144	13-15
WICHITA FALLS Lights of Christmas 940/761-7496	16
HAMLIN Christmas Parade 915/576-3501	LEVELLAND Las Posadas 806/894-3157

16-18	ANSON Cowboy Christmas Ball 915/823-3259
16-22	ABILENE City Lights Tour 915/676-6287
17-18	WICHITA FALLS <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 940/716-5500
18	WICHITA FALLS Breakfast with Santa 940/761-7496
18-19	WICHITA FALLS Arts & Crafts Festival 915/263-7690
19	ABILENE Gary Morris Concert 915/676-6211
31	AMARILLO Millennium Party 806/373-7800
STRATFORD New Year's Celebration with Fireworks 806/366-2260	WICHITA FALLS Wichita Theatre New Year's Eve Show 940/723-9037

Prairies and Lakes

1	DALLAS <i>Ebenezer Scrooge</i> 214/821-1860
1-11	RICHARDSON (began Nov 11) <i>A Radioland Christmas Musical</i> 972/699-1130
1-12	FORT WORTH (began Nov 26) Cutting Horse Futurity 817/871-8150

1-26	DALLAS <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 214/522-8499
GATESVILLE Christmas in the Park 254/865-8951	1-30
DENTON Victorian Denton 940/382-2787	1-31
BRYAN Holiday on the Brazos 800/777-8292	CALDWELL Old-Fashioned Christmas on the Square 409/272-2918
DALLAS Countdown to the Millennium 214/670-1400	Story of the Star 214/428-5555
NORTH RICHLAND HILLS International Tree Celebration 817/589-9000	1-Jan 1
GRANBURY (began Nov 26) Lone Star Lights 800/950-2212	1-Jan 2
DALLAS The Galleria Choo Choo 972/702-7100	(began Nov 26) Holiday at the Arboretum 214/327-4901
FORT HOOD (began Nov 11) Nature in Lights 254/287-2007	GRAND PRAIRIE Prairie Lights 972/263-9588
1-Jan 3	VAN (began Nov 1) Wonderland by Night 903/963-8828
1-Jan 10	COMMERCE (began Nov 22) Celebration of Lights 903/886-3950

2 AZLE Tour of Homes 817/444-1112 BASTROP Christmas Parade 512/321-2419 COMMERCE Parade of Lights 903/886-3950 DENISON Christmas Parade 903/465-1551 DENTON Holiday Lighting-on-the-Square 888/381-1818 GRAPEVINE Christmas Parade 817/251-5250 HILLSBORO Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 254/582-2481 PARIS <i>The Nutcracker</i> 903/785-0969 SEGUIN Holiday Parade 800/580-7322	3 DUNCANVILLE Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 972/780-5099 FARMERS BRANCH Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony 972/919-2631 HEARNE Christmas at the Crossroads 409/279-2351 KELLER Winter Holidays in the Park 817/431-6044 LA GRANGE Christmas Lighting 800/524-7264 BRENHAM Downtown Christmas Stroll 888/273-6426 CLEBURNE St. Nicholas Fest 817/558-8263 COLLEGE STATION <i>The Nutcracker</i> 409/845-1234 COLUMBUS Christmas on the Colorado 409/732-5135 FORT WORTH An English Christmas 817/740-5742 McKINNEY Candlelight Reception 972/562-8790 NAVASOTA Historic Churches Tour 800/252-6642	3-5, 10-12 CLEBURNE <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> 972/558-7197 GRAND PRAIRIE <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> 972/642-2787 WAXAHACHIE Bethlehem Revisited/ Historic Homes Tour 972/937-2390 3-18 ARLINGTON <i>The Littlest Angel</i> 817/861-2287 IRVING <i>King Island Christmas</i> 972/831-8818 LA GRANGE Trail of Lights 512/968-5658 3-19 DALLAS <i>Miracle on 34th Street</i> 214/860-2345 FORT WORTH <i>The Nutcracker</i> 817/763-0207 <i>Scrooge & the Christmas Ghosts</i> 817/332-2272 3-31 FARMERS BRANCH Christmas Lights Tour 972/919-2631	4 FAYETTEVILLE Country Christmas & Homes Tour 409/378-2005 FLATONIA Christmas in Flatonia 512/865-3920 GAINESVILLE Holiday Parade 940/665-2831 GATESVILLE Christmas Parade 254/865-2617 GLEN ROSE Holiday Parade 254/897-2286 HICO Tour of Homes 800/361-4426 LANCASTER Christmas Parade 214/969-3199 LOCKHART Dickens Christmas 512/398-3223 Homes Tour 512/376-9058 McKINNEY Tour of Homes 972/562-8790 PALESTINE Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 800/659-3484 PARIS Parade 800/727-4789 ROUND TOP Festival Hill Herb Day 409/249-5283 Round Top Christmas 409/278-3530 SAN FELIPE Breakfast with Santa 409/885-3613 SEALY Arts & Crafts Show 409/885-3222 Fantasy of Lights Christmas Parade 409/885-3222 Mistletoe Magic 409/885-4678 Taste of Christmas 409/885-3222 SEGUIN A Taste of Christmas Past 800/580-7322 STEPHENVILLE <i>Handel's Messiah</i> 254/968-9240 WASHINGTON 'Twas a Nineteenth Century Christmas 800/225-3695	4 WAXAHACHIE Christmas & All the Trimmings 972/493-5861 WEIMAR Bazaar 409/725-9511 WEST Christmas Tour of Homes 254/826-3188 WILLS POINT Christmas Bazaar & Parade 800/972-5824 YOAKUM Winterland 361/293-2309 4-5 CALVERT Christmas in the Country 409/364-2933 ENNIS Polka Christmas 888/366-4748 GONZALES Candlelight Tour of Historic Homes 830/672-6532 GRANBURY Candlelight Tour of Homes/ Enchanted Forest 800/950-2212 PALESTINE Pilgrimage Tour of Homes 800/659-3484 PARIS Christmas in Fair Park 903/785-7971 4, 11 PALESTINE Victorian Christmas Train Ride 903/729-6066 or 800/659-3484 4-5, 11-12 DALLAS Old City Park Candlelight Tour 214/421-5141 WAXAHACHIE Candlelight Homes Tour 972/937-2390 4-24 DECATUR Tour of Lights 940/627-3107 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26 ELGIN Crystal Christmas 512/295-4515 4-31 GRAND PRAIRIE Winter Wonderland 972/297-8112	4-5, 11-12, 17-Jan 1 ARLINGTON (began Nov 26) Holiday in the Park 817/530-6000 5 DALLAS White Rock Marathon 214/528-2962 DENISON Old-Fashioned Christmas 903/463-2487 ELLINGER Polka Fest 409/378-2315 HALLETTVILLE Arts & Crafts Show 512/798-3522 PARIS Maxey House Christmas 903/785-5716 Tour of Homes 800/727-4789 SEGUIN Arts & Crafts Show 800/580-7322 Historic Homes Tour 800/580-7322 6-7 FORT WORTH <i>Handel's Messiah</i> 817/665-6000 9 GRAPEVINE Christmas Parade of Lights 800/457-6338 10 CLEBURNE Candlewalk Tour of Homes 817/641-7433 WACO The Wonder of Christmas 254/754-0851 10-11 DALLAS Symphony Christmas Superpops 214/692-0203 10-12 WEATHERFORD Winter Wonderland 817/596-8805 10, 12, 15, 18 DALLAS <i>Die Fledermaus</i> 214/443-1000 11 BASTROP Historic Homes Tour 512/321-6177	11 CANTON Christmas Parade 903/567-2991 CHAPPELL HILL Country Christmas 409/277-1122 COMANCHE Christmas Parade 915/356-3233 GATESVILLE Tour of Homes 254/463-4182 GRAND PRAIRIE Boat Parade 817/640-4200 HEMPSTEAD Festival of Lights 888/315-9355 HILLSBORO Christmas Parade 254/582-2481 IRVING Symphony 972/831-8818 MESQUITE Civic Chorus 972/216-6444 MOUNT VERNON Christmas Festival 903/537-4365 ROUND TOP American Radio Chamber Orchestra 409/249-3086 SULPHUR SPRINGS Northeast Texas Chorale 903/885-8071 WACO A Cowboy Christmas 800/701-2787 WEATHERFORD Candlelight Tour of Homes 817/596-3801 Christmas Parade 817/596-3801 11-12 BRENHAM The Gift of Christmas 888/273-6426 DALLAS Kwanzaa Fest 214/653-6671 FORNEY Candlelight Historic Homes Tour 972/564-1071 11-12, 18-19 BEDFORD <i>Scrooge, the Musical</i> 817/354-6444 12 MOUNT VERNON Tour of Homes 903/537-4760	12 NORTH RICHLAND HILLS Christmas Concert 817/281-4320 SEGUIN Mid-Texas Symphony Concert 800/580-7322 13 FORT WORTH Cowboy Christmas 817/212-4244 GRAPEVINE Band Concert 817/251-5250 17 BASTROP Candlelight Stroll 512/303-0810 IRVING Christmas Chorale 972/252-2787 LANCASTER Gingerbread House 972/227-1112 17-19 ARLINGTON <i>The Nutcracker</i> 817/465-4644 PALESTINE Living Christmas Tree 800/659-3484 18 DALLAS <i>Handel's Messiah</i> 214/320-8700 MESQUITE Christmas Concert 972/216-6444 19 SEGUIN Las Posadas 800/580-7322 20 McKINNEY Holiday Pops 972/562-9276 21 DALLAS Jingle Bell 5-K 214/528-1290 LOCKHART Country Music Jamboree 512/376-3430 22-23 WACO <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> 800/701-2787 28 FORT WORTH Keb' Mo' Concert 817/212-4244 29 FORT WORTH Delbert McClinton & Marcia Ball 817/212-4244	29-Jan 1 WACO Rodeo 254/776-1660 31 BASTROP New Year's Gala 512/321-6283 BRYAN New Year 2000 Celebration 409/778-9463 DALLAS Bach & the Concerto 214/320-8700 ELLINGER New Year's Eve Dance & Party 409/378-2315 FLATONIA Millennium Party 867/865-2563 FORT WORTH New Year's Eve Millennium Celebration 817/926-2799 Symphony 817/665-6000 GRANBURY Back-to-the- Future, Turn-of-the- Century Celebration 800/950-2212 IRVING Millennium Celebration 972/252-7558 TEMPLE Millennium Celebration 254/298-5415 WACO Millennium Celebration 254/751-5810
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Pineywoods

1-30 MARSHALL Wonderland of Lights 903/935-7868
1-31 HUNTSVILLE Trail of Lights 409/295-8113
LONGVIEW (began Nov 25) Light Up Longview 903/753-3281
1-Jan 2 NEW BOSTON Courthouse at Christmas 903/628-2581

1-Jan 3 MINEOLA Winter Wonderland 903/569-2087	4 GILMER Yulefest 903/843-2413 HEMPHILL Christmas Parade/ Courthouse Lighting 409/787-2732 LUFKIN Christmas Parade 409/633-0206 MARSHALL Christmas Parade 903/935-7868 MOUNT PLEASANT Christmas Parade 903/575-2300 NEW BOSTON Christmas Parade 903/628-2581 NEW WAVERLY Lighting of the Sacred Gardens 409/344-6075 SILSBEE Christmas in the Big Thicket Festival 409/385-4831	11 COLDSRING Christmas on the Square 409/653-2284 CONROE Children's Holiday Festival 409/441-2787 GLADEWATER Tour of Homes 903/845-5501 MARSHALL Cowboy Christmas 903/935-7868 MINEOLA Tour of Homes 800/646-3652 MONTGOMERY Christmas in Old Montgomery 409/597-4899 NEW WAVERLY Homes Tour 409/344-9930 PITTSBURG Christmas Parade 903/856-3442	1-18 HOUSTON (began Nov 5) <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 713/726-1219 1-23 HOUSTON <i>The Toys Take Over Christmas</i> 713/527-0220 1-26 HOUSTON <i>The Nutcracker</i> 713/227-ARTS 1-30 KINGSVILLE (began Nov 19) Celebration of Lights/ Christmas Tree Forest 800/333-5032 1-31 PORT ARTHUR Christmas on Sabine Lake 409/983-4921	3 CORPUS CHRISTI Gingerbread House Contest 361/883-0369 FULTON Winter Texan Fish Fry 361/729-2388 GALVESTON Dickens Holiday Ball 409/765-7834 3-4 ALVIN Silver Bells Trail 281/585-2594 GALVESTON <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 409/765-1894 Hand Bell Concert 409/765-7834 LEAGUE CITY Holiday in the Park 281/332-0157 RICHMOND Candlelight Tour 281/342-1256 SWEENEY Christmas Festival 409/548-3249 3-10 GALVESTON Historic Homes Tour 409/765-1894 EL CAMPO Tour of Lights 409/543-2713 HARLINGEN Arroyo Colorado Christmas Lighting 956/423-5440 LEAGUE CITY Tree Lighting Ceremony 281/332-0157 TEXAS CITY Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting 409/643-5990	4 ROCKPORT Holly Days 361/729-2285 Lighting of the Christmas Tree/ Boat Parade 361/729-4183 VICTORIA Christmas Parade 512/572-2767 WEST COLUMBIA Christmas at Varner-Hogg Plantation 409/345-4656 4-5 GALVESTON Dickens on the Strand 409/765-7834 West India Dock 409/765-7834 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 SPRING Home for the Holidays 281/288-4933 5 ALVIN Tour of Homes 281/585-2594 BAY CITY Tour of Homes 409/245-7502 BAYTOWN "Our Town" 409/245-7502 BEAUMONT Candlelight Tour 409/898-0348 KINGSVILLE Tour of Homes 512/595-8151 La Procesi3n de la Posada y Pastorela 800/333-5032 6-12 VICTORIA Christmas Pageant 361/578-1568 Children's Day 361/595-8151 Parade of Lights 800/333-5032 LA PORTE Pearl Harbor Day 281/479-2431 LOS FRESNOS Winter Texan Gathering 956/233-5768 ORANGE Christmas Parade 409/886-0116 ROBSTOWN Christmas Lighting 512/387-3933 ROCKPORT Celebration of Lights 361/729-6445	7 NEDERLAND Christmas Parade 409/722-0279 7-10 CLUTE Christmas in the Park 409/265-8392 8-11 HOUSTON Candlelight Tour 713/655-1912 9 TEXAS CITY Cowboy Christmas 409/948-3111 10, 17 HOUSTON Bayou Bend Candlelight Open House 713/639-7540 10-12, 17-19 RICHMOND Campfire Christmas 281/343-0218 11 ALVIN Christmas of Olde 281/331-1258 BEAUMONT Christmas at Gladys City 409/835-0823 <i>The Nutcracker</i> 409/838-4397 CLEAR LAKE AREA Christmas Boat Parade 281/488-7676 CORPUS CHRISTI Symphony 512/883-6683 FRIENDSWOOD Holiday Parade 281/482-3329 FULTON Candlelight Christmas Carols at the Mansion 361/729-0386 7 BAY CITY Parade of Lights 409/245-8333 CORPUS CHRISTI St Nicholas Night 361/883-2862 HARLINGEN Christmas Tree Lighting 956/423-0186 Pearl Harbor Memorial Service 956/630-5245 South Texas Symphony 956/630-5355 HOUSTON Fiesta Navidad 713/227-1111	11-12 SEABROOK Christmas Market 281/474-3869 12 BEAUMONT Old Town Tour of Homes 409/835-9325 13 LAKE JACKSON Home for the Holidays 409/265-7661 14-19 GALVESTON <i>A Tuna Christmas</i> 800/821-1894 16 HARLINGEN Christmas Concert 956/428-6003 16-19 HARLINGEN Stars in the Park 956/412-7529 17 CORPUS CHRISTI Quartetto Gelato 361/888-6520 ORANGE Old-Fashioned Christmas 409/886-5385 Symphony 409/886-5535 17-19 CORPUS CHRISTI <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/991-8521 18 BEAUMONT Interfaith Choral Concert 409/898-1634 CORPUS CHRISTI Spirit of Christmas 361/888-7469 18-19 LA PORTE Yuletide Texas 281/479-2431 19 BEAUMONT McFaddin-Ward House Christmas 409/832-2134 21-26 HOUSTON <i>The Sound of Music</i> 713/981-7668 26-Jan 1 PORT ARANSAS Millennium Celebration 800/452-6278	31 BEAUMONT Once in a Millennium New Year's Party 800/392-4401 HARLINGEN New Year's Eve Dance 956/389-1636 ORANGE Beausoleil avec Michael Doucet 409/886-5535 TEXAS CITY Miles to the Millennium 409/948-3111	
South Texas								Plains	
								1	1
								SAN ANTONIO La Pastorela 210/822-2453 Oddest Laugh in Texas 210/224-9299	SAN ANTONIO La Pastorela 210/822-2453 Oddest Laugh in Texas 210/224-9299
								1-19	1-19
								SAN ANTONIO (began Nov 26) Feria de Santa Cecilia/ Fiestas Navideñas 210/207-8600 (began Nov 27) Holiday Boat Caroling 210/227-4262	SAN ANTONIO (began Nov 26) Feria de Santa Cecilia/ Fiestas Navideñas 210/207-8600 (began Nov 27) Holiday Boat Caroling 210/227-4262
								1-24	1-24
								SAN ANTONIO <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 210/408-0116	SAN ANTONIO <i>Frosty the Snowman</i> 210/408-0116
								1-26	1-26
								SAN ANTONIO <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> 210/408-0116	SAN ANTONIO <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> 210/408-0116
								1-Jan 1	1-Jan 1
								SAN ANTONIO (began Nov 25) Holiday Lights 210/357-1900	SAN ANTONIO (began Nov 25) Holiday Lights 210/357-1900
								3-4	3-4
								FLORESVILLE Christmas in the Country 830/393-2166 GOLIAD Christmas in Goliad 800/848-8674 MALLEN Candlelight Posada 956/682-2871	FLORESVILLE Christmas in the Country 830/393-2166 GOLIAD Christmas in Goliad 800/848-8674 MALLEN Candlelight Posada 956/682-2871
								3-5	3-5
								EAGLE PASS Arts & Crafts Expo 830/773-9033	EAGLE PASS Arts & Crafts Expo 830/773-9033

Gulf Coast

1

LA MARQUE
Christmas Parade
409/938-1408

2, 9

ALVIN
Breakfast
with Santa
281/388-4300

3

BAYTOWN
Christmas Parade
281/420-6597

3

BEAUMONT
Council of Gardens
Tour
409/842-3135

3

BISHOP
Christmas in
the Park
361/584-2214

3

CORPUS CHRISTI
Christmas Past
361/830-0639

3-4, 9-11, 17-19 SAN ANTONIO Rivercenter Christmas Pageant 210/225-0000	12 EDINBURG Pastorela 956/383-6911 SAN ANTONIO German Christmas Candlelight Service 210/342-6034 Las Posadas 210/224-6163 Regency Jazz Band Holiday Saxophones 210/271-3151	1-26 WIMBERLEY Christmas on the Square 512/847-2237	3 OZONA Christmas Lighting Ceremony 915/392-3737	4 NEW BRAUNFELS Candlelight Tour 830/629-2943 STONEWALL Christmas Gala 830/997-6523	10-18 ROUND ROCK <i>A Christmas Carol</i> 512/244-0440	12-24 AUSTIN Yulefest/ Trail of Lights 512/397-1463	31 CEDAR PARK New Year's Eve on the <i>Twilight Flyer</i> 512/477-8468 or 477-7326 GRUENE New Year's Eve at Gruene Hall 830/606-1281 JOHNSON CITY New Year's Eve Celebration 830/868-7044	10-11 EL PASO Symphony 915/532-3776
3-5, 10-12, 17-19 SAN ANTONIO Fiesta de las Luminarias 210/227-4262	15-25 JOURDANTON Courthouse Lights 830/769-3087	1-31 GEORGETOWN Downtown Square Holiday Lights 512/930-3545	3-4 AUSTIN Symphony 512/476-6064	4-5 BOERNE Oma's Christmas Crafts Fair 830/537-4560	10-11, 17-18 JOHNSON CITY Living Story of Christmas 830/868-7044	13 KERRVILLE Hill Country Youth Orchestra Christmas Concert 830/896-2551	11 EL PASO Posada Navideña 915/831-2701 PRESIDIO Christmas Posada at El Fortín 915/229-3613 VAN HORN Christmas Parade 915/283-2149	
4 COTULLA Country Christmas 800/256-2926	17 SAN ANTONIO Gran Posada de San Antonio 210/227-1297	1-Jan 1 HILL COUNTRY (began Nov 26) Regional Lighting Trail 830/997-8515	3-5 AUSTIN Ballet East Dance Theatre 512/985-2838	BURNET Christmas on the Square 512/756-4297	10-11, 17-21 AUSTIN Christmas Candlelight Tours 512/837-1215	16 BLANCO Las Posadas 830/833-2201	11-12 MIDLAND <i>The Nutcracker</i> 915/682-2653	
EDINBURG Christmas Posadas 956/664-4502	18-20 SAN ANTONIO <i>The Nutcracker</i> 210/495-2787	1-Jan 1 JOHNSON CITY (began Nov 26) Lights Spectacular, Hill Country Style 830/868-7684	3-5, 10-12 BURNET Main St Bethlehem 512/756-4297	GEORGETOWN Holiday Art Show & Christmas Market 512/863-8163	10-23 AUSTIN <i>The Nutcracker</i> 512/476-9051	NEW BRAUNFELS Caroling on the Plaza 830/907-2991	Big Bend Country	
GOLIAD Christmas Concert 361/645-3405	19 SAN ANTONIO Sylvania Alamo Bowl 210/226-BOWL	1-Jan 2 MARBLE FALLS (began Nov 19) Walkway of Lights 830/693-4449	3-12 FREDERICKSBURG Weinachten 830/997-6523	GRUENE Christmas Market Days 830/629-6441	11 AUSTIN O. Henry Victorian Christmas Celebration 512/472-1903	17-18 GRUENE Jerry Jeff Walker at Gruene Hall 830/606-1281	1-Jan 2 EL PASO (began Nov 19) Christmas on the Border 915/532-7273	
Frontier Rendezvous 512/645-3752	24-25 SAN ANTONIO Christmas Mass 210/922-0543	2 GEORGETOWN Candlelight Service 512/863-1487	4 BANDERA Holiday Parade 800/364-3833	4, 9 BURNET Christmas at Ft Croghan 512/756-4297	Trail of Lights 5-K Run 512/499-8700	18 JOHNSON CITY A Timeless Christmas 830/868-7128	MIDLAND Christmas at the Mansion 915/683-2882	
Las Posadas 512/645-3752	28 SAN ANTONIO Celebrate San Antonio 210/207-8480	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	4-5, 11-12 AUSTIN Sami Arts & Crafts Christmas Market & Bazaar 512/441-7133	5 AUSTIN Carols on the Terrace 512/445-5582	Turtle Creek Chorale 512/471-1444	19 KERRVILLE Bethlehem in the Hills 830/896-1155	KERMIT Christmas Parade 915/586-2507	
KENEDY Christmas in Kenedy 830/583-3223	31 SAN ANTONIO Kids Y2K Countdown to the Millennium 210/212-4453	2-4 SAN MARCOS Sights & Sounds of Christmas 512/393-8430	CASTROVILLE Old-Fashioned Christmas 830/538-3142	GOLDTHWAITE Tour of Homes 915/948-3843	BANDERA Cowboy Christmas Roundup 800/364-3833	STONWALL Christmas Tree Lighting & Ranch Tours 830/868-7128	ODESSA Holiday Tree Lighting 915/334-4684	
PEARSALL Arts & Crafts Show 830/334-3982	1 CANYON LAKE Community Tree Lighting 830/964-2223	2-19 INGRAM <i>The Best Christmas Ever</i> 830/367-5121	DRIPPING SPRINGS Christmas Bazaar 512/858-4725	MASON Homes Tour 915/347-5758	5 AUSTIN Carols on the Terrace 512/445-5582	CANYON LAKE Christmas Parade 830/964-2223	2 KERMIT Christmas Parade 915/586-2507	
SAN ANTONIO Dr Pepper Big 12 Football Championship Game 210/226-BOWL	Hill Country	3 BANDERA Christmas in Junction 915/446-3190	Christmas Fair 512/858-4725	MASON Luminarias 915/347-5758	4-5, 11-12 AUSTIN Tree of Angels Dedication 915/247-5354	FREDERICKSBURG Candlelight Tour of Homes 830/997-2835	ODESSA Merry Marathon Montage 915/386-4516	
SAN ANTONIO Gingerbread Gallery 210/212-4453	8-17 SAN ANTONIO International Airport Holiday Music Festival 210/207-3546	3 JUNCTION Christmas in Junction 915/446-3190	Christmas Parade 512/365-8485	NEW BRAUNFELS Homes Tour 915/347-5758	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	MASON Homes Tour 915/347-5758	3-5 EL PASO Ballet Folklórico 915/755-4658	
SAN ANTONIO Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day 210/271-3151	10 SAN ANTONIO Countdown to the Millennium 210/212-4453	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-4 SAN MARCOS Sights & Sounds of Christmas 512/393-8430	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	6 LLANO Tree of Angels Dedication 915/247-5354	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	17-18 EL PASO Ballet Folklórico 915/599-2501	
WESLACO Christmas Parade 956/968-2102	10-12 SAN ANTONIO River Walk Crafts Fair 210/227-4262	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	5 MASON Homes Tour 915/347-5758	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	18-19 MIDLAND Lone Star Brass Quintet 915/563-0921	
10-12 SAN ANTONIO River Walk Crafts Fair 210/227-4262	11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	28-29 EL PASO SunClassic College Basketball Tournament 915/533-4416 or 800/915-BOWL	
11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	4-5, 10-11 DEL RIO Parade of Trees 830/774-7568	
10-12 SAN ANTONIO River Walk Crafts Fair 210/227-4262	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	5 EL PASO Christmas at Magoffin Home 915/533-5147	
11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	ODESSA Holiday Pops Concert 915/563-0921	
11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	ODESSA Tour of Homes 915/362-3943	
11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	5 EL PASO Christmas at Magoffin Home 915/533-5147	
11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	ODESSA Holiday Pops Concert 915/563-0921	
11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	ODESSA Tour of Homes 915/362-3943	
11 SAN ANTONIO Botanical Garden Christmas Tree Contest 210/829-5360	1-12 AUSTIN (began Nov 30) <i>Jesus Christ Superstar</i> 512/472-5470	3 LLANO Christmas Parade 915/247-5354	2-5 AUSTIN Wild Ideas 512/292-4200	NEW BRAUNFELS Tour of Homes 830/609-5030	7 AUSTIN Handel's <i>Messiah</i> 512/476-6064	NEW BRAUNFELS Christmas Parade 830/609-5030	ODESSA Tour of Homes 915/362-3943	
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Guy Gillette (left) and his brother, Pipp, teamed up with restaurateur Margaret Broughton to open the Camp Street Cafe and Store, a great place to eat and enjoy live music in Crockett. Guy and Pipp themselves will perform on November 26.

Need to Read? Take Heed

No chimps or dolphins subscribe to *Texas Highways*. Yet.

The written word literally defines humankind, separating us from all other species. From ancient cuneiform tablets to Gutenberg's press, from manual typewriters to desktop PCs, we write, we publish, but above all, we read. Oh, and we look at the pictures, too. Therefore, we are. A wonderful thing, no?

Yes, reading is adventure, knowledge, entertainment. And Texans are particularly proud of their literary history. From that pride in our printed legacy comes the 4th Texas Book Festival, November 5-7, at the State Capitol in Austin.

Texan and national authors, publishers, readers, and booksellers converge for three days of readings, panel discussions, talks, book signings, storytelling, and live music. Most of the activities are free. (Ticketed fund-raising events, which benefit the state's public libraries, include the First Edition Literary Gala, The Authors Party, and Bon Appétit, Y'all.) Acclaimed writers at this year's festival include Scott Turow, Peter Matthiessen, Mary Higgins Clark, Jane Smiley, Tim O'Brien, Rick DeMarinis, Dan

Rather, Horton Foote, and more than 140 others. If reading and Texas are your passions, then bookmark the first weekend in November, and discover the festival's varied content. Call 512/477-4055. Web site: www.austin360.com/texasbookfestival.

Camp Street Reprise

When you enjoy an evening at the Camp Street Cafe and Store in Crockett, take a moment to savor the restaurant's eclectic history. Lovelady rancher V.H. "Hoyt" Porter (see page 24 for more on his family) bought the property, which lay near Crockett's depot, around 1930. He soon built a structure there on a strip dubbed "Camp Street" by the locals, because teamsters had often camped on the land with their wagons. For the next four decades, the building housed various enterprises, including a cafe, a barbershop, and a pool hall; legendary Texas bluesman Sam "Lightnin'" Hopkins and other musicians played there for tips during the Forties. Then, for many years, Camp Street lay vacant.

In 1998, the Porter property got a second lease on life when Hoyt's grandsons Guy and Pipp Gillette, sons of photographer Guy Gillette, teamed up with local restaurant owner Margaret

Broughton to open the Camp Street Cafe and Store. Guy and Pipp handle the music and gift shop operations, and Margaret operates the cafe. Diners choose from a range of home-style daily specials—such as chicken and dumplings, gumbo and étouffée, Tex-Mex dishes, and even Cornish game hen. Every Saturday evening at 8:30, and occasionally during the week, Guy and Pipp host performers with a range of musical styles—blues, Western, bluegrass, Celtic, you name it.

The Camp Street Cafe and Store is at 215 S. 3rd St., Crockett 75835 (409/544-8656). Kitchen hours: Mon-Fri 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Sat 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6 p.m.-8:30 p.m.. On November 20, the Gillettes will serve chili and cowboy music from their chuck wagon, set up across the street from the cafe, as part of the town's "Christmas in Crockett" festivities.

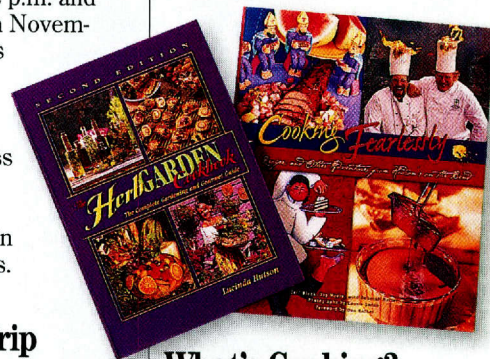
Take a Rose Trip

After you get poised for poinsettias in Washington County (see story on Ellison's Greenhouses, page 44), may we suggest you take yet another road trip in that direction, this time to stop and smell the roses?

At The Antique Rose Emporium in Independence, other plants may share the spotlight, but roses star in the show. During the annual Fall Festival, November 5-7 this year, the staff will share why they've carried on a love affair with antique roses for more than a decade. Free van tours will take visitors through the fragrant growing fields (12 acres' worth) and past a Victorian-style home and private greenhouses. Ten speakers will share their expertise in such topics as gardening with salvia, the gardens of Spain, cutting and propagating roses, and gardening to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Be sure to take time to see the

herb garden, butterfly garden, native plant gardens, arbors of climbing roses and vines, and the formal rose hedges decorating the grounds. And, as always, you can buy (and learn how to grow) more than 250 varieties of roses, most grown from rootstock that has thrived in Texas for more than a century.

The Antique Rose Emporium is about 12 miles north of Brenham on Farm-to-Market Road 50 in Independence. The festival runs 9-6 all three days; admission is free. Write to 9300 Lueckemeyer Road, Brenham 77833, or call 409/836-5548. To request a catalog, call 409/836-9051 or 800/441-0002.



What's Cooking?

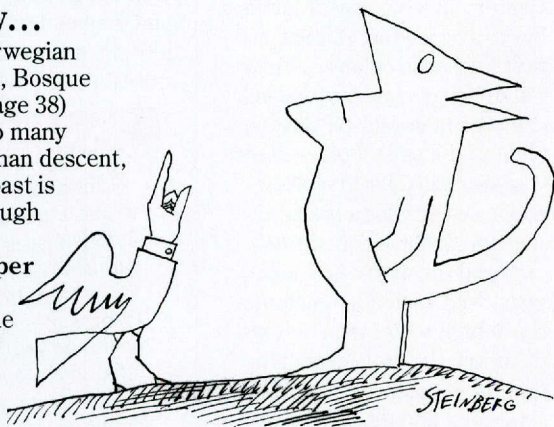
In April, as part of the Texas Hill Country Wine and Food Festival in Austin, chef and gardener Lucinda Hutson opened her home for a fiesta, during which she signed copies of the new *Herb Garden Cookbook, The Complete Gardening and Gourmet Guide*, first published in 1987. For the festival-goers who could tear themselves away from the lemon verbena-garnished champagne or Lucinda's trademark basil cheese torta, the book was a treat. Like the popular first edition, it's full of mouth-watering recipes for using herbs from your garden, as well as practical advice on growing everything from arugula (which grows best in fall and winter in Texas) to thyme. In the new edition, expanded sections on Mexican herbs like *hoja santa* (whose velvety leaves can spread to 10 inches), Southeast Asian herbs, edible flowers,

cooking tips, and a host of other colorful topics make this book invaluable for anyone who enjoys food, plants, and culinary history. Look for the second edition of *The Herb Garden Cookbook* (Gulf Publishing Co.) in your library or bookstore (\$24.95 hardcover), or to order from the publisher, call 800/231-6275. Web site: www.gulfpub.com/books.html.

Anyone who has enjoyed a meal at Austin's renowned Hudson's on the Bend knows that chefs Jeff Blank and Jay Moore are not afraid to take risks in the kitchen. (Just order the delicious rattlesnake cakes with chipotle sauce if you doubt our word.) *Cooking Fearlessly*, the new cookbook penned by the Hudson's chefs with writer Deborah Harter, proves that culinary enthusiasm is contagious. Full of easy-to-follow recipes for dishes both down-home and uptown, vivid photographs and artwork, and piquant quotes like "If you have a choice between not enough and too much, always choose too much," *Cooking Fearlessly* celebrates adventure, in life as well in dining. Look for *Cooking Fearlessly* (Fearless Press) at your library or bookstore (\$32.95 hardcover), or to order from Hudson's on the Bend, call 800/996-7655, or write to 4304 Hudson Bend Road, Austin 78734.

By the Way...

Besides Norwegian Americans, Bosque County (see page 38) is also home to many people of German descent, whose proud past is kept alive through the **Heritage Sausage Supper** at Womack. Always held the Saturday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 27 this year), the meal features German-style smoked pork sausage, sauerkraut, homemade breads,



Saul Steinberg's whimsical *Pointing Bird* dates to 1964.

© 1999 ESTATE OF SAUL STEINBERG/ARS, NEW YORK

jellies, and pies. Sponsored by the Men's Brotherhood of the Zion United Church, the event runs from 5-7 p.m. Tickets (\$8, \$4 ages 6-12, free age 5 and younger) are limited to 400...call 254/675-3599.

The State Preservation Board, which has in recent years produced **ornaments** featuring such Texas icons as the State Capitol, the Texas State Seal, and the Texas flag, has introduced its 1999 offering. This year's ornament features two widely recognized Texas symbols—the state's silhouette and the Lone Star. Like the others in this series, the ornament is finished in 24-karat gold. Buy one (\$15 plus tax) at the Capitol Gift Shops in Austin (in the Capitol and in the Capitol Visitors Center). Or, to order by mail, call 512/305-8408 or 888/678-5556.

Through November 28, the Menil Collection in Houston showcases the artwork of the late cartoonist Saul Steinberg in the exhibit **Remembering Saul Steinberg**. A self-described "brooding doodler," Steinberg published his whimsical, thought-provoking car-



Top your tree with the state silhouette and the Lone Star.

toons in *The New Yorker* for half a century, beginning in 1941. More than 20 drawings appear in this show, including

the well-known *Art Has Many Facets and Egypt and Diner*...call 713/525-9400.

What glitters is indeed gold at the San Antonio Museum of Art. From November 7 through January 30, 2000, the exhibit **Gold of the**

Nomads highlights more than 170 treasures of the Scythians, nomadic horsemen who roamed the European steppes (which extended from the Danube east across modern Ukraine and into Russia) from the Seventh to Third centuries B.C. The Scythians commissioned lavish objects from silver and gold for adornment, ceremony, and battle.... call 210/978-8100. Web site: www.sa-museum.org.

On the other hand, what they're spinning in George West on November 5-6 isn't gold, but it surely sparkles. Here, they're spinning yarns—stories, that is—and plenty of them. The 11th annual **George West Storyfest** kicks off Friday night with a chuck-wagon dinner and cowboy music, poetry, and storytelling. Saturday's festivities include performances by nationally known tellers, songsters, and poets; arts and crafts demonstrations and vendors; kids' games; and a Fifties-style dance....call 361/449-2481 or 888/600-3121. Web site: www.georgewest.org/storyfest.htm.

If you're in Houston for Thanksgiving, you'll find no shortage of holiday entertainment on November 25. At 9 a.m., the elaborate Bank United

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

Thanksgiving Parade, which turns 50 this year, begins its annual journey through downtown. Known for extravagant floats made by Italian father-and-son float-builders Raul and Jonathon Bertuccelli, the parade also features enormous helium-filled balloons, marching bands, drill teams, and more....call 713/468-6824, code BANK. That afternoon, beginning at 4:30, another event salutes the holidays—the Reliant Energy **Uptown Holiday Lighting** celebration, held in the Uptown/Galleria

area. Fest-goers can enjoy musical concerts, Santa's arrival by helicopter, a lighting show (featuring searchlights aimed at the sky), a choreographed fireworks show, an illuminated parade, and the simultaneous lighting of some 50 rooftops and 80 Christmas trees....call 713/621-2504.



A golden finial shines in *Gold of the Nomads* at the San Antonio Museum of Art.

SAN ANTONIO MUSEUM OF ART

This month, Marshall, Texas, shines. Most folks drop by Marshall Pottery for stocking-stuffers and make a point to see the town's justifiably famous lights. Make time for a visit to the **Michelson Museum of Art**, where, throughout November, you can see a fascinating photo exhibit called **Selections 6**. In an artists-support program sponsored by Polaroid, photographers across the globe captured images as varied as Afghan guerrillas on the battlefield and a comical picture dubbed "Glamorous Models Hang Out With My Friends." From 800 submissions, 93 were chosen. See them here....call 903/935-9480.

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...

My wife and I had never been to a B&B, and we thought it might be romantic for the weekend last Valentine's. We chose **Jefferson** and searched the Internet for a B&B there. The **Old Mulberry Inn** presented a clean and clear Web page, and the owners, Donald and Gloria Degn, corresponded so well by email that we felt we would be in good hands. Donald made us feel at home when we arrived. He even prepared valentines, candy, roses, and champagne for my sweetie. Breakfast was elegant and wonderful without the formalities. The home is new, yet feels very "old" and romantic in its design and decor. The rooms, which are displayed on the inn's Web site, are cleverly designed, tasteful, and neat.

Brian Hunt, via email
Old Mulberry Inn is at 209 Jefferson St. Rates start at \$100. Reservations required; 903/665-1945 or 800/263-5319. Web site: www.jeffersontx.com/oldmulberryinn/. Email: mulberry@jeffersontx.com.

My niece recently took me to dinner at **Wunsche Bros. Cafe** in **Old Town Spring** [at Spring, north of Houston]. She insisted we try their appetizers of flour-battered, deep-fried onion rings and sausage-sauerkraut balls. Delicious! I dined on very good chicken-fried steak, while she enjoyed chicken quesadillas. We didn't save room for dessert—a mistake I

will not make again. They offer chocolate whiskey cake, Key lime pie, and peach cobbler.

Joe Slocum, Austin, via email
Wunsche Bros. Cafe is at 103 Midway St.; 281/350-1902.

COUNTY LINES

Now you can explore Texas on the Web county by county. A joint project of the Texas Department of Transportation and the University of Texas General Libraries puts maps of the state's 254 counties at your fingertips—electronically speaking, that is. The individual maps include such details as creeks, county roads, railroad tracks, and even cemeteries. To zoom in on the county you want to visit, go to txdot.lib.utexas.edu.

ALL ABOARD

On November 13, **Marshall's** historic **Texas and Pacific Depot**, built in 1912, hosts grand-opening festivities to celebrate the depot's extensive renovation. The restored depot, at 800 N. Washington, provides a new waiting area for Amtrak passengers, as well as a museum that chronicles the history of the T&P Railroad in Marshall. During opening week, officials invite visitors to tour a special Amtrak train at the site. Museum displays for the ceremonies include an eight-foot-long miniature steam train once used as a teaching tool by T&P apprentices who worked in the com-

pany's shops in Marshall. Call 903/935-7868.

TRIBAL TOURISM UPDATE

The **Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas** closed its tourist facilities on September 7 to begin renovating the tribe's restaurant and other tourist attractions, as well as to construct a new gift shop and museum. Reopening is tentatively set for May 2000. **Lake Tombigbee Campground**, adjacent to the reservation's 26-acre lake, remains open year round. Call 409/563-4391 or 800/444-3507.

BILL REAVES



Fall's the time to amble through mounds of crunchy, multicolored leaves at Lost Maples State Natural Area.

BIG DIGS

Texas Historical Commission archeologists kick off the 21st Century in a big way in January, by excavating **Fort St. Louis**, the first European colony in Texas. Established in 1685 by French explorer René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, Fort St. Louis was also considered by New Spain as a site for a presidio (several Spanish expeditions explored the area). Archeologists, who used a magnetometer (a high-tech metal detector) to survey the area, expect to find the remains of the fort, a cemetery, and many French and Spanish artifacts. The site is on private land near present-day Victoria.

A **NOVA** documentary titled "**Voyage of Doom**," about La Salle's ill-fated expedition, one of his ships (THC archeologists excavated *La Belle* in 1996 and 1997), and Fort St. Louis, will air on November 23 on PBS stations. For more information, call 512/463-6096. You can visit THC's Web site at www.thc.state.tx.us.

LOST MAPLES, FOUND TREASURE

Plaudits brim from the guest book at **The Lodges at Lost Maples**, a new bed-and-breakfast lodge on scenic Ranch Road 337, about eight miles from colorful **Lost Maples State Natural Area**. Each of the three cabins has a fireplace, private porch, and fully equipped kitchen. Guests can sign up for a chuck-wagon barbecue and hayride for an extra charge. Lodging costs \$105 per night for up to two persons, \$5 for each additional person, and is free to children age 12 and younger. Call 877/216-5627. Web site: www.thelodgesatlostmaples.com.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is providing online **fall foliage reports** about Lost Maples again this year. Go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/lostmap/foliag99.htm. The reports will be updated every Thursday through Thanksgiving. Also, **TxDOT** will offer statewide fall foliage reports by phone starting October 15 and continuing until the end of November or thereabouts. Call 800/452-9292.

Down the Road

Join us in December for a luminous look at Christmas lights on the Blackland Prairies, and a sampling of festive recipes from several food editors. We'll also take a gander at Georgetown, and rekindle some memories with toys you might have known and loved.

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

© WYMAN MEINZER



Canada geese begin arriving in Texas in early November, and ride out the winter here until spring's warmer days beckon them north again. Photographer Wyman Meinzer photographed these geese at Davis Lake, four miles south of his home in Benjamin, then double-exposed the film to include the full moon.

